



Neighbourhood Small Grants



2023 Yearbook



Cover photo submitted by Nicole Rempel

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 2023 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

<https://squamish.ca/>

Neighbourhood Small Grants Yearbook 2023



Suzie Soman

Chair | Squamish Community Foundation



Once again, the Squamish Community Foundation is so grateful to administer the Neighborhood Small Grants program in 2023.

This year saw the project busier than ever and we were able to offer grants to many amazing and diverse projects. Some of the projects that benefited our community were the Adaptive Bike Fair, Valleycraft Market, Community Stand for Entrepreneurial Kids and the Truth and Reconciliation Walk and Commemoration on September 30th.

These projects bring everyone together, young and old and it is exciting for us to see that there are connections made that will benefit everyone for years to come.

Thank you to all the project leaders for submitting the applications and making sure the projects happen, we can't do it without you.

A big thank you to project coordinators for keeping us on track and working tirelessly to get the cheques out to everyone! We can't thank you enough for your dedication and passion for your neighborhoods and the community of Squamish.

In closing, I think it is important to say that the funding for this project is coming to an end in 2025. The Squamish Community Foundation board is committed to looking for new funds and or community partnerships to continue this vital program. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us to find out how you can help.

Thank you for your passion and commitment to the Neighbour Small Grant 2023 year!

Suzie

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

Neighbourhood Small Grants Yearbook 2023



Neighbourhood Small Grants

Call for Donations

From neighbourhood block parties to community gardens and cultural events, there are many ways to build a thriving community. The Neighbourhood Small Grants (NSG) program is based on a simple, but powerful idea—that everyone is a valuable member of the community and that we all have something to share.

The NSG program launched as a pilot project in 2017 by the Squamish Community Foundation (SCF) with support from the Vancouver Foundation and the District of Squamish. Individuals of any age can apply for a grant of up to \$500 for projects that bring people together, share skills and knowledge, build a sense of belonging and respect, and celebrate diversity.

Since its launch, the Squamish NSG program has funded almost 200 neighbourhood projects that nurture our community. While the Neighbourhood Small Grants program has been highly successful, the pilot funding from Vancouver Foundation will come to an end after the 2025 granting season.

The Squamish Community Foundation is now seeking support from local donors to help us continue the Neighbourhood Small Grants (NSG) program at its current funding levels or more for years to come.

How you can help:

Donate via [Canada Helps](#). Select 'Neighbourhood Small Grants Fund'.

Donate via cheque, cash, or e-transfer to donate@squamishfoundation.com. Specify that the donation is for the NSG fund.



**Neighbourhood
Small Grants**

June Kleban and Doug Hackett

NSG Program Coordinators



As Coordinators of Neighbourhood Small Grants, we have seen so many wonderful, exciting projects this year. From scavenger hunts, garden beautification, barbecues, art walks, Halloween parties, craft market, and much more, bringing communities closer.

We thank all our project leaders, for their passion in bringing their project to their community. It was a very difficult summer, with fires, smoke, heat, and drought, that caused many postponed projects. BUT you were flexible and came through!

Very special thanks to our Resident Advisors: Chantel, Emilija, Ken and Rachael, who advised on our selection process. We approved 48 project applications, \$17,400 to our Squamish community. This is the most projects to date for Squamish.

Our Neighbourhood Small Grants program would not be possible without the continued support of our wonderful sponsors: the District of Squamish and the Squamish Community Foundation. Thank you both for helping this program to flourish.

As coordinators we want to thank you for all your “stories” and pictures. We hope that you enjoy seeing your project highlighted and reading about the other projects in our 3rd annual NSG yearbook.

June and Doug

Goodbye June!

It is sad for me to announce that June will be stepping down as an NSG Coordinator at the end of 2023. June has been working with me for the past five NSG seasons and she is amazing, caring and organized. She will be greatly missed. June will continue to be associated with Neighbourhood Small Grants through our Resident Advisory Committee. June, thank you for everything you have done to make our program better.

Doug

Project Leader: Marion Ashby

Project: Greenside Estates Community Connection

The primary vision for this project is: - for the community to get together. Although we are a smaller community, often there is no opportunity to visit and get to know our neighbours, all so busy with work and family commitments.



Tell us about your event or project when it was held. What went right? What went side-ways?

The day started with a garage sale at participants' units, in conjunction with knife sharpening by an owner, followed by a woodworking project for children over 5 years (helicopter spinners) and then a pot luck beginning in the early evening: a true potluck with all the food supplied by owners plus some culturally diverse foods, with 52 participants ranging in age from 83 years to 3 months.

A number of participants expressed their appreciation for the event and were certainly glad that we were able to get together, enjoying food and conversation.



How did you hear about the Neighbourhood Small Grants and what made you put your thoughts into action?

We heard about the project from local media, namely the Squamish Chief, and were aware our community utilized the program, pre-pandemic. Since the pandemic has abated considerably this seemed an opportune time to have a function in our small community after months of relative isolation and all the limits on socialization necessitated by the pandemic.



Project Leader: Jennifer Bayley

Project: Britannia Beach Community Dock Social

Early spring community volunteers work hard to install and repair the Docks. The docks in Britannia are open to the public and are a staple for our community. Without the endless volunteer hours and hard work we could lose our community dock. We wanted to have a BBQ/Social to celebrate all the hard work our neighbours do.



