

2020/2021 Board of Directors

President HILARY ELSE

Hilary was born and raised here in the station. She had a wonderful childhood attending Cowichan Station School and she is delighted to have The HUB for her family to create, play and attend classes and functions in regularly. She became a Clinical Herbal Therapist in 2002, and she has run her own home-based merino wool clothing business going on 10 years now. She also currently teaches children's capoeira classes at The HUB and home schools her three children. She enjoys vegetable gardening, food preservation, sewing and the 'old ways'. As her children age she finds herself participating in community at an exponential rate. With her family's creativity and abundant energies she is looking forward to more involvement in organizing fundraisers and working on projects wherever needed. As a rural living family values connections in community, Hilary sees The HUB being the main community center for many residents in the local areas. She wants to see The HUB continue to grow and be an inclusive place for everyone.

Vice-President MELANIE WATSON

Melanie was born and raised in Cowichan Station and attended school in the light-filled rooms of what is now our beloved HUB. She grew up waiting for the Dayliner train to come along and squash her pennies on the railroad track, playing around the gravestones in the churchyard, swimming in the river and completely taking for granted what a safe and beautiful place she had landed in. Having now seen and lived in many different parts of the world she is passionate about building and maintaining community; as a way to bring people together in a culture that does not often take this basic human need into account. She has been a professional musician, a teacher, a photographer, a bookseller, an event manager, a volunteer coordinator, a tour guide, a wine-seller, a lock-keeper on the river Thames among many other things. She loves being of service to the HUB and the wider community and enjoys helping to run the HUB Film Club and the HUB Cafe and working alongside her fellow board members because they're awesome!

Secretary AMIE ROMAN

Amie moved to the Cowichan Valley just before the birth of her daughter a decade ago, onto land which has now had 5 generations of her family living on it, in Cobble Hill. Born and raised on the Lower Mainland, Amie spent much of her childhood on the Island with family, and feels truly at home here. Her family has a small farm on the acreage, raising, growing and foraging much of their own food there. Amie has a bachelor's degree from UBC in Conservation Biology, has worked in the legal industry, and has been a part of a small Vancouver software company for approximately 20 years. Amie was introduced to the HUB through dance, drumming and clay classes and community events, and was interested in supporting this vital community asset. She joined the CSAA Board of Directors in March 2020.

Treasurer DONNA SHAW

Donna Shaw is the Chief Marketing and Sales Officer for Live Edge Design and stay at home mum of two. She moved to Cowichan Station in 2011 to start a hobby farm and family. When Donna isn't chasing the chickens or the toddlers around the farm she runs the Mini Musicians program at the HUB. A previous board member of Providence Farm and Providence Village she hopes to bring her experiences to the HUB, instilling a sense of community into her life and that of her children.

Director At Large TRACEY STEPHENSON / TRUE

New to the board. I joined the Hub to be part of and participate in my community. There is so much to learn and experience in this wonderful place. My children are the shining stars in my life and go to school at the Montessori at the HUB. The community and meeting place the HUB has been and will continue to be part of the fabric of our lives. The story of the spirit and dream that made this place a reality is something I wanted to learn from. Shared spaces where all are welcome and can join together to learn, grow and play are a treasure. The story of this place is one of memories, hope, resilience, dreams, and children. I wanted to play a tiny part in this place out of respect for the work that has occurred and the aspirations for the future. Respect for the environment, the watershed and the HUB forest are interwoven into the space. I have found the HUB board to be filled with kind, generous, creative, and humble people working for their community. It has been a challenge to work with covid restrictions and planning events has been a learning experience. I hope others will join in this work.

What I offer is my own ideas and dreams, some management experience, and a willingness to try and fill needs. I work as an emergency physician, medical director, and transport physician for Island health and BC Ambulance Service. My family is privileged to live and play in the beautiful unceded territories of Cowichan tribe in Cowichan Bay. So grateful for the history, diversity, and beauty of this land.

Director at Large JAN CAMPBELL

Born and raised in the Cowichan Valley, Jan is an alumni of Cowichan Station Elementary School, along with her 4siblings. Both her parents also taught at the school. Seeing the building becoming a community centre has been great and she looks forward to it continuing to grow and provide good things for the community.

Director At Large DOUG MARSH

Doug Marsh has been an advocate and supporter of the Hub community initiative since it's inception. Having failed in an attempt to create a similar vision for the old elementary school in Chemainus, he feels gratitude and good fortune for the success that the Hub is achieving in Cowichan Station. Since moving to South Cowichan and becoming involved with the community woodshop Doug has become interested in other aspects of the Hub and it's amazing community of staff , volunteers, and friendly participants.

His interests include woodworking, sculpture, permaculture, placemaking, and organic food growing.

Director At Large RODGER HUNTER

Rodger Hunter and his family made Cowichan Station their home in 1986 and moved here fulltime 20 years ago. Rodger's passions centre on family, community and the amazing environment where we live. Rodger has Masters degrees in both biology and public administration and is a trained negotiator, facilitator and certified executive coach. Over his long career he worked as a coastal and wetland specialist, financial and public policy analyst, treaty negotiator, senior provincial government executive and management consultant. since 2010 he has focussed on advancing whole watershed thinking and improved watershed management in the Cowichan/Koksilah watershed. He has worked with many Boards over the years to advance the well-being of youth, mental health, the environment and community resilience. Currently he hopes to help the Cowichan Station Area Association Board to contribute to building a stronger, more resilient community.

Director-At-Large AL MIKALISHEN

Al & his wife Wendy moved to the Cowichan Valley in 1973 where Al began his 35 year K - 7 teaching career, teaching mostly grades 2 to 6.

Al grew up on the west coast of Vancouver Island (Bamfield) with stops in Port Alberni, Kamloops & Victoria. He attended U-Vic and then was hired to teach Grade 5 in the open area at Bench Elementary. After 5 years, he moved to Khowhemun Elementary as Head Teacher for three years. Al spent 9 years at Cowichan Station from 1981 to 1990. He was Head Teacher there until budget cuts axed the HT programme. Al was anointed with the name of "Mr. Mik" by Maureen Kelly while at Cowichan Station - a name that he also carried through his 18 years at Alex Aitken elementary and beyond.

Al joined the Board in 2019. He has a great deal of experience from his days in various school district & teacher association committees. He was also chair of the south Cowichan Emergency Planning Team and chair of the Eves Park Board for many years.

Al has many hobbies and interest. Gardening & golf currently take up much of his spare time.

Director At Large HENRY VAN HELL

Cowichan Valley has been my home since I was six years old. I grew up in Fairbridge and eventually moved to a 20 acre farm on Jackson Road in Cowichan Station where I have now lived for about 30 years.

Today I own and run a small local business, Envirosept. I have worked in both the logging and fishing industries, and volunteered for years with the Cowichan Valley Search and Rescue in rope rescue, avalanche response and swift water rescue. These pursuits have contributed to my love of the outdoors and nature. I love hiking and kayaking and I appreciate living in such a beautiful region.

Being involved in community affairs is one way I hope to contribute to the well being of our community.