



Mandy Farmer, President & CEO, Accent Inns

Some would say that, for Mandy Farmer, running a hotel company in Victoria, BC is genetic; she's third generation Victorian, as well as the third generation to work in her family's business. Just recently, Mandy was named President & CEO of Accent Inns after a long climb of the corporate ladder.

The first rung of that ladder was cleaning rooms at a local bed and breakfast, next was bussing tables, then the front desk, moving to supervisory positions at The Empress Hotel and Regional Sales Manager at Accent Inns, then Vice President and on to her current position.

A life-long learner, Mandy completed her Executive MBA in 2003 while working full-time. Currently, she's Past President of the local chapter for the Canadian Association of Family Enterprise as well as a motivational speaker for the Go2 Speaker's Bureau, a non-profit human resources association that promotes careers in BC's tourism industry. Mandy is happily married and has two very young children.



Jennifer Crosby, Anchor, CHEK NEWS

Jennifer Crosby is currently an anchor at CHEK NEWS. During her time in broadcasting, she has also worked as a reporter, producer, video-journalist, morning radio host, and producer/host of a TV talk show on current affairs.

Some of those experiences came about during 18 months at a small TV-Radio station in Northern BC where her skills were enhanced – and nerves steeled - by adventures such as being dropped off by helicopter onto a glacier.

Jennifer has earned a Bachelor's degree, Anthropology major, from the University of Victoria and a diploma in Broadcast Journalism from BCIT. She has been honoured as a Top 40 Under 40 recipient (2007), and has hosted numerous community and charity events, including live parade broadcasts at Christmas and Victoria Day. She volunteers as a leader in the 4H Youth Development Program, conducting public speaking workshops for youth ages 9 – 19 and judging youth speech competitions.



Carolyn Rogers, President & CEO, Hydroxyl Systems Inc.

Carolyn Rogers is the President & Chief Executive Officer of Hydroxyl Systems Inc., an environmental technology company specializing in water treatment with its head office based in Victoria, BC. Carolyn joined Hydroxyl in September 2005 as the company's Chief Financial Officer and was appointed by the board to her current position in July 2006. Prior to joining Hydroxyl, her career was focused primarily in financial services in a number of progressively senior roles in the Canadian Credit Union System and at Royal Bank of Canada, in addition to several years running her own consulting practice.

Carolyn holds an undergraduate degree in economics and a Masters in Business Administration and is a Certified Management Accountant. She is active in the community with a number of not-for-profit organizations and currently chairs the board of directors for the Victoria Target Theatre Society. Carolyn was recently named to Business in Vancouver's Top Forty under Forty and to Caldwell Partner's national Top 40 under 40®; both awards highlight the professional achievements and community contributions of business leaders under the age of forty. Carolyn lives in Victoria with her husband Matthew Edgar.



Cindy Brown, Vice-President, Communications, ICBC

Cindy Brown joined the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia in 1999, initially responsible for government relations and policy support, then added external communications to her portfolio in 2002. Prior to that, she was with the provincial government for 18 years. As Assistant Deputy Minister of Policy in the Cabinet Policy and Communications Secretariat, she was involved in a number of strategic economic policy initiatives including auto insurance product reform in 1997. Cindy enjoyed a variety of responsibilities with the Ministry of Environment including economic evaluation, policy development, strategic and regional planning and project management. She managed a number of corporate level initiatives, successfully integrating policy development and communications.

With her years in the provincial government, and two years with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Cindy has an in-depth knowledge of government policy, communications and decision-making processes at both the ministry and cabinet levels. She holds a Masters of Arts degree in Economics and completed the Executive business administration program at SFU.

Cindy is married, with two daughters attending university. She plays competitive squash and has a recently developed passion for golf.



Lenora Lee, Chartered Accountant and Senior Manager, KPMG LLP

Lenora is an accomplished chartered accountant, with leadership responsibility for significant clients at KPMG in Victoria. A graduate of the University of Victoria, Lenora earned the Faculty of Business Award of Excellence as the top GPA student. In addition to her client responsibilities, Lenora is one of our People Leaders and also oversees our campus recruiting program, attracting top students to careers with KPMG.

Lenora is often asked to participate in panels and forums on post-secondary education, speaking to secondary and post-secondary students about career opportunities as a CA. She is an ambassador for the CA program, an accounting career, and for the educational institutions here in Victoria. Lenora is a member of the UVic Executive for the Alumni Association for the faculty of business, the Arts & Heritage Committee of the Victoria Foundation and the Victoria Chinese Commerce Association.

Professionalism, integrity and dedication are key to Lenora's success. She is extremely committed to helping her clients achieve their goals. She finds innovative ways to achieve results and communicate with clients and colleagues.



Donna Curtis, Associate Broker, RE/MAX Camosun

Donna started her career in Real Estate when her youngest of 4 daughters started high school. She is now the leader of a team which includes her youngest daughter. Donna was the first woman President of the Victoria Real Estate Board and was very active in organized real estate at the local, provincial, and national levels. She was a delegate for Canadian Real Estate Association at the World Congress on Housing in Singapore, Switzerland and Israel.

