



Getting to Know the Golden Horseshoe Board

Ed Keenleyside

Committee Affiliations: Education Committee, External Relations Committee, Governance Committee, Communications Committee

Q – What is the most interesting aspect of working in the condominium industry?

A - I moved into my first (and only) condominium in 2006, and the first thing that struck me was the sense of community. Perhaps this was because the condo was brand new and everyone was facing the same transitions from living in single-family homes to living in a high-rise neighbourhood. From the start, I wanted to help make this as smooth a change as possible... so I joined the Board of Directors. It wasn't long before I heard about the Canadian Condominium Institute, and the education courses they offered to new directors about the responsibilities of administering a multi-million-dollar development with all of its complex systems and challenges.

Q – How did you first get involved in CCI?

A - After taking two CCI courses, I asked about becoming a director. At the next AGM, my name was put forward as a candidate, and I was lucky to be elected. This opened many new doors, as my co-directors were lawyers, property managers, engineers, accountants, real estate brokers, and several retired condo owners like myself. Each had a story to tell, but more importantly, each had a wealth of condo information to pass on. The more I learned, the more I wanted to learn. When the Province of Ontario declared that the responsibility of administering a condominium would be left to owners, it was the CCI that provided a lifeline to naive individuals like me. If it hadn't been for CCI, many condos would still be struggling today.

Q – What is the best advice you've ever received?

A - Perhaps the best advice that I have received as a condo owner is that condo living is not for everyone. While living in a single-family home, I made my own decisions and hired contractors that I knew and trusted. But when I moved into a condo, I learned that there was a Condo Act as well as a declaration, by-laws, rules, and procedures that I had to follow. Sometimes this slowed down the process of getting a job done,

but it also was necessary to protect the investments made by a wide variety of other owners.

Q – What was your first job?

A - I have had several careers: steelworker, Canada's Air Force, electrician, high school teacher, city worker, researcher and author. At university, I became intrigued with political figures. Each one made an impact – not always positive, but always interesting. I sometimes thought that I'd like to visit with Winston Churchill or MacKenzie King. Each was different, and each played a role somewhat larger-than-life. Twenty years ago, I became interested in genealogy and delved into old records both here and abroad to learn more about my roots. My biggest regret in doing this research was that I started too late to ask my parents and grandparents many important questions.

Growing up in Hamilton, Ontario almost meant that I was destined to work in the steel industry... and true to that expectation, my first full-time job was at Stelco. I grew up in a hurry as I took on the responsibilities of an adult for the first time in my life. I was surprised at how hard some worked while a few others looked for any excuse to slack off. I remember one of my co-workers, the late Cam Fraser, professional punter for the Hamilton Tiger Cats. Stelco had agreed to provide a job for him in the off-season... but Fraser spent more time sleeping or reading the newspaper in the locker room than he did actually working. I guess he was resting up for the football season.

Q – What are you most grateful for?

A - As a long-time Burlington resident and a lover of history, I have promoted and written about Burlington's past. In 2015, I was wondering who the people were whose names were on the Burlington Cenotaph - eighty-two former residents who had died during WW1 or WW2. I began to research each one and ended up publishing a book that sought to put faces and personalities to each one. I am now working on two more local history books – one acknowledges the hundreds of people re-

sponsible for making the Cenotaph a reality and who have cared for it ever since 1914 to the present. The other book is an illustrated history of the last Grand Trunk Railway station in Burlington. This book chronicles the rise and fall and the rise again of this valuable heritage property. The work that the Friends of Freeman Station have done to rescue this building and restore it to the way it looked when it was new in 1906 is nothing short of a miracle.

This rather new interest in railways has brought back many memories and established some new ones. For example, my research turned up a small 1898 newspaper article describing a train accident in Burlington, when a passenger express train collided with a freight train parked on a siding. Perhaps at first glance this sounds like the fault of the passenger train's engineer, but that was far from the truth. The rear brakeman on the freight had left a track switch open by mistake and the passenger train had no chance to avoid the disaster. But the action of the passenger engineer in slowing down his train saved his passengers from death or serious injury. Unfortunately, the passenger train engineer and fireman both were scalded to death. One sentence near the end of the article named a few of the passengers... and one happened to be my great-grandfather, Anthony Keenleyside.

In closing, I can honestly say that I have few regrets and much to be thankful for. Throughout my life, there are few sounds that I love to hear more than laughter, especially children having fun.

Co-operation always trumps confrontation – let CCI Golden Horseshoe Chapter help. 

CONDO OF THE YEAR CONTEST!

It's
Easy to
Enter!

TO ENTER, send an article (approximately 750-1000 words) answering the following:

- ★ What are the unique qualities and features of your condominium?
- ★ Are there any outstanding accomplishments of your corporation?
 - ★ Were there any unusual and/or difficult problems encountered and resolved?
- ★ What is the overall environment of the condominium?
 - ★ What makes residents proud to live there?



Each entry will be featured in an upcoming issue of the **Condo News** magazine.

The winner will be selected by the **GHC-CCI Communications Committee** and will be

presented with a **prize valued at \$500** at the Annual General Meeting.

Submit your article to:

Golden Horseshoe Chapter of the Canadian Condominium Institute
Mail: PO Box 37 Burlington, ON L7R 3X8

or email your contact information to: admin@cci-ghc.ca