Celebrating UNA Community Volunteers

Every Spring, during the National Volunteer Week, the University Neighbourhoods Association celebrates and recognizes the impact of the volunteers on the residential community at UBC.

Negotiations to Start with UBC on Changes to Neighbours Agreement

“The amendments to the Neighbours Agreement relate primarily to the issue of replacing UBC appointed board members with persons without a vote but who have the status of observers,” said Terry Mullen, Chair of the UNA Negotiating Committee.

New UNA Board Chair

Ying Zhou has taken over as Chair of the UNA Board from Terry Mullen, who resigned from the position.

Mr. Mullen remains Chair of both the UNA Bylaw Working Group and the UNA Negotiating Committee.

Ms. Zhou has served on the UNA Board for five years, including three years as Treasurer and one year (2017-2018) as Chair. This year will complete her three two-year terms on the UNA Board of Directors.

There are eight directors on the UNA Board: five directors elected by residents who are members of the UNA, two directors appointed by UBC, and one appointed by the AMS.

The UNA operates as a not-for-profit society incorporated under the British Columbia Societies Act. All University Neighbourhoods residents – who are at least eighteen years old – are eligible to become members of the UNA.

Playground: Government Grant Supports Parents Fundraising Efforts

University Hill Elementary School playground was deemed unsafe to use and torn down in 2018.

David Eby, MLA for Vancouver-Point Grey, said that University Hill Elementary School (UHill Elementary) has been approved for $105,000 in provincial funding to support building a new universally accessible playground.

Funding for the new accessible playground was announced by the Ministry of Education on March 15 – comes after the new Playground Equipment Program was announced last May by Premier John Horgan and Minister of Education Rob Fleming.

Playground continued on Page 3

CONGRESS 2019

Volunteer Opportunities for UBC Residents

Please see Page 4.

John Tompkins

Editor
As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen community engagement, the UNA Board of Directors sought feedback on bylaw change recommendations put forward by the Bylaw Review Working Group through an online survey.

The survey was open to all residents of the UNA from February 4 to March 14, 2019. The bylaws affected by the changes will be voted on by UNA members at a Special General Meeting to be held in the summer or fall of 2019. The survey was sent to all UNA residents (not just UNA members) since the results of this survey, ultimately, will guide bylaw changes that affect everyone living in the UNA neighbourhoods regardless of membership. Respondents were made aware that while the UNA board is soliciting feedback from all UNA residents, only UNA members are eligible to vote at UNA general meetings.

A bylaw review open forum was also held on March 12 where the Working Group took questions and provided context behind the proposed bylaw changes.

On behalf of the board, I’d like to thank everyone for their comments and participation in the survey and open forum. The number of survey respondents and the quality of comments were very helpful. The Working Group has reviewed the survey summary and the report of the open forum, and is now in the process of drafting revisions to the bylaws to address the issues that received strong support. The board would also like to thank all the UNA staff for facilitating and delivering the survey on time given the quick turnaround that was required.

As a next phase to the bylaw review process, the UNA will initiate a UNA membership drive to encourage residents to participate in the society and exercise their right as residents to vote. We’d like to encourage everyone to be proactive in checking their membership status in the lead-up to the Special General Meeting by calling either the Wesbrook Community Centre (604-822-4227) or The Old Barn Community Centre (604-827-4469).

Some of the bylaw changes that are being proposed will require revisions to the current Neighbours’ Agreement 2015. To do this, the board is assembling the UNA Negotiating Committee whose Terms of Reference was approved at the last board meeting. The mandate of the committee is to negotiate changes to the Neighbours’ Agreement 2015 to bring them into conformity with the proposed new bylaws and address any concerns UBC may have.

The Negotiating Committee is comprised of Terry Mullen (Negotiating Committee Chair), Bill Holmes, Mike Feeley, myself (as the UNA Board Chair), and Johanne Blenkin (staff resource). The members were selected for their knowledge of the UNA bylaws, mandate, and the Neighbours’ Agreement 2015. We will have more to share with residents as negotiations progress.

The UNA board has also approved the Terms of Reference of the new Community Engagement Advisory Committee. This committee’s mandate is to assist the board in identifying and implementing initiatives that will improve the levels and effectiveness of resident participation in both community life and governance. Elected Resident Director, Natasa Jatskevici, was appointed Chair of the committee, and UNA Communications Manager, Glenda Ollero, will serve as staff resource. Recruitment for members of this committee will begin in the coming weeks, and we encourage residents to put their names forward if they have experience or are interested in community development, engagement and consultation.

The next UNA Board of Directors meeting will be on May 21 at the Wesbrook Community Centre. As always, these meetings are open to the public, and I’d like to invite you to drop-in and get updated on what’s happening in your community. I hope to see you there.

Sincerely,
Ying Zhou
UNA Elected Resident Director and Board Chair

为了进一步加强社区居民的参与度，听取他们对于社区章程部分可能变更条款的反馈。UNA董事会接受章程审查工作小组的提议，开展了一次线上调研。

调研对象是UNA社区所有居民，调研时间为2019年2月4日至5月14日。为了进一步加强社区居民的参与度，听取他们对于社区章程部分可能变更条款的反馈，UNA董事会接受章程审查工作小组的提议，开展了一次线上调研。

我代表UNA董事会向大家积极参与线上调研和开放讨论会的居民表示感谢。调研的反馈意见对我们知微见著，能更高效更有深度的进行社区管理及加强居民参与度，也有助于我们及时采取相应举措。现任居民董事Nataliya Jatskevic将担任顾问委员会主席。UNA公关经理Glenda Ollero负责人力资源。接下来几周将进行顾问委员会成员的招聘工作，我们鼓励对社区发展、参与和咨询有兴趣的居民参与申请。

作为章程审查的下一步环节，UNA董事会呼吁UNA成员积极参加投票。希望每一位居民在特别成员大会召开前确保其UNA成员身份的有效性，身份查询可致电Wesbrook 社区中心 (604-822-4227) 或Old Barn 社区中心 (604-827-4469)。

部分章程变更需同2015邻里协议的相应条款。为此，董事会将成立UNA协商委员会，委员会职权范围在上届董事会已通过。委员会旨在协助董事会知微见著，能更高效更有深度的进行社区管理及加强居民参与度，也有助于我们及时采取相应举措。现任居民董事Nataliya Jatskevic将担任顾问委员会主席。UNA公关经理Glenda Ollero负责人力资源。接下来几周将进行顾问委员会成员的招聘工作，我们鼓励对社区发展、参与和咨询有兴趣的居民参与申请。
Building New UHill Elementary Playground: “It Really Has Taken a Village...”

The program provides up to $5 million each year to school districts to purchase new or replacement playgrounds, and this year it is funding 50 new playgrounds in 34 school districts around B.C. – including 30 universally accessible playgrounds.

In late May 2018, a safety assessment determined that UHill Elementary playground did not meet safety standards, and the playground was demolished. Carrie Friesen, school principal, said at the time: “This news came as a shock to our community and a huge disappointment to students. As such, UHill Elementary parents began the uphill battle of raising funds to build a new playground.”

In March 2019, following the provincial funding announcement, the UHill Elementary Parent Advisory Council (PAC) informed parents: “We have enough money raised to put in our order for a new playground.”

“Less than a year after our playground was deemed unsafe and subsequently removed, we have the funds secured and design finalized for a brand new one,” wrote Jen Capell McCutcheon, UHill Elementary PAC executive and Chair of the Committee for Playground Replacement, in the March 18 letter to parents.

“It really has taken a village to get to this exciting day! Thank you to all the parents who have helped with the playground design and fundraising; Andrea McEwen (UHill Elementary teacher) who very actively led the teacher and staff involvement in the planning; principal Carrie Friesen and all the UHill Elementary staff; Geoff Peurrmain at the Vancouver School Board for his ongoing guidance; and our provincial MLA, Hon. David Eby and his office (especially Dulcy Anderson) for their support; and our vendor, SwingTime who has acted more like a partner than a vendor.

“Over the past months, we have been working hard to design a playground that is accessible to all children, in keeping with our beautiful natural surroundings, and that includes key features that our children want in a playground.

“Under the fundraising leadership of parents Leah Chapman, we have been busy fundraising and applying for grants. These combined efforts have resulted in us designing and ordering the following:

1. an accessible swing (thanks to generous donations/funding from the Humber Foundation, UHill Elementary parents Mona Hassansen and Ossama Abdel-Hamid with matching from Apple Inc., and Allocadia; this swing has already been installed in our school yard).
2. a large, wheelchair accessible circuit playground structure by SwingTime (on order for a community build in June).
3. a rope climbing structure from SwingTime (on order for a community build in June).

“In addition to the funding for the accessible swing, we are incredibly thankful to the B.C. Provincial Government for their major funding of the accessible playground, and the parents and children of UHill Elementary for their generous donations and fundraising efforts.”

“When UHill Elementary playground was condemned and torn down, parents and kids were heartbroken while teachers and administration made the best of a difficult situation,” said Mr. Eby. “This funding for a replacement playground is very exciting news. It’s a great example of our government working with local communities to make life better for British Columbians of all ages.”

UHill Elementary has the celebration and community build scheduled for the weekend of June 14-16.

UTown@UBC Spring Grants

Sixteen new projects supported by funding from the UTown@UBC Community Grants program

Art Festival at University Hill Elementary School is one of 16 new projects awarded UTown@UBC Community Grant this spring.

The project – called Art Festival at UHill: Expression & Authorship – creates opportunities for children, parents and community members to share their expression of music, dance, drama and other kinds of art to strengthen a sense of belonging and inclusion in a positive environment.

The grant program awards up to $1,000 for projects that foster community building and connectedness on campus or in the Musqueam community.

All UBC residents, students, faculty and staff as well as Musqueam residents are eligible to apply for the UTown@UBC Community Grants. To discuss the application process, a community project idea or eligibility, please email mustafa.akhtar@ubc.ca.
UBC–Hosted Congress 2019 is Recruiting 1,000 volunteers

Congress will bring approximately 10,000 attendees and more than 70 academic associations to campus; volunteers will enjoy numerous benefits.

Canada’s largest interdisciplinary conference, Congress 2019, organized by the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, is being hosted by the University of British Columbia from June 1 to June 7, and UBC needs the help of 1,000 volunteers to stage it.

Leading the drive to enlist volunteers is Cobie Damsel, a 5th-year student at the UBC Sauder School of Business, who has been appointed by UBC to the post of Volunteer Coordinator for Congress 2019.

Cobie, 22, has previously led volunteer drives. In his largest assignment to date – the orientation of 600 first-year students at UBC in September 2017 – he managed the recruitment of 115 volunteers.

Speaking about the size of the volunteer drive for Congress 2019, Cobie said in an interview: “I’m excited by it. I don’t look at the numbers. I look at what to do.” He can’t help reflecting on the fact that 1,000 volunteers (for 10,000 attendees) is a big deal, however. “I thought volunteering for the drive in 2017 was big, but this is so much bigger.”

His profile on LinkedIn says: “Bold. Charismatic. Driven. These are the three words I strive to embody every day. As a dancer, student and leader in my community, I take every opportunity to challenge the status quo and be bold in the face of any challenge. I have a unique perspective on business and care deeply about developing culture and creating spaces for individuals to establish opportunities for themselves.”

Cobie encourages community members to register at www.congress2019.ca/opportunities/volunteer for volunteer positions available in the following units:

- Accessibility Support Team – help provide concierge support for people with accessibility needs. Additional training will be provided.
- Event Team – help with all Congress events, including ushering attendees, filling seats, coat check, distributing programmes and event set-up.
- Info Kiosk Team – provide directions and information to attendees on sessions, campus facilities and Vancouver tourism information.
- Mobile Team – support and jump in on any role or task needed during peak times. This role is excellent for those who learn quickly and are eager to help out.
- Session and Signage Support – help with daily room set up and signage installation around campus.
- AV Support – this role is perfect for those wanting to gain entry-level experience in audio/visual support.
- Wayfinding Guides – help attendees navigate their way around campus and venues by providing directions.
- Welcome Ambassadors – help welcome attendees to the city and campus, answer basic questions about transportation and provide direct assistance.
- Social Media Gurus – help showcase Congress 2019 in a unique way by using the hashtag #congress and tweeting snapping all-things Congress.

Congress 2019 volunteers will:
- Gain experience working on a large-scale event
- Develop skills in customer service, social media, marketing, technology set-up, time management, etc.
- Receive an official Congress 2019 t-shirt
- Receive a reference letter – upon request
- Have the opportunity to network with over 10,000+ academics from across Canada
- Gain free access to UBC, Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, and associations’ open events
- Receive prizes for participation and achievements.

Deadline for registration to volunteer at Congress 2019 is May 27.

Cobie says: “Looking back a year from now, I would like to say I’m happy that I did it, that I did my best and all volunteers enjoyed the best of experiences.”

Welcome to Congress 2019 at UBC

Laura Moss
Academic Convenor Congress 2019; Professor, Department of English Languages and Literature, UBC

I remember my first Congress so clearly: it took place at the University of Calgary in 1994. I was a new PhD student and I was terrified to be presenting my first conference paper. I remember the flight of butterflies I had in my stomach before giving my paper on magic realism in The Moor’s Last Sigh. If I close my eyes, I can still see the room I presented in. What I remember most clearly, however, are the encouraging smiles from my fellow students and senior faculty alike. It was the first time I really felt like I could actually belong in academia.

When I was asked to be the Academic Convenor for Congress 2019, it seemed like a good way for me to give back to the scholarly communities I value so highly. I didn’t quite realize what a big job I was taking on. Congress is a giant jigsaw puzzle that works well because of all the combined pieces I’d never seen as a delegate.

The job of the Academic Convenor is multifaceted: creating host-institution programming, leading the cultural and social programming that sits beyond association events, collaborating with the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences on Career Corner and Big Thinking events, and working with the logistics teams both here at UBC (led by the extraordinary Carolina Cerna, my co-convenor) and the Federation.

For Congress 2019, we wanted to highlight multidisciplinary approaches to the intersections of art and politics. This Congress will emphasize the arts and creative conversations around contemporary issues in the humanities and social sciences. This means that we will have an overflowing menu of art exhibitions, films, plays, poetry readings, archival exhibitions, and musical performances on campus all week.

Laura Moss

It’s been a busy few months, and Congress 2019 is fast approaching. While I realized how important Congress is when I first accepted the role of Academic Convenor, I didn’t realize how gratifying organizing an event like this would be, especially when working with the amazing team of professionals from the Federation and from UBC.

There are many women and men who put a lot of labour and time into making Congress a success, and I am grateful to them all. We are all working our hardest to make Congress 2019 at UBC accessible, fun, and full of thought-provoking moments. We hope that it will be a space for people to engage the difficult questions that we tackle in our research and professional lives, productively, safely, and comfortably.

For everyone coming to Vancouver in June, I hope that Congress 2019 is memorable for all the right reasons.

See you soon!
https://www.congress2019.ca/blog
Times Higher Education Recognizes UBC Sustainability Policy

I’m proud to announce that UBC has been ranked first in the world in university climate action and first in Canada (third in the world) for sustainable cities and communities, in the first ever Times Higher Education World University Impact Rankings. UBC was singled out for its “research on climate change, use of energy and preparations for dealing with consequences of climate change.” UBC also placed 8th in the world in partnership for goals, 13th for industry, innovation and infrastructure, 9th for good health and well-being and 71st for quality education. (You can find the article online at https://bit.ly/ubc-sustain2019).

UBC’s recognition in these rankings is a beacon towards positive change when it comes to smart cities, clean energy and sustainability.

Last month, I had the pleasure of talking about some of UBC’s sustainability initiatives with mechanical engineering professor Dr. Walter Merida in my podcast series (www.blueandgoldcast.ca).

Professor Merida predicted that UBC may be the first place where hydrogen refueling infrastructure, solar energy, and other sustainable structures are gathered in one city block.

He mentioned that one plan is to transform the parking garage across from the UBC Skatepark on Thunderbird Boulevard into an eco-friendly structure.

“We are going to take this parking building, and we are going to add an array of solar panels on the roof, not necessarily because solar energy makes a lot of economic sense in BC at 4-6 cents per kilowatt hour, but because we are working on the high-voltage conversion hardware to take renewable electricity and connect it to smart grids,” he told me in the podcast.

Another project in the works is the production of synthetic fuels from carbon capture.

“It is very difficult at the moment to generate chemical fuels cleanly,” Professor Merida said. “We can generate clean electricity from a number of sources – solar, wind, hydro – but energy is more than just electricity.”

This project will not only advance research in clean energy, but will also involve the municipal government, the provincial government, and the Squamish First Nation.

Our research will not only benefit UBC and its neighbourhoods, but people everywhere.

As Professor Merida noted: “The fact that we can explore solutions at the city scale makes our research transferrable. Projects we are working on at UBC could potentially be cloned, if you like, in many cities around the world.”

But time is running out. The clock on the need to get sustainability initiatives off the ground is ticking.

“We moved from coal to oil to gas, but it’s taken about 100 years to make each of those transitions,” Professor Merida told me. “The challenge we face is that we don’t have 100 years. The latest reports tell us that we need to make things happen in 30 years. This is why universities can play such a critical role.”

He outlined three goals for UBC: minimize environmental impact, ensure economic diversification, and promote geopolitical stability.

“We have places like the Clean Energy Centre. We have the sustainability initiative. We have a lot of ingredients to provide expert advice in some of these challenges. We have a very good opportunity to lead the way into the new low-carbon economy.”

Best wishes

Professor Santa J. Ono
President and Vice-Chancellor

The multi-floor parking garage will be transformed into an eco-friendly structure.

Photo credit Alicia Margono, UBC.

41st Avenue B-Line to UBC: Launch Date is Uncertain

As previously announced, TransLink has been targeting fall 2019 for the launch of the region’s three new B-Lines – including the 41st Avenue B-Line from Joyce-Collingwood Station to UBC.

At this time, TransLink has updated this timeline: some or all the new B-Line routes may launch in mid-November 2019. However, it’s possible one or more may launch in early January 2020 or other dates in early 2020.

TransLink explains that the uncertainty in the launch schedule for the new B-Line routes is due to estimated construction timelines, combined with a tight construction market.

After many years of being unable to expand the transit system, TransLink is now in the midst of the region’s biggest expansion in its history. They want to let the public know they are doing their best to roll out new services as quickly as possible to meet demand.

However, as they move forward with projects, unforeseen circumstances sometimes influence their timelines.

TransLink will inform the UBC community when a date for the launch of the 41st Avenue B-Line from Joyce-Collingwood Station to UBC is confirmed.
UNA Volunteer Appreciation Night: Joy, Celebration and Connection

Qiuning Wang
UNA Assistant Recreation Manager

On April 10, sixty adult volunteers gathered at the annual UNA Volunteer Appreciation Night at The Old Barn Community Centre to share their volunteering experience and celebrate their contributions to the community. It was a night of joy, celebration and connection.

Highlights of 2018–2019 include work done by UNA Committee volunteers who advised on various policy developments and bylaw review for the UNA.

Highlights also include the work of two cultural groups – the Diwali Festival Committee and the Lunar New Year Working Group – who planned and delivered two successful events. The two event committees proved not only their ability to organize the events, but also their enthusiasm and ability to engage the wider community.

Senior volunteers helped significantly with the implementation of the Your Passport to Wellbeing project - whether it was offering a workshop, leading a walking group, helping at social gatherings, or taking photos at community events. Forty-five free programs were delivered in 12 weeks with 881 registrations among 200 seniors.

Without seniors volunteering, we wouldn’t have done so much. Hampton Walk & Talk Club – led by Heather Friesen – continues in 2019; the group meets at St. James House at 9:30 am every Tuesday. Everyone is welcome.

Strata 101 project has evolved from a simple idea to develop a Strata Living package. So far, four Strata 101 workshops have been organized. In collaboration with BC Tenancy Resource and Advisory Centre, Tenant 101 was delivered. Home Insurance workshop is planned for June with Westbrook Insurance, and a Landlord 101 is aimed to take place in the Fall. Strata 101 project aims to improve new residents’ capacity in strata involvement. Special thanks to Chris Finch and John Lin.

The Mason Bee Nest Making project brought great excitement to the UNA members. Over 100 mason bee cocoons were hatched last spring, and they will be placed in Children’s Garden in April for another year of propagation.

At the UNA Volunteer Appreciation Night, there were also our hardcore program volunteers who volunteer on a weekly or monthly basis in classrooms, Green Depot or on the path of walking kids to school. Their work has benefited the lives of many residents. A big Thank You to all our wonderful volunteers!
National Volunteer Week 2019

UNA Youth Volunteers Connect, Share and Grow

Taylor Scott
UNA Youth Program and Volunteer Coordinator

It is no secret that the UNA Youth Volunteer Program is a special one, especially if you ask one of our many volunteers.

Through this program, youth are able to connect, learn, share and grow while contributing positive things to the UNA community.

The capacity that exists within youth volunteers is astounding, and amazing things happen when a little opportunity is added. This year there was plenty of opportunity, and our volunteer system continued to grow by hitting over 4,200 total hours contributed by more than 310 unique volunteers.

On April 15, fifty youth volunteers gathered at the annual UNA Youth Volunteer Appreciation and Award Ceremony at the Wesbrook Community Centre to celebrate this amazing accomplishment. A representative from every youth program, initiative, and volunteer category was in attendance. Volunteers shared experiences, stories, laughs and a good meal. At the end of the event, the official announcement was made presenting Youth Volunteer Awards – to acknowledge and thank the winners who go above and beyond with their contributions.

The 2018–2019 Youth Volunteer Award winners are:

• Excellence in Community Service – Unwoo Ho, Ryan Tsen, Matthew Liu
• Excellence in Sustainability – Julie Ou, Sarah Jayamana, Tali Barsky, Sofia Salibian
• Excellence in Program Development/Delivery – Sean Choi
• Excellence in Leadership – Gordon Cheung.

The Community UTown@UBC Youth Leadership Program members following the setup of the Holiday Winter Craft Fair.

Sonia Mann, one of our Camp Volunteers, who supported the delivery of a wheelchair basketball program at our Wesbrook Spring Break Camp.

The 2018–2019 UNA Youth Volunteer Award winners (from left to right): Gordon Cheung, Sean Choi, Ryan Tsen, Julie Ou, Unwoo Ho, Tali Barsky, Sofia Salibian. Photo credit Sehaj Hundal.

Volunteers who led an anti-bike theft registration at the Acadia Park BBQ and Taylor Scott, UNA Youth Program and Volunteer Coordinator.

The 2018–2019 UNA Youth Volunteer Award winners (from left to right): Gordon Cheung, Sean Choi, Ryan Tsen, Julie Ou, Unwoo Ho, Tali Barsky, Sofia Salibian. Photo credit Sehaj Hundal.

A group of high school students who volunteered as ambassadors in the setup and delivery of an accessible wheelchair basketball session in the Wesbrook Community Centre.

Call for Volunteers

Join the UNA Youth Volunteer Newsletter
The UNA is always looking for new youth volunteers! Start your journey with Youth Volunteer Orientation. Leave with new experiences, an improved resume, new friends and a deeper connection to the UNA community.

UNA Children’s Garden
Volunteers of all ages are welcome to help our Children’s Garden grow. Bring your family to join the working party. Meet at the picnic table in the Garden at 10 am every Saturday morning.

Green Depot
Be a Waste Warrior and help day to day operations of the Green Depot. Answer questions, share information on recycling, and help sort out the acceptable items. Regular shifts are available.

If you are interested in these opportunities, please email volunteer@myuna.ca for more information.
The Commons Lounge in MBA House is currently seen by UBCPT as under-utilized space as MBA students have their own library and study space in the Robert H. Lee Graduate School at UBC Sauder School of Business located on Main Mall.

On March 20, 2019, the MBA House Commons Lounge officially closed to the public, marking the start of a renovation process that is expected to completely change the function of the space. According to the website of the UBC Campus and Community Planning, the Commons Lounge will soon become a “commercial retail unit (CRU)”, or a “copy centre with parcel delivery and pick up services for Wesbrook Place”.

Our community’s initial reaction to this notice may be positive – Wesbrook residents would certainly benefit from having such a copy centre near home. However, the change the Commons Lounge is anticipated to undergo also comes with a loss: the UNA community will lose access to a high-demand space frequented by many residents currently seeking to work or study outside of their homes.

While the Commons Lounge was founded to provide a study space primarily for the use of UBC MBA students, the lounge was widely visited by members of the general community - until closure was announced.

On a typical day, one could find students and adults working on their laptops, discussing group projects, reading, or holding meetings. Aspects of the lounge that attracted residents were the quietness and spaciousness of the area, the ample amount of lighting, as well as the large number of chairs and desks that were capable of accommodating large groups of people.

To be clear, the closure of the Commons Lounge does not mean that there is no alternative common space for residents. The Wesbrook Community Centre (WCC) already offers a lounge that is currently being used by community members. Perhaps, however, the WCC could take steps to better accommodate for a greater number of people. For instance, additional chairs and desks could be provided. The lounge could also be designated as a space solely for working and studying, so as to ensure the maintaining of a quiet environment.

The transformation of the MBA Commons Lounge involves both benefits and drawbacks. Yet, at the moment, it is difficult to assess whether the benefits will outweigh the harms, or vice versa; on the one hand, the drawbacks seem to be not insignificant, but on the other, the harms can be mitigated through the maximization of existing workspace in Wesbrook Village.

MBA House Lounge Loses Out to New Commercial Space

Closure of Commons Lounge in MBA House: What Transformation of Common Space Means for Community

Judy Hyojoo Rhee
Student at University Hill Secondary

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Flower Power at UBC Botanical Garden

Douglas Justice
Associate Director, Horticulture and Collections, UBC Botanical Garden

May is around the corner and brings a huge variety of plants into flower in the Botanical Garden.

The Garry Oak Meadow and Woodland Garden is usually at its peak in May, the ephemeral riot of colour (get it while it’s hot!) primarily attributed to a mash-up of Plectritis (sea blush), Camassia (camas), Fragaria chiloensis (beach strawberry) and Lomatium (spring gold).

Not to be outdone, the E.H. Lohbrunner Alpine Garden features even more saturated colours in the masses of Ceanothus (California lilac), Cistus (rock rose) and geraniums that punctuate the bouldery slopes.

The recently renovated Contemporary Garden has much in store for lovers of floral display. Starting in May, watch for the pastel shades of Pacific Coast irises (primarily selections of Iris douglasiana and I. innominata) and the sumptuous Iris spuria (blue iris), as well as a number of early classic shrub roses, all of which are noted for fragrance.

The Carolinian Forest Garden, which is usually celebrated more for its tree collection rather than for flowers, is worth venturing into in May (or at any time, really). Here, we feature rhododendrons from the Appalachian region of Eastern North America. These are “late flowering,” compared to most of our Asian species, and this means flowers in May and June.

May also brings an early morning bird tour to the Garden at 8 am on May 15 in celebration of Vancouver Bird Week. UNA residents are eligible for discounted concession rates on this pre-registered tour.

A Courtyard Sale featuring peonies, pelargoniums and prized perennials takes place on May 25 from 10 am to 2 pm. Learn more about both events at www.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/events.

The Shop in the Garden’s Centre is full to the brim with plants waiting for a spot in your garden.
Math Challengers: Norma Rose Point School
Grade 8 Team Wins Provincials Four Years in Row

Students and parents hope Norma Rose Point School administration can continue to support the Math Challenge Club

Lisa Young
Founder of the Norma Rose Point Math Club

The B.C. Provincial Math Challengers competition ended on April 6 with an amazing accomplishment for two local schools in University Neighbourhoods: Norma Rose Point School (NRP) Grade 8 team and University Hill Secondary School (UHill) Grade 10 team were crowned provincial champions. UHill Grade 9 team won third place while NRP Grade 9 team won fourth place in the province.

The winning teams had to beat both private and public schools from the Lower Mainland (including Vancouver), Fraser Valley, Okanagan and Vancouver Island.

The success is especially significant for the NRP school: their Grade 8 team is the provincial champion for the forth year in a row. This is all thanks to the time, passion and dedication of parent and student volunteer coaches who run the NRP Math Challenge Club. Especially, I want to acknowledge parent volunteers Sun Wan and Rachel Ren.

NRP Math Challenge Club had to overcome many challenges this year. While in the last three years the club season usually ended in June, this year it ended in the beginning of April due to the fact that there is no a sponsor teacher, and things are not looking good for finding a sponsor teacher for the next year.

I guess the success of the Math Challenge Club is a double-edged sword. It caused some parents to be upset at the fact that their children were not able to get in the club because they didn’t pass the orientation test. They claim that it’s a free club at school, everyone should be allowed to join. Some parents complain that the success of the students in math competition makes other students feel “stupid and sad”, that’s why the club should be cancelled altogether.

I want to clarify. The Math Challenge Club at NRP was never about elitism. It is about providing an environment and opportunity for students who find school math too easy and want to do more challenging math. It is also about instilling the attitude of hard work and not to be afraid of challenge.

Congratulations to NRP and UHill schools! The result of the competition is a testimony of students’ passion for math and hard work.

Editor’s Note: In an interview with The Campus Resident, Rachel Ren, a parent volunteer at the NRP Math Challenge Club, said that a record 121 students grades 5 to 8 participated in the October 2018 orientation test to join NRP Math Club for 2018–2019. “Of that number, we were able to accept only 41 students – due to the limits of our hard-working volunteer coaches. Finally, only two teams of total 10 students were eligible for the Math Challengers competition.”

Rachel said: “The NRP teams and this club – with no money, just time, dedication and passion from both the coaches and the students – have now gone undefeated for four years in a row. This is testimony that all students need an opportunity to shine for every individual to work super hard and achieve what they deserve.”

Mr. F Wong, a parent volunteer at the NRP Math Club, wrote to the Vancouver School Board trustees to share news of the local schools’ success at the Math Challengers competition and expressed hope that “Norma Rose Point School administrators can continue to support the Math Club.”

In a letter to Mr. F Wong, Janet Fraser, Chair of the Vancouver School Board, wrote:

“School administrators and staff appreciate the value of extracurricular activities for students and work to provide appropriate support from within the school community. Trustees appreciate all those who volunteer for our students and appreciate the time dedicated by Math Club volunteer coaches to these students.”
Math Challengers: University Hill Secondary School
Grade 10 Takes First Place in Provincials

Linda Li
Parent Volunteer at UHill Secondary School

The annual Math Challengers competition, a province-wide math contest for Grade 8-10 students, was held on Saturday, April 6 at UBC.

This year, University Hill Secondary School (UHill) Grade 10 team won first place in the Grade 10 competition. At the same time, UHill Grade 9 team won third place in the Grade 9 competition. This is an outstanding result for UHill, considering that the teams had to beat all schools selected from regional tournaments around the province.

Math Challengers competition is organized by the Canadian Math Challengers Society and promotes students’ interest in mathematics and problem-solving. The competition consists of four stages. Stages 1 and 2 are individual competitions. Stage 3 is a team competition, and Stage 4 is a face-off competition among top 10 individuals from Stages 1 and 2, where competitors would compete to accurately answer questions as quickly as possible.

Below are the results of the UHill students in individual and face-off competitions.

Individual results
UHill Grade 10:
- Michael Hahn – 1st place
- Karen Situ – 3rd place

UHill Grade 9:
- Jiangxu (Justin) Wan – 2nd place
- Elan Li – 7th place

Face-off Results
UHill Grade 10:
- Michael Hahn – 1st place
- Karen Situ – 2nd place

UHill Grade 9:
- Jiang Xue (Justin) Wan – 3rd place

Competition winners Grade 10 students Michael Hahn and Karen Situ along with UHill teams’ coach, Jason Hong, are the co-presidents of UHill Math Club.

Competition winners Grade 9 students Justin Wan and Elan Li are also members of UHill Math Club.

Special thanks to Mr. Greg Beaton, UHill Math teacher, for sponsoring UHill Math Club and providing a space for club members to hold their weekly meetings.

University Hill Secondary School Math Challengers Grade 10 team members (from left to right) Kai Shang, Michelle Lu, Michael Hahn and Karen Situ receive winner's trophy presented by Ralph Sultan, MLA for West Vancouver-Capilano.

Photo credit Lili Zhang.

Vancouver Quadra Awards: Who is Your Hidden Hero?

Joyce Murray, Member of Parliament for Vancouver Quadra, invites you and/or your organization to nominate a Hidden Hero from your community.

"Who in your organization or neighbourhood has not received the recognition that you think they deserve for their volunteer contributions to our community or country?"

"Is it someone who cleans our beaches and parks or restores salmon to a stream? Someone who lends their time to help youth or coaches a sports team? Someone who visits the elderly or drives individuals to medical appointments? Someone actively engaged with the pressing issues facing our community or the less fortunate in other places? No matter what the cause, we want to hear their story!"

Deadline for submissions is May 18.

Award recipients will be recognized at the annual Point Grey Fiesta Day celebration on Saturday, June 22, 2019 when Joyce Murray will present the Hidden Hero Awards. Award recipients will receive a volunteer certificate and a special pin made from the Canadian Parliament’s original copper roof.

The nominations are welcomed in the following categories:

Volunteer Service
Recognizes individuals who carry out formal or informal volunteer work in our communities by giving their time, talents and dedication to the benefit of individuals and/or community groups.

Emerging Leader
Recognizes contributions from volunteers 25 years or younger who not only complete the number of volunteer hours required to graduate but go above and beyond.

Community Spirit
Recognizes individuals and/or business leaders who are contributing to the life and spirit of a neighbourhood or community (geographical or other) by giving their time, expertise and resources.

Lifelong achievement
In recognition of individuals who have contributed 20+ years of volunteer work throughout their lifetime.

To find out more about the Hidden Heroes 2019 nomination criteria process, visit Joyce Murray website https://jmurray.liberal.ca/page/hiddenheroes2019.

Spring Time at University Neighbourhoods
Spring/Summer Activities for All Ages at West Point Grey Community Centre

Sarah Ripplinger
Community Engagement Coordinator, West Point Grey Community Centre Association

Just a quick drive, bus or bike ride towards Jericho Beach you’ll find West Point Grey Community Centre. Throughout the year, many special events, workshops and programs take place in this unique and historic space nestled beside Pacific Spirit Park.

The Community Centre was established in 1974 and includes Aberthau mansion among its four core buildings. Aberthau is where many music, dance, art and fitness programs for all ages and abilities take place. It is also the site of special events like the Spring Flea Market on April 27, Spring Pottery Sale on May 4 and Pottery and Wine Night on May 31.

“When we talk about West Point Grey CC, people often think of Aberthau mansion because it is a beautiful heritage house,” says West Point Grey Community Centre Association president, David Dolphin. “Community members have been coming here for years to celebrate, learn and engage with each other, the arts and recreation activities. Our programs reflect their needs, and the shifting needs and interests of the community as it changes and grows.”

Next door to Aberthau is a dedicated Pottery Studio, which offers pottery classes for beginner and experienced potters alike. Behind Aberthau is a Community and Eco Art Garden – complete with a Collaborative Demonstration Permaculture Garden – as well as the West Point Grey Preschool Garden.

The Community Centre offers a wide variety of garden-related programs for adults and families here year-round. You can also find on display garden/art projects by our resident artists. Upcoming garden workshops and events include: Balcony, Container and Small Space Gardening on May 15; Veggie Gardening for Beginners on May 22; and a Garden Open House on May 25.

An immersive place for the arts

West Point Grey CC offers free space on the third floor of Aberthau mansion for artists through the Park Board’s Artist-in-Residence program. In exchange, artists present free or low-cost workshops and events for community members.

“Our artist residencies create a space for artists and community members to connect, while supporting the artists in their endeavours,” says Park Board arts programmer Dunia Noyes. “These residencies give community members access to professional artists in our communities for little to no cost.”

This spring/summer, pianists and educators Róisín Adams and Emily Best are presenting their Music off the Page (www.musicoftthepageblog.weebly.com) events and workshops. Róisín welcomes members of the public to join her for an open rehearsal on May 8 when she will be playing pieces from Monk, Ellington, Debussy, Brubeck and more. Then, on May 11, everyone is invited to attend an Adult Piano Recital at Aberthau that will feature the talents of music students 18 years of age and up.

Family activities for spring and summer

The Community Centre presents several off-site events during the warmer months. From June 21-23, the Point Grey Fiesta (www.pointgreyfiesta.org) will fill Trimble Park with fairgrounds, local artisans and performances. West Point Grey CC also runs games and crafts out of Trimble Park – there’s a wading pool too – from July 2 to August 21. Special Family Fun Nights at Trimble Park take place on Wednesdays and have the added bonus of a BBQ.

Interested in learning more? Check them out online at westpointgrey.org, call 604.257.8140 or visit 4397 West 2nd Ave. They are also on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter @WestPointGreyCC.