

White Rock Museum & Archives

Board of Directors

Society President

Marilena Flückiger

Co-Owner of Interior Heavy Equipment School

Marilena Flückiger and her husband, Peter, have lived in White Rock for over 30 years. Marilena completed a degree in education at SFU and taught elementary school, grades 4-7, for seven years. She specialized in art education and was responsible for rewriting the art curriculum for grades K-7 in the Prince George School District. She was accepted to the Douglas College Interior Design Program and studied there for a year before returning to SFU to complete a degree in General Studies with a major in Psychology.

She served as HR and Communications Manager at Fleetwood Sausage Ltd., the family business, before it was sold in 1992. In 1994, Marilena and her husband, Peter, designed and built Blue Star Cold Storage, with locations in both Vancouver and Calgary. After selling the business in 2002, Marilena has been involved in several community projects.

For several years, she served as Communications and Marketing Director for the Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Director on the White Rock Tourism Board, and Chair of the Communities in Bloom Committee in White Rock. She is presently serving as President of the White Rock Museum Board, Chair of the Public Arts Committee in White Rock, and Director on the Kwantlen Polytechnic University Foundation Board. Recently (2014) Marilena was honored with the Outstanding Canadian on the Peninsula Award.

She completed the Vandusen Botanical Garden Master Gardening Program in 1992 and continues to volunteer regularly as a Master Gardener. Marilena enjoys sharing her garden with other plant lovers and regularly organizes guided tours through her large White Rock garden.

Marilena finds it inspirational to work with people who give selflessly to make White Rock reach its higher potential. She presently works as a personal interior design shopper for clients both locally and in Arizona. Her leisure interests include skiing, Italian language, interior design, cooking and entertaining, sports nutrition, ballroom dancing, and gardening.

Society Vice President

Colleen Kerr

Crime Reduction Strategy Manger, City of Surrey

Colleen Kerr has been on the White Rock Museum + Archives Board of Directors since December of 2006 and served as Vice President since May 2007.

Colleen completed her Master of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and is employed by the City of Surrey as the Crime Reduction Strategy Manager. This award winning strategy works to build collaboration and develop innovative solutions by addressing the root causes of crime. As such, its focus is to work collaboratively with multiple stakeholders within a community development and partnership building model. Colleen is also a Sessional Professor at the University of the Fraser Valley in the Criminal Justice Department.

Prior to her current position, Colleen was awarded the Surrey RCMP Municipal Employee of the Year (2008) while employed as the City of Surrey's Crime Prevention Coordinator with the RCMP. Colleen has also owned and managed her own consulting business specializing in community development, partnerships, and project management. Evidence of Colleen's dedication to the development of safe and healthy communities is also demonstrated by her previous roles including Provincial Program Manager of the BC Crime Prevention Association, Social Development Team Leader with Semiahmoo First Nations, Executive Director for the Youth Counter Attack & Road Sense Society, and as the City of White Rock's Community Development Coordinator.

As a resident and home owner in the White Rock and South Surrey area since 1990, Colleen is a key and active participant in 'life on the Peninsula'. She believes in a holistic approach to enhancing quality of life, community health, and happiness.

Society Treasurer

Karin Bjerke-Lisle

Manager of Marketing Center Operations, Clubs Intrawest

Karin Bjerke-Lisle works in downtown Vancouver as Manager of Operations for Intrawest Resort Club Group. She has been with this company for 11 years and in her current position for nearly six years. Her many skills include staff management, public relations, and administration. She is extremely organized and resourceful.

Karin was born in Vancouver, but moved with her family across Canada and throughout Europe. Her father was an officer in the Royal Canadian Air Force, which gave her the opportunity to visit much of North America, Europe and the Middle East as a young person. Later she attended the University of Ottawa where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts.

Karin is married with four children, and owns a dog, a cat, and assorted farm animals! She lives in South Surrey and loves the beauty and serenity of the West Coast. When not working, Karin enjoys spending time with her children, on the slopes in the winter and near the water in the summer. Her interests also include reading, writings, cooking, entertaining, and gardening.

Karin has been a valuable member of the Museum Board of Directors since 2007. She is currently the Society Treasurer. Her long tenure on the Museum Board offers stability and a great understanding of the focus and the long term goals the Museum strives towards.

Society Secretary

Debbie Ward

WR Youth Ambassador Coordinator

Debbie has lived in South Surrey with her husband, son and daughter for twenty-five years. She has recently retired from a 38 year career as a flight attendant with Air Canada, Canadian, PWA, CP Air, Nordair and Transair (through mergers). Currently Debbie is working as the Deputy District Electoral Officer for Surrey/Cloverdale.

Her strongest connection to the local community came through her involvement with the White Rock Youth Ambassador Program. This excellent program mentors area teens and equips them to be successful volunteers and ambassadors for their city and the greater community. Debbie has overseen this program with a partner for many years, and has given countless volunteer hours to the community as a result of this involvement.

Debbie is dedicated, fun-loving, has a great understanding of people, and has exceptional customer service skills. She is a great motivator and a team player. It is her goal to help develop and support the Volunteer Program at the Museum.

In her spare time, Debbie likes to tend to her honey bees and chickens. She is an avid reader of historical biographies, loves skiing, and enjoys spending time with her family.

