



THOMPSON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024**
(for Year ending August 31 2023)

7:00 – 8:00 pm
Registration Starts at 6:45 pm





THOMPSON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024

7:00 PM (registration starts 6:45pm)

1.	Call to Order – Jennifer Dahl, President	
2.	Introductions	
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**THOMPSON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 1, 2023
Activity Centre in Community Centre**

Present:

Board Members: Guy Anderson, Jen Dahl, Kathy Holt, Eyal Lichtmann, Noa Lichtmann, Alan Marchant, Stephen Morris, Sam Samy

Councillors: Councillors Chak Au

City Staff: Melissa Martin, Suzi Rosenberg, Scott Schroeder

Association Staff: Trey Melton, Natalia Orekhova, Shellby Sy, Emily Vera

Life Member: Marion Gray, Julie Halfnights

Community Members: Jessica Gonzalbs, Ethan Haldeman, Gord Halfnights, Vanessa Xavier Lau, Ron Potzi, Mike Scarv, Bernard Sio,

1. **Call to Order:**

The Annual General Meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm, by Jen Dahl, President of the Thompson Community Association.

2. **Introductions:**

Jen Dahl, Chair, opened the meeting by introducing herself and thanking everyone for their attendance. Jen introduced Chak Au, Council Liaison to the Association, members of the Association Executive, and the Area Coordinator for Thompson Community Centre.

3. **Adoption of Agenda:**

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented. Moved: Guy Anderson / Seconded: Eyal Lichtmann / Carried.

4. **Adoption of AGM Minutes of March 2, 2022:**

MOTION: To approve the March 2, 2022 Annual General Meeting minutes as presented. Moved: Guy Anderson / Seconded: Stephen Morris / Carried.

5. **Financial Report for Year Ended August 31, 2022 – Alan Marchant, Treasurer:**

MOTION: To approve the Financial Report for year ended August 31, 2022, as presented. Moved: Alan Marchant / Seconded: Eyal Lichtmann / Carried.

MOTION: To appoint Tompkins Wozny, Chartered Professional Accountants, as the accounting firm for the Thompson Community Association for the September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023 fiscal year. Moved: Alan Marchant / Seconded: Guy Anderson / Carried.

6. Committee Year End Reports:

The Chair referred to the yearend Committee Reports as noted below and as circulated with the agenda. Committee chairs spoke to their reports and were available for any questions.

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Committee Chair</u>
a. Finance	Alan Marchant
b. Children's	Jen Dahl
d. Fitness	Kathy Holt
e. Human Resources	Eyal Lichtmann
f. Seniors	Stephen Morris
g. Youth	Noa Lichtmann
h. President's Report	Jen Dahl
i. Richmond City Staff Report	Scott Schroeder

MOTION: To approve the Committee Year End Reports as presented. Moved: Guy Anderson / Seconded: Julie Halfnights / Carried.

7. Special Resolution to Amend the Bylaws of the Association:

WHEREAS the Board of Directors has reviewed the Bylaws of the Association and is recommending specific amendments to the Bylaws, and in keeping with the requirements of the Societies Act of BC:

BE IT RESOLVED AS A SPECIAL RESOLUTION that the Bylaws of the Association be and are hereby amended as follows:

Number of Directors: The first amendment to the bylaws is to section 19 that currently states: "*The number of Directors shall be 14.*"

MOTION: That the Board of Directors of Thompson Community Association present the following resolution to amend Section 19 of the Association's Bylaws, to read: "The number of Directors shall be up to a maximum of 13." Moved: Stephen Morris / Seconded: Sam Samy / Carried.

Quorum Required for Board Meetings: The second amendment to the bylaws is to section 24(B) that currently states: "*The directors may decide the quorum necessary to transact their business, and unless otherwise decided the quorum shall be a majority of the directors then in office.*"

MOTION: That the Board of Directors of Thompson Community Association present the following resolution to amend Section 24(B) of the Association's Bylaws, to read: "The quorum shall be a majority of the directors then in office." Moved: Stephen Morris / Seconded: Eyal Lichtmann / Carried.

In all other respects, the Bylaws of The Thompson Community Association remain in full force and effect and unamended.

8. Call for Nominations and Election of Board of Directors:

The following community member, as recommended by the Nominating Committee has agreed to let her name stand for Board of Directors for a two year term (February 2023 – AGM 2025) and was elected by acclamation.

Vanessa Xavier Lau

The following Board members, as recommended by the Nominating Committee, have agreed to let their names stand for Board of Directors for a two year term (February 2023 – AGM 2025) and were re-elected by acclamation:

Kathy Holt Alan Marchant
Eyal Lichtmann Harry Wong

The following Board members continue to serve in terms from March 2022 to the AGM in 2024.

