



## **Meet Michael Harvey, owner of Mike's Bikes at Watkins Glen Bicycle Rental...**

### **1. Describe Your Business:**

Mike's Bikes is a bicycle rental business that caters to the guests of the bed and breakfasts, hotels, and motels in the area. "Not everyone can get right into town, so what I do is set up a meeting place, usually where they are lodging, and deliver the bikes to them," Michael explained. Mike's Bikes provides bicycles, helmets, and maps of the local trails and bike paths. "I try to give them a local perspective on some of the things that they don't want to miss," he said. Mike's Bikes has a variety of different sizes of bikes for different sizes of people.

### **2. Tell us your story:**

Michael bought property in the area about five years ago. He retired and relocated to the area two years ago. "I'm settled and I've learned a lot. It's a beautiful area to come and visit twelve months out of the year," Michael said. "I encourage people who want to see a different part of the state to come here. I was born and raised on long island, and it is interesting because I feel like a tremendous amount of people from downstate New York are not familiar with the Finger Lakes area and what it has to offer. It's tremendous"

### **3. What has helped you succeed and gain experience?**

"My business is fairly new," Michael said. "I think just a knowledge of what I offer and what people are looking for – where they want to go and what they want to see."

### **4. What inspires you?**

"I'm very much a people person," Michael said. "I spent thirty-three years in a career helping people. I like to see good things happening in the community. I like to see a lot of community involvement – locals doing things for locals, giving advice and suggestions. I very much enjoy a small-town population that is in tune with what everyone else is doing and trying to make it succeed for everybody."

### **5. What keeps you up at night? What are your challenges?**

"My challenges are that there is a lot of truth in the saying that there's not enough hours in the day," Michael said. "The older you get, the more you realize that. Trying to balance my own time with family time with time with the grandkids now is a big challenge. Time management is my challenge."

### **6. What is your favorite local activity?**

"There is a tremendous amount to see between the wineries, breweries, distilleries, hiking trails, and general sightseeing," Michael said. "Between Watkins Glen, Geneva, and Ithaca there's some great small theaters that put on some great shows. I like to do outside activities. The hiking that's around here is great. Anyone who comes to the Finger Lakes and doesn't experience Watkins Glen State Park has missed one of the gems of the Finger Lakes."