A photograph of children in a swimming pool. In the foreground, a young girl with wet hair and a purple swimsuit looks towards the camera. Behind her, another girl with blue goggles around her neck smiles. In the background, a baby is being held in the water. The water is bright blue.

# Annual Report Britannia Society 2014-2015

Britannia AGM

Wednesday,

May 27, 2015

6:00pm - Gym D

1661 NAPIER STREET  
VANCOUVER, B.C. V5L 4X4  
P. 604.718.5800 F. 604.718.5858  
[britanniacentre.org](http://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
- public library
- teen centre
- racquetball court and mat room
- meeting rooms
- elementary school
- fitness centre
- ice rink
- learning resources centre
- swimming pool
- secondary school
- five child care centres
- four gymnasias
- community information centre

There are also numerous off-site programs and activities.

## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2014-2015

### Executive Committee:

President: Gwen Giesbrecht  
Vice President: Ray Gallagher  
Treasurer: John Flipse

### Executive Members:

Oliver Conway  
Meseret Taye

### Directors:

Oles Andriendo  
Mary Arakelyan  
Scott Clark  
Susanne Dahlin  
Ingrid Kolsteren  
Morna McLeod  
Craig Ollenberger  
David Parent

Edward Stringer  
Staff Rep: Alex McKechnie

### Partners:

Vancouver Public Library  
Vancouver Park Board  
Vancouver School Board

Erie Maestro/Beth Davies  
Peter Odynsky  
Geoff Taylor

### Senior Staff:

Executive Director  
Manager of Administrative Services  
Childcare Manager  
Community Education Coordinator

Cynthia Low  
Natalie Bailey  
Sabine Tanasiuk  
Mike Evans

### Honourary Board Members:

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

### Liaisons to Britannia:

Vancouver City Council  
Vancouver Library Board  
Vancouver Park Board  
Vancouver School Board

Kerry Jang  
Kyla Epstein  
Erin Shum  
Christopher Richardson





# President of Britannia Board of Management

The year has been an exciting one for Britannia. Much time and energy has been spent by the Board and the Planning and Development Committee for several years, in an effort to be included in the capital plan for the city and have the Britannia site included for facilities renewal. This was achieved in the current capital plan. We will be continuing to work with the city, and the community, in planning stage one of a facility renewal over the next four years.

In terms of facilities one can't help but notice the handsome carving pavilion, situated in the parking lot, and completed for occupancy early this year. This project was first conceptualized by Don Fiddler, District Principal for Aboriginal Education, and Geoff Taylor, Principal of Britannia Secondary, and was achieved through working with our partners at the Vancouver School Board and the City of Vancouver. As part of the year of reconciliation actions, the project was also supported by federal and local Aboriginal agencies. As well as programming for the schools, the pavilion will be available for use by the many carvers and artists in our community.

As part of Britannia's commitment to providing opportunities for community engagement and space availability, we continue to manage the hall at 1739 Venables. Previously a banquet and ballroom, 1739 Venables Hall has been made available for community use, while it still stands, through the initiative of Britannia. This project, although slow to start, has provided many extra hours of programming space for the Centre, as well as being a venue for many community organizations. We will continue to look at off-site locations to utilize, as a way to take the Centre into the neighbourhood, and provide much needed space for local talent to thrive.

So this has been a year of facilities. We continue to grow as a Centre and as we grow we continue to explore opportunities that will help us to keep pace with the growing need to provide space and place for our community members to be welcomed and celebrated.

It has been my pleasure to serve as President of the Board and I would like to thank my fellow Board members, all staff, volunteers and members, as well as our partners, Vancouver School Board, the City of Vancouver, Vancouver Board of Parks, and the Vancouver Public Library, for the individual and collective energy that goes into making Britannia exciting, and home to some of the most innovative endeavours in the city.

With changes to Park Board operations and introduction of the OneCard, access to programs at all community centres has been improved. Please remember that with these changes, your membership at Britannia Community Centre is more important than ever. I encourage everyone to be a member of the Society, to participate as a member, and to consider the rewards of volunteering to help keep our Centre vibrant. As city-wide usage of community facilities becomes more common, let's keep in mind it is the community that keeps centres strong.

*With much appreciation,*

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



## Executive Director

Being a part of a community means being responsive and accountable to the community. We do this every day by providing services to meet the diverse needs of residents. There are patrons of Britannia who come to the pool everyday as part of their wellness and social routine, weekend warriors who use our rink and gyms to live out their dreams of NHL, NBA and other sports, parents who rely on the day care program not just to keep their children safe but to have a role in developing their citizenship.

There continue to be gaps our service, for years we have been trying to engage the diversity in our neighbourhood, in 2014-2015 we transformed part of our parking lot into a carving pavilion that will be a space for Aboriginal communities and non-Aboriginal communities to come together. We expanded our program to an off-site location at 1739 Venables and establish even more partnerships with community groups. We hosted the 2014 BC gymstrada, the first time it was held in the Lower Mainland.

There are also sadder moments, in the past couple of years we have lost a few of our long time 'family' members and champions. When Doug Soo and Allan Ross passed away in 2014 our community suffered a deep and profound grief that has left a great big hole in our hearts. We have also had a number of long time staff retire from their positions although they continue to be involved at Britannia their absences is felt every day.

On a brighter note we know that the legacy to us is something that we need to cherish and maintain – dedication, loyalty and a commitment to Britannia. It would not be possible without the incredible staff that are here every day, seven days a week to make Britannia the amazing place that it is.

***Cynthia Low,***  
***Executive Director***



## Liaison - Vancouver Park Board Commissioner

I am proud to serve as your new Park Board Liaison to Britannia Community Centre. My connection to Britannia goes back to my youth. I was born and raised in East Vancouver, the daughter of an immigrant family. Like so many Vancouverites, my parents emigrated from Hong Kong to Vancouver to build a better life. My whole family was fortunate to benefit from strong community programs and services. As a young girl I regularly spent time at Britannia Community Centre, from my earliest days as a Brownie through my leadership roles as a Girl Guide. There, I learned skills that still serve me well as a small business owner and educational support worker for children with special needs.



After some difficult years of strained relations with communities and Community Centres, I am proud to have been elected as part of a new NPA-majority Park Board, with a strong mandate for good governance and accountability. We have already made considerable progress on our goals – for example, all Park Board meetings are now live-streamed online to improve transparency.

I am committed to maintaining a positive and constructive working relationship with everyone involved with Britannia Community Centre. The next decade will be a critical time as Britannia undergoes significant changes for the better as part of the Strategic Master Plan – a rebuilt or renewal of arena, swimming pool, sports field, gym, library, parking and school. The neighbourhoods served by Britannia are also changing. Now, more than ever, we need to work together to make sure that the community centre is well-positioned to meet the needs of both new residents and those who have been part of this community for decades.

Please do not hesitate to be in touch with any questions, comments, or ideas. Thank you!

***Erin Shum,  
Commissioner***

## Liaison - Vancouver Board of Education

The long-time community partnership of the Vancouver Board of Education with the Britannia Community Services Centre Society, the Vancouver Park Board, the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Public Library continues to provide a positive learning environment for students, their families and neighbours through the sharing of resources.



As the son of Brit Secondary grads in the late 1940's, I am so pleased to be your liaison.

I pledge my support for the successful completion of the Aboriginal Carving Pavilion, as a wonderful addition to the variety of teaching and community amenities serving the Community.

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. (thank you former Trustee Rob Wynen for this quote – I could not say it better ).

Should you have any comments or questions that I can assist with, please do not hesitate to contact me.

***Christopher JK Richardson, CPA, FCA  
Trustee and Chairperson,***

# Vancouver East MP

Dear Friends of Britannia,

As the Member of Parliament for Vancouver East, I've been working hard on many issues that affect our community. Below are a few that I feel strongly about, as I've heard from many of you that they are important. Here are a few of our priorities in the past year:



## ***Medically assisted dying***

This is an issue about consent and choice. And I think it is very well reflected in the recent Supreme Court decision that the government should not be in the position of making a decision for adults in terms of what they decide to do about the end of their lives, the care they have, or when they need to end their lives based on their unique and particular circumstances.

## ***Anti-terrorism legislation, Bill C-51***

I'm concerned that Bill C-51 contains sweeping powers that affect the freedoms of all Canadians, and gives the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service broad new powers without oversight. We need to make sure there's no trade-off between our safety and our freedoms. Public safety is always a priority, but we don't have to choose between security and our rights. That's a false choice — we must protect both.

## ***Affordable housing***

Vancouver's affordable housing and homelessness crisis has reached a critical point, with the city currently experiencing the largest affordable housing crisis in recent history. The ability to secure affordable and stable housing is unrealistic and onerous. The federal government must provide a national housing strategy that includes federal housing assistance to low-income households; and the construction of more affordable housing, including co-ops.

## ***Protecting our coast***

Many are concerned about the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline and the risks it would pose to both our environment and our economy. I believe that better alternatives exist for a more sustainable economy. The pipeline proposal is a clear example of the choices facing our country: between short term work and sustainable jobs; between conflict with First Nations and a relationship of respect; and between an outdated energy economy and a sustainable energy economy of the 21st century.

## ***Marijuana policy***

We need a thoughtful, realistic, and achievable direction for marijuana policy in Canada. We need an approach that focuses on health promotion, public education, and safety. We need to establish an independent commission to look at all aspects of the non-medical use of marijuana, to provide guidance to Parliament on the institution of an appropriate regulatory regime to govern such use.

It's an honour to represent our community, and thank you for being so vocal, passionate, and active in your care and concern for our great East Van!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Libby Davies".

***Libby Davies,  
Member of Parliament***



I have been spending a lot of my time over the past month in Victoria, attending the spring session of the Legislature. The latest provincial budget, presented in February, gives B.C.'s top 2 per cent income earners a \$236 million tax break, while the other 98 per cent of British Columbians pay \$700 million in increased fees. This year, MSP rates increase 4 per cent, Hydro rates go up 6 per cent, and ICBC rates increase 5.2 per cent. School boards have been told to cut \$29 million from their budgets. BC remains the last province in Canada without a poverty reduction plan.



Last year, my colleagues and I pushed the government to adopt the recommendations of the Missing Women's Inquiry, specifically to implement a shuttle bus. My colleagues, Maurine Karagianis, Jennifer Rice, and Carole James, travelled along the Highway of Tears to meet with community members and First Nations leaders. We will continue to push the government to commit to safeguarding Aboriginal women and girls.

In 2014 we also lost protection for 90 per cent of farmland in B.C.'s Agricultural Land Reserve, putting it at risk of development, and threatening the province's future food security. With only 5 per cent of land in this province is suitable for agriculture, making this an issue that matters to every British Columbian. Britannia has been a leader in promoting local food consumption, and I know that questions about food security are close to the heart of many Grandview-Woodland residents.

Despite these challenges, there have been some small victories. The child support clawback for families on income assistance has been ended, and starting September 1st, single parents on income assistance will be able to keep every dollar of child support from an ex-spouse. This would not have happened without the many single parent families who came forward to share their stories, and my colleague, MLA Michelle Mungall, who worked tirelessly to on this issue.

The minimum wage has been increased by 20 cents, but this is not a liveable wage, and leaves full time minimum wage workers in poverty. Earnings exemptions for single parents on income assistance have increased from \$200 to \$400 per month, and single assistance with training costs will be made available for single parents and the disabled - this is a change that is long overdue.

Thank you for providing me the chance to present this report and for the privilege of working for the people of the community. I look forward to hearing from you on these and other local issues.

