

# THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

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## This is Where We Live, Work and Play



Aerial view of the UBC Point Grey campus. The UBC campus has been located on the western tip of the Point Grey Peninsula – the traditional territory of the Muqueam people – for most of its 100-year history. Photo credit Russ Heintl.

## UNA Committed to Community Engagement, Partnership with UBC

*Ying Zhou, Chair, updates UBC Governors on UNA operations; message is upbeat despite adverse Bylaws vote in January and financial pressures*

**John Tompkins**  
Editor

In the annual UNA presentation to the UBC Board of Governors, Chair Ying Zhou provided a brief update on the UNA, including its challenges, opportunities and priorities for the next few years.

Ms. Zhou said the UNA—a unique organization by any measure—is encountering a rapidly changing residential community, ongoing financial pressures and service delivery issues in a multi-jurisdictional environment. Meanwhile, it is focused on strengthening its organizational structure and engaging more effectively with both residents and community partners, including UBC.

Ms. Zhou, a resident of the Chancellor Place, has lived at UBC for nine years.

This is her fifth year on the UNA Board and first year as Chair.

Ms. Zhou began her speech to the UBC Governors with a brief history of the UNA, established in 2002 to provide municipal-like services to residents of the UBC neighbourhoods. The not-for-profit society derives its authority from the Neighbours Agreement between the UNA and UBC, updated in 2015.

There are over 11,000 residents living in UBC's five neighbourhoods. Many are students, staff, and faculty, but many have no connection to UBC.

With the rapid growth of the residential neighbourhoods have come challenges and opportunities, Ms. Zhou said. The neighbourhoods are increasing in diversity with more young families, seniors, and newcomers to Canada.

“What worked when it was smaller won't set the UNA up to meet growing needs unless we strengthen the foundation and work to address the funding model challenges. We need to bring all the interests together in a collaborative way.”

The UNA Chair said that strong partnership with UBC and enhanced engagement with the community are critical to the UNA success.

## Residents Ask for Pause in Stadium Road Planning

*“In sum, we are advocating for a livable community that we recognize will have a higher density than those around it, but that will still be an attractive and human place to live.”*

In a May letter and petition presented to UBC President Santa J. Ono and Chair of the UBC Board of Governors Michael Korenberg, a group of up to 400 residents living on campus have expressed concern “with the scope and scale of development of the Stadium Road Neighborhood”.

The letter is signed by UBC resident Murray McCutcheon on behalf of all petitioners with copies sent to all members of the UBC Board; Michael White, Associate Vice-President, Campus and Community Planning; and Johanne Blenkin, Executive Director, University Neighbourhoods Association.

Many of the petitioners come from the Hawthorn Place neighbourhood, which lies adjacent to the proposed Stadium Road development and would likely be most impacted by a massive expansion of UBC plans. “We do not believe that ‘a modern Yaletown on the perimeter of UBC’ is what you or potential residents are looking for,” the letter to UBC reads. Please see the letter and petition on Page 4.

## Parking Advisory Committee Starts Work

The new UNA Parking Advisory Committee—with strata representatives on it from all five residential neighbourhoods at UBC—was scheduled to hold its first meeting June 25.

Strata representatives on the parking committee are: Andrew Baron—Chancellor Place, Gary Rupert—Hawthorn Place, Len Addinall—Hampton Place, Susan Todd—Wesbrook Place and Alan Mak—East Campus.

Hampton Place resident Raymundo Escalona will chair the committee. Mr. Es-

calona is an Elected Director of the UNA.

The UNA Parking Advisory Committee is a volunteer committee established to advise and assist the UNA Board of Directors and staff by providing comments and advice on parking policies in UNA neighbourhoods.

The roads in the UNA neighbourhoods are owned by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. The Ministry authorizes the UNA (through its subcontract with Commissionaires) to invigilate parking.

## RCMP Alerts Online Buyers and Sellers to Use Safe Meeting Places

Staff Sergeant Chuck Lan, Commander of University Detachment at 2990 Wesbrook Mall, has encouraged members of the public conducting online business with strangers to use a public space or the front area of any detachment, including University Detachment, as a safer trading and meeting spot.

S/Sgt Lan emphasized that if members of the public see or become aware of a potential crime, to call police. “That is the safest and most sensible course of action.”

The warning comes after two people were allegedly assaulted and robbed when they agreed to meet the sellers in a parkade at UBC.

## MESSAGE FROM THE UNA CHAIR



### Message from the Chair

Chair's report – June 2018

On June 5th, I made a presentation on behalf of the UNA to two committees of the UBC Board of Governors. This was in keeping with the practice of reporting annually to the UBC Board on UNA activities and issues. The following are some of the points I made in the presentation.

Neighbourhoods are a key part of UBC – not only do they set UBC apart from other university campuses, they are what makes UBC so special.

The UNA was created in 2002 to provide municipal-like services to residents of the UBC neighbourhoods. As a society, the UNA has bylaws respecting its internal affairs, including the composition of its Board of Directors and the election of directors. Throughout 2016 and 2017, two separate UNA committees worked to produce a revised version of the bylaws. At the UNA AGM in January this year, UNA members rejected the revised bylaws. The voting outcome told us there is a problem we need to consider further and address. The UNA is planning to undertake a survey of residents which will cover governance and services. Once we know more from the survey, we hope to raise the issues and opportunities with the Board of Governors through the UBC Neighbourhoods Liaison Committee.

