

THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

MAY 1, 2025
VOLUME 15, ISSUE 3



Celebrating Asian Heritage Month with Classic Chinese Cinema

A UBC professor has curated a collection of over forty early Chinese films from the 1920s to the 1950s – described as the largest free online collection of its kind.

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Learning to Live with Fire

A campus event on April 3 dealt with the growing threat of urban wildfires to the lower mainland, and the need to learn to coexist with this new reality.

BY OLIVIA HAI LAI JIAO

A trio of leading voices including academics and bestselling authors recently participated in a campus event to raise awareness over the growing threat of wildfires in British Columbia and along the West Coast.

The event, titled *West coast fire: Coexisting with urban wildfires in BC*, was held last month and was moderated by UBC professor Suzanne Simard, and featured UBC Professor Lori Daniel and Vancouver-based author and journalist John Vaillant.

The conversation addressed the severe impact of fires on individuals and communities as well as fire's significant role in urban society and its reshaping of communities, ecosystems, and our sense of security.

Yet rather than just being a warning of more frequent and intense fires, the discussion raised the need for a collective perspective shift: to move from fear and suppression of this natural occurrence towards one of understanding, adaptation and coexistence.

British Columbia has had a long history with fire. In 1886, Vancouver faced a fire that resulted in an estimated 20 deaths and burned so hot that most of the young city's buildings burnt to the ground in about 45 minutes. More recently, the

2023 McDougall Creek Fire burned an estimated 13,500 hectares in the Okanagan putting 35,000 people under an evacuation alert.

Although part of the Pacific temperate rainforests, the region isn't immune to the risk of burning. And in recent decades the conditions that lead to wildfires have been progressively worsening. Environmental factors such as drought, warmer temperatures, and low humidity have been exacerbated, making our surroundings more fire prone. As discussed during the event, climate change has played a role in creating these conditions.

The 2023 wildfire season in BC broke records. The government describes it as the most destructive in the province's recorded history with than 2.84 million hectares of forest and land burned.

The devastation of the Fort McMurray fire in 2016, Fort Nelson in 2015, and this year's Los Angeles fire further expose the danger posed by fire and these changing conditions.

Daniels acknowledged that due to

Campus Youth Hop Into Action



The campus community showed up in big numbers on April 19 for the UNA's Easter Eggstravaganza event. Held at The Old Barn Community Centre, youth participated in a Easter egg hunt and had the opportunity to get creative with arts and crafts activities. (Photo: UNA)

these incremental changes in weather conditions, BC crossed a tipping point for fires in 2005, joining parts of Australia and California as a global wildfire hotspot.

Simard addressed the complex nature of fire and its many roles. She stated that fire is not just destructive but is also part of a broader, natural cycle that's essential to an ecosystem's biodiversity and health. Yet it is the impact of human activity that's intensifying the frequency and scales of fires, emphasizing its increasingly destructive nature.

Vaillant, author of the bestseller *Fire Weather*, spoke further on this point, highlighting fire as a defining element to modern humanity. "Do you know how much fire people use globally in a day?", the author asked the audience.

Vaillant said human civilization has been shaped by fire, from prehistoric survival to industrialization, and to modern times dominated by technological innovation. However, our reliance on combustion has also made us vulnerable.

Wildfire in our region is a problem, but as Daniels pointed out, many experience a disconnect to this danger due to the perceived security of our homes and a recent history of encouraging fire suppression.

B.C. became the first province to ban the practice of indigenous cultural burns with the Bush Fire Act of 1874, with other provinces following suit in the early 1900s. These government policies were based on the perspective of focusing on fire's destructive properties alone, ignoring the practice of intentional burning that had been carried out by First Nations to reduce flammable overgrowth.

FIRE CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Plenty of Summer Volunteering Opportunities for Youth

Want to get out there this summer and contribute to your community? Don't procrastinate, now is the time to start planning.

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Miles From Ordinary

After passing by for years, writer Jayne Seagrave finally visits Westward Ho! Public House & Grill Room, the restaurant located at the University Golf Club.

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Enhancing Seismic Resilience at UBC

Since 2012, UBC has invested more than \$200 million in seismic upgrades to buildings and infrastructure, including the \$40-million, 18-month seismic upgrade of the Museum of Anthropology.

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Panelists at a recent campus event said humans must adapt and learn to co-exist with more frequent and intense wildfires. (Photo: Vivian Su)

Norma Rose Point Playground Project Stalled

School's parent action committee is looking to expedite project but is waiting for approval from the Vancouver School Board before it can continue fundraising.

BY AMIE BERNAERDT

Norma Rose Point School initiated the process of building an intermediate playground back in May 2023, but the project has had little progress in recent months due to what appears to be miscommunication amongst stakeholders.

The elementary school, located in the University Endowment Lands on the east part of campus, had nearly 800 students enrolled in 2024 but still lacks a playground for 4th-7th grade students. The only playground is reserved for kindergarten to 3rd graders. Older students are not allowed to access this playground during recess and instead must use an outdoor gravel field with soccer goal posts.

Several years ago, the school's parent action committee (PAC) decided to see if they could make some changes to improve the outdoor play space.

