



THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

JULY 3, 2025
VOLUME 15, ISSUE 5



Try New Activities and Flavours This Summer

With ideas for exciting activities and satisfying your ice cream craving, our summer guide is a great starting point for exploring campus and beyond during the coming months.

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Ambitious Development Plan Approved by UBC

Plan paves the way for homes to built for 4,600 new residents and towers as high as 39 storeys in Wesbrook Place.

BY EMMANUEL SAMOGLOU

The university's goal to transform campus and double its resident population by 2050 has been given a boost with the board of governor's approval of the updated Wesbrook Place Neighbourhood Plan.

The updated plan focuses on Wesbrook Place South - an area approximately nine hectares in size.

The neighbourhood, which is already seeing rapid development with the construction of rental and UBC faculty and staff housing, is located in south campus and represents roughly a fifth of the total area of the Wesbrook Place neighbourhood area.

Housing

If the plan is fully realized, homes will be built for 4,600 new residents, bringing the projected population of Wesbrook to roughly 16,200. In all, the number of residents across campus is projected to increase to 35,700 by 2050.

To accommodate the projected growth, about 2.1 million square feet of new housing is being planned through a mix of six towers and several mid-rise buildings up to six storeys. The towers are planned to run adjacent to Pacific Spirit Regional Park and will range from 26 to 39 storeys in height.

The university says the updated plan is in alignment with targets set out in its Housing Action Plan. A total of 40 per

Little Library Spreads Love of Reading



Wesbrook Place now has its own "Little Free Library"! Built and maintained by residents, the Oakwood little library is located along the sidewalk on the southern end of the Oakwood townhouses on Ross Drive. It offers a range of books, free of charge, and accepts donations of lightly used books to share with the community. The library was funded by an Inspiring Community Grant from UBC. For campus residents outside of Wesbrook, there are two more little libraries on campus. One is located adjacent to UBC Press at 2029 West Mall and the other on Agronomy Road and Main Mall at the MCML building. If you're looking for something to read, visit your nearest "Little Free Library" and as they say, 'take a book, share a book'. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

cent of new housing will be rental, with as much as 25 per cent allocated as below-market faculty and staff rental, and 15 per cent as market rental for residents working or studying on campus. UBC says it is also looking at new home ownership opportunities for qualified staff and faculty.

Transportation improvements

A number of initiatives are included in the plan that campus planners hope will improve the experiences of motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists.

For motorists, a new left turn lane onto Binning Road from West 16th Avenue and a widening of Binning Road is expected to help move traffic through the neighbourhood. Additionally, a proposed northbound right turn lane at West 16th Avenue roundabout and Wesbrook Mall will help alleviate congestion on Wesbrook Mall.

Planned improvements to the campus cycling network include a dedicated bike lane on Binning Road, which will connect with existing routes.

Essential services and amenities

Following comments by a UNA board member over a perceived lack of concern for expanding essential services, UBC says it is committed to work with the UNA to advocate "for the timely delivery" of a new elementary school in Wesbrook Place to accommodate population growth.

The university also says it will continue "coordination with external infrastructure and service providers (Metro Vancouver, TransLink, Vancouver School Board, RCMP, Vancouver Fire and Rescue, Vancouver Coastal Health) on the delivery of essential services to keep pace with growth."

The plan also pledges to build a new childcare facility and 30,000 square feet of new retail, of which a portion will be allocated for a "mid-sized grocer".

An additional 5,000 square feet has been earmarked as "community partnership/amenity space" and 2,000 square feet for "sustainability program space".

As part the plan, the boundaries of Wesbrook Place have been extended to the northern boundary of the TRIUMF particle accelerator centre to include an existing treed area which will be the site of a new ecological park. In total, the plan allocated five hectares of open space.

In the leadup to approval of the plan, the UNA board had called on UBC's Board of Governors to listen to residents and incorporate feedback in campus development plans.

"While the unique governance structure of our neighbourhoods vests decision-making authority in the University's Board of Governors, the locally-elected UNA Board represents resident interests and views on development," wrote board chair Eagle Glassheim in an opinion piece ('Listen to Residents on Development, UNA says' - *The Campus Resident*, April 3).

"Absent revisions to this governance structure, we can only respectfully request that the University integrate resident feedback into its neighbourhood plans." 🐾

EMMANUEL SAMOGLOU IS THE MANAGING EDITOR OF THE CAMPUS RESIDENT.

Residents Must Follow Metro Vancouver's Water Restrictions

Restrictions that came into effect in May limiting watering to one day per week will remain in place until October 15.

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OPINION: Cars Rule on Campus

Growth and development has resulted in a dangerous mix where motor vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists and others must co-exist on many campus roadways. Can UBC planners create a safe transportation network as the campus population is set to double in 25 years?

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Get to Know Campus Wildlife

How many bats live amongst us? Why don't we see more deer? We spoke with a campus resident and local wildlife expert to learn more about our animal neighbours.