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

**Shane Simpson,**  
**Member of Legislative Assembly Vancouver-Hastings**

## Mt. Pleasant MLA

Thank you to the Britannia Community Service Centre society for all of your continued work, and for the chance to provide an update on current issues in the Vancouver-Mount Pleasant constituency! I have been very, very honoured to consistently rise in the Legislature to bring forward the voices of Vancouver-Mount Pleasant over the course of some 20 budgets. In our community we have a lot to celebrate. The people in Vancouver-Mount Pleasant care deeply about their neighbours, and our values are deeply rooted in the belief in social, economic and environmental justice.

Our community has continuously called for an increase in Income Assistance rates to provide an adequate living standard. But the 2015 BC Budget failed to meet this need. The government says that they can't have a poverty reduction strategy British Columbia cannot afford it. Yet, the government had no hesitation in giving the huge windfall of a \$230 million tax break to the top 2% of earners in British Columbia. They found that money — no questions asked.

Another issue that is always at the top of people's mind is affordable housing. Scores of people have come through my office seeking safe, secure, affordable housing. In 1993 the national housing program was cancelled. Now we're on the verge of losing federal funding support for the cooperatives as the operating agreements come to an end. If we lose the subsidies to co-ops and there is no action taken, the impact would be so significant. All levels of government need to work together and understand that the foundation for healthy living and healthy communities begins with a place that you can call home.

That's why it's so concerning that, in the 2015 BC Budget, the housing capital fund has been cut by 62 percent, or \$24 million, dropping to \$15 million in 2015-2016. It doesn't make sense to me. We have record numbers of people who are homeless and are in imminent danger of being homeless, but the government is giving a tax break to the wealthiest British Columbians while cutting the housing capital fund.

For those who are homeless, shelters are often the first stop on the housing continuum. For many years I have stood with the community in calling for a permanent shelter for the Grandview-Woodlands area. This year, there was a HEAT shelter that opened on Pender Street which was full in the first 12 hours of opening. Every night they had to turn people away. There is no question that a permanent shelter in Grandview-Woodlands would be good for our community.

Shelter is just the first part of the housing continuum, but in the long-term we need to invest in building new affordable housing and add to the permanent affordable housing stock. However, the government has embarked on the sale of Stamps Place, a major social housing complex in the constituency. Members of the community are deeply concerned about this. Tenants would like to be involved in this process and work with the government regarding the future of their homes. They want to have a say in what Stamps Place would look like if it were to be sold and redeveloped.

They also want government to ensure that rent subsidies stay in place to ensure affordability for the tenants. If there's no confirmation of the ratio and the amount of rent subsidy provided to tenants, it could mean the non-profit who has made the purchase would have no choice but to increase the rent. If the government does not provide sufficient rent subsidy for the non-profits to do their job effectively, we will see an erosion of the affordable housing stock in the community over time. Our community won't accept that — as it is, the wait-list for safe, secure affordable housing is so staggering that people wait years for a home.

Universal, affordable, licensed, qualified child care is good for families and good for the economy. The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of B.C. and the Early Childhood Educators of B.C. have developed a community plan for a public system of integrated early care and learning, calling for a \$10-a-day child care plan. The UBCM and the Board of Trade have endorsed this plan. Some 70,000 more women are working since affordable child care came to Quebec. Nationwide, 78 percent of children in First Nations communities are without a regulated space. Our economy grossed \$2 for every \$1 invested in child care. The \$10-a-day child care plan for B.C. is a good plan. It is an effective plan for the economy because investing in children is the best investment that you can make to build a strong future. Sadly, Budget 2015 makes no provision for it whatsoever.

Not only are children not supported for early childhood developments; students at the other end of the educational spectrum will now be charged for adult basic education. I have heard from dozens of people wanting to enrol in adult basic as a means to develop their career opportunities. They were shocked and dismayed to learn that as of May 1, 2015, it would cost them several hundred dollars more to take an upgrade for each course. This is a \$5 million cut in adult basic education. One constituent wrote to the Premier: "You have killed my dreams of a better life, and you're preventing me from furthering my education".





Last fall the Kettle Society and the MPA Society received notice from Vancouver Coastal Health that they eliminated funding to the mental health advocacy program. This will mean the loss of two advocates the Kettle. They provide front-line paraprofessional service to mental health consumers in many areas, and now, a big part of the funding for that program is eliminated, effective May 1. With these cuts to the Kettle, the government is reducing critical services to those most in need.

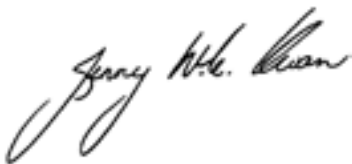
This year marked the 25th anniversary of the February 14 Memorial March to commemorate the missing and murdered indigenous women and girls. I was at the first Memorial March, and I still remember it. It was beautiful to see some 5,000 people came out this year to support the family members and the community's call for a National Inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women and girls. Of course, a huge thank-you goes to all the organizers throughout all these years for their hard work, for educating the public about this critically important issue.

I also want to acknowledge the Native Women's Association of Canada and the Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action for initiating the call to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to investigate this issue. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights released this report in support of the national inquiry on missing and murdered indigenous women and girls, stating clearly that the federal government has a legal responsibility to address "the underlying factors of discrimination that originate and exacerbate the violence." "The commission notes that indigenous women and girls have gone missing or been murdered at a rate four times higher than the representation of indigenous women in the Canadian population. The commission recognizes the need to address "the persistence of longstanding social and economic marginalization" and is calling for effective measures to address the social and economic issues of indigenous women. We need effective measures to fight against poverty, to improve education and employment and to guarantee adequate housing. We all know that the Oppal Inquiry was not given the mandate to look at the root causes, including the socioeconomic conditions that women face. The Oppal Inquiry excluded community members with incredible knowledge and insight on this issue. In so doing, the government actively prevented the answers that were needed.

While the commission stated clearly that the Oppal Inquiry only touched on one small aspect of the systemic failure, it did point out that all of the Oppal Inquiry recommendations need to be implemented. The Minister of Justice said explicitly to the Missing and Murdered Women's Coalition that she wasn't going to implement all the Oppal Inquiry recommendations, including the recommendation for safe public transportation along the "Highway of Tears".

We as legislators should be taking action in every effort to commit ourselves to stop any chance of women from the aboriginal communities from going missing and being murdered. How many more women have to go missing and be murdered before action is actually taken? The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights actually called on the government to implement the recommendation from the Oppal Inquiry and specifically identified that public transportation is needed for the Highway of Tears. Where is it? How long does it take to get a bus to run along the Highway of Tears? I stand with the community in calling on this government to find the necessary funds to do this and to provide a timeline of when all of the Oppal Inquiry recommendations will be acted on. I'm further calling on this government to take action now to address the socioeconomic conditions, which for too long far too many Aboriginal peoples face, and for us to take action to address these historical wrongs and the effects of colonialism.

Government has the authority and responsibility to address these issues. I want us to work together to make that difference. That's why people run for office, to try to make that difference. Each of us have stories to tell from our communities. Each of us have issues that we want us, as a collective, to address. If we can work together to find solutions to the issues that we know exist in our communities then we will truly have achieved something great.



**Jenny Kwan, Member of the Legislative Assembly  
Vancouver-Mount Pleasant**

## Liaison - Vancouver City Council

Over the past year, it's been especially gratifying to see Britannia so busy and at long last, Britannia is next up in line for a much needed renewal of its facilities. At the last city election, voters approved the 4 year capital plan that earmarked funds for this work! I look forward to working with the Board to get the renewal underway so more families can take advantage of the programs, but also enhance the quality of the experience. A huge thank you to the Board, staff and volunteers for all your hard work and boundless energy.



***Dr. Kerry L. Jang,***  
***Councillor***

## Liaison - Vancouver Public Library

Vancouver Public Library values and appreciates our ongoing partnership with the Britannia Community Services Society, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, the Vancouver School Board, the City of Vancouver and the many other organizations that work with us to provide a community hub, a place of learning and recreation, and an engaging space to create and share stories.



In 2014, more Vancouverites than ever came to their local library – more than 6.8 million visitors who checked out books, attended free programs and training sessions, and asked questions of our expert staff. VPL also went through a mammoth re-organization project at the Central Library, moving 750,000 items on four floors so that materials are in a single Dewey number order and easier to find, and to get ready for the new Inspiration Lab digital media space, set to open in May 2015.

In September, VPL marked a milestone for Vancouver in naming the néca?mat ct Strathcona branch, the first major civic building in Vancouver to have an official aboriginal name. The name, which encompasses the idea of 'we are one' in the həŋqəmiŋəm' (Musqueam) language, was chosen by the Board after receiving hundreds of community suggestions. Construction on the new branch, at 720 East Hastings and serving the communities of Strathcona, Chinatown and the Downtown Eastside, began in early 2015, and the branch is scheduled to open next year.

In 2014, we continued to focus on services to children, teens and families and introduced innovative programs to build literacy skills. Our iPad programs for school-age kids used tablets to support creativity and creation, and taught useful skills like coding. We also introduced caregivers to new ways of using tablets with their little one, from using apps together to promote the critical early literacy skills of singing, talking, reading, writing and playing to helping families choose and use apps for their school age kids to create, interact and learn. Our librarians have become media mentors – helping families navigate the digital world safely and creatively. I look forward to working with Britannia partners and community members in the coming year.

***Kyla Epstein,***  
***VPL Trustee***

## Report from the Treasurer

The Treasurer and the Finance Committee oversee and are responsible for reviewing Britannia Community Centre's budgets and monthly statements. The Finance Committee's review of monthly statements considers the financial viability of programs and makes recommendations to the Board and Executive about programs as they relate to financial matters. The Finance Committee also takes an active role in reviewing and evaluating yearly program budgets.

Many improvements to the budgeting process have been implemented in cooperation with the Manager of Administration, Natalie Bailey. These changes have provided a better snapshot of revenues and expenses. As well, they provide the Society with a clearer understanding of what funds can be allocated in a discretionary manner and, if surpluses exist, how and where they can be best applied. I have many years of experience managing facilities with multiple budgets and hope to continue to provide suggestions and guidance as Treasurer to the Society. My goals are to increase transparency and accountability in all of the Society's finances.

I would like to thank past Treasurer and long term Board Member Ray Gallagher for his guidance and wisdom, as well as all other Board Members who elected me as Treasurer and Chair of the Society's Finance Committee.

Thanks for your support!

**John Flipse,**  
**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 2014

Members are advised that the following financial statements 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, 2014, with comparative information for 2013

	2014	2013
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Restricted cash and investments	\$ 565,413	\$ 945,703
Amounts receivable:		
City of Vancouver	333,862	319,666
Other	680,935	347,539
	<u>1,580,210</u>	<u>1,612,908</u>
Restricted investments	512,383	92,145
Investments	581,533	863,715
Capital assets	549,006	75,108
	<u>\$ 3,223,132</u>	<u>\$ 2,643,876</u>

### Liabilities and Net Assets

Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 390,969	\$ 338,772
Deferred contributions	373,380	322,185
Deferred revenue	200,639	201,242
Due to related parties	704,416	715,663
	<u>1,678,404</u>	<u>1,577,862</u>
Employee future benefits	324,300	348,100
Working capital advance	81,000	81,000
Deferred capital contributions	391,780	5,000
Net assets:		
Invested in capital assets	157,226	70,108
Internally restricted	590,422	561,806
	<u>747,648</u>	<u>631,914</u>
	<u>\$ 3,223,132</u>	<u>\$ 2,643,876</u>

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, 2014, with comparative information for 2013

	2014	2013
<b>Revenue:</b>		
Contributions from City of Vancouver for operating purposes	\$ 3,525,129	\$ 3,423,270
Rink and Pool	993,670	966,748
Donations, membership fees and special events	97,549	79,613
Licensed gaming	105,858	95,251
Rentals	24,238	17,247
Interest	24,283	25,042
Contribution from Britannia Community Services Foundation	45,203	47,751
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	2,500	2,500
<b>Programs:</b>		
Child Care	682,574	679,058
Recreation	1,390,624	1,132,958
Community education	452,865	468,394
Other	13,097	13,551
	<b>7,357,590</b>	<b>6,951,383</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Maintenance and operations of buildings, equipment and grounds	1,740,074	1,604,330
Salaries, wages and employee benefits Administration	1,340,171	1,319,468
Salaries, wages and employee benefits Park Board Staff Administration	1,465,946	1,383,520
Licensed gaming for children, youth, and senior programs	105,858	95,251
General programs	219,350	192,565
<b>Programs:</b>		
Child Care	659,071	635,702
Recreation	1,039,795	974,944
Community education	461,331	463,826
Other	9,555	6,637
Amortization of capital assets	18,749	28,391
	<b>7,231,056</b>	<b>6,850,858</b>
<b>Excess of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>\$ 126,534</b>	<b>\$ 100,525</b>

# Manager of Administrative Services

Administration of the Britannia Community Services Centre includes finance and accounting, facilities and human resources.

## Finance, Accounting and Reporting

Britannia Society closed out 2014 with an audited surplus of \$126,534 and the 2013 surplus was adjusted to \$100,525 from \$20,425. These changes are the result of accounting policy changes relating to employee post-employment benefits.

Britannia received \$3,808,578 in core funding from the City of Vancouver during 2014 and \$640,000 from other levels of government during 2014.

The average return on Britannia Society investments was 2.45% in 2014. Investment and interest revenue generated is invested in low risk GIC type investments.

## Facilities

Facilities work done during 2014 focused on rink and pool mechanical systems. The main pool filter was replaced and rink plant upgrades were done to meet Worksafe and BC Safety Authority standards.

Work was ongoing during 2014 to examine the shared use of the site with partners and how that relationship is reflected in facility costs. This work remains ongoing into 2015 with the expectation that City Real Estate and Facilities Management will begin to operate the Britannia rink and pool by the end of 2015.

## Human Resources

There were some staffing changes for the Centre during 2014 including some retirements, resignations, and hires. There were two hires and five resignations/retirements for the Society in 2014. There were three hires and one resignation for the seconded Park Board staff in 2014.



**Natalie Bailey,**  
**Manager of Administrative Services**



## Britannia Elementary School Principal

The 2014 – 2015 school year has been one highlighted by continued increasing enrollment at all grade levels, a trend we see continuing in the near future, especially in the primary grades.

We have worked hard to meet school goals based on numeracy and increasing the amount First Nations culture within the school. The school continues to purchase technology for student use, numeracy assessment and learning materials and science equipment. All students have had access to technology in their own classrooms as the school has made efforts to move away from the old “computer lab” organization to one where technology is used in each classroom. We will continue to make investments in technology.

With a Vancouver Board of Education goal focused on First Nations student achievement and culture, Britannia remains a leader in First Nations education. The school has actively worked with community resources, made efforts to include First Nations culture and perspectives in all grades, participated in cultural events and has experienced an increase in parental participation in the school. We are grateful to acknowledge the support of the Community Center in this area.

In the upcoming school year, we look forward to continuing the focus on the development of our students’ numeracy skills in addition to the continued focus on technology and First Nations Education.

As well, the school has enjoyed the benefits of greater participation and interaction with the Community Centre in terms of program options for students and families both during and outside of regular school hours. Students and families have had opportunities to participate in fine arts, cultural and physical activities provided in conjunction with the Community Centre and local performing arts venues.

***Ian Cannon,  
Principal***



# Britannia Secondary School Principal

Carrying on the traditions of over 107 years, Britannia Secondary School takes great pride in our students, our staff and our community. Sharing the site with the Britannia Community Centre, in an integrated services model, continues to offer many benefits and a few challenges. This year we have been working together to clarify and revitalize the effective integration of services on the site, improving communication and services for all of us.

In the 2014-2015 school year, Britannia Secondary has offered a variety of programs. Our Venture and International Baccalaureate programs continue to do us all proud with consistently excellent results, while about 25% of our general student body achieves Honour Roll standing. We have a variety of specialized and alternative programs: grade 8 and 9 Learning Support, 8J9J. Streetfront Outreach (Senior Aboriginal) and Pacific Storm for grades 8 and 9. Our parents and students consistently report that they are extremely pleased with and thankful for the excellent services these programs provide.

Over the past few years, Britannia staff have been increasing our focus on supporting the grade 8 and 9 students by enhancing literacy and numeracy services. Along with the numerous opportunities to excel at Britannia we will continue building on our enhanced support services for students in Math, English, Social Studies and Science skills.

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

Our extracurricular programs supported by staff and volunteers include a variety of excellent activities and opportunities for students to engage. Drama, Homework Club, Student Success, The Leo Club, Junior Achievement, Basketball, Rugby, Track and Field, and Ultimate are just some of them. Students from our Art are enjoying a new, state of the art computer lab, thanks to a successful grant application, submitted by Ms. Leary. Regarding travel experiences for our students. We did fundraising for our students to do a trip to Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. Additionally, The democratically elected Student Council members have organized many activities for the student body.

The Carving Pavilion is a beautiful space. In May we had a small blessing ceremony of the Pavilion led by Shane Point. Representatives from Musqueam, T'sleil Waututh and Squamish Bands bless our Pavilion and awakened the new building.

The goals for our School Plan are reviewed annually. Our goals include to improve the academic achievement of all students, using a wide variety of instructional strategies, to meet the needs of our diverse community of learners. To continue to provide opportunities, within and beyond the classroom, designed to foster socially responsible behaviour for all.

**Geoff Taylor,**  
**Secondary School Principal**

# Community Education Coordinator

**Vision:** To promote a lifelong learning community.

**Goals:** To continue to:

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

**Britannia Community Schools Team:**

- Coordinator: Mike Evans
- Youth and Family Workers: Greg Goodall
- Secretary: Mitra Tshan
- Programmer: Sadia Ibrahim, Jen Ju, Celina McCaughran-Contreras – Separate terms

**Governance:**

- Britannia Board of Management, Vancouver School Board, Community Education and Early Learning Committee, Britannia HUB Advisory Committee

**Britannia HUB Schools:**

- Britannia Secondary, Britannia Elementary, Strathcona Elementary, Seymour Elementary, Grandview Elementary and Queen Victoria Annex.

**Keys to Success:**

- Partnerships, collaboration, energy, history of success and Britannia's integrated service delivery model.

**Challenges:** Finding sustained funding for programs.

**Highlights:** Able to provide intervention on two levels:

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

**Leadership/Mentoring programs:**

For senior high school students such as Brit Crew which is an organized welcoming orientation program for grade eight students as well as 1 to 1 reading initiatives pairing high school students and grade four students as well as Y2 a MoreSports program that provides cooperative games for elementary students led by high school students.

**Summer Camps:** 300 children in 6 weeks of arts, sports and technology.

**After School programs:**

For children and youth. i.e. skateboarding, board games, Fine Arts, knitting, yoga, etc. Partnerships with



## Community Education Coordinator cont'd

organizations such as MoreSports, Heroes Hockey, Vancouver Girls Basketball. Partnerships with KidSafe and Strathcona Community Centre means we can support programs during VSB District Closure days.

### **CAPC (Community Action Program for Children):**

Britannia Community Education, Strathcona Community Centre and Britannia Community Services Centre are in a coalition called "Children Need Care Now". Public Health Canada sponsors CAPC. Beatrice Feza is the CAPC Coordinator. The partners target low income families with children ages 0-6. Britannia offers two food distribution programs each month for 80 families, five Mother Goose programs in Spanish, Let's Get Ready to Read support, Parent Conferences, training programs such as First Aid training and Food Safe and partners with other programs in order to further help families.

A program called Early Child Educator Assistant Program was established in partnership with Canuck Family Education, NEC and Britannia Child Care. This is year two and we hope to have 30 graduates this year as well!

### **GWAST (Grandview Woodland Area Services Team):**

An advocacy group of social service providers that meets monthly. Information is shared and government policies at all levels are held up to scrutiny. The committee has met monthly for over twenty years.

Britannia Christmas Craft Fair: 75 tables. 2000 people attended.

### **CLICK (Contributing to Lives of Inner City Kids):**

Mike is on the board. The purpose of this society is to raise money and awareness of the needs of inner city children and youth. Organizations and schools apply twice per year for financial support for initiatives that "fall between the cracks". Inner City Week in Vancouver is sponsored by CLICK. This year we raised over \$60,000.

### **Vancouver Girls Basketball Association and VanCity Basketball Challenge:**

To promote, encourage and provide opportunities for girls who love the game of basketball. Access and equity are keys. Board of Directors includes parents, coaches and volunteers. A highlight is the VanCity Basketball Challenge Tournament. Three top Vancouver Independent Schools and three top Vancouver Public Schools take part in both Junior and Senior divisions. Hosted by Langara College. Post-Secondary Bursaries were awarded to eight players including Scholarships to attend Langara.

**Mike Evans**

**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."

### Successes

Gymnastics - Britannia hosted the BC Gymnaestrada, the provinces largest recreational gymnastics event in BC on May 17-18. Over 20 teams and over 500 athletes attended from BC and Alberta. It was an amazing success and we have had many accolades and still enjoy the positive spin offs of the event.

In February the youth staff team hosted YOUUnique, a youth conference focused on bullying prevention. This was an all-day youth conference with workshops in the morning and in the afternoon sessions. Some of the workshops included: Pridespeaks by GAB, Sexual Well-being - Youth CO, Drug Awareness – SACY, Play it Fair Leadership games – Equitas, Culture of Violence – WAVAW, Cycle of Violence - LOVE, Healthy Sexuality – Condomania.

We continue to receive positive comments from patrons that are passionate about Britannia and appreciate their community pool and fitness centre. Our Staff rates very highly and is much appreciated. Recent comments from parents included comments such as "Wonderful staff", and "Nicest staff and lifeguards in Vancouver".

### Challenges

Recreation at Britannia strives to be innovative with its programming, to stand out from its peers. As such we try to offer specialized programming however the as a whole the society is challenged with limited programming, storage and social space. We are constantly looking at scheduling efficiencies to best utilize the time and space available as well as ways we can partner with other organizations to mutual benefit.

Britannia recreation programs continue to lose participants to newer, fancier and bigger facilities offering similar programs. We survive by continually looking for 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:

- The Micro Footie soccer program is celebrating its 22nd season with an expansion of the program into Robson Park. Approximately 1,200 children and youth and 160 volunteer coaches participate in this wildly popular program.
- The Latin American Youth program continues to serve an important role offering support to Latin American youth and families and is the only one of its kind in the Lower Mainland.
- Britannia Ice Rink is consistently recognized throughout the City for the quality of the ice surface. (Thank you to the engineering & maintenance staff).

### Partnerships

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

## Community Recreation Coordinator cont'd

The ice rink staff has further expanded a partnership with NHL player, Kenndal McArdle, and the FANZOO will again offer a summer camp ice hockey camp for youth from the Grandview Woodland area. This camp focused on providing youth with the opportunity to not only excel in the world of hockey, but inspire and enable them to reach their full potential in life. Through this partnership the program was able to apply for a grant through the NHLPA and receive 25 full sets of hockey equipment.

We continue our strong partnership with Equitas and are recognized as a best practice for our use of the Play it Fair and Speaking Rights Programs, utilizing innovation, creativity, passion and commitment to educate children and youth on the values of Children's Rights.

### **Human Resources**

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

Personnel changes over the year included:

- Replacing Helen Spaxman, the Acting Arts and Culture Programmer, Ellen Dacamara was hired in 2014.
- Mawi Bagon was brought in in a temporary role assisting with programming as a volunteer programmer and as an adult sport and fitness programmer and moved to full time Volunteer programmer in 2014.
- Anntuaneth Figueroa, 2013 Vancouver Remarkable Woman, Latin Youth Coordinator and Youth Programmer, has taken a promotion and moved on to a new phase in her career as a Youth Programmer at Champlain. She was replaced by Brittany Walsh in 2014

### **The Future**

With the number of new facilities in the City, it will be increasingly important for Britannia to find a niche, provide value-added services, and look for new opportunities to offer our members.

We will continue to work with our partners to provide the best possible recreation programs and services and welcome your suggestions for new and innovative programs.

### **Special Thanks**

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

***Peter Odymsky***  
***Community Recreation Coordinator***

The Britannia Branch of the Vancouver Public Library functions as a joint Public Library and Vancouver School Board School Library for K-12 students from the Britannia Elementary and Secondary schools. The Library shares its building with the Hastings Education Centre which is located on the floor above the library. Britannia is the only branch in the VPL system that has an art gallery inside the branch. We were open 353 days (3078 hours) with a traffic count of 295, 863 people coming through the library.

### Books and Other Resources

The Library collection has over 74,390 items of books, AV material, magazines, and newspapers from VPL and the VSB, with a total of 315,476 items circulated. The library collection includes multilingual resources in Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish, and French languages for both children and adults. There is also a dedicated collection of adult and children's Aboriginal Resources. From the VPL website, our patrons have access to a rich collection of online eBooks and downloadable Audiobooks.

Britannia Branch has 16 public access computers in the library for public use and two computers with access to the library catalogue and links to our electronic databases and websites. The Library has wireless functionality to provide free internet access to VPL members with personal devices.

### Programs and Services in the Library

#### Children:

- There were weekly storytimes during the year for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their parents or caregivers. Due to the very high attendance (80-100 at one time) during *Family Storytimes*, one more Family Storytime was added in January.
- In April, the *Man in the Moon*, early literacy program for dads and male caregivers and their young children, began again.
- Special events, such as the January *Family Literacy Day*; the 2 week March *Spring Break programs*, were organized.
- Monthly Parents Talks and Baby drop programs at the *Robert & Lily Lee Health Clinic*.
- Due to the teacher's strike in June, the *Spanish Mother Goose programs* were held at the branch.
- The *2014 Summer Reading Club* had 305 children registered. Kyla Epstein, VPL board member, attended the lively SRC Finale party. As a highlight, a grandmother in appreciation of the Family Storytime, attended with her daughter and grandchild and presented the branch with a \$100 donation.
- - Total: 333 Children's programs with 11,581 in attendance

#### Teens:

- From April to the end of June, a Van Tech Secondary school student participated in *VPL's Work Placement* program.
- In June the Teen Librarian hosted a program for young teen mothers and babies with the Vancouver Coastal Health Youth Nurse and the onsite UNYA counselor.
- In December, teen author *Carrie Mac* read her latest novel to the Streetfront alternative program. The class and their teacher then went on a tour of spots around Vancouver's Downtown Eastside that were featured in the book.
- The Teen Librarian's portfolio has her serving teens not only at Britannia but at the other 3 North East Area branches (Hastings, Strathcona and Mount Pleasant).
- Total: 45 Teen programs with 544 in attendance



## Librarian in Charge cont'd

### Adults

- Several multicultural connections were made with the Vietnamese Seniors, the MOSAIC low-level ESL Seniors group and, as part of the New2BC grant 1-1, Tagalog computer classes were offered.
- In partnership with SFU, the monthly *Writer's Studio* as well as the *Philosopher's Cafe* discussions began.
- In August a new partnership with the *World Poetry Vancouver* started with monthly poetry events being hosted.
- We continue to provide movies for the weekly *Sunday Great Movies* event at the 55+ Centre.
- The monthly bookclubs 55+ and the *Pandora's Collective Bookclubs* continued, hosting several author talks, including *Robert McKay* in October and the *Migrant Workers Poetry and Art* event in December.
- Total: 262 Adult programs with 3,652 in attendance

### Aboriginal

- In January, the branch gave a presentation to the *Urban Aboriginal Elders* on the library's resources and an 8-week *POW – Power of Women storytelling* program for Aboriginal girls from 13-24, on Thursday nights in partnership with UNYA.
- Staff participated in Carnegie Branch's all-day February *Aboriginal Health Fair* held at the Aboriginal Friendship Centre.
- Staff attended the April *Reconciliation Lunch* event with Lynda Gray.
- In June there were several successful Aboriginal Programs in the Area and *Cease Wyss* came to do a workshop at the branch.
- In October, the *Aboriginal Storyteller-in Residence*, Rosemary Gerogeson, spent a week presenting programs for children and adults.

### Community

- Community participation in March at the *One Umbrella Fair*; in May's *Stone Soup Festival*; and July's *Robson Park Literacy Day* with several hundreds of people stopping by our display table at each event.
- In October, partnered with the Grandview Woodland Food Connection, Parks Board and Art Gallery for the *Sustenance Sharing Circle* event with food, art and stories.
- Grand Total of Programs and Services in the Library: 640 programs with 15,777 in attendance

### Facility and Staff

- Local 93-year old amateur photographer and regular Library patron Mr. Chen gifted us with a framed photograph of the library's interior which is now proudly showcased in the branch.
- Due to funding changes, the VCC ESL Learning Centre program at the branch closed at the end of November 2014.
- With the loss of the VSB Library assistant in the Fall, VPL and VSB staff are working together to sort out several procedures for the branch.
- Yukiko Tosa became the new Branch Head as of January 2015. Yukiko was most recently the Branch Head at the Kensington Branch.

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**Yukiko Tosa,**  
**Britannia Branch Head**

# Vancouver Community College - ESL Learning Centre

## Britannia ESL Learning Centre Vancouver Community College



In April, 2014, the federal government changed its funding agreement with the BC government in relation to how English language programs (ESL or EAL) are provided to new immigrants in Canada. As a result, Vancouver Community College lost funding for four of its five ESL departments, including ESL Outreach.

Outreach opened its first ESL Learning Centre at Britannia in 1978. When the program closed in December, 2014, students were being served at nine library locations in Vancouver and Burnaby. These centres provided an opportunity for newcomers to study independently with the help of a trained tutor, either because they needed extra help or because they were not able to attend classes. This program was unique in Canada.

Both of our long-time tutors at Britannia, Gordon Crozier and Mary McNichol, chose to retire when the program closed. We wish them well in their retirement. We are very sorry to lose this program at Britannia, and are grateful for all the years that Britannia Community Services Society and the Vancouver Public Library shared a partnership with us. Learners seeking English instruction can now take classes at VCC in our LINC program or in our new Department of English as an Additional Language.

**Morna McLeod,**  
**Vancouver Community College**

# Canucks Family Education Centre

## **CFEC PARENT PARTICIPANTS GET SKILLED!**

CFEC is an adult and child focused family education centre. Research tells us that knowledgeable, educated parents (and/or significant caregivers) are better able to create a strong foundation for children's learning. Our approach is intergenerational in scope and we create opportunities for parents and kids to learn together and in separate programs that meet their specific needs and abilities. Four years ago we partnered with Hastings Education Centre (VSB) to provide access to a high school diploma for our participants, and this year we increased our partnerships with other organizations to provide parents with opportunities for certification in the child care field. We started with the ECE field, to build on and enhance the practical knowledge and skills participants currently possess as parents. Some highlights:

- BC ECE Assistant Certificate Program Pilot Overview

CFEC, in partnership with Britannia Community Services Centre Society, Britannia Community Education, Native Education College and PHAC (Public Health Agency of Canada - CAPC); and through the generous financial support from the Canucks for Kids Fund, The Vancouver Sun's Raise-a-Reader program, CAPC and the Britannia Child Care program, we successfully launched the Early Childhood Education Assistant training certificate program that meets the BC Ministry's ECE Assistants licensing regulations for our parents who live within the Grandview- Woodland, Strathcona and Burnaby South catchment areas.

# Canucks Family Education Centre

- Responsible Adult in a Child Care Setting – Before and After School Instructor Training
- Story Time Basics - participants received certificates from the Vancouver Public library.
- Child Safety Certification

## **PROGRAMMING UPDATE – FEBRUARY TO JULY 2014**

- We operate 5 days a week out of the Britannia Centre in partnership with Hastings Education Centre (VSB).
- Edmonds PIE Plus is a partnership with CFEC and the Burnaby School District and operates 5 days a week at Edmonds Elementary School.
- Grandview GR2R is a partnership with CFEC, Britannia Childcare and Grandview Terrace Child Care Centre and operated Wednesdays.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS**

The Britannia PIE and Edmonds PIE Plus serves parents from China, Vietnam and Latin America, Africa, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Vietnam, Pakistan, Bangladesh and China. Since 2002, more than 7,000 children, youth and adults have directly benefited from CFEC's programming and services. From September 2013 to July 2014 we served 563 Adults, 94 Youth, 174 School Age Children, 223 Preschoolers, and 33 Babies!

- Canadian Studies
- BC Adult Dogwood Diploma
- Premium Brands Food Sponsorship Program - beginning May 2014, bread and cold cuts were delivered weekly to Britannia for distribution to the three locations. These donations continued throughout July, with parents picking up their weekly allotment. We also provided food for the seniors and out of school programs at the Britannia site.

## **CFEC 2014-2015 PROGRAMS (FALL/WINTER/SPRING)**

All programs are free of charge and offer our Get Ready 2 Read (GR2R) Early Learning program for the pre-school aged children of participants. Registration is required for all programs.

Britannia Partners in Education (PIE)

- English Foundations 6/7, English Communications 11/12, English for Speakers of Other Languages, Foundations in Math 1-5, Accounting 11, English Foundations 1-5
- Edmonds PIE Plus
- English Foundations: 1-2, 3-5, 6-grade 11
- Get Read 2 Read (GR2R)
- Canadian Studies
- CFEC Book Club/Conversation
- ECE Assistant Program

**Jean Rasmussen,**  
**Executive Director CFEC**

## CAPC - Community Action Program for Children 0-6 yrs

The Children Need Care Now (CNCN) Coalition offers programs to families at risk with children aged 0-6. CAPC programs focus on building upon family strengths and we work with multiple community partners to ensure that families connect to appropriate supports. Britannia CAPC Coalition served 389 adults and 508 children in total in 2014.

The 2014-2015 project highlights: completed parents' conference and training, referral to resources and staff training. Some of the special events we hosted included First Teacher Training (promoting family literacy including how to read, developing reading routine and read aloud), Emotion Management (providing hands-on skills for anger management), Nutrition Workshop and Food Literacy (learning about new food, especially Canadian food) and how the Canadian School System works.

Staff provided referral and resources such as family wellness and parenting workshops, kids' developmental related issues, housing and schooling. The 5 training sessions (Supporting Children with Autism, Discipline that Doesn't Divide, Making Space for Tantrums and Tears, Mother Mental Health Toolkit and Navigating Challenging Conversation) were hosted by PHAC 5 to 7 with CAPC staff attending.

The biggest challenges were participant punctuality and language barriers. We addressed these challenges by ensuring that program dates are not in conflict or overlapping with other community events/programs and also bonding parent relationships to solve miscommunication by using parent to parent mentorship strategies.

**Beatrice Feza,**  
**CAPC Coordinator**

## Frontier College

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

This year we provided over 100 volunteer tutors for the following programs: Britannia Secondary School Homework Club, Urban Native Youth Association's ARIES Project, Multicultural Family Centre's African Homework Club, Morley Elementary Thursday Club, Brighthouse Elementary Wednesday Club, Byrne Creek Community School, Burnaby Mountain Secondary School, Second Street Elementary One-on-One Tutoring Program, Aunt Leah's Place Youth Tutoring, Thresholds Reading Circle, the East Side Program, the Edmonds Women's Program, Hastings Adult Education Centre, Canucks Family Education Centre, and BC Children and Women's Hospital "Waiting Room Literacy Programs".

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

Every year we hold an annual fundraiser: SCRABBLE Night in Canada, Friends and Family Challenge. Last year, the funds we raised went towards our local programs; this year's fundraiser took place in April 2015.

During the 2014-2015 year, Frontier College held a total of 4 tutor trainings, developed 2 literacy workshops, placed 100 volunteers, hosted the Giller Light Bash at the CBC, and donated over 3000 books.

**Briony Taylor,**  
**Community Coordinator,**



## Grandview Woodland Food Connection

The Grandview Woodland Food Connection had an ever growing year with exciting new community connections and expanded programs which are helping to build dignified food access and strengthen community food security especially for those in our community who are struggling financially. A total of 3,300 community members participated in our programs and festivals in 2014. The GWFC is also proud to have recently joined 37 other Good Food Organizations across Canada who have pledged to work together from a set of shared principles that prioritize offering high-quality programs and the best food possible, supporting community leadership, and working together towards progressive social change.

A few highlights from the past year:

- The Nexwaʻs wa lh7áʻn nexw Britannia School Garden continues to grow and we worked with over 100 Britannia students teaching them how to grow food through the Environmental Youth Alliance's Growing Kids and the Sustainable Opportunities for Youth Leadership (SOYL) summer garden internship.
- The completion of the report "Who Gets Sustenance: Community Voices Speak about Access to Local, Healthy Food", co-authored with SPARC BC, which highlighted several important issues that challenge us to consider the role of community food programs in providing dignified food access to all in our community.
- The Le Chou Intergenerational Garden, located in the Woodland Park Community Garden, has two new partners, the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre and the WATARI Latin American Kitchen program. The garden is also host to the Garden 2 Plate youth program, connecting youth to both the garden and kitchen.
- Britannia Bulk Buy is an ever more popular program responding to many people's need for basic, quality, nutritious fruits and veggies at an affordable price. In 2014 we helped 38 families save between \$1,260 and \$1,800 on their food bill through this program.
- Off the Grill is helping to improve adolescent health and positive connections among youth who congregate in the Britannia Plaza and using food as an anchor to build positive youth/community relations.
- We ran two community kitchen sessions in 2014 with over 20 participants.
- Stone Soup and the Corn Festivals again drew large crowds of people. For the corn festival, 2014 was their biggest year thus far with all food vendors selling out of food.
- The Britannia Food Share, launched this past year, is diverting unmarketable yet edible produce from two local grocers, Eternal Abundance and Drive Organics, to supplement the Bulk Buy and the Off the Grill programs. This past year we recovered a total of 566 pounds **of organic food**.

*Ian Marcuse,*  
**GWFC Coordinator**

Hastings Education Centre is one of the 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 or self-paced classes offered days and evenings. Students are encouraged to have a voice in the way they learn and to include their life experience in their education. The Britannia site truly offers the opportunity for life-long learning.

Students come to us for different reasons: most are hoping to achieve high school graduation; some are upgrading specific courses to prepare for further education/training or for work.

## **Partnership Programs**

Our partnership with Canucks Family Education Centre continues to provide the opportunity for participants to access English Foundation, Math Foundation and selected secondary English and Math courses. We are pleased 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.

## **Alternative Education**

We also offer two off-site alternative programs for school-aged students who have experienced difficulty completing high school graduation requirements within the mainstream K – 12 system. These programs are housed within Collingwood and Kiwassa Neighbourhood House.

## **Learning Centre**

Learning Centre staff 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 or self-paced courses. This year we are proud to have expanded the courses we are able to offer self-paced in our Learning Centre to include math and science courses.

Many of our courses remain tuition free for most students. For students who have achieved high school graduation here, or in another jurisdiction, there will be a fee attached to attend secondary grade 11 or 12 courses.

To get started, to make a programming appointment, or for more information, 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***

# Volunteer Program

2014 was a fantastic year for the Volunteer Program. With a dedicated Volunteer Coordinator, the program has shown stability and consistency in its delivery. This year, with the help of Victoria Haenel and the Volunteer Program Committee members, we developed a Britannia Volunteer Handbook, which serves as a guide for volunteers. It is a quick reference for guidelines and expectations we have for our volunteers at Britannia.

We have seen much success with our four volunteer social events that we had throughout the year, as we continue to strengthen our relationships with our volunteers. It was very nice to see everyone having such a great time and getting a chance to meet all of their fellow volunteers.

The four events included:

1. Recognition dinner at Sunrise Restaurant on Commercial Drive, which was held in April to coincide with National Volunteer Week.
2. Volunteer Family BBQ at Canucks Family Education Centre in August.
3. Bowling Night at Grandview Lanes in October.
4. Christmas Mix/Mingle and Skate in December.

As much as we are helping our Community achieve goals and develop skills through our volunteer placements, we are continuing to broaden our profile as a premier Volunteer Program in the City. We attended volunteer fairs at St. John's School and Langara College. It was nice to meet some potential volunteers, but more importantly, networking with other volunteer agencies and sharing best practices.

Looking towards 2015, we are still focused on the relationships with our volunteers, continuing with our social events, but we are also introducing added benefits for those that are truly committed to Britannia. We have added a recognition program, in which we will recognize the efforts of 10 extraordinary volunteers throughout the year. We have also started to recognize volunteers that show a desire to continue on with Britannia, maybe in a working environment, and can increase their capacity by providing training or opportunities for certifications. Our first benefactor in this training/certification program for volunteers was Stewan Annan. He is a dedicated volunteer with our Eagles in the Sky Out of School Care Program. We helped Stewan by registering him for the Responsible Adult in Child Care Settings course, facilitated by the West Coast Child Care Resource Centre. Stewan recently completed the course and we helped him build his resume, in hopes of one day finding employment in a Child Care.

***Mawi Bagon,  
Volunteer Coordinator***

## Arena Committee and Program

The Britannia Arena is recognized by its diverse users and the ice rink community as “the most awesome place in Vancouver to skate and play hockey”. Patrons appreciate the “feeling of community” and that rink programs are successfully offered with the Grandview-Woodland’s community in mind. These compliments are a result of the outstanding partnership with the skilled and caring Vancouver School Board ice staff and engineers who work together with Vancouver Park Board full-time and auxiliary staff and Britannia Society employees. All arena staff are committed to providing a safe and fun recreational venue for the community.

Britannia staff worked with the Vancouver Park Board to launch an improved Learn to Skate Program across the City of Vancouver. Skating lessons now include True Sport initiatives as part of the program and values such as wellness, inclusion, excellence and fairness are incorporated into lesson plans. Instructors have been trained in True Sport philosophies and skate staff are now undergoing yearly competency evaluations to ensure standards are being met by instructors leading programs.

Britannia is committed to its partnership with the HEROS hockey program and in the past year, we were able to move some sessions around to accommodate a new mentor’s program for HEROS on Tuesdays.

According to Norm Flynn, HEROS Hockey Executive Director:

“Britannia has been instrumental in the growth of HEROS over the past 15 years. Not only has our partnership with Britannia allowed us to serve over 600 at risk youth in the Downtown East Side, it has laid the foundation for our program nation-wide enabling us to expand across Canada, serving over 4000 young people to date. Without the support of Britannia, we would not have the ability to reach youth in the community and teach them life skills through hockey”.

One of the key goals at Britannia is to connect the users to the community, and over the past year, there have been many positive outcomes to this. The Britannia After-School Hockey program offers youth the opportunity to participate in a structured program where they learn hockey and team skills in a fun and supportive environment. The program received a \$2,000 donation from a donor who feels strong ties to Britannia through its Adult Hockey programs. Factory Hockey, which trains elite hockey players during the summer at Britannia, opened its doors to the public during early September when the Canucks used Britannia ice rink for preseason training.

To provide more opportunities for physical recreation, Britannia was open for many of the stat holidays over the past year. Free sessions and skate rentals were offered, and each session was attended by at least 80 patrons. A Family Day Lunar New Year skate was offered on February 9th and over 200 skaters were treated to a Lion Dance and traditional treats. In addition to the stat holiday skates, the arena also offered special events for Valentine’s Day, Easter, Thanksgiving, and the Brit Chill Holiday Skate.

Britannia continues to assist The Canucks Autism Network with its I CAN SKATE program and in the past year was able to help launch the I CAN PLAY HOCKEY program which resulted in the opportunity for the participants to travel to Vernon to play in a hockey tournament.



## Arena Committee and Program Cont'd

According to Ryan Yao, Canucks Autism Network Program Coordinator:

“Britannia Area (Britannia Community Centre) has opened doors for families living with autism through skate and hockey programs. These opportunities would not be possible without their supportive partnership and commitment towards an accessible community. Over 80 participants have benefitted from these programs through skill acquisition and confidence in participating in sport. In addition, over 40 volunteers have benefitted by gaining a greater understanding about autism and the need for adapted programs in the community. Without this partnership, the Canucks Autism Network Hockey team would not exist. The dreams of being a hockey parent would remain a dream and not a reality. Thank you Britannia Arena (Britannia Community Centre) for all you do for families living in your community and being a leading example to others!”

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  
Programmer***



# Arts and Culture Committee and Program

In October 2014, I was very happy to have been selected as the new Arts and Culture Programmer at Britannia Community Services Centre. I would like to thank the Arts and Culture Committee (ACC), Helen Spaxman who was acting in the position and Katherine Polgrain, event coordinator, who were extremely helpful, welcoming, and supportive. As well as, the staff team at Britannia Community Services Centre, who are a passionate and an engaging group that I am excited to work with.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

For 2014 we saw over 10,000 community members attend our special events, as we continue to support our local artists. Events throughout the year engage upwards of 300 volunteers. Events at the Britannia Centre focus on areas of regional concern such as: food security, environment, community re-development, security, and sustainability. These events include Britannia Special Events; Stone Soup, East Feast, Artful Sundays, Pop-up Workshops, Italian Days, Vancouver Parks Board Draw Down, Vintage Bike Swap, Community Banner Program, Winter Solstice Coffee House and Seasonal Workshops. By attending cultural events, children, families, adults, seniors, and youth experience firsthand the diverse offerings of culture and artistic expression found in a community. By involving the community stronger relationships develop within this neighbourhood. This is where the bonds among members and neighborhood groups, artists and residents are forged and where connections are made. We partner with the VSB, VPL, City of Vancouver, Vancouver Park Board, Vancouver Wheelmen, Grandview Woodland Food Connection, Commercial Drive BIA, Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre, and we partner with many diverse local artists. That being said, three core "Britannia" artistic events known throughout Vancouver which cultivate and support local artists are:

### **The 19th Annual Stone Soup Festival**

This East Vancouver community tradition continues to bring out residents in celebration of spring, food, and the environment. As well many community groups, food vendors and local artists participate in this much-loved East Van tradition.

### **East FEAST Vancouver**

Britannia's Arts & Culture Committee plan and produce the annual East FEAST, a micro-funding event in support of local arts and artists. FEAST, Funding Emerging Arts with Sustainable Tactics, 2014 was the 4th Annual East FEAST. The community votes for one of three presenting artists, with up to \$1000 awarded for the winning proposal. This grant is funded directly by the ticket sales.

### **Artful Sundays**

Artful Sundays is an annual outdoor visual arts market featuring the works of local artists - a wonderful opportunity for artists to display and sell in their community. 2014 was our 12th year. This popular event supported 60 artists over 4 Sundays in August and September. It was extremely well-received with over 3000 visitors who also participated in workshops, enjoyed entertainment and special events.

## **PARTNERSHIPS AND SPONSORSHIPS**

We also partner and sponsor with local artist and artist groups in the community; Carnival Band, The Drive Street Band, Femme City Choir, Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret (Parade of Lost Souls), Vancouver B Movie Factory, and Grandview Garden Club by providing them free space and in turn they perform for the community at special events. We are also working on growing our sponsorships with local artists to provide workshops, presentations, etc. open to all our community members to participate without barriers.

## **THE CARVING PAVILION**

The Carving Pavilion was constructed and built in the summer of 2014 and was completed in December 2014. We will be having an opening in April of 2015. We are excited to have this complex at Britannia as this is the

# Arts and Culture Committee and Program

only complex of its kind in all of Canada. Making the Carving Pavilion a gathering place to host community events and showcase Aboriginal Artists and art work is what the ACC is looking to promote in 2015.

## **BRITANNIA ART GALLERY (BAG)**

Located in the Adult Lounge of the Britannia Library, the BAG is a partnership between the Arts & Culture Committee, the Vancouver Public Library and the Britannia Society. The gallery supports local artists, artisans and the community in one of the most accessible, user- friendly venues in the city. It is the only eastside gallery space with the broadest range of access.

In 2014 the gallery hosted 11 exhibitions, supported 40 local artists and had over 4,400 people visit the gallery. We held 5 regular artist talks and hosted special events including, Aboriginal month with Cease Wyss and the Sustenance Sharing Circle in October. The gallery provided monthly meeting space for Women Artists Think Tank/WATT for 54 local women artists. The gallery continues to produce the monthly Artery e-newsletter. For the range of programs and the number of community members served the gallery is economically efficient, accessible beyond other exhibition venues in the city and has strengthened its partnership with the library.

The strategy in 2015 is to try and form partnerships with other arts venues in Vancouver.

## **PROGRAMS**

Programs for 2014 are evolving into core programs that are being seen throughout our community and are not offered anywhere else in the neighbourhood.

Children's music and arts programs have been very popular in the last year with piano, clarinet, violin, Marimba, toddler art and clay for children.

Adult's music, dance, pottery and creative arts programs have been growing as we are building a following with residents who have a strong relationship with our instructors who have been with us for many years and have a connection within our community.

As we move forward to 2015, the ACC are focused on developing programs and workshops that will fit and meet the needs of this community.

***Ellen Dacamara,***  
***Arts and Culture Programmer***



## Board Development Committee

This year the work of the Committee was to focus articulate the organizations strategic goals for the future. Taking into consideration the changing community, City trends and needs of residents the Committee convened a retreat for the Board of Management to set short term and long term goals for the Society and to provide appropriate direction for our senior staff to achieve those goals for 2015-2020. These priorities include a focus on equity and equal access for residents living in Grandview Woodland and Strathcona, these priorities are;

- Community Development, Communications and Engagement
- Human Resources and Finances
- Facilities and Operations
- Vulnerable Populations
- Recreation, Wellness, Arts and Culture
- Sustainability and Board Development

**Cynthia Low**  
**Executive Director**

## Child Care and Children's Committee

It is no surprise to parents and families in the community that child care is a place that helps children develop emotionally, social, mentally and physically in a safe and nurturing environment. The Britannia HUB is made up of Britannia Day Care and Out of School, Eagles in the Sky Day Care and Out of School, Grandview Terrace Day Care, Out of School and Family Resource Centre, Lord Nelson Out of School and Mount Pleasant Toddler and Day Care programs. We provide over 300 licensed spaces and manage over 45 regular staff and over 40 casual staff. The total budget for the department including the Child Care Societies is over \$2M, it is a very important service to our community, to this end the Committee has been working on improving the administration and management of the operations and reviewing the hub to find efficiencies and better accountability.

We did not have a consistent Manager through out the year and relied on very knowledgeable staff in various departments to pitch in. The senior staff of the programs also worked very hard to expand and improve their programs.

**Cynthia Low,**  
**Executive Director**



# Eastside Family Place Society

## Mission Statement

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

## About Us

Eastside Family Place Society is one of five Vancouver stand-alone and full-service Family Resources Centres. All the Vancouver family places work together in partnership along with other service agencies. These partnerships strengthen our programs and enable best practices in policies and procedures to benefit all. ESFP membership costs \$20 per year. Eastside Family Place has seven core staff, full and part-time, plus casual staff, trained facilitators for parent education groups, and professional presenters for parent workshops. As well, 152 volunteers donated 1,620 hours of support last year. We are conveniently located on Grandview Park at Commercial Drive, 1655 William Street, Vancouver BC V5L 2R3.

## Programs and Services Offered at Eastside Family Place

Eastside Family Place offers a family-friendly and play-based learning centre with age-appropriate toys, equipment and activities. Children learn and develop social/emotional skills in a safe, non-judgmental environment. Parents and caregivers have access to support, program services and the opportunity to meet and network with other parents/caregivers. Many lasting friendships are started at ESFP. Established in April 1979, the Eastside Family Place Society has been providing programs and services to families in the Grandview-Woodland community for over 35 years. Grandview-Woodland has a large concentration of families with children less than 6 years of age. The population is diverse culturally and socio-economically, with a sizable population of new immigrants and refugees as residents.

### Our programs include:

- Drop-in Program: offered Monday to Friday, seven sessions per week. Eastside Family Place recorded more than 17,000 visits to the Drop-In program last year. Many of the families served by ESFP are single parent or low-income
- Licensed Occasional Childcare: an ECE-certified family-support worker provides direct childcare and respite for parents 30 hours a week
- Direct Support and Referrals: one-to-one support and referrals to relevant services and programs
- Collective of Parents Empowered (C.O.P.E.): a parenting program developed at ESFP to reflect and adapt to the specific needs and priorities of participating parents
- Nobody's Perfect Parenting Program: a nation-wide educational program that develops and strengthens positive parenting skills
- Workshops: are offered on a variety of parenting, health, financial and other subjects of interest, including evening programs for working parents
- Clothing Exchange: parents can donate or receive children's clothes
- Food-Security Programs: nutritious snacks are provided daily; light lunches are available on a regular basis throughout the year; food is accessible in the kitchen during the drop-in
- Community Food Cupboard: participants donate food and others who are in need may take home basic food items
- Food Skills Programs: parents & children learn nutritious, low-cost recipes & planning
- Community Garden: parents & children learn about and experience growing foods in the Britannia Urban Garden

# Eastside Family Place Society cont'd

## Donations and Funding

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

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

***Mary Johnston,***  
***Executive Director***



## Library Management Committee

The members of the Committee for 2014 were: Geoff Taylor (Principal, Britannia Secondary), Ian Cannon (Britannia Elementary), Eva Sharell (Britannia Board), Beth Davies (Neighbourhood Services Manager, Vancouver Public Library), Penny Street (Britannia Neighbours), and Morna McLeod (Vancouver Community College). Cynthia Low, the Executive Director of BCSC, is the Chair and Erie Maestro, Head of the Britannia Branch Library, is the Committee Secretary. Anne Sander, the Teacher Librarian at Britannia Secondary, and Lucy Skipper, the Teacher Librarian at Britannia Elementary, attend as staff. Margaret Buxton (Acting Assistant Dept. Head ESL Outreach Dept., VCC)

1. Update on the Main St. Education Centre closure and the expansion of the Hastings Education Centre (HEC) which was supported by the Britannia Community Services.
2. The Pilot Program of having the Grade 8 students not being issued paper Britannia Secondary school Library cards and registering them for the VPL Library cards concluded and there will no longer be a paper Britannia Secondary school Library card issued from 2014 but students will have VPL Library cards.
3. Anne Sanders pointed out that there is no signage inside or outside of the branch to say that it is a school library during school hours. Erie was looking into this with Beth Davies, the Manager of the NE Area Branches.

**SIGNAGE UPDATE:** Signage was rectified in March 2015 when new signage was put on the outside of the branch under the VPL sign saying "VSB Britannia School Library" and internally by the stairs leading down to the Learning Resource Centre stating it as the "LRC – Learning Resource Centre".

Erie Maestro is taking a leave from November 2014-2015 and on her return will become the Branch Head of VPL's Kensington Branch.

From November-December 2015, D'Arcy Stainton was Acting Branch Head.

In January 2015, Yukiko Tosa, former Branch Head of VPL's Kensington Branch will become the permanent Branch Head for VPL's Britannia Branch.

***Erie Maestro (2014)  
& Yukiko Tosa (2015)  
Britannia Branch Head  
Committee Secretary***



# Planning and Development Committee

## **A BIT OF HISTORY**

The renewal of Britannia has been in process for a number of years with hundreds of volunteers working hard to get us to where we are today.

This committee has led the work which has included the involvement and input of hundreds of patrons of Britannia, students, staff, Board members and residents of Grandview Woodland and Strathcona. Information was gathered through many events such as focus groups, surveys, information tables, community engagement exercises, classroom exercises, special events, workshops, meetings and a community wide design workshops. It also included numerous consultations with our site partners, members of the Britannia Board and community organizations. The Committee worked with professionals like DGBK Architects, Hughes Condon Marler (architects) and Phillips Farevaag Smallerberg (planners) to prepare the various documents. We also worked consistently with expertise from the UBC School of Community and Regional Planning and individuals such as Ray Spaxman, retired Director of Planning for the City of Vancouver. We continue to fine-tune our ideas for the renewal of the site.

## **WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING?**

On September 30, 2014, City Council approved the 2014-2018 Capital Plan, which includes \$25 million for Phase 1 of the renewal of the Britannia Community Services Centre. Britannia's 2011 Strategic Master Plan proposed that Phase 1 be the renewal of the pool, fitness centre, gym and information centre. Over the next decade Britannia is slated to receive up to \$100 million. This is what we've been working toward for many years.

Visit the Master Plan page on our website for the entire history of the renewal, you will find videos, photos, meeting notes and tips on how you can take part.

In 2014 and early 2015, we continued to reach out to the community by attending local schools PAC meetings, special events such as community family dinners & Christmas Markets, consultations with partners such as the City of Vancouver & Vancouver Public Library.

**March 2015** – members of the Planning & Development Committee visited a number of community centres around the lower mainland to talk to staff & patrons about their sites; what they enjoy, what they would like to see improved, what they would do differently if they could. Read a summary of the trip – [www.britanniacentre.com](http://www.britanniacentre.com) – go to Britannia News and look through the Master Plan!

## **WHAT'S NEXT?**

2015 will see more site visits, education through meetings & presentations to community groups and users, special events, researching trends & direction of recreation and aquatics.

**Susanne Dahlin**  
*Chairperson*



## 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 and Fitness, Rink, Volunteer, Youth, and Arts and Culture Committees. Examples of discussion topics included: customer surveys, program proposals, special events and requests for funding.

