



2023 - MC² BOARD BIOS

(Alphabetically by last name)

President: Knut Holmsen

Secretary: Rita Reitsma

Treasurer: Delfino Bernardi

Delfino Bernardi: A resident of Mono for the past 40 years, Del received his education at the Confederation College of Applied Arts and Technology in Thunder Bay. After earning his Commercial Pilot and Flight Instructor licenses he was hired at the Thunder Bay Flying club as an instructor before being promoted to Chief Flight Instructor and Chief Pilot in 1978. Eventually his responsibilities there also covered the duties of General Manager. The responsibilities included managing the flight instructions of the aviation college program as well as the club's membership and the occasional charter flights. Associated with those responsibilities he also covered the duties assigned by Transport Canada as D.F.T.E. (designated flight test examiner) for Northwestern Ontario. In 1979 was hired by Bordaire Limited Airline. The main business was to fly both scheduled as well as charters flights in addition to the summer contract of flying as a fire patrol pilot for the Ministry of Land and Forests based in Dryden Ontario. In January of 1980 Del was hired by Air Canada. At Air Canada he qualified on the following aircrafts: McDonnell Douglas DC8 and DC9, Boeing 727, 767, 747-200 and 747-400, Loughheed 1011-300 and 500, and finally on the Airbus 319, 320 and 321. Del retired from Air Canada as Captain in March of 2012.

During his career at Air Canada Del owned and operated a restaurant for five years and he served as a volunteer fire fighter at the Mono Mills station for approximately five years. Del was a member of the HCIA trail working group and served on several committees of the Town of Mono for 12 years. Del has served (and is currently still serving) as a volunteer driver for the Canadian Cancer Society Wheels of Hope for 12 years. Del is married to Elizabeth (42 years) and together they raised four awesome kids all now married with children. Del is blessed with 3 amazing daughters in-law, one son in-law, 7 grandchildren and a few cats. Del loves the outdoors and several sports: walking, kayaking, biking, snowshoeing, Nordic skiing, the list goes on! A wannabe gardener with limited successes Del desires to improve with knowledge.

Arnold De Graaff: Arnold was born in the Netherlands and came to Canada in 1951. He and his wife, Rita Reitsma, have lived in Mono since 19989. They are both psychotherapists. Arnold is a member, and previous board member of the Dufferin Arts Council, through which he participated in the paint-ins of the Artists Against the Quarry. As he has become more and more concerned about the global degradation of the

environment, he began a study project which has turned into a book which was published in January 2017, titled *The Gods In Whom They Trusted: The Disintegrative Effects of Capitalism: A Foundation for Transitioning to a New Social World*. Currently he is writing a book on spirituality. He was chair for several years of MC² Environment Committee in large part because he wants to do something very practical for our children and young people in this area with regard to the environment and how to become more resilient and self-sufficient. Arnold loves to read, write and paint.

Knut Holmsen:

Knut was born and raised on a multigenerational farm in Norway. He was educated in Norway and Scotland. He and his wife Jane have a daughter and a grandson. Knut worked for an international import and export company in London, England, and started and managed branches in UK, Australia, and Canada. In Canada he started and developed a national distribution network for Marvin Windows and Doors. In 2007 Jane and Knut bought a reclaimed gravel pit in Mono, where they built their retirement home. Knut has served on the board of Fenestration Canada, and as president of the Rotary Club of Orangeville, and the Probus club of Orangeville. His strong environmental consciousness was born and encouraged by his parents.

Jill Johnson:

Jill grew up in Dufferin County and returned to settle here in 2005. She lives in Mulmur with her partner Matthew, an energetic Australian Shepherd, a flock of chickens and cat who rules them all. After a career with an international retail company, she retired briefly to embark on a Farm venture in Mulmur, where her days were spent tending to livestock and operating the shop at Woodfield. It was here that she had the pleasure of meeting many local residents and feels forever fortunate to be part of a dynamic and caring community.

Felicite Morgan: Felicite moved to the Town of Mono back in the summer of 2012, along with her family. Felicite got her professional start in advertising in the 90's with Cossette Advertising, working on the accounts of Bell Mobility and Scotiabank. Married life and some trans-Atlantic job opportunities took her to the UK, where she discovered the joys of hiking through the lands of the South Downs. Back in Canada, Toronto seemed too urban, and the young family found their spot on the 4th Line in Mono. Felicite has been putting together the websites and newsletters for both MC² and the Dufferin Arts Council. Her first Lookout newsletter design for MC² was back in January of 2015. Aside from her graphic arts endeavors, Felicite is a keen reader, writer and competitive cook, she also spends time hiking, Nordic skiing, riding and is loving curling at the Orangeville Curling Club.

Rita Reitsma has lived in Mono since 1989. Though initially reluctant to leave Toronto, she has loved it here and hopes to never leave. She continues to practice psychotherapy with people from a wide range of ages, challenges and backgrounds which is a richly fulfilling job. She has been involved in local arts events, social justice initiatives and now our citizens' coalition. Rita is currently Chairperson for the Environment Committee and Secretary for the Board. She loves to spend time with friends, grandchildren and make handmade books. She likes to read poetry and loves gardening.

Cheryl Russel and her husband, Hugh, discovered Mulmur in 1986, after spending a year in Europe with their two children. They found a field of daisies and transformed it into a house and sculpture studio. She retired from a long career in nursing, first as an RN, then as a nurse manager and director of care, and has since devoted herself as an active participant in Dufferin County community affairs. She spent many years on the Board of the

Headwaters Art Festival, chairing the annual Art Show and Sale, and 7 years on the Board of CORE. Her passionate interest in municipal politics is exemplified by her attendance at a majority of Mulmur Township Council meetings throughout the years, helping to ensure the interests of the local community are heard. Cheryl brings to our Board a rock solid experience in municipal affairs, road safety, and particularly in land use issues.