

THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

APRIL 3, 2025
VOLUME 15, ISSUE 2



LETTERS: Residents Weigh in on Parking Lot Proposal

Community members offer feedback on a resident proposal to convert main Wesbrook parking lot into a pedestrian-friendly public square.

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Dog Park Plan Approved

Estimated \$230K off-leash dog park in Wesbrook could be completed by September.

BY EMMANUEL SAMOGLU

An off-leash dog park in Wesbrook Place is one step closer to completion.

The design and budget for a proposed off-leash dog park was approved by the UNA's board of directors during their monthly meeting on March 18.

Directors unanimously approved the latest plans for the park, which incorporate community feedback after a six-week public engagement period last year.

During the meeting, UNA Staff presented a revised design and project budget for the park, which is now estimated to cost \$230,000.

According to a report prepared by UNA staff, the majority of the cost at \$200,000 will be covered by the Metro Vancouver community works fund, with the remainder coming from the UNA budget.

The revised design now includes the addition of shading structures, planted trees and seating elements.

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

The revised design is expected to also allow the retention of four out of an existing eight beach volleyball courts that currently occupy the site.

The proposed site, north of Birney Avenue near Ross Drive and Webber Lane, was selected by a working group. It was chosen based on its central location and other nearby recreational spaces.

The site is also reserved for an elementary school; however, construction of the school is not expected to begin for an estimated five to 10 years.

During discussion of the revised plan, UNA director Sandy Song asked whether the board should postpone approval of the park until more details of the proposed school are available.

In response, directors and UNA staff told Song that the school's construction would be prioritized in the event of any

Wesbrook Welcomes the Arts



The UNA hosted the community for the annual Spring Art Fair on March 15. The fair, held at the Wesbrook Community Centre, featured art galleries, an artisan market with over 20 vendors, and musical performances – including headliners Magic Kingdom and Merlin the Magician, piano, guitar and flute performances by local youth, a K-pop hip hop dance show, and traditional Chinese dancing. It was the third spring art fair organized by the UNA, and was described by staff as the most successful one to date.

potential conflicts or issues with the dog park.

Maintenance costs for the park will be absorbed into the existing UNA budget, operations manager Wegland Sit said during the meeting.

Subject to funding approvals, the park project will go to tender in Mid-May, with construction beginning in late June and the park opening between mid-September and early October.

Directors Discuss Dogs, Development and More

March board of directors meeting also included a presentation on campus crime statistics by local RCMP.

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Making Peace with Canada Geese

With increased geese sightings in the university neighbourhoods, residents are advised to keep space during spring nesting season.

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Opinion: More Opportunities for Community Gardening Please

The UNA should emulate a city-run program and let community volunteers beautify public spaces.

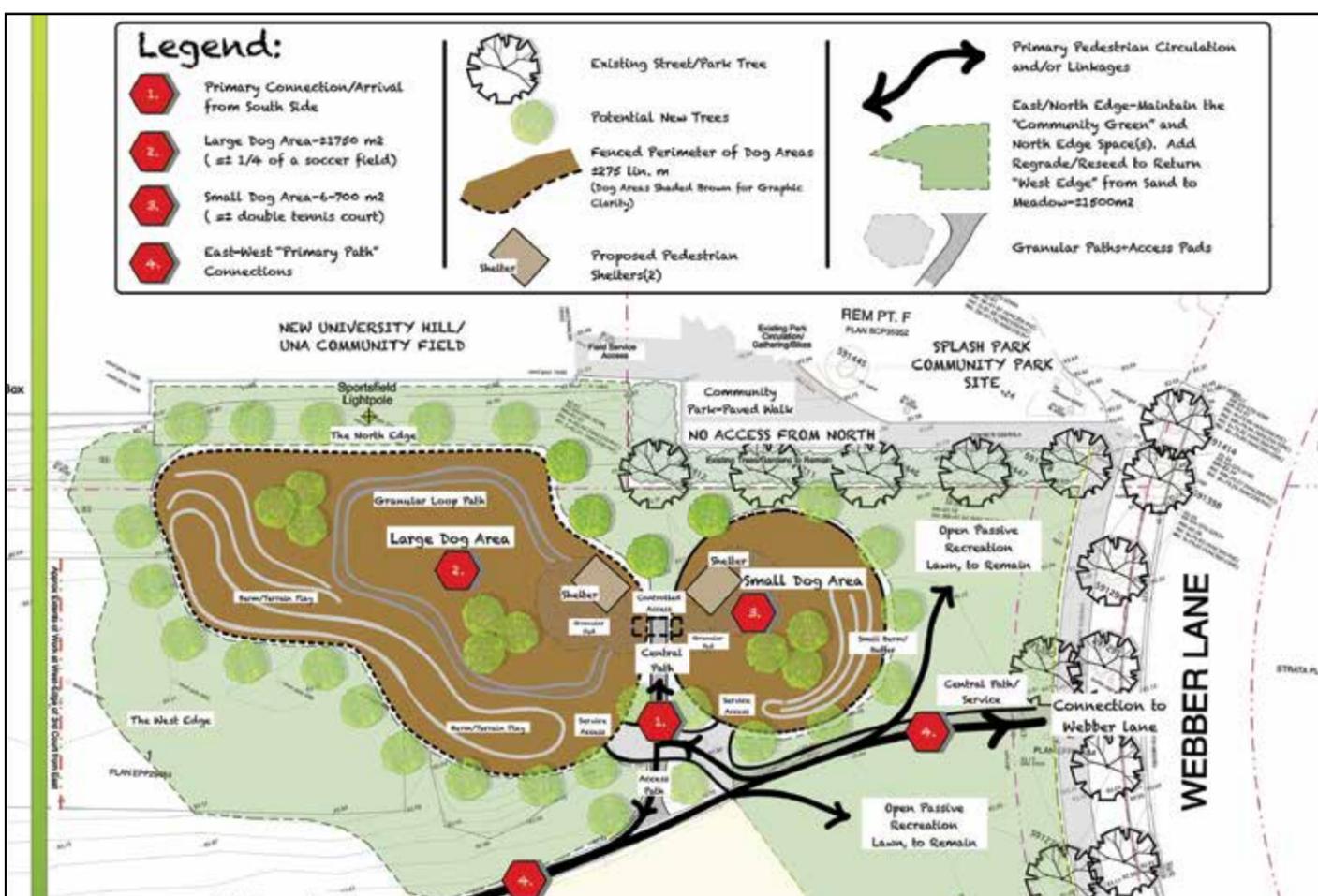
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Grocery Shopping on a Budget: Best Prices and Strategies to Save

