



## Mary Robertson Bio

My name is Mary Robertson, and I am a hairstylist from Beaver Bank, NS. I work at a salon in Dartmouth. My passion is for haircutting, especially barbering. I am a wig maker and have my own business selling wigs, hair extensions, toupees and toppers.

As children, my friends and I loved playing dress up, but especially loved playing with each other's hair. Maybe I was a hairstylist then and didn't know it! When I was 14 my dad came home with a military style fade that he didn't ask for. He was allergic to the sun, so it was important that his hair provided scalp coverage. It was at that point that I began cutting his hair myself and realized my passion for haircutting!

I have been cutting my husband's hair for 24 years, and during the pandemic, started cutting my father in law's hair also. He loved the cut and said that this was my calling. That encouraged me to go for it!

I graduated from HDC in 2021. As a recent graduate, I am an advocate for current students and newly licensed cosmetologists. I understand what it's like when first starting out in the industry. New cosmetologists are confident and passionate about their new career. Unfortunately once in the salon setting, many of us are told we are not salon ready. It can be very discouraging. Many leave the industry. The schools are educating many new cosmetologists every year and yet salons are finding it hard to fill positions. I believe it may be time to adjust the school curriculum to better reflect current trends and techniques. Highlights are very much in demand and yet we spend more time on roller sets, only popular with a much older clientele. I am sure there are similar services in other areas of cosmetology that deserve more attention also. If we can pinpoint the skills that need more focus in the curriculum, graduates can and will be more salon ready. I am passionate about education and helping new cosmetologists. I believe there is a fit for everyone in the industry. We all have services we are best at, and with proper education and encouragement, together we can make Nova Scotia a leader in this industry and a great place for clients to get top notch services.