

Regent Theatre Foundation Board Member Biographies

Benjamin Thornton, Chair

Ben is a realtor with Century 21 Lanthorn who lives in Picton with his wife and three children. He has deep County roots - his mother was born and raised here, and her family's been here for generations. He was the president and chair of the board of the Mississauga Arts Council for many years and worked closely with the municipal government and partner agencies on arts and cultural policy and funding issues. He has done community and public relations for other not-for-profit organizations including TVOntario and the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada.

Bruce Nicholson, Treasurer

Bruce retired from the national chartered accounting firm, BDO Canada LLP, in 2016. A partner for 32 of his 40 years with the firm, Bruce worked in the audit and accounting sector in the Oakville, Hamilton and Burlington offices. He graduated from McMaster University with a Bachelor of Commerce degree. During his professional life, Bruce was involved in a number of not-for-profit organizations and minor sports teams. His Board involvements included the Art Gallery of Burlington, Robert Land Academy private school, Sheridan College and the Burlington Chamber of Commerce. Bruce maintains his involvement with the Joy Parsons Bursary Committee of Halton Healthcare's Oakville hospital. Locally, Bruce is an advisory committee member of County Coalition for Safe and Appropriate Green Energy (CCSAGE). Bruce and his wife, Joanne, purchased a farm property on the south shore of South Bay in December 2010. In 2016, they moved to the County on a full-time basis. They will tell you that coming to the County was their best "life decision". Their five young grandchildren also enjoy what the County and the farm has to offer. Bruce cannot envision Picton's Main Street without its Monarch, The Regent, and jumped at the opportunity to serve on its Board of Directors.

Derek Smith

Derek honed his marketing and communications skills in the international advertising industry with Leo Burnett, Ted Bates and Grey Worldwide. As Senior Vice-President and Group Director, he directed the advertising and marketing activities of leading multi-national corporations including Kraft General Foods, Maple Leaf Foods, Nestle, Procter & Gamble, SmithKline Beecham and Warner-Lambert. He was appointed to the Executive Management Group of two companies. He went on to build a consultancy specializing in business development and corporate communications, where he worked with well-recognized companies in Canada and the US, such as Barrick Gold, Coats, Credit Suisse, FirstService Corp., Gordon Capital and Macquarie. In his spare time, Derek, for many years, chaired a committee that organized an annual fundraising event at Hart House, University of Toronto. He also mentors recent graduates on entering the workforce. In another life, he was a long-distance runner and ran twenty marathons, numerous half-marathons and so many 10K races that he has lost count. He's now a slow jogger! Currently, he is working hard on the eternal pursuit of trying to improve a somewhat less-than-average golf game. Derek moved to Prince Edward County in November 2017 and lives in Picton, where he hopes to awaken the artist within!



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Georgia Mathewson

Georgia is a graduate of the University of Ottawa (BFA). Her multidisciplinary arts practice includes drawing, painting, video and photography. Born and raised in Prince Edward County, in 2019 she returned from a decade of living away working in the arts. Now she incorporates gardening and working with animals in her everyday and tries to spend as much time in nature as possible. She and her partner reside in South Bay.

Jeffrey Sniderman, Secretary

Jeff Sniderman moved to PEC in 2017 with his wife, an artist, following his retirement from CIBC Wood Gundy where he provided advanced estate and tax planning strategies to professionals, business owners and executives including TSE 30 CEOs and top management. He has been a featured speaker at national conferences and published articles in CA Magazine. Jeff did his MBA at York and completed the course of study for the Graduate Diploma in Public Accounting at McGill. Prior to his two dozen years in financial services, Jeff was an associate and line producer in the film and television industry, working on five Canada-France feature-length co-productions, a theatrical feature, a kid's TV series and a feature for HBO. His start in show business goes back to a 1962 road trip to Nashville with his father and Gordon Lightfoot to record his first LP. Jeff later managed his father's recording studio (Sound Canada) for a number of years. Not surprisingly, Jeff is passionate about film and music and sees The Regent as an absolute gem which is vital to the cultural life of The County. Jeff is also a passionate cyclist who rode nine times from Toronto Sick Kids to Montreal Children's Hospital raising over \$25,000 for their pediatric oncology departments. PEC was his training grounds and after some twenty years of riding in The County, he founded County Bike Rentals in 2018 which provides free delivery of its 40 bikes anywhere in the County.

Kabir Bhola

Kabir studied Actuarial Science at the University of Western Ontario BSc. He spent his early career working as an actuary at several large firms in Toronto. He went on to start and serve as CFO of an educational technology startup Yugen, that was providing kids with meaningful experiences using new technology. Kabir moved to the County 2 years ago and resides in Wellington. He recently started a new position as CFO of Otter Energy - a solar energy company based out of Plcton. In his spare time Kabir loves to travel, having lived in South America for 2 years, exploring the outdoors, and experiencing everything the County has to offer!

Lonelle Selbo

With over 20 years of experience managing media and communications across multiple industries, Lonelle has held leadership positions in her industry including Editorial Director of YYZ Living Magazine, Executive Editor of Lush Magazine, Managing Editor at Müdd Magazine and Editor-in-Chief at Passion Magazine. She served as Director of Communications for Portland Stewart and RK Canada managing teams and projects for tier one corporations in the finance and real estate industries. With multimedia production company, SwissVBS, she established and managed corporate learning and development programs to train and mentor global corporations and clientele, including executives and elite sales teams. Lonelle's dedication to creative thinking and strategic planning, developed her reputation as a top convergent thinker at the most senior levels of corporate leadership.

Today, her focus is firmly fixed on her home in Prince Edward County as she serves visitors and



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neighbours with a dedicated focus on 'life in this magical region' as the publisher, creative director and editor-in-chief of the County's celebrated digital magazine, LIFE AU LAIT.

Rick Szabo

Rick is a graduate of the University of Washington with a BA in Business Administration. He spent 12 years in the automotive industry as a finance director. Rick and his family moved to Prince Edward County in 2015 where Rick works as the general manager for KickAss Media in Bloomfield and also keeps busy as treasurer of the Picton BIA and as co-owner (with his wife) of The Vic Café. Rick is a lifelong traveler having visited 6 of the 7 continents and spent 4 years living in South Africa with his wife, Sonya, and their three young children.

