

## John Warwick never misses a beat

How did John Warwick, a Rotman School MBA ('78) and Bay Street investment guru, end up working nights with The Syndicate? The Syndicate, a Bay Street band, provides a musical outlet for Warwick, who grew up playing the drums.

"We always had drums in the basement because my father was a drummer," he said. Warwick has worked on Bay Street for 21 years, and while working at Gordon Capital, discovered a bass player, guitarist, and saxophone player all in the research department. Warwick and fellow Rotman MBA alumni Norman Shiner and Glynn Williams pulled the group together and formed a band called The G Notes. "Our first job was playing at a Gordon Capital company party. Unfortunately, we only knew eight songs and played them over and over again," he says.

Since then, members of the original band have moved on in their careers and the band has been improved and renamed. The new band, The Syndicate, has three original and three new members. Spring Fest, a Toronto fundraiser featuring The Syndicate, raised \$60,000 for the Children's Wish Foundation. The band will perform at another fundraiser, Baystock — a blend of Bay Street and Woodstock — on October 28, 1999 at the Design Exchange (the site of the old TSE exchange floor at Bay and King). Money raised will support a series of youth charities. Last year Baystock donated more than \$82,000 to various causes including Covenant House, Junior Achievement, and the Kiwanis Music Festival. "We bring our friends together for a fun event to support a good cause," explains Warwick who is a founding director of the Baystock Foundation. "We were pleased that Roger Martin, the dean, attended last year's event and even bought a TV there."

At 45, Warwick's passion for music has not wavered. Professionally, however, he is seeking new challenges following two decades of investment research in the mining sector. In May 1999, Warwick made a career shift after a six-month time out and began a new job as partner, corporate finance, at Kearns Capital, a small brokerage firm in Toronto. Working in investment banking, he advises corporations on how to achieve a higher share price. "Kearns Capital concentrates on about 40 firms in communications, telecommunications, and a number of niche brands including Sleeman Brewing and Oxford Properties," he says. "Unlike my previous four jobs, in this job, mining is not the centre of my universe, and research is done by other people in the firm."

After graduation from the Rotman MBA program, he moved to Montreal to work for Canada's largest pension plan, Canadian National Railway Investment Division, as a financial



John Warwick — the beat goes on.

analyst in the research department. "My MBA provided me with the skills to succeed at CN. I learned to analyze the world's economies and economic trends, figure out their impact on industries, look within those industries to see which companies were succeeding, and determine whether the stock was worth buying"

After moving back to Toronto in 1981, he worked as a mining analyst at three different brokerage firms — Gardiner Watson, Burns Fry Limited, and Gordon Capital Corporation. At Gordon Capital he went on to become research director, and then managing director.

Appreciating the contribution to his life made by his MBA, Warwick remains involved in the Rotman School Alumni Association and served as president in 1981.

In addition to his busy professional life and musical involvement, Warwick finds time for philanthropic work, sitting on the boards of both the Young People's Theatre and the Baystock Foundation. He and his wife, Barbara Palk, vice-chair of TD Quantitative, have two boys, ages eight and ten.

In outlining his career aspirations, Warwick says: "I'm looking forward to being involved in creating some substantial entities that will raise money and do some interesting things in Canada and different parts of the world — whether it be privatizations, takeovers, consolidations, or major restructurings. I want to make better companies and help build some really successful Canadian firms."

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