

Director Candidates

Margaret Buxton

My name is Margaret Buxton. I have lived in this area for 20+ years, and I feel like it is home. As a member of the Britannia community, I have been fortunate to use many of the programs here. My son attended story-time at the library nearby, attended the play center, took swimming lessons at the pool and attended Fun Seekers every summer. In addition, I have been using the fitness center myself for many years, taken various classes offered at Britannia and attended the craft fairs. I also work in the East Side at VCC as an Instructor.

Tom Chang

My Name is Tom Chang. To those who do not know me, I have been an active volunteer in Britannia since 2015, through my initial volunteering at Kickstand. Kickstand was a Community Bike Shop Learning Program within Britannia at that time. From that point, I continued volunteering by joining Britannia's Volunteer Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Board of the Britannia Foundation. In December 2023 I was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Britannia Board. I have also participated in running a senior's beginner's computer class at the 55+ Center. I participated in the reviving of the Britannia Tax Program back in 2017, continuing through COVID and, most recently, successfully completed the 2024 CVITP Tax Program this May.

As a dedicated Britannia volunteer, I've found it very rewarding contributing to and expanding the Britannia Community spirit. With my volunteer experience at Britannia in serving on various committees, teaching Britannia programs, and volunteering on various special events, I feel I am able to contribute further as a Britannia Board member. I am committed to serving the Britannia community. I ask for your consideration, and most importantly, your vote to allow me to serve on Britannia's Board of Directors.

John Flipse

John is passionate about Grandview-Woodlands. He has been the Treasurer on the Board of Management for his last four terms. A native Vancouverite and world traveler, John moved to Commercial Drive 25 years ago and has never looked back. Becoming a father 20 years ago was John's main motivation for helping initiate the renewal of Grandview Park and his desire to complete the revitalization of Britannia Community Centre. He has been active on the Britannia Planning and Development Committee since 2010 and sat on the Grandview Woodlands Area Council as both a Board Director and a member of its Heritage Subcommittee.

John brings to the Britannia Board a strong desire to renew and revitalize Britannia Centre and leverage its unique structure to create a multi-purpose recreational facility that will serve the growing needs of Grandview-Woodlands residents.

Pat Hogan

I believe in creating and working in community. It's not always easy, but it's rewarding to know that together we can and do make a difference. I'm a longtime member of Quirke, the Queer Imaging & Riting Kollektive for Elders, which has been meeting in Britannia's AML Lounge for 16 years and before that at the 411 Seniors Centre. Having served on Britannia's Board and the Arts & Culture Committee for two years, I have a better understanding and appreciation for the incredible work that Britannia does for the Grandview Woodlands neighbourhood, as well as to all who call Britannia their home community.

Much of my paid work is and was also my activism: the Vancouver Women's Health Collective; co-organizing and running a transition house for women in Vernon; writing grant applications, establishing and running education courses for housing co-op members; founding a music/cultural events production company; owning Josephine's, a Commercial Drive café; and founding and co-organizing BOLDfest, a 17-year-old conference and gathering for older lesbians.

Norm Leech

I am the executive director at the Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House and hope to deepen the relationship between the two organizations. I was formerly the E.D. at the Vancouver Aboriginal Community Policing Centre and was able to partner on joint activities and projects with Britannia. As co-chair of the Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council I can help strengthen collaborations with the urban Indigenous community in Vancouver. The contacts I have developed with the City of Vancouver and the Province of BC could be useful for Britannia.

Adrienne Nicholas

The Britannia area is my home and where I first found community. My daughter goes to school at Brit and I care about the Centre and the people who use it. I've been part of the Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Committee for roughly a year. I would like to deepen my commitment to this community by running for the board. I currently work at MOSAIC, an immigrant serving organization.

Craig Ollenberger

My name is Craig Ollenberger. I'm a local community organizer and have lived on the Drive for nearly twenty years. My wife Sheila and I have raised our three children here. We all spend a lot of time at Britannia. I've been on the Board for many years and I still find that everyday I learn more about the amazing breadth of things Brit does for this community. I'm really proud to be part of helping that work to happen.

Over the last few years, I've become quite deeply involved in the Britannia Renewal process. The Renewal is a chance for Britannia and Vancouver to make real steps along a path to reconciliation and to strengthen our work in this community for generations to come. I hope you'll all continue to put your trust in me to represent this community and guide Britannia into a new era.

Oliver Tennant

My name is Oliver Tennant and as it relates to the Britannia community, I am a few things. Firstly, I am a neighbour that lives only two blocks away and visits Britannia multiple times a week. Whether it be to go to the pool, library, skatepark or field, Britannia has become a big part of my day-to-day life, as well as source of my community and extracurricular activities. Secondly, I am an avid skateboarder and co-chair of the Britannia Skateboard Committee—Britannia's most recently recognized Committee! Our mission is to build partnerships with other Britannia community groups, ensure a safe and clean space for all ages and abilities at the Courts Skatepark and work towards the implementation of a skatepark within the Britannia Renewal.

Thirdly, I am a real estate development industry professional with 5 years experience managing development permits, building permits, rezonings and overall project design of developments in a variety of asset classes and housing types. I look forward to putting my efforts into making Britannia the best it can be.

Naina Varshney

My name is Naina Varshney and I am excited to tip my hat and run for a fifth term on the Britannia Board of Management! A settler on these lands and a resident of this neighbourhood for over thirty years, I am grateful to have been able to use Britannia's facilities and programs through the different phases of my life.

Over the last seven years, I have been involved with a number of different committees including Planning & Development, Arts & Culture, Grandview Woodlands Food Connection Advisory, and Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression which I helped start in 2020. I'm passionate about accessibility, placemaking, and innovative design, and strongly support creating equitable and inclusive gathering spaces for the community.

When not volunteering at Britannia, I contribute to our community as a member of the Parks Board's Neighbourhood Matching Fund Jury and as the Vice Chair of the City of Vancouver's Racial and Ethnocultural Equity Advisory Committee. Professionally, I help create products, programs, and teams that are equitable, diverse, and inclusive. I care deeply about creating a world where we can all find success as we are, and I would be grateful to continue to apply all that I have learned over the years as we work on the next phase of the Renewal.

Youth Position Candidates

Jenny Chi

Hi, my name is Jenny Chi and I am a grade 11 student at Britannia Secondary School! I'm really passionate about taking care of the community, where I have 200 volunteer hours for the Environmental Youth Alliance (EYA). At school, I co-founded Britannia Art Club, where I have managed our Winter Craft Fair fundraiser and our upcoming Art Book. I am also an active member of Britannia's Newspaper club, where I've been a writer, executive editor, and layout designer since grade 10. I'm really excited for this opportunity. Thank you for your time and consideration!