



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 four members of the Friends Board of Directors. Under the current bylaws of the Association, 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. There will be a further issue of The Sounding Line in a few weeks, with further information on the Board, and the upcoming annual meeting.

JEFF BUCKINGHAM

Jeff was born in Toronto, and worked and lived in the Kitchener area for over 30 years. He taught scuba diving at the University of Waterloo for 20 years. Because he was always bringing students to Tobermory, he loved the area and resolved to retire there one day. In the early 1980's, Jeff was a volunteer representative for Fathom Five on the Ontario Underwater Council. When Jeff's real jobs ended, his dream of retirement in Tobermory became a reality when he and his wife Sheila moved to the area. Jeff has been a board member on the Friends for many years, serving as vice-chair in 2007 and chair in 2010. Jeff's priority for The Friends is to enhance and expand visitor experiences to both Bruce National Parks. Jeff is currently the Secretary of The Friends, and his recollection of past Friends projects and activities is most helpful to the current Board.

BILL CAULFEILD-BROWNE

Following a career as a business executive and corporate director, Bill and his wife retired to their summer home in Tobermory. Bill is an ardent conservationist and former Chair of the Nature Conservancy of Canada. He also helped establish the Sources of Knowledge Forum. Presently he serves on the board of Canada's National History Society. His passions are for travel, having explored every province and territory of Canada, and photography. Bill has published two books of photographs and is currently working on a third celebrating Canada's landscapes, flora and fauna. Bill's involvement with The Friends started in 2012 when a small group of local residents banded together to save the Big Tub Lighthouse, which was scheduled to be torn down. They raised the funds (over \$25,000) to repair, re-shingle and conserve the building. That group became part of The Friends so it could benefit from its charitable status. The Friends continues its upkeep and monitoring today. Bill's business expertise and his experiences with other charities are a welcome asset to The Friends.

RICHARD OTTEWELL

While Richard spent most of his legal career based in Goderich, his family roots are in the Bruce Peninsula, where his family first settled back in the 1850's. Richard has been involved with numerous and diverse not for profit organizations, including Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, and AGM Hospital in Goderich. Richard and his wife Barbara Anne purchased their current home in 2012, and moved there full time in 2021. Richard was elected to the Board in 2021, and after the recent death of Peter Miller, took on the position of Acting Chair. He has been assisting the Board with governance considerations and has worked closely with the senior administration of Parks. He enjoys the hands-on projects at the Light Station on Flowerpot Island, particularly the repairs and reopening of the Museum after its lengthy closure due to water damage and Covid restrictions.

ROBERT G. TOMCHICK

Rob is a Registered Professional Forester (R.P.F. (Ret)) with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry from the University of Toronto. Originally from Timmins, Rob spent 35 years in the forest industry, mostly in Northeastern Ontario. Rob is on the Board of Directors of Temagami Forest Management Corporation, a provincial Crown Agency, as well as a Director on the Board of Black Diamond Forestry, a First Nation-owned forestry enterprise. Having owned property in Tobermory since 2000, Rob and his wife Bridget built their retirement home on Hay Bay in 2019, and now live there full time. Rob was elected to the Board of Friends in 2022. Since that time, he has spent countless hours working on updates, gardens and other hands-on projects at the Light Station on Flowerpot Island. His expertise in all things forest related has been a real asset to the Association.