

Annual General Report Britannia Society 2011-2012

Britannia AGM

Wednesday, May 23

6:00pm - Gym D

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VANCOUVER, B.C. V5L 4X4
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britanniacentre.org



About Britannia

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

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

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

There are also numerous off-site programs and activities.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2011-2012

Executive Committee:

President: Gwen Giesbrecht
Vice President: Brendan Boylan
Treasurer: Ray Gallagher

Executive Members:

Raphaella Weissgerber
Eva Sharell

Directors:

Ann Daskal
Buffie Irvine
Dan Fass
Kate Zhou
Margaret Vis
Meseret Taye
Oliver Conway
Paul Kjekstad
Tammyanne Matthew

Staff Rep: Pat Davitt

Partners: Vancouver Public Library Barbara Kelly
Vancouver Park Board Bob Harris
Vancouver School Board Bev Seed

Senior Staff:

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

Honorary Board Members:

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

Liaisons to Britannia: 2011-2012

Vancouver City Council	Kerry Jang
Vancouver Library Board	Loring Bohach/Angie Chan
Vancouver Park Board	Constance Barnes/Trevor Loke
Vancouver School Board	Ken Clement /Rob Wynen



President of Britannia Board of Management

After four years on the Britannia Board of Management, I have just completed my first year as President of the Board, and chairperson of the Executive Committee.

Britannia Centre along with our partners; the Vancouver School Board, Park Board, and Vancouver Public Library, continues to evolve as a community hub and active participant in the Grandview- Woodland, Strathcona, and Ray-Cam neighbourhoods.

My first term as president of the Board was challenging and rewarding. I am extremely grateful for the assistance I've received from my fellow Executive & Board members, senior and supporting staff, our partner representatives, the contracted staff, and the many volunteers who all bring their expertise and passion to weaving the fabric of Britannia.

Moving Britannia Centre forward in the 21st century is a complex endeavour. Recognizing the changing demographics, continuing to support the needs of long term residents and those new to the area; and working toward the opportunity of a facilities up-grade are the broad stroke considerations of the board. The challenge of integrating all these considerations can be challenging at times. I applaud all the individual contributions that are so integral to the success of Britannia.

When Britannia was first conceptualized in the early 1970s there was a great deal of energy and support for building an integrated service model. To this day the unique partnership here provides opportunities to the community that are positive and empowering. Our work is to continue to advocate on behalf of all community members, ensuring that the model here is supported, and there is a capacity to build on the important role Britannia plays.

***Gwen Giesbrecht,
President
Britannia Board of Management***



Executive Director

Commercial Drive and the surrounding area have an enviable reputation for being one of the most dynamic, vibrant and engaged communities in the city. As public spaces, schools, libraries, recreation facilities and community amenities Britannia has played an important role in providing the services, resources, support and expertise to bring local citizens together. I have the privilege to work with over 200 dedicated and passionate Britannia staff from all fields such as teachers, coaches, cashiers, engineers, librarians, instructors, clerks, accountants, activity coordinators, youth and childcare workers, programmers and managers. Together with local citizens, the professionals on this site strive to address the educational, social, economic and environmental inequities in our ever changing urban conditions. Amidst issues such as the digital divide, widening gaps between the haves and the have nots, lack of affordable housing and increasing childhood poverty we continue to deliver accessible and meaningful services. These services provided by our staff not only bring respite, joy and pleasure to individuals and their families but they support people to have a foothold to make positive changes for themselves and the world around them.

This year the Society was able to take the City's contribution for operating purposes and leverage an additional \$1.5M in local and city wide services for community education, family literacy, youth and childcare and food security. We welcomed a number of new programs such as the Community Action Plan for Children, funded by Public Health Agency Canada, which promotes healthy development for children under 6. East Feast, a micro-funding project for local artists, which is becoming an annual event. Partnerships between Hastings Education Centre and the Canucks Family Education Centre provide upgrades and support to parents of young children, these projects exemplify the spirit of collaboration on the site.

Although it will take longer than anticipated to bring together the City of Vancouver, Vancouver School Board, Vancouver Park Board and Vancouver Public Library to agree on the vision for the renewal of the site, it is clear that all parties see tremendous value in the integrated service model that is Britannia. In the short term we have been able to renovate a number of facilities, introduce a site wide coordination of environment activities, support local initiatives through sponsorship of space and resources and support staff through in-service training and professional development.

Britannia is not just a provider of services but a leader in visioning for the future with a role to play in responding to changes and preserving the core values and characteristics that define our community. We will continue to play a role in the development of the City of Vancouver Community Plan for Grandview Woodland, a policy document to guide change and development in the neighbourhood for the next 20 to 30 years. Through the Grandview Woodland Area Service Teams and other networks we share information, engage and represent community members most likely to be excluded from the process. Most importantly, Britannia is a place for a diversity of voices to be heard, a space to balance the needs of the community, a spirit that sets the terms for discussion and cooperation.

Cynthia Low,
Executive Director

The logo for Britannia features the word "Britannia" in a large, bold, black serif font. A thick, black, curved line arches over the top of the letters, resembling a stylized roof or a wave.

Liaison - Park Board Commissioner

I am honoured to be the liaison to the Britannia Community Services Society on behalf of the Vancouver Park Board. The unique model of Britannia offers a multi-purpose campus with a variety of amenities and is a true hub of community innovation. Britannia embodies the themes of good education, healthy lifestyles and vibrant neighbourhoods; the Vancouver Park Board is proud to be your partner.

As we look forward together into 2012-13, I know that the broader Grandview-Woodland community will be well-served by the work of the Board of the Britannia Community Services Society.

I want to congratulate outgoing members for a successful year, welcome new members and thank returning members for their ongoing service and commitment - this community would not be the same without you!

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



Liaison - Vancouver School Board Trustee

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

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

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

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



Vancouver East MP

It's a pleasure to serve our community. Thank you and congratulations to all the board members, volunteers, and staff of Britannia Community Services Centre Society for all your hard work! I'm happy to give a quick summary of some of my activities in East Van over the past year.

- I've been collecting signatures on important issues such as the future of medicare; and the use of cat and dog fur on clothing. I've been delighted to host a number of forums on key topics of interest: including the need for an oil tanker ban off BC's coast; the proposed changes to Old Age Security; as well as online surveillance (Bill C-30).



Serving our Community

- I've taken the government to task on prescription drugs shortages which has jeopardized surgeries. I called an emergency debate in Parliament to adopt a drug-shortage action plan and approve alternate, affordable sources for prescription drugs.
- Secured federal infrastructure funds for Vancouver East housing and community facilities.
- I've also worked with local resident and community centers regarding cell phone towers.
- Successfully supported and advocated for a national historic site designation for Chinatown.
- Succeeded in getting funding for students looking for jobs this summer.
- My community office has helped hundreds of families to reunite through Canada's immigration program; plus we've helped folks resolve problems with Employment Insurance, Canada Revenue Agency and Canada Student Loans.
- Our community office helps many local groups with funding information and support.
- Our travelling community offices are very popular and well-attended, ensuring that folks can meet me at community locations on Saturdays. This past year we've been to Hastings Community Centre, Strathcona Community Centre and Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House most recently. I'll be coming to Britannia soon, too.

At the national level, my fellow New Democrats and I continue to fight for practical results for struggling families such as our campaigns to:

- Launch a national housing strategy (my Bill C-304)
- Reverse Harper's \$45 million cutbacks to culture
- Increase the Canada Pension Plan and the Guaranteed Income Supplement
- Improve Employment Insurance
- Secure workplace pensions
- Stop subsidizing profitable oil and gas corporations
- Create a permanent investment plan to support public transit
- Work to stop the usage-based billing (UBB) by big telecoms in Canada. I signed onto the "Stop the Meter" campaign, and shortly after, the NDP began pressuring the Conservative government to intervene in the CRTC's decision to enact UBB. These efforts were successful, and the federal government has moved to reverse the CRTC's decision.

Serving and working for our community in East Van is a great honour, and I look forward to working with the members and participants of Britannia.

Libby Davies

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

Vancouver Hastings MLA

Thank you for giving me the chance to present this report. I would first like to thank Britannia staff and volunteers who serve the Grandview-Woodlands and Strathcona neighborhoods; the programs and services that you provide give support to this community and enrich the lives of those who live here.



This past year I introduced The Poverty Reduction Act to the legislature. This legislation would put in place timelines and specific goals relating to poverty reduction. The government has chosen not to bring the bill to a vote in the legislature. Most other provinces have a poverty reduction strategy and the lack of one in B.C. is shameful.

Our caucus worked hard with British Columbians across the province to get rid of the HST. Since the victory we have diligently been holding the government to account. We have been calling on government to regulate the transition, and get it done as soon as possible so that vulnerable sectors of our economy are no longer hurt.

We brought to light the embarrassing situation at Community Living British Columbia (CLBC). Our efforts managed to get real results for developmentally disabled British Columbians and their families. There is still much work to be done of course, but action has started to be taken.

In my role as official opposition critic for the BC Lottery Corporation I worked to improve support for problem gamblers, and argued for restored funding for gaming grants. Locally I worked with the community surrounding issues of affordable housing and truck traffic traveling to the Port of Vancouver.

Most recently our caucus has been focused on fighting for a fair mediation process for teachers as well as protections for class size and composition.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shane Simpson".

Shane Simpson,
MLA
Vancouver Hastings
(Community Office)

Mt. Pleasant MLA

At the time of writing, my Opposition Caucus colleagues and I are in the midst of the Legislative session, and we have worked hard to effectively raise the many issues and challenges faced by constituents. Here are just a few of the major issues that have been brought forward in the past year.



ENBRIDGE NORTHERN GATEWAY PROPOSAL:

My Opposition Caucus colleagues and I have come out publicly and strongly against the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project and we have also formally registered our opposition with the National Energy Board's Joint Review Panel. Under the proposal, which would see a pipeline built from the Alberta tar sands and permit increased oil tanker traffic in BC's coastal waterways, British Columbia would assume incredible risks. The Enbridge pipeline would expose BC's north coast to 2.2 million barrels of oil sands crude transported by tankers annually. We cannot invite disaster in BC's coastal waters and we stand with 130 First Nations, thousands of British Columbians, and many municipalities who oppose this project. Some key concerns outlined in the submission: First Nations need to be effectively consulted and respected, lifting the current tanker moratorium will put BC's coastline at risk, the pipeline would cross 800 rivers and streams putting environment and species at risk, GHG emissions from oil sands development will contribute to climate change. If you would like to read a copy of the

Opposition's formal submission to the Joint Review Panel, copies are available at my constituency office.

HOUSING:

The search for housing continues to be the top issue in my constituency office. BC could help keep housing affordable by ensuring that new units are built to meet increased demand, but that's not happening fast enough. BC Housing and the City of Vancouver signed an agreement in 2007 to build affordable housing on 14 city-owned sites; only half are complete. Hearing from constituents can create changes for the better in BC Housing policy. Earlier this year, a group of women were being told that their BC Housing applications were closed upon arrival at second stage housing, even though second stage housing is intended as temporary shelter. In raising the issue with the Minister of Housing, he agreed that this should not be the case and BC Housing changed their policy.

I also encourage tenants to be familiar with their legal rights. My office sees hundreds of people every year who face issues where they can access the province's Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB) to resolve the dispute or to assert their rights. It is helpful to know what rights both tenants and landlords have in these situations. Please visit my constituency office if you would like more information, or if you need assistance with referral to the RTB or to an advocate who can assist further.

INNER CITY EDUCATION:

A child's potential in school won't be reached if that child's family is struggling with basic needs. If you are a parent that has suddenly lost your job, or that juggles two to three minimum-wage jobs to try and make ends meet, or can't afford to buy enough healthy food, or you can't find affordable housing for your family, or if you've escaped homelessness by moving into a home that's infested with cockroaches and bedbugs, in each case your child is impacted. One common denominator with all of the challenges of these families is poverty. Teachers, community advocates, experts, support workers and families are all asking: how can we work together to end poverty? Many feel that we have the potential to tackle this inequity gap. Teachers know that these problems need to be addressed and that they have a crucial role to play. But like parents, child care workers and community groups, they can't do it alone. I am committed to working together with you to find ways to ensure that every child has a chance to succeed.