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Housing under construction in Wesbrook South. A total of 2.1 million square feet of new housing is being planned for the surrounding area through a mix towers ranging from 26 to 39 storeys and mid-rise buildings up to six stories. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

Residents Must Follow Metro Vancouver’s Water Restrictions

Restrictions that came into effect on May 1 limit watering to one day per week, and will remain in place until October 15.

BY AMIE BERNAERDT

As the hot, dry summer months descend onto UBC’s Point Grey campus, residents may be wondering which water restrictions apply to them.

In short, UNA staff say residents are only encouraged to follow water restrictions that the City of Vancouver implements, but do not have an obligation to do so.

At the same time, restrictions set by Metro Vancouver – a federation of 21 municipalities, a treaty First Nation, and our own Electoral Area A – are applicable to campus residents, and must be followed.

The City of Vancouver’s water restrictions don’t apply to the university neighbourhoods as they aren’t under the City’s jurisdiction.

“Formal water restrictions from the City of Vancouver do not directly apply to UBC and the University Neighbourhoods Association area,” said Wegland Sit, UNA Operations Manager. “While the UNA observes and recommends compliance with these restrictions in UNA-managed areas, there is currently no specific regulatory bylaw in place for enforcement.”

While a water shortage bylaw was discussed by the UNA in 2017, there has been no further discussion or implementation since then.

However, Metro Vancouver’s regional lawn watering restrictions do apply for residents as campus is formally part of the region.

“These [lawn watering] restrictions came into effect



The Cleveland Dam at Capilano Lake in North Vancouver. The reservoir provides a third of Metro Vancouver’s drinking water.

on May 1, limiting watering to one day per week, and will remain in place until October 15,” said Linda Parkinson, director of policy planning and analysis of Metro Vancouver’s water services. This applies to all residents and businesses, and which day you may water your lawn depends on property address and type.

In summary, while there may not be a UNA bylaw to follow all water restrictions, residents are urged to adhere to them—and ensure they follow Metro Vancouver’s lawn watering restrictions.

High levels of water consumption coupled with hotter summers can lead to an escalation in water restrictions. In August 2023, Stage 2 water restrictions were implemented, which prohibited all lawn watering. These were observed by the UNA.

Officials say good conservation habits can prevent an

escalation in restrictions like the one two summers ago, especially in the summer months when water use increases. “In the hot, dry summer months our daily water use can increase from about one billion litres (enough to fill BC Place) to more than 1.5 billion due to lawn watering and increased outdoor use,” says Parkinson.

Currently, the water levels in our reservoirs are at a normal level. Metro Vancouver’s website has information about water reservoir levels and water use for interested residents.

Meanwhile, Metro Vancouver is looking at ways to expand water capacity. “To ensure we can continue to provide drinking water to the region for the next century, we need to both expand our supply and manage our demand,” says Parkinson. “The best option for expanding water

supply is to use more of our existing water supply sources.”

At Coquitlam Lake, for example, projects are underway to access more water from the reservoir. Metro Vancouver is trying to add a new water supply tunnel, water treatment facilities, and in the deepest part of the lake, a new water intake. Completion of this project is estimated for the late 2030s.

To conserve water, Parkinson has one main recommendation: “reduce outdoor water use and let our lawns go dormant. This saves treated drinking water for where it is needed most: drinking, cooking, and cleaning.”

Residents may also try to only run laundry and dishwasher loads when they are full, and ensure they adhere to lawn watering guidelines, if they choose to not let it go dormant.

AMIE BERNAERDT IS A FOURTH YEAR STUDENT AT UBC, MAJORING IN CREATIVE WRITING AND ANTHROPOLOGY.

UNA Annual General Meeting Date Set

Directors received update from campus officials on emergency planning and were provided preliminary financial results for fiscal 2024/2025 during June meeting.

BY DANIEL LI

During their June 17 monthly meeting, the UNA Board voted unanimously to hold their annual general meeting on September 23.

The UNA’s annual general meetings are an opportunity for community members to learn about the activities of the UNA and its financial health. The meeting also provides an opportunity for residents to be informed about other aspects of the association and its administration of municipal-like services for residents of UBC’s residential neighbourhoods.

The upcoming meeting will be held at Wesbrook Community Centre, with

proceedings beginning at 7 p.m.

Last year’s meeting was attended by roughly 40 people.

Emergency planning

At the beginning of the June board meeting, UBC Safety and Risk Services made a presentation to directors regarding emergency management on campus.

The board was told in the event of an emergency, UBC will alert residents through a variety of tools, including the UBC Alert mass notification system on mobile devices, and UBC Safe smartphone app. University officials would also liaise with the UNA administration when responding to any incident.

Following any event, UBC’s Mass Care Program would be activated to provide the affected with information, lodging and provisions.

A series of initiatives are planned by UBC Safety and Risk Services to improve disaster response including preparedness workshops, training for building managers and UNA Staff, and further exercises to simulate potential scenarios and responses to a disaster.

Wesbrook plan approved

Following the emergency planning presentation, Carole Jolly, a director at UBC Campus and Community Planning, notified board members that the Wesbrook Place Neighborhood Plan was approved by the UBC Board of Governors’ Property Committee in early June, and it will now be implemented by campus planners.

