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**BOWEN ISLAND
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

Community Connections

The Bowen Island Community Foundation Newsletter

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Chair's Report



Foundation board member Richard Smith presents members of SKY (Seniors Keeping Young) with a Community Impact Grant at the Foundation's annual meeting in May 2024. This funding will support expanded programming—including cultural excursions, educational workshops, and speaker series—for island seniors.

On May 5, 2024, the Bowen Island Community Foundation brought islanders together for the Foundation's annual meeting at Cates Hill Chapel and to celebrate this year's grant recipients, to whom \$75,000 in Community Impact Grants was awarded:

- [Snug Cove House](#): \$25,000 for accessibility upgrades at the new facility;
- [The Hearth](#): \$6,000 for the Authentically Indigenous Festival;
- [Bowen Island Arts Council](#) with Archer Florendo: \$3,000 for the Queen vs. Green Festival;
- [Bowen Golf](#): \$17,000 towards an artificial turf project to expand inclusive youth programming;
- [BIRCH \(Bowen Island Resilient Community Housing\)](#): \$5,000 for a phased development plan for Lot 1 on Mount Gardner Road;
- [BICS \(Bowen Island Community School\)](#): \$4,000 for grounds upgrades, including a communications board for the playground to support non-verbal, neurodiverse, and blind community members;
- [SKY \(Seniors Keeping Young\)](#): \$15,000 to expand programs for seniors.

The Community Impact Fund has grown year after year through the generosity of our donors. Donations are the lifeblood of the Foundation and, every year, the Bowen community humbles us with its philanthropic support. Last year was no exception. In 2023, the Bowen Island Community Foundation received a tremendous \$312,117 in donations—a 31 percent increase over the \$238,864 generously donated in 2022. This support from the community came despite rising living costs, a reminder of the deep commitment Bowen Island residents have to building a stronger future together. In 2023, the combined market value of our funds held at the First Credit Union and endowed with the Vancouver Foundation was \$3,043,230, an increase on the previous year's total of \$2,803,692. This includes a very generous donation to the Community Centre that the Foundation is stewarding until it is required for that project. ([Read the full 2023 financial statements here.](#))

Thanks to these contributions, the Foundation awarded \$209,608 to the community through Community Impact Grants, Neighbourhood Small Grants, scholarships, and funds such as the Youth at Risk and Helping Hand Funds. These grants make a real difference in the lives of students, neighbours, and residents facing challenges, completing the circle of generosity from donor to community.

In 2023 we held our third Vital Conversations event, where community members shared priorities that will guide future grants. Vital Conversations is an important event because its purpose is for the Foundation to engage with the community about needs and priorities. These insights guide the Foundation's work for community granting until the next Vital Conversation. Community building; environmental protection; equity, diversity, and inclusivity; housing; transportation; visitor management; volunteerism; youth and seniors are our new priorities and you will see some of them reflected in this year's Community Impact Grants and in grants for the next few years, too. ([Read the 2023 Vital Conversation report here.](#))

possible for him to do so. Henry Campbell has come to the end of his eight-year term as a director. He has been a great all-round contributor to the board but Bowen's students have particular reason to be thankful for Henry's passionate and unstinting commitment to the Scholarships and Bursaries Committee. We also thank him for his recognizable and unforgettable voice in countless public communications about the Foundation's work.

We are fortunate this year that four new directors have come forward to offer their time and expertise to [the board](#). Bobbi Parker joined earlier this year, bringing much experience in fundraising and business management in not-for-profit organizations. Three additional directors, each with senior-level experience in not-for-profit organizations both in Canada and elsewhere in the world, have been approved as board members. Bobbi's skills have already been put to good use and we know that Fiona Douglas-Crampton, Margaret Butler, and Peter Wrinch will also quickly contribute their knowledge and experience to the board's work.

Finally, to all our donors: thank you for your ongoing generosity, interest, and trust in the Bowen Island Community Foundation. It's a privilege to be part of this community and to serve as Chair for 2024. Together, we're making a lasting impact on Bowen Island's future.

K.M. Thomas-Peter

Kate Thomas-Peter
Chair

Community Foundation 101: Our Purpose, Our Pledge



Cove Commons, home to the Bowen Island Arts Council and Hearth Gallery, opened in 2018 with support from a Community Impact Grant.

The Bowen Island Community Foundation began as the seed of an idea in 2000. A group of visionary Bowen Islanders—including Hans Behm, Ross Carter, Bruce Greyell, Jane Kellett, Dean Maidment, and Ted Spear—came together to explore strategies for creating a local philanthropic foundation. This diverse group saw the value in establishing a lasting resource to support Bowen's needs. Over the following year, they nurtured this idea into reality, founding the Bowen Island Community Foundation, a platform for giving that has been growing our community ever since.

At the Bowen Island Community Foundation, we believe that *community grows here*. For over twenty years, we've been planting seeds

being by listening to our community and supporting projects and programs that make meaningful, local impacts.

When you donate to one of our endowment funds, your gift is invested, allowing us to use the income generated from it over time to fund a range of projects and programs on the island, including development of the Westside Playscape, start-up funds for the Knick Knack Nook, construction of the Cove Commons, and improvements to Collins Hall. Just as seeds grow into something greater from which many people can benefit, these contributions keep giving, ensuring long-term support for causes that matter to our community. Working closely with the Vancouver Foundation, we leverage their expertise to responsibly grow our endowments, now valued at over \$2 million, to ensure continued support for Bowen Island's future.

