



2015-2016 Annual Report

About Britannia

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

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

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| - elementary school | - public library | - boxing ring and mat room |
| - secondary school | - swimming pool | - learning resource centre |
| - five child care centres | - fitness centre | - community information centre |
| - teen centre | - ice rink | - meeting rooms |
| - seniors' centre | - four gymnasia | |

There are also numerous off-site programs and activities.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2015-2016

Executive Committee:

President: Gwen Giesbrecht
Vice President: Susanne Dahlin
Treasurer: John Flipse

Executive Members:

Ye Chu
Ingrid Kolsteren

Directors:

Scott Clark
Craig Ollenberger
Brendan Boylan
Freya Kristensen
Tyrus Tracey
Aaron Giesbrecht
Jean Paul Beran
Juan Carlos Maldonado

Staff Rep: Alex McKechnie (Secondary School)

Partners:

Vancouver Public Library
Vancouver Park Board
Vancouver School Board

Beth Davies
Peter Odynsky
Andrew Schofield

Senior Staff:

Executive Director
Manager of Administrative Services

Childcare Manager
Community Education Coordinator

Cynthia Low
Natalie Bailey/
Jeremy Shier
Craig Smith
Mike Evans/
Jennier Scott

Honourary Board Members:

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

Liaisons to Britannia:

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

Kerry Jang
Kyla Epstein
Erin Shum
Christopher Richardson



President of Britannia Board of Management

I first of all would like to thank all the staff, volunteers, partner groups and members for contributing to a busy and exciting year for Britannia Community Services Centre Society. Welcome to all to this AGM.

There have been many projects undertaken at Britannia this year. The Centre continues to perform as a genuine hub for the community. The broad scope of services and programs that include recreation, education, community development, the integrated model of delivery that includes the schools, the library and community organizations, means that the work of the board is wide-ranging and is informed by strong representation from all the areas of operations. We value this information and input, in fact we depend upon it. So to all those who bring their expertise to us, thank-you.

The committee structure at Britannia has always been an important mechanism to inform the board. Every year the member volunteers that join volunteer board members, staff, representatives from partners and other agencies to put energy into the work of all committees is deeply appreciated and critical to the success of Centre endeavours. At our annual board retreat this year we focused on building the structural support for committees, and ease of access to programs to encourage greater participation for everyone in the community. This year had some particular areas that were supported greatly by the committees connected to them.

Led by the Planning and Development Committee the facilities renewal process with participation and support from the City of Vancouver, embarked with energized action on the first stages of planning for this long-term project. As this project continues the work of the Cmte. and participation from community members will help determine the future look and function of site facilities. This important work will continue to receive board attention for some years to come, and I encourage all with an interest to make use of the opportunities for input.

Two key committees have been very active this year in youth engagement, the Youth Committee and the Youth Matter Committee. As the P&D committee was doing their work, we also had our eye on those who will be the community leaders and users of the Centre in the years to come. It is critical going forward, that these citizens have a strong connection to the Centre and participate with enthusiasm to build on what has been accomplished. Including Indigenous, Immigrant or marginalized youth, the youth in the community that we serve need to be engaged for the future vibrancy of Britannia. We will continue to build these very important relationships.

All committees have worked to support these areas I've referred to. This is the theme that underscores much of what we on the board work to achieve, the future health and vibrancy of Britannia Community Services Centre.

As we look to the future, we also must acknowledge the past. This year Britannia had the first of what will be an annual event here. Last September, we were proud to partner with other community agencies to host a Reconciliation In Action event. With an understanding of the impact residential schools, and colonization has had on Indigenous people and in celebrating the cultural contribution to the community we are in, we are opening doors to participation, that will strengthen and build the Centre, the schools, and more broadly, the city. The event here has sparked events being held at other community centres and our hope is that this will occur in all centres in the very near future.

With the recent addition of the Carving Pavilion to the site, and this year with funding secured to schedule programming we are able to promote the work of artists and carvers at the schools and from the community. With the successes, the challenges, the on-going programs, services, events and engagement Britannia continues to build on what we do, and we are able to do it because of you folks, and the commitment you bring.

This report highlights a portion of the years' accomplishments. As always when asked to provide this report I struggle to confine my comments, there is always so much going on here. In closing, again, for all who contribute their time, positive energy and hard work to sustain and grow this organization, on behalf of the Board of Management, thank-you.

Gwen Giesbrecht,
President of the Board

Executive Director

This past year there were many milestones and breakthroughs as we approach 40 years of service to the neighbourhood. With deep roots in social justice and equality the Society has committed to put into practice a new vision.

To be a catalyst for social connection, capacity building and integration of services in our community while celebrating diversity, and enhancing the life and well-being of everyone who lives, works and plays in our community.

As an organization we realized many innovative ideas that brought communities together to address common needs and matters, we did this through celebration, sharing, a commitment to learning and plain hard work by our staff and volunteers. It has been an incredible year in big and small ways. Opening of the Carving Pavilion, the 25th anniversary of Stone Soup, completing Leisure Access Program applications for individuals, surpassing 1200 participants enrolled in MicroFootie, the success of KickStand, helping youth participate in hockey, and the extraordinary hard work of the Planning and Development Committee are just some of the examples. It requires individuals one by one working side by side first to create a vision, then to pursue an objective and also to act in a manner that adds meaning and joy to one person at a time. Everyday our staff and volunteers make our mission a reality;

To be a recognized leader in building community, promoting partnerships, celebrating diversity and enhancing the life and well-being of everyone who lives, works and plays in our community.

The objective of the Society is not to build facilities, provide recreation or social services but to enhance the life of our community members, it happens that playing games, meeting friends, sharing food, helping others and learning are the best ways to enhance life. Everyday Britannia staff and volunteers deliver smiles!

Cynthia Low,
Executive Director

Mt. Pleasant MLA

Being elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly on February 2nd was a momentous occasion for me. I now represent the residents of Vancouver-Mount Pleasant, following the long service of Jenny Kwan. I am also the first First Nations' woman to serve as an MLA in British Columbia, something that is important to me and has extraordinary symbolic importance for Indigenous people throughout the Province. As many know, I am a mother of two school aged daughters and my background involves working for the Representative of Children and Youth.

Joining the Legislature presents a very steep learning curve. I spoke in response to the Provincial budget, and made statements on housing security and affordability, and ending the sexual exploitation of children and youth.



I am deeply conscious of my responsibility to speak to the Provincial Government and highlight the issues in the various communities present in the constituency.

I have been appointed as the Deputy Opposition Spokesperson for Housing. All demographics throughout the province are impacted by the housing affordability crisis, as renters and owners, and, especially for those who are homeless and low income. My colleagues and I will do everything we can to mitigate the hardship by offering local advocacy support and to call on the government to develop a provincial housing strategy.

As a youth, the Thunderbird Community Centre had a tremendous impact on my well-being and development. I'm very much aware of the valuable role that Community Centres and other organizations play in providing safe and valuable opportunities for community members to enjoy activities and participate in ways that foster a sense of inclusion and belonging. I look forward to seeing you throughout the community or at my constituency office.

Melanie Mark,
MLA Vancouver-Mount Pleasant

Vancouver Hastings MLA

I am pleased to be able to once again report out to the members of Britannia.

We have a growing list of affordability issues facing our community. At the top of that list for many is housing affordability. While we all read about the rising cost of home ownership, the issue that is in the forefront for me is affordable rental for all our neighbours and, in particular, families who are struggling to find a safe place to live that they can afford. The lack of affordable housing has been intently discussed since before I was first elected in 2005, it has never been more dire than today. There is no easy answer to this question. While we can put the brakes on the speculative nature of real estate, our bigger challenge is increasing the stock of affordable rental housing.



My colleagues and I recently introduced two measures in the legislature that we believe will help. First, the Housing Affordability Fund and Speculator Fee Act creates a way for government to collect desperately needed information about speculators who treat housing purely as an investment and leave properties empty, rather than as homes for families to live in. The bill collects a two percent tax on the assessed value of the property and the money collected would go directly into a Housing Affordability Fund. We anticipate that this fund would be over \$90 million per year in the Metro Vancouver area and would provide funding for affordability initiatives in the region where the tax was collected. The Property Transfer Tax Fairness Act would put an immediate stop to shadow flippers and international property investors exploiting loopholes in the law to avoid paying the Property Transfer Tax.

In addition to locking out low and middle income earners, Vancouver's out of control property market leaves us vulnerable to manipulation by organized crime; Vancouver cannot be allowed to become an international money-laundering hub. In March, anti-money laundering agency FINTRAC released a critical audit of Metro Vancouver realtors, which pointed to a failure to accurately report the origin of cash in real estate transactions. The audit also noted a tripling of "significant deficiencies" during random audits. Premier Christy Clark and her government seem unwilling to take on this issue.

Affordability challenges are not limited to housing. Under the current government we have seen rising BC Hydro rates, increased Medical Service Plan fees, and ICBC hikes, which continue to chip away at the budgets of British Columbians. These hidden taxes particularly impact low income earners, and our caucus has put forward legislation to create a lower, "lifeline" Hydro rate for low income British Columbians; no one should have to choose between groceries and heat.

Greenhouse gas emissions in B.C. are another area for worry. Under Premier Clark, emissions have increased every year, and are set to rise higher still. Current policies in B.C. would see emissions climb 32 per cent between 2013 and 2030, according to a recent Environment Canada report to the UN. In other provinces like Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia, emissions are projected to go down. The Climate Leadership Team, a group set up by Premier Clark, says we'll miss our 2020 target, even if we implement all of their recommendations; they want B.C. to cut emissions 40 per cent by 2030. It is clear that Clark is not prepared to support her team's recommendation, and has essentially given up on climate change. Clark and her government have failed the one real test of climate leadership: they have overseen an increase in emissions instead of a reduction.

I have been excited to see the changes at Britannia throughout the past year, including the new carving pavilion, which is a wonderful new asset to the Britannia community, and I commend the board and executive on its commitment to reconciliation with our First Nations peoples. These steps reinforce the importance of Britannia to our community, and help lay the ground work for ongoing discussions around the vision for the future of Britannia.

Thank you for the stellar community services you provide to people in East Vancouver.

Shane Simpson,
MLA Vancouver-Hastings

Liason - Vancouver Public Library

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

In 2015, VPL launched its free digital media hub – the Inspiration Lab – and immediately the space's recording studios, editing software and programming were a hit. It's a place for telling, creating and sharing stories, in their many forms. The story of the lab itself, and how it came to be, started with Vancouverites, who shared their ideas on how the library could support the city's creativity.



We also broke ground on the néca?mat ct Strathcona Branch at 730 East Hastings, just 2km from Britannia. It's almost ready. VPL's newest branch is expected to open in fall 2016. Included at the new facility will be a digital creation space; flexible meeting, programming and gathering spaces for the community; and interactive public and digital art. It will be one of the largest library locations in the city, serving the communities of Chinatown, Strathcona and the Downtown Eastside.

The library also launched access to new digital collections. Patrons can now:

- Flip through hundreds of digital magazines with Zinio | bit.ly/ZinioVPL
- Watch some of cinema's greatest films with the Criterion Collection | bit.ly/CriterionVPL
- Stream indie flicks from around the world with IndieFlix | bit.ly/IndieFlixVPL

VPL's children and teen services are the library's most popular, with over two million items checked out on juvenile library cards in 2015 alone. VPL also offers a range of early literacy programs for children and parents with diverse means and abilities. For example, over the past three years, Mother Goose has been offered to about 3,000 parents a year, including programs in Cantonese/Mandarin and Spanish (at Britannia!).

This year, we're developing a strategic plan for 2017-2019. Free your mind of old notions of a public library, and imagine what Vancouver Public Library could be over the coming years. Join us, share your thoughts and help us build our new strategic plan, VPL 2020.

I look forward to working with Britannia partners and community members in the coming year.

Amanda Card,
VPL Trustee



Graphics from a consultation with youth

Report from Treasurer

As Treasurer of the Board and Chair of the Finance Committee, I would like to thank the Board members who elected me as Treasurer for their trust and support as well as the members of the Finance Committee for their commitment to Britannia.

The Treasurer and the Finance Committee oversee and are responsible for the Community Centre's operating budget of over \$7,000,000. The income is derived from a variety of sources. The City of Vancouver funds our core functions. The basic funding is augmented by monies received by gaming grants and by a wide variety of other grants and contributions.

As well, this year the Finance Committee was able to pass an Annual Surplus Policy to ensure Britannia's reserves are managed effectively. Although producing surplus's is not the core function of the Britannia Society, this money will ensure Britannia is able to operate effectively for years to come by ensuring it has the available funds for future capital costs necessary to maintain its site and the Society's purpose & objectives. The last 12 months have been an excellent year for Britannia. We have just completed this year's audit and Britannia is in a strong financial position generating a surplus of \$145,000.

John Flipse,
Treasurer

Manager of Administration

Administration of the Britannia Community Service Centre includes finance and accounting, human resources, and facilities. A lot has happened in Admin department over the last year, some of the highlights include the following:

In Fiscal 2015, the Britannia Society closed out the year with an annual surplus of \$145,708. The City of Vancouver provided Britannia core funding of \$3,587,916, up 6% from 2014. The average return on Britannia Society investments was 2.35% in 2015. Investment and interest revenue is invested in low risk GIC's.

The Britannia Foundation earned 2% on its investments. After its annual donation to the Society, the Foundations net assets decreased by \$17,103.

Britannia had a number of retirements in 2015, including Brenda Coombs - Administrative Coordinator, Chris Bates - Office Support Clerk III, Amie Smith - Office Support Clerk III, Steven Mok - Activity Coordinator, and Natalie Bailey - Manager of Administrative Services. These roles have been filled by both old and new team members. Victoria Haenel and Kathy Whittam have joined the front office team as Office Support Clerks III. Paul Morton and Wally Tarrant have filled the newly re-classed position of Facility Support Clerk (previously Activity Coordinator), and Azarm Shahpoori-Broojerdi is the new Head Cashier at the pool.

The Britannia Carving Pavilion officially opened in the spring of 2015 and was used for several projects throughout the spring and summer months. The full cost of the Carving Pavilion was \$530,503. It is being amortized over 25 years. Final glazing (a glass roof) will be completed in 2016.

Facilities work completed was focused on general maintenance for the rink and swimming pool. This included retiling the steam room, repainting, power washing, and rust removal. New water bottle refill stations were installed in both the fitness centre and the rink and an emergency shower was installed in the pool amongst other work completed.

Progress has continued in the transition of facilities maintenance for the rink and the pool from the VSB to the City of Vancouver. It is expected the transition will be completed by the end of 2016.

Jeremy Shier, CPA, CMA
Manager of Administrative Services

Statement of Financial Position

THE BRITANNIA COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE SOCIETY

Statement of Financial Position

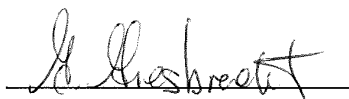
December 31, 2015, with comparative information for 2014

	2015	2014
Assets		
Current assets:		
Restricted cash and investments	\$ 1,021,696	\$ 524,687
Amounts receivable:		
City of Vancouver	893,693	700,272
Other	449,571	680,935
	2,364,960	1,905,894
Restricted investments	207,915	553,109
Investments	778,704	581,533
Capital assets	561,270	549,006
	\$ 3,912,849	\$ 3,589,542
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 747,194	\$ 766,379
Deferred contributions	372,792	373,380
Deferred revenue	247,900	200,639
Due to related parties	856,819	704,416
	2,224,705	2,044,814
Employee future benefits	325,000	324,300
Working capital advance	81,000	81,000
Deferred capital contributions	390,388	391,780
Net assets:		
Invested in capital assets	170,882	157,226
Internally restricted	720,874	590,422
	891,756	747,648
	\$ 3,912,849	\$ 3,589,542

Approved on behalf of the Board:



Director



Director

Statement of Financial Position

THE BRITANNIA COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE SOCIETY

Statement of Operations

Year ended December 31, 2015, with comparative information for 2014

	2015	2014
Revenue:		
Contributions from City of Vancouver for operating purposes	\$ 3,587,916	\$ 3,384,505
Rink and Pool	939,824	993,670
Donations, membership fees and special events	136,356	97,549
Licensed gaming	97,566	105,858
Rentals	27,889	24,238
Interest	16,419	24,283
Contribution from Britannia Community Services Foundation	45,595	45,203
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	14,574	2,500
Programs:		
Child Care	659,817	682,574
Recreation	1,295,255	1,390,624
Community education	439,469	452,865
Other	9,570	13,097
	7,270,250	7,216,966
Expenses:		
Maintenance and operations of buildings, equipment and grounds	1,640,564	1,599,450
Salaries, wages and employee benefits Administration	1,344,465	1,340,171
Salaries, wages and employee benefits Park Board Staff Administration	1,481,895	1,465,946
Licensed gaming for children, youth, and senior programs	171,567	171,156
General programs	97,566	105,858
Programs:	200,595	219,350
Child Care	589,387	659,071
Recreation	1,108,607	1,039,795
Community education	442,253	461,331
Other	16,229	9,555
Amortization of capital assets	31,414	18,749
	7,124,542	7,090,432
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 145,708	\$ 126,534

Community Recreation Coordinator

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

By increasing partnerships and working together as programmers sharing spaces, we again found some efficacies and have been able to add new programs such as Axe Capoeira at 1739 Venables.

The risk of switching from one cash handling and registration system to another was a potential disruption in services and inconvenience to our community accessing programs. With support from Management and staff we made the transition to ActiveNet in August 2015 and if anything the change, as viewed by the community was seen as an improved service model. Huge appreciation to the front line staff and the programmers who not only had to change their entire way of doing things but had to recreate most of their portfolios in extremely limited times to make this happen. They all made incredible achievements and remained positive and constructive.

Addressing the ongoing desire of our community to increase engagement of our vulnerable and less able populations the Britannia programming team have been working very hard to simplify and improve access to our local subsidies and to the Park Board Leisure Access program. Working with our partners we have been successful in increasing the number of referral agencies in our community, leading the city in our local efforts in both numbers and improved processes.

Britannia strives to be innovative and relevant with its programming; both in standing out from it's peers and pupose fully attending to the unique community we live in. We try to offer specialized programming however our facility is aging and unable to keep up with the changing needs of our community. Ageing facilities, limited programming, storage and social space all inhibit our ability to meet the changing needs. In some areas such as our Fitness Centre, Britannia recreation programs lose participants to newer, fancier facilities. We survive by continually looking for innovative ideas and partnerships to best serve our community and focusing on the individual customer experience.

We continue to receive positive comments from patrons that are passionate about Britannia and appreciate their community pool and fitness centre. Our Staff rates very high and is much appreciated.

Britannia's goal is to promote the value and benefits of integrated service delivery among existing partners and encourage the development of further partnerships of other agencies and community groups. Our "Britannia Family" provides great diversity and quality through our programs and services and as such we aim to offer many events for free or at a minimal cost. The key to Britannia's success is the dedication and commitment of amazing staff and volunteers. Britannia Recreation has approximately 10 full time staff, 75 part time and auxiliary staff, 300 part-time instructors and well over 400 volunteers each year, who help plan, organize and implement a wide variety of recreational programs and services for all ages.

As Britannia moves ever closer to a site wide facility renewal, it will be increasingly important for Britannia to go farther and provide programs and services with extra value to our unique community. It will be important that we define that value to and ensure that our new facilities will enrich our history of service. We also must look for new opportunities and partnerships off site to offer our members to bridge the gap in services and programs through the renewal process. We will continue to work with our partners to provide the best possible recreation programs and services and welcome your suggestions for new and innovative programs.

Special thanks to the Community Members, Partners, Volunteers, Board, Committee Members and Staff, who create the spirit, passion, and sense of community that Britannia, is known for. Thank you for your participation, commitment, and contribution. Please know that it is greatly appreciated! And a huge thank you to Jenny Jung who more than filled the role of Community Recreation Coordinator for much of 2015 in my absence.

Peter Odynsky,
Community Recreation Coordinator

Community Development and Engagement

Our successes would not be possible without the involvement and input from our community working in collaboration with our skilled and passionate staff. We have more than 11 Committees and working groups with over 60 volunteer members supporting our staff.

This year we were able to engage residents to address a range of community matters from bicycle repair and active transportation through Kickstand, food by youth for the community through Off the Grill, seniors and elders dialogue in Reconciliation, long term facilities planning and fundraising for Britannia After School Hockey with local breweries.

We are committed to solutions and action through dialogue within, between and among residents.

Arts and Culture

Special events including neighbourhood favourites; Stone Soup, East Feast, Artful Sundays, Eastside Cultural Crawl, Seasonal Decoration Pop Up craft workshops, 2nd Annual Solstice Coffeehouse, Vintage Bike Swap, Italian Days, Vancouver Draw Down, Yarn Bombing, and Parade of Lost Souls with over 25,000 visitors attending.

The mandate of the Arts and Culture Committee at Britannia is to advise and guide programs, events, sponsorships that relate to arts and culture, and ensure that arts and culture is appropriately represented at Britannia and policy initiatives. The committee generally meets on the first Thursday of each month, except July and August. Workshops are usually scheduled twice annually.

Britannia Art Gallery received over 27 submissions for 2015 art exhibitions, which is one of the highest submissions in the last few years. Our average statistics of people viewing the gallery are 7,000 to date, which shows the community is embracing the gallery.

We also partner and sponsor with local artist and artist groups in the community; Carnival Band, The Drive Street Band, Femme City Choir, Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret, Solidarity Notes, Greenhorn Music Project, and Grandview Garden Club.

Our programs are evolving into core programs that are being seen throughout the community with children dance and music programs, Adult art, dance, writing and creative arts programs.

Carving Pavilion

The Carving Pavilion Programming Fund and Guidelines was created to support programming over the next 3 years with a focus on projects that prioritize the strategic direction of the Board of Management. The fund will also be used to sustain existing programming, increase integration between departments, groups and organizations in the community, and enhance the capacity of Britannia departments.

With support from the City of Vancouver we created a sculpture for Guangzhou, our sister city in China. Master Carver Darren Yelton led a team of local youths (14-18yrs) to create a 5 foot K'aya'chtn figure, a symbol of welcome and unity in Squamish culture.

James Harry was our Artist in Resident. He created the images for the doors of the pavilion, James lives in the area and is committed to sharing his culture and art practice. He used the pavilion with the proviso that he would be available for open studio times to share his story and work with the public.



Highlights

Aquatics and Fitness Centre

In 2015, our lessons have continued to show strong registration for parent & tot, preschool and children. To build interest in our older age group lessons, we have combined teen and adult groups together and there has been steady registration for our Basics One classes. It's a great sight to see the old adage of "it's never too late", being put in to practice.

We continue to welcome athletes and volunteers from the Special Olympics on Saturday afternoons in the Fall to Spring for their Swim and Fitness Program. We also host other clubs and groups such as Vancouver Masters Synchro, Vancouver Pacific Swim Club, Killarney Gators Swim Club, Exceleration Multisport Club and the Vancouver Kayak Club. It has been a pleasure to work with these organizations and being able to accommodate their use of our facility. Outreach to the various elementary schools in our catchment are still ongoing, as we continue to provide swim lessons and encouraging grade 3 classes to complete the Lifesaving Society's Swim to Survive Program, which is absolutely free, after successful completion of a grant application.

Due to the postponement of the annual maintenance closure in 2014, we had our 2015 closure in January for approximately six weeks, then another one week closure in September. It seems that there are frequent issues, due to an aging facility. We are very thankful for the renewal on the horizon, which our community will benefit from.

In the Fitness Centre we have continued to offer our historical and unique programming, serving our diverse community. Our programs, such as, free admission for members, seniors' only and women's only have stood the test of time through continued consultation with our community. We create an environment that is welcoming and comfortable for everyone, including some participants that may feel excluded at times.

55+

It has been a good year in 2015. There has been a focus on inclusion, learning and partnerships in 2015; Evergreen, ALIVE, SFU, Community Response Network, Youth Matters and MO-SAIC are just a few.

Some Highlights for the year include: The National Elders Abuse Awareness Day inaugural Event with MOSAIC and CRN, The Healthy Choices for Seniors program which was funded in part by the New Horizons for Seniors program, The Elders Dialogue and Lunch for Reconciliation in Action event in partnership with ALIVE, Kat Cut'samulwaut Norris, Wes Nahanee and the Indian Residential School Survivors Society discussed the meaning of 'Reconciliation in Action' shared experiences and looked to the future.



The quirk-e LGBTQ Youth and Seniors Project was launched as an intergenerational project about elder abuse in the LGBTQ community. We assisted over 100 low income seniors find affordable housing through the BC Housing and SAFER programs and worked with social assistance and old age security pensions to get Bus Passes and One Cards for seniors. The Community Volunteer Income tax program helped 200 seniors and low income families with their income tax returns. Our partnership with Evergreen provided opportunities for social participation and inclusion by engaging East Vancouver Seniors in healthy eating, gardening workshops and social activities.

Preschool/Children and Adult Sport & Fitness

2015 proved to be very successful for Britannia Sport and Fitness Programs. Britannia Micro Footie www.britanniasoccer.org, continues to be the largest registered program onsite with over 1200 Eastside children and youth participating in our 110 team league. Over 200 volunteer coaches, youth referees and 9 community business donors support this popular program. The partnership with Scotland's Celtic FC Football Club to offer a professional summer soccer camp for Footie kids was a huge success. We hope to offer more of these camps in years to follow.

Britannia Gymnastics Club www.britanniagymnastics.com has over 800 children registered in the program annually. Many of the programs sell out within minutes. In July 2015, 7 gymnasts travelled and participated in World Gymnaestrada in Helsinki. We said goodbye to our fabulous Head Coach, Cameron Stevenson in December 2015 as he moved on to fulfill gymnastics dreams out East. We are forever grateful for all the energy, dedication and vision he put in to the Britannia Gymnastics program over the past 9 years!

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



In Adult Sport & Fitness, new partnerships were initiated with Axe Capoeira and the Trojan Boxing Club. We introduced a new Pickleball program which has become very popular. Our core activities including Badminton, Volleyball, Ball Hockey, Zumba, Basketball, Iyengar Yoga, Soccer and Fencing all generate positive revenue streams which in the end help subsidize other program areas.

Rink

2015 was another successful year in terms of skating participation and revenue. While the number of registered and drop-in participants stayed consistent over the previous year for public sessions, skating lessons and hockey programs, much of that can be attributed to the fact that the programs are at capacity. The total rink revenue for the City in 2015 was \$447,500, 5.3% over target despite being closed for over 3 weeks in the spring.

The implementation of the ActiveNet software and the ability to book rink rentals online, has been challenging in terms of developing systems to ensure consistent customer service delivery. The outlook for this is positive as both staff and patrons are becoming more comfortable with the system and moving forward there is confidence that this will increase access to rink rentals which in turn will increase revenues.

The Britannia After School Hockey program offers no cost hockey, including use of equipment, instruction and training for community youth. In 2015, through mentoring and skill development, 2 past participants of the program were hired on as staff. The focus for this program moving forward is sustainability through fundraising and sponsorship.

Volunteer

Volunteerism at Britannia is very important. We strive not only to provide opportunities to participate but also provide meaningful opportunities that enhance and enrich our volunteers' own experiences. This including new skill development, language development, mentorship and more.

Over 700 Britannia volunteers contributed 60,000+ hours in committees, special events, programs & services. Many programs' success rely on their commitment and dedication. For example Britannia Micro Footie Spring League has 200+ volunteer coaches who engage over 1200 community children during the spring soccer season.

We also launched a Volunteer Recognition Program to recognize volunteers who have consistently given their time over the years. Five awards were presented to exceptional volunteers in several program areas including Youth, Seniors, Arts & Culture and Adult Fitness.

Kickstand

Kickstand is a volunteer-run active transportation program operating out of 1739 Venables that offers bike mechanic, build a bike and bicycle recycling services which collected over \$40,000 in donations that went back into programming. Volunteers contributed over 1,000 hours of programs and over 3,000 volunteer hours.

Kickstand also received a grant from Mountain Equipment Coop to fund two part-time positions so that the space can be open seven days per week, during the busiest months.

Highlights

Youth

YOUnique Conference in February 2015 had approximately 120 youth from throughout Vancouver learning about leadership, Human Rights, options after completing high school, bullying, social media awareness, diversity, etc. Britannia partnered with Dogwood 25, Sauder School of Business and the Duke of Edinburgh to facilitate this conference.

In March 2016, we partnered with Thunderbird, Trout Lake and Marpole Oakridge Community Centres to host our “Diversity Camp”. We had 40 youth from our various communities take part in Human Right’s awareness activities, leadership projects and having discussions about values and respect. Councilor Andrea Reimer visited with the youth, to witness what they were doing, learn about them and their communities, and share her story about how she became involved in City Council, and what her role is. As a follow up, staff and youth will be having an informal meeting with Mayor Robertson to discuss the opportunities and needs of kids in our communities.

- Staff and 5 youth attended the Lower Mainland Regional “Get Out” leadership camp at Camp Sasamat sponsored by Metro Vancouver. Over 70 youth from the lower mainland participated, so it was a great opportunity to meet, interact and learn with other youth. Youth who normally may not have had the opportunity, had the opportunity to get out of the city and experience the outdoors, were challenged to get out of their comfort zones, and given opportunities for leadership, to push themselves, and learn about themselves and social responsibility.
- Britannia youth and staff partnered with the Canucks Autism Network to provide an opportunity for youth with autism to participate and compete on a dragon boat team. The team raced in a regatta on June 6/7 and the Rio Tinto Alcan Dragon boat Festival, the largest in North America, on June 20/21. It was a fun and great learning experience for all involved! The team has now started preparing to participate in the 2016 festivals.
- Youth Committee was very active organizing and facilitating activities and events for their peers, and the community. Getting youth active and involved, providing opportunities, reducing the stereotypes of youth, and community give back were some of the motivations around planning the events.
- Youth participated in and created the ‘Our Community’ exhibition that was displayed in the Britannia Art Gallery for the month of May. It was very well received. Youth learned the values of Human and Children’s Rights, using the ‘Speaking Rights’ toolkit and chose an activity which highlighted their views of their community. Participants had the opportunity to discuss what they learned and why they got involved in the project at their artist talk.
- Youth worked with carver Darren Yelton, to create a welcome totem which was gifted by the City of Vancouver to Vancouver’s sister City, Guangzhou, China.
- Off the Grill provided the Food for the Reconciliation in Action event.



Britannia Elementary School

Britannia Elementary currently has 187 students enrolled at the school and a staff of approximately 35. The students are organized into 8 divisions from Kindergarten to Grade 7.

Our School Plan Goals continue to focus on Numeracy and Aboriginal Enhancement (District Goal)

To improve student performance in numeracy from Kindergarten to Grade 7 with a particular focus on our most vulnerable students.

The focus is to improve the fundamental math skills: Adding; subtracting; multiplication and division for each student so that as new numeracy concepts are taught students have the basic skills to work with the new concepts. Students' abilities are tracked by teachers and their report cards and extra support is provided for students that need additional support in learning the basic skills.

To increase knowledge, acceptance, empathy, awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal histories, traditions, cultures and contributions among all students.

As a school we have worked to incorporate a variety of Aboriginal experiences for our students. Classes have had sessions in the First Nations Carving Pavilion that have been very positive and exposed the students to carving skills, traditions and storytelling. A highlight of the year was have Kat Noble work with our classes on the Friendship Dance for the Reconciliation in Action Day. Our whole school participated in a Friendship Dance on the gravel field with students from the High School and various community members. We are looking forward to enhancing this experience for next year's Reconciliation In Action on September 27. Bonnie Wendt, our Aboriginal Enhancement worker, continues to provide cultural experiences for our families through a variety of activities and Daphne Wales, our Aboriginal Teacher, works in class supporting our students on their academic studies.

We are pleased to have been able to provide many supports and opportunities for our students and families this year. Some of the programs in place are:

- Backpack Buddies
- Clothes on Wheels
- Community School Teams after school activities
- Micro Footie; More Sports Mini-Soccer;
- School sponsored Extra-curricular sports-Cross-Country, Soccer, Basketball, Badminton and Track and Field
- Skate with Santa
- Potluck Dinners
- Dare Arts
- Ready Set Learn
- Welcome to Kindergarten

These represent just a sample of the wonderful experiences that the school and our community partners provide.

We are already planning for the 2016/17 school year and will again have School Goals focused on Numeracy and Aboriginal Enhancement. Our projections for next year have us remaining at about 180 students and we are pleased to already have 17 students registered to join us in Kindergarten next year.

On a personal note I have enjoyed my transition to the Britannia School Community and feel very fortunate to work within a school community that daily demonstrates outstanding care and support for all the students and families that make up our school community. Committed and caring staff both at the school and community level clearly make the Britannia School Community a special place.

Respectfully,
Tim Krug,
Britannia Elementary Principal

Britannia Secondary School

Britannia Secondary saw a sad farewell to Principal Geoff Taylor and welcomed back Dr. Andrew Schofield into Geoff's position. Karen Coflin provided consistency of administration remaining as Vice Principal.

Two important changes to the structure of the school day occurred. One, by having a later formal start to the day (9:00am) a morning Tutorial time (from 8:30-9:00am) allows students the opportunity to catch up with missed homework, or to check in with teachers for additional support. Two, the school's Learning Support program has been redesigned allowing more differentiated instruction for all students: additional focused support was focused on grade 8 and 9 Math and English classes. This, together with excellent teaching has enabled almost half the school to be on Honor roll in the first term of 2016- a huge achievement!

A new Principal brings a new vision. Over the next few years the school intends to deepen our understanding of First Nation's peoples experience and have the school seen as a site of Reconciliation- a place of safety and learning for all. The Musqueam, Tsleil Waututh and Squamish Coast Salish peoples on whose un-ceded land we live lay a foundation for our work: their knowledge must be respectfully brought into our school. In this regard we deepen the work done by Geoff Taylor and Cynthia Low, and their important legacy epitomized in the Carving Pavilion.

In addition, we are enriching our technology programs- bringing in robotics and a world class wood-shop facility; an exciting (after school) partnership with the St James Music Academy is emerging to expand our music program and opportunities for neighborhood students; a staff committee is exploring opening a fully-fledged resource center/ learning commons; we will explore STEM/STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) possibilities, project based learning and expanded work experience placements aligned with the courses we offer in our school and the new provincial curriculum. These various initiatives cohere around the notion of the 'Creative Economy'- a fourth sector that is replacing the traditional primary (Hunting/Farming), secondary (manufacturing), tertiary (services) economic sectors: we intend to have our students at the leading edge of the creative economy.

The year has continued Britannia's tradition of learning and athletic excellence and innovation winning awards and scholarships second to none. In the New Year the school intends to take this foundation out to the community through partnerships and recognition of our ancestry; we want our school to become the magnet school in the district. Quite achievable when we look at our excellent teachers and support staff and our remarkable kids!

Dr. Andrew Schofield,
Britannia Secondary Principal



Community Education

Our vision is to promote a lifelong learning community.

Our goals are to support the concept of Britannia as the HUB of the Grandview-Woodlands Strathcona neighbourhoods in the areas of program development and community based events. We support programs and initiatives that support the transition stages of students – school readiness, secondary school readiness and post-secondary readiness as well as work with partners to improve the performance of students, in academics and social emotional functioning.

Coordinator: Jennifer Scott
Youth & Family Workers: Greg Goodall and Carley Romas
Secretary: Mitra Tshan
Programmers: Karen Weihs, Celine McCaughran-Contreras,
Dave Taylor

Britannia Hub Schools include Britannia Secondary and Strathcona, Seymour, Macdonald, Grandview and Britannia Elementary Schools

We continue to reach vulnerable children and families through both targeted and non-targeted programs. Partnership with Cause We Care receiving support for our Macdonald, Kids First program and Family Hampers at Christmas time. New partnership with Choices on the Drive providing produce and other food goods for after school snacks. Over 200 elementary and secondary age students participated in our RBC Sports Day. Dedication of Gym B in Mike Evans name.

Finding sustainable funding for programs is always a challenge.

In partnership with Saint Georges School over 300 children participated in 6 weeks of Summer at the Hub Camps with the focus on the arts, sports and technology.

Over 900 children & youth participated in more than 45 noon hour and after school programs in 2015, such as skateboarding, board games, badminton, knitting, mini soccer. Many programs were run by trained Brit youth or in partnership with More Sports, Arts Umbrella or Vancouver Girls Basketball. Kids Safe, Urban Native Youth Association (UNYA) and Britannia and Strathcona Community Centres provided programming during school holidays for many of our students.

Britannia Community Education Office, Strathcona Community Centre and Britannia Community Services Centre make up the coalition called “Children Need care Now”. Sponsored by Public Health Canada and under the Coordination of Beatrice Feza, CAPC (Community Action Program for Children) provides support to low income families with children ages 0 to 6. Britannia offers two food distribution programs each month for 80 families, Mother Goose in Spanish, Parent Conferences as well as training programs such as First Aid and Food Safe.

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

Jennifer Scott,
Community Schools Coordinator



Manager of Child Care

Britannia Child Care, both Pre-school and Out of School Care continues to improve the quality of service by investing in staff development and improving the dedicated outdoor space. This has helped to keep enrolment for both programs at high levels.

We also support the Britannia Child Care HUB which provides a range of safe, stimulating and nurturing child care programs that respect and embrace each child and family. These programs help increase resiliency in children, a key factor for future success.

The Britannia HUB includes Eagles in the Sky Day Care and Out of School, Grandview Terrace Day Care, Out of School and Family Resource Centre, Lord Nelson Out of School and Mount Pleasant Toddler and Day Care programs.

The HUB provides 312 licensed spaces with 45 plus regular staff and 40 casual staff. The total revenue for the department including the Child Care Societies is just over to \$2.7M.

The Britannia HUB model is unique in the child care field. While staying true to Britannia's Vision and Mission, the partnership between the City and Britannia has focused this year on improving services and quality of programs the HUB provides to the community.

Craig Smith,
Manager of Child Care Services

Librarian In Charge

The Britannia Branch of the Vancouver Public Library functions as a joint Public Library and Vancouver School Board School Library for K-12 students from the Britannia Elementary and Secondary schools. Britannia is the only branch in the VPL system that has an Art Gallery inside the branch.

Open Hours: 352 open days, 3139 hours (increased hours as of Sept. 2015)
Traffic Count: 279,265 (# of people coming through the Library)
Grand Total: 533 programs = 15,935 in attendance
Children: 322 Children's programs = 12,234 in attendance
Teens: 35 Teen programs = 492 in attendance.
Adults: 176 Adult programs = 3,209 in attendance
Holdings: 57,482 items in the collection | Circulation Statistics: 297,724 total items circulated

The Library collection has over 57,482 items of books, AV material, magazines, and newspapers from VPL and the VSB. The library collection includes multilingual resources in Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish, and French languages for both children and adults. There is also a dedicated collection of adult and children's Aboriginal Resources. From the VPL website, our patrons have access to a rich collection of online eBooks and downloadable Audiobooks including the borrowing of tablets as of Dec. 2015. In 2015 we did a major weed of the Medical Health and Sciences section since some were published in the 1990s.

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

As of April 2015, the monthly Britannia Library Program Calendar is linked to the Britannia Community Services online Events page: http://www.britanniacentre.org/community/events/events_calendar.php

Librarian In Charge con't

- The weekly Baby and Family storytimes continued to be popular. In Nov. an extra weekly Babytime was added due to its popularity (100 in one session).
- There were 3 sessions of 8 weeks throughout the year of the popular Man in the Moon program for dads/ male caregivers and their babies; 2 sessions of 8 weeks of the Mama Gansa (Spanish Mother Goose) with VPL partnering with the Britannia Community Education staff.
- There were workshops for Parents (2 sessions) and for Early Childhood Educators on puppetry and felt story making and "Circle Time Strategies"
- The 2015 Summer Reading Club had 452 children registered (the largest ever) with weekly programs.
- Special events were the January Family Literacy Day's "Stuffy Toy Sleepover"; the 2 week March Spring Break programs; the April Read Local BC Author Visit and the super popular Family Fort Night in Sept. with parents reading to kids in tents after hours.
- Participated in Jan. at the YOUNique Youth Conference (Youth Info Fair) at BRI Secondary.; continued the Yo-Mama program for young mothers on Wed. evenings at the Teen Centre to June 2015.
- Hosted the April Read Local BC Author Visit with teen author Ashley Little who spoke to the Britannia Secondary students.
- In Oct.-Nov., assisted the Secondary School T/L in the 'student monitor' program and under her supervision the selected students work weekly on the VSB collection and displays.
- Continued with the monthly 55+ Bookclub; the Sunday Great Movies Night's films at the Seniors Centre; Pandora's Collective's monthly Adult Bookclub, Word Whip and Poetic Pairing events. The World Poetry Vancouver hosted Chinese New Years; Black History, Asian Heritage & World Poetry month events; with SFU Writer's Studio the monthly 1-1 Writing Consults and the monthly SFU Philosopher's Cafe discussions.
- Worked with 3 MOSAIC ESL classes on a orientation to VPL's online resources and in the Fall did a computer presentation at their Centre for Seniors ESL students.
- Worked with the BRI Seniors Centre, to host the Raging Grannies for the Oct. National Seniors Day.
- Continued the Aboriginal Mother Goose Program at the Eagle's Nest Aboriginal Headstart and visits to the Singing Frog Aboriginal Headstart program. Did several presentations to the UNYA staff about the library.
- For National Aboriginal History Month and Day: Cease Wyss presented the Indigenous Tea and Storytelling session. From mid-Aug to Nov., VPL's Aboriginal Storyteller-In-Residence: Sharon Shorty participated in the Reconciliation in Action: Drive the Change day; shared stories with Elementary school students on National School Library Day; led 4 Sunday Stories to Sew By sessions and with author/storyteller Richard Van Kamp the Stories North of 60-Aboriginal Stories from the North event with 121 people attending.
- Started monthly visits to the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre's West Coast Family Nights.
- The special Community Inspiration Passes was offered to 12 local Community organizations every two weeks for their vulnerable youth and families.
- Participated in the Connect Day Homeless Service Fair; the Stone Soup Festival; Italian Day on the Drive and the Latin American Corn Fiesta.
- In May the Branch Head began co-chairing the monthly GWAST (Grandview-Woodlands Area Services Team meetings) with Amanda Pollicino from NICCSS.

Yukiko Tosa, Branch Head began her new position as Branch Head on Jan. 5th. The Britannia Elementary School T/L maternity leave substitute Melissa Cupit was hired in January and was rehired in September to continue her position full-time.

Thanks to the Friends of the Library, the branch received a generous donation to convert the former VCC ESL room into a Multipurpose Room with new chairs, tables and AV equipment to be used by the VSB, VPL and the Community.

Yukiko Tosa,
Branch Head

Canuck Family Education Centre



In early 2015, we experienced a number of changes, which temporarily impacted the work of CFEC. The Vancouver School Board, because of budget deficits was forced to close all but 3 adult education centres – Hastings, CFEC's on site partner - impacted CFEC the most. We lost two amazing teachers due to seniority issues, but gained a higher-level English and a Foundations in Math teacher, in September 2015. We survived the transition and are fully operational, and now attached to the Main @Gladstone Adult Education Centre. We will continue to operate out of Britannia Secondary School.

- We operate 5 days a week out of the Britannia Centre in partnership with Hastings Education Centre (VSB).
- Edmonds PIE Plus is a partnership with CFEC and the Burnaby School District and operates 5 days a week at Edmonds Elementary School – three hours each afternoon.
- Grandview GR2R is a partnership with CFEC, Britannia Childcare and Grandview Terrace Child Care Centre and operates Wednesdays 9:30 – 2:30pm.
- We served 792 Adults, 92 Youth, 315 School Age Children, 251 Preschoolers and 22 Babies (under 1yr).
- 20 Volunteers participated in programming at Britannia and Edmonds locations.
- 5 parent participants passed the Canadian Citizenship course.

A number of organizations came together to support the Vancouver Sun's Raise a Reader annual program to support children's and family literacy. CFEC and the Vancouver Canucks provided over 500 blankets to willing participants and invited people of all ages to snuggle up and read with someone you love.

Thirty-two lucky CFEC families participated in the 2nd Canucks Holiday Sharing Program developed by the Canucks organization. Hockey players - their wives and/or partners, and the organizations VIPs bought the entire family gifts, wrapped and delivered them before the holiday school break. Thrilled recipients were enormously touched by such a heart-felt act of kindness and caring.

Over the years CFEC has provided a number of activities and services that support youth and their families – from our Youth In Transition program to simply providing 12 youth with bus passes so they can attend school. This year we had an opportunity to shine a light on a few of the kids at Britannia Secondary that have achieved some outstanding things in their short life - through the Canuck player, Dan Hamhuis - Hammer's Heroes program - three Brit kids got the opportunity to be part of this valuable initiative.

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

Jean Rassmussen,
Executive Director CFEC



The Eastside Family Place Society, est. 1979, is a provincially certified Family Resource Program, Early Years Family Support and Parenting Centre. ESFP assists the healthy development of families and caregivers with young children using a wide range of programs, services, projects and supports.

Eastside Family Place Society established in 1979, is one of 5 Vancouver stand-alone and full-service Family Resources Centres. All the Vancouver family places work together in partnership along with other service agencies. These partnerships strengthen our programs and enable best practices in policies and procedures to benefit all. ESFP membership costs \$20 per year. Eastside Family Place has 6 core staff, full and part-time, plus casual staff, trained facilitators for parent education groups, and professional presenters for parent workshops. As well, 225 volunteers donated 2009 hours of support last year. We are conveniently located on Grandview Park at Commercial Dr., 1655 William St. Vancouver BC V5L 2R3.

We offer a family-friendly and play-based learning centre with age-appropriate toys, equipment and activities. Children learn and develop social-emotional skills in a safe, non-judgmental environment. Parents and caregivers have access to support, program services and the opportunity to meet and network with other parents/caregivers. Grandview-Woodland has a large concentration of families with children less than 6 years of age. The population is diverse culturally and socio-economically, with a sizable population of new immigrants and refugees as residents.

- Drop-in Program: offered Monday - Friday, up to 16,000 visits to the Drop-In program last year.
- Licensed Occasional Childcare: an ECE-certified family support worker provides direct childcare and respite for parents 15 hours a week.
- Direct Support and Referrals: one-to-one support and referrals to relevant services and programs.
- Collective of Parents Empowered (C.O.P.E.) is a parenting program developed at ESFP to reflect and adapt to the specific needs and priorities of participating parents.
- Nobody's Perfect Parenting Program.
- Workshops are offered on a variety of parenting, health, financial and other subjects of interest.
- Clothing exchange: parents can donate or receive children's clothes.
- Food-Security Programs: nutritious snacks are provided daily; light lunches are available on a regular basis throughout the year; food is accessible in the kitchen during the drop-in.
- Community Food Cupboard: participants donate food and others who are in need may take home basic food items.
- Food Skills Programs: parents & children learn nutritious, low-cost recipes & planning.
- Community Garden: parents & children learn about and experience growing foods in the Britannia Secondary Community Garden.

For further information please visit www.eastsidefamilyplace.org or phone 604-255-9841.

Mary Johnston,
Executive Director Eastside Family Place Society

Grandview Woodland Food Connection

The GWFC continues to provide food access leadership supported by our unique partnership with Britannia, which is providing a valuable community food development model for community centres across the city. Increasingly, as food and other living costs skyrocket, the GWFC is being called upon to meet ever greater needs for those in our community who are struggling. Within this context, we continue to work with other food Networks and our City and Vancouver Coastal Health partners to advocate for systems change and increased funding to support community food programs.

The Grandview Woodland Food Connection believes that everyone has right to affordable, healthy, sustainably produced, and culturally appropriate food and that food can support multiple human dimensions including nutritional sustenance, emotional and spiritual well-being, cultural identity, and community connection. Our food festivals, community kitchens, school gardening projects, bulk buy groups, food workshops, and more, all assert food access and the power of food to help nourish each of us in many ways.

3390 community members participated in GWFC food programs including Stone Soup
6005 individual service contacts were made
113 volunteers helped out for a total of 830 hours
120 people were connected to community food information
24 community partnerships help grow the GWFC

- Off the Grill Youth Meal Program. A fantastic group of Britannia teens made possible a successful communal meal program for all youth and community members to share in the Britannia Plaza. Over 1200 meals were served with 601 youth hrs supporting the program.
- The First Nations Carving Pavilion Garden. The GWFC is taking the lead on a new First Nations food and medicinal garden at the Britannia Carving Pavilion. We dug out the old gravel and replaced with new soil and mulch. The first plants went in at the end of March.
- Garden 2 Plate. 9 youth from the Britannia Streetfront program participated in a fun summer gardening and cooking program, preparing amazing lunches with food directly from the Britannia school garden. We also built a Mason Bee “motel” and installed a rain barrel.
- Food Recovery. With support from Choices, we have helped reduce food waste on the Drive by reusing cosmetically inferior produce for our two community kitchens that would otherwise go to waste.
- The Grade 3 Britannia Potato Farm. The grade 3s planted, harvested, prepared and ate their own potatoes, providing them the full cycle experience of growing and eating their own fresh food.

For a complete list of GWFC community food programs visit: http://www.britanniacentre.org/services/community_services/food_sustainability.php

Ian Marcuse,
Food Coordinator



In September 2014, after many years of hard work by volunteers, residents, board members and staff, City Council approved \$25 million in the 2015-2018 Capital Budget for the renewal of the facilities. Up to \$100 million has been allocated over the next 10 years for the renewal. This motion was endorsed by the residents of the City in the Civic election in 2014.

In 2015 the Planning and Development Committee, the Strategic Sub Committee and various working groups met regularly to act on behalf of the Board of Management in areas of research, engagement and analysis. We conducted site visits to other facilities, held public consultations, hosted discussions, reviewed relevant documents, researched innovative approaches to a broad range of services, met with local organizations and developed principles and a vision for the renewal process. This work informed our committee and members but contributed to the body of knowledge and data that will go into the final planning process with our site partners, the City, Vancouver School Board, Vancouver Public Library and Vancouver Park. We worked closely with our Board and partners to ensure that local interest and resident voices were at the planning table to develop a contemporary facility that will meet the needs of the community.

Planning & Development Vision as developed in 2011:

The Britannia Community Services Centre

- Is the heart of the community, serving as an integrated hub of education, arts, culture, recreation, wellness and sustainability.
- Is made stronger by its innovative partnerships. This gives life to unparalleled opportunities for collaborative programming, and the flexibility to continually meet the evolving needs of the community.
- Is accessible and welcoming, drawing users whose diversity is matched by the diversity of programs that fill the Centre's walls.
- Respects and celebrates its context, fostering a sense of stewardship towards the people and setting that are the source of its richness.

Britannia

RENEWAL





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