



Annual Report Britannia Society 2012 - 2013

Britannia Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

6:00pm - @ym D

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www.britanniacentre.org



Britannia
COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE

Liaison - Vancouver City Council

During last year's Year of the Dragon, City Council made headway in getting the Grandview-Woodlands neighbourhood plan underway and we are expecting that to come to Council for approval during this year's Year of the Snake! This plan is particularly important as it will shape the future of the neighbourhood along with Britannia, just as Britannia will shape the neighbourhood development. This plan will provide City planners and people wanting to invest in the neighbourhood with guidelines into what we want and value the most. I know that our community has been very active in the consultations and meetings.



I'm looking forward to another year with you all, and thank you to all the staff and volunteers for making Britannia the wonderful place it is!

**Dr. Kerry L. Jang, Councillor
City of Vancouver**

Liasion - Vancouver Public Library

The Vancouver Public Library appreciates the opportunities that come with being partnered with the Britannia Board of Management, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, the Vancouver School Board, the City of Vancouver and the many other organizations that provide learning and recreation in the community.



VPL undertook an intensive public engagement in 2011-2012 known as Free For All. The Free For All program began in November, 2011 with the theme "Public Places and Learning Spaces" which included activities and a Choose-Your-Own Adventure story book to encourage everyone to share their vision for the future of the library. The program continued in 2012 with the themes "Books, Movies, Music & More", "Lifelong Learning: Programs and Training" and finally in the fall a theme on the role of the library in supporting children and families. This engagement resulted in more than 1,000 suggestions from community members!

Last year was one of huge transformation for VPL. We've completed reviews of our Information Services, Children's and Teen Services, Technical Services and Programming Services. We're in the midst of reorganizing so that we can better deliver Information Services, Programming and Learning, and Digital Services. We've also completed our RFID project, which introduced self-service checkout machines into all our locations, freeing up staff to spend more time helping patrons. The results of Free for All, as well as the wide-ranging research undertaken as part of these reviews, can be seen in VPL's exciting new strategic plan for 2013 – 2015 which is available in video form at: http://www.vpl.ca/news/details/stratplan_2013_video.

Building on the Board strategic plan of actively engaging community, the Britannia Branch library staff actively sought out teens and young adults. Developing relationships with the Britannia Service Centre Youth Group was key in finding out what the youth want from the library. As a result, in partnership with the Britannia Secondary School Librarian, a more welcoming teen area which highlights popular reading, manga, new books, and collaborative work space has been created. As a joint school and public library branch, this kind of co-operation is essential to our continued success, and we look forward to continued opportunities to work with our partners at VSB.

VPL inspires learning. The Britannia Branch, working with our partners, supports the development of life-long literacy in children and families through story-times, puppet shows, and introducing the library to community programs such as MOSIAC. Events, such as author readings, book clubs, and opening nights at the Britannia Art Gallery are well attended and appreciated by the community. With assistance from the Britannia

Vancouver Public Library Trustee cont'd

Community Services Centre, Community Access Program funds were used for one-on-one computer training time with community members who needed assistance to keep up with a rapidly changing world while they look for work, manage their legal or health needs, or maintain long-distance family ties.

VPL, including the Britannia Branch staff, is committed to serving our community. The creativity of our staff, their commitment to public service, and their professional friendliness is demonstrated wherever you find them: at schools, daycares, senior centres, youth meetings, street fairs, community centre events, and in the library.

We look forward to the upcoming year as we continue to look for ongoing collaborative opportunities.

Thank you,

**Catherine Evans, Chair,
Vancouver Public Library Board**

Report from the Treasurer and the Auditor

The Treasurer and the Finance Committee oversee and take responsibility for the Britannia Community Centre's budget of about seven million dollars. The income is derived from a variety of sources. The City of Vancouver funds our core functions and more monies are received from gaming grants as well as many other grants and contributions. Funds received from the various sources have to be used only in the way the grant has specified, so it takes some doing to keep everything on track and to ensure that the money is used as intended. We have just successfully completed this year's audit.

We continue to work on streamlining our finance statements for Britannia Board meetings so as to give the Board members a better understanding of where the monies are coming from and where we are obligated to disburse them. I have more thoughts on how we can handle the budgets and other financial matters should I be once again elected as Treasurer.

As Treasurer of the Board and Chair of the Finance Committee, I would like to thank the Board members who elected me for their trust and support and to thank the members of the Finance Committee for their commitment to Britannia.

Thanks for your support!

**Ray Gallagher,
Treasurer Britannia Board**

**To the Members of:
THE BRITANNIA COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE SOCIETY.
The firm of KPMG was appointed as auditors for our organization for 2012**



Members are advised that the following statements are extracts from the complete set of the audited financial statements and auditor's report and are presented for general information only. Copies of the audited financial statements and report are available by contacting Natalie Bailey, Manager of Administrative Services at Britannia Centre.

Queries about the financial matters of the Society are welcome and may be directed to the Finance Committee or to our management staff. The activities of the Finance Committee itself are described in the section above.

Statement of Financial Position

THE BRITANNIA COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE SOCIETY

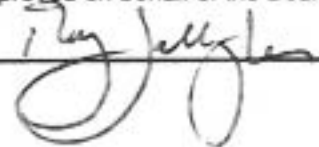
Statements of Financial Position

December 31, 2012, December 31, 2011 and January 1, 2011


	December 31, 2012	December 31, 2011	January 1, 2011
Assets			
Current assets:			
Restricted cash and investments (note 3 and 4)	\$ 655,657	\$ 1,021,988	\$ 475,664
Amounts receivable (note 5):			
City of Vancouver	257,330	495,641	670,664
Other	361,830	455,808	229,602
	<u>1,274,817</u>	<u>1,973,437</u>	<u>1,375,930</u>
Restricted investments (note 3 and 4)	320,331	66,292	753,061
Investments (note 4)	698,422	443,112	272,246
Capital assets (note 6)	101,887	127,985	119,818
	<u>\$ 2,395,457</u>	<u>\$ 2,610,826</u>	<u>\$ 2,521,055</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Current liabilities:			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 7)	\$ 278,377	\$ 428,543	\$ 238,766
Deferred contributions (note 8)	422,765	406,011	491,100
Deferred revenue (note 9)	179,603	164,937	161,179
Due to related parties (note 10)	553,223	682,269	737,625
	<u>1,433,968</u>	<u>1,681,760</u>	<u>1,628,670</u>
Employee future benefits (note 11)	261,500	253,500	234,600
Working capital advance (note 12)	81,000	81,000	81,000
Deferred capital contributions (note 13)	7,500	10,000	12,500
Net assets:			
Invested in capital assets (note 14)	94,387	117,985	107,318
Internally restricted (note 15)	517,102	468,581	456,967
	<u>611,489</u>	<u>584,566</u>	<u>564,285</u>
	<u>\$ 2,395,457</u>	<u>\$ 2,610,826</u>	<u>\$ 2,521,055</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Approved on behalf of the Board:



Director



Director

Statement of Financial Position

THE BRITANNIA COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE SOCIETY

Statements of Operations

Years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011

	2012	2011
Revenue (note 17):		
Contributions from City of Vancouver for operating purposes	\$ 3,350,123	\$ 3,461,040
Rink and Pool	972,356	890,178
Donations, membership fees and special events	93,006	105,679
Licensed gaming	120,090	94,902
Rentals	16,227	19,608
Interest	17,952	20,920
Contribution from Britannia Community Services Foundation	41,802	38,500
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	2,500	2,500
Programs:		
Child Care	657,102	564,618
Recreation	1,006,221	989,724
Community education	464,389	507,446
Other	9,671	11,290
	6,751,439	6,706,405
Expenses:		
Maintenance and operations of buildings, equipment and grounds	1,534,863	1,217,898
Salaries, wages and employee benefits Administration	1,349,417	1,276,755
Salaries, wages and employee benefits Park Board Staff Administration	1,407,006	1,481,507
Administration	198,535	348,495
Licensed gaming for children, youth, and senior programs	120,090	94,902
General programs (note 19)	103,560	278,137
Programs:		
Child Care	685,408	631,064
Recreation	812,926	800,938
Community education	474,686	522,195
Other	10,682	5,737
Amortization of capital assets	27,343	28,496
	6,724,516	6,686,124
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 26,923	\$ 20,281

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Manager of Administrative Services

Administration of the Britannia Community Services Centre includes the following areas and committees:

- Finance, accounting and reporting
- Information systems
- Facilities
- Human resources and benefit administration
- Finance Committee
- Audit Committee
- Labour Management Committee
- Site Management Committee
- Occupational Health and Safety/Facilities Committee

Finance, Accounting & Reporting

Britannia Society closed out 2012 with an audited surplus of \$26,923. The 2012 budget was for a \$672 surplus. The 2011 surplus was \$20,281. Both revenues and expenses increased by 1%; revenue increases are primarily related to increased Britannia programs driven revenue and expense increases are primarily related to increased building and salary costs offset by reduced costs to deliver Britannia programs.

Britannia was \$13,845 (0.41%) under budget for core funding from the City of Vancouver.

Britannia received \$110,000 from the Provincial Government from gaming revenues. Together with 2011 gaming funding, the Society spent \$120,090 on direct community programs and services.

The average return on Britannia Society investments was about 3.5% in 2012. Investment and interest revenue generated is reinvested in low risk GIC type investments.

The Britannia Foundation net assets were \$1,217,017 at year end. The market yield was 2.7%, the investment income and realized gains was \$46,635, and the expenditures including the Britannia grant was \$53,312.

Facilities

Facilities work done during 2012 was focused on ongoing facility maintenance. The preteen garden area was improved by clearing the grounds and adding some landscaping. In addition the preteen furniture and equipment was repaired and renewed. Secured storage was added to Gym C. The surface of the pool deck ramp near the hot tub was changed to improve footing and viewing windows were installed in the saunas to improve guard efficiency and safety. The youth area of the library was upgraded to accommodate the trend to computer based work by installing additional data drops. Work was done in the rink to accommodate the need to update safety glass around the boards and the zamboni room ventilation. Window blinds were upgraded in many areas of the community buildings.

Work was ongoing during 2012 to examine the shared use of the site with partners and how that relationship is reflected in facility costs. This work remains ongoing into 2013.

About Britannia

Britannia Community Services Centre Society has its origin in 1970s cooperative community action. Local citizens and various civic agencies created the organization in 1974 to coordinate and integrate a wide range of human services to meet the interests and needs of residents. Through a locally elected Board of Management, the non-profit society provides a leadership role in developing and facilitating educational, recreational, library, and social services for the communities of Grandview-Woodland and Strathcona. The Centre had its official opening in June of 1976.

In collaboration with personnel from the Vancouver School Board, the Vancouver Public Library Board and the Vancouver Board of Park and Recreation our Society manages a 18-acre complex which consists of:

- seniors' centre
- elementary school
- secondary school
- public library
- fitness centre
- five child care centres
- teen centre
- ice rink
- four gymnasia
- racquetball court and mat room
- learning resources centre
- community information centre
- meeting rooms
- swimming pool

There are also numerous off-site programs and activities.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2011-2012

Executive Committee:

President: Gwen Giesbrecht
Vice President: Eva Sharell
Treasurer: Ray Gallagher

Executive Members:

Brendan Boylan
Oliver Conway

Directors:

Dan Fass
John Flipse
Paul Kjekstad
Ingrid Kolsteren
Jim Ion
Trevor Mah
Tammyanne Matthew
Meseret Taye
Margaret Vis

Staff Rep: Pat Davitt

Partners:

Vancouver Public Library
Barbara Kelly/Inness Campbell
Vancouver Park Board
Bob Harris/Susy Bando
Vancouver School Board
Bev Seed/Geoff Taylor

Senior Staff:

Executive Director: Cynthia Low
Manager of Administrative Services: Natalie Bailey
Childcare Manager: Leah Drayton
Community Education Coordinator: Mike Evans

Honorary Board Members:

Michael Clague, Maurice Egan, Thelma Lindsay,
John Minichiello, Margaret Mitchell, Doug Soo

Liaisons to Britannia: 2011-2012

Vancouver City Council: Kerry Jang
Vancouver Library Board: Angie Chan
Vancouver Park Board: Trevor Loke
Vancouver School Board: Rob Wynen



President of Britannia Board of Management

2012 was the Year of the Committee at Britannia. In the 1970s, Britannia was built as a result of the work and dedication of local residents — they researched, informed, engaged, advocated, and raised funds for the building of our community centre. Today some fifty residents and centre members participate on over fifteen committees at Britannia. These committees provide the commitment, expertise, experience, and local perspective the Board of Management needs to chart the direction of the Society.

It has been a humbling experience to be Board President for the last two years and I have been lucky to work with a group of fantastic people. Of course, the Board's work cannot be done without our dedicated staff. They bring the ideas and hopes of the committees to life. Play it Fair Youth Program, East Feast, Walk and Wade, Seniors Aquafit Potlucks, Splash and Dash, Stone Soup, and computer labs, are just a few of the hundreds of programs and events offered by Britannia and its committees.

Committees are not easy. They can be messy, time consuming, and complicated. But the work they do for the community is central to everything that happens at Britannia.

The first president of the Britannia Board, John Minichiello, who continues to serve as president of the Britannia Foundation had this to say:

"All the research showed that there wasn't a facility like Britannia anywhere. It wasn't just a matter of having all the facilities, including the elementary and secondary schools, on one site, but it was the committed and tireless committee. There was no doubt in my mind that everybody on that committee [made up of local residents, City Hall staff, and VSB staff] was convinced that we were doing something that was absolutely unique. We were hoping that it would be the forerunner, like a lighthouse project, that would provide guidance and a pilot project for others."

We continue to be unique — cooperative, local, integrated, responsive, and accountable. And our committee members are still tireless. There were no other centres built like Brit, and that may be because it would have been too complicated, or because it would have been too expensive or inconvenient, or simply because other centres were not in East Van and didn't have the dedication of Brit's committee members.

