

A business event series presented by the Greater Halifax Partnership and The Chronicle Herald

# Leaders need to 'dream a little dream'

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To achieve greatness for our community, leaders need to dream a little dream of Greater Halifax. They are not alone. Communities are stronger, more vibrant, and more successful when there is a shared vision. Of course, this is only a launching pad for what comes next — creating attainable goals and developing a plan to turn possibilities into realized potential.

Here are the dreams — and the stepping-stones of their realization — of some of our community leaders.

"My vision of the future of Greater Halifax is to have it grow into a strong and dynamic world-class city. It would be the commercial centre of Eastern Canada and a centre for arts and culture and a spiritual centre, a community in every sense of the word," says Robert Orr, president and CEO of Ocean Nutrition Canada.

"We are already moving in that direction," he adds. "We have embraced the ingredients and qualities of great communities — trust, openness, joy of participation, opportunity to contribute to creating the future, pride of ownership, and safety."

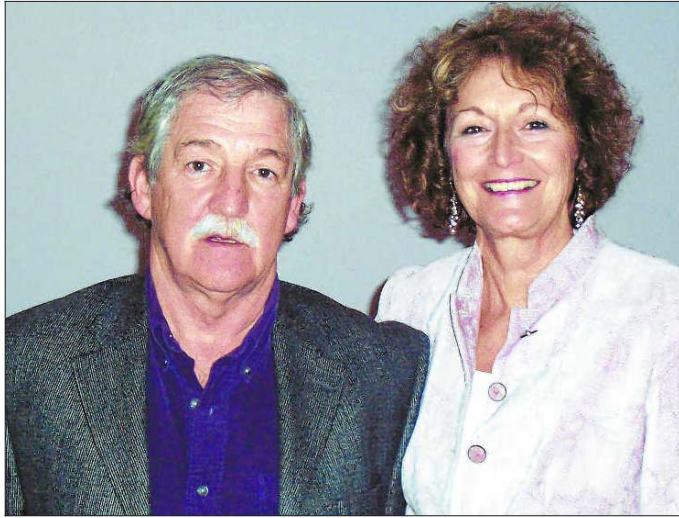
Charles Bower, CEO of Ledgehill, The Corporate Learning Centre, would like the city, and the province, to be a place where people are involved and engaged.

"I would like to see more people coming to the game of life," he says, noting that when they do, we will achieve excellence today and for future generations.

Such involvement does not happen by chance, it must be planned for and processes, such as Greater Halifax's 25-year regional planning initiative, must build in elements that actively encourage partnership and collaboration.

Engaged people are also critical to Fred MacGillivray's dream. The Trade Centre president and CEO has a vision for the community of balanced growth.

"We have to make sure we maintain the past while welcoming the future,"



Charles Bower and Pauline Murray of Ledgehill, The Corporate Learning Centre.

MacGillivray says.

That future, believes Don Mills, president and CEO of Corporate Research Associates, heralds Greater Halifax as a true capital city.

"In that role, we represent Nova Scotia. We become the engine of growth for the whole province."

One measure of realizing that dream, he notes, can be found in dreaming big — and acting on the dream. He cites the support and commitment to Greater Halifax's bid for the 2014 Commonwealth Games as one such example of how Greater Halifax is going for gold.

The stuff of which dreams are made, all these community leaders note, can be fleeting, gone with the first stretch in the morning, or they can be rooted in reality and serve as the foundation for decades to come.

Leaders don't merely dream, they develop goals — and the means of attaining those goals, says Stephen Dempsey, Greater Halifax Partnership presi-

dent and CEO. "These are conscious dreams that can be achieved with planning, collaboration and commitment."

Greater Halifax is already well on its way to achieving many of its leaders' dreams. Good decision-making is at the heart of achievement, notes Mr. MacGillivray.

"Together we need to identify what our city will look like 20 years from now — and what we want it to look like. Then we need to work towards that vision."

Indeed, we already are. Greater Halifax's Economic Strategy lays out a collective plan for growth — one that is embraced by its citizens.

"People here are really motivated," says Mr. Mills. "They want to make this a great place to live. This goes beyond the well-being of their business or themselves."

This is about who we are — and what we can create — when we chance to dream.



Fred MacGillivray, Trade Centre president and CEO, has a vision for the community of balanced growth. Greater Halifax's bid for the 2014 Commonwealth Games is one such example of how Greater Halifax is going for gold.

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