

Meet Your Directors

Gail James - Commodore

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I was born and raised in the Okanagan Valley and grew up on a hobby farm raising Arabian horses and Limousin cattle.

My career was in Hotel Operations Management and Accounting, specializing in hotel openings and renovation projects.

My husband Alan and I have been members of WKYC since 1997 and have both held various positions on the board. Alan was the push for belonging to a Yacht club as he has a deep-seated love for sailing. We have so many fond memories of functions and events at our club and it has been a large part of our social life for many years.

The friendliness and helpfulness of our members is always praised by members of other clubs on the lake and that is because we have so many amazing members that are proud of our club.

We will have a challenge ahead of us recovering from Covid-19 and recreating club events and functions, I know, with the great board we have, we can do it and do it well.

I look forward to my term as commodore and encourage all members to get involved. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Brian Alexander - Vice Commodore

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Its sounding like I maybe the only home grown Kelownaite in this group. I grew up in the Mission area and started my banking career with CIBC, being transferred in 1971 I travelled the province until that got too much with a young family. Following my passion, I went into the Sportfishing business on the coast and after 33 plus years I retired in December 2018. My wife Elayne and I moved to West Kelowna fulltime in Dec 2015 and became WKYC members in spring 2017. 3 weeks after joining I found myself as the new Bar Director and the rest is history! Bored with retirement I started a new company in March 2019 selling and installing louvered and retractable roof systems for commercial and residential patios.

Elayne and I have 3 adult children and 7 grandchildren ranging in age from 7 - 21 yrs. We enjoy the club and member atmosphere and I look forward to the challenges as your Vice Commodore.

Todd Scheven - Rear Commodore

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I grew up on the Muskoka lakes in Ontario but moved out west in the late 90s, so when my wife, Donna, and I moved to the Okanagan in 2017, it was like coming home with mountains as a bonus. I am self-employed and a partner in a Calgary-based software development company. I have 2 grown children and has been married to Donna for 30 years. Joining the West Kelowna Yacht Club and being new to the community allowed us to meet new friends and gave us a sense of belonging. I very much wanted to get involved in the club as a volunteer, so in 2018, I started on the board as the IT director. I am looking forward to my new role as Rear Commodore, to support Brian and Gail, and to help guide and grow the club for the benefit of all its members.

John Hudson - Staff Captain

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My wife, Gayle and I moved to the Okanagan from Saskatchewan with our two children 30 years ago. After spending several summer vacations at Gayle's Family hotel in Penticton the choice was easy.

I have worked for the Valley newspapers for most of that time, predominantly on the Westside. We have been members of the West Kelowna Yacht Club for many years. I have held almost all positions on the board with the honour of being Commodore during the club's fiftieth anniversary. I enjoy working with the board and members and welcome a call anytime to hear the input of our members.

Jim Stansfield - Food and Beverage Director

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I grew up on the west coast and in 1995 my wife Nicole and I took a chance, quit our jobs, sold

our house, and moved to the beautiful Okanagan to help our family start a small business. We converted an old museum into the Tin Whistle Brewing Company, the very first micro brewery in Penticton. After many successful years of operation, we sold the business, but I opted to stay in the beverage alcohol industry. I have worked for Big Rock Brewing, was appointed to the board of directors for Bear Brewing in Kamloops, and for the past 18 years I've had the pleasure of working in our very successful Okanagan wine industry. Nicole and I have enjoyed being members of the West Kelowna Yacht Club for the past 6 years and can often be found on our boat with our kids enjoying the Okanagan sun. I am excited and look forward to working with our members to make our club the place you bring your friends to enjoy a nice glass of Okanagan VQA wine on our beautiful lakeside patio.

Russ Johnson - Harbour Master

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As a kid, I had the fortune of growing up on a farm in southern Manitoba. I graduated from the University of Manitoba as a Pharmacist in 1989. After moving to BC in 1994, my wife and I operated a few different pharmacies. We have four amazing daughters, the oldest is now a veterinarian and the others are still attending school. A few years ago, I retired as a pharmacist and my wife and I opened a Cidery here in West Kelowna. You're never too old to learn new things!

I have lived in West Kelowna since 2011 and love every minute of it. I enjoy skiing, golfing, boating and traveling.

I joined the WKYC five years ago and took on the role as Harbour Master last year. I believe we have a Board made up of healthy strong minds. I look forward to serving with this Board of Directors as your Harbour Master for the boating season ahead of us.

Chuck McMillan - Moorage Infrastructure

I consider myself a BC boy, having grown up in Kamloops before moving east (Edmonton) for a few years to attend university. While we vacationed in West Kelowna for decades and have been a WKYC member since 2003, it took a total of 40 years to make it back to BC. After spending a career with Alberta Highways my wife Corinne and I 'retired' to West Kelowna in 2015. We have 3 adult boys in Alberta and on the Island, so we hope the ski boat brings them to visit more often than otherwise. I hope my engineering background will help me contribute to the role of Director responsible for the dock structures and documenting, managing and maintaining the club's dock/breakwater physical infrastructure for current and future members.

Scott Fryer - Outside Maintenance

I grew up in Saskatchewan and worked in Saskatoon for eleven years. Moved to Calgary in '89, going to U of C in chemistry. I worked at Shell's Research Center for 18 years and retired in 2015. Spent my time cycling, motorcycling, kayaking, backpacking and golfing. Winters were divided between downhill and XC skiing. Scuba diving trips to the tropics also happened most winters.

I have never had a boat until moving to West Kelowna three years ago, even though my grandfather built boats and my uncles raced them. My only regret is that I should have bought my own long before now! I have really enjoyed tuning it to get the best performance out of it.

We have met many great club people already. Some of you may know my wife Kate from her kitchen volunteer work. Very happy to get more involved with building up the club and working with the board to guide the club into a bright future.

Jim Hall - Inside Maintenance

I grew up in Calgary and my Dad donated to the Glenmore Sailing Club so they could purchase a new fleet of sailboats for training. In return he could use the boats whenever they were not being used by the club. I was voluntold by my Dad as crew and that was the start of my love of sailing. In 2008 I moved to the Okanagan and bought a sailboat in Penticton and was a member of the Penticton Yacht Club for 10 years. In 2018 my wife Wendy and I decided to become members of the West Kelowna Yacht Club. This year I was asked (voluntold) by Alan James if I would like to assume the position of Inside Maintenance Director as the previous director had resigned. Wendy and I enjoy being involved with the club and are looking forward to helping the club where we can.

Anthony Bastiaanssen - Treasurer

I am one of the lucky few to have grown up here in the beautiful Central Okanagan. After spending a few misguided years in Winnipeg, and then a short time in Langley, I brought my family back home. We have been living here in West Kelowna for over 20 years now. I am currently a Realtor with RE/MAX, I serve as the Chair of the BC Real Estate Association and I sit on the Advisory Planning Council for the City of West Kelowna. Spending time on our boat is one of the great pleasures in our life. After a few years having our boat moored here, we wanted to give something back to the club. I look forward to working with the other Directors to help make the club a welcoming and enjoyable place for all it's members.



West Kelowna
YACHT CLUB

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