In May 2023, a parent survey was conducted online through the school mailing list to determine interest in building an intermediate playground. Out of 197 parent responses, 94 per cent agreed a new playground was necessary. Student engagement activities have also reflected interest in building this playground.

In September that year, a playground committee was established to help facilitate the creation of an intermedi-

ate playground for older students. Their goal was to design a space that caters to what students and the community need, and ensure the playground design is climate-conscious.

After this initial work, it was estimated the playground would be built at an estimated cost of \$377,000, and could be paid for with a combination of grants and fundraising.

The current plan is to build the playground next to the soccer field, and to include a fitness area nearby.

In recent months, the project has reached a standstill.

"Ultimately, we haven't really dived into the fundraising portion of the project yet because we have not heard back from the Vancouver School Board about whether or not we can go ahead with our proposal," said Hannie Chia, the Norma Rose Point PAC co-chair.

Chia said the Norma Rose Point PAC has repeatedly reached out to the Vancouver School Board (VSB) through school principal Henry Peters regarding their proposal, but they have received no response.

Until the project is approved, the playground project will not move forward with additional fundraising, Chia said.

When contacted by *The Campus Resident*, a VSB spokesperson said it was their understanding that the project was paused at the end of the last school year, due to the PAC determining that the playground resources would have been better suited for another area of the school.

"The needs of communities often change, and fundraising efforts are adjusted accordingly, when possible," the spokesperson said. They said that the funds were re-allocated to purchase new computers for the school's computer lab, to replace outdated ones.

In response, Chia



The Norma Rose PAC is currently working with the Vancouver School Board to plan and build an intermediate playground for 4th-7th grade students, which would complement the existing playground that's currently available for kindergarten to 3rd graders only. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

said the project hasn't been paused, and the computers were purchased with separate funds. Existing funds raised by the PAC for the playground have been set aside in a separate account, she added.

To date, Chia said they have spent \$5000 for a preliminary consultation with a landscape architect and supplies for in-classroom workshops to assess student needs.

When reached for comment, Norma Rose Point principal Henry Peters said the playground project is a complex one with many moving parts that need to be taken into account, such as landscaping issues and ongoing development surrounding the school, as well as navigating VSB bureaucracy.

He said that the project ran up against roadblocks this year, but he is confident that the project will be able to move forward in the 2025-2026 academic year.

"The playground project is alive", he said. "It is something to bring up for next year, so nothing will be heard or contemplated until budgets are drawn up for next year."

"Let's bring it up for next year and see if we can move forward," he said.

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

*ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY EMMANUEL SAMOGLU.

UBC Briefs Directors on Finances

April monthly meeting also included lengthy debate over plans for a new office space for UNA staff.

BY DANIEL LI

The UNA's April board meeting featured a presentation from UBC Campus + Community Planning on the revenue sources that fund the UNA budget and the allocation of the Neighbours' Fund.

The Neighbour's Fund, which totalled \$10.6 million for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, contributes to the UNA's \$5.94 million operating budget, while also covering expenses for emergency services such as fire, sewers, and charges for UNA resident use of UBC's recreation facilities such as the campus aquatic centre.

After the presentation, some directors expressed concern that 44 per cent of the Neighbours' Fund was not going towards the UNA's Operating Budget, and instead towards fees and costs charged by UBC and the province for those services.

New UNA Main Office

In response to an office space shortage, the UNA has been in search of a new main office. During the meeting, UNA staff asked the board to approve finalizing negotiations with UBC Properties Trust (UBCPT) for a five-year lease on the 3rd floor of the Granite Terrace Building in Wesbrook Village, and retain a consultant

to assist with the renovation and budget for the new office.

UBCPT offered the 3,250 square feet space at \$34 per square foot alongside a \$162,450 Tenant Improvement Allowance (TIA) to help the UNA renovate the space. With UNA Staff estimating the renovation to cost \$675,000, the TIA would lower the cost to \$512,550, which would need to be withdrawn from the UNA Capital Reserve which has a current balance of \$1.3 million.

While expressing support for the move, director Jake Wiebe said he had concerns over project's estimated cost and put forward a motion to cap it at \$250,000. His motion was defeated by a vote of 2-3 with the chair not voting. In response, director Michael Kerns put forward an amended version of Wiebe's motion, allocating \$35,000 for initial consulting fees and a recommendation to send renovation's final budget to the UNA's finance committee. The motion was passed by a vote of 3-2 with board chair Eagle Glassheim breaking the tie and voting in favour.

UNA Chair Election

The board unanimously voted for incumbent UNA chair Eagle Glassheim's term to be extended from a limited six-month term to a full term.

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

FIRE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Vaillant raised the idea that humans must now accept and respect the role of fire in daily life, much like adapting to "living with bears and coyotes".

Discussion then led to strategies for our communities to co-exist with fire. Some of things mentioned included using fire-resistant materials for homes and buildings and fire-conscious urban planning. For example, recognizing the risk of fire when building schools, similar to accounting for the risk of earthquakes.

Recent and previous wildfires have left a detrimental effect on communities,

families, and neighbourhoods in our region. These aren't distant tragedies but the realities of modern life, whether on Canada's West Coast, the boreal forests of Northern Alberta, or elsewhere around the globe.

