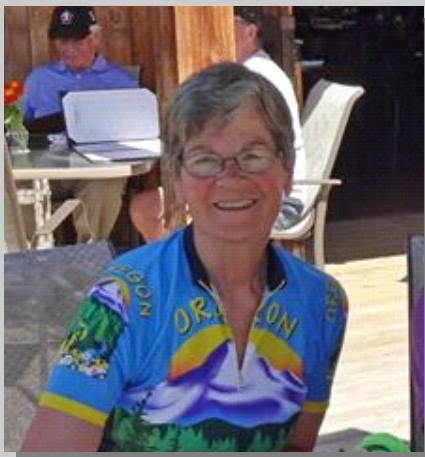


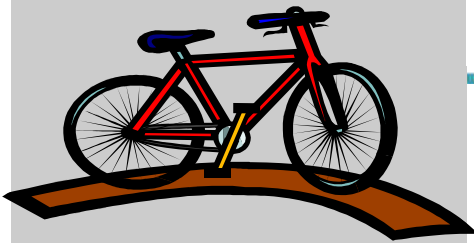


# Meet the Board

**This is an opportunity to meet the board members and learn about the different roles they play. New board members are generally brought on board at the AGM and even the newest member to the coalition can participate.**



Marg Harris, President



Lauren Sipone, Secretary

Growing up in England my bicycle was my transportation and later I expanded that into recreational cycling and cycle touring. I love to share the sense of freedom and independence that I have experienced on my bicycle. Cycling in many different countries has shown me what is possible when there is a willingness to look at all the benefits of alternative transportation. Additionally, as a retired Physical Therapist I am very aware of the health benefits of cycling and the consequent reduction in health care costs to our society. I have been involved with the Cycling Coalition since its inception. I am passionate about helping to create a cycling network in the Comox Valley where people of all ages could feel comfortable travelling by bicycle. I also really enjoy helping to provide safe cycling education for children and adults in our cycling skills courses. As the president, I act as the spokesperson for the coalition. I am generally the person who liaises with community agencies with whom we share goals, as well as politicians and municipal staff if the coalition is focusing on a particular issue. For our once a month meetings I write the agenda and run the meeting. As President, I do a lot of delegating, making sure that the committee leaders that we need are in place.

Six years ago I retired from midwifery, a short career that took me to central America and the Arctic. Before that, I owned a small resort on Saltspring Island where I raised my son. Cycling has been a large part of my transportation and recreation since my first 3 speed Schwinn bike in elementary school. I have done several long trips in BC and overseas, but now cycling is my transportation. Living in the valley prompted me to purchase my first electric bike, especially riding up the Comox Hill in winter with full rain gear. I still pedal my "sports car" bike and love going for a quick fast ride on a summer morning. I have served on the cycling boards for Saltspring (Island Pathways) and Kelowna (Kelowna Cycling Coalition). As a recent addition to the board of the Comox Valley coalition (Feb. 2016), I am filling the position as secretary, a situation that is teaching me about the coalition and the cycling issues here. Cycling in the valley has the possibility of blossoming with its year round ease of use, wide roads and unprecedented scenery. The largest obstacles, I believe, are the high number of vehicles on the road and drivers who are not accustomed to encountering cyclists. I hope to see the Comox Valley adopt a "bike friendly attitude" some day. However, I have seen great improvements in just the short time I have been in the Valley. Many more school children are biking to the school near me and I am finding bike racks filled outside some markets now. We are not an Amsterdam yet, but anything is possible!

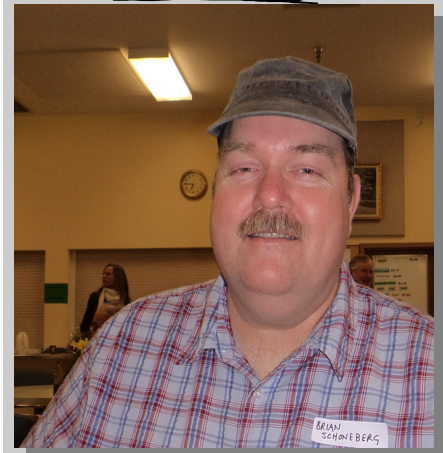
I am a fair-weather cyclist with children and grandchildren who ride much more than I do. I became involved with the cycling coalition in 2009 because I want to promote the creation of cycling infrastructure that makes cycling safe for myself as I age, as well as for my children and young grandchildren. I currently serve as the Newsletter editor. Each month I publish a newsletter that covers cycling issues and updates the membership about what is happening in the valley. This can include: cycling infrastructure issues, and decisions that our city and area councils are making; information about what the coalition is doing; information about cycling and cycling destinations in general. I rely on members to provide me with pertinent information and welcome submissions but I also go looking to other sources as well. This has been a wonderful opportunity to stretch my creativity.

I have been in the military for 32 years, currently as a Sergeant and a Flight Engineer at 407 Squadron in Comox. As a "transportation" cyclist I ride my bicycle to commute to work, pick up groceries, visit friends, and even refill the propane tank for my barbecue. I want to ensure that there are safe ways for both myself and others to travel in my community. I am a founding member of the cycling coalition. I am responsible for maintaining and updating our website and Facebook page, and writing and distributing emails to the membership. In addition, I am involved in "Special Events," organizing and setting up bike parking for events like the Filberg Festival, and bike parking events including the: Snow to Surf relay, Royal LePage Petit Fondo, & YANA Ride. I foresee cycling becoming much more important to our valley as it is such a reasonable thing to do in our climate. The cycling coalition must continue to advocate for safe and interconnected cycling infrastructure so that it is safe enough for your eight-year-old child to ride to school, and your 80 year-old-parents to cycle for an afternoon coffee. I have been involved in many projects, but a few stand out: The Chip Seal Road project a few years ago, saw over 100 cyclists from the island participating resulting in collection of data that was presented to the Ministry of Transportation and the various valley Councils; the presentation to the community by Gil Penalosa in 2011. He left us inspired.; and of course, the latest, the Complete Streets Pilot Project in Courtenay. Soon to be a great example how we can transform our community spaces.

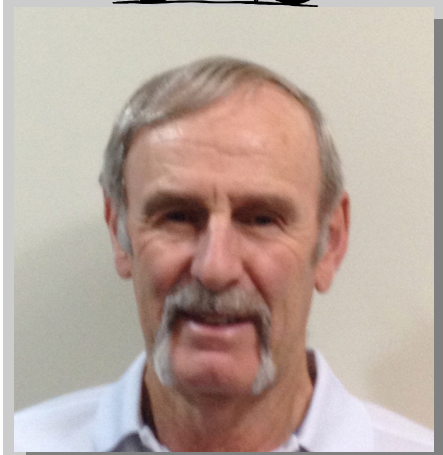
I am a retired teacher from Coquitlam. I cycle for exercise, to see the valley and for the social aspect....it seems to me the people who choose to cycle are a great group of people. I just became a member 2 years ago when I moved to the valley. Being a member of a group that promotes cycling in the Valley and contributes to many worthwhile cycling projects is important to me. I am simply a director, no portfolio, and have done one little project since becoming a member: A survey to determine road sweeping policies in each of the 4 areas that comprise the Comox Valley. My findings: The City of Comox is great; the Regional District...not so good! I hope we eventually have an integrated cycling system within the valley. I am most excited by the cycling ZMap that was created by Sue Vince and just recently released. It is a wonderful resource for the Valley.



Terry Bourque, Director



Brian Schoneberg, Director



Lawrence Vea, Director