

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

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BURNSIDE GORGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



The Board of Directors wishes to take this opportunity to express our thanks and admiration for the exceptional work of BGCA staff and volunteers in keeping as many vital programs as possible open and running through the pandemic, while meeting all provincial guidelines and restrictions. Despite the hurdles, our team developed strategies to ensure those who rely on the Centre's programs were looked after.

During the 2019-2020 year we were pleased to offer events and celebrations such as Gorge Waterway Cleanup, our many Christmas events, and a new initiative the Cecelia Backyard Party. Unfortunately, in the spring of 2020 we made the necessary decision to cancel or postpone remaining events. The BGCA is anticipating that 2021 will see at least a partial return to normal and the resumption of some of the activities that enhance our community.

With the annual review of BGCA's strategic plan, we established four focus areas (neighborhood development, community engagement, organizational strength and financial health). From these, key priorities will guide the work of the board and staff over the next year. One of the agency's commitments across all focus areas is increased engagement with community members and businesses.

Engagement has been especially important through the pandemic. The Burnside Gorge community has been particularly impacted by government's emergency response to homelessness under COVID, with a number of neighbourhood hotels used as temporary supportive housing. BGCA held a series of virtual town halls for residents to meet with various stakeholders - service providers, police, government officials - to share their concerns and experiences and hear from stakeholders about efforts to mitigate impact and next steps.

As we move forward, BGCA continues to work collaboratively with service providers, government and residents to improve the safety and liveability of our community. The Board of Directors has tremendous faith in the resilience and capacity of the Burnside Gorge community to overcome the current challenges and refocus on the vibrancy and uniqueness of the neighbourhood.

LOOKING BACK AT 2019-2020

Reflecting on the work of this past year it is difficult not to solely focus on BGCA's response during the COVID-19 pandemic and remember to highlight other accomplishments during the first half of our fiscal year. September of 2019 saw our first ever Cecelia Ravine Backyard Party, an exciting partnership with Victoria Beer Society, to bring new opportunities for community celebration to Burnside Gorge. We were also conducting an engagement survey of businesses in the neighbourhood to better understand their specific needs and strengthen relationships. New programming was being developed to support accessible dance as well as planning for the 20th year of our Selkirk Waterfront Festival. No one could have anticipated what this year would look like come March.



Guests enjoying the Cecelia Ravine Backyard Party

It was the first week of Spring Break camps when the province declared a state of emergency and we learned that schools would not re-open after the break. Decisions needed to be made quickly to determine next steps and ensure minimal interruption of services for the many children, youth, families, and seniors we serve. On March 30 BGCA began providing free full day care for children 4-11 whose parents work in essential services continuing until the end of June when our regular summer camps began.

Another quick pivot was the expansion of food security programming. Through the generosity of community funding and government grants we were able to launch a food hamper and meal delivery program through the spring and early summer. Accessing excess food and fresh produce from partners like School District 61 and the Victoria Food Share Network as well as purchasing bulk goods allowed us to provide 817 food hampers to families and seniors as well as 253 meals provided through delivery and pick up.

