

# THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

JUNE 5, 2025  
VOLUME 15, ISSUE 4



## We Are Launching a New Arts and Culture Section!

Do you live on campus and have a flair for the arts? Get in touch with us to showcase your work.

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## UNA Gets Behind Opposition to Energy Rate Increase

*May Board meeting also included discussions on the campus bikeshare program and a planned expansion at the UBC farm.*

BY EMMANUEL SAMOGLU

The UNA is getting behind a growing chorus of voices in opposition to a proposed double digit increase in rates



One of two energy centres in the Neighbourhood District Energy System, located along the South Campus Greenway near the entrance of UBC Farm. Both energy centres heat water and distribute it to residences in Wesbrook Place through a network of underground pipes. (Photo: Eagle Glassheim).

charged by a company providing heat and hot water to 17 buildings in Wesbrook Place.

During May's UNA board meeting, directors voted in favour of a motion to draft a letter to the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) that urges the regulator to reject an application by energy company Corix Utilities to increase their rates by a range of 12 to 18 per cent annually over the next three years.

If approved, affected ratepayers in Wesbrook could see an increase in their bills by 45 per cent over three years. The company has received interim approval by the regulator, but the review process is continuing with a final decision expected in fall 2025.

A draft copy of the letter authored by UNA board chair Eagle Glassheim circulated during the meeting says the rate increases would place an "unfair and unsustainable" burden on affected households.

"At a time when many residents are already struggling with rising living expenses, this dramatic increase feels particularly unfair and unsustainable," the draft letter reads.

"Affordability must be a priority, and the cost of energy is essential for the well-being of our community. Lower-income households, in particular, would bear a disproportionately large burden of this increased energy cost."

Vancouver-based Corix provides hot water and heat through a central Neighbourhood District Energy System that includes two energy plants—one next to

Pacific Spirit Regional Park just south of Binning Road and Gray Avenue, the other along the South Campus Greenway, near the entrance of UBC Farm. Both plants use natural gas to heat water before it is distributed through an underground pipe network.

Last year, a Corix official told *The Campus Resident* the system provides a cost-effective and environmentally friendly solution to provide heat and hot water to customers in the Wesbrook neighbourhood.

Buildings in Wesbrook currently connected to the system and subject to the proposed rate increase include: Prodigy, Binning, The Laureates, Webber House, Village Square, Virtuoso, Cypress House, Pine House, Eton Tower, Residences at Nobel Park, Georgia Point, Oakwood, Mundell House, Ivy on the Park, Conservatory, Echo, and Theory.

The system was upgraded last spring with the intention of expanding to all future residences in the area.

A review process by the BCUC is ongoing, with members of the public being offered the opportunity to submit letters of comment until June 24 through the regulator's website.

The UNA says community response has been strong. As of May 28, 83 letters in opposition to the rate increase have been submitted.

UBC Properties Trust (UBCPT), Wesbrook's largest landlord, has requested to act as an intervener in the proceedings, which allows the organization to actively participate by submitting questions, arguments, and evidence on the matter.

UBCPT says it operates 881 units of rental housing connected to the Corix system. A total of 1,744 condominium units in Wesbrook Place are connected.

In its submission to the regulator, UBCPT says the system is "high cost" and should be phased out with affected buildings retrofitted with heat pumps.

### Bike Share Expansion Faces Scrutiny

A resident addressed the UNA board to voice concerns with the proposed expansion of the Mobi Bike Share system in Hampton Place.

A new station for the bike share system, which is currently being expanded throughout campus, has been proposed for the neighbourhood and would be installed on the street, just a few metres west of Wyndham Hall at 5683 Hampton Place. The space is currently designated as parking for the Evo carshare program.

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More than 400 hectares in size, UBC campus is full of hidden and underexplored treasures that are waiting to be discovered.

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### Treasures Await at BC Golf Museum

Golf museum located at University Golf Club holds the distinction of being the only independent golf museum and library in North America.

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## Spring is in the Air with NRP School Fair



Norma Rose Point elementary school held their spring fair on May 9, bringing out the community to help raise funds for the coming academic year and beyond. Students, parents, and members of the community enjoyed a wide range of attractions including carnival rides, food trucks, student performances, and once again, an energy-filled show by Emcee/DJ Rock n' Beau (pictured here). School organizers said the event was a major success, thanks to a team of 130 volunteers including: 87 parents/guardians, 11 grade seven NRP students, and 32 students from University Hill Secondary School and the UNA's Youth Leadership Program. (Photo: Scott Andrews)

# No Opening Date Set for Campus Community Centre

Construction of the *lelǎm* community centre was completed during the summer of 2024, but remains closed to residents.

BY AMIE BERNAERDT

Located on the edge of UBC's east part of campus in the University Endowment Lands is *lelǎm*, a relatively new development built by the Musqueam Capital Corporation.

The 8.7 hectare development currently consists of several apartment buildings with a plaza in the centre surrounded by street-level shops, and hopefully soon, the *lelǎm* community centre.

Although construction of the community centre finished in the summer 2024, it still hasn't opened to the public. In summer 2024, an advertised grand opening including a grand unveiling and traditional blessing ceremony was scheduled for July 18, but never materialized.

Before the community centre can open, a qualified person is needed to operate it, said a spokesperson with the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs. Once that person is found, the centre will be closer to opening to the public.

"No date has been set for opening the facility to the public," the spokesperson said. "We are hoping to share more soon."

