

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Melissa Huston
Tracy James, Vice-President
Samuel Jang
Murray Langdon
Tamara Leonard-Vail, President
Michelle Peterson, Secretary
John Sanderson, Treasurer
Avery Stetski



BURNSIDE GORGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Charitable registration #:
135261972 RR0001

471 Cecelia Road
Victoria, BC
V8T 4T4

Phone: 250.388.5251
Fax: 250.388.5269
Email: info@burnsidegorge.ca

Website: burnsidegorge.ca
Facebook:
[burnsidegorgecommunityassociation](https://www.facebook.com/burnsidegorgecommunityassociation)
CliffsideatBurnsideGorge
Twitter: @BurnsideGorge

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



Looking back on the last year, Burnside Gorge Community Association (BGCA) continues to be involved in many projects that impact the community. In the fall of 2014 we began working with the City of Victoria to inform the project charter that would guide the community engagement process to revise the local area plan for the Burnside Gorge neighbourhood. The City Planning department met with BGCA staff and board, including members of the Land Use Committee, to help develop a recruitment plan for the Citizen Engagement Advisory Committee which would oversee the community engagement process. Two members of the board sit on that Advisory committee with several Burnside Gorge residents and business owners/managers.

The first consultation phase took place in the spring of 2015 and included numerous public events during which community members shared their vision for the future of the neighbourhood. From sessions that took place in residents' living rooms to businesses in Rock Bay, these events offered everyone a chance to celebrate what makes Burnside Gorge their favourite place to live, work and play. We encourage members of the community to get involved in these consultations as they continue throughout early 2016.

To further our strategic priority of engaging local businesses we hosted a mixer at Vancouver Island Brewery for owners and staff of businesses in Burnside Gorge. This was an excellent opportunity for those in our local business community to better get to know each other and enhance their understanding of BGCA and the work that we do. We appreciated the comments of support and were truly impressed by the networking that occurred during this successful event. We look forward to hosting similar events in the future to continue strengthening connections.

The BGCA continues to promote and encourage community collaboration and engagement with the City of Victoria. We frequently reach out to City Council and staff regarding issues that have possible impacts on the community, such as micro-housing and homelessness, wastewater treatment, safe streets, active transportation and cyclability. As a Community Association, we do our best to advocate for the neighbourhood on these and other issues and we strive to increase community participation. Given all the initiatives that are underway, we encourage you to get involved, share your insights, and contribute to the representative voice of this vibrant and diverse neighbourhood.

2014-2015: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

BGCA provides many successful programs and services. For the 2014/15 year we would like to profile two valuable programs, Homeless Family Outreach and Community Development.

HOMELESS FAMILY OUTREACH

– HELPING FAMILIES FIND SHELTER &
MAINTAIN THEIR HOUSING –

Families with dependent children, coming from across the Greater Victoria region, are supported by one of two outreach workers who respond to immediate physical needs such as shelter and food as well as encourage families to connect to other community programs and services including other Burnside Gorge programs.

Many families find themselves homeless due to domestic violence, family breakdown, illness, or are chronically under housed and financially stressed. They are assisted with: advocacy and tenancy issues; housing related transitions; applications to subsidized housing; navigating the housing market; and referrals to community resources.

Through the support from BC Housing and the generosity of Congregation Emanu-El, outreach workers have the ability to provide families with monthly rental supplements to assist in stabilizing families as they work through a financial plan to remain stable on their own.

- 20 – 25 new families seen each month
- More than 400 phone calls requiring housing and financial information as well as referrals to other supports.
- 152 rental supplements totalling almost \$48,000 used to stabilize families



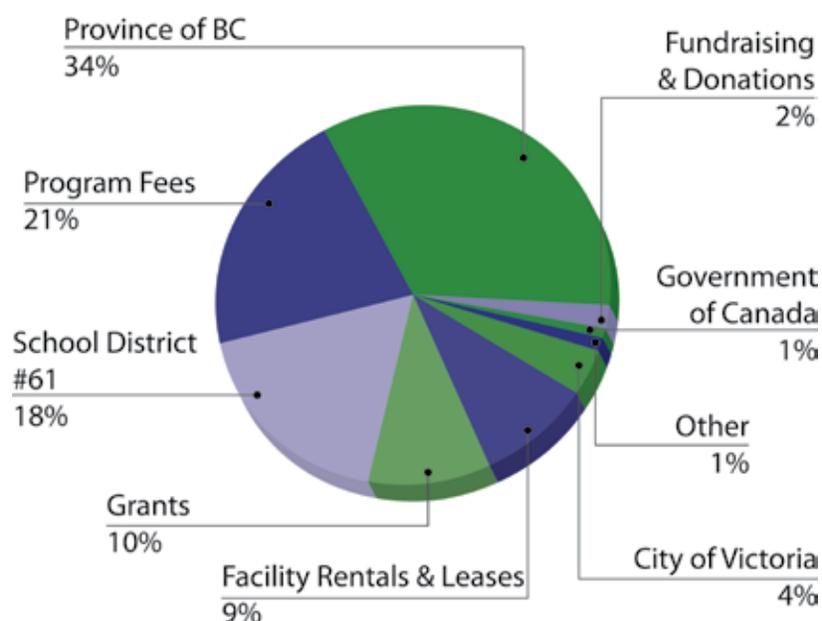
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development has an overall aim to strengthen community connections and create a strong and vibrant place to live, work and play. Some of the ways we accomplish this are:

