

NOVA MUTUAL

2020-2021 Board of Director Candidates



Barbara Bethune

To all members of Nova Mutual Insurance Company,

In standing for re-election, it is my objective to continue serving on the Nova Mutual Board of Directors during the transition to a nine member board and the initial implementation of its strategic direction. I bring to the table strong knowledge of the Mutual Insurance System, the Insurance/Reinsurance sector, and the Financial Services regulatory environment of the Farm Mutuels; knowledge of Governance Financial Literacy, Investments, and Mergers; proficiency in Corporate Governance and experience in Strategy and Risk Oversight; a broad knowledge base and experience in farm and small business ownership and management; experience in company branding and organization public relations; experience in board and CEO evaluation. Critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as a passion for building relationships and participating on collaborative teams, are attributes I offer. Courage and humility are the leadership qualities I strive to invoke in all aspects of my work and personal life.

My skills and experience story begins with growing up on a family operated dairy farm in Hamilton. Following graduation from the University of Guelph with a Bachelor of Science degree, I worked for Agriculture Canada in the Animal Research and the Food Production & Inspection Branches in Ottawa. In 1984, I moved to Pasadena in the beautiful Humber Valley of Western Newfoundland to return to farming and raise my children. During this time, I worked on contract with Agriculture Canada as a Panel Member of the Newfoundland Farm Debt Review Board. My volunteer work included active involvement in the NL Farm Women Organization, the NL Conference of the United Church of Canada, as well as community and school activities.

On returning to Ontario in 1997, I took on the role of Building Contractor to build my house in Glanbrook on part of the original family farm. At this time, I became a Wabisa Mutual policyholder, and in 2000 was elected to the Board of Directors. I owned and operated a 'fair-trade' coffee business before becoming employed at McMaster University where I worked in Custom Publishing Copyright until retirement in 2011. During my tenure on the Wabisa Mutual board, I served as Chair of the Board & Executive Committee, Chair of the Governance Committee, the Company Ombudsman, and the Investment Committee. I was nominated by the OMIA Group 5 and was elected in March 2006 as director on the Farm Mutual Reinsurance Plan board. In 2018, I completed my 12 year tenure, having served as Chair of the Conduct Review Committee, on the Investment and Audit Committees, Canadian Mutual Leadership Task Force, as Chair of the Board, Chair of the Nominating Committee, President of the Farm Mutual Foundation, and Chair of the "Silver Fox" Director Award Committee. I continue to serve on the OMIA Legislative Affairs Committee.

●●●●●●●●▶ Barbara Bethune, Continued.

In 2017, Wabisa Mutual and Norfolk Mutual initiated amalgamation discussions as equal partners and successfully emerged as Nova Mutual on January 1, 2019. It was a privilege to Chair the Amalgamation Committee, participate in the CEO Hiring Committee, and to serve as Chair of the Board and Executive Committee, and on the Investment Committee, of Nova Mutual Insurance Company.

Many excellent educational opportunities have been leveraged over the years including University of Waterloo Leadership, Institute of Corporate Directors Governance, and Small Business Operations courses. I have obtained OMIA Director Accreditation, NAMIC Farm Mutual Director Certification, and was a recipient of the 2016 NAMIC Merit Award.

In 2019, I made the move away from the farm once again, downsizing to my new home in the City of Guelph where I am avidly pursuing my interests in hiking, biking, continuing education, and utilizing my governance experience on community boards and committees.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Bethune



Barbara Bethune

Current Chair of the
Nova Mutual
Board of Directors



Michelle Spoelstra

To all Members of Nova Mutual Insurance Company,

Hello! It's always difficult to "toot your own horn" however in my first ever, written bio, I hope to highlight my qualifications as to what I can "bring to the Nova Mutual table".

My name is Michelle Spoelstra and I am asking for your vote as I seek re-election for the position of Director at Nova Mutual Insurance Company. I have been involved in the Mutual Insurance industry since 2009 and believe I would continue to be an asset to the Nova Mutual Board of Directors. My past experiences have strengthened skillsets and abilities to be an effective Board Member. My abundance of common sense and ability to bring issues back to a grassroots level in order to move into the future, has served me well over the years. I am recognized as being organized, respectful and objective.

