


Collingwood Days




As awesome as ever!

Everyone agrees. This year's *Collingwood Days Festival* was one of the best ever!

Angela Evans, with the *Collingwood Business Improvement Association* thought so. "It was a full 8 days of sharing, learning, healing and laughter. Renfrew Collingwood is a neighborhood that continues to grow its community in all the right ways. In my 18 years working at the Collingwood BIA and with Collingwood Days, I truly feel this year's event was the best. The highlight was the amazing round dance in the centre of the field. Dancing to the drums and creating an everlasting memory. It takes a village."

Carol Mendes, member of the *Collingwood Days Steering Committee* and *Arts, Culture, and Celebration Manager* at Collingwood Neighbourhood House, had this to say:

Continued on page 2

Scenes from the main festival day at Gaston Park. See you next year. Thank you - page 7

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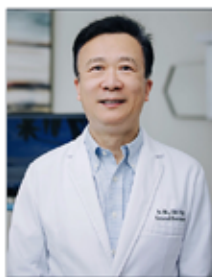
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Collingwood Days was awesome: Continued from page 1

“This year’s festival was a stunning celebration of who we are as a community: resilient, creative, diverse, and deeply connected. It reflected the many hands, hearts, and minds that came together to create something unforgettable in the heart of Renfrew-Collingwood.

Collingwood Days was more than a festival. It was a tradition

rooted in the land and carried by the people who call this neighbourhood home. Each year, we gather to honour the incredible diversity, cultures, talents, and relationships that make Collingwood so special. From music and art to food, storytelling, and shared space — Collingwood Days offered something meaningful and memorable for everyone.

We moved through various activities and spaces during these 8 days — there was drumming, sweetgrass braiding, dancing, art-making, and so much more. But the final day in Gaston Park took the cake — or shall we say, the watermelon! We came together under a stunning sunny sky, with kids playing, dogs frolicking, traditional and cultural dancers and local performers sharing their gifts, an indigenous led community healing circle, delicious food, artisans, and more — all united in joy and connection.

To every artist, volunteer, partner, neighbour, staff member, Elder, knowledge keeper, and joyful participant — thank you!”

See you next year.



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Scooting Seniors

by Collingwood Community Policing Centre (CCPC)

As part of this year's *Collingwood Days* celebrations, the Collingwood Community Policing Centre (CCPC) partnered with the Renfrew Community Centre to host the *Senior Scooter Rodeo*—an empowering event aimed at promoting mobility, safety, and independence for seniors in Vancouver.

Held on Wednesday, July 16, the Scooter Rodeo offered seniors a safe and supportive environment to try out motorized scooters, learn practical driving skills, and gather valuable information about mobility options as they age.

The *Senior Scooter Rodeo* Program is a long-standing initiative created to help Vancouver seniors stay informed about their transportation choices by Collingwood CPC. As mobility can become a concern with age, the program encourages seniors to explore new ways of remaining active and independent in their daily lives.

“The idea behind the Scooter Rodeo is to provide seniors with an opportunity to try out scooters in a

safe space, so they can feel confident making decisions about their mobility,” said Partap Sahota, Executive Director, CCPC. We want to empower our seniors to live independently while staying safe.

Participants rode through a scooter obstacle course designed to imitate tricky conditions scooter riders might face. The attendees also had an opportunity to practice entering and securing a scooter on a bus—a key skill for those availing public transit. The hands-on experience with the proper guidance by the volunteers helped many attendees gain confidence in using scooters for the first time.

The event also featured a wide range of information booths hosted by partner organizations, allowing attendees to ask questions and gather resources on topics such as safety, transportation, and community support.

Transit Police and the Vancouver Police Traffic Section offered safety tips on navigating city streets and avoiding common hazards. Scooter City representatives provided insight into selecting the right scooter based on individual needs and lifestyles. Seniors learned what features to look for, such as weight capacity, battery range, and portability because it's not just about getting from point A to point B. It's about finding the right scooter that matches your lifestyle and keeps you moving safely.



The event was made possible through the collaboration of many dedicated community partners, including: @City of Vancouver, @Vancouver Police, @Parks Board, @Renfrew CC, @Transit Police, @TransLink, @GVTCPC, @Crime Stoppers, @ICBC, @Scooter City, @RoadSafetyHarvey, @Kal Dosanjh, and @NPO Constable Carino.

CCPC expressed heartfelt gratitude to all the partners, volunteers, and participants who made the event a success. As the city's senior population continues to grow, programs like the Scooter Rodeo play a crucial role in ensuring that older adults remain engaged, mobile, and informed.

With plenty of smiles, test drives, and new connections made, this year's Scooter Rodeo was a heartening reminder that mobility is freedom—and freedom has no age limit.



You can find the *RCC News* throughout Renfrew-Collingwood.

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COMMUNITY NEWS 社区新闻

Collingwood Corner 1985 Skytrain Expo Line

by Loretta Houben

The mission of this non-profit publication is to provide the residents, businesses and organizations of Renfrew/Collingwood with a medium for community communication.

Paul Reid: editorial and layout coordinator

Lisa Symons: sales and distribution coordinator

Kayla Isomura: web and social media coordinator

Contributors:

Loretta Houben, Penny Lim, Clea Moray, Dr. Angie Choi, R. Delmar, Angela Evans, Carol Mendes, Alex Trujillo, Kepler Rotheisler, Jaqueline Ritter, Hub Cycling

We want to hear from you!

