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**BOWEN ISLAND
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

Community Connections

The Bowen Island Community Foundation Newsletter

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Chair's Report

On May 5, 2023, the Bowen Island Community Foundation (BICF) returned, at last, to its tradition of bringing the community together for the Foundation's annual meeting. Donors, staff, volunteers, and board members came out to Cates Hill Chapel to celebrate this season's grant recipients. It was a great evening. Our mission has always been to engage the community and inspire generosity to benefit Bowen Island for generations to come, and the slogan of our Annual Giving Campaign, "Community Grows Here," seems well suited to the remarkable growth that has happened in the twenty years since the Foundation began. Thank you, Bowen, for your support.

We were able to thank our donors for \$238,864 received in 2022 and to celebrate that the returns from our funds held at the First Credit Union and the endowed funds with the Vancouver Foundation enabled BICF to return \$112,292 to the Bowen community through a combination of Community Impact Grants, Neighbourhood Small Grants, numerous scholarships and bursaries, the Youth at Risk Fund, and the Helping Hand Fund.

There is much to celebrate this year.

The Foundation dispersed \$60,000 in [Community Impact Grants](#) to the following projects, which all promise to enrich community life on this island we all share: Bowen Island Community Centre, furniture for the Community Living Room (\$9,500); the Green Man Festival, a youth-led project to reinstate the festival (\$2,500); Bowen Island United Church, improvements to Collins Hall (\$17,000); Rotary Club, greenhouse at Grafton Gardens Common (\$8,000); Bowen Health Centre, audio-visual equipment to assist delivery of healthcare, patient education, and staff training (\$10,000); SKY (Seniors Keeping Young), rental of accessible vehicle for off-island excursions (\$7,000); Bowen Birth Collective, funding for outreach work and to provide access to resources (\$3,500); and the Bowen Island Museum and Archives, exhibit by the blind for the sighted, A New Way of Seeing (\$2,500).



Community Impact Grant recipients were celebrated (and cheques handed out!) at the Foundation annual meeting.

Seven individuals, working through our [Neighbourhood Small Grants](#) program, proposed projects that bring neighbours together, share skills and knowledge, build a sense of belonging and responsibility, and support biodiversity. The impact of these small (up to \$500) grants is diverse and far-reaching, including a butterflyway at Josephine Lake; regenerative community gardening for seniors; an Eaglecliff neighbourhood beach party; restoration of the tilting totem at Tunstall Bay; a Little Free Library in Miller's Landing; enhancement of the bus shelter in the Bishop's Hill community; and a spa night with an offers and needs market for moms.

Twenty-five students, pursuing post-secondary education and training in fields ranging from nursing and kinesiology to the electrical trade, received financial support through BICF [scholarships and bursaries](#) and the [Knick Knack Nook Scholarships](#) program.

Over the past twelve months, your donations provided four young people in need with access to professional counselling through our [Youth at Risk Fund](#) when other options weren't readily available; and, seventeen individuals and their families received short-term assistance from our [Helping Hand Fund](#) as they faced personal and sometimes invisible emergencies.

This is an amazing breadth of support for a small community. Also in 2022, the Foundation was able to raise the maximum Community Impact Grant from \$15,000 to \$25,000 to give greater support to the many projects on Bowen that applied for funding.

This past year, three new funds were established by generous donors to provide additional scholarships: one for those wishing to train or increase their skills in healthcare, which is supported by a donation from Sandy Logan in honour of her family; one for alumni of Bowen Island's Football Club, an organization to which so many Bowen families have connected over the years; and one for Bowen's volunteer firefighters and their families, in memory of former fire chief Brian Biddlecombe, who gave his service to the island for forty-four years.

The volunteer board of the Foundation is careful to keep expenses as low as possible. This year, BICF has received a generous gift from past chair Soren Hammerberg and his wife, Elizabeth, to establish the Friends of the Foundation Fund; this endowment will support the day-to-day fixed operating expenses of the Foundation. This new fund, which helps to maximize the amount that can be granted from other funds, presents an innovative way to support the charitable mission of the Foundation.

The Foundation is so grateful to all of its generous donors.

Kate Thomas-Peter
Chair

Treasurer's Report

At the annual meeting on May 5, 2023, BICF treasurer Leila Swann presented the following financial report. Full 2022 financial statements can be viewed on our [website](#).

The Bowen Island Community Foundation's capital assets reside in two pools. The first pool is made up of eighteen (2021: seventeen) participating funds, which in aggregate total \$1,323,517 (2021: \$1,271,991). The funds are on deposit with the Bowen Island First Credit

Union. The largest funds of the eighteen are the Community Impact Fund, with total assets of \$164,340 (2021: \$131,439) and the Community Centre Capital Campaign Fund, with total assets of \$989,496 (2021: \$989,546).

