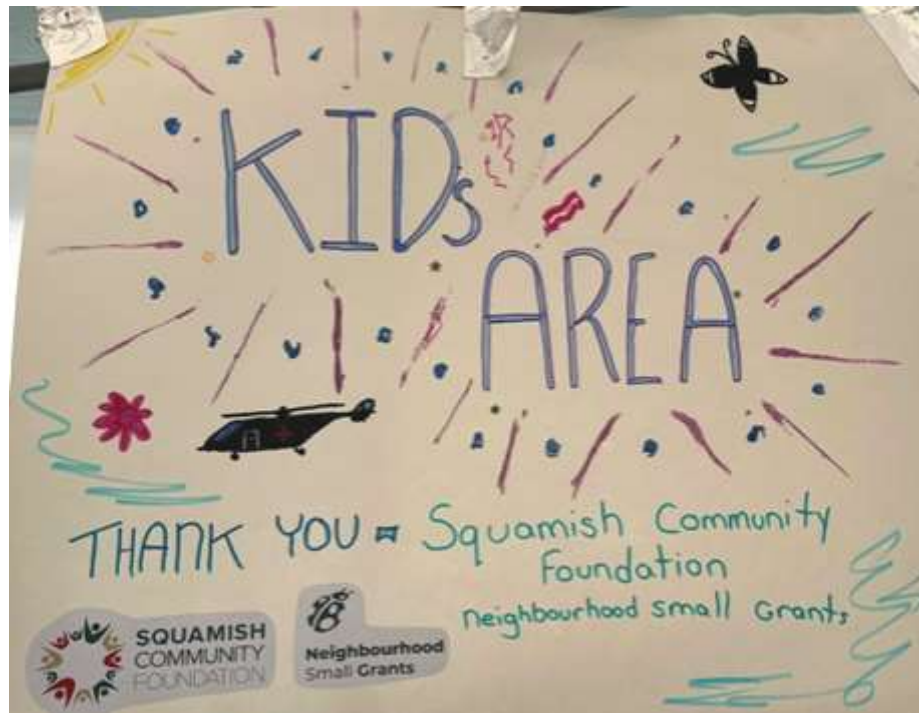




Neighbourhood Small Grants



2024 Yearbook



Cover photo submitted by Jennifer Bayley

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



The District of Squamish is pleased to support an initiative that is committed to creating vibrant, healthy and inclusive communities through shared connections. This collection of stories highlights the commitment, collaboration and community that exists within our town.

Community building exists in many forms from neighbourhood gatherings to cultural events that bring people together. Being a good neighbour means acknowledging that all members of our community add value and we all have something unique to share that will help our community thrive.

Since 2003, the Squamish Community Foundation has given back to Squamish through supporting community initiatives and occasions to support a sense of belonging and make our town a more meaningful place to live.

I would like to express deep gratitude and appreciation to all the leaders in our community who have given back to their neighbourhoods, and to the social health and wellbeing of our community.

Mayor Armand Hurford
November, 2024

<https://squamish.ca/>

Neighbourhood Small Grants Yearbook 2024



Suzie Soman

Chair | Squamish Community Foundation



Once again, the Squamish Community Foundation is so grateful to administer the Neighborhood Small Grants program in 2024.

2024 was a year of great projects and community connection and we love seeing the diverse projects that show us how the neighborhoods come together. A few of the highlights this year that truly show the community spirit of Squamish are; Community Bat Walks Bridging Gaps through Nature, Sirrico Coffee Morning, Wenda Palooza, and Kites for Kids.

Last year we shared that the Neighbourhood Small Grant program would only be running for one more year. We recently heard that this program will continue and we are thrilled and thankful to the Vancouver Foundation for understanding the importance of this program and all the many reasons it needs to continue. Stay tuned for more information in early 2025.

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.

In closing, I would like to thank Doug Hackett for his unwavering dedication to the Neighbourhood Small Grant project over the last 7 years. Doug is retiring from the coordination of the program and we can't thank Doug enough for his dedication and passion for Squamish and bringing together all of the communities of Squamish. We wish Doug all the best in his future endeavours and look forward to seeing him out and about in Squamish, most likely on his bike.

Looking forward to seeing what 2025 will bring!
Suzie

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

Neighbourhood Small Grants Yearbook 2024



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.
the NSG fund.

Specify that the donation is for



**Neighbourhood
Small Grants**

Doug Hackett and Emilija Dufresne

NSG Program Coordinators

As Coordinators of Neighbourhood Small Grants, we've been thrilled to witness so many incredible and inspiring projects come to life this year! From summer socials and garden beautification projects to barbecues, wood working events, Halloween parties, and community art nights, each project has brought people together and strengthened our sense of community.

