

Pickleball Popularity Explodes on Campus

Residents are catching on to the global pickleball craze, creating a big demand for local programs.

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Elections Result in Six New Directors for UNA Board

First-ever online elections took place last month, turnout recorded at nearly 17 per cent.

BY DANIEL LI

After an election campaign dominated by public safety, the UNA budget and Campus Vision 2050, six new members and one incumbent have been elected to the UNA Board of Directors. Voting took place from Nov. 4 to Nov. 26, and the results were announced by the UNA on the final day of voting. The following are the directors-elect

A new board chair will be voted in by directors during the first meeting of the incoming board, which is scheduled to take place on Dec. 10.

from Wesbrook Village: Eagle Glassheim (incumbent), Yanbo (Paul) Li and Evan Luo. From Hampton Place, Ronald Bourgeois and Jake Wiebe, and from Hawthorn Place, Michael Kerns and Sandy Song were voted in by electors.

Based on the results, bylaw 5.18 - which seeks to ensure all neighbourhoods under the jurisdiction of the UNA are represented in the makeup of the board - did not apply.

A total of nine candidates ran in the election which featured a new electronic voting system implemented by the UNA. An all-candidates forum took place on Nov. 14 at the Wesbrook Community Centre, which was attended by approximately 50 people.

Ultimately, the election saw a voter turnout of 16.7 per cent with 1002 votes being cast. This was a two-percent decline

in turnout from the last election in 2021, which was considered an outlier due to the pandemic. According to non-profit organization rules, UNA society members were eligible to vote in the election, with membership available to any resident over the age of 18.

Director-elect Sandy Song emerged with the most votes at 566, representing 12.5 per cent of all votes cast. However, there was only a difference of 144 votes between her and the ninth place candidate. For full results, please turn to page 2.

A new board chair will be voted in by directors during the first meeting of the incoming board, which is scheduled to take place on Dec. 10. 🍁

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

Board Goes Out With a Bang

UNA's outgoing directors focused on the Main Mall Greenway, tackled toxic social media, explored cooling for The Barn, and made a last push for a finalized Neighbours Agreement in a busy final meeting.

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Campus Vision Takes Shape

UBC has begun detailed planning to turn Campus Vision 2050 into reality, and it all begins in Wesbrook Place.

Pages 4-5



Winter Fun on Campus and Beyond: Our Picks for Local Holiday Entertainment

From markets to live performances, campus residents have many choices to make the most of the coming holiday season.

BY SEOHYEON PARK

As temperatures dip and the coloured autumn leaves blanket the dampened roads, the gentle glow of Christmas lights begins to brighten early evenings, hinting softly at the year's ending.

It's a special time of year, and we might all be pondering the best way to celebrate the winter holiday season with family and friends.

To help you out, we have some suggestions for some great local winter activities.

Christmas Markets

If you haven't visited already, this is a great time to explore one of the most iconic and popular Christmas events in Vancouver: the Vancouver Christmas Market.

A home to artisan shops and food stalls offering an array of traditional beverages and savoury and sweet delicacies, the event runs through to Christmas Eve in the heart of downtown.

You can book a time slot in advance on vancouverchristmasmarket.com for faster, efficient entry, but may stay as long as you like. Moreover, live music and holiday entertainers fill the market with joyful melodies all day throughout the entire season.

Closer to home, UBC Properties Trust has organized the Wesbrook Village Holiday Market, which features local artisans displaying handcrafted goods available for sale. The market runs on Saturdays and

Sundays from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. until Dec. 22 at Norman MacKenzie Square in Wesbrook Village.

HOLIDAY CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Bring on the Festive Season



The festive spirit is coming alive throughout the university neighbourhoods as residents prepare for the holiday season. Happy Holidays! (Photo: Lily Li)

New Park Opens to Public

The network of connected public spaces in Wesbrook Place has grown with the opening of an expansive park.

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Shakespeare and the Value of Art

UBC Theatre's production of *The Very Book Indeed* balances a sentimental and reflective questioning of the work of William Shakespeare.

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UNA Content with Voter Turnout in Board Elections

No issues reported during transition to new online voting system, UNA says.

BY EMMANUEL SAMOGLOU

The first-ever online UNA board of director elections were a resounding success, the UNA says.

This month, for the first time, residents were able to vote electronically using a system UNA staff said is secure and designed to make voting simpler and more accessible.

The voting period for the elections began on Nov. 4, and concluded on Nov. 26 with the announcement of the results. Directors on the new UNA board are expected to begin their terms on Dec. 10.

During the election, eligible voters were able to vote using a smartphone, computer, tablet device, or in person

at two kiosks that were set up at the Wesbrook Community Centre.

“Everything ran very smoothly with the new online voting system,” said UNA chief administrative officer Paul Thorkelsson. “Thanks to UNA staff’s hard work and months of planning, we seamlessly integrated online voting into our usual election process.”

