



News Advisory

Blue Water Area Transportation Commission

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January Farewell!

Carol Bellow, Director of Human Resources

Retires From Blue Water Area Transit

Port Huron, Mich. — Carol Bellow looks back fondly on what has been a “rewarding and exciting” 23-year career at Blue Water Area Transit. She retires this month as director of human resources for the transit agency.

“Carol has been wonderful to work with,” said Jim Wilson, BWAT general manager. “She has been a vital part of our team. It will take two employees to replace her.”

Likewise, Carol has enjoyed being part of BWAT’s success. “It’s been inspiring to see how BWAT has grown to the level we are today,” she explained.

During her years at BWAT, the number of employees has grown from 42 to 138. Carol has enjoyed getting to know each and every one of them. “I enjoy resolving issues and helping in any way I can,” she said.

Before joining BWAT, Carol retired from the St. Clair County Regional Educational Service Agency. She served 25 years in administration with the agency.

Carol’s dedication reaches out to the Port Huron community. She was recognized as both “Career Woman of the Year” and “Mentor of the Year” by the National Association of Career Women. She served in many roles, including president, for the local Toastmasters Club. And, she is an active member of the Blue Water Human Resource Association.

A sports enthusiast, Carol has been recognized for several accomplishments. She played on the nation’s first girl’s hockey team, which was based in Port Huron. The International Hockey League recently enshrined her hockey gear in Toronto. It will tour worldwide with equipment from renowned players. She is also an award-winning golfer who was honored to represent Michigan in a national tournament.

A Marysville native, Carol was the oldest of five children and the only girl. After graduating from Marysville High School, she earned a double-major BA in management and supervision from Central Michigan University. She also holds Human Resources

Masters Certification from CMU. Carol has one son, Jason Quinn. He and wife Danielle have given her grandsons Liam and Riley. Her partner of 23 years is Steve Sitzes.

What's next for Carol Bellow? In her retirement, she plans to relax and enjoy her favorite pastimes. These include golfing, fishing, jet skiing, knitting, sewing, traveling and research.

Blue Water Area Transit has just finished celebrating its 40th anniversary, as well as the sesquicentennial of public transportation service in the Blue Water Area.

William Pitt Edison (older brother of the celebrated inventor Thomas Edison) started the local tradition of innovation 150 years ago. He operated horse-drawn trolleys on several routes as the Port Huron & Gratiot Street Railway Company.

The Blue Water Area became one of the nation's first communities to operate electrified trolleys in the 1880s and then motor coaches in the late 1920s. Bus service started in 1927 and continued until an eight-year hiatus from 1968 to 1976. Since BWAT started publicly funded bus service in 1976, the transit agency has carried more than 30 million riders.

BWAT is Michigan's leading producer of compressed natural gas, with the largest fleet of CNG buses in the state. The agency started producing the alternative fuel in 1996 and now operates four public CNG fueling stations.

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