

THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

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Wesbrook Water Features Aren't Just for Looks

The neighbourhood's waterways help manage rainfall and stormwater while beautifying the neighbourhood.

BY AMIE BERNAERDT

If you've ever taken a stroll around Wesbrook Place, you've likely noticed the many waterways located in-between buildings or in parks.

There are two main systems in Wesbrook Place. The east waterway runs east of Wesbrook Mall, commencing in Khorana Park, flowing into Michael Smith Park, and running through to Wesbrook South until Binning Avenue.

The west waterway originates at Birney Avenue, north of Mundell Park, and continues down Webber Lane, ending in Nobel Park.

The east waterway was built 2009, and the west waterway was completed in 2014. A new section of the west waterway was added between Gray Ave. and Ross Dr. in 2022.

The waterways provide an aesthetic public amenity, but also serve the function of moving rainwater from runoff sources, some stormwater management, and even ecological functions.

Both waterways aid in conveying rooftop and ground runoff of water, especially helping in managing high volumes of rainwater during the region's winter months.



Webber Lane waterway, pictured here last month. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

They also serve as a natural habitat for many native species. During their breeding season, they provide habitat for Pacific Tree Frogs and a temporary resting ground for migratory birds such as Canada Geese, ducks and even the occasional Grey Heron.

For the east waterway, rainwater is conveyed from building rooftops

or from the UBC stormwater management system into a park pond just north of Binning Ave. The pond also recharges the Upper and Lower Point Grey aquifers with excess rainwater through sand filtration.

During high rainfall periods, any overflow in the pond and waterway in the east waterway goes into the stormwater management system and Booming Ground Creek, which is located in the southernmost part of Wreck Beach.

In periods with lower rain-

Both waterways aid in conveying rooftop and ground runoff of water, especially helping in managing high volumes of rainwater during the region's winter months.

water, water is recirculated through the system or, when needed, pumped from the aquifer. Since the water in this system draws from the aquifer, it doesn't impact other sources, campus officials say.

Similar to the east waterway, the west waterway sources its water from roof runoff of nearby buildings and then recirculated through the system. Any overflow goes back into the storm management system, and in periods with low rainfall, this system is sometimes topped up with potable water, says Wegland Sit, the Operations Manager at the UNA.

The waterways require regular maintenance through inspection and cleaning. They are also monitored to preserve them, especially in the warmer months when higher temperatures promote surplus algae growth. Due to its shallow depth and high organic content, the east waterway is particularly sensitive to algae buildup.

Instead of sending away excess rainwater through underground sewers, these water systems manage excess rainfall and add beauty to the campus neighbourhoods, as well as natural habitat for animals.

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

Board to Lobby UBC on Declining Campus Housing Affordability

A UNA director says university staff and faculty are leaving campus in search of more affordable housing elsewhere in Vancouver.

BY EMMANUEL SAMOGLU

UNA directors voted unanimously to request action from UBC to address ongoing issues with housing affordability on campus during their April meeting.

A motion to address a letter to UBC's Board of Governors and UBC Properties Trust calling on the university to meet its commitment of offering faculty and staff housing at approximately 25 per cent below the average rents in surrounding communities was led by Board chair Eagle Glassheim and director Michael Kearns.

A draft of the letter included in the meeting's agenda mentions increasing vacancy rates and a "softening rental

market" in Vancouver, while campus rents fail to adjust to those market dynamics.

"UBC faculty/staff rents have not adjusted to reflect the changing rental market in Vancouver," reads the draft letter, signed by Glassheim.

"Most 2-bedroom UBC apartments are now priced over the West Side average (\$2,503-\$2,907), not at 25 per cent below market rents."

Director Kearns said a failure by the university to address its housing affordability commitment will result in a "slow drain" of UBC staff from the campus neighbourhoods.

"The vibrancy of the neighbourhood at its core is the people who live here, faculty and staff being very central to that," Kearns said. "And just anecdotally, I have heard and I have seen people who are leaving faculty and staff rental housing because of the reduced prices in neighbouring communities."

During discussion of the motion, UBC Community

Development and Transportation Director Carole Jolly said information meetings discussing the university's housing plan and the real estate market could be arranged for interested parties.

The Board's move follows ongoing housing affordability issues for UBC staff, faculty, and students.

Last summer, Village Gate Homes - the UBC-affiliated entity managing staff and faculty housing - announced a 12-month rent freeze as of September 1, 2025 after criticism over rent increases at a time when inflation was rising but declines in rental rates were being reported across Vancouver.

Not everyone was spared though. In spring 2025, UBC Student Housing and Community Services hit Acadia Park tenants with a 3.5 per cent rent hike, reduced from an earlier planned 5 per cent increase that sparked a tenant backlash.

BOARD CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Council Hopeful Backs Proposal to Incorporate Campus into Vancouver

A former B.C. cabinet minister running for Vancouver city council has endorsed a proposal to incorporate the university neighbourhoods and UBC's Point Grey campus into the City of Vancouver.

Moira Stilwell, who served under premiers Gordon Campbell and Christy Clark, has thrown her hat in the ring for a seat on council in the upcoming municipal elections which are scheduled for October later this year. She is running under the banner of the Vancouver Liberals.

Campus and the surrounding University Endowment Lands are currently not part of the City of Vancouver and are governed by the province, but the Vancouver Liberals civic party wants to change that.

During an interview in late March with the *Vancouver Sun*, Stilwell said bringing campus into the city is critical for growing the economy as UBC is known as a research university.

"It makes sense," Stilwell told the newspaper. "Thriving cities understand that the brainy people create jobs for the rest of us."

The *Campus Resident* spoke to UBC political science lecturer and UNA resident Stewart Prest about the potential consequences of bringing campus under the city's governance.

He said that in order to understand Stilwell's proposal, people need to under-

Former B.C. cabinet minister Moira Stilwell says integration would help the economy. A UBC academic says the proposal feels like a solution for a problem that may not actually exist.

BY JAN SCHUERMANN

stand that campus residents currently do not have political representation in the way other Vancouverites have.

"There are gaps in terms of representation in the neighbourhoods that could be addressed," he said.

Residents cannot vote for the mayor or any council members, "because they're governed through this parallel structure," Prest said in reference to the UNA, which is a non-profit society with its own bylaws and its own Board of Directors. The society is meant to serve a similar purpose to Vancouver's city council.

He said that this unique structure is the reason why the UNA is just a little bit different than the rest of Vancouver.

"It is something you do not even notice until you start to look at, let's say street signs, and notice they look slightly different than and the rest of Vancouver, or you notice the RCMP is hanging around only here and nowhere else in the city," he said.

Stilwell's proposal would change all of that, and Prest said he isn't convinced that a change would result in better service delivery for campus residents.

"I do think that the chief divide is that in terms of representation, we have

this part of the Lower Mainland (UBC's Point Grey campus) that in many ways is governed by the City of Vancouver, but is not formally part of the decision-making process," he said.

"And so in that sense, you can make a case about governance without representation, but given there's a lack of groundswell of calling for that kind of change, I do think that members of the UNA also have some benefits in terms of their ability to govern local affairs more closely on their own terms."

"There are trade-offs, and this in some ways feels like a solution in search of a problem where it's different than the rest of the Lower Mainland, but it is not obviously worse."

Stilwell also claimed her proposal could expedite the Broadway SkyTrain expansion to campus by attracting further support from senior levels of government, but Prest said the project already has widespread support amongst politicians at all levels.

He said expanding the jurisdiction of Vancouver would not make the Millennium Line extension more likely, especially since all stakeholders are already on-board and the majority of Metro



Former B.C. cabinet minister and city council candidate, Moira Stilwell. (Photo: Vancouver Liberals)

Vancouver residents appear to be as well.

A recent UBC poll found that an overwhelming majority of respondents said the SkyTrain extension would reduce road congestion and commuting times, boost economic growth, and increase the supply of affordable housing.


The *Campus Resident* has reached out to Stilwell and Vancouver Liberals for comment.

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.


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OPINION

How Much Do You Pay for Energy? Depends on the Building You Live In

In Wesbrook Place, some residents pay almost three times more than their neighbours to heat their water, while others pay twice as much for power compared to those living only a short walk away.

BY ERIC WILKINSON

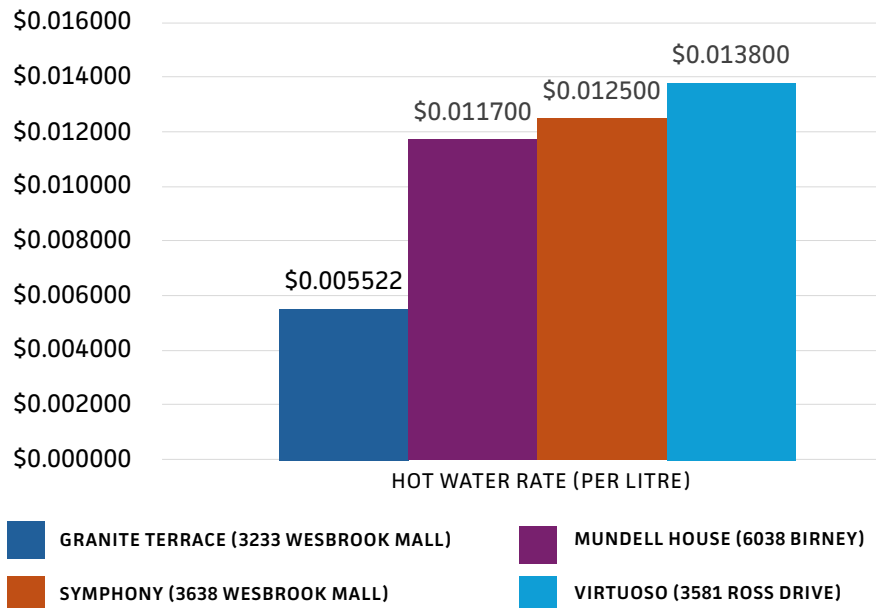
It isn't uncommon for residents in different parts of Vancouver to pay different rates for utilities.

