UNA Neighbours Day Continues Tradition

Students are concerned that “with changes to the UNA bylaws, they will lose their representation in their community.”

John Tompkins
Editor

In a presentation to the University Neighbourhoods Association on September 17, the leader of 55,000 UBC students said the UNA Board must have an elected student representative on it. Chris Hakim, President of the (student) Alma Mater Society (AMS), called UBC students “a unique population” within the UNA and – quoting from the UNA 2017 Annual Report – cited the following figures: 11,700 residents as a whole living in the UNA with 8,200 being leaseholders and with 3,500 being renters.

“It is reasonable to assume that most UBC students living in the UNA are short-term renters given their transient 4-year life cycle on campus. Given that there are around 3,000 students in the UNA, this means that students make up almost the entire population of renters.”

At the presentation to the UNA Directors, Mr. Hakim released a letter he wrote to the UNA Bylaw Review Working Group. In the letter, Mr. Hakim said: “While there are many shared needs across all residents, it is important to recognize that renters may have different concerns than leaseholders, young people may have different service needs, and students will have different experience accessing and engaging with the UNA than other long-term residents.”

Pointing to the contentious UNA proposal to eliminate the position of AMS Appointed Director on its Board, Mr. Hakim stated: “We completely agree that democratic governance within the UNA is essential to make decisions that reflect the will of the community. We, however, firmly disagree that eliminating a position that can most directly represent the needs of students and renters is democratic. As a minority population, students’ voices can be easily overlooked and as one-fourth of the population, we need to ensure that their needs and concerns are listened to. Connecting with short-term student renters requires different approaches than with long-term residents.”

UBC AMS Leader Says: Residents Need Student Representative on UNA Board

Rethink Stadium Road Neighbourhood Coalition Responds to the Alma Mater Society (students) Petition that supports the updated UBC Stadium Road Neighbourhood plan.

“Stadium Road Neighbourhood must respect the existing Land Use Plan,” writes Murray McCutcheon, Hawthorne Place resident, on behalf of the Coalition.

Call for Nominations
2019 UNA Board of Directors Elections

Are you passionate about helping shape the place where you live?

In the lead up to the November 6 Annual General Meeting (AGM), University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA) members will elect three new members to its Board of Directors.

If you’re interested in making a difference in your community, running for the UNA board election is an impactful way to contribute. Deadline for nominations is October 7, 2019.

Find out how to run by visiting myuna.ca/nominations.

UBC AMS Leader Says:
Residents Need Student Representative on UNA Board

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Pointing to the contentious UNA proposal to eliminate the position of AMS Appointed Director on its Board, Mr. Hakim stated:

“We completely agree that democratic governance within the UNA is essential to make decisions that reflect the will of the community. We, however, firmly disagree that eliminating a position that can most directly represent the needs of students and renters in the UNA is democratic. As a minority population, students’ voices can be easily overlooked and as one-fourth of the population, we need to ensure that their needs and concerns are listened to. Connecting with short-term student renters requires different approaches than with long-term residents.”

AMS continued on Page 2
Chair’s message

A big welcome back to school to everyone! One of the unique joys of living at UBC is that we get to be close to the excitement and the buzz of the start of a new school year. I’d like to update you, however, on what the University Neighbourhoods Association Board of Directors have been busy with all summer.

In August, we welcomed the addition of a new interim Board Secretary to the UNA team. Shelley Milne is a retired lawyer and experienced governance professional and has worked in both the public and private sectors in the financial services and safety industries. Shelley also recently served for eight months as the Interim Board Secretary at UBC and will be with the UNA for the next few months to help us with key foundational work and the upcoming AGM and elections.

Speaking of AGM and elections, our Annual General Meeting will be happening on November 6, 2019 at the Wesbrook Community Centre. In the lead-up to it, you’ll be receiving ballots for voting as there will be three open seats for election this year. Nominations are ongoing and I encourage you to run if you are passionate about your community and are willing to work collaboratively to make real impacts in the place where you live. For more information on how to run for a seat on the UNA board, please visit the UNA website at myuna.ca.

In a past message, I relayed here that the UNA Board was hoping to hold a Special General Meeting (SGM) to vote on important proposed bylaw amendments sometime in the fall of 2019. As we and UNA staff have dug into this work, we’ve uncovered more and more things that need to be reviewed and researched in order to make sound recommendations. Currently, we are focused on doing our due diligence on insurance and financial implications affected by some of the proposed bylaw amendments. This process is extensive and will mean pushing the SGM to the new year. More information will come to members once it’s available. In the meantime, if you’re not already subscribed to the UNA weekly newsletter, please take the time to sign up at myuna.ca/subscribe so you can receive updates regarding the SGM.

Sincerely,

Ying Zhou

UNA Elected Resident Director and Board Chair

AMS continued from Page 1

Mr. Hakim said that elimination of student representation on the UNA Board “removes the voice for an already under-engaged population and creates inequity within the community without providing a solution.” He presented three solutions proposed by the AMS:

• AMS executives are democratically elected in elections decided upon by the student body. As such, keeping the AMS representative on the Board allows for no change to the governing structure of the UNA.

• The AMS can support democratic elections run yearly to elect a student representative for the UNA. This would lead to small changes for the UNA Board, due to the changes in the governance structure.

• The UNA can host annual elections for a student representative to sit on the UNA Board. This would cause major changes to the governance structure of the UNA and its processes, including costs surrounding outreach and education of the UNA around elections.

The AMS President said that AMS and UNA have shared interests to see a thriving University Town, and “it is key for the UNA to work to create greater engagement and equitable representation as it evolves its governance.”
The Campus Resident of August 26 included a Letter from UBC President, Dr. Santa J. Ono. While the headline was about “Environmental Issues” and “Sustainability”, the first paragraph focuses on “combating climate change”. And in citing some high temperatures in Europe and elsewhere, Dr. Ono writes that “humanity must solve this issue”. Otherwise, the consequences will be “dire”—including the threat of warming to life on Earth.

Hitherto, climate threats with specie migration have been forced by prolonged cooling prevailed until some 12,000 years ago. When the last ice advance was at its greatest extent. These things do come and go.

Dr. Ono mentioned a high temperature (reached 42.5°C) in Paris. But he did not include that recently there have been record lows set in parts of Russia. And record lows set in the Southern Hemisphere’s winter. But as we all know—this is weather.

By way of moving his concerns along, Dr. Ono wants to “ensure all students have access to courses related to climate, biodiversity and sustainability”. No mention of geology or geophysics under which real climate change has long been a discipline. Dr. Ono has had other letters or articles published on the subject, and I hope to see more. Perhaps, including some geology...

I completed a BSc in physics and geology in 1962, before UBC offered degrees in geophysics. On climate, lecturers discussed two basic theories. Ice ages were the concern, and one concept was that they were caused by a lot of snow, which could be explained by an open Arctic Ocean and a cold continent. It didn’t make much sense then either. The other theory was by Milankovitch, whereby climate change was forced by changes in the Earth’s orbit. Which varies the amount of heat getting to our planet’s surface.

At the time, there was not enough evidence to decide either way. However, satellites, drilling of glaciers as well as the ocean floors and coral reefs and full understanding of continental drift put most of it together. And it confirms the Milankovitch theory. So actual climate change has been driven by orbital mechanics, and CO2 plays little part in the recipe.

It has been known for a long time that real climate change seemed to hook up with the Solar Cycle. Whereby increasing activity of continental drift put most of it together. And it confirms the Milankovitch theory. So actual climate change has been driven by orbital mechanics, and CO2 plays little part in the recipe.

The conclusions have been that atmospheric CO2 has nothing to do with the actual history of the always changing climate. Indeed, the evidence is that turns to warming precede increases in CO2 by some 800 years. We can relax. Mister Solar System and Mother Nature are cooling things down.

Over the past decade, researchers—Svensmark and Shaviv—have observed that the cloud cover changes with the Solar Cycle. And the current decline in solar activity has been associated with increasing cloud cover, which is a long-term cooling force. And thankfully explains this season’s reduction of wildfires in North America.

Henrik Svensmark (born 1958) is a physicist and professor in the Division of Solar Physics at the Danish National Space Institute (DTU Space) in Copenhagen. He is known for his theory on the effects of cosmic rays on cloud formation as an indirect cause of global warming.

Nir Joseph Shaviv (born 1972) is an Israeli-American physicist professor at the Racah Institute of Physics of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, of which he is now its chairman. He is best known for his solar and cosmic-ray hypothesis of climate change.

The United Nations IPCC mandate was to study ONLY the link between society’s emissions of CO2 and “Global Warming”. And nothing else, which has been so limiting. Particularly, when the physics of climate seems to be on another renaissance. The conclusions have been that atmospheric CO2 has nothing to do with the actual history of the always changing climate. Indeed, the evidence is that turns to warming precede increases in CO2 by some 800 years. We can relax. Mister Solar System and Mother Nature are cooling things down.

We Don't Want High Density at UBC

Re: The Campus Resident August 26 issue article UBC Students Launch Petition in Support of Updated Stadium Road Neighbourhood Plan

Below market price for faculty, students and staff?

We’ve heard this before—when they tried to sell us Wesbrook Village.

The first units in Wesbrook Village that went on the market were over one million dollars. Students? Faculty and staff?? We don’t want or need higher density at UBC.

There are four buildings being built in Wesbrook Village at this moment. How many of them are below market value rentals or for sale? I’m sure there are more condos planned for Wesbrook Village too.

We do not need or want condos on Stadium Road. We do not want 32-story buildings on Stadium Road. We do not want high density at UBC. We do not need more traffic.

Ruth Frackson, Hampton Place Resident

August Edition — Well Done

Hi, just wanted to drop a line and let you know I thoroughly enjoyed the content in the latest edition of The Campus Resident. I’ve been on vacation and just got back a few days ago, hence the late read. But it really is an excellent edition covering a number of topics of great interest to UNA residents. Also enjoyed the parallel parking and hummingbird pictures.

Great Work to all involved!

Sincerely,
A.J. Fenton, Campus Resident
Transit and Construction Update for Wesbrook Mall

It has been a summer of construction on Wesbrook Mall. The first phase of the Wesbrook Mall upgrade project is nearly complete, including work by TransLink to bring bus priority to UBC as part of the new R4 41st Avenue RapidBus that is coming to campus in January 2020. Improvements are welcome as Wesbrook Mall sees upwards of 100 buses travel up and down the street during the peak hours—with over 10,000 passengers.

A few years ago, UBC Campus and Community Planning developed a long-term vision for Wesbrook Mall in partnership with the University Endowment Lands, TransLink and BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, that also involved input from the campus community. The long-term design vision focuses on improvements for pedestrians, cyclists and transit, to be implemented in phases. The first phase of construction, which started in Spring 2019, is almost complete, and remaining future phases will be completed over the coming years as funding allows.

Construction is nearly complete at the intersection of Wesbrook Mall and University Boulevard. Once finished, there will be new intersections, improved pedestrian facilities, and new—separated—bike lanes for cyclists. Work is expected to continue at the intersection of Wesbrook Mall and University Boulevard for the next few weeks as crews finish construction on the roadway and install the new trolley poles and traffic signals. More closures are planned for University Boulevard to finish these final critical pieces of work. All major roadwork is anticipated to be completed by the end of September with landscaping and the enhanced pedestrian crossing installation to follow.

New Changes and a Long-Term Design Vision

As part of preparations for the R4 41st Avenue RapidBus coming to UBC early in 2020, TransLink recently installed a new dedicated bus-priority lane and bike lane on Wesbrook Mall in the southbound direction from University Boulevard to 16th Avenue. The red bus-priority lane gives transit riders a “red carpet” to travel on and will reduce bus travel times along the corridor by separating bus and regular traffic.

In Vancouver, bus-priority lanes for the 41st Avenue route are currently being installed, and transit riders will benefit from these improvements long before the RapidBus launches.

A Green Lane for Cyclists

Cyclists will notice the newly painted green bike lane that runs alongside the bus-priority lane travelling southbound on Wesbrook Mall. Krista Falkner, Transportation Engineer at UBC Campus and Community Planning, notes there are a few sections of Wesbrook Mall where the bike lane ends and is shared with the bus lane. “We recognize this isn’t the ideal condition, but the project had to work within many constraints. It is a temporary situation and mimics what is on University Boulevard where cyclists must yield to buses at bus stops. When buses are stopped to pick-up or drop-off passengers, cyclists can either merge in with general traffic to go around buses or they can stay in the bike/bus lane and wait until the buses move.”