Before amalgamation, I was a team member of the Wabisa Mutual Governance & Conduct Review Committee, Executive Committee, Social Committee and Amalgamation Committee. Responsibilities included: assisting in the development, implementation and review of the Strategic Plan, the Enterprise Risk Management development and the Own Risk Solvency Assessment development. At Wabisa Mutual, I held positions of 2nd Vice-Chairperson, 1st Vice-Chairperson and Chairperson. As the Chairperson at Wabisa, I was responsible for the CEO's compensation package development/Performance review and progress review. Also, as Chairperson at Wabisa, I experienced the art of negotiation and awareness of legalities as we navigated towards an amalgamation. Currently, I sit on the Nova Mutual Governance/Nominations & Conduct Review Committee and I believe wholeheartedly in Nova Mutual's values of serving our members with Integrity, Respect, Outstanding Service, Courage, Empowerment and Community Mindfulness.

I have completed the Ontario Mutual Insurance Association, Director Certification and the University of Waterloo's Leadership Certification. I have represented Wabisa Mutual at the Presidents and Managers Convention, the Ontario Mutual Insurance Association Convention, the Canadian Mutual Insurance Convention and the National Mutual Insurance Convention. In 2018, I was appointed to OMIA's Education Committee.

In addition to this, I currently sit on the Policy Advisory Council for the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. I have been a Delegate and Dairy Educator for the Dairy Farmers of Ontario. A Delegate for Ontario Canwest DHI, and I have a great deal of Agri & Retail Business experience. When I am not busy with other activities, I also make time to volunteer at various organizations.

●●●●●▶ Michelle Spoelstra, continued.

During the day (and night) my husband Randall and I, operate Roy-A-Lea Farms Ltd. located in Binbrook, just South/East of Hamilton. Together, with our 3 adult children we manage a Dairy herd of Holstein cattle as well as a grain operation, working approximately 3000 acres.

My primary role as Secretary/Treasurer within the farm operation is to manage the financial accounts for all three independent family corporations. In addition to maintaining financial records, I perform administrative tasks such as: create Standard Operating Procedures, abide by Human Resource obligations, adhere to all Regulatory Compliance duties and maintain data entries and record keeping.

During this unprecedented time of Covid19, I have reunited myself with my “to do list”, getting things checked off the list and have returned to the love of knitting and baking. My husband and I both love to spend time at the trailer, go boating and spend time with the 4 grandchildren. Thank you for your consideration.



Michelle Spoelstra

Current Director

●●●●●●●▶ Luann Wagner

Greetings Nova Mutual Directors, Policy Holders and Employees;

My name is Luann Wagner. My husband and I farm in Haldimand-Norfolk, and live next door in Oxford. I was born and raised on the outskirts of the village of Norwich where I still attend church, but today I am an elder and sit on the board of managers. Today, we share a minister with a neighbouring church- not so different from sharing a mutual. Norwich was the head office of our mutual until the 1979 tornado. The loss of this company was devastating for employees, policyholders and the community.

My family has found a home with Nova Mutual and I feel we can become the mutual of choice in our communities. I have spent over 40 years in the legal profession with a firm that specializes in farm property with offices in Woodstock, Ayr, Norwich and Delhi.

I feel that my experience, local knowledge and professional skills make me an excellent candidate for this position. A mix of old and new directors is a great strategy! A new director, such as myself, will give the board a new set of eyes to make the future stronger at Nova for our policyholders and employees alike.

Thank you for your consideration,

Luann Wagner



Luann Wagner

Director Candidate

▶ Eric Harrop, CPA/CMA, P.Ag.

- Recently retired after a fulfilling 37 year career with BMO Financial Group
- Majority of career spent working with agriculture and independent business clients as a team leader and with direct contact responsibility
- A working knowledge of the Mutual Insurance space, the business environment and some of the challenges taking place in the industry
- Resident at my current address in Simcoe for 30+ years with experience working in Haldimand, Norfolk, Brant, Oxford and Elgin counties
- B.Sc. Agr. – University of Guelph
- Chartered Professional Accountant/Certified Management Accountant designation
- Professional Agrologist designation
- Current Treasurer and Board member of Brant Haldimand-Norfolk Canadian Mental Health Association
- Volunteer at local food bank
- Past present of what is now Venture Norfolk
- Past executive member of various minor local sports associations
- Stay active with cycling, swimming and running
- Two grown children who are pursuing their careers in healthcare and manufacturing



Eric Harrop
Director Candidate