For example, the Southeast False Creek neighbourhood has its own, separate energy system with different rates compared to residents in surrounding areas.

In Wesbrook Place – the most populous neighbourhood on campus – there is a significant difference in the rates charged in buildings located within the same vicinity and only metres apart.

Granite Terrace, Mundell House, Symphony, and Virtuoso are all serviced by utilities submetering company Enerpro, yet are charged different rates for hot water.

Based on the chart to the right, Virtuoso residents pay almost three times as much for their hot water as someone living in Granite Terrace. The dramatic disparity between Granite Terrace and the other residences is due to the other buildings being attached to the Neighbourhood District Energy System (NDES) operated



by energy utility company Corix. As previously reported by *The Campus Resident*, 15 buildings connected to the NDES will see a 50 percent increase in heating and hot water rates in the next three years.

According to UBC, buildings connected to the NDES are supposed to “need less equipment and building owners have lower operations and maintenance costs.” Yet, Corix has applied to and received interim approval from the BC Utilities Commission for rate hikes because the project has not met Corix’s revenue predictions.

The result is that ratepayers in

Wesbrook connected to the Corix system now pay on average more than twice as much as residents who only pay BC Hydro for their power.

Although this accounts for some of the discrepancy between buildings which are connected to the NDES and those that are not, there still remains the question of why the rates differ for those that are connected.

When asked to explain the disparity, a spokesperson with Enerpro said their rates included fixed and variable components.

“... rates can differ between Corix buildings because Corix rates for thermal energy include a fixed cost component charged on a per square meter basis and a variable cost component charged on a per kwh basis. The recovery rate is a blended calculated cost recovery rate of the fixed costs, the variable costs, and the consumption for the building.”

Recovery rates charged by utility companies typically are used to recoup operating expenses and infrastructure investments, however they can often include a variety of expenses that utilities and companies pass on to their customers.

While providing some insight, the explanation leaves unanswered the question of how the various components are determined in the first place, and how they are combined in order to arrive at the overall rates.

For instance, in communications to *The Campus Resident*, Enerpro claimed that Symphony residents are charged \$0.0125 per litre for hot water, with this rate combining a charge of \$0.0087/L for heating the water, and sewer access rates of \$0.0038/L. However, if all residents of Symphony are paying \$0.0125/L this would mean that the square footage component charged to Village Gate Homes by Corix is being “blended” evenly into every resident’s bill regardless of the size of their unit.

In short, a resident living in a three-bedroom apartment bears the same burden as someone in a studio.

Relatedly, it is unclear whether the “blending” of fixed cost components into the residential charges means that tenants pay higher utilities fees simply for living in physically larger buildings.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Traffic Management Contributes to Speeding Issues

I would like to add some comments to the letter “Fed up with Speeding Motorists” (*The Campus Resident*, April 2026).

I applaud those that raise their concern on this topic but the issue of addressing the problem is not being taken seriously by UBC Campus and Community Planning and the UNA.

Speed and reckless driving is partly the fault of drivers but in Wesbrook’s case, mostly the fault of the management of our community. I raised this issue exactly three years ago and noted that there are major faults in Wesbrook’s traffic management. Yet to date, no action has been taken. Here are some examples:

1. Ross Drive is 30 km/h in the southern direction, and 50 km/h in the northern direction. The limit of 50 km/h on Ross Drive in the north direction is a problem that extends from the

traffic heading north on Wesbrook Mall from Marine Drive. Entering off of Marine, it is posted at 50 km/h and does not change to 30 km/h until after Birney Avenue. Thus, the posted speed for arteries off of Wesbrook Mall like Binning Avenue, Ross Drive, Gray Avenue and Birney Avenue, is legally 50 km/h.

2. The speed limits on Wesbrook Mall between Birney Avenue and Nurseries Road are 30 km/h going south and 50 km/h going north.
3. Ross Drive is also known as the Wesbrook by-pass. There are no stop signs, no speed bumps and only about a year ago were crosswalk

signs put up. One of the largest users of Ross Drive are UBC vehicles.

How can residents expect reasonable speeds from Wesbrook area drivers, especially on a road like Ross Drive, when UBC can’t manage the infrastructure properly?

ED BOOIMAN, CARETAKER/ BUILDING MANAGER - PRODIGY



Speeding Cyclists Should Watch Out for Seniors

I write with regard to those speeding cyclists flashing by in Pacific Spirit Regional Park who call out the verbal warning “on the left” and ding their bells when approaching pedestrians from behind (“The Real Danger in Pacific Spirit is Speeding Cyclists” *The Campus Resident*, April 2026).

Would they please bear in mind that some of the seniors are wobbling around with support from a cane and may not always travel in a straight line?

A lot of us are hard of hearing, do not catch what is being said, and have difficulty hearing the high tones that cycle bells make,

especially when they are raised further by the Doppler effect.

I have adopted walking against the traffic for safety. Please pass on my right.

Thanks.

ANTHONY WALTER, RESIDENT

RATES CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

BOARD CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tree inventory report

Earlier in the meeting, directors received a delegation of UBC researchers who presented findings from a recently completed report that was said to include an inventory of every tree in five campus neighbourhoods.

Areas covered in the report include Chancellor Place, Hawthorne Place, East Campus, Hampton Place, and Wesbrook Place.

Researchers said the report will provide baseline data about trees in the neighbourhoods and natural areas within them, such as Rhododendron Woods in Hawthorne Place and the Chancellor forest Patch in north campus.

A total of 4,087 trees were added to the inventory, with the most common species being Western Red Cedar. A total of 96 unique species were identified along with 54 genera, including varieties of cherry and maple.

Directors were told that efforts are underway to have the information available online for the public.

Garden committee request

Also during the April meeting, a campus resident made a request for the reinstatement of a public committee that can assist with the management of the UNA's community gardens.

Resident Brian Savage said a previous iteration of the committee existed in Hawthorne Place, and reinstating it

would allow community members who have access to garden plots to play a greater role in their management.

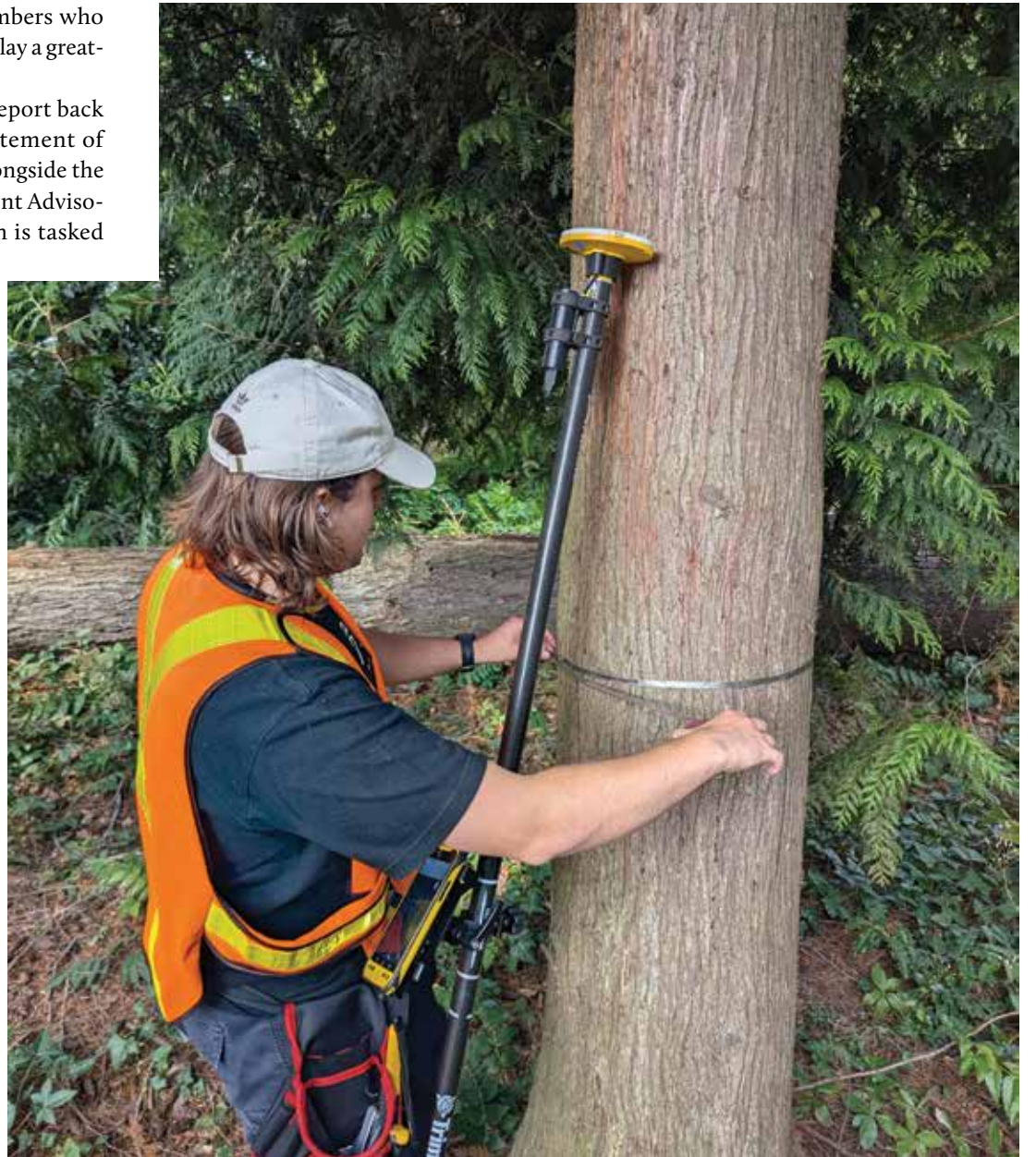
Directors asked staff to report back to the board on how reinstatement of the committee would work alongside the UNA's Community Engagement Advisory Committee (CEAC), which is tasked to represent community interests and provide advice to directors with a goal to improve engagement of residents in community life.

The UNA gardens have been very popular among residents, with hundreds of people currently on a waiting list. Some have waited as many as five years to access one.

A total of five community garden sites are located around campus with 246 assigned plots. They include Nobel Garden, Rhodo Garden, Greenway North, Greenway South, and Hawthorn Garden.

Residents wishing to place their name on the waiting list can visit myuna.ca/gardens.

EMMANUEL SAMOGLU IS THE MANAGING EDITOR OF THE CAMPUS RESIDENT.



UBC Bachelor of Urban Forestry student Antonio Iorizzo measuring diameter of a western red cedar. UBC researchers have completed a report that has documented and recorded an inventory of all trees in the campus neighbourhoods. (Photo: Evan Shea)

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RATES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

In Enerpro's response, the company did state that rates depend partly on the "consumption for the building." When asked how recovery rates are determined for particular buildings, and what components are blended to arrive at the final recovery rate, Enerpro declined to respond.

Enerpro has claimed that it does not question the rates charged for utilities in the buildings that it services and it simply applies the rates requested by landlords, which in Wesbrook includes Strata and buildings managed by Village Gate Homes (VGH).

In its submissions to B.C.'s utilities regulator, Enerpro goes as far as to claim that it is not the company's responsibility to ensure that the charges are consistent with relevant laws.

Instead, they claim that is the responsibility of the landlords.

From that perspective, utility rates in Wesbrook are ultimately set by property management entities like VGH, and they charge different rates in each of the buildings they manage.

Strata corporations, like Virtuoso, are independent from VGH, and set their own rates for hot water, which Enerpro then uses to charge residents. Typically, those rates are related to unit size and set using estimates for the amount of natural gas or hydro needed to heat the water. An estimated annual cost would be included in the strata corporation's annual budget.

The cost recovery rate charged in strata buildings in Wesbrook typically includes the cost of leasing the building's submetering equipment. In order for Enerpro to circumvent regulatory oversight by not owning any utilities equipment, their

meters are leased through a third-party equipment leasing company who technically owns the meters.

It is unclear whether the cost of leasing meters is included in the rates charged in rental apartment buildings in Wesbrook. Tenancy law in BC prohibits landlords from passing the cost associated with maintaining submetering equipment onto tenants through their electric bills.

When asked how the costs are "blended" to determine the cost recovery rate in specific buildings, Enerpro declined to answer.

Without additional information on how the overall rate is determined for each building, it is impossible to know exactly what costs are being passed on to tenants. Village Gate Homes also declined to answer the question of how recovery rates are determined for its buildings.

When asked whether its business practices are compliant with the Residential Tenancy Act (RTA), Enerpro declined to answer directly.

In response to the same question, a spokesperson for Village Gate Homes said it was waiting for the outcome of the BCUC investigation into Enerpro to know whether its existing policies violate residential tenancy law.

It is unclear why VGH is waiting for the BCUC to reach a decision given that the RTA is administered by the provincial Residential Tenancy Branch and not the utilities regulator.

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.

Urgent and Primary Care Centre Opens on Campus



The recently-opened UBC Urgent and Primary Care Centre, located at 6165 Agronomy Road.

Facility offers seven-day access to urgent, primary care for campus residents and people in surrounding communities.

BY TCR STAFF

Students and community members now have improved access to urgent and primary care with the recently-opened UBC Urgent and Primary Care Centre.

The new facility is located at 6165 Agronomy Road and is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday to Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays, including statutory holidays.

"This centre is a part of our commitment to ensuring everyone has access to primary care in their community," said B.C. Premier and Vancouver-Point Grey MLA David Eby, as noted in a press release issued by the provincial government.

Minister of Health Josie Osborne said the UBC Urgent and Primary Care Centre (UPCC) will offer team-based services and intends to ease pressure on the emergency department at UBC Hospital, which remains open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. for patients requiring life-threatening medical attention due to illness, injury, or overdose.

The centre provides care through an interdisciplinary team-based model, bringing together physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses and other health professionals. In a press release, the B.C. government said at full capacity the centre will be supported by 19 clinical staff and up to nine non-clinical staff.

People who have urgent, non-life-threatening conditions such as

fever, minor cuts that may need stitches, burns, headaches, earaches, and sprains requiring X-rays but who do not require emergency department services, will have access to health care at the centre.

Care is delivered primarily through in-person visits, with virtual care provided as needed.

The Ministry of Health, with Vancouver Coastal Health, approved over \$6 million in annual operating costs as well as one-time amounts of \$330,000 for startup costs. The total capital cost is approximately \$17.6 million, funded jointly by the Province and Vancouver Coastal Health, according to the B.C. government.

Dr. Sharmila Anandasabapathy, dean of UBC's faculty of medicine and vice-president of health, said the opening of UPCC improves healthcare services for community members, students, staff, and faculty.

"The new urgent and primary care centre is part of a diverse and growing set of health services on campus that are expanding access to timely, high-quality care," she said.

"Importantly, the team-based model aligns with how UBC is training the next generation of health professionals to work collaboratively across disciplines to deliver innovative, patient-centred care."

Improved health services for students

In addition to the UPCC, UBC also opened the Gateway Health Building earlier this year. Located on the northwest corner of Wesbrook Mall and University Boulevard, Gateway provides health and wellbeing services for UBC students in one location, including doctors and mental health counselors.

An interprofessional teaching clinic providing healthcare to the public is also expected to open later this year in the same building. 📍

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BY TCR STAFF

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Questions? Reach out to editor@thecampusresident.ca or visit thecampusresident.ca/submissions/ for further details. Residents of all ages are urged to apply.

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Resident's Charity Work With Dogs Helps Heal

A campus resident is using the tragic experience of losing her mother to cancer at a very young age to help others who are grappling with the tragedy of losing a loved one.

Avery Kirstiuk, 23, studies food, nutrition, and health at UBC, and uses therapy dogs to help people deal with grief and loss.

It's work that she is intimately tied to after her mother lost a battle with colon cancer when she was just 4 years old, but the experience also led her to discovering that man's best friend can be there in the darkest moments.

Kirstiuk is an avid lover of dogs and has three herself: 'Moo', a "classic, found in a parking lot mutt", a Tamaskan named 'Quest' who was there for her during a recent academic leave due to health issues, and an elderly 13-year-old Mini Poodle named Happy.

Her introduction to therapy dog work began when she was five-years-old and connected deeply with a therapy puppy at the time.

Later in life, she started volunteering with her dogs and working with a dog trainer at a hospital and a drug and addiction center in the province.

She was able to take that experience and bring it to a charity called Camp Kerry, which was started by her father Bob Kirstiuk and Heather Mohan, a registered clinical counsellor and certified music therapist.

The camp, named after her mother, was set up with donations from her cele-

Campus resident and UBC student uses therapy dogs to help children deal with the grief that comes with losing a loved one.

BY EMMANUEL SAMOGLU



Campus resident Avery Kirstiuk with her three dogs; Moo, Quest, and Happy. (Photo: submitted)

bration of life service, and has since served thousands of families, including Kirstiuk's, from coast to coast through organized camping trips that connect people dealing with loss. It is now part of the Lumara Grief and Bereavement Care Society.

Kirstiuk has been bringing in her therapy dogs to Lumara's programs, including

a current program for children in New Westminster.

Through her work, she has learned there are some children who have a difficult time opening up about how their loss has impacted their life, and speaking to a therapist or peers doesn't come easy for them.

"When I started bringing the dogs in, those kids that have those walls up, typically they'll gravitate to the dogs," says Kirstiuk. "And there's always a couple that will end up eventually letting the walls kind of melt away and talk to the dogs about their feelings, their stories."

"It's a nice way to sort of get through to those more reluctant kiddoes to talk about how they're feeling and how their loss has impacted them."

Kirstiuk graduates this month and looking ahead at career opportunities, she is exploring an idea that combines her education and the experience she has gained through her charitable work.

