

FEBRUARY 2026

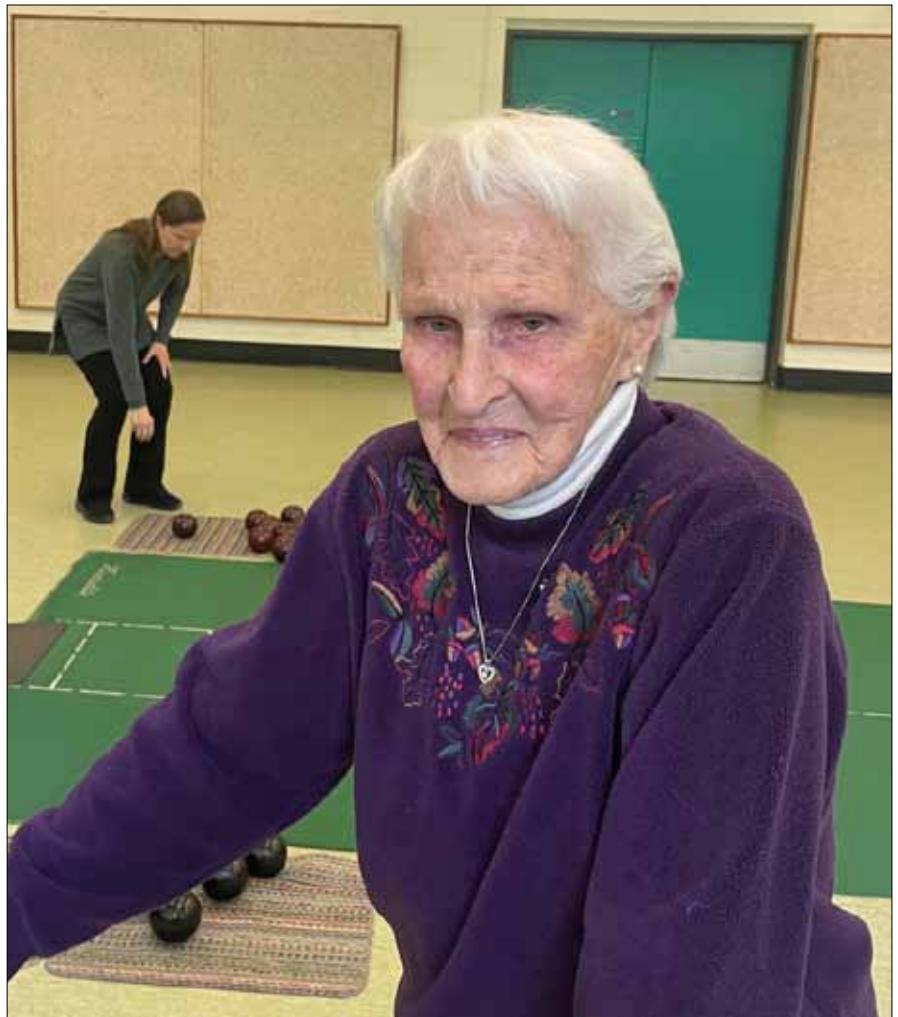
COMMUNITY NEWS

RenfrewCollingwoodCommunityNews.com



社区新闻

Sue Ross 97 and still active in the Community



by Paul Ringham

Sue has resided in East Vancouver her entire 97 years. This is her brief summary of her life story as she told it to me.

I attended three schools in my area Hastings Elementary, Templeton and finally Britannia Secondary. I grew up next to Callister Park, across from the PNE where the Pacific Coliseum now stands.

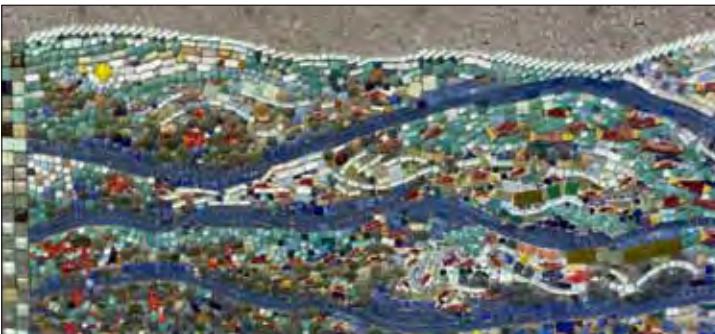
My older sister 14 years my senior, operated a Confectionery store named the Dover across from the Coliseum and next to the park. The park was surrounded by a tall cedar fence at that time, and various sporting events such as soccer games and even car demolition derbies were held there. When I was old enough I started working at the store, and the store could get quite busy with park patrons.

