

BRITANNIA COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT

|2024



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2024 Snapshots



Chinese Folk Dance group perform at SHINE



Div 11 harvest of garlic and scapes



Indigenous Knowledge Keepers exhibit



WCT Paddle Carving



Craft Collective at a Fall Plaza Market



Britannia Courts Skate Park



Britannia Community Services Centre Society originated out of 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. The Centre had its official opening in June of 1976. Britannia Community Services Centre Society operates as an independent agency from other City services. Through a locally elected Board of Management, the non-profit society provides a leadership role in developing and facilitating recreation, arts, social, and education services to the neighbourhoods of Grandview-Woodland and Strathcona. The Society functions under the British Columbia Societies Act and is governed by a Board of Management made up of 16 elected members including two youth positions and representatives from our partner organizations.

In collaboration with the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, the Vancouver Public Library, and the Vancouver School Board, the Society manages an 18-acre site on the unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. Our facilities include a pool, ice rink, fitness centre, boxing room, gymnasiums, meeting rooms, a public library, the Teen Centre, the 55+ Centre, child care facilities, an elementary school, a secondary school, the xʷqʷeləwən ct Carving Centre, and multipurpose facilities.

Board of Management 2024 - 2025

Executive Committee:

President	Naina Varbney
Vice President	Craig Ollenberger
Treasurer	John Flipse

Executive Members:	Ariela Friedmann
	Norm Leech

Directors:	Adrienne Bale
	Tom Chang
	Susanne Dahlin
	Pamela Dudas
	Pat Hogan
	Vera Jones
	Nick Simpson
	Terumi Squibb

Youth Directors:

TBD

Partners:

Vancouver Public Library	Julie McKnight
Vancouver School Board	Sonia Blair
Community Education Coordinator	Maddie Lafleur

Senior Staff:

Executive Director	Christina Low
Manager of Administrative Services	Jeremy Shier
Manager of Child Care	Jacky Hughes
Community Recreation Coordinator	Peter Ody
Manager of Organizational Change	Suzette Amara
Office Administrator	Marina Montiel

Liaisons to Britannia:

Vancouver Park Board	Tom Digby
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Society Objectives

1. Develop and encourage new arrangements for coordination and integration of community services provided by a variety of agencies and individuals.
2. Provide a centre for social action, a place where people meet to discuss the local area and neighbourhood problems and work together to solve them.
3. Advocate and support Reconciliation in collaboration with Indigenous peoples within the mandate of the Centre and in the context of historical, social, and systemic inequities for Indigenous peoples.
4. Maintain two-way communication between the Centre and the community to ensure awareness of community needs, and to inform local citizens on the availability of programs and services.
5. Provide means of community involvement in the development and delivery of all programs with which the Centre is associated and thereby making such programs responsive to changing needs.
6. Provide local citizens with access to all programs and services in the Centre.
7. Sponsor, and where necessary, operate programs and services in the community.
8. Ensure that the necessary staff and facilities are available to achieve the above.

Mission & Vision

Our dream:

The wellbeing, sense of belonging, joy, and empowerment of everyone in our community.

To realize our dream:

We are stewards of spaces that support social connection, creativity, recreation, reconciliation and the realization of the full potential of people and communities.

In partnership with our communities, we create integrated programs, services, and opportunities on the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.



55+ Centre

- Heat Preparedness – Created Cooling Kits for each senior registered in Britannia Community Centre Programs. Brought to programs, including mini info and resources sessions by 55+ Staff, Vietnamese Seniors Worker and Volunteer Coordinator
- Build Your Own Free Air Cleaner Workshop – over 60 floor fans with filters created with seniors to take home. Partnership with BC Lung Foundation, SFU & COV
- Partnering with Weaving Community Together department to deliver ongoing Indigenous Cultural programs for seniors and elders in the AML Lounge, including a free lunch. (Thursdays & Wednesdays)
- 55+ Craft Collective – hand stitched mobile phone cases gifts for every Britannia High School graduate for 2024
- VPL Partnerships – 1st community Free Store, all items donated new or lightly used, Free Library in AML Lounge, and ESL Conversation Practice
- REACH Partnerships – 3rd Annual Cross Cultural Health and Wellbeing Fair then Heat & Smoke Safety, Cold Safety and Fall Prevention workshops
- Government of Canada - Service Canada Benefits, CPP, and Old Age Security info session.
- Community Kitchen Workshops, partnering with GWFC (Food security)
- WEAAD Event with GWPC

Vietnamese Seniors

- We provided help with settlement services, and assisted low-income seniors to find affordable housing through BC Housing programs
- We continue to partner with The Multicultural Family Centre and these joint programs promote a healthy lifestyle and wellness for Vietnamese seniors
- Many seniors participated in special events, recreational activities and programming throughout the year, providing social interaction, emotional support, and promoting good physical and mental wellbeing

2024 Program Highlights

Arts & Culture

- We introduced a new children's art making program with Jennifer Anoruie, and offered more afterschool programs like Guitar lessons and Spanish. During school breaks we have offered new Explore Latin Culture Camps, along with Greenhorn Music and Summer Dance camps with Endorphin Rush Dance. We held a summer Children's Concert in the park featuring Monica Lee.
- Our popular pottery programs with Helen Spaxman also held intensive classes like Teapot making. New hands on programming began with Making Cement Bowls with Karine Zamor, and Traditional Easter Egg Pysanka workshops with Tanya Znak.
- Salsa Cubana with Carlos dance continues to offer four levels of Adult Dance per week in the evenings. New dance classes included Traditional Bachata and beginner Samba with Naduska, and Swing Dance with Kat Single-Dain.
- We hosted over 200 artists at markets and events throughout the year including Art Gallery Exhibitions, Alcove installations, Plaza Markets, Winter Craft Market and community events such as the Equinox Coffeehouse, and the SHINE Intercultural event.

Britannia Art Gallery and Alcoves

- Amanda Lye, Jess Sung, and Danais Yera Guerra filled in the curator role until the curator Iris Hounbo was hired in May 2024.
- We hosted 12 Exhibitions in the library that had Catered openings with Michael Speier.
- We now have the Alcoves up and running. We began with the Black History Month "*Portrait Project Black Histories and Black Futures*" with photographer Jess Sung, supported by Amanda Lye. This project highlighted some of the Black Leaders in our community from elementary school teachers, community centre staff & instructors, and artists in our community.
- We continue hosting shows that run two months.

šxʷqʷeləwən ct Carving Centre

- We continue to support Indigenous art making, and public art, and 2024 highlighted the raising of the Kyatchn Pole/marker with a ceremony that took place with Master Carver Darren Yelton:Knakweltn from Squamish Nation on April 11, 2024.
- The Raven Pole has been completed and waiting for installation.

Public Art

- New Murals on site now include: the entrance of the Teen Centre created with the youth and Miska Creative to show courage, truth, honesty, respect, love and wisdom through animals; Helen Spaxman renewed the Oval mural with fresh colours; East Side Family Place celebrated their 45th anniversary with a mural project on the outside wall with local Haida artist Derek Edenshaw with a focus on their Children's Charter of Rights; Murals of the Otters in the pool and the Orca and Seaweed in pool lobby by Charlene Johnny, as well as the Coast Salish seaweed on the fitness centre windows.
- We began to document all the public artwork projects on site and will eventually be offering an art walk for the community to do self-guided tours.



Food Security

- Our Britannia Bulk Buy Food Club fulfilled 1796 veggie orders for 154 families over 47 weeks. We also rescued 6,641 lbs of perfectly good food, removing that from our waste stream and getting it into people's bellies.
- We hosted 14 food and garden workshops and had over 200 participants. Some favorites were distilling cedar into hydrosol, making mocktails from flowering red currant blossoms, and learning about our garden friends: pollinators, worms, and honeybees.
- We expanded our School Gardens programs by bringing on a new Garden Educator, Sharlene, who worked with Victoria, our ṣxʷqʷeləwən ct Gardener. We continued to work with Britannia Community Elementary students and Britannia Secondary students, and after months of planning we took over all garden & food literacy education at Grandview Elementary, from our partners Fresh Roots who have been doing great work there for years.
- We centered Indigenous food systems with the Urban Fish Smoking Camp, ṣxʷqʷeləwən ct swale build, and plant syrups workshops.

Sports & Fitness

- We offered over 400 sport and fitness programs in 2024. Over 6500 children, youth and adults registered for programs and over 5500 community members dropped in to our sport and fitness programs. Britannia received over 300,000 participant activity visits.
- Britannia Gymnastics Club and Micro Footie lead the way as our largest offerings, with almost 2000 participants annually, and more than 800 people on waitlists. These two programs continued to generate much of the revenues that fund our 55+/seniors and youth programs.
- Britannia offered approximately 45 hours of children's and 65 hours of adult fitness programs weekly utilizing only 70 hours of gymnasium time per week.
- Partnerships with Micro Footie, BC Boxing, Gymnastics BC, Zumba Vancouver, Art of Tennis as well as many local expert contractors has added to the continued success of this program area.

Youth Programs

- The Teen Centre had many new additions come to the Centre, starting with our very first Indigenous Community Youth Worker, Rebecca Bras. Rebecca worked with Denise Johnson in bringing Indigenous programming directly into the Teen Centre, where youth created silk screened tote bags, cedar w headbands, beaded graduation caps and braiding. These programs were facilitated by Knowledge Keepers who also provided teachings for the youth on the activity.
- A group show was curated at the Britannia Art Gallery by Girls Who Leap Empowerment Project showcasing their art and fashion.



2024 Program Highlights

Pool & Fitness Centre

- Britannia Pool received a vibrant refresh with a newly repainted walls around the pool deck, giving the facility a clean and vibrant new look. We were also honoured to welcome Indigenous artist Charlene Johnny, who created several beautiful pieces of artwork now displayed on the pool deck and in the lobby, adding cultural significance and visual warmth to the space.
- Throughout the year, a healthy number of swimming lessons were offered, helping community members of all ages build confidence and skills in the water. A major highlight was the return of the Britannia Swim Club program, which quickly gained momentum and has been met with enthusiastic participation from swimmers.

Rink

- As Britannia Arena goes through major renovations from March 17 through the remainder of 2025, we can reflect on the programs that we were able to run from Fall 2024 till present (July 2025).
- The Vancouver Adult CO-ED Hockey League was able to expand to almost 600 players with the addition of the Women and Gender Diverse Division. Unrelated to this enhancement, our League Coordinator Jocelyne LeBlanc was awarded a provincial honor for her decades of contribution to Women and Gender Diverse Hockey participation.
- Other program highlights included a new late night adult hockey skills class that was sold out every time it was offered. Continued collaboration to deliver access to the rink with Canucks Autism Network, Britannia Student Council, Hockey Education Reaching Out Society, Britannia Hockey Academy and Vancouver Minor Hockey Association. As well as our established society and park board programs.



Game day for Micro Footie League



Britannia Ice Rink



New murals at the pool by Charlene Johnny



Girls Who Leap group art exhibit



Bird encounter at SHINE



WCT at Grandview Elementary

Volunteer

The impact of our volunteers goes far beyond the numbers. Through their involvement in events, programs, and special projects, they helped create a stronger, more connected community. Their generosity and commitment continue to inspire unity and resilience, highlighting just how vital volunteers are in shaping a positive future for everyone.

Tax Clinic Impact:

- This year, our Tax Clinic made a meaningful difference by assisting with 1,299 tax returns — an outstanding response to community needs. We're especially grateful to the Britannia Library for generously providing the space that allowed the clinic to run smoothly, and to our incredible team of a dozen dedicated volunteers, whose time and effort were instrumental in making this year's clinic such a success.



Micro Footie Coaches:

- Micro Footie continued to thrive in 2024, with 134 volunteer coaches stepping up to make the season a fantastic experience for young athletes. Their energy and dedication were at the heart of this year's program, helping to foster teamwork, growth, and fun for all participants.

Expanding Volunteer Engagement:

- Volunteers remained essential across a wide range of roles—serving on boards and committees, supporting senior and youth programs, and contributing to initiatives like the Food Bulk Buy Program. Their ongoing passion and reliability were central to delivering quality programs throughout the year. In addition to their many contributions, volunteers also enjoyed connecting with each other at special events such as Fun Bike Rides, Field Trips, and the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner — opportunities to celebrate, socialize, and recognize their invaluable efforts within our community.

Weaving Community Together (WCT)

Weaving Community Together (WCT) program had an eventful 2024!

- WCT built a relationship with the Vancouver School Board and brought in Indigenous programming to Grandview Elementary School, making Indigenous programming accessible to the Grandview/Woodland area. Students from grades 3-7 created beaded medallions, moccasins, learned the importance of hair braiding, canvas painting and even learned how to Pow Wow Dance!
- WCT helped the community celebrate Indigenous Peoples day with a celebration in Grandview Park PRIDE month by creating PRIDE pins, and helped get the community ready by making Orange Shirts for Orange Shirt Day! Indian Residential School Survivors Society (IRSSS) has attended programs and will continue to do so to keep that relationship with our Britannia community.

Message from the President & Executive Director

We present the 2024 Annual Report with great humility and gratitude. This past year has been challenging and transformative as we started many changes to the organization; Britannia undertook a merger with Mount Pleasant Child Care Society, Eagles in the Sky Association, and Grandview Terrace Child Care Society; we deepened our commitment to address the health, wealth, education and social disparity in our neighbourhood through an Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Indigenous framework; and we have made adjustments to moving our leadership as the Board of Management away from operations and towards governance as we pursue long term sustainability for the Society.

Fundamentally, the centre of all these changes has been answering the question of how we can best serve our community with purpose and intention while creating impact that help residents thrive. Our intention is to build our capacity to respond to emerging conditions, to remain transparent, to retain our connection to community and to continue to create new models of recreation, arts, culture, activism and social services. We have taken risks and made mistakes, but together, with the dedication and commitment of the Board, staff and volunteers, we recognize and accept these mistakes and will endeavor to continuously learn from our missteps this past year.

There was also a disappointing response from the City of Vancouver as they reduced the vision and dream of the Britannia Renewal in the face of financial demands on the municipality. They have committed to the redevelopment of a new pool, community gymnasium, expanded fitness centre, multipurpose spaces, cultural spaces and possibly, new childcare and a covered all-wheels park. These will be important facilities for our neighbourhood.

Through it all our staff have been positive, resilient, enthusiastic, and persistent in maximizing the limited space we have and offering innovative programming, consistent quality recreation services and exemplary interactions with the community. We thank everyone for their invaluable contributions and are deeply grateful for the time, creativity, and passion invested in making Britannia a place where folks wish to be. There is much work to do as we enter into our 50th year of service to the community. We look forward to hearing from residents to guide us through the next phase of the Britannia Community Services Centre Society as we develop the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan.

In gratitude,

Naina Varshney
President, Britannia Board of Management

Cynthia Low
Executive Director



TipTap to donate!



Winter Craft Market



Winter snow blankets ʔxʷqʷeləwən ct

Message from the Manager of Child Care Services

The Britannia Child Care Hub is made up of Britannia Child Care, Eagles in the Sky Child Care Association, Grandview Terrace Child Care Society, and Britannia on East 7th (formerly Mount Pleasant Child Care Society). We provide over 290 licensed spaces and oversee over fifty regular educators and over twenty auxiliary educators in various settings across the locality.

The Britannia Child Care Hub is unique in that we support two independent, parent led Societies, while working with, Vancouver Coastal Health, Aboriginal Child and Family Support Services, Vancouver School Board, City of Vancouver, BCGEU, Early Childhood Pedagogy Network and many more. We bear the responsibility of identifying, understanding, and supporting the needs of families and children in our community. It is with the many community partners that we strive to provide a range of safe, stimulating, nurturing and high-quality programs that respect and embrace each child and family.

2024 Highlights

- Mount Pleasant Child Care Society were successful applicants to become \$10/day child care site beginning March 2024. In total, 100% of Britannia CC Hub programs are now funded by the Ministry of Education and Child Care.
- In 2023 Britannia collaborated with consultants to develop options for new partnership models that would define and support Child Care Hub (CC Hub). Board of Management voted to move forward with a model that would support the future of childcare in our community through amalgamation. During 2024 we collaborated with the consultants and Child Care Boards on the amalgamation process and ensuring that the new model was the right fit for all involved.
- Britannia Child Care Hub provided opportunities for training and education in: Pedagogical Practice, in October 2024 Britannia hosted a PD Day that focused on, The Role of the Educator: Care, Aboriginal Supported Child Development and Vancouver Supported Childcare hosted workshops for Brit Hub OSC educators and Britannia hosted several leadership workshops for the Senior Supervisors.
- The Hub continued collaboration with the Early Childhood Pedagogy Network (ECPN) to bring a Pedagogy to the Hub programs and introduced a partnership with Capilano University to have an atelier as a joint MPCCS.

2025 Priorities

- We will continue to move ahead with recommended changes to the Britannia Child Care Hub model. This includes building an organizational model that will ensure high quality, sustainable, and community focused child care programs
- Training and Education in Pedagogical Commitments, Leadership and Diversity and Inclusion.
- Advocacy for increased child care spaces in the Grandview Woodlands Community.
- Child Care Dept. strategic planning and development.

Sincerely,

Jacky Hughes

Manager of Child Care Services

Message from the Manager of Organizational Change

I'm grateful to work in the vibrant Britannia Village, on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. I honor their strength and leadership in guiding us toward respect and good relations.

This past year, we've grown through partnerships and community engagement, prioritizing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in programs and our team. We remain focused on culturally safe, community-informed services, with staff deepening their learning in Reconciliation and Community Care to better support our community.

2024 Highlights

- Reconciliation In Action Committee changed the name to a CIRCLE! The RIA Circle is committed to decolonizing how we gather. Our name change reflects our dedication to creating spaces where Indigenous voices are valued and centered, guided by inclusion, equity, and accessibility.
- Elders In Residence Program - UBC Indigenous Studies practicum student Cecilia Rainwater completed research on an Elders in Residence Program for Britannia, presenting her final report to the Board, RIA Circle, and SEA Committee. Paired with a grant proposal, this work secured Civil Forfeiture Grant funding, and the program is set to launch in Fall 2025.
- Indigenous Programmer Denise Fortin has been successful with Weaving Community Together Programming led by local Indigenous Knowledge Keepers for all ages and all people. Also coordinated by Denise is WCT After School Programming partnership with Right to Play & Vancouver School Board, offering Indigenous-led workshops at Grandview Elementary & Xpey Elementary Schools.
- The Kayachtyn Pole carved by Squamish Nation Master Carver, Darren Yelton:Knakweltn. Ceremonial Pole Raising April 11, 2024 included drummers and dancers Spakwus Slolem (the Eagle Song Dancers).
- June 21 National Indigenous Peoples Day in partnerships with various Indigenous local Organizations to include Cultural performances, Indigenous Artists and an Indigenous Market.
- On September 30, Orange Shirt Day – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – Britannia honored Survivors' resilience, strength, and empowerment through remembrance, respect, and cultural sharing. Proceeds from Britannia Orange T-shirts supported Indigenous programming for Weaving Community Together, in collaboration with local Indigenous organizations.
- Partnerships: We are deeply grateful for our growing partnerships with local organizations dedicated to the community, including VAHS, VACPC, REACH, MVAEC, Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House, SAGE Nation, VAFC, BC Indigenous Housing Society, VACFSS, DUDES Club, Slaxin Lelum, VLACC, IRSSS, the Vancouver Police Department, Vancouver School Board, Vancouver Public Library (Britannia Branch), Vancouver Parks Board, and Right to Play.
- Indigenous Concert Series in partnership with the Vancouver Parks Board, 4 Concerts in Grandview Park in May, June, July and August featuring local Indigenous Artists bringing community together through music.
- Communications: We are enhancing our communications through social media, the Program Guide, web-site, on-site posters, and outreach. A Communications team is forming, with myself as lead and a new assistant joining in Fall 2025.



Message from the Manager of Organizational Change

I'm grateful to be part of this journey of ReconciliACTION and to witness the diversity that makes Britannia a true Village—a place of joy, cultural safety, learning, and well-being through arts, culture, sport, and recreation. Moving forward, we are developing a Reconciliation Strategy guided by the TRC Calls to Action and UNDRIP, continuing to learn, unlearn, build bridges, and foster belonging, wellness, and fun in our community.

Gilakas'la (Thank You)

Suzette Amaya - Manager of Organizational Change

Kwakwaka'wakw/ Coast Salish/ Nisga'a/ Cree

Message from the Community Recreation Coordinator

Britannia's Recreation Department's focus is "to facilitate high quality community programs that are accessible, responsive, inclusive, and meet community needs." We are about creating opportunities for community to come together and build relationships.

Successes

Our Britannia Programs show continued success at reflecting our evolving community's passions, seeing waiting lists as facilities are stretched to meet growing expectations and increased need to share spaces with community led programming.

The recreation programming team continues to be amazing, collaborative and creative problem solvers as we invite new members from community in and work even closer with our returning partners.

Personnel changes over the year included:

We have seen a year of increased stability this year

- Danny Hui in his second year as Britannia Pool Programmer has provided amazing stability and a strong community culture at the pool.
- Denise Johnson in her second year as our new Weaving Community Together Programmer has expanded indigenous programming into the teen centre and other areas.
- Victoria Buffalo Robe unfortunately left us as our Indigenous Gardener moving on to different paths in life and her work on site has been taken on by Dominic Corusscion who has proven amazing by jumping right in to school programs and enthusiastically looking after the gardens.
- Dean Andrews has come to lead our Pool and Rink Maintenance team and then was taken by the city to act in a supervisory role for most of the year. Huge thank you to Andrii Besporstov, who rose to the occasion and looked after us in his absence.
- Jay Aikenhead has filled in fantastically, assisting with duties in the rink and playground areas as Susy Bando has been away this summer.
- Rebecca Brass has joined us as our new Indigenous Youth Worker after our last youth worker left in 2020. She has been absolutely, amazing in bringing new life to the teen centre, and caring leadership to the teen centre team.

(Continued)

Message from the Community Recreation Coordinator

The Future:

As Britannia continues to push for eventual facility renewal, it is increasingly important for Britannia to go farther and provide programs and services with extra value to our unique community. It will be further important that we define that historic value to and maintain our existing facilities so we can continue our unique community services.

2025 Programming Highlights:

This community demands to find opportunities to get together again and interact with neighbors and family in fun ways and in 2025 with our rink closed most of the year for maintenance, the pressures from inflation and cost of living ever apparent it was more important than ever.

Building capacity and thoughtful inclusion of our diverse community influenced our work plans and includes work in:

- Cultural competence which is a continued focus, included revitalizing staff and volunteers with a series of in-services and workshops
- We continue with working with our community and peers hosting more community led programs and events
- We continue building community partnerships influencing recreation culture through the hub while moving forward our efforts toward reconciliation as leaders in community and for the city with continued efforts to move ever forward
- We continue to work hard to reduce barriers to access with our fun for all programs and increased familiarity and access to LAP

We all, the Settler, the Indigenous, the refugee, acknowledge and are grateful to the Coast Salish peoples as we work together and play on their lands the traditional, unceded and ancestral lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm | Musqueam, Skwxwú7mesh | Squamish & səliłwətał | Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

Together we commit to listen, learn and speak

With thanks

Peter Ody

Community Recreation Coordinator on behalf of the Britannia Programming Team



Britannia Bulk Buy Food Club



Traditional Easter Egg Pysanka



Latin Culture camp

Grandview Woodland Food Connection



In 2024, we invested in our future sustainability by converting our Community Food Security Coordinator role from an auxiliary position, that could be eliminated at any time, to a permanent full-time position. This will ensure the future of our neighbourhood food network and provide stability for our staff.

We also welcomed Sharlene officially to our team as a Garden Educator.

We have previously worked with Sharlene through our partnership with the Society Promoting Environmental Conservation, and are excited to contract her directly so we can provide more garden lessons than ever before!

In 2023 we began a conversation with our partners Fresh Roots about the possibility of us taking over the garden and food literacy education and garden maintenance at Grandview Elementary. After much planning, and discussion with Fresh Roots, Grandview Elementary, and Vancouver Coastal Health, we fully transitioned the program to the GWFC in Spring 2024. To ensure that the students and teachers were fully supported during the transition, Sharlene and Victoria from the GWFC team worked alongside of Andrea from Fresh Roots before and after we took over. We now support three schools in our neighbourhood: Britannia Community Elementary, Grandview Elementary, and Britannia Secondary. Overall, in 2024 we provided 158 garden & food literacy lessons to 415 students in 26 classes!

We partnered with Britannia Community Elementary to host a two-week Urban Fish Smoking Camp which brought cultural salmon knowledge to the inner city with Knowledge Keeper Kym Stogan. Kym Stogan is the great niece of Hereditary Chief Walker Stogan, granddaughter of Vincent Stogan, and is of Musqueam and Mohawk ancestry. Kym's husband Gordon, who is a fisherman and caught some of the fish that were used supported the sessions as well as Brandon Peters, from the VSB Indigenous Education Department. The school and community sessions explored the type of salmon that run in the Fraser River, how salmon support the ecosystem, and the importance to of the fish to the Musqueam people and the west coast peoples.

We continued to deepen our land-based work by partnering with Young Agrarians in a two-day work bee to build swales in our ʁxʷqʷeləwən ct (One Heart, One Mind) Garden. As this garden is not only in an urban environment, but literally in the middle of a parking lot, ensuring that the Indigenous plants receive enough water is challenging. The swales we built will help retain water in the garden and mimic some of the ecosystem services that the natural environment provided before it was disrupted. We also centred Indigenous food systems in our workshops on plant syrups and cedar distillation.

Folks let us know that they wanted to cook with us more, so we piloted Seniors Community Kitchens in Fall of 2024 in collaboration with the Vancouver Parks Board with the return of the Sustenance Festival. We also began to work on our mission, vision, and values. We are looking forward to continuing with Community Kitchens and the strategic planning work in 2025.

Our team of 8 GWFC Committee volunteers, 19 Britannia Bulk Buy Food Club volunteers, 75 Garden volunteers, and 32 Event volunteers put in 1520 hours of volunteer work throughout 2024 and are the heart of our neighbourhood food network.

Warmly,

Ruth Elizabeth Briggs
Community Food Security Coordinator

Message from the Treasurer

As Treasurer of the Board and Chair of the Finance Committee, I would like to thank the Board members who elected me again as Treasurer for their trust and support, as well as the members of the Finance Committee for their commitment to Britannia. The Treasurer and the Finance Committee oversee and are responsible for the Community Centre's operating budget of \$10.3 million for the 2025 fiscal year. Revenue is derived from a variety of sources including the City of Vancouver who funds core functions such as programming, administration, and maintenance. Monies received by a wide variety of other grants, contributions, and registration fees including Provincial Funding for Child Care, augment basic funding as well. In 2024, before Foundation transfers Britannia completed the year close to breaking even, with a small surplus of \$8,457. As we continue to budget for growth within Britannia's Reconciliation programs we had forecasted a budgeted deficit of just under \$100,000. Completing the year without a deficit places Britannia in a healthy position to continue these programs. As Britannia had a strong year financially in 2023, as per its Annual Surplus policy, Britannia did transfer \$139,677 from the Society to the Britannia Foundation in 2024. These transfers ensure long-term sustainability for Britannia for years to come.

Sincerely,

John Flipse
Treasurer

Message from the Manager of Administrative Services

Administration at the Britannia Community Service Centre includes finance and accounting, human resources, and facilities. In Fiscal 2023, the Britannia Society completed the year with a small annual surplus of \$8,547, completing the year in a stronger than anticipated position. In 2024, the Britannia admin team embarked on a number of exciting projects, including developing Britannia's new website and completing the acquisition of its three offsite Child Care centres. Britannia's website is seeing a complete redesign and the new site's launch date is in August 2025. Britannia has also been working diligently with the offsite Child Care centres Board of Directors to complete the acquisition by September 2025. This will have large impacts for Britannia financially, as Britannia's total operations will expand by \$2.3 million (22%) and the Province of BC will become a more prominent funder.

I would like to take this time to thank the entire Britannia Administration team for their hard work that they do day in and day out. This includes front desk, cashiers, accounting, and facility support staff.

Sincerely,

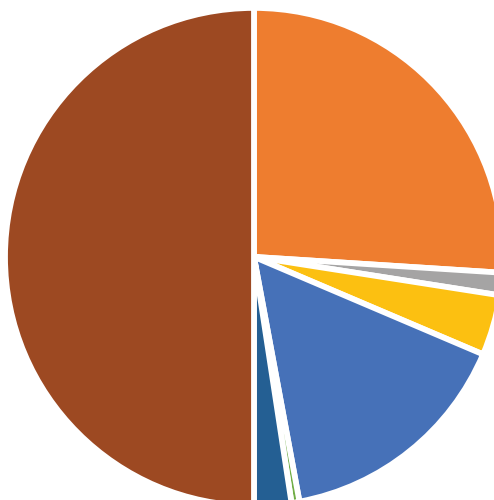
Jeremy Shier
Manager of Administrative Services



Statement of Operations

Revenue	2024	2023
City of Vancouver (Operations)	5,339,772	4,882,871
Rink & Pool	1,254,284	1,264,131
Donations, Membership Fees, & Special Events	166,295	148,987
Licensed Gaming	161,187	149,132
Rentals	19,536	15,247
Interest	39,942	35,130
Britannia Community Services Foundation	107,964	90,358
Amortization of Deferred Capital Contributions	25,211	19,755
Reconciliation Programs & Events	124,815	327,301
Child Care	1,133,181	1,037,023
Recreation	1,616,923	1,479,276
Community Education	466,383	437,602
Other	-	1,333
Total	10,455,493	9,888,146

Revenue

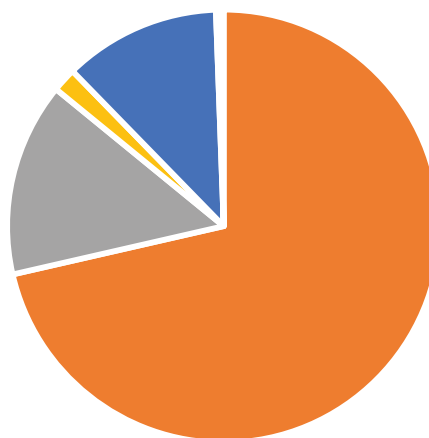


- Revenue
- City of Vancouver
- Govt Of Canada
- Province of BC
- Fee for Service
- Foundation
- Other
- TOTAL

Finances 2024

Expenses	2024	2023
Maintenance and Operations of Buildings, Equipment, etc.	2,572,678	2,420,849
Salaries, Wages, and Benefits (Society)	1,907,635	1,786,485
Salaries, Wages, and Benefits (Parks Board Staff)	2,025,682	1,854,829
Administration	219,276	215,921
Licensed Gaming	161,187	149,132
General Programs	200,829	135,755
Reconciliation Programs and Events	294,925	413,532
Child Care	1,066,716	1,021,179
Recreation	1,478,059	1,373,482
Community Education	482,845	454,669
Other	210	768
Amortization of Capital Assets	36,904	31,643
Total	10,446,946	9,858,244
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses Before Undernoted	8,547	29,902
Transfer to Foundation	(139,677)	
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses	(131,130)	29,902

Expenses



- Expenses
- Salaries and Benefits
- Maintenance and Utilities
- Administration
- Program Expenses
- Training and Development
- Depreciation

Statement of Financial Position

Assets	2024	2023
Current Assets:		
Cash	1,037,245	171,882
Short-term Investments	1,406,101	1,040,676
Accounts Receivable:		
City of Vancouver	491,855	813,477
Other	224,645	322,259
Investments	330,371	626,566
Capital assets	508,293	507,083
Due from City of Vancouver & Parks Board	276,000	268,800
Total Assets	4,274,510	3,750,743

Liabilities	2024	2023
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	692,709	305,583
Deferred Contributions	516,883	438,991
Deferred Revenue	258,267	244,545
Due to Related Parties	1,086,365	869,011
Employee Future Benefits	327,300	316,500
Working Capital Advance	81,000	81,000
Deferred Capital Contributions	423,304	474,001
Total Liabilities	3,385,828	2,729,631

Net Assets	2024	2023
Invested in Capital Assets	84,989	96,682
Internally Restricted	803,682	924,430
Total Net Assets	888,682	1,021,112
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	4,274,510	3,750,743

2025 Plans

1. Celebrating Britannia's 50th Anniversary

- As we approach this milestone year, our focus is on creating joyful and engaging environments that foster fun, connection, and celebration for our community.

2. Child Care Hub Redesign

- Complete the integration of Eagles in the Sky Child Care and Grandview Terrace Child Care into the Britannia network in collaboration with parents, consultants, and child care centres.
- Develop clear Terms of Reference for parent participation in governance.
- Partner with the Early Childhood Pedagogy Network and Capilano University to enhance and co-develop program curricula.

3. Website Redevelopment

- Work with Kipling Media to redesign Britannia's website, ensuring a modern, user-friendly platform for both patrons and staff.

4. Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

- Strengthen partnerships with Indigenous organizations and diverse community groups.
- Establish a Three Host Nations Advisory Committee to guide cultural protocols for celebrations, ceremonies, and collaborative projects.

5. Succession Planning & Organizational Capacity

- Review staffing needs in departments anticipating retirements.
- Update Britannia's Organizational Chart.
- Develop a comprehensive onboarding manual for new staff.

6. Strategic Planning: 2026–2030

- Create Britannia's next five-year Strategic Plan (2026–2030) to provide direction and continuity.

7. Program Evaluation & Development

- Establish Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to assess program effectiveness and ensure alignment with community needs.

8. Facility Upgrades

- Collaborate with the City of Vancouver to prioritize and implement necessary facility improvements, beginning with the Ice Rink renewal project.

