



# SANDRA S. LAWN

Entrepreneur, Politician, Educator,  
Environmentalist

Sandra (nee Graham) was born in Sudbury Ontario, she grew up in mining communities and educated in schools across Canada (Matachewan, Toronto and Ottawa in Ontario; Campbell's Bay & Noranda in Québec; Lacombe in Alberta; and Lynn Lake in Manitoba). Sandra attended Queen's University, majoring in Biology and Chemistry achieving an Honours in Bachelor of Science degree. She also holds a Master of Public Administration and courses in political science from Queen's. She continued her education at Carleton University where she started the Master of Science program; followed by courses at the University of Windsor Law School where she received 3 Certificates of Achievement in Alternate Dispute Resolution.

In 1966, Sandra, her husband Robert Lawn and two young daughters moved to the Town of Prescott, a small town on the north shore of the Saint Lawrence River in Leeds and Grenville. This has been her home for the past 55 years. As her family grew, Sandra became an active volunteer in national, provincial, community and academic spheres. Her community contributions include service in support of community and regional economic development and governance, the environment, mental health, literacy, children and youth and the arts. She has served on the Town Council, was elected Mayor of the Town of Prescott in 1977, a position she held for 15 years. In 1989, seeing the need for consultants who had a hands-on experience in the interrelated fields of operational reviews, governance, economic and community development and the environment, she founded Sandra S. Lawn & Associates Inc.

Robert (d. 2018) was a popular teacher at South Grenville District High School. He was head of the history department, then Vice-Principal and eventually Principal. Robert retired in 1991 as principal of Brockville Collegiate. He also taught European History in Warsaw, Poland and Human Resources Management at St. Lawrence College; he served the community as President of the Prescott Chamber of Commerce and Chair of the Board of the Brockville General Hospital. He was a devoted Rotarian and a Paul Harris Fellow. He subsequently became involved in politics as Mayor of Prescott (2000-2006) then served as a member of Town Council from 2010-2014.

Today, Sandra is the proud mother of three daughters who have careers in public service, education and law. She is a grandmother of five grandsons and three granddaughters. She keeps active with gardening, photography, swimming and tennis. She continues to be active in the United Church (member of the Church Council and Board of Trustees) and the Spencerville and District Optimist Club; as well as her consultant business. In 2011 she joined forces with Brad Hubbard of Hubbard and Company and began the restoration of Water Street and King Street stone heritage properties. Most of the restoration to date has been accomplished by award winning Hubbard & Company of Spencerville. As a patron of the arts, she was Past Chair, Director, Treasurer and Member of Fundraising Committee, of St. Lawrence Shakespeare Theatrical Company which she is an active member. 2004 to present ([www.stlawrenceshakespeare.ca](http://www.stlawrenceshakespeare.ca))

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

- Volunteer Coach of the Prescott Speed Swimming Team (1971, 1972)
- Member of the Prescott Recreation Committee in early 1970's (1st woman appointed to a Town Committee)
- Founding member of Prescott Youth Centre on or about 1980 – closed by Prescott council about 2019.
- Host to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's visit to Prescott in September 1984: an event that was a turning point for our historic community
- Judge at the Rideau-St. Lawrence Science Fair - several years.
- Judge at the North Grenville Science Fair - three years
- Co-chair of Ontario Senior Games Winterfest 2007
- Volunteer Leader of the Environmental Option class at Central Public School in the early 1980's



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Founding member of South Grenville Economic Development Commission (1977-1991 inclusive) serving as Chair and part-time Commissioner for many of those years
- Former sub-committee member for City of Brockville Economic Development Initiative – especially as it pertains to tourism and promotion of area lifestyle
- Active participant in the Beatty/Runciman Economic Development Roundtable for Leeds-Grenville
- Co-chair of Eastern Ontario Community Economic Development Conference sponsored by Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs - 1996
- Chair of Leeds-Grenville Economic Development Summit held in North Grenville - 1999
- Chair of Leeds-Grenville Economic Development Summit II held in Prescott - 2000
- Director and Chair of the Business Improvement Area (BIA) for historic downtown Prescott 2015-2019

## PEDAGOGICAL SERVICE

- Elected member of Queen's University Council (1996- 2008)
- Member of Steering Committee for Community University Research Alliance in Intellectual Disabilities (2002-2006)
- Governor of St. Lawrence College (1985-1988)
- St. Lawrence College Brockville Campus Community Council (1995 to present)
- Teacher in Nursing Education Program of Brockville General Hospital Regional School of Nursing and St. Lawrence College, Brockville Campus
- Teacher at St. Lawrence College in the Hotel and Restaurant Management
- Teacher in Municipal Management at St. Lawrence College 1990-1995 – Teaching the four courses leading to AMCTO classification
- Advisor for several Technology Engineering and Marketing (TEAM) projects at Queen's University (up until the Covid-19 pandemic 2020)



## COMMUNITY WELL BEING

- Founder of Prescott Anti-Pollution Committee (1969-1973) that morphed into Organization Hope in 1971 – Honouree for Chamber of Commerce Community Award
- Chair of Organization HOPE (Helping out Prescott's Environment) an environmental organization that was instrumental in many of the environmental advances made in Prescott during that time.
- Chairperson of the Leeds-Grenville Border Zone Advisory Committee (1991-1992)
- Chairperson of the Prescott Child Sexual Abuse Advisory Committee for the life of the project (1991-1993)
- Vice-Chair and member of the Leeds-Grenville Waste Management Committee (1989-1991)
- Board of Governors of St. Vincent de Paul Hospital (1995-1996)



