



Avon Valley Golf & Country Club

2011-12 Board Member Biographies

The following are re-edited versions of bios which originally appeared in the Club's newsletter, the *Avon Go Round*, over the 2010 and 2011 seasons. Unless otherwise indicated below, you can contact any Board members by leaving a message at the Office at 902-798-4654 or by e-mail at avgcc@win.eastlink.ca.

Kirk Stephen has been on the Avon Valley Board of Directors for the past 6 years, serving as *President* for the 2010-11 seasons. Kirk was born and raised in Windsor Junction, has been married to Marilyn for 49 years (so far) and has two children- son Paul and daughter Kelly. His love of cars, developed at a very early age, turned into a 46 year career in the Automotive field having joined Autoport in 1972 and retiring as Regional Manager after 33 years. He's also been a lifelong volunteer in every community where he's lived, with the local Fire Department and/ or the Lions Club where this year he was awarded the Melvin Jones Fellowship (one of the highest awards from Lions International) in recognition of his many years of service. And he has always loved sports, as a player in hockey and baseball/ fastball and as a coach/ manager in minor hockey. He took up golf when in his forties and a few years on, played a round at Avon Valley, fell in love with the course and ultimately became a member.

Bob Purcell, the current *Vice President*, has been a member of Avon Valley since about 1980. As a recycled Board member, over the years Bob has enjoyed experiences on the House and Grounds, Canteen, Greens and Long Range Planning committees as well as serving two terms as President. Bob's interests outside of Avon Valley are also sports related, participating as a player and later as a coach in hockey and lacrosse. It's Bob's hope that his not-too-distant retirement from 40+ years in the electrical industry, including 25 with Rockwell Automation, will provide the opportunity to travel less and spend more time with his ever growing extended family- while perhaps playing the occasional round of golf. So when you hear, "Next on the tee are Purcell , Purcell , Purcell and Purcell", maybe one will be Bob.

Ross Maclean has been on the Board for six years now and over the period has gained experience as Director *Match, Publicity, and Food and Beverage*. This year Ross serves as *Treasurer* and has been enjoying challenges of this new position. Originally from New Glasgow, he now lives in Falmouth and work in the Maritimes running his own small business selling software to the automotive industry.

Gavin Hemphill, the Board's new *Secretary*, is a semi-retired Defence Scientist with the Defence Research Establishment Atlantic. He's worked on Networking, Artificial Intelligence, and Open Source, Open Architecture Sonar Systems for the last 38 years. He brought the first Canadian node to the ARPANET in 1985, which eventually became the current Internet or Web. With retirement he has time to volunteer, and as a member of Avon Valley Golf and Country Club for the past 10 years or so, thought that it would be good to contribute back to the Club. The conversion from a *managing* Board of Directors to an *overseeing* Board seemed to be a good place to focus some effort. As Secretary he will endeavour to ensure that communication with the members remains a high priority for the Board of Directors.

Mike Hartlen, the current *Past President*, has served on the Board of Directors at Avon Valley since his retirement from the CBC in 2004 after 35 years of service. Mike worked in the Radio Technical department. Since joining the Board, he has served as a Director in Publicity, Entertainment, Membership, and in the offices of Vice President for two terms as well as the Presidency for two terms. During the 2007-2008 season, Mike served as full time Acting Manager of Operations while the new Clubhouse got up and running and the search for a full time General Manager proceeded being finalized in January, 2009. Mike has also served on numerous committees during his involvement with Avon Valley most notably as chair of the Men's Night Committee. Mike and his wife, Jane, live in Clayton Park, Halifax, where they are currently renovating their newly purchased home.

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Wayne Northup has been a member at Avon Valley for 20+ years and has served as a volunteer and Board Member for approximately 18 of those years. He has held the Publicity, Entertainment and for the last 10 or so years the *Match* portfolio. He and his wife, Cindi, have been married for 31 years, live in Falmouth and are blessed to have their only daughter, Chelsea, son in-law, Aaron, and grandchildren Noah, 5 years and Jawsen, 1 year, living nearby. Wayne has been an avid competitive sports person his entire life, having played many years in the hockey leagues, organized soccer, softball, broomball, golf and even bowling. Although Wayne recently retired from Fundy Gypsum after 30 years of service, he has yet to find enough time in his day to get everything done that he would like. Anyone with questions or concerns in regard to Match can reach Wayne at waynenorthup@hotmail.com or call him at home, 902-798-2419.

Peter Francis, the *Director, Planning and Development*, has been a member of Avon Valley since 1994 and has previously sat on the board from 1996 through 2001- as President in 2000. He held numerous portfolios during his previous tenure on the Board. Aside from the Club, Peter owns his own Commercial Insurance Brokerage, is married to Debbie and together with their son Gregory, all are members of Avon Valley.

Paul Reynolds has been a member at Avon Valley and commuting from Cole Harbour since 1980, more frequently since his retirement in 2004. His involvement with the Board started in 2007 when as a volunteer in he helped former Board member Paul Isenor and in later years Ross MacLean with Publicity, specifically with the renewal of contracts for our tee-box sign and newsletter ads, and developing new business where possible. He was elected to the Board in 2009 as *Director, Publicity* initially responsible for advertising and newsletter editing, then later on the website which he is still learning by trial and error. He also assists with other Board business such as By-law/ Policy updating, and other projects that come his way. He can be reached by e-mail at info@avonvalleygolf.com.

Glen Early, the *Director, Junior Development* lives in Windsor with his wife, Christine and two children, William and Leah. He works for the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board as a grade eight teacher at West Hants Middle School. In the winter months he plays hockey and is actively involved with the West Hants Minor Hockey Association as a coach. His sport of choice in the summer is golf and he tries to get out as many times as he can. His goal for the Junior program is to introduce young boys and girls to this great game so they can learn and enjoy a sport that they can play a lifetime. He also wants to develop and challenge our more competitive junior golfers and help them on the tournament circuit. He's open to suggestions and even more open to volunteers who would like to help to make the Club's Junior program a thriving, successful golf program: he asks that if interested, please contact him c/o the Club as indicated on the first page.

Trent MacKeen is the Board's current Director, Grounds & Greens and a fairly new member of the Club. Originally from Aspen, NS, he's been living and working in Halifax for the past eight years in the wealth management business. Trent is still researching invites anyone who has any suggestions for his area of responsibility or who may be interested in helping out, to get in touch with him c/o the Club as indicated on the first page.

Rob Sweet is on the Board this year as *Director, Membership*. From the Windsor area, he was a Junior member at Avon Valley. Employment opportunities took him to other parts of our beautiful province, then in 2007, Rob and his wife, Alwilda, returned to live in Falmouth. A member at Avon Valley since his return, Rob is interested in helping Avon Valley continue to be a wonderful place in which to enjoy this great game. Rob also invites anyone who has suggestions to feel free to contact him c/o the Club as indicated on the first page.

Jim Howard is the Board's *Director, Handicap*. He lives in Lower Sackville with his wife Karen and they are expecting their first child in December. Jim joined Avon Valley as a junior in 1991 and was a member through the 1990's before moving to the USA in 2001 for work after graduating from St. Mary's University with a degree in Geography. While in the States US, Jim lived in Florida, Guam and California before moving back 'home' to Lower Sackville in 2009. and is now happy to be back, to be playing at Avon Valley and to be on the Board..