

# MIX AND SERVE



Barbara Rickert has been bartending for 34 years. Ten of those years have been spent bartending at Vic's Place in downtown Belleville.

AS night approaches, some prepare to come home from work while others prepare to start their shift. People in the medical profession, taxi drivers and fast food workers are only a few of the many workers whose night is day.

Bartenders, included. Whether it's a moonlighting job or a profession that's been pursued for decades, people choose to bartend for many different reasons.

For Barbara Rickert, it's a long-time profession that's brought her to the Quinte area from Quebec.

Rickert has been a bartender at Vic's Place in downtown Belleville for ten years. Rickert previously owned a bar in Montreal, and has been bartending for 34 years.

"I sold my bar in Montreal and came here, and now I just want to work."

Rickert's favourite drink to make is a long island iced tea. It's not uncommon to find bars inside of restaurants, usually in a certain section with higher stools and televisions that play the sports channels.

Melanie Roy is also experienced in bartending with 27 years of it under her belt. Roy is the bar manager at Montana's and has been bartending since it opened 11 years ago.

Roy has always enjoyed bartending, noting that the people she works with and serve on a regular basis make it a particularly great job.

"It's just a very social job. I have great bosses, and it's good team," Roy says.

Roy's favourite drinks to make are Alabama Slammers and margaritas.

For Alyssa Farley, it stemmed from a desire to be a part of the family business.

Farley has been bartending at the Red Lion Pub in downtown Belleville for nine months. Farley's grandfather has owned the pub for 14 years.

"It's the family business. Just thought I'd start up."

Farley's favourite drink to make is a Vanilla Thug.

Some choose to work in a club atmosphere: lots of lights, music blaring, and dancing, which typically attract the younger crowd in Belleville.

Alex Brown has been bartending for two and a half years at Matt & Joe's Nightclub in Belleville

"I really like the service industry. I started waitressing here, and I just really like being around people. It's just a good vibe in here."

Brown's favourite drink to create is a Rocket. For Hilary Schick, bartending is something she picked up when she started college.

Schick has just started bartending at the Shark Tank Pub at Loyalist College this school year. Schick has had experience serving, but never making drinks.

"I just like the social atmosphere, I like talking to people, and it's just a really fun thing to do through school."

Schick's favourite drinks to make include anything with tequila.

Female bartenders in Belleville have a range of experience and reasons to bartend, and while they all may vary, they are united under the title of their contribution to nightlife.

Story and photos by Mandy Larade



Alyssa Farley has been bartending for nine months at the Red Lion Pub in downtown Belleville. The Red Lion Pub is owned by Farley's grandfather.



Alex Brown has been bartending at Matt & Joe's Nightclub for two and a half years.

*“I sold my bar in Montreal and came here, and now I just want to work.”*  
*Barbara Rickert*



Melanie Roy has been a bartender for 27 years. 11 of those years have been spent working at the Belleville Montana's right from when it opened.



Hilary Schick started bartending in September 2013 at the Shark Tank Pub when she started attending Loyalist College.