



Telling Tales Inaugural Board of Directors 2017



Chair, Richard Koroscil, President and CEO KORLON Strategic Services Inc.

A senior Aviation executive with 39 years in both the public and private sectors in Canada and Internationally. He recently retired as President/CEO for the Hamilton International Airport. His career portfolio also includes Vice President for Vancouver Airport Services (YVRAS) and the Vancouver International Airport Authority. Richard has been and continues to be a very active community leader. He is currently on the boards of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Hamilton Health Sciences, McMaster Institute of Transportation and Logistics. He is a past President of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce and SKAL International Hamilton. He is the former Chair of the Hamilton United Way 2012 Campaign, the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce and the founding Chair of the Southern Ontario Gateway Council and the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council. He is a former Board member of Metrolinx, Theatre Aquarius and St. Joseph’s Hospital Foundation. A former member of the Jobs Prosperity Collective, the Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Economic Development as well as the Community Advisory Committee for the now approved Airport Employment Growth District. He has also served as a strategic advisor to previous Hamilton Mayors and Provincial Ministers of Transport. Richard is a graduate of Durham University/College in Aviation Management and is a Chartered Director from the Conference Board of Canada/DeGroot School of Business McMaster University.



Cindy Alaimo, President, CPA, Treasury Management Services, Interim Director of Finance and Governance.

An accounting professional, with over 25 years of experience, Cindy is President of her own consulting company, Treasury Management Services. Cindy has expertise in the areas of foreign exchange hedging; risk identification and hedging strategies, as well as cash management and negotiation. She has worked in internationally in Treasury and internal audit. As a former Rotarian, Cindy served as Club Treasurer and volunteered as a reader at the Hess Street School Literacy Program. Her community involvement has included being a Big Sister, Treasurer for the St. Joseph’s Hospital Volunteer Association and Treasurer for her community parks.





Paul Berton, Editor-in-Chief of the Hamilton Spectator and thespec.com.

A journalist for three decades, he has worked for The London Free Press and The Toronto Star, among other publications. He holds degrees from the University of Western Ontario and Carleton University. A current member of the board of the Art Gallery of Hamilton, he has previously served on the board of Hamilton Out of the Cold, and committees at the Royal Botanical Gardens, the Hamilton YWCA, Mohawk College and others. He was a board member at Fanshawe Pioneer

Village, the Covent Garden Market, the Brain Injury Association, the Old South Community Organization, and sat on the Mayor’s Anti-Poverty Task Force, and the Forestry Advisory Committee, among others, all in London. He is the co-inventor of Eye Know, a Mensa-award winning visual trivia board game for all ages.



Emily Ecker, M.A.Ed, Manager of Community Access and Engagement, Mohawk College.

Emily brings extensive experience in developing community-based partnerships. For over 20 years, Emily has been committed to improving access to education and employment in the Hamilton community. With a background in Business and Education, Emily has been instrumental in the development of projects such as City School by Mohawk, the Community Integration through Co-operative Education program, and leads the School College Work Initiative for Mohawk.

Emily is also the 2017 recipient of the YWCA Woman of Distinction award in the category of Education and Mentorship.



Alyssa Lai, Digital Marketing Coordinator, Hamilton Heath Sciences Foundation.

A Southeast Asian born tan but without the Ray-Bans, Alyssa graduated with a B.A. (Hons) in Communication Studies, Theatre and Film Studies from McMaster University. Working as a public relations professional, she utilizes various communication channels and techniques to highlight the important work of different community organizations in the city. She also chaired Hamilton HIVE, the city’s leading young professional network.

An aspiring prof, Alyssa continues to explore teaching and facilitating opportunities. Her university research work on principles of good teaching was published in the Canadian Journal of Learning and Technology in 2013. Alyssa co-founded two young professional groups and sits on the board of Young Professional Network of Ontario. She is a 2017 CivicAction DiverseCity Fellow, one of the 25 rising leaders in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area selected for this year-long leadership program. At 24 years old, Alyssa was awarded the YWCA Hamilton Woman of Distinction Award (Public Affairs, 2014) and McMaster Hamilton Community Impact Award (2015). A true Gen Y-er, she has many online selves. Connect with her on Twitter @alyssaglai





Madeleine Levy, Community Relations, Marketing and Fundraising Professional.