In 2014, there was a focus on future program and facility needs as we look forward to facility upgrades occurring across the site in 2015 and 2016. Continuing objectives include program evaluation and strategic direction as well as always looking for new and exciting ways to increase community program participation.

The Program Committee is always looking for community input and participation and invites those who are interested to join our monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. Thank you to all of the committee members for your contribution in 2014. It was greatly appreciated!

***Peter Odynsky,***  
***Community Recreation Coordinator***

## Vietnamese Seniors

The Vietnamese Seniors program continues to provide settlement services as well as educational and informative workshops about Old Age Pension, BC Housing and health issues for Vietnamese seniors. The program also provides information about the many support resources available to our seniors in the community.

I participated in The Community Volunteer Income Tax program to organize a tax clinic to help low income seniors, families and individuals to do their income tax returns this year. In the summer, we had two bus trips and our annual Seniors BBQ with more than one hundred seniors participating. We had information sessions about Old Age Security Pension (OAS), Guarantee Income Supplement (GIS), Canada Pension Plan, BC Housing and Bus Pass Program. We also organized a Flu Shot Clinic with Vancouver Coastal Health for our community. We continue to partner with The Multicultural Family Centre; these joint programs are growing strongly. The average number of participants every Friday is increasing up to 40. The programs include Tai Chi and Line Dancing classes.

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

Settlement services  
Social interaction  
Emotional support  
Bus trips, luncheons, special events  
Workshops, information sessions

***Luong Ho,***  
***Vietnamese Seniors Outreach Worker***



# Pool and Fitness Centre Committee

Overall, 2014 Aquatic and Fitness Centre program registration revenue was up 8% over the previous year. 2014 attendance was up 7% over 2013, the busiest month being April and the slowest being December. 2014 statutory holiday attendance was up 40% over the previous year, the busiest holiday being Easter Monday and the slowest being Canada Day.

## Aquatics

Registration was steady for parent and tot, preschool and children's swim lessons. We added Friday after school lessons and weekday morning parent and tot and preschool lessons. We restructured our Red Cross evening program for adults by adding a stroke development class and a fitness class. Private and semi-private lesson registration remains fairly strong. Saturday Swim Club participation declined but Tuesdays and Thursdays remain consistent. We continue to offer upper level lifesaving courses with mixed results.

Our sponsorship of the Special Olympics swim and fitness program on Saturdays continued from September to December with approximately 40 in attendance each Saturday from 12:00-1:00 pm in the pool and 1:30-2:30 pm in the fitness centre and mat room. We also worked in partnership with the Vancouver Kayak Club again this year to offer an Introduction to Whitewater Kayaking on Saturday evenings. We continue to host the Vancouver Masters Synchro Club and have accommodated Exceleation Triathlon Club and Killarney Gators Swim Club for lane rentals as well.

Britannia Secondary continued their regular PE class swim sessions. We are expanding the Lifesaving Society Swim to Survive grant program to the Grade 3's at Britannia, Seymour, Queen Victoria Annex and Strathcona Elementary schools. We are offering additional lessons to Seymour and Grandview Elementary schools. Staff is focused on outreach to the local elementary schools and it is working!

The annual maintenance closure was postponed from September 2014 to January 2015 due to the teacher's strike impacting Vancouver School Board trades availability. The maintenance closure in January went well but was extended five weeks due to a filter replacement for the main pool. Among many repairs, improvements include: replaced pool deck lights, all new tile grout in most showers, anti-slip tiling installed in several locations, fresh paint touch-ups throughout building, additional accessible bars, seats and hand-held shower heads, individual woman's shower converted to private shower/change stall, old non-functioning wall mounted decorative fountains removed near hot tub and leisure pool to create added deck space, new shampoo/soap shelves in universal change rooms, sauna walls and benches freshly sanded and new lockers installed in the Fitness Centre.

## Fitness Centre

The free Fitness Centre Tour, Strength Training for Seniors and Women's Weight Training courses continue to be offered each season. We replaced two spin bikes, two cross trainers, one treadmill, one stair master and one rower in the fall.

## Special Events

The Youth Swim Night continued as a special event on the first Friday of every month. Our line-up of special events included the annual Easter Eggstravaganza Free Swim, Halloween Free Swim and Winter Wonderland Free Swim. We hosted the annual children's "Splash 'n Dash" organized by Exceleation Triathlon Club and Triathlon BC again this year.

# Pool and Fitness Centre Committee

## **Staff Team**

Janine Schroedter, RFT SIA, transferred here from the Vancouver Aquatic Centre. Anson Siu was the successful candidate for the RPT SIA position. Marina Cooke, RFT SIA, returned from maternity leave in December. Christa Giles, auxiliary lifeguard, was the successful candidate for Marina's maternity leave from September to December. Kirsten Paxton-Judge, RPT Cashier-Receptionist, delivered a baby boy and is on maternity leave until August. Giles Grierson, auxiliary cashier, was the successful candidate for Kirsten's maternity leave position. Charleen Darling, RFT Cashier Clerk, retired in November.

This is the first year in a long time that we have our full complement of regular full time and regular part time aquatics staff and we are excited about what we can accomplish together for Britannia aquatics this year.

We sadly lost our long time dedicated Pool and Fitness Centre Committee member Allan Ross and our meetings are not the same without him!

***Vittoria Basile,  
Recreation Programmer***

Dear members of Britannia Community Services Centre Society,

Special Olympics BC (SOBC) would like to express our gratitude for allowing us to use Britannia Community Centre's aquatic facilities. As many may know, SOBC is a volunteer run not-for-profit organization, who provides high quality sports programs to individuals with intellectual disabilities. SOBC is committed to enriching the lives of these individuals, and through that the lives of their friends and family.

SOBC Vancouver's swimming program is a huge success, with almost 75 athletes registered this 2014-2015 season. Through participation in the program, athletes are able to increase fitness and physical literacy, create friendships, improve self-esteem, and celebrate personal achievement.

We have athletes of all ability levels in the program, ranging from individuals learning to become comfortable in the water to athletes training for competitions around the lower mainland. Many of our coaches come from swimming and lifeguarding backgrounds, providing them with the important knowledge necessary to teach fundamental swimming skills to our athletes. Throughout this season the athletes have increased their comfort level in the water, many have learned the essential swimming technique of all four strokes, and our higher level athletes have started learning more complex skills such as turns. It has been a very successful season, with athletes and coaches alike enjoying themselves during practice, all the while participating in physical activity and learning new skills.

SOBC sports programs change attitudes and teach sensitivity and understanding of intellectual disabilities. This, in turn, leads to greater opportunities for communities to include people with intellectual disabilities and support them as they seek to enrich their lives. This changing of attitudes greatly benefits not only our athletes but the community as a whole.

Again, we would like to express our gratitude in Britannia Community Centre's generosity in allowing us to use its facilities. It is very much appreciated, and the opportunity it has provided our athletes has been invaluable.

***Sincerely,  
Monica McKeown & Daniel Kim (Co-head coaches of SOBC Vancouver's swimming program), and all  
of SOBC Vancouver***

## Al Mattison Lounge 55+ Committee

This has been both a rewarding and challenging time for the 55+ Centre and programming area. Britannia's senior participants, volunteers, staff and committee have had a year of reflection, rethinking and renewal. In July our long time Tuesday/Friday programs and partnership with the Vancouver East Lions, (770 Commercial Dr.) ended, leaving a gap in services, programs and loss of a gathering place for seniors in our neighbourhood. With much patience, determination, hard work, flexibility and support by all, our loss has turned to new and growing optimism.

With this year's challenges, our Seniors Committee questioned who and what we are, who it is we serve and where we might do better. We continue to provide a wide variety of programs that reflect the needs of our community. We partner with other agencies to enrich and broaden our experience while looking to the future to identify and focus on issues facing seniors. In doing so our mandate has been updated:

### **Britannia Seniors Committee Mandate 2015**

- To facilitate excellent services, programs and resources for seniors (55+)
- To ensure a safe, clean, respectful, positive, supportive 55+ Centre
- To be an open forum on seniors issues and be representatives of seniors in our community to the Britannia board and society at large

Some of this year's highlights include many of our partnerships:

VCN – Telling Our History: The Seniors Story Telling Project

Adler University – Community Action Day

VCH – Workshops/Flu Clinics

SFU – Quirk-e “Call and Response” Projects with Youth (Including Kate Reid Concert)

VPL – Commemoration of Canada's WWI, Author Robert W. Mackay (Intergenerational)

The Great Movies Sunday Night Program – run by Tom and John supported by volunteers and the Library (all ages)

Our Committee supported a Britannia Elementary School family, assisting them with the purchase of a hearing device for their child. We also supported the Britannia Secondary School Streetfront Alternative Program and their Street2Peak initiative - what an inspiration! We understand the value of supporting others in the community however we have chosen to put senior issues front and centre for the upcoming year. That said, focusing our fundraising events on seniors, our 55 + participant's find being engaged with youth invigorating and we will continue to seek those opportunities often.

This year's successes are a result of unforeseen challenge, looking inward, asking questions, leaning on partner agencies, volunteers, staff and participants while seeking innovative solutions. Thank you to the Britannia Board, the Britannia staff, our volunteers, partners and participants who believe in teamwork, community and each other. Our strengths lie in our connections.

**Anne Cowan Jackson**  
**Programmer**

## Children's Sports & Fitness

2014 proved to be the most successful in the history of Britannia Children's Sport and Fitness Programs. Micro Footie (over 1100 children and youth registered, over 170 volunteer coaches) and Britannia Gymnastics (over 800 registered) were most popular. We successfully hosted the largest recreational gymnastics event in May, the BC Gymnaestrada – a huge community effort. The Music Together program continued to expand (close to 500 registered). We received over 105,000 participant visits in all preschool and children's sports programs.

Moving on to 2015, Britannia Children's Sport and Fitness Programs are continuing to grow in popularity with the insurgence of families into the Britannia Community. Micro Footie, the largest program onsite this year with 1200 registered children and youth aged 3-18 years, continues to grow. Over 207 volunteer community coaches lead the 110 team league at Garden Park, Robson Park and the Britannia Oval. We thank the support from our local community sponsors Uprising Breads, Fets Whisky Kitchen, The Portuguese Club, Liquids + Solids, AON R& R Photography, Matcon Environmental Ltd., Everbloom Auto Repair and former coach Kelly Beech with their donations to the program. Victoria Haenel has now taken on the even more administrative duties in as the Footie Coordinator in this 10 month operation. Jason Kyle, who started the program 23 years ago is also involved as a consultant, trainer and visionary. He will be bringing Scotland's Celtic FC Football Club coaches to Britannia this summer where they will be offering a professional soccer camp for Footie kids. See [www.britanniasoccer.org](http://www.britanniasoccer.org) for more Footie information!

The Britannia Gymnastics Club continues to be popular with programs selling out within a minute. Huge demand and wait lists continue to be a priority. Concerned parents developed and implemented a petition in Fall 2014. The statement: "I believe the inclusion of a gymnastics/multi-sport facility is vital for the Britannia Community and should be included in the first phase of the Britannia Community Centre's facility renewal" was signed by over 500 community members. In 2014 we had 818 children, 18 months-15 years registered with 353 children waitlisted. Further research showed 97% of our present participants come from the Vancouver Eastside. There is a huge demand for gymnastics on the Eastside of Vancouver which needs to be addressed! Concerned parents have now joined Britannia's Program Committee. If you wish to become involved contact: [lori.moretto@vancouver.ca](mailto:lori.moretto@vancouver.ca). Congratulations to Cameron Stevenson, Britannia's Head Coach who was named Gymnastics BC's Coach of the Year. He will be taking seven of our Britannia gymnasts to the 2015 World Gymnaestrada in Helsinki Finland from July 10-19, 2015. Please support our club's "Fundraising for Finland" campaign to help dreams come true for our local gymnasts. See [www.britanniagymnastics.com](http://www.britanniagymnastics.com) for more Brit Gymnastics Club information.

