



# 2016-2017 Annual Report





# 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:

- elementary school
- secondary school
- five child care centres
- teen centre
- seniors' centre
- public library
- swimming pool
- fitness centre
- ice rink
- four gymnasias
- boxing ring and mat room
- learning resource centre
- community information centre
- meeting rooms

There are also numerous off-site programs and activities.

## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2016-2017

### Executive Committee:

President: Gwen Giesbreght  
Vice President: Indrid Kolsteren  
Treasurer: John Flipse

### Executive Members:

Scott Clark  
Susanne Dahlin

### Directors:

Brendan Boylan  
Ye Chu  
Aaron Giesbrecht  
Levi Higgs  
Freya Kristensen  
Juan Carlos Maldonado  
Craig Ollenberger  
Tyrus Tracey

### Staff Rep:

Sarah Ng (Secondary School)

### Partners:

Vancouver Public Library  
Vancouver Park Board  
Vancouver School Board  
Megan Langley  
Peter Odynsky  
Andrew Schofield

### Senior Staff:

Executive Director  
Manager of Administrative Services  
Community Education Coordinator  
Cynthia Low  
Jeremy Shier  
Jennier Scott

### Honourary Board Members:

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

### Liaisons to Britannia:

Vancouver City Council  
Vancouver Library Board  
Vancouver Park Board  
Kerry Jang  
Gordon Ross  
Stuart MacKinnon



Britannia Staff Accepting 2016 City of Vancouver Service Award

'Making the Difference' award for demonstrating outstanding commitment to making a difference through inspiring co-workers or the public to lend a hand, and make a difference in the workforce, the city or people's lives.

# President of Britannia Board of Management

In this report for 2016/17 I would like to draw attention to the work of the Planning and Development committee. The renewal process for the Britannia site has moved forward in a significant way this year. The Planning and Development committee, consisting of board and community members, partner representatives, and staff have devoted many productive hours to the 1st phase of this project which is community engagement and consultation. This engagement and consultation will inform how changes to the site will be made, and how the facilities of the future will look.

The first priority of the board is to ensure that the driving principle's of Britannia as an inclusive and welcoming space that promotes community engagement and development remain strong. That Britannia is a hub not only for programs and recreation but also reflects, celebrates and honours the diverse complexity of the neighbourhoods we serve. The importance of Indigenous history, and present day cultural significance of Indigenous and immigrant populations at the Britannia site is key to growing our community base.

On many fronts Britannia historically and currently leads the way in building community. Our mandated integration of education, recreation, community resources, and services has led to longstanding partnerships with other city agencies. The City of Vancouver, Vancouver Park Board, Vancouver School District, Vancouver Public Library and Britannia Community Services Centre Society have worked to enable wide ranging community groups from all sectors to come together under the ever expanding Britannia umbrella. We continue to explore initiatives to ensure that there is space and place for as many community members as is possible. An important addition this year was our ability to offer a warm place to those folks in our community without a place to shelter on cold winter nights. While homelessness in our community is not something we are equipped to eliminate, we are equipped to working toward creating a safe and accessible place for all community members, according to their needs.

In our desire to ever extend the table, to make sure all are welcome, we increasingly turn our attention to putting food on that table. Food security, access to food, and sharing food are ways to bring folks together. Whether it is the Grandview-Woodland Food Connection, the Teen Centre, the Senior Centre, or any of the numerous groups who find a home here, there is often an opportunity to share in the cuisines of the First Nations and those indigenous to other parts of the world, when you attend a Britannia event.

At a recent event held at Britannia, the occasion launching the community consultation for the re-newal process, there was feedback from some guests, not so familiar with the site, to the strong sense of community they encountered. This strong community sensibility, that we know and love, needs to be nurtured, celebrated, and extended. Thank you to the partners, members, staff, volunteers and communities that work together to achieve this goal.

On behalf of the Britannia Board of Management,

Gwen Giesbrecht  
President

## Executive Director

“Our future, and the well-being of all our children rests with the kind of relationships we build today.”  
Chief Dr. Robert Joseph

Last year our membership passed ground breaking motions to adopt Reconciliation as a core objective of the organization. This means looking at how we do our work and also how we include others to participate in our vision and mission. The manner in which our Board, committees, the community, volunteers, and staff have embraced the aspiration has been inspiring. We have increased free programs to the community, increased the uptake in subsidies of our programs, created new programs for Centre users and our schools, hosted new events, created new committees and working groups and welcomed diverse residents to the Centre.

This would not be possible without the commitment and hard work of our volunteers, residents and staff who come together to build understand among each other and our communities. The objective is to reconcile our differences and to work together to create opportunities for people who live, work and play in our neighbourhoods. We are successful through the support of our partners on site – Britannia Elementary School, Britannia Secondary School, Canuck Family Education Centre, Eastside Family Place, Vancouver Park Board, Vancouver Public Library, Vancouver School Board and the City of Vancouver.

The people that use the site; the students of the schools, user groups of our arena, the swimmer who comes from South Vancouver to use our pool, the people who pass through the site on their way from point to point and residents of our neighbourhoods are all a part of our family and we are accountable to them.

We have also focused on updating the various systems that support the administration and management of our services and programs. In addition we work with staff to update and support our workforce to provide better customer service and to respond to our community. Our staff should be recognized for their hard work and incredible dedication to this community.

Cynthia Low  
Executive Director

## Manager of Child Care Services

Britannia Pre-school and Britannia Out of School Care are play based programs highlighting multiculturalism and diversity, respect and social justice. This year at the pre-school we launched a successful project to ‘study’ the history of our neighbourhood with our community. These are experiential learning activities presented by our staff and local residents that includes architecture, neighbourhood places, spaces and people, settler, Indigenous and First Nations histories past and present. The Out of School Care curriculum was a focus on Art, Activity and Food and through the ORCA (Outdoors Recreation Creativity and Arts) summer program support children to learn about and experience their environment, exercise their creativity and expand their limits.

We also work with 4 other societies in the Britannia Child Care HUB to provide licensed child care. Together with Eagles in the Sky Child Care, Grandview Terrace Day Care, Lord Nelson Child Care Society and Mount Pleasant Day Care we have a total 312 licensed spaces with over 45 regular staff and 40 casual staff. This year through the dedication and commitment of the Boards and their staff and with help from the City of Vancouver we have focused on improvements to the management and financial services we provide to the societies.

Rachel Day  
Manager of Child Care Services



## Vancouver East MP

Congratulations to Britannia Society for another year of great work in our community! I am deeply honoured to be the Member of Parliament for Vancouver East and let me begin by congratulating all of you for successfully lobbying against the closure of Britannia Secondary Secondary School. Your strong advocacy no doubt played a critical role in saving this important community school (and that of others), and I am proud to have been a part of that effort.

In addition to holding the government accountable to their promises, I will continue to advocate for a national affordable housing strategy. If the program was not cancelled in 1993, our country would have had an additional half a million units of affordable housing today!

It is not a joke or exaggeration to say that Canadians have been waiting for a nation strategy to end poverty for 25 years. In 1989, a unanimous motion by Ed Broadbent was passed in the House of Commons to end child poverty by 2000. More than 2 decades after the motion and 17 years past that deadline, we still don't even have a plan. In 2015, Canadian corporations stashed almost \$40B in the top 10 offshore tax haven destinations. This costs Canadians \$5 - \$8 billion each year in lost tax revenue. Big corporations should not be allowed to walk away without paying their fair share of taxes. If the government closed these lucrative tax loopholes, those tax revenues could be invested in a variety of programs, including a national strategy to eradicate poverty in all its forms.

As our country celebrates our 150 birthday, I hope that the NDP's private member's Bill C-262 will pass in the House of Commons. If passed, it will ensure the laws of Canada are in harmony with the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This will not only provide us with the legislative framework for implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations, it will also ensure there are opportunities for forming partnerships with Indigenous Peoples.

As the Critic for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, close attention is paid to how our immigration policies and processes work or do not work for constituents. My constituency office encounters folks struggling with delays in their application, often for years. Domestic workers and live-in caregivers, in particular, face an unacceptably long processing time for their permanent residency application. I will continue to advocate for standardized processing times and a fair immigration policy that recognizes the principle that if you are good enough to work, you are good enough to stay.

My constituency office on 2572 E Hastings is available to assist you with any federal programs, services, and initiatives, and I will be hosting mobile offices throughout the community. I look forward to meeting you in my office or at a mobile office and hearing your thoughts on how to make our community an even better place to live, work and play.

Jenny Kwan  
Vancouver East MP





# Mt. Pleasant MLA

Dear friends of Britannia,

It has been an honour to serve as the MLA for such a vibrant and resilient community, thank you for re-electing me on May 9th. Thank you as well to all the students who took part in the student vote and all of the community members who participated in the Britannia All Candidates Meeting on May 1st. Finally, thank you to everyone who called, emailed, or visited our Commercial Drive community office to voice your concerns, request assistance, and share your ideas.

Our office has been bustling with activity since the 2016 by-election! My staff and I:

- Offered referrals, shared resources, coached people in their self-advocacy, and wrote to ministers on constituents' behalf;
- Delivered a workshop series on Employment, Tenants' Rights, Youth Empowerment, Seniors' Programs;
- Co-hosted three community forums with my MLA colleagues George Heyman, David Eby, Mable Elmore, and Adrian Dix on the topics of Housing, Education, and Kinder Morgan.

It was also an eventful year in the legislature, where our team worked to hold the BC Liberal government to account. My particular work in Victoria included:

- As the Spokesperson for Children and Families, demanding that the government do better for BC's children and youth, particularly children and youth in care, families living in poverty, youth transitioning out of care e.g. Alex Gervais;
- Introducing legislation to increase protections for renters against renovations;
- Advocating to reverse the government's decision to dramatically raise bus pass fees for persons with disabilities;
- Questioning the government's failure to address the housing affordability crisis; and
- Bringing attention to the province's lack of action on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Some highlights of our advocacy and outreach work this past year are:

- Creating the #ThrivingNotSurviving video with former youth in care, highlighting the lack of supports facing youth when they transition out of care;
- Participating in We Matter, a multi-media anti-suicide campaign for Indigenous youth;
- Honouring our youth by attending grad ceremonies, including Britannia Secondary and Elementary;
- Supporting the Save Our Schools campaign against public school closures in East Vancouver, including delivering the approximately 3,000 signatures to the Vancouver School Board and BC Liberal Education Minister Mike Bernier;

Participating in the Welfare Food Challenge;

- Attending a variety of cultural events, such as Lunar New Year, Reconciliation in Action, National Aboriginal Day and the Powell Street Festival;
- Participating in the 26th Annual DTES Women's Memorial March, the International Women's March, the Climate Action March, among other community-led initiatives; and
- Meeting with frontline community organizations responding to the fentanyl crisis and urging Housing Minister Rich Coleman and Health Minister Terry Lake to take bold action on this public health emergency.

I look forward to the opportunity to continue my work with the Britannia Community in the coming years. There is so much that we can do when we all work and paddle together! Best wishes to your membership for the next year, and please come by my office at 1st and Commercial to say hello.

Melanie Marks  
MLA Mount Pleasant

# MLA Vancouver Hastings

Dear Friends,

I want to start by thanking the people of Vancouver Hastings for their confidence in re-electing me to represent them in the Legislature. It is a great privilege and honour to serve the people of this great constituency.

I am pleased to once again be able to report to the members of Britannia on behalf of the Vancouver-Hastings constituency. Much like in my report from last fiscal year, our residents have worked hard to get by despite the rising cost of living in Vancouver and other challenges that have come their way.

Housing affordability continues to be a major challenge for our residents, as well as the overall cost of living. This is especially so for renters, who face not only out of control rental costs, but instability due to unfair legal loopholes and the lack of vacant rentals, especially for families. Rental vacancies continue to dwindle as an entire generation has been priced out of the housing market, meaning students, seniors, young families and the working poor are all forced to compete to find housing. Having been raised on the east side and being fortunate enough to be able to raise my family in my community, it is my goal for others to be able to do the same.

This year the importance of community schools in our neighbourhoods has been on everyone's minds due to the pressure from the provincial government to close 12 local schools, all but one of which were in East Van. Our community rallied together to demonstrate the importance of neighbourhood schools through canvassing, petitions and community meetings. My colleagues Melanie Mark and Adrian Dix joined me in delivering petitions to the Minister of Education. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who worked so hard to succeed in the fight to save our schools, especially teachers and parents. Sadly, it's not clear if this fight is over and we need to keep working together to protect public education.

While we have long seen many among us struggle with the hardship of addiction, the fentanyl and overdose crisis has affected people from all walks of life. We have lost friends, neighbours and family, from those who are trapped in the cycle of poverty to those who use recreational drugs. In 2016 we lost 922 people across BC, many of whom were in Vancouver and on the east side. Much of the work done to save lives has been by community members who have learned how to respond to overdoses in order to keep their loved ones alive. I'm committed to supporting those seeking detox and other addiction services and to getting fentanyl off of our streets.

We all agree that we need to be climate leaders and take action to protect British Columbia and the planet. We must lower emissions in order to slow climate change. We have agreed with the BC Climate Leadership Team and committed to cut emissions 40 per cent by 2030. We will all have to work together if this is going to happen. We will need to invest in transit in order to get people out of their cars, as well as to create energy efficient buildings. We need to make the commitment towards using renewable energy and end our dependency on fossil fuels. We are committed to increasing the province's capital share of transit costs from 33 per cent to 40 per cent to get moving on the transportation planning framework developed by Metro Vancouver mayors.

I am grateful for the opportunities I've had to work with amazing community organizations like Britannia and wish your members a safe and healthy next fiscal year.

Shane Simpson  
MLA Vancouver Hastings

## Report from Treasurer

As Treasurer of the Board and Chair of the Finance Committee, I would like to thank the Board members who elected me as Treasurer for their trust and support as well as the members of the Finance Committee for their commitment to Britannia. The Treasurer and the Finance Committee oversee and are responsible for the Community Centre's operating budget of over \$7,500,000. The income is derived from a variety of sources. The City of Vancouver funds our core functions.

The basic funding is augmented by monies received by gaming grants and by a wide variety of other grants, contributions, and registration fees. The last 12 months have been an excellent year for Britannia. We have just completed this year's audit and Britannia remains in a strong financial position. Although Britannia completed the year with a deficit of \$25,399, we still managed to increase its reserves by just under \$100,000.

John Flipse  
Treasurer

## Manager of Administration Services

Administration of the Britannia Community Service Centre includes finance and accounting, human resources, and facilities. In fiscal 2016, the Britannia Society closed out the year with an audited annual deficit of \$25,399. The City of Vancouver provided Britannia core funding of \$3,587,916, up 7.8% from 2015.

The Britannia Foundation earned 7% on its investments. After its annual donation to the Society, the Foundations net assets remained flat. The average return on Britannia Society investments was 2.29% in 2016.

For 2016, Human Resources work performed included reclassifying job specifications for the Admin Coordinator position at Britannia to a new role titled Office Administrator. Victoria Haenel, who previously held the position of Office Support Clerk III, accepted the promotion into the new role.

In regards to facilities maintenance, both the rink and the pool had closures during September 2016. In the pool, general tiling work was completed as well the installation of new flow meters and new expansion joints on the pools floor. Work in the rink included replacement and levelling of damaged puck boards as well as updates to the Britannia concession, which reopened in the fall of 2016. Prep work was also completed for the new Child Care playground which is expected to be completed spring 2017.

Jeremy Shier  
Manager of Administrative Services



Britannia Staff  
Orange Shirt Day 2016



# Statement of Financial Position

## THE BRITANNIA COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE SOCIETY

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2016, with comparative information for 2015

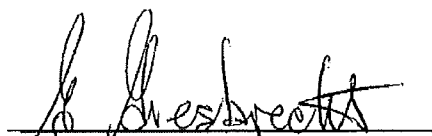
	2016	2015
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Restricted cash and investments (notes 3 and 4)	\$ 1,120,147	\$ 1,021,696
Amounts receivable:		
City of Vancouver	661,717	893,693
Other	357,216	449,571
	<u>2,139,080</u>	<u>2,364,960</u>
Restricted investments (notes 3 and 4)	151,477	207,915
Investments (note 4)	1,083,572	778,704
Capital assets (note 5)	596,662	561,270
	<u>\$ 3,970,791</u>	<u>\$ 3,912,849</u>

## Liabilities and Net Assets

Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 6)	\$ 720,766	\$ 747,194
Deferred contributions (note 7)	324,067	372,792
Deferred revenue (note 8)	257,328	247,900
Due to related parties (note 9)	927,557	856,819
	<u>2,229,718</u>	<u>2,224,705</u>
Employee future benefits (note 10)	244,800	325,000
Working capital advance (note 11)	81,000	81,000
Deferred capital contributions (note 12)	477,516	390,388
Net assets:		
Invested in capital assets (note 13)	119,146	170,882
Internally restricted (note 14)	818,611	720,874
	<u>937,757</u>	<u>891,756</u>
	<u>\$ 3,970,791</u>	<u>\$ 3,912,849</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

### Statement of Operations

Year ended December 31, 2016, with comparative information for 2015

	2016	2015
Revenue (note 16):		
Contributions from City of Vancouver for operating purposes	\$ 3,804,194	\$ 3,587,916
Rink and Pool	975,788	939,824
Donations, membership fees and special events	101,517	136,356
Licensed gaming	125,216	97,566
Rentals	30,424	27,889
Interest	20,789	16,419
Contribution from Britannia Community Services Foundation	53,529	45,595
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	16,906	14,574
Programs:		
Child Care	666,098	659,817
Recreation	1,289,697	1,295,255
Community education	434,893	439,469
Other	11,381	9,570
	<u>7,530,432</u>	<u>7,270,250</u>
Expenses:		
Maintenance and operations of buildings, equipment and grounds	1,850,062	1,640,564
Salaries, wages and employee benefits Administration	1,376,166	1,344,465
Salaries, wages and employee benefits Park Board Staff Administration	1,529,140	1,481,895
	201,360	171,567
Licensed gaming for children, youth, and senior programs	125,216	97,566
General programs (note 18)	174,378	200,595
Programs:		
Child Care	644,315	589,387
Recreation	1,185,983	1,108,607
Community education	428,655	442,253
Other	5,552	16,229
Amortization of capital assets	35,004	31,414
	<u>7,555,831</u>	<u>7,124,542</u>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>\$ (25,399)</b>	<b>\$ 145,708</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# Community Recreation Coordinator

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

## Successes

- Focused on inclusion and access goals as related to the Board Priorities; Community subsidy access and our free 'Fun for All' programming proved very successful and more than doubled the number who accessed programs from 2015. (Subsidies for example had 256 unique users in 2015 but increased to 574 in 2016)
- Worked together to increase our facility use efficiency; Programmers worked hard to share spaces with each other and our partners which resulted in increased communication and efficacies
- Coordinated use of our new Programming Principles; Starting in late 2015, the programming team began using the new Principles to guide their programming choices. This has empowered staff to bring new community programs to the forefront (Healing Circle Dinners with youth and seniors, Elders Drop-In and the Elders Connect Committee) and nurtured much more cooperation between program areas
- Continued prioritization of Reconciliation; have evolved the Britannia practice and made the community more welcoming for more of the Grandview Woodlands community
- Imminent Renewal; The Programming team was active in engaging our participants and community in conversation about our Centre's future while improving existing programs

## Personnel changes over the year included

- Mawi Bagon successfully took on the challenge as Pool Programmer, managing pool and fitness centre operations and programming after developing his leadership skill as a programmer in 2015
- Yao Zhang was brought in as a Volunteer Coordinator and replaced Helen Spaxman who was exemplary acting in the role
- Emma Carrigan has been amazing acting in the role of Youth Programmer while the position has been evaluated and reclassified to the much needed Youth Worker position. Her outstanding contributions and impact in the youth community have been appreciated by all

## Challenges

Britannia strives to be innovative and relevant, offering specialized programming that stands out from its peers however our facility is aging and unable to keep up with the changing needs of our community.

## The Future

As Britannia navigates the first phases of facility renewal, it is increasingly important for Britannia to go farther and provide programs and services with extra value to our unique community. It will be important that we define the historic value too, and ensure that our new existence will enrich that tradition of unique community service. While maintaining relations with our existing partners we also must look for new opportunities and partnerships off site so that we can mitigate any gap in services and programs through the renewal process.

## Special Thanks

Special thanks to the Community Members, Partners, Volunteers, Board, Committee Members and Staff, who 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!

Peter Odynsky  
Community Recreation Coordinator



# Highlights

## Recreation Programming Team

2016 was an amazing year. Reconciliation was a focus for much of the work done at Britannia. Taking from the 11 city actions from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, we strived to be leaders in areas such as:

- Cultural competence which most of the staff on site have completed a first phase of training with Brad Marsden, and we are looking towards implementation steps in 2017
- We continued working with our community and peers to host popular Reconciliation In Action events
- We were active with the City Rise Leadership Program, and provided opportunities for Aboriginal Youth to create programming and influence the recreation culture through the hub
- We worked hard to reduce barriers to access with our “Fun for All” programs and increased familiarity with the Leisure Access Program

## 55+ Centre

The daily drop-in and 55+ Programs continued to flourish. In 2016 the 55+ Centre members and staff worked closely with our partners and other agencies to support and encourage Elders and Youth through Reconciliation, and community integration. Some successful programs included:

- Drum Making Workshops lead by Elder Joe Calder. The drums then gifted at the Change of Season gathering in a meaningful way, following First Nations protocols & Elder teachings
- Change of Season Dinner included cultural teachings on the Winter Solstice, Vietnamese, Latin-American and First Nations interactive dance all part of the festivities
- Healing Circle Dinners (REACH/Britannia Partnership CAI Grant). Each event was a tremendous success seeing seniors and youth, from many cultures, who gathered to share stories, experiences and cultures
- Film Collaboration with Elders Connect Committee
- Spring Fling partnership with Q-munity – An Annual Seniors LGTB event
- Carving Workshops: Partnered with Community member Luke Warkentin, who offered FREE carving workshops for all ages

## Arts and Culture

- For 23 years The Gallery Project, located in the Britannia Public Library, has brought art into the community holding monthly exhibitions of artwork, workshops, and artist talks
- Ronnie Dean Harris aka Ostwelve and Kelty Jean McKerracher were the successful candidates for the Artist in Communities program. Together they will be working on the Britannia’s Box of Light project, an arts-based exploration into the values and gifts held and shared by the Britannia community
- For the first time ever, 2016 saw a partnership between Britannia Community Services Centre, and Britannia Secondary School-Community Education HUB program for the Britannia Annual Christmas Craft Fair
- Special events included neighbourhood favourites; Stone Soup, East Feast, Artful Sundays, Seasonal Decoration Pop Up craft workshops, 4 Coffeehouses, Vintage Bike Swap, Italian Days, Vancouver Draw Down, Yarn Event, and Parade of Lost Souls with over 30,000 visitors who attended

## Rink

- Revived the partnership with Vancouver Minor Hockey Association to re-open the concession in the fall, potential exists for growth by working with the Britannia Volunteer program
- Unplanned maintenance closure for 4 ½ weeks in September, resulted in the start date for fall programs and rentals to be pushed forward a month
- The Vancouver Adult Co-ed League expanded again from 28 to 30 teams. VACHL and both the Britannia Co-ed Adult Hockey League and Women’s Hockey League offered in Spring/Summer were at maximum capacity
- The 7 Free Stat Public Skates offered in Fall/Winter were well attended, exceeding 100 patrons per session
- The Britannia After School Hockey (BASH) youth hockey program is currently rebuilding. The program is largely supported by the BEER BASH fundraiser organized by Bomber Brewing

# Highlights

## Latin Youth

- Latin Youth Art Project; Youth worked to create different art pieces, focused on Latin American Identity
- Some of their paintings were based on memories and recollections of places, feelings and experiences from their home countries and also from their journey of integration here in Canada
- Their work was displayed at Britannia's Art Gallery where a small reception was held and the community was invited to celebrate their art work

## Pool and Fitness Centre

- Access/Inclusion remained a top priority, and our Society was very generous in subsidizing Members
- A number of staff changes, which brought new eyes to our operations, helped us remain current & efficient
- In preparation for the Renewal of the Pool and Fitness Center, have started to strategize replacement of equipment in facilities, and retiring outdated equipment



## Sport & Fitness

- Over 321 Sport & Fitness programs offered to the Grandview-Woodland Community. 4600+ children, youth & adults registered, over 5200 dropped in programs. We had over 280,000 participant activity visits
- Micro Footie and Britannia Gymnastics Club continue to be the largest programs (over 2000 children annually) with more than 700 on wait lists, generated over \$110,000 and \$93,000 in revenues respectively
- Each week Britannia offers 48 hours of children's, and 44 hours of adult fitness programs, using only 67 hours of gymnasium time per week
- Partnerships with Axe Capoeira, Sportball Canada, Gymnastics BC, Zumba Fitness and newly formed programs with Apex Volleyball Club add to the continued success of this program area

## Vietnamese Seniors

- Assisted seniors through a variety of services; to find affordable housing, apply for social assistance and Old Age Security pension, get Bus Pass/Bus Pass Renewal, to complete 2016 Census questionnaire
- Co-ordinated in the Community Volunteer Income Tax program helping 100 seniors & low income families
- Joint programs with Multicultural Family Centre to promote healthy lifestyle for seniors every Friday
- Organized a multitude of functions: Monthly Luncheon, Summer bus trips, Flu Shot Clinic

## Volunteer Program

- Continued to provide support to hundreds of volunteers
- Increased participation and engagement with several of our volunteer dominant programs

## Youth

- YOUnique Youth Conference provided youth opportunity to take part in workshops around leadership, social justice, human rights, employment rights and money skills
- First annual Girls Career Day, brought together high schools students to meet and engage with female mentors from different fields, inform students about many different career choices
- During Spring Break partnered with Thunderbird, Trout Lake and Marpole-Oakridge Community Centres, to bring together 40 youth from our communities, for a community development and leadership camp trip



# Britannia Elementary School

Our School 2016 Plan was to focus on Numeracy and Aboriginal Enhancement (District Goal). 190 students enrolled at the school in 8 divisions and a staff of approximately 35.

## **Numeracy**

To improve the fundamental math skills: Adding; subtracting; multiplication and division for each student so that as new numeracy concepts are taught students have the basic skills to work with the new concepts. Students' abilities are tracked by teachers and extra support is subsequently provided for students that demonstrate a need for additional support in learning the basic skills.

## **Aboriginal Cultural Enhancement**

To increase knowledge, acceptance, empathy, awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal histories, traditions, cultures and contributions among all students.

We worked to incorporate a variety of Aboriginal experiences for our students. The First Nations Carving Pavilion has been very positive and exposed the students to carving skills, traditions and storytelling. Kat Norris worked with our classes on the Friendship Dance for the Reconciliation in Action Day which happened on the gravel field with students from the High School and various community members. Bonnie Wendt, our Aboriginal Enhancement worker, continues to provide cultural experiences for our families through a variety of activities and plans/organizes our National Aboriginal Day activities. Daphne Wale, our Aboriginal Teacher, works in class supporting our students on their academic studies and sources out Aboriginal presenters for our students.

Some of the programs in place to support families are: Backpack Buddies; Clothes on Wheels; Community School Teams after school activities; Super Science Club; Art Therapy; Micro Footie; More Sports Mini-Soccer; School sponsored Extra-curricular sports-Cross-Country, Soccer, Basketball, Badminton and Track and Field; Skate with Santa; Potluck Dinners; Dare Arts; Ready Set Learn and Welcome to Kindergarten. These represent just a sample of the many positive experiences that the school and our community partners provide.

School Goals for the 2017/18 school year will again focus on Numeracy and Aboriginal Enhancement. Our enrollment projections are for about 185 students and we look forward to increased staffing levels to enhance the learning opportunities and support for all our students.

On a personal note, I feel very fortunate to work within a school community that every day demonstrates outstanding care and support for all the students and families that make up our school community. Committed and caring staff both at the school and community level clearly make the Britannia School Community a special place.

Tim Krug  
Principal, Britannia Elementary



# Britannia Secondary School

The program sketched out in last year's report has coalesced around two themes: Reconciliation and Innovation. We held a Reconciliation in Action event put on in partnership with the Community Centre. MC'd by an Outreach Grad, a Fashion Show highlighted First Nations' design & fashion and partnered professional models & designers with several of our students. Our students were outstanding!

Reconciliation is more than an event at Brit: A teacher inquiry group is focused on First Nations and Aboriginal ways of learning, and we are improving our understanding of our shared history and geography in this ancestral land of the Coast Salish, Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil Waututh peoples. Our Remembrance Day ceremony recognized the tremendous sacrifice of First Nations Volunteers who served in the Great Wars while their families were in Residential schools and we denied basic rights to these soldiers. And later in the year, a two day Aboriginal focus workshop series was organized by Mr. Kyle Ross and Ms. Tori Ayi-Bonte, our Aboriginal Support Teacher and Aboriginal Enhancement Workers.

The year has seen some incredible enrichment offered by our teachers:

- a poetry slam competition from classroom to National Semi-finals;
- a two-day Grade 8 camp, held at Camp Elphinstone; a grade 8 and grade 11 Venture/IB camp;
- an excellent Grade 8 Supper theatre event where our English department arranged supper with the Homework club and took the grade 8 to the East Van Panto at the Cultch Theatre
- a Grade 8-10 media literacy workshop, and a Grade 11/12 Regime change workshop.

In terms of our innovation agenda we are converting our 3rd floor staffroom to a Learning Resource Centre. We will continue to transform this space into a Learning Commons with new laptops and a variety of new learning resources to enrich the learning of students in our neighbourhood. With the recent Supreme Court ruling in favour of the British Columbia Teacher's Federation (BCTF) we have been able to employ one full time resource teacher, and expand support in Science, Math, Socials, Foods, and English.

Britannia's tradition of excellence started in 1912 and continues today. The legendary comeback win (the greatest in BC schools basketball history) by our Senior Boys' team in the Semi Final of the Bruins Invitational. No-one can forget Coach Wayne Hoag's "Minute of Noise" made by our assembled school in the bleachers of Gyms A/B as Wayne's friend and mentor, boys team coach, and former student council president Eric Ming's number 21 jersey was retired after Eric's passing in September 2016.

Part of our vision is for our students to be convinced of their ability to be innovators and to be part of the reconciliation process. This demands a mindset that recognizes who we are and what our powerful heritage entails. Everything at Brit needs to be part of this mindset of taking on challenges and doing our best ... from academics, to sport, to fieldtrips ... and hence the Street2Peak initiative (which is part of our school and the Streetfront Alternative program), having climbed Africa's highest peak, Mt. Kilimanjaro in 2015, headed off to hike Torres del Paine's W-circuit in Patagonia down on the Southern tip of South America during the Spring break. To get there a team of students have been pushed through a grueling series of summer and winter training hikes coordinated by Streetfront Support Worker Mr. Barry Skillin that had students hiking up to 24 kilometers in the snow and rain with backpacks of 20-35lbs. The only public school in Canada to have students on top of Kili and on the trails of Patagonia: these are our kids; this is our family; and this is our community.

Lastly, some stats: in June 2016 we had a grad class of 110. 105 students got a full grad, the remaining 5 were one or two courses short and had graded by the start of the second semester: a 100% pass rate. Of our aboriginal graduating students, 22 of 24 students graduated. No school in BC, private or public, comes close! These are beautiful results that come from sustained support by dedicated teachers, support workers, coaches, and community education teams ... and a community's trust in us as a school that puts our student's learning at the heart of our thinking.

Dr. Andrew Schofield  
Principal, Britannia Secondary School

# Canuck Family Education Centre



We operate 5 days a week out of Britannia Centre in partnership with Main at Gladstone Education Centre (VSB).

- 36 parents participated in the English Foundations 5/6/7 - 16 pre-school kids and Mondays (5hrs)
- 44 parents participated in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) foundation class and 10 pre-school kids in GR2R on Tuesdays (5 hours)
- 39 parents participated in Foundations in Math, 17 pre-school kids on Thursdays (5hrs)
- 16 parents participated in the Healthy Eating Activity Living (HEAL) on Tuesday mornings and 9 pre-school children (2hrs)
- 44 parents participated in the English Foundations 1-4, 10 pre-school kids on Fridays. (5 hours)

Edmonds PIE Plus is a partnership with CFEC and the Burnaby School District and operates 5 days a week at Edmonds Elementary School – 3 hours each afternoon

- 28 parents and 21 pre-school kids participated in the Monday/Wednesday/Thursday lower level English class.
- 25 parents and 19 pre-school kids participated the Tuesday/Friday higher-level English class
- Grandview GR2R is a partnership with CFEC, Britannia Childcare and Grandview Terrace Child Care Centre and operates Wednesdays 9:30 – 12:30pm
- 14 parents and 18 children participated in the Wednesday program.

## Other Supports

- Parent and Family Advocacy – liaise with community and social services on behalf of the parents in our programs, in the form of letter writing, meeting with social workers and/or the police
- Partnership Development and Support – we provide ongoing support to our partners and expansion of current delivery of services, where needed and appropriate
- Workplace Readiness and Job Find Support – this additional service is provided for CFEC parents who need help in resume writing, job search skills and interviewing practice and additional training
- 25 volunteers participated in programming at Britannia and Edmonds locations
- We provided 11 healthy lunches over the week at our 3 program locations to all participating parents and children – feeding approximately 100 people per day
- Compass bus tickets were provided to all adults attending our classes, where needed
- Get Ready 2 Read early learning program for pre-school children of participating adults
- Gently used clothing donations, new books and toys
- Emergency gift certificates for food and other daily necessities, where needed
- Home visits
- One on one counseling and goal setting support, when needed 8 middle/high school students and 3 parents were given monthly bus passes – 11 in total
- The Canucks Holiday Giving program provided gifts for CFEC families: Britannia 15, Edmonds 19 and Grandview 2
- 200 CFEC parents and kids attended the Annual CFEC Holiday party at Rogers Arena: 26 families from Britannia, 28 families from Edmonds and 7 CFEC staff/volunteers

Jean Rasmussen  
Executive Director, CFEC

# Eastside Family Place Society

## Mission Statement

The Eastside Family Place Society, est. 1979, is a Provincially Certified Family Resource Program, Early Years Family Support and Parenting Centre. 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 full-service Family Resource Centres. All the Vancouver family places work together in partnership, strengthening our programs and enabling best practices. Many of the families served by ESFP are single parent, low-income and represent a range of ethnicities. ESFP membership costs \$20 per year. ESFP has 6 core staff, casual staff, facilitators and presenters for parenting education. Last year 225 volunteers donated 1559 hours of support. We are conveniently located off Grandview Park at 1655 William St.

## Programs and Services

- ESFP offers a family-friendly, play-based learning centre with age-appropriate toys, equipment and activities. Children 0 - early 6 learn and develop socially and emotionally in a safe, non-judgmental environment. Participants enjoy opportunities for support, services and networking with others. Many lasting friendships and connections are made
- Drop-in: offered Monday - Friday, 7 sessions/week. ESFP recorded up to 16,000 visits to the Drop-In last year
- Licensed Occasional Childcare: an ECE-certified family support worker provides childcare 15 hours a week. ESFP offers childminding during parent education sessions
- Direct Support and Referrals to relevant services and programs
- Collective of Parents Empowered and Nobody's Perfect are parenting programs that reflect and adapt to the specific needs and priorities of participants and aim to strengthen parenting skills
- Workshops: parenting, health and other relevant topics
- Clothing exchange: donations of children's clothes can be accessed
- Food-Security Programs: daily nutritious snack; occasional lunches; food is always accessible during the drop-in
- Community Food Cupboard: donations of food can be accessed
- Food Skills and Community Garden: participants learn about growing and cooking nutritious foods

## Donations and Funding

ESFP gratefully accepts donations and in-kind goods and services. Please help us meet the needs of families in the community. The Eastside Family Place Society is an incorporated, registered charity that is governed by a volunteer board of directors. As a non-profit, ESFP is dependent on government and non-government grants, donations and fundraising to cover its annual operational costs.

For further information please visit [www.eastsidefamilyplace.org](http://www.eastsidefamilyplace.org) or phone 604-255-9841.

Mary Johnston  
Executive Director, Eastside Family Place Society



# Grandview Woodland Food Connection



The Grandview Woodland Food Connection (GWFC) serves as a community food hub and part of the Vancouver Neighbourhood Food Networks supporting a dignified food access philosophy. The GWFC provides opportunities for positive community engagement: We increase food security among underserved community members; increase community food programming such as school and community gardens, food workshops, bulk food groups, community kitchens, community meal programs, and food celebrations; advocate for policy change in the interest of more just and healthy food system; focus on food as a way to bring people together and develop community; build partnerships with other community groups; and develop the capacity of community volunteers.

## Highlights

- Wild Salmon Caravan – excited to partner with the Indigenous led Wild Salmon Defenders recognizing the importance of protecting wild salmon
- Britannia Carving Pavilion Garden – provided a unique opportunity for a class of Britannia Secondary students to learn about traditional and contemporary Indigenous foods
- Wild Minds – Strathcona and Cottonwood Gardens were home to the summer gardening internship with a group of 10 Britannia youth learning about growing food and ecology
- Britannia Bulk Buy – food distribution program served over 60 low income households, improving their access to healthy fruits and veggies
- Grade 3 Potato Farm – Britannia students learned about the full food production cycle, including planting, watering, harvesting, cooking and eating a healthy roasted potatoes and veggie lunch
- Britannia Day of Reconciliation – Food can bridge difference and the GWFC was proud to help cater the close to 400 people in attendance
- Off the Grill Youth Meal Program – Britannia youth helped prepare, cook, and serve food as part of an outdoor warm season meal program serving youth and community members healthy dinners
- Food Skills Workshops – 16 food workshops with over 100 people participating in a variety of workshops, including sausage making, canning, fermentation, healthy vegan, tamales, sushi, kombucha, kefir, and more
- Britannia School Garden Fundraiser – raised over \$10,000 for school gardening as well as the Eastside Family Place Little Sprouts program
- McSpadden Park County Fair – Was great to participate in this event where we set up an information table and won 2nd prize for our Britannia garden basket
- Stone Soup Festival – Despite a very wet spring, we were blessed with sunshine and another fabulous festival

Visit Britannia's Food Sustainability Website page to learn more about the GWFC's work. [http://www.britannia-centre.org/services/community\\_services/food\\_sustainability.php](http://www.britannia-centre.org/services/community_services/food_sustainability.php)

Ian Marcuse  
GWFC



# Librarian In Charge

The Britannia Branch of the Vancouver Public Library functions as a joint Public Library and Vancouver School Board School Library for K-12 students from the Britannia Elementary and Secondary schools. Britannia is the only branch in the VPL system that has an Art Gallery inside the branch.



Vancouver Public Library

## Key Information

8,997 Sq. Feet | 9.97 Staff (FTE) staff | 16 Public Computers | 62.0 Hours Open/Week  
Circulated: 287,061 physical items (eBooks and eAudio not included) | In-Person visitors: 271,773 | In-Person Internet Sessions: 55,367. Programs: Adult: 131 (Twice weekly 1-1 Computer Training sessions not included) [A=3626] | Teens: 34 [A=1214] | Children: 545 [A=21,050] | Total Attendance: 25,890

## Children

- The Baby Mama Gansa (Spanish Mother Goose) program continued for 16 weeks in the 1st quarter and the popular Man in the Moon program for dads & babies continued for 26 weeks between May-Oct.
- Began Digital Literacy programs for Middle Years children with Make Your Own Lego Movie in Feb. learning animation on iPads; Raspberry Pi (Computer coding) program in Mar. & Oct.; Paper Minecraft during Spring Break
- For Spring Break: Mar 14-24, the highlights were a "Drive-in" Movie program with animation shorts from VPL's IndiFlix database in cardboard cars created by the BRI Reading Buddy teens and the presentation by the OWL Rehabilitation Society with real orphaned owls
- 642 kids joined the 2016 SUMMER READING CLUB with the theme of Book A Trip, the highlight being the special finale with wild animals from the Urban Safari Rescue team
- Started the 7-week Reading Buddies Program where Primary students were paired with Teens to work on their reading

## Teens

- Worked with the Britannia Secondary Teacher-Librarian & the BRI Teen Student Monitors to weed the VSB collection and worked on displays for the branch
- Hosted CDN Graphic YA novelist, Faith Erin Hicks & award-winning Kenneth Oppel
- Started the first Britannia Teen Advisory Group (TAG) monthly meetings in the Fall for teens 13-18. The group participated in the Central Library's Inspiration Lab's Pilot Music Recording Workshop in Dec

## Adults

- Special Workshops included: Presentation by Dr. Patrick Myers for Feb's BC Psychology Month ; 3 Poetic Pairings; City of Vancouver's Emergency Preparedness; VanCity's Identity Theft and Fraud Prevention; "Dynamic Presenter" with Ben Nutall-Smith; Latin Canadian author Esther Frid; Italian Canadian poet and writer Diego Bastianutti; Scriptwriting workshop with VPL's Writer-in-Residence Sam Wiebe; Death and Dying discussion by the Death Café; and the Introduction to Crowdfunding workshop.
- Community Events annual participation: Under One Umbrella's Homeless Connect Day; the Stone Soup Festival; 100 in 1 day event; Italian Day and an "Outdoor Reading Room" with the Project for Public Spaces. Began visits to the Seniors at the Britannia Lodge and the Kettle Society and monthly visits to Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship's West Coast Family Nights; the VSB Britannia in the Cultural Be-In and the National Aboriginal Day with VSB; the Reconciliation-in-Action Day in Sept.

Yukiko Tosa  
Britannia Library Branch Head





# Britannia

## RENEWAL

### PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The work of the Britannia Renewal is the responsibility of the Planning and Development Committee. Chaired by Susanne Dahlin, the role of the committee is to advise the Board of Management on matters related to the Renewal. This includes community engagement, research, planning, outreach and community capacity building to discuss, analysis data and collect information that will contribute to an innovative vision of the Centre. In 2016-17 the committee conducted several tours of multi-use facilities around the lower mainland, and prepared land-use principles to reflect the priorities and interests of Britannia Community Services Society.

In 2016 the committee begun work collaboratively with our site partners (including the Vancouver School Board, Vancouver Park Board, Vancouver Public Library, and the City of Vancouver) on a joint working group to undertake the community consultation phase of this major project. Initial steps, led by BCSCS with the partners was to hire the consultants responsible for the planning process. The committee was integral in the development of the Request for Proposal (RFP) and participated in the hiring process. Urban Arts was the successful candidate to undertake the master planning phase of Britannia Renewal, expected to be completed in March 2018. The working group started weekly meetings to advance the Britannia Renewal.

The initial community consultation phase of this process was launched early in March 2017 with an open house and the unveiling of our B-LAB (Britannia Renewal Lab) in the Info Centre. Other community consultation events have been planned, including the speaker series, staff and stakeholders meetings, focus groups, and spaces and places workshops. Find a full schedule, background information and ongoing updates on our website ([www.britanniarenewal.org](http://www.britanniarenewal.org)).

Susanne Dahlin  
Planning and Development Committee



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