

Make the most of those retirement years!

*"How lucky I am to have something
that makes saying goodbye so hard."
- Winnie the Pooh*

It fills me with sadness to say that this is my last *Portrait of a Retiree* column.

Deb Pannell, publisher of Marketplace Magazine, has made the difficult decision to bring the publication to a close with this issue.

But despite my sense of sadness, I am smiling as I write this final piece. You see, I have had the privilege of celebrating the multi-faceted lives of retirees in this column for the past 12 years, and it has been nothing short of awe-inspiring.

I have featured retirees who have constructed their own planes, travelled to the far reaches of the globe, and one who even built his own backyard observatory -complete with retractable roof and remote-controlled, high-powered telescope – so that he could better observe the celestial bodies in the night sky. I have celebrated pensioners who have taken up storm chasing and skydiving and mountain climbing. Others who have traced their ancestral roots, scripted their family histories, run marathons, written novels, and pursued second careers as ministers and crafters and entrepreneurs. And I have

BY
DOUG
ARCHER

Portrait of a Retiree



praised countless retirees who volunteer tirelessly to support our hospitals, food banks, and all manner of charitable organizations.

Not only that, but I got to work with some wonderful people at Marketplace – in particular, Deb and her late mother and father (who founded the magazine), Linda and James Pannell. And as Marketplace enters its 'retirement', I want to give a special thank-you to Deb for her tremendous support during my time with the magazine. Not only was she always available to bounce story ideas off of, but she graciously gave me the leeway to write about what I wanted-and not just about the retirees of my choosing, but about the special charities, events and people that I covered while doing features stories for the magazine as well. It has been a pleasure to

work with her.

Let me close by saying that having had the opportunity to meet hundreds of retirees over the past decade, and to write about their amazing endeavors, has taught me to reach for the stars each and every day. Carpe diem, as they say. And that is my advice as I sign off. Seize the day! Find what you are passionate about – and do it! Spend more time with your grandchildren; volunteer more; travel to those destinations you have dreamed about. Pursue that second career. Write that novel. Keep on skydiving and storm chasing and mountain climbing ...

Never forget that these retirement years we're living are a gift. We need to make the most of them.



**Wishing You a Merry Christmas and
Have a Happy New Year!**

Kate, Ella, Lily, Melissa and Anthony

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