2008 Victoria Follow A Leader Community Leaders

In addition to an active career Donna is an Instructor for new Realtors and is a Seminar Leader. A lifetime of volunteer work includes President of the Royal McPherson Theatres Society, President Hot Jazz Society, President Maritime Museum, Chair, Heart and Stroke Foundation Annual Fund Drive, BC Property Assessment Appeal Board, and United Way committees. For many years Donna taught swimming for Victoria School Districts and was a volunteer life guard and instructor for the YM YWCA. She loves to travel and hike and takes each of her 8 grandchildren anywhere in the world when they turn 13.



Anna Nemeth, CIM, CFA, Vice-President and Senior Portfolio Manager, TD Waterhouse Private Investment Counsel Inc.

Anna Nemeth is a Senior Portfolio Manager with TD Waterhouse Private Investment Counsel Inc. in Victoria. Anna provides discretionary investment management services to clients primarily residing on Vancouver Island.

Anna has 17 years experience in the investment industry. In 1991 she began her career with a major Canadian bank where she provided investment management advice to individual clients. She later moved overseas to work for a multi-national bank in Geneva where she worked with ultra-high net worth investors. In 1994 she joined TD Canada Trust in retail management and subsequently moved to TD Waterhouse Private Investment Counsel Inc. in 1996.

Anna is a member of CFA Institute and is the Past President of CFA Victoria. She has served on the board in various positions since 2001. Anna holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Simon Fraser University along with the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA), and Canadian Investment Manager (CIM) designations.



Diana Butler, Principal, Urban Aspects Consulting Group

As a founding partner in Urban Aspects Consulting Group, for the past 12 years Diana has worked extensively in community development, consultation and facilitation, urban and regional policy development and analysis, governance, and strategic planning. Prior to that, Diana served on Oak Bay Council, five years as a Councillor and six as Mayor during which time she also served on the Capital Regional District Board, as Vice-Chair and Chair of several committees. Before coming to Victoria thirty years ago, Diana worked as an instructor in urban studies at Brock University and as a Senior Planner with the Province of Manitoba. She has been an active community volunteer, serving on a variety of boards, including the Capital Health Region, the Health Association of BC, the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, BC Transit, and Silver Threads/Meals on Wheels. She has been a Program Mentor in the Leadership in Local Government Program at Royal Roads University and a member of the Applied Planning Assistant Program Advisory Committee at Langara College.

Over the years, Diana has written numerous reports and articles on urban and regional planning issues and has been a presenter, as a keynote speaker and panel member, at UBCM and various other forums. Diana has a BA (Honours) from UBC and MSc in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Toronto. She is a member of the Canadian Institute of Planners and Planning Institute of BC. Diana is married to Michael, and has two grown children.



Maureen Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, United Way of Greater Victoria

Maureen Duncan is CEO of the United Way of Greater Victoria where she has worked for over 26 years. She is an extremely active community leader, investing her time to help create systemic changes to key human and social issues.

Maureen gained practical experience in various positions before accepting work with United Way as Director of Finance and Administration. She was soon hooked on the energy and dynamics of the non-profit sector. In 1996, she became CEO

and has since led a group of dedicated staff and volunteers who are working towards creating an engaged and caring community where every individual has the opportunity to live with dignity. She finds this position highly rewarding.

In addition to her work with United Way, she presently sits on the following Boards and committees: as Co-Chair of the Greater Victoria Commission to End Homelessness Coordinating Committee, Past Board Chair of the Harbourside Rotary Club, Chair of Interlock, Co-Chair of the Office of Community-Based Research Steering Committee, and member of the BC-Yukon United Way Steering Committee, United Way of Canada's President's Advisory Committee, Downtown Service Providers and BC Government / Non-Profit Initiative. Maureen has three grown children and three grandchildren and lives in Victoria with her husband Jerry.



Gayle Gorrill, Vice-President Finance and Operations, University of Victoria

Gayle joined UVic on September 1, 2006 as Vice-President Finance and Operations. She is responsible for the budget office, computing and systems services, campus security, emergency planning, facilities management, financial services, human resources, internal audit and campus planning.

Prior to coming to UVic she was with the University of Calgary as associate vice-president administration for 3 years and in various executive positions for the Calgary Health Region before this. She began her career at Ernst and Young in general audit, consulting and financial analysis.

Gayle graduated with a bachelor of business administration from the University of Regina in 1982 and received her chartered accountant designation in 1985. Gayle has an extensive background in health care, university and general management consulting which has exposed her to a variety of different businesses and practices.

Those who have worked with her in her various positions have described her as a "high—performing individual", a "natural leader" and "a very strategic thinker, with "wonderful interpersonal skills" and a "great sense of humour". Gayle is a book club member, a golfer, a runner, a ballroom dancer and an involved mother of two children.