

## ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

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### BURNSIDE GORGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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## REMEMBERING A COMMUNITY HERO



At the end of 2013 the community said goodbye to long time resident and BGCA founder, Tom Arkell. He was a tireless champion for the community, even in his last days. He built strong partnerships – with the business community, with the faith community, with the children and families connected to Burnside Elementary. Among his many endeavours, his legacy in Burnside Gorge includes:

- founding the BGCA in 1991, in response to an identified community need for child care and family supports for families attending Burnside Elementary School and living in the Burnside Gorge neighbourhood;
- reading to children at Burnside Elementary School to increase literacy levels in students;
- dressing up as Santa for kids at the BGCA Santa's Pancake Breakfast;
- fighting the closure of Burnside Elementary;
- and leading the Cecelia Creek Cleanup Initiative aimed at day-lighting the creek and reducing pollution levels.

Tom was also an active volunteer at Oak Bay Lodge, Rock Bay Landing and his church, Centennial United, to name a few. His commitment to leaving everything better than he found it was unequalled. He was a regular sight around the community - picking up litter, delivering newsletters, or simply lending a hand or kind word to others. He remains an inspiration to many of us at the BGCA and a reminder of the incredible difference that one person can make.



# 2013-2014: A YEAR IN REVIEW

The fall of 2013 brought challenges for our Out of School Care programming as Ecole Quadra was closed for seismic upgrading which resulted in the OSC Program's relocation to the Burnside Campus. This presented opportunities for new partnerships with the Victoria Police Department, specifically the Burnside Gorge Community Resource Officers for whom the kids created a collaborative art piece to brighten up their Community Office. This relocation also allowed for a partnership with the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence (PISE) who provided physical literacy and skill development for children in the program.

Over the winter and spring the Friends of Cecelia Ravine volunteer group worked in partnership with the City of Victoria to plant more than 350 native trees and shrubs throughout the slopes and riparian areas of the park in an effort to help restore this valuable natural area.

The Spring of 2014 marked the successful completion of the Youth Self Sufficiency pilot program and the launch of the established program. This unique and innovative program supports youth who are transitioning to adulthood out of government care or with little to no familial supports.

The Burnside Gorge neighbourhood underwent a number of changes in the 2013-14 year. A much longed

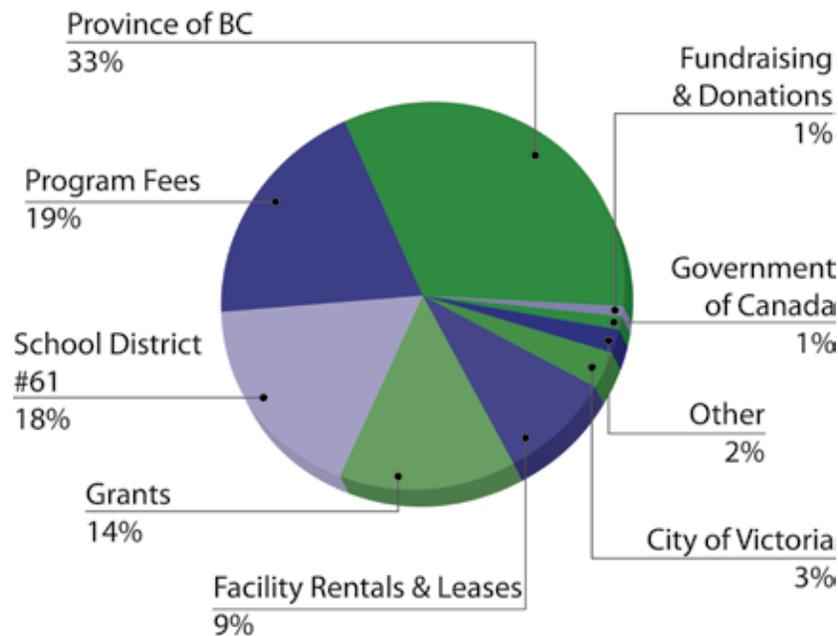
- More than 2500 meals were served to families through our weekly community dinner program
- In August, 24 participants graduated successfully from the Family Self Sufficiency Program with a combined matched savings of more than \$32,000
- Our school-based Youth & Family Counsellors served 593 children and youth through six elementary, middle and secondary schools in School District #61
- More than 300 volunteers supported BGCA programs and events, providing more than 3000 volunteer hours
- Our Integrated Family Services team provided programs and services to more than 160 families over the course of the year

for crosswalk was installed at Alpha Street creating an easy crossing of Burnside Road for families attending BGCA programs. The Rock Bay Landing Good Neighbour group began preliminary work to install a boulevard garden which encourages neighbourhood pride and food security. As well, the speed limit reduction initiative was approved which included Gorge Road as one of the pilot locations to test the 40km limit.

It has also been a busy time for the BGCA Board of Directors. A review of BGCA's strategic plan was conducted to acknowledge targets met in 2013/2014 and identify new targets for 2014/2015. The Board also participated in a self-assessment process to identify key areas for development going forward.



# REVENUE



|                           | 2013-2014          | 2012-2013          |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Government & Contracts    | \$947,769          | \$999,908          |
| Fees                      | \$372,972          | \$376,836          |
| Facility Rentals & Leases | \$171,193          | \$162,408          |
| Grants                    | \$329,820          | \$258,055          |
| Fundraising & Donations   | \$19,744           | \$55,216           |
| Other                     | \$37,862           | \$25,926           |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>\$1,879,360</b> | <b>\$1,878,349</b> |

# EXPENSES

| For the Year Ending August 31 | 2013-2014          | 2012-2013          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Salaries & Benefits           | \$1,538,691        | \$1,499,651        |
| Program Supplies              | \$131,738          | \$154,015          |
| Office & General              | \$122,935          | \$123,015          |
| Rent, Maintenance & Security  | \$68,461           | \$83,116           |
| Instructor Fees               | \$6,220            | \$11,567           |
| Sundry                        | \$14,081           | \$7,601            |
| Amortization                  | \$21,260           | \$25,285           |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>\$1,903,386</b> | <b>\$1,904,250</b> |

# THANK YOU - FRIENDS OF BURNSIDE GORGE

## **PLATINUM \$10,000+**

BC Investment Management Company, Coast Capital Savings, Prosper Canada (formerly SEDI), United Way of Greater Victoria, Vancity

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

CFAX Santas Anonymous, Tim Hortons

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

Community of Christ Church, Congregation Emanuel Avodah, Dr. Ian Bridger & Nikki Bridger, Elizabeth Chatfield, Great West Life Realty Advisors, Lohn Foundation, Optimist Club of Victoria, Provincial Employees Community Services Fund, RBC Financial Group, Selkirk Waterfront Properties, Success by Six

## **BRONZE \$500-\$999**

BC Recreation & Parks Association, Ralmax Properties, Robert Worth Family Fund, Royal Canadian Legion - Trafalgar Pro Patria Branch, Sara Spencer Foundation

## **SUPPORTERS, SPONSORS & PARTNERS**

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the individuals, families, businesses and associations who have provided sponsorship and support to our community events and programs. Your investments provide the foundation that makes our work possible.

## **GOVERNMENT & AUTHORITY PARTNERS**

Capital Regional District, City of Victoria, Government of Canada (Employment & Social Development Canada, Public Health Agency of Canada), Province of BC (BC Housing, Ministry of Children and Family Development, Ministry of Finance), School District #61, Vancouver Island Health Authority



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## 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.