



Queen Margaret's School

Board of Governors 2009-2010



Mike DeBeck, Chair

Mike is a Chartered Accountant, currently an investment advisor with RBC Dominion Securities; was a partner with Hayes, DeBeck, Stewart and Little, Chartered Accountants from 1976-1997; is in his fourth year as Chair of the Board of Governors at QMS. Previous Board experience includes Shawnigan Lake School, Island Savings Credit Union, Cowichan Family Life, BC Insolvency Practitioners Association and Cowichan Symphony Society.



Leigh Taylor, Vice Chair

Leigh served for 24 years as Chief Executive Officer of Southwestern University School of Law in Los Angeles, California, where he also served for 27 years as Dean of the Law Faculty. In the course of a distinguished career, he also served as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Law School Admissions Council as well as the NALP Foundation for Law Career Research and Education. For the American Bar Association, he has chaired a number of law school inspection teams, the Law School Administration Committee, the Governmental Relations and Financial Aid Committee and has been Vice Chair of the Standards Review Committee. He has served as co-chair within the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California. He brings to QMS many years of experience in small university administration, development, finance, fundraising and board governance.



Sue Ryan, Secretary

Sue is a Certified Management Accountant who has served on the Board of QMS since 2005. Since then she has been the Chair of the Nominating Committee and a Member of the Finance Committee, and previously chaired the Governance Committee. Currently employed by the Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation as Director, Operations, she previously held posts as Vice President & Chief Financial Officer of the Yukon Workers' Compensation Board, and as Director, Finance, Systems, and Administration with the Government of Yukon, Department of Justice. Previous Board experience includes President, Certified Management Accountants Society of Yukon, National Board Member, Society of Management Accountants of Canada, National Board Member, Institute of Public Administration of Canada, Treasurer, Whitehorse Minor Hockey, Board Member, Kaushee's Place Women's Transition Home, Yukon.

Sue lives in Duncan with her husband, Dan and they have two sons, and a daughter, a recent graduate of QMS; they are trying to get used to being empty nesters!

Derek Thomas, Treasurer



Mr. Thomas holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Concordia University. His professional background includes 11 years in computer sciences, primarily in the industrial sector, and 23 years in human resources. He retired from the Insurance Corporation of BC in 1999 having spent 26 years with the company. His career there included three years in the Information Services Division prior to moving to the Human Resources Division. There he managed the Division's Compensation and Benefits Department before advancing to head the Labour Relations/Industrial Relations Department. Mr. Thomas has been a member of the QMS Board of Governors since November 2003. In his first year of service, he was Chair of the Strategic Plan Committee and participated as a member of the Finance Committee. He was elected to the position of Treasurer in November 2004, and again in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009. As Treasurer, he Chairs the Finance Committee, and also presently serves as a member of the Executive Committee and Compensation Committee.

Noelle Bellomi, FMA, FCSI, Governor



Noelle is a graduate of the University of Calgary, a member of the prestigious RBC Dominion Securities President's Club, a recognized Financial Management Advisor (FMA), and is registered and licensed with the BC Insurance Council. In 2004 she acquired her designation of Fellow of the Canadian Securities Institute (FCSI) which is awarded to those professionals who have met the most exacting standards for industry experience, advanced education and solid endorsement from their peers and superiors.

Noelle enjoys what she does because it provides her with an opportunity to give back to her community. By using all of her education and industry experience to help a family, a business owner, or a woman on her own to achieve their goals, she feels that she can make a difference and a contribution of value. She is a wife, a mother, a sister, a daughter and a friend. These are the relationships that have enriched her life and have helped her understand that she works with people rather than just money.

RBC Foundation recently awarded Noelle her seventh consecutive maximum volunteer grant award for her contribution to the Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation. Noelle joined the Board in July of this year, and is excited to continue being part of this dynamic and committed group of people.

