

Bill was born and raised in the City of North Bay.

His wife Gisele (Gravelle) was born and raised in Corbeil. They have been married for 41 years. They have recently relocated to North Bay as their house outgrew them. They have downsized and moved to the ONR building on Oak St East.

Bill and Gisele have 4 children, Lisa, Louise, Billy and Tanya. Gisele worked in the family business, Gravelle's Meat Market, for almost her entire life. Bill told Gisele that 5 years after they were married that he would run for politics in some capacity. In 1976, 5 years after they were married, Bill ran for council in East Ferris where he topped the polls and became the first Deputy Mayor for East Ferris. He went on to succeed Paul Rochefort as Mayor and continued as Mayor and Deputy Mayor in East Ferris for the last 40 years.

Realizing that East Ferris could not exist alone, Bill sought provincial seats on the Association for Municipalities of Ontario Executive and the Rural Caucus. He has been successfully elected to the board since the late 90's.

Bill worked in banking and finance prior to joining the Nipissing District Catholic School Board. He taught music to over 17,000 kids in the Nipissing District over 30 years.

You may also have known Bill with his band Bill Vrebosch and the Descendants of Tyme. They produced records called Cara Mia and Duke the Toque (North Bay Winter Carnival Theme Song).

Bill's grandfather and father, worked for the TNO and ONR since the 1900s. They lived in the East End of North Bay where Bill grew up.

Bill has a University Degree in Social Sciences and Population Geography.

Before living in Corbeil, Bill and Gisele lived in North Bay in West Ferris. Bill understands what it means to work hard. He worked his full time job as a teacher, took courses towards his degrees and then worked 6 nights a week with his band in order to make a living to support his wife and children.

### **Interesting Facts**

1. Over 40 years of Royal Canadian Legion Membership
2. Listed as a Veteran with over 7 years of service with the Two Field Engineers Military Reserves
3. One of the founding members of the Nipissing Country Music Association and Singing Contest
4. Member of the North Bay Country Music Association Hall of Fame and the North Bay Hall of Recognition
5. Played old timer fastball for many years
6. Called the first meeting of the East Ferris Golden Age Club and because of his work in East Ferris has had Bill Vrebosch Children's park named after him

7. The population of East Ferris grew from 1,800 people to well over 5,000 during his term on council with East Ferris

## **Experience**

Over 40 years of local municipal experience as the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of East Ferris and over 20 years of provincial experience as the Chair of ROMA and as a Rural Caucus Member.

Recently re-elected to the Association of Municipalities Rural Caucus in Ottawa. I have also been elected as Zone 9 Representative for ROMA serving municipalities from Gravenhurst to Moosonee and Manitoba since 1999. All of my experience with these boards has been fundamental in my political knowledge. They give me the opportunity to lobby higher levels of government on issues that matter to East Ferris and North Bay. In addition, they provide invaluable access to municipal resources and information across the province.

I've always worked hard to make people feel comfortable with contacting me if they have a problem or a suggestion. Politicians aren't your enemy, we're here to go to meetings, study issues, get advice and make decisions on your behalf. I have always been guided by my conscience. That's why I've always worked using principles such as honesty, integrity and fiscal responsibility as my guide.