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Community Connections

The Bowen Island Community Foundation Newsletter

In This Issue

- [Our Bowen Community](#)
[Giving Back: Our 2018 Grant Recipients](#)
[Scholarship Update](#)
[Chair’s Report Highlights](#)
[Treasurer’s Report Highlights](#)
- [2017 Vital Conversations](#)
[Featured Artist](#)
[Estate Planning/Legacy](#)
[Giving Event](#)
[Changes at the Foundation](#)
[Support our Community](#)

Our Bowen Community

Bowen is alive with a sense of community. People giving of their time, ideas, expertise, money and energy to serve their neighbours and their community. A garden is planted, an art gallery is built, a seniors residence is designed, playgrounds are constructed and maintained, a children’s centre is expanded, a neighbour is helped through a personal emergency. This is what community looks like. This is what our Bowen community does.

“It was that feeling of being enveloped in the community. That all these people, who don't all know each other, would gather and sing. It was uplifting and made me so glad that I was a part of it.”

“...everyone was welcome. Old people and young people, people on income assistance and people living off generous pensions. All cared and looked after each other.”

“I feel it is a privilege to live in such a remarkable place and to be involved with an amazingly supportive community.”

“I felt like I belonged in the community and I felt supported.”

Giving Back

Your Bowen Island Community Foundation helps build a resilient community and strengthens Bowen Islanders' sense of belonging by engaging citizens, organizations and local government to work together and contribute their money, time, ideas, expertise and energy to serve the community. Through the Foundation's leadership and stewardship, we inspire generosity that will last for generations.

Through generous donations and support, the Foundation raised \$251,268 through our "For Bowen, For Ever" 2017 fundraising campaign. The Foundation gave back to our island community \$233,300 in grants and \$32,500 in scholarships. In these grant amounts were large directed grants to capital projects, such as the Cove Commons, which officially opened in April 2018. The [Treasurer's Report](#) provides the full scope of donations, grants and funds administered in 2017.

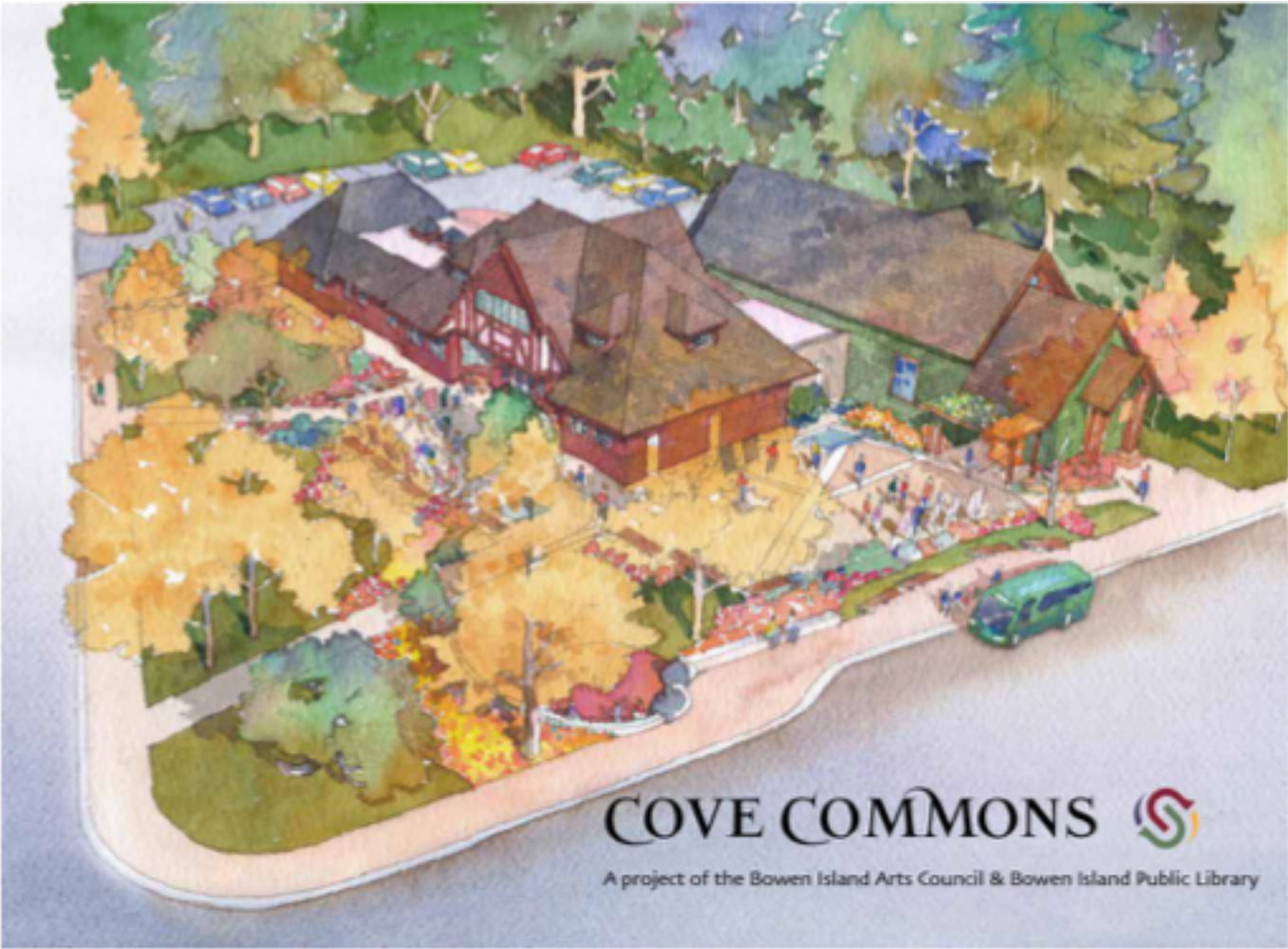
At the Bowen Island Community Foundation Annual Meeting on May 4, 2018, \$37,500 in grants was awarded to support important community initiatives. The funded projects are all responsive to the community's needs identified in the [2017 Vital Conversations report](#) and were awarded from the Foundation's Community Impact Fund. Project-based grants are selected on their potential to lead to measurable and sustainable impact by:

