



# Neighbourhood Small Grants



# 2021 Yearbook





# **The Principals of the Neighbourhood Small Grants Program**

## **Everyone has gifts**

The passions, skills and knowledge of local residents are the building blocks of community development.

## **Small is beautiful**

We believe that small scale actions and projects can have far-reaching impact on people and places. No project is too small, and when counted collectively these projects create lasting impact and become a powerful movement of resident-led change.

## **Local is best**

We believe that neighbours know what is best for their communities, so we make sure that decisions about projects are made locally.

## **Where we live matters**

In building community, it is the community that is the expert. Projects are done at the neighbourhood level, and these neighbourhoods are defined by the people who live in them.

## **We learn together**

Building a sense of belonging and creating a sustainable community requires certain skills and resources. We seek to empower residents with decision-making abilities and access to knowledge, resources, and opportunities so that they can effectively act together to achieve collective goals.

## **Everyone is invited**

We are committed to welcoming and listening to all voices in local solution-building, and making opportunities for participation that is accessible and inclusive.

We must be conscious of the barriers to action and supportive of efforts to overcome them. When all voices are heard and all ideas considered, projects will represent and highlight the diversity of each community and residents will form connections with one another regardless of potential boundaries.

**Karen Elliott**

**Mayor | District of Squamish**



It is a great privilege to write this foreword in support of the commemorative 2021 yearbook for the Squamish Community Foundation's Neighbourhood Small Grants. The District of Squamish supports and recognizes the positive impact of this program because of how it builds community at a grassroots level, effectively connecting neighbours around shared experiences and dialogue.

While many things contribute to, and help to build a sense of community, feeling connected to our neighbours is, in my opinion, one of the most important. The onset of the pandemic limited our contact with other people in a way most of us have never experienced. But our citizens rallied and used their creativity and ingenuity to find ways both virtual and in person to avoid social isolation and stay connected. Thankfully, the Neighbourhood Small Grants were there to provide that extra encouragement and support for people to imagine, plan, and deliver amazing projects and events that brought us together over the past year.

I am absolutely indebted to all those who have participated in the Neighbourhood Small Grants program over the years. Whether you organized an event or participated, you can count yourself as a community builder. Your efforts weave a web of connection, belonging, learning and celebration through our community that strengthens our social fabric.

I hope you enjoy the 2021 yearbook and that it inspires your next idea or project. We look forward to supporting our ongoing partnership with the Squamish Community Foundation to ensure the Neighbourhood Small Grants program continues to thrive and make Squamish citizens feel more connected and committed to community with each passing year.

Karen Elliott  
Mayor, District of Squamish

**Suzie Soman**

**Chair | Squamish Community Foundation**



On behalf of the Squamish Community Foundation, we want the community to know we are so pleased to be involved with the Neighborhood Small Grants program.

Nothing says community better than bringing your neighbors together and during this time of Covid-19 we sure needed the connection that grants allowed us to have.

The project leaders brought amazing neighborhood projects forward and were able to keep connection with each other first and foremost even when we had to physically distance and do things differently.

We can't thank you enough for your dedication and passion for your neighborhoods and the community of Squamish and we look forward to seeing what 2022 can bring.

# June Kleban and Doug Hackett

## NSG Program Coordinators



As Coordinators of Neighbourhood Small Grants, we have seen so many wonderful, exciting projects this year. Even though Covid altered our plans to meet as a group, we met with you individually under the Red Tent to give you your cheque and take your picture.

Very special thanks to our Resident Advisors Emilija and Rachael, who advised on our selection process. We approved 40 project applications, \$18,545 to our Squamish community.

Your ideas and your passion for bringing your project to your community was inspiring. Our hopes were to bring everyone together at a wrap up party but unfortunately not this year due to Covid. So, we decided that it would be great to see all your projects presented in our inaugural yearbook.

Please enjoy this yearbook of our 2021 NSG projects. We can't wait to hear what you dream up for next year!



**Project Leader: Gillian Bexton**

## **Project: Meadow Neighbours Appreciation Event**

Throughout the pandemic, the residents of our street (Meadow Avenue) have connected in new and meaningful ways. Where staying in touch used to mean waving a quick 'hi' as we drove past, or perhaps a shared shovelling effort on a rare snow day, in the last 13 months we have come to appreciate how valuable knowing your neighbour can be. Spending more time at home, and more time outside, neighbours young and old have come to enjoy each others' company and appreciate being 'in this together'.

### **What was an amusing (or not so amusing) thing that happened when you were planning your project?**

Through all of it, one woman in particular - Maria - had demonstrated what it truly meant to be a good neighbour as she cared for her ailing friend at the far end of the street, visiting twice a day often to help prepare and share a meal. As part of our street party event, we wanted to recognize her for that, but as a surprise! We had prepared written invitations for each household, and included instructions for signing a thank you card in advance of the event, being careful to deliver an invitation to Maria that did NOT include those instructions...of course! However, before we could give her friend a heads up, wouldn't you know it....Maria had picked up Her invite with the newspaper and taken it inside...where her friend asked her to read it to her! So much for the surprise. Nevertheless, Maria very much appreciated being appreciated by the rest of her neighbours.

### **What did your participants say to you about your project?**

All the neighbours enjoyed it, and over the summer...and through the heat wave...have shared laughs at how unbelievably bad the weather was that day, only to be followed by the driest summer on record. We created a street map template that each household artistically contributed to, with contact information, that we then compiled and printed for everyone and delivered with some event photos, and it became a real keepsake. A 'who's who' on South-side Meadow. We have a Facebook group page now too!

**Our goal was to celebrate what it meant to be a good neighbour, get to know those we didn't , and create ways we could communicate easier .**



**Project Leader:** Richard Zimmer

**Project:** Tobermory reconnection party

I hosted the Tobermory Wine and Cheese reconnection party. We purchased fine cheeses, charcuterie, dips, breads wine and bubbles. I set up Pro dj equipment for music to add to ambiance. The event was well received, and everyone enjoyed the food, drink, music and especially the socialization. Everything went right and we even had a dance performance on the kitchen island later in the night.

**What did your participants say to you about your project?**

Everyone was so excited and wanted to help out and express their ideas of what a great reconnection party would entail. Everyone commented about how it was wonderful to reconnect and have a social gathering as many had not been to a party since covid started. The most interesting feedback was how wonderful it was to receive a grant to help with the reconnection Party

I feel amazing and happy that I could just see everyone smiling again.



**How do you think your project helped bring the community closer together?**

I feel that many of the Tobermory neighbours were pretty down with the covid restrictions and apprehensive of having a gathering as everyone has varied opinions on how to deal with covid and be comfortable. I believe we had a non judgmental gathering of neighbourhood friends who missed seeing each other in a social environment. I believe it really boosted moral on the street and people are still smiling. Thank you so much for inspiring us to move forward and reconnect.



