

Community Matters

stories of connection, hospitality & reciprocity in the community

Community Matters is a newsletter by the Building Caring Communities Team.
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100 in 1 Day



What if hundreds of people united, all on the same day, each putting in place the changes they wish to see in their city? On Saturday, June 7, 2014 for the first time ever, Vancouver will host 100 in 1 Day. This festival first began in Bogota, Columbia, and has now spread all the way to Canada.

This citizen-driven festival unites people across the city to make Vancouver a better place by creating acts of urban change. The Building Caring Communities team will join with Evergreen Cityworks in and be a part of several "interventions". These "interventions" are acts that have the potential to raise awareness about urban and social issues, inspire ideas, and motivate leaders to consider new approaches to old problems.

The goal is to have at least 100 "interventions" in neighbourhoods throughout Vancouver. There are also weekly workshops to assist in the development of ideas for interventions. This is a fun way to meet people and get involved! For more information, visit www.100in1day.ca/vancouver/.

Rosie Finds a New Home and a New Community *Contributed by Simone Brandl*

Rosie recently moved to a new neighbourhood and was looking for places to meet people. She felt nervous about the new apartment and wanted to make new friends right away. As a way to get involved, she visited one of the churches in the area. The church, which offers a free breakfast and has a thrift shop, quickly became an important place that she visited frequently.

The congregation at Grace Memorial Church (803 E 16th Avenue, Vancouver) really believes in community. They host a number of community events, and have sold most of their church pews and replaced them with tables and chairs to welcome as many people as possible into their little chapel."

When Rosie walks into the breakfast, she is greeted with smiles, coffee and a great meal. People talk to her about her new neighbourhood and spend lots of time with her. Rosie has enjoyed meeting new people at the church and has even shared her dream of volunteering. The people at the church quickly and enthusiastically invited her to join them in their work!

She was given a tour of the kitchen and thrift shop. Then, instead of being told what they wanted her to do, they asked what she would like to do! She gave them her preferences and now she is an active volunteer in the breakfast program. A few weeks down the line, she will also have her first shift in the Thrift Store. Rosie loves being involved at Grace Memorial Church, and the ladies at this church say that they are equally thrilled to have her in their tight-knit community!



Looking to get more connected in your neighbourhood?

Do you have a great community initiative you want to spread the word about?
Contact the Building Caring Communities Team at the Hub: BC2@posabilities.ca.

Community Superhero – Ian Marcuse *Contributed by Laura Kosiecha*

Early last fall I was inspired to look for ways of bringing people together around something we all enjoy... FOOD! I was lucky enough to cross paths with Ian Marcuse, who is a Community Food Developer with the Grandview Woodland Food Connection. Ian kindly invited me to help put together a community potluck at the Britannia Community Center. The potluck was a great success; buzzing with neighbors of all ages sharing a delicious spread in a comfortable space. Ian is not only extremely talented and passionate about his work, but is also a superhero. He has superpower gifts when it comes to creating welcoming and caring neighbourhoods! Vancouver is lucky to have a wonderful community asset like Ian. Read more about this community superhero!



Name: Ian Marcuse

My Neighborhood: Grandview Woodland/Commercial Drive. I have lived here for 25 years. I feel so lucky to work in the community I live in. It makes my work much more meaningful because I am able to help make it a better place to live in.

Passionate about: Social justice and building a more compassionate, equitable and environmentally friendly world (or neighbourhood).

Inspiration at the moment: The First Nations communities standing up and protecting mother earth.

What I love about Vancouver: Riding my bike anywhere, anytime, especially around the seawall.

In my free time you can find me: Puttering in the garden at the co-op where I live.

If I could have any superpower it would be: Bodhisattva – the ability to achieve enlightenment (or the power to turn oil into clean water).

Eastside Free Store - A “Store” Where Everything is Free! *Contributed by Brooke Oxley*



Beyond your imagination, there is a place to find bewildering things of value for free...

The Eastside Free Store is a volunteer-run collaborative venture that provides a space for the redistribution of everyone's beloved items. This tiny storefront is full of objects that one person may no longer use, but another may find meaningful. It's a treasure trove for creative re-utilizers. The balance of give and take is a beautiful thing indeed!

Doors are open every Tuesday to Saturday from 2-6pm at the Red Gate Arts Society, 855 East Hastings. If you are able to volunteer some time at the store, call 778-835-0227. Come by with your gently-used items (nothing stained or broken please!). Who knows what wonderful things you will find there!

Get connected in your community: UPCOMING EVENTS

Animated Gardens” with Stride Community Garden (FREE)

When: Thursday, May 22nd, 7 – 9 pm

Where: Stride Community School, 7014 Stride Avenue, Burnaby

This event is sponsored by the *Can You Dig It* Community Garden Coalition. Community garden members and lovers are invited to connect, learn and share best practices about creating safe community gardens with positive strategies that address vandalism and theft. The intent is for community members to form deeper connections to inclusive community gardens through “animating” them.

WAM Community Conversations

When: Tuesday June 17th 6:30 – 8 pm

Where: Homesteaders Emporium – 649 East Hastings Street, Vancouver

WAM is a conversation for citizens who care for their neighbourhood.

For more information, contact Joe at 604-365-9113
or BC2@posAbilities.ca.

Spring Bazaar at Granville Seniors Centre

When: Saturday, May 31st 10 am – 2 pm

Where: 1420 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver

At this bazaar, you will probably find something you like, whether you are a bargain hunter, a collector of vintage items, an avid reader, or someone who is moving into a new home. There will be many deals on items such as books, jewellery, dishes, kitchenware, hand-knitted toques, scarves, baby clothing, blankets, purses, accessories, household goods, and much more. There will be a delicious bazaar luncheon available for \$7 from 11 am – 1 pm, where you can treat yourself to home-made jam and freshly baked goods. All proceeds will go towards programs and services at the centre.