Dianne holds degrees in Historical Geography from Trent (BA, 1978) and Queen's (MA, 1987). She taught at Bishop's College School, developed educational programs at Upper Canada Village and the Diefenbaker Centre in Saskatoon, and spent 25 years overseeing public programming on Parliament Hill before retiring in 2013. She now works at Elections Canada part time.

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An active speaker in Canada and the UK, her topics include seniors' migration in the 1800s; the impact of WWI on her grandfather; family disputes in the 18th century; and mental health in the 19th century. Her genealogical work brought her to BIFHSGO, where she has served on the board since 2019, as program director (2019-2021) and president (2022-2025).