- being effective and serving as a model for others
- addressing root causes
- meeting identified needs and priorities
- showing evidence of appropriate and local support
- providing realistic plans for longer-term funding, if the project will be ongoing.

Below are descriptions of each grant project.



| Organization | Project | Grant Amount |
|---|--|-----------------|
| Bowen Island Library Foundation & Bowen Island Arts Council | Cove Commons Community Plaza | \$11,500 |
| Bowen Island Montessori School Society | Diversity and Inclusion Programming | \$2,500 |
| Snug Cove House Society | Assessment of Seniors' Needs on Bowen | \$12,500 |
| <u>Bowfest</u> Committee | Sponsorship of the Main Stage at Bowfest Community Event | \$4,000 |
| Bowen Island Youth Centre | Girl Power and Boy Power Programming for Youth | \$2,500 |
| Bowen Bike Park Group | Bowen Bike Park | \$4,500 |
| | Grand Total | \$37,500 |



Organizations: [Bowen Island Public Library Foundation](#) and [Bowen Island Arts Council](#)
 Project: The Cove Commons Community Plaza
 Grant Amount: \$11,500
 Vital Conversations Priority: [Create Gathering Places for All](#)

The Bowen Island Public Library Foundation and the Bowen Island Arts Council have successfully partnered on the construction of the Cove Commons, a new community space in the heart of Snug Cove. A vital ingredient in the creation of this community-gathering place is the development of a public plaza on the grounds surrounding the Cove Commons and the Library. This grant from the Community Foundation will go towards seating, a stage area, and lighting on the

plaza. The public plaza will be a fitting terminus for the Garden Gateway, leading visitors and locals along the landscaped ferry arrival path onto a beautifully landscaped public plaza. Envisioned as a multi-functional outdoor gathering space, the plaza is part courtyard, part town square, and part garden. The plaza will be a gathering place for all; a beautiful outdoor space in the heart of our community where everyone is welcome to gather, relax, learn, share and connect.

Organization: [Bowen Island Montessori School Society](#)

Project: Diversity and Inclusion Programming

Grant Amount: \$2,500

Vital Conversations Priority: Celebrate Diversity and Inclusion



Bowen Island Montessori School (BIMS) offers schooling from the ages of 2.5 years to 6 years. A core tenet of their philosophy rests on the understanding that difference provides vital opportunities for internal growth; in developing an awareness of one's place and responsibility as an individual. To be responsive to this core tenet, BIMS has prioritized the need to strengthen its current multicultural curriculum. The celebration of diversity and inclusion is one of the priorities from Vital Conversations. Because we think of our community as generally welcoming and inclusive, a sensitive subject like diversity can be uncomfortable to discuss. Concerns and issues that might benefit from dialogue are perhaps left unspoken. Addressing these issues candidly and openly could be transformative.

