

Burnside Boutique: Creating Community Through Work



One of Burnside Boutique's core missions has always been to serve as a community connection space, going beyond being a thrift store that supports Burnside Gorge Community Association. We have long envisioned the Boutique as a welcoming hub where people feel a sense of belonging, purpose, and opportunity. This year, we are proud to see that vision coming to fruition as we deepen connections and expand our impact through inclusive employment initiatives.

In the summer of 2025, Burnside Boutique became a partner in the Job Journey program offered by CanAssist. Since then, the Boutique has provided hands-on work experience for four participants through Job Journey. For most, this was their first employment experience. Watching them grow in confidence, learn new skills, and become more job-ready has been both meaningful and rewarding for our team.

In addition, funding secured through a grant from United Way BC enabled Burnside Boutique to create paid work experience opportunities for individuals receiving income and disability assistance. Through this initiative, four individuals were welcomed into the workplace to build practical skills, gain confidence, and contribute to the daily operations of the store.

Each participant has brought unique strengths and perspectives that have enriched the store culture. These experiences are not only about skill development; they are about belonging, contribution, and building community. By creating accessible pathways to meaningful work, Burnside Boutique continues to grow as a vibrant, inclusive hub where connection and opportunity come together.

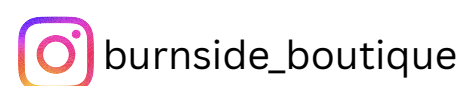


**Summer hours
starting March 1**

12 pm - 5 pm

**Spring is officially here, and so is our spring/summer selection!
Stop in and see what's new.**

**Just a friendly reminder that we're currently accepting spring
and summer donations only. Thanks so much – we can't wait to
welcome you in!**



Published by

The Burnside Gorge Community Association
471 Cecelia Rd., Victoria, BC, V8T 4T4
Phone: 250-388-5251
Website: www.burnsidegorge.ca

Note: Written contributions do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the BGCA or its staff.

BGCA Board of Directors

Greg Arnold, Treasurer
Elizabeth Cull, Director
Ryan Hart, Chair
Michelle Peterson, Secretary
Avery Stetski, Vice-chair
Greg Teuling, Director

To Advertise

Establish yourself as a community supporter with an ad in your community newsletter.

The deadline to purchase ad space is the 20th of each month prior to the month of publication. Please contact us for current rates.

Contributions

The BGCN welcomes submissions. Submissions are subject to editing as required for clarity and brevity. Please note that submission does not guarantee publication. Contact us for submission guidelines and deadlines.

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**About us**

Founded in 1991 in response to community need, the Burnside Gorge Community Association provides a continuum of programs and services that strengthen the lives of children, youth and families in Greater Victoria.

Programming includes: a range of childcare programs for ages 3.5 to 11; community and school based youth and family services; housing and asset development supports for youth and families; community recreation and special events for all ages; and a variety of community development initiatives. As a non-profit organization, we rely on the support of individuals, businesses and partner organizations to continue providing a high level of service to our communities. If you're passionate about the work that we're doing there are a number of ways that you can get involved.

Join our team!

Want to join a fun and dynamic team? BGCA is a great place to work. To see current opportunities please see our website at:

www.burnsidegorge.ca/opportunities/employment

Volunteer!

Do you have some time to spare and a passion for community? We're always looking for volunteers to help out. Current opportunities are listed at:

www.burnsidegorge.ca/opportunities/volunteer

Become a member!

Are you interested in being a part of our mission? Become a member and take an active role in shaping our community. For more information contact the BGCA directly at: info@burnsidegorge.ca

FAMILY CENTRE

EARLY YEARS

drop-ins

Programs for parents and their children ages 0-5. Please note that Family Centre programs don't run on statutory holidays. All drop-ins are free and between 9:30 am - 12 pm.

MONDAYS

Mighty Movers

Join us for active play in the Activity Center. It's time to dance, sing, and play. The program provides opportunity for movement and free play. Parent participation required. Followed by snack and cool down in the Family Centre.