To meet the challenges of this growing community, the UNA is working on strengthening its foundations and working in partnership with UBC to address funding model challenges. UNA operations are evolving to meet new needs – internal restructuring and bringing in external expertise as needed.

The UNA puts great emphasis on community engagement – another element of what makes living here so special. We value collaboration with our UBC partner and the contribution of residents. Work is underway to increase the role residents play on committees.

The UNA faces fiscal pressures because of the decreasing services levy. A balanced budget was possible only because of the willingness of UBC to make a financial contribution to the UNA. One of the issues contributing to the UNA's financial pressure is the excessive amount that the community is required to pay the provincial government as general rural property tax and a fire service charge. In 2017, this combined amount was approximately \$3.6 Million, of which it is estimated that only about \$1.5 million was for services for the UBC neighbourhoods. If the excess were available to the UNA, it would be in a healthy financial position. A group of residents has tried to get the province to reduce the tax burden on our community, but has not been successful. The UNA now intends to work with UBC, through the UBC Neighbourhoods Liaison Committee, to make a further attempt to get fair tax treatment of our community by the province.

The UNA's success in the future depends on its continued commitment to work efficiently and effectively with the community in the broadest sense – staff, residents, UBC and UBC Properties Trust.

Sincerely,  
Ying Zhou, UNA Elected Resident Director and Board Chair



### 主席的话

主席致函——2018年6月

6月5日, 我代表UNA 向UBC理事会的两个委员会做了工作报告, 这是沿袭了UNA对UBC理事会做工作年报的惯例, 主要包括了UNA正在开展的工作和存在的问题。以下是我汇报的部分内容。

UBC邻里是UBC大学的重要组成部分, 不仅将UBC区分于其他大学校区, 也令UBC更独具特色。

UNA成立于2002年, 旨在为UBC社区居民提供类似市政类相关服务。作为社区机构, UNA制定有内部事务管理的规章制度, 包括董事会成员的架构以及如何选举董事会成员。

从2016年到2017年, 两个独立的UNA委员会对该规则制度进行了修改工作, 并提出了修改意见稿。在今年1月份UNA的年度大会上, 此修改意见稿未能被UNA成员通过。这个投票结果表明意见稿还存在一些我们需进一步考虑和处理的问题。

UNA拟向辖区居民们做一个针对社区管理与相应服务的调研。待我们从调研中获取更多信息后, 我们希望通过UBC邻里协调委员会, 接洽UBC理事会, 就现存问题和潜在机遇进行共同探讨。

UNA一方面要加强本身的基层工作, 迎接社区不断扩大的挑战。另一方面, UNA要协同UBC, 共同应对对资金模式的挑战。UNA的运营要更加与时俱进, 包括组织内部改造和引入所需外部经验。UNA十分强调社区居民的共同参与, 这也是居住在这里会感受很特别的地方。我们珍视与UBC合作伙伴的合作以及居民们的贡献, 我们正在采取方法让居民们在UNA委员会能承担更多的角色。

由于服务税收入的持续减少, UNA正面临财政的压力。若要达到预算平衡我们比须取得UBC对UNA的财务支持。UNA的一项财务压力就是社区必须要向省政府缴纳高额的地方物业税和消防服务费, 2017年这项开支总计达360万, 但其中预计只有150万是用于了UBC社区的相关服务支出。如果UNA能够获得这未使用的开支部分, UNA的财政状况就能呈现良性状态。

部分居民曾试图向省政府申请降低对我们社区的税赋但未能成功。那么现在UNA, 希望通过UBC邻里协调委员会, 携手UBC, 作出再次努力, 让政府对我们的社区能给予更公平的税赋标准。

UNA未来的成功取决于社区内多方面的共同和持续、高效和有效的努力, 这其中包括了员工、居民、UBC及UBC物业信托管理公司。

UNA当选居民董事兼董事会主席  
Ying Zhou

以上内容由Helen Li翻译

## UNA Plans Transition to New Registration System

The UNA has decided to change its current registration and membership management software program to a new program called *Perfect Mind*.

The new program reduces the transaction costs, is easier to use and better co-

ordinates with UBC Athletics Recreation System.

Wegland Sit, UNA Operations Manager, said: "The program is more reliable and less prone to downtime. A conservative estimate would suggest that implementing

the *Perfect Mind* system can save the UNA approximately \$10,000 - \$15,000 in transaction fees per year while improving UNA resident experience when using UBC recreation facilities."

Mr. Sit said the current contract re-

quires a one year notice period "which gives plenty of time for a smooth transition and staff training."

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## EDITORIAL PAGE

### Taxation Working Group Gives Up

*While we wouldn't expect the Minister to take our word over that of her officials nor to dig into the details of this matter herself, what we would expect is for the Minister to have an impartial person consider the information that has been presented to her and provide her with independent advice.*

*To the best of our knowledge, that has not happened.*

**Bill Holmes**

Hampton Place Resident

The UBC Neighbourhoods Taxation Working Group (TWG) has reached the end of the road. We are a group of five residents that has been fighting for over two years to have the provincial government tax our community fairly. Unfortunately, the current government has shown no more willingness to correct the unjust tax treatment than did the previous government. The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Selina Robinson, has even refused to meet with us, so there is nothing more we can do.