Regardless, our model works well, and our principles and values are very simple: we provide the best and most appropriate services to our local residents in order that each person, young or old, big or small, rich or poor, can belong to and feel welcomed in our community centre.

As the President, I am very proud of what the Board has done over the past year. Our achievements include taking leadership in initiating a strategic plan for the society; addressing critical youth and seniors' issues in our community; and working with our partners, the Vancouver School Board and the City of Vancouver, to modernize our relationship. I am especially proud of the collaborative approach we have taken to management that is both financially responsible and socially conscious.

We will continue to build on these achievements as we deliver a broad range of services to the residents of Vancouver.

Gwen Giesbrecht,
President Britannia Board

The logo for Britannia features the word "Britannia" in a large, bold, serif font. A thin, curved line arches over the top of the letters, starting above the 'B' and ending above the 'a'.

Executive Director

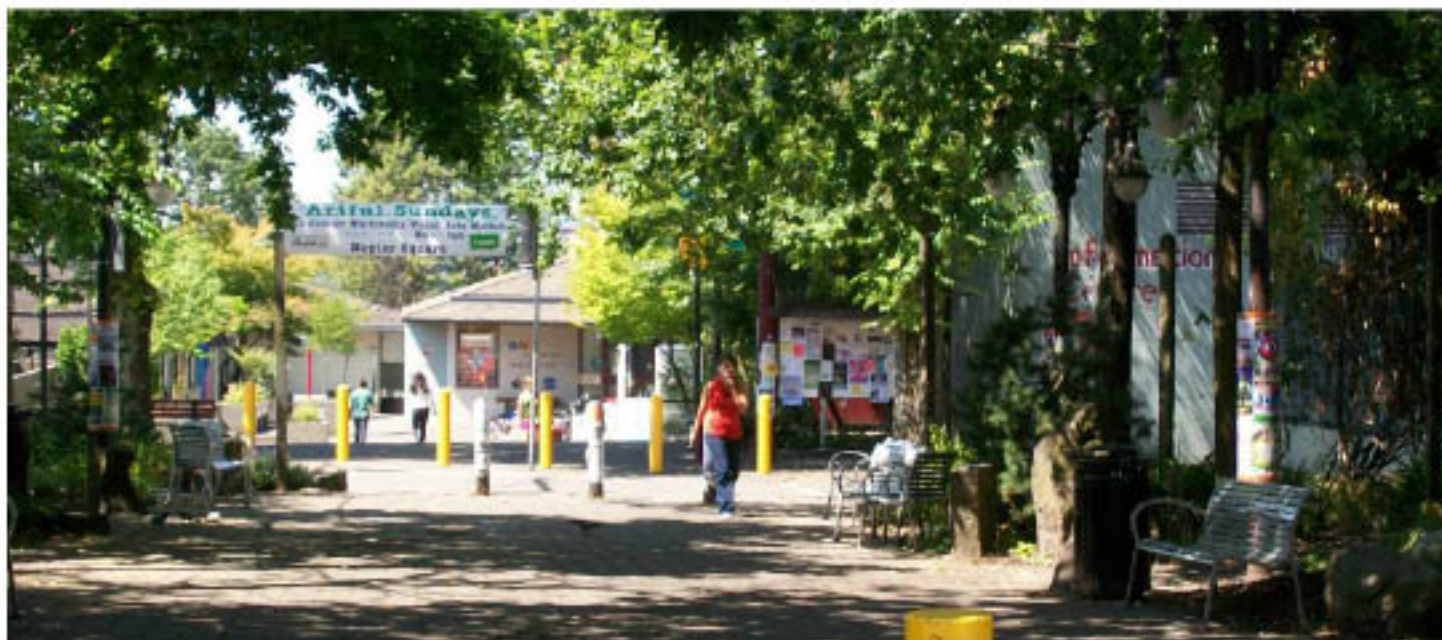
Britannia enjoyed another strong year in 2012, providing services to thousands of people who live, work, and play in our community. As you read in this annual report about the successes of our programs and the work of our staff and partners, keep in mind the joy and satisfaction that they bring to the lives of individual children and adults.

The Britannia Board of Management has worked very hard this year, and provided excellent leadership. I am grateful for their guidance and commitment. The Britannia model is unique and, for many reasons, has never been replicated in Vancouver. I believe that our neighborhood embodies the most important qualities for true community success — Principles, Capacity, and Resources. Sound principles, and not special interests, guide our work in the best interest of the community. Social justice, equality, and equity are our cornerstone values. Capacity refers to the amazing contributions and abilities of the citizens of East Vancouver, serving on committees, participating as neighbours, volunteers, and staff to offer their gifts and share their time. It is the community, social and activism minded characteristic of Commercial Drive. If we didn't have the resources of our partners (the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver School Board, and the Vancouver Public Library) — in the form of facilities, material goods, and funding — we would not have the basic building blocks to deliver our remarkable services.

It requires the efforts and contributions of many to make a difference. I continue to be impressed and extremely proud of the skill, compassion, and experience our staff members demonstrate when carrying out their responsibilities. We also rely heavily on the very important and long lasting relationships we have established with so many community stakeholders throughout the City.

I look forward to 2013, and meeting our vision and mission in a sustainable manner.

Cynthia Low,
Executive Director



Liaison - Park Board Commissioner

It is my honour to serve as the liaison to the Britannia Community Services Society on behalf of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation.

The Britannia Community Services Society is a unique model of a vibrant community, which has worked effectively at the serving the residents and students of the broader Grandview-Woodland community. The residents of this neighbourhood are connected to each other through the Britannia Community Services Society; your work has built, and continues to build, a strong and vibrant neighbourhood.

Congratulations to all outgoing board members for your service. As a volunteer, your work serves not just your community but makes an impactful difference for our entire city. I also want to wish all incoming board members well, and I look forward to working with you - thank you for stepping up!

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is proud to be your partner. Together we have developed strong programs and services, with low-barrier access for our neighbours. I look forward to another great year ahead, working with you.

Thank you for your continued work as volunteers and community leaders. There is no doubt that you are an example of the strength of this community.

***With warmest regards,
Commissioner Trevor Loke
Vancouver Park Board***



Liaison - Vancouver School Board Trustee

The partnership with the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver Public Library, the Vancouver Park Board and Britannia Community Services Centre Society continues to provide a positive environment for our students and families through the sharing of multiple resources.

Programs like ACE IT, Community Education and the Britannia After School Hockey provide not just health, education and social benefits, but builds resilience to our youth. In the future food security, active transportation and student health are issues that are important to me and, as the Vancouver School Board Liaison, a collegial relationship at Britannia ensures that the learning services provided continue to be relevant and accessible to those in need.

Together we will continue the commitment to health and recreation as part of the educational foundation for a sustainable city and a successful future for our children.

***Robert Wynen
Trustee, Vancouver School Board***



Vancouver East MP

Dear Friends of Britannia,

As your Member of Parliament, I am proud to serve the Grandview-Woodland community, and to celebrate the talent, skills and energy that make our neighbourhood great.

I am inspired by our diverse, inclusive and progressive community. There is so much happening at any given moment, whether in the name of social justice, health and wellbeing, peace, affordability, the environment, or culture, the list goes on!



On a broader level, I try to apply these values to my work as your MP. Some of the things that I've been working on in Parliament include:

- Sodium Reduction Strategy – over-consumption of sodium is a major contributor to heart attacks, strokes and other illnesses in Canada
- Health care campaign – I have been travelling across Canada, talking to folks about the NDP's ideas for health care and in turn hearing their ideas
- Supporting an Affordable Housing bill – safe, appropriate, affordable housing is a basic human right in our country, yet there is no plan to address the absence of this right from the federal government
- Creating a Special Committee on Missing and Murdered Women – to prevent another tragedy like this, we need to address the judicial system, in terms of poverty, income inequality, racism, discrimination, the standing of women in our society, and particularly the standing of aboriginal women
- Employment Insurance – pressuring the federal government to reverse devastating new changes to the program
- Old Age Security – speaking out against the changes that have raised the eligible age from 65 to 67
- My office has helped hundreds of families to reunite through Canada's immigration program; plus we've helped folks resolve problems with Employment Insurance, Canada Revenue Agency and Canada Student Loans

At the heart of all my work is the people that I represent. I try my hardest to serve you the best that I can, and I know that Britannia does so as well. I want to send a very heartfelt "thank you" to all the Board, staff, and volunteers who work so hard, so supportively, and so patiently to make us proud of our neighbourhood. We love it here!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Libby Davies".

**Sincerely, Libby Davies,
MP (Vancouver East)**

From the MLA Vancouver Hastings

Thank you for giving me the chance to present this report. I would like to thank Britannia's staff, board and volunteers for the many programs and services they provide to the neighbourhood. The work you do contributes so much to the lives of area residents, and is vital to the vibrant sense of community that flourishes here.



Last year I was appointed Labour Critic for the Opposition Caucus, and have spent time talking to workers, unions, and employers around the province. We clearly have more work to do to ensure fairness and balance in labour relations in B.C. There is also more work necessary around skilled trades training and post secondary education if we are going to ensure that young people and those seeking new opportunities can realize them. The failure of successful skills training is best exemplified in the recent controversy over the hiring of temporary foreign workers to staff a B.C. mine.

There are many local challenges facing our community as well. The need for more investment in transit to allow people to get out of their cars and to support climate change initiatives and the need to address housing affordability in general and for families in particular, to name two.

My caucus colleagues and I remain committed to pursuing a poverty reduction act for B.C. Over half a million British Columbians live in poverty leaving British Columbia with the highest overall poverty rate in Canada and the worst child poverty rate in Canada for eight years in a row. Many other provinces already have a poverty reduction plan in place, and it is past time for B.C. to take meaningful action on this issue.

I welcome your thoughts on these and other issues. Give me a call at 604-775-2277, or email me at shane.simpson.mla@leg.bc.ca.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shane Simpson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Shane Simpson, MLA Vancouver-Hastings
(Community Office)*

Mt. Pleasant MLA

Jenny Kwan, MLA for Vancouver-Mount Pleasant



Hello! As always, Vancouver - Mount Pleasant is a constituency where many people take part in making their voices heard through the political process, through activism, through artistic and creative expression, and through many other means. In particular, people consistently approach me with issues that fit the themes of education, affordability and equality, and both social and environmental justice. Here are a few of these issues that have been top of mind for constituents in the past year:

EDUCATION: Education is one of our most important public services. In school, a foundation of learning is laid that we hope will last a lifetime. However, it is hard for a child to meet their full potential in school if that child's family is struggling with basic needs. Daily struggles such as sudden job loss, juggling minimum-wage jobs, or being unable to afford healthy food or secure, stable housing have very real impacts on a child's learning. Teachers, community advocates, experts, support workers and families in the constituency have all been asking the same question: how can we work together to tackle these gaps and inequalities?

Educators at schools throughout the constituency have been vocal about the need for improved classroom supports for special needs students, appropriate before-and after-school care, as well as making sure that schools are well-funded and well-equipped to distribute meals, school supplies and warm clothing items to students who are most in need. These are not at all extras, but can be the difference that provides children with the food, warmth and security that they need to be confident and able to learn.

At Strathcona Elementary, parents and community members have also been fighting to protect the very safety of their children. Strathcona Elementary has been long identified by the Vancouver School Board as their top priority school for seismic upgrades. In 2005, the government promised to upgrade Strathcona Elementary. Years later, nothing had been done, and in 2008 they promised once again to upgrade this school. Yet, in 2013, the government continued to stall on these much-needed upgrades. Parents have every right to be upset when their children are attending the most seismically-unsafe school in the district, and I stand with them in their fight to see these much-needed upgrades completed at last. It's my belief that we can work together to find ways to ensure that each child has every chance to succeed, even the children that are not our own.

AFFORDABILITY AND EQUALITY: As always, the issue of poverty is high on my list of priority issues requiring action. The gap in affordable housing is one of the most important issues as well. My Caucus colleagues and I are committed to creating a comprehensive province-wide poverty reduction strategy that sets out clear targets and timelines.

With its history of having the worst child poverty rate in Canada for seven of the last eight years, and widening income disparity, not to mention the challenges and hardships that I see constituents facing every day, there's no doubt that it's time for BC to move forward and find ways to end the cycle of poverty. The efforts and advocacy of constituents on this issue are so appreciated; as your MLA, they help to give me a strong mandate to make these issues a priority, for government, within my Caucus and in the broader community.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: In 2012, my Caucus colleagues and I came out publicly and strongly against the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project and formally registered our opposition with the National Energy Board's Joint Review Panel. Some key concerns outlined in the submission included the need to respect and consult First Nations; the enormous risk to coastal species if the current tanker moratorium were lifted, and the climate change that could be effected by greenhouse gas emissions from oil sands development.

I have also heard many concerns about other major infrastructure projects and proposals that have the potential to impact our environment. I do appreciate the importance of industry to our economy. However, I also understand the importance of ensuring that industry is sustainable, conforms to environmental standards and regulations, and remains accountable to the public. Our Caucus has committed to protect the integrity of our natural environment through ensuring best practices in industry, including:

- A broad review of fracking, including public hearings and consultations with First Nations, local communities, industry, environmental groups and citizens;
- Changes to protect water resources, including consolidating authority for water licensing within one public body; improving water mapping, monitoring and public reporting; and ending the current practice of issuing free water permits through the Oil and Gas Commission;
- Extend funding for the Farmers' Advocate; and
- Examining the province's Climate Action Plan in order to take into account any projects that could bring added upstream greenhouse gas emissions.

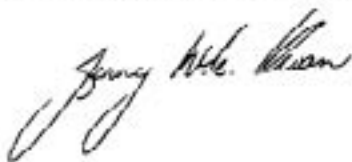
As well, our province needs the legal tools that will ensure the voices of British Columbians are heard. Our Caucus proposes taking back provincial authority over environmental assessments by withdrawing from the federal government's joint review process and setting up a "made in B.C." environmental assessment.

SOCIAL JUSTICE: The December 2012 conclusion of the Missing and Murdered Women's Commission of Inquiry marked the end of a long journey for family members. It has been many years since the families and those close to the missing women first sounded the alarm about the disappearance of their loved ones. The Inquiry's undertaking was important to the families, who for many years had grappled with the loss of their loved ones in the worst murder case in the history of British Columbia. The formation of an Inquiry has been important, not just in terms of seeking closure and healing, but also in learning of what took place and ensuring that the grave mistakes of the past would never be repeated. In addition to enduring unimaginable loss, the families have gone to great lengths to participate, and to have their voices heard for some has come at a great personal cost.

In light of that, I was especially dismayed at funding cuts for programs such as the Rainier women's treatment centre, cuts that I feel are contrary to the spirit and substance of the recommendations emerging from the Inquiry. While I acknowledge the very legitimate community concerns about flaws in the Commission of Inquiry process, the Commissioner's final report nonetheless puts forward recommendations that provide the provincial government with a mandate for action. We must act out of respect and deference to the women whose lives have been lost, to the families whose lives have been forever altered, and to the women who continue to be at heightened risk of violence and abuse. You have my commitment to continue to advocate for measures that support marginalized women, including access to appropriate treatment for addictions, adequately supportive mental health treatment, and programs that support women to successfully transition, such as housing and supports to rebuild family unity.

In the past year, I have been pleased to be afforded the continued chance to help make these views heard in the Legislature and elsewhere. It's really because of the efforts of members of our community to communicate, to voice their views, and to continue to fight for what is right that I have been able to raise these issues. If you would like to be in touch with your questions or concerns, please feel free to stop by my office at any time. I look forward to continuing to advocate for what is most important to you.

Finally, a special thanks to the dedicated staff and volunteers who contribute to the continued success of the Britannia Community Centre. It's thanks to you that Britannia continues to serve as an anchor for the community.



**Jenny Wai Ching Kwan,
MLA, Vancouver-Mount Pleasant**

Manager of Administrative Services cont'd

Information Systems

The accounting software system was updated to the latest 6.1 version as required by service provider.

Human Resources

There were some staffing changes for the Centre during 2012 including the transfer of the Park Board seconded Arts Programmer and Swim Instructor Attendant, resignation of the pool Cashier and temporary Communications Assistant, and retirement of the CRC.

Committees

One of the Finance Committee goals was to provide regular reporting that included information relating to measurement. During 2011 the accounting department worked to develop reports that include comparative and budget information.

The Labour Management Committee was not active during 2012 due to Collective Agreement negotiations but has since reengaged.

The Occupational Health and Safety Committee were active during 2012 and met regularly to discuss and address OH&S as well as facility related issues.

The Site Management Committee was active during 2012 and met regularly to discuss common shared site themes.

Natalie Bailey,
Manager of Administrative Services



Manager Of Childcare Services

Child Care Services at Britannia includes a responsibility to administer and manage four child care centres. Each of these centres operates various programs. Britannia also operates two Child Care Programs; an Out of School Program and a Preschool Program.

As a hub of service providers we were successful in our application for the City of Vancouver Child Care Enhancement Grants. This funding is important in providing a higher quality of care for children, as it helps to provide much needed food programs. As a hub to be able to share expertise and resources. These resources include a substitute staff list, professional development and much more.

This year we worked closely with the off-site child care program Society Boards. These are independently run non-profit societies that are responsible for over 300 child care spaces in East Vancouver. We support the societies to ensure that the programs operate within licensing requirements. In this unique model, with the support of Britannia, these societies are governed by elected parent Boards and are local decision-makers with the best understanding and knowledge of their community. Our role has been to activate the Boards and facilitate their full participation.

The Britannia Child Care team has been working hard to develop new curriculum that focuses play based learning with an emphasis on art, history and community particularly in the preschool. The Out of School Care program Outdoor, Recreation and Creative Arts (ORCA) was launched earlier this year. Children will hike, bike, run, jump and play. We will also create art projects, culinary activities, science projects, drama games, and make music and dance together. Special guests will visit us each week providing cool activities and creative inspiration.

Eagles in the Sky completed renovations and expanded their programs that now include a bus pick up service from Hastings Community School. Their literacy based daycare program encourages development in all areas: social, emotional, intellectual, physical and creative for discovery through science, fine motor and gross motor toys, dramatic play, music and dance. They are literacy based and value a learning environment. Eaglets children become more self-reliant and independent as they grow.

Grandview Terrace Child Care which includes the Grandview Terrace Family Resource Centre is an exemplary partnership with Grandview/Łuuqinak'uuh Elementary School. They provide much needed resources to families and caregivers of children from 3 – 12 years.

Lord Nelson Out of School Care continues to provide excellence in after school programs that reflect the individualized needs of children in their care. There is always a wait list for their program and the Board is developing a plan for expansion.

Mount Pleasant Child Care is unique in the hub and provides services to toddlers and children age 18 months to 5 years. Their Board is working hard to renew the free standing facility located at 7th and Windsor.

Leah Drayton
Manager Child Care

Britannia Elementary School Principal

The 2012/2013 year has been a busy one at Britannia. The school's enrollment has experienced a steady increase from 171 students to just over 190 students. In a time where schools are experiencing declining enrollment, the increase is very positive. We anticipate that this trend will continue into the upcoming school year.

Britannia Elementary continued to work towards goals of increased literacy skills and improved attendance rates. In providing evidence of progress in the area of literacy, the school has compiled data on each student who has attended the school for the last five years and the grade 8 English marks of all our grade sevens during that time frame. The data clearly demonstrate that our students are having success in grade 8 English. Attendance data reveal that students are missing fewer days of school.

Next year our goals will still include improved attendance and will most likely include a goal related to student use of technology. We are hoping to begin upgrades of student computers and to provide more classroom based computers. We have increased the amount of resources used to support the use of technology in the classroom.

In terms of school sports and activities, the school continues to be very active in intramural activities. We have also received much support from the Britannia Community Center and the Community Schools Team in terms of providing before school and noon hour activities for students, opportunities for students to participate in programs that are offered during holiday periods, and some specialized programs that happen during the school day. The school, with the support of the Secondary School, the Britannia PAC and the Community Center hosted two family dinners that were attended by well over 200 people. The dinners will continue next year. As well, the grade 7 class participated in a week long exchange program to Trenton, Ontario.

This year the Britannia Elementary became involved in the Vancouver Sun's "Adopt a School" program designed to assist schools in meeting the basic needs of students. The school, through a variety of donors, was able to provide all students winter clothing, a daily healthy snack program and sensory equipment to support our special needs students. Other donors came forward and provided students with opportunities for field trips and other services the school provides to students and their families.

Ian Cannon,
Principal Britannia Elementary



Britannia Secondary School Principal

Carrying on the traditions of over 104 years, Britannia Secondary School takes great pride in our students, our staff and our community. Sharing the site with the Britannia Community Centre, in an integrated services model, continues to offer many benefits and a few challenges. This year we have been working together to clarify and revitalize the effective integration of services on the site, improving communication and services for all of us.

In the 2012-2013 school year, Britannia Secondary has 677 students in the main school and a variety of programs. Our Venture and International Baccalaureate Programs continue to do us all proud with consistently excellent results, while about twenty-five percent of our general student body achieves Honour Roll standing. We have a variety of specialized and alternative programs: grades 8 and 9 Learning Support, 8J9J, Streetfront, Outreach (Senior Aboriginal) and Pacific Storm for grades 8 and 9. Our parents and students consistently report that they are extremely pleased with and thankful for the excellent services these programs provide. Over the past few years, Britannia staff have been increasing our focus on supporting the grade 8 and 9 students by enhancing literacy and numeracy services. Along with the numerous opportunities to excel at Britannia we will continue building on our enhanced support services for students in Math, English, Social Studies and Science skills.

Many Britannia students participate in Career Prep Programs in Science, Business Education, the Auto Mechanics ACE-IT program, and Cooks Training. Britannia is also the first school in Vancouver to have a Hockey Academy; it was implemented a few years ago, and just last year doubled the number of students it serves. We look for continued popularity of this academy in the coming years, as it represents the best of the integrated services model opportunities. Our school is fortunate to have a dedicated faculty of staff who continue to work hard on behalf of our students. Student learning is enriched via our relationships with Port Vancouver, University of British Columbia Mentorship project, UBC Pacific Institute of Mathematics & Sciences, Frontier College, Urban Native Youth, and Simon Fraser University.

Our extracurricular programs supported by staff and volunteers include a variety of excellent activities and opportunities for students to engage. Drama, Homework Club, Student Success, The Leo Club, Junior Achievement, Basketball, Rugby, Track and Field, and Ultimate are just some of them. Students from our Art are going to be enjoying a new, state of the art computer lab, thanks to a successful grant application, submitted by Ms Leary. Regarding travel experiences for our students, our Band students are in the process of fundraising for a music trip to Cuba, and we are actively looking at a variety of fundraising ventures to support trips to Japan and Germany, in the coming years. Additionally, the democratically elected Student Council members have organized many activities for the student body, such as the Terry Fox Run and Canned Food Drive for the Vancouver Food Bank.

The three goals of the Britannia School Plan endorsed by the administration, staff, students, members of the School Planning Council and Parent Advisory Committee are a true reflection of the strong commitment to our students. The goals are: "To continue to improve the academic achievement of all students, using a wide variety of instructional strategies, to meet the needs of our diverse community of learners;" "To continue to provide opportunities, both within and beyond the classroom, designed to foster socially responsible behavior for all;" and "To deepen our ongoing focus on Aboriginal and Metis learners by providing additional support for their academic, social and vocational success".

The goals for our School Plan are reviewed annually.

Respectfully,
Geoff Taylor
Secondary School Principal



Community Education Coordinator

Vision: "To promote a lifelong learning community"

- Goals:
1. To continue to support the concept of Britannia as the HUB of the Grandview Woodland and Strathcona neighbourhoods in the areas of program development and community based events;
 2. To continue to support programs and initiatives that support the transition stages of students – school readiness, secondary school readiness and post-secondary readiness;
 3. To continue to work with partners to improve the educational performance of students, in both academic performance and social responsibility.

Britannia Community Schools Team:

Coordinator	Mike Evans
Teacher	Esther Carelse
Youth and Family Workers	David Baldwin, Greg Goodall
Secretary	Mitra Tshan
Programmers	Sadia Ibrahim, Jennae Gedeon

Governance: Britannia Board of Management, Vancouver School Board, Community Education Committee, Britannia HUB Advisory Committee

Britannia HUB Schools: Britannia Secondary, Britannia Elementary, Strathcona Elementary, Seymour Elementary, Grandview Elementary and Queen Victoria Annex.

Keys to Success: Partnerships, collaboration, energy, history of success and Britannia's integrated service delivery model.

Challenges: Finding sustained funding for programs,

Highlights: Able to provide intervention on two levels: a) targeted programmes to address specific needs for students and families; b) non-targeted programmes which capture a percentage of vulnerable students and increase general engagement and/or knowledge.

- Leadership/Mentoring programs for senior high school students such as Brit Crew which is an organized welcoming orientation program for grade eight students as well as 1 to 1 reading initiatives pairing high school students and grade four students as well as Y2 a MoreSport program that provides cooperative games for elementary students led by high school students.
- Summer Camps for children. 300 children in 6 weeks of arts, sports and technology.
- After school programs for children and youth. i.e. Heroes Hockey, Skateboarding, Fine arts, knitting, yoga, etc
- iMentoring Program is a social media safety education program planned and presented by grade 10 students to grade four students in six elementary schools.
- CAPC (Community Action Program for Children) Britannia Community Education, Strathcona Community Centre and Britannia Community Services Centre are in a coalition called "Children Need Care Now". Public Health Canada sponsors CAPC. Beatrice Feza is the CAPC Coordinator. The partners target low income families with children ages 0-6. Britannia offers two food distribution programs each month for 70 families, five Mother Goose programs in Spanish, Let's Get Ready to Read support, Parent Conferences, training programs such as First Aid training and Food Safe and partners with other programs in order to further help families.

cont'

Community Education Coordinator cont'd

- GWAST (Grandview Woodland Area Services Team) is an advocacy group of social service providers that meets monthly. Information is shared and government policies at all levels are held up to scrutiny. The committee has met monthly for over twenty years. Mike co-chairs the committee with Tracey Barker from East Side Family Place.
- Britannia Christmas Craft Fair had 75 tables and 2000 people attended.
- CLICK (Contributing to Lives of Inner City Kids) is a society with the purpose to raise money and awareness of the needs of inner city children and youth. Mike is on the Board. Organizations and schools apply twice per year for financial support for initiatives that "fall between the cracks". Inner City Week in Vancouver is sponsored by CLICK. This year we raised over \$60,000.
- Vancouver Girls Basketball Association and the Van-City Basketball Challenge promotes, encourages and provide opportunities for girls who love the game of basketball. Access and equity are key. Board of Directors includes parents, coaches and volunteers. A highlight is the VanCity Basketball Challenge Tournament. Three top Vancouver Independent Schools and three top Vancouver Public Schools take part in both Junior and Senior divisions. Hosted by Langara College. Post-Secondary Bursaries were awarded to eight players including scholarships to attend Langara.

**Mike Evans, Coordinator,
Britannia Community Schools Team**

Community Recreation Coordinator

Program and Services:

Britannia's Recreation Department goal is "to provide high quality programs that are accessible, responsive, inclusive, and meet community needs."

Successes:

- In February the youth staff team hosted YOUUnique, a youth conference focused on bullying prevention, self-esteem and relationship development. A variety of speakers engaged the youth in interactive workshops. Human Rights values were also taught through Play it Fair and Speaking Rights activities. It was very successful with over 80 youth in attendance.
- An upgraded computer lab was installed in the AML space and new programs are being offered for a variety of groups.
- We continue to receive positive comments from patrons that are passionate about Britannia and appreciate their community pool and fitness centre. In a recent pool survey we received comments such as "Wonderful staff", "Thanks to the staff", "You guys rock. Nicest staff and lifeguards in Vancouver", "Great pool and wonderful staff", and "Good job".