"I'm really interested in potentially going into canine nutrition and learning a little bit more about that and how I can optimize my dog's health and extend (his) working timelines to be able to continue to reach the community."

"Once he retires, it's going to be some time before getting and training another puppy. It's a long, long process."

For Kirstiuk, using her therapy dogs and working with kids dealing with grief is a deeply rewarding one on a very personal level.

"I've put a lot of work into my dogs and their ability to connect with people, especially kids, so it's very emotional," she says.

"It's incredibly rewarding. I see myself in a lot of the kids that I work with now." 🐾

UNA UNIVERSITY NEIGHBOURHOODS ASSOCIATION **25**

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

Need a ride? Carshare with MODO!

+ Get \$100 in driving credit!

Residents of the UBC Neighbourhood Housing Areas can claim \$100 in driving credit and drive at the lowest rates when signing up for MODO!

Learn more

In partnership with

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Campus + Community Planning

IN OUR WORDS

UBC Greenhouse Provides Produce Year-Round

Sunnier weather has all of us who are keen gardeners excited to dig in, and vegetable enthusiasts are all abuzz for farmer's market season.

While we wait, there is a source of freshly grown vegetables and plants occasionally for sale at the UBC Greenhouse.

The UBC Greenhouse has two loca-



The invaluable cats of UBC Greenhouse are important team members who also assist with research. (Photo: UBC Greenhouse)

In addition to selling vegetables and plants, the greenhouse also provides research opportunities and services for industry partners.

BY ROBYN STARKEY

tions on campus - the main site at 6394 Stores Road, and a south campus location on Wesbrook Mall next adjacent to Botanical Garden nursery. You might have asked yourself "what is that big pink building": that's the greenhouse!

Both facilities provide research services for university students and faculty across a wide range of disciplines, from engineering and biology, to land and food systems, education and arts.

They also provide services for industry partners. According to Cobus Lim, the greenhouse technician, the greenhouse supports about 170 projects a year, with 50 or so projects running at any one time.

I asked Lim a tough

question about his favourite projects. He highlighted two out of the many interesting projects they are working on.

"Our longest-running project is an ongoing sweet pepper trial in collaboration with Signify lighting company. We're exploring whether we can grow peppers year-round in Canada using LEDs, instead of the typical seasonal cycle," he says.

The other one, described as "one of the coolest projects we've had in the greenhouse", was when a researcher brought in over 60 species of milkweeds to grow during the summer.

"The entire compartment turned into a burst of orange, pink, and red, with umbels of flowers cascading from the tops of the plants. On warmer days, the air perfumed with notes of lilac, vanilla, and honey. It also brought in so many cool pollinators," Lim says.

In addition to bringing in cool pollinators, the research work of the greenhouse produces excess vegetables including a regular supply of tomatoes,

cucumbers, and peppers which are available for sale from the main greenhouse site on Mondays and Thursdays.

Lim has a delightful newsletter which lists the produce available, as well as interesting plant facts, and pictures of the greenhouse cats.

The three cats are senior cat Lola and a couple younger members of the team: two-year-olds Vesper and Raven.

The cats are important team members who assist with research work. Cobus explains, "A few years ago, during one of our pepper trials, we had rats chewing through our fruits, so having them around has been incredibly helpful in scaring away or catching rodents."

The cats are also valued for their ability to boost team morale and encourage work/life balance, as well as their important photo contributions.

Proceeds from produce and plant sales go towards the cats' food and care. Vegetable sales are ongoing, and the biggest regular plant sale event takes place in early September. 🌱

ROBYN STARKEY IS A WESBROOK PLACE RESIDENT AND A MEMBER OF THE CAMPUS RESIDENT NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL COMMITTEE.

Lots of Libraries for Book Lovers

Readers of all ages have many options to borrow books and pursue their love of reading.

BY ELINA HAILAIJIAO

Are you looking to indulge in a good book and dive into the world of literature? The broader campus community has several places where you can access books of all kinds.

One of those places is the Vancouver Public Library network. Across 21 locations, the library has provided a space for lifelong learning, supporting the needs of Vancouver residents for more than 100 years. Collections include ebooks, movies, music, magazines, and of course books, so anyone can find something to enjoy.

The closest location to campus is the West Point Grey branch, located at 4566 West 10th Ave. Campus residents

can register free of charge by applying in person, and be sure to bring a valid ID and proof of address. Youth between the ages of 14-18 will need to bring a student ID issued by a B.C. high school, and those under 14 must have a parent or guardian present.

After creating an account, you will receive your library card and can start checking out books. Cardholders may take out up to 50 items at a time, but remember to return books on time or renew them to avoid a lost item charge. Most books, CDs, and audiobooks can be borrowed for 21 days whereas DVDs can only be borrowed for seven days.

The Vancouver Public Library also has a smartphone app, allowing users to put items on hold, check when books are ready to be picked up, renew borrowed items, and check when books are due.

Another option for local bookworms is the UBC Library, which has over nine million items in a diverse range of collections in 15 locations across campus.

Many campus residents living in UNA neighbourhoods are not aware that UBC Library's services are open to the wider campus community for free. To apply, visit the library's main branch which is the Koerner Library at 1958 Main Mall.

Applicants must be 18 years of age or older to sign up for a library card, and those under 18 may use library services with the assistance of a parent or guardian. Bring one piece of government-issued photo ID and a proof of a local address such as a bank statement or utility bill when signing up.

The borrowing period for most items is two weeks, and note that remote access for campus residents to most library eResources is limited by licensing agreements to current students, staff and faculty.

Lastly, there are

several "little free libraries" scattered throughout campus, where readers may find some hidden gems.

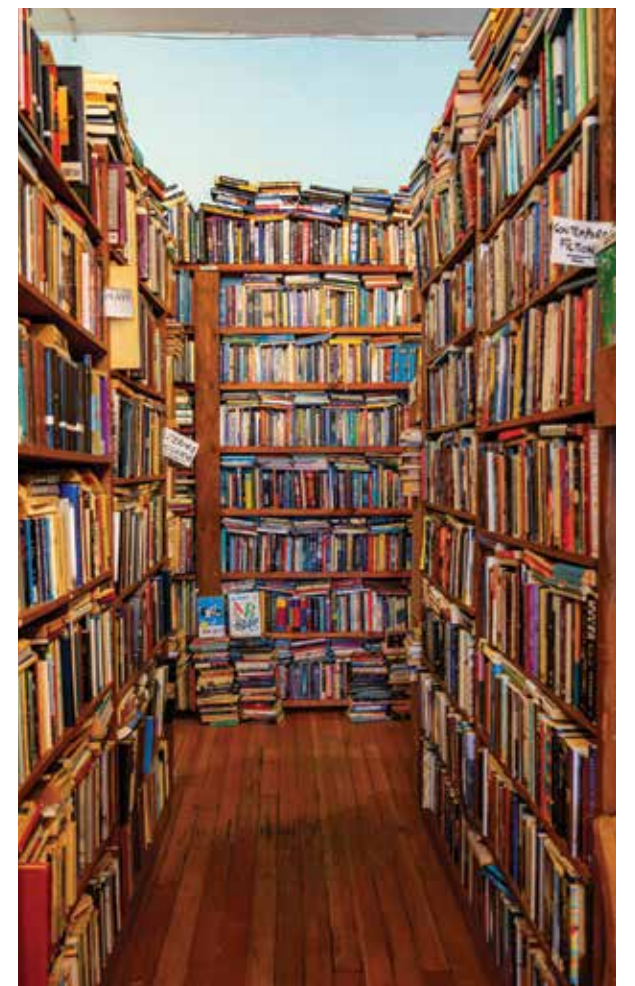
In addition to the little library located along the sidewalk on the southern end of the Oakwood townhouses on Ross Drive in Wesbrook Place, there's a little library outside the UBC Press office at 2029 West Mall and the Wee Beastie Little Library at the MCML building at 2357 Main Mall.

If you are heading off campus, you can also use the Little Free Library map at littlefreelibrary.org/map to find more locations in surrounding areas and throughout Vancouver. 🌱

ELINA HAILAIJIAO IS A GRADE 10 STUDENT AT LORD BYNG SECONDARY SCHOOL.



UBC Library's main branch, the Koerner Library at 1958 Main Mall.



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 June issue, send in your submission by May 15! 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



► Pelican and Marlin ▼ BY TONY WILD

Having owned a home in Baja, Mexico and spending time there, I did paintings to decorate the place. Birds, like the Pelican, were commonplace there, and likewise, Marlin are seen in the Sea of Cortez and the Pacific Coast. From an early age, I have always loved art, from watercolour painting, oils and acrylics.

TONY WILD HAS LIVED AT HAMPTON PLACE WITH HIS WIFE FOR 24 YEARS. HE WORKED AS A SALES & MARKETING MANAGER IN THE PRINTING INDUSTRY.



Spring Rains

BY QIANG WANG

This watercolor painting describes the spring rains at Nitobe Gardens: The lovely cherry blossoms, a small bridge, the gloriette, a breeze creating ripples on the water, and distant trees in the mist.

QIANG WANG IS A FORMER PARK DESIGNER AND SENIOR BONSAI ARTIST, CURRENTLY WORKING AS A REALTOR AND LIVING IN CHANCELLOR PLACE.

