

THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

APRIL 2, 2026
VOLUME 16, ISSUE 3



Momentum Building for Skytrain Extension: AMS

Meetings have been held with provincial and federal lawmakers following a petition organized by the UBC Alma Mater Society last summer that garnered over 15,000 signatures.

Page 2

Campus Cherry Blossoms out in Full Bloom



Springtime is cherry blossom time and one of the best places to take in this amazing time of year is right here in Vancouver. The city is home to 55 varieties of these trees, and over half of them can be found right here on campus. Find out more about these trees, along with some of the best places to view them, in our story on Page 5. (Photos: Ava Wang)

Readers Have Their Say

Letter writers take on speeding motorists and cyclists.

Page 3



OPINION: Cannabis on Campus - Balancing Personal Freedoms with Collective Well-being

An increase in access since legalization in 2018 provides an opportunity for the campus community to move towards a shared understanding around the complex and occasionally polarizing issue of public cannabis use.

Page 4



More Programs for Tweens and Teens, Resident Asks UNA Directors

UNA board asked to address perceived gaps in youth programming during March UNA board meeting, which also included a crime report from local RCMP.

BY EMMANUEL SAMOGLU

Community members made a case for additional programming for tweens and teens at local community centres during the March UNA Board of Directors meeting.

Risa Sargent was one of two concerned parents present and addressed directors at the meeting. She said current programming is not meeting the needs of youth between the ages of 8-12 (tweens) and teenagers, particularly on weekends. She has described the demographic as “one of the most underserved groups for community centre programs”.

“Parents are concerned about this,” Sargent said during her presentation. “One thing that would really help out in Wesbrook Village is a supportive community centre.”

Current challenges she cited include finding programs at the right times, as well as suitable programming.

“Tweens and teens have a very high need of programming that is nearby since they cannot drive and still need activities that allow them the independence to be active and meet their friends,” Sargent wrote previously in correspondence with the UNA that was included in the meeting’s agenda.

“We find that this is a common issue among our parent friends that live at UBC.”

Addressing Sargent’s comments, Dave Gillis, the UNA’s recreation manager, said the UNA attempts to meet the needs of pre-teens and teens with weekly drop-in activities at the Wesbrook Community Centre’s gym, as well as additional youth programming.

Demand for more programs and space has been on the rise at UNA community centres, with community members asking for more specific programming, including pickleball. Gillis previously told *The Campus Resident*, “Our programming team works carefully to ensure that all programs are balanced.”

Following the meeting, UNA director Jake Wiebe said the UNA wants to be inclusive to all age groups, particularly

tweens and teens.

“[It’s] a very important segment of our resident population that may need more options that we currently are not providing,” he said.

RCMP Crime Report

Directors also received a local crime report from Sgt. Josh Strikwerda of the UBC RCMP during the March meeting.

Calls for service, which include instances of officers responding to reports of crime as well as non-criminal issues, were reported as nearly identical from 2024 to 2025. Strikwerda said RCMP officers had 2622 calls for service last year, with September being the busiest month.

Looking at data from January 1 to March 31 for both 2024 and 2025, Strikwerda reported a 3 per cent decrease in total crime. However, violent crime was up just over 8 percent, driven by increases in cases of sexual assault and criminal harassment.

Trends in property crime were flat over the same time period, with double digit decreases in breach/bail violations and adult breach of probation.

EMMANUEL SAMOGLU IS THE MANAGING EDITOR OF THE CAMPUS RESIDENT.

“[It’s] a very important segment of our resident population that may need more options that we currently are not providing.”

Gateway Building a Hub for Health and Wellbeing

UBC’s latest building provides a full slate of health services for students while also offering programs for campus residents.

Page 6



Grow More in Small Spaces

A UBC Farm workshop this month will help residents improve yields on their balcony gardens and community garden plots.

Page 7



Momentum Building for Skytrain Extension, AMS says

Organizers of a petition to advance the SkyTrain extension to UBC's main campus hope the momentum built by public support will influence decision makers beyond the Endowment Lands.

Solomon Yi-Kieran, the UBC Alma Mater Society's (AMS) vice president of external affairs, said the petition – launched in early summer 2025 – amassed over 15,000 signatures.

Since then, they have succeeded in having their case for the SkyTrain extension presented to lawmakers in Victoria and Ottawa.

"In November, I was able to get (Nanaimo-Lantzville) MLA George Anderson (Parliamentary Secretary for Transportation and Transit) to read the petition in the Legislature during Question Period," Yi-Kieran told *The Campus Resident*, adding they also held a meeting with Minister of Transportation and Transit and Port Coquitlam MLA Mike Farnworth.

Yi-Kieran said they also went to Ottawa in February, discussing the petition with "MPs from all parties". Discussions in the nation's capital were held with the

Meetings have been held with provincial and federal lawmakers following a petition organized by the UBC Alma Mater Society last summer that garnered over 15,000 signatures.