The second pool is managed by the Vancouver Foundation and comprises thirteen of the eighteen funds that are under our Foundation's stewardship. In aggregate, total assets at the Vancouver Foundation are \$1,480,175 (2021: \$1,527,533). The market value of the endowment funds at the Vancouver Foundation decreased by \$47,358 due to the transfer of funds and less favourable market conditions. The combined market value of the two pools of capital is \$2,803,692 (2021: \$2,799,524).

Highlights include:

- 2021 marked a historic moment for BICF in our quest to become Bowen's charitable bank; donations received for the year broke the one-million-dollar mark! In 2022, we saw donations return to more typical levels with total proceeds for the year of \$365,655 (2021: \$1,373,793).
- Donations for the year totaled \$238,864 (2021: \$1,284,304). During 2022, we didn't receive any publicly traded securities donations, but we've already received one on record for 2023!
- We received \$86,012 (2021: \$53,884) in endowment income from the Vancouver Foundation and \$11,002 (2021: \$6,096) in interest income from First Credit Union.
- We received \$11,500 (2021: \$11,500) from the Vancouver Foundation in granting funds and administration fees for the Neighborhood Small Grants Program.
- Out of these proceeds we provided \$73,592 (2021: \$176,850) in community grants and provided \$53,700 (2021: \$52,200) in scholarships.
- We incurred operating expenses of \$56,488 (2021: \$64,233).
- There was a new fund started during 2022, the Brian Biddlecombe Memorial Fund, which included new endowed funds of \$100,000. Including the new endowment, the Foundation transferred \$130,350 (2021: \$135,715) to the Vancouver Foundation for investment in our endowed funds.

Statutory Obligations

The statutory requirements of the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022, will be met with the filing of the Information return, together with the Financial Statements for the period. This maintains the Foundation's eligibility to issue receipts to donors for income tax purposes. CRA also requires that a minimum percentage of donations received in the preceding year be disbursed on charitable grants or programs. This is known as the "disbursement quota" for which the Foundation has been in a healthy "surplus" position for the years 2004 through 2022. Surpluses may be accumulated and available for carry-forward for draw-down during periods of deficit, should they arise.

Leila Swann CPA, CA
Treasurer

Changes at the Foundation



This year, we say goodbye to **Holly Graff**, who joined the foundation in 2017 as director and served as chair since 2019. With calmness and good judgement, Holly steered the Foundation through the uncertainty and disruption of the pandemic in 2020–21 and directed the important Vital Conversations events and publication this past year (check out Vital Conversations highlights in this newsletter). We are fortunate, however, that Holly will continue to work with the foundation in a short-term “past chair” role that will allow her to sit on select committees as a non-voting member until 2024. Holly, the Foundation and the Bowen community are ever grateful for your leadership and vision.

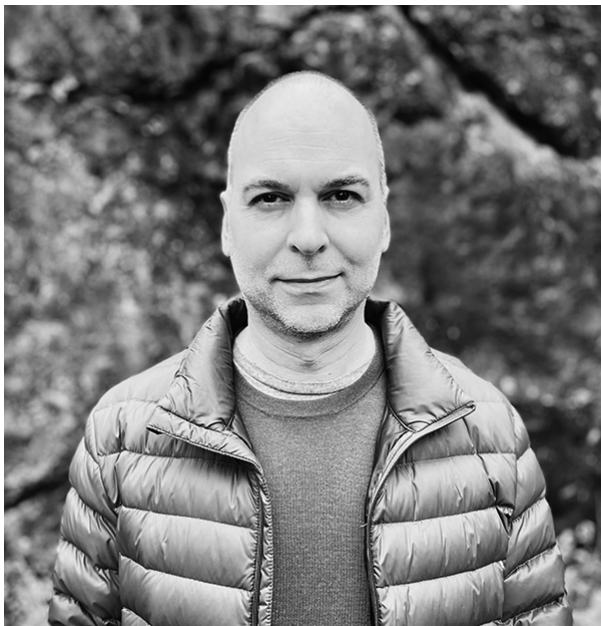
We are pleased to welcome three new directors to the board and look forward to the perspectives they will bring to Foundation work with their diverse backgrounds and experience.

Gayle Farrell



Gayle was first encouraged to volunteer by her parents at the age of eight in her hometown of Montreal, and she continued volunteer activities as she moved first to Toronto, and then to Vancouver, and now finally to Bowen Island in 2022. In her day job, Gayle works for Siena Consulting, a company she founded in 2000 that focuses on strengthening not-for-profit organizations so they can continue to create and deliver programs that enhance the quality of life in their communities. She has also facilitated consultations involving public, private, and social profit sector representatives supporting the reimagination of primary health care in BC. Gayle moved to Bowen in 2022 with her husband, Bohdan, and their friendly Bernese mountain dog. She has four children and two grandchildren who live in the Lower Mainland (and who are thrilled to have a place to stay on Bowen Island).

