

THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

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Connection, Community, and Competition at Neighbours Day



Watermelons were front and centre at Wesbrook Community Centre on Sept. 12 at the UNA's annual Neighbours Day celebration. The event was attended by roughly 900 community members, who gathered for an afternoon of live entertainment, games, food, and art. Among this year's highlights was a watermelon eating contest with 22 entrants competing for top honours. The annual flagship event was put together with the help of 60 volunteers, ensuring this year's Neighbours Day was once again a day to remember. (Photo: UNA)

Elevators Getting Overhaul After Years of Complaints

UBC plans to modernize an Acadia Park residential building's elevators after recurring breakdowns, but residents say more needs to be done to achieve true accessibility.

Page 4



IN OUR WORDS: Trishaw Rides Show the Power of Community

A campus resident brings his anthropologist's eye to a trishaw ride through familiar streets and forest trails, showing how the experience became a journey of connection, dignity, gratitude, and belonging.

Page 6



It's More Than Just Football

UBC Athletes compete to win with a laser sharp focus on sports, studies, and wellness, while striving to represent the broader campus community.

Page 7



First Nations culture and our final photo contest winner

Check out the final winner of The Campus Resident's Summer Photo Contest and read about the 5th annual Come Toward the Fire festival celebrating Indigenous culture.

Page 8



Police and Fire Rescue Site to Be Redeveloped

UBC to hold community engagement events on plan to build new facilities for police and fire rescue services that will also include housing, childcare, and commercial space.

BY AMIE BERNAERDT

UBC is putting together a plan to redevelop the campus police and fire station site on campus.

Located on the east side of Wesbrook Mall north of W. 16th Avenue, the existing public safety building was built in 1982 and accommodates both Fire Hall No. 10 of the Vancouver Fire Rescue Services and the University RCMP Detachment.

Police and elected officials on campus have said rapid population growth has made existing facilities insufficient to serve the campus community.

As part of its Campus Vision 2050 plan,

UBC's Campus and Community Planning said it proposes to redevelop the five-acre site with purpose-built facilities for the RCMP and fire rescue services, childcare spaces, and new housing. These facilities will be located in a new public safety building and in separate buildings to be built across the site. Planners will also be including space for commercial uses.

The university says the existing building is aging and has "an inefficient layout" that impacts the site's potential, while hindering the RCMP's desire to grow and add more officers to the university detachment.

Last year, UNA board director Jake Wiebe expressed concern about the ability of emergency services to keep up with demand as the campus population grows and new residential buildings are added.

In an opinion piece published in *The Campus Resident* last year, Wiebe wrote, "Essential services form the backbone of any thriving community."

"The UBC RCMP detachment has not increased its staffing levels since 2005. At that time, the population south of 16th Avenue was minimal. Today, this area alone likely exceeds 10,000 residents, yet the number of officers remains unchanged," Wiebe added.

The proposal is still in its early stages, with planning expected to continue throughout the fall and winter.

The university is aiming to prepare a draft plan for public review and input in January 2027, with a finalized plan expected to be presented for approval to the UBC Board of Governors in spring 2027.

"The planning process will consider the design and layout of new police and fire facilities, where residential buildings and open spaces will go, space for childcare, commercial and office uses, [and] how people will move through the site and the necessary supporting infrastructure," said Thandi Fletcher, a university spokesperson.

"The first phase of public engagement will run from Oct. 27 to Nov. 15, with a draft plan expected to be shared for review in early 2027," she said.

As to how any new facilities would affect future emergency services, Fletcher said, "Decisions about staffing and service levels are made separately by the RCMP, Vancouver Fire Rescue Services and relevant government partners."

In the meantime, public safety services will continue to operate from the existing site.

"Should the proposed redevelopment proceed, the RCMP will continue to operate from the existing university detachment while the new facility is under construction," said a spokesperson with the B.C. government's Policing and Security Branch.

Fire services will also continue to be provided from the existing site, added Fletcher.

Residents can receive updates on the project by visiting planning.ubc.ca.

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



The existing public safety building located at 2990 and 2992 Wesbrook Mall that houses both the University RCMP Detachment and Vancouver Fire Rescue Services. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

No Vote Needed in Regional Director Race

David Hocking takes over from outgoing director Jen McCutcheon, and intends to follow her approach of building relationships with key decision-makers to ensure residents are heard.

BY EMMANUEL SAMOGLOU

The Electoral Area A Director election has been decided by acclamation following the withdrawal of one of the two candidates nominated to run in local elections taking place this month.

