

# THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

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JULY 16, 2018

## UNA Residents Receive Vancouver Quadra Hidden Heroes Awards



Joyce Murray, Member of Parliament, Vancouver Quadra, presents 2018 Hidden Heroes Award to Richard Alexander. Please see story on Page 8.

## Chancellor Place Resident is Appointed Member at Large on UNA–UBC Liaison Committee

*Thomas Beyer—successful businessman and former director of the UNA Board—met tough requirements for the position*

**John Tompkins**  
Editor

Thomas Beyer, a nine-year resident of Chancellor Place and former UNA Director and Officer (2011-2014), will serve as Member at Large representing residents on the new UBC Neighbourhoods Liaison Committee.

Mr. Beyer, a successful businessman with an MBA and over 25 years of experience in the corporate structuring, real estate, development, finance and property management areas, joins Ying Zhou, UNA Chair and Co-Chair of the Liaison Committee, and Richard Alexander, UNA Director and former UNA Chair, on the UNA side of the six voting members of the UBC Neighbourhoods Liaison Committee.

The other three seats go to UBC Gov-

ernors as follows :

- Chair, Property Committee, UBC Board of Governors (as Co-Chair)
- Chair, Finance Committee, UBC Board of Governors
- Chair, Governance Committee, UBC Board of Governors

There are also three non-voting members on the UBC Neighbourhoods Liaison Committee: Vice-President External Relations, UBC; Associate Vice-President Campus + Community Planning, UBC; and Executive Director, University Neighbourhoods Association.

The appointment of Mr. Beyer to the Liaison Committee—which held its inaugural meeting recently—is for a year.

In a posting at its website, the UNA said Mr. Beyer, President of Prestigious Properties Group, “brings a wealth of experience to the Member at Large position.” One of his more recent projects was an affordable townhouse project in Oliver, BC.

Mr. Beyer was appointed in 2016 to the Joint Financial Task Force that was created by UBC and the UNA to address the UNA fiscal challenges.

**COMMITTEE continued on Page 3**

## UNA GOVERNANCE

### UNA Takes First Step to Better Governance

*New committee structure will lead to greater civic engagement in University Neighbourhoods*

**John Tompkins**  
Editor

The eight-member UNA Board of Directors has embarked on the rationalization of its awkward committee structure by eliminating three Board Standing Committees at their July 10 Board meeting.

The action follows a review of the Fletcher Report, prepared by Tom Fletcher, of Fletcher and Company Municipal Consulting Inc. Mr. Fletcher proposes the creation of a new committee structure that engages residents in UNA governance.

In a Briefing Note to the Board, Executive Director Johanne Blenkin set out timelines, resource considerations and recommendations for implementing the proposed committee structure. Ms. Blenkin wrote:

“Retaining the Finance and Audit Committee and eliminating the Operations, Human Resources and Governance committees is a sound approach from a resource and policy perspective. Planning and HR policies are part of the full Board’s functions and can be added as regular agenda items as needed.

“Historically, the UNA operated with a variety of committees, and this new approach facilitates more consistent discussions on human resources and strategic issues that support good governance.”

Following discussion on the Fletcher

Report, Directors passed the following two motions:

1. That the Standing Committees on Strategic Planning & Governance, Operations and Sustainability, and Human Resources be disbanded and that work be carried on by the Board as part of its regular work.
2. That the Finance and Audit Committee be retained as a Standing Committee.

In a short interview with The Campus Resident following the Board meeting at the Wesbrook Community Centre, Ms. Blenkin called the Board decision “a first step...in rationalization of the Board committee structure.” Ms. Blenkin said the UNA has “a proliferation” of committees, and a reduced number – as Mr. Fletcher recommended – was likely appropriate.

In his report, Mr. Fletcher recommended that three forms of committee be created:

- **Board Standing Committees**, comprised of members of the UNA Board of Directors.
- **Community Advisory Committees**, ongoing advisory committees comprised of one or more Board Members and a number of University Neighbourhoods residents.
- **Working Groups**, comprised of three Board Members and a number of University Neighbourhoods residents with particular skills that will take on short term, time-limited projects or studies.

**On the Board Standing Committees**, Mr. Fletcher presented the optional recommendation: “Of the three Board Standing Committees proposed, a feasible and pragmatic option would be to retain only the Finance & Audit Committee”.

**GOVERNANCE continued on Page 4**

# BLUEBERRY FEST

*made with love, featuring BC blueberries*

July 18, 19, 20 at UBC Bookstore Plaza | 9am to 1pm  
pancake breakfast | baked goods | chef demos



UBC Food Services

@UBCFODDIE | FOOD.UBC.CA



## MESSAGE FROM THE UNA CHAIR



### Chair's message – July, 2018

The UNA launched a new report to the community last month – the Community Update. This is part of our commitment to report on our activities: those of the board and operations, to the community on a regular basis. Our Annual Report for 2017/18 will be part of the November 1, 2018 Annual General Meeting package and will include highlights of the audited financial statements. Our goal is to report twice a year to residents and once our Strategic or Business Plan is complete to link our actions to the strategic goals.

The changes we are making are designed to enhance our accountability to the community and engage them in what we do. In that regard a Communications Manager will join the UNA team by the end of the summer and will be tasked with managing the website, social media, the e-newsletter, community updates and reports, among other communication tools.

I am looking forward to keeping you informed on the emerging priorities of the UNA Board and its process on key issues.