Guy Anderson Farah Meralli Sam Samy
Jen Dahl Stephen Morris

MOTION: To approve the February 1, 2023 to the AGM in 2025 slate of the Board of Directors as recommended and presented by the Nominating Committee; further to acknowledge the 2023 Board of Directors: Guy Anderson, Jen Dahl, Kathy Holt, Vanessa Xavier Lau, Eyal Lichtmann, Alan Marchant, Farah Meralli, Stephen Morris, Sam Samy, Harry Wong. Moved: Guy Anderson / Seconded: Kathy Holt / Carried.

The following Youth member sits as an unelected appointment representing the youth in the community.

Noa Lichtmann

The following Board members have resigned from the Thompson Community Association Board of Directors.

Don Flintoff (Effective April 21, 2022)

Otto Sun (Effective October 3, 2022)

9. Presentations:

Retiring Board Members:

Otto Sun and Don Flintoff: Jen Dahl thanked Otto and Don and expressed the Board’s appreciation and respect for the years of service that these Board members contributed to the Thompson Association and to the City of Richmond community.

10. Adjournment:

There being no further business, Sam Samy made a motion to adjourn. Carried.
Annual General Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Jen Dahl
President

Debby Newton
Recording Secretary

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The complete Financial Statements for Thompson Community Association are under separate cover but form part of the Annual General Meeting package. Below is the Engagement Report cover letter as provided by Tompkins Wozny, Chartered Professional Accountants.

INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONERS' REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To the Directors of
Thompson Community Association

Report on the Financial Statements

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Thompson Community Association that comprise the statement of financial position as at August 31, 2023, and the statements of changes in net assets, operations and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Practitioner's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian general accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Thompson Community Association as at August 31, 2023, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Tompkins Wozny LLP

Vancouver, Canada
December 6, 2023

Chartered Professional Accountants

Finance Committee Report September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023

This year the revenue over expenses showed a net surplus of \$89,629 against the previous year's \$38,743. This increase is due to our recovery from the effects of COVID and ramp up our activities as we get back to normal. This year there was no government COVID assistance compared to last year's \$71,381. The Association's revenue increased by approximately \$285,847 and the overall expenses increased by about \$234,961 over the previous year as activity and programming increased.

Operational revenue allowed the Community Association to support seniors, youth, some Preschool programs, where the revenues cannot support the program expenses. The support provided is shown below:

Area	2023	2022
Seniors	\$46,321	\$57,282
Youth	27,849	14,403
Community Development Coordinator	18,523	22,919
Preschool - Rompers	12,489	-
Preschool – Nature School	11,742	98
Total:	\$98,401	\$56,756

The Preschool subsidy is something new and we will have to monitor the results in the coming year.

Financially the Association is in a good financial position and has started to use some of the previous year's surpluses to upgrade as planned the fitness and other equipment, in total \$139,939 was spent from our reserves compared to \$3,615 the previous year.

In the coming year we will look at the possibility of transferring some of the accumulated surplus into the reserves to ensure we can replace any capital items as required.

The board with the assistance of staff is in the process of developing a capital budget to ensure the facility remains competitive and serves the needs of the community.

The Board voted to have the Association's financial statements reviewed by external accountants. The firm of Tompkins, Wozny CPA LLP continues to perform the engagement for the Association.

The efforts by volunteers on all committees, Association and City staff, in preparing and monitoring their budgets, has a great impact on the financial success of the Association. I would like to thank all Finance Committee members (Jen Dahl, Stephen Morris, and Scott Schroeder), both Association and City staff, and our bookkeeper, Liz Sjerdal, for all their hard work and commitment.

Respectively Submitted by Alan Marchant, Treasurer, for AGM of February 7, 2024

Children's Committee Report September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023

The Children's Committee works with the Community Facilities Coordinator and Preschool Coordinators to liaison with the Board and consult on programs including: licensed preschool, preschool and children's seasonal programs, winter and spring break camps and summer challenge day camps.

Terra Nova Nature School (TNNS)

Kate Dawson and Emily Vera, coordinators of Terra Nova Nature School, supervised a preschool team of 6 Early Childhood Educators (ECE) and 11 Beyond 4 Walls Educators. The preschool also supported a practicum student from the ECE program at Langara College. As well, two students from the UBC Department of Education completed a 6 week practicum, joining both the preschool and school aged programs.

The preschool program ran at full capacity, averaging 55 children per month, including 2 children receiving support from Supported Child Development program. There were 10 children receiving the Affordable Child Care Benefit.

TNNS received 3 grants this past year: the Environmental Enhancement Grant from the City of Richmond to continue work on the Food Forest and Invasive Species Removal; the Green Jobs Initiative, which allowed the hiring of a Garden Mentor Position who worked from late June-to mid August and the Community Artist Residency whereby TNNS worked in partnership with the Sharing Farm and artist Aaron Lettner. It was a very rewarding experience for our children and families, culminating in an art exhibition at TCC.

TNNS was successful in their application to the Early Childhood Pedagogy Network and was appointed a Pedagogist to work with the preschool team on developing curriculum. She attended class once per week in the afternoon Owls program.

TNNS Preschool staff attended the Richmond Child Care dinner, several workshops throughout the year and all staff attended an orienteering workshop. Kate and Emily also attended the Outdoor Program Summit in Victoria.

Other noteworthy events included a professional development day provided to teaching staff at Gilmore Elementary School; hosted a tour for the ECEBC conference; provided interview for Masters in Education student doing research in outdoor education; held visits for BCIT architecture students studying outdoor spaces, a Professor from Cornell University completing research and Ann Pelo, a writer and leader in the ECE community. TNNS also hosted many family gatherings throughout the year. As well TNNS expanded their work around Pink Shirt Day, Orange Shirt Day, Walk for Wenjack and honoured Black History Month with stories, information sent to families and thoughtful programming. TNNS also took a big jump and celebrated International Parents Day in lieu of Mother and Father's Day.

TNNS Beyond 4 Walls

B4W programs were very successful last year with each program enjoying robust registration and waitlists. Beyond 4 Walls programs saw roughly 115 children registered each session: fall, winter, and spring. Summer camps were expanded for 2023, with many weeks running 4 camps per day. Camps ran for 8 weeks with an estimated registration of 284 children, for children ages 3 ½- 15 years. Camps were taught by TNNS staff as well as three outside artists, Keely O'Brien, Bea Martin and Yun Lam Li.



Rompers

Rompers Preschool & Time for Twos programs are led by Coordinator, Anna Thymis, who oversees six Early Childhood Educators (Rompers), three Support Workers (Rompers) and three Preschool Leaders (Time for Twos).

Rompers Preschool

Rompers Preschool had an average fill rate of 86% throughout the 2022-23 school year. Rompers Preschool had 15 families receiving the Affordable Child Care Benefit funding from the Ministry of Children and Family Services and 6 children receiving support through Supported Child Development.

The preschool Open House was held on March 7, 2023 and had a fairly good turnout, resulting in registrations!

The educators took part in two fabulous Professional Development opportunities this year:

1. 3rd Annual NAREA (North America Reggio Emilia Association) Fall Conference: “Possibilities and Complexities: Reconnection, Reimagining, Relaunching” which took place October 21 & 22, 2022. Here is link to a video recap of the conference: <https://vimeo.com/829685927> It was a very inspiring conference about the experience of children and educator in Reggio Emilia, the learnings from which Thompson Early Learning team brought into their classrooms.
2. Group/self-guided study of Mona Delahooke’s book “Beyond Behaviors.” This workshop provided the team of educators some tools and techniques to “reduce behavioral challenges and promote psychological resilience and satisfying, secure relationships.” The team enjoyed watching Mona’s videos, practicing scenarios on worksheets and engaging in deep discussion. This is part one of two professional development days. Part two is to be held in Dec. 2023

Rompers Preschool took part in TCC’s first Annual Walk for Wenjack in the fall of 2022! The children made banners and orange hearts to carry on the walk. At least 20 families with children joined the preschool staff team and TCC staff in a united walk towards reconciliation.

A large component of Rompers Preschool continues to be gardening. One can find all kinds of flowers, herbs, berries and vegetables in the preschool garden!



Licensed Preschool Camp

Rompers Licensed Preschool Camps ran from 9am to 1pm Monday to Friday, for 2 weeks in March and 8 weeks in July/August. They were run by 2 ECE’s, two volunteers and at an average capacity of 17 to 20 children per class (20 being the maximum capacity).

Time for Twos

Time for Twos classes ran with three educators at the full capacity of 24 children total in both classes until the end of December. After this time enrolment slowly dropped and eventually the program was capped at 16 children total with two educators by February 2023. This was due to a couple factors – one was families needed longer hours and another was that some children moved to Rompers Preschool as they became of eligible age.

The staff at Thompson Early Learning (Rompers Preschool and Time for Twos) would like to extend their gratitude to Suzi Rosenberg, CFC, and Thompson Community Association for all their support this past year.

Summer Programs

Summer 2023 promised the continuation of full-scale programming. This summer, we had an incredibly successful summer, filled with safe, educational, and enjoyable experiences for staff, children, and families alike! Summer Coordinator, Amanda Kot supported 22 regular staff and 34 volunteers. We provided indoor-based day camps and offered general junior (6-8 years) and senior (9-12 years) day camps for 9 weeks, Neighbourhood Camps (6-12 years) for 8 weeks and 8 different week-long Variety Camps, with full capacity of 24 participants each. Summer camps had a total of 925 registrations. Our revenue from registrations was approximately \$178,902. Our wage expenses were assisted by a Human Resource Development Canada grant of \$5,070, and Aspire Richmond (Supported Child Development) of \$10,240, for a total of approximately \$15,310.