Bowen Island resident David Hocking was declared the successful candidate by the Chief Election Officer for Metro Vancouver Regional District following the withdrawal of Brian Savage of Vancouver. As a result, campus residents will only be voting for school trustees during this month's municipal elections.

Hocking told *The Campus Resident* he is moving to Wesbrook Place from Bowen Island, where he has served as a municipal councillor and volunteer.

"My lifestyle is to get involved, and I've reached out to UNA and University Endowment Lands (UEL) residents to learn about the community and how I could contribute," he said. "My career has been broad and varied: a teacher, journalist, environmental consultant, public servant and senior manager in an environmental NGO, a Crown corporation and a private sector company."

Hocking said he has two decades of experience with Metro Vancouver Regional Council, including as a director, staff manager, consultant, and by serving on five committees, including climate action and Indigenous relations.

Electoral Area A is an unincorporated region of Metro



David Hocking was recently acclaimed as the next Electoral Area A Director after the withdrawal of the race's sole other candidate. (Photo: Submitted)

Vancouver that includes UBC's Point Grey campus, the UEL, the area between Howe Sound and the west side of Pitt Lake, Carraholly Point and a number of small islands in the surrounding area.

The director role is the area's only elected representative at the regional level, and sits on the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors and the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation, which oversees TransLink. As campus is an unincorporated area of Vancouver, its residents are not entitled to political representation on city council.

Current director Jen McCutcheon has served as director since 2019 and announced earlier this year she will not be seeking re-election. Her term concludes at the end of the month.

Hocking recently held the role of chair of Metro Vancouver's Electoral Area A Committee, but moved to vice-chair,

allowing McCutcheon to assume the top role. He has also served one term on the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation.

For the coming term, Hocking said he views housing as an increasingly important issue.

"In its Housing Action Plan, UBC committed to offer faculty and staff housing at about 25 per cent below rents for equivalent units on Vancouver's West Side, and to expand the eligibility for university rentals to non-UBC staff," he said. "But many UBC apartments are priced above the West Side average, so I'd urge the (UBC) Board of Governors to meet their commitment."

He described the director role as a balancing

act between serving locally while sitting on a board that oversees issues affecting much of the Lower Mainland.

"They need to represent their communities and address local issues as best they can. But they also debate and vote on region-wide issues, such as land use, water supplies, sewage treatment and climate action," he said.

"Unfortunately, the current board has slowed earlier commitments on climate action, limiting the ability of local governments to respond to this generational challenge. I will encourage a return to science-based policies and initiatives."

Hocking said he agrees with McCutcheon's previous comment to this newspaper that "the Electoral Director does not have direct say in most of the decisions made at the local level."

"Recognizing this, I would follow the same approach as Director McCutcheon — building positive relationships with key decision-makers to ensure that the needs and concerns of residents are heard," he said.

Campus residents can vote to elect nine Vancouver School Board trustees as part of this month's local elections. Advance voting days are scheduled for Oct. 3, 7, 10 and 13, with general voting to take place on Oct. 17. Outside of campus, Vancouverites will be voting for their mayor and 10 city councillors, park commissioners, as well as school board trustees.

And later this month, voters in British Columbia will choose their next provincial government on Oct. 24, two years ahead of schedule, after NDP Leader and Vancouver-Point Grey MLA David Eby called a snap election on Sept. 22.

EMMANUEL SAMOGLOU IS THE MANAGING EDITOR OF THE CAMPUS RESIDENT.

Residents Want a Say in Hampton Place Tree Replanting Program

BY EMMANUEL SAMOGLOU

A group of Hampton Place residents are asking for a greater say in a tree replanting project developed to respond to the threat posed by the invasive Emerald Ash Borer.

A delegation of residents, led by Brian Savage of Hampton Place, attended the Sept. 22 UNA Board of Directors' meeting to request for the formation of a committee consisting of neighbourhood residents, contracted landscape architects, university officials, and UNA staff. The residents want the committee to be consulted on permitting and to be involved with selecting specific tree varieties that will replace ones that are removed while dealing with the threat.

The emerald ash borer is an invasive beetle that infests ash trees before killing them in an estimated two to four years. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency confirmed the presence of the beetles in Vancouver in 2024 and is working with the City of Vancouver to halt their spread. The beetle was found six kilometres from Hampton Place in late 2025.

A total of 79 out of the 83 trees in Hampton Place are reported to be vulnerable ash trees. As a result, the UNA has adopted an aggressive management strategy to deal with the threat.

