



ANNUAL REPORT

2012 - 2013

*Kerrisdale Centre, Kerrisdale Pool,
Kerrisdale Arena*

Operated by the Kerrisdale Community Centre Society
and the Board of Parks & Recreation
City of Vancouver, British Columbia



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Vancouver, BC
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KERRISDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT

2012-2013

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2012-2013

EXECUTIVE

President
Past President
Vice-Presidents
Secretary
Treasurer

Robert Lockhart
Oscar Bisnar
Kathleen Bigsby, Barb Mikulec
David Eaton
Aaron Law

BOARD MEMBERS

Alison Verghese
Bill Harris
Colin Booth
Don Munton
Donald Wong
Fred Jay
Keiko Honda
Laura Suarez Acuzar
Onno Bakhoven
Ron Stromberg
Samuel Yau (appointed October 23, 2013)
Vincent Law

Board Solicitor
Seniors' Council Representative
Society Accountant
Society Administrative Assistant

Michael Moscovich
Irene Ronnie
Norman Funk
Camille Schroenn

COMMITTEES

2012-2013

STANDING COMMITTEES (* denotes Board Member)

ARENA AND POOL COMMITTEE

Rotating Chairperson

Barb Mikulec*

Don Munton*

Onno Bakhoven*

Colin Booth*

Fred Jay*

Staff Liaisons

Paul Biln/Jennifer Takai/

Grant Matsuda

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Vincent Law* (Chair)

Colin Booth*

Staff Liaison

Tony Wong

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Keiko Honda* (Chair)

Alison Verghese*

Colin Booth*

Donald Wong*

Staff Liaison

Jessica Yee

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Aaron Law* (Chair)

Barb Mikulec*

Laura Suarez Acuzar*

Onno Bakhoven*

Vincent Law*

Society Accountant

Norman Funk

Staff Liaison

Lee Tarrant

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Keiko Honda*/Fred Jay* (Co-Chairs)

Barb Mikulec*

David Eaton*

Don Munton*

Jim Hall

Robert Lockhart*

Ron Stromberg*

Staff Liaisons

Kristi Douglas/Jessica Yee

YOUTH COMMITTEE (sub-committee of the Program Committee)

Keiko Honda* (Chair)

Alison Verghese*

Colin Booth*

Staff Liaisons

Kristi Douglas/Erik Price

RENTALS COMMITTEE

Onno Bakhoven* (Chair)

Colin Booth*

Kathleen Bigsby*

Staff Liaison

Susan Mele

SENIORS' COUNCIL

Irene Ronnie* (Chair)

Ann Monahan

Annette Whitehead

George Eaton

Mary Anne Davies

Stephen Sothy

Wendy Clark

Board Representatives

Bill Harris*/Colin Booth*

Staff Liaisons

Pam Andrews /Jennifer Takai

AD HOC COMMITTEES (*denotes Board Member)

COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

Alison Verghese* (Chair)

Ron Stromberg*

Staff Liaison

Monica Tang

JOINT OPERATING AGREEMENT COMMITTEE

Don Munton* (Chair)

Donald Wong*

Fred Jay*

Kathleen Bigsby*

Oscar Bisnar*

Staff Liaison

Susan Mele

KERRISDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE STAFF

2012 – 2013

Acting Recreation Supervisor	Susan Mele	604-257-8118
Centre Programmer	Kristi Douglas	604-257-8114
Centre Programmer	Jessica Yee	604-257-8116
Seniors' Programmer	Pam Andrews	604-257-8111
Pool Programmer	Jennifer Takai	604-257-8107
Arena Programmer	Grant Matsuda	604-257-8102
Clerk III	Lee Tarrant	604-257-8103
PA3	Erik Price	604-257-8116
Maintenance Technician	Tony Wong	604-257-8125

Office Staff	Katie Bolt, Diana Bracken, Emily Chang, Amy Cheung, Kim Farrell, Dorothea Gruenberg, Pamela Healey, Iris Heays, Christine Iannetta, Natalie Leather, Nasreen Malik, Shelley MacDonald, Terry Muir, Diane Paulin, Colleen Proudfoot, Colleen Schaufele, Azarm Shahpoori-Broojerdi
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Swim Instructor Attendant	Denise Yeh, Serena Rai, Lauren Schubert
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Building Supervisors	Aidan Lee, Stewart Campbell, Arthur Quan, Randy Chan, Aman Jhutti, Eric Mah, Paul Talbot, Sean Walker
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Building Service Workers	Jaspal Gill, Helen King, Charles King, Clayton Myketiak, Mark Serediak, Myrna Bauda
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69TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)
of the
Kerrisdale Community Centre Society
Kerrisdale Community Centre – 5851 West Boulevard, Vancouver
Wednesday, February 20, 2013 - 7:30 p.m.

M I N U T E S

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, Oscar Bisnar, President, called the meeting to order at 7:41 p.m. The Annual Report and Financial Statements were distributed to all in attendance.

Oscar welcomed Commissioner Barnes and Diane Murphy representative from the Park Board.

Oscar also expressed thanks to all the Kerrisdale Community Centre staff for staying late to provide support to the meeting. The staff members were: Tony Wong, Erik Price, Jennifer Takai, Pam Andrews, Kristi Douglas, Jessica Yee, Lee Tarrant, Susan Mele, Grant Matsuda, Paul Biln and Norman Funk.

2. NOTICE OF MEETING

Emily read the notice of the Annual General Meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Fred that the Agenda be accepted as presented. CARRIED.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 68TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 15, 2012

MOVED by Barb that the minutes of the 68th Annual General Meeting of February 15, 2012 be approved as presented. CARRIED

5. PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Oscar Bisnar read the President's Report in the 2011 – 2012 Annual Report.

6. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2012.

Aaron Law reported on the audited Financial Statements for the year ending August 31, 2012.

**7. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS FOR THE YEAR ENDING
AUGUST 31, 2013.**

MOVED by Aaron Law and seconded to appoint Johannesson & Company, Chartered Accountants, as the Kerrisdale Community Centre Society's auditors for the fiscal year ending 31st August 2013 and that the directors be authorized to approve the auditor's remuneration. CARRIED.

8. REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Keiko reported that there were 12 people on the ballot for 9 positions, seven being returning Directors with 5 new candidates. The ballot list was as follows:

Alison Verghese
Annette Whitehead
Barb Mikulec*
Colin Booth*
Cono Spitale
Donald C. McCarthy
Eric Tang*
Laura Suarez Acuzar*
Onno Bakhoven*
Oscar Bisnar*
Robert Lockhart*
Ron Stromberg

Each candidate spoke to his or her background and experience.

9. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Keiko Honda called for nominations from the floor three times.

The vote to elect Directors took place. Susan, Kristi and Jessica collected the ballots.

The meeting recessed at 8:22 p.m. to allow for the votes to be counted.

Susan and Jessica counted the ballots with David Eaton as scrutineer.

