



Nominations for Board Positions

2020 AGM

The following board nominations have been received for consideration at the 2020 Annual General Meeting. Candidates were offered but not required to present statements. Responses are presented below

Vice President: Andrea Lynch (incumbent)
Treasurer: Frances Crowley (incumbent)
Director at large: Perry Ceholski (incumbent)
Director at large: Michael Wilkinson (incumbent)
Director at large: Bonnie Cotter
Director at large: Sara Forsting

Vice President: Andrea Lynch

I wish to continue to volunteer as a Board member in the position of Vice President.

It has been a pleasure to be involved in BLRC over the past 14 years. Initially as a parent of junior rowers, then as a (very) recreational rower and finally as a Board member, I have seen the Board and governance of the club change very positively. The result is that despite the current Covid restrictions, the club is welcoming to new members, has improved infrastructure and is more engaged than ever with the wider rowing community and the City of Burnaby. I returned to actively rowing on the lake last summer and was able to observe and appreciate the results of these changes in the club. On a personal level it has been rewarding to watch my children move from junior to competitive and senior rowing with the support of the club and still retain their love of this sport. This positive atmosphere and inclusiveness in addition to the very rewarding working relationships with other volunteers is why I am happy to continue my efforts in helping the club in any way I can, including the Vice President position.

On a more practical level, I anticipate my next term to involve helping to continue the mission of the club and the Board i.e. promotion of the sport of rowing to as many diverse users as possible. This will likely specifically mean supporting upcoming rowing and water sport events (regattas, camps etc.) at the lake in addition continuing to support the development of improved infrastructure for our club.

Treasurer: Frances Crowley

I am seeking a further term as Treasurer of Burnaby Lake Rowing Club.

I have been involved in the management of various tasks at the lake and the implementation of the ever changing Covid protocols. I also handle the memberships, day to day communications and maintain the calendar for all user groups. I schedule rowing activities and ensure that we have coaches and/or safety boat drivers. In spite of the challenges of Covid we managed to have 21 workouts a week over the summer months and into the fall. I also coordinated a Learn to Row a single program for both adults and juniors. I very much enjoy working for the club at the lake and at my desk.

Director at large: Perry Ceholski

I have been involved with Burnaby Lake for several years, both as a volunteer and a board member. I would like to continue to be on the board for a few reasons:

1. It is a fantastic organization with a great group of people to work with all aligned under the common goal of promoting and supporting rowing for a diverse membership (children, adults, para etc...)
2. I have been working on the finance committee for the past 4 years and would like to continue to work on keeping our club accessible and affordable to all our members, while balancing the need to upgrade and maintain equipment and retain quality coaching.
3. As a parent with kids in the club, I would like to continue to act as an advocate and voice for our younger membership.
4. While it is tough working with Larry (as most of you already know!) on lane lines, equipment maintenance etc..., it is also immensely rewarding.

Burnaby Lake Rowing is a fantastic environment for our family and I would like to continue to contribute to the club that has had such a positive impact on our family and friends.

Director at large: Bonnie Cotter

This is to express my interest in letting my name stand for one of the Directors-at-Large positions we are looking to fill this year.

I joined BLRC in April 2019 and typically row 3 – 5 days per week. Having spent a considerable amount of time at the club in the company of Francie and Larry I have come to appreciate the work involved in keeping the club running and try to offer any help as needed. I believe my background in business operations, my time as Vice Captain Membership at Vancouver Rowing Club and board member of Good Noise Vancouver Gospel Choir gives me the experience and tools necessary to perform any tasks as required to be effective as a Director-at-Large.

Director at large: Sara Forsting

I am submitting my candidacy for At Large Director on the Burnaby Lake Rowing Club Board of Directors at the 2020 Annual General Meeting.

I bring to the Board experience as a leader, athlete, volunteer and advocate for increasing access to our sport. I value integrity, clear communication and respect. I am at my best when supporting those around me to succeed. I look forward to supporting BLRC's strategic growth, especially in Burnaby, and continued leadership in the BC rowing community.

I have been a member of BLRC since 2018. I'm a frequent rower on the lake and can be seen taking on the resident geese and a few Masters Men. I came to rowing as an adult, learning to row in 2013. Since then, I discovered my inner-athlete and the joy of rowing. As a Masters rower, I have had success in crew boats, the single scull and the wonderful erg. My proudest rowing accomplishments include: Head of the Charles Regatta silver medal (2017, 4+, Womens 40+), Head of the Lake Regatta golds (2018 & 2019, 1x, W40+), CRASH Bs Erg Championship, gold/hammer (2020, W 43+) and Head of the Charles Regatta virtual erg, first place (2020, Womens 40+). I also enjoy volunteering at rowing regattas and supporting fellow athletes, of all age ranges and abilities.

Outside rowing, I'm the Director for Public Health Surveillance at Vancouver Coastal Health and lead a team of epidemiologists, analysts and statisticians. I've been an epidemiologist for over 20 years, working both in Atlanta and Vancouver. For the past nine months, I have been BLRC's in-house Epidemiologist, supporting BLRC Executives with COVID prevention planning and tools to ensure we are operating safely during the COVID Pandemic. I will continue to provide leadership to BLRC on this topic until we're on the other side of the Pandemic.

Finally, I am the mother of two strong, creative daughters, ages 9 and 12. In non-COVID times, you'll see them volunteering at rowing regattas and cheering on their mom from the Coach's launch.

Director at large: Michael Wilkinson

I have been a Director at large for the past two years and would like to continue as a member of the Burnaby Lake Rowing Club board. It has been exciting to see the club evolve (since my first row in the early 2000s) from a venue that was almost unusable for large periods of the year to one that can host international competitions. I have enjoyed supporting this progress over the past two years with a great team of likeminded individuals on the board who consistently improve Burnaby Lake facilities and programs for its membership.

As a former national team athlete who learned to row at Burnaby Lake, I would like to continue to advocate for younger club members to ensure that their perspectives are heard and supported at the board level. Additionally, as someone who no longer actively rows on the lake, I feel I can provide impartial judgement on many issues that affect our diverse membership.