Through a range of funding avenues, including the Community Impact Fund, which lies at the heart of the Foundation, we can address emerging community needs, while funds like the Helping Hand Fund provide confidential support to island families. Our scholarship and bursary programs, another part of our commitment to community, open up opportunities for Bowen students pursuing educational goals and lifelong learning. These funds are a powerful way to invest in the next generation, nurturing the growth and potential of young people on Bowen Island.

Queen vs. Green Festival: Visionary Teens Revive Beloved Bowen Tradition



Organizer and town crier Archer Florendo heralds the commencement of the Queen vs. Green Festival.

We all know that feeling. It usually comes sometime in March. Suddenly the air feels warmer, the days feel longer, the light a little brighter. Spring is here, but is it? Have we actually moved beyond the snow and frost? Every year, the seasons of Winter and Spring battle it out in the third and fourth months of the year—through rain, sun, sleet, and snow!

The Bowen Island Community Foundation was pleased to support the Green vs. Queen Festival, a festival by youth for youth, with a Community Impact Grant this year. The Festival was billed as “the traditional folk battle between the forces of Winter & Spring” and was held on May 18 at the Bowen Island Library.

Green vs. Queen was a reimagining of the long-standing Green Man Festival, which has been a community staple on Bowen—originally brought to the island by Reverend Shelagh MacKinnon. A group of young people led by Archer Florendo were inspired to bring back the festival to generate community spirit, joy, fun, and youth engagement on Bowen.

The festival was an all-ages event with interactive theatre, designed for community participation. The epic battle between Winter and Spring was helped in dramatic effect with actual rainfall. In Archer's own words: “*The magic of these Island traditions is one of the things that makes Bowen unique, so thank you all so much for supporting me and my peers as we bring back the magic of old.*”

Fund



COMMUNITY PROSPERITY FUND

This fall, the Bowen Island Community Foundation was pleased to announce \$115,000 in funding to support the [Bowen Island United Church's](#) Collins Hall improvement project through the Government of British Columbia's Community Prosperity Fund, a \$25 million investment from the Government of B.C. to advance poverty reduction and social inclusion. Because every community is unique, and so are its needs, community foundations were empowered to make funding decisions at the local level. On Bowen, we appointed a committee of islanders with diverse backgrounds to review proposals. Committee chair Joanne Gassman recalls how the committee was "so impressed with the number of applications—all were well-thought-out initiatives that would have benefited our community in various ways. Our task was a difficult one, however. In the end it came down to which project would have the greatest impact on the Bowen community and we were unanimous in our decision to fund the proposed upgrades to Collins Hall."

Since 1964, Collins Hall has been a hub of community activity on Bowen, a place where islanders have come together to enjoy performances, share skills and knowledge, convene meetings, and celebrate events of all kinds. After six decades of providing this vital gathering space, the hall requires urgent upgrades to improve accessibility, safety, and long-term viability. The Community Prosperity Fund grant will be devoted to implementing a range of improvements to ensure that Collins Hall remains a safe, accessible, and welcoming space. Read about the Community Prosperity Fund on the [Vancouver Foundation's website](#).

Neighbourhood Small Grants Applications Are Open until November 30!



Artistic enhancements to the Bishop's Hill bus shelter underway.

Your Bowen Island Community Foundation's 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. NSG empowers community members to put their ideas into action by providing grants up to \$500 for projects that make neighbourhoods better places to live.

A neighbourhood is so much more than a geographically localized area. It's the place we call home, where our children play, and where we have the most invested financially and emotionally. Building community increases our health and happiness, reduces social isolation, and builds networks of care for people who could use our help.

Check out past NSG projects on our [website](#)!

Do you have a great idea that will connect and engage neighbours? The deadline for applications is November 30. Learn more and apply now at: <https://bowenfoundation.com/neighbourhood-small-grants/>

Have questions? Contact Martina at nsg@bowenfoundation.com, or 778-233-9631.

Bowen Islanders are a very generous group. Many give their money, time, ideas, expertise, and energy to serve their neighbours and their community. The Foundation's Featured Artist Program provides an avenue for our Bowen artists to share their talents with the community. [Fae Logie](#) is the Foundation's 2024–26 [Featured Artist](#).



Fae Logie, Clam Line, 2011
bivalves, concrete, fluorescent twine, 305 m
photos courtesy of the artist

"Sourcing natural accumulations of shells in Burrard Inlet, the clamshells are filled with concrete and joined by fluorescent twine to a length of 1,000 feet. *Clam Line* references ideas of fishing, of weighted lines, carrying the analogy through to the catch, the clams as product, collected, processed, counted, traded, and sold. I am interested in examining the natural manipulated, as in aquaculture where nature is managed towards efficiency of harvest, regardless of impact to habitat. Appearing to delineate the circumference of Granville Island, *Clam Line* also acts as a marker—fluorescent twine being used as a tool by surveyors and builders to indicate land claimed for alternate purposes." —Fae Logie

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

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