



Little Mountain  
Neighbourhood House Society

“Building Welcoming & Inclusive  
Communities”

**2007-2008**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT



Little Mountain Neighbourhood House is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. Having personally worked at the neighbourhood house for twenty years, I've seen the organization touch the lives of so many individuals in the community. The neighbourhood house would not have existed if it weren't for the incredible foresight, dedication and perservice of the early founders, that spearheaded the move to establish the house as a place for the community to come together, a place that was welcoming and inclusive.

From its humble beginnings as a small storefront on 28<sup>th</sup> and Main, LMNH now offers over 50 programs out of its current location and 13 offsite locations. There are offerings for people of all ages, cultures and lifestyle, with a real interest in community/volunteer driven initiatives.

As we look forward to our next 30 years, there are great possibilities. LMNH is slated to be part of the Little Mountain Housing Redevelopment. As the consultation for the redevelopment gets underway, the opportunity to build a facility that is a 'neighbourhood hub' is an exciting prospect. A space for childcare, young families, school aged children and youth, seniors, newcomers, all will be an integral part of the vision for the new facility.

It's your community, it's your neighbourhood house!

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Recently, I watched videos of my children when they were very young. What a revelation! I was struck by how distinct their personalities were at so young an age, and how little they changed over the years. It got me thinking about Little Mountain Neighbourhood House. Looking back over 30 years, LMNH has seen a tremendous amount of change: programs gone and programs developed, people coming and people going, crises confronted and opportunities taken. However, all throughout this change has been a thread of constancy...a thread that was first established when a determined group of citizens decided that their neighbourhood needed a place to meet, a place where people could give or get a helping hand, a place in the community where they felt at home.

No doubt youve heard the saying "*the only thing constant is change*". Youve probably also heard "*the more things change, the more things stay the same*". Isn't that contradictory? I am not so sure. Since those videos were taken, my children are much taller and have become much more sophisticated. But somehow, their wonderful, original personhood remains intact. Since our modest beginnings, LMNH, too, has grown larger and has evolved into a complex organization. But like my children, the seemingly contradictory notion of "change" and of "staying the same" is embodied here, because while growing and changing, LMNH has also remained true to its origins: to be relevant, to be inclusive and to be deeply embedded in the life of the community.

I hope you will join me this year in celebrating 30 wonderful years of a remarkable organization....and remember to acknowledge and thank the many people who have contributed to our success. I would like to pay special tribute to a founding member, who is still active within LMNH today: Lisa Schwabe. I would also like to acknowledge the fine work of our almost 60 staff members under the leadership of Executive Director Joel Bronstein. Joel himself celebrates 20 years of service with LMNH in 2008. Bravo!

Teresa Pryce  
President

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## Board of Directors

Ingrid Steenhuisen - **Past President**, Teresa Pryce - **President**, John Crichton - **1st Vice President**, Sotos Pedrides - **2nd Vice President** (resigned), Nick Sajoo - **Treasurer**, Nova Leaf - **Secretary**

*Members at Large:* Varouj Gumuchian, Syd Hartley, Samuel Ho, Daphne Holmes, Tony Molyneux, Anna Pang, Chelliah Premarajah, Lisa Schwabe, Saguna Shankar, Mehak Sharma, Manicks Vetivel Vasagam, Jenny Yang

## **NOMINATION & RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

In 2007 AGM we had two new members at large join the board. (Sotos Petrides and Marlene Hale). For personal and work reasons, both of them resigned before the end of their term this year. The board did appoint Tony Molyneux early into this year's term, and two youth representatives, Saguna Shankar and Mehak Sharma shared the duties.

For 2008, three board members, Varouj Gumuchian Syd Hartley, and Tony Molyneux have decided not to run again and instead dedicate their energies with LMNHS doing committee and other hands on work to support the organization. Our heart felt thanks for all your efforts on the board in the past. We have three new board candidates, Eduardo Aragon, Ting Pan, Karlis Silins and five incumbents running for two year terms

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## **NEW HOUSE REPORT**

Little Mountain Neighbourhood House is still actively working to secure a much-needed new facility. By spring of 2007, it became clear that our building site at 23<sup>rd</sup> and Main was no longer viable due to ballooning construction costs and the inability for us to meet all our needs on such a challenging site. The City encouraged LMNH to explore community amenity status at the Little Mountain Housing Redevelopment site at the foot of Queen Elizabeth Park between 33<sup>rd</sup> & 37<sup>th</sup> on Main Street. In November 2007, the Board agreed to this concept and the site change. On 6 May 2008, the provincial government officially announced that the Holborn Group were the successful bidders for the LMH redevelopment site. Community consultations are expected to begin soon. LMNH has struck a task force to develop a memorandum of understanding to ensure our interests are met in the new development. In the meantime, some minor renovations and maintenance were completed to keep our current facility user-friendly and safe.