- Brockville & Area YMCA-YWCA Board of Directors (1991-2000), serving term as President
- Volunteer gardener for Prescott Blossom and Shakespeare gardens
- Chair of Charette for Children 1999-2000: highlighting the urgent need for an all-inclusive universal non-labeling approach to meeting the mental, emotional and developmental needs of children and youth in Leeds-Grenville
- Community Advisory Committee, Centre for the Study of Training, Investment and Economic Restructuring at Carleton University (1996-2000)
- Chair of Committee creating major survey "Leeds & Grenville Youth Mental Health Survey, 2001: 3421 students in high school participated
- Chair of Southeastern Ontario Task Force on Mental Health Reform, 2000-2003: reports *En Avant! On the Road to Recovery: A recovery oriented mental health system implementation plan for South Eastern Ontario. 2002 Volumes One and Two – current relevance*
- Member of Board of Directors of Farm Mutual Financial Services/GGL Division. (1997-2003)
- Chair of Friends of the Prescott Public Library: leading the effort to help accomplish a half million dollar rejuvenation of the Prescott Public Library (2003-2006): Recognition of the groups effort by the Prescott and District Chamber of Commerce
- Past Community Advisory Board member of Recovering Connections
- Vanier Institute of the Family (1986-1992) Prime Ministerial appointee; Chair of Finance Committee for part of that time – became an Honourary Member
- Chair of the Board of the Fulford Foundation for Sherwood Park Manor (2011-2017)
- Chair of the Task Force of Mental Health Reform for South Eastern Ontario (2000-2002)
- Director of the Consumer Mental Health Support Network for South Eastern Ontario out of Belleville in mid-2000's
- Director, Fulford-Hardy Foundation for Sherwood Park Manor
- Editorial Advisory Committee "From Crisis to Coordination, Health Canada" - 1995
- Editorial board member and columnist for *Synergy: Research and Education in Mental Health – 2002*
- Facilitator and chief proponent of the Prescott Harbour project; it was named in my honour as the Sandra S. Lawn Harbour - 1991
- Founding member of Board of Directors of Connect Youth Inc. (providing linkage and support for youth at risk) – 2001 to present

## HONOURS

---

- "Woman of the Year" award from Girls Inc. of Upper Canada - 2006
- Citizen of the Year for Prescott and District - 1983
- Inaugural Honouree in the Queen's University Legacy of Achievement Project - January, 1995
- Ontario Confederation Medal - 1992
- Recipient of the Ross Silversides Forest Award "In recognition of outstanding contributions to the vision of sustainable forestry in Eastern Ontario" – 1998
- Recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal - 2002
- Honourary graduate of St. Lawrence College - 2009

## MUNICIPAL ACTIVITIES

---

- Prescott Public School Board Trustee - election of 1966 (1967-1968)
- Member and Chair of the Prescott and Suburban Planning Board (1973-1977)
- Councilor for Town of Prescott (1974-1976)
- Mayor of the Town of Prescott for fifteen years (1977-1991 inclusive)
- Member of Board of Directors of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario - 1970's
- Member of the Prescott Police Board of Commissioners (1977-1991 inclusive)
- Member of the Prescott Public Library Board (1977-1991 inclusive)
- Member of the Prescott Public Utilities Commission (1977-1991 inclusive)
- Member of Town Council as Councilor for three years prior to becoming Mayor, Chair of Planning and Development Committee. Chairperson of Prescott's \$1.7 million Neighbourhood Improvement Program (1975-1977)
- Candidate for Member of Parliament 1993 and 1997 Federal Elections and VP for Ontario for the Federal Progressive Conservative Party 1991-1993)
- Consultant to the Ontario Municipal Management Institute and Association of Municipalities of Ontario including instructing new municipal councilors and senior staff, throughout Ontario (1995, 1998 and 2001).
- Consulting services (including mediation) to the Town of Perth, Leeds and the Thousand Islands (pre-amalgamation) Township of Front of Yonge, City of Cornwall, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, Towns of Manitouawadge, Mississippi Mills, Halton Hills, Region of York and the City of Ottawa.



- Special assignment for the City of Kingston in Financial Management, Budgeting and Cost Management: which included the writing of two manuals - 1999
- Canadian member of the Public Interest Advisory Group for the International Joint Commission Study of the St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario Water Levels. (2000-2005)

## ST. LAWRENCE RIVER, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

---

- Chair of "Sharing Knowledge, Linking Sciences; An International Conference on the St. Lawrence Ecosystem" - May 1995
- Chair and member of Leeds and Grenville Disaster Relief Committee (re: Ice Storm 1998)
- Director, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ontario Board; Certificate of Recognition in 2010
- Member of Securement & Stewardship Committee – six years
- Editor with Brian Barkley of the 1985 Lemonade Report – "Making Lemonade from Trees; A Community Response to the shutdown of the Domtar Pulp Mill at Cornwall Ontario"
- Empowerment Director for the establishment of the St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences in Cornwall (now St. Lawrence River Institute; celebrated 25th Anniversary on April 11, 2019). Honourary Member
- Participant on Leg One of the Canada C3 expedition, chosen by the Canadian Coast Guard Base at Prescott - 2017
- Past Director of the Queen's University Centre for Water and the Environment
- Project Leader (active) for Ontario East Wood Centre & Eco-Industrial Park ([www.woodcentre.ca](http://www.woodcentre.ca)); a best practices centre of excellence for wood-fibre based enterprise (solid wood, biomass, chemicals, energy) bringing together technology, science and entrepreneurship in support of the bio economy of Eastern Ontario.
- The OEWC was closely affiliated with the Eastern Ontario Model Forest; with the pandemic this work is now entirely pro bono but felt to be all the more urgent considering the impact on the economy of Eastern Ontario. Inaugural member of the Board of the Eastern Ontario Model Forest (1992-1995). Honourary Member, Recipient of the Ross Silversides

