

Burnaby Connexions

Feature Story 1

Website a new connection for Burnaby Community Connections



Online community now accessible through www.burnabycommunityconnections.com

Just a little over a year ago, during our Annual General Meeting (AGM), we officially revealed our change of name, logo and look, marking a significant chapter in the history of Burnaby Community Connections society. This year's AGM will bring yet another important revelation. Except this time, it's to the world.

On May 22nd, our AGM will open our curtains and showcase our brand new website. With an easy-to-use inter-

face and simple design, this site will provide information in an easily accessible fashion. Throughout the website, images of laughing children with glowing faces as well as warm, tender smiles of elderly individuals give the website a heartbeat, truly reflecting our organization's goal of embracing people of our community. Aside from its simple yet attractive design, the core strings that hold this online community together are the many people-based features of our site.

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

The E-Calendar

The site will include an innovative community e-calendar, where organizations can directly post upcoming open houses, fundraisers, program starts and other events, making this the most comprehensive listing of activities in Burnaby.

Discussion Board

Another exciting feature is the discussion board. We will facilitate community tables where online conversations on community issues such as poverty reduction and health care can take place.

Donating Online

Helping fellow community members has become easier with donating online. Whether you want to make a child's Christmas brighter or you want to provide an opportunity for a young teen to develop leadership skills, our website has the capacity to provide donors the ease and comfort to lend a helping hand.



Community E-Calendar

Finally, for those seeking community services and resources, our publications are available online for download so access to information is never more than a click away.



Community Discussion Board

Executive Director Stephen D'Souza viewed this launch as a huge step forward for Burnaby Community Connections in terms of community inclusion and connection, calling this new site a "community meeting place with the potential to change the way we look at our community and our place in it."

The website is certainly straightforward and simple—for the user. For Lisa Yang, our Marketing and Design Coordinator and also the webmaster, it was far from that. From concept and design starting as early as February of 2007 to the commencement of coding in October, the website greatly evolved to incorporate as much content that is useful to the user as possible, even if it meant countless hours in front of the computer learning complex coding. Lisa fondly reflected on the time spent, "I truly enjoyed this whole process because I learned so much from it."

Following the words that are visible throughout the website, this online community connects people, services and community.

Join us at www.burnabycommunityconnections.com and experience the warmth of your community. ■

Feature Story 2

Summer filled with sunshine and games at Camp Jubilee



The shining sun and the sound of calming waves accompanied by the view of 128 acres of unspoiled evergreen forest is the perfect atmosphere for a child to go camping. The excitement of climbing onto a canoe for the first time, the feeling of nervousness at the sight of the mountain for rock climbing, or the feeling of accomplishment after a spectacular performance on skit night can all contribute to the rich memories of a young child.

"Many of the youth that previously attended our camp's programs return as councillors"

Since its first opening at Indian Arm in 1936, Camp Jubilee has continually welcomed and helped many low-income families bring their kids to enjoy and experience the many activities that Camp Jubilee has to offer. Be it hiking through the unspoiled evergreen forest, climbing up rocks, or kayaking through rapid currents, Camp Jubilee's aim is to develop confidence, abilities, and social and leadership skills in all those who come. Catering to children ranging from ages 7-16, Camp Jubilee offers different programs to meet the varying needs of their young campers.

Dave Duckworth, Camp Director at Camp Jubilee, says that "many of the youth that previously attended our camp's programs return as councillors, using the skills they have developed to inspire the next generation of young campers." He noted that four youths that participated in the previous year's camps returned and are now part of their staff. Furthermore, Dave hopes that this camp is able to provide all children in Burnaby the opportunity to enjoy the high adventure, challenging and fun camps without any financial barriers.

Camp Jubilee works closely with schools, youth groups, organizations and service clubs to help support the families that are financially disadvantaged. Here at Burnaby Community Connections, Camp Jubilee is one of the many camps we collaborate with through our Camping Bureau, subsidizing low-income families so they can send their children to the summer camps of their choice.

If you are interested about the Camping Bureau please contact Burnaby Community Connections at 604-299-5778 ext 28.

For more information about Camp Jubilee, call 604-937-7388. ■

Feature Story 3

Volunteer Driver: Margaret Griffiths



Long-time volunteer driver Margaret Griffiths.

Margaret had always known that she would find a way to give back to her local community in retirement. It was about eight years ago when she retired from a managerial position at Telus and was in search of the right volunteer opportunity for her. She describes becoming involved with Burnaby Seniors Transportation as something that was meant to be.

One morning she simply opened up a local newspaper and saw an advertisement expressing the need for volunteers to drive local seniors to medical-related appointments. She had always enjoyed being in the company of seniors so she immediately knew that it was the opportunity that she had been looking for.

"It's such a wonderful service; the seniors are so pleasant, so you really feel like you're contributing."

Eight years later, Margaret is still an eager volunteer and an advocate for Seniors Transportation. Margaret favours Seniors Transportation as her volunteer organization of choice because of the flexibility it offers. She says, "I am able to choose when I volunteer, so that I can work around the rest of my busy schedule. And I also know that if I'm

not available for a drive one day, [Burnaby Community Connections] will find someone else for the senior".

According to Margaret, one of the benefits to seniors participating in the service is that they become friends with the driver. She emphasizes that for some seniors, driving to a medical appointment with a driver may be the only social contact they have in the day.

"Who knows, I might need the service myself sometime in the future."

When asked about whether Seniors Transportation will remain in her future, she answers: "There's no question about it." She goes on to say, "It's such a wonderful service; the seniors are so pleasant, so you really feel like you're contributing. And who knows, I might need the service myself sometime in the future".

In addition to volunteering for Seniors Transportation, Margaret keeps active by gardening regularly and traveling to destinations such as Chile and Australia. If you are in need of seniors' transportation services, or if you are interested in becoming a Seniors Transportation volunteer driver, please contact Burnaby Community Connections at 604-299-5778 ext 23. ■

Do you have any suggestions, comments or a story you would like to share?

Contact us by email at info@burnabycommunityconnections.com or call us at 604-299-5778 ext. 22.

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