Phase 2 of the Wesbrook Mall redesign, slated for construction spring and summer 2020, will include separated bike lanes both northbound and southbound between University Boulevard and Agronomy Road. “With these changes we expect to see a lot more pedestrians and cyclists using the corridor and with the incentive of transit priority along the corridor, hopefully a shift from personal vehicles to buses,” said Falkner.

Making Way for the R4 41st Avenue RapidBus

Although one of the main reasons for installing the bus-priority lane is to prepare for the arrival of the new 41st Avenue RapidBus in January 2020, the benefits will be realized beforehand and will benefit all transit riders along the corridor. “These changes will improve service for all bus routes that run along Wesbrook Mall,” said Denis Agar, Senior Planner, RapidBus Projects at TransLink. TransLink is now finalizing the installation of a pedestrian signal across Wesbrook Mall at the UBC Hospital and new concrete pads at the future R4 41st Avenue RapidBus bus stops.

When the R4 begins operation, riders will experience shorter wait times and travel times between UBC and Joyce-Collingwood Station along 41st Avenue. The new service will travel along 41st Avenue to SW Marine Drive and will have stop on W 16th Avenue and on Wesbrook Mall at Agronomy Road, before culminating at UBC Bus Exchange.

Continued on Page 5
It replaces the existing 41 service and will address the route’s frequent overcrowding, increasing capacity by 33% throughout Vancouver. The R4 will run every 3-6 minutes during peak hours and there will be frequent service at night, with a bus coming every 15 minutes until 1 am. Agar points out the closest stop for Wesbrook Village residents will be on W 16th Avenue – just west of Wesbrook Mall. At each stop along the R4 route, large digital displays are being installed to show when the next bus will arrive.

In January 2020, the 49 will change its route to turn off SW Marine Drive and onto Wesbrook Mall into Wesbrook Place to provide transit service to that neighbourhood. The 49 connects UBC with the Expo and Canada lines and has a direct connection to Metrotown, but not the Kerrisdale neighbourhood. To get to Kerrisdale, or anywhere else along 41st Avenue, Wesbrook Place residents will have two options: Walk to the RapidBus stop on W 16th Avenue across from the high school; or, hop on the 49, which will stop in front of Blenz, and transfer to the R4 at Dunbar St. The change to the 49 bus route brings the added benefit of higher-capacity articulated buses through Wesbrook Place.

To provide better transit service to the west side of campus and reduce redundancy in service along Wesbrook Mall, TransLink is reconfiguring the existing 68 and 70 bus routes to create an out and back route along Lower Mall. This will result in more frequent service that connects the west side of campus to the UBC Bus Exchange and shops and services in Wesbrook Village. The proposed routing shown in the image below will be launched in January 2020 to match the launch of the new RapidBus to UBC.

To get the latest information on UBC construction and detours, visit planning.ubc.ca or follow @campusUBC on Twitter. To plan your transit trip visit translink.ca.

Proposed Changes for the 68/70 Route

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The name has changed, but the fun and community spirit hasn’t.

The University Neighbourhoods Association street festival – known for years as Barn Raising Celebration – is now called Neighbours Day. The name of the popular community event was changed “to highlight the spirit of the UNA throughout all neighbourhoods” as the UNA Board of Directors decided in a June meeting.

To celebrate the first Neighbours Day on Saturday, September 7, hundreds of campus residents and guests gathered at the Old Barn Community Centre, the green field by UBC Forest Sciences Centre and Jim Taylor Park – the park named after Jim Taylor, Q.C., the first UNA Chair and a tireless volunteer who was recognized for the many ongoing contributions he made to the academic and residential communities of UBC.

Continuing the tradition of an annual celebration in the community, the UNA organized Neighbours Day as an event “for coming together and enjoying the end of summer and the beginning of a new school year with our neighbours.”

Street festival entertainment included:
• Live DJ Set – from funk and soul, to latin, dub, breakbeats, 80’s, dance classics and beyond repertoire
• VYVE Dance Party
• Bouncy Castles
• Free BBQ serving up free hotdogs (beef) as well as sustainable (chicken/turkey) and dietary (veggie) options
• Games Zone.

