



Proposed Slate of Candidates for Board of Directors (2025)

Jane Bonsteel (President)

Jane moved to Orillia in 2016 and is retired after a career in drinking water treatment with the Region of Peel. She is on the Board's Policy Committee and plays a leading role on the citizen science water monitoring team protecting Sundial Creek, Orillia's last cold-water stream. She is a former member of the City's Environmental Advisory Committee and Sustainable Orillia. Her favourite pursuits are out-of-doors, paddling canoes and kayaks, rowing, cross-country skiing and cycling. Jane joined the board in 2020, and has two years remaining in her second term.

Susan Crowe

Susan is a local community member & retired business leader entering her 2nd year as a Conservancy board member. She brings a 'business' perspective to the role particularly in the areas of leadership, strategic planning, financial governance & relationship-building. Her current volunteer roles at the Conservancy include Passport to Nature & the Development Committee, which have been rewarding & have provided a better understanding of the inner workings of the organization, its people & culture & the underlying passion & dedication that runs throughout. She was recognized at the 2023 AGM as an outstanding volunteer. As a Board member, she works diligently to support the acquisition campaigns, land stewardship programs, fundraising projects, & community outreach.

Kathy Hunt

Kathy served as the Conservancy's board president for the past two years, and has been an exemplary ambassador for the organization over that time, attending & speaking at Conservancy events. She is a freelance marketing communications specialist, and has enjoyed working with a wide variety of organizations throughout her career. She has specialized in the fields of recreation and sport, healthy lifestyles, tourism and education. Most recently she worked with Lakehead University during the opening and development of its new Orillia campus. She has been involved with the Couchiching Conservancy over the years, working with the organization to develop and produce our first newsletter, as well as promotional materials for special events and public awareness. Kathy moved to Orillia with her family, husband Lance and three children, 30 years ago and loves the area, especially the opportunities for outdoor recreation. Her favourite pastime is exploring local trails, parks and waterways, preferably by canoe, kayak, rowboat, on skis or by bicycle. Always interested in promoting the benefits of the Orillia lifestyle, Kathy has volunteered with local festivals, the Orillia Community Development Corporation, the Terry Fox Run, and as a member of the Games Organizing Committee for the 2018 Ontario Winter Games.

Morris Ilyniak

Morris is entering his 3rd term as a board member, and serves on the Conservancy's Policy committee. He and his family have been coming to Lake Simcoe for more than 30 years. He enjoys kayaking, backcountry skiing, cycling, camping, birding, and citizen science. He grew up in the Burlington-Hamilton area where he first became active in nature studies. While living in Toronto, Morris worked for the Ontario Ministry of Finance as a senior economist and manager of an economic policy unit. Since retiring in 2016, Morris and wife Dana live at the cottage on the north shore of Lake Simcoe in Atherley, while still retaining a home in Toronto. Morris has served on several boards, including a long-term care facility and community health centre. Morris has degrees in urban planning, journalism, and intellectual property law. He can't remember when he first joined the Couchiching Conservancy, so it must have been a really long time ago!

Dale Leadbeater

Dale A. Leadbeater, B. Sc., B. Ed., R.P. Bio., P. Biol., graduated from the University of Toronto, then worked in the Botany Department where she administered the Green Plant Herbarium. A field associate of the Royal Ontario Museum and life member of the Field Botanists of Ontario, she has presented talks on many natural heritage topics, organized conferences and led outings as well as teaching Ecological Land Classification. Dale co-authored *The Flora of Kawartha Lakes* published in 2021. An enthusiastic supporter of Land Trusts, Dale has worked with The Couchiching Conservancy as an event leader, Advisory Council member and volunteer. Dale lives on a 200-acre Conservation Easement near Kirkfield. She was a member of the last CC Five-year Strategic Planning Committee. This will be Dale's fifth year on the board of directors.

Janet Machan

Janet Machan was an elementary teacher for 30 years throughout Simcoe County. Since her retirement in 2017, she has enjoyed work as an occasional librarian at Orillia Public Library's Family Department. She has always been a voracious reader and a patron of the arts. She and her husband Gary enjoy rural life in Oro-Medonte, where they raised their two children, garden and walk the trails. Janet and her family have been CC members for a number of years attending pie auctions, music nights and Annual General Meetings. Janet loved participating in the Citizen Science program learning about species at risk and searching for whip-poor-wills on warm summer nights. Janet chairs the Passport to Nature Committee and this will be her 5th year on the board of directors.

Lisa Neville

Lisa worked with the federal government for 15 years, mainly as an aquatic biologist in various locations across the country, including British Columbia and the Northwest Territories. She studied marine biology at the University of Guelph and holds a post-graduate diploma in environmental science from Capilano University. Passionate about environmental stewardship, Lisa immediately contacted the Conservancy to volunteer when she moved to the Severn area in 2012. She has also been involved with the Community Science program, and has been known to stuff an envelope or two. She serves as Policy Committee chair, and was Board Secretary for two terms (6 years). After taking a year off from the board, she has been nominated to serve another three-year term.

Robert Sullivan

Bob is a dentist who practiced in Orillia for 30 years. As a long-standing member of the Conservancy, Bob has served on the board for 15 years since 2009. He is a past president of the board, past treasurer of the board, past chair of the Heartwood Committee, and a member of numerous teams and committees. His planning, and management skills have been invaluable to the organization, and his investing skills have forged a new era of financial security for the organization. Bob loves snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, canoeing, cycling, hiking and kayaking, and is a keen supporter of conserving land for future generations. He and his partner Wendy have three daughters and live in Severn Township.

Tom Wilson

Tom enjoyed an exhilarating career with General Motors for 30 years. In his retirement, he loves to hike Carden and the wilds of Gravenhurst with his two granddaughters and the trails of Fergus with his other three grandchildren. After 17 years, he recently completed the 904-kilometre Bruce Trail with a group of friends. Tom has volunteered for the Couchiching Conservancy in many capacities over the past 15 years, but this will be his first time on the Board of Directors. He played a leading role in the Carden Nature Festival, volunteered as a community science water monitor, and has been stewarding the remote Wolf Run Alvar for 13 years. Tom was President of the Carden Field Naturalists for 12 years.