MISSING AND MURDERED WOMEN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY:

The Missing and Murdered Women Commission of Inquiry ("the Inquiry") commenced its hearings in October 2011. I have heard from many constituents who are alarmed by the number of voices that have been shut out of the Inquiry. A number of groups who were granted standing as participants were recommended for funding to help pay for the cost of participation, but that funding was denied by the Minister of Justice. My colleagues and I have repeatedly questioned the decision, but the Minister and the Premier have absolutely refused to fund their participation, claiming that their focus is

Mt. Pleasant MLA, cont'd

only on funding the families of victims to participate. If our society and institutions are ever going to make the changes necessary to ensure full protection of rights of the most vulnerable members of our community, it's absolutely vital that their voices and perspectives be included.

A number of people granted standing at the Inquiry prepared a submission to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) asking that the Committee consider reviewing the Missing Women's Inquiry and its process, and make recommendations for remedy. My colleague Leonard Krog and I wrote a letter to CEDAW in support of the submission. I had the opportunity to make a member's statement to ensure the official historical record of the Legislature will reflect the views of these groups going forward.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

In 2011 we learned that Community Living BC (CLBC), the provincial agency responsible for services to adults with developmental disabilities, was forcing long-time residents out of group homes, closing group homes and refusing to provide appropriate services after a \$22 million cut to the agency. Our office was flooded with letters and calls from families who were livid with the sweeping cuts to CLBC. Because the House was not sitting when these cuts came to our attention, we chose to go to the media to put pressure on the government to change their policies. The families that we joined included a constituent whose brother had been hospitalized for over 6 months because CLBC would not agree to place him in a group home suitable to meet his needs, and a family whose daughter's home of 20 years slated to be closed. I am happy to report that, in both of those cases, we were able to get a positive resolution from CLBC for these families.

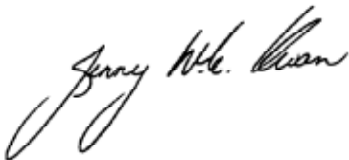
An internal review released this year confirmed many of the problems that were identified by people with disabilities and their families. Speaking out has effected some changes – for example, some group homes previously scheduled to close will now remain open; a Client Support Team to assist in quick resolution of problems was created, and a portion of the funding cut from the agency was restored.

RIO THEATRE:

One of the last independent theatres left in Vancouver, was forced by the Liquor Control and Licensing Board to stop screening films in late January 2012 as a result of receiving a liquor license to host live 19+ events. This jeopardized a vital East Vancouver important cultural venue and small business. I was proud to stand with the Rio and their many community supporters and proposed that the government bring in an amendment to the provincial regulation to allow Liquor Primary License Holders to host live events with bar service for 19+ audiences and to screen movies without bar service. The "Save The Rio" effort had many vocal supporters, and the government has finally introduced changes to permit film screenings in licensed venues. Congratulations to Corinne and her hardworking staff at the Rio Theatre!

Despite the many challenges faced by individuals and organizations in Vancouver-Mount Pleasant constituency, the sense of community remains strong and vibrant. The effort that goes into the hundreds of annual celebrations that happen in this incredible constituency go to show the spirit of sharing and caring – this is a place where people really do take care of each other!

Thank you to the dedicated staff and volunteers who contribute to the continued success of the Britannia Community Centre. It is truly a people's gathering place and I appreciate all that you do for our neighbourhood. If you would like to know more about these issues or any other topic, please feel free to stop by my office. I look forward to continuing to advocate for this community.



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

Liaison - Vancouver City Council

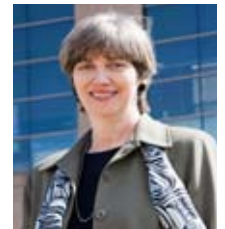
Another year has passed and the Britannia Center remains one of the busiest places in the city! At City Council, our year was spent getting three new community plans underway of which our neighbourhood - Grandview-Woodlands is one. This plan is particularly important as it will shape the future of the neighbourhood along with Britannia, just as Britannia will shape the neighbourhood as well. The input on the new community plans will be getting underway in about 6 weeks and I urge everyone to come out and take part. As a Council Liaison to the community planning process for our area, I'm here as well to ensure your input is heard. I'm looking forward to another year with you all, and thank you to all the staff and volunteers for making Britannia the wonderful place it is!



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

Liaison - Vancouver Public Library

The Vancouver Public Library appreciates the opportunities that come with being partnered with the Britannia Board of Management, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, the Vancouver School Board, the City of Vancouver and the many other organizations that provide learning and recreation in the community through what is sometimes referred to as the Britannia campus – or just “Brit”.



VPL is undertaking intensive public engagement in 2011-2012 known as Free for All. The Free For All program began in November, 2011 with the theme “Public Places and Learning Spaces” which included activities and a Choose-Your-Own Adventure story book to encourage everyone to share their vision for the future of the library. The program has continued in 2012 with the themes “Books, Movies, Music & More”, “Lifelong Learning: Programs and Training” and finally in the fall a theme on the role of the library in supporting children and families. VPL is committed in hearing from residents, the Britannia Board of Management and community partners about our future collections, programming and services for families and youth.

Building on the board strategic plan of actively engaging community, the Britannia Branch library staff actively sought out teens and young adults. Developing relationships with the Britannia Service Centre Youth Group was key in finding out what the youth want from the library. As a result, in partnership with the Britannia Secondary School Librarian, first steps have been taken to create a more welcoming teen area which highlights popular reading, manga, new books, and collaborative work space.

VPL inspires learning. The Britannia Branch, working with our partners, supports the development of life-long literacy in children and families through story-times, puppet shows, and introducing the library to community programs such as the Singing Frog Aboriginal Head Start Program. Events, such as author readings, Aboriginal storytelling, book clubs, and opening nights at the Britannia Art Gallery are well attended and appreciated by the community. With assistance from the Britannia Community Services Centre, Community Access Program funds were used for one-on-one computer training time with community members who needed assistance to keep up with a rapidly changing world while they look for work, manage their legal or health needs, or maintain long-distance family ties.

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

I am pleased to have been re-elected as Chair of the Vancouver Public Library Board. Incoming new members this year include: John Swift, Park Board Commissioner Constance Barnes, and Councillor Heather Deal.

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

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

Report from the Treasurer

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 budget of about \$7,000,000. 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 grants and contributions. Monies received from the different sources have to be used only in the way the grant specifies, so it takes a bit of work to keep everything on track and ensure that the money is used for its intended purpose. We have just finished this year's audit and everything seems to be doing fine.

Last year we were working to streamline how we report our finance statements at Board meetings to give the Board members a better understanding of where the monies are coming from and where we are obligated to disburse the funds. I have some more ideas on how we may handle budgets and other financial matters should I be elected Treasurer once again.

Thank you for your support!

***Ray Gallagher,
Treasurer***

Report from the Auditor

To the Members of:
THE BRITANNIA COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE SOCIETY.
The firm of KPMG was appointed as auditors for our organization for 2011



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

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

Statement of Financial Position

THE BRITANNIA COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE SOCIETY

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2011, with comparative figures for 2010


	2011	2010
Assets		
Current assets:		
Restricted cash (note 3)	\$ 691,274	\$ 424,234
Restricted investments (note 3 and 4)	20,826	388,175
Short-term investments (note 4)	330,714	51,330
Amounts receivable:		
City of Vancouver	495,641	670,664
Other	455,808	229,602
	<u>1,994,263</u>	<u>1,764,005</u>
Investments (note 4)	488,578	637,232
Capital assets (note 5)	127,985	119,818
	<u>\$ 2,610,826</u>	<u>\$ 2,521,055</u>

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 428,543	\$ 238,768
Deferred contributions (note 6)	406,011	491,100
Deferred revenue (note 7)	164,937	161,179
Due to related parties (note 8)	682,289	737,625
	<u>1,681,780</u>	<u>1,628,670</u>
Employee future benefits (note 9)	253,500	234,600
Working capital advance (note 10)	81,000	81,000
Deferred capital contributions (note 11)	10,000	12,500
Net assets:		
Invested in capital assets (note 12)	117,985	107,318
Internally restricted (note 13)	466,581	456,967
	<u>584,566</u>	<u>564,285</u>
	<u>\$ 2,610,826</u>	<u>\$ 2,521,055</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Approved on behalf of the Board:



Director



Director

Statement of Financial Position

THE BRITANNIA COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE SOCIETY

Statement of Operations

Year ended December 31, 2011, with comparative figures for 2010

	2011	2010
Revenue (note 15):		
Contributions from City of Vancouver for operating purposes	\$ 3,461,040	\$ 3,152,995
Rink and Pool	890,178	892,624
Donations, membership fees and special events	105,679	71,497
Licensed gaming	94,902	55,766
Rentals	19,608	18,119
Interest	20,920	29,301
Contribution from Britannia Community Services Foundation (note 18)	38,500	27,548
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	2,500	2,500
Programs:		
Child Care	564,618	575,158
Recreation	989,724	772,968
Community education	507,446	393,132
Other	11,290	10,912
	6,706,405	6,002,520
Expenses:		
Maintenance and operations of buildings, equipment and grounds	1,217,898	1,111,496
Salaries, wages and employee benefits Administration	1,276,755	1,233,609
Salaries, wages and employee benefits Park Board Staff Administration	1,481,507	1,334,885
Licensed gaming	348,495	293,526
General programs (note 16)	94,902	55,766
Programs:	278,137	199,334
Child Care	631,064	585,389
Recreation	800,938	665,633
Community education	522,195	408,173
Other	5,737	6,740
Amortization of capital assets	28,496	26,747
	6,686,124	5,921,298
Excess of revenue over expenses before the undernoted	20,281	81,222
Contribution to Britannia Community Services Foundation (note 19)	-	(400,000)
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ 20,281	\$ (318,778)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Manager of Administrative Services

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

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

Finance, Accounting & Reporting

Britannia Society closed out 2011 with an unaudited deficiency of \$23,495 (subject to minor audit changes). The 2011 budget was developed to include a deficiency of \$34,760.

Britannia Society invests roughly \$1.1 million in high quality bonds and GIC's through Royal Bank Dominion Securities and Credential Securities. The average return in 2010 was about 3%. Investment and interest revenue generated is reinvested in low risk GIC type investments.

The Britannia Foundation net assets were \$1,194,334 at year end. The market yield was 2.7% and the annual income was \$32,230. The Britannia Foundation invests funds and returns 3.5% of its assets to the Centre annually. That 2011 donation to the Society will be \$41,802 to be received in 2012.

Britannia was \$42,890 (1.28%) over budget for core funding from the City of Vancouver. In 2009 the City of Vancouver also provided Britannia with \$300,000 of supplemental capital to support capital maintenance. In 2010 the City provided \$244,000 to fund HVAC improvements in the Fitness Centre and non-deck areas of the pool, and a total of \$180,000 funding to support the community consultation process surrounding the proposed site renewal. All of these amounts were substantially spent during 2011 on the associated facilities projects.

Britannia received \$50,000 gaming funding from the Provincial Government during 2011. Together with 2009/10 gaming funding, the Society spent \$94,902 on direct community programs and services.

Facilities

Facilities work done during 2011 included renovations of the interior of the Fitness Centre and non-deck areas of the pool, provision of air conditioning and upgraded HVAC systems in the Fitness Centre and non-deck areas of the pool, a complete renovation of the inside of the Teen Centre, and upgraded floor coverings and paint in the rink activity room.

Thirteen workstations were upgraded in the Information Centre and this includes the addition of two stations.

Work was ongoing during 2011 to examine the shared use of the site with partners and how that relationship is reflected in facility costs. This work remains ongoing into 2012.

Information Systems

A new black and white and color copier/fax machines were ordered through the City shared services program. The equipment was received in 2012.

Manager of Administrative Services

We acquired a new laptop and an additional two desktop computers to support the work of auxiliary/temporary staff and project work.

The leave system was updated to support changes made with the new BCGEU Collective Agreement.

Human Resources

Pool and Fitness Centre leadership was provided by Wally Tarrant during a significant part of the year prior to Vittoria Basile coming on board as the new Pool Programmer.

Late in 2011 Amanda Munro joined the team to provide some communications support. The position is expected to provide temporary support through May 2012.

