

THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

OCTOBER 2, 2025
VOLUME 15, ISSUE 7



Apple Festival Enters 34th Year

The UBC Apple Festival is back on this month and will feature cooking demonstrations as well as the popular Tasting Tent with dozens of varieties of apples to try.

Page 2

Restoring Pacific Spirit Regional Park



Ecological restoration work, which includes removing invasives and planting native species, has been ongoing in Pacific Spirit Regional Park. (Photo: Pacific Spirit Park Society)

A team of volunteers are participating in ecological work to improve Metro Vancouver's busiest park by removing invasives and planting native species.

BY SIMON DING

Pacific Spirit Regional Park is a treasure for nature enthusiasts.

The park is a popular destination for campus residents and other visitors looking to connect with nature. In 2024, four million people visited the park, making it the busiest in the Metro Vancouver regional system.

There are 55 kilometres of trails in the park, but unless visitors know about identifying flora and fauna, they wouldn't know that they are surrounded by many types of invasive species.

Invasives are often harmful to the environment, as they out-compete local

species for resources and space, eventually leaving behind a place inhabitable to many native organisms, not just plants. Furthermore, they can be a direct risk to human wellbeing as they can threaten agriculture, public health, and tourism.

The prevalence of invasives is visible on a stretch of Sword Fern Trail – one of Pacific Spirit's longest. It is here where a team of volunteers is working on a multi-year project to restore part of the park.

In the 1930s, parts of campus and the area around Sword Fern Trail was logged to generate revenue for the university, says Mike Jerowsky, President of the Pacific Spirit Park Society.

By 1943, logging ceased due to poor forestry management practices, leaving the land degraded. Developers started eyeing the area, and as time went on, pioneer species came through and died out, birds and wind brought seeds from far away, and gardeners introduced increasing numbers of non-native plants for their yards. As a result, what once was a thriving natural ecosystem became one plagued by invasive plant species.

In the meantime, local residents, environmentalists, and groups like the Endowment Lands Regional Committee pushed for preservation. "The Sword Fern Trail were spared from development as part of these broader conservation

efforts," says Jarowsky.

In 1973, despite political resistance and the push for development, parcels of land including Camosun Bog were set aside for protection. A further push by conservationists and other stakeholders would lead to the establishment of Pacific Spirit Regional Park in 1989.

It was a victory, but the task to undo some of the degradation would soon begin, and it continues to this day.

Since 2017, the Pacific Spirit Park Society's volunteer EcoTeam has been working every week to restore parts of the park. "Since then we have focussed on this area for three total years, removing invasive species and planting native plant species while improving the conifer seed bank in the area," said Jerowsky.

Currently, this team operates in an area along Sword Fern Trail, just north of University Chapel, on University Boulevard. The year is usually split between two primary tasks: planting native trees and removing invasive species.

Planting takes place during the fall, featuring trees such as Cedars, Douglas Fir, Hemlock, pines, and huckleberry shrubs.

The rest of the year is dedicated to removing invasive species, such as English Ivy, Laurel, English Holly, and Himalayan Blackberry.

It requires consistent work, and significant results will likely not show for at least a couple decades. That's the nature of restoration work. Thus, goals are generally long-term and include monitoring and continued maintenance.

Should you start removing invasive species or planting natives as you walk the trails?

Not so fast, says Jerowsky. This kind of work needs to be coordinated with Metro Vancouver and ideally coordinated with a group like the Pacific Spirit Park Society.

"Removing invasive species without knowing the full impact on local ecosystems can sometimes have unintended consequences," he said.

"Additionally, proper plant identification is essential, and these are skills that we can help teach interested community members if they want to come out to be part of our team."

Want to join in? Visit pacificspiritparksociety.org/volunteer-sign-up/ and volunteer your time to restore the natural beauty of this cherished park. 🌱

SIMON DING IS A CAMPUS RESIDENT WITH A BACHELORS IN PUBLIC HEALTH – GLOBAL HEALTH FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, AND MEMBER OF THE NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL COMMITTEE.

WITH ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY EMMANUEL SAMOGLU.

Cone Removed from Eagle's Nest

With a slowdown in construction activity in Wesbrook Place, crews removed the cone in advance of bald eagle nesting season.

Page 3



From the Mouth of the Fraser to Federal Politics

Vancouver Quadra MP Wade Grant speaks with *The Campus Resident* on topics such as immigration, the environment, and healthcare, and what he seeks to achieve during his first term as an MP.

Page 8



Helping Newcomers Make Connections on Campus

The university neighbourhoods are home to many new and recent arrivals, and the UNA aims to help them develop a stronger connection to their new community.

Page 5



Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Thrives at UBC Theatre and Film

UBC Theatre and Film department head Kirsty Johnston forges ahead in advocating for inclusivity in the arts.