Sincerely,  
Ying Zhou, UNA Elected Resident Director and Board Chair



### 主席致函——2018年7月

上个月，UNA发布了关于社区近况的报告，并及时通报UNA的各项工作。这也是我们所承诺的向社区做定期信息披露的一部分，这些工作包括：董事会工作及其日常运营状况。今年11月1日举办的年度会议中的一项工作是颁布2017年至2018年的年度报告，其中最为重要的是公布经审计的财务报表。我们的目标是一年内向我们的居民公告两次信息，并且当我们的战略目标或商业计划完成后，相关的行动计划将服务于战略目标。

我们正在致力于通过向社区居民展现我们的工作进程，来进一步提升管理的可靠性。这个夏末UNA工作团队将迎来一个新的专门负责沟通联络的经理，其主要职责是管理我们的网站、社交媒体以及时事报道，社区中心活动的更新和相关报告，以及运用其它沟通工具开展工作。

我期待着向大家汇报UNA董事会的工作重点以及在核心问题上取得的进展。

UNA民选董事会代表及董事会主席 Ying Zhou  
敬上  
(Translated by Pei Xu, 以上内容由Pei Xu翻译)

## Understanding Metro Vancouver Portion of Your Tax Bill

*Maria Harris*  
Director, Metro Vancouver  
Electoral Area A

If you are a property owner, your property tax bill has either recently arrived or is on its way. One of the line items owners in the UEL and UBC will see on their tax bill is “A METRO VANCOUVER,” which shows property tax levied by Metro Vancouver for Electoral Area A and regional services.

For 2018, the total amount payable by Electoral Area A property owners for both Electoral Area A and regional services is \$803,485. 47.3% (\$380,424) of this amount is for Electoral Area A services and 52.7% (\$423,061) is for regional services.

The table below presents the amounts residential property owners can expect to

pay in 2018 for both Electoral Area A and regional services.

Some of the Electoral Area A services provided to UEL and UBC residents and funded by the Metro Vancouver property tax include:

- Local emergency planning and response, which includes ongoing emergency coordination between Metro Vancouver, the UEL, UBC, RCMP, and others, as well as support for community preparedness activities and emergency notification.
- Conducting an election every four years for the Electoral Area A Director.
- Administering the Community Works Fund, which is being used to help fund green infrastructure projects in the UEL and pedestrian and cycling improvements at the Wesbrook Mall and University Blvd intersection.
- Serving as the local government for liquor licence applications to the Province, which includes ensuring local community

concerns are addressed when the Province considers such applications.

• Communicating local and regional matters through the regular Director's Update. Some of the regional services funded by the Metro Vancouver property tax include:

- Regional Parks: Metro Vancouver's regional parks system includes 22 regional parks, three park reserves, two ecological conservancy areas and five greenways. These protect important natural areas and ecosystems in the region and help residents connect with nature.  
<http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/parks/>
- Air Quality & Climate Change: Metro Vancouver develops and implements plans, policies, regulations and projects that improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These plans and policies are supported by air quality monitoring and tracking of emissions in the Lower Fraser Valley airshed.  
<http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/air-quality/>
- Regional Planning: Metro Vancouver is the steward of the regional growth strategy (Metro 2040), which strives to contain and structure the growth coming to our region, protect important lands, and ensure the efficient provision of infrastructure (i.e. utili-

ties, transit and community amenities).

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/>

• Other Regional Services: these include regional emergency management, E911 emergency telephone service, a global navigation satellite system service, as well as a contribution towards the purchase of affordable housing sites.

Metro Vancouver also provides drinking water, liquid waste services and solid waste services, which are not funded by the Metro Vancouver property tax but instead have different cost recovery mechanisms.

For additional information on Metro Vancouver's 2018 Budget, visit

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/about/programs-budget/>

Assessed Value	Electoral Area A \$ Portion	MVRD (Regional) \$ Portion	A METRO VANCOUVER Total \$ Amount
\$100,000	\$3.88	\$4.32	\$8.20
\$500,000	\$19	\$22	\$41
\$1,000,000	\$39	\$43	\$82
\$2,000,000	\$78	\$86	\$164
\$5,000,000	\$194	\$216	\$410



Maria Harris

### Stadium Road Neighbourhood development “We Shape Our Buildings and Thereafter They Shape Us”

Read an article by a campus resident in our August issue

# THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

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## EDITORIAL PAGE

### Member at Large: I Believe I Can Contribute...

*We can work well **within** this governance model, i.e., **with** UBC, by slowly amending existing governance structure*

**Thomas Beyer**

*Chancellor Place Resident*

My name is Thomas Beyer.

I am YOUR NEIGHBOR – residing in Chancellor Place. Happy to be selected by the UNA as the Member at Large on the UBC Neighbourhoods Liaison Committee to provide input into a wide range of matters affecting residents, the UNA and UBC. I used to be Vice-President, Finance / Treasurer of the UNA for two years and its Vice-Chair for one year, plus a member of the financial sustainability committee to help UBC and the UNA to navigate the declining revenue associated with falling mill rates in Vancouver [since our property taxes / UBC levies are pegged to Vancouver's taxes due to the master lease].

I am a father of two now adult children, a husband, an avid walker and traveller, but also a businessman and business owner, trained as a software engineer with a B.Sc. in Computer Science from the Technical University in Munich, Germany (1986) and an MBA from University of Alberta in Edmonton (1988). I now own or co-own multiple businesses, all centered around real estate – either apartment buildings, mobile home parks, land or townhouse development projects. Responsible governance, cost control, revenue improvements, property enhancements, and customer/tenant/

investor/employee satisfaction is my daily bread.

