



## March 2024

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### Upcoming Events

#### 2024 Kickoff Event

Join us for our 2024 Neighbourhood Cleanup Kickoff Event on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 10am to 1pm at Dr. Sun Yat-Sen courtyard (48 E Pender St). We will provide cleaning equipment and lead a neighbourhood cleanup around Chinatown together with the Chinese Community Policing Centre. Light refreshments will follow, and the event will also feature a free swap. Click [here](#) for more details and to register.

#### City Hosted and Chinatown Cleanups

We host 1 to 2 cleanups per month across Vancouver neighbourhoods from spring to autumn and both new and existing volunteers are welcome to join. For more information on upcoming cleanups and to sign up, visit [Join a cleanup](#) and make sure to register early.

#### Share, Reuse, Repair, and Recycle

As the colder weather passes us by, the City of Vancouver's zero waste events are coming out of hibernation! The events below assist Vancouver residents participate in circular practices that help us keep resources out of the landfill.

#### [Reuse and Recycling Drop-off Events](#)

Each year, the City's [drop-off events](#) divert thousands of kilograms of resources away from the landfill. Why is this important? The landfill requires a large amount of space and produces greenhouse gases such as methane, so it is better for everyone to reduce the volume of materials sent there. For a list of accepted items and upcoming events, check out the link above.

## Repair Cafes

Not too long ago, getting an item repaired was easy, while now, many of us will just recycle that broken toaster and buy a new one. At our free repair cafes, amazing local repair volunteers take pride in doing what they can to get your item back into working condition. Learn more about upcoming repair cafes or to find out how to volunteer at these events.

## Free Swaps

This year we are co-locating four free swaps at our regular reuse and recycling drop-off events at Vancouver West - location TBD (April), Dr A.R. Lord Elementary (May), Magee Secondary (August), and Killarney Community Centre (September). Free swaps are a fun way to share items within your community and keep products in circulation longer. Whether you have something to share or not, visit one of our free swaps to browse and maybe even take something home. Learn about accepted items and event guidelines here.



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## Spring Odds and Ends

### Adopt a Block reminders

After each cleanup, please submit your cleanup details and any relevant photos of your cleanup on our website. It takes less than 2 minutes to complete, and this information is important to our program.

Any equipment provided to you is the property of the City of Vancouver and will be on loan to you as long as you are an active volunteer. If you are no longer participating in our programs, please email us at [cleanup@vancouver.ca](mailto:cleanup@vancouver.ca) to arrange for the return of the equipment so it can be reused. As well, please contact us if you need any additional or replacement supplies and equipment, to update your contact information, and to let us know if you have changed the frequency of your cleanups.

### Neighbourhood Cleanup Party reminder

April is one of our busiest months, so make sure to register for your cleanup well in advance.

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## 2023 Year in Review

We would like to say thank you once again to our volunteers for all of your hard work and dedication over this past year! Our 2023 numbers are in, and they are truly inspiring:

### Neighbourhood Cleanup Parties:

14,600 volunteers participated in 470 Neighbourhood Cleanup Parties to help keep our streets and waterways litter-free

### Adopt a Block:

Over 500 Adopt a Block volunteers spent countless hours doing litter cleanups throughout the year

### City Hosted Cleanups:

700 volunteers participated in 13 City hosted cleanups to help keep litter out of our neighbourhoods



For those of you who weren't able to attend our Volunteer Appreciation Event last November, here are a few highlights from 2023, featuring several Neighbourhood Cleanup Parties, Adopt a Block volunteers, City Hosted Cleanups, Volunteer Appreciation Event, Zero Waste Fair and Lobby Talks.



## Getting to Zero Waste – Food scraps are not garbage

Our latest Waste Audit shows that most items found in single-family household garbage don't belong there! For example, food scraps and yard waste make up about 30% of our garbage stream and should be placed in the green bin instead.



### Green Bin Recycling Tip:

For easy clean up and to reduce odours, wrap your food scraps in used paper towels, paper bags or newspaper. You can also freeze your food scraps until collection day to minimize odours and pests.

By using your green bin every day, you will help keep thousands of truck loads of food scraps out of the landfill and help reduce methane and carbon pollution. Furthermore, food scraps in the green bin become nutrient rich compost used locally in our gardens and parks!

If you're not already using your green bin or want to use it more, find out how you can make food scraps recycling an easier task

in your household. Check out our green bin tips at [Vancouver.ca/GreenBin](https://vancouver.ca/greenbin)

**Please Remember:** No plastic bags of any kind in the green bin! This includes bio-plastic bags labelled as compostable, biodegradable or oxo-degradable. These products do not break down in our facilities and contaminate the finished compost.

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## Volunteer Profiles

Every newsletter we would like to feature a few of our dedicated volunteers. This issue we would like to introduce Gina and Luc. If you (or your business, family, group, school etc.) would like to be profiled in an upcoming newsletter, please email us.

### Gina – volunteer and part of the Solid Waste Outreach & Education team



#### *What made you interested in becoming a volunteer with us?*

My son was three years old when I signed up for the Adopt a Block (AAB) program for our family in 2021. We wanted to instill the importance in him by keeping our neighbourhood clean and giving back to the community where we live.

#### *What do you enjoy most about volunteering?*

Cleaning our neighbourhood has become one of our favourite things to do as a family. We received so many compliments from the neighbours when they saw us picking up litter, especially with a child. It's very rewarding and hopefully establishes a good example of "cleaning up your own act".

#### *Are you involved in any other volunteer activities?*

Aside from AAB, we also volunteer in City Hosted Cleanups where we clean up at different parks and areas throughout the year with other volunteers. In addition, I also volunteer at my son's school for traffic supervision and office support. It's really rewarding to be able to give back to the community.

#### *Anything else you would like to share with other volunteers*

Having been an AAB volunteer for the past three years, I was very fortunate when a position opened up and am now part of the city's Solid Waste Outreach & Education team where I get to work with the amazing team members and continuing to do what I love to do through various programs such as Neighborhood Cleanup Programs, Reuse and Recycling Drop off Events, etc.

My hope is through the AAB volunteers, the local community can have the awareness of not littering in the first place in order to keep our environment clean and sustainable for future generations.



## Luc and Gordon Neighbourhood House Clean Team

### *What does a Community Cleanup event look like at Gordon Neighbourhood House?*

People are encouraged to come together and dedicate a few hours at our Community Cleanups to have fun keeping our West End residential sidewalks clean and beautiful. On the day of the event, volunteers are paired in twos and are equipped with all supplies and tools (this includes the route to cover, guidelines on what should be picked up, a garbage bag, pair of gloves, and a child or adult picker). The cleanup lasts for about two hours and commence and end at Gordon Neighbourhood House.



Community Cleanups typically occur on Saturdays between April and September, and at various times throughout the year for organized groups. Gordon Neighbourhood House will list the dates of the cleanups on Eventbrite where volunteers will need to register in advance.

Luc, Gordon Neighbourhood House's Community Development Coordinator: "I am very moved by all the people who enjoy the event, people of all ages and from all diverse backgrounds, all coming together to dedicate their time for a sustainability initiative so important to our community. The benefits go beyond keeping our sidewalks clean because these people make new connections, find a deeper appreciation of their neighbourhood, and feel good that they can contribute."

Visit [The Clean Team](#) at Gordon Neighbourhood House for more information on Community Cleanups and the Clean Team program. You can also contact Luc by telephone at (604) 683-2554 or by email at [luc@gordonhouse.org](mailto:luc@gordonhouse.org).

## In Memoriam – Nugget



We were deeply saddened to learn that Nugget passed away in January at the age of 12. Nugget was a certified therapy dog as well as one of our dedicated 4 legged Adopt a Block volunteers and was featured in our newsletter last September, along with his owner Stuart. He will be greatly missed by those who were fortunate to know him. Thank you, Nugget, for all of your service and may we all find inspiration in your giving and compassionate nature. Stuart and Nugget's little brother Ben (who has big paws to fill) will honour Nugget's memory by continuing in their Adopt a Block and volunteer journey.

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If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for a story, please contact us at [cleanup@vancouver.ca](mailto:cleanup@vancouver.ca)