

Annual Report 2015-2016

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A Message From the Board



The annual report is an excellent opportunity to reflect on the work that has been done over the past year and 2015/2016 is no exception. After two years of in-depth consultation with both the residential and business communities of Burnside Gorge the City of Victoria is in the final stages of the Neighbourhood Plan. A final draft has gone to Council for approval and implementation is expected to begin in 2017. We hope that with the ongoing participation and support of you, our community members, we can ensure that the plan's vision of a dynamic and thriving neighbourhood is achieved.

This was also a bittersweet year as we saw our decade-long occupancy of the Burnside Elementary School site come to a close. We have enjoyed 10 years of community-building at 3130 Jutland, sharing with other non-profits and businesses. Despite the inherent challenges that come with such a big transition, we are excited to see Burnside Elementary renovated and become an active school again, housing the District's alternative and continuing education programs. We are grateful to see this iconic landmark remain an integral part of our community.

The dedicated BGCA staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners continue to be instrumental in cultivating a strong sense of place and instilling pride in our community. Events such as Selkirk Waterfront Festival, Community Christmas Dinner and Santa's Pancake Breakfast provide opportunities for the community to come together in celebration. Initiatives such as Friends of Cecelia Ravine and the Gorge Waterway Cleanup provide opportunities for residents to be active stewards of our natural areas.

If you value the quality of life you enjoy in our community and wish to gain an insight into how our neighbourhood evolves we invite you to attend one of our community meetings to discuss a topic important to you. Participate in the growth of Burnside Gorge by becoming a volunteer on one or more of the many committees of the BGCA that interest you, from Social Enterprise to Land Use. Engagement with your neighbourhood is one of the most satisfying ways to create a stable and welcoming community for all. Check out all the community activities on our website or in our Community News. We hope to see you come out and join us in 2017!

2015-2016: Agency Highlights

Special Events

More than 3,000 attendees and 250 volunteers participated in events in 2015-2016 including the Gorge Waterway Cleanup, Santa's Pancake Breakfast, and the Selkirk Waterfront Festival. Special events allow people to come together to celebrate community, to share meals and holidays, and to take care of our natural environment.



Bursaries

In 2016 we were fortunate to aid in the development of two bursary funds available to those pursuing educational goals, with demonstrated financial need and a connection to our programs and services. These funds allow people to create new opportunities for themselves and their families, fostering a sense of connection and support by their broader community.

"Thank you so much for the \$500.00 Tom and Marilyn Arkell Bursary that I was awarded in the Fall. Without this contribution I would be struggling financially this month and feeling anxiety to make ends meet. Because of this contribution, I am not. I feel deeply grateful." ~ Recipient

Collaborations

In addition to the high level and scope of services provided to those connected to Burnside Gorge, we also strive to make an impact as part of regional networks aimed at making sustainable system wide improvements in order to reduce duplication of service, align service delivery implementation and improve overall outcomes for those living in the CRD. Examples of these collaborations include: the Coalition of Neighborhood Houses, the Child and Youth Health Network, and the Greater Victoria Community Literacy Initiative.

Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) & Youth Self Sufficiency (YSS)

Our Youth and Family Self Sufficiency programs work with youth and families to develop skills and assets that will build capacity and help them to be successful in their lives. YSS supported 36 youth in 2015-2016 as they transition to adulthood. FSS works with low-income families living in subsidized housing, 52 families participated in the past year.

"When you take care of the basic needs such as a safe place to live, food, and being the best parent possible, then you can have peace of mind to start working on goals like education. I feel the program has been helping me by pointing me in the right direction." ~ YSS Participant