My wife Lynda and I moved here nine years ago (mid 2009) to escape the cold winters of Alberta, to enjoy a vibrant city close to water and mountains and to return to a place we called home 20 years ago. We have adult children who live and work in the medical field in Edmonton.

We love to live here at UBC because we love the fairly car-free environment, the views, the parks, the beaches, the international mix of its residents and the closeness to bright academic people. We love that UBC is a small village, an island really, yet very close to a big city, surrounded by forests, parks, beaches and water.

UBC is changing from a purely academic educational facility to a mixed-use “place of mind” with currently 12,500 and eventually 25,000+ residents, some temporary during their years of study but many full-time, long-term. UBC governance model needs to reflect the new realities of rapidly growing University Neighbourhoods. It does not today, but strides are being made to incorporate residents' concerns into the governance model given the unique situation we have here.

I am independent of UBC in that I have no ideological or natural ties to the academic institution UBC – my wife and I happen to like to live here as full-time residents. UNA is the closest we have here at UBC to a municipal government.

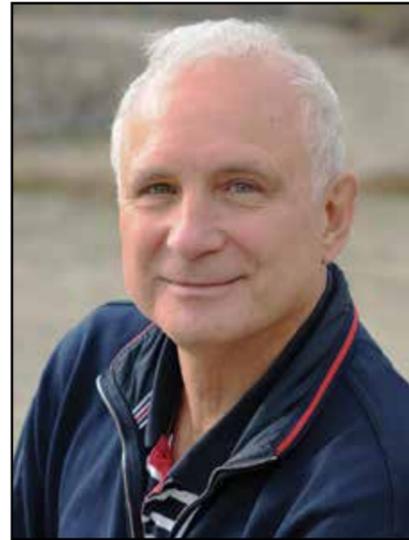
Canada is a democracy (and not a monarchy) with usually three levels of government: federal, provincial and municipal. Important services like fire fighting, policing, road cleaning, parking, water, sewer, urban planning, building and zoning approvals or amendments, streetscapes, parks, etc., are municipal services. In a

nities they serve at UBC.

- Governance experience – experience serving as a director and /or knowledge and understanding of the skills required to contribute to effective oversight.
- Knowledge of issues affecting property development and community planning.

As stated in Terms of Reference, “the creation of the UBC Neighbourhoods Liaison Committee clarifies the role of the UNA as an advisory board to the UBC Board of Governors by formalizing engagement and communications with the Board of Governors.”

The role of the Liaison Committee is “to strengthen the relationship between UBC and residents of UBC's neighbourhood housing areas by establishing a formal and clear line of communication between the UBC Board of Governors and the University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA) Board of Directors.”



**Thomas Beyer**

municipality, you usually elect councillors and a mayor, and they manage the local services departments on behalf of citizens and allocate funds.

This elected democratic governance system does not really exist here at UBC at present. While the UNA represents its citizens as best as it is allowed, it currently has little real power as the true power (say zoning) is held by the landowner, UBC. Taxes too are not set by UBC nor UNA as the land lease necessitates that our property taxes be pegged to Vancouver's taxes. Initially, I thought it ought to be fought, but I think now, 10 years wiser and whiter, that we can work well **within** this governance model, i.e., **with** UBC, by slowly amending existing governance structure. UBC owns the land and is our landlord. Being a landlord myself, I know that landlords have a lot of responsibility, and the tenant has often a lot of rights, well above their pay grade or rent they pay.

I believe I can contribute to this complex governance process through life and business experience, forthrightness, proven stewardship principles, vision and independence by aiming for win/win situation for its citizens and this beautiful province many here now call home!

## UNA BOARD NEWS

### After school care facilities

Johanne Blenkin, UNA Executive Director, told the Board about the great demand in the community for after school care. Ms. Blenkin said: “The YMCA and the UNA are looking at making after school care available in the child minding room at Wesbrook Community Centre and utilizing the family room at the Old Barn Community Centre for set hours each day Monday to Friday. The space in Wesbrook is currently vacant, and we are looking at how to provide an alternate space in the Old Barn for those who use the Living room area in the hours when after school care would be offered. This is still in the planning stages.”

### New e-mail service connects 50 strata chairs at UBC

Wegland Sit, UNA Operations Manager, explained to Directors how he was able to connect all strata corporations operating at UBC to one another via an e-mail server. This is a significant advance, Mr. Sit said. He visualized considerable e-mail traffic among strata chairs as they exchange information with one another. For example, Mr. Sit said, a strata chair—any one of 50 strata chairs at UBC— might be able to send e-mails to 49 other chairs and in the process, learn the most competitive price to be obtained on a building repair. Strata

chairs play an important role at UBC since all 12,500 residents there live on strata property.

### Barn Raising August 25

Andrew Clements, UNA Recreation Manager, confirmed that the annual Barn Raising event would be held in Jim Taylor Park and the Old Barn Community Centre as usual. The event is slated for Saturday, August 25, from 5 to 8 pm. Mr. Clements described several activities to be held at Barn Raising, including music for 90 minutes and a beer garden.

### UNA Bylaw Committee

Hawthorn Place resident Mike Feeley was approved as a member of the UNA Bylaw Committee. Mike brings valuable experience as a former UNA Director and a member of an earlier Election Review Committee. He joins earlier approved members of the Bylaw Committee James Ellis, Laila Said and Mike Becir and two UNA Directors Laura Cottle (Chair) and Rose Wang as members.

### AGM/2018 Election: November 1

The UNA Board voted to hold the UNA Annual General Meeting on Thursday, November 1. The 2018 annual election will take place at the same time.

### COMMITTEE continued from Page 1

The UNA Board sought expressions of interest from UBC residents for the Member at Large position on the UBC Neighbourhoods Liaison Committee and invited campus residents to submit a letter of interest outlining their experience in the following areas:

- Operational or technical experience relevant to the University Neighbourhoods or similar entity.
- Financial knowledge, particularly with respect to not for profit or municipal organizations.
- Knowledge of or familiarity with legal and jurisdictional issues as they relate to UBC, the provincial government and the University Neighbourhoods.
- Knowledge of the government and the public sector relating to current and emerging issues affecting the sector and commu-

# Fletcher Report Recommends Creating New Advisory Committee Structure that Engages Residents in UNA Governance

*The report addresses a “democratic deficit” in the UNA and acknowledges that “its mandate is more constrained than that of local government”*

In the opening sentences of his 66-page report, titled *Review of UNA Committee Structure*, Mr. Fletcher wrote that the UNA Board is seeking to respond to “the challenge of governing a rapidly growing community of approximately 12,500 that will continue growing quickly to a projected population of 25,000.

“Engaging residents in governance of the University Neighbourhoods is especially important in this community, which is being developed on long term lease-hold land governed by the University of British Columbia. The typical political decision making and consultation frameworks that citizens of local government enjoy are not available.”

Mr. Fletcher did not only review the existing UNA committee structure, he also provided recommendations to create a new committee structure that reflects the legislative context and objectives of the UNA – a not-for-profit society which was incorporated in 2002 (under the Societies Act) and which entered into the Neighbours Agreement with the UBC

## GOVERNANCE continued from Page 1

**On Community Advisory Committees**, Mr. Fletcher recommended that four Advisory Committees be created:

- **Transportation and Infrastructure:** to advise the Board on such matters as parking, traffic and safety, mobility issues related to pedestrians and bicycles, and infrastructure planning, maintenance, and operations.

This Committee is to be comprised of a maximum of six residents, one member of the local neighbourhood business community, and one Board member to act as Chair.

- **Planning and Development:** to advise the Board on matters relating to the Board’s input to the UBC Board of Governors and Departments. This input will relate to development applications that may impact on the University Neighbourhoods, including preparation and amendment of neighbourhood plans, reviews of the Land Use Bylaw, and input to the UBC Development Permit Board.

This Committee is to be comprised of a maximum of six residents, one member of the local neighbourhood business community, and one Board member to act as Chair.

- **Parks, Recreation, and Culture:** to advise the Board on matters relating to the use, operation, and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities and community centres; the development and delivery of recreation programs; and the development and delivery of multicultural programs.

to provide municipal-like services to the University Neighbourhoods. The Report concluded that “The Societies Act does not appear to constrain the UNA’s objectives, and the UNA is not subject to the Provincial legislation governing municipal committees.”

While the UNA is responsible for delivery of many of the same services a typical municipality provides, “the UNA’s challenge is particularly difficult in that its mandate is more constrained than that of local government,” writes Mr. Fletcher.

“The Board has assumed the task of delivering municipal services without having control over such fundamental matters as property taxation and revenues; land use and development control approvals; control over streets, and construction of in-

frastructure. These decisions lie with the UBC Board of Governors and the Province.

“However, the UNA is still held accountable by residents for the delivery of these “municipal-like” services. Residents also perceive that people in municipalities have much more impact on what happens in their community, and have more opportunity to get involved in civic affairs. The intent is to address this issue, which has been characterized as a “democratic deficit”, by creating a more effective committee structure that will create a better understanding by residents of the institutional constraints on the governance of their neighbourhoods. This will lead to greater civic engagement by the residents in building a unique, livable community, and greater participation and interaction

within the community.”

Mr. Fletcher concluded:

“The recommendations in this report reflect the fundamental objective of the UNA in considering the establishment of a new Advisory Committee structure; one that involves the residents of the University Neighbourhoods in a way that will enhance civic and community engagement. “Working with the Community Advisory Committees in ways that involve their members in their community and build links between neighbourhoods and people should contribute to the UNA goal of creating an exceptionally high quality, livable community.”

The Fletcher Report *Review of UNA Committee Structure* is posted on the UNA website at <https://www.myuna.ca/governance/board-meetings/>.



Summer at University Town at UBC. Photo credit Don Erhardt.

This Committee is to be comprised of a maximum of six residents, one member of the local neighbourhood business community, and one Board member to act as Chair.

- **Community Engagement:** to advise the Board on matters relating to mechanisms or ways to improve community and civic engagement in the University Neighbourhoods.

The Committee will also work with the Board and staff to advise on ways to improve the level of residents’ civic engagement in community governance; ways to encourage and improve the levels of resident participation in community life; and assistance with organizing Working Groups of volunteers interested in the delivery of programs to University Neighbourhoods.

The Committee will be comprised of four residents plus one member of the local business community. Priority will be given to residents who have experience and qualifications related to community and civic engagement. The Committee will also include one Board Director to act as Chair, plus two additional Board Members.

In the Briefing Note to the Board, the Executive Director Johanne Blenkin also recommended:

- Advisory Committees meet quarterly and assess the frequency of meetings needed in their first year of operation.
- The creation of training manuals is incorporated into the work plan for the next fiscal year. Focus on a working template of skills criteria this year.
- The Executive Director engages UBC

and the business community via UBC Properties Trust to determine the best mechanism to gauge interest of those communities and report back with a proposal for the September Board meeting.

At the July 10 meeting, the Directors agreed to refer back to the Board the Community Advisory Committee report recommendations as a whole to review as part of their September planning session.

The Executive Director will be tasked with preparing a review of the existing committees and sub-committees for the planning session.

The Fletcher Report and any recommendations arising out of the Board’s planning will be on the October Board meeting agenda for decision.

## LETTER FROM UBC PRESIDENT

# Be a Tourist at UBC This Summer!

The UBC campus is so beautiful during the summer. I've sometimes suggested (half-seriously) that we should revise the academic calendar so that the academic year begins in the summer – that way students can see the campus at its best.

In just a few weeks, those students will be arriving back on campus. It all begins on August 25 with Jump Start – a multi-day orientation for first-year students coming to UBC from high school.

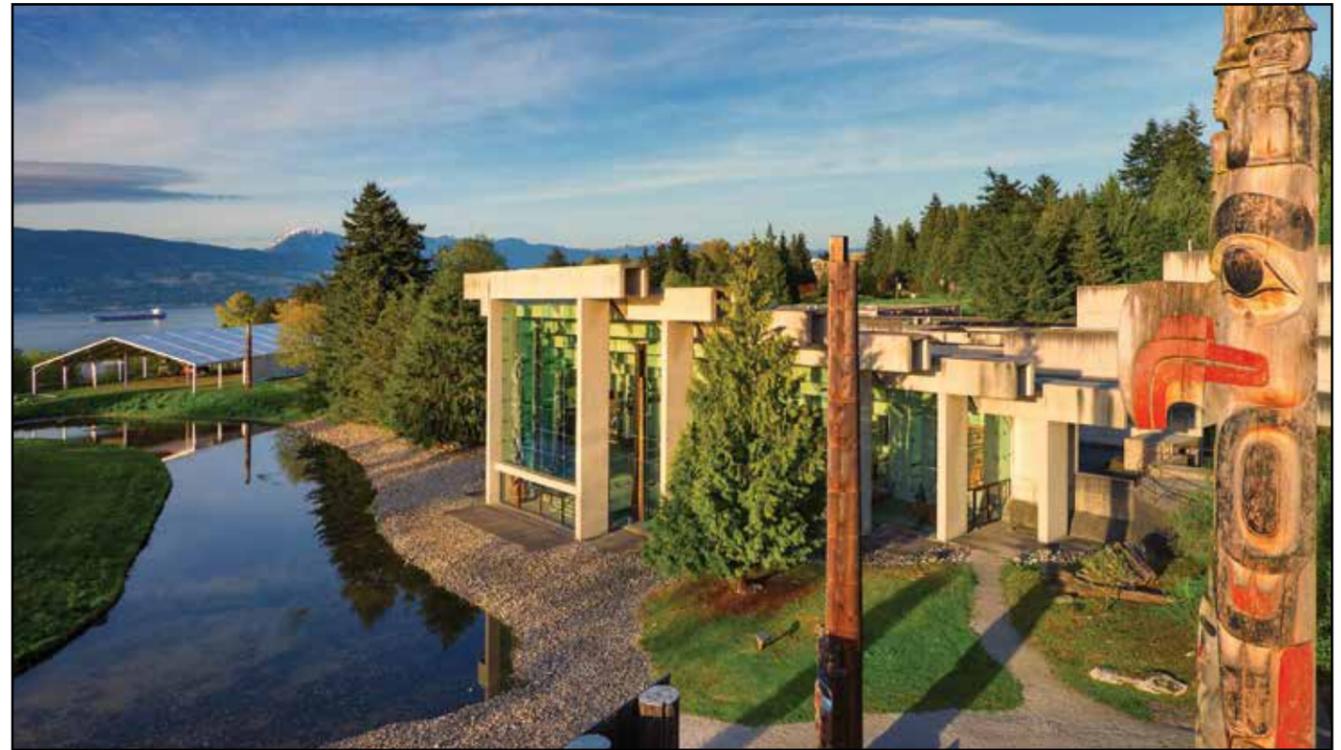
But even before they arrive, the campus is far from empty. There are hundreds of undergraduate students taking courses in the summer session. Graduate students, faculty and staff are, of course, here year-round. UBC summer camps bring thousands of young children to campus, and many visitors from outside Vancouver come to sample the university's many attractions.

With so much going on at UBC this summer, why not be a tourist in your own backyard? Here's just a sampling of what's taking place on campus this month:

The **Museum of Anthropology** is proudly showing off selections from its most recent acquisition – a \$1.1 million donation of Northwest coastal art (including early works by renowned Haida artist Bill Reid) from Margaret Perkins Hess. There are also three special exhibitions running – *Arts of Resistance: Politics and the Past in Latin America*, *Culture at the Centre: Honouring Indigenous culture, history and language*, and *In a Different Light: Reflecting on Northwest Coast Art* – as well as the outstanding permanent exhibitions. UNA residents get a discount on admission. [moa.ubc.ca](http://moa.ubc.ca)



An artist's rendering of UBC new Aquatic Centre. Credit UBC Public Affairs.



Museum of Anthropology at evening. "The Respect to Bill Reid Pole," James Hart, Haida, Totem Park, MOA. Photo credit Hover Collective.