The Wesbrook Place plan is described as the first major step towards implement Campus Vision 2050, which seeks to double the population of the university

neighbourhoods by 2050 while meeting the institutional needs of the university.

UNA finances

Also during the meeting, UNA staff provided a preliminary overview of the organization’s finances for the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

Staff said total revenue was \$201,000 below budget as a result of lower than projected revenue from the Neighbours Levy. However, total expenditure was \$485,000 under the budget due to lower landscaping, community support and online election costs.

As a result, the UNA is looking at a surplus for the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

In a report, UNA staff said once the external financial audit is complete, directors will receive a report providing further details on finances, as well as ideas for how the potential surplus can be used.

DANIEL LI IS A GRADE 12 STUDENT PASSIONATE ABOUT POLITICS AND JOURNALISM.



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OPINION

Cars Rule on Campus

Growth and development has resulted in a dangerous mix where motor vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists and others must co-exist on campus roadways. Can UBC planners create a safe transportation network as the campus population is set to double in 25 years?

BY IAN CARTER

As a 13-year resident of Hawthorn Place, I have experienced the effect of increased traffic and mobility on the enjoyment of some parts of our road system. And as campus continues to transform into a larger community where tens of thousands of people live, study, and work, these issues will only amplify.

The following commentary focuses on the area surrounding Wesbrook Place, central campus, and other places that I frequently visit.

Wesbrook Place and West 16th Avenue

I remain concerned about the increase in traffic, particularly the main shopping zone and the number of vehicles using the roundabout at West 16th Ave. and Wesbrook Mall.

People of all ages use the central Wesbrook Village area, sometimes causing



Weekday afternoon traffic at the roundabout located at Wesbrook Mall and West 16th Avenue. (Photo: Supplied)

crowding which spills onto the roads. What is interesting and obvious, is that the number of pedestrians varies according to hours of the day, holidays and school days.

The Village is a meeting place for students, runners, parents, and children, and those who use Wesbrook Community Centre. The congestion results in a need for more care by motorists.

In the mornings, large delivery and garbage trucks take up road space, only adding to the frustration shown by motorists towards pedestrians. I would like to see a survey undertaken by UBC Properties Trust and the UNA to determine how the area operates to identify possible changes to pedestrian and vehicular movement. This needs to happen before someone gets hurt, because there have been recorded incidences where pedestrians have been injured by errant drivers.

Those who need to drive due to immobility issues need to be able to conduct their visit with dignity as they manoeuvre through the parking area to access Save-On Foods and Shoppers Drug Mart for example, both of which require crossing a road for access.

I believe my idea for a pedestrian-centred “Wesbrook Plaza” (A More Pedestrian-Friendly Wesbrook Village – The Campus Resident, January 2025) would address some of these concerns.

Wesbrook Plaza could be expanded to stretch right across from the drugstore to Save-on-Foods, forcing traffic to use alternative routes or to have people reroute their vehicles away from the plaza area. Delivery vehicles could use Ross Drive to access Save-on-Foods and other buildings adjacent to Wesbrook Community Centre. However, that could potentially cause friction if and when the proposed Wesbrook elementary school is built.

Main Mall and central campus

Main Mall is a wonderful walking experience. It is used by many who take the short cut from East Mall to West 16th to cross at the pedestrian walk towards Wesbrook Village.

While popular, I have witnessed a few instances where electric scooters have been a nuisance. And that leads to the broader issue of how pedestrians, motorists, cyclists and other modes of transportation share our roads.

It’s becoming increasingly clear that

urban planning is too far advanced for the university neighbourhoods to be considered a model for universal design. It seems vehicles have taken control.

I met with a previous director of planning and design several times, and he talked about his visits to various parts of Europe where pedestrians, cyclists co-exist with a clarity as to ownership of movement. Denmark, Sweden and parts of Germany and France were offered as good examples of inclusion.

I have visited all of these countries and can attest to this clarity.

In Wesbrook Place, while there are more and more vehicles, there are also more scooters, pedestrians and other modes of trans-

port used by those who choose not to drive, thus contributing to increased congestion.

This is making our roadways more hazardous for all and presents a major challenge for campus planners.

Other areas I consider to be dangerous include the intersection of Wesbrook Mall and University Boulevard. This area is unsafe, particularly since students tend to cross against the traffic lights, and many wait to cross on the road despite warnings to stay on the sidewalks. Buses departing the University Blvd. loop and turning onto Wesbrook Mall also tend to ignore left turning traffic, which in turn upsets traffic movement.

Regarding our roundabouts, I have witnessed several incidences when vehicles are driven without care and attention to the rules. Too often I have seen near accidents caused by drivers not understanding or perhaps ignoring the rules of conduct, where a vehicle on the roundabout has precedence over those about to enter. Some drivers use the roundabout at West 16th and East Mall as a chicane, behaving as race car drivers.

As Wesbrook South continues to build up, we are seeing increased congestion not only at the Wesbrook Mall and West 16th roundabout but, also farther south on Wesbrook Mall towards SW Marine Drive.