A huge thank you to our amazing project leaders for your passion and dedication in bringing your ideas to life and making a real difference in your neighborhoods.

We also want to extend a special shoutout to our Resident Advisors—Chantel, June, and Revard—whose invaluable guidance helped shape our selection process. This year, we proudly approved 36 project applications, investing \$17,335 back into the Squamish community. What a fantastic year it's been for fostering connections and creativity!

Our Neighbourhood Small Grants program wouldn't be possible without the generous support of our sponsors, the District of Squamish and the Squamish Community Foundation. Your partnership is the backbone of this program, and we're so grateful for your continued commitment to helping it thrive.

Finally, thank you to everyone who shared your stories and snapshots from your projects. We hope you enjoy seeing your efforts highlighted and learning about other inspiring initiatives in our 4th annual NSG yearbook. Let's keep the momentum going and continue building an even stronger, more connected community together!

Doug and Emilija

Project Leader: Carolyn Klassen

Project: Ravenswood Block Party

Community potluck and games in the green space.

Describe the event or project you organized and when it took place. What aspects were successful, and were there any unexpected challenges?

We had a pizza party in the green space. The amount that was ordered was just right and folks all brought their plates etc. not everyone remembered this so they had to walk back to their homes. For the composting of the pizza boxes every household took home one to disperse the clean up. It was great!!

Can you share a memorable (or perhaps challenging) incident that occurred during the planning phase of your project ?

Hard to get someone to take the lead. Everyone wants to come but unless the project is divided into smaller volunteer bits, it's hard to get folks to help with set up and take down etc.

People recognize each other and it helps to build bridges for new folks who have recently moved to the neighborhood and for those who haven't seen each other for a long time.



What feedback did you receive from participants regarding your event or project? Was there any particularly interesting feedback that stood out?

All loved it and want it to happen every year. Pizza options were great and simple for organizers and great support for local vendor. Would be good to have drinks next time or something to connect people who don't know each other. Perhaps ice breaker games.

Project Leader: Sheryl Staples

Project: North Highlands Community Art Night

This year we hope to connect our new and old community members by hosting a community paint night on the street. We will pay a local artist to come and teach a paint night held on our street for 30+ neighbours. We will all learn a new skill or improve a known skill while connecting over pot-luck style snacks and drinks. To maximize the arts we will also host an instrumental "jam session" with various instruments around a fire afterwards.

Describe the event or project you organized and when it took place. What aspects were successful, and were there any unexpected challenges?

I planned a paint pouring night for the ladies of Greenwood Way. It took place Saturday October 19th, 2024 from 5:45-9:00pm. We had 6 ladies have to cancel last minute due to sickness, but with everything booked we proceeded anyway. There were only 8 ladies able to attend, but we had a blast. Since the numbers were low, but we had already agreed on a price with Happiness, it meant we were able to do multiple paintings. I also brought a full 4'x8' piece of plywood painted black for all of the ladies to contribute to a piece of art for the neighbourhood. We did a massive paint pouring and it turned out beautifully. We plan to hang it along the path that accesses Merrill Park from Greenwood Way for all to appreciate. We had food and drinks with plenty of connections and laughs.

Everyone was thankful for the opportunity to connect and learn a new skill. They have all asked that we try to plan regular events instead of just waiting for one a year.



In what ways do you believe your event or project helped foster a stronger sense of community within your neighborhood?

I truly believe it brought our neighbours closer together. There have been many changes to the residents of the street and I think it has harnessed a sense of security with knowing your neighbours and safety to look out for each others' kids. New friendships have been made and a beautiful piece of art will remind us regularly of the fun times had at the event.

Project Leader: Neil Campbell

Project: Community Event

Within our neighbourhood we have gotten together for a small bbq and game events (horse shoes / lawn bowling) in our green space.

This year we would like to step it up for our community with hopes of starting a sidewalk chalk contest.

How do you feel about the accomplishments of your project? Would you be willing to undertake a similar initiative in the future?

I felt for the first year it was a success, I would gladly host and put together another event, knowing how much extra stuff I needed and ideas of where we could grow would definitely require extra volunteers.



The most memorable was the smile on the face of the chosen winner of the art walk.

In what ways do you believe your event or project helped foster a stronger sense of community within your neighborhood?