Seasonal Programs

Programs continued to see high registration with over 4, 373 registrants in the preschool and children’s categories. In addition to increasing many of our tried and true sports, science, and arts programs, we added a number of new programs to our roster including, Cartooning with a Disney Animator, Rock’n’ Beau Popstar Academy, and Ukulele for preschoolers. Winter and Spring break camps also ran successfully again this year at full capacity.

Respectfully submitted by Vanessa Xavier Lau, Children’s Committee Chair for AGM of January 14, 2024

Fitness Committee Report September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023

Thompson's Fitness Department is fully committed to providing exceptional fitness and wellness services to the community and dedicated to achieving high standards in all areas. Our mission is to help our community achieve their health goals and maintain an overall healthy lifestyle.

We are delighted to inform you that we have made significant improvements to our Fitness Centre this year to provide our valued customers with an exceptional experience. We firmly believe that these upgrades will enable us to consistently surpass the expectations of the Thompson community, and we are thrilled to witness the positive impact this has made for our community.

We are proud to report that we have seen a significant increase in the number of members returning after the pandemic, which is a testament to the effectiveness of our programs and services.

Fitness Stats	2021-2022	2022-2023
<i>Specialty- Register fitness</i>	\$12,103	\$31,139
<i>Membership sales (including Personal Training and drop-in)</i>	\$230,349	\$366,496
<i>Membership scans</i>	52,548	78,388



Fitness Highlights:

- Contracted Exer-Tech Services Inc. to provide ongoing professional equipment maintenance and repairs.
- Installed a new Washer and Dryer.
- Upgraded and extended floor mats under the strength equipment.
- Upgraded one power rack to two double-sided squat racks, which provides three extra stations for squats and bench presses.
- Upgraded the Smith Machine, 4-way cable station, and cable cross-over with new combined stations to expand workout stations.
- Upgraded 10 selectorized strength machines.
- Upgraded flat bench press to 3-way bench press, to allow for both incline and decline exercises.
- Added 100LB weights to accommodate patron's needs.
- Held a staff appreciation bowling and dinner event
- Offered our 2nd annual "Fitmas" event, a 12-day fitness challenge leading up to the holidays. It was well received by all involved.



- Applied for and received a ParticipACTION Grant for \$ 4,500.00, which allowed us to provide:
 - 12 fitness classes to grade 8-12 students at Burnette Secondary School.
 - New fitness equipment for our programs including mats, dumbbells, Pilates balls, Pilates rings, resistance bands, and exercise bars.
 - Our 2nd annual Thompson "Fitness Marathon" as part of the Community Better Challenge that took place in June.



- The Fitness coordinator launched a professional workshop to help staff get professional credits to renew their fitness certification.
- Recruited and hired many new staff this year, making our team stronger and more dynamic.



We would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who has supported fitness activities at Thompson. This includes City Staff, Association Staff, Board Members, and Fitness Committee Members. We extend a special thank you to Thompson's Fitness Team for providing clients with a safe, clean, and healthy environment. Your hard work is truly appreciated!

We firmly believe in the significance of having an environment that is welcoming, diverse, and inclusive for all individuals. Our team is highly committed to consistently working towards improving and enhancing our environment to meet everyone's needs. We actively seek feedback and suggestions to further improve and strive for excellence.

Our unwavering priority is ensuring that our environment is built upon the principles of diversity, inclusivity, and respect for all. We take pride in providing an environment that is inclusive and welcoming to everyone.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Holt, Fitness Committee Chair and Natalia Orekhova, Fitness Coordinator for AGM of February 1, 2024.

Human Resources Committee Report

September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023

Purpose and Scope

The Human Resources (HR) Committee ensures fair, inclusive, effective and responsive policies are maintained and all aspects of the Employment Standards Act are followed. The Committee meets, as needed, to provide direction and policy for recruitment, hiring, employment and benefits for Thompson Community Association (TCA) staff and volunteers. The Association employed 97 staff in 2022-23; 16 worked more than 20 hours per week and received extended health benefits. All others were paid a percentage in lieu of benefits.

Hiring

TCA welcomed a new Summer Coordinator, Amanda Kott. Amanda worked for TCA for several years as a Summer Leader. Amanda coordinated a success season of summer camps for TCA.

The Community Development Coordinator position, which was vacant during the COVID pandemic, was filled in August 2023. The HR Committee is happy to announce that Hana Hekal has joined TCA in this role.

Cooperating with Richmond Community Associations

TCA works cooperatively with the other Richmond Community Associations and Societies on wages, position descriptions and benefits via the Richmond Communities Job Evaluation Committee, which has both City staff and Association volunteer representation. During the prior year, the Job Evaluation Committee worked with a consultant to revise Association wages and pay bands. The HR Committee worked with Richmond Communities and the TCA Board to approve and implement the new pay bands and wages, which took effect September 2022 with the first of two pay adjustments for many positions. The second pay adjustment took effect September 2023.