The TWG was formed when the previous provincial government proposed to introduce a fire service charge in 2016. The group initially attempted to persuade the government not to proceed with the charge, on the basis that it greatly increased the already unfair tax treatment of our community. Following the introduction of the charge, the group has attempted to have it terminated.

The unfairness in the taxation of the UBC neighbourhoods can be seen by comparing the amount of tax paid to the province last year with the value of the services received. Three taxes are involved: the general rural property tax; the police tax; and a fire service charge

(technically not a tax, but equivalent in substance). In 2017, these taxes amounted to about \$3.9 million. In return, we received police and fire services with a value of approximately \$1.8 million. It's no wonder the UNA is facing financial difficulty.

Any community of our size that has \$2 million sucked out of it by the provincial government for which it receives nothing in return would be struggling financially. These are taxes we pay because the UBC neighbourhoods are not in a municipality. If the neighbourhoods were in a municipality, we would pay property tax to the municipality instead of these provincial taxes, and the money would be used to fund services in the municipality.

In response to the letter we sent Minister Robinson last August, the TWG received a reply that purported to justify the tax treatment of our community. Sadly, that justification was based on erroneous information. The TWG pointed out two fundamental errors in a follow-up letter to the Minister in January.

The first error concerned the general rural property tax. That is a tax that goes into the government's general revenue. The Minister asserted that *all* unincorporated areas pay that tax, an assertion that is untrue. Our neighbours in the University Endowment Lands (UEL) do not pay

the tax. It is extremely unfair that we are required to pay a tax that is not imposed on UEL residents.

The second error we pointed out related to the cost of policing our community. Relying on the costs to police communities of a similar size, the Minister asserted that in 2016 the approximate cost of policing our community was \$2.4 million. That figure ignores the efficiencies of policing three communities: the UBC neighbourhoods, the UBC campus, and the UEL.

The RCMP detachment is quite small; it has a strength of only 17. Our estimate is that in 2016 it cost about \$650,000 to police the UBC neighbourhoods. This figure is based on the average costs (obtained from government statistics) of policing six municipalities that have RCMP detachments with an authorized strength of between 17 and 21, together with the information we have been given that fewer than 20% of the University Detachment's criminal code cases related to the UBC neighbourhoods. The absurdity of the Minister's figure can be seen from the fact that, if correct, it would mean that 12 or 13 of the 17 RCMP officers are engaged in policing the UBC neighbourhoods.

The Minister did not reply to our January letter, but instead had a staff member send an email that might as well have

said: "We're not interested in what you have to say."

While we wouldn't expect the Minister to take our word over that of her officials nor to dig into the details of this matter herself, what we would expect is for the Minister to have an impartial person consider the information that has been presented to her and provide her with independent advice. To the best of our knowledge, that has not happened.

Nothing said above should be taken as criticism of our MLA, David Eby. We are pleased to report that he has met with us several times and has sought to understand our concerns. Unfortunately, though, he has not been able to secure a meeting for us with Minister Robinson.

I would like to thank my fellow members of the TWG – Ying Zhou, George Mackie, Laura Cottle, and Rose Wang – for the time and effort they have put into seeking fair treatment of our community by the provincial government.

Our correspondence with Minister Robinson and many other documents are available at [www.ubcresidents.ca](http://www.ubcresidents.ca).

To anyone who takes up this battle with the provincial government after us: Good luck!

**Vancouver, UBC, Real Estate Specialist, 温哥华, 地产专家**



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# STADIUM ROAD NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT

## Hawthorn Place Petition to UBC

We, the undersigned, believe UBC should:

1. Cap the number of new residents at 2,000–2,500 in the Stadium Road Neighbourhood.
2. Not seek approval for an increase in the university's current limits on building heights.
3. Focus the density towards East Mall and 16th, close to the commercial centre of Wesbrook Village.

## Letter to UBC from Residents

24 May, 2018

Dr. Santa Ono, President, UBC  
Mr. Michael Korenberg, Chair,  
Board of Governors, UBC

Dear President Ono and  
Board Chair Korenberg,

I am writing to you on behalf of 400+ UBC residents to register our collective concern with the scope and scale of development of the Stadium Road Neighbourhood and to respectfully request a meeting with you to articulate our concern in the following context.

The Board of Governors recently approved a new Strategic Plan, Shaping UBC's Next Century. We are pleased to note that the Strategy "extends to deepening [your] engagement with campus neighbourhoods to support the unique and vibrant experience of living at UBC". As part of the UBC community, we would like to congratulate you and to work with you to implement this Strategic Plan. As residents on campus – including alumni, donors, faculty and staff, volunteers and students – we have a visceral feel for life on campus and value the opportunity to live here.

We were therefore concerned to learn that Campus and Community Planning is now considering plans for the Stadium Road Neighbourhood that far exceed what we understand to have been approved by the Board in the 2011 Land Use Plan amended as recently as 2015. Few residents had even heard of the original plans – despite claims of public consultation – until we came to learn of it through discussions of the Game Plan in December 2016. We have, however, generally embraced the parameters of those plans (to wit, a gross building area of 993,000 sq. ft., housing between 2000 – 2500 people) as we appreciate the need both to monetize the University's land endowment over time, and, more importantly, to provide affordable housing for faculty and staff. We fully support the current Land Use Plan that states: "The desired physical qualities [for new residential areas] are human-scaled, medium density and compact...[with] an emphasis on public spaces and green areas both natural and human-made, as well as heritage landscapes and buildings *as part of a livable community that reflects the university character.*"

Since early 2017, residents have been working together with staff in Campus and Community Planning – both individually and as members of the Planning Advisory Committee – to achieve that objective, and appreciate the collaborative spirit they have extended to us. In addition, some of us have spoken with members of the Board

(including Vice-Chair Sandra Cawley) and the Vice-President, External Relations, Philip Steenkamp, as well as the MLA for our area, David Eby.

In April, 2018 we learned that architects mooting plans for the Stadium Road Neighbourhood were working on assumptions including a gross building area of approximately 1.5 million sq. ft. and a potential population of 3700 people, and that this might include towers up to 36 storeys. This last – such high towers – is in complete contravention of the approved Land Use Plan which calls for a "maximum height [of] 53 metres [that] may be increased to 65 metres for certain sites subject to confirmation of these locations during the Neighbourhood Plan process."

We were relieved to learn that no official approval has been given beyond the 993,000 sq. ft. of gross building area, as we believe that some of the plans being mooted will lead to results that will not meet the objectives, and may well lead to results that will serve none of the stakeholders, including established and future residents, faculty and staff.

Our concerns include the following:

- Transportation to and from the campus is already strained; increasing density beyond a reasonable level before infrastructure has been improved will only make matters worse. Traffic in and around this already busy corner of the campus – especially days when the stadium is in use – will become intolerable. Parking (which will be required until transportation infrastructure is built) will be impossible.
- Despite the construction of new schools and space reserved for eventual further construction, some current residents fear the potential of waiting lists for their neighbourhood schools and day-care centres if community infrastructure does not keep pace, and are particularly concerned on behalf of potential future neighbours.
- Buildings higher than the limits called for in the Land Use Plan would not only hurt the character of the University, but would also shade current green spaces and other planned buildings. We do not believe that "a modern Yaletown on the perimeter of UBC" is what you or potential residents are looking for. The special environment and natural assets of this neighbourhood next to the Botanical Gardens and the Rhododendron Woods must be preserved.
- Potential long-term residents are already questioning the value of buying in Wesbrook Village because of concerns that apparent lack of interest by current residents in building long-term community, and their related push to keep maintenance fees low, will lead to rapid deterioration of buildings. This can only harm the reputation of UBC communities in the long run. You do not want to recreate the same prob-

lems in the Stadium Road Neighbourhood, but rather build a place that is attractive enough and affordable enough for families with children – including faculty and staff – to live in for the long term.

• All of these issues are part and parcel of the larger issue of excessive density that is at the heart of concerns of the undersigned.

In sum, we are advocating for a *livable community* that we recognize will have a higher density than those around it, but that will still be an attractive and *human* place to live. We also appreciate that you are trying to maximize the financial gain that you can make through market housing, but sincerely believe that you may be sacrificing the primary and urgent objective of building affordable housing for faculty and staff by concentrating on financial returns. This may be the right time to contribute less to the Endowment Fund in order to maximize future monetary and non-monetary returns by building the right kind of community.

As noted above, we have been working constructively with Campus and Community Planning on the design for this new neighbourhood. But the concerns of residents – including faculty and staff – have escalated to such a degree that a petition expressing these concerns circulated for 10 days in mid-May in the Hawthorn neighbourhood has attracted more than 400 signatures. We believe this is a fraction of the number of people alarmed by the proposed escalation of scope for the Stadium Road Neighbourhood, and had it been circulated more widely or for longer, the number would have been higher.

We are asking that you seriously consider pressing the "pause" button on plan-

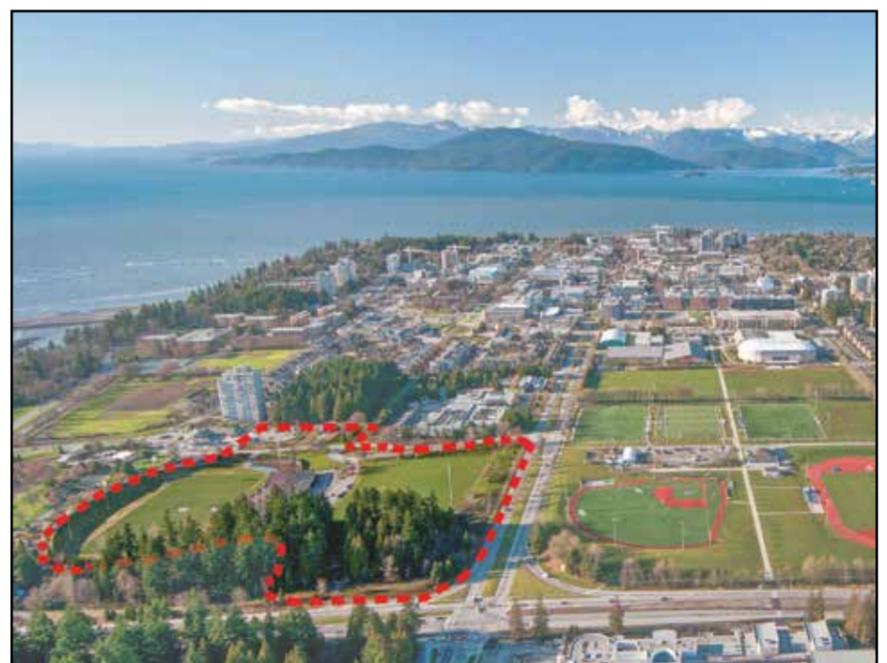
ning for the Stadium Road Neighbourhood with the parameters that we understand are currently on the table. This does not imply a full stop, but a pause to ensure that planning for the UBC Community "respond[s] to the needs of the campus community and contribute[s] to enhancing social well-being..."\* As the guiding principles you have approved state: "Create a community for and of UBC. Help build a thriving campus community that supports local needs first and attracts and retains university talent. Respect and contribute to the livability and desirability of established and new neighbourhoods."\*

The undersigned represent a spectrum of long-term residents on campus, and have experience building friendly, caring communities, such as those we live in. A walk through Jim Taylor Park would give you a sense of the aspirations you could have for any new neighbourhood you build on campus, and we would be pleased to work with you to ensure there is a more integrated, wholesome experience for all the UBC constituents you represent.

We would appreciate an opportunity for a small number of our representatives to meet with both of you, President Ono and Board Chair Korenberg, at your earliest convenience, to express our concerns and to answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely,  
Murray McCutcheon, Ph.D.  
on behalf of the Undersigned

*\*Report to the Board of Governors, December 5, 2017, Stadium Road Neighbourhood Planning Process.*



The Stadium Road Neighbourhood Plan Area (indicated by red dotted line) in the southern part of UBC campus bounded by East Mall, Stadium Road and 16th Avenue. Photo credit: UBC Campus and Community Planning.

## LETTER FROM UBC PRESIDENT

### The President's Medal of Excellence: "A Significant Contribution to the Purposes and Ideals of the University"

Earlier this month, I had the honour of presenting the University of British Columbia President's Medal of Excellence to five of the University's strongest supporters – Linc Kesler, Bill Levine, Risa Levine, Jim Pattison and Angela Redish.

This is the first year for the President's Medal of Excellence. The Medal is awarded, at the President's discretion, to a person who has made a significant contribution to the purposes and ideals of the university. Recipients can be students, faculty, alumni, donors, staff or friends of the university.

For members of the academic community, either internal or external to the university, a significant contribution may be in education, research, or administrative service. The recipients should show excellence in their fields of endeavor which also contribute significantly to the mission and ideals of the university.

For members of the non-academic community, a significant contribution may be through the excellence of their efforts either external or internal to the university. This year's recipients – the first – more than meet the requirements, and I am grateful for all they have done for UBC and the province of British Columbia.

You can read more about the recipients at <https://president.ubc.ca/medal-of-excellence/2018-recipients/>. Here's why they received the medal:

**Linc Kesler:** UBC is grateful for Linc Kesler's clear vision and hard work to establish the Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre, his dedication to the Reconciliation Pole, and his leadership in advancing the commitments of UBC's Aboriginal Strategic Plan. His efforts in nurturing the University's relationship with the Musqueam community and advocacy for Aboriginal peoples at UBC and in Canada perfectly reflect the inspiration for this

medal. In addition, his thoughtful and considered counsel as Senior Advisor to the President on Aboriginal Affairs has been invaluable.

**Bill Levine:** UBC is grateful for Bill Levine's numerous contributions to the health and prosperity of British Columbia through his service to and support of advanced education, the Jewish community, and many other organizations throughout the province. A leading UBC alumnus, Bill has made many contributions to business excellence, and his determined volunteerism and generosity throughout Vancouver have greatly contributed to a more civil and sustainable society. As chair of the UBC Board of Governors, a generous benefactor, member of UBC's Dean's Advisory Councils for the Sauder School of Business and the Faculty of Arts, and a member of UBC's start an evolution fundraising and alumni engagement campaign cabinet, Bill Levine has been an ardent supporter of UBC and instrumental in the university's significant growth.

**Risa Levine:** UBC is grateful for the Honourable Madam Justice Risa Levine's

selfless commitment to her profession, the community and our university. One of UBC's foremost alumna, Madame Justice Levine has shown remarkable leadership in the judiciary as a Justice of the Supreme Court of BC and member of the BC Court of Appeal. She has impacted many lives as a result of her tireless volunteerism with organizations like the national Tax Advisory Committee, the Vancouver Stock Exchange, the Vancouver Foundation, the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver and many others. Her generosity towards UBC, as an adjunct professor at the UBC law school, a member of the Dean's Advisory Committee for the Centre for Business Law, chair of the successful fundraising campaign to endow a chair in feminist legal studies and leading benefactor to key initiatives on campus, has enabled the university to evolve into the leading institution it is today.

