

# THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

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## UBC Neighbourhoods Profile: Population Growth for Last 10 Years – 135%, Fifteen Times Faster than in Vancouver



*John Tompkins*  
Editor

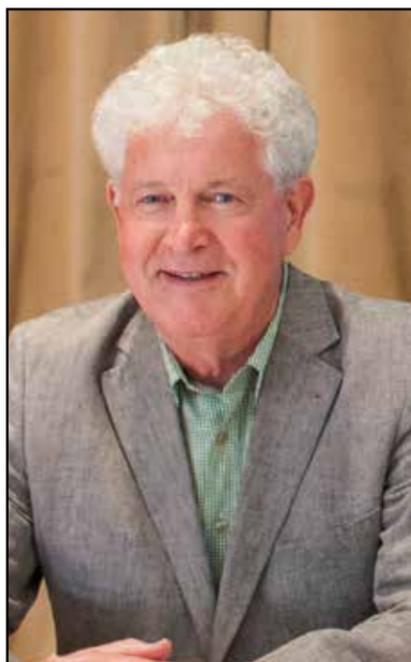
UBC Campus and Community Planning (C+CP) has unveiled a profile of the University Neighbourhoods compared with Vancouver in eight categories: Demographics, Households, Cost of Living, Dwellings, Families, Diversity, Education and Commutes. The figures illustrate:

- The population of the UBC Neighbourhoods is younger than that of Vancouver.
- The population of the UBC Neighbourhoods is growing faster than that of Vancouver.
- Over half the residents at UBC Neighbourhoods have a university degree.

Runners are getting ready to start Canada Day Run on July 1 at UBC Wesbrook Village. Please see story on Page 6.

PROFILE continued on Page 4

## Richard Alexander Returns to UNA Board



**Richard Alexander**

Richard Alexander, a former Chair of the University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA) Board of Directors, has returned to

the Board as an Interim Director following the resignation of Director Nataliya Jatskevich.

UNA bylaw 5.10 allows directors to appoint a UNA member to fill a vacancy on the Board, and the Board appointed Mr. Alexander to serve as Interim Director up to the time of the next UNA General Election which will take place in the fall of 2019.

Prepared to assist over the short term, Mr. Alexander comes to the Board with knowledge and understanding of its structure and organization. His interim appointment became effective June 24, 2019.

One of the longest serving directors in the history of the UNA, Mr. Alexander completed three two-year terms on the UNA Board in October 2018 – serving for five years as Chair of the UNA Board.

Mr. Alexander is widely respected by UBC residents for his outstanding leadership and diligent work ethic, management and negotiation skills, and his professionalism when dealing with difficult issues.

## Vancouver Foundation Research Shows: Neighbours Want to Know Each Other Better

*John Tompkins*  
Editor

Vancouver Foundation has released new research results on community connections and engagement in Metro Vancouver – a region that includes Electoral Area A communities of the University of British Columbia and University Endowment Lands.

The new research follows on the Vancouver Foundation 2017 *Connect & Engage* report that was based on a survey administered by Mustel Group and completed online in either English or Chinese by 3,785 Metro Vancouver residents.

The research explored the following six topics:

### Isolation and Loneliness in Metro Vancouver

When people are lonely or isolated, they're less likely to connect with friends and neighbours and less likely to trust their community.

*Metro Vancouver is a Community of Networked Neighbours*

*Networked Neighbours* report feeling welcome in their neighbourhood, along with having a strong sense of belonging and high levels of trust in their neighbours.

### Habits of Highly Engaged People

This mini report looks at the habits of highly engaged residents of Metro Vancouver to better understand how to inspire more community engagement.

### Engaging Vancouver Youth

Thirty per cent of young people between 18 and 24 are the most vulnerable to feeling lonely and disconnected in large part due to being less rooted in where they live.

### Engaging Metro Vancouver's Newcomers

Newcomers – those who have lived in Metro Vancouver for less than 10 years – are not only a relatively young demographic but are also the most vulnerable to experiencing loneliness and isolation.

### High-Rise Connection

Residents in high-rise buildings tend to be young renters who are likely living alone and are new to their neighbourhoods.

RESEARCH continued on Page 3

**Hidden Heroes at  
University Neighbourhoods - Page 7**

# Why UBC Students and Staff Deserve Voice on UNA Board

**James Ellis**

*Wesbrook Place resident and UBC staff member who has run twice unsuccessfully for a seat on the UNA Board of Directors*

I must confess that some of the politics behind the University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA) community are beyond me; one doesn't lose two elections in a row without realizing that.

Lately, I have been very puzzled by attempts to remove the Alma Mater Society (AMS) appointed representative from the UNA Board. UBC students clearly live in the UNA and are affected by the UNA Board's positions. To see this, one needs look no further than MBA House (graduate housing in Wesbrook Place) and East Campus (and Central) neighbourhoods where most of the students live.

Indeed, many folks who chose to move to the more established neighbourhoods of Hampton Place and Hawthorn Place are former UBC students themselves, and I hardly think that disqualifies them from having a valid point of view about their community.

With regards to UBC staff, I was informed after my election losses that a major concern was my affiliation with UBC as a staff member. This left me scratching my head again, since I know many folks who both work for UBC and are active UNA

members. Indeed, two of the current UNA Board Directors work for UBC – Mr. DeLumpa works with the UBC Farm, and Ms. Cottle works with UBC Forestry.

I prefer to think I lost because I am a lazy campaigner. I don't pay much attention to the nonsense with the UNA Bylaw revisions; I believe we are on the third committee to look at them (AGAIN). (I was on the second UNA Board Bylaw Review Committee with Ms. Cottle and Mr. Feeley.) Most of the latest revisions have been written by one person and geared towards helping one neighbourhood gain control of the UNA Board. Fighting over bylaws has been a proxy for fighting with UBC (AGAIN) about the merits of Elected versus Appointed Board Directors (AGAIN).

The 2015 *Neighbours' Agreement* clears much of this absurdity up for us. The 2015 *Neighbours' Agreement* and attached Schedules use the word 'student' nearly three dozen times.

- Section 1.1 (u)(i) on page 4 clearly states that the Services Levy "does not include any monies collected in respect of buildings used by UBC primarily for student housing or academic purposes." In other words, student buildings pay their own way.

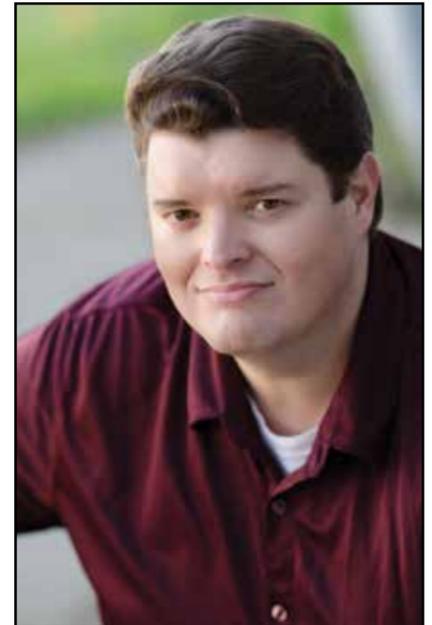
- Section 1.1 (y) on page 5 notes 'Residents' include those who are "tenants of rental housing, located within the Neighbourhood Housing Areas." In other words, students who rent in the UNA can become UNA Members and be representatives on the UNA Board. Yes, the 'University Aca-

demical Community', as defined in

- Section 1.1 (hh) on page 6: "University Academic Community means UBC students, faculty, staff and other residents of the Campus, excluding the Residents" – though clearly, students who are renting in market housing in the UNA are Residents TOO.

I find the idea of separating UBC affiliation and influence from the UNA Board a bit like pretending the Earth has nothing to do with the Moon. The Moon clearly orbits the Earth, and both would be the lesser for the other's absence. I suppose if I lived on the Moon, I could close my eyes and pretend the Earth doesn't exist, but that wouldn't make it so.

UBC Students and Staff who are residents in the UNA deserve a voice on the UNA Board.



**James Ellis**

**Editor's Note:** Under the UNA bylaw, a person who is a Resident in one of the Local Areas may apply to be a member of the UNA. UNA membership allows Residents to vote at the UNA Annual General Meetings and run for the UNA Board of Directors.

*UNA Bylaw section 1.1 (d) states: "Local Areas means those residential neighbourhood plan areas identified for non-institutional development in Schedule C – Plan Areas, of the Land Use Plan, namely Chancellor Place, Hawthorn Place, Hampton Place, Wesbrook Place, East Campus, Stadium Road and Acadia East, excluding all institutional accommodation units, townhouses, apartments and/or housing used exclusively or primarily by students of The University of British Columbia, including students visiting from other educational institutions but not excluding Faculty and Staff Housing."*




## NEW OFFICE HOURS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Effective Monday, June 17, 2019, the UNA main office will be open for general public services from **Monday to Friday, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.** This change allows for extended service hours in evenings and on weekends at our two community centres. This change is part of a strategy to better serve the community and improve efficiency.

<p><b>WESBROOK COMMUNITY CENTRE</b> 3335 Webber Lane</p> <p><b>Hours</b> Mon - Thu 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. Fri 8:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. Sat - Sun 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Holidays 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNA memberships</li> <li>• UNA Access Cards</li> <li>• Community centre programs and events registration</li> <li>• Parking permit applications and renewals</li> <li>• UNA community garden renewals</li> <li>• UBC Services Levy collection box</li> </ul>	<p><b>OLD BARN COMMUNITY CENTRE</b> 6308 Thunderbird Blvd</p> <p><b>Hours</b> Mon - Fri 7:00 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. Sat - Sun 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. Holidays 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNA memberships</li> <li>• UNA Access Cards</li> <li>• Community centre programs and events registration</li> <li>• UNA community garden renewals</li> </ul>
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2019  
FALL

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## PROGRAM GUIDE

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The Old Barn & Wesbrook  
Community Centres

**LOOK FOR A COPY IN YOUR MAILBOX IN THE COMING WEEKS**



# THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

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## Highlights of Vancouver Foundation Research: “We’ve Heard What People are Missing – A Sense of Belonging”

### RESEARCH continued from Page 1

- Most Metro Vancouver residents enjoy strong social connections. 8 out of 10 residents know at least one neighbour well enough to ask for help, and 9 out of 10 have someone they can depend on.

- 1 in 4 Metro residents is isolated. These are people who say they spend more time alone than they would like.

- 1 in 7 Metro residents is lonely. These are people who say they are often or always lonely.

- Being young or unemployed doubles the risk of loneliness; a low household income doubles the risk of isolation and nearly triples the risk of loneliness.

#### • The demographics of loneliness and isolation:

- o All respondents – 23% are isolated, 14% are lonely.

- o Age 18-24 – 31% are isolated, 30% are lonely.

- o Unemployed – 36% are isolated, 26% are lonely.

- o Household Income less than \$20,000 – 47% are isolated, 38% are lonely.

- *Networked Neighbours* are made, not born. Their habits bring them into greater contact with their neighbours, building the connections that foster a sense of trust and belonging.

- 85% of *Networked Neighbours* say: “I am a homeowner.”

- 67% of *Networked Neighbours* say: “I’ve lived in my neighbourhood for 10+ years.”

- The majority of *Networked Neighbours* are over 55 years old.

#### • How *Networked Neighbours* Interact with Strangers in Public:

- o Make Eye Contact – 76%

- o Say Hello – 83%

- o Smile – 88%

#### • We can reduce isolation and loneliness if we...

- o **Focus on friendliness:** Both isolated and lonely people say it would be easier to make friends if people were friendlier or more approachable.

- o **Talk to neighbours:** While 43% of Metro residents talk to neighbours at least once a week, less than one in three lonely or isolated people gets that much contact.

- o **Support mental health:** 1 in 6 isolated people says that mental health affects their ability to make friends – which rises to 1 in 4 among lonely people.

- Metro Vancouver is full of friendly people and vibrant neighbourhoods. But not everybody shares that sense of belonging.

*People want to know their neighbours better – even more so among those that have lived in Metro Vancouver for the shortest period.*

*Events such as social gatherings, community festivals, and participating in local community projects are the most popular ways for neighbours to meet and form connections.*

Among the people who sometimes get left out are newcomers: immigrants who have been here for less than ten years.

- Those residents who have been here for less than ten years – about 6% of the population surveyed – face challenges with connecting and engaging in the community. In part, that’s because they’re younger and young people experience higher rates of isolation and disconnection.

- 55% of all newcomers are between the ages of 18-34.

- Most immigrants have a strong sense of belonging in Canada. But Metro Van-

couver’s newcomers don’t experience the same sense of welcome or belonging in their immediate community as their fellow immigrants or the local population at large.

- 48% of newcomers say: “I feel welcome.” (Vs 66% of all respondents say.)

- 45% of newcomers say: “I have a strong sense of belonging.” (Vs 63% of all respondents say.)

- Metro Vancouver newcomers volunteer as much as other residents, but they don’t enjoy the same kind of connections with their immediate community. They’re less likely to know their neighbours’ names or

to talk with them regularly.

- 34% of newcomers say: “I talk to my neighbours at least once a week.” (Vs 43% of all respondents say.)

- 38% of all newcomers say: “I know the names of at least four neighbours.” (Vs 65% of all respondents say.)

- 8 out of 10 newcomers say they want to know their neighbours better, which is even higher than the 7 out of 10 rating for Metro residents overall.

Vancouver Foundation website

[www.vancouverfoundation.ca](http://www.vancouverfoundation.ca) says: “We work with individuals, corporations and charitable agencies to create permanent endowment funds and then use the income to support thousands of charities.”

Vancouver Foundation focuses on community initiatives such as *Connections and Engagement* projects and research that help people build stronger relationships with each other and participate in activities that make our community better. “We’re responding to a hunger for social connections, and a desire among people from different ethnicities, cultures, income and age groups, to engage each other to build a stronger sense of community.”



Residents at Wesbrook Place – the biggest and fast growing neighbourhood at UBC campus. This neighbourhood is named after founding UBC President (1913-1918) Frank F. Wesbrook.

# University Neighbourhoods Profile: UBC Improves Geographic Accuracy of the 2016 Census

PROFILE continued from Page 1

UBC shares with the UNA updated 2016 Census results that consider UBC campus and neighbourhoods' boundaries

- UBC Neighbourhoods residents are nearly twice as likely as Vancouverites to have an active commute.
- The median household income at UBC Neighbourhoods is less than in Vancouver.
- Household ownership is greater at UBC Neighbourhoods than in Vancouver.

The profile – based on 2016 Census results and updated with custom UBC Neighbourhoods data – was presented to the University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA) Board at its June meeting by Emily Watt, a Data and Visual Analyst at UBC Campus and Community Planning.

The statistics shared with the UNA provide a more accurate snapshot of UBC Neighbourhoods than the first C+CP memorandum – issued in April 2017 – summarizing the 2016 Census results.

UBC worked with the UNA and Statistics Canada to update information about campus development since standard census geographies do not align with UBC Neighbourhoods boundaries.

The updated 2016 Census profile for UBC Neighbourhoods improves its geographic accuracy and shows:

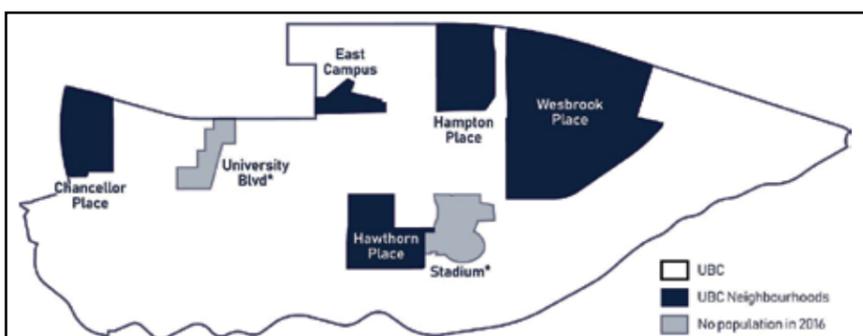
- the UBC Neighbourhoods population – 8,855.
- the occupied private dwellings in UBC Neighbourhoods – 3,835.

The total population and dwelling estimates for UBC Neighbourhoods differ between 2016 Census and UBC sources.

- UBC sources estimate for 2016:
- the *total* UBC Neighbourhoods population – 11,297.
  - the *total* dwellings – 5,236.

The figures differ due to definitions and data collection methodologies.

- One key factor is *Target Population*: UBC aims to capture all *dwelling units and residents*, while the 2016 Census data is limited to permanent and/or usual residents of occupied private dwellings – excluding non-permanent residents and foreign residents from the Census target population. Unoccupied and collective dwellings, e.g., student residencies, nursing homes, were also excluded from the Census data.

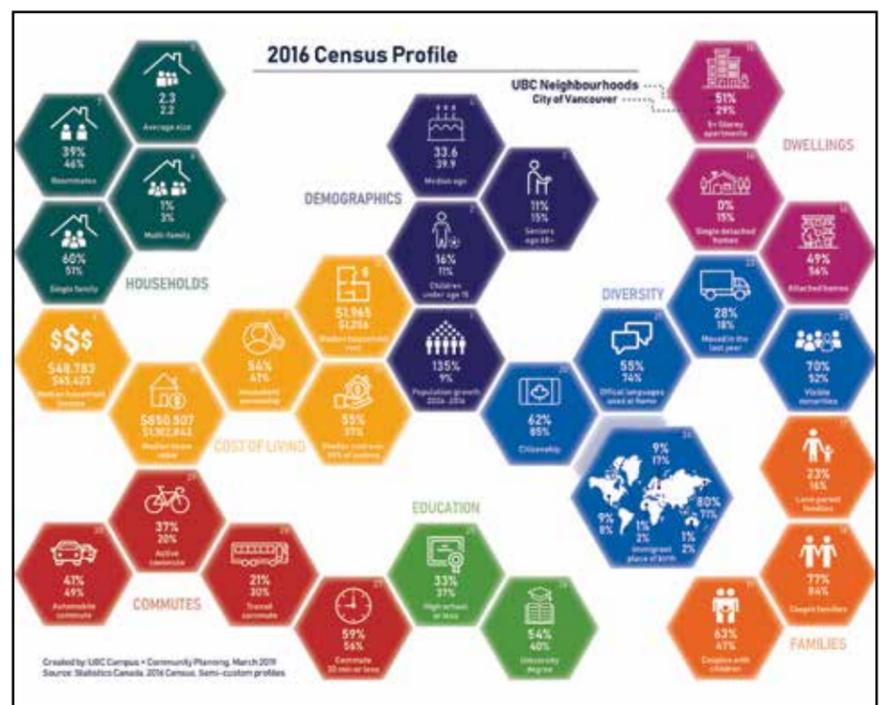


The map shows custom boundaries for five current and two future UBC Neighbourhoods. Credit UBC Campus and Community Planning.



Another key factor is *Timing of the 2016 Census*: it was conducted May 10, 2016 – the beginning of the summer academic term at UBC, an off-peak time for the student population living on campus.

Ms. Watt stated in her presentation that UBC C+CP uses the data for monitoring population growth and demographics, preparing reports and land use plans, campus and neighbourhoods' plans, and developing policies such as affordable housing policy.



The graphics illustrates 2016 Census data for UBC Neighbourhoods and Vancouver. Credit UBC Campus and Community Planning.

## LETTER FROM UBC PRESIDENT

# The Liberal Arts: More Relevant Than Ever

Many politicians, opinion leaders and others dismiss the liberal arts as irrelevant in the 21st century and suggest that universities and colleges should concentrate on producing STEM graduates rather than historians and scholars in literature and similar fields.

I certainly agree that Canada and the world need more graduates in the sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics. At the same time, we still need the liberal arts, now more than ever.

I'll give you just two examples.

First, just a few months ago, the world watched in horror as the steeple of Notre Dame Cathedral toppled and flames engulfed the historic building.

Immediately, a number of questions were being asked.

How do we make sense of such a tragedy? Why did this fire get so much attention compared to the destruction of other relics? Why did donations to restore the building flood in when other worthy causes go neglected? Should France rebuild the cathedral as it was, or should it use the opportunity to re-envision Notre Dame for the 21st century?

As France, and the world, grapples with these questions, the humanities – philosophy, religious studies, history, architecture, art history and more – can and will help inform the conversation.

Climate change is another example. I recently read a powerful new book called *Losing Earth: The Decade We Could Have Stopped Climate Change* by Nathaniel Rich. I urge you all to read its compelling narrative about climate change and the chance we had to save the Earth three decades ago.

The author of *Losing Earth* was not a climate scientist; he was a liberal arts graduate. I would argue that his humanities background helped make his message even more powerful, because his liberal arts education gave him the critical thinking skills and the perspective to bring home the poignancy of

our lost chance to save the Earth's environment.

These are just two examples out of many that show that the liberal arts matter more than ever.

We need the liberal arts to help make sense of our world. As we grapple with issues like climate change, with hatred and prejudice, with economic inequality, with runaway technological change, the humanities can give us the critical thinking skills and the perspective to deal with these issues.

As Joseph Aoun, president of Northeastern University, recently wrote in his book *Robot-Proof*, the humanities are even more important as the pace of technological change increases. As he said:

"Intellectually, morally and spiritually, the humanities are among the most fertile grounds on which to nurture a complete human being. They form the foundation of a life well-lived and the furnishings of a civilized mind."

No matter how much we rely on technology, we still need to deal primarily with humans, Dr. Aoun wrote. "Even the engineer needs to consider human interfaces, and even the programmer must learn to be a storyteller."

Some critics might respond that while that's all very nice, for most students, majoring in the humanities will not lead to a rewarding career. Get a liberal arts education, and you'll end up as a barista in a coffee shop, they say.

But here are some statistics that refute that:

- 55 percent of the world's professional leaders are social sciences and humanities grads.
- Humanities graduates are just as well paid as those in the sciences. Ten years after graduation, the average humanities grad earns as much as the average math or natural science grad.

Employers want the skills that humanities grads have. According to a study of Canada's largest employers, employers value soft skills over technical knowledge, especially relationship-building, communication and problem-solving skills, analytical and leadership abilities. These are attributes that are developed and refined through studies in the social sciences and humanities.

But we cannot feel complacent about the importance of the humanities. The liberal arts need to adapt to the times in order to stay relevant.

UBC is stepping up to that challenge.

We are increasingly emphasizing experiential learning. For the liberal arts, that means integrating traditional liberal arts skills with technological proficiencies to give students the tools of the digital humanities and computational social sciences.

UBC collaborates with community, industry, government and university partners to provide a variety of transformative learning experiences to students.



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

Liberal arts students at UBC are encouraged to embrace co-op work experiences. Our co-operative learning program – largely based in our Faculty of Arts – represents the largest in Western Canada, and it provided students and employers with more than 6,000 work placements annually.

We also offer programs such as Arts One, an eight-month program that features learning in small groups with an integrated, interdisciplinary curriculum, as well as numerous interdisciplinary programs – our Asian Studies department alone offers 15 such programs.

These programs bring humanities and social science and often science and creative arts students and faculty together. They

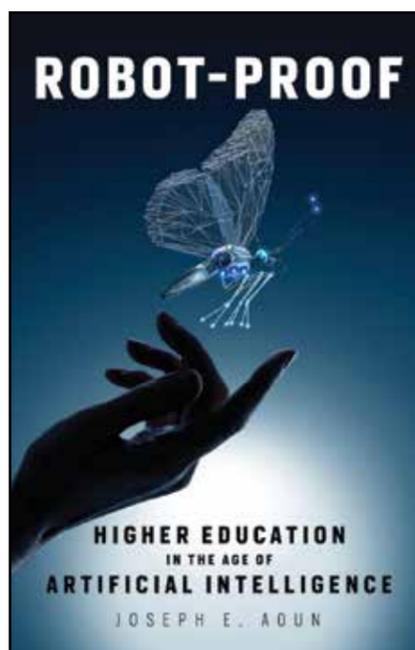
tend to be focused around either an issue or a topic, whether that's migration, the environment, inequality or technology – and students come together from different perspectives to think about these questions.

These are just a few of the ways that UBC keeps the liberal arts relevant and responsive to the needs of the day.

The world faces major challenges – poverty, inequality, violence, climate change – and the liberal arts can help us face those challenges. The liberal arts are not only still relevant, they're needed more than ever.

Best wishes

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



Credit Robot-Proof.com



**UBC Arts students.**  
Photo credit Martin Dee, UBC.

# Canada Day Festivities Fetch Hundreds to Wesbrook Village at UBC

*Fundraising activities bring in well over \$5,000 for charitable causes*

Canada Day Run races (10 km, 5 km and 1 km Kids Run/Seniors Walk), a post-race BBQ, bouncy castles, balloon twister, face painting, splash pad for kids, and a gigantic free Canada Day cake (courtesy of Save-on-Foods) – all were among festivities enjoyed by hundreds of people in Wesbrook Village on July 1.

Wesbrook Properties partnered with the Running Room at Wesbrook Place and University Neighbourhoods Association as well as other sponsors to organize this event.

A cheque for \$4,269.00 from The Scotiabank – one of the sponsors – will go to Diabetes Canada. The Save-On-Foods BBQ raised \$1,200.00 for BC Children’s Hospital Foundation, and Biercraft donated a VIP dinner for five as the Grand Draw Prize of the Canada Day Run.

The 1 km Kids Run/Seniors Walk led off Canada Day racing activities with the youngsters dashing south on Wesbrook Mall from Berton Avenue to where the route turned into Pacific Spirit Regional Park.

Prominent local people in attendance at the

event – either running or in the cheering section – included David Eby, local MLA and British Columbia Attorney General; Jen McCutcheon, who recently won election to the Board of Metro Vancouver as Director for Electoral Area A; and Murray McCutcheon, a representative of the Rethink Stadium Road Neighbourhood Coalition.

Mr. McCutcheon ran in the 10 km male category and placed third.

Awards were listed in following categories:

**10 km Top Female**

1. Tamasin Reno, Vancouver
2. Annie Ciernia, Vancouver
3. Mariana Vargas Braga da S, Vancouver

**10 km Top Male**

1. Thomas Nobbs, Vancouver
2. Lishan Sharples, Vancouver
3. Murray McCutcheon, UBC

**5 km Top Female**

1. Kassandra McFarlane, Coquitlam
2. Rogina Keivan, West Vancouver
3. Piscila Sarabia, Merida, Mexico

**5 km Top Male**

1. Philip Aguirre, Vancouver
2. Niv Nikaein, Vancouver
3. Yu Hei Tse, Vancouver

Race results were produced by Startline Timing – [www.StartlineTiming.com](http://www.StartlineTiming.com).



# Campus Residents Receive Vancouver Quadra 2019 Hidden Heroes Award

Joyce Murray, the Member of Parliament for Vancouver Quadra, presented Hidden Heroes Awards to the members of the Vancouver Quadra community nominated for their outstanding volunteer work.

Among the winners are five residents of the University Neighbourhoods: Bill Holmes,

Jen McCutcheon, Judy (Hyo Joo) Rhee, Laura Cottle and Ying Zhou.

Ms. Murray presented the Hidden Heroes Awards at the Point Grey Fiesta on June 22. Below are the stories of the winners as provided by the Office of Joyce Murray.



## Bill Holmes

Bill Holmes is a heavily involved volunteer at the residential community of the University of British Columbia (UBC). Bill has served – and continues to serve – on several University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA) committees, assists the UNA by providing some legal services, initiates proposals for change, and serves as the president of his local strata council. Bill also served for six years as the Alternate Director for Metro Vancouver Electoral Area A, until October 2018. Ying Zhou, UNA Board Chair, nominated Bill for his volunteering spirit that shapes the UBC campus community.



## Jen McCutcheon

Jen McCutcheon is a dedicated contributor to UBC and University Endowment Lands (UEL) communities. Jen was nominated by Jillian Scarth for her plethora of work including being the chair and then vice-chair of the University Hill Elementary School Parent Advisory Committee for the past two years, organizing a weekly Nature program in Pacific Spirit Regional Park for children and seniors, leading the recent rebuild of the University Hill Elementary School playground, serving on her strata council, and helping to coach the school track team and her daughter’s soccer team. Most recently, Jen took the leap into public life and was elected as Metro Vancouver Director for Electoral Area A (which includes the UBC and UEL areas).

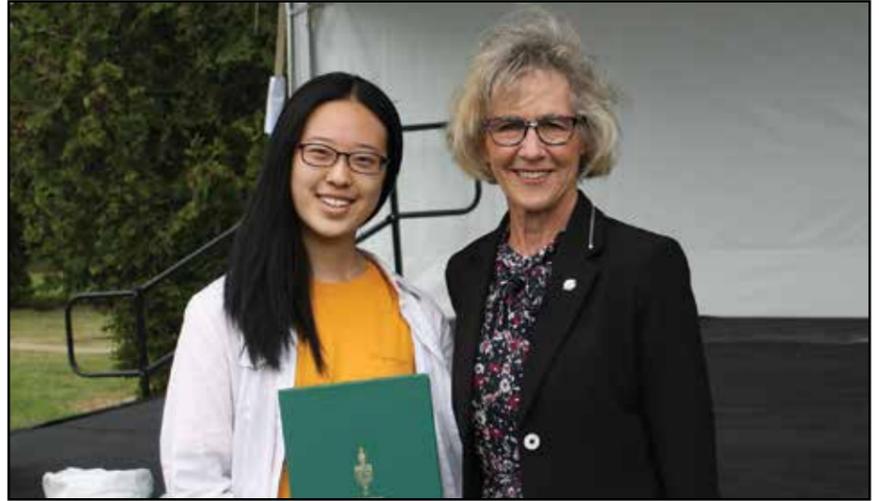


## Ying Zhou

Ying Zhou is the current UNA Board Chair and has served as an Elected Resident Director of the UNA Board for nearly six years. Ying was nominated by Jade Zhang and Rose Wang from the UNA and UNA Multicultural Committee, who both emphasized Ying’s commitment to public service and willingness to build understanding in culture and language. Ying has helped to build relationships with the community and stakeholders and to foster long-term sustainable financial plans for the UNA.

## Judy (Hyo Joo) Rhee

Judy (Hyo Joo) Rhee has been a volunteer in the UNA/UBC community for the last four years and serves as a youth program leader. Judy helped develop a peer mentorship program and community contribution plan in the UNA Community Youth Band. Judy also reports for the local newspaper – The Campus Resident – as a youth writer, using her platform to cover important issues including school safety for students and improving postal services for residents. Judy was nominated by Taylor Scott from the UNA for her noteworthy commitment to making an impact in the UNA/UBC residential community.



## Laura Cottle

Laura Cottle is a community volunteer who is passionate about connecting people of all ages to nature. Laura has taken countless groups of children on forest and nature walks; last year for example, she offered a monthly program for families called Forest Explorers and volunteered with nature-related activities in both Norma Rose Point School and University Hill Elementary School. Laura was nominated by Rose Wang for her numerous and varied list of volunteer activities. These ranged from serving four years on the UNA Board of Directors and on the Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors to coaching soccer for 11 years. Other volunteer efforts include: strata council chair, PAC treasurer and chair, elementary and secondary school String program advocate and assistant (15+ years), management of field hockey teams and leadership in sustainability programs for her strata.



# UBC Botanical Garden Collaborates with TEALEAVES on *The Garden of Secrets* Documentary

**Chloe Cheung**  
Marketing Assistant,  
UBC Botanical Garden

After a walk in the woods, Swiss electrical engineer George de Mestral noticed that burdock burs clung to his dog and his coat. After further examination, he discovered that at the end of each thorn was a tiny hook that lent to its 'stickiness'. De Mestral later patented the hook and loop closure system we recognize today as Velcro. This intentional modeling of natural forms and systems for problem solving is referred to as biomimicry.

Luxury tea purveyor, TEALEAVES has partnered with UBC Botanical Garden over the past five years to create *The Garden of Secrets*. This short documentary explores botanical gardens as places that house design inspiration for solutions to our most pressing problems and as crucial touch-points for urban dwellers to reconnect with nature.

"Botanical gardens like UBC Botanical Garden are 'idea libraries', places where a wealth of solutions have been assembled near the doorsteps of the scientists, engineers, and designers tackling these issues," said Patrick Lewis, Director of UBC Botanical Garden.

"We are proud to be working with a loved

global brand like TEALEAVES, a company committed to biodiversity and love for nature, whose inspiration aligns with our core values. We believe that this partnership will raise the profile of botanical gardens and the importance of this critical work, helping us highlight the role plants play in the service of humanity and the Earth.

"Throughout the film, a series of scientists, designers, and artists share how their work is influenced by the natural world and the potential for other innovators to seek inspiration from flora and fauna. Through millions of years of evolution, the structures and processes of organisms have resolved many of the engineering and environmental challenges facing the modern world – we just need to look, observe, and learn," says Lewis.

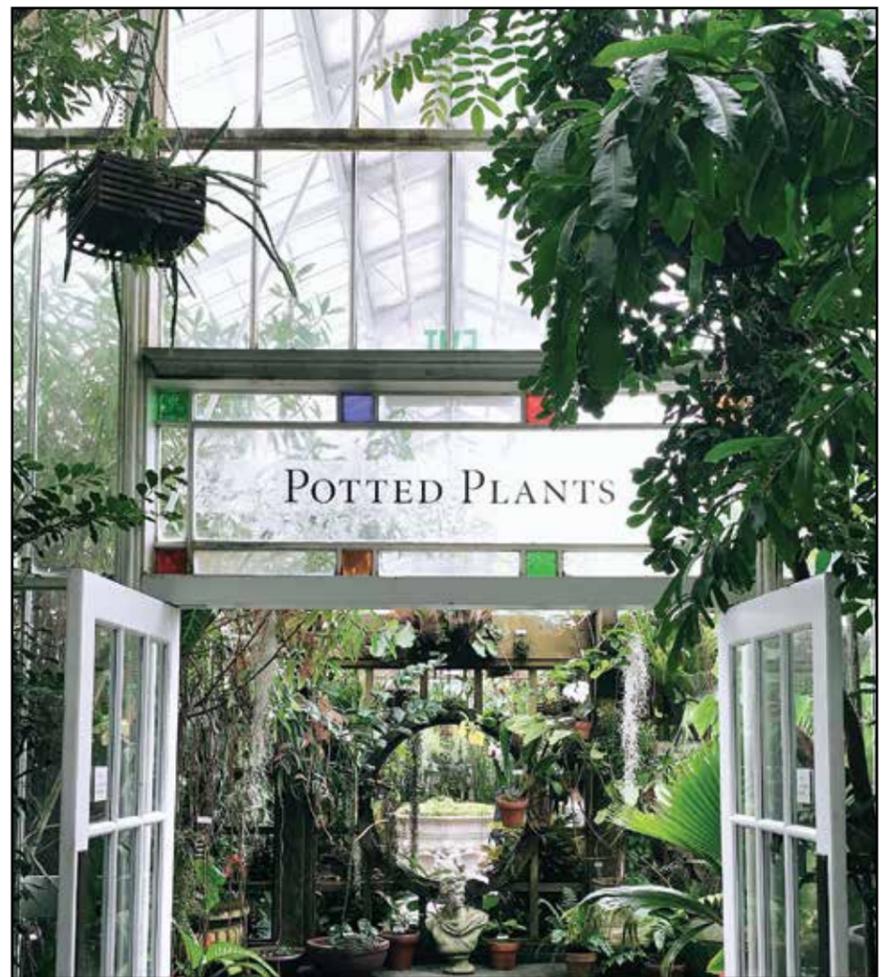
However, the threats of climate change and habitat loss are resulting in declining biodiversity. Wanda Lewis, Emeritus Professor at the Warwick School of Engineering warns that "any loss in species [...] is potentially a lost design idea."

As part of this philanthropy project, TEALEAVES has created a *Garden of Secrets* tea blend described as "earthy, eclectic melange, reminiscent of obscure tonics and elixirs." All proceeds from the purchase of this tea are donated to UBC Botanical Garden to support the ongoing mission to assemble, curate, and maintain a documented

living collection of temperate plants for the purposes of education, research, conservation, community outreach, and public display. The tea is available for purchase in the Shop in the Garden, where UNA residents receive a discount with their community services card.

*The Garden of Secrets* is available for viewing at [thegardenofsecrets.com](http://thegardenofsecrets.com). In ad-

dition, Vancouver residents will be able to watch the documentary on the big screen this summer at Science World. UBC residents are also invited to attend UBC Botanical Garden's Summer Series concerts. This series is free for UNA residents. The final event, featuring Rumour Mill, will take place August 15 in the Roseline Sturdy Amphitheatre. For more information: [botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/events](http://botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/events).



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