Shelagh Boggs, Governor



Shelagh is the owner/operator of a successful Bed & Breakfast in Victoria, BC – A Cozy Cottage B&B - going on 10 years now. She came to QMS as a boarding student in September, 1949 during 'the Golden Years' of founders and headmistresses Miss N.C. Denny and Miss D.R. Geoghegan. These were the very best of times and she made lifelong friends while attending school. All three of her daughters attended QMS for a combined total of 25 years! She has been involved with OOMA – Old Girls of QMS – since the 1950s, holding many positions on the Board of Directors. She has been a member of the Board of QMS for five years, and has been honoured to serve on the Board, especially now in the middle of the campus renewal. She has such a passion about giving back to QMS.



Guy Carpentier, Governor

Guy operates family business interests in the Forest Industry on Vancouver Island. He has a wide range of entrepreneurial and business interests. Guy has two children attending QMS, and has been an avid supporter of QMS and its activities. He brings to the Board both an in-depth perspective as a Junior and Senior School parent, and extensive business and entrepreneurial skills.

Sharan Doman, Governor

Sharan has lived in Duncan for several years and has been actively involved in the school over the past few years. Her daughters are students at QMS, in grades 8 and 3. Sharan has been a passionate supporter of QMS, volunteering for QMS fundraisers for several years, co-chairing the QMS Galas for three years, and serving as a parent member of the Advancement Committee of the Board of Governors. Before moving to the Cowichan Valley, Sharan was the controller of an international jewellery wholesaler in Vancouver, and prior to that a program administrator at Macdonald Dettwiler in Richmond. She attended UBC in the field of Commerce, and now manages the accounting and administration aspects of her family's business interests.

Sharan's principal interest in board work is advancement. In addition to bringing considerable business skill and experience to the table, she has been involved in various fundraising activities for some years. She is particularly interested in working with all parts of the school community in further developing its advancement capability.

Paul Ceysens, Governor



Paul became a member of the Board of Governors in 2006, and has chaired the Board of Directors of the Salt Spring Island Daycare Society since 2003. Paul and his family live on Salt Spring Island, and both his children attend QMS. He is also a runner and karate student.

Paul is a member of the Bars of British Columbia (1987) and Ontario (1990). His law practice is generally restricted to Employment Law and Human Rights Law, and is Canada-wide. He also practices extensively in the area of the legal regulation of the police.

Paul has considerable experience in training and public presentations dealing with the legal regulation of the police, management of legal risk and general employment law matters. He has authored one legal textbook, and coauthored a second legal textbook. He is a principal of EarlsCourt Legal Press, a small publisher of legal textbooks.

Michael J. B. Cole



Mr. Cole is a professional engineer with degrees from Queen's University (BASc, '89) and UBC (MASc, '92) specializing in construction and environmental issues relating to large development projects. His expertise has been acquired in the residential construction, mining and forestry industries in eight provinces and territories, and five countries. Mr. Cole worked in Whistler for 8 years for Intrawest Corporation as Development Manager, as well as running his own consulting firm working with developers in several BC ski resorts. During his tenure with Intrawest, Mr. Cole primarily focused on master planning and land development issues as well as overseeing construction of employee housing. In this regard, he was involved in the entire project from inception to completion. Currently, Mr. Cole is with the Capital Regional District on Salt Spring Island, involved in planning and building inspection issues.

Mr. Cole has held various volunteer positions including as a member of Whistler's Advisory Planning Commission (1997-1998), and Forestry Commissions, members of strata councils (1996-1998), as well as volunteering on innumerable ski and mountain bike competitions in Whistler. He brings to the Board his skills and experience in all aspects of major project management.

Mr. Cole and his wife Jennifer have been members of the Salt Spring Island community for the past five years. They have two children attending Queen Margaret's School (Ella, Grade 2 and Benjamin, Kindergarten) and have just welcomed their third child, Charlie into the world.

Dr. Vivian Kilvert, Governor



Vivian Kilvert was born and bred locally, attending QMS from 1986-91. During this time she was actively involved in all aspects of school life: academics, drama, choir and sport. She served as a Prefect and Head of St. Mike's during her final year.

Vivian's sister Leah also attended unofficially from 1986-91 and then officially from 1998-2003, making her one of the longest-attending students of the school. Vivian's family has been involved in the school since 1986 and remains involved to this day.

Vivian went on to a B.Sc. at University of Victoria and a MD at University of Calgary. She completed her residency in Family Medicine at the University of Calgary in 2001 and has been practicing as a Family Physician since that time. She specializes in teaching medical students and residents.

In her spare time Vivian is involved in horseback riding, waterskiing, bellydancing, writing, hiking and shopping for spectacular shoes!

She is delighted to give back to the school that gave her so much by serving on the Board of Governors.

Linda Love, Governor

Linda is a retired University-College Administrator who has lived in the Cowichan Valley for over 30 years. She has a Master's Degree in Education from Simon Fraser University, and a Diploma in Occupational Therapy from Queen's University. Linda retired from Vancouver Island University in 2004, having served as the Dean, Trades & Applied Technology since 1998. Prior to that, she held several positions with the then Malaspina University College including Director, Learning Partnerships, Principal, Cowichan Campus, and Administrative Coordinator. She started her career as an Occupational Therapist with the Ontario Government.



For much of Linda's adult life, she has been involved in community boards. Since retiring, she has limited her involvement in order to build a new home, travel and get to know her new grandchildren. She has family and friends who are involved with Queen Margaret's, and has become increasingly impressed with QMS' vision for the future as a school that supports the development of a unique learning experience for girls while providing a co-ed junior school experience in the community.

Over the last 30 years, Linda has been involved with a number of non-profit boards including: President/Director, Nanaimo Region John Howard Society, 1997-2006; Chair, Economic Development – CVRD, 1997-1998; Director/Treasurer/Vice-Chair, Cowichan Community Futures, 1989-1998; Director, Cowichan Business Development Corp, 1993-2004; President/Director, Cowichan Volunteer Society, 1985-1993.

In addition, Linda has served as a Tribunal Member on the Industry Training Appeal Board since 2005, and served as a Director on the Industry Training & Apprenticeship Committee from 1998 to 2002.

Judith Parsons, Governor

Judith was born and educated in London, England. It was here that Judith embarked on a twenty year career in international banking, predominantly in the corporate sector. During this time Judith was actively involved in the sport Karate, where she had the honour of representing Great Britain on their international Karate team. When she stopped competing she coached children of all ages for a number of years in her local club.



Judith and her husband welcomed their daughter Emma in 1995. Emma began her education at the French International School in Hong Kong. In 2001 the family moved back to Canada and settled in Vancouver, where Emma attended Mulgrave School, West Vancouver. A final move was made to Duncan on Vancouver Island where Emma had the good fortune to continue her education at Queen Margaret's. As a parent, Judith has extensive experience of private schools, both internationally and nationally.

Judith is the chair of the Queen Margaret's Parents' Association. She provides a vital link between the parent community and the administration of the school. Judith has been involved in many parent fundraising initiatives and looks forward to bringing her vast experience, from the corporate world, the competitive athletic world, and as a parent to her role on the Queen Margaret's Board.



Terry Squire, Governor

Recently retired, Terry has 47 years of experience in the insurance industry. He is a past Director of the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia. Between 1993 and 2002, he served as President and CEO of the Co-operators Insurance Group. He has also served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Sovereign General Insurance Company. He was the Chair of the Insurance Institute of Canada, and a Director of both the Insurance Bureau of Canada and the International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation. An avid supporter of the Arts, Terry has also served as a Director of the River Run Centre, a municipally owned concert hall and is a Director of the Vancouver Bach Choir. Terry has a granddaughter at QMS, and brings to the school many years of governance, executive management and non-profit society development skills.



Susan Younie, Governor

Susan Younie has a BSc from UBC and an LLB from the University of Victoria. Having begun her legal career in Nanaimo, she is now a Crown Prosecutor in Duncan. She has served on the Board of Cowichan Valley Food Basket, has been on Duncan's Council Indemnity Review Committee, and has served as a member of the Ministry and Personnel Committee for Duncan United Church. Last year she was co-chair at Duncan United Church for its major fundraising function. For five years, Ms. Younie has been a youth leader for a number of youth groups comprising children in the age range of 8 to 15 years. She brings a wealth of professional and volunteer experience to the Board and wishes to serve as QMS has been such a positive and rewarding experience for her daughter, Robin, a Grade 12 student. Her son, Ian, is 15 and attending Shawnigan Lake School. Ms. Younie and her family have lived in the Cowichan Valley since 1986.