

THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

SEPTEMBER 4, 2025
VOLUME 15, ISSUE 6



UNA Joins UBC Push for Campus SkyTrain Extension

UBC Alma Mater Society petition garners over 10,000 signatures, while UNA board calls on Eby Government to provide project timeline and commit funding.

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UBC Freezes Rents After Backlash From Staff and Faculty

While the rent freeze is welcome, campus residents say UBC can do more to address the cost of living crisis.

BY AMIE BERNAERDT

Village Gate Homes, the UBC-affiliated entity tasked with managing staff and faculty housing, has announced a rent freeze after fierce criticism from tenants over relentless rent increases during the current cost of living crisis.

The freeze began on September 1 and concludes on August 31, 2026.

Village Gate Homes (VGH)—a division of UBC Properties Trust (UBCPT)—leases and manages rental homes for UBC faculty and staff on campus through its portfolio of over 1,400 apartments and townhomes.

The rent freeze means that for the next year, tenants will not see an increase in their rent.

The move comes after heavy criticism and online protests over high rents from staff, faculty, and students renting from UBC and its affiliates.

This spring, tenants living in Acadia Park were hit with a 3.5 per cent increase in their rental rates. UBC Student Housing and Community Services, which manages housing for roughly 14,000 students, had initially said it was implementing a 5 per cent increase; however the university backed down after a backlash from tenants in the mid-campus neighbourhood.

The current provincial limit on annual rent increases is 3 per cent. However, the UBC is not bound by the Residential Tenancy Act, and while a 3.5 per cent

Local Kids Get their Kicks at Camp



School is back and the long, hot days of summer have once again come to an end with memories made to last a lifetime. In the university neighbourhoods last month, one small group of campus youth were lucky to find spots at the annual Acadia Youth Soccer Camp and build their skills. The camp was founded by Hajun Chung, a grade 11 student at UHill Secondary School and is organized with the help of his friends and fellow UHill students Pouria Karimi and Phileo Ip. Learn more about the camp and their community building efforts on page 7. (Photo: Submitted)

increase is illegal in other parts of the province, the university is able to set its own rules on university grounds.

A combination of some of the highest rents in Vancouver, annual rate raises, stagnant wages, and a nationwide cost of living crisis led a number of campus residents to call for a rent freeze, and they got one.

"I am glad that UBC, UBCPT/VGH, and Campus as a Living Lab are responding to market realities and to our opportunities and mandates to promote socially, financially, and environmentally sustainable housing in our company town," said Erica Frank, a UBC professor and campus resident.

Frank says the rent freeze will relieve some pressure on finances for tenants and is certainly not to be taken for granted, but many tenants believe more can still be done.

Many say living on campus is becoming unsustainable, as the cost of living keeps rising without wages rising to meet it. Annual rent increases are putting extra strain on families, and as *The Campus Resident* reported in June, some are reportedly spending 90 per cent of their income on rent alone.

Residents are becoming more vocal on social media and hoping more will be done to address the issue.

"There is a real disconnect right now between the lived experiences of UBC families and the decisions being made," said a UBC staff and faculty

housing tenant, who asked to remain anonymous. "My hope is that this rent freeze can be a first step toward bridging that gap and building more trust with the community."

Campus residents have floated several ideas for what UBC Properties Trust and Village Gate Homes can do to assist campus residents.

For one, rental rates should be adjusted with current market conditions, especially as prices fall around Vancouver.

The latest report by Vancouver-based Liv Strategies released last month shows rents continuing their downward trend, with a month-over-month decline of 1.5 per cent from July to August. UBC/West Point Grey also continues to be the 3rd most expensive neighbourhood in the city, behind the West End (ranked first) and Downtown.

Tenants also say rent hikes should occur in tandem with wage increases and brought in line with provincial regulations (in instances where tenants are not protected by the Residential Tenancy Act).

And to further address the cost of living crisis, residents are asking UBC to tackle design flaws in newer residential buildings that are driving up maintenance fees, implement cheaper childcare, and increase the amount of subsidized housing on campus instead of privately owned housing.

"I and other devoted UBC employees look forward to co-creating more collaboration in our Campus as a Living Lab, making positive outcomes for UBC's grateful-but-now-frustrated employees," added Frank.

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

OPINION: Time to Revisit Community Garden System

Should time limits be imposed on UNA community garden plots to allow for broader access?

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OPINION - Countering Misinformation and Vaccination Key to Preventing Measles

As students head back to school, parents and guardians should vaccinate their little ones and push back against misinformation.

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Are We Diverting Enough Waste From Landfills?