BY JAN SCHUERMANN



On January 14, UBC Alma Mater Society (AMS) Vice president of external affairs Solomon Yi-Kieran (center) led a protest at the Broadway City Hall SkyTrain Station, marking 18 years since the SkyTrain extension to UBC was first promised by the provincial government, then led by former Premier Gordon Campbell. (Photo: Kareem Hassib)

pacific caucus of the Liberal Party – which represents 20 Liberal MPs from B.C. – who expressed disappointment over the project's delay, according to the AMS VP.

The B.C. government first expressed

its support for a Millennium Line expansion to UBC in 2008, with a completion date in 2020. The federal government has since committed \$14 million toward the planning of the UBC extension.

"On January 14, we held an 18th birthday party for the UBC SkyTrain to mark 18 years since the project was first promised," Yi-Kieran said. "We had cake, birthday hats, and speakers outside of Broadway City Hall SkyTrain Station."

A pro-SkyTrain rally was also held on

campus last October and was attended by Vancouver City Councillors Lucy Maloney and Sean Orr. The event prompted the councillors and Yi-Kieran to write and submit a motion to city council.

The motion, passed in the same month, calls on the provincial and federal governments to make good on their original commitments, advance the project, and release a business case.

Yi-Kieran said the petition, the motion, and the "birthday party" have brought the UBC SkyTrain extension "back into the spotlight of political discourse."

"Now, we need to continue lobbying and pushing at the AMS level, the university level, and the municipal level to get this project over the finish line and see shovels in the ground," they explained.

A 5.7 km Millennium Line SkyTrain extension to Arbutus Street is reaching completion, with an opening scheduled for fall 2027, giving further momentum to Yi-Kieran and the AMS's efforts.

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

REGISTER NOW

OVER 200 PROGRAMS OFFERED

Try a new fitness class, learn a new musical instrument or drop in to play a sport with your friends! There's something for everyone at the UNA community centres.

Registration for Spring/Summer recreation programs is ongoing. Spots are limited, so sign up soon!

For more information, visit myuna.ca/programs or drop by the **Wesbrook Community Centre** (3335 Webber Ln.) or the **Old Barn Community Centre** (6308 Thunderbird Blvd.).



RCMP Urge Caution When Buying and Selling Online

Local police are investigating an incident where two suspects ran off with a piece of jewellery before deploying pepper spray at a resident during a sales transaction.

BY EMMANUEL SAMOGLU

Police are urging community members to be vigilant after two men fled with a valuable piece of jewellery that a campus resident was attempting to sell during a transaction arranged online.

Jona May Tolosa had posted a gold necklace for sale on Facebook Marketplace and was contacted by someone she believed was an interested buyer. The two arranged to meet in south Wesbrook Place during the evening on March 3.

In a spur-of-the-moment decision, Tolosa and her husband decided he would stay in their apartment with their two-year old son while she went downstairs to make the transaction.

She said that decision was also

buoyed by a sense of safety since moving to Wesbrook Place in November after previously living in downtown Vancouver. She said she felt safe living on a university campus, and reassured knowing their building lobby has security cameras.

On the night of the incident, she went down to the lobby and was soon met by two individuals who had gained access to the building after someone had exited the main doors.

"I looked at them and I thought, 'they're so young, they're probably minors, like probably in high school,'" she told *The Campus Resident*.

One of the suspects, both described as male youths by police, asked to see the necklace. Once it was in his hands, both fled on foot with the necklace in hand.

"I think my body was in shock," she said. "I was shaking ... in disbelief."

"Police would like to remind the public to take precautions when selling high value items online."

RCMP CONTINUED ON PAGE 6.

APRIL 2, 2026

Volume 16
Issue 3

MANAGING EDITOR, EMMANUEL SAMOGLOU
EDITOR, ROBYN STARKEY
COPY EDITOR, JAN SCHUERMANN
ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR, WARREN MCKINNON
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
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.

© 2026, The Campus Resident

We acknowledge that *The Campus Resident* is published on the ancestral, unceded territories of the x̱m̱əθḵʷəy̱əm (Musqueam), sḵw̱x̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish) and seḻílwiṯulh (Tseil-Waututh) nations.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Fed up with Speeding Motorists

I would like to add to the ongoing concern regarding speed and reckless driving in the Wesbrook Community.

As a resident of Georgia Point located on Ross Drive, I witness or am personally affected by dangerous traffic along Ross Drive and the roundabout at 16th and Ross Drive. This includes excessive speeding, swerving around pedestrians in marked crosswalks, drivers yelling out their windows to "hurry up" (the nice version) and not coming to a complete stop at crosswalks.

These behaviours have forced me to take safety into my hands by having my phone out and ready every time I cross a crosswalk. I have had to report reckless driving to the RCMP more than once. It has gotten so bad that cyclists will not cycle on the road but instead on the sidewalk.

Ross Drive specifically, is home to both a high school and a community field which creates lots of foot traffic, including children and pets. Ross Drive is not a thoroughfare, but a bustling community and these traffic issues are unacceptable. Everyone, whether visiting or a resident, deserves to feel safe on the road.

When I googled this issue to see if anything was being said online, I found an article in this very newspaper from 2021 titled "Neighbours Out Walking / Shopping Need Better Protection from

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Real Danger in Pacific Spirit is Speeding Cyclists

I walk the trails in Pacific Spirit Park most days and have a few observations. It is a jewel of a park, well maintained, with its natural beauty accessible for many to enjoy.

My walks are in the morning hours where the dogs seem to exceed the 30 per cent cited by Metro Vancouver (Re: No Changes to Leashing Rules in Pacific Spirit, The Campus Resident, March 2026).

Almost all are well-behaved and are probably security for some solitary walkers. Almost all the dogs are off-leash

with several wandering off trail chasing and barking at other dogs or squirrels. My impression is that most dog owners consider Pacific Spirit Regional Park as an off-leash dog park despite signs to the contrary. Only enforcement and fines will change this behaviour.

While dogs can degrade habitat and a few can be harmful to others, I believe that the biggest potential harm to people comes from cyclists silently whizzing by others from behind without any warning. Education, using warning protocols (such

as saying "on your left"), bells and lights will avoid potentially serious injuries and liability.

Overall, park staff are trying to ensure that our parks are welcoming to as many as possible without degrading the environment and harming public safety. For this to succeed, understanding, compromise and cooperation from park users and support from politicians will be required. 🐾

FRANCIS O NEILL, RESIDENT



Speeding Drivers". I think it is outrageous that these issues have been ongoing for five years and nothing has been done. The author of that article eloquently lays out some ideas they think will help, including:

- Installation of more robust crosswalk lights at the roundabouts on West 16th Avenue.
- The current crosswalk lights seem to just whisper that there is pedestrian traffic. These lights need to scream.
- Convert the crosswalk lights on West 16th Avenue, adjacent to University Hill Secondary School to actual traffic lights (red, yellow & green).
- Install speed bumps along Ross Drive, as this is currently a stretch of road that begs cars to pick up speed.
- Install a stop sign on the north and south sides of the Birney Avenue and Ross Drive intersection, and consider adding crossing lights there as well as cars typically do not stop at the existing stop sign on the northeast corner of this intersection.
- Install clear signage that acknowledges and accounts for all aspects of a sustainable community: school zones, children playing, heavy pedestrian zones, and all other methods of non-motorized modes of transportation in the name of safety.

Personally, I am shocked that a serious incident hasn't occurred in this neighbourhood. I implore my fellow neighbours to speak up about this. If we can install a dog park and EV chargers, we can put safety first in our growing community. 🐾

CONCERNED RESIDENT

DRACCO
PACIFIC REALTY

Monica Wang

Your local UBC Realtor with
100 transactions on campus.

Buying or selling?
Let's have a talk.



Call me today at 778-554-6666 for your
FREE property evaluation consultation in UBC!

Experience · One of the most active Realtors on campus

Expertise · I work with elite teams to showcase your property

Care · Focus on building trust

Competence · Outstanding ability & professionalism



204 6333 Larkin | 3B2B | \$998,000



4 2780 Acadia | 4B4B | \$1,890,000



1509 3487 Binning | 3B2B | \$1,880,000



203 6328 Larkin | 3B3B | \$1,330,000

OPINION

Cannabis on Campus: Balancing Personal Freedoms with Collective Well-being

An increase in access since legalization in 2018 provides an opportunity for the campus community to move towards a shared understanding around the complex issue of public cannabis use.

BY SEOHYEON PARK

Longtime campus residents will have noticed an increase in the pungent, musky scent of cannabis smoke since its legalization in October 2018.

As a result of federal legislation introduced that year, adults aged 19 and older in B.C. can legally possess, share, and consume cannabis in public spaces.

While legalization and its outcomes remains a subject of debate in some circles, federal policy was framed around several key objectives: enhancing public safety through product regulation, reducing the burden on the criminal justice system, and redirecting profits from the illicit market into taxable, regulated channels.

By shifting cannabis out of the illegal market and into a licensed industry, the government introduced stricter oversight, standardized testing, and quality control measures intended to reduce harm. National data indicates a substantial reduction of cannabis-related drug offenses since legalization, with remaining charges concentrated in areas such as illicit importation and exportation.

As a result, access to legal cannabis has expanded mark-

edly since 2018. In 2020, an estimated 68 per cent of cannabis users reported obtaining at least some of the cannabis they consumed from a legal source—a substantial increase from 23 per cent in 2018, prior to legalization. Yet increased access has also prompted discussions on how personal liberties can sometimes conflict with what people desire in public spaces, along with renewed attention to the potential harms that can come with inappropriate use.

Cannabis use in the campus community

The campus neighbourhoods are a unique intergenerational community, shaped by the presence of educational institutions from preschools to graduate classes.

This demographic composition brings together young children, adolescents, university students, and long-term adult residents within a shared civic space. As a result, the community faces the ongoing challenge of balancing adult freedoms with the responsibility to safeguard and support its younger population.

Mike O'Connor—who has lived with this family in Wesbrook Place since 2022—said that while he has not observed a significant increase in cannabis use over time, he regularly encounters individuals smoking near wooded areas and in rare occasions

out in the open—including outside Save-On-Foods—raising concerns about involuntary exposure to second-hand smoke from both cannabis and tobacco, especially to children.

“I actually don't mind the kids being aware of it, however, I hate that they can be exposed to second hand smoke,” said O'Connor. “The awareness presents opportunities for parents to discuss the topic of drug use with kids and the openness takes away some of the mystery and mystique that existed when I was growing up.”

Another resident told *The Campus Resident* that he “frequently has to close the windows late at night due to the smell of cannabis,” adding that he now notices its permeating scent in areas that were once free of the distinctive odor.

With respect to the increased prevalence of public smoking, adults are generally permitted to smoke or vape cannabis in public places where tobacco use is allowed. Designated smoking areas must meet certain criteria, including not being substantially enclosed. Cannabis use is also prohibited in, on, or near school properties, including sidewalks that pass or run alongside schools.

While adults may use cannabis in privately owned homes, strata corporations retain the authority to restrict non-medical cannabis

Rather than deepening division, this moment may offer an opportunity to cultivate a shared understanding around a complex and sometimes polarizing issue.



smoking within their buildings, as consumption by certain users who require medical cannabis may be protected by the B.C. Human Rights Code.

Nevertheless, Wesbrook resident Warren Caragata noted that strata restrictions on cannabis smoking likely push smokers of any kind into public spaces.

Public health concerns

Concerns persist about the increased prevalence of smoking in public, use around children, and potential mental health implications. As with any substance, it is critical to consider not only short-term effects but also possible long-term, detrimental consequences.

The 2025 B.C. Cannabis Use Survey reported a five per cent increase in daily recreational cannabis use among adults aged 19 and older compared to 2021, as well as an eight per cent increase in the proportion of daily users consuming multiple times a day. Meanwhile, the share of respondents who reported failing to cut down or control their use doubled from seven to 14 per cent over the same period.

Although the Cannabis Act includes measures intended to restrict youth access, increased availability has often been associated with higher overall prevalence of cannabis use among adolescents. These findings underscore the importance of strengthening education about cannabis and ensuring that community-level regulations, particularly around schools and other educational institutions, are meaningfully enforced.

In short, the potentially detrimental effects of cannabis and emerging research on the subject need to continue to be acknowledged, while being weighed against the human rights of medical users – who consume to alleviate chronic pain or nausea for certain medical conditions such as cancer and multiple sclerosis – as well as regular, lawful consumption.

Continuing the discussion

The available evidence suggests that legalization confers both benefits and unintended consequences, transcending social, economic, legal, and public health boundaries. In this evolving landscape, adherence to existing legal safeguards, informed decision-making, and responsible consumption remain central to balancing individual freedoms, human rights, and community well-being.

For some residents, even minimal exposure through second-hand smoke or lingering odors can feel intrusive and be difficult to avoid in shared public spaces. At the same time, cannabis use exists alongside other legally consumed substances in the community, including alcohol and tobacco. As with these substances, cannabis use and the presence of licensed retail stores are legally recognized and regulated.

Meaningful community initiatives often begin with small, deliberate actions—choosing not to smoke near schools, increasing awareness of potential health risks, and respecting a diversity of perspectives.

Rather than deepening division, this moment may offer an opportunity to cultivate a shared understanding around a complex and sometimes polarizing issue. 🌿

SEOHYEON PARK IS A MEMBER OF THE YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION SOCIETY AND IS PURSUING HER BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES AT UBC.

THE CAMPUS RESIDENT



Help Shape Your Community Newspaper

The Campus Resident is looking for UNA residents to join its **Newspaper Editorial Committee**.

Be part of the team that guides the stories, voices, and priorities of your community newspaper.

Committee members help set editorial direction, select content, and ensure the paper reflects what matters most to UNA residents.

If you are interested in journalism, storytelling, or community issues, this is your chance to get involved and make a meaningful impact.

APPLY NOW!

Visit myuna.ca/joinNEC or scan the code above.

IN OUR WORDS

Cherry Blossom Season has Begun



The *Shirotae* cherry blossom, which can be found at Regent College.

Campus has some of the best cherry blossom viewing spots in the city, with approximately 30 different varieties to view.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY KYRIE VERMETTE

Spring in Vancouver is cherry blossom time. Cherry blossoms, also known as “ornamental cherries” have been part of Vancouver for over a century. The first trees were donated to the City of Vancouver by the Mayor of Yokohama in 1925 and then again to UBC in the 1950s.

I am sure we all appreciate the beauty that these cherry blossom trees bring to our daily lives from March to May, but did you know that there are fifty-five different varieties, or cultivars, of cherry blossoms in Vancouver? In fact, cherry blossom trees make up fifteen percent of all flowering trees in Vancouver.

The campus community is particularly lucky to have approximately thirty different types of cherry blossoms and in my opinion, some of the best cherry blossom viewing spots in the city. Some of the local cherry blossom trees begin blooming as early as January, but I would like to introduce some of the most popular and recognizable cultivars that will be blooming around campus this month



Somei-Yoshino is the most famous Cherry Blossom cultivar and can be found on campus near Thunderbird Stadium.

and through to May.

Akebono blooms from late March to early April. Last year these trees bloomed around April 2. Its flowers have five petals that start as pale pink but fade to white the longer they are in bloom. Some of the best places to view *Akebono* are Memorial Road in front of the Old Administration Building, Allard Hall on East Mall, Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre, University Boulevard and Lower Mall, the footpath through the sports fields between West Mall and East Mall, and Thunderbird Boulevard at Jim Taylor Park.

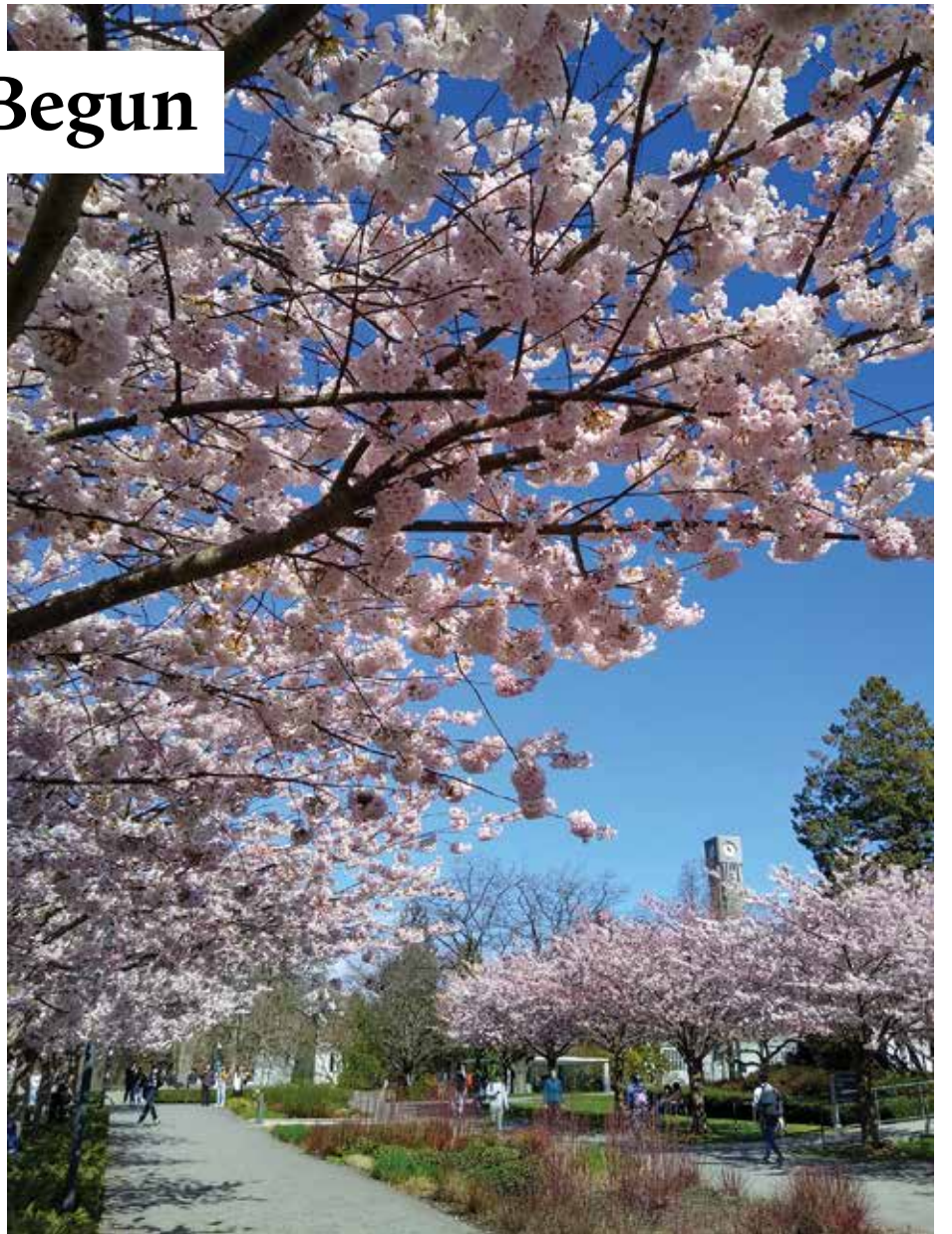
Somei-Yoshino is the most famous cultivar, and these trees bloom from late March to early April. Last year they bloomed around April 3. They look very similar to *Akebono*, with flowers that have five petals that fade from pink to white. The best places to view them are at the Chan Centre, University Boulevard and East Mall, Lower Mall from University Boulevard to Agricultural Road, and Thunderbird Boulevard by the sports facilities.

Blooming throughout April we have *Shirotae*. Last year these bloomed around April 10. *Shirotae* have large white flowers with five to twelve petals and green leaves. They can be seen on Wesbrook Mall next to Regent College; however, forty trees have been cut down due to construction. Hopefully the remaining ones will be allowed to live. Other places include Acadia Road and Osoyoos Crescent near Norma Rose Point School, and 16th Avenue near the Wesbrook Mall intersection.

And cherry blossom season doesn't end this month. *Kanzan* normally blooms from mid-April to mid-May, having bloomed around April 24 last year. The flowers of this cultivar are bright pink and have approximately twenty-five petals. These trees frequently line roads in Vancouver, including Chancellor Boulevard, Acadia Road between University Boulevard and Chancellor Boulevard, Agronomy Road east of Wesbrook Mall, and Ortona Road opposite Norma Rose Point Elementary School.

So, this April and May, please pause and look at the white and pink blossoms around you. Take an intentional stroll to see the cloud of flowers overhead or the blanket of delicate petals covering the ground below. Just remember, cherry blossoms are susceptible to disease if their bark is damaged, so please do not swing on the branches or break off bunches of flowers.

If you would like to learn more about Vancouver's cherry blossoms, you can visit the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival website at vcbf.ca/about-us. To get up to date



Cherry blossom cultivar *Akebono*, pictured on Memorial Rd.

information about which cherry blossoms are blooming when and where on campus, please check the UBC Botanical Garden forum for the campus neighbourhood at forums.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/threads/ubc.36223.

KYRIE VERMETTE VOLUNTEERS FOR THE VANCOUVER CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL AS A “CHERRY SCOUT” IN THE UBC NEIGHBOURHOOD. SHE IS ALSO A PHD GRADUATE AND SESSIONAL LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ASIAN STUDIES AT UBC.



A *Kanzan* cherry blossom, pictured here at Ortona Road and Acadia Road.

Giulio Cesare (Julius Caesar)
April 9-12, 2026

Grand Finale Concert
May 30, 2026

UBC OPERA
2025-2026 SEASON

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

Gateway Building a Hub for Health and Wellbeing

UBC's Gateway Health Building will offer a full slate of health care services and programs for students and campus residents.

BY EMMANUEL SAMOGLOU

UBC's newest building is a central hub for student health care with upgraded facilities that will improve programs available to the broader campus community.

The 270,550-square-foot mass timber and steel Gateway Health Building is located on the northwest corner of Wesbrook Mall and University Boulevard. Its \$207.9 million cost was covered by the university, donors, and the province.

In addition to offering a central location for student



The Gateway building's gymnasium, which will soon be home to the UBC School of Kinesiology's Active Kids program. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)



The interior of the Gateway Health Building, located at 5955 University Blvd. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

health services, the building is also home to UBC's school of nursing and kinesiology programs.

Campus officials say the building will also host an interprofessional teaching clinic that is expected to open up to the public later this year. The clinic will seek to develop and test innovations in education and health care, while offering primary care options for community members currently without a health care provider. UBC media said the clinic is still in a business planning phase and more details are expected to be announced leading up to the opening.

Beginning next month, Gateway will also be the new home for Active Kids, an outreach program of the UBC School of Kinesiology.

The program includes Active Kids gymnastics and the after-school Kids Fit program. Both will soon move from UBC's Osborne Centre to Gateway's basement-level gymnasium, which features new equipment including a sprung floor, as well as easily accessible water fountains, washrooms, and changerooms.

"The actual footprint of the new gymnastics gym is bigger than what we have over there, so it'll allow for more children to come through every hour, and more kine-

siology students to work in there at any given time," says Active Kids Program Director Dylan Brown.

He said the building will be easily accessible for drop-offs, with free 15-minute parking available for registered users.

The gym facilities will also be the new home for summer camps and birthday parties, as well as Changing Aging – an exercise program for seniors.

UBC Student health centre

On the third floor of Gateway is the full slate of UBC Student Health and Wellbeing's services and programs, which fits in with their holistic vision of health care.

"For the first time, the majority of student health services on campus are integrated in one location," says Robin Ryan, Associate Director, Student Health and Wellbeing. "This is primary care, nurses, nurse practitioners, family doctors, physician specialists, as well as mental health professionals, social workers, registered clinical counselors, psychologists."

"It means that students can come to one hub for all their health concerns."

Those services are now open with health practitioners ready to see students.

UBC officials say the Gateway building was designed in collaboration with Musqueam representatives, and features native plants in its outdoor entrance area, as well as artwork by six Musqueam artists.

It is designed as a net-zero carbon building and to meet LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. 🌿

RCMP CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2.

Tolosa said she instinctively made the decision to chase after the two suspects. At that point, one of them began spraying what police described as pepper spray towards her.

She said she screamed for help and was attended to by an individual as the suspects fled in a vehicle.

Tolosa then called police, who arrived on the scene in roughly five minutes, she said.

No injuries were reported.

A spokesperson from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) said an investigation is ongoing as officers work to identify the suspects.

The suspects are described as male youths, approximately 5'1" to 5'2". One of the youths is described as having curly

blonde hair and speaks with a British accent. The second suspect is described as having longer, straight brown hair. Both were wearing hoodies and running shoes.

"Police would like to remind the public to take precautions when selling high value items online," the RCMP spokesperson told *The Campus Resident* in an email.

"Arrange meetings in well lit, public locations equipped with cameras, and be cautious of buyers or sellers who attempt to change meeting times or locations at the last minute."

For Tolosa, she said a stronger police presence could help improve security in the university neighbourhoods. Meanwhile, she said the incident has affected her sense of safety.

"I'm fearful, I always look over my back now," she said. 🌿

THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

Subscribe to our Newsletter!

Do you want *The Campus Resident* delivered directly to your inbox? Sign up for our monthly newsletter to receive the latest news, feature stories, and more.



thecampusresident.ca/subscribe

Grow More in Small Spaces

A UBC Farm workshop on April 11 will help residents improve yields on their balcony gardens and community garden plots.

BY OLIVIA HAI LAI JIAO

An upcoming workshop aims to help residents with limited space maximize the potential of their home gardens.

Whether working with pots and planters on a small balcony or one of those highly sought-after community garden plots, the UBC Farm's "Growing in Small Places; Edible, Biodiverse, and Multi-functional Plantings" workshop will help gardeners make the most with whatever space they have available.

The course covers how to maximize the potential of available space through effective choice and consideration for plant types, placement, permaculture strategy, and biodiversity. The workshop will be led by Sarah Orłowski, a master herbalist who holds a certificate in permaculture design and has trained in First Nations herbal traditions.

Attendees will learn about choices for scent gardens,

herbs, various species that best suit their garden type, and of course, how to get the best yield from available space. They're also encouraged to bring in questions about their own gardens, as this workshop is a great place for ideas and inspiration.

As a preview of the course, Orłowski was willing to offer readers of *The Campus Resident* some advice and insight for gardening in small spaces.

When working with limited space, she says there are three main possibilities. This includes plants that can grow well in pots and planter boxes, things that can grow vertically in trellises, and using dwarf species of large plants and trees.

Considerations for available sun and shade should also be taken into account to determine the suitability of growing things like leafy greens and flowers, as well as how much



maintenance certain plants may require.

The "Growing in Small Spaces: Edible, Biodiverse, and Multi-functional Plantings" workshop takes place on April 11 at UBC Farm, located at 3461 Ross Dr. in Wesbrook Place. Cost is \$59.85 and \$52.50 for students and seniors. To sign up, visit ubcfarm.ubc.ca.

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

Play Has Big Ambitions but Misses the Mark

UBC Theatre and Film production *Pyper* ran from March 11-18 at the Frederic Wood Theatre.

BY DANIEL LI

A confusing kaleidoscope of teenage angst and technological grievance,

Pyper aspires to adapt the form of the medieval farce to critique the pervasive grasp of modern algorithms but is ultimately dragged down from its goal by a jumbled structure and scattered message.

The UBC Theatre and Film production, written by Susanna Fournier and directed by Leora Morris ran from March

11-18 at the Frederic Wood Theatre.

The plot of *Pyper* centers around a group of cybernetic teens as they craft a time capsule that proves their existence right before their graduation ceremony in which they are to be "retired".

Drawing upon a post-modern approach in which the time capsule itself is a play directed by the teens, it creates a play-within-a-play effect. However, the fourth wall between the audience and characters is frequently broken, as *Pyper* swaps between the teens, the story of their creation at the hands of an Italian puppet maker, and an allegorical retelling of the *Pied Piper of Hamelin*.

While the play seeks to interweave these three major plot lines into a sophisticated indictment of the information age, frequent switching between the three scenes and sometimes unclear divisions between them contribute to the scrambled structure that lends itself more to confusion than profundity.

Compounding this issue was the scattered nature of the themes that the play sought to convey.

Broadly focusing on being human in

the age of artificial intelligence and binary, the addition of little vignettes that cover themes of mental illness, political cynicism and xenophobia – accentuated with a standout performance from Rachele Rutherford as the anxiety-stricken Mayor of Hamlin – serves to broaden the scope of *Pyper*'s messaging.

However, these additions serve to overly stretch the thematic strength of the play and distract from the more coherent message of the importance of humanity in the age of technology.

The set design was simplistic with microphones attached to colored nooses hanging from the ceiling above a three-stepped podium. The sound design and lightning both played a large role in accentuating the technological themes of *Pyper* with pleasant digital chimes complemented by red and blue notification-like colors.

Ultimately, while *Pyper* seeks to serve as a multifaceted *J'accuse* of the modern age, it loses much of its power from a confusing structure and overworked message.

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

UNA UNIVERSITY NEIGHBOURHOODS ASSOCIATION

SUMMER CAMPS

Multiple camps each week at the Wesbrook and Old Barn Community Centres from Jul. 6 to Aug. 28.

Give your child a summer to remember by joining one of our summer camps! Each camp is filled with exciting activities — from sports and arts and crafts to filmmaking, robotics, and more. Campers will stay active, explore their creativity, build confidence, and make new friends along the way. It's the perfect place for kids to learn, play, and enjoy a summer full of fun and discovery.

Spaces are filling up fast. Register your kids now and let the adventures begin!

For details on each camp and registration visit myuna.ca/camps



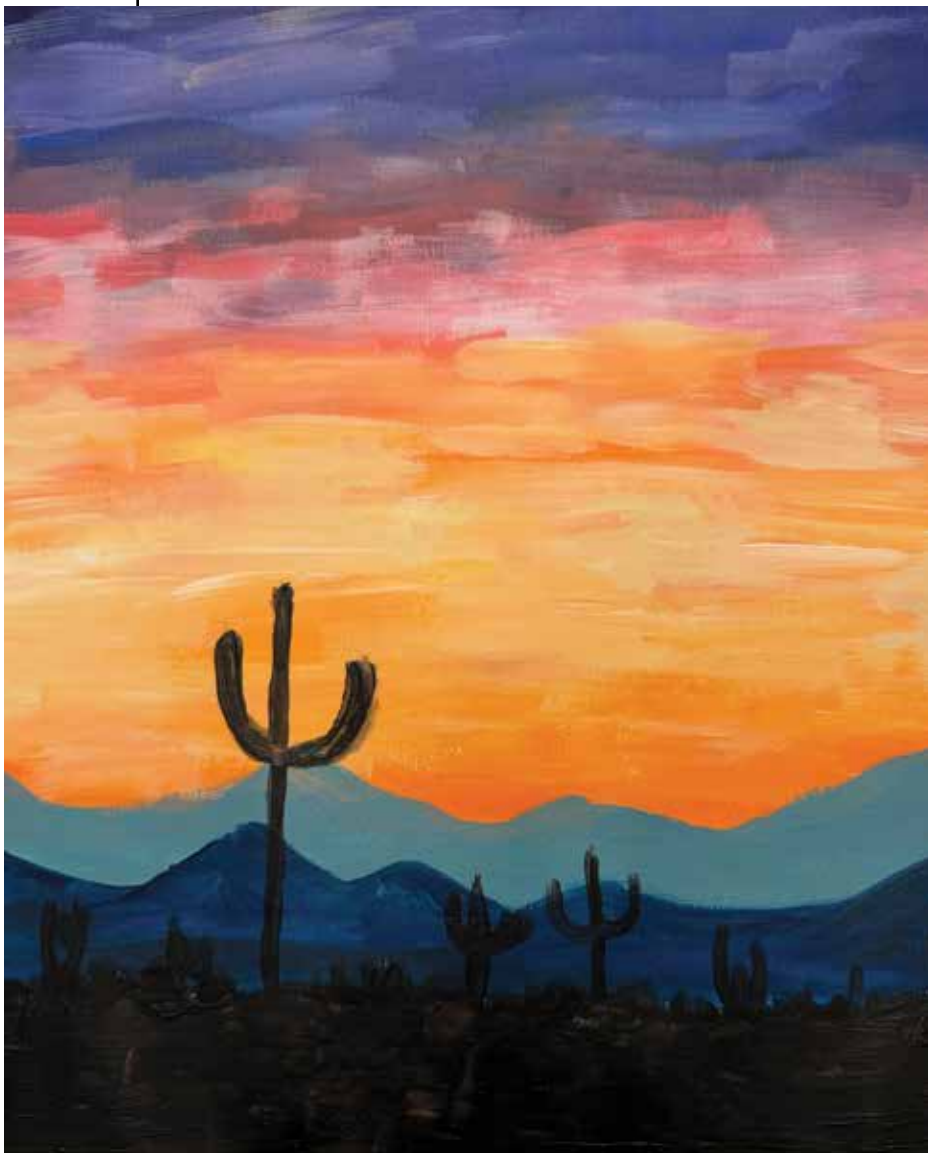
Pictured here is the cast of *Pyper*. The final production of the season by UBC Theatre and Film took place last month, featuring a set by Sonia Nosrati, costumes by Naina Sharma, and lighting by Eric Chad. (Photo: Javier Sotres)

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 May issue, send in your submission by April 16! 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



Family Travels

BY ALONA FENG

ALONA FENG, AGE 11, IS A RESIDENT AT CHANCELLOR PLACE. HER PAINTINGS ARE INSPIRED BY FAMILY TRIPS, INCLUDING ONES TO THE ISLAND OF KEFALONIA IN GREECE AND MEXICO CITY, WHERE SHE HAS VERY FOND MEMORIES OF FAMILY TIME.

Love and Trust

BY DAN PRATT

I was running to the campus bookstore and slipped on a wet leaf. Four women, presumably students, called security to help me. I wrote a poem about this episode in my life. I wish they could see my poem.

DAN PRATT OF HAMPTON PLACE WAS A PROFESSOR AT UBC FOR OVER 40 YEARS IN ADULT EDUCATION. HE ALSO WORKED AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY FOR 12 YEARS, AS WELL AS NINE YEARS IN ORTHOPAEDICS AND THREE YEARS IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE.

If you love someone,
you trust them
without hesitation,
without end.

Trust is not a thought.
It is the shape love takes
when it is quiet
and steady.

Sometimes I forget.
Especially when the sky
grows heavy and
I feel small again.

Like the other day
when I fell.

I did not know who they were.
They did not ask questions.
They simply came.

A group of women
gathered around me
with calm, with care,
as if they had always known me.

I trusted them.
Not because I had reason,
but because love
can arrive without warning.

I wish I knew their names.
I wish I could say thank you
in a way that reached
the depth of what I felt.

But what I had
in that moment
was the face of love.

And somehow I knew
what I had not known before.

Love is the breath of life.
Its silence
is full of meaning.

What stands against love
is the true enemy
of life.

Those who love
are the ones who live.
And those who love deeply
live well.

I know this now.
Know what
sometimes we forget.
To trust.

To receive.
To recognize
the face of love
when it comes near.