

## MC2 BOARD BIOS

**President: Elaine Capes**

**Secretary: Rita Reitsma**

**Treasurer: Bob Mitchell**

**Delfino Bernardi:** Del was born in a small farm town in Northern Italy. He immigrated to Canada in 1971. He furthered his education at Confederation College of Applied Arts and Technology in Thunder Bay. He was hired in 1976 as a flight instructor at the Thunder Bay Flying Club. In 1978 he was promoted to chief flying instructor and general manager. His responsibilities included managing the college aviation program contract and various duties associated with running a flying school and an aircraft charter business. He served concurrently as the regional flight test examiner (DFTE pilot) for Transport Canada. He was hired by Air Canada in January 1980, based in Toronto. He bought his house in Mono where he currently lives with his family in 1982 to be closer to his workplace. He retired as a captain in 2012 after a 32 year career. At Air Canada he qualified to fly 11 different transport types of aircrafts from the largest Boeing 747-400 to the smaller McDonnell Douglas DC9-30. As a side business interest, he owned and operated a restaurant and an investment company. He served as a volunteer firefighter for the Town of Caledon serving the region including the southeast corner of Mono. He has served as a Board member of a children's charity (HYFC) for approximately ten years. At present he is actively involved in fundraising for a variety of children's charities. Since early 2000 he continues to serve as a volunteer driver for the Cancer society wheels of hope. He was a member of the HCIA Trail Working Group. He served on several committees including, MSAC, COA, PEAC and MRAC for the Town of Mono for the past 16 years. He also served as a member of the Community Safety Task Force in 2019 for Mono. Del and his wife Elizabeth have four children, three wonderful daughter's in law, a lovable son in law and six awesome grandchildren. He loves outdoor sports with sea kayaking, biking, hiking, golf and gardening being some of his most favourite activities.

**Susan Brown:** Born to Hungarian immigrant parents who fled their country during the Second World War and settled in Canada where their five children were born, Susan being the eldest. Married Peter Brown (also an immigrant from Britain) in 1978 and shortly after the birth of their child Anna, settled in Mulmur and have lived here full time since 1980. Susan part-owned a retail store in Toronto and worked there for several years. Having settled in Mulmur she started another business with partner Pille Piegaze which they ran together for six years. In 1990 she acquired her real estate licence and has worked full time in that career till this very day. Her love of Mulmur grew even stronger as she met her neighbours and fellow residents during that 26 year period of serving Mulmur and Dufferin County. When Hydro threatened to put up giant pylons and across Mulmur she and her business partner Pille got together and helped grow the opposition to that proposal which grew to thousands of residents organizing and ended in success after 11 years of legal battles. She believes in working together to hear other opinions in order to arrive at the best solutions to problems. Susan, like others in this community, wants to hold strong to the values of country living while being open to sensible and responsible growth.

**Elaine Capes:** Elaine previously worked in the finance industry, for more than 30 years, holding senior management positions in personal and corporate banking, systems and technology and global securities. She holds an Honours BA in Humanities, from the University of Toronto, an OISE U of T Adult Education Certificate, an Equine Science Certificate from the University of Guelph, and a Certificate in NFP Governance Essentials, from the Institute of Corporate Directors and The University of Toronto Rotman School of Management, Executive program, is currently enrolled in the University of Alberta, Indigenous Canada certificate program. Elaine was a Councillor for the Town of Mono from 2010 to 2014 and member of the Mono Research Advisory Committee from 2015 to 2018. She is a current Senate member for the Headwaters Health Care Foundation. Elaine served on the MC2 Board prior to and following her term as Councillor. She brings a focus on facilitating good governance practices and works across all her endeavors to advocate for the preservation of the rural environment and a healthy rural community. Elaine runs her own human Performance and Learning Consulting Company serving international and local corporate clients and NFP Organizations and is currently working as the DC MOVES Coordinator for HCIA and the County of Dufferin Community Services. She also manages Little Creek Ranch; a family owned and operated Agri-Tourism business in Mono.

**Arnold De Graaff:** Arnold was born in the Netherlands and came to Canada in 1951. He and his wife, Rita Reitsma, have lived in Mono for 31 years. They are both psychotherapists. Arnold is a member, and previous board member of the Dufferin Arts Council, through which he participated in the paint-ins of the Artists Against the Quarry. As he has become more and more concerned about the global degradation of the environment he began a study project which has turned into a book which was published in January 2017, titled *The Gods In Whom They Trusted: The Disintegrative Effects of Capitalism: A Foundation for Transitioning to a New Social World*. He became chair of MC<sup>2</sup> Environment Committee in large part because he wants to do something very practical for our children and young people in this area with regard to the environment and how to become more resilient and self-sufficient. He loves to garden and paint.

**Knut Holmsen:** Knut lives in Mono and was born and raised on a farm in Norway. He was educated in Norway and Scotland. He and his wife, Jane, have a daughter and a grandson. Knut has worked with import and export companies in London England and Sydney Australia. In Canada he started Marvin Window and Doors. He was a director of Canadian Window and Door Manufacturing Association. In Orangeville, he was the President of the Rotary Club for 2015-2016. In 2007 his family moved into a home they built in a reclaimed gravel pit. From his earliest roots he has had a strong environmental and community consciousness.

**Bob Mitchell:** After graduating from commerce at Carleton University, Bob began a very successful career in the construction equipment business. He is a retired senior executive with Toromont Cat, the Caterpillar dealership for eastern Canada. He spent 35 years mainly in operations and laterally as CFO of the Caterpillar dealership. He was a board member of the Ontario Road Builders Association for 6 years and active in other related organizations. After retiring in 2006, he became involved in the Town of Mono citizens' committees and was successful running for Town Council from 2011 to 2014. Bob has been Treasurer of the Dufferin Arts Council for the past 6 years. He and his partner Shirley Bennett are part of the management of Seconds Count, the Headwaters Hospital thrift store for the first six years of its existence. He is a proud Canadian and strong advocate for our environment, cultural heritage and human rights.

**Rita Reitsma** has lived in Mono for 31 years. Though initially reluctant to leave Toronto, she has loved it here and hopes to never leave. She continues to practice psychotherapy with people from a wide range of ages, challenges and backgrounds which is a richly fulfilling job. She has been involved in local arts events, social justice initiatives and now our citizens' coalition. Rita is currently chairperson for the Environment Committee and secretary for the Board. She loves to spend time with friends, grandchildren, volunteer at schools in the intermediate division, and make handmade books. She likes to read poetry and loves gardening.

**Cheryl Russel** and her husband, Hugh, have been residents of Mulmur for over 30 years. She has retired from a career in nursing, working as an RN in various hospitals and then as a nurse manager. Currently she manages her family's art business. Cheryl has had long experience in Dufferin County community affairs. She was on the Board of the Headwaters Art Festival and chaired the annual Art Show and Sale. She served 7 years on the Board of CORE and has attended most Mulmur Township Council meetings for the past several years. Cheryl brings to our Board a strong experience in municipal affairs, road safety and particularly in land use issues.