

Desert Cove Homeowners Association

Welcome Director

Sharron McDougall

September 2025

1st year of 1 year term

I am a proud and active resident of Desert Cove. The decision to move here two years ago has changed my life drastically. I have discovered a family here. Women who feel like sisters, others who feel like loving aunties. The men I have met are like helpful buddies, and others are like wise old owls. These people are particularly important to me as I do not have siblings so I enjoy “adopting” people and expanding my family.

My background was primarily in healthcare. I have worked as a Care Aid, Unit Clerk and Scheduling Clerk in long term care. During my 24 years at St. Michaels Centre in Burnaby, I was an active union member having served as shop steward, chairperson, vice chair and secretary for my local in the Hospital Employees Union.

My father was in the army while I was growing up. As an “army brat” I attended schools in four provinces. I learned early on to adapt to new people and situations. My parents always taught me to be empathetic by instilling in me that there are so many people less fortunate than we were. We were not very well off ourselves, but had what I needed. My Dad taught me to be a humanitarian, (social democrat). My mom took in many foster babies while I was still young. I learned that so many babies come into this world without a family to love them.

After retirement I became an ESL (English as a second language) tutor. I helped dozens of immigrants to become confident in their ability to learn English and to adapt to their new country. I was registered with Chilliwack Community Services for six years. I then moved to Vernon where I took another ESL course at the Okanagan College and continued tutoring for another five years.

I was grateful for my healthcare background as it gave me the confidence to be my mother’s personal care aide. My mom was with me for her last ten years. I took early retirement at sixty to take care of her.

For two years I volunteered for St. John’s Ambulance with my greyhound who is a registered therapy dog. Every week we visited the hospital and hospice patients.

I am especially proud to have been recently elected as the Welcoming Director for our DCHA. I want to help our new members feel welcomed at all of our events. I look forward to participating in many more DCHA activities and getting to know more Covians. I hope to be able to bring new energy and new ideas to our Board.