Other preschool and children's programs continue being popular. Fencing, Sportball, Volleyball and our new Tennis Academy all inspire to keep our community kids active.

Staffing Update - Ashley Beattie has been on maternity leave and upon return has decided to resign from her Recreation Programmer position. Lori Moretto will now be reinstating her full time status and will now be responsible for both the adult and children's sport and fitness portfolio.

**Lori Moretto,**  
**Sport and Fitness Programmer**

## Adult Sports and Wellness

We have continued to provide a wide range of sports and wellness programs. Specifically, we have added to our Martial Arts program by partnering with Axe Capoeira. Roughly 40 Axe Capoeira members have now been familiarized with the Britannia community and facilities, and are excited for new opportunities that can be explored. The new partnership with Trojan Horse Amateur boxing also provided an opportunity to work with the Britannia Hockey Academy in January; looking to the future we hope to maintain an active relationship with the school.

Net revenue has been stable and registration has been very consistent for our core classes. Our most popular classes are Zumba, Salsa Fit, Basketball, Ball Hockey, Volleyball and Iyengar Yoga. We have a strong core of sports and wellness programs and will continue to look at finding creative solutions and opportunities that meet the unique needs of our community. Thank you to the volunteers, instructors, board members and staff team for their dedication and enthusiasm in contributing to our programs and services for our Community.

**Jamie Smith,**  
**Adult Sports and Wellness**





# Youth Program Report

“Britannia youth programs aim to involve a diverse youth population in creating a safe, supportive and respectful community where youth participate in social and recreational activities.” Youth Program Philosophy

The past year has been busy with many different programs, events, and activities where we have had the opportunity to partner with different agencies and organizations. We held our Annual YOUUnique Youth Conference at the Britannia High School which attracted over 90 youth. We partnered with Equitas, Dogwood, Ch'nook, and the Duke of Edinburgh to offer a variety of workshops, key note speakers, and community booths. The youth had the opportunity to network with other youth, youth workers, and organizations while learning about different topics. Some of these topics included; Money Skills, Transitioning from High School to University, Volunteerism, Human Rights activities, and much more.

We also worked with Equitas and offered a Speaking Rights Ministry of Justice Project. Youth took part in 5 workshops that focused on positive values (inclusion, respect, fairness, and acceptance). Workshop activities used a participatory approach to build knowledge of rights and responsibilities, self-esteem, a sense of belonging, and strongly promoting alternatives to violence. A project was created at the end of the workshop series by the youth. They went around their neighbourhood and took photos to highlight things in their community that made them feel safe and unsafe and how they can improve them. Their photos will be displayed in the Britannia Art Gallery for the month of May. UNYA is another organization that we have partnered with, offering a young mothers group (Yo Mamma) and Talking Circle on Monday evenings.

Off the Grill is another program where there is collaboration with many different community partners. Some of them include; UNYA Outreach, Nurse Practitioners from REACH, Vancouver Coastal Health, Vancouver Police, Britannia Library, and many more. This program provides significant benefits to some of the most vulnerable youth in the Britannia area. It offers them the opportunity to prepare and create meals to serve to the community, learn about healthy eating, and they build positive connections with community members, other youth, and service providers.

The Teen Centre has also had many practicum and internship students from Langara College, Douglas College, Sprott-Shaw Community College, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, and MTI College. It has been a great opportunity for students to expand their knowledge, engage with the youth and learn from them and the staff. They bring their new ideas, energy and philosophy in to the Teen Centre and are able to educate us about new practices and trends happening in the field.

We are always striving to offer new and exciting programs and activities for youth. It is important to get feedback from them about what they would like to see happen and empower them to do so. We are consistently assessing the current youth involvement in planning of programs at the Teen Centre. We are currently working with youth to develop programs to meet their needs and interests and where youth participate in the decision making process. We also want to reach out to new youth who do not currently attend the Teen Centre. Some ways we have been doing this is by attending existing youth groups at Van Tech and Britannia at lunch time to let them know about programs and services that we offer. It is also a time for them to meet our staff and for us to figure out what ideas they have in terms of programming. Every Friday at lunch time in the Britannia High School we have a space where we are encouraging new youth to come meet the staff and learn about what the Teen Centre has to offer. It is important to have a presence in the school and to be there as a support for any of the youth as well. We have been working with the Latin American Youth Worker to try and program together and get their youth comfortable in the Teen Centre.

Using other networks to promote our programs and services is something we are always working on. Some ways we do this is by connecting with the Broadway Commercial team, youth council, youth workers, alterna-

## Youth Program Report cont'd

tive schools and the elementary schools. It is important to connect kids at a younger age which leads to positive community engagement in the future. It is important to build positive relationships with these networks in order to share ideas and talk about any trends that we see in the community.

Our programs are fun, inclusive, innovative and also have a focus on leadership, skill development, community engagement, and building positive relationships with others. Feast of Flavours is our cooking program that is always very popular. Every Tuesday, youth learn how to prepare and cook a healthy cost effective meal. Image Makers is a new program where youth have the opportunity to be creative and learn to use photo editing, image creation, video editing, and other creative tools through different computer programs. We have worked with the senior's programmer to offer a workshop on earthquake preparedness and dinner for the youth and seniors. It is important to have intergenerational programming and we hope to do more of this. We have also been working with the City of Vancouver Arts Programmers and LocoMotoArt to provide the Moments of Happiness Project. In celebration of the United Nations Day of Happiness, artists will be attending the youth drop in program and offer a fun digital art project which is open to the whole community. It is important to constantly try new things and partner with organizations and strive to provide excellent programming to our youth.

Providing opportunities to youth that may not normally have has always been one of our mandates. In the past year, we have offered many different programs and opportunities for youth to participate in for free or at a low cost. A beginners snowboarding program, camping, a girls surfing trip, hockey, and drop in sports are just some examples of the great programs being offered to the youth. The Teen Centre has been very successful at offering a variety of programs and opportunities and giving the youth the chance to try something new.

***Brittany Walsh,***  
***Teen Centre Programmer***

## Latin American Youth Programs (LAYP)

The Latin American Youth program has had a great year in participating in different workshops and activities that get the youth involved with in their community and make it a better place to be in and feel safe. Some of our programs include:

### **Indoor Soccer Program**

This is a co-ed program for youth ages 13-18 years. This program runs every Tuesday night from 6:00-8:00 pm. Most of the youth who come to the indoor soccer program are new immigrant/refugees from various countries such as Colombia, Venezuela, Africa, Cuba, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Canada, Iran and Iraq. Although there are many languages involved and communication can be a barrier, it is nice to see that the youth are able to communicate in a sport that is well known all over the world and that the rules do not change. The goals of the indoor soccer program are to make friends, encourage recreation, health and fitness, promote good sportsmanship, share skills and tips and participate in a very cultural sport for the Latino community. This program has helped many of our youth by giving them a free, safe place for recreation and support through high school and the transition to either post-secondary or the job force. The boys and girls in this program have not participated in the annual Umbro Beach Soccer Blast tournament that takes place at Spanish Banks in Vancouver because there is no co-ed category in their age group - we are in the works of setting up a tournament between community centers and co-ed youth teams.

# Latin American Youth Programs (LAYP)

## **Spanish Clubs**

These clubs have been one of the best ways to connect with new youth and existing youth and bring them to participate at Britannia Community Centre programs and events. We have been attending a few high schools: Van Tech, Gladstone, Britannia, Templeton, and Tupper. Having the Spanish Clubs has allowed us to create a support system at the individual schools by giving the youth a space to be themselves and express their culture amongst other youth that speak Spanish and bring their friends and show them what their culture is all about. The diversity in the clubs is unique; we have many youth who have been born and raised in Canada but really long to be connected to their roots while the other half of the youth are new immigrants settling into the school system and learning English as another language. As a group we work together to share our cultures through cultural boards, games, music, guest speakers and activities. The Spanish Club has supported many youth facing isolation, depression, and bullying.

## **Cocina Latina**

Our Latin cooking program is very popular amongst the youth. The program was created to reduce the discrimination within the Latin community and to promote healthy food that still keep the flavors of our roots. A recipe is chosen from various countries and adapted to be healthy and as a group we prepare, cook, eat, and clean. During the program we invite people to come and speak about different topics that the youth have interest in. The last Thursday of the month we host our Latin American Youth Council where the group decides the activities, out trips, events, and volunteer work that they would like to put forward to the community. According to the youth this is a FUN, safe, and friendly place that they look forward to attending, where the staff is helpful and supportive.

## **Friends First Out Trips**

Every Saturday the youth meet to come together and learn how to travel and get around Vancouver and make new friends. For many youth they may not have the opportunity to participate due to financial issues at home and it is an enjoyable way for the youth to get away from their everyday lives. Most of the youth we work with have younger siblings and are expected to stay home and babysit and help around the house. The program runs weekly themes such as recreation, family days, volunteering, and workshops. Development in life skills, leadership skills, and certification/training are included in the monthly programming. Training, volunteer work, and certification helps many of our youth with their career planning in school, resume building, and giving them some experience.

## **2015 Goals for the LAYP Program:**

Continue to connect with supporting organizations and build strong partnerships  
Successfully bridge youth from schools to Britannia Community Centre for programming  
Provide youth participants with more skill based workshops to enter work force, college/university  
Continue to aid newcomer youth and families with the settlement and transition to Canadian society  
Get youth to participate with our own programs but also to partner up with the Teen center and make better bonds amongst the youth

**Manuel Gama,**  
**LAYP Worker**

## VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF BRITANNIA, IN SUPPORT OF THE STRATEGIC MASTER PLAN

### WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING?

In 2014 and early 2015, we continued to reach out to the community by attending local schools PAC meetings, special events such as community family dinners & Christmas Markets, consultations with partners such as the City of Vancouver & Vancouver Public Library.

March 2015 – members of the Planning & Development Committee visited a number of community centres around the lower mainland to talk staff & patrons about their sites; what they enjoy, what they would like to see improved, what they would do differently if they could. Read a summary of the trip – [www.britanniacentre.org](http://www.britanniacentre.org) – go to Britannia News and look through the Master Plan!

### A BIT OF HISTORY

The renewal of Britannia has been in process for a number of years with hundreds of volunteers working hard to get us to where we are today.

On September 30, 2014, City Council approved the 2014-2018 Capital Plan, which includes \$25 million for Phase 1 of the renewal of the Britannia Community Services Centre. Britannia's 2011 Strategic Master Plan proposed that Phase 1 be the renewal of the pool, fitness centre, gym and information centre. Over the next decade Britannia is slated to receive up to \$100 million. This is what we've been working toward for many years.

Visit the Master Plan page on our website for the entire history of the renewal, you will find videos, photos, meeting notes and tips on how you can take part.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

2015 will see more site visits, education through meetings & presentations to community groups and users, special events, researching trends & direction of recreation and aquatics.

### HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Here are four great ways for you to take part in the Renewal of Britannia:

- Join the Planning & Development Committee's Monthly meetings
- Participate in Community Planning Events
- Complete surveys
- Inform your neighbours and friends



STAY INFORMED!



Get Master Plan details & updates [www.britanniacentre.org](http://www.britanniacentre.org)





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