## Project Leader: Shoshana Kiidumae

### Project: Music on the Porch Day

On Facebook, I had seen an event called, “Music on the Porch Day”, which was started by some people in California, but had grown to be celebrated throughout the world with over 2000 local events celebrating music informally shared with the community. This always happens on the last Saturday in August, this year on August 28th.

#### Tell us about your event when it ran.

We were able to give performers a small token of appreciation this time because of sponsorship from Community Small Grants. This allowed us to include several new acts, two young men from Whistler, the Squamish Circus, a new Squamish band Crick and Craw, as well as give a stipend and food to the instructors of other forms of participation such as meditation and yoga in the morning. Our entire event went from 10 am until about 9 pm, so 11 hours of community enjoyment.



#### What did your participants say to you about your project?

I was very surprised and pleased that both the Squamish Circus and bluegrass band, Crick and Craw, were performing for the first time. They were both amazing and we hope to see much more of them in future. Nothing went wrong that day, but it may be too much to have an entire day of programming and perhaps we would only do it in the afternoon next time.

Thank-You so much for your support and for everything you do for our community.

**Project Leader:** Julie Van Eesteren

**Project:** Neighbourhood Garden

We paid for a small excavator to clear all the blackberry brambles and move large rocks to clear the land. We then used the rest of the money to purchase some soil. (it wasn't quite enough but we made due) We prepared the garden and planted altogether in May. Then over the summer we watered, weeded and tended the garden. Then this fall we did a final harvest of zucchinis, pumpkins, peppers, sunflowers and whatever corn was left over and held a "Garden to Table" get-together with zucchini races as well.

**What was an amusing (or maybe not so amusing) thing that happened when you were planning your project?**

What was not so amusing is the fact that we worked hard to prepare, plant and tend our garden only to have the bear eat our corn. And only the corn. He really liked the corn. Next year we will harvest it earlier.

The children had a blast and raced zucchinis for literally hours!!!

**What did your participants say to you about your project?**

Everyone can't wait to do it again next year!! Next time we will rent a rototiller and purchase more compost. We will plant a garden based on indigenous ways - a "Three Sisters" Garden - corn, beans and squash.

Thanks for everything!! Can't wait until next year!





**Project Leader:** Erica Taylor

**Project:** Laneway Mural project

Our project was held in our back lane between Hope road and Birken road. Several neighbours pitched in help with tents, BBQs, and food. Everything went smoothly in terms of food planning, events coordination, painting, etc. It was just the weather that didn't co-operate.

**How did you hear about the NSGrants and what made you put your thoughts into action?**

I heard about the grants through the Squamish Chief, social media, and through my work at service provider downtown. My wish to get to know other neighbours and bring everyone together was my incentive; I am a natural community builder and thrive on bringing great people together to network and have fun.



It poured rain Squamish style,  
hurricane winds...and yet over  
50 people came.

**What did your participants say to you about your project?**

The elder people were especially grateful for the opportunity to get out and meet the younger families coming into the community. Everyone like the fence mural art and appreciated the picnic supply as well as the chance to get together in these difficult pandemic times.



**Project Leader:**     **Stewart Kleban**

**Project:**                **Mason Bee and Butterfly Garden**

We were creating a community bee and butterfly garden. It was to be in the middle of a common area of our townhouse complex. There is no source of water in that area which actually worked out as a project bonus because we got neighbourhood children to undertake the responsibility for watering; and of course it was the hottest summer on record.

**What was an amusing (or maybe not so amusing) thing that happened when you were planning your project?**

My project was to create a bee and butterfly garden. The place to get all the info and supplies that were needed was in Burnaby but at that time in the spring of 2021 travel between health districts was illegal. I found out over the phone talking to BC Bee Supply company that bee keeping is considered an essential service and I was able to pick up my supplies.

I was surprised by the fact that honeybees are actually an invasive species to North America brought over by early colonists to help with agriculture. Mason bees and bumblebees were the original pollinators of the Americas.

**What did your participants say to you about your project?**

Although the actual numbers of people that had hands-on experience with the creation of the garden was limited, everyone was exposed to the garden and had the opportunity to enjoy it. It became the topic of many discussions. We also received written letters of appreciation from some parents saying how much their children enjoyed their gardens and learning about bees and butterflies.





**Project Leader:** Lisa Park

**Project:** Dandelions and Dragonflies Daycare

We arranged a socially distanced party but with the changes n numbers allowed realized it was easier to organize 2events because there were so many children and families...that's right - we did our parties....twice!

**Tell us about your event. What went right? What went side-ways?**

We were not sure if we were allowed to do things inside or outside, who would be allowed in the room or what was allowed for food...so we improvised and figured it out



Thankfully the Squamish Community grants helped us last year to connect the kids and did the same in 2021





**Project Leader:** Eva Srobotnjak

**Project:** Puppet Show and Party

Our event started with a Music with Marnie Concert and all the kids and adults danced to her music. Then there were puppet art activities for children of all ages to make puppets. Then the Puppet Show with songs and stories to engage the audience. Grand finale was a puppet costume parade led by a puppeteer in costume. Lunch was served buffet style with salads, hot dogs, cup cakes and more!

**What was an amusing (or maybe not so amusing) thing that happened when you were planning your project?**

Last minute we did not have someone to lead the puppet parade and then my friend, a Puppet Guy, came in full costume and led the kids around the Amblerpath neighbourhood with instruments to borrow and a tickle trunk of dress up clothes for everyone to try on and dance in the parade. We were not sure how much food to prepare as we were not sure about the number of people attending and people could bring food if they wanted. I decided to buy 50 hotdogs and buns last minute and found a neighbour to BBQ. All the hotdogs went fast and everyone enjoyed them with salads and dessert.

**What did your participants say to you about your project?**

Everyone loved the event and had no idea it was going to be so big with live music, puppets and food. All the parents said that their kids loved the event and it was so amazing to have the Amblerpath community participate together in a family fun event for all ages. Music With Marnie was so engaging and had all the kids dancing! The puppet theatre was so big! Loved the firetruck song and fireman puppet, The puppet costume parade was a great grand finale with everyone dressed up and marching to the music. Food was delicious and everyone loved the salads, Live DJ music. A beautiful puppet theatre build by an Amblerpath neighbour.



The best part was we had so much fun organizing and doing it!



**Project Leader:** Vicki Haberl

**Project:** Cul de sac BBQ and Games Day

This event will bring everyone into the central shared space of our cul de sac for a barbecue and to play some games. It will give the adults a chance to slow down and visit, to talk and share stories. There will be games for the children, and will finish with everyone working together to create a large sidewalk chalk mural. It will represent how we are all connected, joined in a circle - not only by the design of the street where we live, but also in spirit.

**What was an amusing (or not so amusing) thing that happened when you were planning your project?**

Sadly, when we were planning the event in July, we learned the very sad news about the tragic death of one of our young neighbours. He moved to our cul de sac a few years ago, and I did not know him as well as I wish I did, or to know how to support his roommates, friends and family.