TCA and the HR Committee have joined the other Richmond Community Associations in hiring an HR consultant to write an employee handbook. The handbook will be consistent among the Richmond Community Associations and is expected to be rolled out in 2024.

Thank you to Committee members Eyal Lichtmann, Jen Dahl and City of Richmond staff representative Scott Schroeder, for their work on the Committee.

Respectfully submitted by Eyal Lichtmann, HR Committee Chair, for AGM of February 7, 2024.

Seniors Committee Report

September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023

The Seniors Committee, comprising older adult community members, the Seniors Coordinator, and the Community Facility Coordinator, convened every two months and as required to enhance the quality of life for seniors at the Thompson Community Centre.

Programs and Activities:

In the 2022/2023 fiscal year, the Thompson Community Centre Seniors Committee, in collaboration with the City of Richmond and Association staff, successfully reinstated in-person activities after two years of pandemic related challenges. The diverse range of programs and activities included:

- Book club meetings
- Acrylic & Creative Painting classes
- Line and ballroom dancing with instruction
- Gentlemen in conversation sessions
- Jeopardy and Name That Tune contests
- Craft Group clubs and sales
- Chinese Cultural Dance sessions
- Pickleball drop-in sessions and instruction classes
- Luk Tung and Tai Chi groups.
- Participation with Seniors Week in June
- Fully booked trips to exciting locations in the lower mainland and beyond, including the Stanley Theatre, Parksville Sandcastles, Rogers Arena, Audain Art Gallery, Butchart Gardens, and the Chilliwack Tulip Festival.
- Multiple successful health and wellness workshops were conducted by Dr. Romi Fung and COSCO (Seniors Health and Wellness Institute).
- Registered Pickleball Court Booking on Sundays achieved an impressive 97% fill rate.



Future Initiatives:

The Committee is excited about the upcoming year, considering various ideas such as a snowshoeing expedition, a day trip to Nanaimo, a Valentine evening dinner, more senior health-related workshops offered by VGH or COSCO and other engaging activities.

Acknowledgments:

The success of this year's programs and activities was made possible by the passionate engagement of Seniors Coordinator Trey Melton, who created, organized, and supervised all events with the assistance of our dedicated staff members. The Committee extends its gratitude to the volunteer members and staff who contributed to this year's achievements: Susan Cush, Esme Franklin, Gerry Galasso, Sacha Hasen, Rowan Hougham, Melissa Martin, Trey Melton, Stephen Morris, Scott Schroeder, and Glenys Tse.

Respectfully submitted by Seniors Coordinator Trey Melton and Seniors Committee Chair Stephen Morris for AGM of February 7, 2024.

Youth Committee Report

September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023

The Youth Committee plays a crucial role as the representative voice for a diverse group of youths in the community. It strives to enhance youth involvement by creating meaningful programs and opportunities for their active participation. Through its dynamic programming and leadership engagements, the Youth Committee ensures that Thompson Community Centre remains accessible to all youths, aligning with the foundational mission of the Thompson Community Association.

The Youth Committee, composed of both new and returning members, are enthusiastic about contributing an active young perspective to policies and programs at Thompson Community Association (TCA). This engaged and active Youth Committee is a source of great satisfaction. Serving alongside individuals deeply passionate about developing programs for the youth in our community, they bring a variety of perspectives that will guide TCA in expanding access to enhanced youth programs and activities at the center.

Youth have always brought a fresh outlook to community-building, and our Youth Committee is committed to exploring innovative ways to engage the community, fostering a sense of inclusivity and collaboration.

The youth population at TCA comes for various reasons – seeking a safe space for learning and homework, low-cost access to the Fitness Centre, participation in sports and athletics, programs facilitating new friendships, volunteering opportunities, and entry-level work experience. Creating opportunities for active engagement, life skill development, and participation in age-appropriate activities are key strategies in cultivating the next generation of leaders. TCA serves as a refuge for at-risk youth, offering a secure environment for productive activities and socializing with peers.

Recognizing the diversity among youth – from different backgrounds, economic statuses, languages spoken, and cultural affiliations, to varying interests such as athleticism, academic pursuits, social engagement, or artistic inclinations – we aspire to engage and attract this broad spectrum of individuals to TCA.

Over the past few months, the Youth Committee has been actively addressing the challenges of engaging this diverse group of passionate young individuals, valuing their opinions.

A significant undertaking involves the revitalization of the Youth Council, a volunteer group contributing to numerous activities at TCA. Youth Council members eventually progress to become Youth Committee members, influencing youth policies at TCA, participating in the hiring process for the Youth Coordinator, and even serving as the Youth representative on the Board of Directors. Some of these youth also find opportunities for job experience during the year or through summer programs.

Building a strong Youth Committee and focusing on impact programs is a thoughtful approach to creating a vibrant and inclusive environment. Here are some suggestions and insights that might further enhance our efforts:

Diversity and Inclusion Programs:

Given the diverse backgrounds of the youth at TCA, consider implementing programs that celebrate and embrace this diversity. Cultural exchange events, language learning sessions, or activities that highlight various artistic expressions could foster a sense of inclusion.

Skill Development Opportunities:

Continue to emphasize programs that offer tangible skills and experiences. This could include workshops, seminars, or partnerships with local businesses to provide real-world job skills and experiences. This not only engages the youth but also prepares them for future endeavors.

Regular Feedback Mechanisms:

Create open channels for youth to express their opinions and provide feedback. This could be through regular surveys, suggestion boxes, or dedicated feedback sessions. Actively seeking input from the youth ensures that their voices are heard, and it helps in tailoring programs to meet their evolving needs.

Mentorship Programs:

Establish mentorship programs within TCA, where experienced individuals can guide and support the youth in their personal and professional development. This could include matching youth with mentors who share similar interests or career paths.

Collaborations with Educational Institutions:

Forge partnerships with local schools and colleges to extend the reach of TCA's programs. Collaborative efforts can lead to joint events, educational initiatives, and increased participation from students who might not be familiar with TCA.

Communication Channels:

Utilize various communication channels that resonate with the youth. Social media, instant messaging platforms, and a user-friendly website can be powerful tools for keeping them informed about upcoming events, opportunities, and success stories within the TCA community.

Recognition and Celebration:

Acknowledge and celebrate the achievements and contributions of the youth. This could be through awards, recognition ceremonies, or social media shoutouts. Positive reinforcement encourages continued participation and a sense of pride in being part of the TCA community.

Flexibility in Programming:

Recognize that youth have varying interests and schedules. Offering a diverse range of programs and flexible timing ensures that there's something for everyone, catering to different preferences and availability.

These types of initiatives are constantly being reimagined and assessed to better meet the needs of youth, but more importantly, engage more youth to be active at TCA.

Thank you to the following for their support and guidance to the Youth Committee:

Youth Committee members:

Gita Manhas, Jaia Manhas (Recording Secretary), Kennice Wong, Kayla Hu, Owen Chan, Jonah Thornburn, and Austin Ng.

Board Liaisons:

Farah Merali, Guy Anderson and Eyal Lichtmann.

Youth Development Coordinator:

Matthew Adams (previous); and to Shellby Sy, (current)

City of Richmond staff members:

Suzi Rosenberg, Sacha Hasen, and Melissa Martin.

And I wish to thank all of you for allowing me the opportunity to be Chair of the Youth Committee and a member of the Board of Directors. It has truly been an amazing experience.

Respectfully submitted by Noa Lichtmann Youth Committee Chair for AGM of February 7, 2024.

President's Report September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023

On behalf of the Thompson Community Association (TCA) Board of Directors please accept my warmest wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2024. TCA is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Thompson Community Centre (TCC) through a joint operating agreement with the City of Richmond (CoR). Our mission is to provide sustainable programming, as well as healthy and engaging living opportunities for residents of the Thompson neighbourhood and surrounding area. This serves to enhance quality of life and promote physical activity for all Richmond citizens.

The 2023 fiscal year from September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023 saw the return of special events important to TCA such as breakfast with Santa and our community picnic with free hot dogs and entertainment. These events were very well attended. We were happy to see the continuing increase in visits to our fitness facilities and consistently popular programs for preschoolers, children, youth and seniors at TCC and Terra Nova.

The TCA Board and committees continued to ensure important decisions were made with broad consensus. Thanks to the financial prudence of previous TCA boards, we were well positioned financially to continue investments in staff, equipment and outreach. As a non-profit organization, TCA must continue to act in a fiscally responsible manner to ensure continued ability to invest in community needs. TCA works cooperatively with the other Richmond Community Associations to ensure consistency in fees, services and employment opportunities.

TCA and CoR staff are integral to the successful operation of fitness, preschool, programs and events at TCC. Please join me in thanking them for their commitment to our community and congratulating them on a job well done. Volunteerism is an important facet of a healthy community and TCC appreciates the regular contribution of time and effort from our friends and neighbors.

I would like to thank all the Directors for their time, care, dedication and support of the Association, with additional thanks to our non-Board Committee members and City Council representative, Councillor Chak Au.

TCC is a great example of the diverse character of Richmond. I am proud of the welcoming and inclusive environment fostered at TCC. We are dependent on involvement from our patrons in our programs and as volunteers. I encourage you to get involved in our committees, board and programs in whatever way you can.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Dahl, President for AGM of February 7, 2024.

Richmond City Staff Report

September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023

The City of Richmond partners with the Thompson Community Association (TCA) by providing and maintaining the Thompson Community Centre/Annex, Edwardian Cottage and SD38 School rentals, allowing the Association to provide recreational programs to the community. The City also offers a base-level budget for operating these facilities and services in addition to the Association's operating budget. This long-term partnership is formalised with a service agreement renewed in January 1, 2024 with expiry of December 31, 2029.

City staff coordinate programs and events with TCA committees and supervise association staff. Scott Schroeder, the Area Coordinator, is the primary liaison with the Board of Directors and oversees the overall operations of Thompson Community Centre. Several other City staff have worked with individual committees and program areas. Suzi Rosenberg, Melissa Martin, Sacha Hasen, Ethan Haldeman, Debbie Misslinger and Peter Balagatas have all played significant roles this past year, along with 13-15 front desk staff.

The City of Richmond's expense budget for 2023 at Thompson Community Centre was \$934,000 compared to \$905,000 in 2022. These expenses include; City staff wages, supplies, utilities, maintenance, and telephones to support Thompson Community Association's delivery of recreation services. Thompson Community Association contributed \$19,500 towards City Staff wages to extend hours beyond the budgeted operating hours. This is primarily to open up the building earlier for fitness.

Thompson Community Association is part of a larger group called Richmond Communities. Thompson participated in the Canada Summer Jobs grant with the other Richmond Community Associations in 2023. Unfortunately, the City Centre riding was not awarded any positions. As a result funds were taken from previous accumulated surplus and contributions from associations in the Richmond East riding to ensure all associations received some funds. The result was Thompson received \$5,000 to put toward summer staffing costs.

Thompson Community Association also contributed to hiring a consultant to create an employee handbook to be used by all the associations; a Community Conference put on by Richmond Communities and City of Richmond; and the Richmond Communities recruitment and retention committee.

On behalf of the City of Richmond, we would like to thank the Thompson Community Association Board of Directors for its compassionate and decisive decision-making and for supporting the City staff as we work together to make Thompson the centre of the community.

Respectfully submitted by Scott Schroeder, Area Coordinator for AGM of February 7, 2024

Nominations and Election of Board of Directors

Terms Commencing February 7, 2024

For re-election to a two year term from February 7, 2024 to the Annual General Meeting in 2026

Jen Dahl

Guy Anderson

Noa Lichtmann

Stephen Morris

Sam Samy

Members continuing to serve in term until the Annual General Meeting in 2025

Kathy Holt

Eyal Lichtmann

Alan Marchant

Harry Wong

Vanessa Xavier Lau

Members resigning from the Thompson Community Association Board of Directors

Farah Merali's term ended in 2024 and she will not be continuing. The Board wished to Thank Farah for her contribution over the last couple years.

Staff Long Service Award

5 year		As of 2023
MELTON, Trey	2018	5
LEUNG, Ka Lun (Karen)	2018	5
NAKATA, Chloe	2018	5
HUBER, Ben E.	2017	6
THYMIS, Anna	2017	6
TUBAJON, Jacob	2017	6
CHARLTON, Samantha T.	2017	6
GERVACIO, Maria Jennifer	2016	7
LEUNG, Kit Yu (Yobi)	2016	7
KOT, Amanda	2015	8
ALLARD, Shantelle	2015	8
SOURSOS, Eleftheria	2015	8
CHIU, Misuzu	2015	8
DAWSON, Catherine (Kate)	2014	9
IEK, Sio Wai (Gloria)	2014	9
VERA, Emily M,	2014	9
STURTON, Noah	2014	9
BOOKER, Tricia	2014	9
CHIU, Tomomi	2014	9
10 year		
MCPHEDRIAN, Katelyn	2013	10
SY, Shellby	2013	10

Director Nominee Biographies

For re-election to a two year term from February 7, 2024 to the Annual General Meeting in 2026

Jennifer Dahl

Jennifer has spent most of her life in Richmond. She has three children who have attended many Thompson Community Centre programs and a son who attended Terra Nova Nature School. She has a business background with degrees from UBC and The University of Manitoba. She has been chair of James Thompson Elementary School Parent Advisory Committee for many years. She enjoys giving back to the community that has provided learning and recreation opportunities for her family.

Guy Anderson

Guy is a long-time Richmond resident and Thompson Community Centre patron. He serves on the Youth Committee and has been a Board Director since 2016. Guy is married with three children and is involved in the technology sector.

Stephen Morris

Stephen has been a Richmond resident since 1993 and a TCA member since 2000. He was a member of the British Columbia Law Society since 1978 and is currently retired. From 2010 to 2013 he acted as Chair of the McMath Secondary School Parent Advisory Committee. In 2016 and 2017 he was Chair of the Richmond Family & Youth Court Committee and currently volunteers at the Gilmore Gardens Retirement Residence. Stephen has been a TCA board member since 2018.

Sam Samy

Sam has been a part of the Richmond community since 1976 – when his family migrated here from Fiji Islands. He has held several senior executive roles within the Telco/IT industries for the past 25 years. He has volunteered for “VGH – Child Run” for 7 years and as a Board member for corporate start-up companies and non-profit organisations in BC. Sam is an active member of Thompson Community Association’s Fitness Committee. Sam continues to work on moving the Association forward / required to meet the technology challenges of today and was integral in the implementation of the Association’s dedicated email platform for its members.

Noa Lichtmann

Noa is a grade twelve student at Burnett Secondary. Noa has been on Thompson’s Youth Committee for two years and the active Chair since September, 2022. Noa is the youth representative on the Board of Directors, amplifying youth voices and advocating for youth related opportunities in the center. Noa is an active volunteer in her community through involvement in the Regional Animal Protection Society, Burnett’s Student Council, Elevate Ultimate Frisbee coach, Vice-President of Burnett’s Debate Club, and *StandWithUs*’s high school internship (fighting anti-Semitism). Recently Noa has taken on specific initiatives to spread awareness regarding anti-Semitism and Holocaust awareness within her school by giving meaningful presentations and bringing in guest speakers. Noa is also helping to plan a district-wide debate tournament, hoping to provide Richmond youth the opportunity to share their voices on a larger scale. Noa is looking forward to continuing to grow and establish the Youth Committee in the new year and continue to facilitate a vibrant and safe space for youth at the center.

Members continuing to serve in terms from March 2, 2022 to the Annual General Meeting in 2024

Kathy Holt

Kathy is a long term resident of Richmond who has been involved in her career for 38 years and has volunteered in many organisations. Upon joining Thompson several years ago she quickly embraced the Fitness Centre and became a member of the Fitness Committee and was a member of the Gala Committee. Currently she is the Chair of the Fitness Committee and is on the Board of Directors. Her goal is to ensure that Thompson provides a welcoming environment for everyone in the community.

Eyal Lichtmann

Eyal has 30 years private sector and non-profit CEO experience and has also served on the Boards for other charities. He is currently the CEO of the Regional Animal Protection Society since 2016. Eyal and his family have lived in Richmond for over 17 years. His three children have attended Thompson Community Centre programs including summer programs. His oldest daughters have served as youth representative to the Board of Directors and Chair of the Youth Committee. Eyal's children attend Burnett Secondary. Eyal is a regular in Thompson's gym and has enjoyed assisting the Thompson Community Association Board on numerous committees including Human Resources, Governance, Development and Youth.

Alan Marchant

Alan originally from UK, has been a resident of Richmond for over 42 years and with his wife Pauline, brought up two daughters here. A Chartered Professional Accountant with a MBA and expertise in information systems he retired from UBC where he was a senior administrator for almost 25 years. Alan also has experience in management consulting with leadership roles in both the private and not for profit sectors. He has volunteered and continues to volunteer with many organisations over the years, usually as treasurer.

An avid photographer and technology geek, before Covid he regularly exercised with the Richmond Forever Young Walking/Running Club and is looking forward to this resuming. Alan now bikes, walks with friends and feels he really should be going on a regular basis to the TCC gym. He loves to travel, read, and watch movies. Family, friends and giving back to the community are important values to him. His first year with the board of TCA has been an enjoyable experience albeit all on Zoom and he is looking forward to meetings in person. Even though new to the board Alan believes his financial insight has helped in a meaningful way this important organisation continue to thrive.

Harry Wong

Harry Wong is a retired federal civil servant. Upon retirement he quickly became involved with volunteering as a way of giving back to the society. Harry worked as a member of the Board of Directors for the Marpole Community Centre and took on the Vice President position in 2007. When Harry moved to Richmond he found that he wanted to be involved in the community and joined as a member of the Board of Directors of the Thompson Community Association in 2006. He enjoys working in various subcommittees and is always willing to lend a helping hand. Harry also volunteers as a Green Coat for YVR.

Vanessa Xavier Lau

Born in Macau and relocated to Richmond in 2010, Vanessa is a proud mother of two little girls who are happily enrolled at Thompson's Preschool. Prior to being a full-time homemaker, she has had years of experience working as a Real Estate Agent, a project coordinator, and as a business development coordinator. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of British Columbia, where she is now pursuing a Diploma in Accounting. Vanessa is extremely passionate about giving back to the local community, and is an actively contributing chair and member of the Thompson's Children's Committee and the Special Events and Program Planning Committee. Vanessa's goal is to facilitate and contribute to the continuous improvement of Thompson Community Centre, and to leave a lasting, positive impact on the community she is so grateful to be a part of. In her leisure time, Vanessa enjoys playing volleyball, cooking, and cherishing moments with her family.