

## Bio- Margie Garrard

After graduating from the University of New Brunswick and several years teaching, Australia called, with several years teaching high school in Sydney and Melbourne. Following a 6 month journey overland to London, I took an immersion language program in Holland, and I wrote and delivered Business English courses to Dutch companies for several years, giving time to explore Europe. Returning to Canada was a culture shock, which led to studies in ESL and Adult Ed at UBC, then taking a position at Vancouver Community College. Renovating old houses became a passion when I made more from the sale of my home after painting it over the summer than my entire teaching salary for 2 years! I began turning over a house per year while at VCC, and also became involved in a preservation society which saved buildings from demolition such as the Carnegie Building on Main Street.

Years later I took provincial exams in stocks, mutual funds and insurance exams, to begin working with the Investors Group, and over the next few years enjoyed reviewing clients' financial plans, and teaching financial classes for women. One of my clients gave me an opportunity to buy into a guest ranch in the Interior of BC, and the life altering challenge of developing it into a thriving 4 season operation, with guided hunting, hut to hut skiing, fly-in fishing, horse logging, horseback trips into the mountains, as well as a B & B out of the home ranch. I was a director on several wilderness protection boards, which were successful in establishing a Class A Provincial Park in the Chilcotins.

After selling the ranch 10 years later, our family bought into an engineering firm in Chilliwack, and the holding company I'd started years before in Vancouver morphed into understanding subdivision development and cost projections. Also at this time I became a director of the Fraser Valley Transition Society, and developed several fundraisers into ongoing signature events through partnerships such as the United Way ("United against Violence")

Here on the beautiful Sunshine Coast I'm a member of a number of community organizations, including Rotary, and the Tibetan Resettlement program. Ken and I have made the Coast our home since 2002, and when Ed Hawkins asked me to join Habitat's steering committee I was thrilled, and have been active ever since. It has been a tremendous honor to be part of Habitat, and I look forward to contributing as long as I can, in whatever way is helpful.