- Communication tools such as the Burnside Gorge Community News which allows us to share important information with residents and businesses and celebrate improvements in the neighbourhood;
- Supporting residents and businesses to address concerns around land use, community safety and transportation in the neighbourhood, assisting with larger community consultation efforts;
- Through community stewardship of natural areas such as the Cecelia Ravine restoration efforts, the annual Gorge Waterway Cleanup, and overseeing the ongoing development of Cecelia Ravine Community Gardens.

Some of the highlights in 2014/2015 include the installation of fitness equipment in the courtyard of the Cecelia Ravine Park, the first of several proposed installations to compliment the interval training and cross-fit that regularly occurs in the courtyard, ravine stairs and the outdoor sports court. The fence surrounding the Community Gardens was also completed, and a community walk was organized to visit some of the historically relevant buildings and sites identified in the community by the Victoria Heritage Foundation which launched an interactive heritage map of Burnside Gorge in the Spring of 2015.

REVENUE



	2014-2015	2013-2014
Government & Contracts	\$1,131,871	\$947,769
Fees	\$422,420	\$372,972
Facility Rentals & Leases	\$182,296	\$171,193
Grants	\$194,200	\$329,820
Fundraising & Donations	\$34,610	\$19,744
Other	\$17,695	\$37,862
Total	\$1,983,092	\$1,879,360

EXPENSES

For the Year Ending August 31	2014-2015	2013-2014
Salaries & Benefits	\$1,559,333	\$1,538,691
Program Supplies	\$174,885	\$131,738
Office & General	\$126,841	\$122,935
Rent, Maintenance & Security	\$71,658	\$68,461
Instructor Fees	\$7,253	\$6,220
Sundry	\$3,555	\$14,081
Amortization	\$20,388	\$21,260
Total	\$1,963,913	\$1,903,386

THANK YOU – FRIENDS OF BURNSIDE GORGE

PLATINUM \$10,000+

Capital Regional District, City of Victoria, Coast Capital Savings, Jawl Properties, Mac Voisin, United Way of Greater Victoria, Vancity, Victoria Foundation

GOLD \$5,000-\$9,999

CFOX Santa's Anonymous, Provincial Employees Community Services Fund, Tim Hortons

SILVER \$1,000-\$4,999

370/380 Waterfront Cescent Strata, Community of Christ Church, Congregation Emanu-El Avodah, Dr. Ian Bridger & Nikki Bridger, Elizabeth Chatfield, GWL Realty Advisors, Optimist Club of Victoria, Susan & Carl Stovel Family Fund, TLC Fund for the Kids, Royal Canadian Legion - Trafalagar/Pro Patria Branch #292

BRONZE \$500-\$999

Avery Stetski & Sandra Warr, Kardell - Futures Club, Peninsula Co-op, Pizzeria Prima Strada, Royal Bank, Selkirk Waterfront Properties

SUPPORTERS, SPONSORS & PARTNERS

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the individuals, families, businesses and associations who have provided sponsorship and support to our community events and programs. Your investments provide the foundation that makes our work possible.

GOVERNMENT & AUTHORITY PARTNERS

Capital Regional District, City of Victoria, Government of Canada (Service Canada, Public Health Agency of Canada), Province of BC (BC Housing, Ministry of Children and Family Development, Ministry of Finance), School District #61, Vancouver Island Health Authority



BURNSIDE GORGE: A UNIQUE AND INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Burnside Gorge Community Association offers a continuum of services and programs that respond to the needs of residents in the Burnside Gorge area and children, youth and families in Greater Victoria.

Integrated Family Services - early childhood programs, parent education, family development, community and school based youth and family counseling, youth centre and support for youth transitioning to adulthood.

Housing and Financial Literacy Programs - Family Self Sufficiency provides employment and financial literacy support for families in subsidized housing as well as workshops within the community. The Homeless Family Outreach program supports families in housing crisis.

Childcare – preschool, out-of-school care, spring, summer and winter camps

Recreation – community education and recreation programs including spring and summer camps; community special events

Community Development – community newsletter, community gardens, public art, community history, and environmental restoration