Page 6



Members of the Pacific Spirit Park Society's EcoTeam carrying out restoration work. (Photo: Pacific Spirit Park Society)

Apple Festival Enters 34th Year

The UBC Apple Festival is back on this month and will feature cooking demonstrations as well as the popular Tasting Tent with dozens of varieties to try.

BY AMIE BERNAERDT

Calling all apple lovers—UBC’s annual Apple Festival is right around the corner.

As the festival enters its 34th year, it has become a popular autumn attraction for campus residents and beyond.

The festival will take place from October 18-19, between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the UBC Botanical Garden. Organized by Friends of the Garden, a volunteer group, the festival is the UBC Botanical Garden’s biggest fundraising event.

The festival features all sorts of activities for people of all ages, including local food vendors, a children’s area, live entertainment, and cooking demonstrations. In 2024, the festival began showing attendees how to cook various apple-themed recipes. Luckily for attendees this year, the popular demonstrations will be returning.

For many, the star of the festival is undeniably the Tasting Tent, a place for festival-goers to sample different kinds of apples to their heart’s content. In the past, there have been 60-70 different varieties of apples to try.

If you’re looking to take some apples home after the festival, there will be plenty to choose from. The festival organizers generally bring in 33,000 pounds of apples for people to buy from the stands in the parking area.

Despite the enormous quantity for sale, they’ve been known to sell out fast in recent years, as the festival’s popularity has grown substantially. To ensure you secure all the apples you would like, get there early.

Tickets are \$11 for people between the ages of 8 and 64 online, and \$12 at the festival gates. Tickets provide access

to the apple sale, food trucks, and the garden area with activities.

Entrance to the Tasting Tent is not included in general admission—it’s an extra \$10 and can be purchased online or at the venue. If the Tasting Tent admission is sold out, the organizers recommend checking again on the day of the festival, as new tickets may go on sale.

Advance purchase tickets are available on the Botanical Garden’s website at botanicalgarden.ubc.ca.

If you’re looking for a way to celebrate the arrival of autumn, enjoy some delicious fruit, and partake in a beloved UBC tradition, join your fellow campus residents at the 34th annual Apple Festival. 🍏

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



UNA

UNIVERSITY
NEIGHBOURHOODS
ASSOCIATION

Halloween

Mystery

A haunting mystery lurks at
Wesbrook — can you crack the case?

Friday, October 31, 2025 **4:00-7:00 PM**
Wesbrook Community Centre

Something spooky is afoot at the Wesbrook Community Centre. The lights are flickering, strange whispers fill the air, and a shadowy figure has been spotted near the gym...

We need brave detectives of all ages to help unravel the mystery before the clock strikes seven! Come dressed in your spookiest costume and get ready for a thrilling evening of puzzles, surprises, and Halloween fun.

More Fun Awaits: Register for pumpkin carving, uncover pre-event clues, and learn more at myuna.ca/halloween.



The annual Apple Festival runs from October 18-19 and takes place at the UBC Botanical Garden. (Photos: UBC Botanical Garden)

Vancouver West & UBC 전문 조동욱 부동산

Considering Selling/Buying the UBC Residential Property?

Call Your UBC Specialist, Don Cho Ph.D.!

UBC 지역 주택의 모든 것, 조동욱 부동산이 책임지겠습니다!

밴쿠버 웨스트 / UBC 지역
집을 사고 파실 때 최고의
조건을 약속드립니다.

전 UBC 연구교수
현 BC주 공인 영어-한국어 통역사

778.988.8949

donwcho.ca

Vancouver Westside is My Home.
I am Committed to What is Best for Where We Live.
Call Me Now for a Free, Up to Date Home Evaluation.

OCTOBER 2, 2025

Volume 15
Issue 7

MANAGING EDITOR, EMMANUEL SAMOGLOU
EDITOR, ROBYN STARKEY
COPY EDITOR, JAN SCHUERMANN
ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR, JENNIFER CHEN
DESIGN AND PRODUCTION, REBECCA IND

NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL COMMITTEE
EAGLE GLASSHEIM, CHAIR AND UNA DIRECTOR
EVAN LUO, UNA DIRECTOR
ROBYN STARKEY, UNA RESIDENT MEMBER
VIVIAN SU, UNA RESIDENT MEMBER
SOFIA NGIENG, UNA RESIDENT MEMBER
JENNIFER CHEN, UNA RESIDENT MEMBER
SIMON DING, UNA RESIDENT MEMBER
LUCAS WANG, UNA RESIDENT MEMBER
WARREN MCKINNON, UNA RESIDENT MEMBER

THE CAMPUS RESIDENT
EDITOR@THECAMPUSRESIDENT.CA

The Campus Resident is published monthly, except for the months of January and August. It can also be accessed online at THECAMPUSRESIDENT.CA.