Challenges:

- Recreation strives to be innovative with its programming and tries to offer specialized programming. The department as a whole is challenged with limited programming space and time and we constantly look at scheduling efficiencies to best utilize the time and space available.
- Britannia recreation programs continue to lose participants to newer facilities offering similar programs. We will continue to look to innovative ideas and partnerships to best serve our community.

Excellence:

Britannia is known and recognized within the community and city for many excellent programs. Just a few

Community Recreation Coordinator Cont'd

examples out of the many programs:

- The Micro Footie soccer program is celebrating its 20th season with an expansion of the program into Robson Park. Around 1000 children and youth and 115 volunteer coaches participate in this wildly popular program.
- The Latin American Youth program continues to serve an important role offering support to Latin American youth and families and is the only one of its kind in the Lower Mainland.
- Britannia Ice Rink is consistently recognized throughout the City for the quality of the ice surface. (Thank you to the engineering & maintenance staff).

Partnerships:

Britannia's goal is "to promote the value and benefits of integrated service delivery among existing partners and encourage the development of further partnerships of other agencies and community groups." Our "Britannia Family" provides diversity and quality in programs and services and enables us to offer many of our events for free or at a minimal cost.

- This past year, we have partnered with Kickstand which offers the "Earn a Bike" program once a month. This program gives the youth an opportunity to learn about bike mechanics, work on the bike and have a chance to win it.
- The ice rink staff developed a partnership with NHL player, Kenndal McArdle and the FANZOO to offer a summer camp ice hockey camp for youth from the Grandview Woodland area. This camp focused on providing youth with the opportunity to not only excel in the world of hockey, but inspire and enable them to reach their full potential in life. Through this partnership the program was able to apply for a grant through the NHLPA and receive 25 full sets of hockey equipment.
- We continue our strong partnership with Equitas and are recognised as a best practice for our use of the Play it Fair and Speaking Rights Programs, utilizing innovation, creativity, passion and commitment to educate children and youth on the values of Children's Rights.

Human Resources:

The key to Britannia's success is the dedication and commitment of staff and volunteers, who plan, organize and implement a wide variety of recreational programs and services for all ages. Britannia Recreation has approximately 300 part-time instructors and well over 400 volunteers each year. Congratulations and thank you to all on a job well done! Personnel changes over the year included:

- After 32 years with the Vancouver Park Board, including 2 years at Britannia, Bob Harris, Community Recreation Coordinator, retired in October.
- Brittany Walsh joined the Recreation team in the position of Teen Centre Programmer.

The Future:

- With the number of new facilities in the City, it will be increasingly important for us to find our niche, provide value-added services, and look for new opportunities to offer our members.
- We will continue to work with our partners to provide the best possible recreation programs and services and welcome your suggestions for new and innovative programs.

Special Thanks:

The community members, partners, volunteers, Board, and staff create the spirit, passion, and sense of community that Britannia is known for. Thank you for your participation, commitment, and contribution. Please know that it is greatly appreciated!

***With thanks,
Susy Bando,
Acting Community Recreation Coordinator***

Librarian In Charge

The Britannia Branch of the Vancouver Public Library functions both as a public library as well as a school library for K-12 students of the Britannia Elementary School and Britannia Secondary School. The Library has, within its premises, an ESL Learning Centre operated by instructors from the Vancouver Community College and is used by staff and students from the Hastings Education Centre located on the floor above.

Books and other Resources:

The Library collection is made up of over 70,000 books, compact discs, DVDs, magazines, and newspapers from VPL and the Vancouver School Board. The collection includes works in Chinese, Vietnamese and Spanish. There is an Aboriginal Resources section that includes novels, plays, information books, pamphlets, movies and music. The collection, and the resources made available from throughout the VPL system, reflects the learning and leisure needs of a diverse community.

There are 18 computers in the library for public use including four that are set up for library research with access to the library catalogue and an assortment of electronic databases and government websites. The Library is also equipped with wireless service to provide free internet access to VPL members with personal devices.

Services the Library offers include:

- Story times, such as Mother Goose and Man in the Moon, for babies, toddlers and preschoolers to attend with their parents and caregivers
- Summer Reading Clubs for school aged children
- Training in research skills and curriculum support for the many schools in the Grandview Woodland area
- Access to the internet and to the resources of the whole Vancouver Public Library system through our public access computers
- Training on basic computer, internet and email skills
- Art displays and openings through the Britannia Art Gallery located in the library lounge
- Tours for schools and community groups
- Author readings for all ages
- Book talks and support for book clubs
- Special programs and displays featuring library and community events

Highlights of 2012:

The creation of a teen space in the library was a key feature of 2012's yearlong space planning and implementation project. We now have quiet zones, improved sight lines, a teen-led designed space complete with computers, collaborative and flexible work space, bean bags and new signs designed by the Britannia youth group.

Britannia Branch Numbers for 2012

354 open days and 285,875 items borrowed
333,375 visits into the branch (10,000 more than 2010!)
17,359 reference questions
57 programs and events just for adults
910 adults came to the programs
163 programs enhancing the enjoyment of learning and community for children and teens
8552 attended the programs for children and teens
55,908 Internet sessions logged in on library's computers

**Inness Campbell,
Branch Head, Britannia Library**

Vancouver Community College - Britannia ESL Learning Centre



2012 at VCC

Vancouver Community College's new logo is an outward sign of change within. The college has been developing a new Education Plan which highlights the special place of developmental learning programs (primarily ESL and Adult Basic Education) alongside career programs at VCC. We are the only college in the Lower Mainland to devote fully half of its resources to developmental needs. The plan addresses strategies for recruiting and supporting students with complex learning needs, including Aboriginal learners, and for improving the transition between ESL and career programs.

2012 at VCC's ESL Outreach Department at Britannia Learning Centre

Free ESL Tuition at VCC - Because of changes in government funding, all ESL classes up to Grade 12 equivalency became tuition-free at British Columbia colleges in April, 2012. This was excellent news for many of our students, but motivated some to leave the (already free) learning centres, possibly including Britannia. Loss of Students with Work Permits - VCC ESL Learning Centres can no longer take students on work permits or working holiday visas. The one exception is Live-In Caregivers (mostly nannies), who are allowed to study for 6 months.

Personnel Changes - Crisis struck in August, when Britannia's long-time tutor, Gordon Crozier, became ill and went on leave for the rest of the year. He and everyone in the Outreach office appreciated the concern expressed by the library staff, as well as the good wishes sent by many students. Gordon was replaced by a number of tutors. Mary McNichol continued to cover two mornings per week during the entire year. Because Gordon has developed a loyal fan club over the years, it was not surprising that some of "his" students stopped coming to the centre, at least temporarily. The number of visits definitely dropped from September to December. We had already been concerned about falling numbers at Britannia, possibly attributable to the above mentioned loss of student base. The drop in registrations by higher level students is certainly notable. While we hope that Gordon's return in May, 2013 will lead to an increase in traffic, we will also pursue other avenues of promotion.

Thank You, Britannia - It came to our attention that the ESL Learning Centre is not featured on Britannia Community Centre's site map for visitors, and Britannia staff have kindly agreed to include us in future. Our thanks also go to Barbara Kelly and Helen Lightfoot for their assistance in the library during 2012, especially for moving the branch's ESL collection to the shelves immediately outside the Learning Centre door. We look forward to working with new Branch Head Inness Campbell.

Currently the Britannia ESL Learning Centre is Open:

Tuesdays 1:00 – 8:30 pm, Wednesdays 9:30 am – 8:30 pm, Thursdays 9:30 am – 5:00 pm,
Fridays 9:30 am – 3:00 pm, Saturdays 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Comparison of Britannia Total Visits by Year (January to December):

2008 – 2,875,
2009 – 2,594,
2010 – 2,593,
2011 – 2,344,
2012 – 1,539

**Submitted by Morna McLeod,
Assistant Department Head
ESL Outreach Department, Vancouver Community College**

Canucks Family Education Centre

CFEC has taken on a greater role in supporting new immigrants to Canada at all of our locations and what we have found that the best way for our parents to learn English and feel connected to Canada is for us to enroll everyone (if it is appropriate) in English upgrading classes provided in partnership to CFEC through the Vancouver and Burnaby School Boards. These classes will lead to high school completion in BC, which many employers are now requiring. To this end all adult Partners In Education (PIE) participants in both program locations will be working towards this goal from Jan 2013 on. The Britannia location of PIE is primarily made up of parents from China, Vietnam and Latin American countries. The Edmonds PIE attracts parents from Africa, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Vietnam, Pakistan, Bangladesh and China.

Achievements and Highlights

- Since 2002, more than 6,000 children, youth and adults have directly benefited from CFEC's programming, not including family members who are not in the classes, but benefit from the involvement of other family members, our partner organizations, and the clients they serve.
- From Sept 2011-Dec 31, 2012 we provided programming and services for 1,072 participants. With the addition of Get Ready 2 Read (GR2R) at Grandview and the newly launched PIE Plus at Edmonds in Burnaby, our numbers have increased this year (2012) by 376 participants.
- 38 parents continue to work toward high school completion in the Britannia PIE program.
- All classes are fully enrolled, with a waiting list of 20 potential students.
- Six practicum students from SFU, VCC, and Langara College were placed and supervised at CFEC's Britannia location and successfully completed their practicum.
- We now provide 11 healthy lunches over the week to all 3 main program
- 14 volunteers, including four Vancouver Canucks' wives, volunteered at the Britannia PIE program.
- Gaby Santos, PIE parent, presented at the RAR Sponsors Event on October 3rd - CFEC turns 10!
- On October 11th we welcomed our first of two Live 2 Give Events with an elite group of volunteers from the Canucks (Mike Gillis, GM; Laurence Gilman, Assistant; Victor de Bonis, COO; Francesco Aquilini, owner; Stephanie Maniago, Manager of Media Relations, Ben Yip, Account Executive and Ben Brown, Director of Media Relations, giving a hand at our Thursday Math class.
- The Canucks Community Partnership Harvest Dinner, hosted at Rogers Arena on October 14th, had more than 400 CFEC parents and children enjoy a community dinner together.
- On October 17th Biekse and Buddies charity game raised close to \$60,000 for CFEC Families In Transition fund. Michael Bubl  donated \$30,000 of this total.
- 200 books were donated by Frontier College for the Britannia PIE end of the year holiday party on December 18th, hosted and sponsored by Marinette Sedin, Katie and Kevin Biekse, Joann Maholtra and Sarah Hamhuis.

CFEC'S Current Programs

1. Partners In Education (PIE) - The program locations include Britannia and Edmonds Schools.
 - PIE: English Beginner Conversation, English Foundations, Higher Level English and Math Foundations, located at Britannia Secondary School.
 - PIE Plus and Edmonds Parent Support, located at Edmonds Community School.
2. Youth in Transition (YIT), located at Byrne Creek.
3. Get Ready 2 Read (GR2R), located at Britannia Community Centre; Grandview Terrace Childcare Centre and Edmonds Community school – PIE Plus and regular PIE program.

Programming Update

- We operate 5 days a week at Britannia Centre in partnership with Hastings Education Centre. 30 parents were enrolled in our English Conversation class, 28 in the English Foundations/Grade 10/11/12 Communications, 30 in Foundations in Math on and 8 in Accounting 11. 8 parents attended twice weekly the companion tutor session to support Accounting 11.

Canucks Family Education Centre cont'd

- We provided 16 weekly Partners In Education (PIE) sessions at Edmonds Community School.
- 20 parents currently attend the regular PIE program at Edmonds.
- 24 parents are enrolled in newly launched PIE Plus, English classes, (Mon and Fri) at Edmonds.
- 21 parents are enrolled in Lower Level English classes (Tues/Wed/Thurs) at Edmonds.
- 46 pre-school children attend the GR2R companion program for parents enrolled in Edmonds PIE and PIE Plus classes over the week.
- 20 pre-school children were enrolled in GR2R at Britannia, a companion program for enrolled parents in the PIE English and math classes.
- 31 parents and 38 children were enrolled in our GR2R Pilot at Grandview Child Care Centre
- We provide 11 healthy lunches weekly in our 3 main locations to all participating families.

Changes to Programming (September 2012 – June 2013)

- CFEC no longer operates the Britannia StrongStart. The VSB provides direct service to all StrongStarts in Vancouver. CFEC however, continues to offer early learning programming for the preschool children of participating parents at all locations through our GR2R program.
- In partnership with Grandview Terrace Child Care, Britannia Community Centre and the CAP-C program, we launched the Grandview Get Ready 2 Read (GR2R) program at the Grandview Child Care in Oct.
- CFEC's Edmonds Community School Partners In Education (PIE) launched PIE Plus (adult graduation stream added) on Jan 7 in partnership with the Burnaby School District. We provide two higher level and three lower level English classes meeting throughout the week.
- We continue to offer the regular PIE program on Tues afternoons at Edmonds, with a focus on developing a parent designed/researched/targeted/implemented conference for the fall of 2013 at Byrne Creek Secondary. The working title is COEXIST - What Does It Take? The parents will be responsible for all aspects of developing and delivering the conference. The PIE conference committee will also work with the Byrne Creek YIT parents and school staff.
- At Britannia we will add an additional lower level English class on Fri starting Feb 8, 2013.
- Increased home visits connecting parents to appropriate ministries and community organizations, Work BC for specific workplace training, résumé writing sessions, support with online job search for parents. Post-secondary school applications have increased dramatically.
- Added tutor sessions for Accounting 11 students, and for the citizenship test.
- New this year is a practicum student from SFU, Faculty of Education. She will be co-supervised by CFEC Executive Director and Mon English class VSB teacher.

What's Next?

- Early Spring 2013 we will launch on our website In Their Own Words, parent/family profiles, and Behind the Stick, a look at the charitable efforts of the men and women who work/play for the Vancouver Canucks – players, spouses and others who directly impact CFEC.
- Continue to deliver PIE, PIE Plus and GR2R programming at three main locations.

