



ROBERT BLAIS

MAYOR – VILLAGE OF LAKE GEORGE

Success Magazine: What does success mean to you?

Robert Blais: Reaching your goals in life that truly affect the quality of life for others.

SM: You went to Saratoga Springs High School, and then Boston University. How did you end up in Lake George?

RB: I was actually seeking summer employment with the Lake George Village Police Department.

SM: What did you study at Boston University?

RB: Public Relations and Communications.

SM: What first sparked your interest in politics?

RB: Friends serving on the Village Board at the time encouraging me to run.

SM: You have been Mayor since 1971. How have your goals changed since your first term?

RB: They have not. My main goal has always been to be a good steward of my community and the lake.

SM: Who has been your greatest influence in life?

RB: No single individual, but many close friends over the years who have taken the time to share their thoughts with me.

SM: What is your favorite thing about the Village of Lake George?

RB: The change of the residents, the seasons, and the challenges associated with a resort community.

SM: As Mayor, you are in the public eye constantly. How has your family dealt with this over the years?

RB: There have been some conflicts, but mostly with the desire to spend more time with each other.

SM: What has been the most difficult challenge that you have faced as Mayor?

RB: Satisfying the balance necessary between the commercial and residential sectors of our community. They are vastly different.

SM: What accomplishment are you the most proud of?

RB: The things you can see—the Lakefront Walkway, Visitor Center, the beautiful parks and flowers, and my rapport with our employees and taxpayers.

SM: You have an extensive list of honors that you have been awarded over the years. To what do you attribute your success?

RB: Being able to communicate well with others, truly caring about everyone, and being respectful of the needs and feelings of others.

SM: Who would you most like to emulate in life?

RB: I was always fascinated by Mayor Erastus Corning of Albany.

SM: What is the most pressing issue that is currently facing the Village of Lake George?

RB: Maintaining a stable tax rate in the face of rising costs and unfunded mandates.

SM: What keeps you in this position?

RB: The people, and my joy in being able to serve them.

SM: You are a member on many different boards and societies. How do you find time to balance all of these areas of your life?

RB: You organize your time efficiently, assign responsibility to others of interest, and do not micro-manage.

SM: What advice would you give to someone considering running for political office?

RB: Be prepared to take the necessary time, it is always more than expected, and accept the will of the majority even if it is not yours.

SM: When will it be time to retire? Do you have plans to run for another term?

RB: It is time. I can feel it in my heart and my will.

SM: If you had to describe yourself in one word, what would that be?

RB: Energetic and persuasive—but that's two!

SM: You are the founder of many different local festivals and events. Do you have any more ideas up your sleeve for future events?

RB: I have several more ideas. Perhaps some will keep me occupied in the future.

SM: What are your goals for the future of the Village of Lake George?

RB: My hope is that we will remain a fun, exciting family destination at the foot of a pristine and beautiful lake.

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