Tell us about your event or project when it was held. What went right? What went side-ways?

Our community dock party/ potluck was June 17. It was great. The rain held off and we even had a beautiful thunderstorm in the distance. Everyone was so grateful with the things I purchased for the kids from the community grant. And the great thing is some of the items we will be able to use for future events, Cornhole game, bubble wands, Giant Jenga and some left over arts and crafts.

***We all love where we live so much
and it would be so nice to also
celebrate that.***



How do think your event or project help bring your community closer together?

The games and arts and crafts broke the ice and made it easier for the kids to play together. Thanks again for approving and including us in your grant. It was so wonderful.

Project Leader: Justine Kendall

Project: University Heights Meet and Greet

We have had many new houses built in University heights over the last year (30-40 new townhouses). Many of the long-term neighbours would love to get to know the new families & new residents. We're a close-knit neighbourhood and it would be great to welcome the neighbours from "phase 2" into our family.



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

I was able to convince our performer to come down on this budget of \$800, down to \$350 for our neighbourhood party. He liked the idea of a community-building event.



I felt honoured to help facilitate an event for all my lovely neighbours and I would do it again!

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

Everyone said thank you and how lovely it was. I had one neighbour tell me it was the happiest she has seen her son in ages and thank you helping build a community for our families.



Project Leader: Nicole Rempel

Project: Read Cres. Meet and Greet

We plan to have a block party on the street. We will have a BBQ & enjoy socializing with our neighbours while our children play. We are hoping to create a very friendly & supportive neighbourly culture on our street.



People just don't drive by & wave anymore, we stop roll down the window and say hello when our neighbours are outside

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

We have a Facebook group for announcements on our street & also realize that many of our neighbours don't have Facebook so we hand deliver invitations to everyone on our street. I almost forgot to send out the invitations

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

I think our neighbours really enjoy getting together. It's always fun during the BBQ but I think the best part is how friendly our street has become now that we all are taking opportunities to get together.



Project Leader: Dana Finnie

Project: Nature's Gate block party

Nature's Gate is a 50 unit Town House Community with many friendly neighbours who would love a safe and fun outdoor event to encourage all who are interested to meet new neighbours and come outside and be social on a nice day!



*By bringing together
neighbours in a relaxed
and outdoor setting gives
people the chance to
connect*

Tell us about your event or project when it was held. What went right? What went side-ways?

We did a park bbq and nothing went sideways, everything turned out exactly as planned :)

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

Most of the feedback was simple gratitude, the hope is that we'll do it again!



Project Leader: Laura Scott

Project: Soleil garden party

Looking to host a community party for our complex. We wanted to do this much sooner to bring everyone together and roll out a gardening initiative, but covid happened. I'd like to purchase a bunch of gardening tools to store in a community location, and recruit neighbours to help with our landscaping around the complex.

Tell us about your event or project when it was held. What went right? What went side-ways?

We rented a large bouncy castle obstacle course from a lady in Britannia. It was a huge hit with the families! A lot of parents said they stayed longer because the kids were so well entertained. Everyone was really happy with the food (two rivers sausages, hot dogs, 3 delicious side salads) and we did a pot luck style dessert table so everyone brought treats to share. One little hiccup, we plugged the bouncy castle into the wrong persons outlet, so the owner of that plug wasn't too happy, honest mistake and fixed quickly :)



There were a lot of new faces at the BBQ that no one had met before so it was great to meet all of our new neighbours

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

Everyone was so happy that the weather cooperated, the food was delicious, all the neighbours got to meet and socialize, and the event was a huge success! Everyone said that we should do this more often so we might start planning a monthly BBQ get together where everybody brings their own grill item and do it potluck style.



Project Leader: Shannon Prasad

Project: Block Party

Neighbours, and friends come out to our driveway and we want to get a food truck and some lawn games. It will be this summer. People will get to know each other.



Tell us about your event or project when it was held. What went right? What went side-ways?

It was held September 3rd, 2023. We worried about the weather but it turned out to be really nice and no rain. Nothing went wrong.

Friends and neighbours that attended said, thank you! We had a lot of fun, it was nice to get the community together, the kids have so much fun.

How did you feel about what you have accomplished? Would you do it all again?

We love doing the block party, this is our 7th annual year. We will continue to do it. It helps to bring the community together.



The block party bring us all closer by being friends, looking out for one another, having fun together, sharing food together

Project Leader: Paula Johnson

Project: Summer Sound Battle

Sound Battle, is a 1 v 1 Freestyle dance competition open to dancers of all genres. Dancers select their preferred dance genres and are placed into similar groups of competitors. The DJ will play a track and you have thirty seconds to shine.

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

I guess the most difficult part of planning was wondering if I would get enough people to attend. Who was interested in dancing? With that in mind, I decided to open the school studio space after school on Fridays as an open dance space. There were a few keen dancers who I knew would appreciate learning from a professional dancer. I was able to host Matt Wong during a Freestyle Friday session.

The Sound Off Choreographic workshop and Sharing Show was an idea I had been working on for a while. I was also worried about attendance. I had two schools signed up from Surrey but could not get any of my students to join in. One school was not able to join us and I started to worry. My husband (again scrolling through his phone) saw an article about the Squamish Senior Line Dancers. I emailed them and they joined us. The event had high school students, senior dancers, and my age dancers. Everyone came together through dance. The seniors even taught us all their line dance. That was magical!