Previously, elections were carried out by mail, with voting packages sent to all UNA society members. During the 2023 annual general meeting, a bylaw amendment to implement online voting was approved by an overwhelming majority of society members.

At the time, part of the rationale in transitioning to online voting was a desire to help increase voter turnout.

A total of 1,002 ballots were cast during last month’s election for a total of 4,533 votes, resulting in the election of 6 new directors with one incumbent returning for another term.

The previous election held in 2021 resulted in 6,537 votes based on 1,209 ballots; however that turnout was seen as an outlier due to the pandemic. In the 2019 elections, only 2,756 votes were cast.

“We’ve tempered our expectations in terms of turnout because we recognize that change will affect it; however, we are very pleased to see that turnout was higher this year than any other election – except for 2021 which was an unusual year due to COVID,” said Thorkelsson. “As residents become more comfortable using this new system, we are looking forward to seeing how that might affect turnout in the coming years.”

Thorkelsson added it is likely the

UNA would continue using online voting for future elections. “That said, the UNA is a society, and its members dictate how we hold these elections.”

EMMANUEL SAMOGLOU IS THE MANAGING EDITOR OF THE CAMPUS RESIDENT.



Voting kiosks set up at the Wesbrook Community Centre during the 2024 election, pictured here on Nov. 6. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

CANDIDATE	NEIGHBOURHOOD	TOTAL VOTES
Sandy Song	Hawthorn Place	566
Eagle Glassheim	Wesbrook Place	563
Ronald Bourgeois	Hampton Place	558
Jake Wiebe	Hampton Place	522
Michael Kerns	Hawthorn Place	501
Evan Luo	Wesbrook Place	495
Yanbo (Paul) Li	Wesbrook Place	479
Nidhi Raina	Wesbrook Place	427
Rochelle Mazar	Wesbrook Place	422



Ronald Bourgeois
Hampton Place



Eagle Glassheim
Wesbrook Place



Michael Kerns
Hawthorn Place



Yanbo (Paul) Li
Wesbrook Place



Evan Luo
Wesbrook Place



Rochelle Mazar
Wesbrook Place



Nidhi Raina
Wesbrook Place



Sandy Song
Hawthorn Place



Jake Wiebe
Hampton Place



UNA
UNIVERSITY
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ASSOCIATION



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- Feedback on the Design of a Proposed Off-Leash Dog Park in Wesbrook Place (Ongoing: November 4 – December 15)
- Feedback on the UNA Budget (Coming soon: January 2025)

Visit myuna.ca to find how to participate.



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Outgoing UNA Board Closes Out Term with Busy Meeting

*Directors talk social media, explore
cooling for The Barn, and make a
final push for a finalized Neighbours
Agreement.*

BY EMMANUEL SAMOGLOU

The final monthly meeting of the previous UNA board of directors took place on Nov. 19 with a packed agenda.

The previous board, consisting of board chair Richard Watson and directors Bill Holmes, Murray McCutcheon, and Eagle Glassheim, had been together since November 2021.

A series of statements to address the board's three years of work together kicked off what was a busy November monthly meeting.

Main Mall Greenway Project

The board was given an update on the Main Mall Greenway Activation project, which seeks to enhance the mid-campus greenway and remediate landscaping issues.

Bob Lilly from Lanarc Architecture Consultants – the firm contracted by the UNA to develop a new design of the Main Mall Greenway – made a presentation to the board, outlining two approaches for re-development of the greenway.

One approach discussed by Lilly focuses on a “sports theme” with table tennis and chess tables, with additional spaces for badminton and bocce . The other, a “Harvest Theme” concept, focuses more on natural spaces with a rainwater feature running through a portion of the greenway.

The board voted to direct UNA staff to prepare a report outlining a public engagement strategy for the project to receive input from community members.

In re-developing the greenway, the UNA has adopted guiding principles, including building a space for the community to connect, a space for recreation, sustainability and climate adaptation, and making the area a transition to the future Stadium community.

X Gets Axed

Directors voted to instruct the UNA's communications staff to halt use of social media platform X when engaging with residents and the broader community.

Director Bill Holmes said a number of global media organizations, including the British newspaper *The Guardian*, have ceased posting on X due to the proliferation of content on the site that has been described as racist, inflammatory, and laden with conspiracy theories.

“There is symbolism in leaving the platform,” said McCutcheon.

The UNA has only posted occasionally on the site since it was purchased by Elon Musk two years ago.

The association currently engages with the community on social media using Instagram and Facebook.

Director Glassheim asked staff to look into other social media platforms as options for replacing X.

Old Barn Cooling Study

UNA staff briefed directors on a third-party report commissioned by the UNA that explored the feasibility of adding cooling capacity to Old Barn Community Centre.

According to the report, UNA staff said there would be challenges in implementing a solution that would enable the community centre to act as a cooling centre during the summer and in the event of extreme heat events.

The implementation of a new cooling and heating system would involve fan controls and outdoor heat pump units and lead to improved ventilation and reliability, with energy savings and reduced greenhouse gas emissions, the report said.

Staff said the UNA is working with UBC, the city, and the provincial govern-

ment to explore retrofit grants and other funding sources to support the project, and they will report back to the board with an update.

Neighbours Agreement Negotiations Nudged

After more than 3.5 years of negotiations to finalize an updated Neighbours Agreement, it was reported at the board meeting that progress has stalled.

The Neighbours Agreement clarifies the UNA's relationship with UBC and provides a framework for the governance of the university neighbourhoods that are under the jurisdiction of the UNA. It includes the rights and obligations of each party, such as UBC's role in the UNA's budgeting process, as well as provisions for UNA community members to have access to UBC facilities such as skating rinks and public swimming pools.

The process to update the agreement began in March 2021, and while progress has been made, UNA directors and representatives from UBC discussed the remaining steps to finalize the agreement during the Nov. 19 meeting.

The UNA – represented in the negotiations by a Neighbours Agreement Committee consisting of directors Holmes, McCutcheon, and resident Mike Feeley – communicated in a Nov. 11 report that the latest draft of the agreement contained changes made by UBC's legal team that, while not “altering the substance of the agreement” were deemed “inappropriate” on the basis that they contained errors, “introduce redundancy”, and “violate good drafting principles”.

Those concerns were reiterated during the meeting.

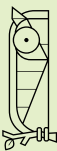
Speaking on behalf of UBC at the meeting, Associate Vice President of Campus + Community Planning (C+CP) Michael White said the UNA must “... have a willingness to engage in compromise” to get the agreement finalized.

UNA directors ultimately voted to direct board chair Richard Watson to sign a copy of the agreement with UBC's changes omitted. The directors also said they would be willing to sit with UBC and the university's legal team to sort out the remaining issues, with an aim to resolving the dispute before the current board's mandate expired in late November.

No progress was reported by the UNA as this issue of *The Campus Resident* went to press.



UBC's Main Mall Greenway, which is currently being looked at by the UNA for a re-design. (Photo: UNA)



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Campus Vision Slowly Takes Shape

UBC Planners have begun detailed planning to turn Campus Vision 2050 into reality, and it all begins in Wesbrook Place.

BY EMMANUEL SAMOGLOU

The first phase of UBC’s ambitious plan to transform campus has begun.

After the provincial government gave the university the green light to proceed with Campus Vision 2050 and the university’s amended land use and housing plans in July this year, planners turned their focus into turning that vision into a reality.

That vision includes doubling the number of residents who call UBC’s Point Grey campus home through the construction of 8.3 million square feet of new housing.

And it all begins in Wesbrook Place, specifically, Wesbrook South.

Comprising approximately nine hectares, Wesbrook Place South is located in south campus, opposite Collings Field and Nobel Park. It represents roughly a fifth of the total area of the Wesbrook Place neighbourhood area and upon completion will include homes for 4,600 new residents, bringing the projected population of Wesbrook to around 16,200.

In all, the number of residents across all campus neighbourhoods is expected to increase to 35,700 by 2050.

Associate Vice President of Campus + Community Planning (C+CP) Michael White told The Campus Resident a lot has changed since 2016 when the Wesbrook plan was first updated. Housing affordability, creating revenue streams to support UBC’s academic mission, climate action, reconciliation, connectivity, accessibility, and biodiversity have all emerged as key areas of focus for the updated plans.

“As you look through the documents, you can see how a lot had changed in the previous ten years, and that’s when those documents had previously been updated,” he said.

“Campus Vision really helped reset the focus for how to manage growth and change for the university, with those themes as key drivers.”

To accommodate this growth, the boundaries of Wesbrook Place have been extended south to the northern boundary of the TRIUMF particle accelerator centre, absorbing an existing treed area where

the university is planning to establish an ecological park. In the vicinity of that park, towers of up to 39 storeys and midrise buildings up to six storeys could be built. Tens of thousands of square feet of new retail space and a daycare facility are also being planned.

While the population density targets included in the plan are not negotiable, UBC’s planners say input from the community can help shape the form that Wesbrook South will take.

To find out what campus residents desire, the university carried out the first phase of a public engagement process last month with a series of open house events, workshops, and walking tours.

New Housing and Retail

A total of 1.3 million square feet of residential space will be added to the Wesbrook neighborhood by amending the Wesbrook plan, including an increase in the proportion of housing available as rental from 30 to 40 per cent.

A quarter of that new housing will be available for UBC faculty and staff in the form of non-market discount rental. “It’s quite a substantial increase in non-market housing in the neighborhoods, which is something that was a big priority through Campus Vision, and so we’re really happy to see that landing through this amendment,” White said.