Board Member

Bryan Klassen

Retired Museum Administrator

A graduate of UVic's Cultural Resource Management program, Bryan Klassen worked in the museum and heritage field for more than 30 years. His museum experience includes terms as Curator of Collections at the Maritime Museum of BC, Curator at the CFB Esquimalt Museum, Collections Manager at the Royal British Columbia Museum, Arts and Heritage Curator for the Township of Langley, and Site Supervisor at Britannia Shipyards, National Historic Site of Canada. Recently retired, he would like to continue to contribute to the museum field and to his community. With a background in community museums and maritime history, the White Rock Museum is a natural focus for his interest.

Bryan was presented the BC Museums Association's Golden Anniversary Service award in 2011, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the profession and the Association. This included teaching Museums Studies courses in communities all over British Columbia, as well as conference presentations and coordination. Bryan also played a lead role in establishing the inter-disciplinary BC Alliance of National Historic Sites. Since 2005, he has served as co-chair for the Pacific North West Maritime Council, an international advisory group to provincial and state

governments.

Bryan and his wife, Eleanor, have lived in White Rock since 2002. They have grown children and four grandchildren, a Portuguese Water Dog, and a stay-at-home cat. During the summer Bryan, Eleanor and the dog can most often be found on their sailboat keeping an eye on the White Rock waterfront.

Board Member

Peter Johnson

Retired librarian and archivist

Peter Johnson was born and grew up in Bristol, south-west England, where he attended the city grammar school. Outside school, he enjoyed riding horses and haunting the city's secondhand bookshops on rainy Saturday afternoons. He also enjoyed acting both at school and in the Bristol Youth Theatre.

Peter trained as a secondary school teacher in Durham in northern England, taught for a couple of years, then returned to university (in Wales) where he graduated in English Literature and Library Science. After graduate work in English at Leeds University, Peter joined Leeds University Library where he spent a very happy 14 years.

Meanwhile he'd married and had two children (Miranda and Francis) who themselves are both now married with four children between them. The original marriage failed, but several years later, while on a year's study leave from Leeds in Wales, Peter met Carol, also a librarian, from Calgary, who was doing a Ph.D. at the University of Wales.

They married and eventually returned to Canada, where Carol joined Surrey Public Library. Peter became a citizen, and re-trained as an Archivist at UBC.

He also joined the City of Surrey workforce - as an assistant archivist in 1998, City Records Archivist in 2000, City Archivist in 2001, and Archivist-Curator of Heritage Collections in 2005, from which position he retired in 2013.

Peter was briefly (part-time) Archivist at White Rock during 1999 only - a position he wished he could have retained, but the lure of benefits offered by Surrey was too powerful to ignore. However, since March 2013, he's been volunteering for Hugh in White Rock Archives, and relishing doing just what he was trained for without any of the distractions that paid employment requires.

Board Member

Paul Oxley

Plastic Surgeon

Dr. Oxley was raised in British Columbia and has resided in the lower mainland for 20 years. He practices plastic surgery locally, with hospital privileges at Peace Arch, Surrey Memorial and

Royal Columbian Hospitals. His medical practice consists of both cosmetic plastic surgery and reconstructive surgery helping trauma and cancer victims. He is also a clinical assistant professor at the University of British Columbia, and was educated in British Columbia, London and Paris. In addition, Dr. Oxley has helped on many "Operation Smile" missions in countries such as Bolivia and China, helping repair young children with cleft lips and cleft palates.

While travelling abroad, through work or pleasure, Dr. Oxley has had the opportunity to visit many museums and galleries. He is proud to contribute to the health and well-being of the White Rock and Surrey communities, and hopes to give back to his community by bringing enthusiasm and commitment to his position on the Board of Directors at the White Rock Museum + Archives Society. He looks forward to seeing the White Rock Museum + Archives grow and prosper in the years to come.

Board Member

Joy Zhang

Chief Operating Officer, Renewable Energy Co

Joy Zhang brings with her years of volunteering and charitable experiences in the community. She was the Operations Manager for 2012 Surrey BC Summer Games, the Operations & Logistics Manager for the Spirit of the Sea Festival and the Infrastructure & Operations Director for the Community of Lights Events Society for 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2011, the Volunteers Coordinator and Fundraiser for the Vintage Affairs for 2008 and 2009, the Operations Manager, Fundraiser for the Christmas on the Peninsula Festival and the Director of Promotion, Volunteers and Friends of Christmas on the Peninsula Society for 2009, 2011, 2012 and 2013. As well, she spends a lot of her spare time in event planning and fundraising for other organizations and worthy causes outside the Peninsula. She enjoys reading, traveling, golfing, fine arts and current affairs. She works at a renewable energy company as its Chief Operations Officer.

Board Member

Rice Honeywell Jr.

Proprietor of 5 Corners Bistro/Café

Musician

Rice has been a long-time resident of the White Rock area for over 33 years, along with his wife Catherine and their four children. His hope is to help support and develop a greater awareness of the White Rock Museum + Archives' goals of engaging the community in our shared and unique historical heritage.

Rice's many strengths include sales experience (including managerial experience), strong customer service skills, developing and implementing strategies for business success, and effective communication strategies. He is keenly interested in using social media as a means of promoting the Museum, and he has a strong knowledge of computers and technology.

Rice is creative, insightful, enthusiastic and dedicated. He has worked in the music, film and television industries for many years as a successful performer and manager. Rice currently owns and operates the "Five Corners Bistro "in the Five Corners neighbourhood of White Rock.

Representative: Semiahmoo First Nation

Kevin Cook

Councillor, Semiahmoo First Nation

Kevin Cook has sat on the Council with the Semiahmoo First Nation since December 2000. He was born and raised in White Rock. His passions are restoring old cars, his wife Betty and travelling, not necessarily in that order. He has lived elsewhere but is proud to call Semiahmoo home.