



## THE FRIENDS OF THE BRUCE DISTRICT PARKS ASSOCIATION

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# The Sounding Line

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This issue of The Sounding Line will introduce you, or re-acquaint you, with the remaining four members of the Friends Board of Directors. As noted in our last Sounding Line, the Board consists of eight members, each of whom are elected for 2 year terms. Two of the members in this issue have a long history with Friends, and two are recent additions to the Board.

### **SHEILA BUCKINGHAM**

Sheila first came to the peninsula as a beginning scuba diver, ended up marrying one of the instructors and moving full time to Tobermory in 2005. She jumped headfirst into activities with Bruce Trail, Friends of the Bruce District Parks, Chamber of Commerce, Lighthouse Partners, Bruce Peninsula Tourism Association, among others. She enjoyed a wonderful year-long contract position with Parks Canada as Tourism Coordinator and from there partnered with regional and County tourism and cultural groups on many projects. As a volunteer, Sheila looks to give her energy where she will also enjoy the time she spends. Creating events and feeding people are her go-to hobbies; she carries these passions into other areas in her life as well. Sheila has been a Board Member for several years, and is now on the committee responsible for the Host Program at the Light Station on Flowerpot Island.

### **ANN MILLER**

Ann was born and raised in Galt ON, a place that literally does not exist anymore! Her family bought a cottage on Singing Sands, Dorcas Bay, in 1959 and she spent all summer, every summer running on the beach and swimming in the Bay, long before it was a National Park. Trips in her father's homemade boat out to Flowerpot Island and to the Grotto, before that was even a "thing", was an annual summer outing. At either of these locations they would most often be the only ones there. This original cottage remains in the family to this day. It was only natural that she, and her husband Peter, would build their own cottage here in 1993 and make the move here permanently in 2006.

Ann is honored to sit at the table of the Board, to fill the seat left by her late husband Peter, whose passion, vision and forward thinking will always be evident in the improvements and accomplishments made during his tenure. Ann presently, along with her committee, co-ordinates the Host Program. She finds it rewarding to see so many diverse groups of volunteers taking part in the program and thoroughly enjoying the experience. Ann has been a coordinator of the Orchid Festival and also served as Treasurer of the Friends for many years.

### **GRIFF SALEN**

Griff was born and raised in Tobermory, and has been on and around the shores and waters of the Peninsula his entire life. His family business is the Blue Heron Cruise Company, of which he is now an owner. Griff has probably been across and around Flowerpot Island more than most other residents or visitors. He has an opportunity to speak with countless visitors, and can provide insight into areas where Friends can make a positive difference in the experience of the Parks. Griff is a former councillor for North Bruce Peninsula, and recently married, spends his winters in Grosse Pointe, while his wife finishes up her medical residency. Griff has been on the Board of Friends for 8 years. He enjoys running, and golfing, when he is not captaining one of the Blue Heron vessels.

### **BRET SHEPLEY**

Bret and his wife Lori purchased land and built their Tobermory vacation home in 2007. As Bret was looking at retirement after a 40-year career with Royal Bank of Canada they moved full time to Tobermory in 2012 and Bret retired in 2019. Since retiring Bret has been involved with Nature Conservancy, Bruce Trail Conservancy and joined the Friends Board in November of 2021. He also sits on the Board for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Grey Bruce and West Simcoe as Treasurer, President of The Board for Taylored Pickleball Initiative and President of the Tobermory Pickleball Club. Bret's other passion is pickleball and you can often find Bret and Lori at the Tobermory pickleball courts either playing, instructing or working with youth.