

Ian Cohen was born in Vancouver to Dr. Alvin and Ellen Cohen. His late father Alvin was a prominent eye specialist in Vancouver and Ian continues to meet many people in the community who have fond memories of him.

Ian attended UBC and graduated with a BA in 1974. After taking time off to work and to attend the San Francisco Art Institute, he returned to UBC where he completed a professional Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1980. Following graduation, Ian worked in both large and smaller Architectural firms, involved in every aspect of projects of all sizes. In 1997, he established his own practice, of which he is the sole proprietor.

Ian's involvement with the Louis Brier Campus began during the development of the Weinberg Residence – at the invitation of Hershey Porte, Ian joined the building committee, assisting in reviewing and overseeing the progress of the project. In 2003, Ian was elected to the Louis Brier Board of Trustees. He has been the Chair of the House Committee since that time, overseeing such initiatives as the building envelope rehabilitation, lounge renovations, and heating system renewal.

In his spare time, Ian is an amateur guitarist, sea kayaker, and wood worker. Ian has built fine woodstrip kayaks, and exhibited them at the annual Granville Island Wooden Boat Festival. He has also paddled his kayaks on several multi-day wilderness trips on the west coast of BC. Ian has also been very fortunate to travel in various parts of Europe, Asia, Central and South America.

Ian is married to Michelle Gelfand and they have two grown children, both of whom attended Talmud Torah and were both campers and counselors at Camp Hatikvah.

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