With the gift of Audain art museum passes I believe I've helped inspire and encourage a young artist to continue his journey, as for neighbourhood improvements my family is newer to our community and it gave us a chance to meet more neighbours to create a place to say hi as we pass on the street



Project Leader: Felix Martinez

Project: Community Bat Walks: Bridging Gaps Through Nature Exploration

Our proposal aims to implement a series of community bat walks as a unique and inclusive initiative to foster community development, reduce social isolation, and promote inclusivity. These guided nocturnal adventures will not only provide an opportunity for residents to connect with nature but also serve as a platform for building stronger community bonds.



How did you learn about the Neighbourhood Small Grants program, and what motivated you to take action?

I came across the Neighbourhood Small Grants program online while searching for resources to support community engagement activities. This grant was a great fit to help me share my knowledge about bats and wildlife with my neighbours. It offered a unique opportunity to both educate the community on the importance of these animals and to foster a stronger sense of togetherness around conservation.

I'm thrilled with the impact the project had! It was incredibly rewarding to help neighbours see the value of protecting wildlife and to spark an interest in conservation

Describe the event or project you organized and when it took place. What aspects were successful, and were there any unexpected challenges?

I organized two bat walks in Valleycliffe on August 8th and August 22nd. We met at dusk to explore and learn about bats, with hands-on opportunities for participants to use monitoring tools to hear and observe these incredible animals. The first day had excellent turnout and engagement, but on the second day, many people cancelled at the last minute—some even just minutes before the event—despite having a flexible registration via a live Google Form and reminders emphasizing the importance of commitment. This left no opportunity to invite people from the waiting list. I might consider over-booking for future events to account for potential last-minute cancellations, ensuring full participation.

Project Leader: Stewart Kleban

Project: Meighan Creek Community get together

A welcoming event that will introduce all the new and existing residents of Meighan Creek to each other. This will include food, games for the children and activities in an outdoor environment. We have had about 40% of the townhouse community turn over in the last two years. Many of the residents, especially those who have moved in since last summer have not had the opportunity to meet each other.

I was introduced to NSG several years ago after my wife saw a post on Facebook. It seemed like a good idea to plan an event for the complex where we live. Since then I have requested funding for a variety of activities.

The event was a Neighbourhood BBQ. After a month of good weather, this was the first day of rain. We scrambled to secure several tents so that attendees could stay dry.



The main goal was for people to meet each other. Many of them expressed interest in putting on a similar

Most people that attended were thrilled that they got a chance to meet and talk to their neighbours. There were several new people who had previously had not met any neighbours.



Project Leader: Sierra McCann

Project: Squamish Adaptive Mountain Biking

We are bringing a group of adaptive riders to Squamish to Ridelab 2024. This event is an inclusive space for women+ to ride in a supportive environment. The festival includes workshops, guided rides of all levels, and coaching. There are also panel discussions on inclusion in sport, overcoming systemic racism within sport and community, and honouring indigenous connections to the forest.



Was there any particularly interesting feedback that stood out?

It was interesting to receive feedback on how the challenges of attending a limited accessibility event in a low accessibility town felt isolating even as we worked as a group to overcome the issues. It's a constant reminder that society has a long way to go for disabled equity and it does change the experience for the participants.

Can you share a memorable (or perhaps challenging) incident that occurred during the planning phase of your project?

I would say a memorable part of the planning phase was the group of disabled women coming together to support brand new riders in joining the event by tirelessly fundraising, managing logistics and reducing barriers. Once we started working on making the event more equitable for disabled participants, we had this amazing experience of local businesses and female entrepreneurs stepping to help us! Ladies Who Loam/ Treat Squamish went above and beyond to fundraise for us, promote us and support us. Alice and Brohm sponsored our transportation. All the bike shops offered raffle prizes. We even got a AlpX Heli ticket to raffle! Everyone was so excited to see aMTB women come to Squamish to ride and they offered to help immediately! It made us feel seen and welcomed.

Obviously it's lovely to hear all the positive things about progressing as a rider, feeling supported, having so much fun with a group of other female disabled riders learning together.

Project Leader: Sarah Greenwood

Project: Neighbourhood Block Party

My vision is to have a BBQ and other community food. Last year this worked really well and people shared some of their cultural cuisine. I want 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.



I borrowed cups and plates from the Squamish Dish Project. This is such a nice service and allows us to limit the use of disposable items.

I appreciated the community's response to my call out for games, tables, and tents. People were happy to loan these items out. One game that stands out as a big hit is a ninja/ small ropes course that a neighbour set up in the trees.

From an organizational perspective, I found it all to be low time investment and high reward. That is a huge bonus. My intention was to keep things simple and easy ,and I feel that was a success. The funds provided supplied the BBQ items, some snacks and the payment for the face painter. Grocery shopping, set-up and clean-up was all simple and made easier by spontaneous community involvement.