I think anytime people come together to explore, create, and share; you cannot help but to get to know one another

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

The Sound Off was beautiful. I saw one of the Squamish Senior Line Dancers, on the street and we got to talking. The members of the group that had attended had taken what they had learned from our workshop leader, Cristina Bucci, and shared it with the rest of their group at their next rehearsal. Similarly, dancers from the Sea to Sky Dance Collective who attended also shared ideas that had inspired them from the workshop. It made me feel good in my heart that the dancers were inspired and that they were also continuing to spread the new ideas.

Project Leader: Elizabeth Harbison

Project: Block Party

We would love to get our community together for a summer BBQ. We have a lot of new families that have joined the area and we think it would be a great way for them to integrate into the neighbourhood and get to know their neighbours.



Trying to find a day in the calendar that worked for the entire neighbourhood was impossible, so much so that we changed the date multiple times - not so amusing, but glad we landed on a sunny back to school weekend for the BBQ.

The block party BBQ went very successfully. It was a gorgeous and warm afternoon, the sky and mountains were clear and we had a great turnout. My son happened to get a bit too cozy with a not-so-friendly cat which ended in a quick trip to Squamish Hospital and 2 stitches (he's totally okay!), but other than that it was a wonderful event.

How do think your event or project help bring your community closer together?

I believe it brought our neighbourhood closer together especially after a difficult pandemic period and also our long cold winters - this is the type of grant and event that would be great to have every summer so we all feel part of each others lives.



The NSG program is an amazing initiative and is helping the Squamish community feel more connected.

Project Leader: Sheryl Staples

Project: North Highlands Community Street Party

Our event was a community street party which had a tournament of events for kids under the age of 15 with the winner getting their address on the trophy. The tournament included 3 events: archery, bean bag toss and biathlon laser rifles.

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

While planning the project we had to make changes based on the grant money allotted. Previously we had been given more money so we debated as a group whether we could afford to have a portable toilet on site. Kindly one neighbour sponsored the toilet himself and used it as a marketing tool. He placed a sign next to the toilet which was quite funny.



How do you think your event or project helped bring your community closer together?

Since it was a community street party there were many people from various streets in attendance. I loved seeing all of the people mingling and catching up, watching and listening to the music, sharing their favourite homemade dishes and taking part in the tournament or just enjoying the games. Having the event in September was nice to bring people together after the end of summer and welcome any new neighbours to the area as school starts for the kids.

Thank you again for the grant to allow the community of North Highlands to come together and connect!

Project Leader: Karen Hope

Project: Ridgeway Crescent Street Party

We hosted a block party at the end of our street where all the neighbours came out to enjoy a bbq and dj on the street and socialize together. Everything worked out great!



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

With all of us making the most out of the summer vacation trying to find a day in the summer where we could all attend was much harder than we had anticipated.

It was fantastic and yes we would do it again for sure!



How do think your event or project help bring your community closer together?

It gave us all an opportunity to get together and socialize on the street and get to know our old and new neighbours more

Project Leader: Marylène Harper

Project: Community Stand For Entrepreneurial Kids

Introducing a community stand to give children a space to practice their entrepreneurial skills is an idea that is sure to bring lasting benefits both to the kids and to their local neighborhood. With a designated area where they can set up lemonade stands, toy stands, or anything else they might come up with, young entrepreneurs can make use of their imagination and business acumen in ways that are both fun and rewarding.



Project Leader: Sarena Jonah

Project: Strengthening Mountain View Place through Gardening

We don't have a lot of extra funds to put towards landscaping and beautification. We have also had many new neighbours moved into our complex over the last five years, and I thought a project where we all work together for a collective idea, would be a great way to strengthen relationships and build community.

Tell us about your event or project when it was held. What went right? What went side-ways?

Everything went smoothly. My co-partner in helping to organize the event, as well as purchase the supplies needed for the event, was extremely helpful. As everyone was prepared for a gardening project, most people brought their own shovels and rakes to help. The only thing that went sideways is that we had a vehicle parked directly in front of our gardening area, and the owners weren't in town in order to move it as they had forgotten about the event. That was a little difficult in distributing the soil evenly, but we improvised, and everything went great.

How do think your event or project help bring your community closer together?

Everyone was chatting while we all worked together and it was a great opportunity to catch up on how everyone's summers went, and how everyone's start to September was going. It's not often that we have moments where everyone in the complex can come together, other than during strata meetings, or AGM's, or SGM's, and sometimes those types of meetings can be tense and formal. It was refreshing to have an informal event where we could talk about our own lives and get to know each other on a different level.

We had a unique opportunity to be neighbourly



Project Leader: Michelle Watson

Project: Pierowall Place Picnic Party

I saw an ad on Facebook (I had seen it over the last few years) and this year I decided to apply. I felt like our little cul-de-sac community hadn't had a social event in a long time. Sadly, we've live there for 13 years and a few of the participants had never been in our house! We all always chat in the cul-de-sac when we see each other, but I felt it was time to expand our connection

Tell us about your event or project when it was held. What went right? What went side-ways?