What remains to be demonstrated is how planners will respond to more traffic across all modes of transport and more hazardous roadways, as the population of the university neighbourhoods is set to double by 2050.

IAN CARTER IS A RETIRED ARCHITECT, ARTIST, AND HAS BEEN A RESIDENT OF HAWTHORN PLACE FOR 13 YEARS.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Local Golf Club History All in the Name

I recently read your very informative article on Westward Ho! Public House & Grill Room – the restaurant located at the University Golf Club (“Golf Club Resto Miles From Ordinary” – The Campus Resident, May 1).

I would like to tell your audience a story about how the name ‘Westward Ho’ originated. Roughly a century ago,

John Boyd, the former owner of General Construction Ltd, built most of the major highways in British Columbia for the ruling Liberal government at the time. In 1927, when the Liberals required someone to construct a golf course, General Construction received the contract. The government always intended the new golf course to be a public one.

As the course neared completion, the lands and forest department searched for a course operator.

Boyd, a keen golfer and Shaughnessy Heights golf club member, obtained a 35 year lease to operate the new course as a public facility. To operate the course, he formed a company called Westward Ho Golf Links Ltd. Where did he get the name?

Before coming to Canada prior to World War One, Boyd was a member of a world famous golf course outside of London, England called the Westward Ho Golf Club.

MIKE RISTE, VOLUNTEER GOLF HISTORIAN, BC GOLF MUSEUM.



Tree Inventory Project Underway on Campus

UNA involved in UBC-led study to take stock of campus trees in effort to prepare for impacts on urban forests from climate change and understand local biodiversity.

BY ARIJIT JOSHI

Amidst growing concerns over climate change, wildfires, and urban development, experts are saying trees may be the key in coping with those challenges.

The importance of trees has led the UNA to partner with UBC for a project that aims to take an inventory of the trees on campus, with an overall aim to improve urban forest management practices, improve our understanding of local biodiversity, and assess the climate resilience of urban forests.

The project commenced in 2023, with full-scale implementation beginning in May this year.

Associate professor Melissa McHale at UBC’s Faculty of Forestry is the project’s principal investigator. Her lab studies urban forest structure and the structure of urban environments. In particular, the lab looks at how those structures translate into ecosystem function and how people experience the environment. Research is also looking into urban heat and urban greening - both of which are important factors for adapting to longterm climate change.

There are many ways in which the project fits into the larger scheme of climate adaptation strategies, says McHale.

Through this study, the UNA and UBC are taking a more forward-thinking approach to be better prepared for crises.

By assessing the current health of our trees, UNA and campus officials will know where trees need to be planted and when they should be replaced to create a healthier urban forest.

“We don’t know what species are going to do well in a future climate. We can guess based on the best evidence, but in the end, we don’t know,” McHale says. “So, if we start collecting data now, in the future, we can make decisions that are informed by how trees are doing in our specific environment.”

The UNA became a project partner not only because of its role in providing municipal-like services on campus, but also because of common goals with UBC.



A residential tower in Wesbrook Place, adjacent to Pacific Spirit Regional Park. (Photo: Vivian Su)

“We’ve really leaned into understanding the role we can play as scientists and students in understanding the urban environment around UBC, and how we can manage that together effectively with partners,” says McHale.

The UNA plays a role through their interactions and relationships with community members, specifically, how they experience the natural environment. The organization also has knowledge on tree and ecosystem health, and the data it gathers on what species are planted and their health in the local urban environment.

For students involved with the project, there are several layers of learning. Senior level undergraduates are trained in data collection, so that they can collect tree inventory data and learn to manage and analyze it.

Lab managers navigate the space between research and collecting data, before translating it into research outcomes.

Spatial scientists, according to Dr. McHale, “...are learning how to link these data to other data sets and actually visualize them spatially.”

“We have a host of lab and geographic information system techs that will inte-

grate these data sets with some other things that we’re collecting on campus and also allow it so that this data set could be integrated into the broader tree inventory and also be a source for people to use,” she says.

McHale’s team has access to software

a role caring for our urban environment,” she said.

ARIJIT JOSHI IS A RECENT MASTERS OF JOURNALISM GRADUATE FROM UBC. HE WRITES ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE, URBAN PLANNING, CONSERVATION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE.

that will allow researchers to specify locations of trees to an accuracy of 5 centimeters, helping identify each tree on a map, where it belongs, and whose responsibility it is to manage it. The data will also be recorded in a way so it can be easily updated, she added.

Ultimately, McHale says she hopes one of the most important lessons to be learned through the project is communication, and bringing together project stakeholders and concerned residents.

“I know there is a growing population of people in the neighborhoods that really care about the place they live, and I see this as a way to increase communication and bring those people into decision-making because we all have to play

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THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

The Campus Resident values a diversity of voices and views. Letters must pertain to previous articles published by *The Campus Resident* and/or concern relevant issues to the campus community. Letters should have a maximum of 300 words and may be edited for length and clarity.

To submit a letter, write to **editor@thecampusresident.ca**. Please include your name, address and phone number.