I feel good about the event and certainly plan to do it again next year.

In what ways do you believe your event or project helped foster a stronger sense of community within your neighborhood?

The neighborhood social gave people an opportunity to meet other people and connect. Two new families on the street and a few individuals who are new to the area joined the festivities. It was nice to provide a venue that allowed people who are new to the neighbourhood to connect with others.



Project Leader: Jennifer Bayley

Project: Community dock welcome BBQ

Britannia is growing and we want to make our new neighbours feel welcome. Britannia is such a great community and we want to welcome the folks that have moved into the new townhouses. A community Social near the water would be a great way to bring everyone together.



Describe the event or project you organized and when it took place.

We had a community potluck by the dock in Britannia. We wanted to welcome the new townhouse residence to Britannia. We had a very successful kids station with games, face painting, crafts, snacks and bubbles. The kids had a blast.

It was great to see all the kids get together and play

Many young kids played with kids they haven't met before. It was a great time for parents to get to know each other too



Project Leader: Gloria MacIver

Project: Eagle Grove Community BBQ

55+ residential community, the past 4 years has had a big impact on neighbours not communicating and new people moving in missing an atmosphere of friendly interaction.



Describe the event or project you organized and when it took place. What aspects were successful, and were there any unexpected challenges?

We had our BBQ in July and it was a beautiful summer day. It is always great to share good food with neighbours.

The biggest challenge was keeping it a secret that we were having music provided by a local band.

How do you feel about the accomplishments of your project? Would you be willing to undertake a similar initiative in the future?

This was a huge success and will definitely look forward to next summers BBQ. The new challenge will be how do we make it better than this year.

In what ways do you believe your event or project helped foster a stronger sense of community within your neighborhood?

It is always a good way to reconnect with neighbours we may not always see due to our busy lives.

Everyone at the Eagle Grove Complex send their thanks for providing the Neighborhood Small Grants, which make many communities come together to make it better!



Project Leader: Haley Lorrain Hardy

Project: Enchanting Thunderbird Creek: A Spooky Community Trail for Halloween

We aim to transform a short trail along Thunderbird Creek into a whimsical and spooky spectacle for all to enjoy. This community project not only enhances the Halloween experience but also fosters a sense of unity and belonging among residents. With collaborative efforts from local community members, schools, and organizations, we seek to create a memorable Halloween tradition that enriches our community spirit.

Can you share a memorable (or perhaps challenging) incident that occurred during the planning phase of your project?

One of the most heartwarming moments was witnessing the community come together for the project. Neighbours generously donated old Halloween decorations, carved pumpkins for the trail, and played eerie music from their backyards. Some even dressed up and handed out candy along the path. A standout event was when one neighbor hosted a craft afternoon for the younger kids, allowing them to create tin can ghosts to line the trail.

The grade 4/5 class from Garibaldi Highlands Elementary contributed creatively, carving some of the most imaginative pumpkins. They took a walking field trip to the trail on Halloween to find the perfect spot for their creations and many returned in the evening with their families to showcase their pumpkins. It was truly heartwarming to see everyone come



I believe that events like this help cultivate relationships and a sense of belonging, which are vital for a vibrant community.



The event was a resounding success, attracting families who came to enjoy the festive atmosphere, with an estimated 500 people walking the trail that night.

Despite the success, we encountered challenges, particularly with the weather, which prolonged our setup. We also struggled to gather enough extension cords to power the lighting along the trail. Fortunately, the spirit of the community shone through as neighbours banded together to connect power to various sections, helping us overcome these hurdles.

Project Leader: Jennifer Belak

Project: Dryden Kids Tulip Fest

The idea is that we will hold a garden party for the neighbours with music, food, games for the kids and of course tulips. We have already started knocking on doors and are setting up a Facebook invitation. We are extending this to all neighbours - including the new ones. As you may know half our street has sold and new people moved in.

Can you share a memorable (or perhaps challenging) incident that occurred during the planning phase of your project.

This year finding tulip bulbs seemed impossible. After months of trying to get and source them locally we were ready to give up. At the last attempt we went to Home Depot and they had a bunch of other flower bulbs marked down for clearance, and we scooped nearly all of them up. This meant that all Dryden Road kids got BAGS of bulbs rather than a bag of mixed tulip bulbs! And there was a wee bit of money left to put towards our BBQ that we hold afterwards. The kids had fun planting and learning to dig in the dirt, and then the



Everyone was so grateful for the event and the grant provided.