One *lelǎm* resident told *The Campus Resident* she had reached out to the Musqueam Capital Corporation and the University Endowment Lands (UEL) administration. Only after repeated inquiries did she receive a response via email in late May from a UEL administrator, who said they are targeting to open the centre to the public this summer. As of May 28, no official announcement has been made.

The resident said trying to get information has been "a rather frustrating experience".

When it opens to the public, the community centre will have 15,000 square feet of space for the community to gather. This includes meeting spaces, a fitness centre, and a daycare facility which is currently under construction on a site immediately south of the community centre.

"Primary services will focus on a fitness centre, studio-based fitness classes such as yoga and step, recreational sports, camps, special events, and any other programming as requested or needed by the community," the spokesperson said. There will also be space available for community events or event rental.

All residents of *lelǎm* and visitors to the area will be able to access and use the facility. It is located at 5490 Shortcut Road, within the *lelǎm* development. The UEL is responsible for the community centre's

long-term programming, operation, and maintenance. Nearly 4,000 people currently live on UEL lands, which are located on Point Grey between the city of Vancouver and UBC.

UNA communications manager Glenda Ollero said the UNA will not be a part of running the community centre, and that there aren't any plans for collaboration between the UNA and *lelǎm*'s community centre at the present time.

Meanwhile, development in *lelǎm* continues with plans for more housing. Last September, the provincial government approved an amendment application by developer Townline Developments Inc. for

an increase in residential density on vacant parcels of land in *lelǎm* where construc-

tion work has yet to begin.

Previous plans for the parcels of land included a variety of townhouses and four to six-storey apartment buildings, plus two 18-storey towers. The approved plan now allows for a substantial increase in density with five residential towers ranging from 22 to 34 storeys, up to a maximum height of 107 metres. If built, it would result in an additional 31,150 square metres from the 55,000 square metres of housing previously allowed - an increase of 57 percent. 

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



The *lelǎm* community centre has yet to open to the public, despite construction being completed last July. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

## We Are Launching a New Arts and Culture Section!

Do you live on campus and have a flair for the arts? Get in touch with us to showcase your work.

BY TCR STAFF

Are you a writer, artist, doodler, or storyteller living in the university neighbourhoods?

Do you have a poem, pencil sketch, watercolour portrait, comic strip, short story, or perhaps something a little more obscure, that you'd love to share with your neighbours?

We're introducing an Arts and Culture section in *The Campus Resident* in our September issue to showcase the creative spirit of our community. We welcome submissions from residents of all ages and backgrounds—from seasoned creators to individuals just beginning their artistic journeys.

### What we're looking for:

- Poems (up to 50 lines)
- Short stories (Flash fiction, creative non-fiction, etc - max 500 words)
- Comic strips or single-panel cartoons
- Visual art (Paintings, photography, collages, digital art)



Share your written or visual art in *The Campus Resident*'s soon-to-be-launched Arts and Culture section by sending your work to [editor@thecampusresident.ca](mailto:editor@thecampusresident.ca) by August 15.

- Children's drawings or short poems (yes, we want contributions from the little ones too!)
- Off-beat art (Humor writing, quirky reflections, the abstract, etc)

### To submit:

- Email your submission to: [editor@thecampusresident.ca](mailto:editor@thecampusresident.ca). Include your name, the neighborhood you live in, and a short 40 word bio describing your art and who you are.
- For visual art, submissions must be sent in high-resolution at 300dpi, preferably as JPG/PNG/TIFF/PDF files.
- For written submissions, please attach

as a .doc, .docx, or Google Doc file.

We are launching the section in our September 2025 issue. To have your work considered, please send your submission in no later than August 15.

All submissions will be reviewed by *The Campus Resident*'s Arts and Culture editors. Accepted contributors will be notified and have their work featured in both print and at [www.thecampusresident.ca](http://www.thecampusresident.ca).

Get involved and share your artistic talents with the community! 



**UNA Residents SAVE \$140**  
Get your 1-year fitness membership for \$399.

This is a limited time offer to celebrate the opening of Rec North, our new fitness centre this spring. Offer expires July 31, 2025.

Learn more at: [recreation.ubc.ca/una-offer](http://recreation.ubc.ca/una-offer)



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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Dog Owners: Pick Up After Your Pet

Guess what I got for my birthday this year? A fresh steaming pile of dog poo on my lawn in Wesbrook Village.

I suppose I shouldn't have been surprised. Just two days earlier I had been hosing off dog excrement from my front sidewalk that was smeared into the cement by the lawnmowers.

This isn't a new issue at Wesbrook Place, it's just getting worse. It's on the grass, all over the sidewalks, in bags littered in gardens, at the playground. I have provided photos to *The Campus Resident* within a few days of each other, showing the density of the dog waste situation in this neighborhood. Even our landscapers don't want to maintain our lawn and garden areas anymore due to this problem! I've lived in this neighbourhood for 15 years and with the growing human and dog population, the situation is just getting worse.

The majority of dog owners are responsibly picking up their dog's waste (I was one of them), but for the minority who aren't, it's creating a big issue. Leaving your dog waste piles up in a big way (your dog poops daily, by the way) and it's pretty

gross for the lucky person who steps on it, or that kid that crawls over it.

Will the \$230,000 dog park on the future elementary school grounds solve the issue? I am also wondering: when the school gets built, where will the dog park and \$230,000 investment go?

Just an idea - that \$230,000 could go towards bylaw officers, and whatever happened to the basketball court/tennis court the space was originally allocated for anyway?

Neighbours - please kindly pick up after your dog. 🐾

A CAMPUS RESIDENT

(Name, address, and phone number supplied)



A campus resident is calling on maverick dog owners to do a better job of picking up after their pets. (Photos: Supplied)

# Stop Raising Rents, Tenants Tell UBC

As rents drop in Vancouver, residents are calling on the university to make housing more affordable for those living on campus.

BY EMMANUEL SAMOGLOU

Campus tenants living in university housing are calling on UBC to stop raising rents.

As rents continue to drop in Metro Vancouver and Canada's other major cities, students, staff, and faculty renting through UBC and UBC Properties Trust are calling out the university for continuing to raise the cost of housing on campus.

Tenants living in UBC rental housing at Acadia Park have been hit with a 3.5 per cent rent hike this Spring. The university initially told residents their rents would be increasing by 5 per cent, which sparked a backlash by tenants and was followed by the university backtracking and reducing the proposed increase.

A spokesperson from UBC Tenants - VTU (Vancouver Tenants Union) told *The Campus Resident* the decrease was welcomed, but more needs to be done to improve landlord-tenant relations on campus.

"This keeps more money in the pockets of student families on campus," the spokesperson said. "It also shows us what

is possible when tenants get together and directly confront our landlord."

"... even though UBC lowered the rent increases at Acadia park to 3.5 per cent, this is still above the currently allowed provincial amount of 3 per cent this year."

The spokesperson said UBC Housing is able to increase rents above the provincial limit as the university is not bound by the Residential Tenancy Act.

The spokesperson described the current housing situation on campus as "unsustainable for many UBC tenants," as many renters are dealing with stagnant wages and funding packages while the cost of living and education continue to rise.

"The results of this are devastating," the spokesperson said.

"We've heard from many tenants who've said they spend the majority of their funding on rent, with some people saying as much as 90 per cent of their income goes towards rent. Every week at Acadia Park, there are long lines to receive food staples from UBC's own Acadia Food Bank."

UBC/West Point Grey is ranked by Liv Strategies as the 3rd most expensive neighbourhood in the city, behind the West End (ranked first) and Downtown.

RENTS CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



The proposed resource hub at UBC farm. (Image: UBC Farm / Centre for Sustainable Food Systems)

## ENERGY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A representative of the Wyndham Hall Strata Corporation told directors the proposed 12-bike station would create safety issues for motorists and pedestrians, while reducing available guest parking near their building, impacting tradespeople and delivery services.

The representative said residents are not opposed to the concept of bike-sharing but asked the UNA to advocate on their behalf and ask UBC planners to find an alternative and "less disruptive" location.

Carole Jolly, a director at UBC Campus & Community Planning, said plans for the bikeshare station have been put on hold. In the meantime, she said the rollout of the campus-wide Mobi expansion is ongoing and discussions will continue on Mobi's presence in Hampton Place.

## New Farm Centre in the Works

During a presentation to directors at the meeting, Sean Smukler, director at the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at UBC Farm, said a new facility is being planned at the farm.

Smukler said he wants the community to see the facility as a resource hub for information about the farm and sustainable agriculture.

"The idea is to make what is currently a three-season facility into a four-season opportunity," he said.

Planners are currently in the final phase of the design process and are aiming to have construction commence in December with occupancy in June 2027. 🐾

EMMANUEL SAMOGLOU IS THE MANAGING EDITOR OF THE CAMPUS RESIDENT.

## OPINION

# Trump Tariff Threats and Choosing Canadian Chickens

*Chatter about economic war with the US may be subsiding, but many are still persuaded to buy local to support Canadian businesses. Does it even make a difference?*

BY EAGLE GLASSHEIM

American President Donald Trump has stirred the Canadian beehive with his moving-target tariffs and blunt musings about annexing Canada. Like so many Canadians, I've budgeted extra time for grocery shopping in order to scrutinize labels and puzzle over what constitutes Canadian content in my cereal and ketchup. Our local grocer has tried to make this easier for us with special tags and patriotic displays. I'm pretty sure I haven't bought an American tomato since February.

Even with our earnest efforts to buy Canadian, British Columbia is highly dependent on American fruits and vegetables. UBC professor and UNA resident Navin Ramankutty, together with post-doctoral fellow Kushank Bajaj, has developed an app that shows where most of BC's produce comes from. At [canadafoodflows.ca](http://canadafoodflows.ca) you can trace Canadian imports of fruits and vegetables from the US, Mexico, and other countries around the world. You may not be surprised to learn that 55 per cent of BC's lettuce came from California in 2022. But did you know that 93 per cent of

BC's garlic came from China? Or that 57 per cent of onions came from Washington state?

Is all this buzzing around grocery stores with our elbows up really worth it? The tariffs seem to be receding. Stock prices have bounced back. Canadians have long benefited from our close trading relationship with our super-sized neighbour, and ally, to the south. And protectionism has not served Canada or the world well in the past: an earlier wave of anti-globalism in the 1930s weakened ties and mutual interdependence among nations, worsening the Great Depression and making war more likely.

There are some clear benefits of buying Canadian goods when we can, though, even if we have to pay a bit more for them. Locally produced food and goods have a lower carbon footprint and support jobs and economies here in BC. Though syrup, cheese, and bubbly water from Quebec may burn some extra carbon on their way to the west coast, buying Canadian boosts the economy of our entire country, from sea to sea to sea. When Quebec and Ottawa are happy, we're all happier.