TUESDAYS

Crafty Critters

Explore your crafty side! Every week there is a different themed craft to go along with stories and activities. Sessions will be held in the Family Centre.



WEDNESDAYS

Ittsy Bitty's Playtime

Join us for some sensory play and playtime in our BGCA playground when weather permits. Please dress your children appropriately for outdoor play time. Parent participation is required.



FRIDAYS

Cozy Corner Time

Are you ready to get cozy? Fridays are for some warm and cozy activities! Parent participation is required.



THURSDAYS

Community Dinners

Join us for a weekly meals that are offered by donation. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect, share a meal, and build community together.

Everyone is welcome!



BURNSIDE GORGE COMMUNITY CENTRE RECREATION PROGRAMS

PROGRAM REGISTRATION

We have an exciting line-up of programs for all ages, from toddlers to seniors. To register for a program, call 250-388-5251 or drop by the Centre in person. Pre-registration is required for all programs. The Front Desk hours are 8:30 am-5 pm, Monday to Friday. We are closed on statutory holidays and weekends, unless noted otherwise. Payment is required at the time of registration and can be made by cash, cheque, credit card (VISA & MC), Debit or City of Victoria LIFE credits.

REGISTER EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

Programs may be cancelled or postponed if there are not enough registered participants. Decisions to run or cancel a program are usually made two days prior to the first class.

REFUND POLICY:

- For a full refund, request for withdrawal must be received at least 1 day prior to the first class.
- A full refund will be issued if BGCA cancels a program.
- If a participant withdraws after the first class, they will be refunded the pro-rated cost of the program.
- Withdrawing after the second or third class, the participant will be refunded the pro-rated cost of the program minus a \$5 administrative fee.
- No refunds for withdrawals after the lesser of the 4th class or 50% of the course has been completed.

GET IN TOUCH

Do you have an IDEA for a program that you would like to see offered at Burnside Gorge Community Centre? Are you an instructor interested in running a program with us? Call Vanessa at 250-388-5251 or email vanessa@burnsidegorge.ca.

FACILITIES

The Burnside Gorge Community Centre is located just outside downtown Victoria at 471 Cecelia Road, between Burnside Road East and Gorge Road East. Outdoor public facilities include the Cecelia Ravine Park, Sport Court, and Bike Skills Park, adjacent to the Centre. The Community Centre is readily accessible by public transit: buses #8, 11, 21, and 22 routes on Gorge Rd East, Jutland Rd, and Burnside Rd East, run parallel or border Cecelia Road. It is also easily accessible by the Galloping Goose Trail, which is adjacent to the Centre.

Recreation Programs

Zumba

Date: Wednesdays, February 11 - March 25

Time: 6 - 7 pm

Drop-in/\$11 - call before 5 pm on the day of class to register and make payment

XL Yoga

Date: Thursdays | April 9 - May 28

Time: 7 - 8 pm

8 classes/\$96, Drop-in/\$15 - call before 5 pm on the day of class to register and make payment

Essentrics

Date: Wednesdays & Fridays

Time: 9:30 am - 10:30 am

Drop-in/\$9

NEW RATE STARTING APRIL 1 - \$11/class

DID YOU KNOW?

We Have Essentrics Drop-In Passes?
Skip the line and slide straight into class like a VIP!

Grab a sheet of drop-in passes -10 Essentrics passes for \$90! (this price is only available until March 13)

There's no discount on the sheet, but it definitely saves everyone time and makes dropping in way more fun (for you and us)!

Seniors Lunch and Learn

Socialize with other seniors in the community while enjoying a delicious and nutritious homemade meal. This program features a mix of guest speakers, social activities and theme activities during the holiday seasons.

For more information please call the Community Centre, 250-388-5251.