Three ash trees located at 5650 Hampton Place were cut down in 2025 after UBC issued a permit authorizing their removal. In June this year, 49 trees in the neighbourhood were injected with an insecticide to protect them from infestation.

The resident group said a commit-

tee representing Hampton Place stratas should be consulted as the management plan is carried out, and before any details are released to the general public.

"Hampton Place stratas have large, landscaped footprints. Collectively, they spend between \$500,000 and \$750,000 annually," reads a handout distributed by Savage during the board meeting.

"Accordingly, over the years with their experience, their opinions need to be considered. It is their residents who will enjoy the results of a successful multi-year plan."

The UNA's budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year has allocated \$10,000 for the Hampton Place Replanting program.

Playground demolished

UNA directors discussed the recent demolition of a campus playground that was found to be unsafe and plans for its potential replacement.

The Axis playground, located in the Chancellor Place neighbourhood just north of St. Andrews Hall, was demolished in August due to safety concerns identified during a municipal inspection.

A UNA operations staff report said the park is located outside of the association's jurisdiction. As a result, staff will have to work with the university and other stakeholders during the replacement process.

A public engagement strategy is being put together for this fall to work with the community to identify preferred play features and specific age groups that will use the park. Staff aim to have a specific replacement plan ready for late summer 2027.



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UNA at 25: Still Growing

Twenty-five years since its founding, former UNA director and board chair Richard Watson ponders a question that remains unanswered: how exactly should this unusual community govern itself?

BY RICHARD WATSON

When I moved into the Hawthorn Place neighbourhood in 2006, I had little idea that I was moving into one of the more unusual communities in British Columbia.

The University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA) was still a young organization, and I had little understanding of the relationship between UBC, the UNA and our neighbourhood. Roads, parks and public spaces were taking shape in Hawthorn, and the Old Barn Community Centre was under construction. It felt as though we were part of a brand-new neighbourhood. Yet there was no mayor or municipal council. UBC owned the land, and I soon learned that the UNA was gradually taking on responsibilities that elsewhere would belong to a municipality.

I remember seeing an advertisement for the UNA's Executive Director position in 2006. My wife even considered applying for the job that eventually went to Jan Fialkowski, but she was a little hesitant: the UNA office was in a portable trailer.

Those modest beginnings say something about how uniquely the UNA developed.

Just over a quarter century ago, UBC Properties Trust was continuing the residential development that had begun with Hampton Place, and it became clear that building homes also meant building community. Residents needed parks,

recreation, garbage and recycling services, landscaping and, importantly, a way for their voices to be heard.

A community plan for Electoral Area A and a memorandum of understanding between UBC and the Metro Vancouver Regional District anticipated an organization to help govern the emerging neighbourhoods. The UNA followed, becoming incorporated in 2002. That same year, UBC and the UNA entered into their first Neighbours' Agreement, establishing a relationship that continues to evolve today.

At the centre of those early years was Jim Taylor. A Hampton Place resident, lawyer and former UBC law professor, Jim became the UNA's first Chair. UBC credits him with helping establish the innovative model through which residents would receive municipal-like services while developing a representative voice within the university community.

The beginnings were modest—the UNA initially had only one part-time employee—but Jim understood that community was about more than services.

I discovered this personally in 2010 when I met Jim at the Old Barn Community Centre. I wanted to volunteer reading stories to children on Thursday mornings, something Jim himself loved doing. Jim interviewed me and made sure I understood how important it was to show up consistently. I was impressed by his commitment. For Jim, the less tangible things that turn a collection of buildings into a community mattered: recreation, volunteerism, public spaces and, most importantly, relationships between neighbours.

UNA CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



LETTER TO THE EDITOR Residents will be heard

Neighbours can follow up on the recent articles and ongoing discussion in *The Campus Resident* around improving campus housing for UBC's employees ("No Response From UBC on UNA Call for Housing Action" *The Campus Resident*, July 2026).

We have new and substantive opportunities to be heard by UBC Properties Trust, and I'd like to see this issue continue to be reported on. However, I'd also like to collect your thoughts about how to improve our experiences of living in our company town while advocating for those ideas with UBCPT as the President of the University Faculty And Staff Tenants' Association (UFASTA).

Writing a letter to the editor here is one option, but if you would like to join other employee-residents for a potluck or a video conversation about this in the next couple weeks, please sign up at tinyurl.com/ywsmu7jz or email me at erica.frank@ubc.ca.

