

Marty Morantz **Born to Serve his Neighbourhood**

by
Brian Campbell

From an early age, Marty Morantz, City Councillor for Charleswood, Tuxedo and Whyte Ridge, developed a strong love for politics, thanks mainly to his family. He explains, “I grew up with a family that was very engaged in the community and the issues that were going on, so around our kitchen table we were always discussing the events of the day.”

This is what first generated his interest in politics and what led him to pursue Political Studies at the University of Manitoba. After graduating, Marty went to Toronto to study law at Osgoode Hall. After law school, he returned to Winnipeg and began his career with Wolchuk and Company. Marty says, “I worked for the same firm for my entire career, although the name changed a few times. Today it is called Levene Tadman.”

Marty’s areas of practice were Corporate /Commercial, Real Estate and Wills and Estates, which incorporated a more than 20 year career.

Marty met Lisa in 1991 and they were married in 1993. They have two sons, Jeremy (18) and Nathan (15), both of whom are still living at home. Both Marty and Lisa are Winnipeggers. Marty grew up in River Heights, got his first home with Lisa in Lindenwoods, then finally bought their home in Tuxedo in 1997. He says, “I have lived in this area my entire life, except when I was in law school.”

In 2008, Marty left his law practice and started his own real estate investment firm, Jernat Investments Ltd. which is named for his two sons.

Marty began his career in politics very early in his life by volunteering for various politicians. He started out by working on Sid Spivak’s campaign. Later he worked on Gary Filmon’s campaign, followed by Joyce Bateman’s campaign, as well as others. Marty says, “I always had it in the back of my mind that I would run for office.”

Marty got his first opportunity in 2009, when he ran for the PC nomination in River Heights. He won the nomination and was the PC candidate for River Heights in the 2011 election. He didn’t win, but says, “It was a great experience and I enjoyed it a lot.”

After the election, Marty returned to work and wasn't thinking of running again until the civic election came up and Paula Havixbeck gave up her seat in order to run for mayor. Marty says, "All the people who helped me run my provincial campaign wanted me run in the civic election. So it was easy to form a campaign team, because they were already there."

So he registered to run and campaigned throughout July to October. This time he won. Marty says, "It was quite a ride. By the end of the election, I was literally limping from house to house."

Marty is very happy to be a part of the new city council. He says, "It has been an amazing experience. I have enjoyed working with every single Councillor."

Shortly after he joined city council, Mayor Bowman approached Marty and asked him if he would chair the standing committee on finance. He says, "I was honoured to do it, and from then until the end of March the majority of my time was spent helping to put together a budget for the city. It was passed 14 votes to two."

Marty is very positive about working in City Hall and likes the direction they are going. He feels that it is the level of government that works closest with the public. Marty says, "You can do a lot of good things here."

He has a great love for Winnipeg, one of the main reasons that inspired him to get into local politics. He says, "Its best asset is its people."

Marty sees a number of challenges in the future in making Winnipeg a better place to live and in meeting the needs of its people, but he thrives on challenges and sees the potential in them. He says, "I like the opportunity to have a positive influence on my community. It is the opportunity of a lifetime and I don't take it for granted."

Even outside of politics, Marty spends much of his time trying to help others. Since their son, Nathan, lives with Autism, Marty and Lisa do what they can to help families with special needs children. Marty has served on several boards dealing with special needs issues, including, Community Respite Services and Manitoba Families for Effective Autism Treatment (MFEAT). They have also set up some funds to help those with special needs issues.

"We try to do the best we can to help other families with these issues," he says.

Marty would like to spread the word about Autism, the difficulties that families face when dealing with it, and what people can do to help. He believes that if he can use his position to help these people, he will have done something important. He says, "It is a real struggle for families in the community and it is hard for families to cope with on their own."

Marty and his family enjoy travelling when they can. He loves golfing, although he says, “I don’t get to play much anymore.”

He also loves his neighbourhood: “It is a wonderful neighbourhood to raise a family in. It is beautiful.”

For Marty, the neighbourhood isn’t just Tuxedo, but the entire area of Charleswood, Tuxedo and Whyte Ridge. He is very knowledgeable of all the features and advantages of every area of each neighbourhood and can easily tell you what makes them all special. He says, “They all have their own inherent beauty.”

When it comes to Tuxedo, he points out one feature that truly makes it stand out. “We have the jewel of the city, Assiniboine Park,” he says. “The Journey to Churchill is amazing. It is international quality.”

He continues to point out the high quality of education, the other parks, the wonderful hiking and bike trails and much more. It is obvious that Marty is very proud of his neighbourhood. He says, “It has a tremendous amount to offer, not only for its residents, but for anyone who lives in Winnipeg or visits the city.”

“You can’t get much more involved in your community than by running for Councillor,” Marty says. “Many people will remember me coming to their door. I have been to many community meetings and parent teacher groups.”

Marty would like his neighbours to know that he is available to them, both as their Councillor and as a member of their community. He says, “If they have a concern, it is my concern and I want to know about it so I can help them the best that I can. That is what I am here for.”