March 5 | "History, Culture, and Contribution of Chinese Canadians in Victoria" by Victoria Chinatown Museum Society

March 12 | "History of Professional Hockey in Victoria: 1911-2011" by Helen Edwards (Author)

March 19 | Lance Vaillancourt, CVITP and Benefits Outreach Officer, and Indigenous Services, Western Region, Canada Revenue Agency

March 26 | "The BC Aviation Museum and the Hawaii Mars" by BC Aviation Museum

Bridge Street Pathways Shelter: Overview & Common Questions

BGCA met with BC Housing and City of Victoria representatives on February 11. While we continue to work toward hosting a community meeting with both parties, we felt it was important that the community received information from those decision makers about the upcoming Bridge Street Shelter.

The meeting minutes and an information sheet about the shelter are available on our website.

[Meeting Minutes](#)
[Overview & Common Questions](#)



Join the BGCA Team

Current openings:

- Manager, Family Self Sufficiency and Housing Outreach Programs
- Quadra OSC Manager
- Thrift Store Manager

[For the full job description and the application details, please click here.](#)

Connecting Community: Neighbourhood Branding



The Burnside Gorge Connecting Community Committee is excited to share that we are beginning work on a brand, identity and logo for our neighbourhood.

This project is being developed in collaboration with students from the Pacific Design Academy, who will spend the next two months working with community input to create a visual identity that reflects the character, values, and future of Burnside Gorge. Your voice is an important part of this process.

We invite you to take a short 5 to 7-minute survey to help guide the project. Your feedback will inform the direction, themes, imagery, and overall feel of the new brand.

[SURVEY LINK](#)

All responses are anonymous. The survey will remain open until Tuesday, March 23.

Our goal is to develop a brand that reflects the diversity, resilience, history, and spirit of our community – and we can't do that without your input.

Thank you for helping shape the future identity of Burnside Gorge!

GET GROWING, VICTORIA!: Soil Building Materials Distribution



As part of the Get Growing, Victoria! program, leaf mulch, compost and wood chips produced at the City's nursery in Beacon Hill Park will be dropped off at community locations for pick up by residential gardeners. Please bring your own shovel and containers. Materials will be available while supplies last. Please take only what you need

DATE: Thursday, March 12

TIME: noon to 2 pm or until supplies are gone

LOCATION: Cecelia Ravine Park (465 Burnside Road E.), parking lot next to the community garden



Sparkling Sisters Cleaning: Bringing Shine to Victoria Homes

Sparkling Sisters Cleaning is a locally-owned professional cleaning company dedicated to serving the Victoria community with high-quality residential and commercial cleaning services. We understand that a clean home creates peace of mind, and we're here to help busy families, professionals, and businesses maintain beautiful, healthy spaces.

Our comprehensive cleaning services include regular maintenance cleaning (weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly schedules), deep cleaning, move-in and move-out cleaning, post-construction cleanup, and commercial office cleaning. We offer cleaning with professional-grade products, eco-friendly options, or natural alternatives to meet the diverse needs and preferences of our clients. With meticulous attention to detail, we deliver outstanding results you can trust.

Thank you to Sparkling Sisters for their valued partnership and for supporting select clients with cleaning services. We are grateful for their community-minded approach.

Ready to Experience the Sparkling Difference?

Booking is simple!

Call us at (778) 402-2022, email hello@sparkling-sisters-cleaning.com, or visit www.sparkling-sisters-cleaning.com to request a free quote.

Our friendly team will customize a cleaning plan that fits your needs and schedule. Let us handle the cleaning so you can focus on what matters most.

The Great Victoria Fabric Exchange Fundraiser

Treasure hunters, this one's for you. Join us April 18 (10 AM-4 PM) at the Burnside Gorge Community Centre for a one-day fabric marketplace filled with incredible deals, hidden gems, and stash-worthy finds. From quilting cottons to garment fabrics and everything in between, you never know what you'll discover. Best of all, 10% of all sales support Our Place Society—so every metre you take home gives back to the community. Hosted by The Green Thimble, this is your chance to shop sustainably, save money, and spark your next project.

