



Artist in Communities 2012

Renfrew Park Community Centre
2929 East 22nd Avenue
Vancouver, BC, V5M 2Y3

Contact:

Cheryl Palidda
Program Assistant III/Seniors Worker
604-257-8390
cheryl.palidda@vancouver.ca

Renfrew Collingwood Neighbourhood Profile:

- The Renfrew Ravine Neighbourhood Greenway is located along the top of the bank on the east side of the Renfrew Ravine between Renfrew Street and 29th Avenue. It connects the Renfrew Community Centre and Park to the 29th Avenue Sky Train Station along a narrow corridor that weaves between the natural and cultural landscapes. It provides views into the ravine to Still Creek, one of the few remaining creeks in Vancouver. The design features park-like areas with seating, lookouts, native plant species and lighting on the land bridge across the ravine at 27th Avenue.
- This greenway was initiated by a community steering committee and was completed in 1997. (The community hoped that upgrading the trail along the ravine would enhance the walking experience. By increasing the number of people along the trail, contributes to a reduction in the amount of rubbish being dumped into the ravine ultimately raising public sensitivity to the ravine's ecosystem.) Awareness of the importance of the creek was further raised through a Public Art Project created by an artist working with local school children. The public art consists of natural figures mounted on poles and plaques with poetry by the children mounted on posts along the trail.

Renfrew/Collingwood Census: (2006)

Area of land

Hectares - 11,467

Population

Census Population - 578,041

Age Groups

19 and under - 17.9%

20-39 - 34.5%

40-64 - 34.5%

65 and over - 13.1%

English - 49.1%

French - 1.7%

Chinese - 25.3%

Tagalog (Pilipino) - 2.8%

Vietnamese - 1.8%

Punjabi - 2.7%

Hindi -0.7%

Mobility

Population who moved since the last census -50.2%

Households

Number of private households - 253,210

One-person households -38.6%

Average size of household - 2.2

Median household income - \$47,299

Population in low income households - 26.6%

Families

Number of families -145,605

Children living at home - 148,545

Single parent families - 16.2%

Neighbourhood Issues and Interests:

Renfrew- Collingwood Today:

- Renfrew -Collingwood is dynamic, family-oriented neighbourhood, known for its active community spirit and remarkable diversity. (Its residents value the area as single family neighbourhoods. The area's parks offer precious open space and are heavily used as are the community centre, pool, neighbourhood house, and community policing centre. The Vision Seeks to maintain these community assets.
- The Renfrew-Collingwood Vision also seeks to improve the community. Residents want more action to protect the environment and daylight Still Creek as well as new initiatives to improve community safety and increase the attractiveness of parks, school grounds, streets and lanes. Primary arterials should be made safer and easier to cross and several secondary arterials should be reclassified as collectors. Residents seek increased input to decisions which enhanced walking/biking routes, and expanded recreation programs for youth, seniors, and families. The Vision supports additional seniors housing and new housing variety around more attractive shopping areas.

Main Interests

- Create More Attractive Parks, Streets, Lanes and Public Places
- Create a Cleaner Community, focus on Environmental Initiatives
- Enhance Community Safety
- Create Neighbourhood Centres around important Shopping areas
- Make Streets Safer
- Improve community Involvement in Decision-Making
- Maintain and Enhance Single family Neighbourhoods
- Enhance Community Services
- Add New Housing opportunities
- Improve Walking and Biking Routes.

People, Resources and Facilities:

- A new adhoc committee will be formed for this project. It will include Board, community members, and together with the Programmer and Coordinator, will work with the artist in developing the scope and the management of the project.
- The staff team at Renfrew includes full-time Youth and Seniors Worker who will be able to assist the artist in having direct contact with number of community

agencies which are involved in various interagency meetings and projects and will be able to provide the artist with important information with youth and seniors in the area.

- There are a number of community agencies which are involved in various interagency meetings and projects and will be able to provide the artist with important information and advice. Some these are the following: Still Moon Arts Society, Still Creek, Collingwood Neighbourhood House (Collingwood Days), Rivershed Society of BC, Renfrew Ravine Labyrinth and Three Links Care Facility and Renfrew Collingwood Seniors Society.
- The community centre has a various multi-purpose rooms, a martial arts room, gymnasium, fitness centre and a swimming pool.

Affiliated Clubs and Groups

- Aikido Club
- Happy Corner Parent Participation Preschool
- Judo club
- Karate Club
- Kung Fu Club
- Lions Gate Camera

Projects and Events

- Renfrew has been overseeing the Arts and Health project for the past 5 years.
- Helped the seniors with grant writing for several New Horizons Grants projects. The New Horizons grants made it possible for Renfrew Park CC to have new sound system for the centre, display hanging rails, replacement of display show case, art workshops and to share and exchange art knowledge with the local school in the area.
- There are many community special events that happen annually at Renfrew Park Community Centre. The resident artists enhance events by offering environmental arts related workshops and cultural performances. Some of these events are the following: Renfrew Ravine Moon Festival -environmental awareness focus, Community Diwali Celebration, Scottish Ceilidh, Carnival at the Park, Community Fun Day, Chinese Harvest Festival and Canada Day Celebrations.
- Neighbourhood Matching grant for Bird at Renfrew Ravine and Mosaic Water fountains and Tables.
- Flood Security for Collingwood Neighbourhood House
- The preserving the Heritage Fire Hall #15
- **Restoring the Creek-** Both Still Creek and the Renfrew Ravine are dynamic ecosystems and are home to a variety of plants and animals. However the creek has been abused over the years and faces a number of major threats. Learn about the history of the ravine, the threats it faces, and what we can all do to help.
- **The Stream of Dreams Murals Society** provides environmental education and is noted for its award-winning [watershed education through community art](#) program: helping people understand their connections to water and fish habitat and how to make behavioural changes to protect streams, rivers, lakes and our one ocean.
- **Students involved in Windermere's Organic Garden** are constantly learning more. Also, you can find seasonal recipes and gardening tips which hopefully help you on your way to become a better gardener.