What feedback did you receive from participants regarding your event or project?

We were so happy to do this for the kids on Dryden Road. Definitely would do it again in the future.

The kids all loved doing their planting at the same time and 'making Dryden beautiful'.

Project Leader: Yulin Lin

Project: Bookmark coloring community project

Inviting community members to gather together to colour illustrations, and create bookmarks. We plan to distribute these bookmarks to various non-profit organizations in Squamish



This will be a space for community members to make connections, colour, and build community.



Project Leader: Shelby Lewis

Project: The Great Eaglewind Garage Sale

The Great Eaglewind Garage Sale will be a fun community event meant to bring Eaglewind residents, businesses, and people from around Squamish together for a few hours of browsing, shopping, and fun. Let's kick off Summer 2024! Residents can use their driveways to sell their stuff for a small fee, and kids are encouraged to participate by having lemonade stands, doing crafts, selling popsicles, cookies, and more!



The event was a community garage sale with a kids craft and play area with face painting, crafting, and free popsicles. It took place on the morning of Sat June 22, 2024 from 9am-2pm. From what I heard, the residents that participated enjoyed themselves and were able to clear some items from their homes. The kids really enjoyed getting their faces painted and appreciated the popsicles! In terms of challenges, the weather played a factor when it started to rain. There were also not as many children as planned so we had quite a few leftover popsicles.

For residents, I think they appreciated meeting neighbours they hadn't met, and to have a fun shared community experience!



Project Leader: Brigitte Suter

Project: Halloween at Eaglewind

Halloween at Eaglewind brings everyone together for a fun, safe, free evening of togetherness and festivities. It provides safety because of the restricted road access into the Eaglewind townhouses creates safe walking for more than 200 people, and offers the highest concentration of trick-or-treating in the smallest area - ideal for economically challenged families or those new to the community or feeling isolated.

Our event was on Halloween in the Eaglewind neighbourhood. It was such an incredible success. We got the pirate ship working (but unfortunately not the cannon) including the fog machine (thankfully the weather held out for that!) and our witch's lair was also a hit.

I heard from so many families who hadn't come to Eaglewind before that it was a lot of fun and that they couldn't believe they had never gone there. Many of the neighbouring townhouse and condo units just came to Eaglewind, which did put a little bit of strain and obligation on the Eaglewind candy situation, but made for a gigantic downtown Halloween party.

My heart was full from all the fabulous feedback and the smiling faces of the kids!



So many families and neighbours and grandparents came together, met, chatted, had social connection.

I heard from families next day at school that they had a lot of fun at Eaglewind.

One parent told me, "Hey, you live downtown, right? Next year you and the kids should go to Eaglewind. We went for the first time and it was like a massive party with so many families from the school!"

The parent didn't know that I had organized the event, so that was the best unbiased feedback ever :)

Project Leader: Hannah Dunmore

Project: Take a Leaf—Yoga and Nature Craft Activity

I would like to run a 1.5 hour yoga and craft session for children and families. This would be an opportunity for them to learn the traditional aspects of yoga, through songs, games and activities being able to also offer an mindful craft activity that can give a practical example of a meditative and calming activity that can be taken home.

Can you share a memorable (or perhaps challenging) incident that occurred during the planning phase of your project

As all good plans go, you aim to get them done well in advance and I was having a month away in October - I aimed on having the event completed prior to leaving.

However life threw a few curveballs my way and I eventually got the event completed 2 days before the deadline! I am really glad I did though!

I accomplished my goal of providing and accessible activity for children incorporating yoga.



In what ways do you believe your event or project helped foster a stronger sense of community within your neighborhood?

The event was inclusive to all children - including those with disabilities - it was good to see this utilised and received positively by other children. It's important that all people feel a sense of community. The children attending were from a similar community / school and it is good to build on friendships / connections outside of school.



Project Leader: Katherine Brandon

Project: Welcome BBQ

New neighbourhood BBQ to meet neighbours and foster community.



How did you learn about the Neighbourhood Small Grants program, and what motivated you to take action?

I had the opportunity to volunteer with the program several years ago and was genuinely impressed by the straightforward application process for community members. It offers accessible funding for small community projects and events that are meaningful and grassroots oriented. Witnessing the positive impact of this program over the years has been both heartwarming and inspiring.

Many attendees suggested hosting another gathering, perhaps around Christmas, and expressed interest in making it a more frequent, annual tradition.

Describe the event or project you organized and when it took place. What aspects were successful, and were there any unexpected challenges?