Originally I had planned to do an outdoor barbeque but , there were a few wrenches thrown into the planning and delivery of the event. Finally once we settled on a date, I enlisted the help of two or three neighbours to take on a few roles to help. Each brought either a salad, side or dessert (covered also with the grant funds). People each made a few things and we ended up with 4 different desserts! Yummy! We also had to ask a number of participants to bring their own chairs as we didn't have seating for 15, but everyone was happy to help!



It feels really nice to know that we've started something that has really increased out community's connection.

How did you feel about what you have accomplished? Would you do it all again?

I really fell great about it. Prior to the event, I was feeling rather stressed about it and was wavering on just canceling it because of the numerous times we had to reschedule. I felt a bit like fate was not on our side. I am so happy that we stuck with it and held the event. It was really nice to spend time with my neighbours.

I would 100% Do it again. We've all commented that we need to do more things like that, so a big THANK YOU goes out the Small Neighborhood Grant committee and the Squamish Foundation for this initiative.



Project Leader: Paige Harley

Project: Valleycliffe Makers Market

The Valleycraft Makers Market is a community block party, free for stall holders and attendees to participate. Our neighbourhood in Valleycliffe has a startling amount of artists, makers and crafty home based businesses. During covid, so many of us stopped connecting with our neighbours in person and often don't realize how many talented people live just next door.

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

-When planning our project, we mapped out the event space using sidewalk chalk and measured specifically to give everyone their designated zone. Days before the event we started hearing from participants about different size spaces needing to be accommodated. Helped us to learn to be flexible and go with the flow. It all worked out in the end.

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

We received tons of positive feedback. Everyone had a great time and will be coming out for the next one. Interestingly, some vendors thought the event went on for too long so we're planning to shorten the length for our next one

How did you feel about what you have accomplished? Would you do it all again?

-We were extremely happy with the results and are planning to do it again in September



*Even though it was a market,
it felt like more of a block
party*



Project Leader: Jacqui Moffatt

Project: Adaptive Bike Fair

Since bike riding is such a big part of a lifestyle for many children in Squamish and I wanted to host an Adaptive Bike Fair at Ecole Squamish Elementary in the Spring of 2023 to show the school community what is possible for children in terms of more accessible bikes.

There are often many barriers to participation in extra-curricular, play and leisure activities for children who have extra needs. Even accessing playgrounds can be a major barrier because there are very few pieces of truly accessible equipment in the community. Positive steps are being taken to have more accessible playground equipment but often the equipment is expensive, so the process is very slow.



*For some students it was
their first opportunity riding
a bike independently*

The bikes we used were demos from a medical equipment company. These bikes are quite costly, averaging between \$4000-\$8000/per bike so for many families this is not an option for them to purchase a bike like this for their child. There are charities (e.g.; Variety Club and CKNW) who offer grants to help supplement the cost of an adaptive bike. I have had some success supporting families to receive these grants but there can also be limitations to the grants, so not all families may be eligible. I hope that by hosting the Adaptive Bike Fair, more people in the community are now aware of what is possible to make bike riding more accessible to all children.

We had very positive feedback about the event from both children, families and staff at the school. Many of the children were thrilled to have a chance riding one of the bikes and riding together with peers in the gym. The hardest part was getting them off the bikes as they wanted to keep riding!!

Project Leader: Suesantie Persaud

Project: Westwoods Community Dinner

Seniors sharing their culture through art, storytelling and favorite recipes. This will connect the community of Westwinds residents by enjoying a meal and entertainment together.

This wonderful evening was made possible, in part by Doug Hackett and June Kleban who are the Program Coordinators of the Neighbourhood Small Grants Program through Squamish Community Foundation.

I would also like to thank West winds for their financial contribution, and for allowing me to use the amenities room. I would also like to thank, Marisa from the Welcome Centre for creating the poster and The Women's Centre for printing.

My intention in making this dinner is to build community, and to get to know my neighbors better. Thank you to the volunteers and all who have made my vision a reality.



**AN EVENING OF GUYANESE
INDIAN CUISINE**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 19TH AT 5 PM
AT THE AMENITIES ROOM**

ONLY 75 SPACES. GET YOUR TICKET AT THE OFFICE

\$5 DONATION

**HOSTING BY
SUESANTIE**

NOT SPICY

 **SQUAMISH
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

 **Neighbourhood
Small Grants**

 **Westwinds**
FOUR MILE SENIOR LIVING

Project Leader: Jamie Schumacher

Project: Creepy Woods Halloween Trail

Pumpkin carving contest and haunted Halloween trail adds more to Halloween than trick or treating does in our neighborhood. The kids love seeing the pumpkins they carve on the haunted trail Halloween night. We put the pumpkins out on the trail that connects our lower cul-de-sac to the upper cul-de-sac the Halloween afternoon and remove them by 9pm that night, we ensure all the pumpkins go in the compost!



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

This year we incorporated all generations into the pumpkin carving event by asking our older adult neighbors to be the judges of the pumpkin carving. We had an individual be the head of the judging committee and a full team of judges. They all took their job very seriously. It was quite cute to watch. Sunday October 29th we held a pumpkin carving contest in our neighborhood. Together we carved 50 pumpkins. We had prizes for all sorts of categories; scariest, most creative, ugliest, most disgusting, best nose etc. The list was long. We initially had 5 grand prizes and many little prizes but realize now we should have just had a ton of little prizes with equal value.

**Meeting new
neighbours is the
best part about it!**



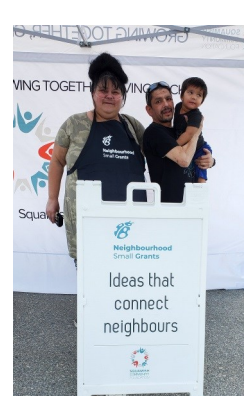
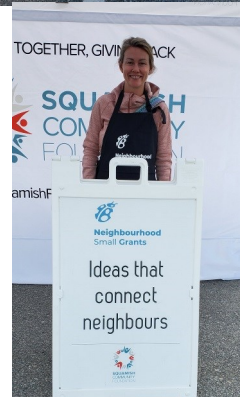
What did your participants say to you about your event or project?

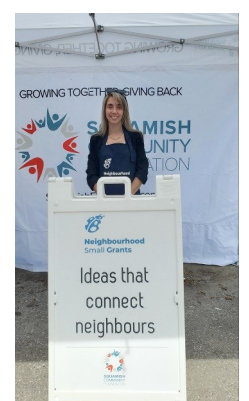
Everyone loves the Creepy Woods Halloween trail, lots of smiles, laughter, and a few screams as they walk through the forest.



Photos
were taken at
cheque pick-up

Sorry if we
missed you!





Project Leader: Devan Williams

Project: Truth and Reconciliation Walk and Commemoration

The Skwxwú7mesh Uxwumixw wanted to invite everyone to gather as a community to honour, remember and pay respect to the survivors of Residential School and those who never made it home. The passion that the Sea to Sky District community to want to come together to support the residential school survivors **was amazing to witness.**



NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION COMMEMORATION
NAYLONWIT DVA EGB 18111H & RECONCILIATION COMMEMORATION

HONOURING OUR CHILDREN & SURVIVORS

September 30, 2023
12:30-4:00 pm

starting from
Winnipeg St. & Cleveland Ave.

ending at
O'Siyam Pavilion

The Skwxwú7mesh Uxwumixw would like to invite everyone to gather as a community to honour, remember & pay respect to the survivors of Residential School & those who never made it home.

We will also celebrate our resilience as Indigenous People's the resurgence, reclamation of our ancestral teachings.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

It was astonishing to see Squamish organizations come together, reach out to the Squamish Nation, ask how they could help support the residential school survivors, and to volunteer their time and resources. This was a district wide passion project that everyone wanted to help with.

***Wa chet kw'enmantumi tima kwis
chachshayway ta keksin ti siyatshen***

***"We give thanks for the ways we share the
world with each other.***



I am honored and grateful for the community that we come from. Creating a space where the Residential School Survivors felt safe to share their story was an honour. My heart is full.



Project Leader: Jen Yates

Project: Community Block Party

Our event took place at Fisherman's Park Beach area. We offered a pizza dinner to all of the neighbours who could attend. One of the neighbours was even able to secure some drinks donated by independent. We had just enough pizza for every person there, and everybody was so happy just to be together, connect and reunite.

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

It was very difficult to find a date that worked for just the organizers. We looked at the entire spring, summer and fall and finally ended on September 23. We were excited to have our event on a beautiful sunny September Saturday, but the forecast didn't agree with us. Last minute we shifted our date to Friday afternoon and had a beautiful evening dinner at the beach. All of the neighbours that said they could come were able to attend.



We were able to meet new neighbours and talk about our community and get to know each other better.

How did you feel about what you have accomplished? Would you do it all again?

It was wonderful to meet new neighbours and connect with old ones. Yes, I would do it again! We have such a wonderful community and it's so nice to connect with them. We even talked about other ways we could use community grant money in the future, such as co-planning foods to plant in each of our gardens and sharing the harvest, having a seed sharing night, and even looking at Halloween, as that is a time of year, where we are all together.



Project Leader: Colin Rowbotham

Project: Summer 2023 Block party

Our event took place in September, strategically timed as the summer season was winding down to ensure maximum attendance. Overall, the event went exceptionally well, and we were pleased with the turnout.



It encouraged people to step out of their comfort zones and interact with those they may not have otherwise met.

We received feedback from attendees who visited from the neighboring complex, expressing their appreciation for being included.

We are satisfied with the outcome of our project and the positive impact it had. Both my partner and I now feel more confident in engaging with neighbors who were previously strangers.

Our event played a significant role in breaking down social barriers and facilitating connections among neighbors.



Project Leader: Gloria MacIver

Project: Eagle Grove Community BBQ

We are a 55 plus community with an age range of 55 - 90+ owners. Over the past few years many stayed in their units in fear of COVID. Last summer we as Strata Council decided to have a BBQ to have some community interaction. We have been asked over the winter if we would hold another one this summer. It has been a long winter and everyone is looking forward to some time outdoors.

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

Everyone was extremely pleased and thankful that it was held for their pleasure.

Anyone we talked to were very appreciative and already looking forward to next summer or something between now and then.



All of us at Eagle Grove want to extend our appreciation and a big Thank You to the Squamish Foundation for providing the Neighbourhood Small Grants.

Project Leader: Maria Julie Erb

Project: 30 seniors celebrating their accomplishments

Covid lockdown did not stop some Seniors from working in isolation to help the Community. Since 2020 these 30 Seniors, ages 70 to 95, have been knitting, crocheting, and sewing to support the Community. Now, it is time that we all celebrate together by having a barbecue and a big cake.

Could you tell us about your event?

The luncheon occurred on Thursday, June 15th, at 2547 Jura Crescent, Garibaldi Highlands.

Helen, and her husband, both in their 80, ensured that every detail was perfect. (They were up until late the night before, blowing balloons.)

We ordered food platters from Nesters and cake from Save-on-Foods. Thanks to the Small Community Grant, we came very close to our budget: good food, good weather, and beautiful garden flowers made it for a perfect party.

One of the ladies made beautiful handmade party gifts for each guest.



*Thank you, once again, for making
a group of 25 Seniors very happy*

How did you feel about the party?

The party went very well.

Good friends always put a smile on my face, and seeing how many came out to celebrate their accomplishments made it all worthwhile.

How did you think the project helped bring your community together?

Seniors are usually forgotten, and to have 25 Seniors who do so much for the Squamish Community being appreciated warmed my heart.



Project Leader: Sarah Greenwood

Project: Neighbourhood Block Party

My vision is to have a BBQ and other community food. I would like to arrange an organizing committee to ensure that this event feels open and welcoming to everyone. Whether it is a variety of cultural food, kids games, or merely a place for people to sit and chat, my hope is that this event provides an opportunity for people to meet other neighbours, say 'hi' to friends, and create more community connection.

A really enjoyable part of the planning was involving my family. My 3yr old daughter and I hand-delivered invitations to each house on Plateau Drive and Plateau Crescent. She got a real kick out of putting notices in people's doors. We also met some people while we did this, and had some lovely interactions. So, the intention of building community was already in action!

I see people walking down the street and can say "hi" by name. It's a lovely feeling and I hope it continues!



From an organizational perspective, I found it all to be low time investment and high reward. My intention was to keep things simple and easy and I feel that was a success. Grocery shopping, set-up and clean-up was all simple and made easier by spontaneous community involvement. I also made a point of asking people to bring food to share but to also keep it simple. I didn't want to deter people if they felt like they had to make a dish to pass etc. We ended up having a great spread of food. I also asked people to bring their own cups and plates. This helped keep things a bit greener and made clean-up faster.

People were so appreciative. Many people mentioned to me that they had been wanting to host a block-party for many years and never actioned it. So, there was a lot of appreciation for someone stepping up and making it happen.



Project Leader: Katherine Griffiths

Project: Windsail Street Party

We held a street party that included BBQ dinner and games for kids & adults. The planning was smooth, the date we picked had beautiful weather (maybe a little windy for the tents), everyone came together to help set up and tear down, as well as participate in the activities, pot luck food and BBQ meal.



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

When I invited some parents over to plan we were pleased that some of the kids wanted to participate in planning our event as well

How did you feel about what you have accomplished? Would you do it all again?

I felt really pleased that our neighbours all came together socially, offering free food covered by the grant helps get people to attend. Yes we will definitely do it again!

Even short term tenants attended which was a nice way to show them the community spirit of Squamish and our neighbourhood



Project Leader: Nicole Tomasi

Project: Soaking up the social

it would be great to have a large social gathering where everyone can meet and mingle and make new connections. Id love to hire a dj and offer delicious bbq food options for everyone to enjoy.



*It felt great seeing smiles
on everyone's face as
they enjoyed each
other's company.*

Project Leader: Sonya Waitman

Project: End of Main block party

We live at the end of main where the aqua townhouses, tower, and soliel townhouses are. Right now there is some legal thing going on between soliel and aqua so I thought a fun party could bring everyone together.

How did you hear about the Neighbourhood Small Grants and what made you put your thoughts into action?

I heard about the Neighbourhood Small Grants through a friend when I first moved to Squamish. It took me a year to get settled but the next year I couldn't wait to apply. The end of Main where Aqua and Soliel are is a very dense community filled with people of all ages and I thought a neighborhood event would be a great way to bring us all together.

I know we made
a lot of kids
happy



Tell us about your event or project when it was held. What went right? What went side-ways?

We held it during the day on the Sunday before Halloween. Overall it was a huge success, our strata even kicked in another 300 to help with costs. Lots of people coming out to enjoy the costumes, food, and community. That said, it was very challenging to estimate food needs and we overestimated how much we would need and ended up going over budget and with a lot of leftovers. We took some to UnderOneRoof and the rest we divided up. It also took far longer to set up than we thought. It was also a bit cold so folks didn't hang out as long as we had thought.

Project Leader: Julia Wayatt

Project: Community Togetherness

Midnight Way is an area north of Squamish where residents live on acreages and so do not often see each other. Our idea is to have a block party so that the community can meet each other and see who is in our community. We have had a lot of people move out and into our community, a lot of small children, and teenagers. It would be so good for them all to meet.

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

Many people on our street had not been to any event since Covid and said to us that this was a huge deal for them and they were so happy to get out and meet their neighbours. Everyone said it was such a great event. All the driveways are very long, and people do not see each other very often as everyone sticks to their own property but having this event meant that everyone could meet each other and see faces, and now people smile and wave at each other.



Now we all smile and wave at each other.