We're particularly fortunate to have produce so local that it's practically in our back yard. The UBC Farm, one of the few urban university farms in the world, grows and sells a wide range of fruits, vegetables, and flowers at its Tuesday and Saturday markets, which run from June 3 through November 29. In addition to the produce grown right here on the edge of the Wesbrook neighbourhood, the farm market features small-scale and sustainable farmers and craftspeople from around the Lower Mainland.

By the way, did you know that the UBC Farm used to have chickens? Until Covid and Avian Influenza conspired to empty the farm's chicken coop, patrons could buy the 'localest' of local eggs at the Farm's summer

*Is all this buzzing around grocery stores with our elbows up really worth it?*

## RENTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

That distinction - combined with ongoing annual rent increases - has some Wesbrook Place tenants questioning their decision to move to campus, as well as UBC's commitment to provide affordable, below-market housing in what the university describes as "one of the world's least affordable regions".

One of those residents is Mike O'Connor, who moved into staff housing with his wife - a UBC faculty member - and children in 2024.

Shortly after settling in to their new home, however, he found out that they were paying as much as \$1,500 more per month than their neighbours who'd moved in years before them - for nearly identical units.

O'Connor's neighbour, who spoke to *The Campus Resident* and asked to remain anonymous, found themselves in a similar situation after moving into a 4-bedroom unit with their partner and dependents in late 2023.

Both said what makes the situation untenable is repeated annual increases in their rents by landlord Village Gate Homes. This means they both will be perpetually paying more than their neighbours, even those who have moved in after them as advertised rents have dropped, for nearly identical units.

"Increasing rents every year indiscriminately at the maximum percentage allowable by law for UBC staff and faculty doesn't make sense," the neighbour said.

"Taking into account these rent increases, we will perpetually be paying more rent than everyone".

Both said they've reached out to

Village Gate Homes and UBC to address their grievances, but they said their concerns have been largely ignored.

"They literally looked at me in the eye and said 'If you don't like living here, you can move out'", the neighbour said, recounting an exchange with a Village Gate Homes staff member.

"UBC faculty housing has been completely unhelpful in any of this," said O'Connor. "While they acknowledge that a lot of it is not fair and not right, they've claimed that there's nothing that they can do about it, because UBC Properties Trust acts completely independent from the university itself."

*The Campus Resident* initially contacted UBCPT with questions for this article, who then referred all questions to UBC Housing, Immigration, & Relocation Services. The newspaper then contacted UBC through its media relations department.

The university did not directly respond to the questions but issued a statement that stated market-reduced rental rates are "on average" 25 per cent below market for the 1,400 units available exclusively to UBC staff and faculty.

The statement said the pricing structure and rent increases are "... designed to balance affordability with the costs associated with building, maintaining and operating these homes and to encourage faculty and staff residents to stay and enjoy UBC's unique communities."

"These adjustments help ensure the long-term financial viability of the housing program amidst rising supplier costs, allowing VGH to cover operating expenses such as maintenance and repairs across the portfolio," the statement reads. 🐔

markets. My kids and I used to greet the chickens before making off with their eggs; they didn't seem to mind. That era may be over, but the demand for affordable, local eggs is as strong as ever. Backyard chickens anyone? 🐔

EAGLE GLASSHEIM IS THE CHAIR OF THE UNIVERSITY NEIGHBOURHOODS ASSOCIATION AND A PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT UBC. THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS ARTICLE ARE ENTIRELY HIS OWN, ESPECIALLY REGARDING CHICKENS, AND DO NOT REPRESENT EITHER THE UNA OR UBC.



A display at Save-On Foods in Wesbrook Village, pictured here in May 2025. (Photo: Eagle Glassheim)



Chickens at UBC Farm, photographed in 2016. (Photo: UBC Farm)

OPINION

# Play a Bigger Role in Supporting Local LGBTIA Community

I feel pretty out of place in Wesbrook Place.

Not just because I'm in an odd age demographic, being a graduate student living in faculty and staff housing, but because it's hard not to feel like I'm the only trans person in my own neighbourhood.

I must not be, statistically, but it's still difficult not to feel like pride isn't at the forefront of my community's mind. I remember how struck I was when, in 2022, a six-stripe rainbow pride flag was hung sideways from the top of the community centre, with the stripes facing vertically. And how it was taken down in the last week of June to be replaced by a Canadian flag. The UNA doesn't have a pride event, among all of its community celebrations.

I've been trying to resist the cliché of "it's important to pay attention to your trans neighbours given how much we're under attack right now". First, because: when aren't we? Second, it's important to direct your attention towards marginalized peoples even when we aren't suffering. Respect, acknowledgment, and solidarity cannot only proceed from tragedy.

This month — and far beyond it — I want to ask the members of my community to consider what they can do to foster a more tangibly welcoming environment

*It's always the right time to support marginalized peoples, even when they aren't under attack.*

BY CASSIUS HESPERUS



for their LGBTIA neighbours. Even if that consideration just looks like asking, "what

am I doing to create a safe space in my neighbourhood, and is there anything else I could be doing?"

I want to offer some more direct and less obvious ways that you can help the LGBTIA people in our community:

- Consider displaying a pride flag.

Some lease agreements prohibit tenants from hanging flags, foil, or stickers on their windows. Check your lease agreement and ask your property manager for clarification. You aren't limited to just hanging a flag in your window, you can also display a small handheld flag, a poster visible from the inside of the apartment, a lawn ornament on your patio or by your plants, or a more unique decoration with a more personalised message on it.

An important consideration is that you display the 2021 intersex-inclusive progress pride flag. Rainbow stripe flags representing the entire LGBTIA community get updated fairly frequently in response to changing social concerns, typically to highlight the most marginalized members of our community: the black and brown stripes represent LGBTIA people of colour, the pink, blue, and white stripes represent trans people; and the purple circle on the yellow background represents intersex people. Look up more recent variations on the rainbow stripe flag; there may be more colours added in the future!

- As you go about your day, think about what barriers are present for trans people in your environment, and what might be done to remove those barriers. By far, I experience the most transphobia at the post office, where I collect parcels under a name different to what's displayed on my ID. My sex marker, too, draws a lot of attention when I display it at the liquor store. It's worth asking why requirements like this exist in the first place, and why it's so excruciatingly difficult to

undergo an official change of name. If you work in an establishment that requires disclosures like this, it might be worth having a conversation with a superior about what you can do when you encounter a trans customer.

- Cut Harry Potter out of your life. No exceptions. We know, without a shadow of a doubt, that the reason why the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom was able to pass transmisogynistic and transphobic laws was directly because of the exorbitant amount of money author JK Rowling donates to transmisogynistic groups and organizations. Any and all profits from the Harry Potter franchise directly funds transphobia. References towards and support of Harry Potter communicates that you are an unsafe person to LGBTIA people. Abandon it. My mother, who has read every fantasy book ever published, strongly recommends reading Diana Wynne Jones instead.
- Educate your child about LGBTIA issues. The vast majority of discriminatory talking points centralize around the idea that discussions about sexual, romantic, and gender identities are inappropriate to have with children. Intervene in that narrative by treating these topics as part of a broader conversation about puberty: vital, normal, and unavoidable. Just as parents and teachers need to teach pubescent children about menstrual periods not only in order to support the children who experience them, but to foster more supportive attitudes in the ones who will not; children must equally learn about their own developing romantic, sexual, and gender identities both for themselves, for the other children in their lives, and for the children they may turn out to be.
- Call out transphobia when you see it happening. This is the most difficult item on this list, because no one likes confrontation. But it is especially necessary for people who are not the target of bigoted remarks to intervene and defend those who are. If a bigot thinks they are safe to share their ideas with you, correct their misapprehension in order to simultaneously affirm that you are not like them and to protect the people who are under attack. Raise your shield for people who cannot do so themselves, and who are already exhausted from battle.

These broad and often very doomeristic conversations about marginalisation and violent legislation are hard to deal with for a number of reasons, the most prominent often being, how do we fight back against a system that feels larger than all of us and holds power over all of us.

I hope this provides some motivation for how we as a community can help to support our trans neighbours and make them feel more tangibly included. I do want to feel proud to live in this neighbourhood.

CASSIUS HESPERUS IS AN MA STUDENT AT UBC AND OCCASIONALLY CONTRIBUTES WATER FEATURE-RELATED PHOTOGRAPHS TO THE CAMPUS RESIDENT.



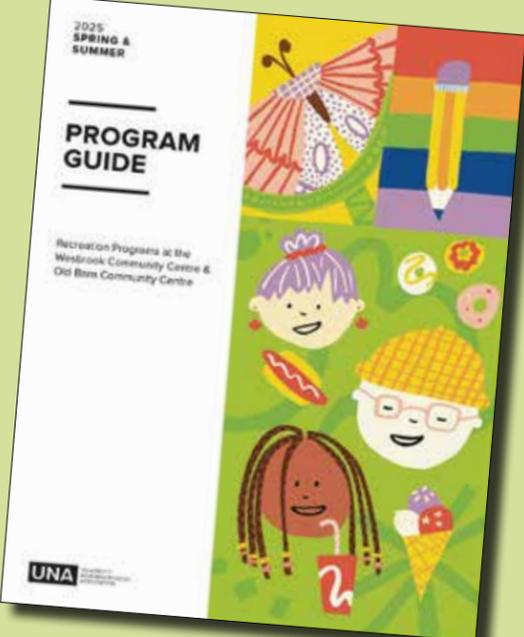
## REGISTER NOW

### OVER 200 PROGRAMS OFFERED

Try a new fitness class, learn a new musical instrument or drop in to play a sport with your friends! There's something for everyone at the UNA community centres.

Registration for Spring/Summer recreation programs is ongoing. Spots are limited, so sign up soon!

For more information, visit [myuna.ca/programs](https://myuna.ca/programs) or drop by the **Wesbrook Community Centre** (3335 Webber Ln.) or the **Old Barn Community Centre** (6308 Thunderbird Blvd.).






Clockwise from left: The University Centre Courtyard is a serene and uncrowded place to have lunch or read a book; The entrance to the Agroforestry Trail at UBC Farm; The apple trees located at the roundabout next to TRIUMF at 4004 Wesbrook Mall. In 1969, the founders of TRIUMF planted the first of seven apple trees. That tree is a direct descendant of the apple trees on Isaac Newton's family farm in Lincolnshire, England. (Photos: Permenia Rea)



Wheelchair access is via the elevator near the flagpole on Main Mall.

**Grand Fir Trail**

The Grand Fir Trail is one of the newest trails at Pacific Spirit Regional Park. This short trail is in two sections on Old Marine Drive, west of the Botanical Garden, near Trail 7. It runs parallel to the road, overlooking the water and takes you through old fir trees.

It is accessible on foot by starting from the entrance of the Botanical Garden and going north on SW Marine Drive, then turning left and continuing on Old Marine Drive. Watch your step as the terrain is uneven, and note that dogs are prohibited.

# Explore These Low-Key Spots Around Campus

More than 400 hectares in size, UBC campus is full of hidden and under-explored treasures that are waiting to be discovered.

BY PERMENIA REA

Summer is rapidly approaching and the excellent weather we get in BC makes it a great time for a stroll around campus.

Want to vary things up? Here are a few scenic spots within walking distance from all of the university neighbourhoods that

might add a little more colour and variety to your explorations.

**The Agroforestry Trail**

Enter the main gate of the UBC Farm (3461 Ross Drive), turn right and walk all the way past the market area, the yurt, and farm centre, until you see the sign for the Agroforestry Trail.

This short and uncrowded trail is great if you're looking for a peaceful walk through the woods. The path is narrow,

so watch the signs, and you might need to jump over a few logs. It joins an unpaved road looping past the Timberdome, and back up to the front.

It's a great side trip the next time you're attending a farmer's market, but note that dogs are not allowed at the farm.

**The University Centre Courtyard**

Located next to the UBC Rose Garden opposite from the Chan Centre, the University Centre courtyard is a quiet, uncrowded place to have lunch or read a book, with benches next to a pond and fountain with an overhanging maple tree.

Access the courtyard from either the UBC Rose Garden or from the left side of the University Centre at 6371 Crescent Rd.

**Isaac Newton Apple Trees**

This is a spot that's hiding in plain sight.

The seven "Isaac Newton Apple trees" are located at the roundabout next to 4004 Wesbrook Mall.

In 1969, the founders of TRIUMF, Canada's particle accelerator centre, planted the first apple tree – a direct descendant of the apple trees on Isaac Newton's family farm. According to the TRIUMF website, the trees are "a representation of the lab's six-pronged logo, itself inspired by the six magnetic sectors of the TRIUMF main cyclotron" and "the seventh tree in the centre represents the machine's main injection beamline, the start of the particle journey."

Check out the plaque in the circle and be careful crossing the street.

**Share Your Secret Spot**

There are many more, but this is a good start to explore some new places. Do you have your own special spot on campus? Share it with us by writing to [editor@thecampusresident.ca](mailto:editor@thecampusresident.ca).

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



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# Campus Resident and Journalist Takes on Corruption with Latest Film

Wesbrook resident and UBC professor Peter Klein talks to *The Campus Resident* about his latest documentary *Bribe, Inc.* and the challenges in exposing corporate corruption.

BY EMMANUEL SAMOGLU

Is the practice of multinational corporations paying bribes to corrupt foreign governments just a cost of doing business in the global economy?

Wesbrook Place resident Peter Klein, an Emmy Award-winning director, producer, and professor of journalism at UBC since 2005, recently delved into the murky world of corruption and bribery in the corporate world with the film, *Bribe, Inc.*

It's a thrilling documentary that follows an investigative journalist around the world as he examines a Monaco-based company that facilitated the payment of multi-million dollar bribes by multinational petroleum corporations to oil-rich states.

Klein took part in a campus screening of the documentary in March this year, with the event also doubling up as a celebration to mark the 25th anniversary of UBC's School of Journalism, Writing, and Media.

*Bribe, Inc.* also had Klein examining society's views on bribery and corruption, and how we account with the social costs of corporate criminal activity.

*The Campus Resident* sat down with him to learn more about his film and his journalism work.

## What prompted you to make this film?

At UBC, we host the Global Reporting Center, and many projects that we've done cover everything from terrorism to illegal logging to illegal fishing to gunrunning to human smuggling. All of these illicit things around the world share one common thing: bribery.

When I learned about this unbelievable bribery case, I realized I had always avoided talking about bribery because it just seemed like kind of a part of a story, but it wasn't *the* story.

I thought it would be interesting to just lean into that specific aspect of this bigger problem, and we have this incredible story with twists and turns and characters. It was ripe for a film. A lot of UBC alumni worked on it, and while it wasn't a project of UBC, it had a strong connection to campus.

## How did you come across the story?

One of the people in the film is Alexandra Wrage, an anti-corruption activist who lives on campus. She's the president and founder of Trace International, which is an anti-corruption organization that works with companies to help them stay outside with legal and ethical obligations and complying with the law around

corruption and bribery.

They got sort of sucked into this story when the bad guys in the documentary - the owners of this company called Unaoil - essentially tricked the organization to give them certification for being in compliance with anti-bribery laws by getting real letters from the CEOs of major corporations who were in bed with them.

She obviously knew about it, so she told me about it. I started digging, and realized, yeah, this is an incredible story.

## How did you manage to peel back the layers?

A whistleblower, out of the blue, sent this letter to Australian investigative journalist Nick McKenzie, and he said, 'Listen, if you want to get all the details, put an ad in the French newspaper, *Le Figaro*'. He gave him some very coded language, like, advertise for a villa called Monte Cristo, because he was a fan of *The Count of Monte Cristo*.

He put the ad in the newspaper and the whistleblower called him, and so Nick flew all the way over to France and met with him and eventually earned his trust. And the guy gave him over 300,000 pages of emails that detailed all the criminality. Without the whistleblower, there's no story.

## Describe your role and how you got involved?

Nick wrote a huge story for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, so he had broken the first part of the story. Then I partnered up with him and continued reporting it. And there were all these twists and turns that happened to the case, long after the story broke.

His story was about Unaoil doing this criminal activity, and he gave the British authorities a heads up about it. They went to Monaco, and they raided the company's offices, and took all their hard drives and took the guys into custody and interviewed

them. Our film is about what happened after his story was published.

## Is there anything that you uncovered that you did not expect?

Totally. When the Brits got the file, they were like, 'Great, here's all the evidence'. I think it was the largest case they'd ever had in the UK Serious Fraud Office. And when they're about to arrest the guys, they fled.

One of them went to Italy. And in Italy, the Brits had put out a red notice, so the guy got stopped at the airport in Rome. But then the guy who was captured, unbeknownst to anybody, called the FBI and he made a deal on the side with the Americans, saying, 'Listen, these Brits want to get me. They want to throw me in jail. I don't want to go to jail. I have all this information on all these companies that were in bed with us bribing. You guys can go after the companies and get huge fines from them.'

(SPOILER ALERT - The Americans basically stole the case away from the Brits and then ended up fining the companies a billion dollars, but the bad guys pretty much got away).

## During the screening, what kind of a response did you get from the audience?

It's always fun watching the film with audiences, because you see their reactions, you hear their gasps, and you kind of sense their frustration and their anger.

Everybody sort of ends up looking bad in this film. None of the bad guys would talk to us, as well as the US Department of Justice, the British Serious Fraud Office, because they all look bad.

I've had a few screenings now, and people have commented, saying, 'You know, I really love the film, but man, the ending really made me depressed'.

## Do you draw a conclusion from that, about society and its relationship with corruption and bribery?

One of the things we were trying to do with this project was to underscore that bribery is not a victimless crime, it's not the cost of doing business.

Our film predated the current Trump administration, but we do get into the previous Trump administration and how the President was lobbying for getting rid of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. He felt like it was a law that created an uneven playing field for American companies, that they couldn't bribe when Russia and China and everybody else is bribing. And you know, now we see he's essentially denatured the act, and he's not going to be enforcing it in his current administration.

So it does sort of fit a



Wesbrook resident and UBC professor Peter Klein.

general sense that bribery and corruption doesn't really matter. We tried to make it clear that it does matter, that it's central to so many of the ills in the world. And we give some very specific examples.

## How did this investigation differ compared to some of the other high-profile investigations that you've done in your journalism career?

The challenge with this one was that it didn't immediately jump out as relevant.

If I'm doing something on illegal logging, I'm going to assume that a lot of people watching or reading will agree that we shouldn't be randomly cutting trees down and cutting old growth forest or going into indigenous land and stealing wood. They're already in the camp with me, right?

When it comes to bribery and corruption, that was the hard part. It's so amorphous.

For something like terrorism or human trafficking, it kind of tugs on your heartstrings, or you have some reference point for it. With bribery and corruption, it's just international business and meetings and boardrooms. It's just so far away, so that was the tough part.

## Do you have some final comments for our readers?

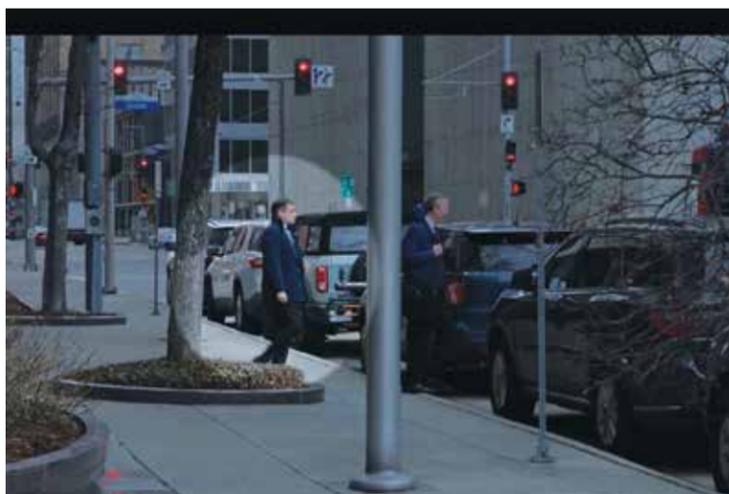
I've been at UBC for 20 years, but I've continued working as a journalist. I've kept an office in New York. I've been back and forth a lot and there's such a diversity of people with expertise in the campus community. They're not shy about telling me and other journalists that we may have done a bad job or got the story wrong.

It's the kind of pushback that I typically don't get in the news bubble world, where everyone loves to congratulate each other on doing a great story.

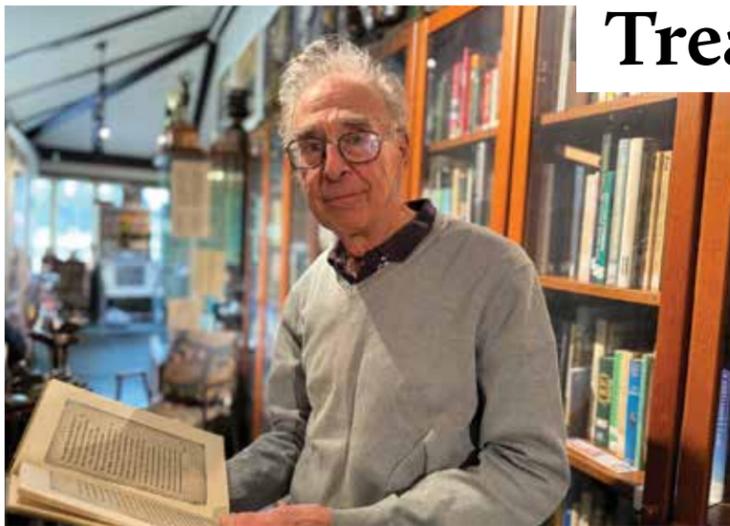
But here, I'm running into people at cafes, in classrooms, and on the street who will tell me we aren't getting it, not totally understanding the story, or missing some academic context.

We're not doing academic work - that's not our goal - but because of that scrutiny and having that expertise, what we'll do often is partner with people with expertise, not just go to them for a quote, but bring them into the newsroom. That's kind of exciting, because it's a new way of doing journalism. 🍷

(This interview was edited for length and condensed.)



A screenshot from *Bribe, Inc.* showing Saman Ahsani who, along with his father Ata Ahsani and brother Cyrus, ran Unioil - the company that facilitated the payment of multi-million-dollar bribes by multinational corporations to oil rich states.



Mike Riste, golf historian and curator at the BC Golf Museum. He says he began his love of golf in the 1950s by being a caddy for \$1.00 a round on the North Shore. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

# Treasures Await at BC Golf Museum

In addition to being an accomplished lifelong player, Riste's life from an early age has been entrenched in golf culture. He says he began his love of golf in the 1950s by being a caddy for \$1.00 a round on the North Shore. In the following years, he also caddied for Lucille Ball, Bob Hope, and Rod Laver amongst others.

In talking to Riste, it soon becomes apparent I have hit the jackpot. There seems to be nothing this wonderful, informed individual does not know about the game, which he explains in an engaging and entertaining way.

He begins by telling me about the history of the museum. The small, compact museum is over 30 years old, having opened on May 8, 1989 in the historic original 1930's clubhouse owned by the University Golf Club.

In 1986, a new club house was constructed, after which the old club house remained unused. It rapidly became run-down and dilapidated as various individuals debated what to do with it, musing about whether to develop it into a restaurant and bar, a daycare, or even relocate it to Pacific Spirit Regional Park to be used as a visitors' centre.

Riste had a vision for it to be used as a golf museum, and his dream was realised on November 11, 1986. Today, it is the oldest surviving clubhouse in the province.

The museum is packed with everything and anything related to golf. Many of the amazing and eclectic artifacts were discovered by Riste after visiting antique shops and markets across the globe, and by searching online for golf memorabilia. Other pieces have been donated by fellow golfers. Some were given to the museum by the widows of golfing enthusiasts who, upon the deaths of their beloved golf infatuated husbands, were at a loss of what to do with this paraphernalia.

An extensive library can also be found at the museum. Over eight thousand books are catalogued, including a copy of the first book on the subject of golf dating from 1743. The

library also has a collection of videos and DVDs about the game.

In addition to balls, bags and clubs, there is also a vast array of golf-related artifacts such as Royal Doulton dinner plates made with a golf theme, and a golf pinball machine. Golf-themed jigsaw puzzles, board games, cookie jars, mugs, clothing, and a wide range of ornaments are also found at the museum.

A series of stylish, glass-fronted wooden cases contain information describing the history of the game, which Riste says was originally developed in Holland and was played on ice. Only after this time was it taken up by the Scottish and further developed.

One display illustrates the construction and composition of golf balls, which interestingly were initially made using goose down.

A section on golf fashion features a women's golf bag from the 1950s, complete with matching purse, and includes some insight into the history of women playing the game. Some of the extensive collection of golf clubs on display date back to the 18th century.

One room in the museum is devoted to the Golf Hall of Fame of BC, where numerous plaques list the achievements of the most successful golfers from the province. Approximately 50 visitors a month visit the museum, including elementary school students, seniors, and golfers who find they have time to pass while waiting at the #8 tee.

The venue is also used to host birthday parties and functions for up to 50 people, making it a great place for golfers celebrating an event to mark an occasion.

(NOTE - The BC Golf Museum and the Golf Hall of Fame of BC is open Wednesday - Sunday, from 12-4 p.m. Entrance and parking are free. The writer acknowledges the assistance of Mike Riste, Volunteer Historian at the BC Golf House Society, and his colleagues at the University Golf Club in the researching and writing of this article).

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.

The golf museum located at University Golf Club holds the distinction of being the only independent golf museum and library in North America.

BY JAYNE SEAGRAVE

I have lived in Vancouver for almost forty years. As a travel writer, I tend to think I know the city very well. So, when I learned the BC Golf Museum and the Golf Hall of Fame of BC are less than ten kilometres from my home, my curiosity was aroused.

I had never visited - let alone even heard of - both institutions, which are located at the University Golf Club in the University Endowment Lands. Although I have little knowledge of the game, I realize many adore it. Over six million Canadians play golf, including my son and many friends. I recognize golf is immensely popular. Operated by volunteers, the museum and hall of fame ([www.bcgolfhouse.com](http://www.bcgolfhouse.com)) is located by the 7th green and 8th tee. It is described as the only independent golf museum and library in any province or state in North America. The driving force behind this unique enterprise is golf historian Mike Riste.

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