

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE: IDEAS FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

MODERATOR: GILLIAN WHITE

Gillian White is a longtime Collingwood resident, growing up skiing in the winter and exploring the trails around the Pretty River Valley, Castle Glen, and Loree Forest in the summer. She received a doctorate in Exercise Science from the University of Toronto and has spent much of her professional life working in impact measurement and data analytics for nonprofits and charities. As an avid skier, cyclist, trail-user-at-large, and general outdoor enthusiast, she is incredibly appreciative of the natural gifts that have been a backdrop across her lifetime in the area and motivated to ensuring future generations can enjoy them too.



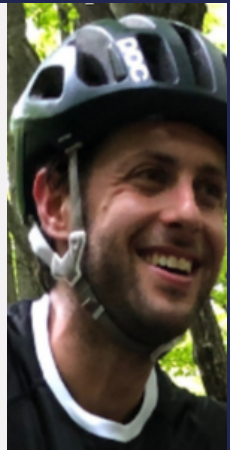
PANELIST: JEFFREY C. BARRETT

Jeff is founder and executive director of Wild Schools Canada, a national network reimagining education through nature, conservation, and community leadership. With a Master of Landscape Architecture and a Master of Planning and Development from the University of Guelph, he has led ecological and cultural projects from Antarctica to the Arctic, including bear-viewing lodges, sustainable tourism initiatives, and eco-resort developments. At Wild Schools, Jeff advances Permacognitive Education—combining ecological literacy, outdoor adventure, and personal growth—through campuses in the Blue Mountains, Yukon, and Gatineau, fostering resilient communities and nurturing the next generation of environmental leaders.



PANELIST: BRUCE ZIGMAN

Bruce grew up exploring the outdoors, from backcountry camping to weekends at a rustic cottage, and discovered a passion for mountain biking at 13. Today, he owns Summit Social House, a bike café in Collingwood, and gives back to the community through The Collingwood Collective. This non-profit race team supports nine youth athletes with structured training and financial aid and runs a five-week spring program introducing over 70 local kids to cycling. Bruce's initiatives emphasize the value of local green spaces for learning, play, and community connection—a principle that guided his family's decision to move to Collingwood in 2019.



PANELIST: JACKIE PYE

Jackie has built a career at the intersection of wilderness experiences, conservation, and mental wellness, creating transformative programs for children and youth across Canada and internationally. She has contributed to therapeutic and wilderness-based initiatives at Pine River Institute, environmental programs at Green School Bali, and school wellness programs in Northern communities. With experience as a canoe trip guide and Director at Camp Wapomeo, Jackie now leads Camp Kandalore, a year-round outdoor education facility and summer camp, continuing her passion for connecting people with nature while fostering personal growth and resilience in young people.

