

OGC Board members nominees. 2025-2026. Reasons and Experience

Tatyana Nikiforova

Dear Members of the Oakville Gymnastics Club,

I am writing to express my interest in joining the OGC Board of Directors.

Our family has been part of the OGC community for nearly a decade, beginning with recreational classes when our two sons were young. They later progressed through the MAG program and now train in Tumbling. Throughout this journey, we've experienced excellent team spirit at all levels, despite the individual nature of the sport. I loved watching the athletes cheer each other on at competitions, seeing how readily parents lend a helping hand, and witnessing the coaches' commitment to what's best for each child. These experiences have deepened my appreciation for the Club's mission of fostering a love for gymnastics in the community, as well as its values, and dedication to athlete development.

Professionally, I bring over 25 years of global experience in operations management, risk, internal controls, and finance consulting, including senior roles at a large professional services firm. I am known for my collaborative, principled approach and have a strong track record of supporting governance, policy development, and cross-functional initiatives. I would be honoured to help OGC ensure a safe and engaging environment for all athletes and families, and to contribute to strategic planning and committee work that advance the Club's mission.

Sincerely,

Tatyana Nikiforova

Philippa Durbin

I do not have the software to copy the original text – therefore, below is an image of the nomination.

Working and living in Oakville I recognize the strong presence that the Oakville Gymnastics Club (OGC) has in the local and gymnastics community. My introduction to OGC was through my daughter who loved participating in the recreational programs at the age of four and a few years later graduated to the competitive Acro program from 2012-2019. During this time and the year following, I volunteered as the Acro Meet Director.

As the Meet Director, I worked along side the coaches, provided leadership to the volunteer committees and interacted with the OGC Board and Executive Director ensuring the success of the event, raising funds for the sport and supporting a positive image of the club.

My career in the hospitality industry for the past 25+ years, currently Director of Sales for the Holiday Inn Oakville Centre, I have developed my skills as a confident leader, communicator and organizer.

Recently I completed my term as Chair of the Board for Visit Oakville. During, my 2.5-year tenor we successfully implemented a new Strategic Plan, new Branding, launched a new Website and implemented a new Governance Model. We received approval from the Town of Oakville, to implement a new accommodation tax, providing Visit Oakville with funds to create a Tourism Investment Fund to encourage, support and promote events to be held in Oakville.

To join the Oakville Gymnastics Club Board as Community Member, it would allow me to continue to support the club, share my experiences in strategic planning and governance, to provide a clear understanding of the organization as a member of the club along with my passion for the Gymnastics community.

Erin Butler

I have been a member of the Board for the last 3 years. My daughter is a competitive tumbler, and has been part of the program for the last 6 years. I have a background in Child and Adolescent Development and currently work in Professional Support Services for the school board as an Autism Consultant. I feel that my background and professional experiences can continue to add value to the Board, especially around equity, inclusion and safe sport. I hope you will consider me as someone you would like to continue in this position for the next two years.

Thank you

David Girard

My family has deep roots in Oakville, and my partner and I are raising our two children here. Both of them were born in Oakville and are currently part of the Oakville Gymnastics Club. They have been with the club since the Parent and Tot program, and one now competes in the Provincial Tumbling program. Through their journey, I have seen how OGC develops not only athletic skill but also confidence, time management, leadership, teamwork, and healthy habits.

I want to serve on the Board to give back to a club that has had such a meaningful impact on my family and to help ensure it continues to thrive for future generations of athletes. I am committed to ensuring that OGC continues to be a place where young athletes reach their potential in a safe, positive, and accessible environment. I share the club's commitment to safety, keeping the experience positive for athletes, and maintaining affordability for families. I believe in fostering a love for the sport through an environment that supports both well-being and excellence.

