

Last updated at 10:59 AM on 18/07/08

Tom to the rescue

North Shore businesswoman getting chance to take part in TV? series thanks to the generosity of a friend

The Truro Daily News

By Sherry Martell
Truro Daily News
TATAMAGOUCHE — Oh, what the women won't do to get out of town!

Single businesswoman Sharon MacKenna is so desperately seeking ways to be included in a free, women-only, week-long vacation she's considering a surrogate husband to handle her responsibilities while she's away.

"I haven't had a vacation in years and I really want to go," she said.

MacKenna owns and operates Raven Art Gallery and Frame Shop on Main Street in Tatamagouche. When Paperny Films selected the seaside village as the location to film the next The Week the Women Went series later this summer, she began brainstorming to find a solution to get away.

The production company is aiming to send more than half the village's women on a vacation, regardless of their marital status, from Sept. 7 to 13, to film the men left behind as they cope with housework, kids, work, and a yet-to-be decided community project.

"I have a friend I've known for years who offered to step in to be my surrogate husband to look after the gallery while I'm gone and I'm seriously considering it," said MacKenna. "I think it's kind of too crazy but if I don't have someone there to keep it open I won't go."

MacKenna's longtime friend Tom Wallace, and his wife of 42 years Jony, have a summer cottage on the Gulf Shore. Wallace said when he heard about the film series coming to Tatamagouche he immediately thought of MacKenna and how hard she works and how deserving she is of a vacation.

"I thought, 'Why should she be discriminated against because she doesn't have a husband?'" he said. "I wanted her to know I'd be her fall-back guy."

Jony is credited with cooking up the idea of offering her spouse as a surrogate.

"I've got no problem with it at all," she said. "She deserves a break too."

Tom is a former New York stockbroker used to working in high-pressure environments and even though he has absolutely no gallery-managing experience he feels up to the challenge.

"Am I concerned about it? Not at all," he said.

A production crew from Paperny Films will be arriving in the village on July 27 with a goal to meet as many families as possible and learn about the community in preparation for filming.



Sharon MacKenna, left, is trying to steal her friend Tom Wallace away from his wife Jony for a week and she's happily pushing him in the other woman's direction. The Gulf Shore man has volunteered to be MacKenna's surrogate husband and watch her store so she can participate in a free, week-long vacation as part of a TV series being filmed in Tatamagouche in September. Sherry Martell - Truro Daily News