

## Festivals & Events Ontario Board Nomination Slate 2020/2021

### **ANN BARKER:**

#### **Director of Operations and Business Development - Ticketpro Canada**



Ann Barker has more than 25 years ticketing, customer service and marketing experience. Having worked in theatre, performing arts, concerts, special events and festivals, she has extensive experience with strategic planning, financial forecasting and reporting, performance management, fundraising, all aspects of customer service, event program creation and planning, and operating in a highly regulated and sensitive environment.

Ann has experience at various venues across Ontario and with her current position as Director of Operations and Business Development with Ticketpro Canada Inc, she has worked with various clients presenting events and festivals across Canada. She is very pleased to be involved with Festivals and Events Ontario both as a supplier and as a board member. Ticketpro supports Ann's involvement with FEO and the Festival and Event industry throughout Canada, continually developing innovative and flexible products and services to ensure optimal ticket sales along with exceptional customer and client support. Ann takes her role in the industry very seriously, strongly believing in the software and knowing that the choice of ticketing systems and change is something of a challenge for most organizations. She uses her considerable knowledge and experience, as well as those of the Ticketpro team, to work festivals and events to best meet their needs.

### **TINA MYERS:**

#### **Executive Director - Ontario Power Generation Winter Festival of Lights**

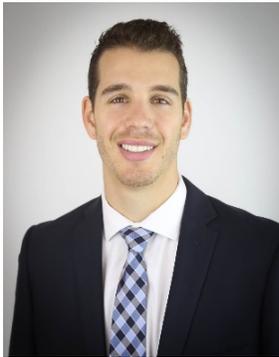


For more than 15 years Tina has been with the Festival and Events Industry, starting out working at Skills Canada - National and International Event during her studies at Conestoga College in Business Administration and Marketing to coordinating small events for the Downtown Chatham BIA and co-hosting an international car show to working for the internationally known Winter Festival of Lights in Niagara Falls Ontario. Over the last 2 years Tina and team have implemented a new strategic plan increasing the Festival's attendance by over 54% and donations have increased significantly.

As an active member of the community Tina has had the opportunity to be involved with the Chatham-Kent Community in Bloom program which later lead her to the City of Niagara Falls Winter Lights Committee (2005 – 2008) where she became a National Judge in 2008 judging communities across Canada for their winter events program as well as volunteering with numerous groups and organizations such as Project SHARE, Niagara Falls Community Clean Sweep and Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). Most recently working with "Heaters Hero's" a charity for children in need in the Niagara Region.

**FRASER VOLL, CPA, CA:**

**Senior Accountant / Assurance – Ernst & Young LLP**



Fraser is a CPA, CA with Ernst & Young's (EY) Assurance practice. He works on a variety of audit clients with a focus on the technology industry, while working closely with audit executives and senior management at clients to ensure an effective and efficient audit.

Fraser joined the FEO Board in April 2017 as the Treasurer and is committed to monitoring the financial performance of the organization, while also enacting a growth strategy to ensure a positive financial outlook. He works closely with the CEO and Executive Committee to build a prosperous financial future.

**GINO LATINI:**

**President - 3L Productions, Mississauga**



Gino has over thirty-five years of experience in event production, stage management, sound reinforcement, lighting and custom staging. Gino mastered the art of performance and entertainment while touring with one of Canada's top rock entertainment bands of the late 1970s and 80s.

In 1985, with band members, brother, Peter Latini and Ray Lowe, Gino created 3L Productions. 3L Productions supplies equipment; and provides services for, sound, lighting, staging and multi-media for festivals, special events, concerts and tradeshow.

Gino has had continuous involvement with Toronto Cavalcade of Lights, Winter Festival of Lights, Elvis Festival, Niagara Falls New Year's Eve celebrations and numerous other high-profile events. He was also a key supplier for last years' Pan Am Games. His strength in stage design has helped to build his personal reputation as a leader in the industry and enabled 3L Productions to become one of the most recognized production companies in Ontario.

Gino volunteers his time freely to pass on his valuable knowledge and expertise to others. He has participated in many training programs and is always willing to personally educate young people who are interested in this business. Industry training is an area that Gino does not compromise on. He has served as a Festivals & Events Ontario (FEO) board member from 1989 to 2016. He has served on the executive as Vice-President and has been the 'voice of the supplier' at the Board. He is an advocate in protecting the interests of suppliers across Ontario and works tirelessly to ensure their needs are being met and highlighted. Gino has been a driving force in ensuring that suppliers receive acknowledgment as part of the FEO awards program.

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In 2009 Gino was elected to the FEO Hall of Fame and was presented with his award at the Festivals & Events Awards Gala. The awards ceremony included a 'roasting' of Gino which he received in his usual amiable style.

This past year, Gino has continued to be involved with FEO as a Conference Committee member and volunteers his time to coordinate our Showcase Program at the conference.

### **TIM PROGOSH:**



#### **Creative Director WTF Festival**

#### **President of The Canadian Comedy Fountain for Excellence**

Tim is from Toronto, Ontario where he is currently the President of The Canadian Comedy Foundation for Excellence. His Honours B.A. is in Political Science from the University of Western Ontario. He also has a certificate in Not-For-Profit Governance Essential from Rotman ICD, along with his Screenwriting Diploma from Algonquin College. Additional professional development includes NFP Finance and Fundraising, Risk Management and Financial Essentials for Board of Directors. He is a professional actor and

comedian.

Tim has chaired and been president of the CCFE for eight (8) years and prior to that was on the board of ACTRA. With more than 16 years of experience working with associations, councils and committees he also has extensive expertise in marketing and events management.

