

GHS Board of Directors: Candidate Bios - 2023

Lena Levison

Lena is a veterinarian who works as the Saputo Dairy Care Program Manager in Population Medicine at the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC). She helps support student learning around dairy cattle welfare. As her areas of interest and experience revolve around animals and animal welfare, Lena felt the GHS board was the perfect opportunity to contribute to her community and help support the positive roles animals play in our lives.

Lena says her house is kept in constant chaos by two Boston Terriers, Maggie and Violet, who were “foster fails” from Toronto Animal Services. In her free time, Lena can be found taking the dogs out for a walk, reading, playing volleyball, enjoying yoga, and singing in the U of G choir.

David DiMatteo

David has been involved with the Guelph Humane Society since 2016 as a member of the Finance Committee. He wanted to be part of an Organization that is vital to the community and focuses on the welfare of animals in society. David has also been a part of another local not-for-profit board since 2015 with a focus on fundraising and volunteer coordination. David has been an accounting and tax advisor since 2013 and wants to be a contributing member of the Board with knowledge in accounting and finance.

Tricia Holmes

Tricia has been a lifelong supporter of the Guelph Humane Society. During university she volunteered her time as a dog walker. Tricia and her family adopted many animals from the Guelph Humane Society over the years including cats, dogs, guinea pigs, rabbits and even a dove. Given her love of animals, and concern for animal welfare, she thought that a position on the board was the perfect role for her. Tricia is a lawyer practicing in the area of criminal law. She spends much of her spare time entertaining her animals, including a dog, cat and very talkative dove.

Samantha Lawson

Samantha came to Guelph in 2003 to study at the University of Guelph and loved the City so much that she never left. She currently works as an Administrator in the public sector and has a strong passion for the natural environment. Samantha has always loved animals, both big and small. Having adopted three cats from the GHS over the past 20 years, she was repeatedly impressed by the enthusiasm and selfless dedication of volunteers, staff and leadership. Sharing that passion and dedication to animal welfare, she looks forward to contributing to GHS’s ongoing success and, most importantly, each animal’s success. She currently has a cat (Millie) and horse (Kallio), and enjoys hiking, biking, horseback riding, and travelling.

Melissa Woo-Carroll

Melissa is an experienced fundraiser and event expert in the not-for-profit and academic sectors. She is passionate about bringing the community together to help break down barriers and address systemic issues. She moved to Guelph in 2018 with her husband and adopted their dog Charlie from GHS. Since

then, they have welcomed two young boys into their growing family. Melissa has grown up fostering and adopting dogs. She understands the importance of animal rights, welfare and advocacy.

Heather Mair

Heather Mair has lived in Guelph since 1999 and has long supported the Guelph Humane Society as a donor, pet adopter, and mum of a Critter Camp attendee. She works at the University of Waterloo and her research and teaching are focused in the area(s) of community development through recreation, tourism, and sport. She has experienced first hand the ways pets can bring neighbours and communities together - building relationships, social networks, and trust - and she firmly believes GHS has a special role to play in supporting animals, people, and communities. She lives with her husband, daughter, and two GHS-adopted cats. When not working or spending time with family and friends, Heather can be found wandering through the park, trying to identify local birds.

Dakota Pitz

Dakota moved to Guelph in 2015 and brought with him a love for people and a passion for animal welfare. He is an active member in the community, and an active Realtor with a dedication to serving the City of Guelph and its residents. Dakota is young, driven, and excited about the possibility of helping animals and humans alike!

You can usually find Dakota hanging out with his two favorite 'colleagues', his Australian Shepherds Dallas & Niko. In their spare time they enjoy long walks, swimming, paddle boarding, or cuddling up on the couch.