



MARGARET CHISHOLM

Cydney: What is your day job? What do you do when you're not volunteering with FIN?

Margaret: Oh, I'm retired, but I'm very active! I volunteer one day a week at the Dartmouth Seniors Centre, more if they need me. I work in the canteen, which is like the heart of the recreation room. I do that, I do water aerobics... I travel a lot, I've been down to New York already twice this year! I'm always on the go. Before I retired I worked for Nova Scotia Power. That was an awesome job, because NSP is one of our bigger employers and they provide a lot of opportunities for the people of Nova Scotia.

C: How long have you been volunteer with FIN?

M: I'm going to say 8 or 10 years. I love it. I mean, FIN treats their volunteers so well. There's a lot of opportunities to meet a lot of people. There's different roles you can participate in. I [have] different roles [each year], it's just a win-win. I meet so many wonderful people.

C: How did you get involved with FIN?

M: I just saw an advertisement and I like films; I like the idea of bringing these opportunities into Halifax. We have all these actors coming in, and all these movies coming in. So I like that idea.

C: Why do you volunteer in general?

M: It's a win-win. I feel good about it, I feel useful, I meet new people, I'm helping other people – it's just a win-win. It keeps me young, it keeps me healthy, I'm always up for something new. It's just what I do.

C: What part of FIN AIFF would you recommend to a newbie?

M: I believe that it's all so awesome. One year I was at the Lord Nelson and [the volunteers] were greeting people who were there for different [events] for conferences or meetings. There was a lot going on at the Lord Nelson. There was a young couple there from England and they were just brand new [to Canada]. So I kind of mentored them and said, "You need to be in the forefront, I'm going to stand back and let you do this," and kind of guided them. They met all kinds of new people and they loved it. Every role provides a lot of opportunities [like that].

C: What is your favourite film?

M: My favourite films are musical fun films, like Mamma Mia. That's fun, it's got a lot of good music, a lot of laughs. I liked when [FIN] did Maudie, that was fantastic. I also like documentaries about people in the area who have done well.

C: Most vibrant memory from the film fest.

M: There's just so many. I think what sticks out the most, because it's the most challenging, was when we had the awards banquet... [There were] ...like 2 picnic tables together full of vegetables we had to wash, chop and ... some volunteers to go at that and bring it to full presentation. [T]hat, to me, was always such a challenge, because there were mounds, I'm telling you MOUNDS of vegetables... To see that materialize, that was something we needed to [work together to achieve], to bring that to life.

C: What is your favourite movie snack?

M: Popcorn. I mean, popcorn. It's classic.