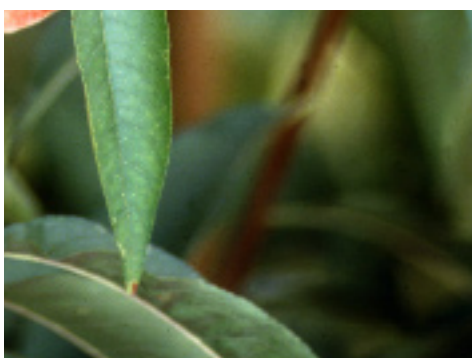


# Grandview Woodland Food Connection

## Mid-term Report

Prepared by Ian Marcuse  
December 2009



# Introduction

The Grandview Woodland Food Connection (GWFC) is pleased to present this report highlighting our food justice achievements to date and future directions. This report will show that Britannia Community Centre is far richer for hosting the GWFC. The enormous energy and passion that people have around food justice has provided the GWFC many wonderful opportunities to create projects that have engaged hundreds of community members and built new and creative partnerships that will last long into the future.

Britannia has identified food security and justice as an important area of work recognizing that healthy, affordable, culturally appropriate, and sustainably produced food is a basic right for all community members. More than ever with our current recession, on-going cuts to our social safety net, the growing threat of climate change, and the health impacts of poor quality food, the work of community food justice is of growing importance.

We know that Grandview Woodland has high rates of poverty despite growing affluence. A 2007 B.C. Provincial Health Services Authority survey of 26 communities across B.C ranked Grandview Woodland as having the highest rate of self reported food insecurity, at 21.9% of the population. In response, the GWFC is working to address community food justice needs through a community development approach and diversity of initiatives. These include community gardening, community potlucks, nutrition and cooking workshops, food festivals, sharing of knowledge and resources, and supporting leadership development, which are all helping to improve the long term health in our community.

This approach meets the first key goal and direction in Britannia's strategic plan – ***DIRECT WORK AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT***. The GWFC's work is firmly grounded in a way that addresses issues identified by the community; is inclusive, collaborative, action-oriented, and builds upon the community's skills and strengths. Many of our projects are hands-on and empowering, providing new skills and knowledge which are the foundation of community capacity building.



Buen Provecho!



Buen Provecho!





We also see that the GWFC's successful projects are the result of diverse community involvement and collaboration. Project partnering is a vital part of community development and addresses Britannia's second goal – **PARTNERSHIP WORK**. This success is in part, due to the flexibility and adaptability within the GWFC to create programs that address a range of community needs not only within Britannia but also in the wider community. We have also seen increasing success connecting with many harder to reach community members.

Britannia Community Centre is showing itself as a leader by supporting the Grandview Woodland Food Connection in building a program that is moving beyond basic food provision to a community capacity building model. In the past 20 months, the achievements of the GWFC have contributed to improving community member's lives in many ways by:

- **taking steps towards the long-term goal of building a just and sustainable food system for all in Grandview Woodland and ensuring that everyone has access to healthy, affordable, and personally acceptable food**
- **building connections among diverse members of the community that reduce barriers that can contribute to social isolation**
- **strengthening the social fabric of the community by providing creative opportunities to participate in community life in an empowering, accessible way**
- **supporting individual skill building through hands-on food projects while also building knowledge and awareness of food issues and local food resources**
- **providing a venue where community members are encouraged to contribute and share existing skills and knowledge**
- **mentoring volunteer and leadership development through collaborative role modeling**



Kiwassa Youth Garden cleanup



Kiwassa Youth Garden opening

# Grandview Woodland Food Connection History

The Grandview Woodland Food Connection is a neighbourhood organization. The seed of the organization was planted at the first Stone Soup Festival back in 1995 where food security awareness in the community began. Finally in 2004, following a Britannia held Community Food Forum, the need for a community food organizer was identified and the Grandview Woodland Food Connection came to life.

The Grandview Woodland Food Connection developed its mission as:

***Supporting and promoting an accessible, just, and sustainable food system for Grandview Woodland and which seeks to address social concerns of inclusion, health, and economic well-being. The GWFC works to build community capacity through sustainable leadership development and support around grassroots initiatives to address food justice issues***

The GWFC is firmly rooted in Britannia Community Centre and fortunate to have Britannia as a host organization providing a range of supports and resources. The GWFC operates under the responsibility and leadership of the Britannia Arts and Culture Coordinator and is supported by an active Advisory Committee. The GWFC represents Britannia in all its food and community development work.

The Advisory Committee received their first grant for the Connecting the Dots Project. This project worked to determine the food related needs and resources of the community through a community food mapping process. The result was a comprehensive and important community food map used by community members as a tool for accessing their food security needs. The map was also translated into Spanish.

In 2008, the Committee secured a second grant through Vancouver Coastal Health's Community Food Action Initiative (CFAI) to hire a part time community organizer for the GWFC. This grant and a subsequent extension, along with a Healthy Living Alliance grant, currently provides



Stone Soup



Fermentation Workshop



for core funding until spring 2011, providing a degree of stability and time to develop a longer-term sustainability plan.

Four principal activity areas define the scope of work of the GWFC. These are summarized in this report.

- 1. Networking that Establishes Lasting Relationships and Partnerships**
- 2. Increasing Opportunities for Community Members to Engage in Food Projects**
- 3. Education that Builds Knowledge about Food Issues**
- 4. Sustainability Planning or Growing into the Future**

*More than ever, people want to know about the food they eat! They want to learn ways to eat as healthy as possible. Food Connection gives answers! They teach ways to choose, grow and prepare foods.*

*Food Connection creates partnerships. They reach folks all across the community. Our health prevention team cannot say enough about the benefits we receive in partnering with Food Connection.*

*Maria Burglehaus,  
Healthy Living Program  
Vancouver Coastal Health*



# Networking that Establishes Lasting Relationships and Partnerships.

The GWFC is creating a broad network of residents and community groups to share information and build relationships. As the network grows so too does the success of the various food initiatives undertaken. Together, we can more effectively share resources and skills, learn about our community, build social capital, better solve problems, and get the work done.

Working with diverse communities fosters increased socio-economic and cultural inclusion. This means reaching out to residents who experience challenges to participating in community life, working in partnerships to reducing barriers to participation, and providing empowering and creative opportunities for residents to access food justice initiatives. This very important relationship building also helps to identify and communicate needs from a diversity of perspectives.

Networking is essential in meeting Britannia's principals of **collaboration, communication, effectiveness, equity, facilitation, inclusion, involvement, neighbourliness, quality, responsibility, and sustainability.**

- **Building an Engaged Food Network**

The network currently has 475 members including residents, service providers, and housing organizations. Communication within the network is done through the monthly GWFC E-newsletter and BLOG which are widely regarded as valuable resources in the community pulling together the many food related community events, workshops, jobs, volunteer opportunities, articles of interest, and more.

- **Building Community Partnerships**

Relationship building and networking are shaping strong partnerships that encourage and enable people and organizations to work together to address community food justice, ensure broad participation, and foster stronger connections between Britannia and the community.



Potluck



Buen Provecho! Project



Through outreach, community presentations, attending dozens of community meetings, project collaboration, and on-going support of other groups, the GWFC is actively promoting the values and principals of Britannia Community Centre. The GWFC is working with a range of groups from grassroots planning through to support and assistance in policy development with municipal and regional agencies. The GWFC has worked with 33 groups including:

- **BC Housing**
- **Canadian Mental Health Association**
- **Kiwassa Neighbourhood House**
- **Little Mountain Neighbourhood House**
- **Reach Community Health Centre**
- **Multicultural Family Centre**
- **Lion's Den Seniors Centre**
- **Haley Place Women's Housing**
- **Canadian El Salvador Action Network**
- **Vancouver Community Agriculture Network**
- **Environmental Youth Alliance**
- **Vancouver Native Health**
- **Quest**
- **Food Bank – Fresh Choice Kitchens**
- **Grandview Woodlands Mental Health Team**
- **Disabled Independent Gardeners Association**
- **Britannia Library**
- **Britannia Latin American Youth Project**
- **Britannia Art Gallery**
- **Canadian Diabetes Association**
- **Promoting Action Together Towards Health (PATH)**
- **City of Vancouver**

*“Through our partnership with Ian, the unique concerns of immigrants and refugees are being included in local food security programming. Ian’s inclusive approach enhances REACH’s health promotion programming by empowering diverse cultural groups to share cultural traditions around food preparation.”*

*Patricia Dabiri, Coordinator  
Multicultural Family Centre*

*“The author talks that were held in the library during the 2009 Stone Soup Festival were, by far, our best attended adult programs. Fun and informative programs about food security topics are clearly something that this community values. Ian has helped us broaden food literacy in our library.”*

*Kate Lowe Librarian, Britannia  
Branch*



- **Vancouver Fruit Tree Project**
  - **Slow Food Vancouver**
  - **City of Vancouver Cold Weather Shelter Program**
  - **Roundhouse Community Centre**
  - **Hastings Community Centre**
  - **Promoting Healthy Options on the Drive (PHOOD)**
  - **Healthy Living Alliance**
  - **Vancouver Food Policy Council**
  - **Britannia High School**
  - **Healthy Planet Kitchens**
  - **Vancouver Coastal Health**
- 
- **Building a Community Food Resource Data and Inventory Base**

The GWFC is filling a critical gap as a community connector helping groups and individuals access and share important information, supports, and resources through a food resource database and resource library.

The GWFC has connected with 147 groups in the neighbourhood and city, who make up the GWFC Resource Data Base. The list includes housing providers, neighbourhood houses, mental health services, community centres, multicultural organizations, seniors centres, youth groups, childcare programs, non profits, churches, emergency food provision agencies, community kitchens, community gardens, community artists, community nutritionists, government organizations, Aboriginal groups, business associations, academic institutions, and immigrant services.

Approximately 100 community members have contacted the GWFC for information.



Kiwassa Youth Garden planting



Potluck





- **Community Potlucks**

Informal community potlucks providing a relaxed space to talk about food issues in the community embrace the principal of neighbourliness and are open to the entire community. Many lower income residents and folks off the street come to access free food, but perhaps most important are the social connections among strangers that are made.

Thus far, 8 potlucks have been organized and have included 141 community members.



Potluck

***Building trust takes time. The GWFC has run a couple of food workshops with residents in BC Housing who have mental health concerns. These residents tend to live more isolated lives and are less comfortable in unfamiliar public spaces so it was thrilling to see three of these residents finally came to one of our potlucks. Kevin, who also has a serious interest in photography also volunteered to photo-document the GWFC's projects.***

***"It has been over a year now that I have been volunteering with the GWFC. Volunteering has been a tremendous experience for me and an exciting opportunity to build my knowledge and skill base around food security. Without the GWFC I would not have had the opportunity to participate in any of this kind of work. There truly isn't any other organization like it out there that is doing the same work."***

***Bridget Jenson***

# Increasing Opportunities for Community Members to Engage in Food Projects

The GWFC is increasing opportunities for residents to participate in a range of food justice initiatives such as canning and food preserving workshops, community gardening, and cooking programs. These initiatives focus on skill, leadership, and relationship building and are important projects that are increasing the community resident's knowledge of and ability to access, grow, cook, and eat healthy low cost food.

The focus is on creating learning opportunities that are hands-on, engaging, support lifestyle changes, and are empowering for the individual. Particular effort is made to reduce potential barriers to participation and reach out to isolated residents. This includes holding workshops at or near where people live, providing free or very low cost workshops, translating publicity materials into multiple languages, ensuring representation in planning processes, creating projects of special appeal to various cultures, and providing easy and fun ways of participating.

- **Community Gardening**

## A. Pandora Park Community Garden

**Partners:** GWFC, Vancouver Community Agriculture Network, Disabled Independent Gardeners Association, Vancouver Native Health, Environmental Youth Alliance, MLA Shane Simpson Constituency Office, Kiwassa Neighbourhood House

The very exciting Pandora Park Community Garden is one of the GWFC's largest projects. Located in a low income, medium density neighbourhood, the 10,000 sq ft community garden is situated in a gorgeous setting with spectacular views of the mountains. 66 plots are allocated with another 40 people on the waitlist. This project was endorsed by 20 community groups and has strived to include a diversity of community members and is providing 4 First Nations garden plots, 6 community group plots, and 4 wheelchair accessible plots.

This garden will now provide opportunities for the GWFC to organize



Pandora Community Garden

*“Ian’s contribution and commitment to the Pandora Park Community Garden can’t be overstated - it would not have happened without him. From the beginning, he has given his expertise respectfully not only in gardening, but in organizing processes, inclusiveness, building community and constructive listening, to name a few.”*

**Carol Wood,  
Chair, Pandora  
Garden Board of Directors**



organic gardening and other community gardening workshops for the Grandview Woodland North community. A small communal space will feature fruit trees, a composting area, and beehive. Garden members, along with the GWFC, are also organizing a design competition for the garden shed, creating a unique opportunity for community engagement.

***Krista is a young single mother. When she approached Kiwassa, who in turn approached GWFC to help Krista set up a community garden in Pandora Park, GWFC jumped on the opportunity. Krista had no experience with setting up a garden and was shy to take leadership but together, along with her 4 year old daughter, we leafleted the surrounding apartments and homes and organized the first Pandora Park meeting. The garden now has over 100 interested gardeners and Krista is a Pandora Park Community Garden Board Director.***



Pandora Community Garden

## B. Kiwassa Youth Garden

**Partners:** GWFC, BC Housing, Environmental Youth Alliance, Kiwassa Neighbourhood House, City of Vancouver Green Streets

This small 7 plot garden is located next to Chimo Terrace, a BC Housing site on Wall St. and is part of the City of Vancouver Green Streets program upon which land the garden sits. A once vacant site littered with garbage is now a special garden for low-income children to learn about and grow their own food. Kiwassa Neighbourhood House runs the children's garden program through their Chimo childcare program.



Kiwassa Youth Garden cleanup

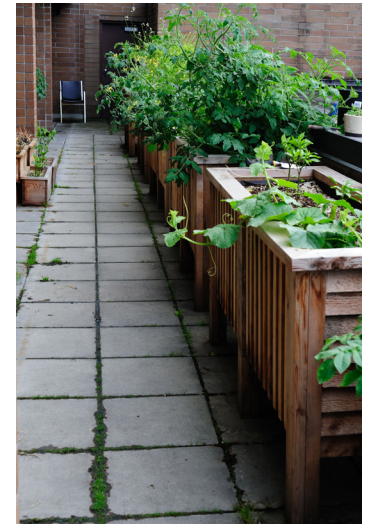




### C. Grandview Terrace Garden

**Partners:** GWFC, BC Housing, Canadian Mental Health Association

The new patio garden that has been built at this BC Housing site is run as a food growing program by the Canadian Mental Health Association for people with mental health issues living in the building. Approximately 10 participants are involved in this program. A second larger garden at Grandview Terrace will see 12 new garden plots built this coming spring to serve families.



Grandview Terrace Patio Garden

***Bryan has been an amazing volunteer. He signed up as a Britannia volunteer with an interest in food. He is now working with GWFC and first helped build the Kiwassa Youth Garden at Chimo Terrace. We had to clear alot of debris and brush from the area. Bryan help for many hours, then helped another day to spread an enormous pile of compost. Enjoying the physical labour, Bryan is also a keen volunteer with the Pandora Park project and though he does not live near the park nor plans to have a garden plot, he is a full member of the construction committee.***

- **Food Workshops**

**Partners:** GWFC, BC Housing, Haley Place Social Housing, Hasting’s Community Centre, Canadian Mental Health Association, Lion’s Den Seniors Centre, Multicultural Family Centre, Britannia Latin American Youth Project, Healthy Planet Kitchens, Britannia Art Gallery

The Grandview Woodland Food Connection has expanded the cooking program at Britannia and organized 14 basic food preparation and preserving workshops building skills toward improved dietary choices,

***“Working with Ian reinforces the commitment to partnerships, sharing and caring. He is so enthusiastic, energetic and in touch with the Food Movement in our community and this is infectious. Ian recognizes the strength in individuals to build a better world and is a great communicator and mentor. Food is a great motivator and the seniors are entirely behind Ian and his mission.”***

***Carolyn Innes,  
Senior’s Coordinator, Lion’s Den Recreation Centre***



food literacy, and proficiency in food preparation. These workshops have proven to be very successful and mostly always full. Equally exciting are the many new volunteers keen to help teach cooking workshops both at Britannia and in the community. With this increasing capacity, the GWFC is planning many more food workshops in the coming year.

These workshops are demonstrating accessibility in many ways: they require limited time commitment; are readily organized in various settings, using kitchens out in the community; can concentrate on locally available and seasonal food that may provide affordable food choices; can be designed to teach culturally appropriate food preparation, drawing on existing food preserving knowledge in the community; and are providing a venue for leadership development and training for sustainability.

Workshop evaluations have confirmed their success and generated interest for more diverse food preparing workshops.

### **A. Food Preserving**

Food preservation is becoming a lost art that was, in the past, an important means to ensure food security through the seasons. Today, the revival of food preservation knowledge is providing opportunities to lower food costs and improve nutrition.

To date, the GWFC has organized:

- 12 food preserving workshops including sauerkraut, kimchee, and canning. Five were held as part of Britannia Sat Series programming and seven no cost workshops held in the community.
- Engaged 99 participants, many of whom identify as low income.



**Applesauce Workshop**



**Fermentation Workshop**





## B. Cooking workshops

Interest in cooking classes is very high and we plan to expand this program engaging new volunteers interested in teaching cooking classes in the new year.

- Breadmaking and Healthy Eating on a Tight Budget as part of the Stone Soup Do-It- Yourself Day engaged 23 participants.
- Cooking with Care Workshops – Lunch Box, Vegetarian Protein Sources, Bulking on a Budget, and Sauerkraut scheduled in 2010.
- **Buen Provecho!**

**Partners:** GWFC, Multicultural Family Centre, Britannia Art Gallery, Britannia Latin American Youth Project

Buen Provecho! brought newcomer Latin American youth with Latin American elders in a mutual learning about their traditional foods. Elders from the Multicultural Family Centre Latin American Seniors group were invited to share and teach their favorite food recipes and food stories as part of a regular Latin American youth cooking group. Recipes and stories were published in a cookbook and translated into English and Spanish.

Additional funds were accessed to photo-document Buen Provecho! and create an exhibit in the Britannia Art Gallery as part of Stone Soup 2009.

Buen Provecho! was considered a very successful project and received rave reviews from all participants and the public. The enormous success of the project was evident in the high level of engagement of both the 14 youth and 11 elders who participated in the project.

Recent funding from New Horizons will see this project continue in 2010 and expanded to include an on-line digital storytelling component. Building cross-cultural partnerships is helping to address Britannia's challenge of outreach to new immigrant communities in our community.



Buen Provecho!



Buen Provecho!





***The first time the youth and the elders in Buen Provecho! met each other was a special event. The youth brought and prepared the food. It was very moving to see how very respectful the youth were to the elders. Though the two groups were strangers, all the youth greeted the elders, sat and talked with them, served the elders their food, and played games and sang songs. The youth had a special respect for their elders and some talked much missed their grandparents who they had left behind in their home countries.***



**Buen Provecho!**

***“Working with Ian on Buen Provecho! has been a great eye opener for the Latin American Youth in learning about food security through volunteering, story telling, and intergenerational cooking. The project helped bridge the gap between the youth and the seniors and it was huge success.”***

**Anntuaneth Figuero  
Coordinator, Britannia Latin  
American Youth Project**

# Education that Builds Knowledge about Food Issues

Interest in local food justice is growing and the GWFC is filling a previous gap in the community by helping to create a myriad of new educational opportunities in this area. Increasingly, a food justice focus is being imbedded into new and existing community programs. Food justice is now a prominent issue in our community.

The GWFC is helping support Britannia's goal of building Britannia as *a centre for social action and a place where community members come together to discuss and solve local and neighbourhood issues and to celebrate successes.*

The GWFC is supporting community education in the following ways:

- **E-newsletter and Blog**

The GWFC serves as an important information hub, providing food and project information for the community through its monthly E-newsletter and Blog updates.

- **Stone Soup Spring Festival**

The Stone Soup Festival is one of Britannia's best loved community celebrations. Stone Soup 2009 was recognized as one of the best ever with greater focus on expanded educational programming as well as having built inclusion by engaging community members who do not normally attend. Ensuring that hard to reach communities are involved in Stone Soup honors the contributions and knowledges of those communities.

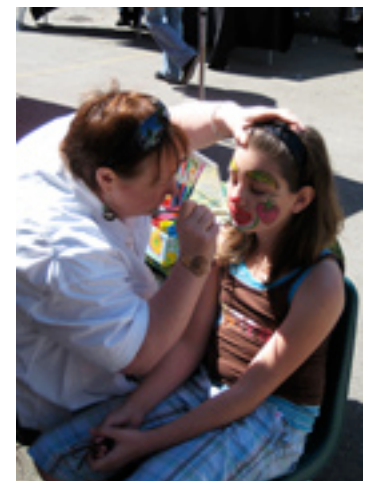
Showcasing innovative projects and engaging diverse community members in this event recognizes the enormous amount of untapped interest, skills, and resources that exist to be shared with the wider public.

In 2009, Stone Soup saw:

- **24 community tables**, some new to Stone Soup, who provided food resources and information



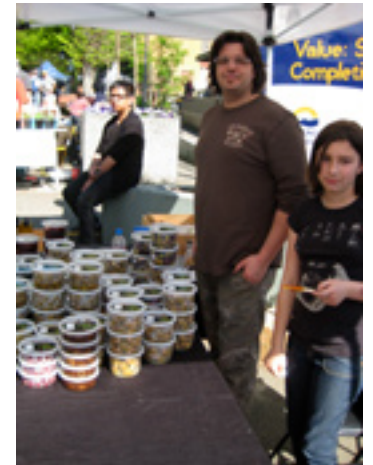
Stone Soup



Stone Soup



- 12 **artists** who were selected because they were working closely with the theme of recycled materials, environmental issues, and food
- **Special presentations** included Food Security for the Faint of Heart, Backyard Chickens, UBC Farm, Miscellaneous Productions, the Buen Provecho! Gallery Exhibit and Book Launch, the Lost and Found Puppet Co., and the CoZy Project
- **Fiesta de las Madres**, co-organized with the Multicultural Family Centre, brought in Latin Americans, many of whom newcomers to Canada, to Stone Soup as well as introducing Stone Soup participants to the Latin American culture. The GWFC was able to help organize feeding of over 500 people at the fiesta



Stone Soup

- **Stone Soup Fall Gathering**

Stone Soup expanded into fall 2009 and was organized as an educational event. This gathering coincided with World Food Day (October 16) and was created in conjunction with the citywide Sustenance: Feasting on Art and Culture Festival centered at the Roundhouse Community Centre.

- **DIY Food Day** focused on cooking workshops including breadmaking, canning, fermentation, and cooking on a tight budget. All the workshops were full with 46 people participating.
- **Food Justice Forum** was a co-organized with PHOOD (Promoting Healthy Options on the Drive) to address issues of accessibility and the cost of food. An organic farmer and food justice advocate spoke to over 50 people in the LRC.
- **Thanksgiving Community Potluck** saw our largest gathering yet with 30 community members attending.
- **Politics of Food Film Festival**. 20 films were screened over two days in the Britannia Auditorium on a range of topics including farm worker



Breadmaking Workshop





rights, nutrition, urban agriculture, and globalization. Approximately 500 people attended and the film festival received rave reviews from audience members.

- **Author Talk and Book Launch** with Dania Matiation on her new book “Food Swings: A Users Guide to Dealing with the Call of Food” was held in the library.
- **Promoting Healthy Options on the Drive (PHOOD)**

**Partners:** GWFC, Vancouver Coastal Health, Reach Health Clinic

PHOOD came together to address the increase of fast food outlets that are a growing health concern, particularly for youth. PHOOD organized meetings with the owners to push for healthy food options, held a fast food mapping exercise at the Commercial Drive Car Free Day, and organized the Stone Soup Food Justice Forum. PHOOD is currently planning a series of community dialogues to build awareness around healthy food options.

- **Corn Festival**

**Partners:** GWFC, Canadian El Salvador Action Network

The Corn Festival has been an annual event in the Vancouver Latin American community for many years. The GWFC helped bring this event to Britannia for the first time with the expressed intent on reaching out to non-Latin American community members and building links between north and the south countries around the various food security issues related to corn. The festival with its music, dancing, food vendors, and educational tables was very successful and built new relationships between Britannia and the Spanish speaking community.



Corn Festival



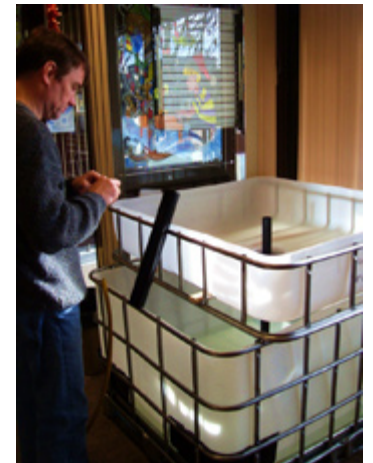
Corn Festival



- **Britannia School Food Security / Aquaponics Project**

**Partners:** GWFC, Britannia High School

Opportunities to work with the Britannia schools to develop food justice programs within the school curriculum and learning are now opening up. Recently, the GWFC prepared a food justice programs outline to help Britannia schools move ahead in this area. A new aquaponics project as part of the Britannia Water Fest is involving 9 high school students in research projects and is also providing an opportunity to talk about expanding school food justice programming.



Aquaponics

- **Britannia Walking Maps**

**Partners:** GWFC, PATH (Promoting Action Together Towards Health), Britannia Adult Recreation, Canadian Diabetes Association

The Britannia Walking Map Launch included a community art walk and health fair and responded to a need to help address increasing levels of obesity, diabetes, and other forms of chronic disease in our community by supporting walking. The event linked healthy activity and healthy eating.

Adults 35 - 55 yrs were targeted and 50 people participated in the actual walk with an additional 100 people who walked through the health fair.

- **Garden Tour and Potluck Discussion**

**Partners:** GWFC, Little Mountain Neighbourhood House, Vancouver Native Health

The GWFC helped organize an East Vancouver community garden tour and potluck discussion as part of an Enhancing Physical Activity grant. This project focused on engaging new immigrant and Aboriginal community members with a focus on exploring barriers to participation for these communities. 15 community members participated in this event.



Walking Map Launch



# Growing into the Future

The Grandview Woodland Food Connection continues to build its capacity as an organization and to expand our profile in the community. We have much growing to do, but as this report has shown, the GWFC has achieved a lot and with the many opportunities to develop programs, we can address food security in new and creative ways that will improve the overall health of the community through a more integrated approach.

In particular, the GWFC is working to align its program with the Vancouver Food Policy Council's New City Market and Neighbourhood Food Precincts proposal embraced by local food security networks. This proposal would see Britannia becoming an even more prominent neighbourhood food hub to address community needs and capacities and becoming a vital space for people to gather, learn, teach, and celebrate food in our community.

As Britannia moves forward with its development plans, opportunities to improve food storage capacity, build a badly needed commercial kitchen, create a cafe space that builds social interaction, partner and better align educational goals with the schools, create new space for events and celebrations, and design environmental sustainability into the buildings, public realm, and landscape are all possible.

This potential would enable Britannia to further develop a more integrated and comprehensive continuum of programs starting with a dignified food provision for the most vulnerable to skill building initiatives such as community kitchens and on-site gardening through to value added social enterprise opportunities in food processing, distribution, and food markets that could provide new revenue generation and employment programs. Together, these programs could improve coordination and food cost savings within current childcare, seniors, youth, recreation and other programming where healthy eating becomes an even greater focus.

Building the GWFC in this way will, however, require stable funding. Currently core funding for the GWFC is \$20,000 year to run its programs, though this amount is low if the GWFC is to sustain its current program and grow into the future. We cannot depend on VCH funding beyond the



Pandora Community Garden



Buen Provecho!





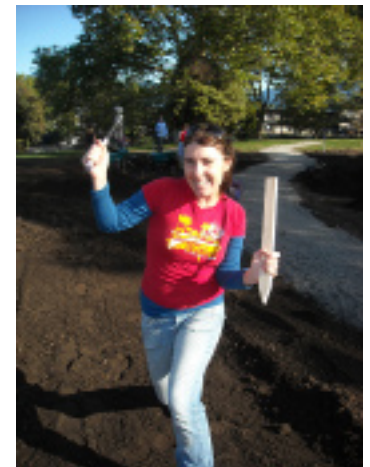
three years of current funding and will need to find alternative sources of funds beginning in the 2011 - 2012 year.

It is within this emerging reality that the GWFC is working to develop a sustainability plan to ensure its longevity. The best-case scenario would see the GWFC become embedded within Britannia as part of its ongoing programming. This is an obvious strategy to pursue and will require increased support from and a stronger relationship with the Britannia Board as they determine their priorities in the upcoming few years. As a first step, the GWFC has invited a Britannia Board member to participate on its Advisory to communicate a Board perspective and to help the GWFC in developing a more detailed strategic plan as touched on above.

Parallel with the Britannia strategy, the GWFC is also exploring new funding partnerships with other organizations, increasing opportunities for individual and self fundraising, increasing corporate sponsorship, building awareness of the GWFC in the community, strengthening our volunteer capacity, and identifying potential leaders capable of supporting projects throughout the community. The goal is to move away from the insecurity and dependency on limited project grants.

Fortunately, the GWFC was able to secure two years of funding through the CFAI grant and has done reasonably well in accessing further funding through grants and community fundraisers for both on-going core funding and projects. The total amount raised to date, excluding CFAI money, is \$38,518.

- Healthy Living Program Community Grant - \$20,000
- Vancouver Foundation, Youth Philanthropy Council - \$3,928
- New Horizons Seniors - \$11,780
- Stone Soup Food Film Festival - \$2,500
- Green Zebra - \$320 thus far
- Cook the Hood – Not yet known



Pandora Community Garden



Buen Provecho!



Organizing around food is a powerful approach to community building. Food is a universal right and something we all love. Awareness about healthy eating, food justice, and environmental issues is driving a huge movement that is pushing for expanded urban agriculture and new and innovative local responses that can provide for healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate foods. We are now seeing that the right to an accessible and dignified food system is increasingly embedded in everyday language and institutional thinking as people everywhere wake up to the importance of taking care of our food system and our vulnerable community members. It is certainly an exciting and energetic time to be working in food security.

The Grandview Woodland Food Connection is proving to be a successful organization that is receiving considerable praise for its work, thanks in part to the terrific support that is provided by Britannia. In turn, providing diverse opportunities for community engagement and building creative partnerships to work on food justice issues is helping Britannia to meet its commitment to support community building and empowerment of its members.

As we look ahead, there are many opportunities for the GWFC to build its programs and to reach many more people. With its strong leadership, a competent advisory committee, its growing base of volunteers, its collaborative projects that are engaging diverse community members, with projects that respond to a clear need in the community, and that reflect community values and culture, the GWFC is in a strong position to see even greater success in the future.



Potluck



Outreach