It costs a lot to live in Vancouver, but The Campus Resident has some ideas to help you save on your grocery bill.

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The updated design of the UNA's planned off-leash dog park. (Source: UNA)

Directors Asked to Declare Potential Conflicts of Interest Going Forward

March board meeting also included a presentation on crime and update on off-leash dog park.

BY DANIEL LI

The UNA Board of Director's meeting on March 18 included the introduction of a new policy; the board chair Eagle Glassheim asked directors to declare anything that had a potential for perceived conflict of interest.

No conflicts were declared during the meeting.

When reached for comment regarding the reasoning behind the new policy and whether any allegations of conflict of interest have been made against members of the board, UNA Corporate Services Specialist Chris Hakim said, "This is a standard practice amongst other boards of directors, serving as a useful reminder to directors at the start of each meeting to ensure they do not have any conflicts of interest to disclose."

"Implementing this is part of the UNA's continuing efforts to incorporate best governance practices into its procedures," he added.

Campus Crime Update

In a quarterly crime presentation to the UNA Board, RCMP Staff Sgt. Chuck Lan noted that there had been 1150 calls for service to date for 2025. Directors were told calls for service is a category that includes instances of officers responding to crime and other issues.

While presenting data for the years 2022-2024, Lan expressed concern that the number of calls for service

increased from 3787 in 2023, to 5955 in 2024.

He attributed the increase to population growth on campus.

While members of the Board expressed alarm over the data and inquired about increasing the number of officers in the RCMP's university detachment, analysis conducted by *The Campus Resident* found that many categories of crime which fall under the category of calls to service have seen a decline from 2023 to 2024.

Total violent crime has declined 12 per cent from 274 incidents in 2023 to 244 in 2024, with a 9 per cent decrease in total assaults. Domestic violence saw a 29 per cent decrease over the same time period.

While total property crime is up 10 per cent from 855 incidences in 2023 to 946 in 2024, incidents of break and enter and stolen property have also declined.

Staff Sgt. Lan later told *The Campus Resident* that the data presented to directors was not a complete list of calls for service, and that the category is a broad one.

The category refers to instances where the RCMP responds to crime-related matters, but also includes instances that do not concern crime, such as individuals visiting the detachment to discuss job opportunities with RCMP staff, Lan said. A complete list wasn't included in the presentation to UNA directors.

A more detailed

breakdown of the RCMP's call to service data was also not immediately available.

Update on Campus Development

Following the end of the second round of community engagement for the planned Wesbrook Place South expansion, the first major step in Campus Vision 2050, members of UBC Campus + Community Planning updated the Board about their findings and next steps.

In their report, it was noted that community members strongly supported the creation of new parks, a new sports center aimed for teens and another grocery store.

Concerns were noted about whether amenities and services would be able to keep pace with the expanded population, with a focus on education and childcare.

The draft plan will be available for viewing and commenting from March 24 to April 6 on the UBC Campus + Community Planning website before it goes before the UBC Board of Governors property committee in June.

Off-leash Dog Park

After a six-week public engagement period on the proposed off-leash dog park, UNA Staff presented a revised dog park design and project budget that included the addition of shading structures, planted trees and seating elements. The revised design and budget were unanimously approved by the Board.

DANIEL LI IS A GRADE 11 STUDENT PASSIONATE ABOUT POLITICS AND JOURNALISM.



March's UNA board meeting included a crime update from the local detachment of the RCMP. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

Spring 2025 is great time to try
LAWN BOWLING and CROQUET
 at West Point Grey Lawn Bowling Club
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 <p>Lawn Bowling Lessons (weather dependent)</p> <p>1:20 pm April 16, 18, 22 & 24</p> <p>1:45 pm May 4, 11 & 18</p> <p>6:45 pm April 15, 17, 22 & 24</p>	 <p>Croquet Lessons (Text or call Sue at 604.812.9765)</p> <hr/> <p>Unsure about Lawn Bowling? Drop by to try it out!</p> <p>10:00 am May 3, 10, 17 & 24</p> <p>1:45 pm June 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29</p>
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Canada Geese Here to Stay

Residents advised to keep space during spring nesting season.

BY EMMANUEL SAMOGLU

They may be seen as a nuisance by some, but Canada geese aren't going anywhere unless they choose to.

With the arrival of warmer temperatures, residents have reported sightings of the birds, along with some of the adverse effects that can come with their presence.

Many geese have made their presence on campus and in residential areas around Wesbrook, specifically Michael Smith Park and Mundell Park.

"We understand that

Canada geese do have some adverse effects in the community such as droppings and grazing," said UNA communications manager Glenda Ollero in an email to *The Campus Resident*.

GEESE CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



The Campus Resident values a diversity of voices and views.

Submit your letter to the editor to:
editor@thecampusresident.ca

APRIL 3, 2025

Volume 15
Issue 2

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THE CAMPUS RESIDENT
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The Campus Resident is published monthly, except for the months of August and January. It can also be accessed online at THECAMPUSRESIDENT.CA.

Published by the University Neighbourhoods Association
#202-5923 Berton Avenue,
Vancouver BC, V6S 0B3.

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We acknowledge that *The Campus Resident* is published on the ancestral, unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and selilwítlh (Tsleil-Waututh) nations.

LETTERS

Residents Weigh in on Parking Lot Proposal

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I disagree with Ian Carter's premise ("A More Pedestrian-Friendly Wesbrook Village" - *The Campus Resident*, March 6). The underground parking is already close to maximum in its use. With the increased residency over the next few years, without the surface parking which he advocates eliminating, it will become inadequate to serve the community.

Then what happens?

Residents, especially those who need to use their vehicle to buy groceries, will travel to Dunbar, West Point Grey and Kitsilano to shop where they can park. Increased traffic and increased emissions are the result.

This shopping area doesn't just serve the Wesbrook neighbourhood, but all the neighbourhoods on the campus. Why should those residents be targeted with the negative impact?

Mr. Carter by his own admission acknowledges that the current situation is not dangerous. Finally, has *The Campus Resident* asked the opinion of local merchants, like Save-On Foods, Shoppers Drug Mart, or the BC Liquor Store? The problem with this article is that it presented only one point of view.

If you are a commercial tenant with UBC Properties Trust and they suddenly eliminate one of the reasons you set up shop and lose business due to a reduction in parking, you will likely seek legal recourse. If the UNA is publicly supportive of a pedestrian mall, it may also be drawn into litigation.

We are dealing with The Jim Pattison Group and Loblaw's. These are large, multi-billion dollar corporate giants.

RON BOURGEOIS, RESIDENT AND UNA DIRECTOR

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

While I appreciate and share Mr. Carter's interest in ensuring that the urban design in the community is generally "pedestrian-friendly," a more thorough and formal public consultation should be conducted before imposing Mr. Carter's idea on residents or even using it as a serious "reference point."

To encourage planners to move forward with an unsolicited proposal and commission feasibility studies (paid for, I presume, with taxpayers money) without the idea being ever subjected to the public for scrutiny seems self-serving and irresponsible. I trust that the UNA Board will not proceed with using this proposal as a reference point without as much as asking residents at large how they feel about this specific approach to ease legitimate traffic concerns in the area – and allowing other perspectives to come to light before dedicating any tax revenues to exploring this particular alternative.

Some important points that the proposal overlooks include the fact that not all elderly residents and people with disabilities can walk the distance between the underground parking and Shoppers Drug Mart or Save-On-Foods – never mind manage the experience and hazards of navigating the moving escalator, a challenge also experienced by families with small children.

It does not mention that when the escalator breaks down it may take months for it to be repaired, as demonstrated earlier this year, nor the scarcity and inconvenient location of the escalator from the parkade to ground level. It remains silent on security concerns associated with using underground, more secluded parking in late evening hours. It overlooks the fact that the risk of collision between cars and pedestrians does not disappear simply by moving parking underground. It also fails to account for the impact of eliminating what he considers a current "surplus" of underground parking spaces at the time when the community is about to double its population.

I am also puzzled by the purported need to create more public gathering spaces, considering how exceptionally well-provisioned Wesbrook Village already is in this regard. It is hard to imagine a community better equipped to facilitate social connections.

I have lived in the UNA area for 25 years. I am one of the first members of the UNA and I know how much good this organization can do for the residents of this area. But to do so it is critically important that initiatives advocated by individuals be appropriately consulted with the community before any efforts or investments to explore their feasibility are made.