At 8:37 p.m. the meeting resumed.

Following the vote count the following nine individuals were elected:

Alison Verghese
Barb. Mikulec*
Colin Booth*
Donald C. McCarthy
Laura Suarez Acuzar*
Onno Bakhoven*
Oscar Bisnar*
Robert Lockhart*
Ron Stromberg

MOVED by Fred, and seconded, to destroy the ballots. CARRIED.

10. SWEARING IN OF NEW DIRECTORS

Park Board Commissioner Constance Barnes swore in the newly elected directors.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 PROPOSED BY LAW CHANGES

By-law 15: Present wording:

Extraordinary meetings of the Society may be called at any time by the President, or shall be called on the requisition of at least *thirty-five (35)* members of the Society.

MOVED by Emily, and seconded that the wording of this By-law be amended to read "Extraordinary meetings of the Society may be called at any time by the President, or shall be called on the requisition of *10% of the* members of the Society." CARRIED

By-law 41: Present wording:

Every question at a meeting of the Directors shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the Directors present, every Director having one (1) vote. In case of an equality of votes at any such meeting the Chair or Acting Chair thereat shall have a second or casting vote.

MOVED by Emily, and seconded that the wording of this By-law be amended to read "Every question at a meeting of the Directors shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the Directors present, every Director having one (1) vote." CARRIED

11.2 UPDATE ON CURRENT ISSUES

Don Munton gave an overview on the current issues between the Park Board and the Kerrisdale Community Centre Society.

CONSTANCE BARNES responded to Don's statements expressing concern about the direction that this issue had taken and expressing the view that she would like to see us working together. Constance stated that she would take notes on our concerns and forward those comments on to Park Board staff. She would then get back to us with any information that she receives.

Diane Murphy representing the Park Board thanked Don for his comments. She expressed appreciation for the work done by volunteers and that the Park Board and the Kerrisdale Community Centre have some common goals. A plan is required to achieve those goals.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Bill Harris and seconded that the meeting adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Recorded by Camille Schroenn.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2012-2013

It is a pleasure to provide this annual report to the members of the Kerrisdale Community Centre Society (Society). This has been an eventful year, both in terms of achievements and because of the challenges our Society has faced as we endeavor to maintain a meaningful partnership with the Vancouver Park Board in the operations of the Centre. Throughout the year, operational support from Directors, our many volunteers, and staff members was exceptionally strong, and for this we are most appreciative. None-the-less, challenges faced by the Society as a result of the Park Board's unwillingness to work co-operatively towards a fair and equitable Joint Operating Agreement posed major challenges. Throughout this year the Park Board continued to pursue its non-negotiable plan to take over control of all programs and revenue streams.

Kerrisdale, with approximately 13,800 members, is the largest community centre in the Vancouver community centre network. From September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013, we had more than 531,000 visits to the centre comprised of fitness room card-scans, drop-ins, program enrollments, or room rentals. Centre usage was a bit lower than the 571,000 visits in the previous year.

There have been a number of changes in our operations. In November 2012, Susan Mele became interim, full-time supervisor at the Centre. Pamela Andrews moved to the Seniors' programmer position, half-time. We also welcomed Jen Takai back from medical leave to her work at the pool. She also took on work as half-time Seniors' programmer along with Pamela Andrews. We lost Lee Tarrant for two months when she was assigned by Park Board to work downtown. Coleen Proudfoot capably filled in in Lee's absence. Finally, after a 20-year career working at the front desk, Diane Bracken retired.

In early 2013, the Park Board realigned the services of the programming staff for arenas across the City. As a result we lost the services of Paul Biln, who became responsible for the overall operations of several arenas, including Kerrisdale. Grant Matsuda joined Kerrisdale staff, at one-quarter time, as arena programmer. As a result of this change in staffing level some work previously done by the arena programmer was shifted to the Centre programmers.

Mrs. Susan Duffy, who was president of the Society for a seven-year period to 2010, retired from the Board of Directors. Our thanks to Susan for her leadership and enduring efforts on behalf of all members of the Society was recently expressed when she was awarded the Kerrisdale Community Centre 2013 Volunteer of the Year Award.

Achievements over the year were remarkable. Most significantly, the staff in the seniors' kitchen served more than 30,000 lunches, averaging more than 100 per day. Many of our senior members have great concern that this service may not continue should the Park Board be successful in terminating the partnership agreement that has been central to the operation of our Centre, and evicting the Society.

The Society made a strong effort during the year to build alliances within the community. As a result, your president meets on a regular basis with the Kerrisdale Business Association. With that group, the Society co-sponsored an evening of entertainment and the movie E.T. in Elm Park. We are also much appreciative of Kerrisdale Lumber (a local lumber yard) and Bean Bros. Coffee, both of which have become valuable business partners.

As a sponsor, the Society has also built a strong relationship with the Kerrisdale Community Garden. This garden, located along the rail tracks at 60th Avenue, has matured into a thriving success. The garden contributes fresh vegetable and herbs to our seniors' kitchen. In addition, Don Munton, a Society Director and Fulbright Scholar, was able to secure a substantial Fulbright grant that was used by the gardeners to add a water collection and distribution system, a large-scale composter, and storage facilities to the garden.

In the spring of 2013, three senior staff members, supported financially by the Society, attended the annual 3-day BC Recreation and Parks Association conference, held in Whistler. One board member was also able to attend. This conference is attended by recreation professionals from across the province and provides great opportunity for participants to learn and network. The board thanks all of those who attended on our behalf for their dedication, and for the excellent summary report that was presented to the Board of Directors following the completion of the conference.

Summer day camps were equally successful in 2013. A Service Canada Grant from the Federal Government helped the Society hire nine camp leaders. Under the direction of Kristi Douglas, and after an extended period of training these leaders delivered graduated level camps for 3.5 - 5 year olds (average 15 participants/week), 6 - 10 year olds (average 50/week), and youth - 11 years plus (average 22/week) over an 8-week period. We are most fortunate that many of our camp leaders have filled this role for more than one summer. These experienced leaders help tremendously in delivery of a high quality, enjoyable camp experience to participants, many of whom come from across the City to enjoy our quality summer camp programs.

The first Zumba party in the Arena was held in the spring of 2013. Participants were both energetic and appreciative; the event has since been repeated, and will likely become a regular special event.

The fitness facilities in the Centre basement continue to be highly popular. The Society still offer the lowest rates in the City for use of fitness equipment. Our centre is also one of the best equipped fitness rooms in the community centre system with many of the exercise machines fitted with video screens. In addition, the room has four centrally mounted television screens. During the year, more than \$40,000 was invested in renewing and upgrading fitness equipment. The Society also installed new cushion-flooring in the free-weight area of the fitness room.

Unfortunately, the Board's Facilities Planning Committee was put on hold mid-way through the year. The Committee was comprised of experienced professionals with solid backgrounds in facility renewal. This team invested years researching options for replacing the aged Centre pool and Kerrisdale arena. Unfortunately, with the breakdown in relations with the Park Board it became clear to the Board that renewal of these aging facilities was not likely in the foreseeable future, and our efforts at identifying options for replacement of the pool, arena, and centre facilities would be fruitless.

In early 2013, the Program Committee completed a detailed analysis of the wide variety of programs offered at the Centre, and space availability for new programming. On many days of the week, there is little or no unused space available; on Sundays, there is room for growth and we continue to schedule suitable programs on this day. As an outcome of this work, it became apparent that programs focusing on arts and culture comprise a significant part of the offerings at the Centre. To reflect this aspect of our operations, the front cover of our program brochure was reformatted, and the name of the brochure was changed from "Recreation Guide" to "Arts and Recreation Guide".

As mentioned at the beginning of this report, the Society, along with our counterparts from across the City have been in discussion with the Park Board working towards the goal of developing a new Joint Operating Agreement. In the fall of 2012, the Park Board approached the community centre associations with a non-negotiable ("take it or leave it") model for a new relationship. This model was rejected by our Society, and by those of several other community centres. On January 29, 2013 the Society held two well-attended public meetings to discuss the Park Board offer. On the same evening, Killarney Community Association held a similar meeting. The resulting public outcry over the Park Board's efforts to take over control of community centre programming and revenues drove the Park Board to call a public meeting. This meeting on February 4th (and 5th) resulted in a Park Board motion to proceed with their concept of a revised operating agreement.

Our Society, along with several other associations, rejected the offer to negotiate for a number of reasons. The Park Board did, however, meet with a group of community centres associations during the spring of 2013. In June, the Park Board announced an interim agreement, loosely defined as the "OneCard Proposal". On analysis, it was apparent that this proposal was just another approach to take control of revenues, and

our Society rejected it. In August, our Society (and its partners), filed a lawsuit against the Park Board for violations of the Joint Operating Agreement, together with a request for an injunction to stop the introduction of the OneCard at our centre. A week later, the Park Board issued a notice terminating the Joint Operating Agreement and evicting the Society from the centre, effective December 31, 2013.

Subsequent court proceedings have allowed our Society to continue offering programs and services at the Kerrisdale Community Centre. To date, the Park Board has rejected our offers to discuss differences and to work towards a fair and equitable renewal of the Joint Operating Agreement.

In closing, my thanks go to the members of the Society for allowing me the opportunity to work with other members of the Board of Directors, a great community centre staff, and of course our many volunteers.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Lockhart, President

January 2014

ARENA AND POOL COMMITTEE REPORT

2012- 2013

The committee's goal this year was to collaborate with the programmers to ensure smooth operation of the facilities of the pool and arena at Kerrisdale as well as the outdoor pool at Maple Grove Park. Three objectives for 2013-14 were agreed upon:

1. Marketing initiatives will be reviewed on a continuing basis.
2. Communication of activities and events at the arena and pools should continue to be promoted by social media such as Twitter and Facebook.
3. Activities – the committee will work with staff to build a strong relationship of support for the programming.

At the **Maple Grove Pool**, two signs were purchased from A-Z banners to advertise the *Music in the Park* on Friday evenings in July. These signs are 3 feet by 5 feet and are hung from the fence at Maple Grove Park. The attendance was 35,000 over the summer pool opening dates, an increase from the prior year.

Maple Grove Day on Sunday, July 14th was a success as the weather cooperated and attendance was higher than in previous years. At Maple Grove Pool these recommendations were noted in a report to the Parks Board: need shade trees planted, need to install a sprinkler system for the grass, and plan for upgrades-new washrooms, change rooms and entrance. The current setup is not designed for the number of people who use the facility.

Kerrisdale Pool-there was discussion about the timing of the pool shutdown at Kerrisdale but consensus was that the usual time at the end of August was preferred as Maple Grove pool is open, and it would have less impact on lessons and water returning to a reasonable temperature than a winter closure. During the shutdown, the bottom of the Kerrisdale Pool was painted. An exhaust fan which will be more energy efficient was replaced. Also wallet lockers were placed on the wall at the pool deck.

New purchases included a spinal board, aquafit mat, water buoyancy belts, and personal floatation devices. A pool 'cover blanket' was discussed but it would not be practical as it would be very large, heavy for staff to move, and there was no storage place on the deck so it could become a safety issue on the deck at Kerrisdale. There were some staffing changes: Jennifer Takai joined Pamela Andrews in the programmer position with the seniors at Kerrisdale. A pool programmer position was posted and a strong candidate was chosen, but as this was a 6 month posting, he applied for and left for a permanent position at another pool in Vancouver. **Denise Yeh** was welcomed back in the programmer position.

Arena successes include the popular *Play Palace* and birthday parties which provide revenue to the Kerrisdale Community Centre. Also rentals of the Arena continue when the ice is removed, for roller girls, Zumba Party, and Antiques Fair. An arrangement for the Home and Garden Show to be held at Kitsilano Arena means that the Play Palace has a continuous opening once it is installed in April. The timing saves on the wear and tear of setting the equipment up then dismantling it for the H and G Show, then reinstalling all the equipment again. Fees for admission, socks, and birthday parties were increased, the first increase in several years.

Grant Matsuda reported that signage was improved throughout the Play Palace to educate customers on various aspects of the service and expectations. Recommendations for the 2014 season at the Play Palace are: purchase more trifold mats, consult with BCSA to identify areas of safety improvement, consider scheduling Toddlers Only time one hour earlier on Mondays to align the age groupings through the week, increase advertising to day camps and schools, research into accessing other marketing avenues to promote public and private birthday parties.

Skating lessons- Paul Biln recommended a 10 week schedule in the fall and winter seasons which reduces expenses with only one registration time in each season, one data entry period and one lesson schedule sheet for each lesson block. The committee accepted this recommendation. A *Christmas skate* was held at the Kerrisdale arena. Many thanks to each of the programmers for continued management of the Pools and Arena. Many seasonal special events were arranged and enjoyed by the patrons. Kudos to each of the programmers for their ongoing efforts to ensure the facilities provides a healthy venue for lessons, rentals and leisure activities.

Committee: Barb Mikulec, Onno Bakhoven, Colin Booth, Fred Jay, Don Munton.

BUILDING & MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

2012 – 2013

Members: Vincent Law (Chair) Colin Booth

Staff Liaison: Tony Wong

As the arrangement between the Parks Board and Kerrisdale Community Centre was in limbo this past year there was unfortunately less commitment on both parties to allocate funds to the wellbeing of the buildings.

The following tasks are underway/ completed:

- New heating system in the seniors' kitchen.
- Heating system in the kitchen adjusted.
- A new back screen door will be installed in the kitchen (after the pavement is re-profiled)
- Seniors' building is to be re-roofed in the spring 2014. Bids are presently being obtained for this work.
- Replacement of ceiling tiles and light covers in the kitchen.
- In the gardens the older and larger plantings are to be removed and replaced with small easy to manage plants.

Thank-you to the staff, Tony and Colin for their hard work, dedication and contributions in keeping the building in good working order.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vincent Law

January 2014

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

2012 -2013

Active Members:

Keiko Honda – Chair
Donald Wong

Colin Booth

The Kerrisdale Community Engagement Committee (CEC) is a committee appointed by and reporting to the Board of Directors of the Kerrisdale Community Centre Society (KCCS).

The CEC began in May 2011 and its task in 2013 was 2-fold:

- 1) To continue developing web-based communication tools to identify and engage groups/individuals who may impact the development of art & culture, recreation, and healthy living development in the community
- 2) To continue developing periodic face-to-face community dialogue on issues of public interest/concern and invite public participation. Since January 2012, the CEC, in conjunction with UBC Faculty of Art Interns, other community volunteers and KCC liaison staff, has developed and produced the monthly e-magazine and the Kerrisdale Playbook (www.kccplaybook.org). Since the initial launch, all 20 issues of The Kerrisdale Playbook featured inspiring local individuals of different cultural backgrounds and disciplines sharing their passion and interests or common ground. The e-magazine has been well-received by the Kerrisdale community. In addition, the CEC launched a new public dialogue series, the “Crossroad Café” from January 2013, inviting authoritative speakers from local communities to lead a public discussion on topics of interests to members of the community. The administration of “Crossroad Café” has been moved to Program committee since the fall 2013.

Other noteworthy community connections from 2013 include the 2nd Kerrisdale Community Celebration on September 6th 2013, organized by the CEC in conjunction with Kerrisdale Business Association’s Movie Night event. A dozen of Kerrisdale local businesses participated in in-kind sponsorship. We estimated about 200 people attended the event.

The CEC continues to connect with the University of British Columbia (UBC) to support its Health Mentor program and hire a student intern from the Faculty of Arts to help with writing and editing of the Kerrisdale Playbook.

Respectfully submitted,
Keiko Honda, Chair

January 2013

PROGRAM COMMITTEE'S REPORT

2012 – 2013

Active Members:

Keiko Honda – Co-Chair
Barb Mikulec
Don Munton
Robert Lockhart

Fred Jay – Co-Chair
David Eaton
Jim Hall
Ron Stromberg

Kristi Douglas – staff liaison

Jessica Yee – staff liaison

The Program Committee meets monthly on the first Wednesday, unless otherwise noted. The board members and staff work collaboratively to guide programs and events. The staff members are invaluable in ensuring the programs and their instructors are meeting the requirements of the membership.

Our structure includes 'monthly focus' discussions on specific topics including: Program Brochure, Promotions and Marketing-social media, Special Events, Budget, Arena Skating and Play Palace, Adult Programs, Youth Programs, Children and Preschool, Exercise Room and Aerobics, Martial Arts, and Registration procedure.

Our programmers arrange for an overview of each program topic and answer any questions. We also monitor programs of highest and lowest registration, also patron surveys at Maple Grove Pool and at Kerrisdale Community Centre. Comment cards on programs, facilities and instructors are reviewed by staff.

Accomplishments and initiatives during 2013 include:

- Youth Committee establishment
- Creative Artist Series completion
- Crossroad Café Series continuation for community Engagement
- Chinese New Year Celebration on Feb 15th
- Zumba party on Sep 6th
- Continuing dialogue with Musqueam Band leaders
- Successful Summer 2013 day camp season
- Completion of Neighbourhood Matching Fund Mural Project – Nov. 2012
- Elm Park Fieldhouse League – started fall 2012.

Finally, in early 2013, the Program Committee completed a detailed analysis of the wide variety of programs offered at the Centre. As an outcome of this work it became

apparent that a significant number of programs focusing on arts and culture are offered. To reflect this aspect of our operations, the front cover of our program brochure was reformatted, and the name of the brochure was changed from “Recreation Guide” to “Arts and Recreation Guide”.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keiko Honda, Chair

January 2014

RENTALS COMMITTEE

2012 – 2013

Active Members:

Onno Bakhoven (Chair)

Colin Booth

Kathleen Bigsby

Staff Liaison:

Susan Mele

The committee met in September 2012 and April 2013. Rental rates were adjusted in September. Total revenue from room rentals were about the same as those collected in the previous year. Room rentals provide a small but steady source of income for the Society.

Respectfully submitted,

Onno Bakhoven, Chair

January 2014

SENIORS' COUNCIL REPORT

2012 - 2013

Following the 2012 Christmas and New Year's holidays, classes resumed as usual. One of our staff had been on a visit to Laos and gave a lecture on her experiences on her walking tour which was entertaining and instructive. A visit by one group to a Buddhist temple was also enjoyed by the visitors but the highlight in January was the Robbie Burns Lunch. It was enjoyed by all who attended, drawing a full house.

February brought an interesting trip to Science World, and we also celebrated Chinese New Year in style with a Chinese dance presentation. We celebrated Valentine's Day with a special lunch.

March also brought a special lunch, this time for St Patrick's Day and the Brock House Band entertained us with lots of Irish music.

The Volunteer's Tea was the prime event in April and it was nice to meet the people who arrange all these different events and programs.

Mother's Day lunch was a big event in May and we had a good turnout to enjoy a program put on by our Senior Singers. We also enjoyed a concert of hit music put on by the Vaudevillians from Broadway's 1930's programs. No lack of music for us!

July 1st is of course the occasion of raising a new flag and acknowledging Canada Day, and we were lucky with the fine weather and the presence of members of the Lower Mainland Colour Party from the Royal Canadian Legion. This was followed by a fine concert by the Senior Singers who did their usual fine job.

We had some new entertainers at our Thursday afternoon socials in July and "Just the Two of Us" were very entertaining, and went over well. We have many enthusiastic dancers amongst our members and the floor was crowded with people really enjoying the music, and having a good time.

Again in August our Thursday socials were well attended and enjoyed by all, with a fine pianist who also sings well.

September was a very busy month with visits arranged to different locations. Many members love to see different parts of B. C. and we try to offer a variety of trips every month. We also hosted the 90's tea, always a popular event.

Thanksgiving lunch in October had full attendance and entertainment from a harpist. The music was different but the dancers liked the change and floor was always full. The last week brought our yearly fashion show and as usual it was a great success with many beautiful outfits being shown.

November brought Remembrance Day with a Special lunch and a variety of dance bands as well as a performance of piano and songs from Lorraine Smith who always pleases her audience. There was also an afternoon presentation of "The Sound of Music" which was well attended.

December started off with Brunch with Santa and we were well into the Christmas spirit with our decorated tree and evidence of the holiday everywhere you looked.

I hope all our members had a good holiday season and I wish all of you the best in the New Year.

I am retiring from my duties as of the end of the year. I have enjoyed all that I have been involved in at the Senior's Centre and will miss all of you when I leave in January—but I won't lose touch and it goes without saying the seniors at Kerrisdale have been a large part of my life—almost twenty years. But I have to retire because of my health and disability, but nothing will rob me of all my happy memories I have of the last twenty years.

Please continue to enjoy the Seniors' section—it has served me well for the last twenty years of my life and I leave with some regrets but a lot of happy memories.

Good fortune to all of you and keep on enjoying all the benefits offered by the Kerrisdale Seniors. Enjoy your years, they go very fast! Best of luck to all of you.

Irene Ronnie

January 2014

GARDEN COMMITTEE REPORT

2012 – 2013

Active Members:

Alison Verghese (Chair)

Ron Stromberg

Staff Liaison:

Monica Tang

The Garden Committee is a committee appointed by the Kerrisdale Community Centre Society (KCCS). It operates in accordance with the mission, goals, policies and strategies of the Society.

As an "ad hoc" committee KCCS continues to liaise with Kerrisdale Community Garden (KCG) founder and member, Monica Tang and lend ongoing support and publicity for the group's activities. There were two major funding projects that were completed in 2013:

1. The Fulbright Canada-RBC Eco-Leadership Program: \$3,200 awarded to Fulbright Scholar, Don Munton (see attached report).
 - KCG members built a three-stage compost system onsite and created a rainwater collection system.
2. Vancouver Foundation-Neighbourhood Small Grants Program: \$500 awarded to KCG member Roberta Skye.
 - KCG members hosted a Community Garden Party on Saturday, August 24, 2013 from 1-5pm, on location at Angus Drive & 60th Avenue

KCCS Garden Committee worked in collaboration with KCC Staff to support this inaugural community event by providing equipment and transportation for senior citizens to and from the venue. A two part video was produced by Alison Verghese to "Show n' Tell" Kerrisdale Community Gardeners on YouTube: [Part I] http://youtu.be/CaVf02x_JQk and [Part II] <http://youtu.be/HcosjJh0LKE>

To highlight the continuing success of KCG, the story "The Stellar Rise of the Kerrisdale Community Garden" written by resident gardener, Hazel Choy was featured in the Kerrisdale Playbook at <http://www.kccplaybook.org/> [visit e-gallery: July]

Respectfully submitted

Alison Verghese, Chair

January 2014



Final Report

**To Fulbright Foundation Canada
From Kerrisdale Community Garden
August 26, 2013**

Summary

The Kerrisdale Community Garden (KCG) is dedicated to promoting community, providing food security, and modeling sustainable urban agriculture practices. KCG brings together 28 families and a local non-profit organization in a cooperative effort to grow food in one of Canada's major urban centres (Vancouver, BC). KCG members range from master to novice, from senior to child, and come from all walks of life. KCG, through its member Don Munton, was successful in securing a grant from the Fulbright Foundation to realize two priority projects; a composting system and a rainwater collection system.

Introduction

KCG has all basic groundwork in place to operate but this was the year to raise the bar and build valuable infrastructure that would employ the latest in sustainable gardening practices, exhibit leadership in one of our city's priority initiatives, and make the most of our climate which permits year-round food production.

The first project was to build a three stage compost system onsite that would have enough capacity to handle the quantity of plant material produced by 5000 sq. ft. of communal garden space. This would provide the garden with the ability to produce its own nutrient rich compost, while at the same time managing plant material that has to be removed from the garden on an ongoing basis.

A team of garden members was assembled, an appropriate site in the garden was chosen and a design plan was chosen using plans provided by Metro Vancouver (<http://www.metrovancouver.org/about/publications/Publications/CompostBinConstructionPlan-ThreeBin.pdf>). Materials were purchased through Kerrisdale Lumber (a local lumber yard) who has become a valuable community business partner, providing all materials required at cost. Over the summer, the composter was built under the cover of a garden member's carport, and then transported to the site for installation and finishing touches. This project was successfully completed and rather pleasantly under budget largely due to the favourable pricing received on materials. Please see photos 1A (before) and 1B (after) for visuals of the completed composter.

The second project was to create a rainwater collection system that would make the most of our temperate rainforest geography, reduce our dependence on potable tap water, and promote wise use of a precious resource.

A second team of garden members surveyed the north and south section of the garden and came up with a plan for collecting water by leveraging the roof of the already existing garden shed. They purchased freestanding water barrels and materials to create a gutter system on the shed roof to capture rain water and direct it into the barrels for storage. Please see photos 2A (shed gutters) and 2B (water barrel) for visuals of this project.

At this point the team realized that the collection of the water was not going to be to helpful for the entire garden without a system to dispense this resource, and so Don was back in contact with Fulbright to ask whether we could expand our mandate to include water dispersal as well as collection. Having received a favourable response, the team continued their work by purchasing and installing a system of hoses throughout the garden to link all areas with a source of water. Please see photo 2C for a visual of the hose system that was built to service the garden.

We are pleased to report that we have come in well under our projected budget and are therefore able to return funds to Fulbright.

We would also like to extend our deep thanks and gratitude to the Fulbright Foundation for your part in enabling KCG to promote community, increase food security, and model sustainable urban agriculture practices for other community gardens to follow.

Best wishes,

Monica Tang, Kerrisdale Community Garden Coordinator
Don Munton, Fulbright Scholar, Garden Member

Attachments:

Financial statement

Reimbursement cheque

A bouquet of thanks for your support of our projects!



Photo 1A
The Old Composter (Before)



Photo 1B
The New Composter (After)



Photo 2A
Water collecting gutter system



Photo 2B
Water Barrel



Photo 2C
Water distribution system

KCCS JOINT OPERATING AGREEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT 2012-13

The past year has arguably been the most tumultuous since the Kerrisdale Community Centre (KCC) opened six decades ago. Certainly the Kerrisdale Community Centre Society (KCCS) has never faced a challenge to its operations, and indeed to its very existence, of the sort it faced in 2013 after the Vancouver Park Board announced its plan to take over community centre operations. (These events are summarized in the chronology that is an appendix to the package of reports prepared for the February 2014 Annual General Meeting.)

The KCCS Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) Committee began meeting in March 2013 after the KCCS Board decided not to enter into negotiations on a new JOA in line with an October 2012 Park Board plan. The basic purpose of the JOA Committee was to “secure and maintain a joint operating agreement between the KCCS and the Vancouver Park Board that furthers the goals of the Society and best serves the Kerrisdale community.” The committee’s specific objectives can be summarized as follows:

1. to monitor JOA developments and review JOAs between other community centre societies and the Park Board;
2. to liaise with other community centres with respect to the JOAs;
3. to discuss proposed changes to the existing Kerrisdale JOA; and
4. to recommend changes and revisions to the JOA that serves the interests of the Kerrisdale community and furthers the partnership between the KCCS and the Park Board.

The committee initially focused on the first three of the above objectives. It examined particularly the current KCCS JOA (from 1979); the more recent (2007) West End Community Centre JOA, and amendments proposed and discussed over the past decade. Committee members met often with representatives of other centres and had numerous discussions, many of them under the auspices of the “G6” – the group of six community centre associations that were opposed to the Park Board’s plan to take over the community centre programs and revenues.

After Kerrisdale and the other five associations decided to file a law suit against the Park Board in BC Supreme Court, and the Park Board then responded with a termination notice to the associations, the KCCS JOA Committee suspended its work on changes to the JOA. Members of the KCCS JOA Committee individually prepared personal affidavits and assisted other G6 members in drafting affidavits to provide evidence in support of these court proceedings.

Future JOA Committee Activities

The law suit by the six community centres against the Park Board is ongoing. If it appears that the parties might eventually begin talks on a new JOA, the KCCS JOA Committee could resume its activities in 2014, perhaps in cooperation with other G6 associations. The Committee may thus pursue its goal of recommending JOA changes to the KCCS Board of Directors and liaising with other community centre associations on a new, amended, operating agreement with the Park Board that will best serve both the community centres and the citizens of Vancouver.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Munton, Chair, KCCS JOA Committee

January 2014

RECREATION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

2012/2013

Well it has been an interesting year. In light of the ongoing interactions, relating to first the negotiations of a new JOA and then legal proceedings between the Park Board and the Kerrisdale Community Centre Society, our complex had another productive year.

At the pool, we survived one of the colder winters where temperatures hovered at -2 for about 3 weeks. Patrons were patient as we tried to fight the challenge of keeping an old outdoor pool warm during this cold snap. Denise Yeh acted as pool programmer for part of the year until Jennifer Takai returned to that role. Andy Teoh was also with us for a short period. Jennifer moved into a job share in the seniors' centre. Denise took on the leadership role.

The summer brought a busy season to Maple Grove Pool and our play palace provided a space to play and plan birthday parties in.

Our centre received a few awards by readers of the Vancouver Courier newspaper; we were named best fitness facility and community centre on the west side. Thanks to our members for recognizing and acknowledging our success with these honours.

New initiatives that took place within our complex were the introduction of a food scraps recycling program and the OneCard that replaced existing Park Board products.

We also hosted the provincial elections by providing space for voter registration, advance and Election Day polling stations.

Thanks to the society for supporting staff in attending the BCRPA conference held in Whistler. The staff team appreciates the on-going support we receive from the society in all aspects of our operation.

Finally I would like to thank the staff and volunteers whose hard work makes our centre one of the most successful in the city.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Mele

January 2014

CENTRE PROGRAMMERS' REPORT

2012-2013

This has been a very busy and eventful year in the community centre full of special projects and new programs and events. This year, we were so pleased to hear that the readers of the Vancouver Courier voted Kerrisdale Community Centre as one of the Stars of Vancouver: #1 Community Centre on the Westside and #1 Fitness Centre on the Westside!

This year, consistency was maintained in staffing at the main centre. Kristi Douglas remained the Programmer II responsible for preschool, children and youth programs and Jessica Yee remained the Programmer II responsible for adult programs, martial arts and the exercise room. Erik Price continued with the Program Assistant III responsibilities: special events, volunteers, the birthday party/mini play palace program and assisting programmers with general tasks.

The fall 2012 season was very busy with many special events around the Centre such as: our annual Halloween Carnival, Breakfast with Santa, Winter Break Daycamps, as well as other seasonal programs. These events were well attended and we look forward to offering more family-friendly events in the coming year for our patrons.

In November 2012 we completed the Kerrisdale Community Centre Mural Project done in partnership with the KCCS and the Vancouver Park Board Neighbourhood Matching Fund. A visual artist, Steve Stanczyk was selected to work on our mural project with community volunteers. After a series of workshops, the concept of the mural was developed and a dedicated group of volunteers painted the mural with Steve. Over 100 people came together to celebrate the success of the project at an unveiling in our main centre lobby followed by a reception.

To kick off the New Year, we offered a new promo called the Fitness Sampler to encourage adults to try out programs they have never tried before. They paid one small price of \$29 and got to try out seven different health and fitness classes. Over twenty people took advantage of the offer.

In April and September of 2013, we held two Zumba Parties at the Kerrisdale Arena, where we had two hours of non-stop Zumba fun with four different instructors teaching fifteen minutes at a time. The events were a big hit. We had between 70-100 people at each event.

This year, the KCCS also supported the artist field house studio residencies program in partnership with the Vancouver Park Board. Artist Germaine Koh will be using the field house at Elm Park until 2015 to complete both her personal projects as well as a home base for the community-based project: League. League is open to all community members and encourages people to gather at Elm Park to participate in sports and games. Germaine has

also participated with Kerrisdale Community Centre to provide artist support to projects such as: Vancouver Draw Down and various special events.

This year, we had four long-time Kerrisdale instructors retire from teaching: Lorraine Smith (ballet), Julie Northey (children's art), Catherine Robertson (adult art) and Kate Mitchell (preschool variety programs). We wish them the best on their future endeavours and thank them for their dedication to our community!

The Exercise Room and Core and Stretch Room continued to be well utilized this year. With the purchase of the new equipment in fall 2012, we also did some layout adjustments in the exercise room. The users were a bit hesitant of the change however after asking for feedback and making minor adjustments, patrons were pleased with the new layout. We have made good use of a lot of unused space in the room.

This year we continued to expand our course offerings and added a variety of new programs for all age groups including:

Preschool/Children/Youth: more timeslots for popular programs such as pottery, ballet and floor hockey, Before Bed Family Yoga and Kids Yoga, Indoor Tennis, Musical Theatre, Afternoon Mini Mixer, Sportsarama, Multi-Sport Camp and more Red Cross Babysitting sessions added on weekends

Adults: expansion of the yoga programs: (Yoga4Stiff Guys, Gentle Yoga, Restorative Yoga, Kundalini Yoga, Therapeutic Yoga), All Dance Exercise, Discovering France, Tai Chi, Adult Ballet Camp and ESL Camps

In the summer of 2013, we received the Canada Summer Jobs Grant and were pleased to receive funding towards nine of our twelve day camp staff. Aileen Neale was hired as Summer Safaris Day Camp Manager and oversaw two successful camps: Summer Safaris for 6-10 years and Youth Camp for 11-16 years. Campers went on out-trips to various venues around the Lower Mainland and participated in crafts, games, swimming and other activities each day. This year we also ran a Mini Safaris preschool day camp for 3.5-5 years and an Afternoon Mini Mixer program with two leaders which were both very successful.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors and the members of the Program Committee for their ongoing support throughout this busy year. We would also like to thank the staff, volunteers and hundreds of dedicated instructors, who continue to make Kerrisdale one of the most exceptional community centres in Vancouver.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Douglas & Jessica Yee, Recreation Programmers

January 2014

KERRISDALE ARENA PROGRAMMER'S REPORT

2012 - 2013

ICE RINK

Overall rink revenues for fall 2012 and winter 2013 took an unexpected downturn at Kerrisdale and most other rinks in the city compared to last year. However, Hillcrest and Killarney Rinks both seemed to have been relatively unaffected.

Participation at Kerrisdale Arena for Society registered programs were slightly down compared to last year. Fall 2011/winter 2012 total enrolment was 1451, while fall 2012/winter 2013 was 1374 – a difference of 77. The breakdown is as follows:

- Skate Lesson Classes: 940
- Private Lessons: 313
- Senior Power Skating: 60
- Junior Power Skating: 47
- Birthday Parties: 14

Other revenue included Kerrisdale Community Centre Society invoicing Vancouver Thunderbird Minor Hockey \$2,553.75 for centre memberships.

The rink committee worked very hard in the spring and summer by taking steps to minimize contributing factors. For example:

- Continuing the normal marketing practices of advertising lessons via arena reader board, rec guide, sign/posters in the arena and website.
- Starting skate lessons and public skate sessions in October
- Wristbands to be worn for public skate sessions
- Starting with one less instructor before registration; adding extra staff where necessary.

DRY FLOOR

For a number of years we have welcomed three popular weekend events in April soon after the ice is removed. Terminal City Roller Girls have rented the arena regularly on the first weekend, The Antiques Fair is hosted on the second weekend and the Home & Garden Show arrives for the fourth weekend. For the past several years, the Play Palace is set up after the Antiques Fair for approximately 10 days of public service and then is packed up and stored to accommodate the Home & Garden Show. Immediately after the H&G Show on Sunday, the Play Palace is again pulled out of storage and set up for the remaining spring and summer season. Because of the number of set ups and tear downs in addition to significant labour costs, we met with the organizer of the Home & Garden Show to reach a compromise. It was suggested by the organizer to move to Kitsilano Rink in April during their dry floor season. As a result, a win- win solution was created as their event moves to

an ideal location in the Kitsilano neighborhood on the second weekend of April – a weekend frequently requested by the H&G Show. At the same time, the Play Palace does not suffer service interruption in April, reduces wear and tear on equipment, lowers staff expenses and enhances the Kerrisdale Days event with a playground destination for kids on that weekend.

Below are events the Kerrisdale Arena hosted and/or facilitated in 2013:

April 6	Kerrisdale Fitness Zumba Party
April 8-11	Terminal City Roller Girls practice
April 12-14	Antiques Fair
April 26-28	Home & Garden Show
April 27	Kerrisdale Days Parade starting location
May 26	Running Room's Shaughnessy 8K Run/ 5K Walk

Submitted by

Grant Matsuda
Recreation Programmer, Regional Rinks

January 2014

KERRISDALE POOL REPORT

2012 - 2013

STAFFING

We had some staff changes in the past year. Pam Andrews moved into the Seniors' Centre, while, Denise Yeh, our full-time Swimming Instructor Attendant, oversaw the pool administration from September to December, 2012. Jen Takai returned part-time in February from her sick leave until transferring to the Seniors' Centre in July 2013. Andy Teoh was the successful candidate for the temporary fulltime programmer position.

STAFF TRAINING

We held three staff training sessions in September 2012, January and June 2013 focusing on customer service and swimming lesson delivery.

PROGRAMS

Swimming lessons continue to be a popular program at Kerrisdale Pool as well as the Aquafit. Special events held are Valentine's Tea, Spring Fling, Maple Grove Day, Halloween Swim, Reindeer Swim and Christmas Potluck. The social events were well attended; however, the public swim events have decreased attendance since customers were drawn to the amenities at Hillcrest Pool.

MAINTENANCE

Our annual maintenance was August 26 to September 22. The following is a list of the maintenance work done during the shut-down:

- 1) Electrical: general sweep and re-energize outlets in the women's change room.
- 2) Plumbing: replace defective shower actuator push buttons
- 3) Structure: repair and re-grout tiles all over
- 4) Carpentry: general sweep of door hardware
- 5) Painting: repaint pool tank and lane liners, deck markings, men's change room entrance door; hardware replaced
- 6) A more energy efficient exhausted fan was installed.

EQUIPMENT

We are very appreciative of the Boards generous support of the pool. The Board funds our special events, staff training costs and equipment needs. Specifically, we were able to purchase seasonal decorations, an aquafit mat, water buoyancy belts, and personal floatation devices

MAPLE GROVE POOL

The attendance this year was 35,073 in total, which increased by approximately 5,000 from last year. The weather in late June was initially cool but the month of July was consistently hot and sunny, which in turn brought many patrons to use both the facility and concession. The weather cooled down during August, which resulted in a mix of busy and quiet days, but it was a very successful summer at Maple Grove.

Maple Grove day was a success and the weather played a major factor on attendance this year. Because it was the first sunny Maple Grove Day in 3 years, over 300 patrons came out for the event. Eight youth volunteers from the neighbourhood worked for five hours. They provided balloon animals, face painting scavenger hunts that was appreciated by the crowd and once again the cotton candy was a big success. The local fire detachment also came with their fire truck and we saw many excited young children get the opportunity to sit in the truck and interact with the firefighters! The Kerrisdale Community Centre Society sponsored to hire a band to play live music, which was enjoyed by everyone. A big thank-you to the Kerrisdale Community Centre Society for sponsoring this event and to Brian Scherb for organizing the event, Tony Wong for providing the supplies, and Erik Price for organizing the volunteers.

All of the Music at the Park performances went ahead as scheduled. The additional banners were helpful as attendance increased over the weeks and by the last two performances, there were close to 100 people and families that came to the park specifically to listen to the bands. We had many of the same performers who requested to come back because they enjoyed performing at the park; we also had a new performer this year that was well received. The musical styles varied from jazz, to acoustic music.

Each year, the following recommendations are put forward:

- a. Plant new shade trees so they are mature by the time the current ones need to be taken down.
- b. Install a sprinkler system for the grass. One of the major features to Maple Grove is the park like seating on the grass. A plan for maintenance needs to be addressed.
- c. Plan for new washrooms, change rooms, and entrance. The current set-up is not designed for the number of people who use the facility. People often comment that the facilities are a reason they do not like going to Maple Grove.

CONCLUSION

We would like to thank the Board for their ongoing and continued support. We would like to thank the pool committee for their commitment and effort in making the pool an integral part of the Community Centre. Thank you to the staff team for all the support at the pool.

We have a great team of lifeguards, SIA's, front office staff and maintenance staff. And thank you to Tony Wong who continues to work above and beyond his job to keep the pool operational.

We look forward to 2014!

Respectfully submitted by,

Denise Yeh

January 2014

SENIORS' CENTRE PROGRAMMER'S REPORT

2012/2013

The Seniors' Centre had a busy year as usual. This past year we had 3018 members 55 years and older. We continue to offer a diverse selection of courses and activities. We will highlight some of them in this report.

On our mini- bus tours we visited Minter Gardens before they closed their doors forever! We also went to Whistler, the Sunshine Coast, the Fort Langley Cranberry Festival and the West Coast Christmas Marketplace in Abbotsford. We look forward to many more bus trips in 2014!

We celebrated at our 90's tea with 80 guests in attendance. The library did a wonderful talk on Vancouver's history with some of the seniors giving "first hand" accounts of the places that were talked about.

This year at our annual Health Fair, we had 20 local agencies and businesses providing information on their services. The event was well attended and many excellent door prizes (provided by the participating businesses) were won by our seniors.

In September we hosted the "San Francisco Follies". The group was sponsored by a centre member who covered transportation and lodging costs for the troupe in exchange for a free performance at our centre. We have over 100 in attendance for this variety show that included many musical numbers performed by dancers and singers (all seniors) as well as a magic show.

New trends in the Seniors' Centre have been paper folding, hearing seminars and safety checks for scooters and wheelchairs.

Our lunch program provides a place for seniors to gather six days a week and also provides a nutritious lunch for up to 110 seniors a day.

We have to thank the many wonderful volunteers! The Seniors' Centre wouldn't be as successful as it is if not for all the volunteers who spend so much time and energy here. From the members of the Seniors' Council to those who raise funds for our centre their work is appreciated.

Thank you to all the front line and kitchen staff for another great year. We would also like to thank Susan Mele for her continued support and guidance that she has provided to us this past year.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Pam Andrews and Jennifer Takai

January 2014

IN B.C. SUPREME COURT: COMMUNITY CENTRES & THE VANCOUVER PARK BOARD 2012-13

A Chronology Prepared for the Kerrisdale Community Centre Society Annual General Meeting, February 2014

In late 2012, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation issued a “non-negotiable” proposal to change radically the city’s community centre system. Essentially, the Park Board announced it would take control of individual community centre programs and take revenues away from the local, volunteer associations that have run the centres since their inception.

On 29 January 2013, Park Board General Manager Malcolm Bromley presented his plan to a tumultuous public meeting at the Kerrisdale Community Centre. The vice-president of the Kerrisdale Community Centre Society (KCCS), Robert Lockhart, spoke against the plan, and meeting participants made clear their overwhelming opposition to a Park Board takeover of their centre. Similar opposition was evident at public meetings in other centres.

The KCCS subsequently joined five other community centre associations – Hastings, Kensington, Killarney, Riley Park-Hillcrest and Sunset – in opposing the Park Board plan (thus forming the so-called “G6”). Other community centres opted to enter formal negotiations with the Park Board. Those negotiations were originally scheduled to last two or three months, then to finish by September 2013 and most recently to wrap up by end December. To date, no agreement has been reached.

Legal Action against Park Board Actions

In June 2013 the Park Board unveiled its “OneCard” for use at city recreation facilities. The OneCard incorporated two existing passes currently used at city pools and rinks. The Park Board also indicated the new card would apply to all community centre association-run programs and would make existing centre memberships redundant.

In July, the six associations each declined Park Board General Manager Malcolm Bromley’s invitation to adopt the OneCard. The associations expressed concerns that the way in which the Park Board was developing the OneCard would, in effect, give the Park Board control over centre decision-making and over centre revenues. Critics argued the card would lead to the demise of the local, volunteer associations and of Vancouver’s system of community-run centres.

The Park Board then declared that the OneCard would be adopted city-wide as of September 1, 2013, regardless of the views of individual centres or associations.

In response to this action, the six associations filed a law suit against the Park Board in BC Supreme Court in August 2013. The associations sought both injunctive relief to halt the forced implementation of the OneCard and potential damages for longstanding, alleged

violations of their JOAs. The six associations had been trying through meetings to remedy a long list of alleged breaches by the Park Board of the JOA. These efforts had failed due to the Park Board's unwillingness to recognize and resolve breaches. Days after the G6 filed their law suit, Mr. Bromley sent each of the six associations a letter invoking the termination clause in their JOAs. This unprecedented action was intended to evict them from their centres as of December 31, 2013.

Court Processes, Fall 2013

The six associations subsequently appeared jointly in court four times, in September, October, November and December 2013

A two-day hearing in mid-September focused on the six associations' application for an injunction against the imposition of the OneCard. Counsel for the G6 argued the OneCard was a violation of the existing JOAs all associations have with the Park Board. They also argued its implementation would greatly damage the community centre associations, particularly through the loss of their memberships, which are essential to the associations' operation and purpose.

Subsequent to the filing of the G6 law suit, but prior to the September hearing itself, the Park Board quietly dropped its demand that the six associations accept the OneCard by September 1. As a result, the Court declined to grant the September application for an injunction, basically on the grounds that the Park Board was no longer forcing the associations to accept the OneCard, and thus there were insufficient grounds for an injunction.

Through late September and early October, the Park Board began taking various actions toward assuming effective control of community centre programs and decision-making in advance of its own December 31, 2013 termination deadline. The community centre associations went back to court in October seeking an injunction against these actions. The Park Board argued successfully for a delay in the legal proceedings, but the Court ordered the Park Board to refrain from taking external actions toward terminating the six associations' JOAs in the interim.

The Park Board went back to court in November seeking to have the October court order lifted. The Court turned down the Park Board application. The Court also allowed counsel for the six associations to pursue cross-examination of Park Board officials who had provided affidavits. Cross-examinations continued through late November.

The two parties met again in Supreme Court for a five-day hearing, December 9-13, 2013. The six associations were applying for an injunction to prevent the Park Board from terminating their JOAs. Counsel for the six associations argued that the Park Board's termination notice was invalid for a number of reasons. It was explicitly a response to the original lawsuit of the six associations, was issued without cause, and was done in bad faith. Moreover, termination could do irreparable harm to the associations. The six associations' counsel argued further there was a long history of cooperation between the centre associations and the Park Board, and over this period the associations have made significant financial contributions to their centres in equipment and capital investment. This historical

relationship goes beyond the existing JOAs, the G6 counsel said, and represents a partnership or “license” which the Park Board cannot end without due cause.

Court Outcome

On January 17, 2014, the judge for the December hearing granted the injunction requested by the six associations, preventing their termination. Counsel for the Park Board had stated in court in December that, if an injunction against termination were granted, the Park Board would then take no further action to evict the associations, and would leave matters to be determined by an eventual trial on the original G6 law suit. That trial is unlikely to happen for at least a year.

In the meantime, the KCCS and the other five associations involved in the law suit continue to co-manage their centres, to hire instructors, and to plan and offer programs to their members.

In short, the January court decision stopped the Park Board’s termination plans but did not resolve the overall conflict. It returned the situation to the status quo before the Park Board announced it would evict the community centre associations.

Respectfully submitted

Don Munton,
Member, KCCS Board of Directors and
Chair, KCCS JOA Committee

31 January 2014