

LIFESTYLE

er knew best!

Success stemmed from dad's advice

By SALLY JOHNSTON
Lifestyle Editor

Hockey hero Wayne Gretzky has often quoted the words of wisdom told to him by his dad, Walter, early in his skating career.

"Skate where the puck is going, not where it's been," Gretzky senior apparently told his son years ago.

To mark Father's Day, we asked some other successful men and women - at home and afar - to recall the best advice they ever received from their dad.

RALPH KLEIN, Alberta premier.

"The best piece of advice I remember from my father (a former wrestler) was 'don't go into boxing.' Some might argue I didn't follow that advice because I certainly do a lot of sparring in my current job. But at least my nose has never been broken."

ALISON SMITH, senior correspondent and host for CBC's *The National*.

"My father expected the best of me but that didn't mean I had to be first-across the finish line or first in my class. Success and accomplishment were not to be measured in comparison to others but in a much more personal way.

"The advice he gave which has always stayed with me is 'It doesn't matter what you choose to do in life. However, whatever you choose, be the best at it that you can be.'"

ADAM GREGORY, Edmonton country singer and recording artist.

"The best advice my dad ever gave me was to always respect people and no matter what I do in life, to enjoy it and have fun."

SHIRISH CHOTALIA, Edmonton lawyer.

"My father told me to always be scrupulously honest and ethical, especially when dealing with Revenue Canada. He always slightly overpays his taxes. I try to live up to



that and highly respect him for that."

MIKE ROSS, Edmonton Sun entertainment critic.

"My father was an English professor and one of the things he told me was the older you get the more you begin to accept your own mediocrity."

KRISTINE CARLSON, author of *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff for Women*.

"Dad told me 'Your life is as long and as short as the dash between your birthdate and the day you die.' He meant life is so brief, it's like a millisecond in time, so make the most of it. I was 11 at the time and remember thinking 'Wow.'"

JOHN STANTON, Edmonton founder of *The Running Room* chain of fitness stores.

"My father said work hard, and if your hard work doesn't work out sometimes, maintain a sense of humour."

DEEPAK CHOPRA, spiritual guru and author.

"My father told me to always be aware that every choice you make influences the future. Make choices consciously that nurture the expansion of happiness both for yourself and for those with whom you come into contact. Always do your best and leave the results to the unknown."

RHONA RASKIN, advice columnist and host of a syndicated call-in radio show.

"The best advice I ever got from my dad was 'just because you are self-employed doesn't mean the boss isn't a jerk.'"

"It was my favourite twisted truth. The idea that being your own boss was difficult has survived the years. So after writing this I am going to give myself the day off. Without pay."

JOE KELLY, author and executive director of *Dads and Daughters*, a U.S. non-profit organization dedicated to improving family relationships.

"My father showed me that it's important for a father to be affectionate - he hugged and kissed me and told me he loved me every day. It wasn't until I



was an adult that I realized that wasn't the norm for men of his generation."



Lawyer Shirish Chotalia, top, broadcaster Alison Smith, above, and singer Adam Gregory, right, say advice from dad helped them on the road to success.



File photos of his hockey suc-