

Committee: **Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Board (UTRCA)**

Organization/Sector represented:

Name: **Marie Blosh**

Occupation: **Librarian, Attorney, Locomotive Fireman**

Work experience: **I worked as a locomotive fireman for 12 years. During that time I attended law school, then practiced law in California. Since I did not particularly like practicing law, I went back to school again for a degree in librarianship. I then managed the budget and staff of a law school library, and instructed students in how to perform legal research.**

Education: **I hold a B.A. in Labour Studies, a J.D., a Master of Library and Information Studies, and an LL.M. (Masters in Law) with a focus on Animal Law. I maintain my license to practice law in the State of California.**

Skills: **I have served as a UTRCA board member for the past four years, and am currently a member of their Hearings Committee. During that time I have learned about the organization's mandate and budgeting process, and how it affects the member municipalities. I have contributed to discussions about UTRCA's strategic plan, and believe that this background knowledge will assist the board in meeting its goals. My legal background and experience in local planning issues is an asset in my role as a member of UTRCA's Hearings Committee. That Committee hears appeals from applicants whose application for a permit has been refused.**

Interest reason: **I am enthusiastic about the UTRCA's strategic plan to (1) improve water quality, (2) increase and improve vegetation cover, (3) reduce flood and erosion risk, and (4) reach out to people with education and demonstration projects. These initiatives will improve the environment for people and preserve habitat for wildlife. At the same time, they will provide opportunities for recreation and appreciation of nature.**

Contributions: **As a board member I can communicate the concerns residents of the city of London have about issues such as tree cover, flooding, water quality and recreational opportunities to the board. I can also meet with city councillors about the organization's budget, municipal levy, mandate, strategic plan and goals.**

Past contributions: **I have been a member of UTRCA's board for four years. I've also been serving in various capacities on the executive board of my neighbourhood community association for the past 17 years. Previously, I was a member (and chair) of London's animal welfare advisory committee, and served on London's advisory committee on heritage. In these roles I have helped develop policy, written reports, and appeared before city council to communicate our concerns.**

Interpersonal: **Over the many years I've served on committees, I've learned that a discussion in which everyone contributes results in a much better outcome. Listening to others is the only way to gain a full understanding of an issue. Showing respect is necessary to get everyone to contribute and share their experience and views.**

Interview interest: **Yes**