Published by the University Neighbourhoods Association
#202-5923 Berton Avenue,
Vancouver BC, V6S 0B3.

© 2025, The Campus Resident

We acknowledge that The Campus Resident is published on the ancestral, unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) nations.

Board Addresses Concerns over Invasive Beetle

Representatives from Hampton Place asked the UNA board to proactively cut down and replace the neighbourhood’s ash trees, which are susceptible to infestation from the emerald ash borer.

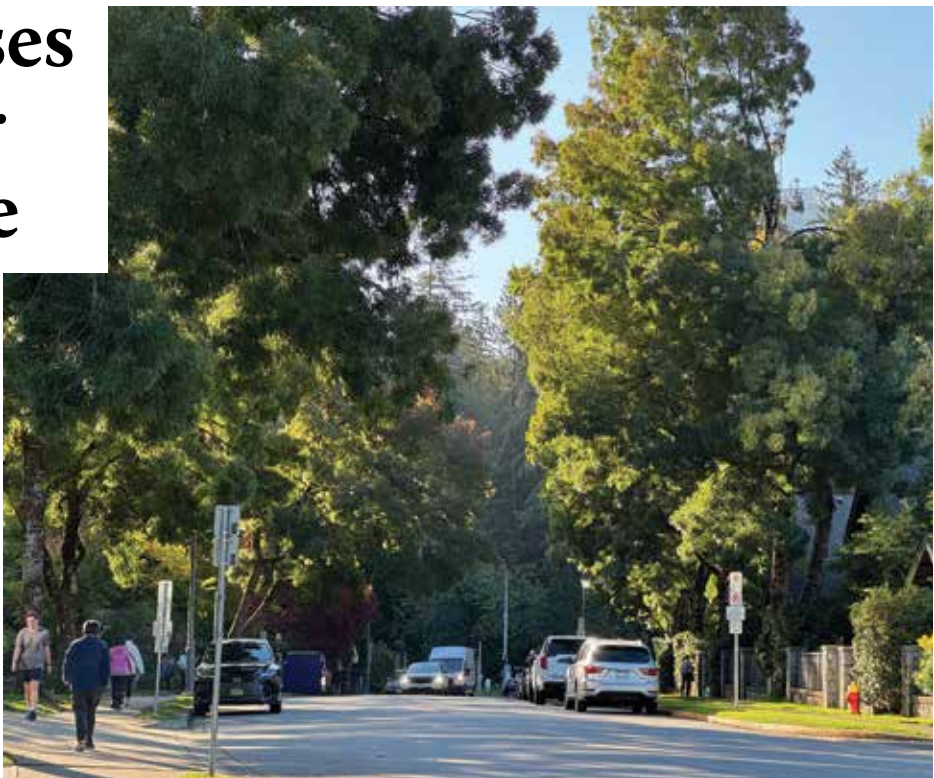
BY DANIEL LI

Two residents from Hampton Place asked the UNA board during their September meeting to proactively cut down a number of ash trees that are susceptible to infestation from an invasive beetle.

Presentations on the risks posed by the trees were made by the president of the Sandringham housing development strata and another resident of the Hampton Place neighbourhood.

The Sandringham Strata president said the neighbourhood’s larger ash trees pose a hazard to residents and parked vehicles due to falling branches, and the ash trees are uniquely vulnerable to infestation by the emerald ash borer.

The emerald ash borer is an invasive beetle that infests ash trees before killing them in two to four years. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency confirmed the presence of the beetles in Vancouver in the spring of 2024 and is currently working with the City of Vancouver to halt their spread. Current regulations stipulate that infested ash trees must



Ash trees in Hampton Place. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

be incinerated as part of their disposal, which could increase the future costs of removing Hampton Place’s trees.

The 2024 Neighbors Agreement places responsibility with the UNA for maintaining trees along roads and parks. A 2020 survey found that the UNA is currently managing over 2,700 trees in the public realm.

In response to the request from the Sandringham delegation to have the UNA share half the costs of removing the ash trees, UNA Staff noted that a Metro Vancouver survey found that the ash trees are within the legally defined property area of the Sandringham development.

Sandringham’s strata is currently in

talks with UBC Properties Trust regarding responsibility for the ash trees. UNA Director Ronald Bourgeois stated that as many of the tree’s roots intruded into the public realm, he believed that the costs of removing the ash trees should be shared between the UNA and Sandringham.

Board chair Eagle Glassheim responded by pointing out that under provincial law, the intrusion of the tree roots alone does not merit joint responsibility.

Director Bourgeois urged the UNA board to take a proactive approach in facilitating a resolution regarding the ash trees.

UNA staff said they are currently assessing whether the trees can be kept and treated with pesticides, or whether they should be removed and at what cost.

Additionally, the UNA is currently working with an arborist on a management plan for the trees and will report back to the board at a future meeting.

UNA Holds Annual AGM

The UNA held its Annual General Meeting on the evening of September 22 at the Wesbrook Community Centre.

The agenda for the meeting included reports from UNA board chair Eagle Glassheim, UNA chief administrative officer Paul Thorkelsson, and UNA finance manager Athena Koon, who shared financial results from the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

The AGM also included a question and answer period. Attendees asked questions concerning UNA administrative staff salaries and the availability of space for seniors’ programming.

A total of 42 members were present plus two by proxy. Attendance was similar to the 2024 AGM, when an estimated 40 people attended.

Annual general meetings are open to all UNA society members. Membership is open to residents of all university neighbourhoods that fall under the jurisdiction of the UNA and allows them to participate in annual general meetings and to vote in board elections.

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

WITH ADDITIONAL REPORTING FROM EMMANUEL SAMOGLOU.

Cone Removed from Eagle’s Nest

With a slowdown in construction activity in Wesbrook Place, crews removed the cone in advance of bald eagle nesting season.

BY EMMANUEL SAMOGLOU

A controversial cone placed over an eagle’s nest during the construction of a nearby housing development in Wesbrook Place has been removed.

The nest, previously used by bald eagles, was coned in September 2022 during the construction of a highrise and townhouse development on a parcel of land known as lot 6, at the corner of Ross

Drive and Birney Avenue.

Coning involves placing a metal cone-like structure over a nest to stop the eagles from using it, with the intention to protect the birds when construction is underway in the vicinity.

An update posted on the website of UBC Property Trust (UBCPT) on September 17 said the BC Ministry of Forests requested an assessment to determine if the cone could be removed in September, one year before the coning permit was set to expire.

UBCPT along with Diamond Head Consulting determined the cone could be removed.

“Summertime is when eagles have migrated north, and with construction activity in the area currently being low, September is the only opportunity to safely remove the cone before the upcoming nesting season,” reads the UBCPT statement.

“Following this review of current and planned construction activity, the decision was made to proceed with cone removal on September 18, 2025.”

UBCPT says the nest will continue to be monitored for any eagle activity by an environmental consulting firm.

The removal of the cone will be welcomed by Wesbrook residents. An online petition started in 2022 which called for the initial coning permit to be rejected gathered over 19,000 signatures.

While construction continues at lot 6, it is not known if the nest will need to be coned again as construction commences on



Signage at the site of the coned eagle’s nest, located near the corner of Ross Drive and Birney Avenue, pictured in February 2024. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

another nearby site known as lot 26, which is located at Ross Drive and Grey Ave.

A Development Permit for lot 26 was issued on April 25, 2024 and preparatory work for construction began late last month. Plans for the site include a 16-storey residential tower with 214 units and eight 3-storey townhomes.

UBC Properties Trust says all development in Wesbrook Place is subject to the Protected Species Management Plan (2017) and in compliance with provincial regulations.

EMMANUEL SAMOGLOU IS THE MANAGING EDITOR OF THE CAMPUS RESIDENT.



The tree containing the coned eagle’s nest (middle tree, with signage at the base), pictured here in February 2024. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

From the Mouth of the Fraser to Federal Politics

Vancouver Quadra MP Wade Grant has eyed a career in public service since his youth, and winning in April's federal election has given him the honour and responsibility of representing the campus community in Ottawa. He recently spoke with *The Campus Resident* on topics such as immigration, the environment, healthcare, and what he seeks to achieve during his first term as an MP.

BY EMMANUEL SAMOGLOU

It's been five months since Wade Grant fulfilled a lifelong dream and was elected to Parliament.

Hailing from Musqueam First Nation, Grant won easily in April's federal election, earning double the number of votes as his runner-up. He now has the job of representing the constituents of Vancouver Quadra, which includes UBC's Point Grey campus, in Ottawa.

He's the first from Musqueam to have been elected to serve in Parliament, and he's been preparing for this opportunity since he was a child.

Grant – a UBC graduate and father of two – comes from a family dedicated to public service. Both his mother and grandfather were Musqueam chiefs, and following in their footsteps, he served as a Musqueam Band councillor from 2004 until 2014. In the decade prior to entering federal politics, he held a number of roles including special advisor on aboriginal issues to former B.C. Premier Christy Clark, and Chair of the First Nations Health Council.

He now represents just under 115,000 constituents as a Liberal Party MP, and he has also taken on the role of Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Canada.

The Campus Resident caught up with Grant during a phone call last month – a few weeks before he sat for his first session of parliament – to learn more about his background, his politics, and his goals for the people of Vancouver Quadra.

Congratulations on your election victory. While you were on the campaign trail, what were the hot-button issues that came up during your conversations with residents of Vancouver Quadra?

Housing affordability is one that's always front and center, not only for people in this riding, but for students and young Canadians, especially if they're going through their third, fourth, fifth year of university.

And for me, being from the local area – the mouth of the Fraser River – climate

change and its impacts are always on the top of the mind of people in this riding.

I grew up in this riding, and it seemed like those that lived in and around this area had always had a very keen sense of what we need to do to combat that. My two children have a bit of climate anxiety themselves. And I'm lucky enough now to be the Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Canada, so I have a very close connection to what this government wants to do to ensure that we leave this earth in a better place than we inherited it.

UBC is changing with intense development. As a member of Musqueam First Nation and a former UBC student, how do you feel about Campus Vision 2050 and the way campus is growing and evolving?

Since I was a student back in the late 90s and the early 2000's, I think the relationships the university has with those that live in the University Endowment Lands and those that live on Musqueam First Nation have come a long way. I think those relationships are very important to understand that, yes, campus does need to grow. It's a large campus when you're living there in the summer; there's 15,000 people, but when (class) is in session, it grows to almost 80,000 people. So doing it in a thoughtful manner includes the voices of those living there at the moment and those that have called it home for thousands of years.

I know that Musqueam and the University of British Columbia are forging a relationship to ensure that we continue to do that, because anything that happens on campus impacts those that are living around campus as well. If you look at the traffic on Southwest Marine Drive in the morning going towards campus, it's back-to-back all the way to Granville.

So how do we alleviate that? Not building just for the sake of building but building for livability as well, to create a common community. And I think that the university has started to move forward in

doing that. I know that there needs to be more conversations to do that, instead of having just a top-down approach. I think we need to have a holistic approach with different communities around campus.

Many campus residents recognize that we are on the unceded, ancestral lands of Musqueam, but many also say they are not fully aware of Musqueam perspectives towards development. Are Musqueam voices being heard?

I think so. I'm speaking just as a member of Musqueam, I'm not speaking as a member of Musqueam's Council. Seeing my community present on campus, the pieces of art, the street signage, developing gathering spaces, I know that the University was talking with Musqueam.

These are things that wouldn't have happened 30-40 years ago, but now are. It's allowing Musqueam to have a presence there and becoming more and more seen.

Are we where we need to be? I don't think so, but we are slowly getting there. I think there are still some people in Musqueam who think we can do much more, and that's why we still have a relationship committee between Musqueam leadership and those that are planning for campus into the future.

What can be done to improve this relationship?

Having somebody from Musqueam in the governance structure there. There's no spot for Musqueam on the (UBC) Board of Governors or the Senate. Musqueam is treated more like a stakeholder than title holders of the land. You know, just to share that constant idea and understanding from a Musqueam perspective.

Those are large things that can be done, and there are micro things that can be done, like recognizing UBC campus is on the unceded territory of Musqueam. When you come to the roundabouts at W16th, you could have signage that says 'Welcome to UBC at Musqueam', or something like that. Just so people know and it piques their interest to want to learn more.

One other thing, the Musqueam language has been a fully accredited course at the university for many years. It's one of the very few indigenous languages that are offered by universities in the world. And that's something that's been a huge success for Musqueam. So having our language being taught and revitalized with the help



Vancouver Quadra MP Wade Grant in discussion with attendees at last month's UNA Neighbour's day event. (Photo: Office of Wade Grant)

of the University has been something that's been a big part of reconciliation.

Is there any dialog now to get a Musqueam voice on a body like the UBC Board of Governors?

I think there are high level discussions between the Musqueam leadership and those at the university. I don't know where it is, but I know that there are consistent meetings with those two groups, and I think that they are putting something together in the form of a relationship agreement that will further the relationship in the next 10, 20, 30 years.

Moving along, Point Grey and UBC are viewed as two of the priciest communities in Metro Vancouver, which would make them probably some of the most expensive in the country. What's being done right now at the federal level to make housing more affordable for campus residents?

We're looking to expand our ability to start building homes in this country. The Prime Minister indicated during the election that Canada wants to get back into the business of building homes for Canadians, by Canadians, and with Canadian resources.

Also, eliminating the GST on homes up to a million dollars is something that we've done as well. And then looking to partner with like-minded groups to ensure that the right type of housing is built in and around our community in West Point Grey and the University of British Columbia.

Those are the first few things, and we'll have more announcements coming out in the fall once we get to the budget.

POLITICS CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



100 Years of the Old Auditorium
October 14 & 15, 2025



Die Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute)
November 27-30, 2025



Holiday Opera Ball
December 5, 2025



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
School of Music

UBC OPERA
2025-2026 SEASON

BOX OFFICE
ubcoperatickets.com
604-822-6725
At UBC Old Auditorium



Helping Newcomers Make Connections on Campus

The university neighbourhoods are home to many new and recent arrivals, and the UNA aims to help them develop a stronger connection to their new community.

BY ELINA HAILAIJIAO

The change in seasons from summer to fall brings many residents back to the university neighbourhoods and welcomes many new arrivals to our community. UBC campus has a unique demographic profile from the rest of Vancouver. According to data from Statistics Canada compiled during the 2021 census, 63 per cent of campus residents hold Canadian citizenship, compared to 83 per cent for the city of Vancouver. And 35 per cent of residents have moved in the last year – nearly double the figure for the rest of the city. The University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA) has programs that aim to make everyone feel a deeper connection to their community – whether they’ve been living here for a long time or if they’ve just arrived. From different programs to a wide range of events, the UNA wants to give residents a reason for making UBC campus their home.

One such event was held last month for some of our newest neighbours. On a sunny morning on Saturday September 13, the multi-purpose room at the Wesbrook Community Centre was filled with 30 newcomers who had signed up for a welcome event organized by the UNA. Attendees had the opportunity to immerse themselves in conversation with fellow newcomers while also discovering the many opportunities and perks of living on campus. During the session, they discussed the benefits for residents by signing up for a UNA card and also learned about attractions and destinations with eye-catching views at UBC’s Point Grey campus. They learned UNA cardholders receive a 10 per cent discount on all programs, fitness centre passes, and camps. Cardholders also get free access to the Museum of Anthropology, the Beaty Biodiversity Museum, UBC Botanical Garden, Nitobe Memorial Garden, and reduced fees to UBC aquatic and tennis facilities. Additionally, the card allows access to the Vancouver Public Library with a network of more than 22 branches. Peng Wang, Volunteer and Newcomer Support Coordinator at the UNA and organizer of the event, shared this thoughtful advice with attendees: “Enjoy living here, take the initiative to join programs, and attend cultural events.” When asked what he enjoys most about working and living in the university neighbourhoods, Wang said he enjoyed collaborating with friends and colleagues, giving tours around campus, working with new parents, and opening doors to new experiences for them. For many newcomers, moving to campus marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter in their lives. Those who want to get involved and volunteer can fill out an application form on the UNA website at myuna.ca, and sign up for any programs or community events. With family movie nights, community yard sales, tutoring opportunities, and music lessons, there is much to discover. More informa-

tion can be found by visiting either the Wesbrook or Old Barn Community Centres and picking up the latest program guide.  ELINA HAILAIJIAO IS A GRADE 10 STUDENT AT LORD BYNG SECONDARY SCHOOL.



Attendees at the UNA’s Newcomers Welcome and Orientation event, held on September 13. (Photo: Vivian Su)

POLITICS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

This summer, the UBC Alma Mater Society launched a petition to get some traction on the proposed SkyTrain extension to campus. That petition has now collected over 14,000 signatures. The federal government has already allocated funds towards planning, but has the time arrived to push this project forward by committing more funds to get shovels in the ground?

When I was with Musqueam, I was a big proponent of that, and I worked with the University of British Columbia. I think that it is a piece of infrastructure that makes sense to have the tens of thousands of people that commute to the university on a daily and weekly basis to be able to get there in a fast and fulsome way, rather than jumping off a SkyTrain at Arbutus and then jumping on a bus that will make its way here. I think the discussions are ongoing, and I think governments are part of those discussions. I know there’s no financial commitment as of yet, but as the MP of Vancouver Quadra and as I’ve said in the past, it’s an important project for the university and for those that call this area

home, so I’m a proponent and supporter of that. **The Trudeau government introduced a cap on new international student permits in 2024, and the policy has been extended by the Carney government. Do you agree with the cap?** I’ve been having discussions with my colleagues about that, how we move forward from where we are today. We want to have wholesome discussions with the Minister of Immigration. I want to have discussions with the University of British Columbia and other universities that fall within British Columbia and the Western caucus. I acknowledge that for universities, this is a financial burden and I want to find a solution. **How do you feel about the politicization of immigration, and would you push back against people who try to politicize immigration?** Absolutely. I’m half Musqueam, but my grandfather is an immigrant from China, and my grandmother is from Europe. I’m a person who feels that this country is better because of immigrants that have come here. And I think that politicizing immigration is a slippery slope that we

need to avoid. I absolutely think that immigrants have helped build this country, one of them being my grandfather, and I know many others have come here, and this country is as great as it is and continues to be because of immigration. And I think that we can find balance where everybody is treated fairly, so I don’t think that politicizing it is the way to go. **Apart from what we’ve already discussed, what are your major goals for your constituents and for Vancouver Quadra during your current term as MP?** Knowing that many people depend on our healthcare system in this country and this province, and being the former First Nations Health Council Chair, I’m looking at the ability to have a more holistic approach to healthcare and looking at the social determinants of health. It’s a big, holistic thing that I’m trying to bring through my voice at caucus, that the healthcare system isn’t just about broken bones or contracting a cold. It’s about our surroundings. I have a bit of expertise in that, having developed a 10-year strategy for First Nations in this province, but I also want to expand that to the voices of Quadra and