Later on, I started employment with BC Tel as a Telephone Operator, a position that I enjoyed very much.

Continued on page 2

What is Sue's secret? She certainly keeps busy. "These days of course I have slowed down some but I still try to keep active as I am able. Currently my activities consist of a regular bridge players group, indoor carpet bowling and attending my annual social functions with my golf and lawn bowling affiliations." Photos by Paul Ringham

Also in this Issue





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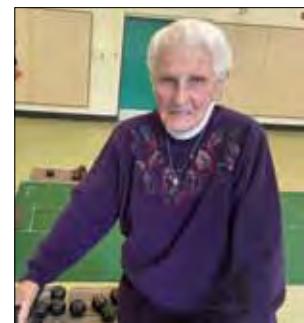
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Sue Ross: *Continued from page 1*

One day I received an invitation to a Woodwards Employee Social at a friend's house and ended up meeting my future husband Jim. Like many able-bodied men at the start of the war, Jim enlisted in the military and became a member of the Seaforth Highlanders regiment. Jim served overseas and participated in the Liberation of Holland.



We eventually married and moved to a new home nearby the Renfrew Community Centre and raised four children together. I still reside in this home to this day.

35 years after the war had ended I accompanied Jim to a Reunion of the men he had served with in Holland at that time. The loving welcome these returning soldiers received by the Dutch people was truly amazing, an experience so wonderful I was blessed to be there for it.

I have had many exceptional experiences in my lifetime with the raising of my family and growing up in such a beautiful city as Vancouver, but that trip to Holland with these returning soldiers was truly something.

I have always been active in sports and over the years I was quite involved in racquet sports, lawn bowling and golf.

These days of course I have slowed down some but I still try to keep active as I am able. Currently my activities consist of a regular bridge players group, indoor carpet bowling and attending my annual social functions with my golf and lawn bowling affiliations.

I also enjoy attending such events as Robbie Burns Day and the special occasion luncheons organized and hosted by the Renfrew and Killarney community centres.

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Migration

by Penny N. Lim

News! A Taiga flycatcher arrives in Vancouver! First in Canada!

A little round ball of feathers, blown off course, left tundra Siberia home to warm Asia food source and shelter. Drawn to coniferous trees and bushes, landed at warm Aquatic Centre source of insects on Sunset Beach, Vancouver, BC. Safety in evergreens, bushes, and shrubs. A Taiga flycatcher! Slightly bigger than a hummingbird! Only 113 gm, 13 cm long, warm-blooded, small toothless beak, life span of 5 to 7 years. Flycatchers catch insects “on the wing” in midair. Sleep safe in trees or groups.

Energetic migration preparation, strengthen heart and flight muscles plus gain weight to fuel flight. Night travel cooler, less windy, and avoid predators. Natal awareness when and where to travel. Navigate by sun, moon, and stars, nature landmarks (buildings, too). Adjust vision: see distant yet focus on close-up in hunt of tiny insects. Good hearing, passersines {perching birds} have a long hind toe. Their higher body temperature than that of mammals demands that birds must consume more. Small birds do eat more, about 1/3 to 1/2 of their body weight daily. No fluid wastes, sweat and urine.

Oh, Taiga flycatcher. Irresistible charismatic, cooperative bird provides excellent sighting at eye level! Usually way up at top of tall trees. Yes, I keep returning. A camaraderie exists amongst birders who come locally and from afar just to catch a glimpse of this rare Taiga flycatcher in Canada. We share our information and delight. In a single day, a privilege of multiple sightings.

Flyway and water birds Birds migrate to survive. Epic journey Migrants

“Migration is one of the most remarkable evolutionary outcomes in the history of life on earth. With supreme mastery of flight, birds have colonized every continent and exploited nearly every environment.” *1 Birds travel afar to survive and have progeny.

Face daunting dangers of global climate change, habitat loss, predators, human exploitation and pollution. Waterbirds as do songbirds need food sources to fuel along their epic journeys.

Small birds travel the farthest. World’s longest annual migration of 30,000 km. by the medium-sized elegant Arctic tern, 33-36 cm long, 86-127 gm, life span: 30 yrs or more. Most of its life spent in the air over



Taiga flycatcher. Caught by Penny's camera.

open seas. Its sleek, slender shape coasting through the air. From the Arctic tern’s breeding ground in the Arctic (summer), it travels around to its winter home of Antarctic (summer). Two summers of abundant sunlight. Seas calmer during Summer. Arctic terns’ circumference of the earth.

Return of the Pack

“The wolves embody what the great migrators on this planet have always known, both people and animals alike that movement is an existential necessity. That in times of crisis, nothing can be contained. That in times of need, we move.”

“... a lone wolf has left behind its family and is searching for the same three things we all are: enough to eat, enough land to make a life and a mate.

“The wolf’s return is testament to the desire of life to thrive – but we also need attitudes and policies that transcend borders to enable it to flourish.” *2

***1 Pacific Flyway** by A.D. Benedict, G.A. Hammerson, R.W. Butler

***2 Lone Wolf: Walking the Line Between Civilization and Wildness** by Adam Weymouth



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

Dear Neighbours,



Gung Hey Fat Choy!

Chúc Mừng Năm Mới!

Happy Lunar New Year!

I hope that the Year of the Fire Horse will bring you great health, happiness, and prosperity.

Lion Dance Celebration in Renfrew-Collingwood

The Collingwood BIA will be hosting their annual Lion Dance Celebration on Saturday, February 28. The talented and energetic Lion Dancers from Hon Sing Athletic Club will bring festive energy to businesses along Kingsway and around the neighbourhood. Be sure to keep an eye out for them between 11:00am to 1:30pm.

For more information or to sign up your business, email info@shopcollingwood.ca or call 604-639-4403.

Vancouver Chinatown Spring Festival Celebration

Join me in supporting one of the largest Lunar New Year parades in Canada on Sunday February 22. The parade route begins at the Millennium Gate at Pender St at 11am.

The celebration will feature cultural dance troupes, marching bands, martial arts performances, and many lion dance teams.

Family Day – Monday, February 17th
Our community office will be closed for Family Day on Monday, February 16th. We will re-open Tuesday, February 17th, and look forward to serving our constituents with matters surrounding provincial services. We wish you and your loved ones a great Valentine’s Day and Family Day.

As always, 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.mla@leg.bc.ca, and we will get in touch with you as soon as we can. 聯絡本辦事處請 adrian.dix.mla@leg.bc.ca 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



COMMUNITY NEWS 社区新闻

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, Jenny Zhang, Ricardo Cerna, Grandview-Collingwood Legion, Paul Ringham, Angela Clarke, Karem Elizondo

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: Feb. 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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Collingwood Neighbourhood House
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Vancouver, BC V5R 6C9



Collingwood Corner

"Jesus the Light of the World" neon sign.

by Loretta Houben

The one landmark in Collingwood that people remember from years past when you describe it to them is the neon sign at the SE corner of Rupert and Kingsway. The one with bright green, red, yellow and blue lettering plus a star and a cross on top; "Jesus the Light of the World". This was the trademark for the Apostolic Faith Church, built on that corner in 1950. The headquarters were in Portland, Oregon, and a branch church was begun in Calgary, Alberta in the 1940s.

When the congregation relocated to Vancouver BC after WWII, an older house was converted into a small church in 1947. The house was located near Scott and Fraser, but shortly afterwards, the city of Vancouver decided to straighten out Fraser Street where the building stood. A deal was made to trade the property for two lots on Kingsway at Rupert.

An old photo shows the neon sign at the old location which was moved to 3014 Kingsway once the new wooden church was built in 1950. The church and sign remained until the church's closure in December 2001, when the church moved to Langley BC, but the neon sign was donated to the Museum of Vancouver at 1100 Chestnut Street. John Mackie wrote about the sign in the December 19, 2001, issue of The Vancouver Sun. He states that the sign is "one of a handful of classic signs left from the golden age of neon in Vancouver, which had an astonishing 18,000 neon signs in 1953."

It might seem strange for a church to have a neon sign, but Jack Williams, a longtime church member, said neon signs were a staple of Apostolic Faith Churches across North America. He also said the sign was commissioned in 1945 or 1946 for the first church. It was a bright and unusual sign for the high volume of drivers and pedestrians down Kingsway for 51 years.