Yes, You! Send comments, community events, press releases by regular post, fax or e-mail. Suggestions for improving the paper are welcome.

We welcome appropriate, unsolicited editorial submissions if accompanied by the author's real name, address and telephone number. The author should retain the original as we cannot return submissions without prior agreement nor does submission guarantee publication. We reserve the right to make editorial changes.

The Renfrew/Collingwood Community News does not necessarily support the views of its contributors.

Next submission deadline: Aug. 15

The Renfrew-Collingwood Community News is an initiative of the Collingwood Neighbourhood House (CNH).

You Can Find the RC Community News @

Libraries, Collingwood Neighbourhood House, Renfrew Park Community Centre, The Italian Cultural Centre, Collingwood Policing Office, other organizations, religious institutions, schools, laundromats, Starbucks, Rona, Superstore, Canadian Tire, Walmart, London Drugs and Safeway coffee shops, restaurants, markets, corner stores, other businesses, and coffee tables all over Renfrew-Collingwood.

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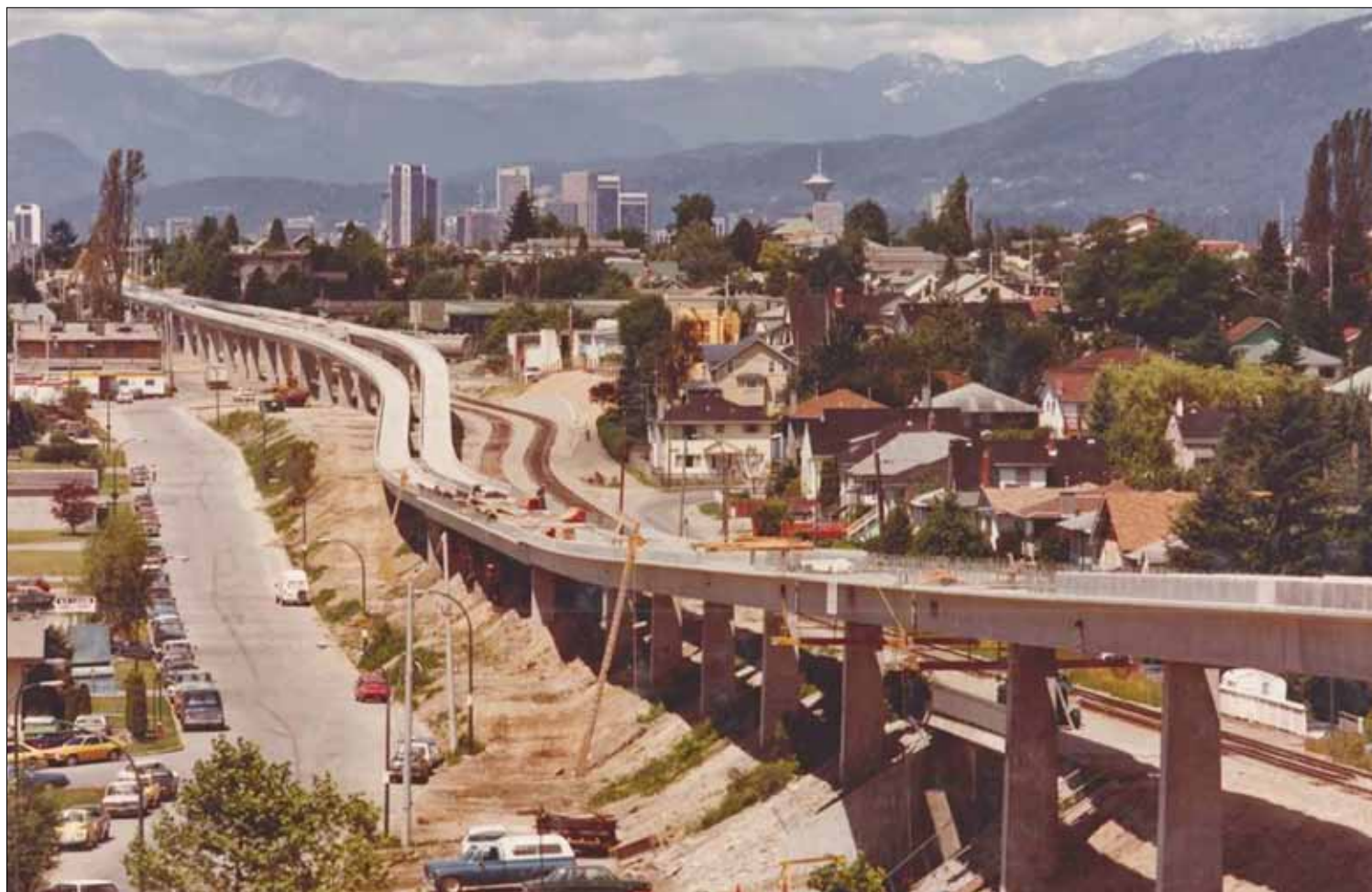
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Renfrew/Collingwood Community News

Collingwood Neighbourhood House

5288 Joyce Street

Vancouver, BC V5R 6C9



Skytrain track being installed and built from Boundary Road looking west along Vanness towards the Joyce Station. Approximately 1985. Photographer unknown.

Believe it or not, the Expo Skytrain line through Joyce Station (later renamed Joyce-Collingwood Station in 2001) was nearly finished 40 years ago in August 1985. The *Expo 86 World's Fair* was taking place in Vancouver BC from May to October 1986, and to accommodate the rush of visitors and the growing population of the lower mainland, this area had its own station built on the east side of Joyce with an elevator and an escalator.

We were so excited! The station replaced the old Joyce loop behind the gas station and 7 Eleven store at the SW corner on Kingsway and Joyce. It didn't take us long to get used to, and everyone loved the new system, riding high above the streets from Stadium-Chinatown Station all the way to New Westminster. It was also driverless.

Because so few people used the Skytrain at first, we had to poke a button to open the doors, as the doors didn't open unless someone wanted to board or exit. That soon changed!

I confess that I don't remember the Joyce station being built. I was married in 1982 and for a few years I lived in New Westminster, and I missed all the action of the area being dug up and the huge cement pillars installed.

I discovered a wonderful photograph of the Skytrain being built from Boundary road to Joyce and beyond. (please see attached) The photographer is unknown. This area has changed greatly over the last 40 years and is destined to change even more. The

Mark I cars, made in 1985 and used on the Expo line, are still in use. They will be retired soon, with *Mark V* cars to take their place beginning July 18, 2025. The bell sound for exiting the train is still the same, and the automated voice is still as it was in 1985.

What have you enjoyed most about Skytrain through the past 40 years? I have enjoyed the convenience of taking it wherever I like, as I don't drive. As Vancouver traffic gets worse, I can still skim above it, whizzing to my appointments or shopping excursions. I have never quite gotten used to it.

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The hubbub about Hub Cycling

The wind through your hair, the feeling of euphoria as you cruise down a hill, and the pace of slowing things down to take in your surroundings. Nothing beats getting out and spending summer in Vancouver on a bike.

The Benefits Are Endless

There are countless benefits to swapping a vehicle for a bike during the warm weather months. For starters, it's a much more affordable way to get around. A recent report by local non-profit organization, *HUB Cycling*, found that the average cost of owning and maintaining a car in Canada is \$9,500 per year, compared to only \$300 per year for a bicycle. What would you do with an extra \$9,200 in your pocket?

But the benefits don't end there.

Research shows that cycling is proven to boost your mental and physical health, especially for those looking to lose weight, lower cholesterol, and reduce their risk of cardiovascular disease. It's also a low-impact form of exercise that's perfect for people with joint issues.

Not only is cycling good for you, but it's also good for the environment. When it comes to transportation, cycling has the lowest carbon footprint, even lower than walking. In fact, switching from car to bike just once a week can cut your carbon footprint by 3.2kg of CO₂, which is equivalent to the emissions from eating a serving of lamb or chocolate, or sending 800 emails!

Summer Cycling Events and Courses

If you're not already convinced, cycling is also a great way to meet other people in your community.

Local non-profit organization, *HUB Cycling*, has spent more than 25 years removing barriers to cycling in Metro Vancouver and getting more people on bikes, more often through their annual cycling events and courses.

Their next event, *Bike the Night*, returns to the Vancouver Seawall on Saturday, September 13th and tickets are free! *Bike the Night* is a welcoming night ride that kicks off at David Lam Park with a pre-ride festival featuring live music, food



Photo credit: Marco Alexandro Cruz Trujillo (Alex Trujillo)

trucks, games and prize draws, bike decorating and tune-ups, an e-cargo bike showcase, and a chance to win a \$250 Door-Dash gift card, followed by a 10 km ride around the Vancouver Seawall. Get your free tickets before they're gone at bikehub.ca/BikeTheNight

Summer in the City is Better on a Bike

Want to learn how to ride a bike or improve your skills? Low-cost cycling courses are offered nearby at Trout Lake Community Centre all summer long. Sign-up for a course today at bikehub.ca/swcec.

Can't make it in person? *HUB Cycling* also offers a free online course called *StreetWise Cycling Online* that helps adult beginner and intermediate riders gain the knowledge and skills needed to cycle with confidence. Take the course for free at bikehub.ca/swco.

Make a Difference in Your Community

Do you want to advocate for safer streets in the Renfrew-Collingwood neighbourhood? Do you see an opportunity for better cycling infrastructure? Joining the volunteer-led Vancouver HUB Local Committee to advocate for safer streets for vulnerable road users can be one of the most rewarding decisions you make. This group of passionate volunteers meets monthly to advocate for more liveable and connected communities. No experience is needed, just your enthusiasm. Learn more at bikehub.ca/lc.

If you're looking to expand your network professionally, HUB Cycling is also currently recruiting new board members to help shape the future of cycling in Metro Vancouver. Learn more and apply by August 18th at bikehub.ca/board

Is your schedule too full to add any new commitments? You can still be a cycling advocate by subscribing to HUB Cycling's 'Cycling Advocacy' e-newsletter where HUB will periodically ask for your support on petitions, and sending letters to your government representatives.

Okay, you've spent enough time reading this article. Go get out for a ride and enjoy summer in the city on a bike! We'll see you out there.

The following is a paid advertisement by Adrian Dix, MLA for Vancouver/Renfrew

Dear Neighbours,



I hope that you've all had time to enjoy the sunny weather while still being mindful of the heat. I thoroughly enjoyed my time meeting and engaging with folks at the many events and festivals this year, including *Pinoy Festival*, *Fiji Fest*, and of course *Collingwood Days*.

B.C. Benefits Connector

The BC Benefits Connector is a new centralized website to connect people, seniors and families to benefits, programs and services. It provides clear steps to help people save money and reduce costs.

The website and directions on how to access services and payments are available in simplified Chinese, traditional Chinese, Punjabi, French and English.

For more info: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/home/benefits>

Heat Pump Rebates

More British Columbians will benefit from a heat pump this summer with the B.C. government's launch of a new program to reduce energy use, lower energy bills and improve comfort for income-qualified apartment renters and condo owners.

The Better Homes Energy Savings Program Condo and Apartment Rebate will provide rebates up to \$5,000 to support the purchase and installation of high-performance electric heat pumps in individual suites in multi-unit residential buildings (MURBs).

Find out more at: <https://www.betterhomesbc.ca/rebates/condo-and-apartment-rebates>

My community office, at 5022 Joyce St. Vancouver, is open to provide services for constituents in person with appointments and via phone and email. Please give us a call at 604-660-0314 or email us at adrian.dix@leg.bc.ca, and we will get in touch with you as soon as we can. 聯絡本辦事處請電郵 adrian.dix.mla@leg.bc.ca 或致電 604-660-0314. 如欲親臨敬請預約。

Thank you very much for all that you're doing and take care.

Sincerely,

Adrian Dix
MLA for Vancouver-Renfrew

Summer's here! Oh' What a beautiful morning!

by Penny Lim

Let's head out. Where to? Bucolic farms, grasslands, gentle forests under vast blue skies beckon. Only one hour away to Langley farm tours. As ancient Egyptians believed that colours possessed personalities. Farms do so.

Tuscan Lavender Farm radiates sheer idyllic beauty. Captures your heart the moment you set foot there. A breathtaking lovely designed landscape against its mountain back drop. Stroll leisurely around exquisite gardens. A shooting water fountain, a circular botany maze, lavender-hued plants dotting Tuscan enhanced its park theme. Relax in the romantic gazebo. Water colourists painting.

A double-scoop lavender ice cream in hand, I explored Tuscan. Over a white Monetsque bridge to an enchanting water lily pond featuring white, pastel pink and deep pink lilies. Lily pads housed wee tree frogs and a bull frog. Overhead flitting butterflies and brilliant blue dragon flies on warm balmy afternoons. {These landscape artists may have created a Pacific North West little Versailles.} I shall return!

Turkey, anyone? Lunch at *JD Farms Specialty Turkey*. Deli, Bistro or take out. Whole array of fresh, packaged, plus freezers of turkey products and shelves of jams. Order your turkey dinner! Seat yourself on JD's patio. Our culinary event. (No, not any turkey eggs nor livestock.)

Farm animals? *Milner Cheese Farm* (Milner, BC) whose 180 goats welcome you. *Most worthwhile* farmer barnyard tour included cheese making. {Labour of Love.} Yearlings in the barn while older goats kept in pasture where the boss is a tall llama. Eager sociable white Swiss goats approach people; the brown Nubians (African) remain in background. This Smith farm of six generations formed a small part of the Hudson's Bay Co. farmlands. Previously, a beef ranch until one brother quit farming, sold; however, the current farmer missed farming, switched to goats. We browsed over farm shop eggs, goat, lamb, and beef products adjacent to the picturesque vintage farm home. {My find? A tiny lamb tongue. Refreshing goat milk.} I want to come back here!

The Honeybee Centre gave a crash course of the complete world of honey bee life cycle. No intimate details spared. Then, we were released to roam its huge shop selling every bee theme foodstuff or souvenir imaginable. I tasted a few of the long row of sampling honey jars. In Vancouver, *Honeybee Centre shop* at Main and King Edward.

What stood out? Unforgettable fairyland beauty of *Tuscan Lavender Farms* and superb lavender ice cream. I would walk 5 miles for a turkey dinner. I admire the Smiths' work ethics and their adorable goats. Diversity of pollinators: imported honeybees, our native bees, flies, wasps, hornets and bats.

Oh' What a Beautiful Day!

Bridal Falls:

Up a short stiff hike bathed by towering Rainforest trees. Welcome cover in the heat. Green velvety mosses, lush ferns, and lichen. Ascending a challenge so I shot from the hip. Approaching the waterfalls closer and closer, the cascading waters thunder louder and louder! Welcome fine mist spray cools us off. Green forays become treasures in my Winter's mind. At head of trail are outdoor picnic tables.

Othello Tunnels:

Call of adventure! Nostalgia. Decades ago, Othello our annual May hike. Leader Heinz Wolff identified plants: the Queen's Cup, the Pathfinder, and foam flower along hilly descent to the 4 tunnels. Heinz is history because he rode the train through the tunnels!

July, 2025 visit. Horrors! 2021 atmospheric river flooding flattened the terrain while keeping No. 4 Tunnel closed. Today, a level park pathway to Othello. As always, the unforgettable powerful Coquihalla River roars away. Through cool, dark high tunnels, careful footing (proper footwear), I felt eerie wondering about those toilers long ago. Element of mystery. I was ecstatic to be back.