The grant from the Community Foundation will enhance the school's programming toward building a curriculum that provides more opportunities to dive deeper into cultural exploration through cooking, arts, training and educational resources that foster an outward approach to the world at large. BIMS plans to implement the revamped multicultural curriculum in September 2018. The programming will be integrated throughout the entire school curriculum. Students engagement in an enhanced multicultural program will enhance personal understanding, awareness, mutual respect, that prioritizes inclusion for all families of our community; thus, creating a more equitable environment for all. Canadian schools are the engine of integration. It's where children learn what it means to be Canadian.



Organization: [Snug Cove House Society](#)

Project: Assessment of Seniors' Needs on Bowen

Grant Amount: \$12,500

Vital Conversations Priority: Take Care of our Seniors in All We Do

For twenty years Snug Cove House Society has been working to finance and build a seniors' supportive living residence on Bowen Island. This major project has dominated the work of the Society and is finally coming to fruition with the residence being built in 2019.

The Society can now turn to its broader mandate of being an advocate for seniors on Bowen. With this grant from the Community Foundation, the Society will develop a comprehensive understanding of Bowen's senior population, the services needed, and current gaps in support.

The project will include: (1) a comprehensive research study that seeks input from seniors, their caregivers, and service organizations to clearly understand the needs and priorities of *Photos: Suzan Wood, Sylvia Adams*

our seniors; (2) a review of other community best practices in supporting and providing services to seniors; (3) a review of current service providers on Bowen focused on seniors and the gaps between what we offer and what our seniors need; and (4) a report that presents the findings, priorities, and recommendations for serving our seniors and maintaining and improving their quality of life on Bowen. Helping our seniors should be a part of the fabric of our culture. Our community must include our seniors, help take care of them, and celebrate what they have to offer.



Organizations: [Bowfest Committee](#) and the [Bowen Island Royal Canadian Legion](#)

Project: Sponsorship of the Main Stage at Bowfest
Community Event

Grant Amount: \$4,000

Vital Conversations Priority: Create Gathering Places for All

Photo: Edward Wachtman

Bowfest is a vital part of the Bowen Island community. It is an opportunity for Islanders of all ages to come together and celebrate what makes Bowen wonderful! In 2018, Bowfest will celebrate 42 years as an island tradition. Whether you are joining in or enjoying the parade, listening and dancing to live music in Crippen Park, participating in rides, games, contests, crafts and exhibits, enjoying local food or running into old and new friends and neighbours — this event has something for everyone, promotes our love of community and celebrates our rural roots.

The grant from the Bowen Island Community Foundation will allow the committee to continue to provide high quality entertainment and reduce entry fees to the event for adults and seniors to increase accessibility to the event. Last year, the committee was able to reduce fees to allow children under 18 free access while charging all adults only \$10. This year, the plan is to maintain the no-cost entry for under 18's plus reduce entry fees for adults even further. This would allow even more Bowen Islanders to participate in this great tradition. This event is the height of our summer on Bowen and brings together long-time residents, part-time residents, newcomers and visitors while celebrating and building our rural roots and customs. It is an essential and unique summer experience, and integral to our community culture.



Organization: [Bowen Island Youth Centre](#)

Project: Girl Power and Boy Power Programming for Youth

Grant Amount: \$2,500

Vital Conversations Priority: Support Our Youth

The Bowen Island Youth Centre has operated for over 20 years to help Bowen youth reach their full potential. In addition to providing a safe place for kids 12-18 to gather and engage with friends and their community, the Centre offers numerous events and programs. “Girl Power” series began in 2017 and offers four-week sessions of different activities for girls 11-16 including Boxercise, songwriting, yoga, improvisational theatre, drawing, and dance. This series has been very well received with community members suggesting additional programming ideas as well as a “Boy Power” series.

The grant from the Community Foundation will go towards funding instructor fees and supplies for an expanded “Girl Power” and new “Boy Power” series. Ideas for upcoming sessions include auto mechanics, app building, scholarship applications, and starting your own business. The Centre plans to expand these sessions to six times per year and give Bowen youth an on-island activity option that will expose them to new skills, influences and activities.



Organization: [Bowen Bike Park Group](#)

Project: Bowen Bike Park

Grant Amount: \$4,500

Vital Conversations Priority: [Support Our Youth](#)

On April 22, 2018, more than 200 people attended the opening of the Bowen Bike Park. On a 0.425 acre land parcel on Lot 2 of the Community Lands adjacent to the community school, this park is envisioned to be a place for Bowen Island youth and families to build biking skills, recreate outdoors and gather together. The Bike Park Group designed and built the Park through grants, cash and in-kind donations.

The grant from the Community Foundation helps achieve the final fund-raising goal for the Group and pay the outstanding expenses for the Park. The Bike Park had significant public and municipal support. Local construction companies provided equipment and labour for the project. And Bowen youth and parents pitched in their labour where and when they could. The Bike Park will be owned and operated by the Municipality who will undertake appropriate inspections and maintenance and will provide insurance for operations. The Bike Park will provide outdoor recreation and a gathering space for our growing youth and family population for many years to come.

Scholarship Update

The Foundation offers Bowen students many [scholarships and bursaries](#). The criteria range from academic performance, to community involvement and leadership, to environmental stewardship, and to trades/technical pursuits. In 2017, the Foundation awarded \$26,750 from thirteen different scholarship and bursary opportunities. Nicholas Belluk (below) was the first recipient in 2017 of the Bowen Island Community Foundation Academic Scholarship. 2018 is set to be even better with \$35,750.00 in awards available for eligible students. We know that students have to live meagre lifestyles to achieve their goals. Here's hoping these awards give them just a little more breathing room.



Recipient: Nicholas Belluk

Scholarship: Bowen Island Community Foundation Academic Scholarship

Amount: \$2,500

Nicholas Belluk has already had a full young life as a violinist, photographer, and adventurer (see his personal presentation: [A guide to taking risks everyday](#)). He's continuing his life adventure by now studying International Development at McGill University with the help of the first Bowen Island Community Foundation Academic Scholarship.

“Receiving the community scholarship really helped my family and I worry less this past year about the expenses of school,” he

writes. “For example, this year I was able to not have a job during the year which allowed me to focus more on my studies as well as getting used to living in a new city away from home. While I'll likely get a job next year, as well as working all this summer to help pay for McGill, having some free time this year was very helpful.”

Chair's Report



Here are highlights from the Bowen Island Community Foundation Chair's Report, presented at the Annual Meeting May 4, 2018. The full [Chair's Report](#) can be seen on our website.

2017 in Review:

Completed a restructuring of our By-laws and Constitution.

- Has legal capacity to serve as a direct granting entity through the Helping Hand Fund.
- Completed a strategic planning session, which reinforced our core values and identified the course forward with an approved Action Plan.
- Conducted our second Vital Conversations event with 80 Islanders to: provide ideas and insights to create a clearer picture of our local needs; identify priorities for individual and organizational action; guide the Foundation's work for Community granting. A summary of the findings are in this newsletter. The full report, "**Powered by People**" 2017 Vital Conversations, can be downloaded from our website [here](#).
- During our "For Bowen, For Ever" 2017 fundraising campaign, we raised approximately \$250,000.
- Gave back to our community approximately \$250,000 in grants, large directed grants to capital projects, such as the Cove Commons.
- Endowed three new funds: Camp Bowen Society Fund, Foxglove Fund and Knick Knack Nook Environmental Sustainability Fund.
- Secured several legacy commitments.



Soren Hammerberg
Chair
May 2018

Treasurer's Report

Here are highlights from the Bowen Island Community Foundation [Treasurer's Report](#), presented at the Annual Meeting May 4, 2018. The full **Treasurer's Report** can be seen on our website.

The Financial Statements for the Year ended December 31, 2017 show:

- Donations Received of \$251,268 compared to \$167,856 the previous year, a significant increase of \$83,412 or 50% over the previous year.
- Endowment Fund Income from the Vancouver Foundation of \$37,846, up 27% from last year.
- Community Grants were \$233,300, an increase of \$131,690 over the previous year. These grants include one large payment of \$145,000 for the construction of the Cove Commons, and \$20,000 administered grants distributed on behalf of the Knick Knack Nook Environmental Sustainability Fund.
- Scholarships granted were \$32,500, more than double the \$15,000 awarded in 2016.
- \$85,300 was transferred to the Vancouver Foundation for investment in Endowment Funds, compared to the \$50,400 transferred the previous year. Of this \$34,900 increase, \$26,300 represents three new Endowment Funds created during the year.
- The market value of Endowment Funds invested at the Vancouver Foundation increased from \$885,891 last year to

\$1,004,656 this year.

Michael Cornelissen CA(SA) Ret. MBA

Treasurer

April 24, 2018

2017 Vital Conversations



In 2014, Bowen Island Community Foundation sponsored its first Vital Conversations. Since then, numerous organizations and individuals have stepped forward to tackle the improvement opportunities that were identified. Today, Bowen is a better place for the leadership and efforts of these champions.

In September 2017, the Foundation wanted to again assess the current state of our local needs, identify priorities for individual and organizational action, and guide the Foundation's community grant giving efforts. Sixty-one Bowen residents participated in this most current Vital Conversations, joined by approximately twenty scribes and facilitators.

For three and a half hours on September 9, participants were guided through small group discussions addressing four key questions:

- When you picture a strong community, what stands out in your mind? What does it look and feel like?
- What is Bowen doing well?
- Where does Bowen have opportunities for improvement within our community?
- What are possible solutions and actions for these improvement opportunities?

The eight areas identified by the Vital Conversations participants were:

- **Develop Housing for All**
- **Promote Diversity and Inclusion**
- **Bring Healthcare Close to Home**
- **Support our Youth**
- **Increase our Volunteer Pool**
- **Expand our Transportation Options**
- **Create Gathering Places for All**
- **Take Responsibility for the Stewardship of our Environment**

Through Vital Conversations 2017, the diverse voices of Bowen Island identified and discussed what we're already doing well and what the priorities for being even better should be. Progress and success will depend on our community's organizations and individuals stepping up and championing these ideas. By tapping into our shared emotions and aspirations and by focusing on the priorities for our community, we can be better. We will be better. Because our efforts and aspirations are powered by the people of Bowen.

The full report, "**Powered by People**" 2017 Vital Conversations, can be downloaded from our website [here](#).

Featured Artist

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.

One Bowen artist is selected and featured for two years, during which time the Foundation has permission to use an image of their work on our greeting cards and in other communications material. At the Bowen Island Community Foundation Annual Meeting on May 4, 2018, Guthrie Gloag was announced as our Featured Artist for 2018-2020. From Guthrie's [website](#):

"Guthrie Gloag's work is born of the wild and rugged shores of British Columbia that he calls home. He is trained as a biologist, holding a BSc in Biology from the University of Victoria. His understanding and respect for the natural world is evident in his sculpture. Gloag has lived and worked along many parts of the coast and his pieces often evoke the animals he's encountered in the wild. His art has been featured at Madrona Gallery in Victoria, Mountain Galleries at the Fairmont in Whistler, and at the Wolf in the Fog restaurant in Tofino. He lives on Bowen Island with his wife, daughter and dog."



Photo: Tobyn Ross

Estate Planning / Legacy Giving Event

There are many ways to make a meaningful gift to a cause close to our hearts, either in the near term or as part of a longer term estate plan. Legacy gifts make an incredible impact on the causes you care about. A future gift arranged through your estate plan provides confidence that there will always be a steady, ongoing stream of funds available to a charitable organization.

Please mark your calendars for an event we are hosting on **Saturday, Oct 20th** where we will explore the some of the legal considerations of planning for your legacy. This will be open to individuals and organizations interested in learning the how-to's and mechanics involved in leaving a gift to charity.

Changes at Your Foundation



After five years as chair of the Foundation, **Soren Hammerberg** stepped down from his leadership role at our annual meeting. We'd like to thank Soren for his many years of extraordinary service to the Foundation and to the community. Soren will continue his contributions as Director and Past Chair.

David Podmore (above left) is now taking the reins of the organization as chair (2018 - 2020) and **Holly Graff** is now vice-chair (2018 - 2020)



We would also like to thank the outstanding contributions to the Board and to the community of of **Michael Cornelissen** (left) and **Kim Stephens** who are both retiring from the Foundation Board. Kim and Michael were always willing to give their time, ideas, and expertise to the Foundation's mission and vision. We will miss their energy and dedication.



We welcome **Sheree Johnson** as a new Board Director. Sheree's story has taken her from her childhood in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia to her current home on Bowen Island where she has lived with her husband, Edward, since 2001. Now retired, Sheree is a dedicated volunteer on Bowen. She enjoyed a broad 30+ year career in marketing, sales, finance, and strategy development. She has been an international speaker, author and consultant. Sheree played a critical role in building three successful market research companies. She has worked with clients in the United States, Canada, South America, Europe, and Asia. Specific engagements have included: defining market scope; positioning and communications strategy; developing business plans for strategy alignment and implementation; evaluating and designing customer satisfaction measurement and customer loyalty programs; defining balanced scorecard measurement systems; designing, developing and delivering custom workshops for change management and leadership development. Sheree has a BA in German Literature and a MBA in Finance from Indiana University. In her spare time, Sheree loves to hike, garden, cook and travel with her husband and their dog in their 1991 Westfalia van.

Supporting our Community

Our Vision: A community working together so that each member has the opportunity for an enriched quality of life through the power of everyone's giving. A place where we are all united in our efforts to do and be the best we can.

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 bowenfoundation.com.

With your continued financial support, the Foundation works to make Bowen a better community. Begin your monthly giving today:

DONATE NOW
"because community matters"

We welcome your questions, suggestions and contributions and hope to hear from you!

Send us an email at info@bowenfoundation.com.



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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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