Being, Belonging, and Becoming

Stories of Being, Belonging, and Becoming in Renfrew-Collingwood

GROWING AN INTERCULTURAL NEIGHBOURHOOD, GROWING A CIVIL SOCIETY
PAULA CARR 2012
a project supported by Collingwood Neighbourhood House and the
Carold Institute through the Alan Thomas Fellowship
One of the first things we discovered as we unearthed the history of the neighbourhood was the continual reference to its fertile physical and social environment.

“We compared Collingwood to a tree. The tree represents Collingwood with many different branches connecting to various areas around the community and the apples are the successes of the people who work and volunteer here, like ‘the delicious fruits of their labour.’ The apples then fall to the ground and the seeds are dispersed, spreading knowledge and empowerment and, hopefully, little sprouts of mini Collingwoods will appear all around Vancouver.”

- Cassandra Ly, from Collingwood Renfrew Reflects
Being {roots}

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Acknowledging the influences of our historical experiences

Encouraging our passions and gifts

Understanding the evolution of our cultural identity

Recognizing our common values, traditions and differences

Being is about finding one’s identity. It is about expressing your personality, uniqueness and “relational you.” It involves knowing oneself through life’s challenges and joys. This involves bringing value and being valued in your community.

The concept of Being, Belonging, and Becoming has been previously adopted by many writers.
Belonging is our fit and connection with the environment and others. It helps us understand where and with whom we belong. It is about our relationships and interdependence with family, friends, community, culture, place, and partnerships. This involves engaging with others to improve the community.

Building diverse relationships over the long term.

Uniting through living, working, shopping, playing, learning, and creating spirit together.

Enabling our gifts and resources to be maximized by getting together.
Becoming is about changes that evolve over time in pursuit of our dreams, goals and full participation in society. These changes are influenced by our experiences, relationships, and circumstances. They can affect our identity, knowledge, understanding, capacity, skill, and relationships. This involves enriching the community with your career and life skills, leading to personal growth, community growth and innovation.
Watch “where strangers become neighbours”

Watch the film trailer and excerpts shot and produced by Leonie Sandercock and Giovanni Attili

Film trailer: youtube.com/watch?v=YWzcGXUWsl8

Film excerpts: vimeo.com/18745652 and vimeo.com/18746726

To order a copy of the film, email: www.cnh.bc.ca/strangersbecomeneighbours/index.htm
Where do we go from here?

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This summary of lessons from the Renfrew-Collingwood case study is a starting point for conversations in the neighbourhood and elsewhere.

lets talk:
contact Paula Carr at 604-908-4448 or email pcarr@cnh.bc.ca
Growing an intercultural neighbourhood, growing a civil society

Paula Carr 2012

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