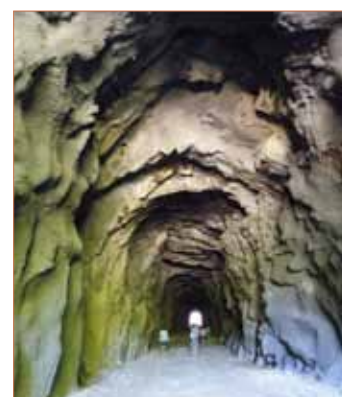
In Hope: Food stop.

New to me. Tuesdays Boston Pizza pasta specials (lumberjack portions). Ditto their Caesar salad. A leisurely lunch. Our highlight? B.P., adorable singing robot who served my salad. Serenaded "Happy Birthday," to 50th anniversary couple.

Agassiz, The Farm house Cheese.

Shop open. An array of goat and cow dairy products. Sigh, no duck eggs. Birchwood farm ice cream cones. My purchase: goat cheddar, gouda; plus cow gouda. Tour unavailable Goats in a pen and a calf in field all in front of the shop. The Farmhouse is a regular at Vancouver Farmers Markets year round.

Do we dream more in Summer? Resting, looking at blue skies. Sunshine warmth.





Volunteers Needed for the Renfrew Ravine Moon Festival

by Jacqueline Ritter

Are you looking for a fun and meaningful way to earn volunteer hours? Are you an experienced volunteer looking to expand your skills and meet people from the neighbourhood? Are you passionate about art, performance, nature, and connecting with your community?

Still Moon Arts Society is looking for volunteers to support the 23rd Annual *Renfrew Ravine Moon Festival* throughout September and early October.

For the past 22 years, this free festival has been a beloved tradition in the Renfrew-Collingwood neighbourhood. It celebrates the harvest moon, the Still Creek watershed, community, the arts, and the rich cultural diversity of the area with live music, glowing lanterns, and illuminated art installations set among the tall trees and gentle flow of Still Creek. The Moon Festival welcomes around 150 volunteers each year, offering opportunities for fun, creative experiences, job experience, leadership development, and community connection.

The perks:

- Festival t-shirt for those signed up for a 4+ hour shift
- Meals for Main Festival Event volunteers (Harvest Fair and Streamside Lanterns)
- Gain experience and skills
- Get to know people in your community

Drawing over 5,000 attendees each year, this one-of-a-kind festival is built by the community, for the community. We'd love for you to be a part of it! We offer a wide range of volunteer roles, including setting up lanterns, face painting, carrying heavy boxes, serving food, assisting at arts workshops, picking up supplies, and much more!

For more details and to apply, visit: <https://stillmoonarts.ca/FestivalVolunteers>

For questions and support with the application, please contact jackie@stillmoonarts.ca.



Moon Festival volunteers include lending a hand at booths and workshops.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING COLLINGWOOD DAYS FESTIVAL

Sponsors, partners, contributors, performers, artists, food vendors, volunteers, marketplace vendors, and most of all, our awesome community.

COLLINGWOOD DAYS PLANNING COMMITTEE:

- Collingwood BIA
- Collingwood Community Policing Centre
- Collingwood Neighbourhood House
- Eagles Inspirit Indigenous Protectors of Fathers Society
- MOSAIC BC
- Renfrew Park Community Centre

CONTRIBUTORS:

Aleia Johnny (Artwork Designer), Vancity ,Intracorp Homes and Collingwood BIA (sponsors), Bia Caixeta (Marketing), Fresh Slice Pizza, Safeway, London Drugs, Non-Fiction Studio Designs, The UPS Store #446, Orijin Yoga, Trendy Signs & Printing Co, and Still Moon Arts Society, Paul Eakkachaichanvet \, Greater Vancouver Food Bank



We'll see you all again next year!



Read On!

A news section for Renfrew-Collingwood learners

August around Vancouver 3 Local Highlights

by R. Delmar

Vancouver Pride Parade – August 3

One of Canada's biggest Pride celebrations takes place in the West End, starting on Robson Street and winding toward Sunset Beach Park. Expect vibrant floats, music, and over 100,000 people cheering support for the LGBTQ+ community. A lively, colorful day that feels welcoming and fun for everyone.

Powell Street Festival – BC Day Weekend (Aug 1–4)

This long-running Japanese-Canadian festival at Oppenheimer Park features taiko drumming, martial arts demos, tea ceremonies, kid-friendly games, and a craft market. It's a community celebration filled with culture, food, and free performances.

Harmony Arts Festival – Aug 1–10

Held in West Vancouver's Millennium and John Lawson Parks, Harmony offers ten days of free music, art displays, food stands, and family programming. Outdoors by the water with local bands, visual arts, and food vendors—great for a peaceful evening or picnic outing.



Original artwork by R. Delmar

QUESTIONS

Level 1: ★

1. When is the Pride Parade?
2. Name one activity at the Powell Street Festival.
3. Where does Harmony Arts Festival take place?

Level 2: ★★

1. Why might someone enjoy going to the Pride Parade?
2. How does Powell Street Festival celebrate community?
3. What kind of things could you see at Harmony Arts Festival?

Level 3: ★★★

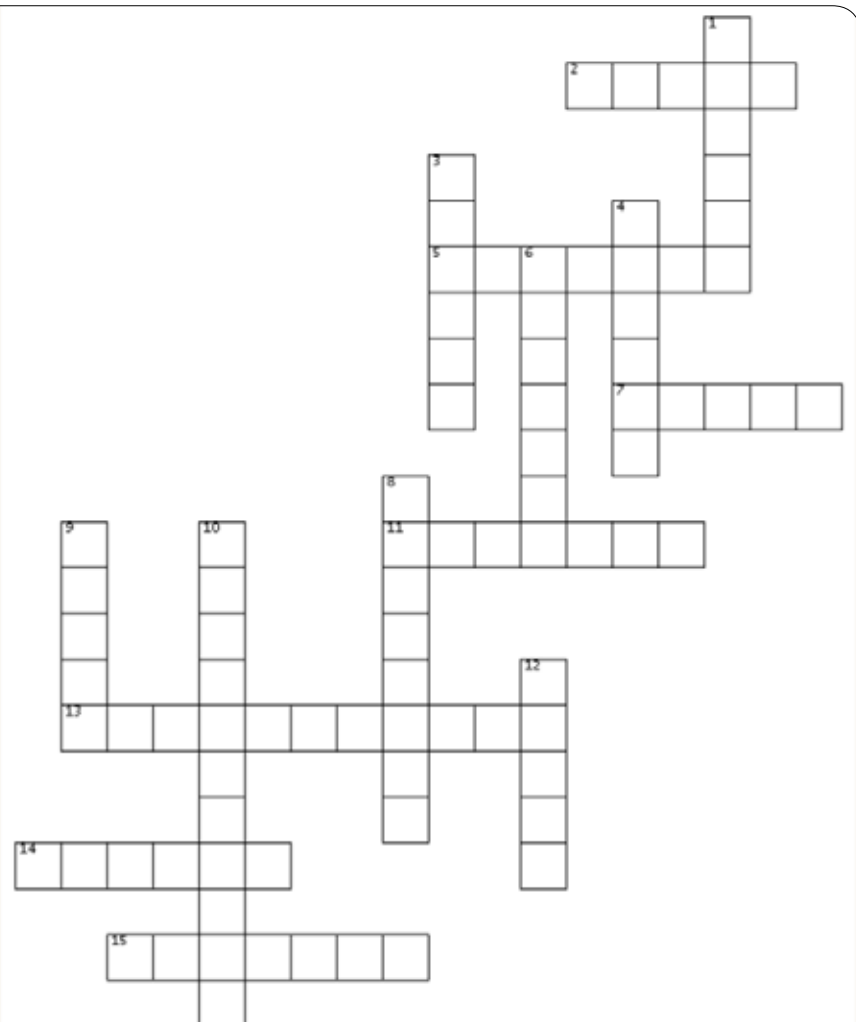
1. How do festivals like these bring people together?
2. What festival do you think would be most fun and why?
3. Describe your own favorite local event—what makes it special?

ACROSS

2. a decorated vehicle in a parade
5. what festivals often celebrate—shared traditions and ways of life
7. where people perform music or dance
11. symbol often seen at Pride, with many colors
13. the park where Powell Street Festival happens
14. place where you can buy crafts or food at a festival
15. a West Van festival that means peaceful or musical togetherness

DOWN

1. a line of people or vehicles moving to celebrate something
3. eating outdoors, often at summer events
4. the month when these festivals take place
6. decorative light seen at night festivals
8. loud rhythmic music, common at Powell Street Festival
9. a type of Japanese drum
10. the playwright featured in Bard on the Beach
12. a celebration of LGBTQ+ identity and rights





Estate Planning 101 Joint Ownership

by **Kepler Rotheisler**
Cedar Coast Law Group

While 1.4% probate fees in B.C. are relatively small in comparison to some jurisdictions, such as the significant estate tax of 50% in South Korea, getting a grant of probate is still a long and costly process for an executor.

In B.C., a grant of probate is generally required when someone dies and holds property or a bank account in their name alone. Banks generally will not accept the will alone as good enough to allow the executor to transfer funds out of a deceased person's account.

After all, how does the bank know the will is authentic?

Getting a grant of probate usually involves finding a lawyer, giving notice to potentially interested parties, and filing some paperwork with the probate registry. The process usually takes about six months, costs something like \$5,000 in legal fees assuming everything is fairly straightforward, and requires the estate pay roughly 1.4% of the total value of the estate in probate fees.

At the end, you get a "Grant of Probate", a signed and stamped document confirming your legal authority to act on behalf of the estate.

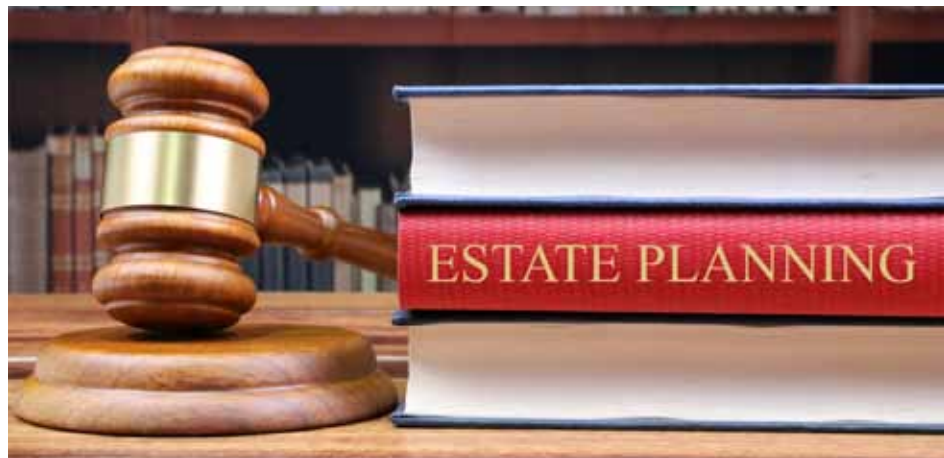
Estate planning often focuses on avoiding the need for a grant of probate, which reduces the fees payable by the estate and allows more money to go to the beneficiaries. One strategy is owning assets jointly with your beneficiaries.