I trust that UNA leadership will exercise good judgment and ensue a proper public consultation before taking any steps that would advance Mr. Carter's proposal.

ANDRZEJ J. WROBLEWSKI, RESIDENT

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Nice article about the proposed redevelopment of the surface parking in the March 6 issue.

The idea of a central area as outlined seems feasible, keeping the easternmost driveway for businesses, disabled parking, small children with parents, and emergency vehicles.

The University Hill Secondary School dropoff points should be reworked so they are all accessed from Gray Avenue, and none come into the already congested centre of Wesbrook. This might require the school to have a traffic monitor to expedite the flow.

Recently, the moving ramp was out of service for a prolonged period of time; when this happens again, what will the access to and from the underground parking be for folks using walkers, wheelchairs or scooters, aside from the vehicle ramp?

LAWRENCE BURR, RESIDENT



"I trust that UNA leadership will exercise good judgment and ensue a proper public consultation before taking any steps that would advance Mr. Carter's proposal."

Pedestrians in the main parking lot in Wesbrook Village, pictured here in February 2025. A proposal by a retired architect and resident to convert the lot to a pedestrian-friendly space has drawn feedback from community members. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

OPINION

Listen to Residents on Development, UNA says

The following letter was written by UNA Chair Eagle Glassheim and addressed to UBC's Board of Governors, with copies sent to Michael White, UBC Associate Vice-President, Campus & Community Planning, BC Premier and Vancouver-Point Grey MLA David Eby, and UNA Chief Administrative Officer Paul Thorkelsson.

BY EAGLE GLASSHEIM

As UBC considers its next phase of development in the Wesbrook neighbourhood, the UNA urges the University to incorporate resident input into the amended neighbourhood plan. While the unique governance structure of our neighbourhoods vests decision-making authority in the University's Board of Governors, the locally-elected UNA Board represents resident interests and views on development. Absent revisions to this governance structure, we can only respectfully request that the University integrate resident feedback into its neighbourhood plans.

In the current phase of the Wesbrook Neighbourhood Plan amendment process, the University outlines core components of Wesbrook's expansion to the south. Following this round of public engagement and consultation with the Board of Governors Property Committee, UBC will produce a detailed plan for final consideration. Our input here is for UBC's consideration in its preparation of the full neighbourhood plan amendment.

The draft plan includes several elements that residents and the UNA have advocated over the past year and continue to support. These include:

- The retention of most of the forested area and wetland on the southern edge of the neighbourhood;
- Space for childcare, retail, and programming proportionate to the population growth envisioned in the plan;
- Expanded park space and greenway network;
- A reconsideration of active transportation networks to reflect growth in usage and rectify shortcomings in previous neighbourhood plans.

The success of these proposals in meeting current and future residents' needs will depend on the details in the plan. While the UNA has in the past objected to the magnitude of growth envisioned for the Wesbrook Neighbourhood, our concerns here focus on how that growth will be realized. The UNA respectfully requests the following:

1. Retail Space

- Given how busy the Save-On Foods store is, residents strongly favour a discount grocery option in Wesbrook South, as well as a Canada Post outlet. The Wesbrook South commercial area should be large enough to accommodate additional services proportionate to its population. These could include medical, dental, paramedical, and other services, as needed.

2. Community Space

- The existing Wesbrook Community Centre is already operating at capacity and should be supplemented to accommodate new population growth (around 2,500 in areas currently under development, plus 4,600 envisioned for Wesbrook South). The Wesbrook Plan should include



sufficient community space (at least 5,000 sq ft) to accommodate several rooms for programming, meetings, and events. The Plan should also leave open the possibility of further expansion of community space if needed.

3. Sustainability Space

- The Neighbourhood Climate Action Plan commits UBC to "support the UNA to create community hubs and programming (for) sharing, re-use and repair (e.g. clothing, bicycles, electronics, appliances)." UBC must follow through on this commitment by incorporating sufficient space (at least 2,000 sq ft) in Wesbrook South to house a sustainability hub, with a full recycling centre, tool-share, and resource centre.

4. Safe Walking and Biking

- The Wesbrook Plan should commit UBC to thorough public consultations on the existing and future active transportation network in Wesbrook, including crossings and interfaces with the rest of campus. This should include a reconsideration of all pedestrian and bike crossings on 16th Avenue (including roundabouts);

the addition of bike-ways on Ross, Binning, and Gray; a pedestrian-friendly re-design of the central business district parking lot; and renewal of the pedestrian crossing on Wesbrook Mall in the heart of the Village.

5. Expanded Services

- The addition of over 7,000 new residents in Wesbrook over the next ten years will significantly escalate pressure on schools, emergency services, transit, and policing. The Wesbrook Plan should commit UBC to proactive advocacy for the construction of a new elementary school, the expansion of emergency services facilities, and expanded transit service connecting Wesbrook to UBC and Vancouver.

6. Strategic Densification

- If UBC chooses to include six towers to realize expanded densities in Wesbrook South, it should give additional consideration to the configuration of those towers. If the goal is to minimize shading (especially of the public open spaces of the neighbourhood), the plan should shift some of the tower height from the southern edge of the neighbourhood to the eastern edge. For example, the proposed 26-story building on the south side of Binning would block sunlight on the greenway. Additionally, a 30-story tower on the corner of Wesbrook and Binning seems excessive and out of proportion with existing structures in that area.

We appreciate your consideration of resident input in these consequential decisions shaping future development in our neighbourhoods. 🙌

EAGLE GLASSHEIM IS ALSO CHAIR OF THE UNIVERSITY NEIGHBOURHOODS ASSOCIATION AND IS A PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT UBC.



OPINION

More Opportunities for Community Gardening Please

With a long wait list for UNA garden plots, we should emulate a city-run program in Vancouver and let community volunteers beautify our public spaces.

BY ROBYN STARKEY

Ask any gardener when they are relaxing on a warm spring evening outdoors, drink in hand, about the mental and physical health benefits of gardening, and they will be happy to tell you how being in the garden just makes them feel good.

Planting, watering, and even weeding provide opportunities not just for exercise, but for well-being. There's plenty of research that supports what gardeners know from experience - just getting out there with the plants has multiple benefits.

As an avid patio gardener, I am the last person to suggest that apartment living means that people cannot have gardens in small spaces — you can do a surprising amount with containers in small spaces, as my garden will attest.

However, people with smaller, windier, or shadier balconies might find their opportunities limited. When they think



The author's patio garden. (Photo: Robyn Starkey)



A pollinator garden located in Wesbrook Place, adjacent to the community garden plots in Nobel Park. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou).

about gardening, they might want to dig holes in the earth, and to have more scope to grow a variety of plants, rather than just a few pots.

The popularity of the community garden plots and the long wait-list show that UNA residents are looking for opportunities to get their hands dirty. Community garden plots offer a limited

"What if these spaces could be tended by people who want the opportunity to do some gardening?"

opportunity for people who want to grow specific types of crops. Not everyone wants to grow kale and tomatoes, even if they are patient enough to wait several years for a garden plot to become available.

Community garden plots are not the only places where plants are growing in our neighbourhoods, though.

There are plenty of little green spaces all over our neighbourhoods that have a few plants in them. Many of these spaces are

boring or scruffy with a few sad plants that aren't doing particularly well, and they get minimal attention from gardeners focused on keeping areas looking tidy, rather than interesting. Many of them are planted with monocultures of plants that provide little support for pollinators.

If you can identify what these floral cultures are, you'll notice they're picked because of their unfussy upkeep and ostensible inoffensiveness, but that's a moot point, given that black-eyed Susans will never not be an eyesore.

What if these spaces could be tended by people who want the opportunity to do some gardening?

Boulevard garden initiatives in Vancouver and Victoria encourage residents in many neighbourhoods to take care of spaces like these. Likewise, community garden initiatives encourage residents to get involved with green spaces in parks and other locations.

The biodiversity planters and the pollinator gardens located near community garden plots both provide models of how community garden spaces could be enriched.

Allowing the spaces to be developed and maintained by volunteers would create opportunities for community to develop around gardening.

What if instead of the broad swath of stephanotis, there was a wildflower garden that supported more types of butterflies? 🦋

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

UNA UNIVERSITY NEIGHBOURHOODS ASSOCIATION

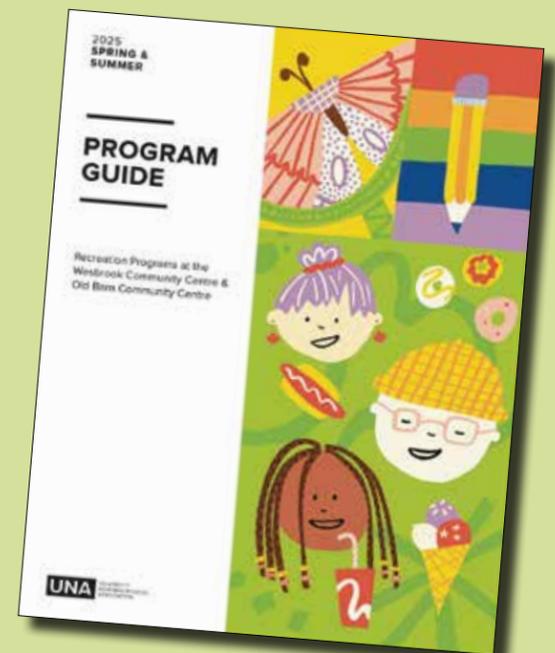
REGISTER NOW

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.).



Grocery Shopping on a Budget: Best Prices and Strategies to Save



It costs a lot to live in Vancouver, but *The Campus Resident* has some ideas to help you save on your grocery bill.

BY ELINA HAILAIJIAO & DANIEL VILLAR

It's become a common reaction these days to see prices at a local supermarket and say, "Oh my goodness".

We all want to enjoy our favorite snacks and meals while staying within a reasonable budget, but that hasn't been easy in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis.

So what are some ways to keep that grocery bill under control?

For campus residents and students, saving money on groceries isn't just about finding discounts. It requires a combination of strategies and making smart choices about how and where to shop.

Whether comparing prices, adopting budgeting techniques, or even using a dedicated shopping app on your smartphone, there are ways to stretch your precious dollars when shopping for groceries.

Where to Shop: A Price Comparison at UBC

Yes, Vancouver is known for its high cost of living, and groceries are no exception. There have been many attempts to settle a debate that has been going on for years: where should campus residents shop for the cheapest groceries?

For those living on campus and the surrounding areas, choosing the right supermarket can certainly make a difference with your grocery bill, but that's not always an easy task – as the saying goes, time equals money.

And the stakes are high, as prices can

often be starkly different for the same products. In an informal survey, *The Campus Resident* found that nearly two thirds of community members said they shopped at least once a week and felt that prices varied a lot.

With quite a few choices both on and off campus, we set out to compare prices at 6 stores in the broader campus area. All pricing data was collected on Sunday March 16, and when an identical item wasn't available, we chose the closest alternative.

Many stores position themselves strategically within the retail grocery sector; whether a discount store focusing on value with generic brands or an upmarket retailer stocking premium products. This diversity is reflected in our findings in the table below, which show some significant price variations.

As our data shows, prices are in line with what would be expected, with a discount supermarket like No Frills offering the cheapest basket of groceries. The data also shows that there are deals out there for those willing to put in the work.

So how to find them?

An increasingly popular money-saving tip is to use a smartphone app to compare prices.

Flipp, available for both Apple and



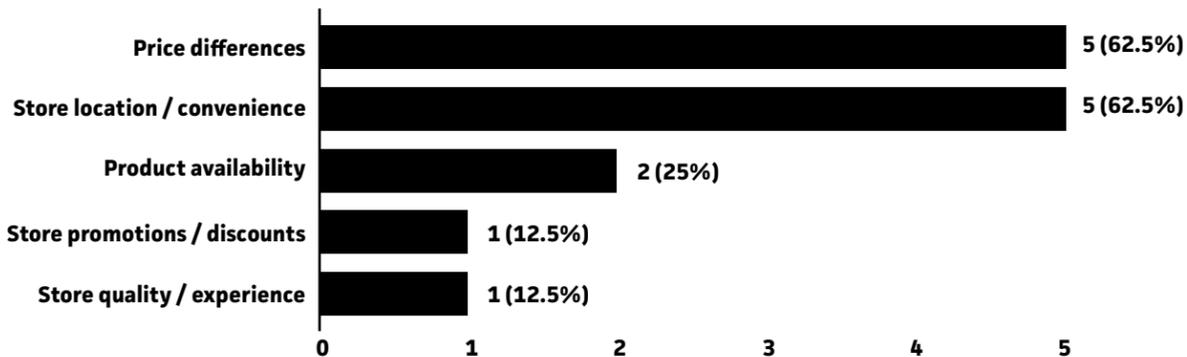
Android phones, is a tool that allows shoppers to compare product prices at different grocery stores as they seek the best deals.

At cooperating stores, including Save-On Foods in Wesbrook Village, a Flipp user can show a cheaper price from a competitor on a particular product and request a price match. Alternatively, they can plan their shopping accordingly to make a few extra stops to pick up the week's staples and take advantage of cheaper prices elsewhere.

And according to our data in the bar chart to the left, prices and convenience are the two most important factors when grocery shopping.

By taking advantage of digital tools like Flipp, shoppers can plan their grocery trips more efficiently, make informed choices, and save money.

Which factor influences your grocery shopping choices the most?



*Chart data compiled by Daniel Villar

Sample Price Comparison:

	Save-on Foods Wesbrook	The Food Hub at UBC	Urban Fare - Lelem Village	No Frills W4th	Chit Chat Enterprise (University Village)	Safeway W4th
Iceberg lettuce	\$3.99	Not in Stock	\$4.29	\$3.99	\$3.49	\$3.99
Chicken legs (price per KG)	\$9.99	N/A- vegetarian based	\$8.07	\$8.36	\$7.56	\$6.69
Pasta (Barilla spaghetti, 410g)	\$3.00	\$2.75 (Barilla brand N/A)	\$3.49	\$2.79	\$4.99	\$2.99
White rice - Long grain 32oz/ 907grams	\$2.90	\$3.04 (only jasmine rice available)	\$3.25	\$2.72 (Based on available 2Kg bag at \$6.00)	\$2.99	\$2.69
Cauliflower	\$6.49	Not in stock	\$6.49	\$3.99	\$5.98 (Based on price @ \$2.99/lb, avg weight 2lb)	\$3.49
Wholewheat bread. (Cheapest loaf)	\$1.99	\$2.88	\$5.99	\$1.99	\$4.99	\$1.99
Milk (Dairyland 2% milk, 4 litres)	\$6.09	\$3.29 (only have 1L)	\$6.49	\$5.63	\$7.99	\$6.09
Butter (Dairyland, unsalted, 454g).	\$8.55	\$7.38	\$9.85	\$5.89	\$5.99	\$7.79
Granny Smith apples (price per KG)	\$8.80	\$2.15 (Based on price @ \$0.43 each, avg weight 200g)	\$8.80	\$6.59	\$5.48	\$9.22
Totals	\$51.80	N/A	\$56.72	\$41.95	\$49.46	\$44.94



More Smart Grocery Shopping Strategies

One of the simplest, yet most effective ways, to save money is by having a list when shopping.

A well-thought-out grocery list will keep a shopper focused on essentials and prevent those impulse buys that can lead to regrets later on. Pair this with a dedicated meal plan, which not only helps cut down on food waste, but also helps with sticking to a budget.

ELINA HAILAIJIAO IS A STUDENT AT LORD BYNG SECONDARY SCHOOL.

DANIEL VILLAR IS A PROFESSIONAL CHEF AND NEWCOMER TO VANCOUVER. HAVING LIVED AND WORKED IN MANY PLACES, HE'S EXCITED TO BE PART OF THE VIBRANT UBC COMMUNITY AND WESBROOK VILLAGE.

IN OUR WORDS

Local Initiative Explores Political Narratives

With the federal election underway, resident Kirsten Larson has organized a series of campus events that critically analyze the messaging being fed to the public by Canada's major political parties.

BY KIRSTEN LARSON

As an anthropologist and recent UBC graduate, I am aiming to bridge the gap between academia and the public by creating community events and thought experiments that engage with academic research.

That is why I created *The Wayward Wonder*.

With a federal election underway, and as part of this initiative, I have organized a discussion mini-series on campus at Acadia Park which delves into how politicians craft narratives to shape public perception. This ongoing discussion group is analyzing each party leader in the forthcoming federal election, offering participants a thought-provoking space to engage with diverse perspectives.

The series does not promote any particular political belief, but rather encourages participants to critically examine the narratives they encounter.

The first event focused on a case study of Prime Minister Mark Carney and the Liberal Party, drawing a mix of attendees from across the political spectrum.

This diversity led to a dynamic and insightful conversation on Canadian identity and the nation's future.

One particularly spirited exchange explored the lengths to which individuals would go to protect Canada's sovereignty.

"I would rather Canada become communist than American," one participant said, prompting a counterpoint

from another who said, "I don't know, America has some pretty cool sports teams—our entertainment and economic sectors would improve if we became the 51st state."

Despite such opposing viewpoints, my co-facilitator Emily Sorrenti and I were able to maintain an atmosphere of respect and open dialogue.



Prime Minister Mark Carney, currently seeking election, was recently the focus of a discussion group on campus, part of an initiative that offers residents the opportunity to engage with each other and hear diverse perspectives. (Photo: Liberal Party of Canada)

This is a part of their ongoing goal to encourage attendees to critically examine their own beliefs and engage in constructive debates, rather than promote any particular ideology.

While no consensus was reached, participants left with a deeper understanding of their own worldview and each other's, which is an invaluable outcome in an era of political polarization.

The *Wayward Wonder* continues with more thought-provoking discussions this month.

On April 10, they will take a closer look at Conservative Party of Canada leader Pierre Poilievre and on April 24, up for discussion will be the evolving identity of the New Democratic Party.

Both events begin at 6:00 p.m., and will take place at 2707 Tennis Crescent in Acadia Park. [📍](#)

KIRSTEN LARSON IS AN ANTHROPOLOGIST AND CAMPUS RESIDENT. FOR EVENT DETAILS, FOLLOW WAYWORD WONDER ON INSTAGRAM AT @WAY.WARDWONDER.

GEESE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

"Canada geese are protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994 (MBCA). As they are a protected species, we at the UNA, and the general public, are not allowed to intervene through any management practices."

Ollero said workers do not specifically clean up after geese in the areas they congregate, but will clean targeted areas such as sidewalks when needed.

Canada geese are not native to British Columbia and are present in the province only as a result of intentional introductions by humans. They were introduced into Metro Vancouver in the 1970s, and they have no natural predators.

The geese are traditionally migratory; however, many populations have stopped migrating due to the availability of prime habitat, with plenty of grass to eat. Birds from Canada's northern, sub-arctic regions still maintain their well-known migratory behaviour, nesting in Canada and spend-

ing their winters in the United States.

According to a Vancouver Park Board report, there were a minimum of 2,200 geese in Vancouver in 2022, with the population estimated to be growing at a rate of 18 per cent every year.

The board report included a management plan that proposed culling an undisclosed number of the birds, as forecasting projected the population could increase to 10,000 by 2030.

The report said the geese can pollute beaches and pools, destroy juvenile salmon habitat, and act aggressively toward people and pets.

The City of Vancouver advises people to not feed geese, as it can encourage them to congregate in populated areas. It is also advised to give geese and their goslings lots of space to avoid negative encounters, particularly during the spring nesting season.

EMMANUEL SAMOGLU IS THE MANAGING EDITOR OF *THE CAMPUS RESIDENT*.



Canada geese in Mundell Park, pictured here last month. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

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After 64 years, Book Finally Returned to UBC Library

A UBC alum finally returned his library book after six decades—along with a letter of explanation and a \$100 cheque.

BY LUI XIA LEE

When UBC University Librarian Susan Parker opened a package from Canada Post in January, she wasn't expecting to find a book that had been checked out before The Beatles became famous.

"Most people return overdue books surreptitiously or anonymously," says Parker. "I've never received one this long overdue."

Typically, when people meet Parker for the first time, they start with an apology.

"They always say, 'It's nice to meet you, and I'm sorry,'" she said with a laugh. "They'll admit to having a book that's a few days or weeks late but 64 years is a new record."

This package came from UBC alum Robert Murray, who borrowed the book from the library over six decades ago. Now 83, living in the interior of B.C., Murray decided to finally return the book along with a letter of explanation for his tardiness and a \$100 cheque.

The book was a 1931 edition of *Camping and Woodcraft: Handbook for vacation campers and for travelers in the wilderness*, originally written in 1906 by Horace Kephart. Murray borrowed the book as a second-year electrical engineering student at UBC in 1960.

In Murray's letter, he explained why he'd kept this book for as long as he did even after he graduated in 1963.

"I determined that this book was a treasure – a light year ahead of anything published on the subject at the time I borrowed it, and it has remained so over anything I've seen published since," he wrote.

Murray's package to the library also included a newspaper clipping from the July 17, 2014, edition of *The Province*. In an unusual coincidence, the clipping told a similar story. Someone returned the 1965 edition of the same book to the Prince George Public Library after 30 years.

Sixty-four Years of Adventures

For more than six decades, Murray re-read the book multiple times. He even credits it with potentially saving his and his son's lives.

"While in my 50s, my younger son and I got lost once hiking up to Mount Young," said Murray.

Murray had explored the area on horseback as a youth and wanted to return on foot. It was late June and the weather was warm. But as they made their way through the mountains, an intense and long-lasting downpour hit worse than anything Murray had experienced.

"We got utterly soaked, especially my son," he said.

To add to their woes, they were misled by a compass that malfunctioned due to what they later learned was a magnetic anomaly. As a result, they did not find the trail they were searching for. By mid-afternoon, they had reached Burrell Creek, and Murray knew they had gone too far and decided to set up camp.

"My son wanted to put up our tent, and I said, 'No, a tent's no good in the rain,'" said Murray.

The book had been clear: In conditions like these, a lean-to shelter was the way to go especially since they had a tarp for the roof along with a fire. The shelter would reflect the heat from the fire, drying out the ground, and keeping them warm.

Once the fire got going and the lean-to was built, Murray noticed his son was shivering badly.

"I wasn't too badly off because I was wearing a poncho over everything with wool pants," Murray said. "But my son, he was wearing jeans."

Murray recalled from the book that wool is one of the few materials that keeps you warm even when it's wet.

"I finally said, 'Take off your clothes,' and he just looked at me aghast," said Murray. "You're standing by the fire and the water



A 1931 edition of *Camping and Woodcraft: Handbook for vacation campers and for travelers in the wilderness*, originally written in 1906 by Horace Kephart, was returned by Robert Murray to UBC Library 64 years overdue. (Photo: UBC Library Communications & Marketing.)

in your clothes is evaporating and taking heat from your body as well. You'll warm up better if you take off your clothes and hang them on the ridgepole to dry, and let the fire warm your body directly."

An hour later, his son was dry and cozy, reading a book and eating stew that had been prepared from scratch and cooked over the fire.

The next morning, they abandoned their original plan to find the trail to Mount Young and decided to head home instead.

Murray and his son returned the following year and found the trail. Together, they reflected on the lessons learned.

"A few years later, my son then mentioned that small tents were no good in the rain, and I asked, 'Who taught you that?' He said, 'You did!'"

'Ideal Library Book Caretaker'

Despite the book's many adventures, it was returned in good condition and will soon be going back into the library's circulation.

"Although he returned it six decades late, he was an ideal library book caretaker," said Parker. "I've seen books deteriorated more that were loaned out for much shorter periods of time, and even found a book where they had clearly used a piece of bacon as a bookmark."

Parker said she was impressed and wrote back to Murray thanking him for returning the book after all this time.

"He could have just mailed the book back without saying anything, but the fact that he shared his story was really special," she says. "I loved knowing that he had a really great practical use for it and the book was really important to him."

As for Murray, he's glad the book is back in the library.

"It's been many years since I read that book, but I wouldn't mind actually reading it again," he said. "To whoever picks up the book next, I hope they value it."

As for Murray's overdue fees, there are none. In 2020, UBC Library eliminated most overdue fines. Murray's \$100 cheque will be put toward other backlogged fees.

If you have an overdue book or a few, Parker encourages folks to contact the library.

"At the end of the day, we just want the books back," said Parker. "We don't want to punish people or feel that they cannot use the library because they have an overdue book." 📖

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