

FACES OF BODEGA BAY

Ship with Shona

For more than 25 years, Shona Lee Weir's influence has been exerted for good in Bodega Bay. Hard work, affability, devotion to the community, the determination to give 100 cents for every dollar received, with close attention to every business detail has made Shona's Business Services Unlimited an underpinning of the Community's ability to be self-reliant without heading into town for business services.

Proud First Generation American, Shona's parents and eldest brother Maurice (pronounced Morris) immigrated from Scotland in 1952. Her father came to America first and lived Elyria, Ohio for six months before sending for her mom and older brother, then about 1 year old. Her Uncle David "Davey" Renwick, a 1930's immigrant from Scotland, sponsored her parents.

Shona was born to Elizabeth and George Weir in the heart of the Midwest in Marion, Ohio, a town known for its steam shovels and power shovels. The Marion Power Shovel Company was a major supplier of steam shovels for the construction of the Panama Canal (1904-1914). Shona's father, who now lives with her mother in Sebastopol, was an Industrial Engineer at Whirlpool the appliance manufacturer. Later he became an engineering consultant for Science Management Corporation specializing in time management. Shona credits her Dad's influence, encouraging her abilities to be time efficient and a good problem solver.

As a young teen Shona and her family moved to St. Louis, Missouri to be nearer to her older brothers. One brother Graham was attending college, while older brother Maurice had graduated and was working.

After Shona graduated high school in 1978, she never missed a day at work as one of the youngest full-time sales clerks. Soon she became responsible for a large department in the Stix, Baer and Fuller department store, later bought by Dillard's. After that, she worked for a prominent and wealthy family in St. Louis, Mr. & Mrs. E.V. Dickson. Mr. Dickson was a City Councilman as well as a Vice President at Hussman Refrigeration. There she learned bookkeeping skills

and about serving as an elected official. She helped with his campaign by folding and stuffing envelopes. She credits campaigning as the experience that made her the "queen" of folding and stuffing envelopes!

Meanwhile, Shona's father's consulting work caused him to travel. Sometimes he brought the family along for working vacations all over the United States. On one such Spring trip when visiting California, Shona, her mother and father discovered the Sonoma Coast.



Shona remarked that the land and seascape reminded her of Scotland with its gentle green hills and grazing sheep. After discovering the Sonoma Coast and Bodega Bay, Shona's brother Maurice fell in love with the area (and golf course) and began plans to move here and raise his family. Her parents led the way and built their house in Dillon Beach. Not wanting to be left behind, Shona soon started packing. After she arrived in Bodega Bay, she quickly found a job working for a local real estate agent where she used her organizational skills in his office. She spent a lot of time running to Business Services Unlimited in Pelican Plaza to make copies of the real estate flyers and became friends with the original owner.

Shona bought Business Services Unlimited in 1993. She expanded the business beyond copies and shipping. Maurice's family grew and when their three children

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had graduated from Tomales High School, Maurice and his wife Kerry moved to Phoenix, Arizona. Shona's parents, George and Elizabeth decided to return to St. Louis where her other brother, Graham lived and was raising his two children. But Shona stayed in Bodega Bay because she had a good business and a place in the community. Bodega Bay and the Sonoma Coast were now her home.

Her office in Pelican Plaza at 1400 N Highway 1, Bodega Bay, CA 94923, is our adjunct Post Office, and our local internet and computer services provider. She does everything from gift wrapping to bulk mailing. Yes! Business Services Unlimited is aptly named. If you need stationery, a notebook or file folders she has that too, everything you need from her friendly corner store. And her business has evolved into much more. She does bookkeeping and payroll for over 20 local and area businesses. Shona's store is probably one of the best places in Bodega Bay to get to know people. It's located in the center of things, right next to Bob Miller's Surf Shack, Dr. Michael Trapani's Veterinary Hospital and the other small businesses in Pelican Plaza.

As we all know it's a small world. Locals may remember that after Shona's Dad retired, he helped her out at the store giving Shona time to take an occasional vacation from time to time. One day a client from Serena Del Mar came in to ship a package. When George was writing the name and address, he recognized the same name as Shona's Mom's doctor that delivered Shona as a baby in Marion, Ohio. When George asked, the person responded and said, "Yes, that is my Uncle."

Some people forewarned Shona that she shouldn't expect to meet the man of her dreams in our tiny town, but her husband Eric Crumley walked right into her store and they were married in 2014. True to her devotion to Bodega Bay, Eric and Shona considered getting married at Compass Rose Gardens (now The Secret Garden, 1555 Eastshore Road) and at the Fisherman's Festival itself. (She still wishes to find herself at The Secret Garden for a special day.) But to ensure the accessibility for all family members,

they chose Bodega Harbour's Yacht Club on Smith Brothers Road for their wedding. Four years later she still considers her community well-being when she tells the story that her wedding party cars might have inconvenienced people trying to get their mail, ice cream and hot dogs.

Both Shona and her husband Eric are entrepreneurs serving the community. Eric is "Your Friendly Chimney Sweep" and will happily help keep your dryer vents safe and clean, your fireplace working and help fix your chimney.

Shona's dedication to our community is outstanding. She has been the Secretary, President and now the Treasurer for the Bodega Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. She makes colorful posters that catch our eyes and let us know what is happening in Bodega Bay. You can say she puts a "face" on the Community by creating posters from winning art and distributing the news far and wide.

For example, as of this writing in April 2018, this year Shona has already devoted her time, energy and skills to local fundraising events. In January, it's Chowder Day. In February, the fun and lively Community Center's Cabaret comes alive at the Grange Hall. Then in March, she was Chairperson for the Chamber of Commerce's Hitchcock Film Festival. In April, for Bodega Bay's signature annual event The Fisherman's Festival, she created, printed, laminated and along with her husband hung more than 75 signs and placed another 10 banners around the county. She also designs the valuable Bodega Bay Map & Guide, a tourist essential, just ask the ladies at the Sonoma Coast Visitor Center now run by the Bodega Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.

Shona is the sole proprietor and the only employee. That means she does EVERYTHING! People coming in and out all day with different needs. Picking up, dropping off and on the day I was there, lots of free toner and Styrofoam peanuts recycling. All that big stuff goes through her tiny store front. And she takes care of it. Remember to "Ship with Shona" keeping Bodega Bay a self-reliant community in a small world.