



IMPACT

WINTER 2024

YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION



Royal Roads
UNIVERSITY

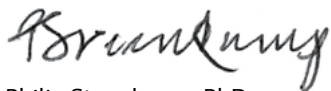
Inspired by the RRU Community

Our community never ceases to amaze me. I regularly witness how the RRU community of students, staff, faculty, and supporters create positive change on a local, regional, and global stage. With the rate of challenges we are facing accelerating, community is essential to any changemaking effort. When you have diverse perspectives that come together, unexpected and incredible things can happen.

This issue of *Impact* highlights three examples of the power of community: First, a pure story of legacy and lasting impact: The Cindy Brar Memorial Award. The RRU community rallied together to establish an award in Cindy's memory—a beloved former RRU staff member. Second, the historical donation of the Bloom Estate on Salt Spring Island. Through meaningful consultation, we will ensure programming on these properties serves the needs of community and becomes a platform for changemaking. Finally, the opening of a Japanese teahouse on the RRU Colwood Campus was made possible through the support of community. It makes me proud to be part of Royal Roads, and inspired.

This is what happens when community comes together, and I am delighted to share these inspirational stories with you today.

Sincerely,



Philip Steenkamp, PhD
President and Vice-Chancellor
Royal Roads University



Love of learning lives on with the Cindy Brar Memorial Award

For those who had the honour of knowing her, Cindy Brar's positive energy and appetite for knowledge was an integral part of Royal Roads from 1996 up until her passing in 2022.

Brar made a tremendous positive impact on Royal Roads working in many areas throughout her 26-years at the university. Remembered as a dedicated team player, colleague, leader, alum, and member of the RRU Board of Governors, she was also a lifelong learner. Brar's love of learning resulted in the completion of numerous credentials during her time at RRU.

When news of Brar's sudden passing was shared, the Royal Roads community gathered in support of her family's legacy gift to establish [the Cindy Brar Memorial Award](#).

"We wanted a way to honour her that captured her love of education," Dave Brar, her widower, says. "Providing an opportunity for other women looking to pursue their academic goals—especially at a place that was such a big part of her life—felt like the perfect way to do that."

Story continued on next page.



The Brar Family: Kirsten Amadu (nee Brar), Dave Brar, Cindy Brar and Paige Kirk (nee Brar)

All things blooming on Salt Spring Island

In July, Royal Roads proudly announced a historic gift valued at \$9.93M from the Bloom Canadian Alter Ego Trust 2020 that will yield expansive programming for the Salt Spring Island community and beyond. The gift includes two acreages featuring waterfront gardens, an orchard of heritage fruit trees, a West Coast modern house, outbuildings, and a foreshore lease, located near Beddis Beach. This gift, which also includes a sizeable endowment, represents the largest donation in the university's history.

This contribution was made possible through the generosity of the late Susan Bagley Bloom, an environmental philanthropist, activist, and pioneer in land conservation and regenerative sustainability, and a long-time resident of Salt Spring Island.

Many faculty and staff contributed to the \$2500 award—presented annually to a student who identifies as a woman, is actively studying in a degree program, and has volunteered on a committee or board—as a way of honouring their friend and colleague.

Roxanne (Roxy) Heinen, the inaugural 2024 recipient of the memorial award, is completing her Master of Arts, Interdisciplinary Studies, and says, much like Brar herself, her goal is to advance her career in the post-secondary education sector.

“Every day, I strive to support our students in achieving their full potential,” Heinen says, who also volunteers with the Kamloops Immigration Society. “I am honoured and humbled to receive this recognition for my volunteer experience over the years. This support will help me achieve my education and professional aspirations.”

Brar's family is thrilled the inaugural recipient has been selected as it continues her legacy and love of learning.



In recognition of Bloom's generosity and legacy, Royal Roads has named the primary building on the properties the 'Bloom Castle by the Sea', to serve as a centre for changemaking for generations to come.

In the year ahead, Royal Roads will activate a broad and diverse community engagement and consultation process with our on-island partners: Spring Island Farmland Trust and Salt Spring Island Conservancy. This process will lead the development of a strategic plan and operational framework that supports Susan Bloom's legacy and will serve as a blueprint for academic research, programming, events, and activities that will take place at this new RRU site on Salt Spring Island.

This gift, which marks one of the first to be announced towards the university's most ambitious fundraising campaign—*Leading with Courage*—will join others to harness the power of local and global communities to find solutions and connections that transform lives and the world.

To learn more about this transformative gift, please visit [Royalroads.ca/saltspring](https://royalroads.ca/saltspring).



(L-R) Salt Spring Island Conservancy Executive Director Dr. Penny Barnes, RRU Vice-President Academic & Provost Dr. Veronica Thompson, RRU President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Philip Steenkamp, Bloom Estate Trustees Mark Horne and Janet Theunisz, and Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust Board Chair Sheila Dobie.

New Japanese teahouse offers experiential and cultural learning opportunities



The newly opened Japanese teahouse at RRU

This summer, Royal Roads unveiled its newest addition to the Hatley Park grounds: a hand-crafted Japanese teahouse, designed and built by renowned landscape architect Hayato Ogawa. The teahouse provides a serene venue on campus where formal tea ceremonies and special gatherings can occur and was made possible through the generosity of lead donors Ira Hoffecker-Sattler and Matthias Hoffecker, who wished to support the gardens they love.

“We wanted to help with the restoration of the Japanese Gardens, and, in particular, to support the creation of the teahouse as a new element in the renovated gardens,” they said. “It is with great joy that we witness the revitalization of

the Japanese Gardens as a place to leave daily life behind and just be in the moment. In this world, we find it important to help provide a space of contemplation, tranquility, and healing as part of our legacy.”

Additional support from RRU alum Eve Martin and spouse Paul, local philanthropist Andrew Beckerman, and over 500 donors to RRU’s [Vision in Bloom](#) appeal saw the project to its completion.

Nestled in the southwest corner of the Japanese Gardens, the teahouse is designed to blend in seamlessly with the natural style and aesthetic created by original garden designers Isaburo Kishida and Tadashi Noda.

The teahouse represents the first installation of a multi-phase revitalization project for the century-old Japanese Gardens. Learn more about the Japanese teahouse by visiting Royalroads.ca/giving



Members of the OGAWA Landscape design team: Watanabe Kumina, Hayato Ogawa, and Taro Kogure; members of the Urasenke Tankokai Victoria Association: Norimi Inai and Mieko Fedrau.



Update your contact information

Stay in touch with the Royal Roads University Advancement team. Please provide us with your up-to-date contact information by calling the number below or by scanning the QR code to go directly to our online form.