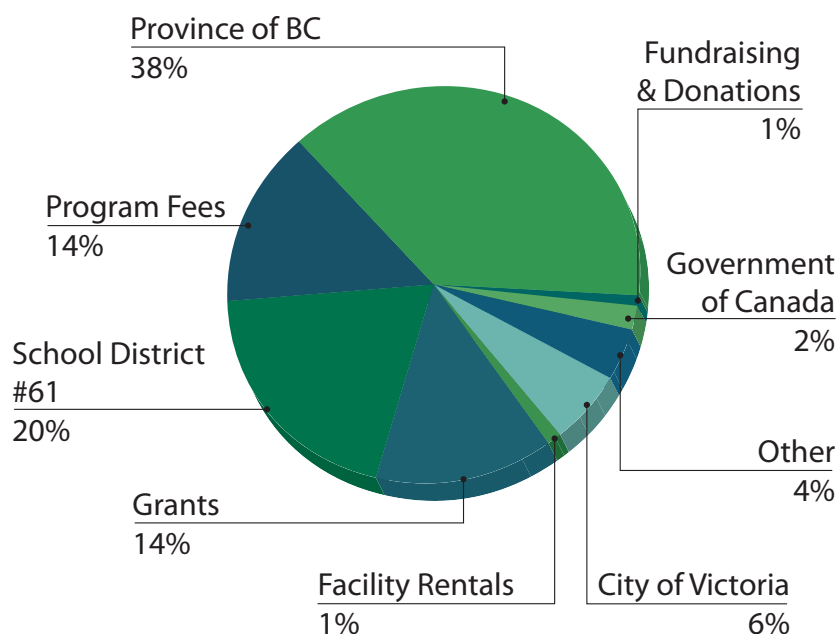


Produce waiting to be packed up into food hampers

Planning throughout the pandemic has been much like trying to hit a moving target. Safety protocols needed continual updating as new information was released. Child and youth programs required multiple service scenarios to accommodate virtual and in-person service delivery as well as incredible shifts to group programming utilizing a variety of outside spaces as well as large inside rooms.

Our overarching goal was to maintain the quality of level of support services to those we serve while adhering to strict safety protocols. Maintaining effective and responsive services while keeping staff and those we serve safe continues to be a key goal in our 2020-2021 fiscal year.

REVENUE



	2019-2020	2018-2019
Government & Contracts	\$1,435,099	\$1,333,915
Fees	\$299,873	\$423,977
Facility Rentals	\$19,581	\$31,313
Grants	\$310,398	\$198,902
Fundraising & Donations	\$40,936	\$34,569
Other	\$78,930	\$25,507
Total	\$2,184,817	\$2,048,183

EXPENSES

For the Year Ending August 31	2019-2020	2018-2019
Salaries & Benefits	\$1,519,969	\$1,566,469
Program Supplies	\$310,188	\$246,749
Office & General	\$77,377	\$78,454
Rent, Maintenance & Security	\$63,563	\$65,260
Instructor Fees	\$4,796	\$8,709
Sundry	\$9,572	\$6,029
Bursaries	\$2,500	\$0
Amortization	\$9,915	\$8,090
Total	\$1,997,880	\$1,979,760

OUR SUPPORTERS

PLATINUM \$10,000+

Children's Health Foundation, Coast Capital Savings, Community Food Centres Canada, Greater Victoria Savings & Credit Union Legacy Foundation, The Jawl Foundation, United Way of Greater Victoria, Victoria Foundation

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

CFOX Santa's Anonymous, Congregation Emanu-El, Horner Foundation

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

Abstract Property Management Ltd., Allegra Singers Society, Avery Stetski & Sandra Warr, BC Council for the Family, BC Recreation & Parks Association, Breakfast Club of Canada, Community of Christ Church, First West Credit Union, Ian & Nikki Bridger, Peninsula Consumer Services, Provincial Employees Community Services Fund, RALMAX Group, Royal Canadian Legion - Trafalgar/Pro Patria Branch #292, Workday

BRONZE \$500-\$999

Burnside Dispensary, Dean Fortin, DNL Holdings, Jvana Jovanovich, Kardel Consulting

GOVERNMENT/COMMUNITY PARTNERS

BC Housing, Capital Regional District, City of Victoria, Employment & Social Development Canada, Island Health, Min. of Children & Family Development, Min. of Municipal Affairs & Housing, Public Health Agency of Canada, School District 61



Victoria Firefighters take a break from flipping flapjacks at our 2019 Santa's Pancake Breakfast!

OUR SERVICES

Burnside Gorge Community Association offers a continuum of programs and services that respond to the needs of residents in Burnside Gorge and children, youth, families and seniors throughout the Capital Region. Programming includes:

Childcare – Before and after school care, pro-d, winter, spring and summer day camps.

Youth Services – School based counselling and recreation programs; youth outreach to at risk youth and youth transitioning from government care to independence; adventure day camps for youth during winter, spring, and summer breaks.

Family Services - Community based counselling services for families who struggle with parenting, finances and other issues that are a barrier to meeting their children's needs; direct housing and financial assistance to families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless; long term financial literacy and asset development for families receiving housing subsidy; parent and child drop-in programs including a weekly community dinner and a Resource Room for low-income families to access free clothing, food and toiletries.

Community Recreation and Special Events – A range of fitness and recreation opportunities for children, youth, families and seniors; community wide celebrations and special events.

Community Development – Community newsletter; community history & public art projects; environmental initiatives such as Friends of Cecelia Ravine and the Cecelia Ravine Community Gardens; neighbourhood improvement and place-making projects.

We would like to express our deep gratitude & thanks to all of the volunteers, donors and supporters who help to make a difference in our communities!