

Bridging Generations Newsletter



Fall 2021 | www.volunteergrandparents.ca

What Do Grandparents Mean to You?

This year, to celebrate **Grandparents' Day** on September 12th, we held a community-wide social media contest. The contest, which was open to anyone who wished to participate, focused on highlighting the connections we have with our grandparents and the positive impact they have on our lives. We asked participants to post a photo of themselves with their family/grandparent(s) onto their social media account and answer the following question "what do your grandparents/family mean to you?" Each participant was entered into a draw for prizes donated by our local sponsors.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the contest, as well as the following businesses who sponsored our event: GardenWorks, Steve's Poké Bar, Coffeeholic, Strathcona Primo FC, and the Old Spaghetti Factory.

At random, we have selected 8 participants to win a prize in our contest. Congratulations to all the winners!



It's Official!

We thank the City of Burnaby for Proclaiming September 12th as **Grandparents' Day!**



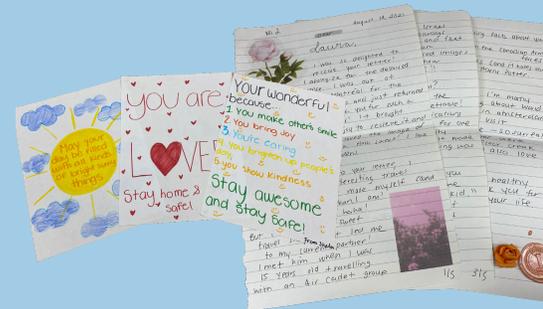
We are happy to report that the City of Burnaby also provided us with a grant to enable us to continue to offer our Letters to Seniors Program to the residents in Burnaby this year. THANK YOU!





The **Letters to Seniors Program** has continued to garner interest over the summer, allowing us to facilitate more pen pal connections. Our volunteers are truly the driving force behind this program with over 830 hours dedicated toward supporting the well-being of seniors. To highlight the impact of intergenerational bonds, the "Our Stories" tab was created to feature participants in our Letters to Seniors Program. If you are interested in participating in our program, please e-mail

info@volunteergrandparents.ca
for more information.



Farwell from our Summer Students ...

"I feel so fortunate to have spent the summer working and growing with Volunteer Grandparents. Throughout these past months, I was an administrative assistant primarily responsible for connecting with our members and managing our social media accounts. Throughout my time with Volunteer Grandparents, one of my main goals was to successfully plan a social media contest to celebrate Grandparents' Day. I collaboratively developed the contest's framework through this project, obtained donations from local sponsors, and created social media/marketing content. This experience was immensely rewarding as I enhanced practical skills such as communication, organization, and collaboration, which will be useful in future years. I would like to thank the incredibly kind and supportive staff that made my time with Volunteer Grandparents nothing short of memorable." Alessia

'During my time at Volunteer Grandparents as a program developer, I witnessed the genuine connections that were formed through the Letters to Seniors Program. I really enjoyed speaking with members and participants in our program, and I would like to thank all of the participants for taking the time to support our initiative! I was also involved in grant writing this summer and I learned a lot during this process that I will take with me in my future endeavours. Being a part of this organization has been very meaningful especially during this pandemic and I am glad that I was able to contribute to Volunteer Grandparents' mission!' Sarah



Our Stories... Introducing Lorna

Why did you want to form a pen pal connection with a youth?

I was inspired by a friend, on the occasion of my 65th birthday, I wrote 65 notes to be included with a Meals for Seniors program. I wanted to continue that endeavour. I read about the Letters to Seniors Program through the Volunteer Grandparents organization. It was something that I could easily do from home and that would hopefully make a difference to someone.

To learn more about Lorna, visit [our Stories](#) on our website.