Madeleine holds a Master of Business Administration degree (cum laude) from The Lally School of Management and Technology Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York and has worked in the field of finance, marketing and community relations for the past 30 years. She received accreditation in the McMaster Not for Profit Governance Program. Madeleine is a dedicated community leader who devotes her time and effort to many charitable and community causes. She is a recognized leader in Holocaust and human rights education and strategic planning. Madeleine has extensive experience on boards, advisory committees and other governance organizations. Presently, she serves on the Board of Directors of Facing History and Ourselves Canada, Board of Directors of Theatre Aquarius, Chair of the

Hamilton Community Prayer Breakfast, member of the HWDSB System Positive Space Committee and a member of the Police Chief's Select Committee on Mental Health and Police interactions with People in Crisis. Additionally, Madeleine served as a member of the Advisory Committee, National Task Force on Holocaust Education, Commemoration and Research, Program Coordinator for Hamilton Out of the Cold program, Board of Directors of the United of Way of Burlington and Greater Hamilton (Chair, Community Impact and Investment Committee), Board of Directors of the Hamilton Community Foundation (Chair, Tackling Poverty Together (TPT) Grant Allocations Committee and Co-chair Diversity Committee), Strengthening Hamilton's Community Initiative (SHCI) Transition Implementation Committee, Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion (HCCI) Governing Council Member, member of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Interfaith, Social Justice and Aboriginal Advisory Committee. Madeleine has been honoured with numerous awards including The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal 2012, The Ray Johnson Memorial Award for her dedication to the United Way of Burlington & Greater Hamilton in 2011, The Asper Foundation Human Rights Award in 2011, Hamilton Distinguished Citizen of the Year, 2008, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce Athena award in 2008 and the CeCe Schreiber Volunteer Excellence Award, 2007.



Ruth Liebersbach, CFO, C.Dir, McMaster Innovation Park, Interim Director of Finance and Governance.

Graduate of McMaster University, Ruth is an avid lifelong reader, Rotarian and literacy champion. Her extensive experience includes Past Chair of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, CFO of various highly entrepreneurial companies. Ruth is currently chair of Sustainable Hamilton Burlington Board. Her extensive community involvement includes serving as President of Rotary Club of Hamilton, Board Member Hamilton Community Foundation, and chair of the fundraising committee for the Juravinski Breast Assessment Centre.

Ruth has a FCMA (CMA Fellowship awarded in 2007 with only 1% of world wide CMA's having a fellowship) and also, as a graduate of McMaster University and as a recipient of the Chartered Directors designation (C.Dir) from the DeGroote School of Business at McMaster University.

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Laura J. Lukasik, Manager, Partnerships & Communications Hamilton Public Library.

Laura is a lifelong Hamiltonian. Even though various employment opportunities took her away from Hamilton for a period, she is well ensconced and honoured to be able to contribute to our fabulous city. Laura has been involved with Telling Tales since its inception as the Selection Chair and representative of co-host Hamilton Public Library. For the past 13 years, Laura has been working for the Hamilton Public Library on a full-time basis and most recently as Manager of Partnerships and Communications. Laura has been honoured with a Paul Harris

Fellowship Award, a Kim Brooks Memorial Lifelong Learning Award and a Week of the Child and Youth Award. Community service work includes serving on the boards of Umbrella Family and Child Centres of Hamilton as a Member-at-Large and Chamber Music Hamilton as Chair. Laura is a graduate of McMaster University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Humber College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning with a Graduate Certificate in Public Relations. Currently, Laura has started the Leadership in Community Engagement Certificate program through McMaster University's Centre for Continuing Education.



Gillian O'Reilly, Author, freelance editor, former editor of Canadian Children's Book News.

Gillian O'Reilly has been interested in words ever since she ate the dust jacket off the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* when she was 11 months old. A freelance writer and editor, she has worked in the book business for over 35 years. From 1996 to 2016, she edited *Canadian Children's Book News*, published by the Canadian Children's Book Centre. Gillian is the author of two books for young readers: *Slangalicious: Where We Got That Crazy Lingo* (2004) and *The Great Number Rumble: A Story of Math in Surprising Places*, co-written

with Cora Lee (2007, revised and updated edition 2016). She is currently working on a children's book about William Osler. Gillian is the Chair of the Friends of the Osborne Collection of Children's Books (Toronto Public Library) and is a member of The Writers Union of Canada and the Canadian Society for Children's Authors, Illustrators and Performers (CANSCAIP). She is the recipient of the 2016 Claude Aubry Award for distinguished service within the field of the Canadian children's literature.