When something is owned jointly, such as a house or a bank account, upon the death of one owner the ownership reverts automatically to the surviving owner. No grant of probate or probate fees are required. This is generally highly recommended for spouses when possible.

Many clients assume, however, that because joint ownership would mean their child will not have to get a grant of probate when both parents have passed, it is a good idea to add their child or children to their house as joint owners, giving them the "gift of survivorship".

Anything to avoid a grant of probate!

While this can be a perfectly reasonable thing to do, many clients don't appreciate the downsides of adding someone to the title of their house.



Some questions we usually have our clients consider when thinking about doing so are the following:

1. What if your child gets married and then gets divorced?
2. What if your child borrows money and uses your property as collateral?
3. What if you want to downsize later in life and your child doesn't agree?
4. What if you want to take out a mortgage and your child doesn't agree?
5. What if your child wants a first time home buyer benefit later in life?

There are more considerations than that, but these should give you a sense of the potentially problematic nature of using joint ownership without carefully consideration of the consequences. It might be that, in light of these potential problems, the 1.4% probate fee doesn't seem so bad.

This is not to say that using joint ownership as an estate planning strategy is a bad idea in all cases, or even in most cases. It is often highly effective at reducing fees payable by an estate.

But like all things in estate planning, when you are considering the disposition of an asset worth potentially millions of dollars, it probably makes sense to talk to a lawyer who can walk you through the pros and cons of whichever path you decide to take, and how to balance those considerations against the process of getting a grant of probate.

What's happening at Collingwood Branch in August



2985 Kingsway | 604.665.3953
NEW Hours starting April 7:
Tuesday & Wednesday: 9.30am - 7pm
Thursday & Friday: 9.30am - 6pm
Saturday: 9.30am - 5pm
Sunday: 9.30am - 5pm



EARLY YEARS PROGRAMS

Family Storytime Online

Fridays, May 9 – September 5
10:30 – 11:00am

An interactive program for children and their grownups. Have fun while learning rhymes, songs, fingerplays and stories from the comfort of your own home. For children ages 0 – 5 years. Registration required.

SCHOOL-AGE PROGRAMS

Summer Reading Club

Summer Reading Club is back at Vancouver Public Library! To participate, all you need to do is set a goal and try out different library challenges - like listen to a story, attend a virtual library program, or, of course... read something! Once your challenges are complete, visit your local library to pick up a medal!



Collingwood Neighbourhood House HIGHLIGHTS



Joyce Location: 5288 Joyce St. ; **Tel:** 604-435-0323 / **Annex Location:** 3690 Vanness Ave. ; **Tel:** 604-428-9142 / **Visit:** www.cnh.bc.ca

2024 participant survey responses released

by Collingwood Neighbourhood House

Last summer, Collingwood Neighbourhood House (CNH) conducted its most recent participant survey. These surveys aim to capture insight from the CNH community every two years and share what's working, as well as areas of improvement.

After reviewing responses from 176 people, we are pleased to share our key findings from our 2024 survey.

- 65% of participants live in the Renfrew-Collingwood neighbourhood. With nearly 80% of participants indicating they participated in CNH activities multiple times a week, this suggests that CNH has been successfully engaging local residents through various programs, including recreation, child care, Collingwood Days, RISE Community Health Centre, and more.
- 65% agree that CNH is a place where they feel belonging
- 63% have opportunities to become involved or give input into CNH's future direction
- 46% met people of different cultures, ages and abilities
- 35% made new friends participating in programs at CNH

Results also indicate that CNH continues to help build a strong sense of connection and participation in the community.

So, how are we doing?

In 2023, CNH worked with an external consultant to define our current strategic plan. Our plan focused on three priority areas: anti-oppression, advocacy, and organizational foundation. Below is a summary of responses, based on the participant survey results, that indicate what we're doing well and areas for improvement in each area.

1. Anti-oppression

What we're doing well

The survey indicates that CNH is seen as inclusive and welcoming by many participants. Participants frequently praised the kindness, professionalism, and helpfulness of the CNH staff, emphasizing the



supportive atmosphere they foster.

Participants reported meeting people from diverse backgrounds and feeling a sense of belonging. Many participants appreciated CNH's role in fostering community engagement and inclusivity.

Many programs cater to equity-seeking groups, including seniors, youth, and newcomers. Affordable and accessible programs are a significant strength with 41% of participants saying that the low cost of programs and services is essential to their participation.

Opportunities for improvement

Some participants mentioned challenges in creating a culturally representative environment, including a lack of Indigenous representation and programming tailored for neurodivergent individuals, those with disabilities and middle-aged adults.

Expanding outreach efforts to underrepresented groups and improving multilingual communication could enhance representation and accessibility.

2. Advocacy

What we're doing well

65% of respondents feel they have opportunities to engage in CNH's future direction

Participants noted that programs such as food justice, housing outreach, and seniors' programs demonstrate CNH's community-based approach to advocacy. Programs providing practical support, such as food security initiatives, were particularly valued

Community members have participated in feedback mechanisms such as surveys, AGMs and committees

Opportunities for improvement

Participants cited long waitlists for childcare, limited space for programs, and ongoing funding concerns

Participants requested enhancements in digital accessibility and user-friendly registration systems

Youth employment and volunteer opportunities were mentioned as areas for development

3. Organizational foundation

What we're doing well

CNH is recognized for having dedicated staff and volunteers, with many participants citing positive interactions with staff and feeling supported.



Programs attract a broad range of participants, and CNH is seen as a vital community hub.

The recreation and childcare programs are among the most highly engaged services as reflected by survey responders

Opportunities for improvement

Securing consistent funding and ensuring adequate staffing were highlighted as ongoing challenges

Some respondents noted difficulties with program awareness, communication, and registration processes, while others requested more evening and weekend programming

Limited program space and infrastructure were cited as barriers to expansion

Next steps

Our roadmap to addressing community needs and aspirations includes:

Enhancing communications: Strengthen outreach strategies to improve program visibility and ensure participants are aware of available services

Expanding accessibility: Develop targeted initiatives to address the needs of underrepresented groups, including neurodivergent individuals and Indigenous communities

Securing resources: Explore additional funding opportunities to support program expansion and staff capacity

Celebrating impact: Share participant stories and feedback to demonstrate CNH's value to the community and encourage greater engagement

For more information on the 2024 participant survey responses, review a summary of findings in PDF format through our website, cnh.bc.ca.



AUGUST 2025

Collingwood Days Festival 2025



Collingwood Days Festival 2025 is an event intended to highlight community, culture, and creativity. The theme for this year focuses on unity and shared values, inspired by the Seven Sacred Teachings. The festival began with an opening blessing from Thelma Stogan (Musqueam), grandmother of the graphic artist Aleia Johnny, who designed the posters and t-shirts for the event. Fabian George (Tsleil-Waututh) performed a drum song, and Brenda Logan introduced attendees to sweetgrass braiding. The evening concluded with a park screening of the movie "Rio".

Throughout Collingwood Days week, activities included Artist Fiesta, storytelling, and an urban forest walk. Mosaic BC organized events such as knitting and belly dancing. Circle teachings and a Sacred Fire were held at Burrard View Park, facilitated by Eagles Inspirit and firekeepers Cedar Man and James. Additional activities took place at Renfrew Park Community Centre with a scooter rodeo, yoga and Zumba classes at CNH, children's story time at the Collingwood Branch of VPL, and another movie in the park.

The festival concluded with the main event at Gaston Park on July 19th, featuring participation from over 40 vendors, five food vendors, and distribution of watermelon. Community hosts contributed to the 24th Collingwood Days event, which comprised a full week of programming attended by members of the community. (photo of Brenda Logan)

Follow on Instagram @collingwooddays

Collingwood BIA's Summer Banners

The spring/summer banners are finally up. Sorry about feeling like we extended fall/winter here in Collingwood. Enjoy the beautiful bright colours.

Summer in Collingwood Stay Cool

Boba & Sweet Treats -August 5-15, 2025

This will be the 5th Boba Crawl in Collingwood and this year will be a little different. Along with the many bubble tea establishments in Joyce Collingwood we are inviting businesses that offer cold drinks, desserts, sweet treats, ice cream, baos, Hala Hala to participate. See on the right for the QR Code to learn how to participate. Get discounts, deals and some prizes.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The 2025 Annual General Meeting will be on Tuesday, September 16th. Location to be announced. Businesses and commercial property owners, look for your AGM package coming to you later this month. They will be emailed, mailed and/or hand delivered.

Shop Joyce Collingwood! It's good for business.

CALENDAR

August 4



August 5 – 15

Boba & Sweet Treats in Collingwood



E-Newsletters:

Sign up to receive the monthly e-Newsletter for all the latest news in the BIA, social media campaigns to join in and other programs offered to small businesses.

How to Reach Us:



@shopcollingwood



shopcollingwoodvancouver

#300 – 3665 Kingsway,
Vancouver, BC V5R 2W5
604.639.4403

Email info@shopcollingwood.ca
Website shopcollingwood.ca



DON DAVIES MP COMMUNITY BBQ

**SATURDAY
AUGUST
16**

1PM TO 3PM
**FREE HOT DOGS,
DRINKS, SNACKS,
MUSIC & FUN!**

**BRING YOUR
OWN BLANKET
OR LAWN CHAIR**

**GRAYS PARK
4850 ST. CATHERINES ST.**

RSVP

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT CARRIE AT: 604-775-6263

Art Exhibition

Noticed in Vancouver...trio crossing Grandview

Karen Vanon / Noticed in Vancouver...

Viewings, with the artist present, are available on
Saturday, July 12th from 2:00 to 4:00 &
Sundays from 2:00 to 4:00 {July 20th & 27th and August 3rd, 10th & 17th}

665A Market Hill, Vancouver

Karen Vanon is an artist based in Vancouver. She's most intrigued by documenting her time and place. Of particular interest are subjects that are not typically imaged. Her practice focuses on capturing these subjects spontaneously as they go about their daily lives, depicting the events and personalities of the ordinary world. Karen's Noticed in Vancouver... exhibition will feature her 9'x11' map of Vancouver, as well as select smaller drawings from her Noticed... series.

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