During the event, Daniels, Vaillant, and Simard all reminded the audience that the risk of fire isn't going away - and neither will humans. The knowledge and resources required are there, it's just the matter of collaboration, preparation, and adaptation.

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

MAY 1, 2025

Volume 15
Issue 3

MANAGING EDITOR, EMMANUEL SAMOGLOU
COPY EDITOR, ROBYN STARKEY
DESIGN AND PRODUCTION, REBECCA IND

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THE CAMPUS RESIDENT
EDITOR@THECAMPUSRESIDENT.CA

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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Diving Board Policy Upsets Some Parents

A change in national safety standards bars youth 12 and under from using the 3-metre diving board at UBC Aquatic Centre.

BY ANNE ZHANG

The UBC Aquatic Centre is a well-loved swimming facility in the community, offering a variety of programs for all ages. With amenities ranging from a relaxing lazy river to a 50m competition pool, it has something for everyone. Notably, the centre also features 1m and 3m diving boards, which are a favorite among visitors.

However, on January 2, management implemented a new policy placing restrictions on the usage of the 3m diving board. The policy states that individuals wishing to use the diving board must be over the age of 12 and be at least 1.35m tall.

The policy change is said to align with national safety standards set by Lifesaving Society Canada, and improve the safety of equipment users.

This new rule creates some significant changes around the 25m recreation pool – one of three pools in the centre and situated alongside a leisure pool and a 50m competition pool.

DIVING CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Don't Dismiss Parking Lot Proposal

I am writing about the recent article featuring Ian Carter's proposed redesign for the Wesbrook Village parking lot ("A More Pedestrian-Friendly Wesbrook Village" - The Campus Resident, March 6), and the (mostly) negative responses published in the most recent issue of the paper.

Lest the paper hear only from one side, I wanted to write briefly in support of exploring the redesign proposed by Mr. Carter.

We have long found the parking lot to be unfriendly to pedestrians, especially children, and have felt that there could be a better use of this central space in our community than the short-term storage of personal automobiles. Granted, accommodations should be made for those with disabilities and mobility challenges. And, of course, were the UNA to explore the redesign in earnest, they should solicit community feedback and commission various studies of the potential impact of any changes. However, I suspect some of the concerns with the proposal overstate their case.

I would be curious to see a study on how many shoppers arrive by automobile and the potential impact of removing some surface parking. Many studies elsewhere have shown that making commercial areas more pedestrian and cycle-friendly results in more commercial activity and not less. Likewise, I am not convinced that Save-On-Foods would dismiss the proposed changes out of hand. The other grocer on campus, Urban Fare (also owned by the Jim Pattison Group), is located on just this kind of pedestrian plaza. Lelem Village has a dozen or so surface parking spaces in its northwestern corner, but all other parking spaces are underground.

It may be true that by removing surface parking, some residents may drive further afield to shop, producing more emissions. However, by removing surface parking, some residents who would have otherwise driven will walk, cycle, or take public transportation, negating these emissions. The claim that the underground parking is nearing maximum capacity also needs to be tested. As a parent of a small child, I am also curious to know how an escalator poses challenges to families.

It also bears remembering that this parking lot neighbours a community centre frequented by children and seniors, a daycare, a high school, and the future site of a primary school. These groups would benefit from the proposed redesign. Why should the convenience of residents who are adults of sufficient ability and financial means to own and operate an automobile take priority over other members of our community—like these—who cannot?

Similarly, why should members who arrive by car from other neighbourhoods take priority over residents who live in Wesbrook and bear the costs of air pollution, noise pollution, and reduced pedestrian safety, especially when underground options are available?

Finally, I am not convinced by the argument that new density on campus means we should preserve as much surface parking as possible.

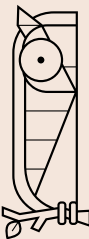
When you look at the world's dense and desirable urban areas, you see exactly the kind of redesigns proposed by Mr. Carter. Think of Paris, which has limited private automobile access to streets near schools and has pedestrianized the banks of the Seine. Think of Copenhagen with its car-free pedestrian centre. Think of Amsterdam with its traffic-calmed cycling streets. Think of Tokyo with its off-street parking regulations. Think of Montréal, which pedestrianizes central streets during the summer months. And think of London, New York, and Singapore, which have implemented congestion pricing. These cities know that, with increased density, there are often better uses of limited urban space than the movement and storage of private automobiles above ground.

In short, I allow that more discussion and study are needed. However, I suspect the UNA would find more support from fellow residents than these criticisms suggest. I would welcome more consultation and discussion by the UNA board. A limited-time pilot using cheap planters, jersey barriers, paint, lawn chairs, and picnic tables would give residents a concrete sense of what the proposal entails and any disruption it might cause.

JOSHUA WALKER, RESIDENT

(Editor's Note – According to the UNA, the main parking lot in Wesbrook Place is owned and operated by UBC Properties Trust, and the UNA has no jurisdiction over its use or redevelopment).

"Why should the convenience of residents who are adults of sufficient ability and financial means to own and operate an automobile take priority over other members of our community—like these—who cannot?"



THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

The Campus Resident values a diversity of voices and views. Have an opinion that concerns the campus community?