Community Booths included:
• UNA Membership Booth
• Active Kids
• UBC School of Kinesiology
• CTRY 101.9 FM (campus radio)
• Girl Scouts of Canada
• Pacific Spirit Park Society
• S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
• TRIUMF
• UBC Bike Kitchen
• UBC Botanical Garden
• UBC Farm
• 4H Club

Andrew Clements, UNA Interim Co-Executive Director and Recreation Manager, with his son and UBC Kinesiology students Nancy Li and Nathan Godden on Neighbours Day.

Andrew Clements, UNA Interim Co-Executive Director and Recreation Manager, said success of the four-hour festival was due in part to UBC Kinesiology students – Nancy Li and Nathan Godden – who were hired by the UNA through the Canada Summer Jobs program. The program is a federal initiative that subsidized their working wage, creating summer work experience for young people.

Complimenting the students, Mr. Clements said how lucky the UNA was to have enjoyed their services for 13 weeks.

Emily Lomax, UNA Sustainability Coordinator, praised Nancy and Nathan in the same vein: they did excellent work helping to organize what turned out to be a well-attended and well-executed community festival.

About 12,000 residents live in five neighbourhoods at UBC – Chancellor Place, East Campus, Hawthorn Place, Hampton Place and Wesbrook Place – widely scattered throughout campus.
My Neighbours Day Experience

Jane Kang
Wesbrook Place Resident

I liked the UNA Neighbours Day street festival in early September.
I browsed among friendly people – my neighbours, who filled the Jim Taylor Park and the green field with the Reconciliation Pole on it, and I could see young families with children surrounding the information booths, enjoying the BBQ, hopping in the dragon bouncey castle, dancing and playing games.

I thought what a unique community we live in: the University Town at UBC, where families, children and university students live together... I also thought how fortunate we are to have access to many excellent facilities and resources on campus.

I could not miss the Pacific Spirit Park Society booth. It demonstrated a vision of an urban forest and foreshore park that is protected for the benefit of all, and I learned about ecological restoration, data collection, environmental education and stewardship training available for community members.

Several university-specific booths attracted my attention.

The booth of TRIUMF – Canada’s particle accelerator centre - demonstrated the progress in research, advancements in medical technology and sports rehabilitation medicine. It inspired visitors’ interest in high technologies, and many young people registered for the tour of TRIUMF that houses the world’s largest cyclotron.

The booth of Active Kids – an Outreach program of the UBC School of Kinesiology – offered recreational gymnastics, sport and physical activity classes.

UBC Botanical Garden booth showed the history of the Garden over the past 100 years. Its mission has broadened to include education, research, conservation, community outreach and public display of temperate plants from around the world.

I saw many good things and met many good people on Neighbours Day, feeling and appreciating the richness of our unique community: its different cultures, different languages, different way of thinking.

We are destined to communicate and want to know each other better, understand, accept and integrate in our daily life. For me, this is the deep meaning of Neighbours Day, celebrating our vibrant UNA-UBC community.

Editor’s Note: This story was edited and condensed.

Letter from UBC President

UBC: The Next Century

Jane Kang
Wesbrook Place Resident

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Editor’s Note: This story was edited and condensed.
Tapestry Residents Inspire UNA New Program – *Pick-Up Walks*

A new program was recently launched at the UNA – *Pick-Up Walks*, a neighbour- hood stewardship program that encourages people of all ages to get together, go for a walk in the neighbourhood and pick up lit- ter as they go.

The program aims to get people out to ex- plore new places in the neighbourhood and to participate in a practice that is good for their health, the community and the envi- ronment.

Residents of Tapestry at Westbrook Vil- lage were the inspiration for this program, as they wanted an opportunity to be more involved in the community and contribute to the neighbourhood environment.

**A Word from Your Neighbour and Co-Creator of the UNA *Pick-Up Walks* Program**

With the constantly increasing density in the world’s cities, it becomes more and more urgent that we keep the public spaces clean and beautiful. Even the most perfect- ly designed neighbourhoods become shod- dy and unpleasant if its streets and walks are full of litter and trash.