UBC carried out the first phase of public consultations on Wesbrook South last month with a series of open house events, workshops, and walking tours. (Photo: Lily Li)

“We know that affordability and housing provision is a top priority, and so we had to take that on in earnest, because that’s what we heard from the community. Broad-

Wesbrook South beginning to take shape. Pictured here is development on a parcel of land called BCR6, which consists of an 18-storey highrise and another 6-storey staff/faculty building currently under construction. The recently-finished 6-storey staff/faculty Theory residential building is located to the east. (Photo: Lily Li)

ly, it’s one of, if not, the number one issue that we heard through all of Campus Vision, and that was a lot of engagement.”

A further 15 per cent of new housing in Wesbrook South will be available at market rates for those attending or working at the university.

The remaining 60 per cent of residential space – approximately 780,000 square feet - will be market leasehold housing, similar to other areas throughout campus that have been made available to buyers in the form of 99-year leases.

With regard to the built form, residents are being consulted as to whether there is a preference for more shorter towers and less open space,

or fewer taller towers and more open space.

A new childcare facility and 30,000 square feet of new retail is also being planned for Wesbrook South, and again, residents will have their say as to the type of retail they’d like to see and what form it should take.

Documents available on the website of UBC Campus + Community Planning offer a few alternatives for residents to choose; a “linear ‘main street approach’ with a strip of businesses such as cafes, shops, and patios, or a “commercial neighbourhood hub” with a cluster of shops and amenities at its core.

Transportation and Pedestrian Safety

The transportation needs of a growing Wesbrook, as well as ongoing concerns over pedestrian safety, will be tackled through “big strategic priorities and some very tactical actions”, said White.

CAMPUS CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



A public space in the courtyard between the Evolve and Echo residential buildings in Wesbrook Place. (Photo: Lily Li)

CAMPUS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Specific areas within the neighbourhood that are being looked at include Binning Road and Wesbrook Mall, and where those thoroughfares intersect with W16th. The goal is to facilitate more traffic flowing in and out of the neighbourhood, while also paying attention to calls for safer roads.

White said UBC planners are considering an additional right turn lane on Wesbrook Mall for motorists heading east onto W16th Ave. And they're also looking at making Binning Rd. "more of an all-modes type of corridor to move through the neighborhood" and "normalize to some degree" where it intersects with W16th. That could include implementing a left turn lane for motorists travelling west on W16th to enter Wesbrook Place via Binning Rd.

Resurfacing work on Wesbrook Mall could also improve traffic flow, White added.

"These things, when they model, they do it into the future, and it shows that they're going to perform quite well," he said.

On a larger scale, he said the extension of the Skytrain's Millenium Line to UBC could happen as early as 2033, "if everything falls into place", giving residents and visitors a public transportation option to travel into and out of campus.

Further public transit improvements could also include the creation of priority bus lanes on Wesbrook Mall, between Marine Drive and Thunderbird Blvd and between Binning Rd and W16th.

For cyclists, White said design and planning work has been carried out to improve infrastructure on Wesbrook Mall. While that work isn't part of the current planning being done for the Wesbrook South development, he said his office is seeking funding to eventually implement some changes on the major north-south thoroughfare.

Planners are also considering a two-way bike path on Binning Rd. On Marine Drive and other major transportation corridors not directly under the

jurisdiction of UBC, university planners are working with the provincial Ministry of Transportation to make it safer for cyclists commuting to the university.

Amenities, Services, and Open Spaces

As previously reported in The Campus Resident, White said UBC is continuing to work with the province to build a new elementary school in the near future, using land already set aside in Wesbrook Place.

And to ensure emergency services can keep up with population growth, the university is also working with the provincial government around a potential redevelopment of the public safety site on Wesbrook Mall, where the local detachment of the RCMP and the UBC fire unit are currently located.

Stormwater and rainwater plans are also being reviewed, taking into account recent trends around

extreme weather events such as the deadly atmospheric river that hit the Metro Vancouver area in October.

"Climatic events are spikier now, so we want to make sure that we are planning for accommodating large rain-falls," he said.

Moving forward

Between now and March 2025, UBC is aiming to produce a draft update of the Wesbrook neighbourhood plan which will incorporate public feedback. That will be followed by another round of public engagement by UBC.

From there, a final amended plan is expected to be presented to UBC's Board of Governors for approval around June 2025.

"Good planning frequently visits plans to make sure that they're staying current to meet needs, and so that's what we're doing now," said White.



A 16, 810 sq. m market housing development taking shape at the corner of Birney Avenue and Ross Drive in Wesbrook Place. Upon completion, it will host a 16-storey apartment high-rise and 3-storey townhouses with 231 residential units. (Photo: Lily Li)



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Pickleball Popularity Explodes on Campus

Campus residents follow the global pickleball craze and recreation programmers can't keep up with the demand.