Museum of Vancouver neon sign display. Photo by LH Houben



1947 Apostolic Faith church at 675 Scott and E 15th. Photographer unknown.



1980s intersection photo of Kingsway and Rupert, sign and church on right.
Photo by Vancouver Archives.



September 1950; Apostolic Faith church at 3014 Kingsway.
Photo by Jack Williams

I was church secretary for many years, and one bill that was paid each month to the City of Vancouver was the rent for the neon sign. It hung a few inches over the public city sidewalk, so a fee was due, even though the church owned the sign!

You can still see the sign at the MOV, brightly displayed and glowing along with the collection of other neon signs, a small taste of Vancouver's neon addiction from the past.

Jack Williams photo



February, We Commemorate the Month of Love

Art and Fragments by: Ricardo Cerna

Love is a profound and universal experience that manifests itself in many ways throughout our lives. There are various kinds of love, such as romantic love between partners, family love that unites parents, children, and relatives, fraternal or friendly love, self-love that strengthens self-esteem, and even compassionate love toward humanity.

The three types of love in human beings are the following: Agape Love, Phileo Love, and Romantic Love.

It is appropriate to reflect on the different ways in which this feeling manifests itself in our lives, such as Agape love, Philéo love, and Romantic love.

1. Agape love represents selfless and compassionate love—one that is given without expecting anything in return and is reflected in empathy and service to others.
2. Phileo love is based on friendship, loyalty, and companionship, strengthening sincere bonds that unite people through respect and trust.
3. Romantic love celebrates the emotional union between couples, marked by passion,

commitment, and emotional connection.

During the month of February, these forms of love invite us to value and express our feelings with greater intention, reminding us that true love is lived and demonstrated every day.

Our exhortation is that during the month of February, the affection that unites us as a community, the friendship that accompanies us each day, and the love we share with those who make our lives more fulfilling may be expressed through actions. This feeling takes on a very special meaning, as it invites us to show affection with greater sensitivity and commitment, reminding us that love is cultivated daily through small gestures, sincere words, and actions that strengthen the bonds that unite us.

Dear readers and soul brothers and sisters: Thank you once again for reaching the end of this article by reading these paragraphs and observing the little drawing that illustrates it. Blessings.

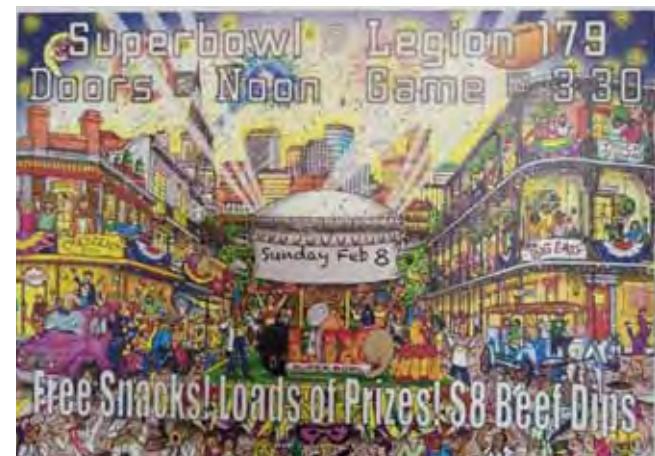


Grandview-Collingwood Legion Branch 179

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 179
2205 Commercial Drive

During our 100th Anniversary, all new members can join The Royal Canadian Legion for free for 2026!

Your membership will help strengthen the Legion and our support for Veterans and our communities across the country. Plus, there are lots of great ways to get involved and have fun through your location Legion Branch!



Update



Legion 100 Win Big Giveaway!



Sign up for your free membership today and when you renew for 2027, you'll be automatically eligible to win a Ford F-150 in this exciting Centenary year sweepstakes!

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Royal Canadian Legion Branch 179
2205 Commercial Drive

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Fridays & Saturdays • 7:00 PM

Fri Feb 6 - Karaoke with Nina
Sat Feb 7 - Dogwood & the Shakers
Fri Feb 13 - DJ Stan
Sat Feb 14 - Jason Lane Band
Valentine's Dance
Fri Feb 20 - Revolving Doors
Sat Feb 21 - The LowDown
Fri Feb 27 - Willie & the Rented Mules
Sat Feb 28 - Mojo Stars



Renfrew Collingwood Salmon Creek Mosaic Project 2025

by Angela Clarke

The Renfrew Collingwood community was greatly honoured to experience the artist talent and community leadership of Yoko Tomita who led a volunteer public art project this past summer.. Called the *Salmon Creek mosaic art project*, this volunteer run initiative took place between June and September 23, 2025, and its final outcome was a 180.30 sq. ft. mosaic at Renfrew Collingwood Neighbourhood house. It is located at the north entrance of the Renfrew Park Community Centre at Renfrew Ravine. To bring it to completion, the project utilized the enthusiasm, creativity and talent of 180 volunteers of all ages.

The mosaic depicts the life cycle of Salmon from its eggs (Roe), evolving into salmon babies, and finally swimming into adulthood. Representing the salmon in the ravine the mosaic consists of 10 panels which were completed over 3 months in 5 separate sessions, one of which took place during Collingwood Days. The mosaic depicts a salmon stream surrounded by blue and green tiles and 194 red salmon created from individually designed tiles.

This community based public art project taking place at Renfrew Collingwood arose out of an environmental program which was started by



Carmen Rosen years ago. As organizer of the *Still Moon Arts Society*, she spearheaded an environmental initiative focused on cleaning the ravine of garbage as well as monitoring its water quality.

Included in this project was the acquisition and release of salmon into the creek, in order to facilitate a permanent water way where salmon could spawn. This successful project led Yoko Tomita to envision a permanent mosaic installation depicting the salmon spawning in the ravine. Not only did Yoko design the mosaic, but she also organized volunteers to bring her vision to life. Additionally, she also found the raw resources in which to construct this monumental mosaic. She utilized the glass and porcelain she had accumulated over years and which she carefully stored in her storage facility. It had been donated to her over a decade ago by a mosaic store going out of business.

When the volunteers met to work on this project, Yoko gave them only two directions: They had to utilize the glass they were provided with in order to maintain the project's limited colour palette. This included the transparent glass, which she had reserved for constructing the salmon stream. However, in all other respects the fish could be designed free style. The end result was the creation of 194 salmon tiles, none of them are the same, many of them were created by children. They were also allowed to inset their own creations into the mosaic themselves.

Completed within 3 months , and made entirely by volunteers, Yoko Tomita states that this mosaic is a testament to the power of arts and volunteerism in the Renfrew Collingwood community. This project was funded by the City of Vancouver, Renfrew Collingwood and the generous hours of Renfrew Collingwood community members.



Though not yet completed there are plans to have the mosaic backlight at night. The volunteers are also awaiting a recognition tile, which will be inset into the mosaic. This final touches will bring the project to completion.

Thank you, Yoko Tomita, for conceiving such an important project. Also, thank you for making our community such a beautiful and enriching place to live.

ANGLICAN FOUNDATION OF CANADA | **il Museo**

Sacred Journeys

An Artistic Meditation by textile artist Karen Brodie

Italian Cultural Centre Gallery; Vancouver, (3075 Slocan Street)
22 January – April 6, 2026

Curator: Angela Clarke, Ph.D.

The artist's work, which is a textile interpretation of the *Stations of the Cross*, seeks to engage the viewer in a contemplative practice.

While we associate the *Stations of the Cross* with an archaic catholic practice, Karen Brodie seeks to revivify this ritual, combining it with the meditative labyrinth. Brodie's *Stations of the Cross* is a non-denominational focused meditation, which all of us, regardless of our spiritual background and beliefs can participate in.

In the age of social media where the individual is reduced to an image fit for the screen, Brodie's work asks us to remove ourselves from the world wide web. Instead, she redirects us to our inner world which exists only in our quietude. Her series *Stations of the Cross* requires each of us to walk silently with ourselves, stopping mindfully at each artistic detour she constructs. At every junction in her meditative series, we are invited to ask ourselves fundamental questions about ourselves, our beliefs and the universal nature of humanity.

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Happy Corner Parent Involvement Preschool

Celebrating 55 Years of Community, Connection, and Early Learning

by Karem Elizondo, Happy Corner President and Parent

For families in Vancouver's Renfrew neighbourhood—especially the beloved Diaper Hill area—Happy Corner Parent Participation Preschool situated inside Falaise Hall has long been a cherished community hub. More than a preschool, it has been a gathering place, a support system, and a warm introduction to early learning for generations of families. As Happy Corner prepares to celebrate its 55th birthday in 2026, the milestone highlights the school's remarkable legacy and the ongoing significance of inclusive, community-rooted preschool programs.

Founded on the belief that children thrive when their families are active partners in their education, Happy Corner has upheld a parent-participation model since its beginnings. This cooperative framework invites parents into the classroom, involves them in decision-making, and builds a sense of shared stewardship. In a diverse and fast-growing city like Vancouver, where community connections are more valuable than ever, Happy Corner continues to offer a welcoming space for families to learn, engage, and grow together.

At the heart of Happy Corner's success are its dedicated co-teachers, Shivonne Prasad and Jiwon Hwang, whose combined expertise enriches every aspect of the preschool experience. Both bring over 12 years of experience in the early education field, and together they cultivate a learning environment rooted in compassion, curiosity, and respect.

Shivonne, an Early Childhood Educator and Certified Child Behavior Specialist, supports children's social-emotional development with empathy and insight. Her understanding of child behaviour helps create a classroom atmosphere where children feel understood, capable, and supported through big feelings and new experiences. Families often appreciate her calm presence and her ability to guide children through challenges with warmth and patience.



Jiwon, an Early Childhood Educator and children's book author, brings creativity, art, and storytelling into the heart of the program. Her background as a writer enriches circle times and literacy experiences, while her love for visual art encourages children to explore self-expression through colour, texture, and imaginative play. Jiwon's inclusive, artistic approach ensures that every child finds a way to express themselves and feel a sense of belonging in the classroom.

Together, Jiwon and Shivonne design a preschool environment where play is recognized as the foundation of learning. Preschool settings offer unique opportunities for children to practice essential developmental skills in ways that are joyful, meaningful, and developmentally appropriate. At Happy Corner, children learn through hands-on exploration, outdoor play, creative projects, and collaborative activities that help them build:

Social and communication skills, including sharing, cooperation, and conflict resolution

Early literacy and numeracy foundations, woven naturally into stories, games, and playful routines

Creative and artistic expression, supported through open-ended art, music, and imaginative play

Motor and coordination skills, strengthened through sensory activities, movement, and outdoor exploration

Confidence, independence, and emotional resilience, nurtured through encouragement and responsive guidance

But the benefits of a parent involvement preschool extend well beyond the children. Parents gain a deeper understanding of early childhood development, observe teaching strategies firsthand, and build strong connections with other families. The collaborative model fosters a sense of belonging and shared purpose—something especially meaningful in neighbourhoods like Renfrew and Diaper Hill, where community ties help support families through the busy preschool years.

As Happy Corner approaches its 55th anniversary in 2026, its legacy stands as a testament to the power of cooperation, inclusive education, and community spirit. For more than half a century, it has offered children a joyful start to learning and given parents a place to connect, contribute, and grow alongside their little ones.

Happy Corner Parent Participation Preschool is not just a school—it is a cornerstone of the community, proudly continuing a tradition of learning, warmth, and connection for the next generation.



What's happening at Collingwood Branch



2985 Kingsway | 604.665.3953
 Tuesday & Wednesday: 9:30am - 7pm
 Thursday & Friday: 9:30am - 6pm
 Saturday: 9:30am - 5pm
 Sunday: 9:30am - 5pm

For complete listings visit www.vpl.ca/events



Feb 3 & 17
 ESL Conversation Practice

5:30pm-6:30pm

Practice your English conversation skills with other English language learners. This is a supportive and casual meet-up. For intermediate speakers.

Feb 5, 12, 19 & 26
 Babytme

10:30am-11:00am

Rhymes, songs, bounces, fingerplays and stories for parents and caregivers with their babies. Recommended for newborns to approximately 18 months.

Feb 5, 12, 19 & 26
 Baby Stay and Play

11:00am-11:30am

Drop in for independent playtime with your baby and a chance to connect with other families. Explore library books, blocks and other toys in this casual, self-led session. For ages 0 – 18 months.

Feb 6 & 13, 20 & 27

Family Storytime

10:30am-11:00am

A program for parents and caregivers with young children. Songs, rhymes and stories are shared. Suitable for children of all ages and abilities to enjoy and learn together.

Feb 6, 13, 20 & 27

Family Stay and Play

11:00am-11:30am

Drop in for independent playtime with your children aged 5 and under and a chance to connect with other families. Explore library books, blocks and other toys in this casual self-led session. For ages 0 – 5 years.

Feb 7, 14, 21 & 28

Family Board Games

2:30pm-3:30pm

Drop in to play with the library's collection of board games.

For Grades K-7.

Feb 13

Make It: Lunar New Year Crafts

Friday, February 13, 2:30pm-3:30pm

Flex your creative muscle in this pop-up maker space event! In this session, we will be making Lunar New Year crafts.

Grades K-7. Drop-in.

Renfrew Branch

2969 E 22nd Ave. Contact | 604.257.8705



All programs are FREE. For more information, visit www.vpl.ca/events.

**Library is closed on Monday, February 16 th for Family Day.

SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

LEGO Block Party

Wednesday, Feb 4 & 18, 3:30pm-4:30pm

Drop in for some LEGO building fun! Grades K-7.

Make It: Loom Weaving for Kids!

Wednesday, Feb 11, 3:30pm-4:30pm

Drop in to learn basic loom weaving and easy projects using recycled household items. For Grades 1 - 7.

Makedo® Building Party

Wednesday, Feb 25, 3:30pm-4:30pm

Drop in for some free-style building fun featuring Makedo ® cardboard construction. Grades K-7.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Babytme

Mondays, February 2, 9, & 23. 11:00-11:30am and 1:30-2:00pm. Drop-in.

Rhymes, songs, bounces, fingerplays and stories for parents and caregivers with their babies. Recommended for newborns to approximately 18 months.

Family Storytime

Mondays, February 2, 9, & 23. 10:00-10:30am. Drop-in.

A program for parents and caregivers with young children. Songs, rhymes and stories are shared. Suitable for children of all ages and abilities to enjoy and learn together.

Family Movies

Fridays, 3:30-5:15pm. Drop-in.

Visit the library and enjoy free, kid-friendly movies. For children and their accompanying caregivers.

February 6: Luca

February 13: Mulan (2:00-3:30pm) AND Mulan 2 (3:30 – 5:15pm)

February 20: Snow White

February 27: Pixar Short Films

ADULTS

Coffee Connection

Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00am. Drop-in.

Drop in for coffee and other light refreshments. Play board games, do a crossword, or chat with your neighbours.

ESL Conversation Club

Thursdays, 10:00-11:00am. Drop-in.

Meet new friends and practice your English conversation skills with other English language learners. This is a supportive and casual meet-up. For intermediate speakers.



Adult Colouring Club

Fridays, 10:00-11:00am. Drop-in.

Relax and enjoy the many benefits of colouring with like-minded creatives. We'll provide the colouring pages and pencil crayons!

Board Games Social for Adults

Tuesday, Feb 3 & 17. 5:45-7:45pm. Drop-in.

Connect with friends or make new ones over board games at the library! Bring your own, or select something from our game collection. Players of all levels are welcome.

Story Circle

Wednesday, February 4, 10:00-11:00am

This monthly program is for adults with developmental disabilities and their families, friends and caregivers. Join us in an accessible, relaxed and fun community setting for stories, music and more!

Register at www.vpl.ca/events



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

Meet the 2025 Nina Vacca Scholarship Recipients

by Collingwood Neighbourhood House



Collingwood Neighbourhood House's (CNH) Annual General Meeting saw the awarding of the 2025 *Nina Vacca Scholarship* to two recipients this year, Angelica Carvalho and Luz Luza.

Founded in 2022 following the passing of long-time CNH staff member Nina Vacca in 2021, the award is granted to newcomers interested in pursuing early childhood education.

Angelica and Luz are both starting their studies for Early Childhood Education this fall.

Angelica Carvalho

"After having my son [in November 2020], I felt uncertain about my professional future. I decided to study child development to support him during his early years, and I quickly became passionate about it. As I searched for ways to support other families, just as I was supporting my own, I discovered the field of Early Childhood Education," Angelica shares. She hopes to make a meaningful impact on the children in the neighbourhood through her studies.

Likewise, as a mother of two girls, Luz wants to contribute to the learning and happiness of not just her daughters, but that of other children too.

"I have always felt connected to children. I am very excited to work and learn more about child psychology. I find it fascinating to understand how children think, feel and grow, [...] I am very happy to start this journey, and feeling excited and motivated for everything that lies ahead," Luz says.

As they pursue Early Childhood Education, both Luz and Angelica feel honoured to receive the award. Luz appreciates the encouragement from the community, which she considers to be family.

"I'm one step closer to achieving my goal... this is the power of a community that believes in each other and grows together," she says.

Meanwhile, receiving the award reinforced Angelica's belief in the value of community work, inspiring her to keep building relationships with families and children in the Renfrew-Collingwood neighbourhood.

"This recognition means a lot to me not only as a student, but also as a person and a mother who is eager to make a positive impact in the lives of young children in my neighbourhood, just as Nina did," Angelica says.

Both award recipients started getting involved with CNH by participating in the Family Place program with their children, and felt welcomed by not just by the staff but by the other families as well. Their involvement in Family Place and other programs helped them explore the neighbourhood and find community.

"I could feel the warmth and kindness of everyone in the neighbourhood... all the activities helped me feel welcome and supported as a newcomer to Canada," Luz says.

Angelica adds, "I've built meaningful relationships through local parks, family programs, and Collingwood Neighbourhood House. Now, as an ECE student, I'm excited to give back to this community by supporting the children and families who are part of it. I feel proud to contribute to a neighbourhood that has welcomed and supported me on my journey."



Luz Luza



February 2026

Lunar New Year – Year of the Fire Horse – February 28th 11-1:30pm

We invite you to join in the parade and celebrating the Year of the Snake. This will be the 16th annual event with the Hon Sing Athletic Club. Many of their members are residents of Renfrew/Collingwood.

Business can sign up to have the Lion's come by to bless good fortune for the New Year. See ad in this issue. Follow on Instagram for participating businesses. Sign up by February 23rd.

To register your business contact Angela at angela@shopcollingwood.ca

Love Your City Instagram Contest

LOVE YOUR CITY Contest

The annual Love Your City Contest is back starting February 1st.

Rediscover and reconnect with the City by playing tourist for a month.

Get out your cameras, maps and passports and fall in love all over again.

How to Enter:

1. Like this post and follow @loveyourcitycontest & @shopcollingwood.
2. Tell us your favorite places and spaces to visit
3. Check daily for the featured neighbourhood/BIA. Follow the contest instructions to enter.
4. Visit the Clock Tower at Joyce & Kingsway and at the Welcome to Joyce Collingwood Mural on Kingsway and Tyne Street, take a photo of something you love and post it to your feed or stories. Be sure to tag @loveyourcitycontest and @shopcollingwood.ca!
5. You can print out the passport to decorate it. There will be stamps to print or virtual to add to your passport.

Contest Details:

- Giveaway ends February 28th, 2025, at midnight. One prize winner. So play often.
- Open to individuals aged 19+ in the Greater Vancouver area. Winners must pick up prizes in Vancouver, BC (no shipping or delivery).
- Estimated value of prize \$4,000

Winners will only be contacted via this account or official BIA accounts.

Member's Survey

Earlier in January, all Collingwood BIA members were sent a Member's Survey for 2026.

Please take a few moments to complete. Your responses will help us with future planning.

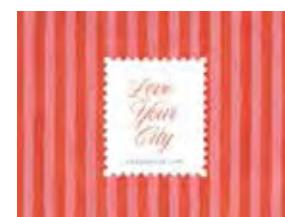
We aim to keep Joyce Collingwood, vibrant, safe and welcoming. If you need the link, contact our office.

Shop Collingwood! It's good for business.

CALENDAR

February 1-28

Love Your City Contest



@loveyourcitycontest

February 14

Valentine's Day

February 16

Family Day

February 17

Lunar New Year

February 28

Lion Dance Celebration 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](https://www.instagram.com/shopcollingwood)

 [shopcollingwoodvancouver](https://www.facebook.com/shopcollingwoodvancouver)

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

Email
info@shopcollingwood.ca
Website shopcollingwood.ca



HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR

LION DANCE CELEBRATION

February 28 | 11:00 am - 1:30pm

Rupert St. & Kingsway
Joyce Street → Skytrain Station

To sign up your
business, scan the
QR code →



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WE SPEAK: ENGLISH, ਪੰਜਾਬੀ, ਹਿੰਦੀ, 普通話, 廣東話, فارسی, தமிழ் & ESPAÑOL