



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Elizabeth Cull, President*  
*Avery Stetski, Vice-President*  
*Greg Arnold, Treasurer*  
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*Stephen Andrew, Director*  
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*Mangat Vohra, Director*  
*Greg Teuling, Director*



## BURNSIDE GORGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



The Burnside Gorge Community Association had another busy year in 2023-2024 spearheading a number of activities and events to keep our community vibrant and thriving.

One of our strategic goals is to develop a stronger relationship with businesses in Burnside Gorge and to that end we held a very successful Business Mixer in November. Over 20 local businesses joined the BGCA Board and staff to discuss our mutual interests. Thanks to the local Vancouver Island Brewery for hosting the event.

Our Burnside Gorge-ous Committee completed the installation of the poppies on the Trafalgar/Pro Patria Legion's fence complementing the splendid mural completed last year. This Committee is also responsible for removing graffiti from our neighbourhood and is always happy to welcome new members.

Our Connecting Communities Committee engaged in several key initiatives to strengthen community ties and advocate for local improvements.

In partnership with the City of Victoria, they revived the Natural Areas Program in Cecelia Ravine Park, attracting volunteers to restore the park's meadow. Advocacy efforts for the completion of the Doric Community Connector continued as well as the development of Arbutus Park. The committee hosted a survey table at the Selkirk Waterfront Festival to help them identify the needs and priorities of the community.

Our social enterprise – the Burnside Boutique – continues to have a great reputation among “thrifters” for the high quality of our merchandise and the attractiveness of the store. We are so grateful to the volunteers who clean and repair donations and display them so professionally.

As we do every year, the BGCA held a number of affordable, family-focused seasonal events. 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.

On behalf of the BGCA Board, I want to thank 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. We couldn't do it without you and together we are making a difference.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023-2024

## CHILDCARE

BGCA offers 152 licensed spaces for school-aged children at Quadra and Tillicum Elementary Schools.

After extensive planning and hard work, BGCA expanded its childcare services by opening a new daycare on the grounds of Tillicum Elementary School. Tillicum Daycare officially welcomed its first children in January 2024, following a grand opening ceremony on January 11.

The daycare operates with a dedicated team, including a full-time daycare manager who is also a certified ECE, one full-time ECE, and two part-time Early Childhood Educator Assistants (ECEA). This well-rounded staff ensures a nurturing and developmentally enriching environment for young learners.

Tillicum Daycare offers 16 spots for children aged 2.5 to 5 years old, providing a structured yet playful setting that supports early learning, social development, and school readiness. In August 2024, the daycare celebrated a milestone as it proudly graduated its first group of children, preparing them for their transition into kindergarten.



*Tillicum Daycare 2024 Grad Ceremony*

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## FAMILY SELF SUFFICIENCY



*“.... One might think that you are entering into this program to just “Understand Money” and our “Squeezed Budget Issues.” Not realizing that by beginning to strengthen our financial future it takes on a bigger picture, a Pandora’s Box if you will. The FSS course will help you find the route of the problem, gain more confidence in your choices. Which in turn helps guide us through an easier route in life, it certainly did for me. ...”*

The Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program is an innovative and comprehensive three-year financial literacy program for low-income families. Through financial education, goal setting, and structured action planning, participants build the skills necessary to create a more stable and healthy future for themselves and their children.

At the end of 2023, Phase VII of the program concluded with 34 participants successfully graduating. Throughout their three-year journey, families transitioned away from crisis-driven decision-making, developing sustainable financial habits and strengthening their economic resilience. Asset development was crucial in creating new habits around money management. Collectively, participants increased their savings by an impressive \$184,399, while their total combined earnings grew by \$404,661. These achievements highlight the transformative impact of the FSS program in empowering families to take control of their financial futures.



# 2023-2024: A YEAR IN REVIEW

## RECREATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS

- 1245 visits to our health and wellness programs such as Yoga, Zumba and Essentrics
- More than 2000 participants came out to our 4 community special events: Gorge Waterway Clean-up, Monster Mash, Santa's Pancake Breakfast and Selkirk Waterfront Festival



## YOUTH & FAMILY SUPPORTS

- BGCA's Housing Outreach team worked with more than 233 families who were homeless or at risk of homelessness, assisting them in finding or maintaining housing.
- 400 children and youth received counselling and outreach services through school and community-based support services.
- Early Years programs saw 3300 visits from children under 5 and their caregivers in 193 different groups held.
- 84 families received parenting support and another 100 accessed our Resource Room for clothing, food and hygiene products.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

- This year saw increased food security programming to families providing 960 fruit and veggie bags as well as snack bags from May to August.
- Over 800 meals were served to seniors at our weekly Lunch and Learn program
- The Community Volunteer Tax Program volunteers completed 476 tax returns for community members.
- There were 69 visits from families to our onsite Employment Assistance Worker and 57 visits to the Legal Clinic.
- Over 1900 meals were served to families and seniors at our 44 weekly community dinners.
- During the 2023 winter season 98 Christmas hampers were delivered to youth, families and seniors.