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## **PROGRAM REPORTS**

### **CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAMS**

Our children and youth departments programs had a year of great successes, new developments, and sustained growth. The Literacy Enhancement Project has served over 100 children and youth in the past year and continues to enrich the lives of the participants. The Leadership Development program was filled with 15 enthusiastic participants learning new skills and contributing to the LMNH family. The Crew Drop-in Program at Little Mountain Housing Development packed the room full of 30 participants each week and our Summer Day Camp served over 50 children throughout the sunny season.

Highlights and successes:

We are proud of the partnership we have built with Tupper Secondary School creating an exciting program with over 30 youth in attendance each day and 15 tutors that assist students with their work. Our staff member Erica Mah has worked very closely with the Loma Wing and the Tupper Community Schools Team to create a thriving program in the Learning Centre at the high school.

Another success of our Literacy Enhancement Program includes the reopening of the Wolfe Elementary School literacy program. Readers Quest operates twice a week in the school library. Brock Elementary School Literacy Circle and Homework Club takes place 4 days a week also in the school library. Another staff has been hired to work twice a week to accommodate the wait listed children and the program can now accommodate 20 children on each of those days. Livingstone Elementary School's program, Kids' Club, continues to flourish with their five day a week program attracting 30 students throughout the school year.

The Youth Arts and Culture Mapping Project, consisting of locating arts and culture resources and programs in the area, is a onetime funded project that has been a huge success, enriching the artistic aptitudes of the youth in the Little Mountain area. 15 Youth are engaged through a 5 week process exploring different art mediums, mapping exercises and journal reflections. The project participants will create a map of the arts and culture resources in the area. This project will ultimately serve as a guide for service providers assisting them in connecting youth from our community to available arts and cultural outlets and creating new ones.

## **PROGRAM REPORTS CONT...**

### **CHILD CARE PROGRAM**

#### **Child Development Centre (CDC)**

This past year has been a good year for CDC, as we have had 4 (Janis, Jen, Lynn, and Jennifer) full time staff since September and we are fully enrolled, with a community waitlist of over 150 families, and over 48 families on the waitlist of children who require extra support with Vancouver Supported Childcare. CDC has been working closely with a consultant named Orah Chaye. She has complimented our team adding improvements to our program such as, new toys, equipment, etc.... The new supplies (board games, balls, bikes, puzzles, table toys, books etc...) have made a big difference for the children providing more educational materials to choose from. Our parents have noticed the change, and are very pleased with our variety of indoor and outdoor equipment. We have also added a new shed to store our outdoor toys/equipment. We are looking forward to the upcoming year.

#### **Little Mountain Out of School Care (LMOSC)**

LMOSC continues to grow, and care for the children. We have served 98 families this year with our OSC program, Spring Break, and our Summer Adventure Day Camp. Our wait list consists of 28 families. We have received a \$10,000 grant from Business Objects Foundation this year to assist with our Raise a Scholar program. The grant also provided the children with enriched programs such as: Cinemazoo, Hip Hop dance lessons, space centre, Deer Lake boating Science workshops and many more wonderful activities and adventures. We have 2 full time staff, and one part time staff. We look forward to seeing where the upcoming years will take us.

#### **Special Addition to Child Care Program**

Bernice Wong our Child Care Coordinator, went on Maternity leave in February. She had a baby girl named Elizabeth.

### **FAMILY RESOURCE PROGRAMS**

This year, the Family Support Worker served 179 different families on a one to one basis with an additional 64 families being served through our art therapy and counseling program. The majority of families served in these programs had challenges surrounding housing, finances, parenting and spousal challenges, mental health difficulties, domestic violence, and/or employment barriers.

The Early Years Project is a family program serving parents and children who are 0-6 years old. Families made 2,951 attendances to our drop-in sessions this year with 367 families served. Parents evaluated this program as being “amazing”, “like family”, “a second home for the kids”, “a place that encourages learning and active listening”, and “a place that plays a huge role in our lives”. LMNH’s school readiness program ‘Ready Set Learn’ had 535 attendances this year, with an estimated 100 families served. Our Mother Goose program- an early literacy program for parents, infants, and toddlers- had 122 different families attending classes, enabling parents and children to practice the fun of reading together. All in all, this was a very busy year for the Family Resource Program!

173 families also participated in our workshops and parenting education courses this year, which included programs such as You Make the Difference, Nobody’s Perfect, Discipline versus Punishment workshops, and yoga classes for parents. The Family Support Program sought to particularly engage and support mothers this winter by having a series of courses focused on women’s wellness, which enabled mothers and female caregivers to learn how to practice yoga, meditation, and breathe-work at home, as well as practice other self-care activities. Participants in this program identified these free classes as being necessary for women to not only maintain their emotional, mental, and physical health, but also their family’s health as a whole.

## **COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

It was another year of growth for the Community Programs. The Multicultural Winter Festival was well attended. There was good food, cake, age appropriate gifts for the children and great captivating multicultural entertainment.

The Holiday Hamper program delivered over 150 hamper boxes to local families and had many new volunteers assisting with the program. This year local businesses were very generous with their donations which added to the success and the increase in hamper boxes.

The Neighbourhood Small Grants Project handed out over 90 grants for a variety of innovative and creative projects throughout the community. This year saw over 130 applications with decisions by the Residents Committee expected by June.

The community festival was another success. It was a great festival atmosphere. Over 750 people wandered throughout the festival grounds at Riley Park enjoying multicultural food and entertainment, viewing local information booths, relaxing having a cup of tea with the seniors, and watching children have fun. It was truly and intergeneration event.

Our weekly programs include Hot Meals every Friday night, serving a four course meal and More Music on Main every Thursday night where local talent are provided a venue to entertain.

## **SENIORS PROGRAMS**

The Seniors Livewires and the Chinese Seniors meet monthly and weekly respectively to discuss issues concerning seniors.

## **SETTLEMENT SERVICES**

The English Language Services for Adults program grew in size offering 5 ESL classes serving over 100 new immigrants in 3 different level classes. Child minding had over 30 children in their program. The classes were offered at the Neighbourhood House and 3 satellite locations: Riley Park Community Centre, Augustana Lutheran and Bethel International Churches.

The settlement staff served more than 900 new immigrants and refugees supporting them with their settlement needs. The people were from Viet Nam, Latin America, Africa, and China. In addition to basic settlement services a labour market focus was added to the department and an employment counselor hired to assist newcomers with their employment needs. Various workshops were held throughout the year and the free income tax clinic processed more than 150 tax forms.

## **SPECIAL SERVICES TO CHILDREN & FAMILIES PROGRAM**

This year the funding for the program came through Community Living of British Columbia. We served 25 families and initiated small socialization groups for families looking for other options.

**STAFFING:**

**ADMINISTRATION**

Joel Bronstein - Executive Director                      Claudia Cao - Finance Officer  
Babu Balakrishnen - Janitor                              James Shen - Accounting & Administrative Assistant  
Kathleen Vincent - Receptionist and Volunteer Coordinator

**CHILD CARE PROGRAMS**

Janis Venn - ECCE Supervisor, Lynn Murray, Jennifer Lin, Jen Wu - Teachers - Child Development Centre  
Christie Ackhurst - Supervisor Robby Kerr - Teacher - Mc Bride Out of School Care

**CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMS**

Lisa Levitt – Children & Youth Program Coordinator  
Theodore Chan, Lori Chow, Erica Mah, Jennie Simpson – Literacy Enhancement Project  
Lindsay Bratkowsky, Theodore Chan, Lori Chow, Sophie Fung, Giang Ho, Jeff Hon, – Summer Day-Camp  
Linda Toch, Jennifer Andres, Wendy Zhu, Theodore Chan - Crew - Drop In - LM Housing Development

**COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

Festival Coordinator - Nahla Hopfe  
More Music on Main Coordinator - Rick Keating

Hot Meals Chef - Ernst Schait

**SETTLEMENT COORDINATOR**

Susan Schachter

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE SERVICES FOR ADULTS (ELSA) PROGRAMS**

Barry Patterson, Aseefa Merali, Lisa Terrell and Beth Grayer - Teachers  
Sanja Sladojevic: Administrative Assistant                      Jessie Leu, Lily Qui, Razia Waziri: Childminders

**FAMILY RESOURCE PROGRAMS**

Geraldine Clevette - Child Care Program Coordinator, Bernice Wong - Maternity Leave,  
Sanja Sladojevic - Coordinator Early Years Project                      Ferma Ravn - Family Support Worker,  
Jane Greiff - Parent Educator    Esther DeSouza - Children's Programmer,  
Nahla Hopfe, Olga Cordoba - Drop In Assistant  
Lili Qiu, Jessie Hseu Mei Leu, Razia Waziri - Drop in Assistant/Childminder  
Orah Chaye - Mother Goose Facilitator  
Irene Lui - Chinese Gathering Group Facilitator, Alice Caldwell - Single Mother Support Group Facilitator

**SETTLEMENT PROGRAMS**

Abdu Barru-African/Middle Eastern Settlement Worker  
Kim Dang-Asian Settlement Worker  
Carmen Miranda-Barrios-Latin American Settlement Worker/Multilingual Volunteer Coordinator  
Erika Del Carmen Fuchs - Welcoming Community Coordinator  
Ming Yan - Employment Support Worker

**SPECIAL NEED CHILDREN ONE TO ONE PROGRAMS**

Martina Bettler, Cathy Chapman, George Coyne, Greg Dane, Zaheda Jiwa, Lisa Litwiller, Doug Protz, Mark Stevens, Kerry Vega, Tamara White.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Looking back on last year, 2007-2008 was another successful year for LMNH financially maintaining a surplus of \$82,276 compared with \$70,224 for 2006-2007. The operating revenues increase by 18%

The Finance Committee presented this year's annual budget (2008-2009) to the Board of Directors for approval in April with a projected surplus of \$4,541.

In closing, I would like to thank all the Finance Committee members, staff and management for their hard work and dedication during the year.

Nick Sajoo, Treasurer

<b>Little Mountain Neighbourhood House Society</b>				
<b>STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS</b>				
Year ended March 31	2008			2007
	Operating Fund \$	Building Fund \$	Totals \$	Totals \$
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Government grants <i>[Schedule A]</i>	892,275	—	892,275	743,661
Other grants <i>[Schedule A]</i>	166,592	—	166,592	162,113
Fees	237,517	—	237,517	182,726
Gaming	95,416	—	95,416	76,433
Rentals	20,018	—	20,018	25,051
Interest	32,742	17,741	50,483	23,968
Other income	15,294	—	15,294	34,529
Amortization of deferred contributions related to capital assets	1,846	—	1,846	1,846
	<b>1,461,699</b>	<b>17,741</b>	<b>1,479,440</b>	<b>1,250,327</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Amortization of capital assets	2,057	—	2,057	1,952
Bank charges	660	289	949	3,056
Board and meetings	1,581	—	1,581	1,981
Honoraria and volunteer support	12,850	—	12,850	5,480
Insurance	6,058	—	6,058	5,997
Materials, supplies and program expenses	85,680	—	85,680	53,578
Printing and postage	18,386	—	18,386	17,071
Professional development	1,504	—	1,504	5,396
Professional fees	6,000	—	6,000	5,396
Rent	21,570	—	21,570	12,668
Repairs and maintenance	41,425	—	41,425	24,923
Salaries, benefits and contracted services	1,128,939	—	1,128,939	999,586
Telephone and utilities	20,170	—	20,170	16,503
Transportation and travel	32,544	—	32,544	19,679
	<b>1,379,423</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>1,379,712</b>	<b>1,169,317</b>
<b>Excess of revenue for the year</b>	<b>82,276</b>	<b>17,452</b>	<b>99,728</b>	<b>81,010</b>

*This is an excerpt from the Audited Financial Statement*

## SPONSORS

To all our funders and program/event sponsors, LMNHS says **THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**

### MAJOR FUNDERS:

#### Government

- BC Gaming Commission
- BC Ministry of Attorney General
- BC Ministry for Children and Families
- City of Vancouver
- Community Living of B.C.
- HRSDC Summer Jobs
- Vancouver Coastal Health
- Family Resources
- Open Doors to Learning

#### Non-Government

- Adult Learning Knowledge Centre
- BC Housing Management Commission
- Business Objects - Crystal Foundation
- Coast Capital Savings Foundation
- Hamber Foundation
- John Hardie Mitchell Family Foundation
- QLT Inc.
- Radical Foundation
- United Way of the Lower Mainland
- Crystal Foundation
- Vancouver School Board
- Pacific Community Resources
- Vancouver Foundation

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## FOUNDERS CIRCLE

Founders' Circle members are individuals who were instrumental in the creation and funding of LMNH's first facility.

Betty Backman	<i>(LMNH's 2<sup>nd</sup> President)</i>
Larry Beasley	<i>(former Director of City Planning Dept)</i>
Joel Bronstein	<i>(LMNH's current Executive Director)</i>
Nathan Edelson	<i>(LMNH's 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Director)</i>
Kari Huhtala	<i>(former LMNH Board Member)</i>
John Plul*	<i>(former V-P of Marketing, CKNW's Orphans' Fund)</i>
Lisa Schwabe	<i>(LMNH's 3<sup>rd</sup> President &amp; current Board member)</i>
Ingrid Steenhuisen	<i>(LMNH's current President)</i>

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## FRIENDS OF LMNH

"Friends of LMNH" are prominent people, who recognize the value of our programs and services.

Mr. Glen Clark	<i>(former Premier)</i>
Mr. John Halani	<i>(BC Multicultural Advisory Council)</i>
Mr. John Hawke	<i>(Finance Manager, REad Jones Christoffersen Engineering)</i>
Mr. Tony T.K. Lau	<i>(Tony Lau Insurance)</i>
Dr. Grace McCarthy*	<i>(former Provincial Minister &amp; MLA)</i>
Sandy McCormick	<i>(former CityCouncillor &amp; VSB School Trustee)</i>
Mr. Philip Owen	<i>(former Mayor)</i>
Ms. Joyce Preston	<i>(former civic &amp; provincial Child Advocate)</i>

\* Both a Founder & a Friend.