Project Leader: Tara Rayner

Project: Valleycliffe Grand Fun-do!

We plan to host a neighbourhood party the morning of the Gran Fondo - as Valleycliffe is cutoff from the rest of Squamish with the highway closures. So, we thought it would be fun to bring the community together and celebrate all that is great about our hood! :)



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

Brainstorming together, trying to decide how to go about it, what we wanted to attract and incorporate. Nolan had organized an event previously, so we opted not to do a lot with food - but know that everyone loves Cake!

It felt really great to get the community together

Tell us about your event or project when it was held.

We hosted a neighbourhood gathering at McNaughton Park, a local park in Valleycliffe from 10-1. We had face painters (Thank you again Doug & Muff!!), yard games (purchased with the grant, and some borrowed), cake and a presentation from the Conservation Officer. Everything went very smoothly! About half an hour after the CO finished his presentation, we had a bear visit us! Thankfully everyone was freshly educated on what to do, and the bear left very quickly!



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

Everyone was really appreciative of us putting on the event. We organized it so that it was on the Gran Fondo Day, which as we all know, limits the ability to move around Squamish significantly. So, people were happy to have something to do, to gather at the same time, and SEE our community. We had lots of people thanking us, asking about doing it next year, and commending it as "an awesome initiative and well put together"

Project Leader: Carolyn Jones

Project: Timbertown Community BBQ

We would like to host BBQ in our central green space for all the residents of Timbertown Estates. We would ask residents to donate items needed. Such as a few BBQ's to cook food, coolers, tables, pop up shade structures. It would be a bring your own: plates & utensils, chairs, lawn games, beverages (pop, juice, water, etc). A celebration for neighbours to meet each other, come together, and share a meal.



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

The attendance numbers jumped up by 20 when we sent out the reminder email 2 days before! Which is great because we really did want every single community member to come.

Special thanks to Nesters for the support!

So many people offered to help out. The event including prep and clean up went really smoothly.

We wore name tags with our unit numbers, so that we know each other better, and can really put a name to our neighbours face now.

How do think your event or project help bring your community closer together?

When we started planning this event it was really just about the neighbourhood coming together to share a meal and connect. Keeping in mind some of the Neighbourhood Small Grant Program principals of where we live matters and everyone is invited!

***Our community is
safer because of it!***

Project Leader: Tocha Copeland

Project: Valley View Place community garden

Expanding and enhancing our small community garden space. We built our garden in 2020 with a neighbourhood small grant. I would like to update the existing planting areas as well as add some more kid grow/learn areas for sensory play.

How did you hear about the Neighbourhood Small Grants and what made you put your thoughts into action?

I first heard of the Neighbourhood Small Grants, when our Strata president hosted a multicomplex meet and greet BBQ for our small branch of lower Valleycliffe (valley drive). Then again in 2020 when we had to socially distance we decided to clear out a section of the edge of the property that had been overtaken by bramble and build a bigger shared community garden space. The Neighbourhood Small Grant helped us bring our garden to life. Over the last couple of years as we have all started back to work and life out in the larger community the interest in the garden started to decrease. Over the years we have struggled keeping the younger kids from tromping on or digging up the shared garden. We had an idea to turn the main bed of the garden over to the kids, have them dig it, plant it, water it, harvest it and EAT IT!

*I think the best feedback was
watching them eat what they grew*

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

There were a lot of really funny moments in the process. One that sticks out is when working as a team one kid would dig a hole, turn around to get a seedling and by the time they turned around another kid had filled in the hole.

Tell us about your event or project when it was held. What went right? What went side-ways?

Our project spanned a whole year in the garden, starting with planting garlic and tulip bulbs last fall, cucumbers, tomatoes, herbs and beautiful dahlias. We wrapped up with a garden party in early September, where the kids made a feast of cucumber salad, tomato and fresh garlic herb tapenade all collected and grown by them.

How do think your event or project help bring your community closer together?

The kids are used to playing together, but there's almost always tears and drama. I think the garden was a really great way for them to learn to work as a team and actually see what they get when they do. They were really proud when they first saw the baby tomatoes and cucumbers.

Project Leader: Tegan Bucholtz

Project: Upper Perth's Neighbourhood Get Together

A family friendly block party for the residence at the top of Perth drive and the immediate surrounding areas. In the past 5 years there have been a number of families move away and replaced by new ones. After speaking with some of the residence in the neighborhood we thought it would be a really great idea to host an event where we could all come together and get to know one another.

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

Everything went pretty smoothly in the planning of the project. It was great to get together with some of the neighbors and brainstorm ideas about food and activities. The only real hiccup we encountered was trying to get in contact with the engineering department in Squamish. We were hoping to close off the road for our event however because we couldn't get a permit we just decided on doing it in our yard which turned out to be a great spot for the block party.

**Thank you so much for having
such a wonderful program that
brings communities together!**



How did you feel about what you have accomplished?

I feel great about having been able to host the event. It was wonderful to have met all of our neighbors. Only two were unable to attend so it really felt like we were all able to connect.

There are so many new faces in the neighborhood that I think by throwing this event we were really able to build that bridge between the new and long-term residents in our community.

Project Leader: Josh Visser

Project: Squamish Scavenger Hunt

My dream is to create the largest community scavenger hunt Squamish has ever seen. We will enlist community members, alumni & graduates of Quest University and Squamish locals of all ages and demographics to take part.

Tell us about your event or project when it was held. What went right? What went side-ways?

We held a 'friends weekend' which brought together a community of people who previously lived in Squamish or currently live here and are all connected as alumni of Quest University. I had the idea of putting together a Squamish wide scavenger hunt challenge where teams of 3-4 people had 3 hours to run around Squamish and complete challenges like buy a stranger a coffee, give someone a bouquet of flowers or encourage strangers to build a human pyramid with you. The challenges were weighted by points and the team who was able to get the most number of points won the challenge. We have over 40 people show up. At the end, we all met at the river in Valley Cliff and enjoyed pizza that was donated by Panago Squamish.



This event brought everyone together to bond with one another and bring random acts of joy to strangers.

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

During planning, I was proud to tell people about the Squamish/Vancouver foundation and what they're doing for our local community. I found it very interesting the amount of people who had not heard of, or could believe, there is an organization like the Squamish Foundation in our town supporting community events such as mine. I had a lot of fun being the evangelist of the Squamish Foundation to my community in Squamish and teach them all about your organization. I think you'll have a few more grant applicants next year



Project Leader: Catherine Trueman

Project: Legacy Ridge Block Party

We are a brand new neighbourhood, and this would give us an opportunity to meet and get to know one another, create new friendships and support for one another. I would love for us to have a community BBQ where we cook and eat together, enjoy music, complete with activities for young children and youth living on our street.

Tell us about your event or project when it was held

We had a date set for an outdoor BBQ in August, and unfortunately we ended up having smoke blow in from wildfires in other parts of B.C., coupled with the temperature going up quite high, making it unpleasant to be outside. We decided to reschedule to a later date that worked for the majority, switching to a fall indoor gathering, instead.

The end of October proved to be the best time for people to get together, so I switched to hosting an afternoon event in our home with light bites and a Halloween theme. Our young neighbours were encouraged to wear Halloween costumes, and there were Halloween themed crafts and books for them to enjoy and take home.



— [forging friendships, being there to help one another] —



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

Feedback from our event was very positive. People said how much they appreciated being able to meet and get to know one another, and that they feel like we are now creating a community. There was excitement for making this an annual event!



Project Leader: Tanya Jamieson

Project: Raven's Plateau Rock

Last year, some local youth fundraiser among the neighbors to put in new flowers and clean up the rock at the entrance of the neighborhood. I would like to get more flowers (bulbs and perennials), so it will continue to grow each year. Following a cleanup/planting day - I would like to have a BBQ Block Party

Tell us about your event or project when it was held. What went right? What went side-ways?

It was a lot more difficult than I thought to fit something into my already crazy schedule. June was great about giving me ideas. Still have one piece to finish, but illness took out our whole house for the last two weeks of October. I will be putting together spring bulbs packages for each house with an NSG label on it.

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

Everyone loved it. Another neighbor took over watering during the summer and placement of bottles for deep root watering. I was and still am pleasantly surprised that the solar lights are still there and haven't been stolen/damaged.

How do think your event or project help bring your community closer together?

I had people commenting on it throughout the summer and even if they saw me outside of the neighborhood, they recognized me.



My kids came to "help"....they aren't very helpful



Project Leader: Krystle tenBrink

Project: Public Raku Fires

The active members of the Sea to Sky Pottery Guild host 4-6 raku public firings for potters from Squamish and the Sea to Sky to gather and fire their raku pottery in 2-3 different raku techniques. These type of firings are always open to the public and usually see anywhere from 20-50 mixed potters and residents participating or spectating.

Tell us about your event or project when it was held.

Our event was called 'Squamish Raku Firing & Potluck', held Sunday October 29th from noon - 4:30 pm. Since we have done these before, it was a smooth event and we were able to welcome new potters and public to check out the Raku process. This allowed us (the organizers) to teach new folks how to manage the kilns safely as some of the temperatures get up to 1,600 f. We had perfect weather, great food, wonderful participants and spectators.

As always with pottery, pots can crack, in which some did.



***We loved everything about
the day***

How do think your event or project help bring your community closer together?

Without community pottery studios in the Sea to Sky, most potters are in their own studio alone and/or teaching. Thus, this event is a great opportunity to gather potters together with shared skills and passions. It also allows for organic connections to happen likely collaborating, sharing knowledge or meeting a few friend, in which happens each time we host one of these events.



Project Leader: Renee Kranz

Project: Glacier View Block Party

We would love to host a gathering for neighbors in the Glacier View area to gather, meet new neighbors and to catch up with neighbors we haven't seen in a while. After a long winter (and COVID) where we haven't had a chance to connect to our neighbors, we hope that this will help to create a stronger sense of community in our neighborhood.

Tell us about your event or project when it was held.

It was really difficult to get a date that worked for everyone.

We decided to do a post-trick-or-treating gathering. It was lovely night. We had a fire, drinks, the kids traded candy and we had fireworks. It brought a lot of new faces out to enjoy the fireworks.

Everyone really enjoyed the fireworks and that the event got everyone out. The kids really had a lot of fun.



We created great times and memories for the kids and for the community

... a big THANK YOU to

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

WELL DONE!



Good bye!

**We look forward to
seeing you in 2024!**



SQUAMISH
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION