



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

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BURNSIDE GORGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



The Burnside Gorge Community Association continued its work to make our neighbourhood a vibrant and supportive community in 2022 – 2023. Our long term goal to create a social enterprise to provide benefits to the community and support our other programs was realized when the Burnside Boutique opened its doors in 2022. During its first full year of service, the Burnside Boutique, which is staffed by two employees and ten dedicated volunteers, earned a reputation as a great place to find quality thrifty finds. The Burnside Gorge-ous committee – formerly known as the “Graffiti Fighters” – worked hard to keep the neighbourhood free of graffiti and continued to beautify our neighbourhood by expanding to include garbage pickup. The committee completed the poppy mural project on the Trafalgar/Pro Patria Legion’s front wall making the intersection of Gorge Road and Jutland Road much more attractive.

BGCA held a number of affordable, family-focused seasonal events throughout the year. Thousands of children, youth and families from throughout Greater Victoria attend the annual Selkirk Waterfront Festival and more than 500 children, youth and families attend our Christmas Dinner, Santa’s Pancake Breakfast, Halloween Monster Mash and Gorge Waterway Clean Up.

BGCA continues to work with service providers, government and residents to improve the safety and liveability of our community and enhance community connections between neighbours. With the support of the City of Victoria My Great Neighbourhood Grants and the Local Champions initiative, the BGCA was able to bring projects to the community such as the Bike Skills event in Cecelia Ravine, the Arbutus Park multi-use Platform and Selkirk Winter Festival. BGCA’s Community Engagement Committee completed an online interactive neighbourhood mapping project - [Burnside Gems](#) – which allows residents to share their favourite things about Burnside Gorge. The artist’s map of the community showing many of Burnside Gorge’s hidden gems, created by Masami Teramachi, is available in printed form at the BGCA and the Burnside Boutique. The BGCA Board also engaged with the City and the other stakeholders to find ways to address issues in Cecelia Ravine Park and the Cecelia Playground.

As we reflect on the successes of the past year, the Board wishes to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of our association – staff, donors, volunteers and all those we work with who make our community stronger. Together we are making a difference.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022-2023

RECREATION

A variety of recreation programs and special events were offered throughout the year. Special events included the Gorge Waterway Cleanup where community members, school groups and outdoor enthusiasts came out to clean up our community's shoreline. In May 2023, BGCA hosted the Selkirk Waterfront Festival seeing more than 1500 visitors enjoy music and family-friendly activities. Recreation programs offered registered and drop-in Zumba, Yoga and Essentrics classes.



program participants at the Essentrics class

ESSENTRICS

Quickly gaining traction, Essentrics was introduced to BGCA's drop-in recreation classes. A full-body workout focusing on joint flexibility and strength through stretching and strengthening exercises is inclusive to all and is now offered twice a week, with up to 20 participants attending per session.

BURNSIDE BOUTIQUE



Burnside Boutique ribbon cutting ceremony

After months of planning and renovations, Burnside Boutique proudly opened its doors to the community of thrift store enthusiasts in September 2022 and marked this exciting accomplishment with a grand opening in December. The event kicked off with a joyous ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by generous supporters and donors. Since its inception, Burnside Boutique has achieved notable milestones, including the successful launch of its first online auction. The boutique continues to thrive, experiencing growth in both volunteer support and strategic partnerships, including collaborations with consignment stores that contribute regular donations. During the last year, the boutique 2 staff and 10 volunteers have created a real gem in the community. Stay informed about Burnside Boutique's latest activities by following their social media channels. (see below)

*Facebook: [TheBurnsideBoutique](#)
Instagram: [burnside_boutique](#)*



2022-2023: A YEAR IN REVIEW

YOUTH & FAMILY SUPPORTS

- BGCA's Housing Outreach team worked with more than 182 families who were homeless or at risk of homelessness, assisting them in finding or maintaining housing.
- 452 children and youth received counselling and outreach services through school and community-based support services.
- Early Years programs saw 3837 visits from children under 66 and their caregivers.
- 77 families received parenting support and another 96 accessed our Resource Room for clothing, food and hygiene products.
- Family Self Sufficiency Advisors coached 34 families to increase financial literacy skills, reduce debt, increase savings and build personal resilience and capacity.



COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

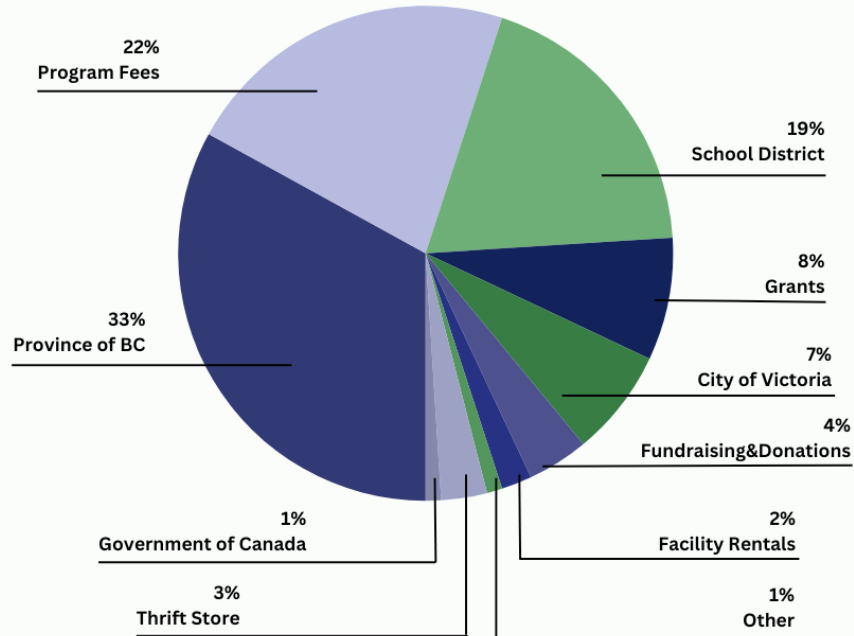
- This year saw increased food security programming to families providing 632 fruit and veggie bags as well as 300 snack bags.
- 751 meals were served to seniors at our weekly Lunch and Learn program
- The Community Volunteer Tax Program volunteers completed 487 tax returns for community members.
- There were 90 visits from families to our onsite Employment Assistance Worker and 52 visits to the Legal Clinic.
- Over 1000 meals were served to families and seniors at our weekly community dinners.
- During the 2022 winter season 71 coats were distributed to children and youth and 99 Christmas hampers were delivered to youth, families and seniors.

CHILD CARE

- BGCA provides 140 licensed childcare spaces to school-age children at Tillicum and Quadra Elementary Schools.
- Child care services include full-time care for 22 children during winter break and 44 children during spring and summer breaks.
- 144 children received full-time care over 6 Professional Development days.



REVENUE



	2022-2023	2021-2022
Government & Contracts	\$1,593,905	\$1,583,157
Fees	\$657,027	\$620,994
Facility Rentals	\$47,227	\$54,512
Grants	\$347,468	\$328,260
Fundraising & Donations	\$108,478	\$96,236
Thrift Store	\$99,484	---
Other	\$80,466	\$45,466
Total	\$2,934,055	\$2,733,390

EXPENSES

For the Year Ending August 31	2022-2023	2021-2022
Salaries & Benefits	\$1,801,600	\$1,641,953
Program Expenditures	\$349,644	\$413,223
Office & General	\$113,130	\$92,221
Rent, Maintenance & Security	\$144,835	\$100,601
Instructor Fees	\$9,970	\$5,034
Rental Supplements	\$143,814	\$202,874
Bursaries	\$1,500	\$2000
Amortization	\$36,250	\$24868
Total	\$2,600,743	\$2,482,774



OUR SUPPORTERS

PLATINUM \$10,000+

Anonymous Donor; Bank of Nova Scotia; CFA Santa's Anonymous; First West Foundation; RBC Royal Bank; Sovereign Order of St. John; Telus Friendly Future Foundation; The Jawl Foundation; United Way Southern Vancouver Island; Victoria Foundation

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

Congregation Emanu-El; Rotary Club Victoria Harbourside

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

Adrian Shewchuck; Avery Stetski and Sandra Warr; BC Pension Corp.; CKKQ-FM; DNL Holdings; Enterprise Holdings Foundation; Federation of Community Services of BC; Gloria Kunz Estate; Island Savings; Jawl Properties; Nona Dyck; Optimist Club of Victoria; Provincial Employees Community Services Fund; RALMAX Group; Trafalgar Pro; Patria Legion; Workday

BRONZE \$500-\$999

Andrew and Cheryl Goffinet; CAMRA Victoria; Community of Christ Church; Elizabeth Reidie; Gurdwara Singh Society of Victoria; Jawl Properties; Jessica Grunerud; JRSC Ltd.; Trotac Marine; Vancouver Island Brewery

GOVERNMENT/COMMUNITY PARTNERS

BC Housing; Capital Regional District; City of Victoria; Employment & Social Development Canada; Island Health; Ministry of Children & Family Development; Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport;



Thank you to Vancouver Island Brewery for supporting Family Self Sufficiency by brewing a special beer for International Women's Day

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 programs including a weekly community dinner and a Resource Room for 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 – Monthly community newsletter; community history & public art projects; environmental restoration & food security initiatives; 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!