

Board of Directors 2021-2022

Amarilis Drouillard



Amarilis Drouillard was born in Nova Scotia and grew up in Charlottetown Prince Edward Island. Growing up on the East Coast provided Amarilis with a strong appreciation of community and rural values. Her education background is in both recreation and leisure administration and social service work. She has spent her entire working career in the service of others. Previously Amarilis worked as a Recreation Director in long-term care and served as a crisis councillor for mental health and violence against women services. Currently Amarilis enjoys her work as a special education assistant at Dunwich Dutton Public School.

Amarilis is active in many volunteer activities, clubs and committees throughout the area. She currently holds a Council position with the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich.

Amarilis believes in the values of commitment to community, hard work and communication. She joined the Board in September 2020.

Bernie Wiehle



Bernie Wiehle is currently a self-employed Beekeeper and is also Vice President of the Ontario Beekeepers Association.

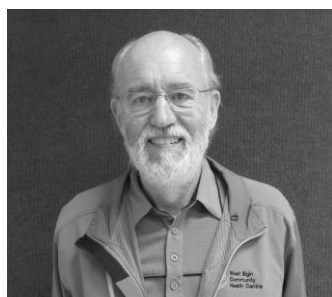
He spent two terms as Mayor of West Elgin and was Councillor for Elgin County during that time. He served as Warden of Elgin County in 2015. Bernie also served for two terms as Deputy Mayor of West Elgin.

Bernie also served two terms as a Board Member for St. Thomas-Elgin Public Health including time as Board Chair. During this time he worked for the amalgamation of the St. Thomas-Elgin and the Oxford Public Health Units.

Bernie has also worked overseas in international development, with CUSO in Papua New Guinea and with VSO in Indonesia. He recently worked on an aid project with CESO in Tanzania.

Bernie joined the West Elgin Community Health Centre's Board in September 2020.

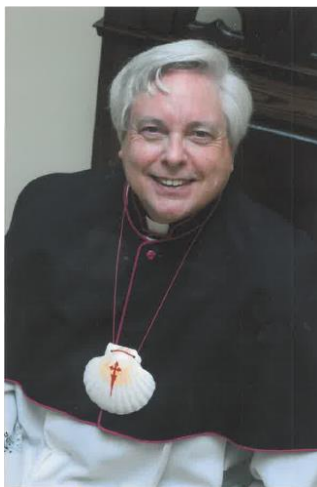
David James – Board Chair



David James was born and raised in England completing his education with a degree in civil engineering at Manchester University. He volunteered in Africa for one year after graduating and then immigrated to Canada in 1968. He worked for 42 years as a civil engineer in both the private and public sectors before retiring in 2008 and moving to West Lorne.

David is active in his church serving locally in West Lorne and on diocesan committees. He was a Boy Scout leader for 25 years. David also served for six years on the board of the Border Cities branch of the Engineering Institute of Canada including a term as president. David's focus on the Health Centre Board is to protect the excellent and vital work of the Community Health Centre.

David was previously on the Health Centre's Board for six years and rejoined the Board in September 2020 currently holding the role of Board Chair.



(George) Nick Wells – Board-Alliance Liaison

Born George Nicholson Idenden in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Nick is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario with a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Divinity from Huron University College. He is currently Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of Tyrconnell and the chaplain of the Old St. Thomas Church in St. Thomas. A member of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul's Chapter of Canons. Chaplain of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 41, President of the Elgin County Developmental Services, Treasurer of the Ontario Visual Heritage Project, and spiritual care provider with the Elgin County Palliative Care Outreach Team.

Nick is a founding member of The King's Company of Historical Re-enactors and History Matters Association. He participates in many roles depicting the history of South Western Ontario. Nick joined the Health Centre's Board in September 2019.

Jennifer Ford – Secretary/Treasurer



Jennifer Ford, and her husband Glenn, live on the family farm in the Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich. They have grown many things on their farm over the years but their most important crop was their two children. Enjoying family and their two energetic grandchildren are the main priorities that take up much of their spare time these days.

Jennifer spent the better part of her childhood growing up in rural Ontario where she gained her appreciation for community. She has worked for many years in a financial capacity within the community at the Elgin Farmers Co-operative (now Agris), the Dutton Co-operative Child Care Centre and currently works as a Senior Financial Analyst for the County of Elgin.

She completed her Bachelor of Arts at the University of Western Ontario but her interest in finance inspired her to continue her education to complete her certification as an Accountant through CGA Ontario. She then followed up by completing her Master's in Business Administration at Laurentian University.

Jennifer brings her education and experience back to the Board as she returned to active duty in September 2020. She had previously fulfilled a six year term on the Board in various capacities such as Treasurer, Vice Chair and Board Chair before taking a one year leave as an ex-officio member. Jennifer was excited to rejoin the Board supporting the staff notably during these particularly challenging times.

Linda Long



Linda Long is a lifelong West Elgin resident. She grew up on a tobacco farm outside of Rodney and settled in Rodney after marrying her husband Brian where they raised their 2 children. She completed her Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Psychology, at the University of Western Ontario.

Linda has worked in a variety of roles for Quad County Support Services for 33 years including serving as Executive Director for the last 8 years. She is passionate about supporting and advocating for individuals who have developmental disabilities.

Over the years Linda has been involved in various community activities and events with her family. She has a keen interest in developing community partnerships and creating inclusive communities and is excited to continue as a Community Health Centre Board Director. Linda joined the Board in September 2020.

Merle Massé Ciparis

Merle moved to Rodney in 1990 when she and Don married. She has provided “support services” for their farm business while raising two sons and pursuing her career as a physiotherapist.



She was born and raised in St. Paul, a small town in North Eastern Alberta, and graduated from the University of Alberta with a degree in physiotherapy. Merle has enjoyed a 40-year career in rehabilitation retiring from full-time work at St. Joseph's Health Care London (Parkwood) in December 2018 but returning to casual work at Parkwood in March of 2019.

Merle and Don have been supporters of the West Elgin Community Health Centre since its inception in 1994. Through serving as a Board Director she hopes to continue contributing to the health care system in Ontario and to her community. She joined the Board in November 2019.

Geoff Heyland – Vice-Chair



Geoff is a retired lawyer who spent 30+ years as a lawyer for the Canada Life Assurance Company and its subsidiaries, practising investment and securities law and corporate governance. He has been dating and married to his high school sweetheart for 49 years, has three grown daughters and 5 (soon to be six) grandchildren. He and his wife built their home in Eagle ten years ago as a lure for grandchildren and moved in permanently when he retired. Geoff joined the Board in March 2021.



Kathy Haehnel

Kathy Haehnel was born in London, Ontario. As a little girl, she went to grades 1 through 3 in Montreal before returning to London. Kathy attended high school in North Bay Ontario before completing her Bachelor of Arts at the University of Western Ontario in London. When she met and married her husband Walter, together they made their permanent home in Dutton where they raised a family.

Shortly after graduation Kathy joined the Ontario Public Service where she began her career in the Ontario Health Insurance Program. She earned a management position with responsibility for Health Claim Payment and Health Card Eligibility. After 22 years working in health administration, Kathy was promoted to a Regional Manager position in the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. In that role she managed staff and programs related to rural economic development for all of southwestern Ontario. Kathy retired in 2017 from the Public Service after a 34 year career.

A lifelong learner, Kathy has continued her studies in many areas adult education and economic development. She brings her education, experience, and passion for rural communities to her roles in the finance committee and as a member of the Board. Kathy joined the Board in June 2021.



Ruth Martin

Ruth Martin was raised in northern Illinois on a farm and completed a Bachelor's degree in nursing at Goshen College in Indiana. After moving to Ontario in 1966 she has worked in various nursing positions and taught at St. Mary's School of nursing in Kitchener. In midlife Ruth changed careers studying theology and becoming an ordained minister in Mennonite Church Eastern Canada. She has served as a chaplain in Long-Term Care and on the Maximum Security Unit at the federal women's prison in Kitchener. She has also served on many community boards in Hamilton and New Hamburg and has served in multiple roles in the churches she has been a part of over the years.

Ruth and her husband Alvin recently celebrated their 50th anniversary. They both are retired and live in Dutton. They have 2 children and 4 teenage and young adult grandchildren.

Ruth has extensive previous service with our Board of Directors most recently as the Board Chair.