As the summer advances, the sun begins to shine brighter and we head outdoors to relish the beautiful weather. It's a great time to take walks, and the area around the UBC Farm has a lot of things to appreciate.

Prime growing season is underway at the farm, which is open from Tuesday to Saturday during the hours of 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you just want to see what's growing, you can walk through the farm using designated pathways and view the crops. If you want to sample the produce, the farm stand is open on site from 4-6 p.m. every Tuesday.

The weekend market is on every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m from June through to November 29, and it includes additional vendors selling baked goods, meats, handcrafted beverages, and ready-to-eat meals.

Near the main entrance to the farm, you will find one of the biodiversity planters, which were created in 2024 as part of efforts to promote native pollinators. Experts say those are crucial for biodiversity and a healthier ecosystem.

To see citizen efforts towards sustainability in practice, check out the campus community Greenway gardens between the UBC Farm and Ross Drive. These gardens encourage residents to plant and harvest their own food. If you take

Discover Sustainable Growing on Campus

In Wesbrook South, efforts to promote sustainability, biodiversity and create a healthier environment are on display.

BY ELINA HAILAIJIAO



Fresh produce from the UBC Farm market. (Photo: Vivian Su)

a moment to sit on the bench in this area, you will probably see several different kinds of butterflies among the plants. The coned eagle's nest is right above you, and you may be able to see or hear the eagles.

At the street end of the community garden plots, there is also a pollinator patch



The Greenway Community Garden, located in Wesbrook South. (Photo: Vivian Su)

which is maintained by volunteers to encourage even more insects.

A total of five community garden sites are located around UBC with over 200 assigned plots. They include Nobel Garden, Rhodo Garden, Greenway North, Greenway South, and Hawthorn Garden.

They are extremely popular and there's currently a waiting list to get a plot.

If you are curious and want to apply to get your name on the list, visit myuna.ca/gardens and learn more about how to register.

Moving along, if you take the gravel path between the trees and the farm, you will see another of these community garden spots. On the path between the garden and the townhouses, there's a Little Free Library.

This library has only been open for a couple of months, but it's already very popular, with a regular turnover of books. Take a book to drop off, or pick up something to read. There are plenty of benches on the nearby path, or you can take the paved path across Ross Drive to Mundell Park.

If you are interested in learning more about the plants and trees in the area, there are a number of educational signs on the greenway path beside the farm in both directions – both towards Nobel Park and north towards West 16th Ave. 🌿

ELINA HAILAIJIAO IS A STUDENT AT LORD BYNG SECONDARY SCHOOL.

We Are Launching a New Arts and Culture Section!

Do you live on campus and have a flair for the arts? Get in touch with us to showcase your work.

BY TCR STAFF

Are you a writer, artist, doodler, or storyteller living in the university neighbourhoods? Do you have a poem, pencil sketch, watercolour portrait, comic strip, short story, or perhaps something a little more obscure, that you'd love to share with your neighbours?

We're introducing an Arts and Culture section in *The Campus Resident* in our September issue to showcase the creative spirit of our community. We welcome submissions from residents of all ages and backgrounds—from seasoned creators to individuals just beginning their artistic journeys.

What we're looking for:

- Poems (up to 50 lines)
- Short stories (Flash fiction, creative non-fiction, etc - max 500 words)
- Comic strips or single-panel cartoons
- Visual art (Paintings, photography, collages, digital art)
- Children's drawings or short poems (yes, we want contributions from the little ones too!)
- Off-beat art (Humor writing, quirky reflections, the abstract, etc)



Share your written or visual art in *The Campus Resident's* soon-to-be-launched Arts and Culture section by sending your work to editor@thecampusresident.ca by August 15.

To submit:

- Email your submission to: editor@thecampusresident.ca. Include your name, the neighborhood you live in, and a short 40 word bio describing your art and who you are.
- For visual art, submissions must be sent in high-resolution at 300dpi, preferably as JPG/PNG/TIFF/PDF files.
- For written submissions, please attach as a .doc, .docx, or Google Doc file.

We are launching the section in our September 2025 issue. To have your work considered, please send your submission in no later than August 15.

All submissions will be reviewed by *The Campus Resident's* Arts and Culture editors. Accepted contributors will be notified and have their work featured in both print and at www.thecampusresident.ca.

Get involved and share your artistic talents with the community! 🎨

Get to Know Campus Wildlife

How many bats live amongst us? Why don't we see more deer? We spoke with campus resident, local wildlife expert and UBC Assistant Professor Matthew Mitchell to learn more about our animal neighbours.

BY PERMENIA REA

Our neighbourhoods and surrounding environment are packed with wildlife, from owls to seals, and squirrels to ladybugs. There is so much to learn about these nearby creatures, and one campus resident also happens to be an expert in the field. Matthew Mitchell, Assistant Professor with UBC's faculty of Forestry and faculty of Land and Food Systems is an applied landscape ecologist who focuses on "how landscape structure and human actions impact biodiversity and multiple ecosystem services." Along with his team of researchers, he has been monitoring biodiversity at the UBC Farm since 2019, using camera traps for small mammals, acoustic monitoring for birds and bats, and field-work for bumble bees and earthworms. Here are just a few of the animals you might see in our neighbourhood.