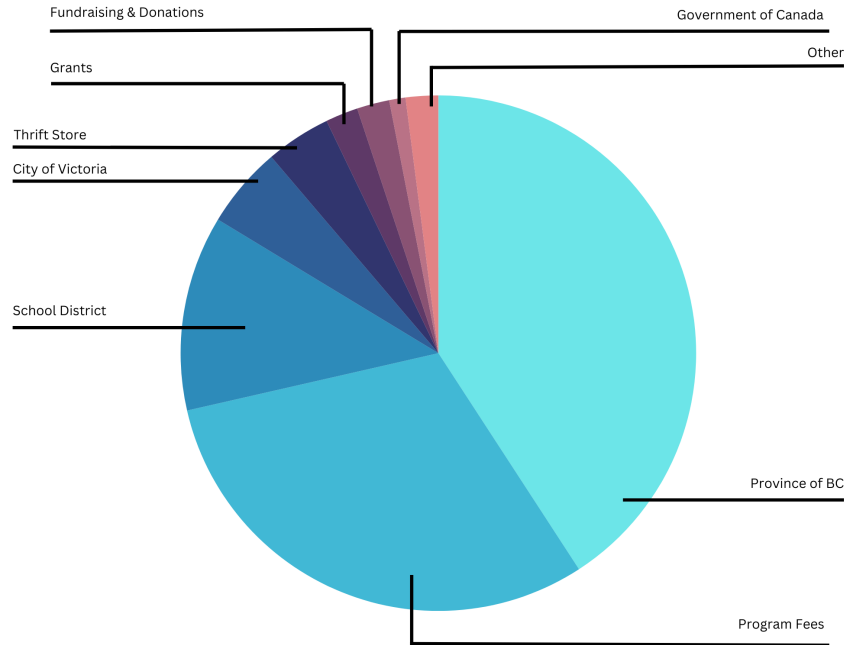


## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Burnside Boutique supporting BGCA programs and services since 2022. Burnside Boutique offers a large, carefully curated selection of quality, freshly laundered clothing for all ages and sizes, including a selection of jewelry, small household items and small furnishings.
- BGCA to host 23 community garden plots to benefit community members without residential space for garden.



# REVENUE



	2023-2024	2022-2023
Government & Contracts	\$1,774,420	\$1,593,905
Fees	\$894,084	\$657,027
Facility Rentals	\$52,585	\$47,227
Grants	\$187,445	\$347,468
Fundraising & Donations	\$77,071	\$108,478
Thrift Store	\$111,686	\$99,484
Other	\$136,765	\$80,466
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,233,576</b>	<b>\$2,934,055</b>

# EXPENSES

For the Year Ending August 31	2023-2024	2022-2023
Salaries & Benefits	\$2,169,873	\$1,801,600
Program Expenditures	\$309,057	\$346,644
Office & General	\$118,897	\$113,130
Rent, Maintenance & Security	\$160,553	\$144,835
Instructor Fees	\$9,293	\$9,970
Rental Supplements	\$181,345	\$143,814
Bursaries	---	\$1,500
Amortization	\$37,708	\$36,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,986,726</b>	<b>\$2,600,743</b>



# OUR SUPPORTERS

## PLATINUM \$10,000+

Anonymous Donor; Bank of Nova Scotia; CFAV Santa's Anonymous; Provincial Employees Community Service Fund; The Jawl Foundation; United Way Southern Vancouver Island; Victoria Foundation

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

Congregation Emanu-El; Sovereign Order of St. John; The Jawl Foundation; United Way of BC

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

D'Ambrosio Architects; Derek Levelt; DNL Holdings; Enterprise Holdings Foundation; Jawl Properties; McElhanney; Optimist Club of Victoria; RALMAX Group; Trafalgar Pro Patria Legion

## BRONZE \$500-\$999

Avery Stetski & Sandra Warr; BC Pension; CKKQ FM; Daryl Merrett; Jvana Jovanavich; Lynn & Barrie Kidd; Trotac Marine

## 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; Public Health Agency of Canada; School District 61



Selkirk Waterfront Festival brings over 1500 community members together every year

# 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!*