A new Collective Agreement was bargained with BCGEU for the managed Child Care Centres. A key component of that agreement is participation in the Municipal Pension Plan. This is the first child care agreement to include pension benefits in BC.

Committees

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

The Audit Committee was less active during 2011 and will reengage in 2012 to provide oversight to the 2011 audit recommendations to ensure that progress is made.

The Labour Management Committee goals from the past include Letters of Understanding relating to compressed work weeks.

The Occupational Health and Safety Committee was active during 2011 and met regularly to discuss and address OH&S as well as facility related issues. A project initiated late in the year is the need to update OH&S orientations and information for existing and new personnel.

The Site Management Committee was active during 2011 and met regularly to discuss common shared site themes.

Natalie Bailey,
Manager of Administrative Services

Manager Of Childcare Services

It has been another busy year for Child Care at Britannia.

In the summer of 2011 we successfully bargained a new collective agreement for the BCGEU offsite Child Care Centres which now offers the Municipal Pension Plan as an additional benefit to their staff.

Also in 2011 Britannia, Eagles, Grandview and Mount Pleasant received the City of Vancouver Child Care Enhancement Grant and applications have gone in for 2012. The over \$100,000 in funds received are used to enhance the Hub model, maintain higher staff to child ratios and help supplement the very important food programs at the centres. The Ministry of Children and Family Development has announced the reinstatement of the Minor Capital Grant in late spring. This is great news to Child Care as these grants help centres to repair and replace aging equipment.

- Britannia Child Care continues to have a strong team of child care workers. The team is working on increasing the enrolment in both the preschool and out of school care program.
- Eagles in the Sky Child Care has been busy this year planning the renovation of the outbuildings at MacDonald Elementary to be the new home of the School-age Care Program. They are hoping to move in to the building in late spring.
- Grandview Terrace Child Care's Board has been looking into Grant options in order to renovate their backyard playground for the 3 to 5 year olds. With the completion of the new yard the centre will be able to increase the number of spaces for child care for children under 5 years old. The centre has welcomed new Assistant Senior Supervisors in both the 3 to 5 program as well as the out of school care program.
- Lord Nelson Out of School Care continues to have a waitlist for their program and looks to the future and possibilities of expanding their existing program.
- Mount Pleasant Child Care is looking at their aging building and planning for the future. They continue to have large waitlists particularly for their Toddler Program.
- The four offsite Child Care Boards continue to develop their Board capacity through training opportunities.

In the upcoming months I look forward to our annual professional development day, helping to relocate and add spaces to the child care centres and continuing to work closely with the Child Care Boards to increase advocacy and promote quality child care. I continue to be actively involved in the Child Care Administrators Network, Supported Child Development LAC, Aboriginal Supported Child Development LAC, Early Childhood Advisory Committee and the First Call ECD Round Table. We continue to look at opportunities to increase quality child care as well as advocacy opportunities.

I would like to thank all of the children, families and staff for the opportunity to continue to be an active part of this diverse community.

Leah Drayton,
Manager of Child Care Services

Britannia Elementary School Principal

The 2011/2012 school year started successfully with students placed in their new classes after only one week and we welcomed several new staff and students. The school now enrolls 175 students of which just over 20% have Special Needs designations.

The school year was marked by BCTF job action that affected several components of school life ranging from report cards, extra-curricular activities to supervision. Staff worked very hard to keep elements of the job action away from classrooms and student learning activities. One teacher, Mr. Borsato was awarded the first ever UBC Faculty of Education Alumni Award for outstanding teaching.

This year, the school received many generous contributions from individuals and organizations in terms of books, food, clothing and learning resources.

The school continued to focus on the goals of student achievement in the areas of literacy and social responsibility. Data collected by the school continue to demonstrate improvement in the areas of reading and writing and serve to reinforce the value of the direct instruction programs used at Britannia. Supporting student achievement is a growing number of volunteers from the UBC Trek program and the secondary school homework club program.

In athletics, the rate of participation in extracurricular sports continues to be high. The school offers students opportunities to participate in volleyball, basketball, badminton, and cross country running. With school staff volunteering their time to coach and transport students to different venues, the students have had a rewarding athletic experience.

The school continues to encourage community participation and to reach out to recent arrivals in the community. Our annual community dinners, Welcome to Kindergarten event and National Aboriginal Day celebrations are well received and attended. Britannia also has an active Parent Advisory Committee that supports student learning and school activities.

Ian Cannon,
Principal Britannia Elementary



Britannia Secondary School Principal

Britannia is proud to be a community partner. Our unique partnership gives Britannia students access to some of the best recreational facilities of any school in the province, including a swimming pool, ice rink, tennis courts, fitness centre, four gymnasiums, and Teen Centre. The community sharing of the site facilities also allows secondary students to use the Vancouver Public Library Britannia Branch and associated services. Our students are provided with many formal and informal opportunities to develop into socially responsible citizens. In other words, they constantly interact with people of all ages whether it be with our partner Britannia Elementary, the Seniors Centre, Teen Centre, Community Links, Community Education activities and/or members of the Britannia Board of Management.

Britannia Secondary School provides a comprehensive educational program for students in grades 8 to 12. We also have six district specified alternative programs—one in the building, two on campus and three off site. In addition, we have two enriched district programs. The International Baccalaureate for senior students seeking advanced placement in universities, and our enriched Mini School “Venture” for junior students in grades 8 to 10. Students are able to participate in Career Prep Programs in Science, Business Education, Auto Mechanics ACE-IT program, and Cooks Training. Britannia is also the first school in Vancouver to have a Hockey Academy which was implemented five years ago. Through staff participating in two Vancouver School Board Learning Initiatives, again we will be offering a unique Math 8 and English 8 learning opportunity for our incoming grade 7s. Our September 2011 enrolment will be approximately 750 students, and we are fortunate to have a dedicated faculty of 45 staff who continue to work hard on behalf of our students. Student learning is enriched via our relationships with Port Vancouver, University of British Columbia Mentorship project, UBC Pacific Institute of Mathematics & Sciences, Frontier College, Urban Native Youth Tutoring Program, Simon Fraser University, and Electronic Arts.

Our extracurricular program supported by staff and volunteers includes activities in: Athletics –basketball, soccer, volleyball, badminton, tennis, rugby, track & field, table tennis and ultimate. Our active clubs include the Homework Club, Leo Service Club, Dance Club, Debating Club; Philosophers Club, Gay Straight Alliance Club, Knitting Club, Math Club, Seniors Club, City Global Issues, and Model United Nations Club. Students in our Art department continue to paint murals in the community and our Band students are in the process of fundraising for a music trip to Cuba. The democratically elected Student Council has taken their role seriously by organizing many activities for the student body, such as the Terry Fox Run and Canned Food Drive for the Vancouver Food Bank.

The two goals of the Britannia School Plan endorsed by the administration, staff, students, members of the School Planning Council and Parent Advisory Committee are a true reflection of the strong commitment to our students. The goals are: “To continue to improve the academic achievement of all students, using a wide variety of instructional strategies, to meet the needs of our diverse community of learners,” and “To continue to provide opportunities, both within and beyond the classroom, designed to foster socially responsible behaviour for all.”

Thank you on behalf of all of us at Britannia Secondary. We value our partnership with the Britannia Community Centre, Vancouver Parks Board, Vancouver Public Library and the City. Please check out our school website(s) for updated information @<http://britannia.vsb.bc.ca>

**Respectfully,
Beverly Seed,
Secondary School Principal**



Community Education Coordinator

Vision: “To promote a lifelong learning community”

Goals:

1. to support Britannia as the HUB of the Grandview-Woodlands and Strathcona neighbourhoods.
2. to support programs and initiatives that support the transition stages of students – school readiness, secondary school readiness and post-secondary readiness;
3. to work with partners to improve the performance of students, in both academic performance and social responsibility.

Governance:

Britannia Board of Management, Vancouver School Board, Britannia Community Education Committee, Britannia HUB Advisory Committee
Britannia HUB Schools: Britannia Secondary, Britannia Elementary, Stathcona Elementary, Seymour Elementary, Grandview Elementary, and Queen Victoria Annex.

Britannia Community Schools Team:

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

Keys to Success: Partnerships, clear objectives, energy, Britannia’s integrated service delivery model.

Challenges: Finding sustained funding for programs.

Highlights: Able to provide intervention on two levels:

- a) targeted programs to address specific needs for students and families;
- b) non-targeted programs which capture a percentage of vulnerable students and increase general engagement and/or knowledge.

- Academic support for academically delayed students through initiatives such as co-teaching and providing teaching strategies to classroom teachers.
- Summer camps for children. 200 kids in 6 weeks of sports, arts, writing, and technology.
- After school programmes for children and youth. i.e. Heroes Hockey, Self-defense, MoreSports programs, skate boarding, yoga, Fine Arts.
- In school programs for children and youth. i.e. Arts Umbrella, Literacy, Moresports, Hi-5, Class meetings.
- Bursary and scholarship program.
- East Side Basketball program for girls.
- HIPPY – Home Instruction for Parents of Pre-School Youngsters.
- CAPC “Children Need Care Now” coalition for families with children 0-6 – Food Distribution Program, Parent-Child Mother Goose, Community Kitchens, workshops for parents, ESL.
- CLICK – Contributing to the Lives of Inner City Kids in the areas of skills, access, and safety. Over 60 families.
- Computer Access Program (CAP) created opportunities for children and youth
- Legacies BC After School Sports Initiative enabled involvement for children in non-traditional sports – yoga, self-defence, skate-boarding.
- Partner in the Yo Bro Program – using martial arts with youth to build self-confidence and not-involvement in risky behaviours. Partner with VPD jiu-jitsu.
- Craft Fair, Britannia Invitational Basketball Tournament, Vancouver Girls Basketball Association.
- Board member – Association of Community Education (ACE).

Mike Evans,
Community Education Coordinator

Community Recreation Coordinator

Program and Services:

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

To those ends Programmers offered...

- A wide-variety of cultural programs and special events
- Youth programs in partnership with organizations such as the Network of Inner-city Community Services Society, Equitas and Society for Children and Youth.
- Collaborative programming with both current as well as new partners

Successes:

- Gymnastics Holiday Show with performances from Britannia & Renfrew participants, 18 months to 12 years of age.
- Murals at Britannia Oval and on the soccer storage container through AON/Risk Management Society with over 70 volunteers and they provided an additional \$5,000 donation to our soccer program.
- A much needed renovation to the pool office that also included a new ventilation system for the change rooms and fitness centre.
- New sound systems for both the rink & the pool.

Challenges:

- There is always the need for more programming space and additional funding. The good news is that these needs are a result of current successes. We will continue to look to innovative ideas and partnerships to best serve our community.

Excellence:

Britannia is known and recognized within the community and city for many excellent programs. Just a few examples out of the many programs are:

- The Micro Footie soccer program continues to exceed previous year's registration, now over 900 and still growing with 100 volunteer coaches.
- The East Feast – a micro-funding event in support of local artists. Approximately 80 participants attended in 2011, its first year.
- The Latin American Youth program, the only one of its kind in the lower mainland.
- Britannia Ice Rink is consistently recognized throughout the City for the quality of the ice surface. (Thank you to the engineering & maintenance staff).

Partnerships:

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

Human Resources:

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

Personnel changes over the year included:

Nick Fong, adult programmer, was successful in obtaining positions at Thunderbird & Renfrew Community Centres. Melissa Calvano, youth worker, decided to take a break from her full time position in the Teen Centre. Thank you to both of you for your contributions to Britannia and for being a part of our team. All the best in your future endeavours.

We welcome two new staff to our recreation team: Vittoria Basile, our new Pool Programmer, and Ashley Beattie, new

Community Recreation Coordinator Cont'd

Adult Programmer & job share partner to Lori Moretto. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Wally Tarrant for his hard work and commitment as the acting Pool Programmer in 2011.

The Future:

- With the number of new facilities in the City, it will be increasingly important for us to find our niche, provide value-added services, and look for new opportunities to offer our members.
- A seniors committee (staff & community members) has been formed to work on a new vision for programs & activities. The computer lab will also be updated with new computers, software, desks, and chairs.
- The Teen Centre will receive a much needed facelift and be complete by May 2012.
- We will continue to work with our partners to provide the best possible recreation programs and services and welcome your suggestions for new and innovative programs.