Squirrels

Squirrels are everywhere on campus, but how much do we really know about these critters? Two species of squirrels can be found in the area: the native Douglas Squirrel, which likes forested habitats and builds large, round nests in the trees. There's also the Eastern Grey Squirrel, which historically was not present in our area. It has an excellent sense of smell which helps them locate food that they've hidden away.

Mitchell points out that "the eastern grey has two colour morphs, grey and black. Some people think the grey and black squirrels are different species but they are actually the same."

Coyotes

Several coyotes are known to live in the area, and you might see them on or near campus. They tend to keep to themselves and are most active at night, though they can be spotted around dawn and dusk.

While there is a risk a pet or child could be attacked by a coyote, that risk is very small. Studies show that pets usually make up less than 2 per cent of a coyote's diet in urban areas.

"Always supervise your children or pets, especially in areas where coyotes might be present and educate children how to respond to coyotes - go inside a building, make themselves big, yell for help, and don't run," says Mitchell.

He adds that adults should also "get in the habit of hazing or scaring coyotes away from populated areas if they see them."

Raccoons

Have you ever seen grass dug up and overturned around the neighbourhood? It's probably raccoons. Raccoons dig up grass in search of food, mostly grubs, which is a common food source. There is evidence of this digging activity in the grass verges near Ross Drive and 16th Ave

Raccoons are excellent climbers and swimmers, allowing them to navigate various terrains.

It is advised that if you see a raccoon prowling around at night, keep your distance.

The birds ...

According to a 2021 study by UBC's Social Ecological Economic Development Studies (SEEDS) Sustainability Program, there are 121 documented bird species on campus, both resident and migrating. Common ones include bald eagles, crows, finches, hawks, hummingbirds, owls, robins, sparrows, and woodpeckers.

Crows are quite interesting. They use tools, can remember the faces of people they like or don't like, and there is some evidence that they are self-aware, making them one of the most intelligent creatures in the animal kingdom and considered on par with chimpanzees.

The SEEDS "UBC Bird Backgrounder" says, "Birds are important because they help to regulate insect and rodent populations and contribute to pollination and seed dispersal."

... and the bees (and the bats!)

Besides the big critters, there are many smaller animals nearby that we don't always notice. These include bumblebees and other native pollinators, including moths, spiders, snakes, and countless insects, from ladybugs to dragonflies to flying ants.

Bumblebees are super-pollinators distinctive for their fuzzy, pile-covered bodies and bold colors, which helps them ward off predators.

Among our flying neighbours, what's an animal that we don't often get a chance to see?

"My personal favorite might be the bats we have on campus," says Mitchell.



Various animals, including a coyote, a deer, and a racoon, photographed in the university neighbourhoods and surrounds. (Photos: Matthew Mitchell)

"We often don't realize they are around since they use ultrasonic sound and only fly at night."

He says there is a large roost on campus of around 250-300 bats, and all of the local bats are insectivores (meaning they only eat insects), are small with a range in weight from five to 15 grams, and they don't bother people.

Deer

Campus and the university neighbourhoods are surrounded by lush forest and greenery which is full of all sorts of animals, so why don't we see more deer?

Part of the reason is geography. Deer have a hard time getting to Point Grey peninsula because it is surrounded by a dense urban area, the Fraser River, and the Pacific Ocean.

Despite the geographic challenges, they have made it here before, says Mitchell.

"A pregnant doe arrived in May 2023 and gave birth to a fawn shortly after. The deer spent a couple of years at the farm feasting on all of the organic produce," he says.

Then tragedy struck, as it's believed both deer were likely struck by cars. "I believe these were the first deer on campus for the last 25 years," he says.

Co-existing safely with wildlife

Some human behaviors can harm wildlife, so Mitchell along with many other wildlife experts have some tips for keeping us, and our animal neighbours, safe.

Never feed wild animals - no matter how cute they are - so that they do not become dependent on humans for food. A wild animal that becomes habituated to being fed can pose risks to humans through biting and the transmission of diseases.

Keep cats indoors. Urban cats kill large numbers of birds, small mammals, and reptiles/amphibians each year, which has negative impacts on biodiversity. Indoor cats also live longer.

Place bird-friendly decals on windows. The abundant and diverse bird population on campus can put them in close contact with buildings and windows, leading to significant bird strikes. Varied thrushes on campus are at particularly high risk. According to a 2021 study led by Krista L. De Groot, about 10,000 birds die annually from building collisions at UBC.

Planting pollinator-friendly plant species supports native pollinator communities, such as mason bees and butterflies.

PERMENIA REA IS A GRADE 8 STUDENT AT IDEAL MINI SCHOOL.



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IN OUR WORDS

Norma Rose Point Shows its Pride

Local school hosted first-ever pride parade and pride week event last month.

