

Quality Visitor Services is operated by an elected industry Board of Directors, representing industry. The current Board of Directors is comprised of:



**Darren Snair** – Inn  
Owner / operator  
Harbourview Inn / Winchester House



**Glen MacDonald** – Resort  
Director of Marketing  
Cape Breton Resorts



**John Meehan** - Bed & Breakfast  
Owner / operator  
The Elephant's Nest B&B



**Mike Emmett** – (Interim Chairperson)  
Owner / operator  
Braeside Country Inn



**Shelly Dean** - Hotel / Motel  
General Manager  
Quality Inn Halifax Airport



**Robert Fish** – Cottage  
Owner / operator  
Cottage Connection



**Patricia Yorke** - Campground  
Owner / Operator  
Hidden Hilltop Family Campground

With over 40 years of combined inspection / rating experience, our staff is comprised of:

**Ronald van der Weegen, TCS**  
Managing Director



Originally from Halsteren, The Netherlands, Ronald graduated from the Université d'Interprètes de Mons, Belgium. While attending university, he played semi-professional soccer for RAEC Mons and US Binche. He served as a Military Police officer in the Royal Dutch Air Force upon completion of his degree.

Fluent in 4 languages, he started his hospitality career in Breda, The Netherlands as an Assistant Manager at Hotel Brabant, a four star property. Following his move to Canada, Ronald continued his hospitality career with Centennial Hotels, where he gained valuable experience in many aspects of the hospitality industry.

Ronald has been the Managing Director for Canada Select Nova Scotia / Quality Visitor Services since 1998. Ronald is the only Canada Select Certified Regional Trainer, the highest achievable accreditation level in the Canada Select / Camping Select certification model by successfully achieving National Certification for Tourism Trainer through the Canadian Tourism Human Resource Council.

He has been instrumental in the growth of the Canada Select, Camping Select and Accessible Nova Scotia quality rating programs, promoting the programs as well as conducting presentations and training across North America.

## **Maria Wong**

Senior Accommodation Rating Advisor



A graduate of St. Francis Xavier University with a Bachelor of Science Degree and Diploma in Civil Engineering, she continues to upgrade her education by enrolling in numerous business and marketing programs through Regional Industrial Training and Community Education.

Maria began her hospitality career as the operator of a well established motel, gaining invaluable experience in all aspects of the hospitality industry. In 1996, she joined Quality Visitor Services, where she has shared her life long hospitality experience and knowledge with current operators. In her role as a Senior Rating Advisor, Maria exercised her acumen in market development, and was actively engaged in assisting properties carry out quality improvement projects and upgrades, as well as reviewing plans for new construction.

She has been highly involved with the Access Canada program, diligently working with new and existing operators to ensure their accommodations not only meet but exceed consumer expectations.

## **Gary Shute**

Senior Accommodation Rating Advisor



A graduate of the Hotel Restaurant Management program at the I.W. Akerley Community College, Gary has been devoted to the tourism industry for over 20 years.

His career began at the Sheraton Halifax, a large full service hotel. The experience and knowledge he gained from his different positions prepared him for his current position with Quality Visitor Services.

Gary is certified as a Senior Accommodation Rating Advisor, and has been conducting Canada Select, Camping Select and licensing inspections for over a decade.

He has been instrumental in establishing and maintaining a strong relationship with the Campground Owners Association of Nova Scotia, while the quality transition from the former “Award of Quality” to the Camping Select program took place. He has been solely responsible for the inspection all (129) campgrounds in the province of Nova Scotia.

In addition to his licensing duties, he has also been conducting Pets Can Stay and Access Canada evaluations, and has been responsible for the inspection process of over 80 Visitor Information Centers across Nova Scotia.

In recent years, he has also assisted New Brunswick and Ontario, conducting Canada Select inspections in both provinces.

Gary’s professionalism and dedication, combined with his experience and knowledge of the tourism industry, have served as a great resource.