

SLNC Board of Directors Candidates: 2017

Sharon Clarke



Sharon Clarke has been an active member of SLNC since the 80s: as a recreational skier, past Programs parent, Masters program participant, and as an active club volunteer. Having a child in racing precipitated volunteering at race events, training as a CCC Official, and serving on the Competitions Committee. She is a Level 4 CCC Official, TD, and CCC Officials Course Conductor. Sharon has served on the Board of Directors for several terms, in various capacities, and continues in her role as Chief of Race for NorAm Competitions. She brings to the Board knowledge and understanding of Club and Board history, policies and procedures, and her organizational skill set.

Sandra Ecclestone - *B Rec. Adm., MBA*



Sandra and her husband relocated to Vernon in 2006 for the Cross Country and Alpine Skiing opportunities at Sovereign Lake and Silver Star. She has been a Board member since 2013 acting as Secretary before serving as Treasurer.

In her role as Treasurer over the past 3 years, Sovereign has modernized many of its financial systems, improved financial controls and policies. Our objective has been to make the accounting more efficient, more accurate and work to isolate problems when they arise. As a result, more money has been allocated towards capital equipment while continuing to manage ongoing expenses.

Sandra is running for a new term on the Board to give back to The Club. She has to offer 5 years experience on the SLNC Board as well as administration, financial and collaborative skills.

As a Masters Skier, Sandra has embraced the sport and participated in 2 World Masters events and many local Loppets. Sovereign Lake Nordic Club has the potential to continue growing in a positive and fulfilling way serving both our local community and providing outstanding trails for our visitors.

Sylvia Herchen



My name is Sylvia Herchen, I'm a physiotherapist and a recreational skier, mostly skate skier. I've had a SLN Club membership for nearly 18 of the last 20 years.

I am passionate about getting more skiers out enjoying the fantastic nordic center that we have and particularly now that we have a good close contact with Silver Star Nordic.

I think what the volunteers have done so far is fantastic and I'd like to help (I get cold feet standing around outside so I rarely volunteer for races) but I would love to see more local skiers coming up regularly (as I have in the past) just to fill our lungs with good winter air and work on fitness on skis.

I feel that the club is going thru some big changes as we plan for the new facility and I'd like to have some input on that.

I think I'm pretty good at problem solving and getting things done without breaking the budget.

I'd like to see a nice stretching room put in when we have a new lodge and better chairs!! I unfortunately don't like the white chairs at all.
Hopefully see you at the meeting!

Guy Morazain



Introduction: As you will note from my brief bio, I like to be engaged with my community. Having served my terms as Past President of the Vernon Curling Club and The Vernon Jazz Club, I now have the time to invest in an organization that I believe is an important contributor to our community. My research into the Sovereign Lake Nordic Centre confirms that it is this kind of organization.

In addition, SLNC's 5-year Strategic Plan is up for renewal, presenting an exciting opportunity to be part of the team that will help shape and develop its future. I believe that my expertise in strategic planning, governance, team building and information technology would allow me to contribute to the ongoing success of SLNC.

Bio: I have 30 plus years of experience as a senior manager in both public and private sectors. I have worked in the Ontario College system as a professor, chair, dean, director of information systems and CEO of the Ontario Colleges Application Service. I have worked in health care as the Chief Information Officer for a group of hospitals. I have extensive experience in the private sector as a software engineer, architect and senior manager. I was formally the Executive Vice President of CourtCanada Limited, a company I co-founded whose mission is to deliver innovative, useful, cost-effective, green solutions to the judicial system. I am currently retired and enjoying every minute of it.

I have served on a number of boards and community associations such as the North Okanagan Hospice Society, The Vernon Curling and Athletics Association, The Vernon Jazz Society, Vision North Okanagan, CPS-ECP Vernon Squadron, CPS-ECP Western Canadian Inland District, The Green Party of Canada, Lakeview Estates Community Association, Ottawa Carleton Health Information Network, Ottawa Carleton Research Institute, and on boards of corporations such as CourtCanada Limited, The Guelph Country Club and ONet Networking.

Mark Nichiporuk



1. Why are you interested in running for the Board?

I would like to run for the board because I love spending time up at Sovereign Lake Nordic Centre and think that we people of the North Okanagan are so lucky to have a facility like this in our backyard. I'm not a racer, an ex-racer or a parent of a racer. I'm just a fairly new recreational x-country skier who wants to support Sovereign Lake and help continue the great work that has been done in the past as well as help have a say in charting the future.

2. What would make you a valuable member of the Board?

I have worked on Boards in the past - Downtown Vernon Assn, Tourism Williams Lake, Barkerville Heritage Trust - so bring some past experience. As well I have been on the other side having been a manager under a Board of Directors so I know the impact a strong board can have on operations. I have the time to commit to the Board and am excited to add in any way I can to the continued success and growth of Sovereign Lake Nordic Club.