Jean Rasmussen,
Executive Director

CAPC - Community Action Program for Children

The CAPC is a community-based children's program delivered by the Public Health Agency of Canada. It was established in 1993 and is jointly managed through the Province and Britannia as one of the Host Agencies. Over the last 9 months, the New CAPC Program Coordinator has been busy providing programs that promote the healthy development of children aged 0-6 years and parental capacity building. Some of the highlights for those months have been a successful parent conference about Stress Relief, Lifesaver Training and informative workshops about Britannia resources at Ray Cam Centre.

The Britannia coalition offers a myriad of programs out of its two sites. This includes fixed length enrolment based programs such as Spanish Mother Goose, early literacy and numeracy programs, play, art and activity based programs and parent support groups. CAPC also offers Food Security Programs such as monthly food bag and a voucher distribution.

CAPC works with many partnerships to offer the various programs including Strathcona Community Centre, Britannia Community Education and many others within the Grandview-Woodland and Strathcona areas.

**Submitted by Beatrice Feza,
CAPC Coordinator**

Grandview Woodland Food Connection

The Grandview Woodland Food Connection (GWFC) has had a particularly fruitful year working to help build a strong food secure Grandview Woodland with a particular focus on supporting food access for lower income households, skill building, food awareness and community engagement. Principally funded through the Vancouver Coastal Health Community Food Action Initiative, we have a strong focus on healthy eating and disease prevention.

The work of the GWFC is achieved through two key approaches. First, through a capacity building and community development approach to address issues identified by the community and that builds upon the community's skills and strengths and, secondly, through partnership building to address community food needs through a sharing of resources and skills, building of social capital, and collaborative problem solving.

Our work ranges from grassroots programming to city-wide food planning. Of particular note this year is the recent release of the very important and comprehensive Vancouver Food Strategy in which the Neighbourhood Food Networks (of which GWFC is a part) are prominently featured. As a measure of the strength of Vancouver's food system, effective NFNs are the baseline indicator of Vancouver's social food assets. This is a very important recognition of the work we are doing. And here are a few key successes in 2012 to mention:

- The new Britannia School Food Garden is growing into a fully productive garden space where 7 garden workshops were offered for the first time through the community centre to 98 participants (including two after school programs).
- 11 food workshops on topics such as raw foods, kimchi, sauerkraut, micro greens, canning, and urban medicinal herb foraging, to name a few, were offered to 117 participants.
- The Britannia Bulk Buy program is now helping 30 households save 30% on their food costs.
- Our second fully subsidized Community Kitchen for low income households successfully engaged 10 individuals from a range of backgrounds.
- The Britannia Urban Food Garden (BUG) continues to blossom and is engaging 115 students.

Grandview Woodland Food Connection cont'd

We now run 4 programs through these gardens – The Environmental Youth Alliance Growing Kids program working with 4 classes, the UBC Sustainable Opportunities for Youth Leadership (SOYL) summer gardening internship for students, the School Garden Club, and our community outreach which saw new partnerships with Slow Food Vancouver and Eastside Family Place and a garden twinning with SEGA Girls School in Tanzania.

- Funding to create a "Britannia Potato Farm" in partnership with the elementary school to help green our concrete area, provide learning, and food for the school.
- A new partnership with the Evergreen Foundation on an intergenerational youth – seniors gardening project at the new Woodland Park Community Garden.
- A successful film fundraiser which raised \$2800 for school gardening projects.
- Regular food newsletters and blog and the principal source for all community food information.
- Direct collaboration with over 30 community partners.
- Engagement of 3205 community residents in programs, including the Stone Soup and Corn Festivals.
- Vancouver Parks Board Food Assets Task Force member working to identify opportunities to increase and integrate food assets into the Parks Board system.

Visit Britannia's Food Sustainability Website page to learn more about the GWFC's work. http://www.britanniacentre.org/services/community_services/food_sustainability.php

**Ian Marcuse –
Food Connection**

Frontier College

Frontier College is a national non-profit literacy organization. In Vancouver, we are located at Britannia Community Services Centre and are part of the Britannia Community Education Team. At Frontier College we recruit, train, place, and support volunteer tutors to work in the Britannia Hub schools, alternative, and multicultural learning programs.

This year we provided over 90 volunteer tutors for the following programs: Britannia Secondary School Homework Club, Urban Native Youth Association's ARIES Project, Multicultural Family Centre's African Homework Club, Morley Elementary Thursday Club, Byrne Creek Community School, Burnaby Mountain Secondary School, Second Street Elementary Rec' n' Read Program and One-on-One Tutoring Program, Aunt Leah's Place Youth Tutoring, the East Side Program, the African Women's ESL Program, the Domestic Workers' Literacy Program, Hastings Adult Education Centre, and Canucks Family Education Centre.

During the 2012-2013 year, Frontier College held a total of 5 tutor trainings, placed over 90 volunteers, held the conference Critical Crossroads: Youth, Criminal Justice and Literacy, hosted the Giller Light Bash at the CBC, and donated over 1000 books.

Last summer we reached over 200 inner-city youth in the Grandview-Woodland community through our Reading Tents. We will continue to offer these Reading Tents this summer in July and August.

Every year we hold an annual fundraiser: SCRABBLE Night in Canada, Friends and Family Challenge. Last year, the funds we raised went towards our local programs; this year's fundraiser takes place on Saturday, April 13th.

**Submitted by Briony Taylor,
Frontier College**

Hastings Education Centre

Hastings Education Centre is one of six Adult Education Centres within the Vancouver Board of Education and is proud to be part of the Britannia community. We offer Ministry of Education authorized basic upgrading and academic secondary school courses in a safe and supportive environment. Flexible programming enables students to pursue their academic goals in a variety of ways. Learners may choose structured classes, self-paced, and/or blended courses with on-site and web based components. Students are encouraged to have a voice in the way they learn and to include their life experience in their education. The Britannia site truly offers the opportunity for life-long learning.

Students come to us for different reasons: most are hoping to achieve high school graduation; some are upgrading specific courses to prepare for further education/training or for work. We are also able to offer a selection of tuition-free courses to adults who have graduated and would like to continue their studies.

In addition to structured classes, we offer the following services:

Partnership Programs

We continue to grow our partnership with the Canucks Family Education Centre to offer their participants English Foundation, Math Foundation and selected secondary English and Math courses. We are pleased to be able to offer community members the opportunity to easily transition from the supportive environment of CFEC to academic courses which can lead to high school graduation.

Learning Centre

Learning Centre staff will conduct an assessment of English and math skills for those who have not studied recently or have not studied in an English speaking environment. They will plan a program to meet individual needs. Students may work on structured, self-paced or blended web based courses. Self-paced students can complete study modules at their own speed under the guidance of an instructor in the Learning Centre or in a blended on-site and web based format. To get started or to make a programming appointment, please call the Learning Centre at 604-713-5735.

Academic Advising

For those ready to work towards high school graduation, we have an Academic Advisor who will help with course selection and post-secondary planning.

Outreach Worker

Our Outreach Worker is available to meet with students when they need support with non-academic issues such as financial difficulties, seeking employment or new housing, medical assistance or counselling. The Outreach Worker works with students to connect them with the appropriate service providers. She also manages our volunteer tutor programme.

Darlyne Robertson,
Principal, Hastings Education Centre

Volunteer Program's Mission:

"Building a diverse and creative volunteer community that provides positive, learning opportunities and values the contributions of all individuals."

Britannia's Volunteer Program is constantly growing and learning. It now has over 400 active volunteers that continue to contribute their time and energy to programs and events. Each year, thousands of hours are donated to community programs and we appreciate everyone's efforts to make this a welcoming and vibrant volunteer space for all.

In 2012, our Volunteer Program accomplished the following:

New Initiatives

- Worked closely with other committees to create new programs for youth and seniors.
- Developed new benefits and appreciation events for volunteers.
- Created new archival and promotional audio visual material to highlight volunteers and the volunteer program.
- Launched a new Coach's Manual, Code of Conduct for parent, players and coaches to help streamline and clarify roles and responsibilities for safe and fun recreational programs.
- Implemented the first ever Community Appreciation Event – Movie in the Park and welcomed the public to share in the celebration of community volunteerism.

Community Development & Partnerships

The program has taken part in the following:

- Supporting new projects/programs and new opportunities for volunteering (e.g. Ambassador Program, Latin American Youth Programs)
- Building connections with not-for-profit agencies and volunteer programs across the lower mainland
- Implementing standards in volunteer management as advocated by CAVR and AVRBC (national and provincial organizations) and striving to reach the adopted Canadian Code for Volunteer Involvement.
- Developing relationships with recruitment and employee-assistance programs to help new immigrants, people with disabilities, and those in transition to find new opportunities (e.g. Jobs West Employment Programs, Possibilities, Open Door Group)
- Establishing discussions with Park Board staff around support of volunteers at all sites
- Ongoing discussions with neighbouring, growing municipalities about best practices for volunteer management
- Initiating new partnerships with community organizations like Kettle Friendship Society, MOSAIC, Grandview Woodland Community Police, The Bike Valet, Recycling Alternatives, and the Business Improvement Association for Commercial Drive.
- Reaching out to businesses to build support for community programming (e.g. Liquids and Solids Café, Storm Crow Tavern, Dilly Dally Toy Store, Black Dog Video)

Program Highlights 2012

Volunteer Program Committee – This committee has representatives who represent seniors, youth, special events, arts and culture, and recreational programs. The committee continues to provide guidance and support in developing initiatives and ensures the program mission is achieved and standards are maintained. The committee is currently looking for new volunteer members to join us!

cont'd

Volunteer Program cont'd

Volunteer Café – Based on previous years' success, the Volunteer Program ran a café during all 4 Sundays of the Artful Sundays festival series. This cafe was operated by volunteers each week, who learnt how to do concession and beverage sales, set-up and take-down of café equipment and supplies. It was well received by the public and we hope to continue this venture this year.

Volunteer Appreciation Event – This very successful event took place on September 5th, 2012 at Grandview Park starting with live music, face-painting, food vendors, a celebratory volunteer video, free bike lock-up for guests and bicycle repairs for volunteers, and a film screening of "Ratatouille" (2007, Disney/Pixar).

After more than a year of discussion and surveys, the volunteer committee decided to hold a community volunteer appreciation event in celebration of our many volunteers. More than 400 people showed up, including staff, families and friends of volunteers and new partnerships were built with businesses and organizations (e.g. Chili Tank, La Boheme Creperie, and GoGoJava). Live entertainment provided by Kutapira and face-painting by Luna Marula sealed the deal! Britannia's Micro Footie program put the icing on the cake by providing free popcorn to our guests! Other partner groups included The Bike Valet, Recycling Alternatives, VanCycle Mobile Bicycle Repair and St. John Ambulance. Sponsorship was provided by Britannia Community Services, the Business Improvement Association, MOSAIC, and the Kettle Friendship Society.

Volunteer End-of-Year Social – This took place on December 16, 2012. Volunteers were invited to come for a tea-time gathering of waffles and seasonal baked goodies and treats. The committee provided Christmas Carols for sing-a-longs and music. The turnout was smaller than anticipated but intimate and friendly and all who attended expressed an interest in having this event take place again this year.

Challenges

- Volunteers want to see consistency in application of services and support to all their placements
- External agencies wish to place groups of volunteers to assist for short periods of time intensely (e.g. everyday 6 hours for a month) and most volunteer programs now require more time to process applications and find suitable placements that benefit both the organization and volunteer.
- Volunteer placements in general are becoming more task-oriented and may require some experience which can create obstacles for those trying to break into the volunteer scene for the first time.

Current and future projects include:

- 1) Encouraging volunteers to take on leadership roles and to help build programs which can benefit our community as well as create more learning opportunities for all (e.g. Board Games Club)
- 2) Supporting staff in building stronger relationships with volunteers
- 3) Building consistency among various sites to efficiently recruit, manage, and retain volunteers.

Charlene Wee,
Certified Administrator of Volunteer Resources (CAVR)
Volunteer Program Coordinator

The Arena Committee's goals are to provide accessible skating programs, activities and events with exceptional care and service to the Grandview Woodlands community.

SUCCESS STORIES

Britannia's skating instructors and rink staff are leaders within the Vancouver Park Board. Their strength and creativity as instructors as well as their mentorship with new instructors has resulted in the delivery of a successful Learn to Skate program that is sought after by participants across the city. Britannia created an instructor shadowing program to train and evaluate potential hires during the skating lesson program which is being modeled by the Park Board as a new program to identify potential new staff.

The Britannia After School Hockey program (BASH) offers youth (14-17years) in the Grandview Woodlands Community the opportunity to participate in a structured program where they learn hockey and team skills in a fun and supportive environment. This program continues to be very popular as there are many youth in the community who have always wanted to play ice hockey but have faced with barriers to entry. This past year, the BASH program received a donation from the NHLPA, sponsored by Kenndal McArdle, for 25 full sets of equipment. This generous donation has enabled participants to move on from the program to organized hockey leagues.

Britannia continues to operate the Vancouver Adult Co-ed Hockey League (VACHL) with the Vancouver Park Board, which plays games at six of the Vancouver ice rinks, including Britannia. For the sixth straight year, the VACHL league expanded and now has 22 teams playing in 3 divisions. The success of this league is attributed to the excellent program leadership and the dedication of the volunteer captains for the league.

The Britannia Arena continues to build on its reputation within the community and beyond as a fantastic facility for ice rentals including a diverse range of skating programs. With a very good year in programming and rentals in Winter and Spring and with the success of building partnerships to best utilize ice time, the Arena was able to generate revenues 15% over the 2012 target.

CHALLENGES

For all of the successes of 2012, there were some challenges that came with them. The success of the new Hillcrest ice rink and Killarney ice rink in skate lesson registration and public skating sessions, has meant a decrease in participation at Britannia. We have met these challenges with creative programming and have built on our partnerships to provide programs to help offset the loss of revenue.

Daytime school ice rentals continue to struggle through the early Fall months. Alternative programming will be looked at starting Fall 2013 to fill the empty ice space.

PARTNERSHIPS

Britannia Arena continues to focus on strengthening its current relationships with its partners. This past year we formed a partnership with Kenndal's Kids and the FanZoo to offer a summer camp for the youth participants in BASH. The day included on-ice time with professional hockey players, including former East Vancouver players, Kenndal McArdle, Milan Lucic and Evander Kane and coaches from Inside Edge, off-ice interactive physical training with the Factory, and a motivational speaker from Institute B. The day was inspiring not only for the youth but for the adults who all volunteered their day to reach out to the Britannia community.

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Arena Committee cont'd

The Canucks Autism Network's (CAN) mission is to provide year round innovative, high quality sports, recreational, social and vocational programs for individuals and families living with autism, and to build awareness and capacity through community networks across British Columbia. Britannia has continued its partnership with CAN during Saturday morning lessons and offers the I CAN Skate program, an adapted skating program designed to teach basic skating skills. This program shares ice time with Britannia's own Learn to Skate program and Britannia instructors work together with CAN coaches and volunteers to offer this new and exciting program,

FUTURE

We are excited about the upcoming year at the Arena. We will continue to improve the quality of programs and services offered to the community and to uphold the high expectations that the community has come to expect from the Britannia Arena.

Susy Bando for the Arena Committee



Art and Culture Committee and Program

EVENTS

April – Vintage Bike Swap Meet

This partnership with the Vancouver Wheelmen is the second annual swap meet in the Britannia Plaza area. This event brought bike vendors and enthusiasts from the neighbourhood and beyond to trade, sell, and share bikes and bike stuff. This event was extremely well-attended with around 1500 visitors and this year we added live music courtesy of the Whitridge Trio to animate the space.

May – The 17th Annual Stone Soup Festival

This east Vancouver community tradition continues to bring out residents in celebration of spring, food, and the environment. This year the weather cooperated with beautiful sunshine and brought in 2500 visitors. We gained a soup sponsor, Michael Coderre from Liquids and Solids, who supplied all of the soup, staff and equipment. We served over 500 bowls of soup in gym D, which was set up as a café for visitors to sit and enjoy - it was a big hit. Sharon Kallis from the Urban Weavers was on site in the Family Activity Room teaching residents the art of weaving with invasive species. The workshop was constantly busy - 40 completed baskets were made not including those who dropped in to sample. Ian Marcuse hosted an outdoor demonstration on making sauerkraut and Lori Weidenhammer gave a talk in the Library on Food and Community on the Prairies. We look forward to 2013 and the theme of Urban Farming.

May-June – The Sidewalk Cellist

Last year Britannia partnered with music student, Clara Shandler to bring classical cello music to the Napier Greenway on Saturday afternoons. This year Clara and Britannia hosted Saturday cello concerts in Grandview Park. This was Clara's launch of her international tour. Clara's charming personality and professional experience encouraged community members into the Park for a free concert and dialogue on classical music.

June – East FEAST Vancouver

Last year Britannia's Arts & Culture Committee planned and launched the first FEAST event in Western Canada, a micro-funding event in support of local arts and artists. FEAST, Funding Emerging Arts with Sustainable Tactics, originated in Brooklyn NY and has since spread across the US and Canada. 2012 was the 2nd Annual East FEAST and was as successful as the first. This year the artists interacted more with the audience and the engagement was exciting. Child Care Chef Shirdene Reynolds catered the event with the theme of a Southern-style feast: collard greens, beans, grits, fried green tomatoes and sweet potato pie. The community votes for one of three presenting artists, with up to \$1000 awarded for the winning proposal. This grant is funded directly by the ticket sales. This year the winner of the FEAST was Elizabeth Joe, an artist as well as a teacher at Admiral Seymour School, who is producing an illustrated book with her students. This year we also compensated the other two artists \$100 each for their time and set up. Elizabeth's project will be displayed in the Art Gallery in June 2013.

June – Vancouver Draw Down

Britannia has again participated in this citywide drawing event to engage artists and non-artists alike in drawing through events and workshops citywide. Britannia hosted several workshops in the plaza in partnership with the Community Arts Council of Vancouver. We also hosted a free Lifedrawing Workshop in the CFEC. All workshops exceeded attendance from last year. Approximately 500 people came to draw. Britannia, Sunset CC, and the RHCC are sponsors of this event.

August – Artful Sundays

Artful Sundays is an annual outdoor visual arts market featuring the works of local artists. 2012 was our 10th year. This event supported 60 artists over 4 Sundays in August and September. It was extremely well-received with over 3000 visitors. This year the event hosted an outdoor café, organized by Charlene Wee and

Art and Culture Committee and Program cont'd

Britannia Volunteers, as a fundraiser for the volunteer program.

December – Artful Saturday

This inaugural event was an extension of Artful Sundays and was planned as a holiday indoor art market. It hosted over 40 art vendors in Gym D as well as a volunteer café. Attendance was medium but consistent at any one time. Artists enjoyed the event and those who came felt that the quality and diversity of vendors were refreshing.

Britannia Public Art Initiative

This year the Arts & Culture Committee identified areas in and around the Britannia site which are in need of renewing, renovating and enhancing. We are looking at promoting accessibility, safety, security and aesthetics as the criteria for planning and proceeding with this project.

The Banner Project

Helen Spaxman continues to host 2 community banner workshops each year. They are well attended and contribute to the outdoor site aesthetics and to the interior of the Library. We have been working with local company American Fabricators to produce the banners and are very happy with the product. We wish to thank the Engineers who take down and put up these artworks twice yearly.

THE BRITANNIA ART GALLERY

Located in the Adult Lounge of the Britannia Library, the BAG has been a model of community arts development for over 19 years. It is a partnership between the Neighbourhood Cultural Collective (Arts & Culture Committee), Community Education, the Vancouver Public Library and the Britannia Society. Tens of thousands of area residents have visited the Britannia Art Gallery, one of only three accessible spaces to exhibit for artists along with Havana's and The Cultch. Funds acquired beginning in 2005 brought small honoraria for exhibiting artists, hired a professional curator and funded outreach. The Gallery continues to be supported financially by the Britannia Society. 2013 will be the 20th Anniversary of the Art Gallery and its partnership with the Britannia Public Library.

The Art Gallery promotes the development of emerging artists with a professional Curator. Free community outreach of inspiring and thought provoking workshops, talks, and demonstrations expose residents to the Drive's only public Art Gallery. In 2012 the Gallery hosted 10 exhibitions and 10 outreach workshops and presentations with approximately 6000 visits. The Curator puts out a monthly e-newsletter called The Artery, with over 300 subscribers. It supplies information to artists on a national scope. We look forward to 2013 with more exhibitions, workshops and presentations.

PROGRAMS

2012 Arts & Culture programs continued to offer diverse programming for all ages. Popular programs continue to be Bluegrass Jam and Salsa for adults. Art Therapy programs continue to grow with a consistent following.

SUMMARY

The Committee is looking forward to 2013 and the continuation of projects such as: Vintage Bike Swap Meet, Stone Soup, East FEAST, Vancouver Draw Down, Artful Sundays and to the Britannia Public Art Initiative. We will also continue to work with the Volunteer Program Committee in the production of our special events. We will be focusing on greening and sustainability in some future arts initiatives including pop up galleries, recycling community banners and promoting an environmental artist initiative on site. The committee will be working closely with the Britannia Green Team Coordinator, the Food Security Coordinator, Environmental Artist groups and the Planning & Development Committee on these green initiatives.

Art and Culture Committee and Program

As the Arts Programmer I wish to thank the tireless volunteers, the committee members, the Board, staff, instructors and event coordinators who continue to work together to bring arts to this community.

Lorrie Wager, Arts & Culture Programmer



Location:
Napier Greenway &
Britannia Site
1661 Napier Street
Vancouver, BC

**The 17th Annual
Stone Soup Festival**
Saturday May 12, 2012
12 pm - 5 pm

Contact us:
www.britanniacentre.org
604-718-5800

Britannia

Board Development Committee

Identify and Facilitate Board Training: In keeping with this mandate we organised a full-day retreat with an outside facilitator for the Britannia Board of Management, including our partner representatives, last September. This allowed new members to learn about the complexities of Britannia and enabled us to more fully discuss questions, such as our relationship with partners and the governance of Britannia that we don't have time to delve into during our regular Board meetings.

Improve Running of Board Meetings: We recommended to the Board that a more strict adherence to time limits be kept and that only one guest speaker per Board meeting be invited. Also, if issues arise that require a more detailed and lengthy discussion, they are flagged for a more comprehensive discussion at a later time or, if more knowledge/information is requested by Board members, a workshop will be held.

Fundraising Workshop: It became obvious during our retreat that the Board did not have unanimity on this topic, so we organised a workshop for the Board and invited a speaker from the Vancouver Foundation, who gave us an insight about the general principles of fundraising. The Board is continuing to discuss this and will formulate a policy in order to give direction to our Executive Director.

Eva Sharell, Chair

Board members

Pat Davitt, Tammyanne Matthew, Paul Kjekstad, Ingrid Kolsteren;

Child Care and Children's Committee

Once again the 2013 Liberal Provincial Government Budget does nothing for families. In April 2015 families will receive The BC Early Childhood Tax Benefit of \$55 per month. (The current cost of enrolling a toddler in a child care centre is \$59 per day!) For less than the government plans to spend on this benefit, they could make a real difference by bringing fees for infant and toddler spaces down to \$10 per day, as recommended in the Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning, published by Coalition of Childcare Advocates of BC and the Early Childhood Educators of BC. At time of writing (April 2013) the NDP platform includes a 3 year plan to reduce fees for existing infant and toddler care by 20% and increase spaces. If elected the party has committed to spend \$10 million in 2013/2014 on the plan.

Because of the high cost of childcare, some of our centres are operating at less than full enrollment as parents are unable to afford the fees. Another trend that we are seeing is a drop in the enrollment in after school care for children older than 10. By the time children are 11 years old they are being withdrawn from the centres and they themselves are looking after their younger siblings after school.

Despite these odds we have a thriving hub of 4 off-site centres with very active Parent Boards administered by Britannia, and 2 centres at Britannia itself. Mount Pleasant is housed in an aging building and is working on getting a new facility. Eagles Out of School Care has expanded their enrollment from 30 to 40 children and has moved from the basement of Macdonald School to a renovated outbuilding. Children from Hastings, Lord Nelson, Britannia and Macdonald schools are attending this centre. Lord Nelson Out of School Centre is full with a wait-list and is attempting to get more space for a possible expansion. Britannia has an "Earth to Food Project" garden with a beautiful mural done by the children with help from artist Brent Clowater.

In March we bid farewell to our Childcare Manager, Leah Drayton, who was instrumental in reactivating the Parent Boards and the Child Care and Children's Committee. We wish her well in her future endeavours.

Eva Sharell, Chair

Oliver Conway, Britannia Board member

Community Education Committee

Chair: Margaret Vis

Members: Mike Evans and Mitra Tshan (Community Education), Andrew Schofield (Britannia Secondary), Ian Cannon (Britannia Elementary), Jean Rasmussen (Canucks Family Literacy), Briony Taylor (Frontier College), Charles Lumodak (SWIS), Beatrice Feza (CAPC), Sadia Ibrahim and Jennae Gedeon (Britannia Programmers), TBA (Britannia Library), TBA (Britannia Recreation), Cynthia Low (Britannia Executive Director), Tracy Barker (East Side Family Place), David Taylor (Grandview Elementary), Greg Goodall (Y&FW - Strathcona), David Baldwin (Y&FW - Britannia), Jim Lemoine (Britannia Elementary), Jonathan Weresch (Queen Victoria), Lani Morden and Scott Ferris (Seymour), Margaret Jorgensen (Strathcona), Natalie Bailey (Britannia Centre Manager), Ronnie Ross (Grandview), Kim Ton (MOSAIC), and Darlene Robertson (Hastings Adult Education).

Vision: To promote a lifelong learning community

The Community Education Committee had an interesting and productive year. This was my second year on the Britannia Board and it was a privilege to chair this committee and work with the members. Several key decisions were made in the operation of the committee. We decided to combine the Community Education Committee and Early Learning Committee into one larger group that meets each month during the school year. The meeting was held from 1:00-2:30 pm in the high school staff room and we had the lunch provided by the

Community Education Committee cont'd

high school cafeteria program. These were successful strategies, as attendance and energy were higher than in previous years. We act as an advisory committee to the Coordinator and to the Community School Team. Mike Evans, the Coordinator, also sits on the Board and part of our role is to keep Britannia Board members informed about our work. Each meeting provides an opportunity for members to not only share updates but also to find out about partnership possibilities on site. Mitra Tshan, the Community Education secretary, did a wonderful job taking minutes, sending out agendas and providing support to the group.

- CAPC (Community Access Program for Children) provides a wide variety of programs and opportunities for low-income families with children 0-6. Beatrice Feza is the CAPC coordinator. There is a food distribution program for 70 families, ESL instruction for parents, parent conferences and parenting programs, Parent-Child Mother Goose programs, First Aid and Food Safe courses and more.
- Out of School programs in the Britannia HUB of five schools continue to thrive with 30 programs offered this year. Sadia Ibrahim and Jennae Gedeon, working on a United Way grant from the Vancouver School Board, provided strong leadership to the program. David Taylor, from the Visions 180 Out of School Program at Grandview, keeps us updated on happenings in KidSafe as well.
- Our summer camps were a big success. Six weeks of technology, arts, creative writing and sports kept over 200 children engaged. Partnerships with PIMS (Pacific Institute of Math and Science) and Urban Native Youth Association (UNYA) brought an additional 40 kids to Britannia! Spring Break was also an extremely busy time for Britannia with over 80 kids involved.
- Charles Lumodak is the SWIS (Settlement Workers in Schools, who provide transition programs and initiatives for immigrants to Canada) for Britannia and he is a welcome member to the committee.
- Frontier College provides one-to-one tutoring and literacy help to over 130 students in the HUB. Richard Harvey is the new Coordinator and Briony Taylor is the rep on our committee.
- The Partners in Education Program (PIE) continues to thrive at Britannia. Ten years of success under the leadership of Jean Rasmussen means twelve adults will graduate from high school this year! Jean brings energy, love and creative, integrated programming to Britannia. Over the years, Canucks Family Literacy, Let's get Ready to Read, Parenting programs, Strong Start, high school graduation for adults and strong partnerships with other organizations have meant tremendous value-in-kind to Britannia.

Some examples of the special event programming that we do, or partner with other agencies and groups, include Britannia Craft Fair, MoreSports, Stone Soup Festival, Bruin Invitational Basketball Tournament, Open Doors to Learning, articulation to high school programs, Contributing to Lives of Inner City Kids (CLICK), Sogo Health and Fitness support programs, and Partners in Education.

Margaret Vis,
Britannia Board member

Library Management Committee

The Library Management Committee liaises with Britannia Secondary School, Britannia Elementary School, Vancouver Community College and other educational partners on site in order to provide a comprehensive and integrated program of library services and activities through the Britannia Branch of the Vancouver Public Library to the community of Grandview Woodland.

The Committee membership includes representatives from the Vancouver Public Library, the Vancouver Community College (on behalf of the Britannia ESL Learning Centre), the Vancouver School Board and the Grandview Woodland and Strathcona neighbourhoods (one member from this group represents the Britannia Board of Management). The Executive Director of the Britannia Community Services Centre is the Chair, and the Manager of the Britannia Branch Library is the Secretary.

The members of the Committee for 2011/2012 have been: Geoff Taylor (Britannia Secondary) previously Bev Seed, Ian Cannon (Britannia Elementary), Eva Sharell (Britannia Board), Dan Fass (Britannia Community), Beth Davies (Vancouver Public Library), Penny Street (Britannia Board), and Morna McLeod (Vancouver Community College). Cynthia Low, the Executive Director of BCSC, is the Chair and Barbara Kelly, followed by Inness Campbell, as the Manager of Britannia Library as the Secretary. Anne Sander, the Teacher Librarian at Britannia Secondary, and Lucy Skipper, the Teacher Librarian at Britannia Elementary, attend as staff.

The Committee met 3 times in 2012. Highlights include:

- Completed expansion or upgrade of wireless availability on the site, now available through a secured network from the rink to the Canucks Family Education Centre
- Encouraging the Library staff to make changes to the library layout and reorganize the collection and create an environment that meets the needs of diverse users with a focus on a welcoming and useful space for teens.
- Joint VPL-VSB goals such as one-to-one computer training and summer reading clubs.

***Inness Campbell,
Manager, Britannia Branch, Committee Secretary***

Program Committee

The Program Committee works with the community to identify program needs, deliver programs and services, and to monitor membership activities and special events. It also serves as a conduit for other committees to the Board of Management, such as the Pool & Fitness, Rink, Volunteer, Youth, and Arts & Culture Committees.

Examples of discussion topics included: customer surveys, program proposals, special events and requests for funding.

In 2012, facility upgrades occurred in the Teen Centre improving the layout and function of the space. The youth who use the space and staff have been happy with the upgrades and usage of the space has increased.

The Program Committee is always looking for community input and participation and invites those who are interested to join our monthly meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Thank you to all of the committee members for your contribution in 2012. It was greatly appreciated!

***Susy Bando, Acting Community Recreation Coordinator,
on behalf of the Program Committee***

Planning and Development Committee

The Planning and Development Committee currently meets once a month and sends e-mails with meeting announcements, agendas, and meeting notes to people interested in the work of the committee. Among those people are Britannia staff, representatives of Britannia's partners, and citizens including local residents and people interested in planning issues.

During 2012/2013, the focus of the committee switched from the previous year's focus on Britannia's Strategic Master Plan to what was termed "Action Planning" - things Britannia can do in the short term to satisfy needs identified in the Strategic Master Plan. A subcommittee was created, but after a few stand-alone meetings, the subcommittee's work was incorporated into Planning & Development Committee meetings.

That "Action Planning" work included involvement in:

- A grant submission to the Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund of more than \$200,000 to retrofit the racquetball court by Gym C
- Improvements to the area between the Pre-Teen Centre and the pool, including a wall mural and the installation of planter boxes.
- Britannia's leasing and management of Astorino's Ballroom (1739 Venables) as a multi-purpose community space
- Britannia Potato Farm, an educational project to grow potatoes in planters on the Britannia site, in cooperation with the elementary school, the Grandview-Woodland Food Connection, and Britannia Board's Arts & Culture Committee
- An Architects for a Green Legacy project involving the Evergreen Foundation, in which 20 or so high school students will create an urban green space on the Britannia site
- Coordination and cost-sharing with local community centres to host candidates forums for the 14 May Provincial Election.

Finally, the committee has continued to track two City of Vancouver local area processes related to Britannia's catchment area: Primarily the Grandview-Woodland Community Plan, but also the Eastern Core Strategy (centred on the False Creek Flats).

Dan Fass, On behalf of the Planning & Development Committee

Pool and Fitness Centre Committee

It has been an eventful year full of program development in all areas. With feedback from the public, pool and fitness centre committee representatives, as well as input from staff, we are making great improvements in all service areas.

Pool Programs

Registration and revenue is steady for parent and tot, preschool and children's swim lessons. Registration has improved in our adult swim lessons, although our seniors' swim lessons have been generally low in registration. We've seen an increase in demand for our private and semi-private swim lessons for children as well as adults. For the first time in at least a few years, we are also running a Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross course this spring.

Swim Club is steady and growing with an average of 15 children and youth per day. We have adjusted the format and fee structure and we are interested and keen to develop Swim Club into a larger and more diverse program incorporating upper level training and possible junior lifeguard training with the city.

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Pool and Fitness Centre Committee

Aquafit is a popular fitness program in the pool with consistently 20-25 participants in the morning session and 8-10 in the Range of Motion and evening Aquafit sessions. In response to public requests, we added a Monday Range of Motion class as well as extended the time to a full 45 minutes instead of 30 minutes.

The pool swim schedule was adjusted slightly to incorporate more public swim time from 8:30-11:30 am and 1:00-3:00 pm. We are now able to keep the leisure pool open for parents and tots every day even while we host seniors' swim lessons, Aquafit and school swim lessons. We also adjusted the free swim times on Tuesdays and Thursdays to be open to all members of the public on both days instead of being age specific. Both free swims were extended by a half hour from 3:00-3:30 pm, as that timeslot was void of any programming.

Our sponsorship of the Special Olympics swim and fitness program on Saturdays continued from September to March again this year with approximately 40 in attendance each Saturday from 12:00-1:00 pm in the pool and 1:30-2:30 pm in the fitness centre and mat room.

Britannia Secondary continued their regular swim sessions this past year and we also hosted a series of Britannia Elementary swim lessons for the first time in a few years. A few other schools have joined us for public swimming and lessons throughout the school year as well.

Fitness Programs

We are offering a free Fitness Centre Tour/Open House for seniors once per season on Fridays before the seniors' strength training courses begin. The Intro to Strength Training for Seniors and Women's Weight Training courses continue to be offered each season with hit and miss registration. We added an Intermediate Strength Training for Seniors course in response to some public interest.

A series of free, one hour fitness workshops are now being offered by our fitness attendants throughout the season and recent topics include stretching, core strengthening, exercising on the go, running, balance, and buns and thighs!

Special Events

The popular Youth Swim Night continued as a special event on the first Friday of every month. We continue to develop seasonal special events throughout the year for children, families and seniors. We recently had a record attendance at our Easter Eggstravaganza public swim.

Staff Team

Erinn Nowak, RPT SIA, has transferred to Hillcrest Aquatic Centre and Winsie Wong, RPT Cashier Receptionist, resigned from her position. We are currently in the process of hiring replacements for these positions.

***Respectfully submitted,
Vittoria Basile,
Recreation Programmer, Pool & Fitness Centre***

Al Mattison Lounge 55+ Committee

The 55+ Centre has had a wonderful year with the addition of new programs, upgrading of our Computer Lab, participation in community events and the welcoming of many new members and partnerships. Many thanks to the Recreation team and the Britannia front line staff; you make such a positive difference.

This past year we added monthly themed special events, informative workshops and weekend programs like Cantonese and Mandarin computer classes (to name a few). We've also welcomed more than 6 new volunteers who have become an inspiration and welcome addition to our 55+ family.

Mention must be made of Bob Harris, now retired, for his unequivocal support and presence to the needs of our Centre and 'seniors' issues. (Happy Retirement Bob!) His patience, vision and support were not without results, such as the upgrading of the lab, seniors brain storming sessions and his advocacy toward providing the much needed services and staff to the seniors area.

This year's highlights include our seniors participating, in large numbers, at various community dialogues. Our ever-strong, proud and creative Quirk-e gang received the city's CNAD and BCRP grants (to continue their important artistic practise) while also reaching others far and wide. Congratulations Quirk-e you are truly inspiring! Chris Morrissey, a founding Quirk-e member, received the Queens "Diamond Jubilee Award for Outstanding Canadian".

Our year cannot go by without mentioning our partners who contribute so much to the variety of programs and services we provide. Thank you to all at Britannia: Board of Management (Pat and Ray on our newly developed 55+ Joint Committee), Community Education (Mike and Mitra for always including us in the VCN volunteer program), Britannia Secondary School (Staff and students for remembering and including the Seniors in their always moving Remembrance Day Service), and Britannia Library (Helen, Cathy and all the staff for supporting our Book Club and seniors). The list of partners is long, but we also need mention: VCH (flu clinics and referrals), CPO (workshops), Revenue Canada (CVIT volunteer tax Clinics), Alzheimer's Society (Minds in Motion), REACH family Services (Vietnamese Woman's support group, Latin American Seniors), Vancouver Park Board (Walk your Way to Fitness, Arts Programs, Senior's Week), City Planning (SPARC Dialogue, Grandview Woodland Planning Dialogues), CARP (Workshops and Advocacy, Q-munity (LGTB programs).

It's a year of thanks to all the members new and old, volunteers, staff and partners who give their time and expertise generously. They make Britannia's 55+ Centre (AML) a wonderful warm, safe, inspiring social, recreational and resource-filled space for older adults and in turn throughout our community and beyond. To the Recreation team, made up of so many knowledgeable caring hard working individuals, thank you for engaging our seniors in so many aspects of your program areas and for being so open to the benefits of shared goals!

**Anne Cowan-Jackson,
Seniors Programmer**

The logo for Britannia features the word "Britannia" in a blue, sans-serif font. Above the letters "i" and "t" is a blue, wavy line that resembles a stylized roof or a wave.

Lions Den Seniors' Committee

The formation of a new Senior's Joint Committee has opened the door for a review of existing programs and services from representatives of staff, Board and seniors. The objective is to implement a strategic plan for an ever growing population of retired and semi-retired community members, many of whom are on fixed incomes. The challenge is to offer inexpensive, new and exciting programs at convenient times to a varied population coming from numerous differing backgrounds and cultures. The committee has been exploring funding options, as well as exploring ways to optimize staffing hours. The Lion's Den Committee has seen one objective partially achieved – a pedestrian light on Adanac and Commercial has been installed but has yet to be activated.

Rentals in the Centre are now being booked with the Vancouver East Lion's Club, but new groups are encouraged to book space during Britannia hours. Many thanks go to Tom Durrie for his many hours of volunteer time. He has initiated both a Movie Night and an ever-expanding Theatre Group. We have just welcomed the Latin American Senior's Social Group from REACH, who really enliven our Friday afternoons.

Renovations to the Centre have improved the plumbing situation (no more buckets on the floor!). The Vancouver Outdoors group now meets once a month and our Hiking Club has had several interesting outings, including sharing lunch with a raven on the top of Goat Mountain at Seymour.

Many thanks to all our wonderful volunteers including Alyssa and Kathy for the Ambassador Program and the youth who helped to make our hikes so memorable.

Carolyn Innes,
on behalf of the Lion's Den Recreation Committee

Vietnamese Seniors' Report

The program continues to provide settlement services and information about Old Age Pensions, BC Housing, health topics and other issues impacting seniors. During tax time, I participated in The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program and helped eighty low income seniors and families to do their income tax returns. We formed a seniors' support group to visit other seniors and their families who are sick or who had passed away.

Our combined ongoing programs with The Multicultural Family Centre are growing strong. It continues to promote a healthy lifestyle and wellness for seniors on Fridays at The Canucks Family Centre. The programs include: Tai Chi and Line Dancing classes. The average number of participants every Friday is thirty. With the help of our gaming money, we have organized our own computer classes and healthy cooking sessions. The average number of Vietnamese seniors attending every Tuesday program is seventy.

The program continues to deliver:

- Settlement services
- Social interaction
- Emotional support
- Special events
- Promotion of good physical and mental health

Luong Ho,
Vietnamese Seniors Outreach Worker

Adult Programs

The adult programs are doing well. Our busy programs remain popular and we have seen some growth in drop-in and registration numbers. Over the last year we have incorporated some new programs and my goal is to keep expanding the adults programs so that we can offer a full variety of programs to adults and also expand and provide more family orientated programs.

Some of our long-standing and most popular classes are as follows:

- Zumba: As always remains one of our strongest programs in regards to numbers. There is an average of 25-35 people registered with 5-10 drop-ins per class.
- Salsa Fit: Another very popular class, averaging 20+ participants every Saturday.
- Volleyball: Volleyball is offered 4 times per week. The Tuesday evening class is maxed out with 30 participants. The Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday classes average 13-30 players each night.
- Indoor Soccer: This program has been consistently maxed out with 15 players each season.
- Men's Ball Hockey: has been consistently maxed out with 17 players for the last 3 seasons.
- Fri/Sat Badminton: Each class averages 25-30 players. Most are drop-ins.
- Intro to fencing: Is currently attracting 14-17 participants each season.
- Vipassana Meditation: Averaging 25 registered participants each season

Some of the new programs that we have started at Britannia are as follows:

- Cardio Dance Fusion: Average of 14 participants per night.
- Cardio Kick Boxing: Average of 15 participants per night.
- Women's Ki Aikido: Average of 5-7 participants per night.
- Traditional Kung Fu 6yrs+: Though there are only four registered the teacher will be staying with the Community Centre to grow the program because starting with small numbers is not at all uncommon for a new class and he is willing to work on expanding the program. He teaches all around the Lower Mainland and usually has 30 people in his classes. We can allow him to run his program because he isn't using prime time slots that I could fill with alternate programming; in other words Britannia isn't losing revenue by allowing the program to develop.
- Mixed Level Yoga: For the first time since I have come to Britannia we managed to get a morning yoga class up and running. There are currently 7 people registered.

New programs for Spring 2013 are Dodge Ball, Bootcamp, In Tune with Spirit (meditation class) and Health Qigong Program. Some of the programs we would like to add in the future are Family Badminton, Family Yoga Class and Men's Soccer. In addition, Lori Moretto and I are currently working to set up a "Movie in the Oval" on June 22, 2013 as a community appreciation event and 20th anniversary celebration of Micro Footie.

I have now been at Britannia a year and I'm enjoying my experience here. If you have ideas for adult programs you would like to see offered, I would love to hear from you: ashley.beattie@vancouver.ca

Ashley Beattie,
Sports and Wellness Programmer

Preschool and Children's Programs

Micro Footie continues to be a success. This year we are celebrating our 20th Anniversary of offering spring soccer to children and youth in the Britannia Community. Due to popular demand we are offering the program at 3 community fields: Garden Park, Britannia Oval and the new Robson Park location. Expect to see over 1000 children playing recreational soccer aged 4 -18 years in the spring sunshine. Much of the program's success is due to the over 120 volunteer coaches leading the 104 team league. We are thankful for the support from our local community sponsors: Uprising Breads, Fet's Whisky Kitchen, Fratelli's, Portuguese Club of Vancouver, Liquids + Solids, AON and Deer Lake Boat Rentals and Super Valu.

The Britannia Gymnastics program continues to be popular. Space and logistical issues are still a concern as we cannot keep up with community demand. To resolve this somewhat we expanded the program to a full gym set up on Sundays. We put on a fabulous Holiday Show featuring all our fall participants. We are hosting our Annual "Summer-saults" meet in early June. We carry on planning to meet potential investors and Eastside programming staff to develop our dream of an Eastside Gymnastics facility. If you are interested in discussing Eastside gymnastics issues please contact Lori Moretto at lori.moretto@vancouver.ca.

Other preschool and children's programs remain popular – many of them full. The Westside Music Together program introduced to the Eastside has been a huge success. Our children's dance, martial arts, fencing, Sportball and volleyball programs continue to keep our community kids active.

**Submitted by Lori Moretto,
Sports and Wellness Programmer**

Youth Program Report

"Britannia youth programs aim to involve a diverse youth population in creating a safe, supportive and respectful community where youth participate in social and recreational activities." ~ Teen Centre Philosophy

The past year has been busy with many different programs, events, and activities where we have had the opportunity to partner with different agencies and organizations such as WAVAW, My Circle, Red Fox, Immigrant Services Society, and GAB, to offer new and diverse, social and leadership programming to the youth at Britannia. McCreary Foundation and the Grandview Woodlands Community Plan hosted a series of workshops with our youth to gain input to the needs, wants and vision of the youth in the Britannia area to their community.

In February the youth team hosted a youth conference, YOUUnique, which focused on bullying prevention, self-esteem and relationship development. A variety of speakers engaged youth in interactive workshops. Human Rights values were also taught through Play it Fair and Speaking Rights activities. It was very successful with over 100 youth in attendance.

We have partnered with Kickstand to offer the "Earn a Bike" program once a month. This program gives the youth an opportunity to learn about bike mechanics, work on the bike and have a chance to win it.

We are currently working with the City of Vancouver's Integrated Graffiti management team in creating a youth-lead mural project called "Spread the Paint". We will be working with the Grandview Woodland CPC to remove graffiti from our local alleys, and to "Keep Vancouver Spectacular". Igor, a local artist, comes in twice a week to create different art projects with the youth. They have posted new art in the Teen Centre and the space is starting to become their own with their artistic touches.

Youth Program Report

The youth have been involved in, and empowered by, the planning process of our monthly calendar programs and activities. Our monthly Free Youth Swim has been very popular with new youth coming out to participate, as have our Whistler-Blackcomb snowboard trips, monthly outings, cooking and sport programs.

Last September, youth and staff organized a "Youth Extravaganza", with a DJ, sumo suit wrestling, temporary tattoos, art projects and contests. Over 200 youth from the community participated and had a great time. They are still talking about the event and can't wait to help plan the next one!

Britannia day camps and youth programs continue to be a recognised best practice for the use of "Play it Fair" and "Speaking Rights" to informally educate children and youth in the values of human rights. We have been using the toolkits in our day camps and youth programs, getting participants to play, while learning key elements through experiential learning. We have partnered with Equitas, an international not-for-profit organization which provides training and advocacy for Children's and Human Rights, to introduce and implement the "Play it Fair" toolkit to numerous organizations throughout Metro Vancouver. In May 2013, staff spoke at the BCRPA Recreation Conference about the use and success of the program. Staff also did an interview with the McConnell Foundation about the benefits of the program and its importance in use not only in our community, but across Canada.

The past school year, youth programs continue to host many practicum and internship students from Langara, Douglas, Sprott-Shaw, and MTI colleges. It has been a great opportunity for students to expand their knowledge, engage with the youth and learn from our staff. Our role is to provide opportunities and share knowledge with youth and young adults wanting to work in the youth, recreation and community development fields. We have had many great students who have hopefully learned from their experiences at Britannia and be able to use these skills and knowledge in future jobs.

In response to a growing need to address issues with youth and young adults engaging in at risk behaviors, Britannia, working with the community and youth serving agencies, has been active in coordinating meetings, providing additional outreach and services, engaging youth directly to build relationships, providing education and develop new and interesting programs. Dr. Eva Moore, a pediatrician from Children's Hospital, has come on a weekly basis for two hours to assist youth with any questions, concerns or issues that they may have regarding health.

Providing opportunities to youth that they may not normally be able to have has always been one of our mandates. In the past year, we have worked with the CHILL Foundation to offer beginner snowboarding lessons, and with Kahoots Kayaking to offer kayaking. These programs were free and for youth who had never participated in them before, but had always wanted to. Coupled with our beginner hockey program, and many other Teen Centre and Britannia youth programs, we've been very successful at giving youth the chance to try new things, and to just play.

"We continue to engage, empower and inspire youth to be the best possible person they can be. We challenge youth to think outside the box, experience new things and challenge themselves beyond their comfort zones. Leadership is developed through their experiences. Confidence is developed through reaching goals beyond what they would normally accomplish. Teamwork will only be built by working with others. We provide youth with the opportunities, skills and tools to succeed so that they can be leaders in the community, in their schools, and amongst their peers. Ultimately we want youth to make positive choices for themselves and for their community and to have confidence in the decisions they make."~ Youth Program Staff

Submitted by: Brittany Walsh and Tom Higashio

Britannia Youth Committee

This past year has been a very exciting and memorable year for youth both in and around the Britannia community! All members of the Youth Committee have been actively involved with numerous events and activities that have promoted both the development and display of leadership and teamwork.

To jumpstart the school year, the Youth Committee welcomed new and returning students of Britannia Secondary School with a back-to-school barbecue. As it was the Committee's first event of the year, it was naturally a very eventful and active "ice-breaking" experience for all the members while also being a great method of spreading the Youth Committee's name around the community.

Throughout the school year, we were actively involved in using the resources available to us in the Britannia complex. For a great deal of time, the Youth Committee helped design the "Teen-Space" of the Library, which included browsing through furniture brochures, brainstorming the setup of the space, and even getting the chance of working with a Graphic Artist to design a sign for the Teen-Space.

As a large number of the past months have been spent in the cold (thank you, Vancouver), the Youth Committee thought of ways to overcome the feelings of dread felt by students coming to school during the mornings. The Youth Committee has hosted a number of "Hot-Chocolate Mornings" for the school, which involves tables of hot chocolate found outside of the High School and Youth Committee members handing out hot chocolate to students.

I am proud to say that I have had the privilege to collaborate and participate with youth initiatives and activities for the past year with this year's Youth Committee. Each and every single person contributed to the Youth Committee in their own, individual way. I have personally observed the positive developments and outcomes that the members of the Youth Committee have gained and I am delighted to be writing the annual report of the Youth Committee at this year's AGM.

Hopefully the Youth Committee will be hosting our fourth and final barbecue of the year to kick-start the summer weather. Everybody is welcome; it will truly be a great way to commemorate the teamwork and good times that have been had this year!

Trevor Mah, Britannia Youth Committee

The Youth Committee maintained an average attendance of 12 members through the 2012-13 year. Member recruitment for the new year has reached 25 members (all from within Britannia Secondary).

The Committee this year saw great success and hosted a number of events. Renovations to the Britannia VPL branch were completed with the Friends of VPL Grant. The Committee had recommendations for new furniture and a Teen sign adopted. The Committee also successfully planned and organized a back-to-school BBQ as well as a Spring Fling BBQ. Both events drew large crowds of students and others around the community. Mini-games and activities, as well as flyers for future Teen Centre activities, were distributed at the BBQs to increase youth involvement.

Members of the Committee, joined by other youth, were also able to join a planning meeting with Joe Roberts, founder of The Push For Change. The Committee provided ideas, brainstorming, and youth outlook to help The Push For Change expand and grow its program, aimed toward intervention of at-risk youth across Canada.

The Committee had members present in the Grandview-Woodland Planning session with Vancouver City Planners. Members were able to provide their opinions and thoughts on the future development of the area.

The Britannia Youth Committee has become better affiliated and connected with Britannia Secondary Student Council and the Strathcona Youth Council. Future collaborations are certainly possible and have been discussed.

The Youth Committee this year succeeded in engaging youth by providing free activities, opportunities, and events. Furthermore, Committee members were able to actively involve themselves in the community to oversee further development and positive changes to the Britannia community. The Britannia Youth Committee has again provided an outlook for youth to be a part of the community, to step up to leadership roles, and to represent the youth voice.

Jasper Kim, Britannia Youth Committee

Mission Statement

The Eastside Family Place Society is a support and resource centre for parents, caregivers and their young children, from infants to early six years of age. ESFP assists the healthy development of families and caregivers with young children using a wide range of programs, services, projects and supports.

About Us

Eastside Family Place Society is one of 5 Vancouver stand-alone and full-service family place centres. All the Vancouver family places work in partnership together as well as with other service agencies. These partnerships strengthen our programs and enable best practices in policies and procedures to benefit all. ESFP membership costs \$20 per year. Parents and caregivers are strongly encouraged to support ESFP by becoming a member. Eastside Family Place has 7 core staff, full and part-time, plus casual staff, trained facilitators for parent education groups, and professional presenters for parent workshops. Approximately 150 volunteers donated 1,700 hours of support last year. We are conveniently located on Grandview Park at Commercial Dr., 1855 William St. Vancouver BC V5L 2R3.

Programs and Services Offered at Eastside Family Place (ESFP)

Eastside Family Place offers a family-friendly and play-based learning centre with age-appropriate toys, equipment and activities. Children learn and develop social skills in a safe, non-judgmental environment. Parents and caregivers have access to support, program services and the opportunity to meet and network with other parents. Many lasting friendships are started at ESFP. Established in April 1979, the Eastside Family Place Society has been providing programs and services to families in the Grandview-Woodland community for more than 30 years. Past and current statistics and reports show that Grandview-Woodland continues to be identified as one of the poorest communities in Canada. Within Greater Vancouver, Grandview-Woodland has a large concentration of families with children less than 6 years of age. The population is diverse culturally, with a high percentage of new immigrants and refugees as residents.

- Drop-in Program: offered Monday - Friday, 7 sessions per week. Eastside Family Place recorded more than 17,000 visits to the Drop-In program last year. Many of the families served by ESFP are single parent or low-income.
- Licensed Occasional Childcare: an ECE-certified family-support worker provides direct childcare and respite for parents
- Direct Support and Referrals: one-to-one support and referrals
- Collective of Parents Empowered (C.O.P.E.): a parenting program developed at ESFP to reflect and adapt to the specific needs and priorities of participating parents
- Nobody's Perfect Parenting Program: a nation-wide educational program that develops and strengthens parenting skills
- Workshops: on a variety of parenting subjects are offered twice a month or as a series & evening programs for working parents
- Rhythm & Rhyme: early-literacy programs engage young children and give parents/caregivers tools for home learning
- Clothing exchange: parents can donate, receive or trade up children's out-grown clothes
- Food-Security Programs: nutritious snacks are provided daily; brunches or light lunches are available on a regular basis throughout the year; food is accessible as needed by participants
- Community Food Cupboard: participants who are in need may take home basic food items
- Food Programs & Workshops: parents & children learn nutritious, low-cost recipes & planning
- Community Garden: parents & children learn about and experience growing edible foods

Donations and Funding

The Eastside Family Place Society needs and gratefully accepts donations and in-kind goods or services. Please help us meet the needs of families and children in the Grandview-Woodland community. You can make an on-line donation by visiting our website www.eastsidefamilyplace.org or please talk to a staff member for more information. Tax-deductible receipts are issued for all donations over \$20. The Eastside Family Place Society is a registered charitable organization that is governed by a volunteer board of directors. As a non-profit, ESFP is dependent on a variety of government and non-government grants, donations and fundraising efforts to cover its annual operational costs.

Mary Johnston, Director at 604-255-9841.



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