**Jim Pattison:** UBC is grateful for Jim Pattison's remarkable devotion to enhancing our province. As a business leader, he has built a reputation for quality, integrity and commitment, growing the Jim Pattison Group into one of Canada's



**Professor Santa J. Ono.**  
Photo credit Paul Joseph/UBC.

largest privately held companies. His commitment to business leadership and community building helped Vancouver become a leading international city. A former UBC student, Mr. Pattison led the organization of Expo '86, helped bring the 2010 Winter Olympics to Vancouver and has greatly enhanced hospitals and patient care in British Columbia and Saskatchewan through his remarkable philanthropic efforts. The Jim Pattison Foundation—one of Canada's most generous private foundations—has touched the lives of countless people throughout Canada.

**Angela Redish:** UBC is grateful for Angela Redish's unwavering dedication to transformative learning and the students and faculty of UBC. Angela has worked as a senior advisor to UBC President Stephen Toope, acting as a faculty liaison and providing advice on the university budget and government relations. In 2012, she was Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Enrolment and Academic Facilities, and then Provost pro-tem, working with me in my first year. She has also been actively involved in establishing the Vancouver School of Economics at UBC. Angela is known for continually supporting students and colleagues so that they can realize their potential, as well as for her profound belief in the importance of universities to creating strong, resilient societies around the globe. She has diligently helped to enhance the academic impact of UBC, create a vibrant environment on campus and strengthen the student experience at UBC.

I am truly honoured that these five outstanding individuals are the first recipients. I hope this is the beginning of a proud tradition at the University of British Columbia.

**Professor Santa J. Ono**  
President and Vice-Chancellor



**President's Medals of Excellence.**  
Photo credit Paul Joseph, UBC.



**Robert H. Lee, business leader, philanthropist and founder of the UBC Properties Trust (centre) with his wife Lily Lee (right) and University Marshal and Professor of Music Nancy Hermiston (left) surrounded by members of the Band at the President's Medal of Excellence Awards ceremony. Photo credit Paul Joseph, UBC.**



**The 2018 recipients of the President's Medal of Excellence with UBC President and Vice-Chancellor Santa J. Ono: (left to right) Bill Levine, Risa Levine, Santa Ono, Jim Pattison, Angela Redish, and Linc Kesler. Photo credit Paul Joseph, UBC.**

## Explore Nature to Reduce Stress: Perspective of High-Schooler

**Patricia Ho**  
Grade 10 student

University Hill Secondary School

Hi everyone, I am a student currently enrolled in the Vancouver School Board (VSB) Grade 10 TREK Program that focuses on outdoor education at Prince of Wales Secondary School. As the school year comes to an end, I would like to share a few thoughts on my experience spending one year in an outdoor-based study.

As the only person from my home-school (University Hill Secondary School) to attend TREK, I was quite reluctant to accept the admission offer back in February 2017. However, it was a step up for me, given the opportunity to learn new

skills, learn more about myself and most importantly, make long-lasting bonds with people who share the same passion about the outdoors.

My grade 10 year spent at TREK will definitely be one of the best high school years to look back on.

I now understand myself better and see a greater view of the world we live in today.

TREK has provided and exposed me to various ways to reduce stress by exploring beautiful British Columbia. By learning outdoor survival skills, we went on four different trips throughout the year: a backpacking trip at Garibaldi Park, telemark skiing in Manning Park, Cypress quinzhee-making trip, and Clayoquot Sound kayaking trip. These trips allowed me to further explore and realize how many activities we can do just in our backyards.

For the sake of better health, I believe it is necessary to discover the outdoors starting at a young age. This year was my second year returning to University Hill Elementary School to volunteer in an after-school program called Nature Club led by parent Jen McCutcheon, a volunteer. In each weekly session, the participants learn different topics (mason bees, gardening, beach exploration, forest walk, zero waste, salmon dissection, animal homes, etc.) and spend time in an outdoor setting, rain or shine. For example, in the beach exploration, the students soak their feet in the ocean, smell the salty breeze, touch and learn about sea creatures, listen to the waves and birds and observe the science behind the ecosystem.

Along with an argumentative essay I proposed in English class this year, a thesis stating 'Outdoor Education must be a required course in British Columbia's school system', I've acquired many facts and supporting research that have proven the benefits of spending time outdoors. This is especially critical in high school where students face stress and anxiety from change, learning and getting ready for the life ahead. Embracing yourself in an outdoor setting (forest, beach, garden or any outdoor sports, etc.) can help enhance concentration.

Why waste the alluring outdoor playground around us? I challenge every high school student to spend at least 15-30 minutes outdoors each day.



Kayaking on beautiful BC shoreline.  
Photo credit Patricia Ho.



Discovering the great outdoors.  
Photo credit Ethan Ho.

## The RoadtoSchool Club: Girls' Education Fundraiser

*Club creates opportunity for local students to support and promote girls' education in developing countries*



**Judy Hyojoo Rhee**  
Student, University Hill  
Secondary School  
President of the RoadtoSchool Club

I became interested in girls' education after reading the book *I Am Malala*, authored by Malala Yousafzai, the well-known human rights activist, and in 2017 I founded the RoadtoSchool student club at University

Hill Secondary School to support and promote girls' education in developing countries.

Every year, the club organizes fundraising events, such as the Krispy Kreme Donut sale and the Book and Clothing Drive, and increases awareness through discussions and workshops. Our club sends all donations from our fundraisers to a local non-profit organization, One Girl Can, and the money goes towards the tuition fees of female high school students in Africa.

Our club is continuing the Spring Fundraiser in the UNA community into the month of July, as the amount of donations we have collected does not yet meet the target amount needed to pay the one-year tuition fees for two high school students in Kenya, Sarah and Kavutha. We still need about \$600 to reach our goal.

If you would like to make a contribution and positively and tangibly change the lives of Sarah and Kavutha, please visit the RoadtoSchool website ([roadtoschool.weebly.com](http://roadtoschool.weebly.com)) and leave a message through the contact form.

Your help is greatly appreciated!



# Unique Adventure in Forest: Greenheart TreeWalk

**Laura Cottle**

*Manager of Operations at Greenheart TreeWalk*

**Elisa Kwun**

*Urban Forestry Coop Student with Greenheart*

*The naturalist said we were almost at the TreeWalk, just a little more walking to go. It feels like we've been walking forever, but then suddenly I see it! I jump up and down with excitement along with my classmates.*

*"... Just remember my rules and we will all have an exciting but safe experience, okay?" The naturalist punches in the access code and opens the door. It looks like a bridge up to the sky! We wobble-wobble our way up to the first platform. "There are eight platforms, 11 bridges and even a tower," says the naturalist. This is so cool! I cannot wait to go even higher! Those ferns down below look so small – I'm even taller than some trees. So this is how a squirrel feels..."*

In the depths of the Asian Garden at the UBC Botanical Garden lies a hidden adventure treasure: the Greenheart TreeWalk. The TreeWalk, formerly known as the Canopy Walkway, was built in 2008. The goal at the time was to highlight and educate people about our native coastal temperate forest which, at that time, was at the outer edge of the Botanical Garden collection. Ten years later — the collection has grown and many unique species are now located under the TreeWalk. As a result, although the education continues to revolve around the native forest, visitors are also introduced to some of these interesting species.

Greenheart ([www.greenheart.ca](http://www.greenheart.ca)) is the private enterprise that built and continues to own and operate the TreeWalk located on Musqueam First Nation traditional territory within the UBC Botanical Garden. The company's business goal is to create sustainable eco-tourism through the building of 'canopy walkways' in various protected forests and parks throughout the world. They have built canopy walkways in, for example, Brazil, Peru, Guyana, Nigeria and Rwanda. In every place the foundational concept is the same: get people up into the trees for a captivating, educational and unique experience while taking care not to harm the trees or forest ecosystem. The distinctive engineering design of the 'treehugger' system provides the method to suspend the aerial trails and platforms

from trees in such a way that does not cause damage to the trees. The system can also help to protect the forest ecosystem by keeping people from tramping through the understory. Because people are willing to pay for this adventurous experience and because the trees are a vital part of this adventure, revenue is generated via the (protected) forest. It is a forest product — but one achieved through protection of the forest.

Being up in the trees allows for unique experiences. Recently, elementary students visiting the Greenheart TreeWalk on a school field trip got to see baby birds close up. By watching quietly and observing nature, they saw 'clumps' of baby Brown Creepers, camouflaged on the brown-barked trees like fungal growths. The baby Creepers gave themselves away as the 'fungal clumps' suddenly came to life and moved toward the food their parents brought to feed them. These birds make their nests under loose flaps of bark but once their babies are hatched, it doesn't take long before they are 'clumping' for disguise. They need their disguise to hide from Barred Owls looking for dinner. Barred Owls are among the collection of birds that capture our visitors' attention usually through their songs or calls. Other birds include Pileated Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, Pacific Wrens, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Chickadees, Nuthatches, Robins, and Varied and Swainson's thrushes.

In BC, we have beautiful nature all around us. The TreeWalk allows people to experience the beauty of this forest from a completely different perspective by walking up into the forest, and, through our educational programs, to learn something about this intricate and integrated system we call a forest. The goal of the Greenheart TreeWalk is to attract visitors and then educate them while providing local employment and financial support to the Botanical Garden.

How do we help people to learn about the forest? To learn the vital role that forest ecosystems play not only in the environment as a whole, but also in our individual health, we provide them with an adventure, elevate their adrenalin levels and sprinkle on an educational experience. The result: "a bit scary but really fun way to learn all about trees and forests and animals that live here", to quote a young visitor who recently visited us.

We invite members of the UNA to come and explore the beautiful UBC Botanical Garden. Remember that with your Access Card you have free admission to



Visitors on the Greenheart TreeWalk. Photo credit Yize Ma.

the garden. For a small outlay of money, you can purchase your ticket to 'wobble-wobble' your way to new heights of an outdoor learning experience at the Greenheart TreeWalk. This year, in addition to our daily free drop-in naturalist tours (3 times per day), we are offering twice per week Mandarin tours at 1:30 pm on Thursday and Sunday. For information on admission rates and tour times, please check the UBC Botanical Garden website <http://botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/visit/> and/or scan our WeChat QR code, right.



Laura Cottle and a young visitor experience Greenheart TreeWalk high in the trees. Photo credit Yize Ma.



TreeWalk is located on Musqueam First Nation traditional territory within the UBC Botanical Garden. Photo credit Ian Green.

# YOUNG JOURNALISTS AT UNA OLD BARN COMMUNITY CENTRE

## Spring Fair at NRP School

**Felix Wu**  
Grade 7 student at  
Norma Rose Point School



**Felix Wu**

The second annual Spring Fair at Norma Rose Point School took place in May. Food, drinks, games and activities for students, parents and UBC neighbours were available.

Tickets went on sale at a good price—one ticket for one dollar, 15 tickets for 10 dollars, and the school generously gave each student 5 free tickets encouraging children to stay after school and participate in the exciting event.

Games included: dunk tank, a strength tester (participants used a big red hammer to smash a metal thing as hard as they can), dodge ball, bouncy castle, mini games and rides.

“My favorite game was dunk tank,” said Ray, an NRP student. “It was quite fun watching teachers and my classmates fall in the water.” The dunk tank was a major attraction for the older students: competitive by nature, they enjoyed seeing fellow classmates fall in the water or even occasionally pressing the target plate without being noticed.

The Spring Fair lasted until 7 pm. The school supplied participants with abundance of popcorn and also invited food truck vendors to feed the ravenous crowd. The smell of hot dogs and burgers filled the

parking lot on Acadia Road; even random people walking by decided to buy food.

“I have never eaten a Japadog... It looks really nice,” said Timmy, an NRP student who was about to spend all of his friend’s money to get a Japadog.

Overall, the Spring Fair was quite successful, and there were suggestions to make it even better for everyone. The most common feedback was that there weren’t enough big games to use all the tickets on — this caused ridiculously long lines at a few games.

Also, a lot of people didn’t know there were mini games in the big gym, so it would have been helpful if there were more signs indicating the events and their locations.

Lastly, if next year’s summer is hot, then more popsicles, please!

## From Ramadan to Eid

**Mariam Elnady**  
Grade 8 homeschooler  
living at UBC



**Mariam Elnady**

The longest event in the Muslim calendar is the thirty-day fast for Ramadan, itself completed by Eid Al-Fitr, a three-day celebration.

On June 2, during Ramadan, UBC President Santa Ono came to the Muslim Student Association (MSA) Annual Community Iftar (*breaking fast dinner*) to give a message to Muslim residents at UBC. His attendance was appreciated by those gathered to break their fast after sunset. He was the first UBC president ever to attend.

Eid began on June 14. Muslims were out in their best clothes, eating and celebrating together.

“We celebrate Eid because we finished a big task. We fasted for thirty days.” Dina Badawy, a UBC student, said. “On the morning of Eid, Muslims pray together in large groups and attend a short lecture afterwards.” When asked about popular treats and traditions observed during Eid, she said, “Since Canada is so multicultural, there is no one popular tradition or sweet. It depends on your ethnicity. In Egypt, we would probably have a platter of sugar cookies.”

“My family usually makes goodie bags. My daughter gives them out to her friends at school. We also make special Eid

gifts for the teachers,” said Rania Tantawy, a BC Muslim School teacher.

This year, many Vancouverite Muslims celebrated Eid at the annual Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) Eid Prayer and Festival, hosted at Canada Place. One of the organizers said, “We really wanted the festival to be next to a lake, such as Trout Lake, because the view is beautiful and the overall cost of the event decreases. However, many people did not want the festival to be at a lake and we had to book Canada Place at the last minute.” Usually, there are bouncy castles, face painting, henna and a reptile show, but unfortunately due to the last minute decision to host the event at Canada Place, there was no time to book bouncy castles and the reptile show.

Hopefully, next year’s festival will be even more spectacular than this year.

## WESBROOK COMMUNITY CENTRE SUMMER YOGA SCHEDULE

3335 WEBBER LANE, WESBROOK VILLAGE

IN EFFECT JULY 2018

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<b>Pilates Fusion</b> 1:15 - 2:15 Heidi	<b>Flow Yoga</b> 10:00 - 11:00 Heidi	<b>Gentle &amp; Restorative</b> 10:00 - 11:15 Angie	<b>Flow Yoga</b> 10:00 - 11:00 Heidi	<b>Gentle Yoga</b> 10:00 - 11:00 Angie	<b>Yoga Foundations</b> 10:00 - 11:00 Judy	<b>Iyengar Yoga</b> 9:15 - 10:30 Luci
<b>Flow Yoga</b> 5:30 - 6:45 Christine	<b>Yoga Foundations</b> 12:10 - 1:00 Angie	<b>Core &amp; Form</b> 1:15 - 2:15 Lidija / Kim	<b>Yoga for Back Care</b> 12:10 - 1:00 Lidija	<b>Flow Yoga</b> 12:10 - 1:00 Lidija	<b>Flow Yoga</b> 12:30 - 1:30 Judy	
	<b>Gentle Yoga</b> 5:30 - 6:45 Trudy	<b>Flow Yoga</b> 5:30 - 6:45 Christine	<b>Iyengar Stretch</b> 5:30 - 6:45 Luci			

Gentle and Relaxing
 Stretch and Flex

STUDIO 1  
WESBROOK COMMUNITY CENTRE #201

STUDIO 2  
WESBROOK COMMUNITY CENTRE #202

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