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 Governors as follows:

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

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, on-going 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

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
Understanding Metro Vancouver Portion of Your Tax Bill

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.

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.

• 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.

• Other Regional Services: these include regional emergency management, 911 emergency telephone service, a global navigation satellite system service, as well as a contribution towards the purchase of affordable housing sites.

For additional information on Metro Vancouver’s 2018 Budget, visit http://www.metrovancouver.org/about/programs-budget.

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 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 paid in 2018 for Electoral Area A and regional services.

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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

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

http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/parks/

http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/programs-budget/

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

http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/

http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/air-quality/

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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 NEIGHBOUR – 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].

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 have no ideological or natural ties to the University in Munich, Germany (1986) and an MBA from University of Alberta in Edmonton (1988). I know or own or co-own multiple residences, 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 neighborhoods and the closeness to bright academic people. We love that UBC is a small village, an island really, yet with very close to a big city, surrounded by forests, parks, beaches and water.

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 in 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 know or own or co-own multiple residences, 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.

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 (tax 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 model. 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!

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 communities they serve at UBC.
• Governance 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 neighbour- hood 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.”

After school care facilities

Johanne Blenkins, UNA Executive Director, told the Board about the great demand in the community for after school care. Ms. Blenkins 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 in UBC since all 12,500 residents there live on strata property.

Barn Raising August 25

Andrew Clemens, UNA Recreation Manager, confirmed that the annual Barn Rais- ing event would be held in Jim Taylor Park and the Old Barn Community Centre as usual. The event is slated for Saturday, Au- gust 25, from 5 to 8 pm. Mr. Clemens de- scribed 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, Lalit 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.
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.

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.ynuna.ca/governance/board-meetings/

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. 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 Work Groups of volunteers interested in the delivery of programs to University Neighbourhoods.

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

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, Mr. Fletcher, 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 of a new 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 30 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.
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 back yard? 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

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

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, craftpeople, 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

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

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 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.
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 Then 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 our campaign in 2017 and Thea who worked overtime to organize the May 22nd Hooding Ceremony.

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’s Note: The June Message to Constituents from Dave Eby presented here has been condensed for publication. The full Message can be read at http://davidebymla.ca/newsletter/.

The Lynch-Eby-Armstrong's at the May 22nd Hooding Ceremony. Photo credit Kay Armstrong.
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 3×3 Magic Square, 4×4 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 emblements: the light green of wheat, the blackish green of buckwheat, the golden yellow of rapseseed, 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.
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 agreed and joined 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 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.

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.

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”.

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.”