



2017-2018 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 gymnasia
- 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 2017-2018

Executive Committee:

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

Partners:

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

Executive Members:

Scott Clark
Susanne Dahlin

Senior Staff:

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

Directors:

Annie Danilko
Pamela Dudas
Levi Higgs
Vera Jones
Freya Kristensen
Juan Carlos Maldonado
Craig Ollenberger
Andrew Phillips
Naina Varshney

Honourary Board Members:

Michael Clague, Maurice Egan

Liaisons to Britannia:

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



Celebrating the Launch of Britannia Renewal
Britannia staff gather in front of the Info Centre fireplace at the Britannia Renewal Open House and Ideas Fest on March 4 2017.



Honouring the Leaders in Our Community
We recognized and acknowledged the contributions of outstanding community members with a Salish Honouring Ceremony in February.

President of Britannia Board of Management

In this report for 2017/18 I would like to draw attention to the work of the Planning and Development committee. During my decade long tenure on the board the P&D committee has worked to bring renewal to the Britannia site through different iterations. With inclusion on the current city capital plan and a proposed site-wide renewal of the Britannia site over multiple capital plans, 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.

This engagement and consultation has informed how changes to the site may be made, and how the facilities of the future could look. The work of the board as a whole has been to participate in the many meetings held to further this discussion, to listen carefully to all the views expressed, and to give our consideration to the expansive information we have been provided with. Many meetings between the elected city boards and council, and the elected Britannia board, are being held for the purpose of ensuring that folks are informed of the work done here and the importance of moving forward with facilities renewal on the site.



Community members are invited to participate in the Britannia Renewal process through interactive installations in the Information Centre "B-LAB"..

The first priority of the board is to ensure that the driving principles 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.

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. With the recent addition to our constitution and by-laws we have included in our mandate active advocacy and support for reconciliation in collaboration with indigenous peoples. In working toward achieving this goal we are informed by the perspective and insight of the indigenous directors on the board, as well as staff and volunteers who actively participate in helping us understand the truth of Reconciliation in Action.

The year has been marked by the impact community engagement has in determining directions for Britannia Community Services Centre. We ask for your input, you deliver, and we thank-you!

On behalf of the Britannia Board of Management,

Gwen Giesbrecht
President

Executive Director

Leadership and accountability through engagement with our community, partners and patrons has been Britannia's practice for over forty years. This year more than any other has been significant because of the huge quantity and quality of dialogue between, within, and among the many residents, institutions, groups, and individuals connected to the Society. While some of these discussions are philosophical and visionary in the realm of planning for the Renewal they also lend themselves to practical solutions for the daily operations of the Centre.

Through the Renewal consultations we heard the need to include Indigenous residents in a broad range of issues. The Seniors Elders and Advocates Committee of the Britannia Board of Management was established to help guide that work. There were also comments that brought attention to current situations that we should pay attention to immediately. Every type of comment was fielded from the need to control the sauna thermostat to new projects for youth and seniors. (By the way the sauna solution included the submission of a unique design for the thermostat cover which was then fabricated and installed by City staff!)

The Board and our staff are leaders in their fields and sometimes good leadership requires taking risks which may be unpopular decisions based on principles and values. Great leaders work alongside their constituents to advance common goals and objectives through dialogue, knowledge sharing, and generosity of spirit. It has been an honour to be a part of the mandate of the Britannia Board of Management who have taken on their responsibility to the community with thoughtfulness, thoroughness, and tenacity.

This year, while much of the Boards attention has been on the Renewal, our staff have continued to be trailblazers and groundbreakers in program delivery and service to the community. The Arena hosted a contemporary ice dance show in partnership with the Cultch for Canada 150+; our 55+ team worked with Journeys Around the Circle Society to develop and fund cross cultural programs for seniors, Elders, and youth; the volunteer team tested new software to better coordinate and link people in the community; and our youth team successfully ran a warm and welcoming warming centre in addition to so much more, all backed by administration, accounting and facility departments focused on 'making it work'.