BY AMIE BERNAERDT

The popularity of pickleball around the world has skyrocketed over recent years, a trend that has been mirrored in the UBC community.

This popular sport borrows a lot of its rules from other sports like tennis, badminton, and table tennis. The rules are easy to learn, and the sport is accessible to those of different ages and athletic ability.

"We see seniors and kids, men and women, and people from all walks of life and abilities," says Dave Gillis, the UNA's recreation manager. "It truly is a sport for everyone."

Another aspect that's luring more and more players is it's also fairly financially accessible.

While some sports can be expensive to purchase starter equipment, the requirements for pickleball are lower, says Angela Yang, an avid local pickleball player. "You can get a decent beginner racquet set for \$50 dollars, and you're set."

No wonder the sport has become so popular among members of the UBC community. "I'm so passionate about the sport," says Wynn Chau, a campus resident and pickleball enthusiast. "I love everything about pickleball."

Pickleball can be played indoors and outdoors, and there are many courts across the Lower Mainland. During the pandem-



Community members playing pickleball at the Wesbrook Community Centre last month. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

ic, the City of Vancouver converted many tennis courts into pickleball courts, as two tennis courts can become four pickleball courts. "I like how you can play outdoors while enjoying the sun and fresh air," says Yang.

Playing pickleball outside is easy during the summer months, but in the colder—and rainier—months, playing outside becomes difficult, which can mean disappointment for some players. "The UNA tends to have larger waitlists for pickleball in the winter months,"

says Gillis. "Our waitlists are on par with other facilities offering indoor pickleball times."

The UNA offers drop-in sessions, as well as lessons which are available for registration each new term or season. Waitlist times vary by a number of factors, including the season, popularity, session additions, and of course, the possibility of ever increasing participant numbers.

And the demand for these programs has grown substantially. Pickleball, once

"It truly is a sport for everyone."
UNA Recreation Manager Dave Gillis

a sport mostly for seniors, has become beloved by all ages. In addition, the population in the campus neighbourhoods is growing. "The UNA has seen a spike in all registration numbers for its programs, including pickleball," says Gillis. "It's exciting! The rise in participation in any recreational activity is always positive."

Yet, increasing the number of pickleball programs is challenging for the UNA programming team, given space limitations and the need to include other recreational activities.

"Our programming team works carefully to ensure that all programs are balanced," assures Gillis.

For pickleball lovers, though, the increasing demand and winter weather can make it difficult to secure opportunities to play the sport. "As soon as they're open for registration, they're gone so quickly," says Chau.

Pickleball players would love to see more courts around the city, to meet the increasing demand. "I'm hoping for someone to open the first private indoor court facility in Vancouver or for more outdoor courts as it's in high demand," says Yang.

UBC currently does not have any outdoor pickleball courts, or any indoor courts that are designated for just pickleball.

"I would love a pickleball court on campus," Chau says with a laugh. "I'd be there every day!"

AMIE BERNAERDT IS A THIRD-YEAR STUDENT AT UBC WITH PLANS TO MAJOR IN CREATIVE WRITING OR ANTHROPOLOGY. SHE LIVES IN WESBROOK PLACE.

New Wesbrook Park Opens to Public

The park is the latest addition to the neighbourhood's network of connected public spaces.

BY ANNE ZHANG

A new park has been opened to the public.

Located in southeast Wesbrook Place near Evolve at 3518 Wesbrook Mall, the

project has been highly anticipated for the past couple of months by residents.

UBC Properties Trust was responsible for the development of the park and will continue maintenance of it until it is formally handed over to the UNA, which is expected to occur in Spring 2025.

The park has been complete for several months, but access to the public was prohibited due to nearby construction.

The park's opening will be welcome to residents, who have previously admired it from behind fencing that has now been removed.

Included in the park is a slide, a rope climber, and fixed workout equipment available to be used by the public.

Covered seating areas, benches, and



The new park, located in southeast Wesbrook Place. (Photos: Lily Li)

a water feature runs through the park with a pond at the south end adjacent to Theory – a recently-finished 6-storey residential building with 136 units ranging from studios to 4-bedrooms available for faculty and staff at reduced rents.

Two other buildings – an 18-storey market rental highrise and another 6-storey staff/faculty building – are currently under construction in the surrounding area.

It is the latest addition to a network of connected parks and public spaces running

throughout Wesbrook that offer space for children to play and community members to take a stroll.

With landscaped greenery, pathways, water features, a workout area, play and seating areas, visitors can check out and enjoy this newest public space in the Wesbrook Place neighbourhood.

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



The network of parks and open spaces in Wesbrook Place. (Illustration: UBC)

HOLIDAY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

There’s also the Artisanal Christmas Market from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7 at the University Chapel, located at 5375 University Blvd.

And the UNA will be hosting their Winter Festival on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Old Barn Community Center, including photos with Santa, crafts, and hot chocolate.

Candlelight Concerts

Seasonal music is a great way to get into the holiday mood.

For classical music connoisseurs, Listeso String Quartet performs a 60-minute Christmas concert at Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church, on Saturday Dec. 20.

If you are looking for some audience participation, the popular Christmas at the Chan concert which includes a sing-along will be on Dec. 8 at 2:30 p.m. this year. Featured performers include Trinity Western Choirs and Orchestra and Pacific Voices.

If traditional music is not your thing, then perhaps the Winterbang Festival on Dec. 11 will appeal. This free concert duo includes electroacoustic music by UBC Music students, featuring the laptop orchestra.



Vancouver Christmas Market. (Photo: Kipling Media)

Nutcracker, Anyone?

If your winter holiday season is not complete without some sugarplums and belligerent mice, Vancouver has a number of Nutcracker options to choose from.

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet returns for a series of performances starting on Dec. 13 at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

Royal City Youth Ballet has performances around the Lower Mainland running through to Dec. 21, and Goh Ballet’s Nutcracker runs from Dec. 19-22 at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

Mountaintop Fun for the Family

For the Peak of Christmas, Grouse Mountain is transformed into the enchanting North Pole, where twinkling lights, gentle snowfall, and reindeer come together for a magical holiday experience.

This one-month event continues through to Christmas Eve, inviting people to walk along the Blue Grouse Lake decorated with light installations, and enjoy the tranquility of winter mountains on the mountaintop skating pond. It is a perfect opportunity for families to watch classic Christmas movies at the Theater in the Sky and meet Santa’s reindeer up close.

A Mountain Admission Ticket includes round-trip travel via the Skyride and access to these mountaintop attractions; a family ticket for 2 adults and 2 children costs \$205, while tickets for adults, youth (ages 13-18), and children (ages 5-12) are priced at \$80, \$70, and \$40, respectively.



From markets to the performing arts, there are plenty of activities for residents during the holidays in the university neighbourhoods and throughout Vancouver. (Photo: Ada Bucur)

Light it up

While there aren’t any big Christmas light shows on Point Grey campus, there are plenty of light festivals and hot chocolate to be found not too far away.

St Paul’s Hospital Lights of Hope runs from November 27-January 3. This longtime fundraising tradition includes carols, hot chocolate and fireworks. Check it out at 1081 Burrard St.

VanDusen Festival of Lights is a guided walk through the gardens that runs until Jan. 5 at the VanDusen Botanical Garden at 5251 Oak Street. Tickets are only available online via Showpass.

If you prefer your lights with more snacks, then check out Granville Island after sunset on any day through to Jan. 3. Admission is free.

SEOHYEON PARK IS PURSUING HER BACHELOR’S DEGREE IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES AT UBC.

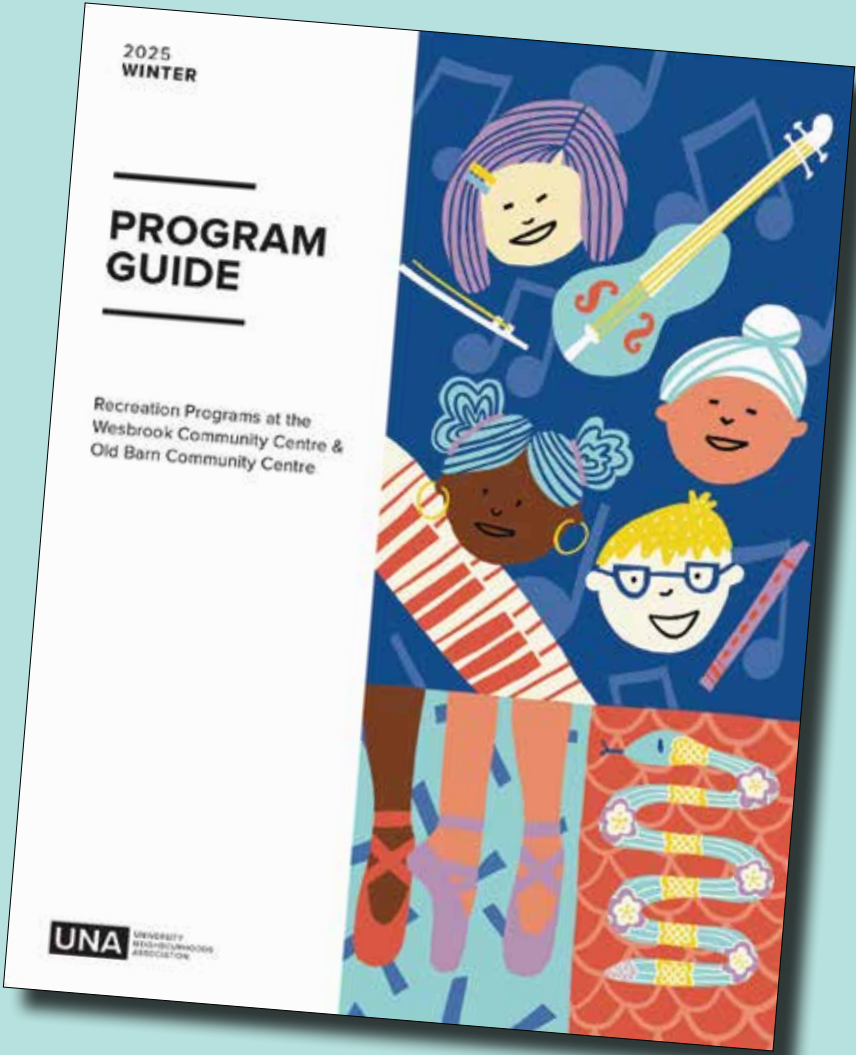


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Creating Solutions From Problems: The Keenleyside Book Swap

When a local strata council noticed some residents were breaking a bylaw, they opted to work with them, not against them.

BY CLAIRE ROBSON

We're not sure when residents began leaving their unwanted items in the lobby, but over the past 16 years we've lived here at Keenleyside, it slowly became habitual. One day, someone would leave a couple of books, a stuffed toy, or a piece of pottery on the coffee table, with a little handwritten sign that said "free".

Attractive items were snapped up in seconds. Often though, less tempting objects would stay there until an exasperated council member took them down to the trash. For our council, it opened up a 'grey area' in which, frankly, we wavered for a while.

Residents leaving items now and again, didn't seem like such a big deal. The items were usually small, and if they were not taken by passersby, it was a minor effort to cart them down to the garbage room after a couple of days. On the other hand, some items created an untidy clutter and extra work for our cleaning staff.

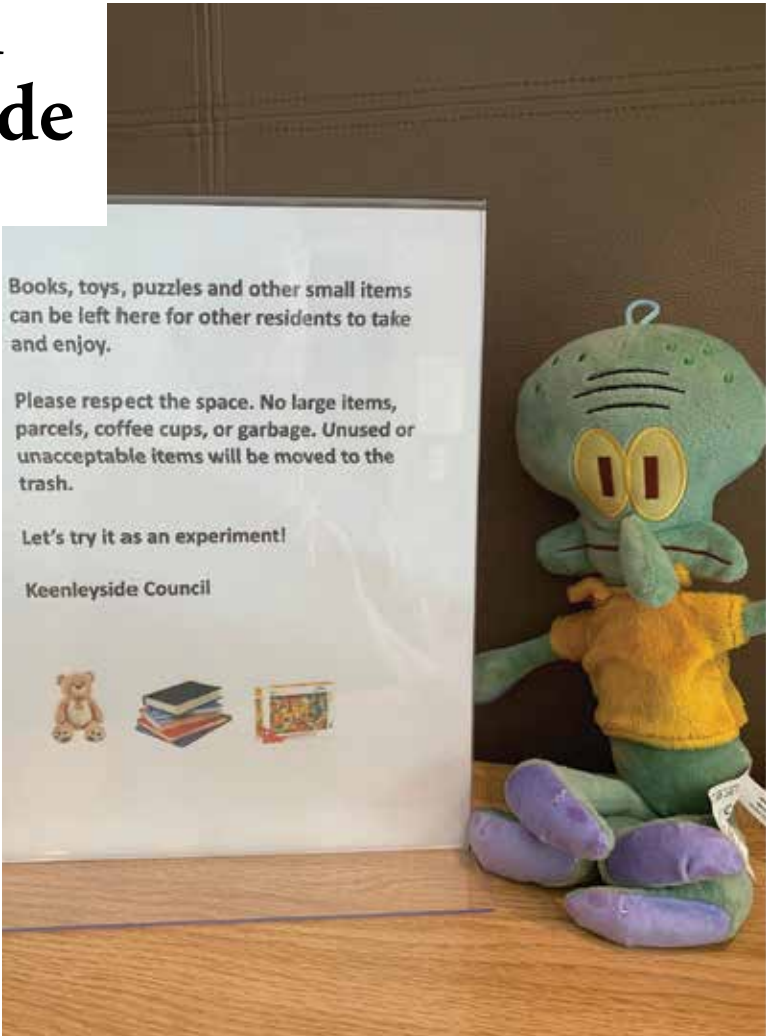
Not all of the things left were attractive – they included ancient pans, obscure

text books, and discarded coffee cups. Like many other Strata Councils, I'm sure, we have constantly battled with discarded 'stuff' left in the garbage room, and we certainly didn't want the lobby to become another drop off point for unwanted junk.

Eventually, we decided to turn this problem into a solution.

As reported in the March issue of *The Campus Resident*, Keenleyside's biannual Junk Amnesty Days provide residents with an opportunity to leave small or large unwanted items that don't pose a hazard in a specified spot in the parking garage for swap or eventual removal at council's expense. It's a popular initiative and similar to other ones throughout the university neighborhoods.

And moving along in the spirit of sustainability and the sharing economy, we wanted to highlight another initiative, or "swappportunity" – a 'Mini Book Swap'



The Keenleyside 'Mini Book Swap'. (Photo: Supplied)

shelving in the building's lobby.

This is how it got started.

One day, one of our council members found a nice set of free shelves, and another member designed a notice inviting residents to leave small items such as books, toys, and puzzles there, either for people

to enjoy as they sat in the lobby, or to take home.

What started as an experiment eventually evolved into a working solution.

The shelf is now stocked with interesting books for all ages and we've received positive feedback from residents.

Many people have commented that the lobby feels more inviting, and more communal. Several weeks into the experiment, no one has left junk or trash there. Rather, it looks as if it is being regularly tidied.

Architects designing footpaths on college campuses sometimes wait until people actually move in to live there and their walking patterns become visible 'on the ground.'

One might call this approach to managing space 'the path of least resistance.' If residents keep leaving stuff in the lobby, there's a reason, and whatever the bylaws say, they're likely to keep doing so, because it often makes sense.

Sometimes it works to listen to the wishes of the people! 🍃

CLAIRE ROBSON IS A MEMBER OF THE KEENLEYSIDE STRATA COUNCIL.

REVIEW: Shakespeare and the Value of Art in a Commercialized World

UBC Theatre's production of *The Very Book Indeed* balances a sentimental and reflective questioning of Shakespeare with an audience-interactive comedy.

BY DANIEL LI

Blending a poignant reflection of Shakespeare's legacy and high-energy comedy, *The Very Book Indeed* achieves its set-out goal of exploring the importance of Shakespeare and the value of art in an increasingly commercialized world in a generally steady manner, only occasionally punctured by the unwieldy moment.

The main story of the play - directed by Moya O'Connell and written by Paul Budra - follows Henry

Condell and John Heminges, two former colleagues of Shakespeare, who struggle to collect and assemble the first complete collection of The Bard's plays. But interspersed alongside it are scenes from Shakespeare's works including Lady Macbeth's infamous monologue and *The Tempest's* stormy opening, some of the best scenes woven into the play. However, others feel more forced, like the moment where *Cymbeline* was abruptly referenced by the two leads. Another issue with some of the scenes was that the lines were not enunciated enough, especially during noisier scenes such as in *The Tempest*. However, the choice of lighting, blood-red during *Lady Macbeth*, blue during the death of King Lear, and the live music accompaniment were great additions that really furthered the overall atmosphere of the scenes.

As the story progresses and the two colleagues labor to secure licensing rights, the thought of the effort to assemble the collection always looms over them, a reference to the posthumous publication of Shakespeare's *First Folio*. The two colleagues pushed on in spite of the difficulty, because to them, this was not just a profit venture but a monument to their former colleague's work — a preservation of what they believed to be a lasting repertoire of theater that deserved to be passed down to future generations.

The clash between profit and art rings all too clearly in the modern world of convenient but soulless AI art and writing which have increasingly encroached upon the traditionally human world of expression, forcing us, just like Condell and Heminges, to choose what we truly value the most in the end.

Alongside the assembling of the *First Folio*, the play follows the English dramatist, Ben Johnson, another contemporary of Shakespeare's, whose awareness of his dying legacy, and questioning of Shakespeare's, asks the audience to ponder who gets canonized into the works of great literature and why. In this case quite literally, as Ben Johnson steps off the stage and walks around the theater framing a comparison between his legacy compared to Shakespeare's towering one, by directly asking questions to audience members. But as envious as he is of Shakespeare, he still deeply appreciates and acknowledges the majesty of the Bard's work ultimately writing in the *First Folio* the dedication that Shakespeare was, "not of an age, but for all time."

As Ben Johnson concludes his thoughts, multiple Shakespeares appear and offer comfort with lines from Shakespeare's plays, in a genuinely touching moment especially with an excellent delivery of the "We are such stuff as dreams are made of". To cap it all off, there is a joyful dance scene and as saying goes, "all's well that ends well".

On the more technical side of things, I found the costuming to be suitable for representing the historical era but nothing spectacular. But the set design was something truly stand out, with the paper vortex and stacks of the paper on the stairs of the main office background reinforcing the whimsical and kinetic energy of the play.

Overall, *The Very Book Indeed* was able to skillfully balance a sentimental and reflective questioning of Shakespeare with an audience-interactive comedy that was even able to harmonize the parts into a greater whole. It's a play that will make you think and ask questions of Shakespeare, art and legacy, but hopefully with some chuckles interlaced between your reflections.

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



The set design of *The Very Book Indeed*, which ran from Nov. 20-30 at the Frederic Wood Theatre. (Photo: Daniel Li)