Greg Gibson



Greg has been a full-time Bowen resident since 2020, when he moved from Vancouver with his partner after having visited the island regularly for more than a decade. Holding an MA in

art history and a bachelor's degree in graphic design, Greg has worked in arts, culture, and publishing for more than twenty years. Currently, he advises undergraduate students and manages academic programs in the Department of Art History, Visual Art and Theory at UBC Vancouver. He has been a freelance book editor since 2005, specializing in books about art, artists, and gallery exhibitions. Since 2015, Greg has devoted his volunteer efforts to the loan review and translation program at Kiva, a San Francisco-based non-profit dedicated to economic empowerment and making a more financially inclusive world. He also sits on the board of the Cates Hill Neighbourhood Association.

Bobbi Parker



A graduate of Emily Carr University, Bobbi discovered her love of fundraising when she moved to Edmonton and started working in her first development role at the Citadel Theatre. Nearly twenty years later, Bobbi has worked in fundraising and leadership roles for several arts and community organizations including the Vancouver Art Gallery, Malaspina Printmakers, and PuSh International Performing Arts Festival. Since moving to Bowen in 2016 with her husband and three children, Bobbi has been an active volunteer, including sitting on the Community Grants Advisory Committee for Bowen Island Municipality and fundraising \$116,000 to build the Westside Playground with the Westside Playscape Group. Bobbi is passionate about volunteerism and thrilled to be part of the Bowen Island Community Foundation.

Vital Conversations Event Sets the Path

The Bowen Island Community Foundation recently completed the third in a series of Vital Conversations events. The result? A report, soon to be available on the Foundation website, that reveals the needs and desires, challenges, and opportunities facing our community in the coming years.

BICF conducts these events every few years as a way to help shape our granting priorities. Even when opportunities are identified that are outside the scope of the Foundation, other groups, as well as multiple levels of government along with individuals, see this report as useful guidance for their own activities.

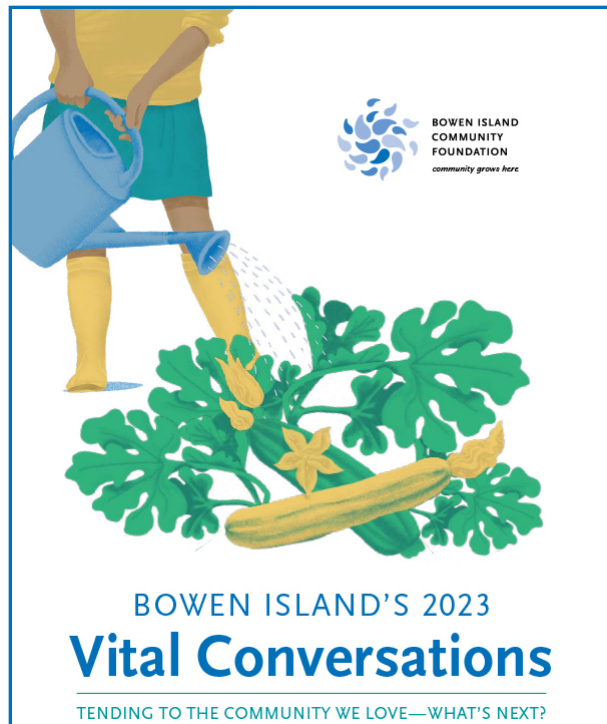


Vital Conversations event at Cates Hill Chapel, June 3, 2023

Many people participated in the research and preparation for the initiative, and over fifty people attended an in-person event this past June in which priorities were identified and imagined futures discussed. The resulting report not only identifies gaps, but also helps us

see potential opportunities for a new and better Bowen Island.

Come out to **Doc Morgan's on Saturday, November 18, at 2:30 pm** to continue the conversation! We are eager to launch the printed edition of the 2023 report and bring Bowen Islanders out for some food, drink, and big ideas. Hope to see you there!



Scholarships and Bursaries: Expanded Award Opportunities Set to Expand More Minds

The breadth of scholarships and bursaries available to learners of all ages and educational pursuits continues to grow at BICF, thanks to the generosity of our donors. In July 2023, the Foundation announced the inaugural winners of the following three new scholarships.

The Bowen Island Football Club Founders Award Scholarship

The Bowen Island Football Club is proud to offer a \$1,000 annual scholarship to its former players who are pursuing post-secondary education and/or vocational training.