With an increasing population, the UNA faces multiple challenges, and one overlooked issue may be garbage and recycling.

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Arts & Culture

Check out our first arts and culture section, featuring creative work from residents of the university neighbourhoods.

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UBC has announced a rent freeze for tenants living in staff and faculty housing on campus. The freeze is expected to last until August 31, 2026. (Photo: UNA)

UNA Joins UBC Push for Campus SkyTrain Extension

UBC Alma Mater Society petition garners over 10,000 signatures, while UNA board calls on Eby Government to provide project timeline and commit funding.

BY ARIJIT JOSHI

The UNA and UBC’s Alma Mater Society (AMS) have made a push this summer for a SkyTrain extension to campus, calling on the provincial government to begin advancing the project.

In June, UBC’s AMS launched an online petition in support of the project, calling for the province to release the business case for the UBC SkyTrain, and for all levels of government to fund the extension. As of August 22, the petition had amassed 10,000 signatures.

And in late July, the UNA board sent a letter to B.C. Premier David Eby - along with copies to Federal government ministers and Vancouver-Quadra MP Wade Grant - expressing support for the project and backing the AMS petition.

The letter outlined how beneficial the extension of the SkyTrain would be for campus residents, students, faculty, and staff, and also for the entire Metro Vancouver region.

The letter, penned by UNA board chair Eagle Glassheim, called on David Eby’s government to “advance the project to a full business case expeditiously, provide a clear timeline for the project’s planned progress, and commit to funding the extension, along with federal partners.”

Glassheim wrote: “Our residents rely on the public transportation system to



The SkyTrain at King George Ave. in Surrey. Campus groups are calling on the B.C. government to follow through on a 2024 election pledge and bring the SkyTrain to campus.

access other parts of Metro Vancouver for work, education, and leisure.”

“Extending the SkyTrain Millennium line to the UBC Vancouver campus would significantly improve access for people from across Metro Vancouver to education, employment, and healthcare on campus.”

The SkyTrain extension to UBC has been a subject of discussion among students, campus residents, council members, policymakers, and politicians for decades. It’s seen as a vital piece of infrastructure for the campus commu-

nity, but construction has yet to begin.

UBC is home to over 55,000 students and thousands of faculty and staff, making the institution a significant economic contributor. The university neighbourhoods also have a population of roughly 15,000 residents.

Many say extending the SkyTrain to campus would provide immense benefits for students, faculty, and staff who live in other areas of the lower mainland, as they would be able to shorten their commute to campus or even be compelled to keep their cars at home.

In 2024 during the provincial election, Eby’s NDP party outlined new transportation infrastructure projects, which include the completion of the Millennium Line extension from Arbutus to UBC, allowing people to ride the SkyTrain from Langley to campus.

Since his election win though, there is little progress to show.

Despite calls from the campus community, there have been no concrete timelines for the project.

When asked about specific timelines, a spokesperson from the Ministry of Transportation and Transit said, “The UBC Project is still in the early stages of planning. We’re working closely with partners to complete technical studies and confirm funding approaches before settling timelines for future phases.”

On the subject of funding, the spokesperson said, “Since the project is still in its early stages, a full business case, including the project cost, will be developed once technical studies are completed.” The federal government has committed \$14 million toward the planning of the UBC extension. ✍

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

Dog Park Construction Underway

BY TCR STAFF

The construction of a long-awaited dog park in Wesbrook Place has begun.



The Wesbrook Place dog park site. Construction began last month and is expected to be completed by the end of October or early November, the UNA says. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

The park site is located north of Birney Avenue near Ross Drive and Webber Lane. The total cost is estimated at \$230,000, with maintenance costs to be absorbed into the UNA budget.

The UNA said construction could be completed as early as the end of October or early November.

UBC’ development permit board approved the park design and issued a permit during the summer, allowing construction to begin.

Directors unanimously approved the plan for the park in March after incorporating community feedback received during a six-week public engagement period last year.

The latest design includes the addition of shading structures, planted trees and seating elements, which were added after the public consultation.

Other features of the park include two fenced areas: one for small dogs and one for large dogs, pedestrian pathways, and waste disposal stations.

The site for the park was selected by a working group and chosen due to its central location and proximity to nearby recreational spaces. It’s also part of a larger parcel of land that is reserved for an elementary school, but construction of the school is not expected to begin for an estimated five to 10 years.

The park’s design also retains four existing beach volleyball courts that currently occupy the site, the UNA says. ✍

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OPINION

Time to Revisit
Community
Garden System

BY LAURENNE GARNEAU

Community gardens are treasured spaces. They bring neighbours together, promote sustainability, and give us the joy of growing our own food. The UNA Community

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Proposal to Alleviate Traffic Needs Closer Look

I am writing in response to the article “Ambitious Development Plan Approved by UBC” (*The Campus Resident*, July 3) and UBC’s proposal to install a left turn from West 16th Avenue to Binning Road. I am concerned about the safety and impact of this proposal and have the following comments.

The proposed left turn from West 16th Ave. is very close to the intersection with Hampton Place (less than 100m), which appears contrary to a recommended engineering practice where a minimum of 200-400 metres is recommended. It is also close to the Wesbrook Blvd. roundabout.

This intersection is very busy with pedestrian traffic to nearby schools and hundreds of students crossing every day. The existing design of the intersection is also very confusing for pedestrians and drivers with a median, numerous signs, buttons and signals. The two-stage crossing creates further confusion, which is evident from frequent honking to get confused drivers to proceed when the signal is flashing red. Several of the signs obstruct sightlines between drivers and pedestrians, making the crossing even more dangerous.

The intersection is difficult to negotiate for persons with disabilities, children, cyclists, and the general public. A left turn

into Binning Rd. will further complicate traffic and pedestrian movement.

In addition, a left turn into Binning Rd. will simply increase traffic impact on the adjacent residential neighborhoods of Hampton Place and Wesbrook Place.

UBC should consider other options to address transportation needs that priori-

tize pedestrian safety, and UNA residents should also be consulted on any major changes to the intersection.

Thank you to *The Campus Resident* for your thorough reporting on UBC development issues. 🙌

TOM AINSCOUGH, RESIDENT



The terminus of Binning Road and its outflow into West 16th Avenue, looking south. UBC is exploring options to alleviate congestion as the population of Wesbrook Place continues to grow, including adding a left turning lane from West 16th Ave. onto Binning Rd. which would transform the road into a major thoroughfare for traffic. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

Gardens program has been a welcome part of life for many residents, with over 230 plots across five locations. Yet as demand grows, it’s worth asking: is the current system still working as well as it could?

Right now, residents who have a garden plot can renew it every year, provided they follow a few basic requirements—such as being in good standing and paying the annual fee by December 31. This has allowed many committed gardeners to develop their plots over time and contribute to a strong sense of continuity and care. However, for new residents or those who’ve been on the waitlist for a long time, it can be difficult—sometimes nearly impossible—to get access to a plot at all.

I’ve been reflecting on this for some time, and a thoughtful article by Elina Hailaijiao in the July issue of *The Campus Resident* (Discover Sustainable Growing on Campus, July 3) gave me the nudge I needed to share these thoughts. Her piece highlighted how community gardens connect us not just to the land, but to each other. That sense of shared benefit is exactly why it’s worth considering whether broader access might be possible.

Some cities have found creative ways to balance conti-

nuity with fairness. For instance:

- In Vancouver, garden organizers are encouraged to introduce term limits—often 3 to 5 years—to ensure that more people have a chance to participate .
- The City of Toronto recommends that gardens reserve a portion of plots for new applicants each year, even when space is limited .
- In Montreal, garden managers maintain transparent waitlists and review turnover each season .

These ideas may not all apply to our context, but they point to a common principle: community spaces work best when they’re open and inclusive. Here in the UNA, we could consider a few steps—such as setting voluntary time limits, rotating a small number of plots each year for new gardeners, or publishing basic waitlist data—to help make the process more accessible without disrupting what already works well.

I’m not suggesting we replace the current system, but rather that we evolve it—gently and thoughtfully—to better meet the needs of a growing and diverse community. Many residents are eager to contribute, learn, and connect through gardening. Let’s make sure they have the opportunity.

I hope this article can spark a respectful, constructive conversation—among neighbours, within the Garden Committee, and with the UNA—about how we might keep our garden system strong, welcoming, and fair for the years ahead. 🙌

LAURENNE GARNEAU IS AN ECONOMIST SPECIALIZING IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY. SHE HAS LIVED AT UBC FOR FOUR YEARS AND ENJOYS EXPLORING HOW COMMUNITIES CAN BECOME MORE INCLUSIVE, RESILIENT, AND CONNECTED.



The Hawthorn Community Garden, one of five community gardens managed by the UNA. (Photo: UNA)

OPINION

Countering Misinformation and Getting Vaccinated Key to Preventing Measles

"It would be reasonable to assume that the worst of this outbreak is yet to come."

With measles cases on the rise in B.C. and across the country, the campus community is vulnerable. To prevent spreading the disease as students return to school, parents and guardians are urged to vaccinate their little ones and push back against misinformation.

BY SIMON DING

As of mid-August, 4,638 cases of measles have been reported in Canada in 2025.

Many thought the disease had been eradicated, but its resurgence has been swift. Between January 1 and April 12 of this year, the country saw a sudden increase in measles cases, surpassing 1,000 confirmed and probable infections—the highest since the disease was declared eliminated in 1998.

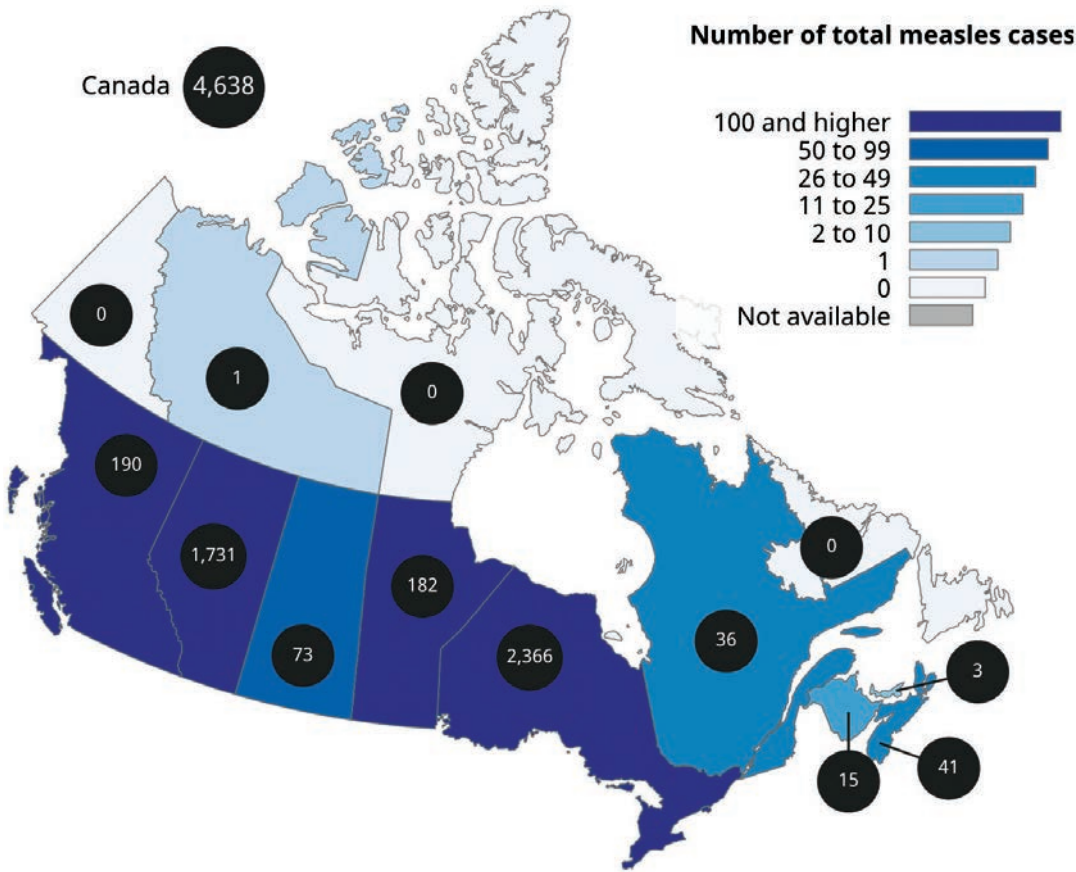
“Eliminated” differs from “eradicated” as the former indicates a reduction of total incidence of a disease to zero in a defined geographical area owing to deliberate efforts where continued intervention is required. The latter, however, indicates a permanent global reduction of incidence to zero owing to deliberate efforts where continued intervention is no longer required, for example, smallpox.

As of mid-August, B.C. has 190 confirmed cases and Alberta at 1,731, making Canada one of the top ten countries with the highest number of confirmed cases. Alberta alone has more cases than the entirety of the U.S. combined, likely due to its lower rate of vaccination, which is 71.6 per cent as of 2022. In parts of Alberta, rates get as low as 24 per cent. However, Alberta is not the only concern in Canada, as vaccination rates nationwide have sunk significantly. It would be reasonable to assume that the worst of this outbreak is yet to come.

According to public health officials, the best way to fight measles as a population is immunization. Provinces have released awareness campaigns aimed at encouraging vaccination and countering misinformation. However, as the COVID-19 pandemic proved, this may be harder than it seems.

Populations most vulnerable to measles include, but are not limited to, international travelers, pregnant people, children under 5 years of age, and those with weakened immune systems due to age and/or illnesses affecting immunity.

Back-to-school season is a good time to check your measles vaccination status. Most individuals should



In 2025, 4,638 measles cases (4,310 confirmed, 328 probable) have been reported in Canada. (Data: Government of Canada)

have received two childhood doses of either the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (MMR) or the quadrivalent measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella vaccine (MMRV). Those who are missing one or both should also consult their health care provider.

In B.C., children are usually given the first dose of a MMR vaccine at 12 months, with the second dose being the MMRV vaccine given at 4 to 6 years. Adults born in 1970 or later should ensure they have received two doses of a measles-containing vaccine. Health officials assume most adults born before 1970 have already had measles and are likely immune from the disease.

HEALTH FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, AND MEMBER OF THE NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL COMMITTEE.

Those who are pregnant or have weakened immune systems are not recommended to receive measles-containing vaccines and should consult their health care provider.

With multiple flights per day arriving from Alberta to Vancouver, an airborne disease like measles can spread very quickly, reaching all over the city in a matter of days. And the university neighbourhoods are not insulated from this disease.

With a growing population and incoming students from across the globe arriving this month, the campus community may be especially vulnerable.

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.

UNA

UNIVERSITY NEIGHBOURHOODS ASSOCIATION

NEIGHBOURS DAY

SEPTEMBER 6, 2025 | 12 - 5 PM

WESBROOK COMMUNITY FIELD

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Are the University Neighbourhoods Diverting Enough Waste From Landfills?

BY JAN SCHUERMANN

The process is simple. Here in the university neighbourhoods, waste is disposed of in the garbage rooms of residential buildings; large blue containers are used for recycling paper, containers and cardboard, and green organic waste bins help to divert waste away from landfills.

This is common knowledge for many, but recent statistics show waste diversion efforts may be weakening. The truth is, it's hard to tell exactly how well waste diversion efforts are faring, due to a lack of data.

Recycling rates among residents in multi-family buildings in Metro Vancouver reached a peak in 2020, with almost 40 per cent of people successfully dividing their trash.

But according to a Metro Vancouver Recycling and Solid Waste Management report, the rate has been decreasing slightly to below 35 per cent.

Recycling rates in single-family homes are much higher and currently at above 60 per cent. This makes an average recycling rate of about 50 per cent among all Metro Vancouver residents.

Metro Vancouver's official target for waste diversion is 80 per cent – a wide gap.

Compared to statistics from 2010, waste generation has dropped by 14 per cent within 13 years – missing a stated target of 20 per cent.

So how are we doing in the university neighbourhoods?

It's hard to paint a complete picture as the UNA does not collect data on residential waste production. "We do not have any information on residential waste data, as we do not collect or have access to this data," said Wegland Sit, the Operations Manager at the UNA.

The most recent recycling rate for the UBC Vancouver campus is from the 2013/2014 reporting period and states campus-wide initiatives were able to divert 61 per cent of overall waste from landfills. UBC's sustainability office was not available to provide more up-to-date numbers.

Sit says waste management is decentralized in the UNA and that each residential building in the area independently hires a waste hauler.

That is why you might sometimes see

the garbage truck passing by your building even though the trash bins of your building aren't being picked up on that day.

"A consistent area-wide pickup schedule is challenging due to the unique characteristics of each building, such as the physical layout of recycling rooms, the number of units, and the mix of household types, and finally their own waste hauler service schedule," Sit says.

The most recent data on waste generation in the UNA is from a 2010 waste audit. That audit found that 90 per cent of the daily waste generated in the UNA was recyclable or consisted of organic matter. And a 2017 research project by Ivana Zelenika - then a UBC PhD candidate in resource management and sustainability - stated that "there is a tremendous opportunity to mobilize more effective residential participation in recycling and composting" within the neighbourhoods of the UNA.

Wesbrook Village's Green Depot is helping in those efforts.

The Green Depot is managed by the UNA and provides campus residents not only with the option to participate in the circular economy but also with a marketplace where a diverse range of items including clothes and books are available free of charge.

UNA's Green Depot, in addition to the above, offers to recycle soft and flexible plastics. These are plastics that don't go into your residential container trash. Soft plastics include plastic bags, Ziploc bags, and bubble wrap, and flexible plastics include chip bags, can rings, and candy wrappers.

The Green Depot works together with waste management companies, like West-coast Plastic Recycling Inc., which picks up full bins of plastics for recycling. Recycled soft plastics are condensed and processed into new plastics, while flexible plastics are incinerated to create electricity.

Data from the UNA shows the depot



Waste collection in Wesbrook Village. A lack of available data makes it difficult to set waste diversion targets in the university neighbourhoods. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

is keeping a lot of waste from entering landfills.

According to a 2024 sustainability report prepared by UNA staff, the Green Depot recycled 3640 kilograms of items dropped off in August 2024, which is 2,055 kilograms more than the amount of waste that was diverted in August 2023.

JAN SCHUERMANN HAS LIVED IN GERMANY, POLAND, AND THE U.S. BEFORE MOVING TO CANADA. HIS CAREER EVOLVED FROM WRITING FINANCIAL NEWS IN FRANKFURT TO COVERING BREAKING NEWS IN VANCOUVER FOR CITYNEWS AND THE CAMPUS RESIDENT. HE IS PASSIONATE ABOUT FINDING THE STORIES BEHIND THE STORIES.

UNA

UNIVERSITY NEIGHBOURHOODS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

Stay up to date on the UNA's finances and organizational progress

September 23, 2025 | 7 PM
Wesbrook Community Centre

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- Get updates on the UNA's finances, organizational improvements, and community projects.
- Meet UNA leadership and UBC representatives and ask the questions that matter most to you.
- Connect with like-minded neighbours who care about making our community stronger.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

- **To attend**, you must be a **UNA Society Member** (register online at myuna.ca/society) and present a **valid ID with proof of your current UNA address**.
- **Can't attend?** You can appoint another UNA Society Member or a Board of Director to vote on your behalf using the AGM Proxy Form.

Learn more and subscribe to UNA updates by visiting myuna.ca/agm or by scanning the QR code below.

* Mandarin interpretation will be available during the Question and Answer Periods.

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Splash Pad Shade Structure Welcomed by Community

Residents have a place to seek respite from the sun thanks to a \$7,500 grant from the Canadian Dermatology Association.

BY AIZA MUBASHIR

When the summer heat arrives, the Wesbrook Community Centre splash pad offers the chance to cool off using its fun water features.

The relief from high temperatures is nice, but splashes of water aren't enough to offer protection from the sun's rays. Thanks to a recent addition to the splash pad, residents can now enjoy the sun while being protected under a new shade structure.

On August 6, UNA board members and staff, along with two representatives from the Canadian Dermatology Association (CDA) Sun Awareness Working Group inaugurated the structure with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony.

UNA Board Chair Eagle Glassheim, who was involved in the development and logistics of the structure, began the ceremony with a speech expressing gratitude for the CDA's financial support for the project.

Dr. Sunil Kalia, chair of the CDA's Sun Awareness Working Group, continued the ceremony by discussing the importance of shade structures. According to Dr. Kalia, skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in Canada with one in five British Columbians at risk for developing it during their lifetime. "It's something we do prioritize", he said. "We do want people to still be outside, but we also try to minimize that



National Chair Dr. Sunil Kalia (L) and member Dr. Tashmeeta Ahad from the Canadian Dermatology Association's Sun Awareness Working Group, pictured here on August 6 at the Wesbrook splash pad. (Photo: UNA)

risky amount of sun exposure. Prevention is very important".

Many people slather on some sunscreen before going outside and call it a day, but Dr. Tashmeeta Ahad, a member of the Sun Awareness Working Group committee, urges additional prevention. "It's not foolproof," she said. "Shade is a better way of protecting yourself from the damage that can occur from sun exposure".

In addition to seeking shade, she recommends wearing a wide-brimmed hat, avoiding the sun during peak hours, wearing long sleeves and pants, and avoiding the sun when the UV index is higher than 3.

The shading structure, installed in spring, was awarded a \$7,500 grant for its construction by the CDA through its Shade Structure Grant Program.

the design of the structure and the number of people it will impact", said Dr. Ahad.

The structure contains three shade cloths supported by seven poles, covering a grassy area near the splash pad.

Wegland Sit, UNA Operations Manager, expanded on the structure's versatility. "It's a seasonal deployment", he said, adding that the shade cloths will be installed in the springtime and taken down in the fall.

Another leading reason for receiving this year's grant is the age group it targets. Dr. Kalia emphasised the importance of targeting youth, stating that "50 per cent of sun exposure that someone gets during their lifetime is during the youth and adolescence years".

As a large percentage of youth reside on campus, the splash pad's shade structure has already become a necessity for the summer, especially benefitting students and youth attending UNA summer camps.

The program was "quite competitive" according to Dr. Kalia, selecting only six recipients out of 600 applications from across Canada. The UNA was one of two shade structures selected from all of British Columbia.

With such a competitive process, what made the UNA stand out? "I think

AIZA MUBASHIR IS A GRADE 11 STUDENT AT UNIVERSITY HILL SECONDARY SCHOOL.

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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3 BEDS | 2 BATHS | 1,337 SQ FT



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ASKING PRICE \$899,000
2 BEDS | 2 BATHS | 1,121 SQ FT



#105 1744 - 128TH STREET
ASKING PRICE \$959,500
2 BEDS | 2 BATHS | 1,417 SQ FT



313 - 6268 EAGLES
ASKING PRICE \$1,189,900
2 BEDS | 2 BATHS | 1,105 SQ FT



2024 | MEMBER

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UHill Secondary Student Builds Community with Soccer Camp

A local high school student, using his passion for soccer and a UBC community-building grant, has created a soccer camp for campus kids.

BY PERMENIA REA

A local youth has turned his passion for soccer into a project that benefits children on campus. Hajun Chung, a grade 11 student at UHill Secondary School, founded Acadia Youth Soccer Camp, a free kids' soccer camp, when he was just 14-years-old. Chung says the idea came to him as a grade 9 student in 2022, when he noticed a lot of neighbourhood kids playing soccer at the field outside the Acadia Park Commons-block. "They didn't have proper equipment, but I could see they had real talent," he said. Chung loves soccer. He's been playing since he was a younger child, and has gone on to play on a competitive team. Watching kids kick the ball around, he thought they deserved the opportunity to play with the same type of proper equipment and coaching that he had benefitted from. He brought his idea for a soccer camp to the people behind the UBC Inspired Inspiring Community Grant, which is managed by UBC Campus and Community Planning. The grant program supports community projects from local applicants with funding of up to \$500. According to the website, since 2016, the grant has funded over 200 projects led by students, faculty, staff, and residents of all ages. With his friends and fellow UHill students Pouria Karimi and Phileo Ip, Chung sent in an application. Two

weeks later, they received their grant. Acadia Youth FC was born. Chung, along with volunteers Karimi and Ip, lead the camp once a year as coaches. Since 2023, the camp has run for two days in August at the field outside the Acadia Park Commonsblock. From 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., girls and boys aged 6-12 do drills and warm-ups, and practice skills like dribbling, shooting, and passing. They also do scrimmages to practice in a game setting. The camp is advertised through posters in Acadia Park, which have information about how parents can sign up their children for free for one of the ten available spaces. This year, the camp was held on August 18 and 19. Chung says people can use their own strengths and passions to contribute to their communities, even as teens. "I think a lot of people underestimate what teenagers can do if given the chance. This camp is my way of showing



Participants at the Acadia Youth Soccer Camp, held annually on campus for the past three years. (Photo: Supplied)

that young people can take initiative and create something meaningful." "Don't be scared," Ip added. "You don't need experience to turn your passion into a volunteering opportunity or project." The next Acadia Youth FC camp will kick off in August 2026. Campus residents with a community building idea can take a look at the guidelines and project eligibility for community grants at inspired.ubc.ca/communitygrants/. PERMENIA REA IS A GRADE 8 STUDENT AT IDEAL MINI SCHOOL.

Inclusivity and (Re)discovery at Botanical Gardens

Writer Jayne Seagrave attended the Branching Out pride event at UBC Botanical Gardens and was reminded that there's always something new to discover in a small community.

BY JAYNE SEAGRAVE

Do you ever think you know a particular place because you visited it once many years ago, but then return and are pleasantly surprised in your reintroduction? Do you ever think yourself well acquainted with a museum or park, only to be shocked upon revisiting on how it has altered in the years which have passed since that initial visit, often stunned it has developed and improved in your absence? This happened to me one beautiful July evening when I attended the 'Branching Out' event at UBC Botanical Gardens. Now in its fourth year, Branching Out is a celebration of 2SLGBTQIA+ Pride. It is a wonderful event which aims to create, in the words of the Gardens, "a fun and accessible and community driven event for adults." It also acted as the catalyst to get me into the UBC Botanical Gardens after a long absence. Branching Out was

described as "community connection and curiosity beneath the trees." In attending I was immediately reminded we have one of the best botanical gardens in the country on our doorstep. The evening started with an informal buffet and socializing around a series of tables displaying plants together with explanations and interesting details about them. Laughter could be heard from every corner. Attendees were encouraged to wear floral attire, and it seemed no one had missed the memo. The host was UBC horticulturalist Scott Ferguson. Ferguson is supported by employees at the gardens who helped ensure its success this year. The director of the gardens, Dee Ann Benard, spoke to me of her enthusiasm for the event, which she explained she inherited when becoming director in 2023. She said Branching Out is becoming increasingly successful. Everywhere I turned there were plants and interesting details about them. Some displays were constructed just for the evening, but many were permanent fixtures. As stated on their website, the garden's objectives are: education, research, conservation, community outreach and public display. I frequently drive past the gates, and this event reminded me that there are a number of easily accessible and unique places on campus I have visited, perhaps years ago. Many of these places have developed and grown and deserve my attention again. I am sure the same can be said of other places at UBC, for example, the Museum of Anthropology, Pacific Spirit Regional Park, and the Nitobe Memorial Garden. I have visited all, but to my embarrassment, not in the last five years. While Branching Out

was linked to annual Pride festivities, the gardens hold other events throughout the year. Coming up this fall, there is an Opera Tea in September, and the annual apple festival takes place in October. The gardens also host regular workshops on topics of interest to gardeners and plant lovers. Currently, there is a heavy focus on science and environmental stewardship, with an eight-month Horticultural Training Program being offered. A few years ago, the Greenheart Treewalk was created allowing visitors to walk high above the ground amongst the branches of trees with truly awesome views. Who knew? Certainly not me with my blinkered "been there done that" mentality. The gardens can also be booked for weddings. There is adjacent parking, an extensive gift shop, plant shop, shaded walks and information on everything botanical. It is easy to spend well over two hours exploring. Admission is free for UBC students and staff, and for UNA cardholders. My visit to Branching Out reminded me that I needed to accept everything changes, and I should be open to exploring my neighbourhood more, even if I have previously visited many of its attractions. JAYNE SEAGRAVE IS A B.C. RESIDENT AND BEST-SELLING AUTHOR OF "CAMPING BRITISH COLUMBIA, THE ROCKIES AND THE YUKON". SHE WRITES FICTION AND NON-FICTION, AND OCCASIONALLY TEACHES WRITING AND PUBLISHING COURSES.



Attendees at this year's Branching Out event. (Photo: UBC Botanical Gardens)

Place of Art in Life

BY RASHEDA KABIR

*"Inside you there is an artist you don't know about."
– Persian philosopher Jalal al-Din Rumi*

My art life surprised me and my family. At age 45, I saw a magazine picture of white roses on a blue background. It attracted me so powerfully that I impulsively bought paints and brushes and duplicated that image. The pleasure was indescribable. That's how I embarked on my journey of self-expression.

Since then, I've been discovering art – seeing color and hues, textures, proportions, balance, symmetry. I'm learning through trial and error and loving it. Now my art is appreciated by friends and onlookers.

The time I spend painting is the quality time of my life. The aesthetic satisfaction is unique – I feel accomplishment, pleasure, pride and pure joy.

I am so, so happy I discovered the artist inside me.

Sailing Boat

I painted 'Sailing Boat' with inspiration from the beautiful, warm colours of the B.C. sky.

RASHEDA KABIR WAS BORN IN INDIA IN 1940 AND EDUCATED IN PAKISTAN WITH MASTER'S DEGREES IN GEOGRAPHY AND EDUCATION. SHE HAS LIVED IN VANCOUVER SINCE 2013 AND CURRENTLY RESIDES AT SEASONS RETIREMENT HOME IN WESBROOK PLACE, WHERE SHE NOURISHES HER HOBBIES OF PAINTING, WRITING AND SPORTS.



Welcome to our first 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. Keep an eye on this page each month, and keep sending your creations to editor@thecampusresident.ca — we can't wait to feature more of you.

— The Campus Resident Arts & Culture team

Becoming Real

BY ROBERT SHOOFEEY

Becoming Real is a manifestation of the dark and light sides of life. It is an inspirational study of humankind living in a world sometimes confused, divided yet at times loving and always hopeful. Becoming Real is about good overcoming evil, love rather than hate - the Yin and Yang of life.

ROBERT SHOOFEEY LIVES IN THE LOGAN LANE NEIGHBORHOOD AT HAWTHORNE PLACE AND IS A RETIRED UBC LECTURER IN THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION.



Tortoise

BY TOMÁS CARRILLO SOTO

Inspired by a Cartooning Club Z sketch, Tortoise shows my love for turtles and the ocean. I want viewers to feel the turtle's special energy and imagine it swimming freely in clean waters, without plastic or pollution, reminding us to care for our planet.

TOMÁS CARRILLO SOTO IS AN 11-YEAR-OLD ARTIST WHO EXPLORES EMOTIONS AND IMAGINATION THROUGH DRAWING. HIS ART MIXES NATURE AND FANTASY, AND HE LOVES TELLING STORIES THROUGH CHARACTERS, COLOUR, AND DETAILED DESIGN.