



Neighbourhood Small Grants



2022 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.

Armand Hurford

Mayor | District of Squamish



It is my pleasure to write this foreword in support of the commemorative 2022 yearbook for Squamish Neighbourhood Small Grants. This is a community-building initiative that connects neighbours through shared experiences, values and conversations and the District is pleased to support this project.

From community meals to costume parties to environmental restoration, these NSG-funded projects help to create community and contribute to a healthy society. Small things can have a big impact - building and sustaining peace and civility happens through positive reciprocity. When we make connections with others, respect and learn about our differences, celebrate milestones, break bread together, and create memories that bond us, we are all contributing to a more peaceful, productive, harmonious society.

That's what Neighbourhood Small Grants encourage and promote – events, initiatives and occasions that connect people and strengthen the social fabric. I would like to express my deep appreciation to all the project leaders for their great contributions to their neighbourhoods, and to the social health of our community.

Mayor Armand Hurford
November, 2022

<https://squamish.ca/>

Neighbourhood Small Grants Yearbook 2022



Suzie Soman

Chair | Squamish Community Foundation



Once again, the Squamish Community Foundation is so grateful to administer the Neighborhood Small Grants program in 2022. We had the privilege to hand out cheques in person this year in partnership with National Volunteer Week. It was so great to see the people picking up their cheques and hearing about the different projects and seeing how our community brings everyone together young and old. Nothing says community better than bringing your neighbors together and as we are opening up and visiting more during this time of Covid-19 we sure needed the connection that the grants allowed us to have.

Thank you to all the project leaders for submitting the applications and making sure the projects happen, we can't do it without you and same to the project coordinators for keeping us on track. 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 2023 can bring.

<https://www.squamishfoundation.com/>

Neighbourhood Small Grants Yearbook 2022



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, Chantel and Rachael, who advised on our selection process. We approved 35 project applications, \$15,735 to our Squamish community.

Our Neighbourhood Small Grants program would not be possible without the continuing support of our wonderful sponsors— the District of Squamish and the Squamish Community Foundation— thank you both for helping this program to flourish!

And to our project leaders, Your ideas and your passion for bringing your project to your community is inspiring. We hope you enjoy seeing your project highlighted and reading about the other projects in our 2nd annual NSG yearbook.

We can't wait to hear what you dream up for next year!

June and Doug

2021 Yearbook

<https://www.squamishfoundation.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/NSG-2021-Yearbook.pdf>

Project Leader: Brittany Carter

Project: Kintyre Block Party

We would like to host a block party for our street and the surrounding area. Over the last few years we have had many new families and individuals join our neighbourhood and due to Covid have not had the same normal opportunities to connect with each other.

The block party was fantastic! The event was well attended with plenty of activities for all ages. There was a bouncy castle, face paint, yard games and dancing. We added a “welly wanging” competition with the prize being a golden boot (to be held on to until next year). Although it was a fairly new activity for many, the participation grew with each toss and many residents are ready to bring their A-Game for next year! The music provided opportunity for everyone to dance and mingle and we tried to set up many areas to gather in the shade both near and far from the sound. Our only hope is that next year we can have more of a communal food such as a food truck to encourage people to gather as we eat.

We realized half way through our planning that our event was the same day as the Constellation Festival. No food trucks this year! That being said, as we had live music, we thought it was a great way to provide an alternative evening for those not going to the festival!

Our event allowed a space for people to come out and meet their neighbours. There were many laughs and great conversation. So often all you have is a moment for a quick wave or “good morning” but the opportunity to spend a few hours together, play some games, dance etc. provided an opportunity for connections to develop. We saw increased activity on our neighbourhood social media as well, which is always a great way to communicate with each other quickly. There is further talk about Halloween festivities and a book club!

We would do it all again in a heartbeat (and plan to). We left the evening feeling more connected as a community.



Project Leader: **Kristen Wiebe**

Project: **Windsor Place Block party**

We'd like to put together a celebration where everyone can meet and get to know one another, promoting community health and connectivity, and welcoming new neighbours into the neighbourhood. We'd like to host a BBQ and music evening in the cul-de-sac and invite all the neighbours to attend an evening of socializing outside, with great music.

It's always difficult to coordinate schedules with a group of people, made even difficult when it's summer break. Although the original plan was to hold a street party in the summer, we realized that it was going to be too difficult to schedule over the summer break while everyone had vacations planned. We decided on a fall party when we could accommodate as many residents as possible. We ended up with a team of 3 organizers, held a planning meeting, then coordinated the rest via Google Docs.

Our Fall Fiesta was held on a beautiful 30-degree Sunday afternoon in October. We had an impressive turnout with almost all the neighbours in attendance (47). We ordered pizza, had neighbours bring share plates of appies, fruits & veggies, and desserts, listened to good music, set up a bouncy castle, had activities for the kids, and set up a number of fire bowls at the end of the street for after dark. Every neighbour was quick to offer any gear that was needed (tents, string lights, fire bowls, tables, etc). Nothing went sideways, per se, but there were a few things that we would do differently next time (ex: we planned to be a zero-waste event, and asked neighbours to bring their own dishes, but a few brought disposable plates to share – next time: the Squamish Dish Project to the rescue!).

I can't adequately express how thankful and proud I am for what this event accomplished amongst our neighbours

We have a diverse neighbourhood, and like-minded people tend to gravitate towards each other. The Fall Fiesta brought ALL of our neighbours together (despite our seen and unseen differences), connecting both new and old residents alike in a relaxing, but celebratory environment. We made some funny memories too! (The kids insisted on a "dad band", and they acquiesced, performing karaoke for the neighbours to enjoy).

Thank you for the grant that made it all possible!



Project Leader: Ashley Hilliard

Project: Aristotle Community Party

We would like to have a Spring Get-Together, to bring people outside and connect - we would especially like to focus on the children in the neighbourhood, as many go to different schools or have newly arrived to the area and have not had a chance to meet other kids due to visiting restrictions. We would like some of the funding to go towards some activities to bring the children together (active entertainment or perhaps an instructor to lead them through a group sport or activity).



A number of us in the neighbourhood had heard of other community grants and block parties around Squamish, a member of our planning committee said she would love to do one for our area but not alone, so 5 of us decided to plan the event!

Lots of ideas were tossed around, it was fun to brainstorm different ideas - everything from live music, to children's entertainment, dinner, games was discussed. We were able to have a food truck come up - thanks to a random conversation on the street! We originally didn't think we could afford it, but were able to arrange something fantastic with Island Oasis that fit the budget.

The project was a great success, despite the weather being grey and many members of the neighbourhood having other commitments, we had a huge turnout and everything went fairly according to plan. We had neighbours offer to set up and sing live music all afternoon, another neighbour set up face-painting and balloon art, and we had the Island Oasis food truck provide beverages for kids and adults. Everyone also chipped in to set up some games and activities around the cul-de-sac. It was a great social event!

Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to meet with new and old neighbours. We were lucky to have wonderful singers on the street and the best feedback was how fantastic the live music was for the afternoon and that we should do this again more often.

**Many contacts were exchanged
over the afternoon and new
friends were made. We will
definitely be doing it again!**

Project Leader: Jacqui Cheney

Project: Brothers Place Pot Luck

I am situated at the end of the cul-de-sac at Brothers place and feel that this neighborhood is truly unique, why not have a pig roast (with a veggie option) pot luck to celebrate?

What did your participants say to you about your event or project? What was the most interesting feedback you received?

No feedback

Do you think your event or project help bring your community closer together?

Yes

The event was nice

No photographs were provided,

Project Leader: Nicola Fairweather

Project: Sirrico Summer Social

I would like to connect the neighbours - literally everyone is new on my floor bar one apartment and it would be amazing to have an event in June where we can connect.

I had tried to organize the event multiple times during the summer. But as crazy as this sounds people kept moving!

I feel so good being able to watch people who had lived within proximity to one another for years actually know the others' names!

We held a wine and cheese night with games at my house. I sent out invitations to the whole floor and people upstairs. I made sure to go to local shops to spend the money as keeping local is important to me. I gave out invites to 25 apartments and 5 rsvp'd so I had no idea how much food to buy. I kept planning for 50 people just in case (I estimated about 80 were invited with children) and had name badges ready for everyone. On the night we had about 40 people come through with zero kids - the parents had all got sitters to get away! I had gone way overboard with food so people had a bunch to take home - including kids treat bags!

People were so happy to get to know their neighbours. We carried on dancing and chatting until 1am! On the night we planned to do a christmas pot-luck which I will be organizing for early December. I also created a facebook group for the building to make it easier to connect.



Project Leader: Jennifer Belak

Project: Dryden Tulip Reveal Party

The idea is that we will hold a garden party for the neighbours with music, food, games for the kids and of course tulips.

Unfortunately, Jennifer's report did not arrive in time for publication.

Project Leader: Emilia Dufresne

Project: Hospital Hill Summer Kick-Off Party

After the past two years of staying apart, we want to have everyone get together to kick off a wonderful summer.

We'll follow all guidelines to keep it Covid-safe, but this is a much-needed celebration for all of us here in Hospital Hill.

I love my neighborhood and really wanted to do something to bring people together socially, especially after Covid had kept us apart.

We had no idea what we'd be facing the weekend we had scheduled for the pizza party so we were prepared for everything because of our whole neighborhood's effort.

We had a blast at the pizza party - nothing went too sideways from my perspective. We had a bit of rain, but that cleared up pretty quickly and we had a great turnout - all 50 pizzas were eaten up!

Everyone who attended had a great time and they were happy to be able to get together with friends and neighbors and catch up.

I would definitely do it again! I had a wonderful time planning the event and worked with other neighbors to get it all together

It was the one time this year that we all got together and that helped neighbors get to know others who they don't see often. It was a fun, lively event that brought Hospital Hill residents together.



It was truly a
community effort.

Project Leader: Jovanka Wong

Project: Ayr Drive Summer Meet

Ice cream party for all to come out and meet all the new neighbours who have moved on to Ayr in the last year. We are trying to connect neighbours from Argyle and Braemar as well, for a super big summer party.

There are many new families in our neighborhood, so this has been a great way to meet everyone. It has been especially great for all of our children to get to know each other and form friendships.

We already have a neighbourhood WhatsApp group going, so that many of the mothers can communicate regularly about all sorts of things- from letting families know when there is a bear around, to selling clothing our kids have outgrown, or organizing an evening yoga class taught by a member of our community.

Through our regular communication, we were able to organize a huge street party with Ayr, Argyle and Braemar Drives. We had games, food and *Alice and Brohm* ice cream too. Many neighbours were also able to take a tomato plant home for their gardens.



Taking the time to gather and get to know each other is such a gift.

Since our two most recent neighbourhood gatherings (summer 2022 and Fall 2021), thanks to Neighbourhood Grants, we have organized a regular yoga class, and are all getting together for Halloween. I think I speak for many of us on Ayr, Argyle and Braemar, when I express how grateful I feel to have a close network of people who live nearest to you. It brings a sense of warmth, safety and connection to our neighbourhood.



Project Leader: Maralise Halayko

Project: Braemar Drive Community Connection

We would like to host a block party for the Braemar drive community. We have many new neighbors move into the community. We will have food and beverage, activities for the children, entertainment for all.

It was interesting coming together with other neighbors to come up with ideas of what we would love to. We planned the party for June and as it was a very wet June we worked hard to collect as many tents as we could but on the day it was sunny and gorgeous and we even got a double rainbow to signify the coming together joy!

We held it in a few of our driveways on the corner of Braemar and Argyle. We included all neighbors from Argyle, Braemar, Ayr and the boulevard. We had a table full of food, a DJ set up near the trampoline for the kids. We had a craft station with all sorts of art projects set up that the community kids loved. We offered a plant for each neighbor to take home with them that we purchased from Squamish Can. We had a zone full of games and we also hosted Alice & Brohm with their bohler and each community member received an ice cream cone.



We have a tight knit community for the younger parents in our hood but we rarely see the elders and we had a lot of new folks move in over the last few years of covid who had not had the chance to connect with their neighbors. This was a level playing field to come and introduce yourself make connections and see who lives around you. I know friendships were made with young and old and I noticed all Summer the gatherings would pile up while out walking round we would stop to talk to more neighbors as we now recognized them.

The feedback all around was wonderful you could just see it on the faces of smiling kids and adults alike

Project Leader: Sabrina FooFat

Project: Argyle St. End-of-School Block Party

Argyle street is a street full of kids. Normally our street is very social and active, there are lots of kids and as a quieter street it has been a place where a lot of the neighbourhood kids come to play, but between Covid and the intense winter, our street has become very quiet. This grant would be used to have a block party to bring neighbours together to in June to reconnect, and re-establish the social connections that have struggled since 2020.

Our street has had informal gatherings on-and-off since we moved to our house in 2013, but we definitely saw everything stop with Covid. At the same time, during Covid a lot of new people moved to the neighbourhood. This was an opportunity for old neighbours to reconnect, and new neighbours to feel welcome.

My spouse and the neighbour across the street spent multiple nights building a 'blender bike' for the party. It was a huge hit with all the kids who got to blend their own drinks. It became the highlight of the party.

I feel great about bringing the neighbourhood together, and seeing people get involved and have fun.



Our event was held on June 11th, 2022 and I'd say everything went well, except for that one of the people who said they would coordinate everything went to Toronto for the week and so I ended up doing a lot more than I anticipated.

Also, we invited neighbours with flyers, but a lot of them didn't get them/threw them out without reading, so some people were a bit confused.

We had great feedback. Everyone was so happy and positive to connect.

It was a great opportunity for people to connect, meet for the first time, share stories, check in, and enjoy the sun. I was really happy to see so many seniors come out and enjoy watching the kids on the blender bike. It was worthwhile.

Project Leader: Julie Van Eesteren

Project: Rod Road Neighbourhood Garden

Similar to last year we want to plant our neighbourhood garden and then have a 'Harvest to Table' outdoor event with zucchini races. We need support in renting a rototiller and then getting some fresh soil/compost for the veggies to grow well. All the neighbours work together to plant, then tend the garden over the summer and then have a final harvest and celebration. This year we will be planting a 'Three Sisters' Garden and teaching the neighbour children this indigenous way of growing vegetables.

We used the grant to plant our back alley garden (dirt, rototiller rental, and seeds). We planted a '3 Sisters' garden - corn, beans and squash (zucchini and pumpkin). The beans didn't do very well and the raccoons ate a lot of corn but we harvested the rest early to prevent other wild creatures from eating our bounty! We had a bear actually visit the back alley as we were just getting the party started and lucky he scooted away when he saw us all!



How did you feel about what you have accomplished?

Amazing for our neighbourhood and a strong sense of community.

Do think your event or project help bring your community closer together?

Most definitely!!

"What an amazing night!!

Thank you everyone!"

"It was so lovely!!

Project Leader: Chris Giroux

Project: Valley View Community Library

After 2+ years of Covid restrictions we have created an amazing community Garden with the NSG that has enabled people to come and enjoy this area without worrying about space but with being able to share time in the community. Now with gathering restriction behind us we would like to throw a spring start up plus building party to enjoy what we have created with our neighbours and build beyond the garden.

We have a continual project of our community garden and now slackline area that we have created. With lots of new owners and Neighbours it has been a great meeting place.

Our event was held on July 2nd. We had a bbq and community build of a new slackline and additions to our garden. Everything went to plan and our work was well executed with lots of opinion on how to install the posts. It was great to see everyone working together with strong opinions but ending up with a solid slackline. I ran out of Bubbly!!

Everyone was very grateful
and pleased with the day

Lots of feedback on what to add next time and other ideas of additions to the space. There is talk of a Sauna!!

After all the planning (and changing plans) I am always pleased with the results. Yes would do it again.

Year after year we have new people join in which shows that the word is getting out and people want and join in! Building new relationships and knowing who your neighbour is is invaluable.

Project Leader: Eva Srobotnjak

Project: Amblepath Lantern Procession

Amblepath residents will make beautiful lanterns together and then parade around Amblepath with musicians leading the procession. At the end of the procession food will be offered to everyone.

The event was on Saturday, September 17 from 4:30-7:30pm

There was lantern making for all ages, food, live music concert, parachute games, puppet show and costume party Lantern Procession! We were worried it might rain, but it didn't! Also we had to time it right to lead the procession in the dark in the trails, but not too late as the young kids go to bed early. Last minute we had no one to lead the 10 minute puppet show but somebody volunteered last minute!

It was a magical event for all ages! Lantern painting was so much fun! Love the costumes! Yummy food! Fun parachute games! Entertaining puppet show!



It was a real team effort and the community got to know each other

The Lantern Procession was very popular and painting and decorating their lanterns was enjoyed by all ages!

The neighbors got together to make 50 lanterns, another neighbor lead the puppet show, others help lead the parade, some made food and helped with set up and clean up!



Project Leader: **Jaime Bishop**

Project: **Wenda Palooza**

Our idea is to reconnect everyone again - we will be holding a street party for everyone in the street to attend. We have created a committee and will be having an afternoon bbq, dancing, games, a water fight and if we can alternate sponsors a band.

It will connect us as it will get us all to work together to get this happening for our kids and families. I am so excited about this working for all of us.



We held our Wenda-Palooza Summer Swinger party on our cul-de-sac, complete with a massive buffet of food, face painting and crafts, water balloon fight, DJ and fireworks!

We all pulled our patio furniture out to the street to give it a lounge feel. We had several new neighbours move in over the pandemic, so it was a great opportunity for everyone to get to know each other. Everyone contributed something, with one senior Japanese neighbour having handmade traditional origami bowls used for serving street food. It was very cool.

[The effort is totally worth it.]



We selected the date in June as a group early on so everyone on the block could be there, and they were. We all started the prep early in the day so it would go well. Nothing went sideways (except the fireworks, which was a highlight of the night!!)

Everyone had a great time, and the other cul-de-sac said it would be hard to beat. Those that came from neighbouring cul-de-sacs said they were grateful for the opportunity to meet us, and we were too.

We will definitely do it again! It allowed us to become closer as a neighborhood. I would invite more people next time, to expand our community boundaries.

We are a group of cul-de-sacs which is a little isolating, unless you make an effort to meet others it won't happen.

Project Leader: Rachel Barlas

Project: Eagle Run Neighbourhood Garden

After the heavy snow over the winter the small area at the end of our street, where there are a few plants and bushes, needs some love. We have a few avid gardeners on the street and we propose to use their knowledge and skills to give this area a new lease of life. We plan to have a street tidy, move some of the existing plants, plant new annuals and sow some sunflower seeds and pumpkin seeds to create a pumpkin patch for the kids to grow their own pumpkins for Halloween.

We have an amazing group of families on our street and we wanted to continue adding to our street. We had an area in the cul-de-sac that was overgrown with weeds and we felt that we could use the space better to everyone's benefit, and so the Eagle Run Pumpkin Patch was born.

I totally underestimated how much work was going to be involved in preparing the earth for fresh soil, and after attempting to dig with a shovel it became very clear that machinery was needed. Myself and another mom went to rent a tiller, but when we returned with it the husbands sent us straight back to the rental shop to exchange it for a much smaller one!



We held our event on the May Long Weekend. It was quite a warm weekend and work began on the Saturday when a few people started prepping the earth in the area to the end of our street that was a weedy mess. A few people went to pick up the soil and then we got to work shoveling it out onto tarps on the street. It was very stinky work!

The Monday was the big day of work where everyone on the street was out. We continued tillering, began digging and sifting through the soil, kids were playing with snails and the new soil was shovelled onto the newly prepped earth. Soon, trees were being trimmed back, huge slab rocks were unearthed and repositioned, and steps were power washed. After lunch and we planted pumpkins, squash and sunflowers seeds in the newly prepared soil. The kids were put to work tidying all the branches that had been trimmed; they seemed to get a bit distracted though and a lot of the branches ended up being used to build a pretty cool fort in the bushes at the opposite end of the street.

Before the bbq dinner lots of the kids and moms were involved in rock painting, basketball games and a super fun game that had the kids finding jelly worms that were hidden in a plate of whipped cream

In total we had 22 neighbours taking part over the weekend and we had a lot of fun creating what will not only be a great space on our street, but somewhere for the kids to learn about growing their own vegetables, provide us with food and great for the planet too.



Everyone agreed that they'd had a fun weekend working with their neighbours to achieve a common goal and are looking forward to the harvesting of fresh vegetables.

Project Leader: Nancy Edwards

Project: Arbourwoods BBQ

We would like to have a neighbourhood barbecue this summer which incorporates food, socializing with neighbours and a children's literacy event. We intend to paint rocks with different letters and hide them around the complex. Children will hunt for the rocks and bring them to a central location where they will be given a list of words to try and spell - younger children will be asked to make the sound of their letter, rather than form words. The children will receive some sort of reward for their participation.

A number of properties in the complex changed ownership over the 2019-2022 time period and we felt a barbecue would give an opportunity for residents of the complex to get to know each other better and for neighbours to reacquaint, as COVID restrictions lessened. As we are still in times where COVID is present however, we tried to minimize the number of folks handling food, while still involving as many as possible in the planning and hosting of the event.

The event invitation was on the Facebook page for our complex and a leaflet was also delivered to each residence in our complex.

The barbecue was held on Saturday, September 2nd. The weather co-operated and we had quite a good turnout. However, I think we would have had a greater number of people able to attend if we had held the event on the Sunday – a number of residents indicated that they would have attended if they had not had to work on the Saturday – good information for planning future events.

We served hotdogs, hamburgers and veggie burgers, along with non-alcoholic drinks. Residents brought salads and desserts to share with everyone. As we wanted to encourage recycling, we purchased reusable plates and compostable cutlery. We were able to compost and recycle most leftovers and waste, so there was very little garbage generated.

There was face painting, tattoos and toy painting for the children, as well as some games to keep the kids active.

Attendees enjoyed visiting with neighbours and, in many cases, meeting new neighbours. There were many comments about the desire to have future events in the complex.

The sense of community continues
to develop and enhance our
everyday lives.



Project Leader: Janice McDonald-Zavarce

Project: Nature's Gate Strata Riparian Revitalization

Nature's Gate Strata in the Eaglewind Community is responsible for a riparian area. Currently it has been invaded by Himalayan blackberries which have attracted bears and made this area dangerous for children to play. Our vision is to organize work parties for mechanical removal of the huge vines, digging out the roots as best as possible and clearing some existing pampas grass to become wildflower beds.

An owner in our strata, approached me and encouraged me to apply for the grant so that we could get control over the invasive blackberries choking part of our open space.

As I was planning, I walked the riparian area often. Each week I'd notice fewer blackberry bushes on the south side. I thought they were disappearing on their own and couldn't understand why until one Saturday morning, I found that Ruth and Richard McKellar and their son Tom were working on their own to chop down and dig out the berry bushes then take them to the dump and pay the fee. So I had a ready made committee of owners who understood the problem, saw the bear attractants there and had a truck to carry away the cuttings.

We advertised and met twice - May 28 and June 5, 2022. People worked hard. Digging out blackberries is brutal work. Two new trees were planted, a blue spruce and a pink dogwood, both donated by the Winterburns. The area was then raked up and debris taken to the dump. But, we didn't have enough momentum to get a third session to take down more of the long grasses. As we worked we talked about what else we needed to do. We talked about the tall grasses encouraging ticks but as we saw some of the wildlife there (a garter snake) we decided that some of the grasses down the centre needed to stay.

Our plans are to use the money we have leftover and perhaps a new grant, to continue the work. Our current bear situation in the Estuary is encouraging more care to keep area bear friendly which in this case is removal of attractants.

I think our community has learned that members of the strata are reaching out post-covid and are willing to work together. We all want to see this area used and kept as a safe place for our kids to play.



**Digging out
blackberries is
brutal work.**





Photos were taken
at cheque pick-up

Sorry if we
missed you!





Project Leader: **Brigitte Suter**

Project: **Halloween at Eaglewind 2022**

I've been running the Halloween event at Eaglewind for several years now.

We have over 200 kids in Eaglewind, and as in previous years, this event will encourage a safe and family-friendly time for everyone to come out, have fun, and mingle with one another as they trick or treat their way through the 250 townhouses.

We had a lot of fun making many of the props for our witch lair, and it was great to push our creativity and try to find ways to DIY many of the items at the Re-Use It Centre. In fact, our whole pirate corner came from a random visit where we found a big chest, and instantly I knew I wanted it for Halloween. I wasn't sure what it would be, but I couldn't let something as wonderful as an upcycled chest stay. I took it home and when I put it next to one of our five-foot skeletons, I knew it was going to be a pirate chest with chocolate gold coins for the kids to discover - if they felt brave enough to be near a skeleton pirate.

The weather really threw us for a curve ball this year. We had been counting on good weather but with the sudden temperature drop and the intense rain the day before we had to cancel our idea of a three-day community event (which was going to be a neighbourhood pumpkin carving event with a pumpkin walk on Saturday, an outdoor Halloween movie on Sunday, and then the trick-or-treating event itself on Monday) and down-grade to just one day on Monday night.

The wind nearly destroyed our witch lair, and broke several of our potion bottles, but once we figured out which way it was coming, we were able to rig a makeshift wall with cardboard to block it from knocking everything over.

We had a lot of laughs all day Monday while we set up the different stations, and even danced around with the big skeletons just for fun.



That makes my heart so
very full



Everyone absolutely loved our Halloween event. The highlight for them was the Jurassic Park garage (which ironically, we didn't organize! It was done by the neighbours on their own) and our witch lair with the animatronic witch that cackled, and our crystal ball that actually glowed. Kids loved walking through and looking at all the neat "witchy" items, like the skulls, the fake dead rat, the potion bottles, the spell books, and of course our cackling witch over her cauldron.

the event itself brings everyone out of their houses and roaming through the neighbourhood, which allows for a giant 200+ people block party. But more importantly, the event is now drawing many of the surrounding neighbourhoods who don't have official "outside front doors" (i.e. they live in apartment buildings) and that beautiful mix of one Eaglewind neighbourhood with surrounding neighbourhoods has made for one large "downtown Squamish" neighbourhood event. In this mix there are no lines drawn about race, culture, economics, or social class. It's just one big event for all the kids (and big kids, aka adults) to enjoy.

Project Leader: **Stephanie Lemieux**

Project: **Hummingbird Lane Social Area**

Our Pocket Community comprises of 8 houses with their own property plus large communal areas. It has taken some time to get a feel for the various common areas and get a vision of what we want to achieve. We have been brainstorming ideas and these are 3 suggestions that have the most interest:

1. A fire pit
2. Shared raised garden planters
3. Communal seating

Our initial plan to build garden boxes fell through as we couldn't decide where to put them. We decided to create a full landscape design for common area before starting to add little elements here & there.

Our plan B was to host early Halloween party on October 16th to enjoy last of fabulous summer weather.

We had games such as Pumpkin "Croquet", "Glow" Pong, "Eyeball" and spoon race & Whip Cream "Ghost" Face. There was pizza, drinks, participation and attendance prizes.

It all went off without a hitch and everyone was grateful. We are always surprised at how we need to plan an event to make time to hang out together socially, even though we all live so close.



It was a fun evening and we would definitely do it again.



Project Leader: **Zoe Linford**

Project: **Eaglewind Moview Night**

Many of the children in our neighbourhood would love to experience movies in the big screen, but we worry that they will fall asleep on the drive home from the event. This event would give younger children the opportunity to see a movie on the big screen with their families.

I have been doing projects with Neighbourhood Small grants for several years now. I love the ease in which I can apply for the grant. I love doing things that positively impact my community.

This year the weather was a barricade. I was planning to do a movie night outside in the Spring, while the sun set earlier in the day, but the weather was too wet. Now, in the fall, the weather turned wet right around the time that the sun set late enough for an early evening movie night.

The movie night will happen the week after Halloween when the rainy weather has a small break. We might even end up having to do it inside. I'm sure there will be many more road blocks but it will all be worth it.

Everyone is very excited to do a
movie night outside



This project let the younger members of our community enjoy something that is usually out of reach for them. It is a great way to bring parents, children and everyone else together.

Project Leader: Kathryn Wynn

Project: Crumpit Woods Haunted Halloween Trail

Annual tradition that serves a relatively new neighborhood in Squamish and many other trick or treaters from nearby streets/neighborhoods. Wonderful opportunity to connect with neighbors. The event involves significant community participation - with dozens of neighbors crafting spooky and creative jack o lanterns and decorations for the walk and a core group of volunteers manage the decoration set up and clean up.



We are grateful to have had the support of the NSG and hope to apply again next year!

I had heard of the neighbourhood small grant a few years ago and was scrolling on social media one day in April and noticed a promotion for the NSG program. For the last 7 years, our haunted halloween trail has become a much anticipated annual event in Crumpit Woods. Each year neighbors contribute a carved pumpkin and spooky decorations to the haunted trail which has become a beloved addition to trick or treating through the streets. The event got a little quieter during COVID (we had to make the trail 'one way' in 2020) ... so with the lifting of restrictions this year we thought it was time to up our pumpkin game. With the Neighborhood Small Grant we were able to buy 52 pumpkins from Nesters, host a pumpkin carving contest for 20-30 families in the cul de sac (thank god for pop up tents as it was a monsoon of a day) and award small prizes to all the kids and some gift cards to local businesses to the big winners.

Adding the pumpkin carving contest was an amazing way to bring the community together and build the hype around the annual haunted walk. We are grateful to have had the support of the NSG and hope to apply again next year!!



Project Leader: Nicola Jones-Crossley

Project: Summer morning yoga

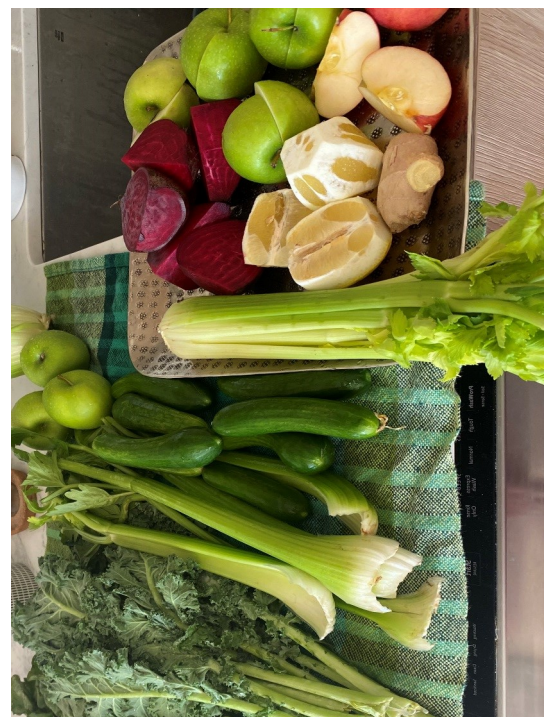
We wish to hold weekly morning yoga sessions for the community that lives in our apartment building in Squamish. The sessions would be held on Saturday or Sunday mornings and will be an hour in length. Following the session, we will provide a light breakfast for participants and an opportunity for everyone to connect, chat and meet each other in person. We live in a building that is a very new building to Squamish and many residents have not had a chance to meet each other or connect in-person yet.

I heard about the Neighbourhood Small Grants from a neighbour of mine who sent me the link with information. He suggested that I apply for funding for my community building events that I had been operating voluntarily for the past year. I decided to apply because the process looked simply and easy and because it would give me the funds I needed to secure a yoga teacher for an event series I had been imagining for a while.

Our Summer Yoga Sessions were held outside on the communal deck of our building and were free and open to anyone that lives in our building to join. The sessions stretched over a 6 week period with classes happening weekly. Classes were held alternating Thursdays and Sunday mornings - the Thursday sessions started at 7am and the Sunday sessions started at 9am. Each session ended with a glass of home-made fresh fruit and vegetable juice that I made each morning with local produce. It was a beautiful way to wake up in the morning.

After much planning, on the first morning of our yoga series, I woke up to grey skies that promised rain. As we had promoted the event as an outdoor gathering to celebrate summer and do yoga outside, I worried that this weather would impact how many people would come. It did - we only had 3 people join our very first session - but it was so relaxing and peaceful even though it started lightly drizzling half way through our morning practice.

Many of the participants who joined didn't know each other but became friendly during the classes and connected with each other.



It was really lovely seeing people
form new friendships

Project Leader: Jodi Fluker

Project: Ladies Hiking Club of Squamish 1000 Connector

We started a womens hiking group on Facebook last year (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1554305688104997>) and we are nearly at 1000 members and would like to celebrate. For the last year every Thursday and Saturday ladies come out on arranged hikes or on other days support each other and meet strangers by hiking together. This creates community and safety on the trails!

We've been having a really hard time getting this one off the ground. The intent was to create an event in the summer but so many of the folks involved were away we couldn't get a weekend to line up. Time has rushed right by and we are nearly in November now. As this is an outdoor activity, I am not too sure if we will be able to get something on the books for this year.

We know that weather and schedules can wreak havoc on project completion.

We have agreed to extend the deadline for Jodi's project in the hopes that there is an opportunity for these hikers to connect.

Project Leader: Nicole Rempel

Project: Neighbourhood Meet & Greet

We have lots of new neighbours that have recently moved to our street and this will be a great way to meet everyone and create a community among neighbours.



I heard about the NSG from a person at my gym. Two neighbours and I had already started talking about the possibility of having a “block party”. However, we are all so busy that the likelihood of it happening was slim. When we were approved for the Grant it made us start planning. I’m so glad we did or I think we may still just be talking about it.

We took flyer invitations door to door to everyone on the street. Our first date ended up being canceled as it was pouring rain. We postponed to a weeknight in July & the weather was perfect. Our Neighbourhood BBQ Meet & Greet went really well. My husband BBQ’d for everyone in the middle of the street, had a big screen TV to watch the Stanley Cup Playoffs, had an arts & crafts table and we invited Island Oasis snow cones. We also had a big poster of our street & everyone wrote their names on their address. We all wore name tags with our address on them too. It was really fun. The only thing that went a little sideways was that because we had to have it in July, some people were away.

I think everyone that came enjoyed themselves and all were keen to do it again.

I think the three of us that did the organizing enjoyed the event very much & would love to do it again.



It is so nice to drive down our street & wave or smile & talk to our neighbours

Project Leader: Benjamin Cole

Project: Jumar Summer Potluck Dinner

It will be held in late June or early July and will be a dinner event where all residents will be asked to contribute a dish. We set up a beautiful long table in our building and music is provided by our resident DJ. It will be an evening of connection, celebration of summer and ability to meet neighbours old and new after a long winter and pandemic fueled couple of years.

Unfortunately, Benjamin's report did not arrive in time for publication.

Project Leader: Shane Nunn

Project: Skwxwú7mesh Skateboard Community Event

With the changes to the skateboard park so many parents in the community are seeking a way to come together and support the children who use the resource. We will use the grant to create a community event with other parents where we clean up the park, talk about safety, indigenous skateboarding and have parents be able to be in a place to discuss how we are going to ensure our kids have a safe place to skateboard in the next few years. We will create an event with food and snacks to bring the community together and clean up the space we have.

An amusing thing that has happened during our planning was that so many community members offered to help us out immediately! Skateboarding has always been viewed as an outsider's sport. Sunny Chibas was the first to message us and tell us that they were thrilled to see a skateboard association being established and offered us 100 burritos for our first event to kick it off, feed the community and spread the stoke!

Our event introduced us face to face to many parents in the community



Rain, rain, rain! Squamish has an exceptional amount of rain and a big part of this project is getting our name out there and advocating for a new mixed use space that is covered so even when it is raining you can still get out of your house and skate, bike or scooter if that's what you're into! Every event we have planned so far through the SSA has rained! We have had bad luck with the rain but people have still shown up to all of our events and made the most out of an otherwise wet and damp situation!

Everyone was so pleased to meet us and see what we at the SSA are trying to accomplish especially while they were getting wet watching a skateboard contest. Having it rain at every event just proves even more just how badly Squamish needs a covered space for outdoor activities that are abruptly stopped when the rains come back to town. Unlike mountain biking, skateboarding becomes more dangerous and ruins your equipment when it gets wet out.

Project Leader: Andrea Shillito

Project: Complex BBQ and Art

I'd like to host a BBQ and painting party for all the families who live here to help bring our complex together, for the kids to enjoy doing painting and other fun activities I'm hoping to buy paints for 40 households, bbq food and fruit platters. Also supplies to be able to do family vs family games such as leg tie race, burlap sac race possibly, face paints.

I was hoping we could bring everyone together on a positive note. We are low-moderate income housing and many of us come from various backgrounds and have all had our own struggles and barriers in life. Our playgrounds in our complex have been taped off, and recently torn down so the children no longer have an area to channel their energy. I thought, this isn't right we need something to cheer everyone up and come together and enjoy something.

There were plenty of amusing things that happened. The kids were so excited about the tie dye that they started to mix all the bottles of dye mix! There was 4 boxes of 32 bottles in each box!! 🌀 it got messy quick lol. It started with 2 kids mixing, than about 10 kids were all crowded around the table mixing and preparing. It was messy, but we were outside and they had fun with that small responsibility. Each child had dyed multiple clothing and we still have a ton of dye left to do another fun day!

I'm pretty confident it all went smoothly. The parents were all involved with their kids, helping them, Luckily we all came together and one neighbor had brought out a giant bag of plastic bags, enough for each child's many dyed items.

We had a lot of happy neighbors who were so happy with it all. I had a lot of thank yous and positive comments! I don't think there was enough words to explain everyone's enjoyment. A few pots had been dropped after a few kids painted them, luckily I purchased 100 mini clay pots so each child who came had actually been able to paint at least 3 each. I loved seeing everyone's masterpieces!

I feel pretty good about what we accomplished, I feel happy that we all had a day to come together and enjoy some activities, good chats and hearing their thoughts on the event.

There was a strict 0 bullying rule!! So everyone who came out had put all differences behind them to enjoy a fun day with their families and neighbors. Even 1 day where everyone was to get along was amazing to see. I think it also helped a bit as there wasn't too much bullying after, it still existed, but more groups played together.



Thank you so very much for
giving my complex the
opportunity to get together



Project Leader: Janice Hayden

Project: Dancing Queens Meet and Mingle

My vision is to bring women together either in the Glow studio in downtown Squamish and have a meet and mingle with some drinks, dancing and networking. COVID killed the artistic community and the purpose of this will be a no stress way of connecting like minded people in the community. The night club just re-opened in Squamish but ladies in their 50's may not feel that this is the place for them - so this is about creating an environment even for one night.

We have been trying to coordinate a get together in our building for a few months, unfortunately, it has not happened as we had hoped.

We know that not every project goes to plan and we are happy to work with project leaders to try and overcome obstacles.

We have agreed to extend the deadline for Janice's project in the hopes that there is an opportunity to coordinate it.

Project Leader: Freya Pearse

Project: Brackendale BBQ

Host a BBQ on the street or in the local park and cater to the neighbours and dog walkers that wander by. Hopefully, people will be able to connect with other, learn more about their neighbours and create some new friendships.

The BBQ was held on August 27th, we originally had planned for the long weekend but wasn't getting a lot of response so pushed it back a couple of weeks. We did pretty well getting tables and tents set up and held it in a fenced yard to make it dog friendly.

It was interesting that the majority of people had not heard about the Neighbourhood Small Grants. They thought that it was a great way to try and build community in Squamish, as it can be challenging to meet people when you are new to town (or even not new!)

**It was great to get people together
and meet some new people**

It was great to get people together and meet some new people from the neighbourhood. I would definitely do it again.

It was a great excuse for people to bring friends or family and reconnect with acquaintances and build stronger relationships, or meet some new people and put names to familiar faces.

Project Leader: Radka Prihodova

Project: Children's Day Costume Party

The idea of organizing small event to celebrate the International Children's Day has been on my mind for past couple of years but unfortunately the pandemic didn't allow large gathering. The past two years has been very challenging for many children who had limited opportunities to socialize, visit friends and have fun. It has also been very challenging for parents who often had to handle home child care or home schooling and work at the same time. The International Children's Day event would be a celebration for children and their parents.

I am not sure if there were any amusing moments; however, there were moments of gratitude. I was grateful that the Mamquam Elementary School lend us beautiful, wooden Bean Bag Toss Boards, the organization I work for, lend us kids ax throwing activity and sack jumping activity, a friend of mine and one other mom lend us boxes full of fun kids costumes and Fresh Slice made tasty pizza. I was particularly thankful to Mamquam Elementary School for their kindness and for trusting me. The Bean Bag Toss Boards made the even more fun. One amusing part of the even was that I started receiving messages from unknown phone numbers from families that heard about the event and wanted to join. It made me feel satisfied that many people learned about the event.

**The main goal of this event
was to bring people
together**

The event was held at the Rose Park, Squamish on June 12th. Of course everyone was concerned about the weather but we were very lucky. The weather was just perfect. The event attracted about 20 families and approximately 30 children participated in the event. Many children tried on so many costumes while participating in activities. I facilitated some activities and some activities were freely accessible to the children. For every activity participation, the children received a ticket and could go and pick up a prize.



One of my friends daughter struggled with loosing some races. It was a great lesson for her. In the end she won her first medal. My friend later told me that she was so proud of her medal that she slept with the medal for next three days. The general feedback about the event was very positive. People liked the idea and how it was put together .

I felt great. I think everyone enjoyed the event.

Project Leader: Gillian Bexton

Project: Digging into Meadow Ave.

More than half the houses on our street are home to young kids (elementary school or younger) and we thought it would be a neat 'bridging' activity to engage the 'littles' with the more seasoned neighbours and pair up in a gardening project that will beautify our street. Keeping it simple, we plan to plan (pick locations in the garden, colours, etc) this summer at a party and plant tulips in the fall, ultimately creating a series of get-togethers among neighbours of all ages.

We planned this one as a 2-parter: first, a Sunday sundae-station with games similar to what we did last year including water balloon spoon races, obstacles courses and, this year, as requested by the kids, a puppy parade. The bulk of our funds went to mail-order tulip bulbs which wouldn't be delivered til fall but we wanted to have an outdoor party, ideally in nicer weather this time! (It was). Part 2 was delayed a little more than we were anticipated with the weather being so unseasonably warm, we couldn't plant the bulbs around Thanksgiving, so actually held off until fall arrived and, given torrential downpours, decided to deliver peat moss, bulbs and instructions this weekend to all the kid houses rather than push our luck actually planting in the rain and risking a mass mutiny :) Thankfully, we have some keen little boys on the street willing to lend a hand so peat moss allocation and bulb delivery was easy! But our vision of having some of the more seasoned gardeners 'digging in' with the little ones to plant a showy spring tulip assortment wasn't meant to be. Oh well, hopefully Mother Nature will do her part and deliver some gorgeous spring colour everyone can enjoy!



The smiles say it all!



With everyone being so busy, whether it's taking little ones to programs or teenagers further afield or working full time, we often don't get together beyond waving and a quick high as we drive to and from the street, especially once the weather turns cooler (and wetter!) but hosting this at the beginning of the season is a good kick-off to impromptu street socials which I think is happening more now than years past (this is our 15th year living on the street)

Project Leader: Marissa Zook

Project: 3rd Annual Eaglewind Block Party

This is the 3rd Block Party to be hosted in the Eaglewind community, after 2 years of no events following COVID. The intention of the Block Party is to bring Eaglewind community and the greater Squamish community together to meet one another, share stories and laughs and feel a sense of community again. While there are many corporate events held in Squamish, this one would be created by community members for community members. We aim to incorporate music, food, and children's activities.

We hosted the third annual Eaglewind Block Party on Saturday, August 20th from 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm. We chose to tie a theme to this year's event in order to bring an extra layer of excitement to the day: Pirates of Eaglewind

We had a pirate ship bounce castle, face painting, music, pirate coins and patches and food available for attendees at no cost. Kids had so much fun bouncing around and having their faces painted as adults mingled. We had around 100+ people in attendance. It was so wonderful to see people coming together, introducing themselves, taking turns at the grill - it truly felt like a community enjoying each other's company.

Attendees loved that their kids could enjoy a bounce castle while they visited with their community. So many attendees noted that this type of event was so overdue!

Many attendees were so keen to make this an annual event and offer their support in future events

We would not have attempted the scale of the event without your generous funding. Thank you.



As a result of this event, we have neighbours waving hello to one another and offering their support to one another.



Project Leader: Peta Hackett

Project: Lizzy Bay Meet-Your-Neighbours Party

Lizzy Bay is new town home development that opened at the beginning of 2021. We would like to hold a party (styled like a block party) for the two buildings so that all the neighbours can meet each other, with food and activities.

I heard about Neighbourhood small grants from my father-in-law, Doug. Last year he showed me the “yearbook” that the group had put together. Thumbing through the pages and seeing everyone’s smiles and reading the stories was very heart-warming. My husband and I had moved into a newly finished apartment building, so none of the tenants really knew each other yet. I thought holding a “block” party would be a perfect way for all the neighbours to meet.

The days leading up to the party were very wet and dreary so I was humming and hawing about where to hold it. Our building has roof-top patios but there is no shelter from the rain. We also have a club-house but I was worried it might be a little small. The night before the party the forecast still said it would rain the following day so I sent everyone a message confirming that we would hold the party in the club-house. Of course, by party time, when I had all the food, drinks, chairs, and games set up, the sky cleared up. I decided to stay in the club room and there was plenty of room after all, but it was amusing.

We had fun playing a game that I wrote called “Get-to-know-you bingo” where each person had to talk to other attendees and match names to various questions, like, “Someone who has a pet that is NOT a cat or a dog” or “Someone who has broken a bone”. Attendees got entries into a draw for gift cards for playing, and the more questions they answered the more entries they got, so they were pretty into it! We also got to hear a lot of fun tidbits about everyone. “You can ride a motorcycle?” “You can play the violin?” “You can speak four languages?” “That’s so COOL!”

The only thing that went sideways was I had booked a button-maker for the kids to use at the event but the person who booked it before me had not returned it on time so I could not pick it up. But one of the parents brought down some cones and things and the kids made a fun obstacle course in one corner, and they also enjoyed some drawing and colouring.

Everyone was thrilled with the party and everyone thanked me very much which was embarrassing. I kept telling them it was all thanks to small neighbourhood grants and I posted the information about it on our building’s Facebook page. People also told me they would love to do it again.



The party brought our community closer because it facilitated a lot of meetings.

Project Leader: Theodora Jean

Project: Skyridge Community BBQ

Our community BBQ will be a great way for us to get to know our neighbours (many of whom we have never met), socialize, make friends and enjoy some good food in the company of our community members. Having a sense of community is essential our well-being, especially after years of isolation, and this event will help us build relationships, make friends, and come together in ways that haven't been possible since 2019.

The event was the Skyridge Community Party held in the Skyridge Montessori parking lot. We had the Island Oasis truck, a rented cotton candy machine, pizza and cold drinks, and games and face painting for the kids. We even have a paramedic in the community who came with the ambulance and that provided a lot of entertainment for the kids.

The event was bigger and more complicated to plan than we initially thought. We had to get a rental agreement in place with the school to hold the event on their property and needed liability insurance. The cost of the event was around \$780 and my company, Coldwater Communications, sponsored costs above the \$500 grant received. Many members of the community came out to participate or help by donating or lending supplies, tents, tables, etc.

All in all, the four-hour event was a great success!



Many families in the community couldn't make it because they had COVID so we brought cotton candy and pizza to them at home.

Many people (myself included) got to meet neighbours we've never even seen before! It was so nice to connect with people in person and I think some friendships were formed in the process. The community was very grateful for the grant and look forward to other future events.



Project Leader: Callum Woods

Project: Logger's Lane Play Pit Party

We live in the building nearby and hundreds of children use this area. Sadly over the last few years the toys and sand have disappeared / worn down and so Callum would like to ask for the money to help by new toys for all the kids. This would help with community connection as it makes the place better for children and adults. This is not district land and so all items are usually donated.

We have had every intention of doing something wonderful with my son, but the pressures of small business, travel schedules etc have made it difficult to time.

We would love to do something and appreciate your patience!!

We know that LIFE can get in the way of project completion and we know that our project leaders are busy people.

We have agreed to extend the deadline for Callum's project in the hopes that there is an opportunity to complete it.

... a big THANK YOU to

District of Squamish for being our grant sponsor.

Vancouver Foundation for being our program sponsor

Squamish Volunteer Centre Society for being our cheque partner

Emilija Dufresne, Chantelle Matthews and Rachael Dudley for being our
resident advisors

Board of Squamish Foundation for initiating the NSG program

Karen Clarke, ED, Squamish Community Foundation for her admin support

Pam Duynstee for all of the social media support

And to each and every one of our incredible

PROJECT LEADERS

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

WELL DONE!



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