those that are in my caucus as well. Healthcare is a big part of my life. I’ve had three open heart surgeries myself. **And how do you feel about the level of access to healthcare for constituents of Vancouver Quadra, and the availability of family doctors? Do you think that it’s adequate, or do you think more needs to be done?** It’s part of our plan and we said it during the election: we want to break down barriers for people to be able to come across provincial lines, and for those that have expertise from other parts of the world, to be able to come here without having to jump through so many hoops and practice something they’re experts in. We want to work on breaking down that red tape to ensure that we can have more people come and practice in places like British Columbia and Vancouver. And we do need to have more people that are qualified to be family doctors to provide care for our community members.  (This interview was edited for length and condensed.) EMMANUEL SAMOGLU IS THE MANAGING EDITOR OF THE CAMPUS RESIDENT.

Winter 2026 Lessons at the UBC Aquatic Centre



Registration opens November 19, and program information available November 12, 2025 | Learn more at: recreation.ubc.ca/aquatics



Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Thrives at UBC Theatre and Film

UBC Theatre and Film department head Kirsty Johnston forges ahead in the promotion of inclusivity in the arts.

BY WARREN MCKINNON

UBC Theatre and Film department head Kirsty Johnston is continuing to focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI), despite the currents in North American academia and politics.

Building on her academic work, Johnston hasn't ceased in her efforts to promote equity. With a particular focus on disability, she continues to incorporate it into the theatrical culture at UBC.

In her two books: *Stage Turns: Canadian Disability Theatre* (2012) and *Disability Theatre and Modern Drama: Recasting Modernism* (2016), Johnston broadened our understanding of the meaning of inclusion when she explored blending the artistry of disabled actors alongside the needs of a disabled audience.

Her doctoral research focused on Workman Arts, a company that grew out of a talent night series at a Toronto mental health centre in the late 1980s that was organized by Lisa Brown, a psychiatric nurse. As Johnston reports, Brown became the artistic director of Workman Arts and sought to have her actors paid at least a minimum wage.

But being a proponent of equity, diversity, and inclusion and carrying out this kind of work is becoming increasingly difficult.

Advocates of practices of inclusion have said the absence of them in audition policies can lead to choices based on racial and gender profiles, a who-you-know meritocracy, and an exclusive, us-and-them perspective. And they have receipts.

On September 1st, Canadian Indigenous actor, Graham Greene died. As part of his obituary reported by the *New York Times* (Sept. 4), it was reported that "Even after establishing himself in Hollywood, he found himself being pigeonholed because of his ethnicity. In a video interview last year, (Greene) recalled reading for 'Crimson Tide,' the 1995 submarine thriller starring Gene Hackman and Denzel Washington, only to have the film's director, Tony Scott, tell him, 'I can't really see a Native American working on a submarine.'

'Well, if you could,' Mr. Greene remembered responding, 'I would let you tell my four dead uncles who died in the



Kirsty Johnston, Head of UBC's Department of Theatre and Film. (Photo: UBC)

Pacific on subs."

And in the same edition of the *Times* was another report about the dismissal of Kim Sajet as the director of the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery. In a social media post, U.S. President Donald Trump described Sajet as "a highly partisan person, and a strong supporter of DEI, which is totally inappropriate for her position."

In response, she said, "Throughout my career, I've been guided by the belief that knowledge is better than ignorance ... Cultural diversity makes for a stronger nation and democracy thrives when people engage with each

other with mutual respect."

It is in this environment that Johnston takes us a step further in understanding the important role of diversity in theatre. For example, Johnston commends local disability theatre companies such as Vancouver's *Theatre Terrific*, founded in 1985, which focus particularly on inclusion policies for auditions, and *Kickstart Disability Arts and Culture*, which works with *Vancouver Playhouse* in providing audio-description access to disabled audience members.

Johnston is continuing these kinds of projects at Theatre UBC, where collaboration is a vital component in all elements of theatrical production.

The theatre's three seasonal plays: *Women of the Fur Trade* (Sept. 24-Oct. 4), *Mr. Burns, A Post Electric Play* (Nov. 19-Dec. 6), and *Peer Gynt* (Mar. 11-28, 2026) all feature the collaborative work of students, faculty, and staff, and cultural diversity is evident in the productions.

Playwright and professor of creative writing Frances Koncan "shifts perspectives from the male gaze onto women's power" in her play, *Women of the Fur Trade*. The play *Peer Gynt* by Norwegian Henrik Ibsen is given an Asian perspective by playwrights David Henry Hwang and Stephen Muller. The final two plays of the season will be directed by two candidates for the Master of Fine Arts degree, Larisse Campbell (*Mr. Burns*) and Christopher Lam (*Peer Gynt*).

All productions take place at the Frederic Wood Theatre, located at 6354 Crescent Road. 📍

WARREN MCKINNON IS A LONGTIME CAMPUS RESIDENT.

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 called it home ever since. With 10 years at Macdonald Realty Ltd. and a background in coordination and client service, I'm fluent in English, Mandarin (普通话), Cantonese (广东话), and two other dialects (台山话和客家话). I'm dedicated to helping you achieve your real estate goals with exceptional service and support.

JOANNE HAS SOLD MORE THAN 30 PROPERTIES AT UBC! A SNAPSHOT OF SOME OF THE UBC SALES:

HAWTHORN PLACE	WESBROOK VILLAGE	HAMPTON PLACE
310—6333 Larkin Drive 402—6328 Larkin Drive 205—6279 Eagles Drive 305—6268 Eagles Drive 6218 Logan Lane	1007—5628 Birney Avenue 207—5687 Gray Avenue 706—5782 Berton Avenue PH9—3462 Ross Drive 1502—5728 Berton Avenue	20—5760 Hampton Place 102—5760 Hampton Place 207—5888 Hampton Place

210 - 6328 LARKIN DRIVE
ASKING PRICE \$967,000
2 BEDS | 2 BATHS
845 SQ FT

6 - 5880 HAMPTON PLACE
ASKING PRICE \$1,950,000
3 BEDS | 2.5 BATHS
2,000 SQ FT

KNOWLEDGE 知识 | ENERGY 活力 | TRUST 信任

Joanne Chen 陈爱媚

Personal Real Estate Corporation

604.364.5872
joannechen@macrealty.com
joannechen.macrealty.com

THE CAMPUS RESIDENT.CA

Campus Community Celebrates Summer at Neighbour's Day

BY THE CAMPUS RESIDENT STAFF

Neighbour's Day, the UNA's flagship event and end-of-summer celebration, was held on September 6.

This year's event was held at UNA Community Field and an estimated 1,650 visitors showed up to take part in the festivities.

Attendees were treated to a series of multicultural performances and local musicians on the main stage, which was sponsored by UBC Properties Trust. Featured performers included Peruvian folk-dance ensemble ROOTS, J-pop group Non Sweet, local campus talent and singer Gwyn Glover, and the headlining indie rock band Bealby Point.

A community market featured local craft goods, arts, fresh food items from local vendors, and a fun zone provided inflatables and games for kids and other family-friendly activities.

As with previous years, the event's success was ensured with the help of over 80 volunteers and 35 community partners and vendors.



(Photos: UNA)





2025 DIWALI FESTIVAL

at the Wesbrook Community Centre
Sunday, October 19, 2 - 4:30 pm

Share the joy and beauty of this festival of lights and celebrate the Indian New Year.

Enjoy a cup of chai. Have a henna design painted on your hand. Learn how to wear a sari. Watch Indian classical dances and learn to do some Bollywood moves.

Indian snacks will be available for cash purchase.



The Diwali Committee

In cooperation with



UNA
UNIVERSITY
NEIGHBOURHOODS
ASSOCIATION

Sunflowers

BY SVITLANA KUSTLYVA

Sunflowers from my childhood - so tall they became a golden forest. Walking among them, I felt like stepping into a secret world, small yet filled with wonder. This work carries that memory of sunlight and magic.

SVITLANA KUSTLYVA IS A WESBROOK RESIDENT. SHE IS ALSO AN ART TEACHER WITH OVER 28 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE, SPECIALIZING IN SILK PAINTING - A UNIQUE TECHNIQUE USING MELTED WAX AND VIBRANT COLORS TO CREATE FLUID, EXPRESSIVE DESIGNS.



Welcome to The Campus Resident’s Arts & Culture section, where campus community members of all ages can share their creativity, from paintings to comics to poems and stories.

Thank you for sharing your work and cheering on your fellow residents, and keep sending your creations to **editor@thecampusresident.ca**. To be featured in our November issue, send in your submission by October 15!

— The Campus Resident Arts & Culture team

Buying Second-Hand

BY JEEMIN ROH

I enjoy drawing comics based on my experiences. Here, I share my experience of buying a second-hand item, which can reduce waste. I think our community can enjoy the story because, living on campus, we are lucky to be surrounded by nature, and many residents here value sustainability.

JEEMIN ROH HAS BEEN A RESIDENT OF HAWTHORNE PLACE FOR ALMOST 20 YEARS.