Thank you to our staff and Board.
Cynthia Low



My warmest congratulations to Britannia Community Centre Association for another year of excellent work in the neighbourhood, especially the development of the Master Plan for Britannia. It is wonderful to see the broad community engagement process that you have embarked on to realize the dreams and aspirations of the Britannia community.

As the Member of Parliament for Vancouver East, I am happy to report that after three decades of work, the House adopted NDP MP Romeo Saganash's private member's Bill C-262, An Act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This is the first piece of legislation to explicitly reject colonialism and aligns Canadian law with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. I am so very proud and honoured to have the opportunity to speak in support of what I considered as one of the most significant pieces of legislation in the history of Canada.

Still, we have much to do for reconciliation. Not an Indigenous community in Canada is untouched by systemic racism and sexism that allow Indigenous women to be stolen from their loved ones. Decades of work and advocacy by families and survivors resulted in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Women and Girls, which is mandated to find the root systemic causes to the perpetuating violence against Indigenous women through hearing testimonies from families and cross-examining the government's own institutions. I feel very strongly that it must put the needs of families and survivors at the forefront, and that it is vital that organizations who have been doing this work for decades are heard in the Inquiry. Many Indigenous and women-led organizations feel that they are not able to meaningfully participate to ensure that systemic issues are addressed in the inquiry. The government needs to properly address those concerns to ensure the success of the inquiry. No more stolen sisters cannot just be a slogan!

Recently, I had the opportunity to participate in a massive, Indigenous led protest to #StopKM. Thousands gathered across the country to send a clear message to the Prime Minister: No consent – No Pipeline. With eagles soaring above us, our Indigenous leadership spoke about future generations and how it is our responsibility to “warrior up” to protect those who could not speak for themselves. Please join the fight by signing the petition on my website: https://www.jennykwanndp.ca/kinder_morgan

For Vancouver East, housing remains the number one issue for many. Housing has long been declared a basic right by the United Nations. The NDP introduced Bill C-325 to enshrine the Right to Housing for all Canadians in the Canadian Bill of Rights. To my dismay, every Liberal MP joined hands with the Conservatives to vote against the bill.

At a town hall I hosted, many attendees agreed on the necessity of a real National Affordable Housing Program. While the Liberals announced a National Housing Strategy with much fanfare, 90% of the funding will not actually be spent until after the next election. Housing affordability is a crisis and cannot wait. The NDP has called on the government to bring the funding forward by increasing housing spending in Budget 2018 (instead of 2021) to \$1.58 billion. Though this call for action was ignored, I will continue to be a strong advocate on this key Van East priority.

To close, as always, 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
NDP Critic for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship NDP Critic for Multiculturalism

Vancouver Hastings MLA

Dear Friends,

Congratulations to Britannia on yet another year of hard work serving the community! This year I had the chance to attend so many wonderful events hosted at Britannia by the Society as well as other community partners and it is clear that this space is a vital part of the community. It is especially meaningful to reflect on this during this time of the exciting Britannia Renewal Project.

I'd also like to acknowledge the people of Vancouver-Hastings and thank them again for the privilege and opportunity to return to the Legislature for a fourth time. I firmly believe that all politics is local and is all about representing your constituents and the community. My current role in government takes me away from the neighbourhood more than in the past, but I never forget that it was Vancouver-Hastings that brought me to the Legislature.

One task that has taken me on the road is a tour of the province hosting community meetings for the government's upcoming Poverty Reduction Strategy. This tour has made clear that British Columbians want a better BC for all. People are struggling and it's time everyone has a chance to take part in the prosperity of this province.

Budget 2018 helps carve a new path to shared affordability for everyone in our province. This includes a made-in-BC child care plan, the elimination of MSP premiums, a comprehensive housing plan and record levels of capital investment in every corner of our province.

It is our goal to leave more money in people's pockets through these affordability measures, to improve essential services, as well as to create an economic development strategy. One that will create the jobs and government revenues that will give us the means to achieve our objectives to reduce inequality in BC.

I am grateful for the opportunities I've had to work with dynamic community groups like Britannia and wish your members a safe and healthy year to come.

Hon. Shane Simpson
MLA, Vancouver Hastings



Dear Friends of Britannia,

Thank you to all the residents of Vancouver-Mount Pleasant (VMP) for the immense privilege of representing you as your Member of the B.C. Legislative Assembly. It is an honour to work for you in our community and in the legislature.

Last Spring, I was a member of the Official Opposition, partnering with community stakeholders, constituents, and my colleagues on wide-ranging issues. These included, protections for renters, children in government care, housing affordability, and opioid crisis response, in addition to affordable healthcare and childcare. I connected with many of the small businesses, organizations, and community hubs that make VMP so vibrant and diverse. This includes many of the incredible organizations and programs offered throughout Britannia. Thank you for volunteering and participating in this dynamic neighbourhood!

In May 2017 you re-elected me as your MLA—Ha’awa! Then July 18th Premier John Horgan appointed me as the Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, making me the first female First Nations woman cabinet minister in B.C. history. I spent the rest of the summer at local community events, advocating on constituent concerns with my dedicated staff, and travelling the province in my Ministerial role. We returned to the Legislature for a full and productive session in the fall, and kicked off the current spring session with Budget 2018, aimed at making people’s lives better.

Looking back over the past year, I see important differences in the opportunities now available to members of our community. Income and disability assistance rates have increased, along with earning exemptions. Geographical rent increases and the fixed-term lease loophole have been eliminated. Adult basic education and English language learning programs are free again. Public post-secondary tuition is now free for youth aging out of foster care. The 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People is a cross-government priority in ministerial mandate letters. In response to the opioid crisis, there is a new Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and for the first time in B.C., a Minister dedicated to poverty reduction.

Budget 2018 is about people. We are working for you by raising the minimum wage in regular, predictable ways. We are eliminating MSP premiums, with significant reductions along the way. We had one of the most engaging public consultations in the Province’s history to prepare for the legalization and regulation of cannabis. We are making the largest child care investment in B.C.’s history. We are making record level investments to address the housing crisis - with announcements already made in the VMP area for units of mixed-income social housing and units dedicated for people who experience homelessness.

I know we still have more to do, and that the challenges we face are not going to be addressed overnight. I believe in the resilience of this community, and that the changes we are making now will be felt by generations to come.

I entered politics in an effort to address the injustices I saw throughout our province. Like you, I want change. This is why I am so proud of the actions our B.C. NDP government has taken to make life more affordable, deliver the services people count on and build a strong sustainable economy.

Thank you for your advocacy, leadership, and unwavering passion for all members of our community. I am so proud to be your MLA.

Hon. Melanie Mark
Hli Haykwhl Wíi Xsgaak
MLA, Vancouver-Mount Pleasant

Manager of Child Care Services

It is with great pleasure that I bring you my annual report for the Britannia Child Care Society.

The Britannia HUB is made up of Britannia Preschool and Out of School Care, Eagles in the Sky Day Care and Out of School Care, Grandview Terrace Day Care and Out of School Care and Family Resource Centre, Lord Nelson Out of School Care and Mount Pleasant Toddler and Day Care programs. We provide over 300 licensed spaces and manage over 45 regular staff and over 40 casual staff. The total budget for the department including the Child Care Societies is over \$2M, and together we provide a very important and much needed service to our local community.



Child care continues to be a high priority for the majority of our families in the area. We know from general feedback, research and media reports that, families and those looking for child care struggle to find good quality licensed day care, before and after school and school break programs. Many people finding lack of availability, cost, poor quality and consistency a major concern.

Britannia Child Care Services understands these real issues and in partnership with our child care providers ensure we have good quality of care, spaces, affordable fees, buildings, facilities and resources that meet the licencing requirements and professional, trained staff.

We are committed to ensuring that our families have the greatest of confidence in our programs, whilst looking after the youngest and important members of our community.

This is a great time for child care in the province and particularly in Vancouver. I am pleased that the Government has included child care in their recent budget and that new funding will mean that there will be a fee reduction in place to bring immediate fee relief to all families with children in 3-5 daycare and Infant/ toddler programs. This is hopefully just the start in ensuring all families have the support they need to have high quality, affordable child care.

I am so pleased to be managing the Britannia programs, working alongside our committed Senior Supervisor, Lorraine Evans and staff and leading the Britannia Child Care Hub.

Highlights at Britannia Preschool and Out of School Care for the year;

- Continued popularity within the local community.
- A successful playground renovation.
- Continued commitment to professional training for staff.
- A sound, well managed budget.
- Combined over 60 years of professional child care experience in the child care team
- Children and families feedback is positive and all enjoying what we offer.
- Continued focus on the RAK program (Random Acts of Kindness) in the Out of School Care.
- New this year we are looking forward to the planned HUB family education night and staff training.

Thank you for your continued support.

Rachel Day
Manager of Child Care Services

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 again as Treasurer for their trust and support, as well as the members of the Finance Committee for their commitment to Britannia. In 2017, two new members were added to the committee. Their fresh and diverse views have been an appreciated addition to the team. The Treasurer and the Finance Committee oversee and are responsible for the Community Centre's operating budget of over \$7,500,000. Income is derived from a variety of sources.

The City of Vancouver funds core functions such as programming, child care, and maintenance. Basic funding is augmented by monies received from gaming grants, and by a wide variety of other grants, contributions, and registration fees. In 2017, Britannia completed the year with a surplus of \$32,277, and increased its Discretionary reserve by \$20,974. This is a very balanced surplus, in which Britannia continues to support those in the Grandview Woodland and Strathcona communities while still maintaining adequate reserves for future long term planning and sustainability.

John Flipse
Treasurer

Manager of Administration Services

Administration at the Britannia Community Service Centre includes finance and accounting, human resources, and facilities.

In Fiscal 2017, the Britannia Society closed out the year with an audited annual surplus of \$32,277. Total revenues increased by 2.5%, compared to 2016, to \$7,717,923 and consisted of core funding from the City of Vancouver of \$3,847,953. Expenses increased by 1.7% to \$7,685,646.

Human Resources work in 2017 consisted of our continuous theme of regular assessment of the organization to ensure proper staffing requirements are met to maximize efficiency and effectiveness in business process and service delivery. This year, in Administration, one of Britannia's two Office Support Clerk III positions was reclassified to the position of Communications Assistant to assist with Britannia's communications plan. In programming, Britannia completed the reclassification and hiring for the position of Community Youth Worker.

For facilities in 2017, Britannia went through a great deal of change. The City of Vancouver and Vancouver Parks Board have taken responsibility of maintenance oversight of Britannia's Rink and Pool, while the Vancouver School Board still oversees maintenance of the remainder of the site. Britannia is happy to welcome the new Seconded Parks Board Maintenance staff to the community. As well, the newly built Britannia Child Care playground and phase 3 of ʔwqʔeləwən ct (Britannia's Carving Pavilion), the construction of the Salish Hat, were both completed in 2017. Both capital projects were completed on time and are great additions to the facilities on site at Britannia.



Jeremy Shier
Manager of Administrative Services

Statement of Financial Position

THE BRITANNIA COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE SOCIETY


Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2017, with comparative information for 2016

	2017	2016
Assets		
Current assets:		
Restricted cash and investments (notes 3 and 4)	\$ 1,057,165	\$ 1,120,147
Amounts receivable:		
City of Vancouver	517,263	661,717
Other	373,409	357,216
	<u>1,947,837</u>	<u>2,139,080</u>
Restricted investments (notes 3 and 4)	316,970	161,575
Investments (note 4)	904,265	1,073,474
Capital assets (note 5)	705,863	596,662
	<u>\$ 3,874,935</u>	<u>\$ 3,970,791</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 6)	\$ 402,059	\$ 710,668
Deferred contributions (note 7)	377,840	324,067
Deferred revenue (note 8)	263,467	257,328
Due to related parties (note 9)	996,295	937,655
	<u>2,039,661</u>	<u>2,229,718</u>
Employee future benefits (note 10)	259,300	244,800
Working capital advance (note 11)	81,000	81,000
Deferred capital contributions (note 12)	528,940	477,516
Net assets:		
Invested in capital assets (note 13)	176,923	119,146
Internally restricted (note 14)	789,111	818,611
	<u>966,034</u>	<u>937,757</u>
	<u>\$ 3,874,935</u>	<u>\$ 3,970,791</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, 2017, with comparative information for 2016

	2017	2016
Revenue (note 16):		
Contributions from City of Vancouver for operating purposes	\$ 3,847,953	\$ 3,804,194
Rink and Pool	1,087,861	975,788
Donations, membership fees and special events	112,322	101,517
Licensed gaming	123,534	125,216
Rentals	19,400	30,424
Interest	22,894	20,789
Contribution from Britannia Community Services Foundation	48,000	53,529
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	19,757	16,906
Programs:		
Child Care	677,461	666,098
Recreation	1,331,732	1,289,697
Community education	418,952	434,893
Other	8,057	11,381
	7,717,923	7,530,432
Expenses:		
Maintenance and operations of buildings, equipment and grounds	1,700,017	1,850,062
Salaries, wages and employee benefits Administration	1,453,023	1,376,166
Salaries, wages and employee benefits Park Board Staff Administration	1,676,099	1,529,140
Licensed gaming for children, youth, and senior programs	123,534	125,216
General programs (note 18)	240,091	174,378
Programs:		
Child Care	643,474	644,315
Recreation	1,176,377	1,185,983
Community education	424,659	428,655
Other	9,796	5,552
Amortization of capital assets	38,585	35,004
	7,685,646	7,555,831
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ 32,277	\$ (25,399)

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

2017 has been an amazing year, highlights include:

- Vancouver had another cold winter which prompted opening the Warming Centre this past fall and winter to provide shelter for people in need. (thank you to our Youth Team who has been instrumental).
- The RISE Program, both with an amazing RISE leader on site, who has run some very successful programs, and from a city wide view, we have seen progress with program development and support.
- Pool and Rink operations and staffing transitioned from the Vancouver School Board to City of Vancouver Real Estate and Facilities Management in 2017, providing more on site accountability and increasing our staff team.
- Britannia's Canada 150+ Celebration moved back to Grandview park and had a huge turn out which also reinvigorated a number of partnerships.
- Continued focus on Reconciliation with our annual RIA day in Sept, an new Honouring Ceremony in February, and a very special Naming Ceremony for ᓃxwq̓w̓eləwən ct Britannia's Carving Pavilion, which means one heart, one mind.
- Our first Jewish Sukkot Festival was amazing.
- Our Youth team, with the addition of a new Youth Worker, has started the process of reviewing the Britannia Youth Vision and the place their work takes in community.
- The Britannia Art Gallery, in its 23rd year, had 12 Exhibition Opening Receptions with over 400 participants supporting the work of 64 artists/artisans.
- We continue to develop our local use of the Leisure Access Program, increasing the number of community users able to use the program by over 20% again this year, while also increasing the number of our Fun for All programs which are designed to be barrier free for the community.
- Britannia is a leader in the city Resilience-Ville City initiative, which has now expanded to include 3 other centres. This initiative is focused on community development and empowerment and has included community forums and emergency exercises with local volunteers.
- Site Renewal has been possibly the largest single focus of the Society in 2017. From the first event in March through to the end of the year, we had over 26 community Open Houses and Forums, such as the very successful Housing Forum World Café, and engaged the community in many exciting ways, to help define what we would like the future of Britannia Community Services Centre to be.

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 the first phases of Britannia's Facility Renewal Project comes to a completion, 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, and ensure that our new existence will enrich that tradition of unique community service. While maintaining relations with our existing partners we 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 many 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



Grandview Woodland Food Connection



Grandview Woodland Food Connection

The GWFC serves as a community food hub supporting dignified food access. The GWFC provides opportunities for positive community engagement: We increase food security among underserved community members; increase community food programming such as school gardens, food workshops, bulk food buying, 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

- FoodFit – The GWFC was awarded a \$40,000 two year grant from Community Food Centres Canada to run the FoodFit healthy activity and nutrition program.
- Sukkot Festival -120 community members joined in this sharing of food, community connections, and celebration of the Jewish Sukkot Holiday with a Syrian dinner served up by Tayybeh.
- Britannia Bulk Buy – This healthy food distribution program continues to grow with over 70 low income households participating. A recent program evaluation shows that 96% of participants are eating more fruits and veggies.
- Wild Minds – Strathcona and Cottonwood Gardens were home to the summer gardening program for 12 Britannia youth who experienced a deep connection to nature and, gained new skills and knowledge about food growing, healthy eating, and environmental leadership.
- Community Meals – Providing healthy food and sharing meals together at Britannia special events and meetings is now more the norm. Together we helped feed approximately 2,266 community members in 2017.
- Wild Salmon Caravan – The GWFC participated as a core organizer in the Indigenous led Wild Salmon Caravan with a beautiful parade up Commercial Drive and salmon feast at Trout Lake feeding 2000 people.
- Britannia School Gardens – Another full year working with 100 Britannia students in the gardens, bringing an important hands-on experiential learning to the school while also increasing our focus on indigenous plants and cultural uses.
- Volunteer Engagement – 2017 was an active volunteer year with 132 volunteers putting in 733 hrs of food service including cooking and gardening help.
- Off the Grill Youth Meal Program – Britannia youth helped prepare and serve 1188 healthy dinners to youth and community members in the outdoor plaza during the summer months.

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



The Britannia branch of the Vancouver Public library has functioned as a joint Public library and Vancouver School library for K-12 students from High school and Elementary Schools. In December 2017, the VSB and VPL collaborated in the relocation of the High School library collection to their new Reading Commons on the High School site. The Elementary school library collection is still integrated with the VPL collection.



Vancouver Public Library

Britannia is the only branch in the VPL system to have an active Art Gallery with regular monthly exhibitions and artist talks inside the library.

Britannia's Librarian in charge, Yukiko Tosa, retired in September 2017 and was replaced with Pauline Preston, former Branch Head of Hastings Branch Library.

Key Information

8,997 Sq Feet, 8.5 FTE, 16 Public Computers, 62.0 Open Hrs/Week, Circulated 267,310 physical items (not including eBooks and eAudio books) 1568 new registrants, In person visitors : 263,971, In person Internet sessions : 48,240. Programs: 72 adult programs with 1,133 attendees (computer 1-1s not included), 294 children's programs with 12,012 attendees, 45 Teens programs with 513 in attendance. Total Attendance: 13,658.

Programming Highlights

Children

- Started a 7-week Language Fun Storytime sessions with the Speech Language Pathologist at Lee Health Centre working with young mothers and their new babies. This 7 week program was repeated 3 times over the year.
- Award-winning local author Maggie de Vries gave a talk to the BRI Elementary school children. Her book is featured on the plaque at China Creek South as part of the Reading Lights 2017 selections.
- For National Aboriginal Day, June 21st, partnered with the Britannia Elementary School in hosting 4 morning storytime sessions with Aboriginal Storyteller, Musician and Teacher Tiare Laporte with over 185 students and families in attendance. She shared connections not only with the students but with the other community members about her Cree/Anishinaabe culture. Children and Adults came away with a deeper knowledge and appreciation for other Indigenous cultures in Canada and the reason why North America is called "Turtle Island".
- The children's librarian was thrilled to be able to offer Community Inspiration Passes to the preschool Singing Frog Aboriginal Head start which would, enable more than 40 Indigenous families to experience this wonderful free program in 2018.

Teens

- Attended the QTBIPOC Youth Gathering at Britannia Secondary and shared a report with VPL's newly Staff Trans, Gender-Variant and Two-Spirited Working Group.
- In partnership with VPL and the DOXA Documentary Film Festival, the Wapitoni Mobile Outdoor Film Unit came to showcase 15 short films created by Canadian Aboriginal Youth across the country.
- The Teen Librarian partnered with the Britannia Community Centre to host the Wild Salmon Caravan at Grandview Park. She spoke with dozens of citizens and supported speakers with books from our collection. This is a program that brings together Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, artists, organizations and communities working to protect, conserve and restore wild salmon and its habitat in the Fraser Basin and Salish Seas corridor.

Adults

Special Workshops included:

- Jules Koostachin, Aboriginal Storyteller in Residence did a presentation on Sat. Feb. 11.
- A workshop introducing VPL's Online Resources & a demo of the SimplyMap database to the Grandview Woodlands Area Service Providers. The Vancouver Aboriginal Community Policing Coordinator said: "there are so many HIDDEN GEMS at VPL that we had no idea about – thanks so much for enlightening us".
- Survivors who shared their stories in the book *Concussion and Mild Brain Injury: Not Just Another Headline* came to personally share their moving and amazing stories with the public. Extremely well received with lots of dialogue in the Q/A afterwards.
- A group of parents in the Community requested a special Social Justice Storytime. They did the PR and 88 people attended

Community Events

The library hosted the Britannia Renewal's Lifelong Learning workshop on Thurs. June 8th with the Britannia Renewal team to make connections with the Community to engage them in conversation and sharing ideas about what they see as lifelong learning spaces, facilities and programs for a future library.

Britannia Library took part in the Reconciliation in Action: Drive the Change event on the site. Board Trustee Amanda Card signed the Pledge of Support for the Youth Matters Community Accountability guiding principles. Library staff created Truth and Reconciliation displays both inside and outside the branch.

Pauline Preston
Branch Head, Britannia



Branch Head Yukiko Tosa with VPL Aboriginal Storyteller in Residence Jules Koostachin



Paintings from Irina Azarenkova's *Rat Series* on display in the Britannia Art Gallery

Programming Update - Jul 1-Dec 31 2017

Britannia PIE operates 5 days a week out of Britannia Secondary School in partnership with South Hill Education Centre. We open at 9am for a light breakfast, one-on-one tutoring before classes begin. CFEC registered the following number of parent participants in English, Math, and GR2R (children) classes;

- 36 in English Foundations 5/6/7 and 12 pre-school kids - Mondays (5hrs).
- 44 in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) foundation and 9 preschoolers - Tuesdays (4hrs).
- 34 in Foundations in Math and 15 preschoolers - Thursdays (5hrs).
- 10 in Advanced Conversation class and 2 preschoolers - Tuesday mornings (2hrs).
- 44 in the English Foundations 1-4 and 11 preschoolers – Fridays (5hrs).



Edmonds PIE Plus is a partnership with CFEC and the Burnaby School District and operates 5 days a week at Edmonds Community School - 4 hours each day. We open at 11am for program preparation and 11:30 for lunch, and close at 3pm after the children are picked up. CFEC registered the following number of parent participants and their children in English, and GR2R (children) classes over this reporting period.

- 29 in English Foundations 1-4 and 18 preschoolers - Monday/Wednesday/Thursday (2hrs).
- 26 in English Foundations 5/6/7 and 14 preschoolers - Tuesday/Friday (2 hrs).

Grandview GR2R is a partnership with CFEC, Britannia Childcare and Grandview Terrace Child Care Centre and operates Wednesdays 9am –1pm.

- 15 parents and 18 preschoolers participated in the Wednesday program (4 hours).

Responsible Adult Course is a 5-week – 20 hour certificate program that provides the essential training needed to work with school age children, 5-12, in Out of School Care programs (OSC) in BC. We delivered this training in November and December, at the Britannia location – Wednesdays (4 hours) - 27 parent learners successfully completed the training - 15 preschoolers attended our GR2R companion classes.

Other Supports

- Parent and Family Advocacy – we liaise with community and social services on behalf of the parents in our programs. This could be 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 explore the need/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, interview practice and exploring additional training.
- 12 volunteers participated in programming at Britannia and Edmonds locations.
- 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, as needed.
- Home visits. This takes place after program hours and on weekends, as needed.
- One on one support and goal setting, when needed.
- 5 middle/high school students and 1 adult were given monthly bus passes – 6 in total.
- The Canucks Holiday Sharing program provided gifts for CFEC families: Britannia 19, Edmonds 14 and Grandview GR2R 4
- 200 CFEC parents and kids attended the Annual CFEC Holiday party at Rogers Arena: 32 families from Britannia, 14 families from Edmonds and 7 CFEC staff/volunteers.

Jean Rasmussen
Executive Director

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 (birth to early 6 years) using a wide range of programs, services, projects and supports.

About Us

ESFP 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, and/or low-income and represent a range of ethnicities. ESFP membership is \$20 per year and we charge \$3 for the daily drop-in session. ESFP has 6 core staff, casual staff, facilitators and presenters for parenting education. Last year 251 volunteers donated 1726 hours of support. We received \$106,279 in in-kind donations in 2016-17 (e.g. clothing, food, equipment, books and toys). 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, referrals to other programs and family-serving agencies, and networking with others. Many lasting friendships and community 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 Child Care: an ECE-certified family support worker provides child care 15 hours a week that parents can access 2-3 times per week (depending upon availability). ESFP also offers childminding during parent education sessions.
- Direct support and referrals are made to relevant agencies, services and programs.
- Collective of Parents Empowered and Nobody's Perfect are positive parenting programs that reflect and adapt to the specific needs and priorities of participants and aim to strengthen parenting skills through a better understanding of child development ages and stages.
- Family Rhythm, Rhyme + Movement is an early literacy program that fosters children's language, social and physical development through songs, rhymes, stories and movement.
- 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, and a healthy snack is provided during parent education workshops and group sessions. 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 or phone 604.255.9841.

Mary Johnston
Executive Director
Eastside Family Place Society



The Britannia Planning and Development Committee works on behalf of the society and community on the Britannia Renewal process. The committee has worked for years to make the renewal of the Britannia site a reality and in March of 2017 we were pleased to launch the Britannia Renewal project with our site partners the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver School Board, the Vancouver Parks Board, and the Vancouver Public Library. Since last March we have heard from thousands of community members on their hopes and needs for the future of Britannia through our consultation process. Deserving of particular acknowledgement is the dedicated work of the seniors and Elders of BritPlan55+ and Britannia's Seniors, Elders, and Advocates Committee.

In all our work on Britannia Renewal we have centered the principles of reconciliation, accessibility, inclusiveness, and sustainability. Situated as we are on the unceded traditional territories of the x̱m̱əθḵw̱əy̱əm (Musqueam), sḵw̱x̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish) and seḻílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations, it has been of paramount importance for us to include and consult the Indigenous community in the development of a renewed Britannia that respects and reflects Indigenous values.

The Britannia Renewal team has carefully considered the feedback from the community and our site partners in the development of the final Britannia Renewal Master Plan which was released to the community in April 2018. We invite you to review the plan on our website at www.britanniarenewal.org or on site in the Britannia Info Centre. As the Britannia Renewal process moves forward we will continue to rely on the vision and momentum of our community. We hope you will consider becoming involved. Find us online, drop into the Info Centre, or join us at a Planning and Development Committee meeting held regularly on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7-9pm in the Britannia Info Centre.

Susanne Dahlin
Planning and Development Committee





Lax K'ween Dancers at the B-Lab Open House