Submit your letter to the editor to:
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Celebrate Asian Heritage Month with Classic Chinese Films

UBC professor Christopher Rea has created a collection of over forty early Chinese films from the 1920s to the 1950s – described as the largest free online collection of its kind.

BY CHRISTOPHER REA

Did you know that the world’s largest free online collection of early Chinese films with English subtitles was created at UBC?

This month, celebrate Asian Heritage Month by exploring the history and artistry of early Chinese cinema.

I created the Chinese Film Classics Project, which features over forty Chinese films from the 1920s to the 1950s with English subtitles. The films are available for viewing at both the project website (chinesefilmclassics.org) and on the YouTube channel @ModernChineseCulturalStudies.

A free public version of my UBC online course “Chinese Film Classics,” featuring eleven films, each complemented by two short video lectures, is also available on the project website.

Here are a few great films to get you started:

Laborer’s Love (1922):

The earliest surviving full Chinese-made film is a silent slapstick comedy about a carpenter in love who uses the tricks of his trade to get the girl. Watch for gags inspired by Hollywood silent comedians Buster Keaton and Harold Lloyd.



The film *Spring River Flows East* (1947) is regarded as China’s answer to *Gone with the Wind*.

《一江春水向东流》（1947年）被誉为中国电影对《乱世佳人》的恢弘回应。

Goddess (1934):

The most iconic film starring a tragic screen goddess at her most radiant. Ruan Lingyu’s charisma shines in this story of a single mother struggling to raise her child in a predatory and unsympathetic Shanghai. Local trivia: Child actor Henry Lai’s mother was born in British Columbia!

Street Angels (1937):

This tragicomedy set in the slums of Shanghai features two hit songs sung by “golden voice” Zhou Xuan that remain nostalgic favorites today. Released the same month full-scale war broke out with Japan, *Street Angels* survives as China’s most beloved “talkie” (and singie!).

Long Live the Missus! (1947):

What happens when you try too hard to please your mother-in-law or spouse? This sophisticated screwball comedy by celebrated screenwriter Eileen Chang is a Civil War-era battle of the sexes featuring a fashion parade and snappy dialogue.

Spring River Flows East (1947):

China’s answer to *Gone with the Wind* is a two-part, three-hankie wartime melodrama that broke box office records. An all-star cast dramatizes the depravities and human costs of war through an epic story of one family torn apart.



Ruan Lingyu, the star of *Goddess* (1934).

阮玲玉，《神女》（1934年）的主演，具有传奇色彩的中国银幕女神。

Spring in a Small Town (1948):

Widely regarded as the best Chinese film of all time, Fei Mu’s story of loss and renewal in the ruins of war is pure cinematic poetry. Passions rekindle when a doctor returns from the front to his hometown to discover that his best friend and the girl he loved are now married. Will she stay, or will she go?

Window to America (1952):

If current conditions in the United States

of America are making you want to jump out the window, don’t! Instead, watch this extraordinary film from the early years of the People’s Republic: a Cold War farce set in New York City featuring an all-Chinese cast in whiteface. 🐼

CHRISTOPHER REA IS A PROFESSOR OF CHINESE LITERATURE AND FILM AT UBC AND A RESIDENT OF HAWTHORN PLACE.

(Photos provided by Christopher Rea)

UNA

UNIVERSITY NEIGHBOURHOODS ASSOCIATION

Win a \$50 Save-On-Foods gift card

Community Priorities Survey 2025

Help Shape Our Strategic Plan

The UNA is inviting residents to take part in a short survey to **share what matters most to you**. Your feedback will guide our priorities and shape the UNA’s strategic plan—ensuring our services and resources reflect your needs.

Have your say. **Participate by visiting bit.ly/communitypriorities2025 or scan the QR code below.**

The survey takes just five minutes, but your input will make a lasting difference in how we plan for the future.

As a thank you, you’ll have the chance to **enter a draw for a \$50 Save-On-Foods gift card**.

For questions about the UNA or this survey, please email communications@myuna.ca.

庆祝亚洲文化遗产月：重温中国经典电影

UBC教授雷勤風整理推出逾四十部20世纪二三十至五十年代的中国早期影片，被誉为全球同类题材中规模最大的免费线上电影收藏项目。

作者：雷勤風

您知道吗？世界上最大、完全免费、并配有英文字幕的早期中国电影线上资源库，其实就诞生于加拿大不列颠哥伦比亚大学（UBC）。

在这个亚洲文化遗产月，不妨一同走进



A scene from Laborer's Love (1922), the earliest surviving full Chinese-made film.

