

THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

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OPINION: A Shared Future for UBC and our Neighbourhoods

UBC President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Benoit-Antoine Bacon shares his vision for the university and its relationship with the broader campus community.

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Campus Youth Find Connection Through Music



The formation of youth band *Losing Momentum* has its roots right here in the university neighbourhoods. Several members of the band - which consists of (L-R) drummer Ash Armen, guitarist Luca Wittmann, bassist Evan Lam, guitarist Robert Alvarez, guitarist Delband Doraki and vocalist Gwyn Glover - first met while taking music lessons at Wesbrook Community Centre before recruiting other members. In December, the band took the main stage at Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre for Norma Rose Point Elementary School's Winter Ice Skating Festival, and they have their sights set even further for 2026. See page 7 for our story on how these young musicians have found a sense of connection and community through playing together. (Photo: Submitted)

Critics Question Viability of Wesbrook Energy System

Wesbrook Place's Neighbourhood District Energy System is being labelled as an example of "greenwashing" and "a relic of the past", but campus officials say the system is here to stay.

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LETTER: More Clarity Needed on Dog Leashing Rules

A letter writer says residents need more clarity on dog leashing rules in the campus neighbourhoods.

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Program Helps Seniors Get Outdoors

The Vancouver Cycling Without Age Society (VCWAS) is bringing its services to the university neighbourhoods this summer.

BY AMIE BERNAERDT

The Vancouver Cycling Without Age Society (VCWAS) is introducing services to UBC's campus this summer to assist residents facing barriers to getting outdoors.

The society is a volunteer-run organization that takes seniors and their friends and families for bike rides on trishaws - a type of three-wheeled bicycle or pedicab. The volunteers aim to serve seniors between the ages of 70-100, giving them the chance to get outside and enjoy the pleasure of human-powered transport on wheels.

VCWAS's "ride season" spans from May 1 to October 31. During the

season, 50 volunteers give weekly rides to seniors across Vancouver. Last year, they provided nearly 1,500 rides to 3,000 passengers, travelling over 9,000 kms across the city.

"Seniors are most at risk of social isolation, which harms their physical and mental health. Cycling Without Age is one of the best solutions to this problem" said a passenger who uses the service. "We want to see Cycling Without Age become the most popular activity for elders and their caregivers in Vancouver".

Wesbrook Place, Main Mall, North Campus, and Pacific Spirit Regional Park are some of the areas VCWAS is exploring for potential routes. And every route taken is pre-scouted by the organization ahead of the ride.

"We are currently scouting routes and should have more details closer to the start of the season," said VCWAS executive director Jake Winn. "We'll be all over, though."

For the upcoming ride season, the society has secured a storage location on campus that will house four trishaws to service seniors living in Wesbrook and surrounding neighbourhoods.

VCWAS has two kinds of programs that will be available for interested senior residents, said Winn. "One is partner rides where we provide rides to clients of care homes or senior-serving organizations," he said. "We have a set schedule and these rides are not open to the public."

OPINION: Post-Docs Cannot Afford to Live at UBC

What is the ideal experience for post-docs at UBC? One where they can actually afford to live on campus.

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Arts & Culture

Check out the February installment of *The Campus Resident's* Arts and Culture section, featuring creative work from members of the campus community.

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A Vancouver Cycling Without Age Society (VCWAS) volunteer with seniors on a ride through Pacific Spirit Regional Park. (Photo: VCWAS)

PROGRAM CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Critics Question Viability of Wesbrook Energy System

Recently approved double digit annual rate increases in heating and hot water rates for Wesbrook Place residents have community members and campus stakeholders questioning the financial viability and environmental credentials of the neighbourhood's energy system.

In October last year, the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) approved an application by energy company Corix Utilities to increase their rates by a range of 12 to 18 per cent annually for 2025, 2026, and 2027. The company said the rate increases were necessary to address revenue shortfalls from the natural gas-powered Neighbourhood District Energy System (NDES) it operates in Wesbrook Place.

With the application approved, Wesbrook residents in 15 residential buildings are facing a 50 per cent increase in their heating and hot water rates over the next three years. The application by Corix to raise rates was met by wide opposition from residents, with the regulator receiving 123 letters of comment from residents, strata representatives, and the UNA.

Many described the adverse financial impact of the rate hikes. Some critics have questioned the system itself.