Special Thanks:

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

With thanks,

Bob Harris

Community Recreation Coordinator



Librarian In Charge

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

Books and other Resources:

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

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

Services the Library offers include:

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

Highlights of 2011:

- After four years as its Manager, Cathy Wang said farewell to the Britannia Branch and began her new endeavour as the Manager of the new Terry Salman Branch.
- Lucy Skipper joined the branch mid-year as the new elementary teacher librarian.
- Noni Mildenberger, Head of Dunbar Branch, was the Acting Branch Manager at Britannia from July 2011 to January 2012.
- Reading the branch materials for Radio Frequency Identification (RFID).
- The Aboriginal collection was moved to a more visible and easily accessible space.
- The quiet work space area was enlarged and has become a popular work and study space for accessing the wireless service.
- Kate and Nathalie performed a special puppet show, with help from a member of the Britannia Youth Services Youth Committee, for preschool aged children and their families on Saturday February 26, 2011 and 175 people attended.
- The 55UPs Book Club, in partnership with the Britannia Senior's Centre, and facilitated by Helen, the Assistant Manager of the library branch, invited a community book club to join in with their June celebration. Everyone so enjoyed the intergenerational book talking and sharing of food that they are planning to do it again in 2012!
- Britannia Community Services Centre funded four Saturday morning puppetry programs (September 10, October 8, November 12 and December 10).
- With assistance from the Britannia Community Services Centre, Community Access Program funds were available for providing one-on-one computer training. Participants in the training were able to learn necessary skills such as how to click with a mouse, find information on the internet, format a resume, and use social media to keep in touch with family.
- Cathy Wang, Branch Manager, participated in the City of Vancouver's Dialogues Project promoting understanding between Aboriginal and immigrant communities.
- Children's Librarians, Kate and Saara, visited and presented story times to Singing Frog Aboriginal Head Start Program.

Librarian In Charge cont'd

- As part of the celebrations for National Aboriginal Day, we had a visit from VPL's First Nations Storyteller in Residence, Henry Charles. Kate and the Britannia staff, along with elementary teachers and volunteers from the Community Centre, helped the children to work on Aboriginal crafts.
- The Library participated in Britannia Centre's 16th Stone Soup Festival by hosting VPL First Nations Storyteller in Residence, Henry Charles, who told Musqueam stories and led the audience in a dance.
- Kate and Anne, the Teacher-Librarian for Britannia Secondary, collaborated on the Get Carded program for the Britannia Secondary Grade 9 students. The book talks were a hit with the students who then learned how to use the new catalogue and many of the students got new VPL cards.
- Kate heard from our school age patrons that they were very excited about the new book in the "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" series. So Britannia Elementary School, MacDonald Elementary School, and VPL had a book launch party. There were quizzes, button making, and Diary Days Bingo.
- Kate, the Children's librarian, worked with parents from the Commercial Drive Afro-Caribbean community to put together two programs that would help meet the literacy needs of Afro-Caribbean families. After a meeting with Britannia site partners and the community members it was determined that the library would host a storyteller and East Side Family Place would host a community led rhyme circle and cooking program. The parents led the program development from finding the performer to deciding when to hold the program. They also promoted the event and 120 people attended the program including many families who had never been to library story times before.
- Kate, along with the VPL Teen Assistant Manager, began an ongoing relationship with the Britannia Service Center Youth Group as part of our commitment to having a community led approach to library services at this branch and system wide.
- The Word Whip and Book Talks-Book Clubs programs presented in partnership with Pandora's Collective provide an important literary opportunity for the community and have continued to thrive at the branch.

Britannia Branch Numbers for 2011

354 open days
359,021 items borrowed
335,611 visits into the branch (10,000 more than 2010!)
19,743 reference questions
43 programs and events just for adults
563 adults came to the programs
174 programs enhancing the enjoyment of learning and community for children and teens
8,798 attended the programs for children and teens
55,725 Internet sessions logged in on library's computers
10,329 Internet sessions logged in on library's wireless server (increase of just over 50% from 2010)

Barbara Kelly
Manager, Britannia Branch,
Vancouver Public Library

Vancouver Community College - ESL Learning Centre

2011 in VCC's ESL Learning Centres

The ESL learning centres run by Vancouver Community College (VCC) provide a unique environment for English language learners who prefer a self-paced method of learning, or who face scheduling challenges that make attending regular classes difficult. Many students enrolled in classes elsewhere also come to the learning centres for extra support. During 2011, we had a total of 14,351 visits in our nine centres, most for 2 to 3 hours of study. This is down about 1,000 visits from 2010.

Key themes of 2011

Improving our practice - All the learning centre tutors have collaborated with their supervisor on the creation of a Best Practices document. This has involved very fruitful sharing of current strategies, as well as goal-setting for future improvements to our tutoring systems.

Competition from other ESL providers - As more school boards and non-governmental organizations provided free ESL instruction in a variety of settings, some VCC learning centre students moved to these. We have no statistical data on this yet.

Bed bugs! The libraries which host our learning centres were affected by the scare over bed bugs found in a few places. The bed bug sniffer dog only barked in one of our centres, at South Hill, which provided an interesting opportunity for cooperative problem solving. Library circulation was down in the Burnaby Public Library system after the wide-spread media attention to this issue, and it's possible the temporary drop in student visits at our Burnaby Learning Centre was partly connected to this as well as other factors.

Marketing and promotion - Because we've seen numbers fall in some of our centres, we started a more structured marketing campaign. We're aware that our best allies in promoting the learning centres are the library staff, so our first goal set this year was to make sure all staff always have up-to-date information. Other initiatives started in 2011 include making use of display areas in the library branches and updating our web presence on the library sites. During 2012, we hope to have a new brochure and other new materials.

Strengthening our partnership - One of the key themes to come out of VCC's Strategic Planning process in 2011 was partnership between the college and other organizations. Clearly, the Vancouver and Burnaby Public Libraries have been dedicated partners with us for many years. Some current initiatives that will hopefully strengthen our cooperation around the learning centres:

- Formalizing ESL learners' integration to the library system. While learning centre tutors have always encouraged library use, it will soon be part of regular intake procedure to make sure new learners have a library card and have been oriented to library resources.
- Having input into library ESL collections. ESL tutors are well positioned to recommend materials that work especially well for independent study.
- Checking out ESL materials within branches. Based on librarians' requests, tutors are trying to make sure students using library ESL materials inside the learning centres first check them out.

2011 at Britannia Learning Centre

Our centre at Britannia library is open 35.5 hours per week, with Gordon Crozier on duty as tutor for most of those hours. Mary McNichol is in the centre two mornings per week. There was very little change in the number of registrations (actual students) in 2011, though the number of visits was down by about 9%. Visits were spread evenly across the year, with no serious dips in activity or frantically busy times.

There was a decline of about 9% (coincidentally) in registrations at the Beginner levels. This is a common trend in local ESL delivery as more immigrants arrive in Canada with higher levels of English proficiency. We will be monitoring this trend closely.

We experienced a technical difficulty receiving wireless internet access inside the centre. We still haven't found a solution to this problem, but appreciate the effort put in by Noni Mildenberger and the VPL technical staff in an effort to fix it.

Vancouver Community College - ESL Learning Centre

Currently the Britannia ESL Learning Centre Comparison of Britannia Visits by Year

	Total Visits
Jan. – Dec. 2005	2801
Jan. – Dec. 2006	2674
Jan. – Dec. 2007 (strike)	1733
Jan. – Dec. 2008	2875
Jan. – Dec. 2009	2594
Jan. – Dec. 2010	2593
Jan. – Dec. 2011	2344
is open:	
Tuesdays:	1:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Wednesdays:	9:30 am – 8:30 pm
Thursdays:	9:30 am – 5:00 pm
Fridays:	9:30 am – 3:00 pm
Saturdays:	10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Registrations by Level for 2011

Levels	Jan-Mar. 11	April–Aug. 11	Sept.–Dec. 11	Total registrations
registrations				
registrations				
registrations				
Literacy	7	9	8	24
Lower Beginners	16	9	10	35
Upper Beginners	9	9	12	30
Pre-Intermediate	6	4	6	16
Lower Intermediate	14	11	11	36
Upper Intermediate	20	13	18	51
Lower Advanced	1	3	4	8
Upper Advanced	-	4	4	8
Total registrations	73	62	73	208
Total visits	589	1006	749	2344

We enjoyed working with Cathy Wang and Noni Mildenberger at Britannia during 2011, and look forward to working with Barbara Kelly. For more information about VCC's ESL Learning Centres or about other Outreach programs, please feel free to contact me. You can also visit eslprograms.vcc.ca.

**Submitted by Morna McLeod,
Assistant Department Head,
ESL Outreach Department, Vancouver Community College
604-871-7275 or momcleod@vcc.ca**



Canucks Family Education Centre

The Canucks Family Education Centre (CFEC) is on the eve of our 10th anniversary, and as we contemplate the accomplishments and challenges we've had over the years, the most significant one is that we are still here. Without Britannia Community Services Centre, the Vancouver Canucks, the Canucks for Kids Fund and the Vancouver School Board's first leap of faith that the development of a Centre like CFEC was an interesting and useful model to endorse; it would be a very different story indeed. It is because of the support we have received over the past 10 years that we will celebrate our 10th anniversary on October 3, 2012.

CFEC has had many success stories in the past, but particularly moving this year is the achievement of Caroline Antoine and her family, from the Saik'us Nation. After a three-generation cycle of teen pregnancy and failure to complete high school, Caroline and her 19-year-old daughter Trisha graduated high school together. After five years enrolled in our Partners In Education (PIE) program at Britannia, Caroline is now finishing up her first year of a diploma in Community and Family counseling at the Native Education College and Trisha, Caroline's eldest daughter, is currently attending Capilano University in the Early Childhood Education and Development program.

Monica, one of our first aboriginal graduates from the PIE program, has gone on to be a supervisor of family caseworkers for Aboriginal families in Vancouver. These are great milestones for these individuals and for a small organization like CFEC. Caroline, Trisha and Monica were able to achieve their goals because of the ongoing support and flexibility they received from CFEC and its community partners. When we look at the 2011 completion rate for aboriginal students province-wide, they reached only 53.7 per cent, up from 50.4 per cent in 2009-10 (Minister of Education & The Vancouver Sun). An improvement, no doubt, but perhaps with more innovative partnerships like CFEC, that address the intergenerational cycles of low literacy and poverty, the completion rates of aboriginal students in the future would increase significantly.

It takes long term sustainable funding to change lives. It is unwavering support and encouragement that takes an individual from despair to hope. It is essential that we invest in human potential and CFEC and its partners are doing just that, one family at a time. The following are some of the highlights of the Canucks Family Education Centre activities from January – December 31, 2011.

PROGRAMMING

- We operate 5 days a week out of the Britannia Centre in partnership with and Hastings Education Centre.
- 38 parents are enrolled in our English Conversation class on Monday and Thursday.
- 28 parents are enrolled in the English Foundation class on Tuesday and Friday.
- 28 parents are enrolled in Foundations in Math and Math Essentials 11 on Wednesday.
- 76 children were registered in our early learning Britannia StrongStart program at Britannia Elementary School.
- 25 people are registered in the Healthy Eating, Active living program on Tuesday morning.
- We provided 30 weekly Partners In Education (PIE) sessions at Edmonds Community School.
- We provided 15 Youth In Transition sessions at Byrne Creek and Burnaby North Secondary schools.
- We provided 5 PIE workshop sessions at Garibaldi School.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- Since 2002, more than 5,000 children, youth and adults have directly benefited from CFEC's programming. This number does not include family members who we are not registered in classes, but benefit from the involvement of other family members; the organizations who partner with us, and the clients they serve.
- During the 2010-11 school year we provided programming for 296 adults, 199 children and 104 youth. A total of 599 participants.
- Approximate participant hours: 29,325 (this number does not include Britannia StrongStart as number of participant hours for this program varies).
- 7 children, with English as a second language have successfully completed the Britannia StrongStart pre-school program (operated by CFEC) and will be entered kindergarten in September 2011 with the skills and knowledge needed for success in school.
- 25 parents continue to work towards high school completion in the Britannia PIE program – we anticipate that 2 more participants will graduate June 2012 and another 10 in June 2013.
- All classes are fully enrolled, with a waiting list.
- Six practicum students from Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia and Langara College were

Canucks Family Education Centre

placed and supervised at CFEC, Britannia Location.

- 10 volunteers, including three Vancouver Canucks' wives.
- 5,000 books were collected and sorted by West Vancouver's Mulgrave School students and presented at a special event at Garibaldi School in September on Raise a Reader Day.
- 2,000 books were donated from Scholastic Books and Frontier College for Family Literacy Day 2011.

SPECIAL EVENTS

January 25th	Dan Hamhuis (Vancouver Canucks player) visited the Britannia StrongStart
January 27th	Family Literacy Day at Garibaldi School - Tina Powell, children's author gave a free reading and distributed signed copies of one of her children's books – 180 people participated.
September 28th	Garibaldi School and BC Book Pals/Mulgrave School book drive/distribution – RAR (Raise a Reader) day event – more than 100 children, parents, teachers and the media attended the event.
September 24th	Learning in the 21st Century (CFEC/Frontier College/Burnaby SD conference) – more than 150 people participated.
September 25th	Word On The Street – CFEC sponsored the Family Literacy Tent.
September 28th	Vancouver Sun Raise-a-Reader Day – two CFEC success stories covered in RAR lead-up articles in the Vancouver Sun.
October 7th	Installation/Celebration of Edmonds Community School Playground (sponsored and financed by the Hamhuis and Malhotra families in partnership with CFEC).
October 17th	Jean Rasmussen, CFEC Executive Director, received the MOVADO Community Ambassador Award presented by Paolo Aquilini (Vancouver Canucks owner) and Alex Burroughs (team player) at Rogers Arena.
November 8th	Canucks Live to Give - CFEC/Hasting Education Centre.
December 8th	Annual CFEC Holiday Dinner at Rogers Arena – hosted and sponsored by Aramark employees, the Vancouver Canucks and Canucks Community Partnership Department – more than 200 CFEC participants attended with their children and other family members.

Jean Rasmussen
Executive Director

CAPC - Community Action Program for Children

The CAPC is a community-based children's program delivered by the Public Health Agency of Canada. It was established in 1993 and is jointly managed through the Province and Britannia as the administrator.

Over the last year, the CAPC Program Coordinator's position has been classified and put in to the CUPE 15 bargaining unit. The CAPC Program Coordinator, Gaye Ferguson has been busy this year providing programs that promote the healthy development of young children ages 0-6 years.

Some of the highlights for this year have been; two successful parent conferences which provided training, workshops and activities for over 100 participants, various children's programs such as; 'School is Cool' Kindergarten readiness program, an Inner City Pumpkin Patch, Baby Sing Along and Mother Goose programs in various languages. CAPC also offers Food Security Programs and a Community Dialogues Project.

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

Leah Drayton, Gaye Ferguson

Grandview Woodland Food Connection

The Grandview Woodland Food Connection (GWFC) is Britannia's food security face in the neighbourhood. Principally funded through Vancouver Coastal Health's Community Food Action Initiative (CFAI), the GWFC's mandate is to support healthy eating and disease prevention with a particular attention to vulnerable communities. Britannia Community Centre provides the ideal environment where a reconnection with healthy food can be fostered, and in so doing, is playing an important role in community health delivery.

The GWFC is now well established in Britannia and the community. Working together with Britannia Community Centre we are working to create an important community food hub where a range of programming is meeting the food needs for a diversity of community members. As we grow, we are better able to support:

- An integration of community food security supports focusing on education, skill building, engagement and food access.
- The ability to better reach out and connect diverse community members with various food projects and initiatives.
- A community development approach to community building.
- Building of inter-sectoral and other partnerships necessary to leverage funds and build long-term sustainability.
- Establishment of a strong institutional foundation for food policy implementation.

The following activity areas encompassed much of our work this past year.

- 1) The Britannia Bulk Buying Group – now serving 26 low income households who purchase wholesale fruits and veggies at a 30% food savings.
- 2) The Britannia Community Kitchen – our first diabetic friendly CK ran this year with 10 participants (and their children) for 11 sessions over 5 months. Our second kitchen in partnership with Britannia's CAP-C program started this past March.
- 3) Healthy Eating Workshops – 11 workshops with 103 participants were organized on topics including raw vegan, sprouting, canning, and sauerkraut. 8 more workshops are organized this spring including new gardening workshops at the new school garden site.
- 4) The Britannia Urban Garden (BUG) Project – our large school garden project with the High School and has seen a new food garden created by the Streetfront portable, gardening and food security curriculum now embedded in four classes through an Environmental Youth Alliance partnership, and an active School Garden Club.
- 5) Stone Soup and the Corn Festival – these two much loved festivals are helping to build food security awareness and community engagement.
- 6) Information Sharing – the GWFC provides a community food blog and monthly E-newsletter now recognized as the premier source for all community food information.
- 7) Neighbourhood Food Network Development – working closely with other local food networks and the public through presentations improves communications, collaboration, and best practices sharing.

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

Ian Marcuse - Food Connection

Frontier College

Frontier College is a national non-profit literacy organization. In Vancouver, we are located at Britannia Community Centre and are part of the Britannia Community Education Team. At Frontier College we recruit, train, place, and support volunteer tutors to work in the Britannia Hub schools, alternative, and multicultural learning programs. This year we provided over 90 volunteer tutors for the following programs: Britannia High School Homework Club, Urban Native Youth Association's ARIES Project, Multicultural Family Centre's African Homework Club, Morley Elementary Homework Club, Byrne Creek High School, Second Street Elementary Rec' n' Read Program, Aunt Leah's Place youth tutoring, Outreach Alternative School, the East Side Program, Umoja's Children's Homework Club and with adult learners in: African Women's ESL program for refugee women, tutoring with Domestic Workers (live-in caregivers), Hastings Adult Education Centre, and Umoja's Adult ESL Literacy Program.

During the 2011-2012 year, Frontier College held a total of 6 tutor trainings, placed over 90 volunteers, held a Community Conference focused on working learning in the 21st century, hosted a Giller Lite celebration around the Giller Prize, and donated over 500 books.

Frontier College

Last summer we reached over 200 inner-city youth in the Grandview-Woodland community through our Reading Tents and Summer Writing Workshops. We will continue to offer these workshops this summer in July and August. We plan to host a community conference in June 2012.

Frontier College has an Organizational Team made up of 5 volunteers who work with the Community Coordinator to recruit, train, place and support volunteers, manage our programs and community partner relationships, and organize events. The team meets monthly and attends a retreat in September. Every year the team organizes our annual fundraiser: SCRABBLE Night in Canada Friends and Family Challenge. Last year, the funds we raised went towards our local programs; this year's fundraiser will take place on April 14th.

**Submitted by Briony Taylor and Kathy Powelson,
Frontier College**

Hastings Education Centre

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

Students come to us for different reasons: most are hoping to achieve high school graduation; some are upgrading specific courses to prepare for further education/training or for work. We are also able to offer a selection of tuition-free courses to adults who have not graduated and would like to continue their studies.

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

Partnership Programs - We have partnered with the Canucks Family Education Centre to offer their participants English Foundations and Math Foundations courses. We are pleased to be able to offer community members the opportunity to easily transition from the supportive environment of CFEC to academic courses which can lead to high school graduation.

Learning Centre - Learning Centre staff will conduct an assessment of English and math skills for those who have not studied recently or have not studied in an English speaking environment. They will plan a program to meet individual needs. Students may work on structured, self-paced or WEB mixed-mode courses.

Self-paced: students can complete study modules at their own speed under the guidance of an instructor in the Learning Centre.

WEB mixed-mode: students can do a portion of their program online while still accessing face-to-face services. For more information please visit <http://ws.vsbeducation.ca>

To get started or to make a programming appointment, please call the Learning Centre at 604-713-5735.

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

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

**Darlyne Robertson,
Principal Hastings Education Centre**

Volunteer Program

Volunteer Program's Mission: "Building a diverse and creative volunteer community that provides positive, learning opportunities and values the contributions of all individuals."

Britannia's Volunteer Program is constantly growing and learning. It has over 250 active volunteers that continue to contribute their time and energy to programs and events. Each year, thousands of hours are donated to community programs and we appreciate everyone's efforts to make this a welcoming place for volunteers.

In 2011, our Volunteer Program accomplished the following.

New Initiatives:

- Recruited new volunteer program committee members to reflect a more diverse pool of volunteers.
- Developed new policies to assist with registration of volunteers and better recruitment and tracking procedures.
- Generated creative approaches to volunteer recognition and appreciation.
- Extended use of the website to include social media, videos, and banners to recruit, retain and engage public involvement.
- New volunteer coaching manual for Micro Footie.

Community Development & Partnerships. The program has taken part in the following:

- Creating new departments/projects for volunteering (CAPC program, GWFC programs, UBC SCARP community planning projects)
- Building connections with not-for-profit agencies across the lower mainland
- Setting new standards of volunteer management as advocated by CAVR and AVRBC (national and provincial organizations) and striving to reach the Canadian Code for Volunteer Involvement
- Developing relationships with recruitment and employee-assistance programs to help new immigrants and those in transition to find new opportunities
- Establishing new discussions with Park Board facilities and staff around support of volunteers at all sites
- Ongoing discussions with neighbouring, growing municipalities about best practices for volunteer management.

Program Highlights 2011

Summer Unlimited – 3 years after our Volunteer Program implemented more involved screening and supportive tools for our volunteers, this program continues to showcase a return rate of almost 90% of our regular volunteers each year! This is a testament to sound practices (like evaluations and regular communication among staff and volunteers) that strengthen volunteer programs.

Volunteer Program Committee – This committee has representatives who represent seniors, youth, special events, arts and culture, the fitness centre and pool. The committee continues to provide guidance and support in developing initiatives and ensures program standards are maintained. This year, the committee presented to the board of management in Fall 2011 to request a board member to sit on the committee.

Knit Crochet Café – On the last day of Artful Sundays, our volunteer program ran a café during the festival and it was well received. The idea generated discussions about future cafes run by volunteer programs to engage the public and volunteers around shared interests (food and socializing) and also for fundraising purposes for volunteer programs.

Volunteer Appreciation Event – This successful event took place on September 29, 2011 at the Italian Cultural Centre. 86 guests attended and enjoyed a large buffet selection, accompanied by a variety of entertainment including a magician, caricature artist, and live band.

Facebook – The volunteer program launched a Facebook page to connect more volunteers who are familiar with social networking to Britannia's volunteer program. This tool is often used to host survey questions, poll opinions, or get feedback and generate discussion.

Challenges -

- Volunteers continue to inform us that feedback and support is crucial to making their experience at Britannia meaningful and constructive experience.
- Volunteers also want to see consistency in application of services and support to each of their placements and departments.

Current and future projects include:

- 1) Encouraging volunteers to take on more leadership roles within programs to build experience and their résumé

Volunteer Program Cont'd

- 2) Supporting staff in building stronger relationships with volunteers
- 3) Building consistency among departments and community centres to efficiently recruit and retain volunteers.

Charlene Wee,
Volunteer Program Coordinator

Arena Committee

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

SUCCESS STORIES

The Britannia After School Hockey program (BASH) gives youth 14-17 years the opportunity to participate in a structured hockey program where they learn hockey and team skills in a fun and supportive environment. This past year six participants "graduated" to play in the Vancouver Minor Hockey Association, three joined the Britannia Secondary School Hockey Academy and two started playing in the Vancouver Adult Co-ed Hockey League. Through generous donations from community members of gently used equipment, we have been able outfit these graduated players. In 2011, the BASH program obtained money through the Britannia Surplus grant and was also the recipient of a \$25K RBC Play Hockey grant.

Britannia's Learn to Skate instruction team are some of the leaders within the Vancouver Park Board. Their strength and creativity as instructors as well as their mentorship with new instructors has resulted in the delivery of a successful program that is sought after by participants across the city. In 2011 Britannia's Learn to Skate program had over 2300 registered participants.

Britannia continues to operate the Vancouver Adult Co-ed Hockey League (VACHL) which plays games at six of the Vancouver ice rinks, including Britannia. For the fourth straight year, the VACHL league expanded to include 20 teams which play in 3 divisions. The success of this league is attributed to the excellent program leadership and through the volunteer captains for the league.

