



Horticulture Centre of the Pacific Society

2024 Renewing and New Members of the Board of Directors

Each year the HCP Society Board of Directors discusses the anticipated interests and priorities for the upcoming year. This year we are focused on supporting the management team, assessing the condition of HCP's buildings and infrastructure, and evaluating our performance on the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan.

Three current Directors will be continuing for a further year in their existing terms: Brian White, Judy Harrison, and Karen White. We are pleased to put forward the following six new members to the Board of Directors for 2024-25. In accordance with the HCP Society bylaws, each new Director is being elected for a two-year term.

Britta Wagner

Britta Wagner graduated from UBC law in 2000 and worked in private practice in Vancouver and Calgary until 2007 when she joined British Columbia Investment Management Corporation which manages public sector pensions. Britta was the only private investment counsel at BCI for the first decade and then grew the investment legal function to 23 lawyers and paralegals supporting all private investment functions, becoming Vice President and Deputy General Counsel prior to her departure in 2024. Britta served on the board of the Queenswood Montessori Society which operates St Christopher's Montessori School, including as Chair, for eight years. Britta has three children and is learning to garden.

Bryan Bonell

Bryan moved to Vancouver Island in the summer of 2022 after retiring from a 34-year career as an Associate with the Ottawa architectural firm, Hobin Architecture Incorporated. Bryan was a registered Architect with the Ontario Association of Architects and a member of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. He was involved in institutional, commercial, and multi-family residential projects. His volunteer work included a year as president of a condominium corporation, a volunteer and Advisory Board member for a local Youth Centre and as a Parish Council member, Warden and member of various committees at an Anglican Church in Ottawa.

Bryan became involved with HCP as a volunteer on the Patio Demonstration project and is currently on the Land Use Planning and Facilities committees. While his wife is the more avid gardener, Bryan has been involved in landscape projects both at home and through work and he has been actively exploring and photographing the many wonderful natural areas in Greater Victoria.

Gary Mitchell

Gary is retired from a 30-year career with the BC Archives/Royal BC Museum as the Provincial Archivist and VP Collections. Gary earned a BA (History) and MAS (Masters of Archival Studies) at UBC, along with personnel management and leadership courses from Royal Roads University sponsored by the BC Government. Gary has volunteered throughout his career, fulfilling 30

years within BC Archives Association (executive positions up to President), 20 years in BC Historical Federation (serving as President and Hon. President), 20 years on parish council (including Parish Chair), Diocese of Victoria archival and records committees, over 25 years with Operation Trackshoes, 8 years with RBCM Foundation Board; continuing serving BC Yukon Heraldry Society (20 years as secretary), and 8 years with Mount St. Mary's representing the Sisters of St. Ann).

Gary brings a strong governance and process-oriented focus with specific areas of interest being information and records management (access, preservation and protection).

Janet Foord

Janet's interest in the HCP ties very closely to her past passions and experiences. Lifelong learning, community, creativity, nature and giving back are guideposts that have directed her career, passions and energy. Janet has an extensive background in finance and education governance – locally, provincially, and nationally; HR and small business experience from being self-employed, and volunteer history with non-profits. Janet is passionate about being a lifelong learner, living in harmony with nature, gardening and being an active part of the community she resides in. Janet believes the HCP will be a great fit and she is excited for this opportunity to continue in servant leadership.

Joshua Craig, CPA

Joshua is a Chartered Professional Accountant with sixteen years of experience with the local government finance system in British Columbia. He has fostered a strong service and leadership orientation, working with stakeholders to maintain the financial viability of local governments. He provides written and verbal communications to inform local government staff, the public and colleagues in several ministries. These include detailed interpretation of legislation for the finances of local governments; briefings for the Minister and Executive; financial impact analysis of property assessment and taxation scenarios; educational materials; and advice and direction for staff in the Unit.

Joshua has served as a Director for the Victoria Car Share Co-op. He has also worked and volunteered at garden centres and farms on Southern Vancouver Island, including working for City Green, a local environmental not-for-profit where he led a program to educate the public about organic gardening.

Rani Weidemann, MSc

Rani has a 23-year career in vegetation and soil assessments for reclamation of disturbed sites, which has recently expanded into contaminated site remediation in BC and Alberta. Her vegetation, invasive plant, project management, and contaminated assessment expertise has been applied to projects ranging from routine to complex sites and programs.

Since moving to Victoria in 2021, Rani has enjoyed exploring the gardens at HCP, participating in plant sales and classes, and sharing the HCP with visitors and locals to bring greater awareness of this special place. Rani has a particular interest in the Education programs at HCP.