An unexpected community building event came about because the developer had not set up the barbecue properly. As a result, we had to borrow barbecues from residents' yards, load them into a truck, and transport them, which proved to be quite a challenge. However, it turned into a wonderful team-building experience as everyone came together to make it work.



Project Leader: Jaime Bishop

Project: Wenda Palooza 2024

Our idea is to reconnect everyone again - we will be holding a street party for everyone in the street to attend and those in the streets immediately around ours. We have created a committee and will be having an afternoon bbq, dancing, games, a water fight and the musicians will perform (some of the kids have been learning the guitar)

Wendapalooza!

We had a temporary tattoo lounge set up on the block. BBQ, glow sticks, games and karaoke. We had a big speaker stack and lit up the trees.

The excitement of so many seniors getting their first temporary tattoo was very sweet.

The kids were covered...everyone got inked!



Watching the kids light up the night dancing with their glow stick creations was a highlight.

In what ways do you believe your event or project helped foster a stronger sense of community within your neighborhood?

There are always new people to meet and foster relationships within our small community. New depths in relationships between Neighbours that don't often get to sit and talk, between different generations. One degree of separation is discovered between friends of friends.

The planning and clean-up process and working together was just as big a part in feeling these bonds tighten.



Project Leader: Naomi Schatz

Project: Building our community through gardening

Our neighbourhood is excited to work together to rebuild our community garden. This project will bring together neighbours of different ages and backgrounds to restore our shared gardens. Our community garden has been an important space for many years- offering opportunities for neighbours to connect, teach and learn skills, get folks outside, support our health and wellbeing, and share the delicious food that is grown.

Describe the event or project you organized and when it took place. What aspects were successful, and were there any unexpected challenges?

Rebuilding the community garden was a huge success! I think the overwhelming success of the project is largely due to a very organized team leading the project and they got neighbours involved in the process as well. The process began with researching, identifying and purchasing the supplies needed, such as garden beds and soil. Once the delivery of these supplies was arranged, the team reached out to neighbours to help build the beds and put it all together. Approximately 8 neighbours volunteered. As a result of their contributions, they were given priority on getting a garden bed. In total, 9 beds were constructed. Once they were built, assigned, and communicated to neighbours, we all got started on planting! As our neighborhood brings a mix of different backgrounds, cultures and ages, the garden was a communal space that brought us all together. It provided parents and caregivers with a teaching tool for children as they helped plant, nurture, water, and finally eat the vegetables planted. Lots of excitement and pride. It also connected families, as when folks went out of town over the summer, they asked others to help water their garden.



Children in particular had so much fun getting to visit the seeds they planted and help them grow a bit more each day and then finally get to eat them!



How do you feel about the accomplishments of your project?

Me and my community feel great. If anything, we wish there were more plots so more neighbors could participate. We appreciate that this is a central meeting place in our complex that will continue to provide a place for us to come together and learn and share, year after year.

Project Leader: Amanda Hibbs-Ingles

Project: Squamish 4-H Community Club

We are a new group but not a new concept, where we provide a safe, fun and inclusive environment, caring adults to support the youth and our direct approach of learn to do by doing through projects and public speaking. We also travel to other communities to share our knowledge and showcase our community.

Describe the event or project you organized and when it took place. What aspects were successful, and were there any unexpected challenges?

Finances are always a challenge and a priority when planning any event, especially multiple events, weekly, for 4 consecutive months. Planning is the easy part, the real challenge was keeping up with the burgers because we were so busy engaging and connecting on the vision of the 4-H club and its possibilities. The most surprising cost was the purchasing of the BBQ items to accommodate all needs and diets.



Thank you again for your support in getting the 4-H club off its feet!



In what ways do you believe your event or project helped foster a stronger community within your neighbourhood?

We don't believe, we KNOW our events and projects are fostering a strong sense of community because the kids are directly telling us 4-H leaders and parents that they haven't felt connection like this in a long time; connection to their families through attending events together or by sharing duties through our borrow-a-bunny program and connections with their peers from other schools, in a safe, inclusive and supportive environment (usually outdoors). Our club is focused on engaging and enhancing the community we live in!

Project Leader: Mary Reed

Project: Fir Street Family/Neighbours Social

We would love to see family and neighbours connecting. Meeting new families in the neighbourhood. Food and music. We would also love to make small artificial floral arrangements for each table for the residents at Hilltop House. And the kids will deliver it personally to Hilltop.



Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to bring smiles to so many residents at Hilltop House. We put together 35 flower arrangements. One for each table.



Project Leader: Lauren Bauman

Project: Emerald Estates Block Party

I'd like to host a block party BBQ for our townhome complex, Emerald Estates. Emerald Estates is a medium-sized complex located in Brackendale. I envision the community coming together this summer to enjoy the sunshine and get to know all our neighbours.

Describe the event or project you organized and when it took place. What aspects were successful, and were there any unexpected challenges?

We had a pizza party in the green space. The amount that was ordered was just right and folks all brought their plates etc. not everyone remembered this so they had to walk back to their homes. For the composting of the pizza boxes every household took home one to disperse the clean up. It was great!!

Can you share a memorable (or perhaps challenging) incident that occurred during the planning phase of your project ?

Hard to get someone to take the lead. Everyone wants to come but unless the project is divided into smaller volunteer bits, it's hard to get folks to help with set up and take down etc.

I believe this event helped foster a stronger sense of community within the neighbourhood by simply giving people a venue and the space to meet each other and talk.



What feedback did you receive from participants regarding your event or project? Was there any particularly interesting feedback that stood out?

All the feedback was extremely positive and those who attended reported having a great time! It was awesome to see some people meet for the first time and I got to chat with many neighbours that I had not yet had the chance to talk to.

Project Leader: Madeline Sloan

Project: The Lighthouse Land Collective

The Lighthouse Land Collective, where we come together to grow food, nurture community and learn land-based skills through workshops, events, and skill-sharing / working together. Skill sharing is a large focus of our collective as we strive to build a sense of belonging.

Describe the event or project you organized and when it took place. What aspects were successful, and were there any unexpected challenges?

Significant effort went into planning the layout to accommodate all aspects of planting, care, and cultivation. It was quite challenging to conceptualize how the space would function and best serve the overall community. However, it was truly special to come together as a large group, making the substantial workload feel manageable and efficient. The collaborative process of problem-solving such a large undertaking, while considering numerous challenges as an equal group, was an incredible experience.

*It was great to see so many locals come together.
The festival really fostered a sense of community.*



Was there any particularly interesting feedback that stood out?

Some feedback was people's desire to have access to outdoors spaces such as ours to create their own gatherings. A wish for easier ways to connect with each other in spaces that were not connected to the barriers of a business or the district, and that would allow us to share and connect in a grass-roots way.

Project Leader: Katherine Folinsbee

Project: MacDonald Community Block Party

We moved to MacDonald Place from the Highlands in Dec 2019 right before Christmas, and very soon after the Covid lockdown began. Along with many other new neighbours, the struggle to connect with our neighbourhood face-to-face has continued.

Our vision along with the neighbours we have met is to have a block party day or afternoon where we bring the back yard

How did you learn about the Neighbourhood Small Grants program, and what motivated you to take action?

Friends in our old neighbourhood on Rhum and Eigg got the same grant a few years ago and I used to work at the District for a couple of years so remembered them being available.

How do you feel about the accomplishments of your project? Would you be willing to undertake a similar initiative in the future?

We would run it again for sure. To be honest it was pretty straightforward and everyone pitched in and added ideas and contributions to make it even better and more than I planned or expected.

People recognize each other and it helps to build bridges for new folks who have recently moved to the neighborhood and for those who haven't seen each other for a long time.



Can you share a memorable (or perhaps challenging) incident that occurred during the planning phase of your project?

The biggest challenge was collecting in the RSVPs which I would do electronically next time - an evite or similar rather than giving out my email and phone number just because it was time consuming to track who'd replied and how many etc. over the weeks leading up to the event

Project Leader: Sarah Drechsler

Project: Neighbourhood Block Party

Our neighbourhood comprises several connected but short streets where most people typically stick to themselves. The neighbourhood kids brought together four families for an impromptu gathering on my cul-de-sac last weekend and we got to talking about how fun a block party would be.

How do you feel about the accomplishments of your project? Would you be willing to undertake a similar initiative in the future?

Everyone in attendance was thrilled to be there. One lady who has lived in the area since 1972 said this was the first block party. From babies to 90 year olds, we had it all! The pie eating contest was a hit.



The grant went towards providing pizza for everyone, which was much appreciated.

In what ways do you believe your event or project helped foster a stronger sense of community within your neighborhood?

We had a very fun inaugural solstice block party last night. It got busier than shown in the photo once the playoff hockey game ended.



