



# 2018 - 2019 Annual Report

# About Britannia

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. 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 an 18-acre complex which consists of:

- elementary school
- public library
- secondary school
- five child care centres
- teen centre
- preteen centre
- 55+ centre
- boxing ring and mat room
- swimming pool
- fitness centre
- ice rink
- four gymnasiums
- learning resource centre
- community information centre
- meeting rooms
- numerous off-site programs & activities

## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2018 - 2019

### Executive Committee:

President: Scott Clark  
 Vice President: Ingrid Kolsteren  
 Treasurer: John Flipse

### Executive Members:

Annie Danilko  
 Freya Kristensen

### Directors:

Susanne Dahlin  
 Pamela Dudas  
 Levi Higgs  
 Vera Jones  
 Juan Carlos Maldonado  
 Craig Ollenberger  
 Andrew Phillips  
 Naina Varshney  
 Li Mei Yip

### Staff Rep:

Jane Stanier

### Partners:

Vancouver Public Library  
 Vancouver Park Board  
 Vancouver School Board  
 Community Education Coordinator  
 Megan Langley  
 Peter Odynsky  
 Alec MacInnes  
 Ron Scott

### Senior Staff:

Executive Director  
 Manager of Administrative Services  
 Manager of Child Care  
 Cynthia Low  
 Jeremy Shier  
 Rachel Day

### Honourary Board Members:

Michael Clagu  
 Maurice Egan  
 Thelma Lindsay  
 John Minichiello  
 Margaret Mitchell

### Liaisons to Britannia:

Vancouver City Council  
 Vancouver School Board  
 Vancouver Park Board  
 Kerry Jang  
 Carmen Cho  
 Barbara Parrott  
 Stuart MacKinnon



Fatimeh, a CFEC parent, and her brother (see p. 17 for more details)



Youth Paddle Project (see p. 12 for more details)



Community Action Plan for Children (CAPC) volunteers

# President of Britannia Board of Management



Scott Clark speaking at a Reconciliation in Action event at Ray-Cam

This past year has gone by so fast as the Board of Management of Britannia Community Services Centre continues to be an incredible source of creativity, passion, intelligence, and commitment to our principles of full inclusion, transparency, and accountability to our residents and partners. Collectively, the Board of Management is united by our common interest that all children, youth, and families in our neighbourhood have the right and responsibility to be involved and reflected in the broader community that we live in. Active citizen engagement is what we all strive for; we aim to remove barriers and build healthy neighbourhoods for all.

As governors of Britannia, we are a working board. Each of us must be involved in committees with partners and residents, and we report back to the board on our respective committee work. This work is guided by our principles to ensure we build programs and services that meet the needs of our residents in Grandview-Woodland and Strathcona. This neighbourhood is currently under many stresses due to the rising cost to live, work and play in one of Canada's most expensive cities. We understand these challenges as they often conflict with the principles we work with to implement and create positive change in our catchment area.

Our committees and residents who volunteer their time contribute tens of thousands of hours of work that's making our neighbourhood more inclusive. We are forever grateful to all the folks who have taken on the responsibility to be active citizens and build a community that is responsive to current and emerging needs. The backbone of Britannia is all the folks who volunteer, big or small. This is what makes Britannia so special to our neighbourhood.

2019 - 2020 will provide our residents with an opportunity to shape this city and neighbourhood as we will be continuing the Renewal and the City Plan process. Vancouver's only 'City Plan' was created in 1928, titled the Bartholomew Plan. While this plan was never a formal plan, it has guided much of the development of the City as we know it today. Our new Mayor and Council has made a commitment to develop a new plan and we believe we have an opportunity to fully engage Grandview-Woodland and Strathcona residents in a plan, as we seek to ensure folks today and future generations of children, youth, and families can age in their community.

We are excited to be launching Youth Voices for Reconciliation (YVR) with the Our Place team as we work within the 5 inner city neighbourhoods to create opportunities that promote active citizen engagement from a youth lens, and really dig in to seek strategic opportunities for children and youth to develop their leadership skills. We will be partnering with local community centres, neighbourhood houses, libraries, schools and other interested partners. This work will assist in further developing the residence-based community governance model that Our Place continues to work on.

Britannia's goal is to work with our residents, build partnerships at the local level, and engage all levels of government to work in a new community governance model – one which sees us all developing a seamless service delivery approach that supports the diverse needs of our citizens in the catchment area we serve. Democracy is much more than voting – it's about taking ones place in their community, raising concerns, and actively developing a team approach to implement strategies and evaluate, if in fact, the strategies are working or not. The combined skills of our staff, volunteers, board, and patrons of Britannia are our greatest asset and we encourage all folks to join us on this journey to build healthy, inclusive, and responsive neighbourhoods for all.

Scott Clark  
 President of Britannia Community Service Centre  
 Coast Salish

Responding to community and learning with community characterized our year at Britannia. From Hip Hop Drop and the Mother's Day Traditional Pow Wow to shore clean-ups and ammonia plants, we have responded to the needs of our neighbourhood. Our staff and volunteers continue to be the solid foundation that ensures that we are a welcome and safe place for all residents. While we take on new projects and initiatives as expected by our community, our staff is steadfast in providing key services, programs, administration, accounting, and support every single day without fail.

Our staff is as diverse in their outlook and their opinions as they are with their approaches to the Society's goals, but without fail their dedication and passion for this community cannot be underestimated. Without this commitment we would not have been able to operate a warming centre, initiate unconventional programs, and host an event for thousands with short notice. Our volunteers, cashiers, receptionists, facility support clerks, activity coordinator, administrative office coordinator, office support clerks, programmers, accountant, accounting clerks, activity leaders, child care supervisors, children's activity leaders, cooks, coordinators, skate attendants, program assistants, and auxiliary staff are the stars of this organization.

Cynthia Low  
Executive Director of Britannia Community Services Centre

## Our Place



*Over the past 5 years Britannia has been a part of the Our Place network. This model takes our site integrated service delivery model into broader neighbourhoods.*

Our Place (Promoting Local Access and Community Empowerment) is a collaboration of residents, community-based organizations, and service providers committed to ensuring that Vancouver's inner city children have every opportunity for success.

We believe no single government, non-profit, business, individual or organization can meet the needs of everyone in society, BUT working in partnership they can make a difference for thousands.

Placed-based thinking is a strategic way of looking at how we structure and undertake planning in our communities that acknowledges unique and complex local realities. This approach mobilizes resources and capacity to be responsive to local needs and aspirations. Communities such as Vancouver's inner city with pervasive social exclusion, poverty, and poor health, compound the issues faced by already vulnerable groups including Aboriginal peoples, immigrants, single parent families and the elderly. Place-based approaches work to actively engage citizens by removing barriers, and promoting people-centered, participatory service delivery and economic involvement, creating comprehensive, holistic and integrated solutions targeting both individual and broader community needs.

Placed-based thinking is currently being adopted in many places around the world, with evidence mounting for its effectiveness as a framework for community coordination and planning.

In **OUR PLACE** we create opportunities and capacity to:

- **Learn** by participating in education and training.
- **Work** through participating in employment and voluntary opportunities.
- **Care** about our families, neighbors and community well-being.
- **Engage** and connect with people, with local community resources, and with businesses.
- **Influence** by using our voices to shape decisions and policies that impact us.

My warmest congratulations to Britannia Community Services Centre for another year of excellent work in the neighbourhood! After all your hard work in the development of the Master Plan for Britannia, it was heartening to see it gain support from partner boards and Council. I look forward to seeing the community's vision transform into reality over the coming years.

I am pleased to report that the NDP MP Romeo Sagansh's private member's Bill C-262, an Act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, was adopted. Equally significant is the passing of NDP MP Georgina Jolibois's private member's bill to make National Day for Truth and Reconciliation an official holiday. Thank you to all of you for your support for these historical initiatives.

People in Vancouver East expect their government to make life affordable, sustainable, and fair for all Canadians. As your Member of Parliament, I have been strongly advocating for measures such as affordable housing, public universal pharmacare, environmental protections, climate action and tax fairness.



*Britannia's 40th Anniversary Party*

I was disappointed yet again to see that the 2019 Federal Budget fails to meaningfully address these key issues. The Liberals, in an attempt to inflate the result of their limited housing programs, have even resorted to double counting their results for "rhetorical advantage". Instead of playing games, what we need is for the government make real investments now. To that end, the NDP is calling for a commitment of 500,000 units of affordable housing across Canada.

In addition, despite decades of promising a national pharmacare program, after being lobbied by big pharma for the 680<sup>th</sup> time, the Liberals have once again let big pharma win the day. I recently met an individual who told me that she is taking her daily medication every other day in an effort to save money. This is so wrong. No more excuses. Canadians need and deserve comprehensive public universal pharmacare.

On a related matter, we also need accountability for the opioid crisis. While the US has successfully taken on big pharma for misbranding Oxycontin with the intent to defraud and mislead, here in Canada the Liberals are refusing to take action. Instead, Budget 2019 continues with the blanket tax break for the richest corporations, allowing them to write-off private jets and limousines costing Canadians \$14 billion. Tax havens are still in place and will continue to take over \$16 billion every year from much needed programs for all Canadians. And of course, big oil continues to receive their subsidies.

People of Van East have told me time again that this is not what they expect from their Federal Government. You have also told me that urgent action is required to address climate change. Sticking with Harper's targets and buying a 65 year old pipeline will not do it. I was so inspired by the students who took to the streets on a climate strike. To quote a student's message: "There is no planet B".

Please be assured that I will continue to work hard to bring your voice to Ottawa.

Jenny Kwan  
Member of Parliament for Vancouver East  
NDP Critic for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship  
NDP Critic for Multiculturalism

## Vancouver-Hastings MLA

Dear Friends of Britannia,

Congratulations to Britannia for another year serving the community. This year I had the chance to attend many wonderful events hosted by the Society and other valuable community partners. It's clear that Britannia is a vital part of our community.



*Car Free Day on The Drive*

In addition to having the privilege of being the MLA for Vancouver-Hastings, I also serve as the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. Almost a decade ago I introduced a Private Member's Bill calling on the BC Liberal government to implement a Poverty Reduction Strategy for the province, and I introduced this legislation again over subsequent years with no success. Now I'm pleased to share that this strategy is finally a reality. This spring my ministry launched TogetherBC, BC's first Poverty Reduction Strategy. This initiative reflects our government's commitment to tackling the complex challenges that poverty presents to so many British Columbians. Whether it is people with disabilities, single parents, the working poor or the thousands of others struggling to get by, our government will work to provide the supports necessary to make life more affordable for people across the province. We're working toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples by confronting racism and addressing the continuing legacy of harmful policies from the past. We've raised income assistance rates and disability benefits by \$150/month since 2017 and we're ending mandatory early enrollment onto CPP benefits. We're reducing access times, expanding earning exemptions, raising asset limits, expanding hardship assistance and more.

When I traveled around the province last year listening to folks share their experiences, it became clear how complex and cyclical poverty is in BC. I also hear these same concerns in my community office when I meet with constituents. In just about every part of the province and especially here in Vancouver-Hastings, lack of affordable housing continues to be a barrier. I am proud to say that our government is working towards making housing more affordable and secure, particularly for renters. This past year we restricted rent increases by 2%, improved rental assistance, increased SAFER rates and funding to the Residential Tenancy Branch, and began work on nearly 5000 of the 14,000 affordable rentals we committed to building over the next 10 years. This housing commitment also includes 2000 units of modular housing, new transition homes for women and children fleeing violence, new homes for students on campus, and social housing both on and off reserve for Indigenous peoples.

TogetherBC also supports families, children and youth through universal childcare prototypes, investing in affordable dental care, making Fair Pharmacare available to more people, increasing foster care rates and offering better support for former youth in care. If you would like to learn more about TogetherBC or about other Government of BC initiatives, please stop by my community office at 2365 East Hastings Street. We provide information and referrals for other provincial programs, services and initiatives too. My team and I will also be at local events around the Drive and Hastings-Sunrise this summer. I look forward to seeing you out in the community.

Hon. Shane Simpson  
MLA, Vancouver Hastings



*Hon. Shane Simpson with Minister Selina Robinson at the opening of temporary modular housing on Kaslo Street*

## Vancouver-Mt. Pleasant MLA

It has been my honour to serve as your MLA for Vancouver-Mount Pleasant since February 2, 2016. Britannia is home to so many programs and services that are making life-changing impacts for our neighbours. T'oooyaksim' N'iisim' to the hundreds of staff, volunteers and parents for the important work you do to lift families up.

Since my appointment as Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training in July 2017, I am spending 17 weeks per year in Victoria. I am very proud of the public policy work we are doing to make life better for people. It is now free for students to do their adult upgrading, it's also free for people to enroll in English Language Learning programs. With Premier John Horgan and the Minister of Children and Family Development, we announced that former youth in care can now access public post-secondary institutions tuition for free. In Budget 2019, we eliminated interest on B.C. student loans!



When I think about who depends on Britannia, I am reminded of my recent visit to a class of Grade 5 students at Britannia Elementary who had written to me as their MLA. The students were so inquisitive and smart. They are extremely proud of the community they live in. There is no question: Britannia fosters diverse community growth through its dynamic community hub. Whether it's teaching students, supporting seniors, helping those affected by the housing crisis, or hosting events that strengthen our sense of identity and belonging, keep being agents of change.

Speaking of change, I entered politics because I was tired of the status quo. I passionately believe in supporting people to thrive, not just survive.

Making sure people can afford to stay in their community is so important. I am proud to be part of a government that has made affordability a priority. Programs like the Affordable Childcare Benefit are putting money back into the pockets of hardworking families. Hundreds of homes have been created including 60 units at the Nora Hendrix supportive housing development in Strathcona. Policies such as cutting the annual rent increase by 2%, expanding Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters and the Rental Assistance Program for low-income families, eliminating MSP Premiums by 2020, increasing funding for the BC Arts Council and introducing B.C.'s first ever Poverty Reduction Plan, are making a difference in people's lives.



Thank you for providing reliable and meaningful services in our community. I am extremely proud to be your MLA and look forward to seeing you in the community. Keep shining!

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

It is with great pleasure that I bring you the annual report for Child Care at Britannia Community Services Centre.

The Britannia Child Care Hub is made up of Britannia Preschool and Out of School Care, Eagles in the Sky Day and Out of School Care, Grandview Terrace Day and Out of School Care, Lord Nelson Out of School Care, and Mount Pleasant Toddler and Day Care programs. We provide over 300 licensed spaces and manage over 50 regular staff and over 40 auxiliary staff in various settings across the locality.

The mission of the Britannia Child Care Hub is to provide a range of safe, stimulating, nurturing and high quality child care programs that respect and embrace each child and family.

The system of providing and advocating for good quality services and facilities, affordable fees for families, and making sure our staff are committed professionals in our community is complex. The Britannia Child Care Hub is unique in that we support our five independent parent volunteer led societies but also work with numerous government ministries, Vancouver Coastal Health, Aboriginal Child and Family Support Services, the Vancouver School Board, City Of Vancouver, Canucks Family Education Centre, and the BCGEU in sharing the responsibility of supporting and understanding the real issues of finding and providing childcare for our families, plus the recruitment and retention of qualified staff in an ever competitive environment.

In 2018 we welcomed the new government's commitment to child care, introducing the parent fee reduction in all our centres and encouraging all our families to apply for the new Affordable Child Care Benefit. We also ensured every Early Childhood Educator, including auxiliary staff, received the ECE wage enhancement from September 2018.

### 2018 Highlights

- Completed and implemented strategic planning projects for three societies and secured some monies from City of Vancouver and Vantage Point to help support the process with facilitators.
- A successful and collegiate collective bargaining process with the BCGEU.
- Committed to ensure all ECE staff have access to the ECE wage enhancement.
- Commitment to families to ensure they have access to the parent fee reduction and Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB) where applicable.
- Continued professional development for all staff, and specific leadership and management training for supervisors.
- Continued high enrollment in our on-site Preschool and Out of School Care programs.

### Future Intentions

- I continue to be motivated and committed to working alongside our hard working program supervisors and staff, support our child care society boards, and lead the Britannia Child Care Hub.
- Build on partnerships, and work alongside the senior supervisors and Board of Directors to ensure the Hub continues to thrive.
- Continue to work on improving the administration and management of the operations, and review the Child Care Hub to find efficiencies and better accountability.
- Continue to advocate not only for Early Childhood Educators but also gain recognition for the important valuable work our School Age Care Workers provide every day before and after school, and during school closures.

Thank you for your continued support.

Rachel Day  
Manager of Child Care Services

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 \$7,860,000. Revenue is derived from a variety of sources, including the City of Vancouver who funds core functions such as programming, administration, and maintenance. Basic funding is augmented by monies received from gaming grants, and by a wide variety of other grants, contributions, and registration fees.

In 2018, Britannia completed the year with an operating surplus of \$15,726. Britannia also implemented its newly developed Annual Surplus Policy and transferred an initial \$152,484 to the Britannia Foundation. The Annual Surplus Policy, in which the Britannia Foundation will hold 75% of Britannia's reserves in its Capital Renewal fund, will ensure Britannia maximizes its return on investment, while also investing ethically and in alignment with Britannia's Investment Policy. This will ensure Britannia is set up to be sustainable for years to come.

John Flipse  
Treasurer of Britannia Community Services Centre

# Manager of Administration Services

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

In Fiscal 2018, the Britannia Society closed out the year with an audited annual deficit of \$136,758. This includes a transfer to the Britannia Foundation for \$152,484. Without the transfer, the Britannia Society completed the year with a surplus of \$15,726. Compared to 2017, total revenues increased by 2%, to \$7,872,313, core funding from the City of Vancouver decreased by 4.6% to \$3,669,411, while operating expenses increased by 2.3% to \$7,860,986. Operating expense increases were primarily due to increased wage expenses in programming, primarily from additional staff and instructors.

Human Resources in 2018 centered on building up Britannia's maintenance staff team for the Pool and Rink.



Britannia Info Centre

As these are Parks Board staff, this work was done in conjunction with Parks Board management and recruitment staff. In 2018, Britannia hired into full time roles a Lead Mechanical Technician as well as two Utility Maintenance Workers.

After a number of years of capital projects at Britannia, 2018 was a quieter year in facilities, which included regular maintenance, upkeep, and training of new staff.

Jeremy Shier  
Manager of Administration Services

# Statement of Financial Position

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## THE BRITANNIA COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE SOCIETY

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2018, with comparative information for 2017

|  | 2018                | 2017                |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>  |                     |                     |
| Current assets:  |                     |                     |
| Cash   | \$ 375,854          | \$ 700,432          |
| Short-term investments (note 3)                        | 282,757             | 356,733             |
| Amounts receivable:                                    |                     |                     |
| City of Vancouver                                      | 516,049             | 517,263             |
| Other  | 178,149             | 153,409             |
|  | <u>1,352,809</u>    | <u>1,727,837</u>    |
| Investments (note 3)                                   | 1,314,398           | 1,221,235           |
| Capital assets (note 4)                                | 667,637             | 705,863             |
| Due from City of Vancouver and Parks Board (note 9(a)) | 216,000             | 220,000             |
|  | <u>\$ 3,550,844</u> | <u>\$ 3,874,935</u> |
| <b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>                      |                     |                     |
| Current liabilities:                                   |                     |                     |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 5)      | \$ 189,716          | \$ 402,059          |
| Deferred contributions (note 6)                        | 377,898             | 377,840             |
| Deferred revenue (note 7)                              | 241,443             | 263,467             |
| Due to related parties (note 8)                        | 1,062,028           | 996,295             |
|  | <u>1,871,085</u>    | <u>2,039,661</u>    |
| Employee future benefits (note 9)                      | 251,700             | 259,300             |
| Working capital advance (note 10)                      | 81,000              | 81,000              |
| Deferred capital contributions (note 11)               | 509,183             | 528,940             |
|  | <u>2,712,968</u>    | <u>2,908,901</u>    |
| Net assets:  |                     |                     |
| Invested in capital assets (note 12)                   | 158,454             | 176,923             |
| Internally restricted (note 13)                        | 679,422             | 789,111             |
|  | <u>837,876</u>      | <u>966,034</u>      |
|  | <u>\$ 3,550,844</u> | <u>\$ 3,874,935</u> |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Approved on behalf of the Board:

 Director

 Director

## THE BRITANNIA COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE SOCIETY

Statement of Operations

Year ended December 31, 2018, with comparative information for 2017

|   | 2018                | 2017             |
|---|---------------------|------------------|
| <b>Revenue (note 15):</b>   |                     |                  |
| Contributions from City of Vancouver for operating purposes               | \$ 3,669,411        | \$ 3,847,953     |
| Rink and Pool   | 1,206,312           | 1,087,861        |
| Donations, membership fees and special events                             | 110,247             | 112,322          |
| Province of British Columbia gaming grant                                 | 105,071             | 123,534          |
| Rentals   | 20,475              | 19,400           |
| Interest  | 24,587              | 22,894           |
| Contribution from Britannia Community Services Foundation                 | 51,117              | 48,000           |
| Amortization of deferred capital contributions                            | 19,757              | 19,757           |
| Programs:   |                     |                  |
| Child Care  | 674,821             | 677,461          |
| Recreation  | 1,583,686           | 1,331,732        |
| Community education   | 405,362             | 418,952          |
| Other   | 5,866               | 8,057            |
|   | <u>7,876,712</u>    | <u>7,717,923</u> |
| <b>Expenses:</b>  |                     |                  |
| Maintenance and operations of buildings, equipment and grounds            | 1,560,381           | 1,700,017        |
| Salaries, wages and employee benefits Administration                      | 1,501,816           | 1,453,023        |
| Salaries, wages and employee benefits Park Board Staff Administration     | 1,744,782           | 1,676,099        |
| Administration  | 165,657             | 199,991          |
| Gaming grant for children, youth, and senior programs                     | 105,071             | 123,534          |
| General programs  | 454,709             | 240,091          |
| Programs:   |                     |                  |
| Child Care  | 662,777             | 643,474          |
| Recreation  | 1,204,721           | 1,176,377        |
| Community education   | 412,961             | 424,659          |
| Other   | 9,885               | 9,796            |
| Amortization of capital assets  | 38,226              | 38,585           |
|   | <u>7,860,986</u>    | <u>7,685,646</u> |
| Excess of revenue over expenses before the undernoted                     | 15,726              | 32,277           |
| Contribution to Britannia Community Services Foundation (notes 13 and 16) | (152,484)           | -                |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses                              | <u>\$ (136,758)</u> | <u>\$ 32,277</u> |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# Community Recreation Coordinator

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

## Successes

- FoodFit received two years of funding from Community Food Centres Canada. In partnership with Reach Community Health Centre, we have been able to offer this popular 13 week health and wellness program focusing on physical activity and healthy eating.
- Wild Minds 2018, now in year three, was our most successful yet bringing together 14 youth, mostly from Streetfront and Outreach, to explore, learn, play, and work in the beautiful Strathcona and Cottonwood Community Gardens. This program partnership with Environmental Youth Alliance focuses on supporting youth connections with urban wilderness.
- Our volunteer program engaged with a variety of community volunteers by exploring new program ideas, social events, and group volunteering sessions such as Shoreline Cleanups, Chat Chop and Chow, and Bike Rides.
- Hip Hop Drop, a community lead program in partnership with NICCSS and other services organizations, has been wonderfully successful at reaching some of the more vulnerable youth in the community.
- Weaving Our Community Together (WOCT) has been highly successful at facilitating a number of new indigenous-focused programs in the community and empowering our elders.
- Youth Paddle Project, with Calder Cheverie and the youth from Street Front, was in the šxʷqʷeləwən ct Carving Centre from May 22<sup>nd</sup> - June 14<sup>th</sup>.
- šxʷqʷeləwən ct Carving Centre was used for many programs this summer including a men's drumming circle, traditional salve-making, an artist talk, and cedar weaving.
- Stone Soup was very successful with over 1500 people attending our community festival.
- The Coffee House series has been increasingly successful at bringing in a steady stream of local performers.
- The Britannia Artist Grant supported a photographer completing a new body of work, a poet publishing a book, and a large group of dancers and musicians performing in Grandview Park.

## Challenges

Britannia was sorry to say goodbye to a number of programmers this year. Ellen Paterson, who looked after the Arts and Culture programs for the last 4 years, moved on to a new life in California. Mawi Bagon who has been a fixture in the programming team has moved on to Sunset Community Centre. Diana Guenther has taken a new opportunity at Mount Pleasant Community Centre.

It was also a challenging year for Arts and Culture with the loss of access to several rooms in the elementary and secondary schools for long standing, revenue generating programs. We also had intermittent access to 1739 which impacted programming across the site as we shuffled to accommodate the temporary loss. Recreation at Britannia strives to be innovative with its programming, to stand out from it's peers. However, programming as a whole is challenged with limited space and we are constantly looking at scheduling efficiencies to best utilize the time and space available.

## Special Thanks

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

Peter Odynsky  
Community Recreation Coordinator



Eagles in the Sky Out of School Care



Vietnamese Seniors Program



Men's Drumming Circle in the šxʷqʷeləwən ct Carving Centre



Volunteer shore clean-up



Weaving Our Community Together cedar harvesting trip



Jane Stanier Art Exhibition



The Grandview Woodland Food Connection (GWFC) serves as a food hub supporting dignified food security for our community. The GWFC provides opportunities for positive community engagement, food access, and food skills. We increase food security among underserved community members; increase community food programming such as school gardens, food workshops, bulk food buying, community kitchens, community meal programs, and food celebrations; advocate for policy change in the interest of a more just and healthy food system; focus on food as a way to bring people together and develop community; build partnerships with other community groups; and develop the capacity of community volunteers.

## 2018 Highlights

- Seeds of Change - Provided us with funding for our Britannia School gardening program where we continue to work with approximately 100 students each year.
- FoodFit – With funding from Community Food Centres Canada and in partnership with REACH, we have engaged over 40 participants so far in physical activity and healthy eating.
- Wild Minds – 14 youth came together to explore, learn, play, and work in the beautiful Strathcona and Cottonwood Community gardens and experienced a connection to nature while gaining new skills and knowledge about food growing, healthy eating, and environmental leadership.
- Grandview Woodland Community Seed Library – Provides community members with access at no cost to seeds and resources on gardening and seed saving. Pop-ups are scheduled throughout the garden season.
- Britannia Bulk Buy – This food distribution program continued to grow, now with over 80 low income households participating and saving close to \$3,000 in food expenses.
- Syrian Refugee Fundraiser Dinner – This successful event raised over \$4,000 to support the Grandview-Woodland Refugee Initiative to bring a Syrian family to safety in Vancouver. Fabulous Syrian food was prepared by Grandview Woodland residents Hayat Shabo and Carmen Aldakhallah.
- Britannia Honey Bees – Two bee hives arrived in the Britannia School Garden this year with the help of professional beekeeper and Britannia English teacher, Ashley Macleod.
- Wild Salmon Caravan – The GWFC participated as a core organizer in the Indigenous led Wild Salmon Caravan, involving a beautiful parade up Commercial Drive and salmon feast at Trout Lake that fed 2000 people.
- Farm to School Learning Circles – We are building new connections with nearby schools so we can learn from each other and share what we are doing in our respective school gardens.

Visit Britannia's Food Sustainability Website page to learn more about the GWFC's work:  
[www.britanniacentre.org/services/community\\_services/food\\_sustainability](http://www.britanniacentre.org/services/community_services/food_sustainability)



Wild Minds Summer Youth Garden Program



Corn Festival



In March of 2018, while attempting to escape Afghanistan through Iran, Fatemeh's family changed forever with the death of her mother, sister and two brothers. Her only surviving brother fainted at the Turkish border and woke in hospital to find that the other members of his family had all died. He remains in Turkey waiting for his application for asylum to be granted.

This tragedy, of course, has taken an enormous toll on Fatemeh and her children here in Canada — she lives in constant worry about her brother's well-being and safety. But in a small way, through the generous support from the annual Vancouver Canucks Family Sharing Program, we were able to alleviate some of this stress by sending Fatemeh to Istanbul for a month. She will also deliver much needed winter clothes and other necessities. This young man is just 21 years of age. The impacts of this gift will provide him with some comfort and hope that a new life awaits him.

Thank you to all. We continue to be amazed at the generosity of the Canucks For Kids Fund, the Canucks Community Partnerships Department, the players and Canucks organization staff and families.

## Programs

*Britannia PIE* operates 5 days a week out of Britannia Community Secondary School, in partnership with South Hill Education Centre (VSB). CFEC registered the following number of parents and their kids over this reporting period: 48 in English Foundations 5/6/7, 52 in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) foundation class, 65 in Foundations in Math, 22 in Advanced Conversation class, 47 preschool kids in the English Foundations 1-4.

*Edmonds PIE Plus* is a partnership with CFEC and the Burnaby School District and operates 5 days a week at Edmonds Community (Elementary) School. CFEC registered the following number of parents and their kids: 48 in English Foundations 1-4, 53 preschool kids in English Foundations 5/6/7.

*Maywood PIE Plus Two* is a new partnership for CFEC and the Burnaby School District and the class operates 2 days a week at Maywood Community School: 23 parents and 18 preschool kids participated English Foundations 4/5/6/7.

*Grandview GR2R* is a partnership with CFEC, Britannia Childcare and Grandview Terrace Child Care Centre: 14 parents and 17 preschool kids participated.

*Responsible Adult in A Child Care Setting Course* is an 8-week, 20-hour certificate program (November 3rd – January 19th, 2019) that provides the essential training needed to work with school age children, 5-12, in Out of School Care programs (OSC) in BC. We delivered this training in November, December 2018 and January 2019, at Edmonds Community School: 29 parent learners successfully completed the training and 20 preschool children attended our GR2R companion classes.

## Other Supports

- Parent and Family Advocacy: We liaise with community and social services on behalf of the parents in our programs. This could be in the form of letter writing, meeting with social workers and/or the police.
- Partnership Development and Support: We provide ongoing support to our partners and explore the expansion of delivery of services, where needed and appropriate.
- New research partnership with UBC Department of Literacy and Language.
- Workplace readiness and job finding support: This additional service is provided for CFEC parents who need help in resume writing, job search skills, interview practice, and exploring/registering in additional training.
- 12 volunteers participated in programming at Britannia and Edmonds locations.
- We provided 11 healthy lunches at our 4 program locations to all participating parents and children, feeding approximately 100 people per day.
- Compass bus tickets were provided to participating adults attending our classes, where needed. Provided 4 high school students with monthly Compass Cards.
- Get Ready 2 Read early learning program for preschool children of participating adults.
- Gently used clothing donations, new books, and toys. Emergency gift certificates for food and other daily necessities, as needed.
- Home visits on evenings and weekends, as needed. One-on-one support and goal setting, when needed.
- The Canucks Holiday Sharing program provided gifts for 64 CFEC families.
- 200 CFEC parents and kids attended the annual CFEC holiday party at Rogers Arena.

Jean Rasmussen,  
 Executive Director, Canuck Family Education Centre



# Librarian In Charge

After over 40 years together, the Britannia Library started the year without the VSB collections. Britannia Elementary School was excited to move their collection into a new Learning Commons space in the school providing easy access for staff and students, and the library was happy to have more display and space available for new seating. The branch itself still fills with students (both elementary and high school) after three in the afternoon, eager to get to the free Internet stations and to read and study. Another major change was the installation of a new circulation desk at the end of the year.



Vancouver Public Library



Britannia Branch outreach table at Stone Soup Festival

### Key Information

Britannia's full time staff consist of Branch Head Pauline Preston, Children's Librarian Nathalie Patel, Teen Services Librarian Ariel Caldwell, Senior Library Public Services Assistant (SLPSA) Simon Wong, Clerical Supervisor Amy Zeng, and Library Public Service Assistants (LPSA) Shayamin Rahman, Sandra Bridge and Vernon Soh.

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

### Statistics

Our physical Space is 8,997 Sq. Feet, 8.5 FTE. We have 16 Public Computers and we are open 62.0 hrs/ week. We circulated 267,310 physical items; staff answered 12,600 reference questions; we provided 41,633 free internet sessions; and presented for 402 varied programs for 11,633 adults children and teens.

### Programming Highlights

Adults:

- Britannia hosted T'uy't'tanat-Cease Wyss, the Indigenous Storyteller in Residence at VPL. The gallery was standing room only and the audience was thoroughly engaged in Cease's program. She shared stories that honoured the women and ancestors of the Squamish Nation, who have inspired her all her life. Parents brought their young children and Cease sang songs with them — this made the event a lovely family evening. The Indigenous Storyteller in Residence program at VPL supports our goals of Community Connections and Reconciliation.
- Over 30 members of the community attended the second evening program set up by Pandora's Collective entitled "Writing across Genres". Board Trustee Julia Lin was present to introduce a wonderful array of BC writers such as Jordan Scott, Rahat Kurd, and Evelyn Lau. This type of programming encourages community connections and makes known local talent.
- As part of Psychology Month the library partnered with the BC Psychological Association to offer a program on Love and Relationships presented by psychologist Veronica Kallos-Lilly, a Registered Psychologist and co-founder and director of the Vancouver Couple & Family Institute (VCFI). 32 people turned out for the program.

Children:

- Singing Frog Aboriginal Preschool, which is visited regularly during the year by the CTS librarian, brought their children down to Britannia branch twice in July to have story time and hang out at the library. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves, requesting that many of the story time books be read again! We see many of these children a couple of years later when KidSafe and Eagles in the Sky Out of School Care comes in for programs. The children have a positive and comfortable relationship with the library as they grow up.
- Britannia hosted 9 programs for school age children during spring break. Families enjoyed Funny Book Bingo, Make a Masterpiece, and Book Maker Space. The Fractured Fairy Tales attracted 40 participants. These free programs improve the patron experience and also serve as a way to showcase not only our collections but our staff.
- Julie Flett, a local Cree-Metis author and illustrator, presented to 3 elementary school classes a 10-minute animation called DAM! The Story of Kit the Beaver, which she worked on with Seneca College and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. She then talked about her background and work, referring to various slides of her illustrations and inspirations. The children were obviously enthralled with the animation of Julie's books and asked lots of thoughtful questions.
- The theme for the Children's Summer Reading Club was Motion Commotion. Over 546 children registered for the program which promotes reading throughout the summer. The program culminated in a grand finale on the August 29th with library trustee Kyla Epstein presenting medals and certificates to the happy readers and a party with pizza and cake and a performance by Cinemazoo.



Julie Flett, Author and Illustrator

Teens:

- We were fortunate to have DJ O Show (aka Orene Askew) come to give a presentation about her experiences in the DJ/broadcasting/music world as an Indigenous, Black, 2-Spirit person, and also give an introduction to DJing and the software she uses. Orene was good with the crowd, a group of about 20 teens from the local school and alternative teen programs at Britannia High school.
- VPL's Writer in Residence, Stella MacLean, led a workshop (Create Your Own Action Heroine or Hero) for a grade 11/12 English class in Britannia Secondary's new Learning Commons space. That the VPL was able to offer a workshop with the Writer In Residence to the secondary school in its new space is significant because since the Britannia schools have moved their collections out, we are re-navigating our relationships between Britannia's public and school libraries. The ability to offer something really special during this transition helped us to maintain a solid, collaborative relationship with the schools.
- Fantastic Fandoms, Hunger Games: VPL CTS Librarian for Teens worked with community partners to develop a superb Resiliency and Sustainability based game based on the book The Hunger Games. 20 teens participated in this very successful event.

Pauline Preston  
Britannia Branch Head  
Vancouver Public Library



## About Us

Eastside Family Place Society is 40 years old! Established in 1979, it is an incorporated, registered charity and provincially certified Family Resource Program, Early Years Family Support, and Parenting Centre governed by a volunteer board of directors. We assist in the healthy development of families and caregivers with young children (birth to early 6 years) and are conveniently located off Grandview Park at 1655 William St.

Eastside Family Place Society is one of 5 full-service Family Resource Centres in the City of Vancouver. The family places work together in partnership, strengthening our programs and enabling best practices. Many of the families served by ESFP are single parent, and/or low-income and represent a wide range of ethnicities and backgrounds. Last year volunteers donated 1,488 hours of support. In total, ESFP received over \$100,000 in in-kind donations in 2017-18 (e.g. clothing, food, equipment, books, toys, and volunteer time). In June of 2018 we said good-bye to our long-serving Executive Director, Mary Johnston, who retired after over 20 years of service to the organization. Our new E.D. Brenda Lohrenz is enthusiastically continuing Mary's work with families, and greatly appreciates opportunities to work with Britannia on the Renewal process and other key activities that positively impact our community.

## Programs and Services

ESFP offers a family-friendly, play-based learning centre. Children 0 - early 6 learn and develop socially and emotionally in a safe, non-judgmental environment. Participants enjoy opportunities for support, services, referrals to other programs and services, and networking with other parents. Many lasting friendships and community connections are made at ESFP!

### Our programs:

- Family Drop-in: Offered Monday to Friday mornings plus Thursday afternoons. In 2018 we started a dedicated drop-in time for parents with new babies on Tuesday afternoons. ESFP recorded over 13,000 visits to the drop-in last year.
- Licensed Occasional Childcare: An ECE-certified family support worker provides childcare 15 hours a week for up to 4 children.
- Direct support and referrals are made to relevant agencies, services and programs.
- Circle of Security and Nobody's Perfect are positive parenting programs that aim to strengthen parenting skills through a better understanding of attachment and child development.
- Family Rhythm, Rhyme + Movement is an early literacy program that fosters children's language, social and physical development through songs, rhymes, stories and movement.
- Workshops offered focus on parenting, health and safety, self-care, and other relevant topics.
- Community Clothing Exchange Cupboard & Food Cupboard: Parents can give or take donations of children's clothing and/or food.
- Food-Security Programs: Daily nutritious snack and occasional lunches. Food is always accessible during the drop-in, and healthy snacks are provided during other programs.
- Food Skills and Little Sprouts Community Garden: Children and their parents/caregivers learn about growing and cooking nutritious foods.

## Donations and Funding

ESFP gratefully accepts donations and in-kind goods and services. As a non-profit, ESFP is dependent on government and non-government grants, donations and fundraising to cover its annual operational costs. For further information please visit [www.eastsidefamilyplace.org](http://www.eastsidefamilyplace.org) or phone 604.255.9841.

Brenda Lohrenz  
Executive Director  
Eastside Family Place Society



Launched in March of 2017, the Britannia Renewal project is a process to design and create a renewed Britannia Community Centre in collaboration with our partners at the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver School Board, the Vancouver Parks Board, and the Vancouver Public Library. Since the launch of the Britannia Renewal project we have undertaken a thorough community consultation process joining thousands of community members in conversation; hearing from inspirational speakers and experts; and hosting more than 30 community forums, consultations, meetings, and pop-up info booths.

The Planning and Development Committee represents the Britannia community at the planning table. We continue to strive to amplify the voice of the community in this planning process, and particularly to engage and reflect the diversity of our neighbourhood. Britannia operates on the principles of reconciliation, accessibility, inclusiveness, and sustainability. We recognize that Britannia sits on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and selilwítlh (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations and it is incredibly important for us to include and consult the Indigenous communities in the development of a renewed Britannia that respects and reflects Indigenous values.



Britannia Renewal Open House

The Britannia Renewal Master Plan was released in April of 2018. The master plan translates our core principles and strong community feedback into a comprehensive vision for the future of the Britannia site. The Planning and Development Committee and the Britannia Community Services Society support the Master Plan and look forward to a much-needed renewal of aging and undersized facilities. We also believe that additional community consultation and creative planning are required to address some outstanding areas of concern. Innovative solutions are required to maintain and maximize green space, site interconnection, and our grand views. The community also requires more time to give input and direction on new uses proposed for the site like housing and a social non-profit hub. For more details, you can find both the Britannia Renewal Master Plan and a full response from the Britannia Society online at [www.britanniarenewal.org](http://www.britanniarenewal.org).

As the Britannia Renewal process moves forward we will continue to rely on the vision and momentum of our community. We hope you will consider becoming involved. Find us online, drop into the Info Centre, or join us at a Planning and Development Committee meeting. Our meetings are held regularly on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 6:30-8:30pm in the Britannia Info Centre and all are welcome.

Susanne Dahlin  
Chair of the Britannia Planning & Development Committee



*Mother's Day Traditional Powwow 2018. Front and back cover photos by Britany Quinn Photography.*

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**Britannia**  
COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE