

STEPHEN RUSSELL GARROD



"I provide legal services to clients in the areas of environmental, municipal and planning law. For over 30 years, I have served a wide range of clients, including international government contracts, federal and provincial government agencies and tribunals, regional and local municipal governments, private development companies, first nations, individual landowners and public interest groups. I am certified by the Law Society of Upper Canada as a specialist in environmental law and taught environmental, municipal and planning law at the University of Waterloo from 1979 to 2009. I help my clients to understand their rights and obligations; work with them to develop creative, practical and cost-effective solutions; and negotiate and advocate for them before tribunals and the courts."

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Stephen obtained his law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School in 1978. That same year, he also received his Masters degree in Environmental Studies, becoming the first student to successfully complete the joint LLB/MES program at York University. He successfully completed the Bar Admission Course and was admitted to the Ontario Bar by the Law Society of Upper Canada in April, 1980. Prior to studying law, Stephen studied chemistry, math and geography at McMaster University, graduating *summa cum laude* with an Honours degree in urban-economic geography in 1974. From 1979 to 2009, Stephen taught environmental, municipal and planning law to planning and environmental studies students at the University of Waterloo on a part time basis, as an Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Urban and Regional Planning in the Faculty of Environmental Studies. Since 1980, he has practised exclusively in these areas of law, full time, serving a broadly based clientele. Stephen is a partner in the law firm, GARROD♦PICKFIELD LLP, based in Guelph, Ontario. He is the author of several publications and often speaks at conferences and professional development seminars. Stephen is certified as a specialist in environmental law by the Law Society of Upper Canada. He also practices and teaches mediation and other alternative dispute resolution techniques in the context of environmental, municipal and land use planning issues.

CLIENT CENTRED APPROACH

"I am fortunate to have the kind of law practice that engages me in challenging social and environmental issues. Because my cases tend to be lengthy ones, I am able to get to know my clients well and so, hopefully, better understand their needs. It is very satisfying to work closely with a client, as part of a team, to bring a difficult case to a successful resolution. I strive to be realistic in my assessment of the prospects of any particular case and in my estimates of the potential costs. It is extremely important to me that my clients are satisfied with the service that I provide, as the case progresses and at the end of the day. Working with clients to ensure that I understand their expectations and objectives and that they understand what is realistically achievable is an important part of my job. With over thirty years of experience working exclusively in environmental, municipal and planning law, I have developed valuable contacts, comprehensive understanding and sound judgment about what can be accomplished in these areas. Sharing that experience with clients in the context of a unique and challenging assignment that meets their needs is what I do best."

NEGOTIATION, FACILITATION, MEDIATION AND ...LITIGATION

"Law is inherently an adversarial process. Disputes often start in the most adversarial of circumstances. It has been my experience in environmental, municipal and planning law, that even the most contentious of disputes can be resolved, at least in part, by the skillful use of alternative dispute resolution techniques. Knowing how, and when, to use these skills is something that one can only gain through years of experience. I believe that the success that I have had helping clients settle major cases is directly attributable to the fact that I have the ability to recognize compromises that benefit all stakeholders and to judge when the time is right to take the initiative. Opposing counsel respect my integrity and my ability to litigate administrative disputes effectively, making the settlement of even multi-party, complex issues a realistic objective. Clients benefit from the certainty of the outcome, the goodwill generated among former adversaries, significantly reduced legal costs and the opportunity to control the content of the settlement."

"I would be pleased to meet with you, on a 'no obligation' basis, to discuss how I could help you resolve the issues that you face in the areas of environmental, municipal and planning law. Please contact me to make an appointment."

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