



Bruce Field Soccer Festival

We are thrilled to report the success of our second “Mini World Cup Soccer Tournament” held on Saturday, August 17, 2024. Thanks to the generous support of sponsors, we were able to host a vibrant and inclusive event that brought together over 45 children from diverse backgrounds in East Vancouver, and a total of about 200 people. The day was filled with energy and excitement as the young participants, many of whom were introduced to a soccer tournament for the first time, competed in a friendly “Mini World Cup” that not only fostered their love for the sport but also celebrated the rich cultural diversity of our community.

Coerver Coaching and the Vancouver Police Department Soccer Service Club gave these children a unique and accessible chance to participate in sports. Every player was awarded a custom gold medal, and more importantly, the children made new friends and formed positive connections.

We are also grateful for our youth leaders from schools in the area, including Windermere, Gladstone and Vancouver Alternate Secondary School, who volunteered their time to help with registration and activities for the players and their families. Additionally, we appreciate the hard work of the Collingwood Community Policing Centre, whose efforts were instrumental in ensuring the event ran smoothly.

This tournament powerfully demonstrated the positive impact recreational opportunities can have on youth in our community. We extend our deepest thanks to all our event sponsors for making this day possible: Gulf & Fraser Credit Union, Collingwood Community Policing Centre, Collingwood Neighbourhood House, Coerver Coaching Vancouver Police Foundation & Soccer Service Club, Adrian Dix MLA Vancouver Whitecaps FC, CW Music and Performing Arts, Canadians Baseball and BC Lions.



Story and photos by:

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Julie Cheng’s fond farewell: Continued from page 3

out to the people we knew in the community. She continued to build on this dream and was foundational in writing, editing and developing the *Renfrew-Collingwood Community News* to the amazing paper it is today. She has been skilled in finding local writers, encouraging youth to write and contribute, engaging our local institutions and businesses and helping to build capacity and pride in their work throughout the years.

“The *RCC News* was one of many ways Julie contributed to community development. Julie was a thoughtful and insightful CNH board member, coordinated the *Arts Pow Wow* that left many lasting legacies in the community, led education in asset-based community development and encouraged her husband, children and neighbours to volunteer and contribute their valuable skills. I still remember the *Vancouver Foundation* being blown away with the *Arts Pow Wow* report delivered in a handmade book by local residents – a refreshing approach where we walked the talk and explored different ways of doing things.

“Julie, I hope you feel pride in all that you have contributed and accomplished as you walk around the neighbourhood. It is visually more appealing with all the public art; is connected through cherished and long-lasting relationships; has welcomed so many newcomers with an open heart and has a lasting neighbourhood-based newspaper that brings forward stories of past, present and future.”

– Paula Carr, former executive director of CNH

“Thank you for your years of dedication to the neighbourhood, including many years dedicated to the *RCC News*. Your work has helped to bring connection and kindness to our community.

“Thank you for all the things you taught me (like the importance of simple writing) and your friendship through the years of raising our children with no family nearby. I have so many fun memories of the kids playing together and all the inspiring conversations we had about how to build a better safer and more creative and connected neighbourhood while eating yummy food! Looking back, I can’t believe all the things we did together to build a community we wanted live and raise our children in.

“There are so many small moments about you that come to mind. Like the day I dropped by your house and you were so lovingly wiping your bee cocoons and putting them into their cubbies ahead of the spring pollen season. It spoke louder than words about your caring kindness for your community and environment.

“I remember drawing a giant chalk map of the park design and serving hot dogs to neighbours. I recall trying to connect with the tai chi seniors and you making an introduction and the way those relationships blossomed from there. I recently found the document *Slocan Park, Our Park* – how much energy it took to get to that park plan!

“One recent memory: walking though the ravine and finding you in the bushes pulling out invasives and planting some native plants. Somehow it was unexpected but not surprising to see you there with your shovel!

“I am ever so grateful for the day Paula introduced us and we embarked on our community-building journey together.”

– January Wolodarsky, former director of community development at CNH