10% of proceeds got to Our Place Society

The Great Victoria Fabric Exchange Fundraiser

Shop our local creators fabric stash,
nothing goes to waste or is unwanted!
Find these recirculated treasures at Burnside
Gorge Community Centre April 18th.

2950 #400 Douglas St. Victoria, BC
(778) 433-6253 • thegreenthimble.ca



Local Champions is a community-based leadership development program for Victoria residents to gain the skills, confidence, and relationships to become more active and engaged in their community.

Participants gain hands-on experience in community organizing and facilitation. Sessions focus on building practical skills, confidence and relationships. After graduation, you will be well prepared to take part in local projects and associations.

Application Information

Apply now for Local Champions 2026, a community-based, leadership training program hosted by the City of Victoria's Neighbourhood Team and [Building Resilient Neighbourhoods](#).

Apply Online

Why: Gain practical skills, connect with mentors, and learn how to apply for grants and plan community projects. When: The eight-part training program runs from April to May, with a celebration event in September.

Cost: This series is only \$250 to keep it accessible for many people. If the fee is a barrier, a few fully-sponsored spaces are available.

Information Session: Join the online info session on Wednesday, March 11, at 6 p.m. to learn more.

[Register here for this session.](#)

If you have any questions about this program, please email neighbourhoods@victoria.ca or phone Gary Pemberton at 250.361.0548.



Applications Now Open For My Great Neighbourhood Grants

Have fun working with your neighbours on a new vibrant space, a community event or a project about growing food, zero-waste or emergency preparedness.

What are My Great Neighbourhood Grants?

These grants fund community-led projects that make our neighbourhoods more vibrant. Apply for up to \$7,500 for placemaking and community resilience projects or up to \$1,500 for events and activities. A total of \$146,250 in funding is available this year.

The Yates Street Garden mural, Seaforth block party, a Garry Oak restoration project and a Truth and Reconciliation mural are just a few projects supported by these grants last year.

How can you get involved?

- Dream big or small: Imagine a project that will bring neighbours together and improve your community. Whether it's a community garden, a new block party or a neighbourhood cleanup, we'd love to hear from you.
- Apply: First, talk to Gary or Kimberley from the Neighbourhood Team and then submit your proposal. It's easy and the application process is open to all residents and non-profit organizations in Victoria. Applications are reviewed each month, so apply early.

Why participate?

- Connect: Strengthen bonds with your neighbours and build a sense of belonging.
- Transform: Make a lasting impact by creating positive change right where you live.
- Celebrate: Showcase your project and inspire others.

Applications are now open: victoria.ca/neighbourhoodgrants

Contact the Neighbourhood Team at neighbourhoods@victoria.ca with any questions.

Youth Programs

Get Ready for an Unforgettable March Break at Camp Survivor!

Adventure, action, and nonstop fun await at Camp Survivor March Break Camp! Pre-teens will dive into an exciting lineup of activities including laser tag, swimming, outdoor exploration, a visit to the Victoria Bug Zoo, and so much more!

If your Grade 4, 5, or 6 child is looking for a week packed with energy, adventure, and new friendships, then this is the camp for them!

Cost: \$185 per week

Who: Ages 10 - 14

Registration: Click [here](#) to complete the registration forms – spaces are limited! Once submitted, staff will follow up to arrange payment.

Need financial assistance? We're here to help. Contact Vanessa at 250-388-5251 or vanessa@burnsidegorge.ca to ask about subsidy options.



IMPORTANT

Income Tax Filing Support – 2025 Tax Season

For the 2025 tax season, BGCA will no longer be hosting in person tax clinics through the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program.

However, we are partnering with Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS) to continue offering free tax filing support to our community.

Community members can come directly to Burnside Gorge Community Centre (471 Cecelia Rd) to complete the required paperwork and drop off their tax documents. BGCA is acting as a drop-off location, and a trained TAPS volunteer will prepare and file your taxes on your behalf.

If you have any questions, please contact our front desk at 250-388-5251.

“Due to limited availability, BGCA will not be accepting requests from individuals whose income exceeds the program’s suggested limits.”