

Caravans West 2021 Elections

All Candidates Bios



My name is Renette Benning, and Caravans is my permanent home.

I moved here full time four years ago from northern BC where I owned my own business. I owned and operated a full service hotel as well as a Beer Store.

I have been on the Board of Directors for the last three years, and I am enjoying the many challenges that brings. I believe that my many years in business aid me in bringing different ideas and solutions to the Board as we move forward.

I am putting my name forward for the Board of Directors and hope that you think that I have contributed to our resort, and will vote for me again for the next term.

Thank you.

Renette Benning

Site #369



My name is Kim Buchan, my family and I live on an acreage in the Bay Tree, Alberta and our little piece of this paradise is site 59.

This past year I have been fortunate to work with the board as one of your directors. This opportunity has given me understanding of the many happenings and areas of management and focus within the park. I have had the chance to voice my opinion and knowledge in many areas as well to learn from the other members the history, importance of the policies, procedures and the direction the committee is working towards for the betterment of the park and its owners. I would love the opportunity to continue as one of your directors. I feel that now that I have a little more understanding and knowledge, I can be an even better director. I hope to be a member that can listen to others, and help put into place activities, bylaws, and roles to help with the betterment of the park for all those to enjoy for many years to come. Being an owner who looks forward to our future at Caravans, I feel that I could bring new ideas, as well as help others plan and work towards an enjoyable community.

For those of you who haven't had the chance to meet me here is a little bit about myself and my family.

I grew up in Saskatchewan on the farm. I was involved in 4-H, hockey, and farming. Once graduating from college, I moved to northern BC and today live just outside of Dawson Creek. My husband and I are fuel agents in the area, and we have three growing sons.

When purchasing in Caravan's, we were excited to be part of a new community. The time we have spent so far has been wonderful. I cherish the opportunity to meet new people, make new friends, and help in ways needed while we are there.

Happiness in our happy place.

Kim Buchan



Alan Goard, Unit 154, Caravans West Park member one year. Retired. Married. Three adult children. Primary residence Aldergrove, BC. University educated. 30 years in the general field of social/health services as Practitioner, Executive Director and Consultant. The consulting practice involved Social and Community Planning projects with Governments and Industry, Board Governance and Management with not-for-profit Boards of Directors and Personnel Matters with Managers.

I left that career when my wife and I bought and operated two food franchises (Quiznos Subs) and several years later two fitness franchises (Curves for Women). These were eventually all sold.

Seven years ago we moved to a 244 unit Co-operative Senior's Village in Aldergrove. Early on I was appointed Treasurer on the Board and within eight months had transformed a 35 year old inefficient paper and hand calculator process into a modern computerized system. I also changed money management practices of our reserves which increased our returns from interest income by over 500% without increasing risk. Other outlandish Governance practices of the Board were not so responsive to change so I along with three other new Board members eventually resigned.

The most important point for me on a popular nine point scale of What Constitutes Good Governance is "transparency". It is very hard for any issue to be understood and successfully addressed by Board members without transparency and I believe that in the one year we have been at CW our Board has done very well in that regard.

I would like to be a part of continuing what I see as good governance.

Alan Goard

BIO – Shirlee Jeyes – Site #267

I have been a co-owner in Caravans since 1997. I have always referred to Caravans West as my happy place. I love this park and have enjoyed many happy summers here. I am seeking a third term on the Board of Directors.

My work experience includes twenty years as a teacher and principal. In that capacity I was responsible for both the education and well-being of students and the physical maintenance of the school building and grounds.

In retirement, I enjoy many volunteer opportunities in and around the Village of Ashcroft which include serving as a member of the Board for the Friends of Historic Hat Creek Ranch, the strata council for Cornwall Place, and a committee member for Communities in Bloom. I am also a member of the Desert Bells Hand Bell Choir.

I have served on the Caravans Board of Directors since 2016. During this time, I have taken an active role as recording secretary and as Board liaison to the Policy Committee. Currently, I serve as Vice-President and liaison to the Playground Committee. I bring considerable experience in working on and with elected boards and have a working knowledge with Roberts Rules of Order. I take a thoughtful and considered approach to decision making and am always willing to listen and consider varying points of view.

Caravans is changing and will continue to change. We are faced with aging structures and infrastructure. It is incumbent upon the Board of Directors to ensure that the Resort and our amenities are kept up to date and maintained to the best of our ability. It is increasingly important that we develop a strategic plan that will guide our decisions over the next few years.

Please consider me for re-election to the CWOA Board of Directors.

Shirlee Jeyes





Ornesto Tassoni

I was born in Jasper Alberta, and have been married for 31 years and have a son and daughter.

We currently bought at Caravans West and love what the park, and the people stand for.

I graduated from Hotel and Business with majoring in Business. I have extensive experience in running hotels, as well as was very instrumental in setting up the strata for Bear Country Golf course in Victoria, and I have owned my own business for years.

In addition I have sat on several boards such as the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, as well as the Culture Recreation Board.

I would like my name to stand for the board at Caravans West, as I am very enthusiastic, and enjoy being involved and making a difference.

Thank You

Ornesto Tassoni



My name is Anita Zakresky and I have been a member of Caravans West community for the past two years. While looking for a place to spend our summers, we discovered Caravans West and immediately felt at home. We feel very strongly that we want to share our time at Caravans with friends and family while forming new friendships with other Co-owners.

Since our time at Caravans West, I have been fortunate enough to sit on the Board of Directors for the past 5 months and have held the role of Secretary for most of that time.

I am the proud mother of three grown children and four amazing grandchildren. I have been married to my husband Jim for the past 41 years. Together we built our family with love, hard work and determination. Six years ago, we retired and relocated to Salmon Arm in the beautiful Shuswap area of the province.

Before retirement, I was the Manager of Early Childhood Services within a large non-profit organization in northern BC. Within this role, I reported to a Board of Directors and I feel that I have a very good understanding of the importance of working together for a common purpose. I maintain a practical approach to problem solving and possess the ability to actively listen to concerns as they arise.

I am committed to continuing to serve the Caravans West community to the best of my ability and would appreciate your support.

Anita Zakresky