The Britannia Arena continues to build on its reputation within the community and beyond as a fantastic facility for ice rentals and to experience a diverse range of skating programs. Britannia Arena has always been strong in revenue generation and in 2011, was given the target of a 20% increase in revenue expectations over 2010. With a very good year in programming and rentals in Winter and Spring and a phenomenal Summer season, the arena was able to generate revenues over 10% of the 2011 target.

CHALLENGES

For all the successes of 2011, there were some challenges that came with them. The opening of the new Hillcrest ice rink coupled with the new Trout Lake Community Centre saw a decrease in registration for skating lessons and attendance in public skating sessions in the fall. As of winter 2012, patrons are beginning to return to the Britannia ice rink with feedback that they missed the "community feel" that Britannia ice rink has.

The current teacher's job-action has affected Britannia ice rink and day time ice, normally filled by school rentals, sat empty for much of fall '11 and winter '12, Revenue for daytime ice usage was down considerably for the last quarter of the year.

PARNTERSIPS

Britannia Arena continues to focus on strengthening the current relationships it has built with its partners.

Arena Committee cont'd

The Hockey Education Reaching Out Society (HEROS) is a registered charitable organization that is committed to empowering children through ice hockey and education. The program, which started in 1999 at Britannia, has now expanded to 11 programs across Canada but still keeps its roots tied closely to the Grandview Woodlands community. In February, the HEROS hockey program welcomed their Excellencies, the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada and Mrs Sharon Johnston to the Britannia Ice Rink for an on-ice session with the children, coaches and

volunteers of the HEROS program.

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

FUTURE

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

***Susy Bando, Arena Programmer
for the Arena Committee***



Art and Culture Committee and Program

EVENTS

April - Vintage Bike Swap Meet – a partnership with the Vancouver Wheelmen who hosted their first annual Vintage Bike Swap Meet on the Britannia site. This event brought bike vendors and enthusiasts from the neighbourhood and beyond to trade, sell, and share bikes and bike stuff. This event was extremely well-attended with around 1500 visitors.

May - The 16th Annual Stone Soup Festival

This east Vancouver community tradition continues to bring out residents in celebration of spring, food, and the environment. In spite of the monsoon weather there was at least 1500 visitors and we still gave away all 400 bowls of soup prepared by volunteers and Out of School Care Chef, Shirdene Reynolds. This event supported 50 community groups, artists, food vendors and musicians as well as Growing Chefs Gardening Workshop, Button Making with Laura Bucci, Henry Charles, First Nations Storyteller, Buen Provecho Digital storytelling project and the Dixie Stars Stone Soup Story.

May-August – The Sidewalk Cellist

Britannia partnered with music student, Clara Shandler to bring classical cello music to the Napier Greenway on Saturday afternoons. Britannia agreed to help advertise the event and reimburse her the cost of her \$40 City street license. Clara's charming personality and professional experience encouraged community members into the greenway for a free concert and dialogue on classical music. We have agreed to continue this community initiative in 2012.

June – East FEAST Vancouver

Britannia's Arts & Culture Committee planned and launched the first FEAST event in Western Canada, a micro-funding event in support of local arts and artists. FEAST, Funding Emerging Arts with Sustainable Tactics, originated in Brooklyn NY and has since spread across the US and this year into Canada. This event puts the community in the driver's seat as they vote for one of three presenting artists at the FEAST who is then awarded up to \$1000 for their winning proposal. This grant is funded directly by the ticket sales. Our first FEAST winner was Pierre Leichner's GrassRoots Project which was displayed around Britannia depicting portraits of those who have contributed to the Britannia Community. A final exhibition of all portraits will be displayed in the Art Gallery in June of 2012.

July – Canada Day

Entertainment from our local musicians and performers including: The Drive Street Band, The Vancouver Morrismen, Voices Rising and Trevor & Rowan Whitridge. This year also included the Vancouver Draw Down drawing workshop with well over 400 drawings made by community members which were hung in the park and later displayed in the window of the Info Centre.

July – The Vancouver Draw Down

Britannia participated in this citywide event to engage artists and non-artists alike in drawing events and workshops. On July 23 Britannia hosted cartooning with Sun cartoonist David Maclean, Exquisite Corpse with Sylvia Oates, and we also partnered with the Community Arts Council of Vancouver. The Planning & Development Committee contributed a "flag-making" workshop. The Draw Down team continued the Blind Contour Drawings as well. Drawings were exhibited in the outdoor gallery. Of course there were musicians at this very pleasant event that drew about 200 active participants.

August - Artful Sundays

Artful Sundays is an annual outdoor visual arts market featuring the works of local artists. 2011 was our 9th year. This event supported 60 artists over 5 Sundays in August. It was extremely well-received with over 3500 visitors. This year the event hosted an outdoor café organized by Charlene Wee and Britannia Volunteers as a fundraiser for the volunteer program. We are planning to continue this café project at other future events.

October - Diwali

Britannia celebrate Diwali with facilitators, Mital Gorman and Trudy Ann Tellis. Most popular were the 2 Samosa, chutney and chai making workshops. There was also a chai house with India slide show, sari wrapping and afternoon of Indian Arts including rangoli, diya painting and bollywood dance. The seniors at the Adult 55+ Centre were very supportive in hosting this event which brought 200 people to our site.

Art and Culture Committee and Program

October - The Story Gallery Festival

A celebration of stories from the Grandview Woodland neighbourhood consisting of music, readings, demonstrations, presentations and food taking place outdoors in the Britannia Plaza and in the Art Gallery. This event brought together three “story” projects supported by Vancouver 125 Grants including: Our Roots, a First Nations Story Project; Voices from Grandview Woodland, and the Vancouver 125 Story Project. All of these projects focussed on the Grandview Woodland and Strathcona neighbourhoods. Over 200 people attended this event.

October – The Vancouver Opera Project

Britannia partnered with the Vancouver Opera, a new resident of Grandview Woodland, to present Gangs in our Community as a community outreach initiative before their presentation of Westside Story. This event brought together panelists to discuss the history and present day effect gangs have on our community. The panel included: SFU Criminologist, Robert Gordon, Youth Theatre Director, Elaine Carol, Community Services E.D., Kate Hodgson and former gang member, Amir Javid. After the panel discussion with audience Q & A, Miscellaneous Productions, Youth Theatre presented an excerpt from their upcoming production, Katz & Dawgs also based on Westside Story. About 100 people came to the High School Auditorium for this event.

COMMUNITY ART PROJECTS

The McLean Drive Mural Project

This project was supported by the Community Neighbourhood Arts Development Program and the Vancouver 125 Mural Program. This mural is solely the result of a community initiative. The intention was to create a fabulous and beautiful 9000+ square foot mural on the two block long cement retaining wall on McLean Drive (from Parker to William Streets) in East Vancouver. The wall is along the City of Vancouver’s Mosaic cycling route and borders Britannia High School’s Oval Field.

The theme selected by the community during an open-invitation series of workshops was “flight”, reflecting the daily migration of crows across this part of the city. This flight path is familiar to all Vancouverites and is uniquely Vancouver and specifically East Vancouver. It has occurred throughout Vancouver’s 125 years and certainly will beyond. It is symbolic of consistency in the face of change, endurance through adversity and the proverbial “strength in numbers.” How best to describe and celebrate this Vancouver neighbourhood! The overall concept animates the length of the wall in a sequence that makes the wall into an active space, so that walkers, cyclists and drivers will experience the phenomenon of flight. Using stencils to make the patterns of crows, images were repeated in several ‘sequences’ of flight patterns, each similar to the other. The mural was the result of public input sessions under the guidance of the artistic director Richard Tetrault who engaged residents, Artists and Youth Artists of all ages, backgrounds, and skill levels. See this mural on vancouver-murals.ca.

Believe in Brit Youth Sign Project

This project was partially funded through the Vancouver 125 Grant Program and was a joint venture between Arts & Culture and the Youth/Teen Centre with support from the 55+ Centre. Believe in Brit is a new project exploring the themes of collective and individual histories as reported by the youth of the east Vancouver neighbourhood of Grandview-Woodland and Strathcona. Youth of the Britannia Teen Centre looked at the interconnections between the recorded histories of the City of Vancouver, the neighbourhood, and the Britannia site. This project gives youth opportunity to dialogue with community in a public forum through the vehicle of a permanent art installation. Under the direction of Artists Cheryl Hamilton and Mike Vandermeer at least 40 youth selected the content, the look and the location of the signage. They also experienced hands-on work at the Artists’ studio. The two signs “Respect” and “Loyalty” are installed in the walkway between the pool and the Teen Centre. The experience has been so successful that the Teens and the seniors are looking at creating more signs.

The Banner Project

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

Art and Culture Committee and Program

THE BRITANNIA ART GALLERY

The Britannia Art Gallery, located in the Adult Lounge of the Britannia Library, has been a model of community arts development for over 18 years. It is a partnership between the Neighbourhood Cultural Collective (Arts & Culture Committee), Community Education, the Vancouver Public Library and the Britannia Society. Tens of thousands of area residents have visited the Britannia Art Gallery, one of only three accessible spaces to exhibit for artists along with Havana's and The Cultch. Funds acquired beginning in 2005 brought small honoraria for exhibiting artists, hired a professional curator and funded outreach. The Gallery continues to be supported financially by the Britannia Society.

The Art Gallery promotes the development of emerging artists with a professional Curator. Free community outreach of inspiring and thought provoking workshops, talks, and demonstrations expose residents to the Drive's only Public Art Gallery. In 2011 the Gallery hosted 8 exhibitions and 10 outreach workshops and presentations with approximately 4000 visits. The Curator puts out a monthly e-newsletter, The Artery, with over 300 subscribers and supplies information to artists on a national scope. The Gallery looks forward to 2012 with more exhibitions, workshops and presentations.

PROGRAMS

2011 Arts & Culture programs continued to offer diverse programming for all ages. Popular new additions include Life-drawing and Watercolour and Kid's Theatre. Art Therapy programs continue to grow.

SUMMARY

The Committee is looking forward to 2012 and the continuation of projects such as: Vintage Bike Swap Meet, Stone Soup, East FEAST, Vancouver Draw Down, Artful Sundays and Diwali and to the addition of the Winter Art Market. We will also be working with the Volunteer Program Committee in the creation of a Café to be added to some of our special events. We will be focusing on greening and sustainability in some future arts initiatives including recycling community banners into eco-bags; and promoting an environmental artist initiative on site. The committee will be working closely with the Britannia Green Team Coordinator, the Food Security Coordinator, Environmental Artist groups and the Planning & Development Committee on these green initiatives.

The Arts and Culture Committee at the Britannia Centre continues to surpass the year before in the number and variety of special projects, events, and partnerships that we bring to our community. We are already certain that 2012 will be no exception.

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

Lorrie Wager,
Arts & Culture Programmer



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

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

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

Britannia

Board Development Committee

In keeping with the themes identified in the Britannia Strategic Plan, the Board Development Committee directed its energy for 2012 to the following activities:

Helping to identify and facilitate Board training

In addition to the Board orientation we provided a number of workshops to Board members on issues such as financial literacy for non-profits and Robert's Rules. We also had resources such as mentors and access to the Executive Director available to new Board members to better engage in the work of the Board

Helping to develop a Britannia Fundraising Policy

Due to the challenge for funding from traditional sources to keep pace with increased costs, Britannia, as many community organizations are, looks to potential funding opportunities. As a first step we completed a feasibility study that will help us identify what we may do to develop appropriate resources for the programs we need in our community.

Planning the Society's AGM

It is the responsibility of the Board Development Committee to work with Senior Management, and our partners to plan the Britannia AGM. Please enjoy the evening, and thank-you for attending.

On Behalf of the Britannia Board Development Committee

Brendan Boylan, Pat Davitt, Tammyanne Matthew and Paul Kjekstad

Child Care and Children's Committee

The B.C. Government's Budget 2012 brought no relief for families with young children. Their Service Plan says that "families can choose from a range of affordable, safe quality child care options..." The reality is otherwise and childcare fees are too high, spaces too few and most families make do with unregulated child care.