On the bright side, two young children (4 yrs & 9 yrs) who live in our suite, helped me make and deliver the invitations to everyone's door. They were very excited about the "party" and talked about it for the days leading up to it. They also insisted we needed to make cupcakes, which we did together.



I am confident that everyone on our street feels more welcome and safer in our neighbourhood as a result of knowing all the nice people who live here. I'm sure we would all come together to help each other in times of need.

**How do you feel about what you have accomplished?**

I am so happy that we had this event, and with the positive outcomes. I would certainly do it again. I am already thinking about a "winter solstice" event where we would gather around our portable firepit and offer hot chocolate and cookies. Maybe just for an hour, maybe no games or activities; just a simple gathering to reinforce the relationships that were created this summer.

Probably the most "interesting" feedback was at the end of the afternoon. I heard one of the 4 year old girls crying, sobbing, in fact. When I asked what was wrong, she replied, "I don't want the party to be over!"





**Project Leader:** Julie Wilkins

**Project:** Free Diverse Library

I will use this grant to: 1. Update the trunk from which the community currently gathers and returns borrowed books in Brackendale. 2. Create a free-book box in the heart of downtown Squamish (I have a confirmed space on Cleveland Ave) to put out modern, good-quality kids books for families to keep. I would use funds from this grant to build/buy the weather-proof bookshelf and to purchase discounted diverse (anti-racist, body positive, gender inclusive, LGBTQ+ friendly, anti-ableist etc) books to populate the downtown shelf.

**What was an amusing (or maybe not so amusing) thing that happened when you were planning your project?**

The porch cupboard went off without a hitch! I had intended to also put up a free library near my new mobile bookshop, but it proved logistically challenging! Instead I joined forces with Little Free Library Squamish to use part of my funds to provide books for *their* library, and to support their upcoming free children's story walks. Similar bookish destination - just a different path!

Thank you so much for  
bringing FREE diverse  
children's books to our town -  
we are so grateful

**How do you think your project helped bring our community closer together?**

With our books focusing on acceptance, celebrating diversity and self-love, we really hope to breed these traits in the small humans of Squamish - this will build future leaders and help to strengthen our community!



**Project Leader:** Nancy Edwards

**Project:** Halloween at Arbourwoods

We began planning for our Haunted House event about a month before Halloween and it became apparent that this could turn into a very big project, but also a time to have fun, both for the little ones and for the adults putting it all together.



### Tell us about your event?

We were fortunate to be able to borrow a number of the larger props from a friend and this meant we could have some more lively entertainment with lots of lights and sound effects. Our event was held on Halloween night and we decorated a two-car garage where trick or treaters could go through the Haunted House and then get a bag of treats at the end. We included edible treats and also a bag with non-edible treats such as pencils, erasers, paper and bouncy balls all with a Halloween theme to them. We had approximately 100 visitors to our event.

### What did your participants say to you about your event?

We had lots of positive feedback from people going through the Haunted House and we also learned a few things we would do differently, such as adjusting the lighting for the event, examining the start and end times for the event and including more people from the complex in the planning, preparing and hosting of the event. We would definitely consider doing the event again.

**I think the sense of community continues to develop and enhance our everyday lives.**



**Project Leader:** Shirley Oliver

**Project:** Ice Cream Social

Several of us were discussing the fact that we had a lot of new neighbours who had recently moved into our complex, who some of us had not even met, and thought it would be a lovely idea to hold a Covid-safe get together so that neighbours, both new and old, could meet, get to know each other as a community and build new friendships.

**What was an amusing (or maybe not so amusing) thing that happened when you were planning your project?**

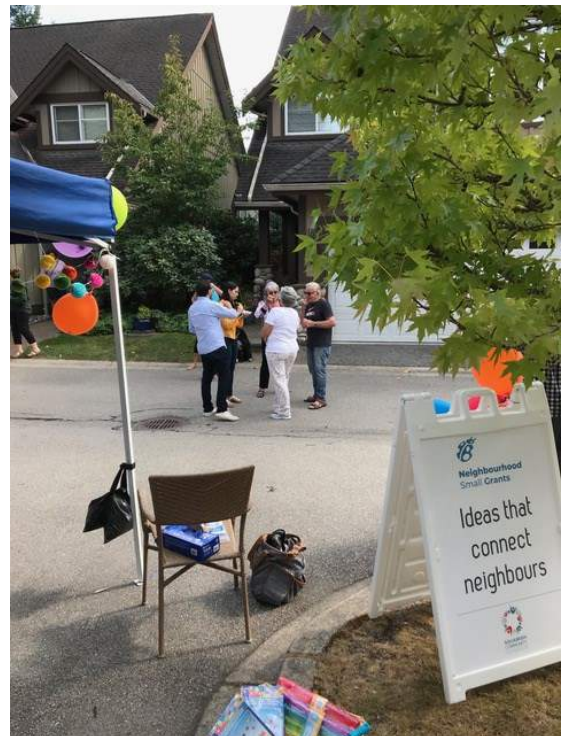
In hindsight, we were amused that there were so many dietary restrictions involving ice cream. One guest even brought his own lactose free ice cream which he shared willingly. For next time, the organizers would need to be aware of various dietary needs. We do hope that it will happen again next year, perhaps a bit earlier than August when more folks are still at home. It would be an event that we would like to see others in the community involved in.

Just seeing the children with ice cream all over their faces, was enough thanks for the organizers.

**Tell us about your event when it was held.**

The number of attendees was a bit less than what we were hoping for even though the weather cooperated. But considering that it was holiday time for many, we certainly understood that this could happen.

It was a fun event and those who attended had a great time, visiting with others. And most came back for seconds.





**Project Leader:** Sherry Staples

**Project:** North Highlands Community Street Party

Our project was a community street party to bring neighbours together for socialization after many months of the pandemic. We wanted to meet some new neighbours and reconnect with old neighbours in a fun and yet socially distanced way. We had approx 200 people show up. There were with numerous games, a food truck, face painting, a beverage truck, live music and a tournament with the potential to win a trophy we aptly named the "House Cup".

**What was an amusing (or not so amusing) thing that happened when you were planning your project?**

The day before our event was to happen we received notification from our beverage truck that he had an offer to work a large corporate party and would prefer to do that. We told him that he had agreed to our party first and asked that he honour his word. He ended up working the party for us and at the end of the night, he mentioned that it had been his biggest earning day EVER! He also asked to come back next year to work the next party.

**How do you feel about what you have accomplished?**

I feel absolutely amazing having led a small group of volunteers to such a rewarding event. The volunteers and I have already said we would do it again and have set the next party date for next year. The only thing I'd do differently is to have more volunteers as it was such a huge event to plan for the 5 of us volunteers.

**What did your participants say to you about your event?**

We had so much positive feedback from the participants and requests to have it again. The most interesting feedback was from new neighbours asking if this sort of event had ever happened before and their amazement when we said it was annual. Neighbours also were amazed that they didn't have to pay for any of the activities. The only money required was for food or beverage purchase.

