

Midland Cultural Centre Board Members

GORDON HAGEN (Director, Product Development, Cronos Group)



Gordon Hagen is a local, born and raised in Tiny, Ontario. Gordon studied molecular biology and synthetic organic chemistry and obtained his Masters of Science at Ontario Tech University.

After his studies Gordon began his career managing an infectious disease research laboratory at the University of Michigan. Gordon transitioned his career from medical research into the medical cannabis industry, moving back

home to Tiny, Ontario.

He now oversees Cronos Group's global product development organization developing adult recreational and medicinal cannabis products. Gordon has always been involved and passionate about music and the arts, and wants to give back to the community that he grew up in by taking this position at the Midland Cultural Centre.

SYLVIA BARNARD



Sylvia Barnard's career in education included the roles of classroom teacher, school principal, and superintendent of schools. She ended her career with eleven years as the President of Cambrian College in Sudbury, Ontario. She has published articles on Leadership Development and Strategic Planning and worked with Government and Global Mineral Industry officials in Chile, India, and Tanzania on projects bringing women into their economy.

Sylvia holds a Bachelor of Arts in French and German, a Bachelor and a Masters of Education and several post graduate certifications in Leadership Development, Human Resources, and Strategic Planning. Prior to her forty years in education, Sylvia worked as a translator and in public relations with Mercedes Benz of Canada.

In her retirement she has published her first novel, a historical fiction situated on the banks of the Spanish River in Northern Ontario.

Sylvia and her husband live on Farlain Lake where she hikes and snowshoes the Awenda Park trails, and works in her stained glass studio when she isn't writing. She sees the Midland Cultural Centre as an important gem for the region and is excited to offer her expertise and energy to the continuing success of the MCC.

KRISTEN COADY



Kristen Coady is currently a Senior Strategy Manager, within the People and Culture team at TELUS. Over her 20-year career, she has held multiple leadership roles, progressing from operations and account management to business development and growth.

She is excited to bring her experience and knowledge in the human resources, benefits consulting, and wellness industries to the MCC, given the desire to give back to an organization she believes supports the community and the arts. She is a speaker and contributor to many industry presentations and publications and uses her expertise to assist organizations to manage risk and improve the programs they invest in.

Kristen holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Ottawa, a Group Benefits Advisor (GBA) designation from IFCEBS, an Organizational Leadership Certificate from the Rotman School of Management, and is currently completing a Human Resources Diploma at McMaster University.

DANIEL S. DONALDSON



Born and raised in Midland, Dan attended Regent Public School and Midland Secondary School. In 1974 he graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a Bachelor of Music degree. Dan has spent his career supporting the Performing Arts in Ontario holding General Manager positions at The Kelso Music Centre, the University of Waterloo Centre for the Arts, The Centre in the Square in

Kitchener, the Chatham Capitol Theatre and Executive Officer roles in Orchestras Canada and The Living Arts Centre in Mississauga to name few.

Dan was the Founding President of The Canadian Arts Presenting Association, is a Lifetime Honorary Member of Ontario Presents, and is a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International. Dan continues to live in Midland and support the community through volunteering.

KAYLEE MACMILLAN



Kaylee has spent her career in health care communications, putting patients and families at the center of every decision.

Over the past 10 years, Kaylee has refined her communication skills including research and engagement, project management and strategic thinking. She has a deep understanding of the direct impact every effort has on staff engagement, patient experience, and stakeholder relations.

From the smallest initiatives to large-scale events, Kaylee is passionate about her work and how it can affect individuals across our community.

GORDON SEDGWICK



Gord Sedgwick, CPA, CA, grew up in the Toronto area, attended the Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario and after working with one of the major accounting firms in Vancouver and Toronto, moved to Midland in 1987 to bring up his family and practice accounting in a small-town environment.

He has practiced accounting with several partners over the years in Midland and most recently, his firm Sedgwick Post & Hogg merged with Grant Thornton a couple of years before he retired. Gord serves as the Treasurer and the Chair of the Finance Committee of the MCC Board. He has served on the Boards of many local organizations during his career in North Simcoe.

Gord enjoys keeping active cycling, kayaking, hiking, and playing golf during the summer. He water-skis most mornings when the water is flat on Hoggs Bay. He plays hockey and skis during the winter. He and his wife, Alicia enjoy travelling, reading, and have taken up playing Bridge in their retirement.

He feels fortunate to be a part of the MCC, helping it to remain vibrant in its mission to serve the Arts in area.

PAUL SLOAN



Paul is a resident of Victoria Harbour. He enjoyed a lengthy career in public education before embarking on a second career as a manager within the Office of the Ontario Ombudsman. He retired from that position in March 2023.

Paul has had a lifelong interest in the performing arts: he holds a degree in piano performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music and a Bachelor's of Music from the University of Toronto.

Over the past five decades, he has involved himself in a variety of musical performance settings: church musician, music theatre productions and community choirs. He has demonstrated a passion and commitment to arts education in our schools and community, working to ensure that every opportunity be made available to nurture, cultivate and celebrate the arts.

SHERRY SMITH-ROSS



Sherry Smith-Ross has over 30 years' experience with the Ministry of Education where she worked as the Website Lead at the Education Quality and Accountability Office and previous to that, as a Publications Officer with the Independent Learning Centre (distance education). She is a graduate of the Graphic Design program at Georgian college. Recently retired, Sherry is excited to be able to apply her years of experience in communications, website, and graphic design, to support the Midland Culture Centre.

Originally from Sauble Beach, Sherry, her husband, and their dog Ozzy-Bear, have lived in Tiny Township for several years and recently built their forever home along Georgian Bay in Tiny Beaches.

Her past volunteer work includes Empower Simcoe, Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Simcoe and Tiny Township Lions Club.

Sherry lives a holistic live style, enjoys cooking, gardening, creative art, and spending time with family and friends.

BASIL LAFRENIERE



Basil Lafreniere is a resident of Thunder Beach where his Metis ancestors have lived for hundreds of years. Music and wooden boats are Basil's passions and he continues to pursue both in his retirement. A locally, nationally, and internationally recognized expert in Metis and Francophone music, he spent twenty years travelling the world performing and teaching about traditional Metis instruments. He is a luthier and has supported musicians and the industry through organizing trade shows and tours for other musicians. When his family needed him, Basil took over the family construction business until he retired, well-versed in the challenges of small businesses and entrepreneurs. He has never stopped his commitment to music and is an active member of the local music scene including the band Red Hot Stove Pipe.

Also pursuing his love of wooden boats, Basil is the President of the Georgian Heritage League where he is advocating, alongside the town of Penetanguishene, for the establishment of the Canadian Water Museum which would house and teach about the Canadian wooden boat past and present.

Basil Lafreniere is an excellent addition to the MCC Board of Directors with his passion for the arts, his expertise and experience in the world of music, and his on-going commitment to telling the stories of our Canadian heritage. Basil also brings extensive experience in fund-raising in the community.

REINHART WEBER