Tim currently sits on the FEO Governance Committee.

### **HEATHER HARDING:**

#### **Manager Community Experience - Creemore Springs Brewery Ltd.**



Since 2006, Heather has been involved with the Festivals and Events industry. She is currently working with Creemore Springs Brewery as their Manager of Community Experience. Heather manages the popular Creemore Springs Brewery Retail Store and Tasting Room, creating memorable moments for guests and travelers who make the trip to the Brewery. She also organizes the Brewery's two, larger annual festivals in Creemore, Ontario: Turas Mór, a vintage cycling festival and the Copper Kettle Festival, a celebration of the Brewery, the town and the beer. As

well, Heather works with dozens of smaller festivals & events throughout the year and volunteers her time with the Small Halls Festival in Clearview Township, the Creemore BIA and other tourism initiatives in Simcoe County.

Prior to her work in Creemore, Heather spent 8 years with the Blue Mountain Village Association as their Events Coordinator hosting a diverse lineup of award-winning Festivals and Events in one of Ontario's largest pedestrian villages. She was part of a team to execute events and experiences with highlights

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including headline musical acts from North America, media visits and full-scale television shows (Breakfast Television and CityLine), the Opening Ceremonies of the Ontario Winter Games (2012) and a plethora of culinary programs, large-scale firework shows, kids' activities and the on-going management of weekly programs and events within the Village. Heather thrives in the tourism industry and everything revolving around getting folks of all ages to experience all that Grey Bruce Simcoe has to offer.

### **DAN DI RUSCIO:**

#### **Event Coordinator – Town of Richmond Hill**



Dan Di Ruscio has spent over 15 years in the festivals and events industry, working on a variety of projects in both the private and public sectors. His areas of expertise include event management, business development, and marketing communications. As an Event Coordinator with the Town of Richmond Hill, Dan plans and executes award-winning festivals and events for residents and visitors to the community. Dan also serves as the Sponsorship Lead for the Festivals and Events Ontario Conference and Executive Team Lead for the Networking for Municipal Event Planners group which is comprised of over 60 municipalities across the Province.

### **SARAH WOOD:**

#### **Manager, Business Development, Events & Promotions-Niagara Parks Commission, Niagara Falls**



Sarah Wood is the Senior Manager of Events, Programming and Sponsorship Development at The Niagara Parks Commission. A member of the Niagara Parks team for over 20 years, Sarah has held numerous roles that have promoted and celebrated Niagara Falls. From producing major international events and destination programming to charitable, corporate and political events, Sarah has a formidable knowledge of event logistics and risk management and is a strong leader of interdisciplinary and interagency project teams. Her heart is for her community and her passion is teaching young people. This knowledge, leadership and commitment has been recognized as Sarah was inducted into the Festivals and Events Ontario Hall of Fame in 2015, she was corporately recognized by Niagara Parks for her ability to establish meaningful partnerships in both 2015 and 2016 and in 2018 she won the Business Leadership Award from the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce.

**Landon Logie: Recommended for Slate**

**Event Manager, Culinary Tourism Alliance**



Landon Logie is the Event Manager at the Culinary Tourism Alliance (CTA) and has over 5 years of experience in the hospitality industry, with a specialization in the design of culinary events. Through her role at the CTA she spearheads planning and logistics for Canada’s leading hospitality symposium, the Terroir Symposium, as well as numerous Feast On events across the province.

Landon’s experience includes event curation and execution for brands such as Amazon, Oxford Properties, and Destination Canada, and as an OHI Top 30 Under 30 nominee, Landon is celebrated for the passion, social consciousness, and meticulous attention to detail that she brings to every project.

**Bonnie Ruddock: Recommended for Slate**

**Executive Director RTO9 South Eastern Ontario**



Bonnie has been with the RTO9 since the inception of the Regional Tourism Organization in 2011. Bonnie was appointed to Executive Director in 2017 after 6 years as Operations Manager for RTO9. With a background in finance and a passion for the tourism industry, Bonnie is a true leader. Prior to her career with RTO9, Bonnie was Executive Director for the 1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber of Commerce where she was instrumental in growing membership and launching the official Bi-lingual Visitor Guide for her destination. Whether it is a 40k cycle ride

in the 1000 Islands, the latest movie or concert with one of her girls or a travel adventure with her husband, Bonnie celebrates life to the fullest.

**Louise Jackson: Recommended for Slate**

**General Manager Kempenfest, Barrie**



It's been a journey of experiences that have all lead me to where I am today. Working with industry leaders is continued education. We never stop learning and the more we work and meet new people, the more we learn. I started out in the corporate world in downtown Toronto, worked in sales, security, sports event management, marketing and public relations. The most important thing I learned is you should never burn a bridge. Building solid relationships is the key to success. I'm grateful for all the jobs I've had prior to being the General Manager at Kempenfest, because they're what got me here. Never stop learning and always think outside of the box.

**Marie Lapierre: Recommended for Slate**

**Coordinator of Festivals Events and Special Projects, City of Timmins**



As Coordinator I provide support to local organizations and individuals who host events in our community by way of facilitating as a liaison for use of City assets and promotion. In my role, I also lead the Volunteer Committee for the Stars and Thunder - Timmins International Fireworks Competition and Music Festival, and for The Great Canadian Kayak Challenge & Festival. It has been my pleasure to assist smaller projects such as the Porcupine Tartan, Multicultural Festival, and working with new organizations through the incorporation process. A yearly project I enjoy working on is the city travel guide - "Timmins the Great Outdoors and More", maintaining the Tourism Timmins web site

and keeping our social media accounts current.