



Mark Scarlett

I retired in 2008 after 20 years as Executive Director of the Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center Foundation in Ogdensburg, NY. I was hired in 1989 as the first paid staff for the Foundation and subsequently provided staff leadership for capital campaigns that raised over \$22 million, funding the extensive renovation and expansion of the Medical Center campus, as well as the building and subsequent expansion of both the Richard E. Winter Cancer Treatment Center and the Dr. Ravinder N. Agarwal Renal Dialysis Center, and the creation of the Thomas T. Patterson Wound Healing Center and the Helen McCadam Medical Office Building, each of which named facilities were the first of their kind in St. Lawrence County.

I had earlier started my career as a fundraiser while serving as Development Director for North Country Public Radio. Previously, I had worked in not-for-profit administration as Executive Director of the St. Lawrence County Housing Council and before that as Executive Director of the North Country Affordable Housing Corporation and the North Country Local Development Corporation, where I worked with the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal to provide affordable housing in response to the stationing of the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum.

Along the way, I was elected to two terms as Supervisor for the Town of Rossie and as a director and officer of numerous local and regional boards, including the St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council and as Chair of both the Rossie Town and St. Lawrence County Planning Boards. I was appointed in 1985 by the St. Lawrence County Legislature to represent the County in the formation of the Development Authority of the North Country and served on that Board until my retirement in 2008, having served continuously as an officer of that Board from its inception, including three terms as Chair. In 2004 I was elected to the Board of the Indian River Lakes Conservancy where I am immediate past President and Co-Chair of the Stewardship Team.

I graduated from Wesleyan University in 1967 and Louise graduated from Vassar College the following year, after which we married and moved to Rochester, NY where I became Director of the Unit Management Department at Strong Memorial Hospital and Louise worked in a renal research lab on the hospital campus. Restless to find a home and start a family, Louise and I bought a 170 acre farm in Rossie in 1971. We had been looking for land for several years and were drawn to Rossie because the landscape around the Indian River Lakes and the Thousand Islands shares the same Canadian Shield that I had come to love while growing up summers on Loughborough Lake north of Kingston, Ontario, where my parents had a cottage for 35 years. It was there, exploring the forests, rock bound hills, and lakes, that I discovered my love for the outdoors and passion for canoeing, taking my first overnight canoe trip at twelve among the nearby Rideau Lakes, and later in the backcountry of Algonquin Park, where Louise and I took our first canoe trips together, and subsequently among the 30,000 islands of Georgian Bay. It was like coming home, the first time we drove the backroads of Rossie, and that feeling of coming home has never changed in the 40 plus years since then whenever we have returned from being away. And so it was that we moved to our farm in 1972, to set down roots here and start a family.

As we raised our family and deepened our commitment to this place, I became further involved in the larger community and the region. It was natural, therefore, when I first learned of the Indian River Lakes Conservancy that I would be drawn to do what I could to support it, especially when IRLC acquired the Grand Lake Reserve just down the road from where we live and within a short paddle up the creek that runs through our farm. I believe my career in not-for-profit management and my years in various volunteer leadership positions have proved useful to IRLC, as has my experience working with governments and government agencies. I have also enjoyed applying the skills I have acquired working on the land to helping with property stewardship and in trail design and maintenance.