We are all in need of pleasant surroundings, because it has a strong influence on our psy- chological well-being. It is no wonder Plato praised beauty together with goodness, be- cause both lead to harmony. Littering cre- ates ugliness and shows disrespect for your neighbours and fellow citizens. It is very important to teach this to children at an early age, and what better way to do this than to include them in a *Pick-Up Walk*, where adults give a good example and show them how much they care for their surroundings.

Besides, it is pleasant to walk in the fresh air, and looking for plastic bags or empty bottles along the way becomes a game. At our last walk, the children became quite competitive and ran to grab the item with their pick-up gadget, before anybody else could get to it.

There is also an immense benefit for the older adults resulting from spending time with the children and their teenage supervi- sors. We are charmed by their innocence, by their outgoing conversations, and by their capacity for quick learning. A com- munity needs both young and old to re- spect each other and learn together. Noth- ing builds community more quickly than working together, particularly when their joint effort accomplishes something that is beneficial to the whole neighbourhood.

Warmly, Hanno Pinder

**Local School Students Compete at World Scholar’s Cup**

Our reader Paul Lin shared with *The Campus Resident* news about the success of lo- cal students this summer at World Scholar’s Cup Global Round in Sydney, Australia.

Competing among 1,500 students from around the world, 15 students from Norma Rose Point School (NRP) – the majority of whom graduated in May (Grade 7 and 8) and moved on to the University Hill Sec- ondary School (UHill) Grade 8 and 9 – par- ticipated in a two-day competition, bring- ing home top trophies and gold and silver medals in some categories.

The first day of competition consisted of three events: Team Debate, Collaborative Writing, and Scholar’s Challenge. Scholars worked with their teammates to plan and deliver speeches based on three different topics in Team Debate, tackled three dif- ferent essay prompts in Collaborative Writ- ing, and flexed their knowledge of the cur- riculum in the Scholar’s Challenge.

On the second day of competition, teams of scholars – three students per team – com- peted in the Scholar’s Bowl, a test of col- lective knowledge and strategy.

The team of Angela Lu, Coco Li, Jennifer Zhang – all are UHill Grade 9 students now – placed 3rd in the Global Round with An- gela Lu placing 4th in Overall Champion Scholars competition.

Art Yu received highest honor of Asimov (1st place in Individual Challenge), placing 1st in 2 of the 6 subjects.

Nathan Lin took 1st place in 1 of the 6 subjects, placing 4th overall in Individual Challenge.

Jennifer Zhang received 4 gold and 1 silver in subjects.

Coco Li, Art Yu, Nathan Lin all received 5 gold and 1 silver in subjects.

Other students participating in the summer World Scholar’s Cup Global Round are: Jet Li (who continues to study at NRP), and Alice Wang, Sunny Liu, Ruibing Zhao, Jason Ma, Elvin Sun, William Jiang, Alec Situ, David Huang, Alex Zhu (all are UHill students now).

The World Scholar’s Cup organization aims to motivate students of all back- grounds to discover new strengths and practice new skills and inspire a global community of future scholars and leaders.

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**Thank You to Our Readers for Letters and Stories Sent to The Campus Resident.**

The UNA community newspaper is published monthly and distributed – 7,000 copies – by Canada Post to all households at University Neighbourhoods.

The Campus Resident is also available on the UNA website [myuna.ca/news/campus-resident-newspaper](http://myuna.ca/news/campus-resident-newspaper)

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*Local School Students Compete at World Scholar’s Cup*
Botanical Gardens Foster Sense of Belonging to Our Communities

Andrea Byfuglien
MSc Student at UBC Botanical Garden and IRES

I am currently a Master’s student at Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability (IRES) under the supervision of Dr. Jiaying Zhao, and I am also working with UBC Botanical Garden, Dr. Tara Moreau and Dr. Zhao on research related to the Garden’s Sustainable Communities Field School. At the Garden, my research focuses on sustainable behaviour change, and my thesis explores how botanical gardens can design educational programs to motivate action on climate change and sustainable development.

My research includes educating people about the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which aim to promote shared prosperity, environmental sustainability and ensure that progress on sustainable development leaves no one behind.

In March, I had the privilege of participating in the SDG Bootcamp, a youth leadership training program. The bootcamp was organized by British Columbia Council for International Cooperation – aiming to provide youth with the skills and knowledge needed to take action on the SDGs and provide opportunities for putting these skills into practice.

The training served as a catalyst for the final retreat: a trip to New York City to attend the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) at the UN Headquarters.

The HLPF is the UN’s annual sustainable development conference and the main arena for assessing the global community’s progress on achieving Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. The SDGs can seem abstract and unachievable, so it is crucial to make the Sustainable Development Goals relevant to individuals and communities.

Botanical gardens are crucial allies in the move towards inclusive and sustainable communities. In order to achieve the SDGs, we need to adopt new mindsets and values that are different from those that caused the situation we are currently in.

Gardens are ideal spaces to foster a sense of belonging to our community, to build strong partnerships and spur local citizens for global goals.

Apple Festival at UBC Botanical Garden
October 19–20, 11 am–4 pm

Photo credits UBC Botanical Garden.

Andrea Byfuglien
Hawthorn Neighbourhood Block Party

Hawthorn Neighbourhood Block Party took place on Main Mall at UBC September 15. The party was supported by funding from the UTown@UBC Community Grants Program.

On behalf of several dozen Hawthorn Place residents in attendance, neighbour Jen McCutcheon – Metro Vancouver Director for Electoral Area A – said how pleased they were to have been awarded the UTown@UBC Community Grant “to bring community members together in the spirit of creating social vibrancy on campus”.

Hawthorn Place – completed in 2007 – is located south of Thunderbird Boulevard between East Mall and West Mall, steps from UBC academic centre.

All UTown@UBC residents – students, faculty, staff, and other residents who live on campus and have a great idea for a community building project – are encouraged to apply for a UTown@UBC Community Grant.

New Student Residential Complex Opens at UBC, Two More Planned

Massive construction is underway to meet high demand for student housing

John Tompkins
Editor

The newest student residence complex opened recently at UBC is called the Exchange. It is located alongside the UBC Bus Exchange – just steps from the UBC Aquatic Centre and Student Recreation Centre.

The Exchange provides 658 beds: 71 Nano suites, 88 studios, 5 large accessible studios, 77 one-bedroom suites, 19 two-bedroom suites, 84 four-bedroom suites, 15 townhouses (2-bedroom).

The demand is high among UBC students for Nano suites. For a monthly rent of $700.00, a Nano suite packs a convertible desk/bed, full private bathroom, kitchenette and closet into a small – 140 square feet – but streamlined space.

RESIDENCIES continued on Page 12
The decision of the UBC Alma Mater Society (AMS) to initiate a petition in support of the contested Stadium Road Neighbourhood (SRN) plan is surprising and unfortunate. In doing so, the AMS is needlessly taking a narrow view of the interests of students and pitting them against the many people – including campus residents, faculty, staff, alumni, and (yes) students – who have expressed concerns about the unprecedented scale of Stadium Road development.

The petition makes several faulty assumptions, chief among them that the community is opposed to more student housing. The opposite is true: we believe that part of the solution to this issue is to accelerate the construction of student housing in other parts of campus, and to design Stadium Road at a density level that is appropriate for campus residents.

Several wide issues are at stake here. Since early 2018, Campus and Community Planning (C+CP) has pushed its preferred plan for Stadium Road despite significant and sustained opposition, including from our coalition.

Part of the problem is that UBC expects Stadium Road alone to check too many boxes. Historically, the early developments on campus, such as Hampton Place, were primarily intended to raise money for the Endowment. UBC’s development model evolved to include restricted sales to faculty and staff in parts of Hawthorn Place.

Now, under the proposed plan, Stadium Road has ballooned into a kind of omni-bus development intended to fund a new Stadium, provide faculty and staff housing, raise money for the Endowment, and possibly contribute to expansion of rapid transit. Student housing has never been, and is not currently part of, a plan that has already been pushed beyond reasonable limits. Again, we believe that student housing is crucial to the overall campus plan, but that it is better addressed at other sites.

The AMS position seems to be that more density at Stadium Road will help provide more affordable housing for students. This argument is tenuous at best. No portion of the development has been allocated for student housing and faculty/staff housing needs are simply different. The Board should identify other sites on campus more suited to this type of housing and accelerate their construction.

Stadium Road is where UBC can finally do more for faculty and staff, who have been underserved by recent UBC housing policy. As evidenced by the UBC Faculty and Staff Housing Demand Survey results released in August, the waitlist (2,798) is four times the size of the 685 unit faculty/staff rental inventory. Notably, an overwhelming majority of survey respondents (>90%) would consider renting as a long-term alternative to homeownership if the rents were below market.

As we wrote in our June letter, the Rethink Stadium Road Coalition wholeheartedly supports an increased proportion of below market rental housing for faculty/staff at Stadium Road. UBC faces significant recruitment and retention challenges, an issue that surely should be a major concern for students too. The discussion for Stadium Road should be about how to increase the proportion of faculty/staff affordable housing within existing Land Use Plan density limits.

If UBC is sincere about building a sustainable campus community, it must show that it appreciates that the first priority is not money. It is people. A vibrant, sustainable university in Canada. New projects totalling more than 1,500 new student beds have been brought to the Board for approval. With a housing waitlist of 6,000 students (about half the total number of beds), certainly more needs to be done, including a dramatic increase in the number of Nano units, which have proved popular with students.

What should not be done is to force-fit student housing into Stadium Road. Student housing needs and faculty/staff housing needs are simply different. The Board should identify other sites on campus more suited to this type of housing and accelerate their construction.

As an institution globally recognized for its natural ecology (not towering at twice the height of the surrounding forest); compat-
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Andrew Parr, Managing Director of Student Housing and Hospitality Services, is not surprised by this demand for Nano units, given the overwhelmingly positive reception a full-scale Nano suite mock-up received two years ago when it was installed for a month in the AMS Student Nest.

“When we surveyed students, 83 per cent of respondents were in favour of us building the units, and 91 per cent rated its appeal as satisfactory, good, or excellent,” Mr. Parr said. “A vast majority liked the unit and said they would very much consider living there for the price we are offering them at.”

One of its most notable features, said Mr. Parr, is the bed-desk combination. “In 140-square feet not only do you have a bed, you have a double bed,” he said. “It’s a full-size double which, with two fingers, can be pushed up, and its base becomes your desk.”

UBC offers a set of quick facts about the University

- Furnished living areas and private bedrooms.
- Room rental costs run from $700.00 to $775.00.
- Room rental costs do not include any additional fees.
- It is open year round and is reserved mainly for upper-year and graduate students.
- It is not unexpected to receive and respond to noise and traffic disruptions.
- Residents at Walter Gage and Exchange residences should expect to hear noise from heavy equipment, industrial traffic and construction. There will also be pedestrian and vehicle traffic disruptions in the area, along with an increased level of dust.

“Some residents will be less affected, if their units do not face directly onto an area under construction. As you are likely aware, construction at UBC is an everyday activity, and prudent construction practices are always followed. Nevertheless, while impact to residents and the campus community can be minimized, it cannot be avoided altogether.”

Meanwhile, UBC Properties Trust has applied to UBC for a Development Permit to create a mixed-use academic/student housing project. Brock Commons Phase Two will comprise two buildings - 18 storeys and 13 storeys – and provide up to 600 additional student beds along with academic and institutional space.

Anticipated start of construction is Spring 2020.

Province Invests in New Child Care Spaces at UBC

The Province is investing $3 million through its Childcare BC New Spaces Fund to support the University of British Columbia in creating 91 new licensed child care spaces at three centres on campus. The facilities will offer 36 infant/toddler spaces, 25 spaces for children aged three to five years and 30 spaces for school-age children. One centre is open, with the other two expected to follow this fall.

All three centres will offer additional services to support parents and their children, including bursaries and grants for vulnerable and refugee families to help with the cost of child care.

Priority for the new spaces will be given to children of UBC students. The remaining spaces will first be made available to children of faculty and staff, then opened to the surrounding community.

“For too often I hear from parents in our community who are desperate for high-quality child care for their families,” said David Eby, MLA for Vancouver-Point Grey. “These new spaces will go a long way to help. I’m so glad that UBC has partnered with government to make this happen.”

UBC has more than 620 child care spaces at 27 centres on its Vancouver campus. These three new centres will take the total to more than 700 spaces.