

Trustee Bio's

Judy Baker

I have 35 years experience in the financial services industry in several positions ranging from branch banking to operations. I spent approximately 11 years in an audit department where I was involved in branch audits, special investigations and conducting operational audits of various central processing units including wholly/partially owned subsidiaries in Canada and the Caribbean. In the early 90's I assumed responsibility for managing the Visa Merchant Services department. My unit comprised approximately 200 FTE and included customer service, technical support, investigating disputed transactions, merchant terminal deployment and inventory control, liaising with multiple vendors and network suppliers. My last position was Director of Bank Card Security and Fraud Risk Management, where I was responsible for managing fraud risk for credit and debit cards as well as the electronic delivery channels. This also involved coordinating activities with various law enforcement agencies, industry counterparts, Interac, Visa and the Canadian Bankers Association to identify fraud trends and implement methods to mitigate industry losses.

Julia Balabanowicz

Julia Balabanowicz moved to Cowichan Bay in 2022 to settle and put roots down. For the past 15 years, she has been applying her expertise in government relations, policy, risk management, conflict resolution, communications, and stakeholder relations in the electricity sector with both private companies and public sector organizations. She is passionate about being an agent for change and has committed her career to working on the wicked problems that need to be solved to mitigate and adapt to climate change. It is for this reason that she became interested in becoming involved with the Board of Trustees of Cowichan Bay Waterworks District. Julia has a Master of Disaster and Emergency Management from Royal Road University, a Bachelor of Art in Political Science and Ethics from Western University, and post graduate diploma in conflict resolution from York University. Most recently she completed End of Life Doula training with Douglas College. She has also lived, worked and studied in England, Korea and India.

Peter Edgar

When I completed my time as a student at UBC I was employed by International Hydrodynamics to help build and occasionally fly the submersible Pisces 1. (See Vickie Jensen's book "Deep Dark and Dangerous" for details). My new wife looked at the fatality rate for underwater work and suggested there were better places to create a career.

I moved to UBC just as computers were making their way into the world and started working with the UBC Library as the need to disseminate information more quickly became pressing. Long before the internet existed the UBC Library supported over 15 branches on campus and at teaching hospitals in greater Vancouver. Moving information and materials between these branches in a timely and cost effective way, and keeping track of all the materials that moved around was an ongoing challenge. The responsibility of this fell mainly to me. The networks that evolved over the years became my responsibility.

When I retired to Cowichan Bay I became curious about the similarities of computer networks and drinking water networks and became a trustee for the CBWD.

Wendy Gregg

I have a diploma in nursing (RN), a bachelor's degree in Public Administration (B. Public Administration) and numerous post-graduate courses in Human Resource Management recognized in the professional designation as a Certified Human Resources Professional (CHRP).

My work experience includes 15 years as an RN in industry and community; 17 years as Executive Director of a large municipal community services organization working with all levels of government and volunteer organizations; 7 years as the Human Resources Manager and Executive team member for a utility company that handled water, waste water, garbage and recycling for a group of Alberta municipalities. Throughout my career I have been in leadership positions in numerous community organizations including Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, John Howard Society, Parent Teacher groups, fundraising and community service charities, food banks, community drama clubs, etc. I have been very active in the professional organizations related to my employment including the United Nurses of Alberta where I was the Chair of the Provincial negotiating committee for the public health sector, the Family and Community Support Services Association where I chaired Director's Network for several years, and a member of the local HR professionals group in my community. I also spent 25 years keeping books for the family farm business and running a catering business.

As you can see, I have wide experience and education in the operation and management of local organizations and knowledge of local water treatment and distribution that I bring to my role as Trustee for the Cowichan Bay Water District.

Calvin Slade

I was born, raised and continue to live in the Cowichan Bay area. I grew up in the water well industry, my parents starting Drillwell Enterprises when I was 2, and I was actively involved in operating the company with my older brothers until 2020. I was a longtime member of the BC Groundwater Association, and served two terms as the Vancouver Island representative.

In the past, I have worked on all kinds and sizes of water wells, from shallow dug wells, to deep, large diameter, production wells.

I have worked with, and for, various agencies, levels of government, water suppliers and purveyors, hatcheries, farms, and private individuals, helping them to get the water they required to fulfill their needs. I feel my experience with building and maintaining water related infrastructure is beneficial when making decisions relating to our community water supply.

Staff Bio's

Cheryl Wirsz, RPP, MCIP, RI - District Administrator

Cheryl Wirsz holds a Master of Public Administration from UVIC, a Bachelor of Arts from UBC, a Certificate in Local Government Service Delivery from the Board of Examiners [*Local Government Act*], and a Professional Specialization Certificate in Local Government Management from UVIC. Ms Wirsz is a registered professional planner with the Canadian Institute of Planners, the Planning Institute of BC and a full member of the Real Estate Institute of BC.

Ms. Wirsz has over 30 years of local, regional and provincial government experience as a Planner at the Cowichan Valley Regional District, City of Parksville, District of Sooke, the BC Forest Service and BC Parks. Cheryl has lived in the Cowichan Valley since 1992 and in Cowichan Bay since 2012.