《劳工之爱情》（1922年）中的一个场景，这是现存最早的一部完整的中国电影。

中国电影的源头，感受那些埋藏在黑白影像中的历史与艺术之光。

雷勤風，英属哥伦比亚大学UBC中文与电影研究教授创办了《中国电影经典》项目，整理并翻译了四十余部1920至1950年代的中国早期电影，为每一部配上了英文字幕。所有影片均可在项目官网（chinesefilm-classics.org）和 YouTube 频道 @ModernChineseCulturalStudies 免费观看。

此外，他还开设了一门免费的UBC线上课程《Chinese Film Classics》，精选其中十一部影片，配有简短精炼的双语视频讲解，欢迎前往项目网站深入学习。

以下是几部推荐的中国经典电影佳作：

《劳工之爱情》（1922）

现存最早的完整中国自制电影，是一部无声滑稽喜剧。讲述一位木匠运用他的行业技巧赢得心上人的芳心，影片中的搞笑桥段受到巴斯特·基顿与哈罗德·劳埃德的启发。

《神女》（1934）

展现悲剧性银幕女神阮玲玉最灿烂光彩的标志性作品。故事讲述一位单身母亲

在充满掠夺性和冷漠的上海苦苦抚养孩子，阮玲玉的魅力光芒四射。

本地趣闻：童星黎小奇（亨利·赖）的母亲出生在不列颠哥伦比亚省！

《马路天使》（1937）

一部设定在上海贫民窟的悲喜剧，收录了“金嗓子”周璇演唱的两首热门歌曲，至今仍是怀旧最爱的金曲。影片上映之时，中日战争全面爆发，《马路天使》成为中国影史最受欢迎的“有声电影”。

《太太万岁》（1947）

张爱玲编剧的这部精巧闹剧，是内战时期的一场男女大战。影片风格轻快，以时装走秀与俏皮对白著称。

《一江春水向东流》（1947）

被誉为中国版《乱世佳人》，这部上下集、催泪战争情节片巨制打破了当年票房纪录。影片通过一个家庭被战争撕裂的史诗故事，深刻展现了战争带来的堕落与人性代价。

《小城之春》（1948）

被广泛认为是中国影史上最伟大的影片，费穆执导的这部作品以纯粹的电影诗篇，讲述战争废墟中的失落与重生。



A scene from *Spring in a Small Town* (1948), widely regarded as the best Chinese film of all time.

《小城之春》（1948年）中的一幕，这部影片被广泛认为是中国影史上的巅峰之作。

《美国之窗》（1952）

当一位医生从前线回到家乡，发现最好的朋友与他曾深爱的女子已成夫妻，旧情重燃——她，会留下，还是会离开？

如果当前美国的情况让你想跳窗，别！相反，看看这部来自中国早期的卓越电影：设定在纽约的冷战讽刺剧，全由中国演员化白妆出演，风格荒诞辛辣，令人捧腹。

作者：雷勤風是英属哥伦比亚UBC大学中文文学与电影研究教授，现居温哥华UNA社区的Hawthorn Place。

文章翻译Jennifer Chen 和 Vivian Su

Plenty of Summer Volunteering Opportunities for Youth

Want to get out there this summer and contribute to your community? Don't procrastinate, now is the time to start planning.

BY PERMENIA REA

Spring is a great time to think about summer youth volunteering. If you, or the teen in your family, have free time over the summer, volunteering is a great way to contribute to your community and participate in an enriching experience. There are a number of local opportunities to get you started.

University Neighbourhoods Association

For youth looking to get involved in their community, every summer, the UNA typically has 30-50 youth volunteers, aged 13-18 years old. Volunteering opportunities are mostly located at the Wesbrook and Old Barn community centres. One-off opportunities include being a volunteer for events such as movie nights, Canada Day celebrations, birthday parties, and Neighbours' Day. At the events, volunteers work together to help with setup, takedown, and assist with activities during the event. The UNA also recruits trainee leaders for a variety of full-day weeklong camps, which include sports, arts, and education-themed camps. UNA Volunteer Coordinator Hannie Chia says anyone is welcome to volunteer, and a good volunteer is one who shows up on time, is fully present and creates a good atmosphere in their workplace.

Learn more about UNA volunteering and sign up online at myuna.ca/volunteering/.

UBC Farm

UBC Farm offers a variety of volunteer opportunities for those who like getting their hands dirty growing things. The farm, adjacent to the Wesbrook Place neighbourhood, is a certified organic, mixed vegetable farm engaged in research, food production, and education. The farm's two main volunteering programs - Busy Bees and Humble Harvesters - are open to volunteers aged 14 and up. (Younger volunteers are welcome if accompanied). Busy Bees is for volunteers who can commit to multiple shifts per month. Humble Harvesters is for people who prefer the flexibility to sign up for occasional shifts.



UBC Farm offers two volunteer programs for youth interested in sustainable agriculture.

Activities include harvesting different kinds of fruits and vegetables, weeding and hoeing beds, transplanting crops, setting up for market days, and helping out at seasonal events. According to Volunteer and Field Coordinator Jenn Bywater, the farm is "more than just a place to grow food, it's a place where (youth) can connect with the land, gain hands-on experience in sustainable agriculture, and be part of a movement working toward food security and environmental stewardship." The volunteer program runs between

May and October, Tuesday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. No prior experience is needed, but there is a required orientation session for volunteers. Learn more about the UBC Farm and sign up to volunteer at the farm's volunteer portal: ubcfarm.ubc.ca/volunteer-program/.

Pacific Spirit Park Society

The Pacific Spirit Park Society (PSPS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and improving Pacific Spirit Regional Park. PSPS has many volunteering opportunities in environmental restoration and environmental monitoring. Prospective volunteers can indicate their interest in nine different programs, including eagle nest monitoring, the society's EcoWALKS program which offers nature walks, the EcoTABLE welcome hub, ecological restoration, photography, and writing. Depending on the activity, volunteering times can range from a few hours a week to once or twice a year, typically in groups. According to the PSPS website, "Whether you are a seasoned environmentalist or just starting your journey, there are countless ways to get involved." Learn more about the The Pacific Spirit Park Society's volunteer programs, and sign up by indicating your interests using their online form: pacificspiritparksociety.org/get-involved/. These are just a few of the summer volunteering opportunities for youth near campus. One final, opportunity (might we say, we saved the best for last) for writers is with your very own local paper. *The Campus Resident* offers opportunities for writers who are interested in local stories. Get in touch at editor@thecampusresident.ca. Get out there and volunteer this year!

PERMENIA REA IS A GRADE 8 STUDENT AT IDEAL MINI SCHOOL.

OPINION

Essential Services Are Not “Amenities”

*Residents should demand university planners place greater priority for essential services in campus expansion plans, says
UNA Director Jake Wiebe.*

BY JAKE WIEBE

A recent presentation on the draft update to the Wesbrook Place Neighbourhood Plan by UBC Campus & Community Planning raises urgent concerns about the future of essential services in our growing community.

During the March 18 presentation to the UNA board of directors, schools, emergency response, and healthcare were categorized—after the post office—under “amenities.” This term is typically associated with optional, quality-of-life enhancements and fundamentally misrepresents the critical nature of these services.

This is not a minor oversight. It is a planning failure with potentially serious long-term consequences.

Essential services form the backbone of any thriving community. If we fail to prioritize them now, we will face overcrowded schools, an overstretched emergency response system, and inadequate healthcare access—all of which will diminish residents’ quality of life.

Education: The Growing Crisis

UBC’s residential population is expanding rapidly, yet there is no clear strategy for school capacity. In other municipalities, we have seen the consequences of poor planning: portables, extended school hours, and students bused to other districts. For example, Surrey has nearly 25 per cent of its students in temporary classrooms or attending on extended hours, and some New Westminster schools have no outside recreation area as space is now occupied by portable rooms. As *TCR* reported in May, June, and September last year, there is a proposed school in Wesbrook Place. However, the Vancouver School Board is unwilling to provide a firm timeline on its construction. Even more concerning, a portion of the land originally earmarked for a new elementary school is now being reallocated as a dog park.

There is a possibility that the dog park and school could co-exist, but might require a slightly smaller dog park or a broader parcel of land. Given the school board’s capital budget challenges, UBC feels the school construction is still five or more years away.

Do we want to follow this path, or do we demand better and set an example for other municipalities? Schools take years to plan and build. If we do not act now, we will be left scrambling for inadequate stopgap measures. Has a detailed capacity assessment been conducted for the next five years? If so, let’s share it with the community. If not, why not?

Emergency Services: A System Under Strain

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.

In 2020, the UBC RCMP responded to 3,200 calls. In 2024, they responded to nearly 6,000 calls—a 100 per cent increase.

From 2020 to 2024, total violent crimes have increased by approximately 50 per cent; total property crimes by 12 per cent and emergency incidents are rising. Response times are slowing, yet no additional resources have been allocated and overtime costs are increasing.

How much longer can we afford to ignore this prob-



UBC Hospital. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou).

lem, both financially and in terms of public safety?

The Fire Department faces similar concerns. Has it been consulted about projected growth? Are current response times sufficient for our expanding community? These are critical questions that remain unanswered. At the time of writing, no statistics were available. We should invite the local fire chief to present a full assessment at an upcoming UNA Board meeting.

Healthcare: Gaps in Access

Our community includes both UBC students and permanent residents, each with distinct healthcare needs. UBC Student Health Services has limited capacity, and the nearest urgent care facility at UBC Hospital closes at 8:00 p.m. After that, the only option is Vancouver General Hospital—a significant distance away in an emergency.

We must ask:
• Do we have data on urgent care visits and ambulance response times?

• Would an expanded healthcare presence—such as a facility with extended hours or a small emergency clinic—help ease the burden on emergency services?

Population growth requires scaled core infrastructure. Without proactive planning, our emergency response system will become dangerously overstretched.

The Difference Between Amenities and Essential Services

It is unacceptable to

classify critical infrastructure as mere “amenities.” Urban planning principles clearly distinguish between the two.

Essential services are critical for public safety, health, and societal function, and include things like emergency services (police, fire, ambulance), healthcare, utilities, education, and transportation.

Amenities are meant to enhance our quality of life, but they are not critical to daily functioning. They can include parks, libraries, and community centres.

Essential services must be prioritized. They are the foundation of a safe, functional community, not optional extras to be addressed only after developers have maximized their profits.

The UNA Board’s Responsibility

The UNA Board has a duty to represent its residents—current and future, young and old. Governments move slowly and if we do not advocate forcefully now, we will face years of delays and inadequate solutions. The October 2023 article in *The Campus Resident*, “Policing Lags UBC Population Growth”, RCMP Says, highlighted serious concerns about our region’s lack of policing resources. Since then, nothing has changed.

We cannot allow this pattern of inaction to continue—not for policing, not for fire and emergency services, not for schools, and not for healthcare.

The UNA and all residents must make it clear to UBC that its current approach is unacceptable. The presentation marginalized essential services, reflecting a planning mindset that prioritizes short-term financial incentives such as development fees over the well-being of residents.

If we do not act now, we will regret it in the years to come. The UNA Board must push back and demand that essential services receive the prioritization they deserve.

We cannot change the past, but by standing up today, we can shape the future.

JAKE WIEBE IS A UNA DIRECTOR AND CHAIR OF THE UNA FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE. THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS ARTICLE ARE HIS OWN AND DO NOT REPRESENT THOSE OF THE UNA OR UBC.

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Golf Club Resto Miles From Ordinary

After passing by for years , writer Jayne Seagrave finally visits Westward Ho! Public House & Grill Room, the restaurant located at the University Golf Club.

BY JAYNE SEAGRAVE

I had always known of its presence. After all, it is difficult to hide an eighteen-hole golf course.

It is just that I had, for some reason, ignored its existence, or rather, had forgotten about the course and dining experience at Westward Ho! Public House & Grill Room - the restaurant located at the University Golf Club (UGC).

The club has existed since 1929 and is frequently voted as one of the favourite public golf courses in Vancouver. In addition to offering all the standard golfing facilities (18-hole course, training lessons, golf shop, putting green, tournaments), the clubhouse also has facilities to host events such as weddings, birthdays, anniversaries and other special occasions in a spacious venue overlooking the course.

And the clubhouse is also home to Westward Ho! Public House & Grill Room, which the golf club describes as its “best kept secret.”

Although many believe the golf club – located within the University Endowment lands - is affiliated with the university, it is not. The original name of the golf course was ‘Westward Ho!’ In 1985 when the original course went through a substantial redesign and upgrade, it took the name of the University Golf Club. Then in 1998, when the clubhouse renovated its food and beverage operations, Westward Ho! became the name of the restaurant.

A few months ago, I arranged to meet a couple of friends for lunch, and they suggested Westward Ho! It had been over five years since I had eaten at the venue and recalled little of my original experience. Upon arrival at lunchtime on a Friday I was amazed how easy it was to find



Writer Jayne Seagrave, pictured here at the University Golf Club. (Photo: Submitted)

parking, and to then immediately learn no payment was expected. Where else in the University Endowment Lands, or UBC for that matter, is free parking available? Indeed, where else in Vancouver is this possible? It was like being transported back to the 1980s.

I walked towards the clubhouse and restaurant as complete strangers smiled and said hello. Maybe I had gone through a time warp.

Westward Ho! is a large, spacious restaurant comprising a bar with seating, well-spaced tables and chairs, and an outdoor covered patio area with lovely views of the greens - very much a casual dining ambiance.

On the Friday of my visit, the clientele all appeared to be older, retired people. The majority, it seemed, were women. I found it difficult to believe they had just completed 18 holes of golf. In contrast the staff were not of this vintage. Our servers were young and attentive, with genuine welcoming smiles and what seemed to be a sincere desire to accommodate our dining preferences and overall experience.

What really surprised me was not only the convenience of the location, but how well priced the comprehensive food and drink menus were. Golf clubs generally have the reputation of being somewhat elitist, unwelcoming and a little snobby towards those who are not regular visitors or golfers. This was not the case at Westward Ho!

The tab for three light lunches including a tip was under \$70. There’s also a kid’s menu for \$14.00 (fish and chips, burger or chicken strips, including a drink and desert), and the restaurant was promoting a weekend roast with roast beef, potatoes, fresh vegetables and Yorkshire pudding for \$29.95.

The restaurant is open seven days a week from 9.00 a.m. until 8.00 p.m., with a happy hour from 2-5:00 p.m. Brunch is served on the weekends. Reservations are accepted, but not for the patio.

University Golf Club describes Westward Ho! as “Miles from Ordinary” which I saw as a more than adequate description. Following my recent visit, I was left wondering why I had driven past on so many occasions and not called in. I regularly hike the trails of Pacific Spirit Park, pathways which run adjacent to the course itself, but have never considered breaking my walks with a stop.

It’s another benefit of living at UBC and certainly, miles from ordinary. 🍷

JAYNE SEAGRAVE IS A B.C. RESIDENT AND BEST-SELLING AUTHOR OF “CAMPING BRITISH COLUMBIA, THE ROCKIES AND THE YUKON”. SHE WRITES FICTION AND NON-FICTION, AND OCCASIONALLY TEACHES WRITING AND PUBLISHING COURSES.



(Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

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Enhancing Seismic Resilience at UBC

Since 2012, UBC has invested more than \$200 million in seismic upgrades to buildings and infrastructure.

BY MATTHEW RAMSEY

With news of destruction continuing to emerge from earthquake zones in Myanmar and Thailand, and two recent minor tremors rattling the South Coast of B.C., the issue of seismic resilience is top of mind for many.

“These relatively minor earthquakes are hopefully a wake-up call for all of us around what to do when an earthquake is happening and how best to prepare for the impact of a large-scale seismic event,” said Rae Ann Aldridge, executive director of Safety and Risk Services. “Earthquakes can come without warning, and we all need to know how to respond.”

“If you’re inside, drop to the floor. Find cover under a desk or table and hold on. If you’re outside, get away from buildings, trees, power lines and things overhead, drop to the ground, try and find cover and hold on.”

While the immediate reaction to an earthquake is relatively straightforward, preparing the UBC campus and its infrastructure, where some buildings were built many decades ago, is more complex.

Since 2012, UBC has invested more than \$200 million in seismic upgrades to buildings and infrastructure. This figure does not include new construction, or the replacement of buildings at risk.

All new UBC buildings (including student residences) are built to meet or exceed current building codes while seismic retrofit guidelines are informed by the latest research, with advice and input from UBC faculty subject matter experts and specialist consultants.

“The safety of UBC students, faculty and staff is our highest priority,” said John Metras, associate vice-president UBC Facilities. “That is why we are working across the campus to focus on mitigating the risks of seismic events. We’ve made good progress on key actions highlighted in the 2022 Seismic Resilience Plan Report to the Board of Governors, but the work is ongoing.”

“We learn from global and local seismic events and the lessons from those events, as well as incredible advances being made in seismic science here at UBC and around the world to evolve our planning and our approach to seismic upgrade projects,” added Metras.

Recent examples of that work include the \$40-million, 18-month

seismic upgrade of the Museum of Anthropology, and the \$51 million Macleod Building renewal. Renewal of the Jack Bell Building for the School of Social Work is underway (at an estimated cost of \$27 million) while proposed upgrades to the Anthropology and Sociology Building (ANSO) are nearing the end of the design process.

An updated building risk assessment is currently underway, which will inform prioritization of future projects.

“After life safety, our secondary focus is ensuring resiliency, meaning that the campus can resume operations safely and as quickly as possible,” added Aldridge.

UBC’s Emergency Plan provides a management framework for preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies affecting the UBC Vancouver community. The plan has been recently updated to align with the Emergency Disaster Management Act (2023) and is available for review on the UBC Safety & Risk Services website.

The plan outlines:

- Roles and Responsibilities: Who does what during an emergency.
- Emergency Operations Activation: How UBC will respond to emergencies.
- Regional Coordination: How UBC will work with Metro Vancouver and other stakeholders for coordinated response efforts.
- Response Priorities: Saving lives, reducing suffering, protecting public health, infrastructure, property, and the environment.

Key areas of focus include developing and testing plans for mass care (providing shelter, food and potable water to displaced community members), strengthening emergency communications capabilities, and ensuring our faculty experts can help to inform the work and that disaster resilience and response are incorporated into existing academic programs.

For more guidance on basic earthquake safety and planning, visit srs.ubc.ca/emergency/emergency-response/take-action/#earthquake

For more information about UBC’s seismic upgrade planning, visit facilities.ubc.ca/projects/seismic/.

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(Photo: Paul Joseph / UBC Communications & Marketing)

QUICK FACTS

How can an earthquake affect the campus community?

Vancouver is situated on the boundary of the North American Plate and the Juan de Fuca plate. Currently, the Juan de Fuca plate is moving towards the North America plate at a rate of 2-5 cm/year and is subducting beneath the continent in a region called the Cascadia Subduction Zone.

Studies indicate the Juan de Fuca Plate and the North American plate are currently locked together, causing an enormous amount of strain being built up in the earth’s crust. At the moment when these plates snap loose, a large amount of energy will be released and can produce a very large “Megathrust earthquake” (“The Big One”), similar to the 1964 magnitude 9.4 Alaska earthquake or the 1960 magnitude 9.5 Chile earthquake.

However, while Vancouver is at risk of experiencing an earthquake of lower magnitude, more damaging earthquakes can happen in the Strait of Georgia or under the Coast Mountains. Historical data confirms that British Columbia has been struck by some of the world’s largest earthquakes, and recent studies show that there is a 25 percent chance that we will experience another major earthquake within the next 50 years.

Although it is impossible to predict with certainty when the next earthquake will occur, it is important for UNA residents to know what they can do to be prepared.

Earthquakes: Tips To Prepare Your Home

- Clearly label the on/off positions for the water, gas, and electricity.
- Secure heavy appliances and furniture to the walls (and keep heavy items on lower shelves).
- Secure mirrors, paintings and other hanging objects, so they won’t fall off hooks.
- Use child-proof or safety latches on cupboards to keep contents from spilling out.
- Keep an emergency preparedness kit in an accessible location.

(Source: UNA)

DIVING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Some campus parents have expressed their discontent about the policy on social media, which they describe as overly cautious and limiting.

It has been speculated that demand for the pool’s facilities may decrease, driving families to other options such as the Hillcrest Aquatic Centre. And regular visitors who previously enjoyed the 3m diving board may need to adjust their routines or explore other activities within the facility.

Some parents have stated the rule change isn’t justified and a parent or guardian is best positioned to know their child’s capabilities.

Adrian Greszata, Senior Manager of Programs & Operations at the UBC Aquatic Centre, said that feedback is appreciated, but the policy will likely only be reviewed if Lifesaving Society Canada revises its recommendations.

With the new policy now in place, families must adapt to the changes in how they use the pool. But whether reforms are possible or not, the UBC Aquatic Centre continues to be a popular destination for campus residents.

ANNE ZHANG IS A GRADE 12 STUDENT AT PRINCE OF WALES MINI SCHOOL AND LIVES IN HAMPTON PLACE.



UBC Aquatic Centre. (Photo: UBC)