ERICA FRANK, RESIDENT AND UBC PROFESSOR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Small Businesses Need More Support

Your latest articles on the dearth of Wesbrook retail and the increased supply of short-term rentals in buildings designated for staff and faculty housing point to a common cause: UBC Properties Trust (UBCPT) pursues short-term profitability over a long-term vision for a vibrant community.

By maximizing rent and forcing out small businesses, UBCPT ensures only bland, corporate behemoths like Save-On-Foods and Shoppers Drug Mart can afford to operate. This results in a boring neighbourhood devoid of character, unappealing for people wanting to invest long-term in a community.

The expansion of short-term rentals in buildings that are designated for staff and faculty long-term housing points to another example of UBCPT greed: housing is overpriced and the market (UBC staff and faculty) have decided to rent off-campus at more affordable options. UBCPT are only expanding short-term rentals to these guest suites because nobody is willing to rent them long-term. If rents were 25 per cent below market, as they claim

to be, they would not have upwards of 20 per cent vacancy at some of their buildings, nor would they need to bribe potential tenants with two months free rent to move into these buildings. Instead, they've pursued an immediate profit at all costs approach which has resulted in a stagnant tenant population who can get far more value for their money by living in a vibrant Vancouver neighbourhood.

UBCPT needs to recognize that building a desirable community means more than providing nicely manicured lawns or the odd busker during summer months. It means enticing small retail businesses to invest in long-term presence in our community by providing affordable and stable rental agreements. It means offering below-market rents for staff and faculty who want to take a chance on an unproven neighbourhood and grow their lives in it.

Until UBCPT smartens up and stops trying to suck every dollar out of this community, Wesbrook will never be more than a sub-par suburb of Vancouver that is more a landing pad for recent arrivals than a long-term vision of vibrancy.

TOM PINCHON, RESIDENT

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We are writing to express concern about the pressures facing small and locally owned businesses at UBC, particularly in Wesbrook Place. As recently reported in *The Campus Resident*, several businesses have closed, while others face commercial rent increases of 25 per cent to 33 per cent when their leases expire. Increases of this magnitude may be absorbed by large national or multinational corporations, but they can be prohibitive for small independent businesses operating on narrow margins.

These increases also affect affordability at UBC. Businesses facing sharply higher rents must either absorb the costs, reduce services, close or relocate, or pass some of the increase on to customers. This is particularly concerning for students and pensioners, many of whom already live on tight budgets in one of Canada's most expensive cities. Commercial rents are therefore not simply a matter between landlord and tenant: they affect the cost and quality of life for the entire campus community.

There is also a larger question about

the kind of community UBC wants to build. Small and locally owned businesses contribute to the character, diversity, and vitality of our neighbourhoods. If commercial rents rise without regard to the very different capacities of tenants to absorb them, the result may be a campus increasingly dominated by large corporate chains, with fewer independent businesses, reduced commercial diversity, and higher prices.

We therefore encourage UBC and UBC Properties Trust to develop measures to retain small and locally owned businesses, including moderating rent increases, providing greater predictability in lease renewals, and taking into account the contribution these businesses make to campus life. Supporting a diverse local business sector is not simply about helping individual proprietors; it is an investment in an affordable, inclusive, and vibrant UBC community.

FABIOLA BAZO AND BRAD PARSON, RESIDENTS

Elevators Getting Overhaul After Years of Complaints

UBC Housing plans to modernize Sopron House’s elevators after ongoing issues, but residents say true accessibility requires active attention beyond functioning elevators.

BY EMBER THOME

After years of complaints about the reliability of the two elevators in Sopron House, UBC Housing has announced plans to fully modernize both elevators in the student family housing building in Acadia Park.

In an email sent to residents Sept. 4, UBC Housing said the project would “fully modernize both elevators” and “significantly improve the reliability and overall performance of the elevators in Sopron House for many years to come.”

Modernization of Elevator 1 is scheduled to begin Oct. 12, followed by Elevator 2 on Nov. 23. The project is expected to be completed by mid-January, although UBC has not provided an exact completion date.

The announcement comes as residents say elevator problems have

become a regular occurrence in the building. Rhiannon Owen and her husband, George Berry, have lived in Sopron House for more than four years. They said they have experienced elevator problems roughly every two to three weeks, including being trapped inside for several minutes to as long as an hour.

The couple also reported seeing other residents become stuck, having one or both elevators completely out of service, buttons failing to light up or work, elevators stopping at incorrect floors and the elevators “jolting” when arriving at a floor.

For Owen, an unreliable elevator is more than an inconvenience.

She has juvenile idiopathic arthritis, a condition that causes joint pain, swelling and stiffness, which in turn, affects her mobility. Because of her condition, she requested accessible housing through UBC’s Centre for Accessibility. The couple was placed on the second floor of Sopron House and told “not to worry” because the building had elevators.

But the elevator outages have left the couple worried.

Berry said the couple



Sopron House, a residential building located at 2730 Acadia Road within Acadia Park. Residents have long complained about recurring issues with the building’s elevators. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

has repeatedly encountered situations where Owen begins experiencing a flare-up while they are out and they return home so she can rest, only to discover that the elevator is out of service.

“Coming back to the lift, and seeing it out of order, without prior knowledge, is the classic,” he said. “So we have to instead take the stairs, which is not ideal.”

Owen said taking the stairs during a flare-up can significantly increase her pain.

When asked what occurs afterward, Owen and Berry both described it as an “immediate collapse.” Owen said she would stay home for the rest of the day to rest, while Berry would take care of necessary tasks.

Following UBC’s modernization announcement, fellow resident Neger Zaghi said, “It would be amazing to have peace of mind that the elevator won’t get stuck.”

Zaghi said this sentiment stems from the multiple times she and her 10-month-old baby were stuck in the elevator.

Riley Plunkett, another resident who reported being stuck in the elevator, said he wished UBC’s announcement had acknowledged the broader impact of the outages.

“It would’ve been nice to get an acknowledgment that the elevators not working consistently meant that people with strollers and mobility aids—of which there are many on floors 2-4—were harmed,” he said.

UBC Student Housing and Community Services (SHCS) was asked about the building’s history of elevator issues and accessibility concerns.

Shannon Dunn, a member of SHCS’s senior leadership team, pointed to the upcoming modernization project and said, “We expect this project to considerably improve elevator operability and reliability.”

She added that during an elevator outage, “UBC notifies all residents in the building with registered mobility issues and offers immediate support, including temporary accommodation elsewhere on campus if appropriate.”

For Owen, however, the modernization is only one part of making housing accessible.

“Accessibility is not a one-time thing that you can check off,” she said.

“It’s something UBC has to practice, so I would like them to change this culture where it’s like ‘we have an elevator; this building is accessible’, to more practicing the culture of accessibility — talking to specific individuals that they know have gained housing through the Centre for Accessibility to just make sure that it is truly accessible because right now I don’t think that’s the case”

With the elevator’s modernization scheduled to begin next month, residents will now wait to see whether the upgrades deliver the reliability UBC intends to provide.

EMBER THOME IS AN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT MAJORING IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND MINORING IN JOURNALISM. IN HER SPARE TIME, EMBER CAN BE FOUND READING A COMIC BOOK WITH HER CAT ARLO SITTING COZILY IN HER LAP.



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Sopron House residents Rhiannon Owen and husband, George Berry. Frequent elevator breakdowns affect Owen, who requires accessible housing due to a medical condition. (Photo: Submitted)

Parkade Elevator Installed in Wesbrook Village

BY AMIE BERNAERDT

Campus officials are hoping the retail shopping experience in Wesbrook Village will see tangible improvements with the installation of a new parkade elevator and the addition of retail space.

Construction concluded last month on a project that saw the removal of a movator – also known as a moving walkway – previously located across Save-On-Foods on the corner of Shrum Lane and Berton Avenue. The movator provided access to the underground parkade for nearly a decade and a half and has now been replaced with the elevator, a staircase, and a new retail unit.

UBC Properties Trust (UBCPT) said they undertook the renovations to



New retail space and the location of a recently-installed elevator to access the underground parkade in Wesbrook Village. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

improve accessibility to the parkade. “These improvements will provide safer, more reliable access between the parkade and street level, while also creating space for a new neighbourhood business to add value to the

community,” UBCPT said in a press release issued in December 2025 when construction began.

The elevator is now in operation for shoppers to access the parkade, and a new tenant is preparing to move into the recently created retail unit.

UBCPT did not provide specific information; however an entity called Doe Coffee has put up posters at the site.

The Vancouver-based company currently has two locations in the city with two more on the way, including the Wesbrook location.

The company offers coffee and other

hot beverages, pastries, and has removed options for tipping at the cash register. “Great service comes standard, because this is how we serve our community,” they say on their website

The company also offers a “Doe Pass,” which is a monthly subscription program where café lovers can pay a monthly fee and receive unlimited drinks and discounts on other goods.

While an exact opening date has not yet been announced, the poster on the windows say “Doe Coffee is coming”.



The location of the new elevator and stairway that provide access to the underground parkade in Wesbrook Village. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

Author Uses Love of Writing to Give Back to Community

Local student Hari Jeon is using her writing, and the proceeds of her first published novel, to support the B.C. Children’s Hospital.

BY ELINA HAILAIJIAO

For campus resident and student Hari Jeon, writing has become more than a creative outlet.

It’s her way to connect with others and reflect on life’s difficult experiences. It’s also become an opportunity to give back to the community.

The recent University Hill Elementary graduate self-published her first book on Amazon. Titled Find Me in Your Memory, it’s a story that explores the complicated relationship between memory, identity, grief, and human connection.

Jeon, who began Grade 8 last month, spoke with The Campus Resident about how the idea for Find Me in Your Memory came about, and her plans to donate the proceeds from the book to B.C. Children’s Hospital.



Author and recent University Hill Elementary graduate, Hari Jeon. (Photo: Supplied)

The idea for the novel was partly influenced by her experience attending a French language school in Korea, she says. Because she didn’t speak French, she found it difficult to feel like she belonged. It made her think how memories can shape the way people understand themselves, and that experience provided the main idea for her book.

The novel follows five adolescents as they navigate similar feelings of loss, longing, and uncertainty. Through the characters’ stories, Jeon attempts to portray the challenge of maintaining hope when memories and a sense of self feel uncertain.

She said it took roughly three years to complete Find Me in Your Memory, and took some effort to overcome challenges along the way, including becoming immersed in the perspectives of her characters and dealing with periodic bouts of writer’s block.

Despite the challenges, Jeon believes the experience helped her develop not only as a writer but also as an individual.

Jeon says she is donating the book’s proceeds to B.C. Children’s Hospital – a decision partly influenced by her time on student council and seeing how students could choose to spread positivity.

She has so far raised \$1,200, and is well on her way to reaching her overall goal of \$2,000 by the end of November, when she will be meeting with hospital administration to offer her donation.

“I hope to be able to bring people together through my writing, to send it out into the world and let it grow in people’s hearts,” she says.

Jeon is currently working on her second novel.

ELINA HAILAIJIAO IS A GRADE 11 STUDENT AT LORD BYNG SECONDARY SCHOOL

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IN OUR WORDS

Trishaw Rides Show the Power of Community

Campus resident Mohammad Zaman brings an anthropologist’s eye to a trishaw ride through familiar streets and forest trails, showing how the experience became a journey of connection, dignity, gratitude, and belonging.

BY MOHAMMAD ZAMAN

This summer I was able to experience joy, friendship, and a renewed sense of connection during a trishaw ride organized by The Vancouver Cycling Without Age Society (VCWAS).

My wife Habiba and I feel privileged to live in Wesbrook Place, where modern urban design, natural surroundings, and everyday convenience come together in a warm, walkable setting.

More than a place of convenience, this thoughtfully planned community offers a sense of belonging, where people of different ages and backgrounds can meet, walk, volunteer, exchange greetings, and share in everyday community life.

We both turned 76 this year, but we remain active and eager to enjoy new experiences that keep us connected to our community and to each other.

Habiba signed us up for a VCWAS seniors’ trishaw ride simply for fun and we took the ride in late July. It was a sunny, warm

day—perfect for such an outing—with bright summer light on the sidewalks, a soft breeze moving through the trees, and the pleasant sounds of people coming and going around Wesbrook Community Centre.

From the moment we arrived, we felt the care and enthusiasm of the society’s volunteers, many of whom are seniors themselves. Their orange safety vests, cheerful greetings, and calm voices immediately made the occasion feel welcoming. They helped us settle in, adjusted our seats, made sure we were buckled up safely, and treated the ride not as a service being delivered, but as a shared journey. Their patience, smiles, and friendly conversation created an atmosphere of trust even before the ride began.

As the electric-powered trishaw moved slowly through Wesbrook Village, familiar streets seemed to take on a new beauty. The open seat at the front gave us a wonderful view, and the gentle movement of the trishaw made us feel connected to the neighbourhood in a fresh and joyful way.

We passed our apartment block and saw neighbours walking nearby. Many people on the street waved at us, and we happily waved and called hello in return. Because the ride was unhurried, we had time to notice what is often missed when travelling by car or walking with a purpose. The most memorable part was moving from the village toward the green surroundings of Pacific Spirit Regional Park, only a couple of blocks from the community centre. The change was gradual but beautiful: the sounds of the community softened, the trees drew closer, and the air felt cooler, fresher, and scented with cedar.

We followed several routes through the

park and gently travelled close to 6 kilometres of trails in about one hour. Pacific Spirit Regional Park offers over 55 kilometres of walking, hiking, biking, and multi-use paths, but for us the ride was never really about the route or the distance. What mattered most was the wonderful feeling of being inside the forest—seeing people walking, cycling, running with their dogs, or simply enjoying a quiet stroll.

The whole experience felt generous, peaceful, and unforgettable. For us, the ride became a happy summer memory and a meaningful example of how a community can care for its older members with respect and warmth.

During the ride, conversation came naturally. We talked with our volunteer trishaw pilot Steve, waved to people along the way, and enjoyed the simple happiness of being seen and included. The story behind these rides is as heartwarming as the rides themselves.

The Cycling Without Age movement was started in 2012 by a Danish social entrepreneur named Ole Kassow who had a generous idea: everyone, at every age, deserves to feel the fresh air, enjoy the outdoors, and share in community life. The Vancouver chapter of Cycling Without Age was founded in 2018 and the international movement arrived in our local community this summer, offering rides to seniors, including those living in care homes or facing barriers to getting outside.

When our trishaw returned to Wesbrook Village, the ride no longer felt like a simple outing. It had become a small but powerful reminder of what community can do: welcome seniors back into public life, turn a quiet morning into a shared journey, and transform movement into memory.

MOHAMMAD ZAMAN, A SEMI-RETIRED ANTHROPOLOGIST, LIVES IN WESBROOK PLACE WITH HIS WIFE. HIS WRITINGS OFTEN EXPLORE MIGRATION, AGING, MEMORY, AND EVERYDAY COMMUNITY LIFE.



Mohammad Zaman and wife Habiba, pictured here on a trishaw ride through Pacific Spirit Regional Park in July. (Photo: Submitted)

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UNA CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Over the years, the UNA has grown as each new neighbourhood has developed. Having had the privilege of serving as UNA Chair from 2020 to 2025, I am struck by how much has changed since Jim Taylor’s time—and yet how familiar the fundamental questions remain.

In a memorandum to UNA Residents dated January 12, 2007, Jim asked, “How, over this time, ought we govern ourselves day to day?” He described this as an “Operational Governance” issue.

Nearly twenty years later, we are still wrestling with variations of that same question.

How do we provide good services? How do we build community among people from remarkably diverse backgrounds? How do residents have a

meaningful voice in decisions affecting the place they call home? And how do we maintain a constructive relationship with UBC while recognizing that the interests of a university and those of its residential community will not always be identical?

Twenty-five years ago, there was no blueprint for answering those questions. Twenty-five years later, the UNA has become an important part of the answer.

Its structures, agreements, and responsibilities matter, but perhaps its most enduring accomplishment is simpler: it has helped thousands of people who came to live on a university campus begin to think of themselves as neighbours—and this remarkable place as home.

RICHARD WATSON IS A CAMPUS RESIDENT AND FORMER UNA DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR.

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It's More Than Just Football

UBC Athletes compete to win with a laser sharp focus on sports, studies, and wellness, while striving to represent the broader campus community.

WORDS BY WARREN MCKINNON, PHOTOS BY SAMMY TONG

For the coach of UBC's Men's Football team, winning isn't exactly everything.

Thunderbirds head coach Blake Nill wants his players to excel on and off the field, while recognizing they are woven into the fabric of a community where they live and play.

"I want the UNA people to understand that these young men are part of who you are," says Nill. "They're on campus like you; they're representatives of this small community."

The connection to community is something Nill is familiar with. He's coached university football at St. Francis Xavier in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, in addition to coaching stints at St. Mary's University in Halifax and at the University of Calgary.

He joined the Thunderbirds in 2014 as head coach, and one of his goals is to use UBC's football program to add value to the greater campus community.

This year, over 100 players attended



training camp, which was held from August 18-29.

In the work of recruiting new players, which amount to 20-30 new faces each year, Nill says he wants to ensure that his players come to UBC to finish their degrees before starting to build their careers.

"We spend a lot of time and money making sure they become positive contributors to society," he says.

Running back Marvyn Larozar is one of this year's new recruits coming from Ottawa, and he affirms Nill's approach that football is much more than a sport.

"Coach Nill was completely different from coaches who tried to recruit me," he says. "Nill didn't really speak about football, but who I am as a person."

The Thunderbirds are off to a 2-1 start, with Larozar delivering some standout performances so far in the season.

On September 18 in front of more than 8,000 fans at Thunderbird Stadium, he had a memorable night with 208 yards rushing and a pair of touchdowns, helping his team come back from a 10-point deficit at half-time to defeat the Regina Rams 25-20.

For Nill, there's also great emphasis on the well-being of his players. He speaks of the "science of sport" that starts with strength and conditioning, nutrition, and sleep.

the CFL's Montreal Alouettes, Blake Nill remembers when playbooks were in binders. Now game preparation and assessing the opposition involves endless hours of watching film.

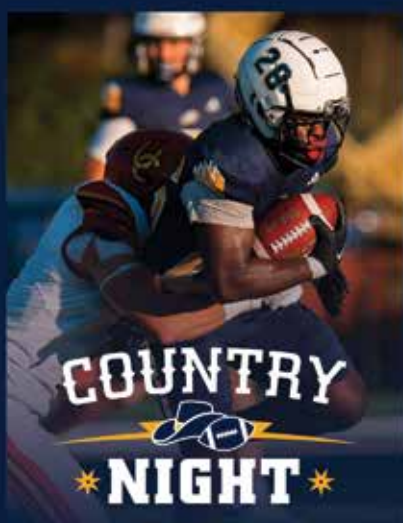
The Thunderbirds hope to improve on the 2025-2026 season, which ended with a semi-final loss to the University of Saskatchewan Huskies. This year, success will come with an improvement on the field, as well as the personal development off the field along with a closer connection to UBC's growing residential neighbourhoods.

WARREN MCKINNON IS A LONGTIME CAMPUS RESIDENT.





T-BIRDS HIGHLIGHT HOME EVENTS
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Welcome to The Campus Resident’s Arts & Culture section, where community members of all ages can share their creativity, including: paintings, photography, comics, poems, stories and more. This month, we conclude our 2026 Summer Photo Contest with a final winner.

Next month, we resume our community arts and culture showcase

featuring the creative work of campus residents. To be featured in our November issue, send in your submission by October 20 to: editor@thecampusresident.ca. 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

Bright Summer Night in Wesbrook

BY ERIK WANG

I was sitting on my balcony with my guitar when flashes of lightning lit up the sky, and the thunder drowned out any chance of more practice. Instead, I admired nature’s show, holding onto my scared puppy through his first thunderstorm.

Summer Photo Contest –
Our final winner is Erik Wang



Festival Celebrates Indigenous Arts and Culture

WORDS BY WARREN MCKINNON, PHOTOS BY JAN GATES.

UBC’s Chan Centre held its 5th annual “Come Toward the Fire” Festival last month.

The event, which took place from Sept. 18-20, was billed as a celebration of Indigenous art and culture.

In the words of Chan Centre Head Curator Jarrett Martineau, the festival follows the Musqueam tradition of gatherings in the long-house where community members would be “recognized and acknowledged for their contribution to the community.”

He said the yearly celebration of First Nation and Métis artists occurs on the third week of September to accompany the ongoing work of

the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

As a response to what Martineau described as a “denialism tour” that visited UBC’s campus earlier this year, the festival partnered with UBC’s Indian Residential School and Dialogue Centre and added a “Day of Knowledge Sharing” to

its program.

Highlights included a 10th anniversary screening of The Secret Path - an animated film released in 2016 along with a 10-song album by the late Gord Downie from Canadian rock band, The Tragically Hip.

The film describes the journey of a 12-year-

old Indigenous boy named Chanie Wenjack, who died while trying to walk in the winter to his home in northeastern Ontario after escaping from a residential school in Kenora – hundreds of kilometres away.

Most of the other First Nations and Métis storytelling at the festival



was done through music, impressively expressed by composers and performers through amplified vocals, drums and guitars.

The lyrics expressed both struggling survivor sentiments, as well as the satisfying, fulfilled side of life.

In one instance, Cree performer Jason Burnstick told the Friday audience of mainly students on a field trip that he was 3-years-old when he was separated from his family and taken into “care”. A few years later

after a brief stay with his family, he was taken to a residential school.

After sharing his story, Burnstick, accompanied by his wife Nadia, sang a song that included the words, “born with a curse – we must be made of sin”. It spoke of the temptation, as Burnstick said, “to blame yourself for your troubles when you had nothing to do with it.”

Other programming included dance and DJs, workshops, an artisan market, and artist roundtables.