



My name is Bill Garrett, and I am running for Town Council.

My wife and I moved back to the Island in 2005 to care for her aging parents. In 2008, we took in our three grand kids after the lose of their mother. We spent many weekends camping in Gordon Bay and getting to love the beauty of Cowichan Lake and the surrounding area.

In 2017 we had the opportunity to relocate to Lake Cowichan and purchased our forever home.

I'm a retired banker, having spent my career in agriculture lending, Commercial lending and then into head office working in corporate collections. During the early years, we moved about every 18 months usually to communities of under 5000, so we got to like the small-town lifestyle. Because these communities were so welcoming I developed a need and desire to give back and tried to do so by joining the Lions Club and over some 20 years advanced to be a District Governor.

When we moved here with our grand kids, I stepped away from Lions to devote more time with the family. But the need to participate remained with me and I started attending town council meetings. Since 2018, I would guess I've attended 90% of all meetings open to the public.

I still attend every meeting I can either in person or online and I add my two cents when I feel the need. I am in my third year having been appointed to the Advisory Planning Commission and currently chair the group.

After high school, I spent 5 years in the Army until released due to a leg injury. Over 20 years in banking, ran my own Bookkeeping/Corporate Tax company for 18 years until deciding to retire in 2023.

I am concerned about our wastewater management and the population growth we have seen in recent years. About unresolved issue around short-term rentals. Concerned we still do not have doctors. Given where we live, concerned that more effort has not been given to making this a fire smart community. I'm annoyed that provincial funding for a new school was redirected from us to another community. Given that this town is growing as a tourist destination, I am saddened that so much of the lake front is in private hands. I do see potential for what is public to be more than what it is now.

So, this is me. I'm not a polished career politician but I live here. I have no business interests or local investment to get in the way of making the right decision for the people that also live here or create a conflict of interest. I have been and will remain interested in what happens in this community and truly want to see the creation of jobs and sustainable growth.

On election day, you can vote for 4 candidates as councillors. I'm asking you to include me in your choice.