Dallen Jennings discovered his passion for the game of soccer with the Bowen Island Football Club, where he played from the moment he could run until he finished his U13 season. He moved on to play at a higher level in North Vancouver, and eventually earned his C-level coaching license to develop youth players. Dallen's love of sport, combined with his skill and experience both as a player and coach, led him to pursue a degree in kinesiology, which he is now completing at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

The Brian Biddlecombe Memorial Award

The Brian Biddlecombe Memorial Award provides for \$3,000 to be available to members of the Bowen Island Volunteer Fire Department (and their immediate families) to pursue post-secondary education or vocational training. Biddlecombe gave forty-four years of dedicated service to the Bowen Island Fire Department, eleven years as chief. This award in his memory will support his considerable legacy of community service to live on.



Growing up and witnessing her uncle, father, and grandfather helping others and supporting their community as volunteers for the Bowen Island Fire Department inspired **Olivia Harding** to follow in their footsteps and dedicate herself to a life helping others. Early experience as a youth leader on Bowen, who was responsible for the health and safety of children, set Olivia on a career path to health care and studies at Vancouver Island University, where she is currently completing the final year of her BSc in nursing.

The Logan Family Healthcare Scholarship

The \$2,500 Logan Family Healthcare Scholarship is available for a student pursuing a career in healthcare, or for someone wishing to increase their knowledge or certification in a health care related discipline.



With goals of post-secondary education and a medical career in mind, **Dayna McMahon** worked hard throughout high school to improve her grades and graduate with a competitive transcript. Ultimately graduating from Rockridge with Honours with Distinction, she attributes her academic success to ongoing support from tutors in the Bowen community, who taught her study habits she brought with her to Vancouver Island University. Now in her final year at VIU, Dayna looks forward to obtaining her BSc in nursing. Post-graduation, she intends to continue working in an under-served area of medicine that has been the focus of her recent undergraduate work—geriatric psychiatry—and aspires to become a nurse practitioner in this field.

In addition to these three new scholarships, totalling \$6,500, the Bowen Island Community Foundation awarded \$8,250 to five students via six other established awards and bursaries. The Foundation was also pleased to disperse \$50,000 in **Knick Knack Nook Scholarships** to twenty-one students.

Bowen Island Food Bank Innovates through Federal Funding

On September 20, 2023, West Vancouver Foundation announced it had distributed \$216,000 to seven community service organizations through the Government of Canada's Community Services Recovery Fund—a one-time investment of \$400 million to help community service organizations adapt, modernize, and be better equipped to improve the efficacy, accessibility, and sustainability of the community services that they provide through

the pandemic recovery and beyond. \$22,000 was invested to fund [Bowen Island United Church](#) to modernize the Food Bank program. BICF had the option to administer the program funds directly or to have them integrated into West Vancouver Foundation's granting process, and we opted for the efficiencies that the latter option offered.

Meeting with MP Weiler



On September 6, members of the board met with MP Patrick Weiler (West Vancouver–Sunshine Coast–Sea to Sky Country), who was keen to learn about the outcome of Bowen's Vital Conversations event this summer. We recounted how the community was engaged first through online surveys and later at an in-person facilitated event during the Vital Conversations process, and we elaborated a number of community responses to the priorities identified during the survey phase. There was much discussion about the urgency of funding for rural transportation systems, creative possibilities for addressing housing issues, and the importance of engaging youth in the general work of the Foundation. In our discussion of the Foundation's operations, Mr. Weiler noted support available for the volunteer board through [Canada Summer Jobs](#) (CSJ), a federal program that offers wage subsidies to employers who in turn provide valuable work experience to Canadian youth. Before the meeting concluded, we were pleased to share highlights from the past twenty years of giving to the Bowen Island Community Foundation, and MP Weiler commended the philanthropy of our generous island community.

Supporting Our Community

With your help, together we are able to make meaningful and lasting impact in building a healthy and resilient Bowen Island community.

There are [many ways](#) to give back to our community, and any donation of \$20 or more is eligible to receive an official receipt for income tax purposes. If donating, please consider our recurring giving option by selecting the **Monthly** frequency option. **This is an easy way to give manageable amounts throughout the year.**

[click to DONATE](#)
["For Bowen, For Ever"](#)

If you would like to learn more about the work of your Bowen Island Community Foundation and how donor contributions are making a difference in our community, please visit our [website](#).

Our Mission:

**Engaging the community and inspiring generosity that will benefit
Bowen Island for generations.**

Our Vision:

An enriched quality of life for all Bowen Islanders.

We welcome your questions, suggestions and contributions. Please be sure to connect with us on Facebook or feel free to send us an email below.



Facebook



BICF Website



Email

New Anti-Spam Legislation

Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) took effect as of July 1, 2014. CASL exists to monitor and regulate the sending of commercial electronic messages. As a registered Charity, the Foundation is exempt from the legislation if the purpose of communication is related to fundraising. The Foundation is respectful of your privacy. All contacts, donations and email communication

are maintained in strict confidence. If you would prefer not to receive email communication from us, you may choose to unsubscribe.

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