BY KAR-YEE YUEN

On June 16, the Norma Rose PAC (Parent Advisory Council) in collaboration with Norma Rose Point Elementary School hosted its first ever Pride Week Event and it was a huge success.

To kick off the week, the pride parade saw school communities dressed in rainbow colours to form the colours of the Pride Flag.

WeeBee the Drag Queen led the parade outside to an enthusiastic group of family members cheering their kids on. Music, bubbles, pride flags, and good vibes filled the air on this sunny afternoon.

Pride committee member Liz Reuter said she “had tears in my eyes”, a sentiment shared by other attendees. Event photographer Kyle Duske said, “This has got to be one of the biggest and best pride celebrations at any school in Vancouver.” Music provider DJ Scott said, “Just amazing ... I wish we had this growing up”.

Event organizer and NRP PAC Co-Chair, Kar-Yee Yuen, said “NRP Pride Week was a way to celebrate the diversity and resilience of the 2SLGBTQ+ community of students, families, and educators and to renew our commitment to create

safe and inclusive learning environments at NRP.”

“I organized a number of events this school year and this one felt extra special”.

The parade was then led into a gym assembly where the NRP dance teams performed to Queen’s “Don’t Stop Me Now” and WeeBee performed a dazzling story and dance routine.

Events took place in school throughout the entire week, including rainbow beading, comic book workshops, and an outdoor dance party featuring queer musicians.

Part of the learning elements of the event included an area showcasing 2SLGBTQ+ themed books and a display focused on the meaning of allyship.

Speaking on allyship, one pride committee member said it was “disheartening to hear that a number of parents chose to keep their kids home from the Pride event. We hope in the future this will change as this is meant to be an inclusive environment where we all have an opportunity to learn and to show our children that we will love them no matter who they



Pride Week events at Norma Rose Point Elementary School were held on June 16. (Photo: Kyle Duske).

love and who they become — at least, that’s the hope. Regardless, we had an amazing event”.

Yuen added: “Representation is key and we had an incredible team of instructors who hosted queer-led karate workshops and queer-led dance workshops throughout the entire Pride week. Over 700+ NRP students took part in these workshops, connecting students to the local queer community in meaningful ways.”

Sabrina Symington, Karate workshop leader and published comic book artist of the series “Life of Bria” said, “I talk to kids

about how Karate was a way for me to express myself and helped me get through a time when I was struggling with my gender identity. At the end of the day, a kid might not like Karate but hopefully they have learned it’s OK to be themselves.”

Brynne Harper, a queer dance artist and youth educator said, “There is power in talking and teaching about identity, belonging and community. It was the first time I was able to take that to a learning environment in that capacity and it was a wonderful experience.”

A dedicated team of 25 volunteers including educators, parents,

grandparents, student leaders and allies helped make this event possible. The event was supported by our generous sponsors including TD Bank, VanCity, RBC, Urban Fare, Rain or Shine, Kidsbooks and London Drugs.

“You have to do this again next year” said Ms. Jackson, NRP Music teacher. We got you and we can’t wait to see you all again next year. 🌈

KAR-YEE YUEN IS A CAMPUS RESIDENT AND CO-CHAIR OF THE NORMA ROSE POINT PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC).

Try Some New Activities and Flavours This Summer



With ideas for exciting activities and satisfying your ice cream craving, our summer guide is a great starting point for exploring campus and beyond during the coming months.

BY SEOHYEON PARK

The long-awaited summer season in Vancouver has arrived and the city has burst into full bloom under sunny skies.

To help you make the most of these fleeting, sun-drenched months, *The Campus Resident* has put together a concise summer event and activity guide.

First off, what better way to embrace summer than a combination of sunshine, snacks, and the great outdoors?

Vancouver provides a range of scenic picnic spots ideal for spending quality time with loved ones. Kitsilano Beach Park is a great option for those who prefer a vibrant beach

for locals and tourists, this is the place to enjoy a picnic amidst towering trees, scenic trails, and breezy bike rides along the seawall.

If you are in the mood for something a little more adventurous, do something different and hit the water with your friends and family. Granville Island’s Vancouver Boat Rentals offers a selection of boats starting at \$60 per hour. Splitting it amongst friends—boats accommodate between 2 to 5 people—makes it an affordable splurge.

If you don’t have a boating license, they offer water bikes as a great alternative that allows safe pedaling at a relaxed pace of 8-14 km/hr, starting at \$35 per hour.

Canoeing or Kayaking along the coast also offers both tranquility and gentle workout.

Rentals for all kinds of watercraft are available throughout the city, including Jericho Sailing Club and Coal Harbour’s Goldstar Marina.

And what’s summer without little ice cream? There

vibe. This is the place to gather with friends, play your favourite tunes on a Bluetooth speaker, and indulging in some snacks from local vendors. The iconic Kitsilano Pool is open for the summer.

If you are in the mood for cityscapes and lush floral surroundings, Queen Elizabeth Park offers a picturesque escape with its vibrant gardens, exotic plants and flowers, mountain vistas, and skyline—a perfect setting for a serene afternoon.

And of course, there is Stanley Park. Popular

are great options on campus and beyond for those with a sweet tooth.

Right here at UBC, there’s the ever-popular Rain or Shine. The UBC location of this local chain can be found at 6001 University Blvd. Seasonal and regular flavours include vegan and gluten-free options. For those willing to venture off campus, consider making a trip to La Glace on 2785 West 16th Ave. This is an elegant creamery offering an evolving menu of soft, unique, hand-crafted flavours with monthly rotations and daily surprises. Some of the popular flavours include Praline Pistache, Fraisier, and vegan Coconut Pandan.

For something richer, Earnest Ice Cream delivers bold, milky flavours such as London Fog and Tahitian Vanilla. They have locations throughout the city, but their 3992 Fraser St. outlet is a lovely post-dinner treat after dining on nearby Main St.

Whatever vibe you’re looking for, there’s so much to do in Vancouver to make this summer unforgettable. 🌈

SEOHYEON PARK IS PURSUING HER BACHELOR’S DEGREE IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES AT UBC.



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How Kids Can Keep Their Maths Skills Sharp This Summer

UBC experts discuss how everyday summer holiday activities such as hiking, building sandcastles or picnicking can help caregivers sneak in real-world math lessons while kids are out of school.

BY ALEX WALLS

Parents may be looking for fun ways for their kids to avoid a summer slump and keep vital math skills razor sharp after school ends in June.

Melania Alvarez, outreach and education coordinator at the Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences and the UBC department of mathematics, and Lindsey Daniels, UBC math assistant professor of teaching, discuss how everyday summer holiday activities such as hiking, building sandcastles or picnicking can sneak in real-world math lessons.

Is there a ‘summer slump’ when it comes to math?

MA: Absolutely. Research shows that during long school breaks, students can lose up to two months of math knowledge, which adds up over the years. Math is like a language—it needs consistent use to stick and kids need regular practice to maintain and build their skills.

LD: Supporting and fostering curiosity and learning is key to success in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. When parents are involved, it can boost a child’s motivation and confidence while also helping to develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

We know math benefits from consistency, so taking extended breaks may not be beneficial for children’s learn-

ing. However, short breaks are encouraged to help the brain cognitively process information. Being consistent throughout the learning process can help students bounce back more efficiently after breaks as well.

What are some ways parents can sneak math into fun summer activities?

Cooking and baking

LD: Get your kids involved in cooking or baking—these use knowledge of measurements, volumes, fractions, ratios, addition and multiplication. There are a number of core mathematical skills that go into following a recipe, such as doubling or halving a recipe, that can be great for supporting math while having fun. And, you produce a great reward for your mathematical effort!

MA: Recipes are full of math: Ask kids to calculate cooking times or compare temperatures. Have them invent their own snack mix with precise proportions or challenge them to scale a family recipe using only measuring cups. Add a timer or thermometer, and you’ve got a hands-on math lab right in your kitchen.

Games

LD: Rock-paper-scissors, dice games, card games and board games all have math quietly working in the background. Asking children to spot where math comes into play during a game is a fun way to show how engaging the subject can be. Encouraging them to explain their strategies and reasoning also helps build critical thinking and problem-solving skills, all in a

low-pressure and entertaining setting.

Grocery shopping

MA: Turn grocery trips into budgeting games. Give kids a set amount of money and challenge them to plan a picnic or find the best deal by calculating price per unit. At home, sorting groceries by size or expiration date also teaches classification, organization and real-world math.

Where are some surprising places you can math it up this summer?

LD: Some of my favourite places to see math are on hikes or walks. There are a number of different geometrical properties that naturally appear in trees, leaves and flowers. Help your children find different shapes in leaves, find flowers with different numbers of petals or look at the patterns that branches form on trees.

MA: Nature is full of patterns and numbers—spirals in sunflowers, symmetry in butterfly wings, or even how far your Frisbee flies. On road trips, ask kids to estimate travel time, track mileage or calculate gas costs.

LD: There are even a number of mathematical principles that underpin the construction of a sandcastle. There are volumes: how much sand is needed; spatial awareness skills and geometry involved in understanding how the different shapes interact. You can talk to your children about these concepts as you’re building a castle together.



UBC Math assistant professor Lindsey Daniels looks at the geometry of leaves with seven-year-old Theodore Factora. (Photo: Krysten Casumpang).

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Joanne Is Your UBC Neighbourhood REALTOR®

Joanne is a multiple award winning REALTOR®. Please call Joanne for real estate matters.

Hello! I'm Joanne Chen! A longtime resident of Vancouver, I moved to UBC in 2008 and have proudly called it home ever since. With 10 years of experience at Macdonald Realty Ltd. and a strong background in coordination and client service, I bring both expertise and dedication to every client relationship. I'm fluent in English, Mandarin (普通话), Cantonese (广东话), and two other dialects (台山话和客家话), allowing me to connect with a diverse range of clients. Whether you're buying or selling, I'm here to help you achieve your real estate goals with exceptional service and personalized support. I have sold more than 30 properties at UBC, including properties in Hawthorn Place, Wesbrook Village, and Hampton Place!

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