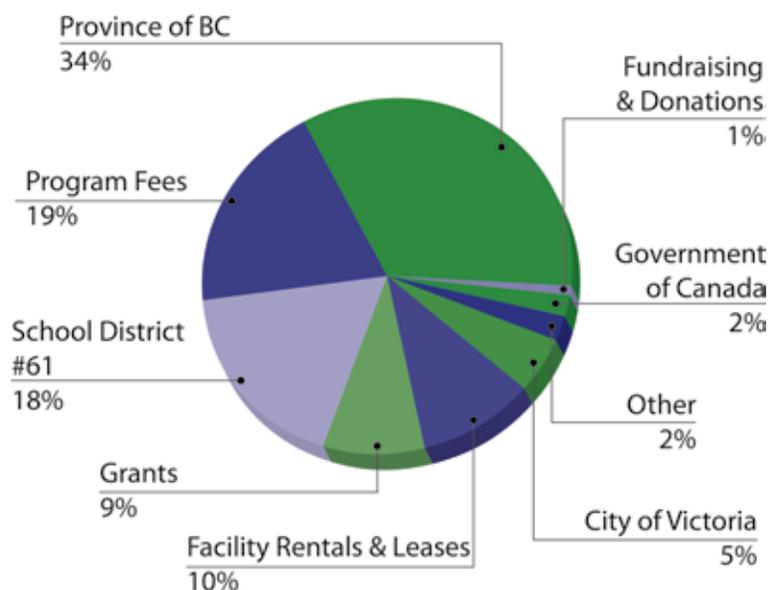


Family Programs

Early years programming creates opportunities for parents and their children 0-6 to engage with other families in the community and promotes child development through skill building, literacy and social activities. Last year there were more than 2800 visits from caregivers and their children. Also offered is our well attended free weekly family dinner, serving more than 3500 meals throughout 2015/2016.

"I've met a lot of wonderful mothers and caregivers at playgroup. Simply seeing them is a great opportunity to learn about parenting." ~ Program Attendee

REVENUE



	2015-2016	2014-2015
Government & Contracts	\$1,216,259	\$1,131,871
Fees	\$383,578	\$422,420
Facility Rentals & Leases	\$193,235	\$182,296
Grants	\$185,133	\$194,200
Fundraising & Donations	\$30,070	\$34,610
Other	\$32,939	\$17,695
Total	\$2,041,214	\$1,983,092

EXPENSES

For the Year Ending August 31	2015-2016	2014-2015
Salaries & Benefits	\$1,579,436	\$1,559,333
Program Supplies	\$199,369	\$174,885
Office & General	\$121,619	\$126,841
Rent, Maintenance & Security	\$77,611	\$71,658
Instructor Fees	\$9,025	\$7,253
Sundry	\$3,974	\$3,555
Loss of Disposal of Capital Assets	\$1,132	N/A
Amortization	\$19,810	\$20,388
Total	\$2,011,976	\$1,963,913

Thank You – Friends of Burnside Gorge

Platinum \$10,000+

Coast Capital Savings, Intact Insurance, Jawl Foundation, Provincial Employee Community Services Fund, Seaville Family Foundation, United Way of Greater Victoria, Vancity

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

BOSA Properties and Blue Sky Properties Foundation, CFA Santa's Anonymous, Congregation Emanu-El, Cridge Centre for the Family, First West Foundation, TELUS Victoria Community Board, Tim Hortons

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

BC Investment Management Corp., Royal Bank of Canada, Christ Church Cathedral, Community of Christ Church, Ian and Nikki Bridger, ICBC, Island Savings GIFT Program, Optimist Club of Victoria, Sisters of Charity, Trafalgar Pro Patria Branch #292, Greater Victoria Savings & Credit Union Legacy Fund

Bronze \$500-\$999

Kiwanis Club of Esquimalt, Prima Strada Pizzeria Inc., Selkirk Waterfront Properties, 370/380 Waterfront Crescent Strata

Government/Community Partners

BC Housing, Capital Regional District, City of Victoria, Island Health, Ministry of Children & Family Development, Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development, Public Health Agency of Canada, School District 61, Service Canada



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, families and seniors throughout Greater Victoria.

Child Care – Pre-school, out-of-school care, winter, spring and summer day camps.

Youth and Family Services – School and community based counselling services for families who struggle with parenting, homelessness, finances and other issues that are a barrier to meeting their children's needs; youth outreach to at-risk youth and youth transitioning from government care to independence; early childhood and family drop-in programs including a weekly community dinner and a Resource Room for low-income families to access free clothing, food and toiletries.

Housing and Asset Development – Direct housing and financial support to families in housing and financial crisis; long term asset building programs for families in subsidized housing; financial literacy workshops to youth and adults throughout the CRD.

Recreation and Special Events – Range of fitness and recreation opportunities for children, youth, families and seniors; community and special events; adventure day camps for youth during spring, summer and winter breaks.

Community Development – Burnside Gorge Community News; Community History projects; Public Art projects; environmental initiatives such as Friends of Cecelia Ravine and the Cecelia Ravine Community Gardens.