In an official comment sent to the provincial regulator during its review process for Corix's rate increase application, an official from UBC Properties Trust (UBCPT) questioned the current and future financial viability of

Wesbrook Place's Neighbourhood District Energy System is being labelled as an example of "greenwashing" and "a relic of the past", but campus officials say the system is here to stay.

BY EMMANUEL SAMOGLU



An energy generating centre operated by Corix, adjacent to Pacific Spirit Regional Park on Binning Road. Along with a second energy centre located at the entrance to UBC Farm, both facilities form Wesbrook's Neighbourhood District Energy System (NDES) that provides heating and hot water to 15 residential buildings. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

the energy system for ratepayers.

"The Corix NDES is an inefficient legacy system with no reasonable plan to transition to a low-carbon fuel source without unacceptable costs that would need to be recovered through future rate increases," UBCPT Director of Planning and Design Paul Young wrote in his submission to the BCUC.

"The Corix gas-fired NDES system should be abandoned and connected buildings should be retrofitted with heat pumps in place of the

current heat exchangers."

In his submission, Young said that as of February 2025, UBCPT has built and operates 881 units of rental housing connected to the NDES. A total of 1,744 condominium units in Wesbrook Place are also connected to the system, he added.

Erica Frank, a campus resident and UBC professor who served as a UBC Sustainability Initiative Fellow, has also questioned the environmental credentials of the system as touted by UBC and Corix.

Writing to *The Campus Resident*, Frank described claims about the system's sustainability as "textbook greenwashing".

"It's hard for me to imagine a worse solution to this problem than a methane (natural gas) rate increase, a solution that more effectively violates UBC's and UBCPT's ostensible 'dedication to creating vibrant, sustainable communities on campus that serve the University of British Columbia and beyond'," said Frank.

Despite the critiques, campus officials say there are no plans to switch to an alternative system.

When asked about Young's comments to the provincial regulator, a spokesperson from UBC Properties Trust said, "UBC has a long-term contract with Corix, and as part of that agreement, new buildings within the service area are required to connect to the Neighbourhood District Energy System (NDES)."

"Within that framework, UBCPT continues to develop buildings that are energy-efficient using UBC's REAP (Residential Environmental Assessment Program) as a sustainability standard for residential buildings," the spokesperson added.

Those comments were echoed by UBC's Director of University Affairs Matthew Ramsay.

"As part of its commitment to sustainability, UBC partnered with Corix to implement and operate a Neighbourhood District Energy System (NDES) in 2014 to deliver space heating and domestic hot water to UBC's residential neighbourhoods," he told *The Campus Resident*.

"Corix was chosen in a competitive bid process based on their established expertise and track record of successful community partnerships for energy and utility systems."

EMMANUEL SAMOGLU IS THE MANAGING EDITOR OF THE CAMPUS RESIDENT.

UNA UNIVERSITY NEIGHBOURHOODS ASSOCIATION

HELP SHAPE THE UNA BUDGET



The UNA invites residents to review and share feedback on the UNA's 2026/27 draft budget.

The draft budget helps guide how the UNA plans and manages resources, revenues, and services to best serve the community. Resident input is an important part of this process.

REVIEW THE BUDGET INFO

An information package with key budget highlights and details on how to participate in the consultation is available online.

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

All feedback received will be reviewed by the UNA Finance and Audit Committee and shared with the UNA Board of Directors before the final budget is approved.

Scan the QR code below or visit myuna.ca/budget2026.



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OPINION

A Shared Future for UBC and our Neighbourhoods

BY DR. BENOIT-ANTOINE BACON

If you live at UBC, you well know this beautiful place is much more than a university campus. For more than 15,000 people, it's home.

It's a privilege to be writing to the campus resident community and to continue the conversation about what it means to live, work, and learn here. As UBC's President and Vice-Chancellor, much of my role focuses on the university's academic and research mission, and I have come to appreciate how closely that work is connected to everyday life in our surrounding neighbourhoods.

Nearly half of the residents of UBC's neighbourhoods are students, faculty, and staff. That matters. It means UBC isn't just a place people commute to. It's a place where people live, raise families, build lives, and put down roots. At the same time, more than half of the people who call UBC home are not directly affiliated with the university. Together, they make UBC a vibrant and bustling place where workdays overlap with school drop-offs, where lectures and discovery happen a few blocks from parks and playgrounds, and where community life carries on long after the academic day ends.

This sense of home also exists within a much longer history. UBC and its neighbourhoods are located on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Musqueam

people, who have lived on and cared for this land for thousands of years. Recognizing that history matters as we think about how this place grows and how we care for it together.

Last fall, UBC launched Strategic Directions 2025-2030, our refreshed roadmap that sets out how we will focus our efforts in the years ahead. One of our core commitments is to nurture a strong and vibrant UBC community. Our campus neighbourhoods are essential to this goal.

The residential neighbourhoods support UBC in very practical ways. They provide housing, schools, child care, community centres, parks, local services, and cultural programs that support wellbeing and connection. But their value goes beyond the practical. Living, learning, and working in close proximity changes how people connect. It makes collaboration easier. It lowers barriers to participation, and it turns everyday encounters into ideas and partnerships.

The residential neighbourhoods also create additional opportunities for the campus to be used intentionally as a living laboratory for research, teaching, and



UBC President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Benoit-Antoine Bacon.
(Photo: Submitted)

learning, grounded in real-world context and everyday experience. This is one of UBC's great system strengths, and one we are committed to building on as the university evolves.

As our community continues to grow in the coming years, the university's relationship with residents will become even more important. Growth brings opportunity, and it also brings responsibility. Our Strategic Directions emphasize the importance of partnering with purpose—working together, listening carefully, and shaping the future of this place in ways that reflect the needs and perspectives of those who study and work here, as well as those who live here.

Through our deep and ongoing engagement with residents, we know transportation and mobility, ecology and open space are priority interests for residents and the broader community. UBC continues to advocate for the SkyTrain extension to campus as a sustainable, reliable, and accessible transportation option. At the same time, we are focused on planning better ways to move through and within campus neighbourhoods, with safety, accessibility, and quality of life in mind. And, as part of implementing Campus Vision 2050, we are working to preserve green spaces and enhance campus biodiversity by creating ecological parks and naturalizing landscapes.

That's why our partnership with the University Neighbourhoods Association is so important. The UNA plays an important role in community life on campus and in ensuring that resident voices are part of shaping the places where people live and gather. Through the UNA-UBC Neighbours' Agreement, valued programs and services are delivered across the neighbourhoods, helping make UBC a great place to live for people at every stage of life. UBC's neighbourhoods are an integral part of our university's future.

I look forward to continuing this work and conversation with residents, the UNA, and our partners as we shape what comes next together. Thank you all for being part of this community and for the many ways you contribute to life at UBC.

DR. BENOIT-ANTOINE BACON IS PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

More Clarity Needed on Dog Leashing Rules

We need clarity on policies regarding dogs and when they are required to be kept on a leash.

I am happy that the UNA Dog Park is available for dog owners and their pets to have leash-free time. However, as a human born with a fear of furry animals, I am disappointed to find that it does not help much with my safe space in areas outside

the dog park. Indeed, some owners tend to let off their dogs without a leash around certain neighbourhood areas.

Recently, when I tried to ask a dog owner to put his dog on a leash beside Michael Smith Park in Wesbrook Place, I was told, "(fearing my dog) is your problem, not mine. And there is no sign saying that I must put my dog on a leash outside

Michael Smith Park."

Can the UNA help solve this issue with a clear statement regarding leash/no leash policies? And can more signs that say "All dogs must be kept on a leash" be installed along paths and areas close to residential buildings? (Note - there actually is one of these signs at Michael Smith Park).

Guidance on this issue would be appreciated. After all, we are just human beings asking for the right to be free from mental and psychological stress while living here.

XIAOWEN XU, RESIDENT



A sign in Michael Smith Park in Wesbrook Place.
(Photo: Submitted)

Campus Dog Regulations Explained

BY TCR STAFF

The UNA currently does not have any regulations in place to require the leashing of dogs, similar to current policy for areas under the jurisdiction of UBC. While measures are currently not being considered, UNA staff say the organization may consider adding regulations and allocating resources to enforce any new bylaws in the future.

Signs that currently exist in the university neighbourhoods are placed in key public areas to encourage respectful dog ownership and encourage owners to leash their dogs, UNA officials say. The signs are aimed to represent the UNA's proactive approach to the matter and focus on voluntary adherence to respectful dog ownership practices.

Relatedly, City of Vancouver bylaws do not apply to lands within UBC, including the neighbourhoods under jurisdiction of the UNA. Dog owners are welcome to register and licence their dogs with the City of Vancouver, however the UNA and UBC currently do not have licencing or other dog bylaw regulations in place.

OPINION

Post-Docs Cannot Afford to Live at UBC

What is the ideal experience for post-docs at UBC? One where they can actually afford to live at UBC.

BY ERIC WILKINSON

At UBC, the Provost's Office and Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies held consultations in November and December last year about the challenges that postdoctoral fellows are facing.

A dominant theme in those discussions was the lack of housing. Post-docs are ineligible for housing programs for students, staff, or faculty, and post-docs living in Wesbrook report spending over 50 percent of their income on rent and utilities alone.

Participants in the consultations pointed to the cost of housing as a major stressor and distraction from their research which also drives top talent away from UBC.

When accessing housing resources or support at UBC, post-docs occupy an uncomfortable limbo, as they are treated as neither students nor faculty. While on paper post-docs

are classified as "faculty," virtually all housing support programs at UBC are earmarked for tenure-track faculty. For instance, UBC's rent-gear-to-income (RGI) program caps the rent of participating staff and faculty at 30 percent of their income. Yet, post-docs are excluded from this and all other UBC housing programs.

The mean post-doc stipend at UBC is about \$50,000. Meanwhile, tenure-track faculty will usually have salaries that are at least twice as much. The rent-gear-to-income program was introduced out of a recognition that the cost of housing was prohibitively expensive for faculty making over \$100,000 a year, but somehow it is thought reasonable that employees making half as much should spend three quarters of their income on housing. Tenure-track faculty also have access to relocation funding that is unavailable to post-docs, which means that the latter often arrive burdened by the expense of moving to UBC.

Since postdoctoral fellows are not students, they cannot live in graduate student housing or access housing programs intended for students either. Instead, the only housing at UBC available to post-docs are in buildings reserved for staff and faculty, such as those managed by Village Gate Homes (VGH) in Wesbrook. However, the units available in build-

ings operated by VGH are often smaller and more expensive than similar apartments that are available off-campus or elsewhere in Vancouver.

The cheapest, smallest units in VGH's new Symphony building in Wesbrook Place cost over \$1,900 per month, while larger one-bedroom apartments can be found elsewhere in Vancouver for \$1,700. Most of the one-bedroom units in Symphony actually cost \$2,000-2,200 per month, as much as \$500 more than off-campus one-bedrooms. To add insult to injury, VGH's buildings in Wesbrook charge higher utility rates than most off-campus apartments, and those rates are set to rise for the next three years.

Staff and faculty housing available through VGH is advertised with "reduced market rents", however that perk is a taxable benefit.

The taxable benefit is supposed to represent the difference between VGH's estimated market rate for a given unit and the rent that they actually charge staff or faculty to live there. However, VGH's estimates of what they "could" rent the units for must be inflated, since their apartments are more expensive than off-campus equivalents.

Consequently, it is financially disadvantageous for post-docs to live in the only on-campus housing available to them. As a result, most UBC post-docs live in off-campus housing and must commute to participate in the life of the university.

At the consultations held by the Provost's Office, the participants were split into groups and seated at tables where questions were posed to them about the postdoctoral experience. One such question asked what could be done to improve the housing programs available to post-docs at UBC. Reading this, several participants wryly observed that there are zero housing programs for post-docs. If the Provost's Office wanted to improve the situation, they can start by introducing even one program.

Some participants expressed that to meet the cost of living they had taken on second or third jobs, which naturally took them away from their research responsibilities. Yet, since many post-docs are immigrants to Canada on work visas, they are forbidden from taking on work outside of UBC to supplement their income. If their departments have no additional teaching work for them, these post-docs have no choice but to subsist on their meagre postdoctoral stipend.

Relatedly, participants noted that UBC insisted on giving many postdoctoral fellows contracts that were only one-year long, even when they held a multi-year fellowship. This resulted in immigrant post-docs having to reapply for a work visa every year of their appointment, causing unnecessary stress given the slow processing times at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). Similarly, the one-year contracts made it difficult for immigrant post-docs to secure healthcare and childcare when the providers of these services required documentation of long-term employment.

The stress of financial precarity and the need for many to find additional work to supplement their income distracts post-docs from their research and limits their productivity. These issues also make it difficult for UBC to attract externally-funded researchers whose funding will go further at other institutions. During the consultations, post-docs from countries like Germany and Australia noted that they were better paid as graduate students than they are as post-docs at UBC.

The housing problems faced by post-docs at UBC is entirely within the university's power to solve. UBC owns buildings in Wesbrook and throughout the endowment lands that could offer affordable options for post-docs and other employees, and new buildings are continually being constructed. Yet, the university seems more interested in constructing profitable rentals than housing its employees. Right now, VGH is struggling to find tenants to fill its apartments because of uncompetitively high prices. These expensive units are no help to struggling post-docs.

When the Provost's Office asked post-docs what the ideal postdoctoral experience would look like, the consensus was clear: it would be one where postdoctoral fellows could afford to live at UBC.

ERIC WILKINSON IS A POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AT UBC. HIS REPORTING HAS APPEARED IN BRIARPATCH, CANADIAN DIMENSION, AND PEACE MAGAZINE, AMONG OTHER OUTLETS.



Eric Wilkinson, postdoctoral fellow at UBC's Department of Philosophy. (Photo: Submitted)

PROGRAM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

They also have community rides which are scheduled usually on weekends and anyone can join. These are options for seniors living independently, not in a care home, and available by donation.

VCWAS already has a presence on campus through an ongoing research project with UBC students in the Master of Occupational Therapy program. It is an ethnographic project that looks at the experiences and motivations of seniors participating in the program. Students observe outings and interview senior participants and volunteers in the hopes to see benefits, challenges, and possible outcomes of the program.

The society and its volunteers are excited to join the UBC community this coming summer by giving seniors rides around the place they call home. "This experience has shown me what it truly means to be full of life," said one VCWAS volunteer.

Interested residents and community members should discuss with their care home or check out VCWAS's website (cyclingwithoutage.ca/Vancouver) to get involved.

AMIE BERNAERDT IS A THIRD YEAR STUDENT AT UBC, MAJORING IN CREATIVE WRITING AND ANTHROPOLOGY. SHE LIVES IN WESBROOK PLACE.



Vancouver Cycling Without Age Society (VCWAS) is extending its services to UBC's campus this summer. (Photo: Alex Trujillo)

Dog Park a Hit with Dog Owners

Park was officially opened on December 11 and has seen steady use among residents.

BY EMMANUEL SAMOGLOU



Campus residents Florent and Shihan say they have been coming to the dog park on a near daily basis since its opening in December last year. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

The recently opened dog park in Wesbrook Place is getting positive feedback from dog-owning campus residents.

The park officially opened on December 11 last year and is located north of Birney Ave. near Ross Drive and Webber Lane. It features separate fenced areas for large and small dogs, sheltered seating, and water fountains that will be turned on in spring.

Thus far, the park appears to be a hit.

Joe Jurkiewicz lives on the other side of campus, but said he makes an effort to come to the dog park every day.

"It's perfect," he said. "We love it and we were anticipating it. We kept checking the UNA website for the opening date."

Jurkiewicz said the park is a safe place for his dog to play, and he appreciates the separate areas for big and small dogs and the sitting areas for dog owners.

"This is the only gated dog park that I know of on campus," he said. "We used to go to Richmond for a gated dog park. We had to drive quite a bit. This is far easier and more accessible."

The only drawback he sees is the use of sand in some areas of the park. "I know it's better for the joints, but he does get dirty when it rains," he said, while looking at his furry friend.

One campus family at the park on a weekday afternoon last month said they try to visit twice a day.

"My daughter Nora loves watching the dogs," said Matt, who was visiting the park with partner Alex and dog Zoe.

"She doesn't listen very well off a leash

so she needs a fence," added Alex. "We didn't have anywhere else to take her until this, so it's very nice."

The park cost an estimated \$230,000, with maintenance expenses coming from the UNA's annual budget. For more information go to myuna.ca/dogpark.



Dog owners and their pets at the UNA Dog Park opening last year. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

UNA Launches Review of School Walking Routes

Board also seeks to address resident concerns over tree management in Hampton Place

BY DANIEL LI

UNA Directors were told during their final meeting of 2025 that staff have launched an internal review of school walking routes.

During the meeting held on December 16, UNA operations staff said they are currently collecting and compiling walking route data to identify safety improvements, including enhancing pedestrian visibility along high-traffic corridors on campus. They will also be looking at potential locations for new or improved crosswalk markings at appropriate crossing points.

Areas covered in the review include routes at East Campus, Hawthorn Place, Hampton Place, and Wesbrook Place.

In a report, UNA Operations Manager Wegland Sit said the review follows a recent "walk-shop" involving UBC Campus and Community Planning, UBC transportation staff, and the UNA's Land Use Advisory Committee.

Directors address criticism of tree removals

During the first UNA board meeting of the year held on January 20, directors addressed a letter from a Hampton Place strata council that expressed concern over the removal of ash trees in the neighbourhood.

In the letter, dated November 12, 2025, president Rene Wahl from the Thames Court Strata Council requested the board to not remove any ash trees in Hampton Place without the prior agreement of stratas.

In voicing opposition to removal, Wahl cited the lack of evidence of an existing emerald ash borer infestation in Hampton Place, and touted the environmental importance of the trees to the neighbourhood.

"The Ash trees at Hampton Place are integral to the landscape design and environmental character of our neighbourhood," Wahl wrote. "Their removal, particularly without scientific necessity or proper consultation, would represent a significant and irreversible alteration of the community environment."

In response to the letter, UNA board chair Eagle Glassheim sought approval through a motion to write a letter to Wahl that outlines the UNA's tree management policies and how it is handling existing ash trees in Hampton Place, as infestation has taken hold in other parts of the lower

mainland and beyond.

Director Carole Jolly from UBC Campus and Community Planning added that the letter should emphasize that tree management comes from the expert opinion of arborists, and not from the input of UNA directors. The board voted to approve Glassheim's motion.

Three ash trees located at 5650 Hampton Place were cut down late last year after UBC issued a permit authorizing their removal.

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 working with the City of Vancouver to halt their spread.

The draft 2026-2027 UNA budget, which has yet to be approved, allocates \$35,000 to treat local ash trees to prevent infestation, as well as \$10,000 to replace those that are authorized to be removed.

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

WITH ADDITIONAL REPORTING FROM EMMANUEL SAMOGLOU.



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IN OUR WORDS

Students Take on Shakespeare with a Modern Twist

The University Hill Secondary School Theatre Company recently put on another stellar production with *Midsummer/Jersey* - a modern re-telling of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

BY OLIVIA HAI LAI JIAO

The University Hill Secondary School Theatre Company rocked this year's production of *Midsummer/Jersey* by American playwright Ken Ludwig.

Taking on a modern Jersey Shore-style re-telling of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the talented cast and crew members put on yet another successful and hilarious show following last year's production of murder/mystery *CLUE: On Stage*.

The play is a re-telling of Shakespeare's classic, with a modern twist. It is set on the boardwalk of a seaside town in modern-day New Jersey.

According to Ludwig, "The story revolves around the impending marriage of the Governor of New Jersey, the love affairs of four beach-bound high school crushes, a lively crew of screwball fairies and the staff of the local beauty salon."

"With several weddings and the acting careers of six beauticians hanging in the balance, the lovers take to the boardwalk, backed by pop music and an iPhone-ob-

essed wood sprite."

The production team was made up of roughly 60 student creatives of various disciplines, and included two separate casts. This year's production included show dates that alternated between cast A and cast B, with shows on January 13-15 and January 20-22.

Production work began in October, with actors working hard to memorize their lines and develop their characters. At the same time, the production crew were crafting, designing, and executing technical aspects of theatre such as the set, costumes, and lighting.

Under the direction of drama teacher and director Karen Penney, the production consisted of the set and props department led by me, the costume and makeup department led by Beatrice Cobb, lights led by Carl Suderman, sound by Nathan Yao, publicity by Cami Yu, and a team of floaters led by Acadia Vozel.

Supervising and leading the whole production process was stage manager Samuel Goh and assistant stage manager Ting Zeng.



A scene from the University Hill Secondary School Theatre Company's production, *Midsummer/Jersey*. (Photo: Vivian Su)

The cast and crew were able to make the play a success through dedicated work, said Goh. "(The actors) experimented when acting, doing something different each day, working hard to become the characters that shone on the stage this January."

Goh added this year's production had the benefit of leveraging on last year's successful production of *CLUE: On Stage*.

"Having a year of knowing (the cast and crew) allowed me to trust everyone since I knew what everyone was capable

of," he said. "I am so lucky that the cast and crew I got to work with this year were a bunch of fun energetic teens that always seem to brighten up the room, even during the darkest days."

Check out the University Hill Theatre Production Company's Instagram account, @uhilltheatre. And here's to another year of good shows! 🎭

OLIVIA HAI LAI JIAO IS A STUDENT AT UNIVERSITY HILL SECONDARY SCHOOL.

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- UBC Botanical Garden and Nitobe Memorial Garden
- Museum of Anthropology at UBC
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Local Youth Rock Band has Big Ambitions

Following their recent gig at Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre, local band *Losing Momentum* are shifting into next gear and looking for a bigger stage.

BY OLIVIA HAI LAI JIAO

It is said live music fosters connection, community, artistry, and can help with social, emotional, and even our physical well-being.

Losing Momentum, a local band consisting of local high school students, highlights the importance and impact of live music and the opportunities that it creates.

The band consists of six members between the ages of 14-17 and includes vocalist Gwyn Glover, guitarists Delband Doraki, Robert Alvarez, and Luca Wittmann, bassist Evan Lam, and Drummer Ash Armen.

A fun fact: all of the members of the band can play more than one instrument, and their formation has its roots here in the campus neighbourhoods.

Glover, Doraki, and Alvarez originally met during guitar lessons at Wesbrook Community Centre, and from there

decided to form a band.

Needing a bassist, another guitarist, and a drummer, they began pulling in other musically-inclined friends from their personal networks.

Glover had met Lam at a summer camp run by the School of Rock, Doraki knew Wittmann from climbing, and

Armen was found on Facebook.

With all pieces in place, *Losing Momentum* was formed in March 2025, unified by a shared love for music and motivation to create.

Their band name was coined from their relatable experience of "(losing) energy towards the end of practice." Even

if they do get tired in practice, in performance their presence is inspiring.

Their most recent performance was at Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre for a skating event organized by Norma Rose Point school and was a great success.

The band members say they'd like to continue to play for Norma Rose Point events like the upcoming Spring Fair, as well as looking into playing at UBC farm and events in Kitsilano. They're also hoping to branch out and reach their goal to open for another local band at a professional venue.

To date, the band has been playing mostly covers of rock songs, but they're currently working on their own original music. Their favourite songs to play together are "Speaking Terms" by Snail Mail, and the classic "Dreams" by Fleetwood Mac.

In the meantime, the group continues to practice at Wesbrook Community Centre or at each other's houses so they can share their skills and experiences through music with the world. Check them out on Instagram at @losingmomentumband.



Local band *Losing Momentum* performing at Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre late last year. (Photo: Submitted)

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. 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 almost 40 properties at UBC and over 100 properties in Greater Vancouver. I'm looking forward to connecting with you.

Thinking of selling or buying real estate? Please call me.
考虑买房, 卖房? 请联系我。

Wishing you a year of good health, peace & happiness in 2026.
祝您2026年马到成功, 一马当先。



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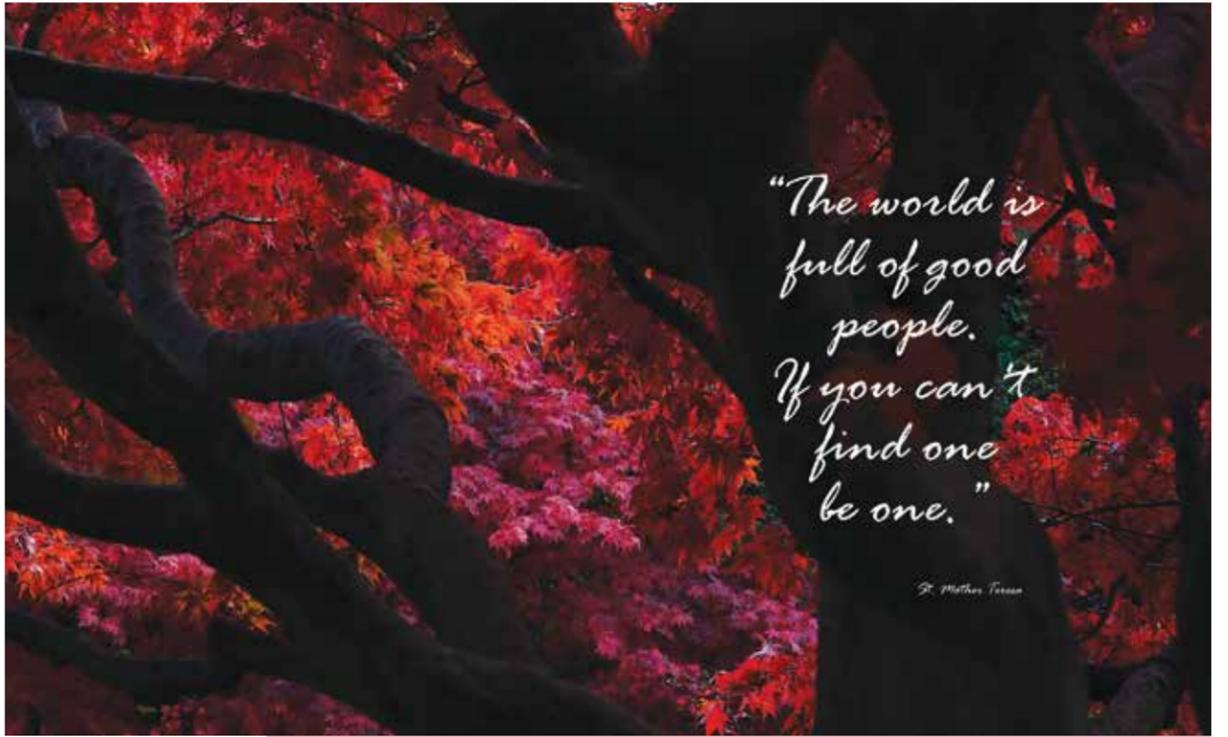


arts & culture

Welcome to The Campus Resident's Arts & Culture section, where community members of all ages can share their creativity, including: paintings, comics, poems, stories and songwriting.

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 March issue, send in your submission by February 10! And don't forget to include your full name, address, a title and brief description of the work, and a short bio!

— The Campus Resident Arts & Culture team



Barred Owl

BY SAKI MATSUOKA

SAKI MATSUOKA, AGE 6, IS A WESBROOK PLACE RESIDENT. SHE LOVES CRAFTING, SWIMMING, GYMNASTICS, PLAYING THE PIANO, AND READING BOOKS AND JAPANESE MANGA. HER MOM SAYS HER ART BRIGHTENS THE DAY BECAUSE IT'S SO SWEET, AND WE CAN FEEL THE WAY SHE IMAGINES ANIMALS AND OTHER THINGS.



Hope

BY SAMMY TONG

When I saw the color and lighting on this beautiful tree behind St. John Hospice, I knew that was a moment to be captured and shared as one's short journey on earth... with love, peace and joy!

SAMMY TONG IS A CAMPUS RESIDENT WHO GREW UP IN MACAU AND HAS BEEN CAPTURING MEMORABLE MOMENTS FOR OVER 50 YEARS. HE LEARNED PHOTOGRAPHY FROM HIS FATHER WHO OWNED A PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO, AND BECAME A PHOTOGRAPHER HIMSELF IN GRADE 5. HE ENJOYS CAPTURING 'WOW' MOMENTS AND SHARING THEM WITH OTHERS.

Forging A Quiet Path

BY DYLAN JOHNSON-BAYER

I wrote "Forging a Quiet Path" after visiting the UBC Museum of Anthropology to highlight how individuals can embrace their innate capacity for empathy to unravel systems of oppression.

DYLAN JOHNSON-BAYER IS A SECOND-YEAR UBC STUDENT AND WESBROOK RESIDENT WHOSE PHOTOGRAPHY AND POETRY HELP CONCEPTUALIZE NOVEL EXPERIENCES.

I feel my eyes begin to sweat

Involuntary tears spark memories of past injustices

And I sit on a wooden rocking chair three floors up in a building with a gifted name

But as I reconcile the past I can't help but feel there is always more

How do we pretend to conceal when it is us first who waged this war?

We paint walls and murals and concede ever so diplomatically to those who came first But fail to recognize the pain, perpetuated systematically

We build pipelines. We build homes. We too rebuild what once was.

But a building with fractured stone can never sit quite right

Gaps and cracks in the walls shining light on feeble attempts

The fraudulence grows with each word I write

A stranger to this cause who thinks but can never truly feel

So I visit and I click and I read and I try to understand

At least with knowledge, with words, with presence, with care,

We forge a quiet path which may eventually lead to

Somewhere...