Professionally, I bring over 15 years of healthcare leadership experience and currently serve as Director of the Toronto Central South Regional Cancer Program at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, one of the largest cancer centres in the world. My work focuses on strategic planning, quality and safety, achieving performance targets, and financial strategy. I hold an MBA from Queen's University and bring extensive experience in governance, strategic thinking, and collaborative leadership. I also previously served on the Board of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kingston, giving me first-hand experience with volunteer boards that support youth-focused community programs.

Before my professional career, I was a varsity co-ed competitive cheerleader at Wilfrid Laurier University, competing nationally and internationally. That experience shaped my belief in the power of sport to build confidence, resilience, leadership, and respect for others' perspectives. Both my athletic and professional experiences have taught me the value of being a team player, setting goals, and communicating effectively. These are qualities I would bring to the OGC Board.

I believe strongly in the role OGC plays in shaping the lives of young athletes. If elected, I look forward to strengthening its foundation, ensuring a fun and safe environment, and helping create lasting positive experiences for young athletes and families. I am eager to contribute to the Board in a way that supports the club's continued success and growth.

Nicholas Brett

Over the past three years, I have been proud to serve on the OGC Board, representing Men's Artistic Gymnastics (MAG) and contributing to the overall governance and strategic direction of the club. As part of the Financial Subcommittee, I have helped guide OGC toward long-term financial stability and growth. Through strong fiscal management, investment planning, and transparent governance, the club now enjoys a secure financial position — enabling continued investment in equipment, coaching excellence, and athlete development.

In addition to my financial governance work, I also serve on the Safe Sport Committee, supporting a culture of safety, respect, and inclusion for all athletes, coaches, and staff.

Over recent years, OGC has achieved major milestones — earning the Club of the Year 2023 award, paying off the Schlegels facility, and expanding with a new North Campus. I look forward to continuing to help OGC on all gymnastics disciplines, and support OGC's vision of excellence, community, and athletic achievement.

Igor Cugalj

Dear Members of the Oakville Gymnastics Club,

My name is Igor Cugalj and I have served on the Oakville Gymnastics Club Board of Directors for the last two years. Most recently, I have performed the responsibilities of the Secretary of the club.

My journey with gymnastics began as a parent and spectator, witnessing the profound impact it has on young athletes. Through both my daughter's involvement and my own experiences, I have seen firsthand the sport's power to foster personal growth, discipline, and community connections. These experiences inspired me to join the Oakville Gymnastics Club Board of Directors two years ago, where I have had the privilege of contributing to an organization that continues to shape young lives in such a meaningful way.

As my current term concludes, I am seeking re-election to the Board of Directors to continue supporting the club's mission and future growth. I greatly value the Board's diverse and inclusive approach, which welcomes perspectives from across all gymnastics disciplines. I am passionate about ensuring that our club remains a well-rounded, welcoming environment that nurtures every athlete—regardless of their discipline or level.

With more than 20 years of experience in both the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors, I bring a strong background in management, strategy, and governance. In my current role as Director of Strategy and Planning for a not-for-profit organization overseeing funding and supply chains for recycling materials in North America, I have developed skills that directly align with the club's evolving needs. I am particularly eager to continue to contribute to the implementation of Oakville Gymnastics Club's next 5-Year Strategic Plan and to help identify innovative and sustainable opportunities for the club.

I am deeply committed to upholding the legal and ethical responsibilities of nonprofit governance—specifically the duties of care, loyalty, and obedience. The core responsibilities of nonprofit boards, including defining mission and purpose, ensuring sound financial oversight, and enhancing public standing, strongly resonate with me. If re-elected, I will continue to approach these responsibilities with diligence, transparency, and integrity.

I am excited about the opportunity to continue serving on the Oakville Gymnastics Club Board and to help shape the future of this remarkable organization. Together, we can support the club administration, coaches, parents and athletes, to strengthen our programs, advance the sport of gymnastics, and foster youth development and community engagement across Oakville.

Thank you to all voting members, parents and staff for considering my application for re-election. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the growth and success of the Oakville Gymnastics Club if elected.

Sincerely,

Igor Cugalj