The **UBC Botanical Garden** is at its summertime best right now, and admission is free if you have a UNA Access Card. The card gives you access to all the gardens, including the world-famous Nitobe Memorial Garden, which is considered to be the one of the most authentic Japanese gardens in North America and among the top five Japanese gardens outside of Japan. The Garden also features evening concerts this summer (free for UNA residents). The next one is at 5:30 pm on August 16 and features the Micki-Lee Trio. Bring a blanket and picnic basket and enjoy Micki-Lee's jazz-influenced fiddle music. [botanicalgarden.ubc.ca](http://botanicalgarden.ubc.ca)

Speaking of gardens, don't forget the **UBC Rose Garden**. It's beautiful in every season but especially at this time of year (and the view is stunning). And it's free to enjoy for everyone.

The **UBC Farm** has lots going on this summer. There's the Farmer's Market every Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm at the UBC Farm Harvest Hut, 3461 Ross Drive. Besides produce, fruits, herbs, flowers and free-range eggs from the farm, the market

also features a variety of other local growers, bakers, craftspeople, prepared food, and live musicians. And if you can't make it on Saturday, there's also the Market Stall, every Tuesday from 4 to 6:30 pm and the Wednesday Pop Up Markets at the UBC Bookstore. The Farm also hosts a monthly community kitchen where community members (including students, faculty, staff and neighbours) come together to prepare a meal as a group. The next one is Thursday, August 23. [ubcfarm.ubc.ca](http://ubcfarm.ubc.ca)

And if the weather gets too hot for you, cool off at the **UBC Aquatic Centre**. The award-winning centre offers discount rates for UNA residents. Take advantage of both recreational and competition pools, a lazy river, a hot tub and more. [recreation.ubc.ca/aquatics/](http://recreation.ubc.ca/aquatics/)

Other events at UBC this month include free Yoga on the Mall on August 8 and 15 and the Nature Vancouver monthly bird survey at UBC Farm on August 19. Check out [events.ubc.ca](http://events.ubc.ca) for the latest updates on what's happening.

And of course, there are numerous trails on

and around campus for hiking, strolling, running or biking. I'll be out and about on campus this summer, along with my family and our dog, Romeo. We hope to run into you!

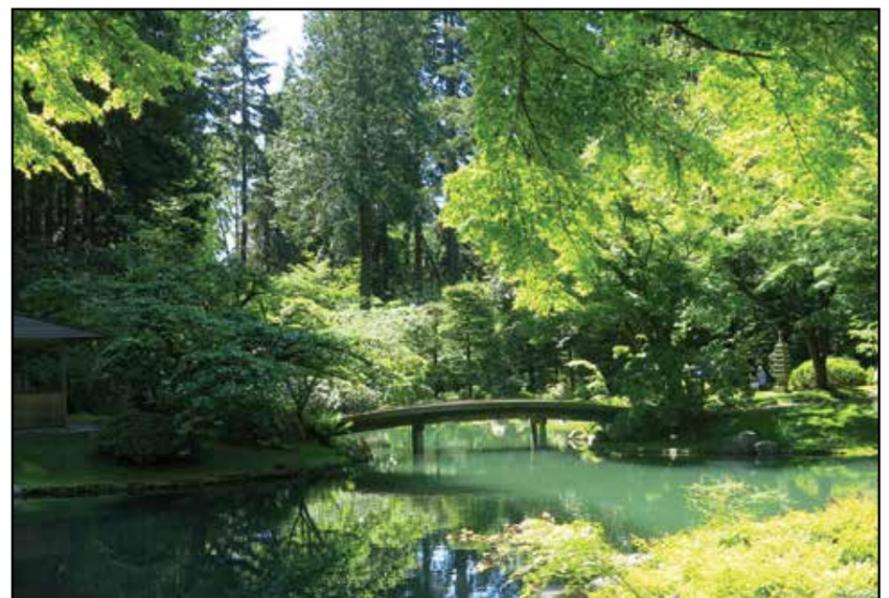
Enjoy the rest of your summer.



Professor Santa J. Ono. Photo credit Paul Joseph/UBC.



UBC Rose Garden. Photo credit Martin Dee.



Nitobe Memorial Garden. Photo credit UBC Botanical Garden.

## Message to Constituents from David Eby, MLA, Vancouver Point Grey

*I have never been more hopeful about the future of our community, more confident in the importance of the work you sent me to Victoria to do, and more sure that the results we will achieve will be a legacy for our children's children*

Dear Neighbours:

The legislature has officially wrapped up and I'm back from Victoria for the summer and September. It's great to be home with my family and back in our neighbourhoods on a daily basis.

For our family, June has meant that Cailey has wrapped up her epic medical school journey at UBC and will be starting her residency in family medicine on Canada Day – July 1st! I'm trying to get some time with her and our son at home this month before she's back to an extended full time schedule as a new doctor, so my apologies in advance if you have to wait a little longer than expected for a face-to-face meeting with me.

As you may have heard, watched on Facebook live, or seen in person, our second run at holding our townhall meeting, this time at the Hellenic Community Centre, was a great success. Hundreds of you came out and had your voices heard, and we had five outspoken community experts and advocates share their opinions on where the government has succeeded, and where we need to continue to do work to improve.

More than 50 volunteers came out from the community to staff our meeting and ensure our event was, as intended, for constituents first, and that everyone felt welcome to share their thoughts and opinions. A special thank you to those volunteers, and to my hard working staff Dulcy, Nic and Thea who worked overtime to organize this meeting on the very first Monday after the legislative session wrapped up.

The school tax debate was a big part of the evening, and I'd like to thank those on both sides of the discussion who ensured that the meeting was as constructive as possible. We even arranged a venue with enough room for the school tax protesters who came to our community event to make their voices heard! I had a very anti-school tax protester come up to me after our town hall and thank me for organizing the event, even though she clearly disagreed with the government's position on this policy.

It might seem strange to hear given the



The Lynch-Eby-Armstrong's at the May 22nd Hoisting Ceremony. Photo credit Kay Armstrong.

controversy of the last couple of months, but I have never been more hopeful about the future of our community, more confident in the importance of the work you sent me to Victoria to do, and more sure that the results we will achieve will be a legacy for our children's children.

It is a bit hard to remember, but in March of 2016 we hosted another townhall in the very same Hellenic Community Hall on the same topic – housing. Back then we were having a very different discussion than we are now. We had a broken political

system where unlimited donations from the wealthy and well connected bought access to the province's leadership at private and secretive dinner parties. Our system was so broken that BC was featured on the cover of the New York Times as the "Wild West", where a premier could collect a second salary paid for entirely out of corporate donations to her political party, and her MLAs would defend it in the legislature as the cost of democracy.

These donations, which brought us a government sponsored in no small part by those profiting from the housing and the climate crisis, were surely a consideration when rather than taking action, the Premier and her then housing minister told those feeling the pressure of the out-of-control housing market in Metro Vancouver to stop complaining and move to Fort St. John or Prince Rupert.

In March of 2016, many people showed up to tell me, and the then government, that you would no longer be put off. You wanted real action.

Well, you now have a new government, and real action.

There have been a lot of changes – both big and small – in a short period of time, and not just on housing. A recent CBC analysis showed we've delivered on, or made significant progress on, more than 75% of

our platform commitments in less than one year in government.

In the meantime, you are all doing the incredible work you do to make this a better place. You are coming in to talk to me about starting not for profit organizations that reduce plastic waste, organizing neighbours to make and learn more about art, assisting refugee families who have joined our community, creating vibrant local sports organizations, doing academic research on transportation planning that you hope to use to make our streets safer, campaigning for better schools and better childcare, bringing your kids in to show us their amazing achievements in science and math competitions, and coming to talk to me about how you want our government to keep improving.

So many of you give back and participate in our democracy.

Thank you for making Vancouver Point Grey a special place in British Columbia.

Yours truly,

David Eby  
MLA, Vancouver Point Grey

**Editor' Note:** The June Message to Constituents from Dave Eby presented here has been condensed for publication. The full Message can be read at <http://david.ebymla.ca/newsletter/>.

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## Your Passport to Wellbeing

# New Program for Seniors Starts with Meet-n-Greet

The first event of *Your Passport to Wellbeing* project – Summer Meet-n-Greet – took place on Sunday, July 15 at Wesbrook Community Centre. More than 30 seniors attended the event and enjoyed brilliant sunshine on the patio, hot dogs and great conversation.

It is the first UNA project funded by a grant from Employment and Social Development Canada under its New Horizons for Seniors program. *Your Passport to Wellbeing* provides 12 weeks of free programming for seniors (55+) in the Fall to improve seniors' physical health, social wellbeing and mental health.

UNA Seniors Ambassadors who have

taken on leadership roles in the project had their first meeting in June at Wesbrook Community Centre. An overview of the project was presented by UNA staff, including information on main activities, roles of Seniors Ambassadors, training opportunities and events plan.

The project is open to seniors living on campus as well as in nearby neighbourhoods. Registration starts on August 21.

We'll continue coverage of *Your Passport to Wellbeing* project in the August issue.

Photo credit and special Thanks go to Sammy Tong, the photographer at July 15 Meet-n-Greet event.



## Rubik's Cube Keeps People Fascinated

*"Playing Rubik's Cube is the best way to intellectually stimulate the brain", says retired professor from China – an expert at Rubik's Cube – whose inspiration came from his hometown village*

Rubik's Cube has come a long way since it was invented in 1974 by Ernő Rubik in Hungary, says Shichun Li, who is working on a new project called *Rubik's Cube Story*.

"In this project, we design simple, unique methods of playing Rubik's Cube. We focus on soft skills. We make it intellectually stimulating for all cultures and

ages to learn Rubik's Cube, rather than just teaching people to do it fast."

Shichun Li is a retired professor from a university in China. *Rubik's Cube and its Math Model* he taught online has 4.58 million hits.

"When Rubik's Cube is twisted by one turn, most people can return it to its original setting. However, when Rubik's Cube is twisted by three turns, most people find it difficult to return it. When Rubik's Cube is twisted by five turns, most people cannot return it. Finally, they lose the original pattern of Rubik's Cube and cannot complete it", says Shichun Li.

"This is where a story comes in. We use stories to teach people how to complete Rubik's Cube! For example, we restore the second layer by following the

story of the *Weaver Girl and the Cowherd* (a Chinese folk tale), and it is not necessary to remember the formula".

Shichun Li is an expert at Rubik's Cube and has published three books on the subject. He published his book, *Rubik's Cube and its Application in Science* in English in Canada, when he lived in Langley in 2002.

Recently, he has taught a *Passion Project of Magic Square* at Norma Rose Point School. In four sessions, he taught students 3x3 Magic Square, 4x4 Magic Square, the 8 puzzle, the 15 puzzle and Rubik's Cube.

"My inspiration on Rubik's Cube came from my hometown village. The boundless stretch of field is artlessly coloured by six colours of emblems: the light green of wheat, the blackish green of naked oats, the silvery white of buckwheat, the golden yellow of rapeseed, the off-white of potato and the red of green manured land. When you look around the field, you feel as if you stand in a natural colour phalanx. If you watch at the same location next year, the scenery of the field still looks like colour squares, but the colour of the location changes, because the land should be cultivated by turns", written in the handout of the *Passion Project*.

Shichun Li got a *Thank You Card* from the student he taught. He was very happy when he read: "I've learned a lot from Magic Square".

*Rubik's Cube Story* project is a comprehensive activity. It includes Hungarian mathematical culture, American puzzle culture and Chinese puzzle culture. Many soft skills are learned by playing Rubik's Cube, such as attention, intuitive ability,

memory, spatial awareness, mental agility, hand-eye coordination and problem-solving skills. Playing Rubik's Cube is the best way to intellectually stimulate the brain, says Shichun Li.

*Rubik's Cube Story* project has been funded twice by the Neighbourhood Small Grants of the Vancouver Foundation and has found its place in many community activities for people of all cultures, young and old.

Shichun Li looks forward to leading *Rubik's Cube Story* workshops for seniors grant program at the UNA.



Shichun Li teaches *Passion Project of Magic Square* at Norma Rose Point School.

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## Vancouver Quadra Hidden Heroes

For the second year running, 20 members of the Vancouver Quadra community – which includes University Neighbourhoods – received a 2018 Hidden Heroes Award, nominated for their outstanding (and perhaps under-recognized) volunteer service.

Certificates and special pins made from Parliament's original copper roof were presented to the winners by Joyce Murray, Member of Parliament, Vancouver Quadra, at the Point Grey Fiesta.

Five University Neighbourhoods residents – Richard Alexander, Nils and Alice Bradley, Cathryn Guo, and Bob Meyer – are among those who have received Hidden Hero Awards.

Below are the stories of the winners of the 2018 Hidden Heroes Award as provided by the Office of Joyce Murray.

**Richard Alexander** has been the Board Chair of the University Neighborhood Association (UNA) for five years. The UNA has achieved and grown a lot through his strategic and visionary leadership. Richard has always been a mentor for other board members and is good at facilitating board meetings. He is diligent and professional when dealing with difficult issues. He has also played a large role in organization of Fiesta Days in Point Grey.

**Nils and Alice Bradley** are one of the most active volunteer couples in Vancouver Quadra. Alice has been involved in many of the programs with the UNA, including the Multicultural Committee, Seniors and Friends, Collection Night, Cooking workshop, Book Club, etc. Also, Alice is a volunteer English tutor at the UNA. She has inspired many others to volunteer in the community, including her husband Nils.

Nils and Alice have contributed enormously to the community all these years. Nils was a member of the Seniors Working Group advising the UNA on program planning for seniors before the opening of Wesbrook Community Centre. He has helped organize all sorts of community events, including Barn Raising, Seniors Meet-n-Greet, Guys Night, Photos with Santa. Nils is currently leading Mah Jong and Seniors Open Gym at Wesbrook Community Center.

**Cathryn Guo** wears many hats, some of which include high school senior, community volunteer, youth leader, teaching assistant, sister and role model. She has a very long list of community contributions that include her years of commitment to the Youth Leadership Program, her volunteer work at events, her support of a local anti-bike theft initiative and her hours of work as an art class teaching assistant. Cathryn has amassed over 250 hours of community service since 2015, with the UNA alone. When asked for help, or if she would like to try working a new role – her answer is almost always Yes. When asked why, her answer is short, concise and softly spoken: "I like to help".

**Bob Meyer** started volunteering with the Crisis Centre July 2005, taking calls from people in distress. The Crisis Centre is a 24/7 operation, so Bob had shifts at all times of the day and night. He also assisted with computer programming that saved hundreds of hours of other people's time. In total, Bob has put in well over two thousand hours as a volunteer at the Crisis Centre.

Around the fall of 2006, Bob started to volunteer at Palliative Care at Vancouver General Hospital. He spent time with the patients, engaged in conversation, and used the listening skills he had gained at the Crisis Centre.

After five or six years at VGH, Bob decided to move on and eventually chose to volunteer at Union Gospel Mission. His first position was serving coffee at the drop-in. After a while, he started to volunteer in the kitchen as well. In 2012 or 2013, Bob was approached to join the board at the Crisis Centre. He agreed and joined as a member at large and considered himself as a representative of volunteers. His dual role as a volunteer (talking on the phone to people in distress) and board member continued until 2016.

Last year, Bob became vice president of the board and this year, president. As a member of the board while holding these offices, Bob is still a volunteer. Since 2014, Bob has been a member of Pacific Spirit Park Society (PSPS) Board in various positions including president. His role at PSPS has mostly involved recruiting, defining a vision, and administration.



Joyce Murray, Member of Parliament, Vancouver Quadra, presents 2018 Hidden Heroes Award to Bob Meyer.



Joyce Murray, Member of Parliament, Vancouver Quadra, presents 2018 Hidden Heroes Award to Cathryn Guo.



Joyce Murray, Member of Parliament, Vancouver Quadra, presents 2018 Hidden Heroes Award to Nils and Alice Bradley.

### Congratulations to all Hidden Heroes!

**UNA Chair Ying Zhou said: "What a great volunteer community! I am so proud of living in such a place full of the spirit of volunteerism. People help each other, support their different needs. It makes residents feel at home in the UNA, regardless of their background."**