Project Leader: Lenny Rubenovitch

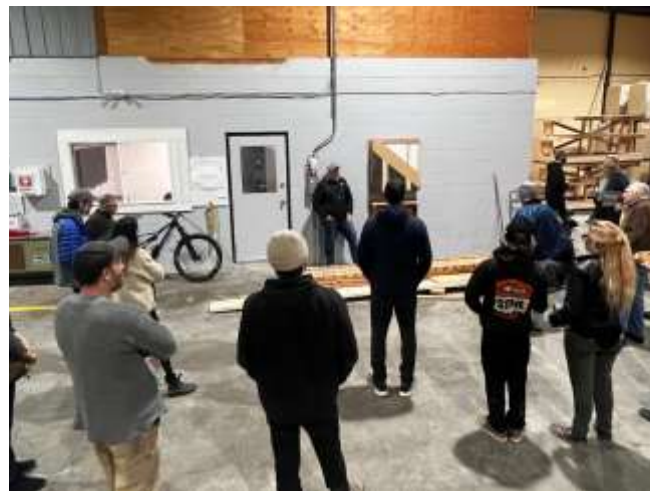
Project: Wood Network Group

A meetup that gets the wood community together to share ideas around wood. Different experts and beginners connect for their mutual appreciation for working with wood. We have started regularly connecting on the first Wednesday of each month.

In what ways do you believe your event or project helped foster a stronger sense of community within your neighborhood?

We bring people together and help raise awareness to their passions, craft and initiatives. There is lots of possibility of partnerships, support and innovation.

We plan on continuing the program and look forward to seeing where it evolves.



Describe the event or project you organized and when it took place. What aspects were successful, and were there any unexpected challenges?

We have hosted various TWIG meetups, They take place on the first Wednesday of each month. Wood First Wednesdays.

The group is growing and slowly getting more support and awareness. Our challenges are connecting with parts of the construction sector who may not see value in participating.

Project Leader: Holly Buehler

Project: Bike Based Activity Tour

A meetup that gets the wood community together to share ideas around wood. I propose to organize a bike based activity tour/crawl around Squamish and Brackendale. Essentially whoever wishes to join will meet at a pre-arranged time on bikes. Then a series of events or activities around 1 hr in length (hosted by members of the group) will be planned at various locations around town.

In what ways do you believe your event or project helped foster a stronger sense of community within your neighborhood?

I think in Squamish people often have their 'sport' or 'activity' they like to do as a way to connect with other people. I think this event created a way for people to connect and enjoy each other's company in a way that was playful and fun in a novel way. I think it is super positive for people to connect in different ways to create a more diverse community and experience!

Every single person who attended complimented the event and noted how much fun they had!!



Can you share a memorable (or perhaps challenging) incident that occurred during the planning phase of your project?

I was the overall planner, then I had small groups of people plan 'stations' to be visited by the bike posse. One person volunteered to plan a station, but didn't realize he had to think of an idea! So at the last minute we had to come up with something! It ultimately worked out but was very last minute!

Project Leader: Joshua Visser

Project: Capture the Squamish Flag

After receiving funding last year from the NSGs to put on my dream Squamish wide Scavenger Hunt event, I knew I had to bring it back, but better!

How do you feel about the accomplishments of your project? Would you be willing to undertake a similar initiative in the future?

It felt amazing to see the relationships form over the weekend with all the new faces that have come together to interact with each other in a very open, fun, non-judgemental way. I noticed that a lot of people who had met through the first Friends Weekend last summer had build amazing bonds & friendship that long outlasted the weekend and those people brought more new faces to the event. I would live to keep doing this year after year, its very rewarding!



I have always loved to bring people together.

What feedback did you receive from participants regarding your event or project? Was there any particularly interesting feedback that stood out?

The biggest take away is not needing to over organize/plan the activities over the weekend.

Have a few anchor events while leaving room for spontaneity is best.



Project Leader: Thea Elliott

Project: Warriors & Weirdos Celebration

I want to bring the LGBTQ and allied community together to celebrate love and pride with an outdoor, small concert

How do you feel about the accomplishments of your project? Would you be willing to undertake a similar initiative in the future?

Just from personal experience with this, I met so many lovely humans who I continue to see around the community to this day and we frequently chat about that day and event and hope to do more in the future!!



I feel proud of what we did and would love to do this again in the future.

What feedback did you receive from participants regarding your event or project? Was there any particularly interesting feedback that stood out?

People seemed to really enjoy the homey setting and absolutely loved the artist. The only complaints was that there was very little parking!





Photos were taken at cheque pick-up

Sorry if we missed you!





... 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

Revard Dufresne, Chantelle Matthews, June Kleban for being our resident
advisors

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

And to each and every one of our incredible

PROJECT LEADERS

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

WELL DONE!



Photo submitted by Nicole Tomasi

Good bye!
We look forward to
seeing you in 2025!



SQUAMISH
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION