

THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

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UBC Students Launch Petition in Support of Updated Stadium Road Neighbourhood Plan

Petition cites need for affordable housing options for students, faculty and staff; residents oppose increase in density

John Tompkins
Editor

Students at UBC have launched a petition supporting the Stadium Road Neighbourhood development plan which includes approximately 1.55 million square feet of residential development and would accommodate a range of buildings, including 6-8 storey midrises, towers from 20-32 storeys and podiums from 6-10 storeys.

The petition launch came at a council meeting August 21 of the Alma Mater Society (AMS), which represents 55,000 students on UBC Vancouver campus, and it comes as UBC prepares to present a finalized plan for the Stadium Road Neighbourhood after two years of public consultation and numerous iterations of the plan

– in part due to pressure from Rethink Stadium Road Neighbourhood Coalition, a resident group whose October 2018 petition has gathered several thousand signatures opposed to raising density limits.

The AMS petition, presented by Julia Burnham, AMS Vice-President, Academic and University Affairs, reads as follows:

“This petition is being made on behalf of the Alma Mater Society (AMS) of UBC Vancouver and the undersigned faculty, staff, students, and community members regarding the Stadium Road Neighbourhood Plan. We would like to express our support for the neighbourhood and our desire that the neighbourhood must have 1.55 million square feet of residential development or more to meet current and future housing needs.

“The Stadium Road Neighbourhood Plan concept intends to create a neighbourhood in the Thunderbird Stadium vicinity that will include significant housing opportunities, community amenities, and a new Thunderbird Stadium in place of the cur-



UBC students will soon start new academic year. They will be asked to join an Alma Mater Society petition in support of UBC plans for new residential neighbourhood on campus. Photo credit Hover Collective, UBC.

rent one. The current proposal outlines that as part of the housing opportunities, 67% of the total housing would be reserved for ownership options for UBC faculty, below-market rental for UBC faculty and staff, and market rental options to UBC students, faculty and staff. The remaining

33% would be market leasehold housing options. In total, this would provide approximately 1,548 units of housing units, which equates to housing for approximately 3,560 individuals.

AMS PETITION continued on Page 5

UNA BYLAW REVIEW: BOARD COMPOSITION

UNA Resident Director Responds to Open Letter from UBC Student: “Discussions with AMS Should Continue”

John Tompkins
Editor

UBC student Jessica Flores sent a letter to the UNA Board of Directors and *The Campus Resident* expressing concerns over the proposed removal of the AMS Appointed Director (student) from the UNA Board.

Ms. Flores wrote the letter following pub-

lication of the article *Bylaw Review Group to Discuss with AMS Proposed Change in UNA Board Composition* in *The Campus Resident* June issue. The article quoted the UNA Bylaw Review Working Group rationale for seeking changes in the UNA Board composition – as it was presented in their January 9, 2019 report outlining the proposed bylaw amendments.

In her letter (revised for publication), Ms. Flores writes:

“I was dismayed to read in *The Campus Resident* paper dated June 25, 2019, page 2, under the article *Bylaw Review Group to Discuss with AMS Proposed Change in UNA Board Composition*, that UNA Director Terry Mullen and the UNA Bylaw Review Working Group (WG) he

chairs were recorded as saying: “It is an anomaly for an entity with such a mandate not to be governed by the residents for whom the services are provided” in their January 9, 2019 WG report.

UNA-AMS continued on Page 2

BOARD COMPOSITION

1. All directors to be UNA members and to be elected by UNA members.

Rationale:

The current bylaws provide for one director to be appointed by the AMS, and two directors to be appointed by UBC. The proposal is to remove all appointed directors.

A fundamental aspect of democracy is absent with a mix of appointed and elected directors. The UNA is tasked by the Neighbours Agreement with providing municipal-like services to the residents of the University Neighbourhoods. It is an anomaly for an entity with such a mandate not to be governed by the residents for whom the services are provided.

UNA Bylaw Review Working Group
January 2019 report

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Courtyard Sale Indoor Plants September 6, 2019 10 am - 4 pm	Treasured Bulb Sale September 21, 2019 11 am - 3 pm
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“The UNA Needs Knowledgeable and Enthusiastic Persons on its Board. Does that Include a UBC Student Who is a UNA Resident? Of Course.”

UNA-AMS continued from Page 1

“Do Mr. Mullen and the WG not realize that the UNA includes UBC students that are residents of the UNA, with some of us long time residents (10 plus years)? For this reason, we need representation from UBC Appointed Directors and AMS Appointed Director, in addition to the support we receive from UNA Elected Resident Directors.

“Mr. Mullen and the WG’s statement leaves me wondering: Why do they not consider UBC students who live in the UNA to be residents? Is being a UBC student a feature that Mr. Mullen and the WG consider stripping a person of UNA resident status?”

The implicit false dichotomy (resident vs. student) that Mr. Mullen and the WG are supporting with their choice of words works against fostering a spirit of collaboration among all UNA stakeholders to address challenges that are faced by all UNA residents, irrespective of their UBC student status.

“For example, to name one issue that affects UBC student residents of the UNA: We, the students, face significant challenges with housing including availability of rental spaces and their affordability, and we need the UBC and AMS Appointed Directors to know about such issues with the purpose of them canvassing support for us from within UBC; thus, for them to then contribute to solutions that are spoken about among the UNA Board members.

“To the UNA community and stakeholders: Please do not allow Mr. Mullen and the UNA Bylaw Review Working Group he chairs foster a culture of cherry-picking the people that they would prefer to talk to around the UNA Board table. All UNA residents’ voices, through their respective representatives – UNA and UBC for us, UBC students that are UNA residents – deserve to be heard.”

Terry Mullen, UNA Resident Director and Chair of the UNA Bylaw Review Working Group, responded to the Ms. Flores letter. In his letter (revised for publication), Mr. Mullen writes: “I appreciate your initiative in advising

me of your concerns. The WG’s statement reflects accurately my view on the inappropriateness of having a person on a municipal-type decision-making body who does not reside in that municipality (in this instance, the neighbourhoods that are managed by the University Neighbourhoods Association).

“You suggest that I was not aware that UBC students reside in these neighbourhoods. I suspect that was a bit of hyperbole. No harm in that. But the fact is quite to the contrary. I am well aware that there are hundreds of students residing in the neighbourhoods. No doubt, many of them are members of the UNA. To become a member of the UNA, one needs only to be at least 18 years of age and be a resident in one of the neighbourhoods. I presume there are students who are qualified to be UNA members but who have not exercised that right. I wish they would. I would be delighted if students became a vibrant constituency within the UNA. Indeed, a little more vibrancy from most UNA members would be a welcome development.

“The issue that I think you are addressing is not whether UBC students are members/residents of the UNA but rather the more vexing one of whether UBC students, per se, should have special representation on the Board of Directors of the UNA.

“When the UNA was incorporated in 2002, all the members of the Board were appointed. Over the years, the Board has become what the residents refer to as democratized; increasingly, representation was determined by the electorate. (I note, wryly, that this is something achieved in Upper and Lower Canada in the mid-1800’s. I won’t comment on the troubled issue of who had the franchise back then.)

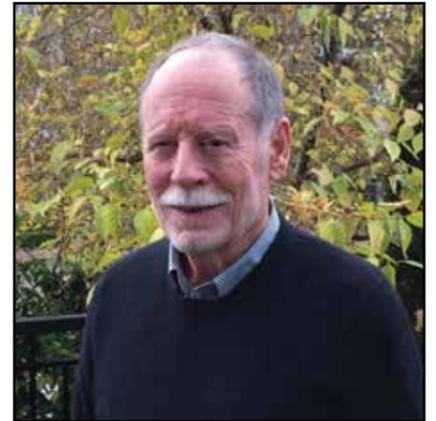
“When I was elected to the UNA Board in late 2018, of the eight Directors – three were appointed ... two by UBC and one by the AMS. Over the past five or so years, the members of the UNA have become increasingly unwilling to countenance this patently paternalistic method of selecting Directors. The call from the members to amend the UNA constituting documents – that is, the Constitution and the Bylaws – culminated in the drafting this year of a new set of bylaws. The

amended bylaws will be voted on by UNA members in an upcoming Special General Meeting. The amendments encompass a range of issues but, for the purpose of this letter, it is sufficient for me to mention the amendments which create a governance model in which there are no Appointed Directors. The draft bylaws implement that objective by eliminating Appointed Directors. They provide that Directors are exclusively UNA members and that the electorate is exclusively UNA members.

“The project to democratize UNA governance has been supported by relevant UBC staff including UBC representatives of the Liaison Committee, one of whom is the Chair of the Board of Governors. Upon the ratification of the amended bylaws and the *Neighbours’ Agreement* – that is, the contract which sets out the legal relationship between the UNA and UBC which has been the subject of parallel discussion between the UNA and UBC to bring this contract and the draft bylaws into harmony – there will no longer be UBC representatives on the Board who have a vote. However, because of the closely integrated financial and governance connection between the UNA and UBC, there will be two UBC observers on the Board through whom communication between the two entities will be maintained. The amended bylaws also eliminate the appointed AMS representative on the Board.

“Unlike the discussions between the UNA and UBC with respect to governance, which have proceeded swiftly and productively, discussions with the AMS have been sporadic and less productive. No doubt, there is fault on both sides underlying this unsatisfactory state of affairs. But the discussions should continue. It is my view that the UNA and the AMS should enter into a contractual relationship that provides, among other things, an AMS appointee on UNA committees and other ad hoc UNA decision-making groups whose mandate affects, or could reasonably be expected to affect, student interests or concerns. Such an initiative, whether introduced by the AMS or other entities, will have my support.

“As for a UBC student being elected to the UNA Board, there is no justifiable reason that this should not happen. But not by special dispensation. Let the AMS iden-



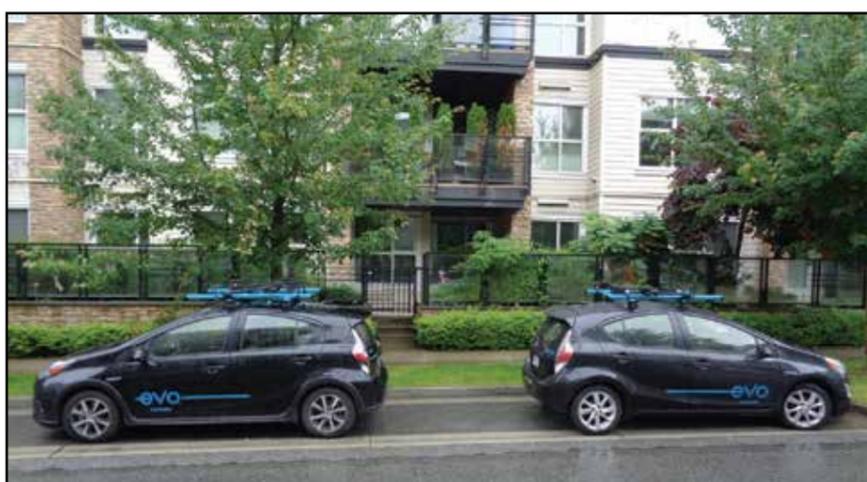
Terry Mullen

tify a student who is a UNA resident and, if deemed appropriate by the AMS, help that person run for election. The process for running is neither complicated nor demanding: one must establish that he or she is a UNA member and has been nominated by five persons who are also UNA members. That’s it. Whether the AMS takes an active part in a candidate’s election campaign is up to the AMS and the candidate. The UNA takes no part in the electioneering ... other than overseeing the mechanics of the election process.

“The UNA needs knowledgeable and enthusiastic persons on its Board. Does that include a UBC student who is a UNA resident? Of course. What groups a candidate for the Board identifies with – it’s not the business of the UNA ... or the Board. But neither does a candidate’s identity change the expectations that UNA members are entitled to insist upon from their representatives. The duties imposed by law and custom are the same for all Directors. Briefly stated, they are: to act honestly and in good faith and in the best interests of the members; to exercise the care, diligence and skill of a reasonably prudent person; and to uphold the constitution and comply with the bylaws of the organization. Properly construed and acted upon, these are demanding standards. That is as it should be. UNA members are entitled to no less ... from every Director regardless of that Director’s provenance or affiliations.

“I have written this reply to you in my personal capacity without reference to any of the other addresses to whom you sent your email ... or any other person. The views expressed are mine.”

Who Says that Parallel Parking Is Easy?



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Readers Respond to Article in July issue

Vote on UNA Board Should Be Restricted to Elected Directors

Allow me some comments in response to the article by James Ellis in *The Campus Resident* July 16 edition where James ends the article with “UBC Students and Staff who are residents in the UNA deserve a voice on the UNA Board”.

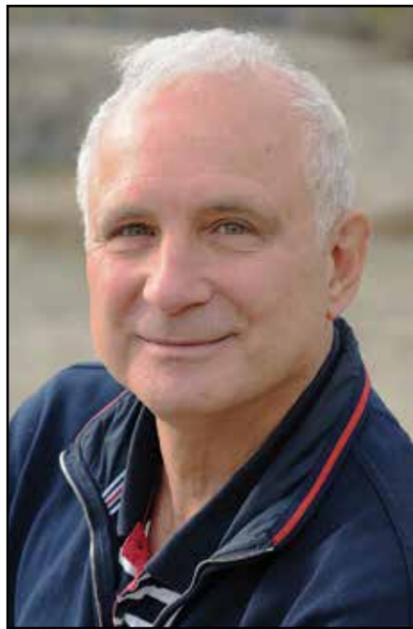
Of course, any UNA resident deserves a voice, and that was the very reason why the UNA was created in 2002. However, it is absurd to suggest that just because you also work at UBC or are a UBC student you deserve special rights, such as a right to a vote. As such, the proposed amendments of the UNA bylaws suggest removing the AMS Appointed Director (student) vote and the two UBC Appointed Directors votes from the UNA Board.

I wholeheartedly support this suggestion coming to vote later this fall at both the UBC Board of Governors and an UNA Special General Meeting.

In my experience as a UNA Director for three years, the AMS Appointed Director (student) was often not even a UNA resident and was frequently absent from the Board meetings. This appointment was used more as a career stepping stone and resume enhancer than providing meaningful input to residential governance issues.

In contrast, the two UBC Appointed Directors in almost all instances provided valuable insights into finance, into governance or into practical UBC bureaucracy processes or timelines. As such, it is prudent to leave these two positions of UBC Appointed Directors on the UNA Board, but as observers or in an ex-officio role – non-voting but with an option to state an opinion at any time or sit on committees.

Personally, I’d love to see more young people on the UNA Board, including students, but they ought to be residents as that is the purpose of the UNA – to represent residents to oversee “provisioning of municipal-like services” as we, residents here at UBC, do not have a local council or mayor like any normal municipality. Whether or not this young person is affiliated with UBC or a student is irrelevant in my opinion. The two UBC Appointed Directors can adequately influence the elected UNA Directors even without a vote, and any student is welcome to attend any UNA meeting or send input in writing or orally to argue any point. Perhaps, an annual or semi-annual get-together of students/AMS and UNA Board is a good idea.



Thomas Beyer

In addition, do we not have to use reciprocity for residents as it relates to student facilities? For example, living very close to the AMS-run Nest’s food outlets or other student-oriented facilities, we residents don’t formally have input into the design or operation of these facilities. So why should students, in turn, have the rights to be involved in resident affairs just by the virtue of being students (but not residents)?

UBC has evolved into UBCity – a city where 12,000 residents now live full time, 55,000 students study (12,000 of them living on campus, usually for no more than four years) and 15,000 faculty and staff members work. With more than 80,000 people who live, study and work on campus, all groups ought to be considered.

Perhaps, it is time to also consider a resident on the UBC Board of Governors – and not just two students? Working with the AMS or students can and perhaps, should be done better, but a voting position on the UNA Board is not required for it. Should a resident sit on the AMS board? I think not... but perhaps worth a further discussion as student activity also impacts permanent UBC residents.

UBC is the landlord as all UBC residents – be they renters or condo owners – reside on leased land, thus giving up certain rights to the landlord, and as such, the landlord retains certain privileges and obligations.

Thomas Beyer, Chancellor Place Resident

Only UNA Members Should Decide Who Gets on UNA Board

I am writing to take exception to the article by James Ellis published in your July 16/19 edition.

His comment that he “is a lazy campaigner” and doesn’t “pay much attention” to UNA bylaw revisions came out clearly when the all candidates meeting was held in the 2018 UNA election. His overall performance at the meeting was less than impressive.

His comments pretty well explain why he (running as James O. Ellis III) did so poorly in the election. Furthermore, Mr. Ellis apparently did not realize that campaigning on a pledge to work more closely with UBC was not going to win votes. His comment that the “major concern” UNA residents had of him was his being a UBC staff member, is then countered by his comment that two other elected members are UBC staff members. He then concludes his letter by saying that “UBC students and staff who are residents of the UNA deserve a voice on the UNA Board.” All residents of the UNA deserve representation on the Board as long as they are elected.

He is correct that many UNA members are UBC students. They, as well as any resident member of the UNA, are welcome to run for UNA office. Also, as a “former UBC student”, I do not feel that this “disqualifies” me from being involved in the UNA community. What Mr. Ellis apparently fails to realize is that our community has no concerns about students being on our council, but strongly believes that we (the UNA members) should decide who gets on council, not someone who is appointed by the AMS, has no ties to our community, and is on the Board for only a short period.

Also, his comment that the bylaw revisions were written by one person overlooks the obvious fact that this “one person” is a volunteer who donated much personal time to do this work, collaborating with others, and the themes of the revisions were approved by a Working Group. Furthermore, the Board held a public consultation on the bylaws early this year, based on the Working Group recommendations and the first draft of the revised bylaws.

It is my understanding that it is planned to have a vote on the amended bylaws at a full Special General Meeting this coming fall. I encourage all UNA members to learn more about the amendments and attend the SGM to ensure the adoption of bylaws that will create a democratically elected UNA Board.

The process is not “absurd” as Mr. Ellis describes it, but very open and democratic. As the UNA continues to grow, it is obvious that the relationship with UBC will need to change over time. The current process is just another step in the ongoing evolution of that relationship.

His comment that bylaw revisions are “geared towards helping one neighbourhood gain control of the UNA Board” are unfounded. Which neighbourhood was he referring to? Why would any neighbourhood even want to have control? This is the stuff of conspiracy theories.

His comments on the Moon–Earth relationship vs the UNA–UBC relationship are hard to follow.

K. Morrison, Hawthorn Place Resident

UNA UNIVERSITY NEIGHBOURHOODS ASSOCIATION

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please be advised that the **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** of the University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA) will be held on **Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Wesbrook Community Centre, 3335 Webber Lane.**

Dry and Warm Season Adds Challenge for UNA to Maintain Water Channels in Wesbrook Village

Judy Hyojoo Rhee
University Hill Secondary
School Senior and
Wesbrook Place Resident

Residents of Wesbrook Village are fortunate to live, work and play in an area where flowing water is abundant.

In Wesbrook Village, family-friendly parks such as Smith, Khorana and Mundell Parks have water channels which lead to small and large ponds. These water channels – key components of the UBC integrated stormwater management plan – not only help promote environmental sustainability but also revitalize the neighbourhood and add to its aesthetic appeal.

However, while walking in the neighbour-



Mundell Park pond: algae growth was prominent and there wasn't much water in certain places.

hood during the last few months, I noticed something unusual in the water channels and ponds: many of the parks had water that did not seem to flow properly, and the water appeared to be murky. In certain places, waterways were entirely empty.

Concerned by what I observed, I contacted the UBC and UNA to inquire about the quality of water in the channels of Wesbrook Village and learn about how the water is managed. In the process, I was made aware that the UNA is the body responsible for overseeing the management of the water channels.

As it was explained to me by the UNA, during the dry and warm summers in Vancouver, some of the waterways do not have enough flowing water, and in others, the water can have a murky appearance at times, which is caused by algae growth.

The UNA has, for a long time, recognized the existence of the algae growth issue. The association follows an annual procedure for cleaning and maintaining the waterways, in which contractors arrive at Wesbrook Village to partially drain and power wash the waterways and ponds, in addition to employing other cleaning methods as needed. But, as Wegland Sit, UNA Interim Co-Executive Director and Operations Manager, noted, this “resource intensive and financially expensive exercise...cannot fully address the algae’s issue”.

I also learned from the UNA response that using chemicals to remove algae fails to be a practical option. All water channels and ponds in Wesbrook Village are joined to the Booming Ground Creek, 400m south of South Campus; hence, treating the waterways with chemicals may cause some of the substance to enter the Creek and disrupt the aquatic ecosystem in the area.

I followed up on my first inquiry to the



Algae growth in the Mundell Park pond.

UNA with a second email outlining questions about the budget and schedule for cleaning the waterways. However, I have not received a response by the deadline for this article.

Given that there is no simple solution to treating algae growth in the waterways, managing the water channels is a challenge that will not be addressed overnight.

It may be beneficial for residents to be provided with further information regarding the UNA management of waterways, such as strategies that the UNA intends to utilize for preventing algae growth. This would perhaps facilitate discussion among residents, contributing ideas for the maintaining of water channels.

After all, as outlined in the *Sustainable Drainage Strategy for the South Campus Neighbourhood 2005* report prepared for

UBC Properties Trust by Aplin & Martin Consultants Ltd. & Holland Barrs Planning Group Inc., the water channels in Wesbrook Village “provide opportunities for education”, help protect the surrounding environment and enhance the positive experience of those living in or visiting Wesbrook Village.

The report can be viewed at http://blogs.ubc.ca/saladesigncharrette/files/2017/05/South-Campus-Stormwater-Mgmt-Strategy_2005.pdf.

Ensuring that the waterways are in good condition is in the interest of everyone within our campus community.

Editor’s Note: The UNA is addressing water channels situation and appreciates understanding and patience from residents.

Photo credits Judy Hyojoo Rhee.

Publican Pulls Last Pint at Irish Pub on UBC Campus

Mahony and Sons brought touch of Ireland to UBC campus; Irish pub closed August 1 with no reason given

John Tompkins
Editor

After 14 years selling food and liquor on UBC campus, Mahony and Sons public house has closed its doors there for good.

Customers still arriving at the popular pub find notices stuck to its windows thanking patrons, friends and supporters for their business over the years and “the great times we have shared.”

The Mahony family owned a pub in Delta before gaining Metro Vancouver approval to open Mahony and Sons at UBC.

Peter Mahony, family patriarch, came to Canada in 1972 from Australia where his forebears landed after emigrating from Ireland.

In 2006, Mr. Mahony, a resident of the Uni-

versity Endowment Lands, told a public meeting at UBC – an essential part of the liquor license application process – that he has lived all this time on the west side of Vancouver, where he and his wife raised eight sons and two daughters.

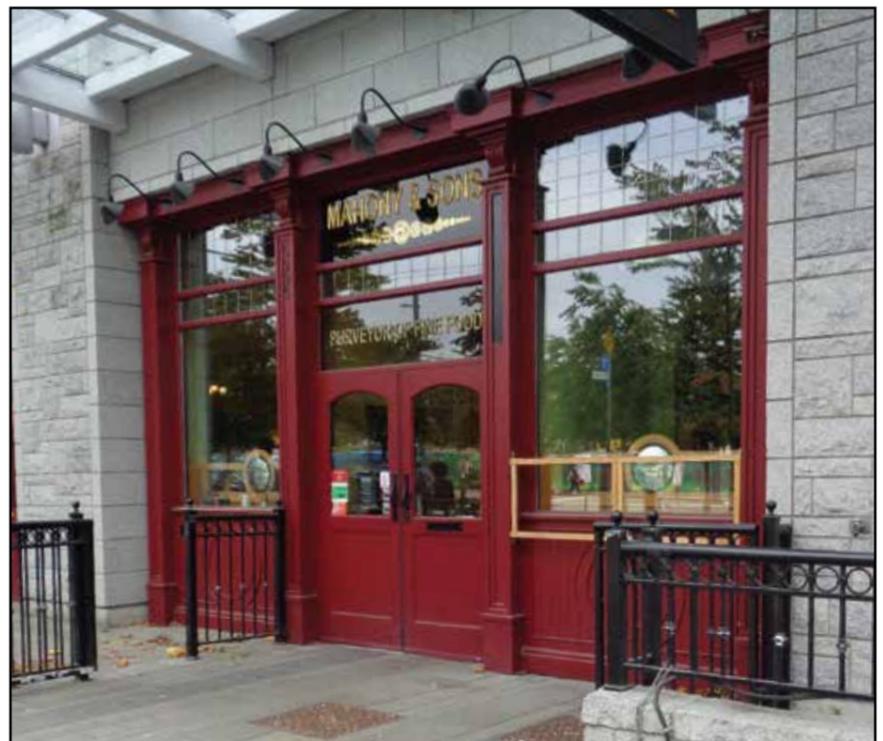
A veteran of the Lower Mainland liquor business, Mr. Mahony said: “We were attracted to the University Town concept at UBC; we support it; it is very unlike the university I went to in Australia.”

On the strength of this attraction, the Mahonys approached UBC Properties Trust about the prospect of leasing space for a pub at the main entrance to UBC. “We designed our pub in a Celtic theme as a way of differentiating us from the competition. We hired a Dublin designer...the pub plan is consistent with the University Town vision of providing a lively atmosphere for local people.”

The pub was opened despite reservations from some nearby UEL residents concerned about possible noise from pub patrons leaving late at night and objections from students about the location of the pub at the main entrance to UBC. “We do not want this pub to be the first thing people see when arriving at UBC,” students said.

After opening Mahony and Sons on UBC campus, the Mahony family opened Irish pubs at the Vancouver Convention Centre (Burrard Landing) and False Creek. The final note on the door of Mahony and Sons at

UBC says: “We will miss UBC and all the wonderful people, partners and friendships we have made... We hope to see you soon at one of our other great locations!”



LETTER FROM UBC PRESIDENT

Universities Have Major Role to Play in Addressing Environmental Issues and Challenges to Sustainability

Last month, as large parts of Europe and North America sweltered in record-shattering heat waves, leaders of major Canadian, American and Mexican universities gathered at UBC to discuss the role of universities in combatting climate change.

I had the honour of cohosting the University Climate Change Coalition (UC3) summit, alongside University of California President Janet Napolitano.

The extreme temperatures in Europe and elsewhere (42.5°C in Paris on July 25) were a sobering reminder that humanity must solve this issue. If we fail, the consequences will be dire: population displacement on a massive scale, loss of habitat and arable land, drought, famine, accelerated extinction of species, increased conflict for resources and more.

Of course, UBC is already proactive in moving towards a more sustainable campus (you can read more about our initiatives at www.sustain.ubc.ca). But we must do more.

We need to intensify our academic and operational efforts on our campuses, in affiliated communities and across the world. Research universities don't exist in a vacuum or an ivory tower. We are communities where thousands of people live, work and play every day. As such, we have an impact on the environment, and we have an obligation to be aware of – and try to mitigate – that impact. We must go beyond minimizing harm to becoming net contributors to human and ecological health.

The UC3 recognized this in a statement released at the end of the summit, where we

committed to educating our students and informing our communities and policy-makers about the importance of acting to address climate change. We also committed to leveraging our unique position and resources to explore and advance knowledge and demonstrate the social, economic and environmental benefits of directly addressing the causes and impacts of climate change.

You can learn more about UC3 and its goals at <https://secondnature.org/initiative/uc3-coalition/>.

While UC3 takes a North America focus, UBC is also working with universities worldwide as well, recognizing that climate change has no boundaries. Earlier in July, I participated in the inaugural meeting of the U7+ Alliance – an international alliance of university presidents formed to address the most pressing global challenges in a multi-lateral context. Forty-five universities from 17 countries around the world attended the meeting in Paris, under the patronage of French President Emmanuel Macron.

One of the principles we endorsed was: “We recognize that our universities have a major role to play in addressing the environmental issues and challenges to sustainability such as climate change, biodiversity and energy transition. This should include leading by example on our own campuses.” In other words, being agents of change. We also committed to specific goals, including:

- by the year 2025 at the latest, to ensure all students have access to courses related to climate, biodiversity and sustainability.
- to improve energy efficiency and reduce our levels of GHG emissions through such policies as encouraging more environmentally benign forms of transportation to campus, reducing GHG emissions from our facilities and operations and reduction of waste such as plastic bags or bottles.

Road Neighbourhood is not aimed at the student population. It will be primarily a community of faculty, staff, and other long-term residents, and as such, UBC should take seriously their opposition to high towers and density increases. Student housing can and should be addressed separately in a way that does not cause irrevocable, negative impacts to the campus neighbourhoods.

“We strongly believe that there is more work to be done before a final plan or amendments to the 2010 Land Use Plan can justifiably be brought to the Board. We would ask that you seriously consider whether contributing to the ‘river of gold’ through over-densification of a very special campus and on a very small space is mission-critical at this time. It does not take long to build tall buildings, but once built, they will tower over the campus for a long time; rebuilding UBC’s reputation will take longer.”

An Executive Summary of the Stadium Neighbourhood Plan Information Update, prepared by Campus and Community Planning for the UBC Board of Gover-



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

We also, as a group, recognized that universities have the power to serve as a lab to consolidate best practices that can be shared both within our network and more broadly with other universities and institutions worldwide. You can find out more about the U7+ Alliance at <https://www.u7alliance.org/>

UBC, and other universities, have a unique and crucial role to play in creating and implementing solutions to climate change and the other challenges that the world faces.

These challenges can only be addressed through concerted, collaborative, and coordinated efforts.

We need to act now, before it's too late.

Best wishes

Professor Santa J. Ono
President and Vice-Chancellor



UBC President Santa J. Ono and University of California President Janet Napolitano cohost the University Climate Change Coalition (UC3) summit at UBC.
Photo credit UBC Sustainability.

AMS PETITION continued from Page 1

“One concern to note is if the project were to decrease, how many housing units faculty and staff would lose. Per every 100,000 square feet that the project’s development is decreased, faculty and staff would lose approximately 65 units of housing which equates to approximately 149 faculty, staff, and their families not having the opportunity to access affordable on-campus housing options. This highlights the importance of ensuring that the project must have 1.55 million square feet of residential development or more to allow faculty and staff to gain affordable housing options.

“Another concern to note is the housing insecurity and affordability issues students face. As per the 2019 AMS Academic Experience Survey (AES), 8% of students report experiencing housing insecurity while studying at UBC, and 46% of students report that the cost of housing has caused them to reconsider whether they should attend a university with more affordable or available housing options instead of UBC. The data emphasizes that

students are reporting housing insecurity and affordability issues while studying on campus and that it is affecting their studies at UBC. This underlines the necessity for UBC to ensure that the project must provide affordable market rental options that students can access.

“We ask you to join this petition and voice to the University that the Stadium Road Neighbourhood Plan must have 1.55 million square feet of residential development or more to provide available and affordable housing options to students, faculty and staff.”

In a June 12 Open Letter to UBC, that campus resident Murray McCutcheon wrote on behalf of the Rethink Stadium Road Neighbourhood Coalition, he commented on the Stadium Neighbourhood Plan Information Update and stated “our continuing belief in the need to consider other options.”

The letter, acknowledging support for greater density from the Alma Mater Society, says:

“...development in the proposed Stadium

nors, states that “UBC heard strongly that Stadium Neighbourhood must do more to address housing affordability for the campus community.

“In addition to housing tenure proportions, there has been considerable community discussion about the 1.55 million square feet of development as well as tower heights up to 32 storeys from the existing limit of 22 storeys.

“As a result of this debate, staff expanded upon existing urban design analysis and conducted follow-up sensitivity testing and benchmarking of a range of densities. Issues explored included impact on traffic, parking, views, shadowing, access to and amount of open space, natural systems impacts, and impacts on the Botanical Garden and Rhododendron Wood.

Staff’s conclusion is that 1.55 million square feet of residential development and stepping of heights up to 32 storeys achieves a high level of liveability and a responsible balance between wise use of UBC’s valuable lands and avoidance of negative impacts on the adjoining communities.”

UTOWN@UBC YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Bring Your Unused Computer to UNA Green Depot and Youth-Led SCRAP Will Fix It and Donate

The Student Computer Repurposing Aid Program (SCRAP) invites more people from the UNA community to donate their old computers or the ones that are no longer being used.

This youth-led computer repurposing program was founded by Yasan Abasalti, Sean Choi and Gordon Cheung who are high school students from University Hill Secondary School.

As members of the UTown@UBC Youth Leadership Program, the students were inspired to contribute to the community their knowledge of computers. After successfully receiving the UTown@UBC Community Grant, SCRAP officially started in April this year in the UNA Green Depot, a community recycling centre for UNA residents and UBC staff, faculty and students.

The founders of SCRAP say that although the UNA Green Depot does accept computer and

other electronics donations, these electronics are often taken to faraway places for recycling or repurposing.

Since electronics are not the only priorities for the UNA Green Depot, SCRAP's role is to help the Green Depot reduce the load (especially in computers) in the bins, process electronics more often and donate them – instead of sending them to another place before donating.

So, what does SCRAP exactly do? Essentially, SCRAP takes the computers or computer parts donated to the UNA Green Depot and attempts to fix or assemble the computers. SCRAP will make sure that all computers are functioning before donation. Afterwards, all repurposed electronics will be donated through the Electronic Recycling Association (ERA) to other organizations or others potentially looking to accept computer donations.

At its website, ERA states: "By working with us you can feel good knowing that your old

equipment could benefit a less fortunate Canadian family."



Co-founders of the Student Computer Repurposing Aid Program University Hill Secondary School students Yasan Abasalti (left) and Sean Choi (right).

UBC Botanical Garden's Role as a Bird-Friendly Green Space

*Chloe Cheung, Katie Teed
and Tara Moreau*
UBC Botanical Garden

Did you know the UBC Botanical Garden is situated on the Pacific Flyaway for migratory songbirds? The Friends of the Garden (FOGs) volunteers at UBC Botanical Garden have been working closely with Nature Vancouver to complete monthly bird biodiversity assessments in the Garden. The group collects bird data at several sites in the Garden and records the information in an online database managed by Cornell Lab of Ornithology called *eBird*. In one trip, the group identified 23 different species of birds. The data they are

collecting along with data by other visitors can be found at ebird.org/Canada/hotspot/L367520.

In addition to frequenting public garden spaces, birds are attracted to backyards that are equipped with suitable food, shelter and water. Providing healthy nuts and seeds for food, a mix of shrubs, trees, vegetation, and nest boxes for shelter, and clean water dishes can make your backyard or green space more bird-friendly. Visit growgreenguide.ca for more details on how to cultivate a bird-friendly backyard from Metro Vancouver's Grow Green Guide.

Available at the Garden's entrance is also a brochure about birds at UBC Botanical Garden. The brochure contains information about

birds frequently found within the Garden and around campus as well as information on how to get started on bird-watching, how birds and plants interact, and how to make your home bird-friendly. Find a digital copy at botanical-garden.ubc.ca/bird.

The bird biodiversity research taking place at the Garden is a great example of citizen science. As Canada's oldest university botanical garden and as an operational unit of the Faculty of Science, UBC Botanical Garden is uniquely positioned to advance citizen science in the region. The mission of the Garden is to assemble, curate and maintain a documented living collection of temperate plants for the purposes of education, research, conservation, community outreach and public

display. Other citizen science projects that the Garden has been involved with include a long-term magnolia phenology study with Friends of the Garden volunteers and a new bumble bee monitoring program with student participation.

Upcoming: September is a busy month at UBC Botanical Garden with two big events. Join us for our Indoor Plants Sale on September 6, 2019 from 10 am to 4 pm and our Treasured Bulb Sale on September 21, 2019 from 11 am to 3 pm. Don't forget: access to UBC Botanical Garden and Nitobe Memorial Garden is free with your community Access Card and you receive a discount on the Greenheart TreeWalk.



Always on the move, the ruby-crowned kinglet is small and olive-coloured. Males have red crowns that are often kept hidden. Photo credit Dominic Janus.



The stunning Anna's Hummingbird displaying its vibrant gorget. Photo credit Faith Uytengus.



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TRY-IT WEEK

Every term, the UNA offers **over 200 programs** at our community centres. We hand-picked special arts, sports, fitness and educational programs and we're offering a **FREE** trial class for each at the Wesbrook Community Centre. Class sizes are limited, so reserve your spot by registering at myuna.ca/tryit starting August 19, 2019.

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9	TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 10	WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 11	THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 12	FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 13	SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14	SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15
9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. English ABCs*	4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. Spanish for Kids (Ages 6-12)	9:30 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. Play and Learn Parent and Tot (Ages 1-4)	4:00 P.M. - 5:15 P.M. Contemporary Jazz (Level 2) (Ages 10-15)	11:15 A.M. - 12:15 P.M. Chair Yoga*	9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. Kyokushin Karate Conditioning*	1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. Reading and Writing (Ages 5-12)
10:15 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. Multi-Sport and Physical Literacy (Ages 3-5)	4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M. Mignon Arts and Design (Ages 8-14)	11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. Power Yoga*	4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M. Basketball (Ages 8-16)	12:00 P.M. - 1:30 P.M. Pickleball Lessons (Advanced)*	12:00 P.M. - 1:30 P.M. Basketball (Ages 8-12)	
1:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M. English Conversation (Beginner)	5:30 P.M. - 6:45 P.M. Vinyasa Flow Yoga*	12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. Adult Drawing and Painting*	6:15 P.M. - 7:15 P.M. Weiqi (Ages 7-14)	4:15 P.M. - 5:15 P.M. Mad Science (Ages 3-5)		
3:45 P.M. - 4:45 P.M. French for Kids (Beginner 1) (Ages 10-12)	7:15 P.M. - 8:15 P.M. Puppy Socialization*	1:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M. English Conversation (Intermediate)*				
7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. Zumba*	8:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M. Adult Ballet Fitness*	4:45 P.M. - 5:45 P.M. Sportball Floor Hockey (Ages 4-6)				
7:05 P.M. - 9:45 P.M. Bridge Basics & Beyond*		5:45 P.M. - 6:45 P.M. Sportball Floor Hockey (Ages 6-9)				
7:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. Mandarin Conversation (Beginner)*		8:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M. Youth Toastmasters (Ages 13-18)				

* Adult Classes

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MAR 8	Dianne Reeves: Boleza Brazil
APR 4	La Santa Cecilia
APR 18	Kalabanté: Afrique en Cirque













COFFEE ON THE TERRACE
Cecil Green Park House
Tuesday, September 3rd, 2019 at 11am



The **UBC Faculty Women's Club** welcomes current/retired female **Faculty & Staff**, or **spouses/partners** of male Faculty/Staff, to their next event.

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Art • Books • Bridge • Cycling • French • Heritage Buildings • Hiking • Knit & Stitch • Dine Out • Snowshoeing • Topic Discussions • Travel • Walking

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More information at <http://facultywomensclub.ubc.ca/interest-groups/>





UNA UNIVERSITY NEIGHBOURHOODS ASSOCIATION

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myuna.ca/neighboursday

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