

**Guelph Coalition for Active Transportation
2025 Board Candidate Profiles**

Dear GCAT Members:

At this year's Annual Meeting, you will have the opportunity to elect the next set of Directors to the GCAT Board of Directors.

Our organization is blessed to have a group of talented, passionate Directors who serve with great dedication to the GCAT organization and mission. This volunteer Board manages the business affairs of GCAT including its annual programming and events, its multifaceted advocacy work and its internal administrative and policy work.

This year GCAT members will elect **five** Directors to the Board; three openings are due to board turnover and two are for Board expansion to eleven Directors total.

Each of these candidates was asked to score and describe their skills, knowledge and experience in the following areas:

- Communications
- Fundraising and Grant Writing
- Financial Management and Accounting
- Additional skills

In order to help you make informed choices, we are providing a summary of the five candidates' questionnaire responses.

We look forward to seeing you, either in person or online, at our Annual Meeting on **April 22nd at 7 pm at Royal City Brewing.**

Thank you,
Andre Hueniken and Adam Bonnycastle
Co-Chairs, GCAT Governance and Administration Committee

**Guelph Coalition for Active Transportation
2025 Board Candidate Profiles**

Ben Phillips

Occupation: **Principal Acoustics Consultant**

Location: **Ward 3**

Do you identify as a member of groups with historical and/or current barriers to equity?

No

Do you have any known potential conflicts of interest with the work of GCAT?

No

Why would you like to become a GCAT Director?

I'm a daily commuter via active transportation and passionate about advocating for better infrastructure to support others to also have the option to do so. I believe Guelph can and should be a leader in active transportation infrastructure and I would like to help guide the required changes to meet this goal. I believe that for active transportation to be a viable option for as many people as possible, safe, integrated networks of transportation options are needed.

In which GCAT committee would you be interested to serve?

I would be happy to assist any of the committees but I think my skills and strengths would best align the the Advocacy Committee.

Communications	Fundraising and Grant Writing	Financial Management and Accounting
Skilled or knowledgeable	Some skill or knowledge	Skilled or knowledgeable

Please provide details on your skill and experience with the three areas above:

I'm a principal consultant at a leading environmental consultancy. My role includes the writing of proposals, managing a team, and project managing numerous ongoing projects. The skills required for my professional role are closely linked to the desired attributes for the position of Director. I have to clearly communicate technical information to a varied audience, I write proposals for bids, and manage the financial health of multiple concurrent projects.

Please provide details of any other skills, knowledge or experience that you feel would benefit the GCAT Board.

I have both a professional and personal interest in the planning process and good urban design. I also have an active interest in the workings of the City of Guelph, including the Council, changes to bylaw, and development applications. I'm a daily user of active transportation around the city both for commuting and recreationally.

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Katy Wang

Occupation: **University administrator**

Location: **Ward 2**

Do you identify as a member of groups with historical and/or current barriers to equity?

Yes

Do you have any known potential conflicts of interest with the work of GCAT?

No

Why would you like to become a GCAT Director?

I would like to work on improved transit options and better bike lanes in Guelph.

In which GCAT committee would you be interested to serve?

Governance and administration. My strength lies in being able to navigate complex and onerous bureaucracies to achieve an outcome that will benefit a common good. I would like to use these skills to improve transit access in Guelph.

Communications	Fundraising and Grant Writing	Financial Management and Accounting
Highly skilled or very knowledgeable	Skilled or knowledgeable	Highly skilled or very knowledgeable

Please provide details on your skill and experience with the three areas above:

- strong writer with versatility for different target audience
- meticulous record keeping skills

Please provide details of any other skills, knowledge or experience that you feel would benefit the GCAT Board.

graphic design and webpage management

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Patrick Andres

Occupation: **Engineer/Building Official** Location: **Ward 3**

Do you identify as a member of groups with historical and/or current barriers to equity? **No**

Do you have any known potential conflicts of interest with the work of GCAT?

I am currently employed with the City of Guelph, which would limit my participation in certain instances, such as delegating to council. However, as I do not directly work with transportation or engineering, my employment would not be a hindrance to most activities.

Why would you like to become a GCAT Director?

As someone who walks to work daily and loves to cycle, I get to experience the many benefits of active transportation along with some of the limitations of our current infrastructure. My goal is to help make Guelph streets safer for everyone in our community. Two initiatives that I am most passionate about include advocating for improvements to the pedestrian and bike related components of the downtown infrastructure renewal project and increasing the level of community support for expanding safe cycling infrastructure throughout the city. I would also love to see more fun community events promoting active transportation.

In which GCAT committee would you be interested to serve?

I am interested in joining the programming and events and/or advocacy committees.

Communications	Fundraising and Grant Writing	Financial Management and Accounting
Some skill or knowledge	Limited knowledge or experience	Limited knowledge or experience

Please provide details on your skill and experience with the three areas above:

As an engineer, I have excellent organizational and project management skills, which would be beneficial for developing programs and coordinating events. My current job involves researching regulations and interpreting codes and standards, which would prove particularly useful in supporting advocacy initiatives.

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Please provide details of any other skills, knowledge or experience that you feel would benefit the GCAT Board.

I previously served on the board of directors for Passive Buildings Canada (www.passivebuildings.ca), a national nonprofit, where I held the position of vice president and communications coordinator for several years. In these roles I helped to increase the profile of the organization and grow membership through writing engaging newsletters, running social media campaigns, refreshing the website, and organizing events.

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Donald McGillivray

Occupation: **Data and ML application developer** Location: **Ward 2**

Do you identify as a member of groups with historical and/or current barriers to equity? **No**

Do you have any known potential conflicts of interest with the work of GCAT? **No**

Why would you like to become a GCAT Director?

I am excited to contribute to GCAT’s mission of improving active transportation in Guelph. I would like to support initiatives that enhance cycling and pedestrian infrastructure, such as the implementation of the Guelph Active Transportation Network. Additionally, I aim to advocate for expanding protected cycling infrastructure at cross ways. I am interested in driving GCAT’s growth and maximizing its impact through communications and fundraising efforts.

In which GCAT committee would you be interested to serve?

I would be interested in serving on either the Governance and Administration Committee or the Programming and Events Committee. My experience in grant writing equips me with the skills to support funding initiatives and strategic planning for governance. Additionally, my communication skills and experience organizing technical, teams, projects and research planning make me well-suited for programming and outreach efforts.

Communications	Fundraising and Grant Writing	Financial Management and Accounting
Skilled or knowledgeable	Skilled or knowledgeable	Some skill or knowledge

Please provide details on your skill and experience with the three areas above:

I bring expertise in grant writing, and strategic planning, having successfully secured government funding for technical projects and lead a technical team in my current role. I hold a PhD and my background in research and data-driven decision-making allows me to analyze complex challenges and optimize decisions and workflows. Additionally, my experience in organizing workshops and teaching has honed my communication and stakeholder engagement skills.

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Please provide details of any other skills, knowledge or experience that you feel would benefit the GCAT Board.

I bring technical expertise and project management experience from my work, along with teaching and science outreach skills from seven years of postgraduate studies. Additionally, I have experience in photo processing and alterations as a hobby and actively practice public speaking as a Toastmasters member. I am passionate about cycling advocacy and committed to promoting safer, more accessible biking in Guelph, and will continue to do so.

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John Findlay

Occupation: **Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAC)**

Location: **Ward 3**

Do you identify as a member of groups with historical and/or current barriers to equity?

No

Do you have any known potential conflicts of interest with the work of GCAT?

No

Why would you like to become a GCAT Director?

Simply put; I love walking and cycling and want to make Guelph more accessible for everyone. I support all of GCAT's current efforts, and in terms of specific projects, I think ensuring the continued focus on a dedicated network or 'spine' is key, in addition to more recreational concerns like improved connections to the G2G. I would love to see the membership continuing to expand to reflect All Ages & Abilities (AAA), just to ensure that we accurately represent all of Guelph, and to combat the mis-conception that GCAT is a niche group of activists.

In which GCAT committee would you be interested to serve?

I would be interested in either the Programming and Events committee or the Advocacy Committee. I have attended previous GCAT events and followed the various advocacy efforts online. I am an avid cyclist who commutes to work, as well as rides for fun with my wife & our young children. I'd hope to bring a positive attitude that moves us away from the bikes-vs-cars/us-vs-them mindset that is so prevalent online, and get people motivated by the tangible real world results which the GCAT committees help make possible.

Communications	Fundraising and Grant Writing	Financial Management and Accounting
Skilled or knowledgeable	No knowledge or experience	Some skill or knowledge

Please provide details on your skill and experience with the three areas above:

Most of my work experience has dealt with communications, specifically in the postsecondary education world. My written and verbal communication skills could be used in many areas (social media, events, media statements, etc).

I did also work for a few years as a Book Buyer at Mohawk College, which did involve a lot of basic accounting work, though I'm not very familiar with the specific financials of a non-profit like GCAT.

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Please provide details of any other skills, knowledge or experience that you feel would benefit the GCAT Board.

"My education background is in Philosophy, and I think that I might be a voice at the table always cautioning to look at the bigger picture when day-to-day advocacy tensions are high.

Earlier this year someone had shared an article, ""Orientation Towards the Common Good in Cities"" from the Journal of Environmental Psychology in a Guelph cycling WhatsApp group. It showed how the very act of cycling can motivate people to be helpful, to get engaged in social organizations, and in political participation. So much advocacy focuses on the 'If we build it, they will come' approach. But if we can convince more people to come for a ride in the first place, we'll naturally get many more builders. I'd like to be a that variety of word-of-mouth man-on-the-street builder of GCAT, which is exactly how Mike Darmon first approached me in a coffee shop!