There is a solution put forward by the Early Childhood Educators of BC and The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC in their Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning. I am very pleased to say that this plan was discussed by the Childcare and Children's Committee and the Britannia Board of Management and endorsed, joining many other organizations and municipal governments in calling for an affordable plan for early learning and care.

Closer to home, Eagles Out of School Child Care has renovated an outbuilding at MacDonald Elementary School and will move out of its current basement into a much improved facility.

Our committee of parent board members continues to meet and we are looking at perhaps doing some fundraising as a group instead of each individual centre doing its own.

The Out of School Care programs at Britannia, Lord Nelson, Grandview and Eagles have some spaces due to high fees, inadequate subsidies and the implementation of all day kindergarten.

Eva Sharell, Chair

Oliver Conway, Britannia Board member

Community Education Committee

Members: Mike Evans (Community Education), Andrew Schofield (Britannia Secondary), Ian Cannon (Britannia Elementary), Jean Rasmussen (Canuck Family Literacy), Kathy Powelson (Frontier College), Charles Lamudak (SWIS), Beatrice Feza (HIPPIY), Sadia Ibrahim (Britannia Programmer), Dawn Zoe (PCMG), Barbara Kelly (Britannia Library), Bob Harris (Britannia Recreation), Cynthia Low (Britannia Executive Director), and Gaye Fergusson (CAPC), Margaret Vis, (Britannia Board) is our Chair

Vision: To promote a lifelong learning community.

The Community Education Committee acts as an advisory committee to the Coordinator and to the Community School Team. Mike Evans, the Coordinator, also sits on the Britannia Board of Management and part of our role is to keep Board members informed about our work. We meet approximately once per month during the school year. Mitra Tshan, the Community Education secretary, does a wonderful job taking minutes, sending out agendas and providing support to the group.

Highlights:

Programs provided FREE by Community Education include:

- HIPPIY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters). Beatrice Feza is our part-time coordinator. Fifty families are in HIPPIY. This year we will have 100% completion by our 3, 4 and 5 year-olds. Graduation is June 9th. Next year, HIPPIY will no longer be offered at Britannia. The plan is to include HIPPIY as one of MOSAIC's new programs. HIPPIY Canada feels that the mandate of MOSAIC better fits HIPPIY newcomer families.
- CAPC (Community Access Program for Children) provides a food distribution program for 40 families, ESL instruction for parents, Spanish Community Kitchen programs, Parent-Child Mother Goose programs and support for HIPPIY. First Aid, Food Safe and Art Therapy are professional opportunities for staff and excellent training for parents. Gaye Fergusson continues to do a wonderful work as our Coordinator.
- Brit Crew is an articulation, mentoring program for grade 8 students. Senior students plan activities and provide a warm welcome to new grade 8 students at Britannia Secondary.
- Out of school programs in the Britannia HUB of schools continue to thrive, providing over 40 programs to our HUB schools. Sadia Ibrahim, working on a United Way grant to the Vancouver School Board, provided strong leadership. Jennae Gedeon was our Moresport sponsored programmer and she did excellent work.
- Our summer camps were a big success. Six weeks of arts, creative writing, technology courses and sports kept over 180 children engaged.
- Charles Lamudak is the SWIS (Settlement Workers in Schools) worker for Britannia and he is a welcome member to the committee. SWIS workers provide transition programs and initiatives for immigrants to Canada.
- Frontier College provides one-to-one tutoring and literacy help to over 130 students in the HUB. Kathy Powelson is the Coordinator.

Some examples of special event programming that we sponsor or partner with other agencies and groups include:

Britannia Craft Fair, Stone Soup Festival, Bruins Invitational Basketball Tournament, CAPC Parent conference, Night Hoops, Open Doors to Learning and Community Forums for Parents of Pre-School Children.

Margaret Vis,
Chair of the Community Education Committee
and Britannia Board Member

Grandview Woodland Food Connection Committee

As the Britannia Board representative on this committee I have the pleasure of meeting with the co-ordinator of the GWFC, Ian Marcuse, and other community representatives.

These meetings are a feast of being up-dated and informed on all the many new projects undertaken, and the sustaining of programs previously in place, that is the work of Ian Marcuse and his dedicated volunteers, at Britannia, and throughout the city.

Community; kitchens, gardens, bulk buying programs, food preservation workshops, cooking seminars for seniors, youth, ethnic groups, education and more! Ian designs and delivers programs and services that pretty well include all aspects of food. With his focus on safe, sustainable, locally sourced and nutritionally sound; food growing, procurement, and eating Ian has a very full schedule and the work he does has a huge benefit; to students, families, and seniors!

Gwen Greisbrecht
on behalf of the Food Connection Committee

Library Management Committee

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

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

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

The Committee met 3 times in 2011. Highlights include:

- Supporting the expansion or upgrade of wireless availability on the site.
- Communicating to the VSB Trustees and VPL Board regarding budget concerns and the possibility of working creatively with partners to prevent or mitigate the impact.
- Discussions around the use of space in the library and how to create an environment that meets the needs of diverse users with a focus on a welcoming and useful space for teens.
- Participation in Britannia Visioning/Master Plan
- Joint VPL-VSB goals such as one-to-one computer training, puppet shows and a visit from the First Nations Story teller-in-Residence, Henry Charles.

Barbara Kelly,
Manager, Britannia Branch, Committee Secretary

Planning and Development Committee

The Planning & Development Committee currently meets once a month and sends e-mails with meeting announcements, agendas, and meeting notes to people interested in the work of the committee. Among those people are Britannia staff, representatives of Britannia's partners, and citizens including local residents and people interested in planning issues. During 2011/2012 the main work of the committee was to complete Britannia's Strategic Master Plan and to oversee seeking support for the plan.

Much committee work went into the Strategic Master Plan over the summer of 2011, in consultation with Britannia's partners (Vancouver School Board, Vancouver Public Library, Vancouver Park Board, and the City of Vancouver), and engagement with the community. Consultants Hughes Condon Marler Architect and Phillips Farevaag Smallemberg also worked on the plan. The Planning & Development Committee and Britannia Executive approved the plan in September. Since September, the committee has been involved with the work of Britannia Executive Director Cynthia Low to seek the support of Britannia's partners for the Strategic Master Plan.

The committee is also working to bring awareness of the Strategic Master Plan to partners, local residents and local businesses through plans for its own events and/or tables at festivals like Stone Soup and Car-Free Commercial Drive. Finally, the committee has been tracking two City of Vancouver local area processes related to Britannia's catchment area: The Eastern Core Strategy (centred on the False Creek Flats) and the Grandview-Woodland Community Plan.

***Dan Fass on behalf of the
Planning & Development Committee***

Program Committee

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

Examples of discussion topics included: accessibility to the pool with a permanent stairway, fees & charges, (Britannia is one of the few facilities to retain some free admission times to the fitness centre, pool, and rink), customer surveys, and requests for funding.

In 2011, facility upgrades occurred in the pool (sound system, washer/dryer, heating & ventilation system, and improvements to the office layout), the fitness centre (air conditioning), and the rink (sound system and new flooring & painting in the rink activity room). Further upgrades were planned for the teen centre and 55+ computer lab, to be carried out in 2012.

The Program Committee is always looking for community input and participation and invites those who are interested to join our monthly meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Thank you to all of the committee members for your contribution in 2011. It was greatly appreciated!

***Bob Harris,
Community Recreation Coordinator
on behalf of the Program Committee***

Pool and Fitness Centre Committee

I joined Britannia in November of 2011 and it has been an amazing few months. I am thankful to have the opportunity to work with, and learn from, the staff and community team here. In particular, Bob Harris, Wally Tarrant, and Jan Coyle have been extremely helpful and supportive in my transition from being a centre programmer to a pool & fitness centre programmer. It has been my goal to learn as much as I can through these first few months.

Strategic Goal

The Pool & Fitness Centre's goal is to provide high quality programs and services that are accessible, responsive and inclusive, and meet diverse community needs.

Excellence

The Fitness Centre welcomed many newcomers to the neighborhood over the past year. We were closed for three weeks for installation of an HVAC system and stereo system. Despite the loss of access, our regular users remained dedicated, and we appreciate their loyalty. We're pleased to have made these major improvements to the air circulation and temperature control, to offer a healthier, more comfortable recreation experience for everyone.

We continued to make fitness affordable for all, seeing high attendance during our Free with Membership times, and introducing many students to fitness programs.

Our Fitness Centre volunteers raised over \$600.00 at our annual fundraiser during the Canada Day celebration in Victoria Park. The Fitness Centre won a Reader's Choice award in the Stars of Vancouver Best Fitness / Health club category for 2011.

A Youth Swim time was added to the pool schedule on the first Friday of every month from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. There were many successful special events such as the open house, seniors' luncheons, a children's winterfest along with the special appearance of the Wibit inflatable attraction six times throughout the year.

The pool was closed for two months in the fall. The renovations to the pool included air conditioning in the change rooms, a new stereo system and new office. Permanent pool stairs and Kiefer racing lanes were salvaged from the closure of Percy Norman Pool.

Wally Tarrant did a commendable job as Recreation Programmer through a challenging time of staff vacancies, training new staff and a major closure and renovation.

Challenges

The pool & fitness centre has been through a lot of change over the past year and we continue to work diligently at integrating new initiatives and demands.

Future

With the opening of new facilities around the city, including Trout Lake and Hillcrest, we face the task of determining our programming successes and building on areas for enhanced community support, growth and development.

Partnerships

We are excited to begin enhancing our existing and future potential partnerships.

Respectfully submitted,

***Vittoria Basile, Recreation Programmer – Pool & Fitness Centre, with additions from
Wally Tarrant, Swim Instructor Attendant and Jan Coyle, RPT Fitness Attendant***

Al Mattison Lounge 55+ Committee

It's been another wonderful year for the 55+ Centre. We continue to support and cherish our long-standing programs while experimenting with and nurturing the new! Extremely important in program and community development is our intimate, supportive relationship with the Britannia staff, our multitude of partners and the Britannia society. The Al Mattison Lounge, now referred to as the 55+ Centre, is a hub for community connection, a meeting place for older adults to come together to share ideas, needs, expertise and their lives with others.

Our strength lies in creating and ensuring the lounge and 55 + Centre be a warm, welcoming, safe place where elders in the community know they are always welcome and will find the resources, support and excellence in programming to both fulfill and support their continued growth and sense of belonging with community. This year that's included intergenerational programs (Philosophers Café, Vancouver 125, Transgender Youth), Arts Programs (Remarkable Women, Teen Centre Art Project, Arts Health and Seniors Project), Health and Fitness (Wii Fitness, Health Workshops, Yoga, City Wide 125 Program) and Social (Knitters, Los Mondos, Lunch Program). We'd like to thank the Youth Centre (Tom and Anntie) for continuing to see the value in sharing programs, ideas, and space with "seniors", and Lorrie Wager (Arts) for her incredible support, patience and diligence in writing Grants to help support our seniors programs and her inclusion of seniors in community arts programs!

This year, as in others, we recognize the importance of volunteers and partners to augment the presence of a facilitator in the Centre. We are looking to the future with hope that a Volunteer Host program will fill that void and ensure the 55+ Centre doors are always open. Our computer lab continues to be a source of education, connection and fun and we are, thanks to the kind support of the Britannia Society, looking at brand new updated equipment and software which will allow us to broaden our class capacity and programs. Once again, thanks to our many partners (VCH,VSB, UBC, Q-munnity, VPL, REACH, Parks and Britannia Society) for their shared vision on the importance of community.

Anne Jackson for the Britannia Seniors Committee AML 55+ Centre

Lions Den Seniors Committee

The Lion's Den Recreation Committee was successful in applying for grant funding from the Britannia Board of Management in the Fall of this year. The first was to develop a Hiking Club which integrated youth and seniors. The group of 12 seniors and 4 youth went on 4 outings, under the guidance of Barry Skillin, two of which were in the pouring rain! The objective was to build on the well attended Walking Club at Britannia and to expand our horizons to the not quite so flat terrain in the mountains. We ended the series at Seymour in the frozen rain with a great snowshoeing trip.

The second grant, skillfully guided by Ellen Shultz, was designed to integrate the three existing senior's groups with a new combined committee to oversee the activities and services offered to local elders. The idea came from a focus group who wanted to gather volunteers of all ages to train and implement a hosting process in the two drop-ins, to inform newcomers of the programs and services available and to offer coffee and a warm welcome. The committee is to meet early in the new year on a monthly basis. Ellen has assembled a strong group to represent the variety of senior groups in Grandview/Woodland.

Closer to home The Adult Day Centre has a new Administrator and is enjoying the leadership of Ian Marcuse. The programs are expanding as the language classes are extremely popular, with a new French instructor on site. The kitchen was decorated recently and the centre is a popular place for local rental groups. Regular bookings assist the centre in maintaining equipment and it is now only available at the weekend. The committee is working on integrating those seniors whose first language is not English into regular programs. They would also like to upgrade the computers which may happen as Britannia is upgrading the computer lab at the 55+ lounge.

The committee is also hosting a Britannia Board of Management Meeting at the Lion's Den in 2012, this being the first time some have been to the centre. We look forward to more such events and the opportunity to work more closely with other senior groups in the community

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

Vietnamese Seniors

The program provides settlement services, educational and informative workshops about federal and provincial programs for seniors. It also raises the awareness of issues impacting seniors as well as providing valuable information about legal, safety, and support resources available to seniors.

I participated in The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program to help low income seniors and families prepare their 2011 income tax returns; I also assisted many seniors to find their places to live through BC Housing programs. I work closely with other seniors Workers at Britannia to organize joint programs, special events and health clinic. We continue to partnership with The Multicultural Family Centre to promote a healthy lifestyle and wellness for seniors and adults. The programs include: Tai Chi, Line Dancing classes, and Community Kitchen on Fridays at The Canucks Family Education Centre. We are trying to implement more programs to meet the needs of younger seniors.

The average number of Vietnamese seniors attending every Tuesday program is seventy. The program continues to deliver:

- Settlement services
- Social interaction
- Emotional support
- Recreational and educational activities
- Promotion of good physical and mental health

Luong Ho

Vietnamese Seniors Outreach Worker

Sports & Wellness

Staff

Nick Fong left Britannia's Programming staff to work at Marpole and Renfrew Community Centres. We appreciated his hard work and dedication to Britannia during his 1 ½ years here. We welcome Ashley Beattie who is now job sharing in the Sport & Wellness Program area. Ashley comes to us from Killarney CC with an extensive fitness background and 8 years of experience as a Recreation Programmer.

Preschool and Children's Programs

Micro Footie continues to be a success. This year we are celebrating our 19th year in the Britannia Community. We have over 93 children playing recreational soccer aged 4 -16+ years participating. Much of the league's success is due to the over 100 volunteer coaches leading the 94 team league. We are thankful for the support from our sponsors: Uprising Breads, Fets Bar & Grill, Fratelli's, Sweetwater Garden Design, Portuguese Club, Banana Grove Market, Liquids + Solids, AON and Deer Lake Boat Rentals.

The Britannia Gymnastics Program continues to be popular. Britannia hosted a fabulous Holiday Show featuring all our fall participants. Logistical issues continue to be a concern not only for Britannia but other Eastside Community Centre gym programs as well. Meetings with Eastside programming staff continue and committees are being developed to address and develop our dream for an Eastside Gymnastics facility. If you are interested in discussing Eastside gymnastics issues contact Lori Moretto a lori.moretto@vancouver.ca.

The new Westside Music Together program introduced to the Eastside has been a huge success. Our children's dance, martial arts, baby signing, yoga and Sportball programs continue to fill and keep our community kids active.

Adult Programs

Zumba Fit – This program remains one of our most successful programs. There are between 30 and 56 people registered

Sports & Wellness cont'd

for each class, and there are also 5-10 drop-ins per class as well.

Iyengar Yoga – Out of all our yoga classes this class brings in the most participants. We offer 7 different types of Iyengar yoga classes and each class has between 15-20 participants.

Volleyball – This class continues to be a success and majority of the numbers are from drop-ins. Volleyball is offered 3 times per week and averages about 13 drop-ins per class.

Co-ed Ball Hockey – This program is going very strong. It's not full but the numbers are growing.

Adult Outdoor Adventures – Unfortunately this program had to be cancelled due to low registration. On June 20 there will be a farewell potluck for the past participants to come to and enjoy

My hope is to expand the adult programming over the next year. Since summer is the next season I will be adding: Athletic Yoga, All Levels Yoga, Boot-camp and Fab Abs classes. Since I'm new here I would love to hear any new program ideas, so if you have any please feel free to contact me at 604-718-5824 or ashley.beattie@vancouver.ca

Submitted by Lori Moretto and Ashley Beattie

Youth Committee

This year the Britannia Youth Committee was involved with various events and activities, and all members enjoyed their experiences of being involved and demonstrating their leadership.

In the beginning of the school year, we worked together to host a welcome-back-to-school bash. It was a very fun experience organizing a free barbecue for the youth in the community and spreading the word about our committee and various opportunities within the community. It was a great way to start off the year.

Throughout the year, we helped out at the open houses, and were especially involved with the library activities. We worked closely with librarian Darcy from the central branch and planned a Hide-and-Seek night at the VPL central branch and invited many youth from our community. We also embarked on a book buy for both Britannia Branch and other branches in the city; we were very fortunate to be able to pick out books, manga, DVD, and CDs that we felt the youth collection should include. It was a fantastic opportunity

Finally, this year, we also identified one of the major issues facing the youth and families in our community, and that is the lack of subsidized bus passes for students. As a response, we worked together to write to Translink explaining this issue and asking for assistance. We also approached the Board of Management for a temporary, but immediate resolution to the problem.

Overall, this year was an incredible year; we had lots of fun at the same time as helping our community in various ways. We look forward to more exciting opportunities in the future.

Kate Zhou for the Youth Committee

Youth Program Report

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

Britannia Youth programs continue to aim for high calibre, accessible, innovative programs for youth in the Grandview-Woodlands and Strathcona community. Our focus is not only recreation, but also providing opportunities for leadership, life skills development, cultural understanding and community development. All of our programs are offered a low or no cost. Fees should not pose a barrier to participation, so if a youth wants to attend, we find a way for them to get involved.

We are fortunate to have our own free standing youth-only facility. The Teen Centre offers a safe space for youth to 'hang out', take part in programs, seek advice and referrals, and discover other resources in the community. Youth provide input towards the programming and aid in developing the monthly calendar of activities. Trained staff and adult role models mentor and help create a welcome atmosphere for youth. The end of 2011 and the start of 2012 brought in a change to the Teen Centre. Significant upgrades and renovations have modernized our space and added colour making it more appealing to the youth. Youth art will be added in the near future.

The past year has brought in new and continued partnerships with onsite partners. Working with the seniors, we completed two Vancouver 125 projects, the "Believe in Brit" Youth Signs project and Celebrate Vancouver's Eldest Citizens. With the "Believe in Brit" project seniors shared their history of growing up in the Grandview Woodlands community and challenged youth to think about why the area was important to them. Youth and artists created the two signs "Respect" and "Loyalty", interlaced with "trust, honor, pride, effort, love and courage", summarizing important feelings youth had. With the Vancouver Eldest Citizens project, youth interviewed two Britannia seniors, summarized their stories, and aided in creating a poster series highlighting the seniors. The posters are on display in the Seniors AML. We have also seen growth in our Youth Swim events at the Pool, and with our Britannia After School Hockey (BASH) program at the rink, paired with some Youth Skates we have initiated. We will continue to look for more ways to program inter-generationally, inter-culturally with our site facilities.

Our youth programs continue to remove graffiti and paint murals on walls near and around Britannia. Artists will help facilitate youth-developed murals on local buildings, and along with the City of Vancouver's "Spread the Paint" program, paint over buildings and walls 'tagged' by graffiti. We await owner approval before starting on both of these projects.

In November of 2011, our Britannia Youth Program received the inaugural "Play it Fair" award recognizing our work with Children's Rights education. We have partnered with Equitas, an international not-for-profit organization which provides training and advocacy for Children's and Human Rights, to introduce and implement the "Play it Fair" toolkit to numerous organizations throughout Metro Vancouver. It is a valuable resource that is used to informally teach the values of Children's Rights through play, projects and targeted discussion. We have been using "Play it Fair" in our day camps and youth programs. In 2011 we were also involved in the pilot and national launch of the "Speaking Rights" program provides youth with education about Children's and Human Rights using projects-based activities. We have camps, workshops and arts projects based around the themes and activities of "Play it Fair" and "Speaking Rights".

Anntuaneth returning back to the Latin American Youth Program after a year-plus long maternity leave has reinvigorated the program and brought an influx of youth. Programs continue to have full participation, and we are seeing increased integration of youth from our Latin American Youth Program to our Youth and Teen Centre Programs.

Building on the success of our 2011 Dragon Boat team, our junior team of 20 youth has commenced practices. They have been entered into the 2012 Rio Tinto Alcan Dragon Boat Festival on June 16 and 17, and some preliminary regattas, the first being the junior regatta on May 5. In 2012, we have also added a 19 to 23 year-old team to encourage fitness, teamwork and commitment to youth transitioning to adulthood. We are currently still looking for new members.

We have a large variety of additional programs, activities and out trips, but are always looking for new ideas. While we have our staples, such as cooking, snowboarding, sports, camping, and arts, trends and interests continually change so we need to be keenly aware of new opportunities and interests. Input for new ideas is always welcome.

With our positive reputation amongst post-secondary education providers, many local colleges have been requesting

Youth Report Cont'd

intern placements at our youth programs. Recreation, Social Service Worker, Child and Youth Care, and Community Service Worker programs from Langara College, Douglas College, Sprott-Shaw Community College, and MTI College have all placed interns to learn from our staff, youth and programs. Our role as staff is to provide opportunities and share knowledge with youth and young adults wanting to work in the youth, recreation and community development fields. We have had a lot of great students who have hopefully learned from their experiences at Britannia and will be able to use these skills and knowledge in future jobs.

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

Submitted By Tom Higashio

Latin American Youth Report

This past year the Latin American Youth Program (LAYP) has focused on cultural awareness and community involvement. A number of youth who are participating in our programs have been living in Canada for less than three years. The youth are expected to transition quickly into the school system and connect to resources and outside programs for recreation and social involvement. The LAYP has been successful in doing outreach in the high schools; we continue to have Spanish clubs in four schools: Sir Charles Tupper, David Thompson, Gladstone, and Killarney. It has been essential for the LAYP to continue having strong relationships with the Multicultural Liaison workers in the Vancouver School Board - without this partnership we would not be able to identify the youth and families that are entering the school system. Each club has its own needs and desires; at this time each club is working on different cultural events in their school such as Latin Day at Killarney and Tupper, Zumba fundraiser for UNICEF at DT, and Salsa Class at Gladstone. The clubs have kept a steady number of drop-in participants ranging from 9-15 students per club and have been a great way to connect the youth to the centre to participate in our programs and have access to the pool, ice rink, library, and fitness centre.

The school calendar year 2011-2012, has brought in many new youth to our programs. They come from many diverse backgrounds: Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Bolivia, Mexico, Chile, Cuba, and Venezuela. Previously most of our youth have come from 3 Latin countries but this past year we have a more diverse group of youth. The LAYP has helped them connect to a social group, learn leadership skills, and get involved in recreation and volunteer work.

The lively indoor soccer program on Tuesday evenings has anywhere from 30-40 youth per night. Due to the number of youth participating, we have brought in three volunteers that help out with refereeing, sign-in, and maintaining safety.

The Cocina Latina cooking program is packed every Thursday evening, with 18-22 youth participating. We had a Colombian mom come in to cook Bandeja Paisa, a Colombian traditional dish. We cooked for 4 hours and the youth danced and shared stories. Three volunteers assist each week, helping with this program; without them it would be hard to keep track of what is happening in the kitchen. Maricela Medina, a parent of one of the youth, has been volunteering for the past three years. She has been a tremendous help and the youth really enjoy her company.

The First Friends program has received many new participants and gets 13-18 youth weekly. Youth and parents have shown appreciation for this program since it provides social activities, volunteer work in our community, guest speakers, and workshops. This coming year we hope to work with the youth to help them further develop their skills and English.

Goals for the LAYP: To create a logo for the program; to create a brochure/pamphlet providing information, history, and activities; Leadership program for grade 7's

Anntuaneth Figueroa
Latin American Youth Worker



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