3. Is there anything else you would like to share with the SLNC membership in considering you for a Board position?

Only that I am excited at the opportunity to become a Board member at SLNC. This a great facility with great programs and great skiing.

Finally, I have a young daughter who also loves coming up to SL to experience (real) winter. And while she has only attempted skiing once (maybe this will be her year) we have enjoyed great times together tobogganing and making snow forts. SL has such a great relaxed unpretentious feel, usually lots of sunshine and is family friendly. Why wouldn't everyone want to spend more time up here enjoying all that this facility offers?

Pat Pearce - *B PE, BC Teachers Certification, M Ed Leadership*



After retiring from a career in education, I moved to Vernon with my husband in 2008 to become part of the active Master's ski scene at Sovereign Lake and have participated as Chair of the Board, and most recently Vice Chair since 2009 as well as enjoying the skiing and training that Sovereign provides.

As one of the founding families of the BV Nordics (Smithers), I've volunteered many hours of service over 24 years to cross country skiing through my coaching and tenure on the Board. I served both as the Chair of the Bulkley Valley Nordics Board and as the Head Coach for the Junior Racing Program. I was the recipient of the CCC Firth Award during my coaching tenure - an award given annually to the top female coach for cross country skiing in Canada.

I'm an active Master's racer and a 10 X's Gold Medal winner at the World Master's in the last 5 years.

My contribution both at the Board table and through my role as one of the leaders of the successful Master's program is to build community, and to engage our members in volunteering to make the club a welcoming place for all skiers. I've also actively promoted a strong cooperation between the Sovereign Lake Nordic Club and Silver Star Resort. Specifically, my energy on the Board will go to helping the club fulfill its goal of having a better lodge facility and a vibrant slate of programs for all levels.

Greg Sadesky



My name is Greg Sadesky and I have been a member since 2012, since my family relocated to Vernon. My family has been active at the club from then on, with both of my sons, Lucas and Evan involved in the racing programs and my wife Susan a committed volunteer and parent liaison. I served as the Chair of the Programs Committee last year. And we all ski a lot, too.

I feel that I have both experience and skills that would benefit the board and the SLNC. As mentioned, I have served as the Chair of the Programs Committee for the past year and have learned a great deal about how Programs and the club operates. I have also served on the executive of a very successful Canadian [company](#) for 8 years. During this time, I have grown my department from one person (me) to 12, and played a central role in our company acquiring our biggest competitor. I think one of my most important and valuable skills is the ability to understand complex issues, and to communicate them effectively. I have been seen as a bridge-builder, and I believe I can effectively understand different sides of the same issue and work towards mutually agreeable solutions. That said, I'm not afraid to advocate forcefully for sound solutions, nor to move on from ideas or plans that further information shows to be unwise.

I am a team player. As an executive, I know how to work collaboratively. My goal would be to help create on the board, an environment of trust where dialogue and even conflict is productive and respectful, focused above all on creating the kind of future that's best for the community and for the club.

My desire for the club is to **inspire community** through cross country skiing. Clearly, the SLNC is a world class facility with a phenomenal trail network and first-rate grooming, with the best snow conditions and longest season in BC. But ultimately the strength in a club is its people. I have experienced firsthand and have been deeply impressed by the passion and commitment of the Sovereign skiing community, both in programs and the larger club. I believe the SLNC can and should play a larger role in defining the North

Okanagan, and be top of mind when recreational and competitive skiers alike think about great places to ski. Most importantly, I want skiers to be as impressed and welcomed by the culture and community of Sovereign, as they are the geography and climate.

But of course, not all board activities are so lofty. As a possible board member, I will be equally committed to the day to day activities involved in running the club, as to promoting the SLNC's culture and vision.

Bruce Sandilands



For the past ten years, I have been an active member of the Club serving as Junior Development Coach, Chief of Race for the Loppet, committee chair and primary author of the Strategic Plan, and leader of Backcountry Ski Tours. I was first elected to the Board of Directors in September 2014.

I am an NCCP Certified Competition Coach and am one of the few Level 2 Race Officials within the club. By profession I am a negotiator and mediator specializing in Alternative Dispute Resolution.

If elected to the Board, my priorities will be to ensure that the SLNC establishes a strong financial footing that will ensure its long-term sustainability. I will work to see the redevelopment of a new day lodge that the SLNC youth and athlete development programs achieve their full potential. As a former coach I believe that youth programming is the heart and soul of any ski club.

My wife Sherry and I retired to Vernon in large part due to the existence of SLNC and the presence of strong united cross-country ski community working together to advance the sport.