I believe this event allowed a large span of neighbours to connect, socialize, and have fun after a very long pandemic.



**Project Leader:** Kirsten Lowe

**Project:** Ring Creek Off Grid Skills

We are an off-grid community, located up above Quest on Garibaldi Park Road. As we live off-grid, our community is faced with different challenges than most, which is why I thought we could put this project to good use. In the summertime, the main concerns of the community is the fire risk (as we are not serviced by a fire department) as well as the protection of our water lines (how we source our homes with water). I decided we could use the funding to get some equipment and hold an event where we learned how to use a water pump and fire hose, which was sourced from our local creek.

**Tell us about your event when it was held.**

The event started with a demonstration of how to use and start the water pump. We proceeded to the creek and connected the fire hose and showed how far you could spray water from a water source. We discussed types of water sources around our homes - creeks, water tanks - that would be an appropriate place to put the pump near if there ever was a fire. Obviously, time is of an essence if there is a fire so we wanted to practice and set up a plan.

We then walked up the creek, checking the water lines and water intake boxes as well as did a clean-up of the area. There had been some garbage accumulating by our water sources, so we felt it was important as a community to keep the area clean.

We then gathered back at our house for some off-grid, wood fired pizza! We discussed some issues in the neighbourhood, water lines, water sources, and just socialized.



Everyone was super appreciative of the opportunity and were glad we could connect as neighbours.

**How do you think your project helped bring your community closer together.**

The project helped us open more conversations and build relationships with each other. As you feel more comfortable with your neighbours, you are able to ask them for help and you look after each other more. It is also easier to solve problems when there are more minds working together - strength in numbers!



**Project Leader:** Daniele Doucet

**Project:** Project Pizza Party

I am proposing Project Pizza Party as a way that can bring people together in our neighbourhood, but without the health risks associated with sharing food in a potluck setting. The plan is to order 50 pizzas and have them delivered to Smoke Bluffs Park. We will instruct the delivery person to put the pizzas on a large picnic table and each household that arrives to the park can share a pizza.

**What was an amusing (or not so amusing) thing that happened when you were planning your project?**

Figuring out a date that would accommodate the most people was challenging. There was no possible way to get a date that would include everyone.

**Tell us about your event when it was held.**

We held our event on September 19th at Smoke Bluffs Park. It was a huge success! We had over 100 people from Hospital Hill attend. We ate the pizza, watched the kids run around, and generally enjoyed the company of our neighbors. A couple of people offered to bring tents, which was an enormous help since it was drizzling that day. The only thing that went sideways was that a few people couldn't make it because they were sick with Covid.... and there was so much fun & busy-ness, that there was only one photo snapped. :(

**What did your participants say to you about your event?**

So many people in the neighborhood were grateful that I took the initiative to make this happen. It was certainly an event that met its objective -- bringing people together after so much time in isolation! The turn-out was a testament to how appreciative people were for the opportunity to see their neighbors and enjoy the company we offered to one another.



**This event was a total success! I would definitely do it again!!!**

**Project Leader: Sharon Bozman**

**Project: Community Quilts**

The Squamish Quilters Guild has an ongoing commitment to provide various agencies with quilts of various sizes throughout the year. In 2020 the Guild distributed 66 quilts to agencies such as Sea to Sky Hospice Society, Healthy Pregnancy Program, Women's Centre, teens with mental health concerns, and individuals who have suffered loss or trauma.

**Tell us about your event when it was held.**

Individual Guild members donate quilts that they made from a pattern of their choice and quilts are made as a collaborative effort. A quilt pattern is chosen and Guild members contribute a block. These blocks are then stitched together to create the finished quilt. The Bees & Flowers quilt & Heart quilt photos are examples of collaborative effort. The pleasure, joy & amusement comes in seeing the various blocks come together, sometimes beautifully and sometimes not, where reverse stitching is needed. (taken apart, never fun)

**How do you think your project helped bring your community closer together.**

The project helped us open more conversations and build relationships with each other. As you feel more comfortable with your neighbours, you are able to ask them for help and you look after each other more. It is also easier to solve problems when there are more minds working together - strength in numbers!

Our quilts offer a hug of support, a quilters embrace, at a time of need.



**How do you feel about what you have accomplished?**

The members of the Squamish Quilters Guild take great pride in the quilts they create. They are grateful to be able to share their beautiful pieces of work with others in need.



**Project Leader:** Raelene Antonios

**Project:** Little Free Library

I was so excited to get started in the Little Free Library right away! I ordered the Little Free Library soon after receiving the grant and had it built a few days after it arrived. Initially we planned to have it installed in May but a series of setbacks meant we didn't have it up and running until the Fall. The delay however didn't dampen the enthusiasm the students felt to be stewards of a Little Free Library only steps away from our school ground.

### What was an amusing (or not so amusing) thing that happened when you were planning your project?

When you register a Little Free Library on [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org), there is a section where you can add your library's location using your latitude and longitude. It isn't instant, so you have to check back in a couple days to see your library on the map, so when I checked back I found the Little Free Library in the middle of the ocean, I had gotten the latitude and longitude mixed up! It floated around for the next few days until it was able to be corrected.

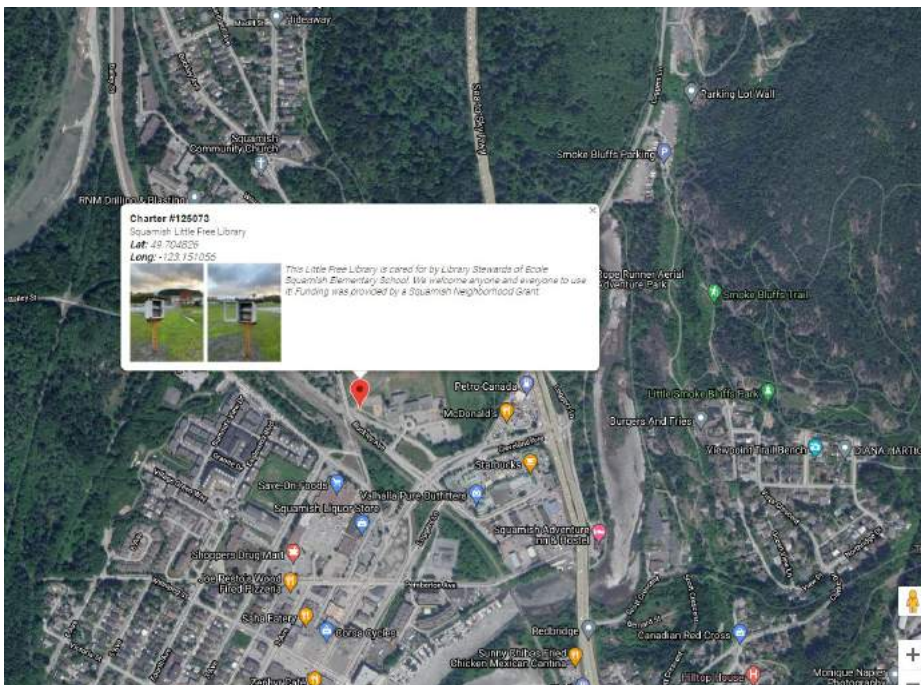
### How do you think your project helped bring out community closer together?

Libraries are very special. They supply books for people in the community to learn from, be entertained from, and inspired by. Beyond that, a Little Free Library is open at all hours, free, and often closer to its users than the public library. I think adding a Little Free Library to our community was really special as it helps to bond a diverse group of buildings and people in our area. The students and I get very excited when we see someone visiting the Little Free Library.

### What did your participants say to you about your project?

The students at Squamish Elementary were absolutely thrilled to learn about our Little Free Library being installed so close by. We have a group of students being stewards of the Library, ensuring it is clean, and well stocked

The students and I get very excited when we see someone visiting the Little Free Library.





**Project Leader:** Steve deWolf

**Project:** Rivendale Community Garden

Lots of young families have moved in and we have been asked to create a community veggie space so that people can work together to grow their veggies. It will be on our strata garden in the non public space directly in the sun. The plan would be to purchase soil from local vendors and if possible get seedlings and plants from them too. I will cost out wood planks to be used to create planter boxes which we will build.

**Tell us about your project.**

I received great feedback from my Neighbours who all wanted to enjoy the garden together.

We received push back from the strata counsel because of a district right away that borders on the strata property.

Right now, my community garden project is on hold and pending district approval to put this garden adjacent to a district right of way.

If I get approval, I aim to have the garden set up and completed by the end of March (2022)

I think it will be (once completed)  
a great place where Neighbours  
and children can come together in  
a common goal.

Thanks for telling us about your project Steve.

It is a great reminder that it is the ideas and leadership that brings our neighbours together even if the project itself runs into road blocks.

Thanks for your initiative.

J & D

**Project Leader:** Jennifer Belak

**Project:** The Great Tulip Project

We decided to have a 'tulip fest' for the children of Dryden Road. Everything went really well. We used most of the money to buy tulips and bags. Then we made labels on how and when to plant them, and included an invitation for everyone to come out on the same day at the same time and plant their tulips. After planting everyone was invited for hotdogs, hot chocolate, treats and drinks in our driveway. Bring your own chair style. We did everything in a really covid friendly manner and the kids had a great time almost like a block party!

**What was an amusing (or not so amusing) thing that happened when you were planning your project?**

Delivering the tulips to all the neighbours was a hoot. We loaded up a little trolley and threw my 18 month old in there with the bags of tulips. Everyone started coming to us on the street to see what was going on. It was a lot of fun and it wasn't even the event!



Seeing the all the children rekindling friendships after months of not really playing together was a huge success.

**What did your participants say to you about your project?**

All the neighbours were so pleased with the event and asked if we would do it again next year. I told them that I was planning to try to organize again every year. The plan is to create a road in Brackendale that becomes known for its tulips and have it as a wonderful place to bike or walk by in the spring when all the tulips bloom. A lot of the neighbours also felt it was a great way to get the kids to 'get their hands dirty' in a positive way, and then play together afterwards.





Photos were taken  
at cheque pick-up

Sorry if we  
missed you!









**Project Leader:** Chantelle Matthews

**Project:** Content Newspaper

Though an idea I've had in my mindset for some time, the effects of the past eighteen months have escalated my desire to actualize my need to share positive news with my local community. At a time when we're all going digital, both organically and as a result of the current pandemic environment, championing a moment away from screens allows us some peace amongst positivity.

**What was an amusing (or maybe not so amusing) thing that happened when you were planning for your project?**

The name of the newspaper has a double meaning as the word content refers to both the adjective: in a state of peaceful happiness. The aim behind the publication being to spread happiness through the community. The word content as a noun also refers to the message/communication/subject matter within something. They say that creatives often produce what they need and cannot find - it's true to say I've craved contentedness during this project - more specifically when it came to design stage!

**What did your participants say to you about your event or project?**

Many contributors remarked that it was a great initiative but struggled to 'think of a story' and so this is where my response became "Do not go looking for positive news, just be open to noticing it... every day in the small moments you'll witness acts of kindness. If you don't submit to the paper that's ok, because you'll feel content simply in beginning to notice all the moment of goodness in your neighbourhood"

The internet promised us it would bring us together but it separates us. We need community building initiatives like this one





**Project Leader:** Lenny Rubenovitch

**Project:** Portage Paddle Making Workshop

Our Portage paddle workshop youth program was held 7 outings on Tuesdays and Thursdays in August at the Loggers Sports grounds. The program was co-produced with Sea to Sky Community Services and by Lenny Rubenovitch and Art Harry.

**What was an amusing (or not so amusing) thing that happened when you were planning your project?**

In last year's adult program we explored having the RCMP take us out on their Thunderbird Canoe. This year the RCMP were able to take the youth and facilitators and their paddles out on Alice lake on Truth and Reconciliation day.



It is so rewarding to see the youth advance their woodworking skills and watch them bring their very own paddle to life and see how proud they are of their own work.

**How do you think your project helped bring out community closer together?**

We feel that our program aids participants in a variety of ways. Portage supports the participants to develop patience and skills that show their creative potential. Through the paddle program and paddle outing we were able to foster more partnerships with other organizations and individuals along with their family, the RCMP, and The Squamish Nation to bring the community together.



**Project Leader:** Jen Yates

**Project:** Community Street Art

Families co-created the signs (with the kids taking the lead) with messages of safety and care for our community. First they drew their message on the sign with a sharpie and then they painted. At the end we punched holes in the signs and tied string for each sign to be hung up either on a recycle bin, fence or post. When all the signs were complete we celebrated with a pizza dinner for all.

**What did your participants say to you about your event or project?**

Everyone was so happy to be there. The kids were super proud of their signs and I think it really brought us together to share in caring for our neighborhood. I received many "thanks" for planning and organizing the event. I also think it inspired others to plan an event of their own.

In addition to making signs, we appealed to the DOS to have a speed reader on our street. We ended up getting a new permanent 30KM speed sign at the beginning of our road!

**What was an amusing (or maybe not so amusing) thing that happened when you were planning for your project?**

Nothing went sideways. It was a simple, well planned and small gathering that ended up being very successful! On top of it all, our neighbour invited the whole gang for an evening swim in their pool. It was the "cherry on top" of a great day!

This event ended up becoming child led! We planned for families to work together to create each sign, but the kids took over and created the coolest signs.





**Project Leader:** Rachel Barlas

**Project:** Eagle Run Revival

Our project consisted of two structures to build for our street of ten houses, but could be used by the wider community. The first structure was a community library which was inspired by one of the teenagers on the street who often has books to donate to some of the younger kids. The second was updating the skateboard ramps on the street which have seen a lot of use over the past 18 months and had become unsafe to use.

**Tell us about your event when it was held.**

Prior to the day of the event one of the dads on the street had spent quite a lot of time building the library structure using mostly wood that neighbours had donated from their supplies. The actual event itself was held on the September Labour Day, which was a beautiful sunny day. The kids spent the afternoon painting the wooden library and played on the street. We brought out bbqs, camp chairs and set up food on tables. Most people on the street came, including some new neighbours and an international student who had recently arrived from Spain. The painting took a lot longer than we thought so the project has been ongoing since the start of September and we have just finished it at the end of October! There was a lot of discussions and concerns from the mums about how watertight the library was and the dad who had built it took quite a bit of good natured ribbing over the design of it. Time will tell how watertight it actually is! The skateboard/scooter/bike ramps were resurfaced on a separate occasion by a number of the dads on the street.

**How do you feel about what you accomplished?**

It makes me feel really proud of our little community seeing everyone come together and create the library that we can all use, not just the kids. We have secured it into the ground between the first two houses on the street so hopefully other members of the Brackendale community will see it as they walk past and make use of it too.



"Our family really enjoyed the street party. It gave us an opportunity to reconnect with neighbours. All the kids had so much fun helping paint and plan the library box project."



**Project Leader:** Zoe Linford

**Project:** Play Date/ Blind Date with a Book

Blind date with a book was so amazing when it finally came into action. So many people went home with books cuddled in their arms and smiles on their faces. I continuously had to reassure people that this was a free project and they owed me and NSGrants nothing. It definitely felt like some of the books found the right people at just the right time.

**What was an amusing (or maybe not so amusing) thing that happened when you were planning for your event?**

I struggled finding somewhere to host my project. It involved quite a few books (between 70-80) and none of the coffee shops had the space to host it. I finally solved this problem with the help of the Squamish Farmers market who hosted me for a Saturday so I could find lovely homes for all of the books.

I felt so great about this project. It brought so many smiles to people, it was surrounded by good vibes.

**What did your participants say to you about your event?**

The most lovely and interesting feedback was when two separate sets of young woman came to the table and took one book to share. One of the duos explained that they were looking for a way to get back into reading for pleasure and this was just the right thing.

**How do you think your event helped bring out community closer together?**

My hope is that when the readers are done with tier books they pass it on to someone else, or use it as a way to begin a conversation with someone new, or see how amazing this kind of project is for the community and apply for a NSGrant themselves.



**Project Leader:** Brigitte Mah

**Project:** Halloween 2021

Each year I organize Halloween for the neighbourhood community of Eaglewind in downtown Squamish. This is a townhouse community of over 200 units, a majority of which are families. In the past (pre-Covid) I have organized a parade, distribution of safety gear (high visibility objects like glow bracelets or necklaces), donation of candy, and I have also rented equipment to aid in closing the main corridors through the neighbourhood. Last year was our first crack at Halloween during a pandemic and it was a great success with the neighbours finding creative solutions to follow the health order.

**What was an amusing (or not so amusing) thing that happened when you were planning your event?**

I had originally wanted a series of touchless activity stations set up throughout the neighbourhood but as supplies in stores dwindled this year, I had to constantly modify what those activities would be. The maze morphed from being a tarped maze in the rain to a tarped tunnel to an open-concept spider web tunnel. Because I didn't realize how hard it was to source PVC pipe at this time of the year, the tunnel then shrunk from a walking tunnel to a crawling tunnel. But you know what? The kids loved it and they had no idea what the original tunnel was supposed to be, and now I know that I should order supplies in the summer!



I feel really proud of the event!



**What did your participants say about your event?**

They loved it. I heard reference to Eaglewind's Halloween on the radio as being "an entire block party". With the real estate boom in townhouses, we had a lot of changeover in the summer and a lot of new neighbours to the 'hood. I think many weren't sure what to expect from it but they all said that they had a blast, and enjoyed walking through the streets and chatting with neighbours. It was such a great way to also connect with the long-time residents whom we might not see often because of life's busy schedules. In a lot of ways, it really was a huge block party - complete with costumes, music, treats, activity stations - and a walking parade!

I even heard one woman share that she had come to Halloween the year before, saw how much fun it was in the neighbourhood, and promptly purchased a unit within the following weeks. She said she just had to live where the neighbourhood vibe was so strong. I think that's the best compliment anyone could ever have.

**Project Leader:** Amalie Gunn

**Project:** Play Area

Our townhouse complex has a central area that is used by most of the kids in the block. Our area is mostly made up of young families with children, so the designated play area has become the central hub of our block for the children and parents too. The current equipment has become a bit run down and the play structure is starting to crack.

**What was an amusing (or maybe not so amusing) thing that happened when you were planning for your event?**

The not so amusing thing was running into the pandemic inventory issues. Almost all the play equipment that we could afford and would work for our space were out of stock! Demand in this area increased during all the lockdowns with families trying to keep kids happy. To overcome this, I have planned to actually unfold the project early Spring 2022.

NSG is a great program that supports positive changes and builds a sense of community.

**How do you think your event helped bring out community closer together?**

The play equipment will take about 10 hours to build and require at least 3 people. It will take a group of residents to volunteer time and work together. The plan is to unveil the new equipment to all the children with a group BBQ and celebration. Our complex is largely families so it will bring adults and children together and encourage future play.



**NOTE:**

Amalie sent this photo of the **OLD** structure as the new structure will not arrive until the spring.



**Project Leader:**     **Stephanie Lemieux**

**Project:**             **Common area ecological project**

I heard about the NSG Grants from social media and immediately saw this opportunity as the incentive our neighborhood needed to get our thoughts into action as far as creating our long awaited common area garden/community hub.

**Tell us about your project and how it unfolded.**

Hummingbird Lane, a pocket community, is a neighborhood of 8 houses sharing common areas. We had plans to use grant to upgrade a section with veggie planters, herb gardens, seating area, a fire pit, etc.

Unfortunately, construction work was obstructing our access to the site so we had to postpone the project and settled on Plan B, an outdoor movie night.



**It was a rare occasion for the neighborhood to get together.**

**What did your participants say about your event?**



It was fairly easy to organize with a quick survey to find a suitable date, a choice of movie and menu preference. We used funds to rent a giant outdoor screen, a new movie, provide food & snacks and purchase a propane fire pit which is now shared by community. The only difficulty was finding a suitable movie for an audience of such varied age.

So on September 5th, just before school started, we watched Black Widow, enjoyed some sushi and socialized with our neighbors. The weather was lovely and all but one current resident made it to event.

A good time was had by all. Everyone was thankful and suggested we should do this more often.

**Project Leader:** Lisa Turtill

**Project:** Bedazzled Bike Parade

A Covid Friendly/ Socially distanced street event to celebrate summer and rebuild community spirit. The kids (Adults too if they want :-)) will have a bike decoration station, and then we will organize a bike parade to show off the creations.

Sorry. My planned bedazzled bike ride didn't happen as we ended up moving away from the neighbourhood.

**Dear Lisa**

**Even though your project did not work out, we are incredibly appreciative that you put your idea forward on behalf of your neighbours.**

**Very best wishes on your new path.**

**J & D**

**Project Leader:** Chris Giroux

**Project:** Valleycliffe Garden / Library

Building a community library in our garden area to be able to share books with our community and complex in a safe manner. We would also use some of the grant money to continue to maintain are shared community garden by adding more infrastructure and plants.

**Tell us about your project and how it unfolded.**

Most work was done in late September and October over many weekends. Everything went well with changes made as needed. Getting people to commit to work on certain dates always difficult.

Most enjoyed the time and work which leads to great flowers/Herbs the following year. People mostly like the community evolvment together.

**How did you feel about what you accomplished?**

The new addition of Community library was great and made by are youngest helper ( 9 year old)

Getting to know your neighbours is  
the best part!





**Project Leader:** Nicola Fairweather

**Project:** GHE Class Connector

In our last week of school, we were able to participate in several celebratory activities, including: building and flying kites, releasing our class butterflies, participating in outdoor cooperative games, having fun with bubbles and creating a special piece of artwork. Students were also gifted a t-shirt with the GHE logo as a class souvenir. Each student signed their name on the back of their classmates' t-shirts as a memento.

**What was an amusing (or maybe not so amusing) thing that happened when you were planning for your event?**

It sadly did not work out as wished - with the kids unable to give their crafts to the old peoples homes as due to covid they could not accept our gifts. Also parents would have been good to have!

But it really did bond the children as they worked together to make their kites etc.

We were so grateful to have those additional funds to end the year in a special way.

**What did your participants say to you about your event?**

All the children were so happy and this spread to the parents. It was great to do something different considering how limited our abilities were before



**Project Leader:** Devin Kiyonaga

**Project:** Squamish AR Sandbox

We wish to build an augmented reality sandbox to teach people about topography and watersheds. With Squamish being surrounded by complex topography it's impossible not to feel a connection to the mountains. Whether we know it or not, we all play an integral part in the health of our watersheds and the surrounding environment. With this interactive display we aim to educate people on what those squiggly lines mean on a map, and how the topography they represent effects water flow. Our hope is to inspire people to think holistically about their surrounding environment, and the impacts they might have on it.

**Tell us about your project and how it unfolded.**

I knew I could build the sandbox but wasn't so sure about the computer portion. Thankfully I found a partner to work with in my IT department and together we started figuring out what we'd need to make it happen. We managed to scrounge most of the materials we needed at first. My partner had a spare computer with adequate components, and I was able to reclaim some wood from the Youth Centre which was recently demolished. We were right on track with the amount from the grant when we hit a roadblock. Lumber prices had skyrocketed and we still needed to buy some materials new. We also learned that the sandbox requires a very specific type of projector, not something you can easily buy used, which was our plan. Thankfully, with the grant and some last minute support from local geotech firms, we were able to acquire the remaining materials and components to complete the project. I also found at least a temporary home for it in the Library!

I built the sandbox in my garage while my partner did the same with the computer. I learned the hard way that varnish offgasses something awful! My garage didn't have room to store the completed sandbox and thankfully my buddy offered us the use of his while we sorted out how to run the program. One evening we finally combined our two sides of the project, which until then had been completed in isolation. While we were in my friend's garage testing out the system, I realized it was already doing it's job of bringing people together. It was as cool as I imagined.



I knew if three grown men could  
get that excited about a sandbox,  
others will too.

**How did you feel about what you accomplished?**

We are getting ready to make it available to the public and we're super excited. We feel that this will be a conversation starter, something for people to tell others about, and ideally something they want to show people in person. Our hope is that it will draw more to the library which in itself is a great resource for community connectedness. We also hope it will help people learn about our surrounding topography and watersheds, and that this will give a chance for folks to bond around a unique and exciting experience.





**Project Leader:** Christine Staats

**Project:** Browns Park Improvement Project

Our vision is a fish and wildlife information board. The sign would include information about fish that travel to our creek and other wildlife that use the green space. Not only would our project connect our community but it would connect our community to the wildlife community that we cohabitate with.

We're very grateful to the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans who were equally appreciative of us using their signage for educational purposes!

**What was an amusing (or maybe not so amusing) thing that happened when you were planning for your event?**

The idea of an informational fish sign for the park in our neighborhood was received with positivity amongst the neighbours so we decided to go ahead and make it happen! This project was very unknown for me. I didn't know where to even start or source out services or materials. I found myself at a lot of dead ends and didn't ask for help when I needed it.



**What did your participants say to you about your event?**

I feel good about the final outcome.

People in my neighbours loved the project idea. The idea that parents and kids will learn from this for years to come was a big positive for this project!

The educational fish sign at our creek will help connect families and neighbours and also connect residents with the environment through understanding about the fish who we share our stream with.

**Project Leader:** Jodi Fluker

**Project:** Tantalus Crossing Firepit

We live in a complex with a lot of turnover and little community connection. My idea is to build a firepit for the members of the strata to enjoy. In these times of covid it is hard to get to know people. A space for all of us to converge at one time or another would be amazing.

**What was an amusing (or maybe not so amusing) thing that happened when you were planning for your project?**

Due to COVID 19- and everyone spending so much time outside and in their yards, firepits were sold out online EVERYWHERE. We tried Rona, Home Depot, Canadian Tire, Wayfair, and many more. Finally, we decided to have one made. It took forever to get here and when it did....there was a fire ban!!

Once we got to the fire pit, things went smoothly! We created a level area by digging out the ground and leveling it with sand then a layer of gravel. On top we put a paving stone to keep the heat from touching the ground, this helps with drainage as well. Then we placed the firepit on the platform and Voila!



**How do think your project helps bring our community closer together ?**

Squamish is transient and it's harder to meet people when you are new to town, as a newcomer we felt this would be a great way to meet our neighbors and allow a space for others in the same situation. This is an area where anyone can come light a fire and enjoy, others tend to see the light and want to join. Often they come over with camping chairs and sit for a while and visit.

It's so nice to know some people we didn't before and see others interacting with each other.



**Project Leader:** David Protheroe

**Project:** Meighan Creek Halloween Gathering

An outdoor Halloween gathering for residents of Meighan Creek and local area neighbors focussed on children of any age but inclusive of basically anyone who would like to attend. It will include a pumpkin carving competition, costume competition, both children and adults and themed gift bags.

**What was an amusing (or maybe not so amusing) thing that happened when you were planning for your event?**

We upped the number of bags to 70 and increased the content of each bag. Each bag contained, a juice box, a bag of chips, a bag of goldfish, 7 or 8 small chocolate bars and 6 lollipops. When we piled them up on the table to start packing it was a prodigious pile, I wish we had taken a photo, but all 70 bags were filled and only a few were consumed by the bag fillers.

**It was good to stand back and listen to the laughter and squeals**

**What did your participants say to you about your event?**

We had general very good feedback, from all of the participants, particularly from parents from the neighbourhood but outside Meighan Creek and several parents who had missed that we were collecting for the Food Bank rushed home to raid their cupboards to contribute.



**Project Leader:** Tanya Dutton

**Project:** Under One Roof Horseshoe Pit

Myself and other residents at Under One Roof (a supportive housing project) are interested in collaborating with the Men's Shed (a local non-profit that provides a space for men to work with wood projects) to build some horseshoe pits in the neighbourhood surrounding Under One Roof. The horseshoe pits will be available for all living in the neighbourhood to utilize creating a platform for all socio-economic demographics to come together and build community.

**Tell us about your project and how it unfolded.**

What went right: The planning and collaborative intentions for the building of the horseshoe pits. We have a lot of excitement and energy to invest.

What went wrong: Not enough planning on location. In hindsight, we should have secured a location and then sought funding.

Personally, I learned a lot about the game of Horseshoes from our resident Sue. We are still excited to see this through!

I would do it again but do things differently

**Thanks Tanya**

**You remind us that it is all about the relationships and learning.**

**Not so much about the project itself.**

**J & D**



**Project Leader:** Jovanka Wong

**Project:** Ayr Drive Street Meet

We held a community Halloween party with about 70 neighbours attending. Everyone was in costume, we had pizza, candy and soft drinks. The children played games and jumped on the trampoline. It was such fun. We then went trick or treating en masse with all the parents running ahead to get ready to give out candy!



**What was an amusing (or maybe not so amusing) thing that happened when you were planning for your event?**

We planned for the summer but my wedding took over! Our neighbours jumped at the chance of getting together in costume. They were so appreciative of the community foundation for bringing us together. People could not believe there is such generosity. They are looking forward to the next one - a summer party!

I felt so happy to bring together neighbours new and old for this event.



**How do think your event helped bring our community closer together?**

With the changes over the last few years, social distancing and masks it is hard to meet people. We have had massive movement in our street and some of the new people had never met the neighbours. Now they have!

**Project Leader:** Antje Cavanagh

**Project:** Revitalize Green Space

We have a green space in our neighborhood that desperately needs some TLC. With the help of this grant, we can invite our residents to come to a work party and then have a BBQ afterwards.

**Tell us about your project and how it unfolded.**

This was advertised to our residents as an opportunity to come together and work to a common good to revitalize the green space. One of our residents, pretty much had all the tools we needed, but some brought tools which was great! I did supply gloves for those who wished. We pretty quickly realized upon filling most of the organic bins each of us brought, that we had an abundance of weeds we were clearing. However, it worked!

**How did you feel about what you accomplished?**

This project brought many together that had not met. I believe if it hadn't been for this opportunity, I would not have met anyone other than one neighbor I already knew. Afterwards, we got together for a BBQ and got to know each other a bit more in a more relaxed setting.

Everyone was very appreciative of  
the hard, and I mean HARD work  
which was done!





**Project Leader:** Carolyn Klassen

**Project:** Green Space Movie Night

Picnic blanket movie night in the neighbourhood green space. We have had over 20 new households either change residents, or have first time residents move in during 2020. This will be an opportunity to see our neighbours and have a shared experience to aid in building community.

**Tell us about your project and how it unfolded.**

Due to weather and mistiming the sunset we were unable to make the movie night happen, but the night was not a complete loss as it united the community in green space and new and not so new neighbours were able to connect and reconnect!!

**Thanks so much!!**

In addition, the surveying of the needs in the community led to a the building of a lovely little library and the community garage sale with more than 10 households involved this summer! Our community watch whatsapp group for urgent matters (bears and breakins) and the 2nd community news board (trades, questions, bottle drives, food drives, etc).

Next will be a gathering for the longest night with food and a stroll to see the Christmas lights.

Thanks for being a catalyst in getting our community together ♥



**Project Leader:** Lisa McIntosh

**Project:** Sunday Afternoon Concerts at the BAG

I am hoping to assist with returning the BAG concerts this year and offering them a small amount of funding to help offset any costs that may arise or perhaps offer a little honorarium to some of musicians as a thank you!

**Tell us about your project and how it unfolded.**

I first learned about the NSGrants through social media and was motivated to apply to show our local artists who donate their time that we are VERY grateful for their time and music! I also wanted to show Thor and Dorte (my neighbors) how much the Sunday concerts meant to me during the isolation of COVID.

When I received the money, it was a pleasure to let Thor and Dorte know what I had for them:) In turn, I also got to tell Cam Salay (Brackendale musical ICON) that he had \$500 to do whatever he wanted with as he was the one that would be organizing this season's concerts.

The Brackendale Sunday Concert series happens every Sunday from May-Oct to showcase LOCAL musical talent of all ages:) The amazing artists donate time, set up equipment and sing their hearts out for an hour and the neighborhood comes out with lawn chairs and settles into the parking lot of the Art Gallery to enjoy the show!

A highlight for sure was when Marc Charron(artist) stopped me in my driveway next to the BAG and asked if I was the neighbor that applied and received the grant and I said yes and he was so grateful to receive a small honorarium for his concert, his words were..."not expected at all but what a nice little surprise" That made me feel good that we could show our appreciation to him:)



In closing, I would like to thank the organizers of the NSGrants for choosing me and the Brackendale Art Gallery Sunday Concert series to receive some funds to bring the residents together and experience live music even during the challenges of COVID..Brackendale has a very neighborhood feel to it and these weekly meetups benefit the

That made me feel good that we  
could show our appreciation

**Project Leader:** Rachel Bergquist

**Project:** Squamish Death Cafe

Death Cafe is an international movement, encouraging people to think and talk about death and dying in a culture where these things have become taboo. The concept is simple: participants gather in a casual environment, eat cake and drink tea, and talk about death.

**Tell us about your project and how it unfolded.**

Our NSG funding went towards running Death Cafe events outside in the park this summer. During the first year of Covid, we hosted a few virtually, but as the weather got warmer and Covid restrictions loosened, we wanted to prioritize connecting people locally to talk about death and dying. We promoted the event with a limit of 10 people, but prior to the event in June, outdoor gathering restrictions were lifted so we were able to gather with 13 people at O'Siyam Park with donuts and blankets in the evening sunshine. A Death Cafe is a lightly facilitated gathering that invites participants to talk about death, to dismantle some taboo around the subject, and get people thinking about their own mortality. There was a feeling of connectedness and authenticity that participants brought with them to the Death Cafe in June. It was a warm summer evening and people listened to each other intently and responded thoughtfully. We wanted to include a wide range of people, and our participants came from varied backgrounds, cultures, and age demographics. By hosting these Death Cafes, we hope to get people started thinking about the topic of death, one which in North America we don't often engage with until we have to. We were so pleased to be able to offer treats to people who came, it made the whole event feel cozier and more fun! We look forward to hosting more Death Cafes in the future.

**To read more about Death Cafe, you can visit:**

<https://deathcafe.com/what/>





**... a big THANK YOU to**

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**for your ideas, commitment  
and community leadership. . .**

**WELL DONE!**



**SQUAMISH**  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION