

Blueridge Community News

Editor: Sonia McLeod

Celebrate your Neighbourhood at the 17th Annual
Blueridge Good Neighbourhood Day
Sunday, June 8th, 11 am to 3 pm
on the grounds of Blueridge Elementary School

All residents of Blueridge/Seymour heights are encouraged to join in the fun at Blueridge Good Neighbour Day 2014. The theme is Garden Party - so put on your best party hat and join us for a cuppa! This year we will have more Food Trucks (Patisserie Lebeau, Japadog, The Local Lift Juice Bar, Gyros) and for the first time ever, a Beer Garden (sponsored by Deep Cove Brewing and Distillery)!

Kids - to join the parade, decorate your bikes and helmets and rally at the intersection of Berkley and Hyannis at 10:30 am. The parade starts at 10:45 am and travels down Berkley towards the school. Once on the school grounds, you will enjoy Live Music, Food, and Activities for all ages.



Local Musical Acts • Silent Auction (cash, cheques & credit cards accepted) • Photo Booth
Gladiator Joust • Doodle Girls Face Painting • Criss-Cross Collision Course
Festival Food Trucks • Royal Express Train • Kid's Carnival
Community Tables • Pie Eating Contest • Rainbow Loom-a-thon & Much More

Blueridge Good Neighbour Day is brought to you by a dedicated group of neighbours, with the support of generous donors who value this community. In addition, we gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the City of North Vancouver and the District of North Vancouver through the North Vancouver Arts Office.



Do you love Good Neighbour Day? Are you interested in volunteering, donating to the Silent Auction, sponsoring an activity on the day, or renting a community table? For more info, please contact bgnd@blueridgeca.org.

Street Tree Planting Program

Written by: Eric Andersen and Susan Rogers

At our regular BCA meeting on January 14 we had Gavin Joyce (who actually lives in Blueridge) and Susan Rogers from District of North Vancouver (DNV) as our guest speakers. Other than discussing the possibility of a Sharing Garden in Blueridge/Seymour Heights, they came to discuss the DNV's Street Tree Planting Program.

The DNV's goal developed a Street Tree Master Plan and Inventory over the past years. One of the goals is to plant up to 50 trees per year, subject to annual funding. The cost per tree, depending upon size and species is in the range of \$400.00 per tree which includes labour and installation. There is a relatively low street tree population in the DNV with about 3,000 trees, partly due to the existing forested character of many DNV boulevards. Blueridge/Seymour Heights is actually one of a handful of communities that the DNV's Parks Department is considering, which means that we have relatively good chances of getting street trees if we would like to have them. In 2013 a couple of streets chose not to proceed with street tree planting in our area, but the offer remains for those streets where trees would be a good fit. If a majority of a neighbourhood supports the street trees, staff co-ordinate street tree planting, and issue more details on health and care of trees. If individual residents prefer not to have a tree in front of their house, no tree is planted. The rationale behind the street tree planting is that it addresses the loss of trees associated with development and also maintains and enhances streetscape values and urban forest canopy at a sustainable level. Street trees have many values, and can improve air quality, reduce storm water impacts, provide temperature modifications and assist in carbon sequestration.

The selected tree species are based upon site conditions, for habit and size, aesthetic qualities and their ability to withstand concerns such as insects, disease and local conditions.

The first year following planting, DNV Parks Staff inspect the trees to prune and modify in order to maximize their long term health and survival.

This program is available for any interested streets in Blueridge/Seymour Heights, but may work the best on streets that already have a sidewalk.

If you are interested in pursuing this, please discuss this first with your neighbours, and then please contact Susan Rogers from the DNV, or you can e-mail us at: info@blueridgeca.org

Digging Up the History of the Blair Rifle Range

Written by: Donna Sacuta

When I read Colleen Mah's article, "What is the deal with the Blair Rifle Range?" in the Blueridge Community News in May 2013, little did I know I was about to embark on a fascinating research project aimed at answering the questions she posed.

As I explained at the May 2014 BCA meeting, while public debate has swirled around potential housing development there, there is a great deal of history associated with the property that is not widely known. I have written an article detailing its use as an Unemployed Relief Camp between 1934 and 1936, which I am looking forward to sharing at a future meeting. Stay tuned! I am continuing to examine its military history during the Second World War.

The more research I do, the more convinced I become that some kind of heritage designation is in order for the Rifle Range site. If anyone in the community is interested in helping with that project in the coming months, please get in touch with me. In the same vein, I would love to speak to residents with their own personal recollections of the Blair Rifle Range. Ph: 604-924-0553

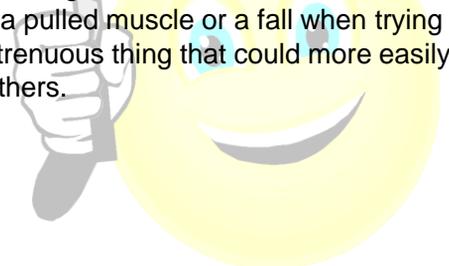
donna.sacuta@shaw.ca

JUST A REMINDER

Written by: Anonymous (The writer's identity is known to the editor)

Spring is here and our lawn and gardens will begin to call for our attention as they do each year. This is just to remind those who may need some help, to please, not be afraid to ask a neighbour. We are all more than willing to lend a hand if needed and would rather you ask than suffer the consequences when trying to push your physical limits.

Neighbours also keep an eye out for those who may want help but are too shy or proud to ask. This doesn't just entail yard work. Please ask a neighbour to help load that suitcase into your car, or help get that item from the top of that cupboard or shelf as it only takes five minutes of our time. On the other side it might take months for someone to recover from a pulled muscle or a fall when trying to do some strenuous thing that could more easily be done by others.



STUPIDITY MADE IN BLUERIDGE

Written by: Eric Andersen

The week-end before Easter five windows were broken at Blueridge Elementary School. Sad, but true. Vandals with little else to do are responsible. Did they have fun doing that? Such an act of bravery.

So who is paying to have this repaired? The schools are not insured against such acts of vandalism. This means that the money is coming out of an already stretched school board budget. Ultimately you and I pay, since this is part of our provincial tax dollars. What could benefit the kids with their education has now been spent to repair five windows at the local school.

Let's not point fingers at kids in Deep Cove, Lynn Valley, let alone Surrey. Nobody happened just to drive through Blueridge and decided to break windows at the local school.

We do not know who did it, but you can rest assured that this was done by local kids. Obviously, local kids with nothing better to do and who thought it would be 'fun' to break windows at the local school – likely a place which they attended within the last handful of years, and where they learned how to read and write. These are the local little Johnny's. Let's not accuse others.

Unfortunately it is not the first time it happens at the local schools.

Please talk with your kids about this senseless act of vandalism. Explain to them that we ALL lose when this happens. Ask them if they know why people would do that.

Ideally we would like the culprits to realize that they have hurt the very community where they grew up and still live. This was stupidity made in Blueridge. Will they get the message?

Blueridge Hiking Group – All Welcome

Written by: Angela Duso

Renata Martinz (a Blueridge resident for 44 years) has established a hiking group that meets every Tuesday for day hikes. They either use the local trail system or venture up to the local mountain peaks (in winter with snowshoes). The hikes are usually 3 to 4 hours and in summer

longer as they also travel to the Squamish corridor and beyond. Both men and women are welcome, however they have had no luck in acquiring any male enthusiasts to date. Average fitness level is required as are hiking boots, backpacks, suitable clothing etc. There is no cost attached to this activity, other than transportation. Hikers meet at a central, convenient meeting place and carpool from there. Check out Renata's website for more information.

<http://nspeakseekers.shawwebpace.ca>

WHERE CAN I BUY OR SELL A...?

Written by: Alberto Trujillo Gonzalez & Graham Gilley

How about the Blueridge Classified Ads! With the launch of our new website has come many new and useful features, the latest being a Blueridge Classified Ads section. Our new on-line buy & sell section functions very much like Craigslist except that you must be Blueridge resident to post an ad. When making your first post you will have to register a user account. Currently our residency verification process is done manually, so it may take a few days before you receive your activation message. After that you can post as many ads as you like!

The categories for posting ads are: Business & Services; Rent; Sports; Music; Educational; Tools & Landscape; Home; Sharing; and Trade.

Attention Babysitters!

Written by: Angela Duso

Are you looking for a babysitter? Are you a babysitter who would like to advertise your services? The BCA website has a convenient Babysitter Directory that parents can use if they would like to find a babysitter located in the neighbourhood.

<http://blueridgeca.org/what-we-do/babysitter-directory/>

Babysitters, please send your information to info@blueridgeca.org if you would like to post to the directory. Parents can then contact you through our website. For the safety of all parties, please make sure you meet with prospective babysitters/parents prior to the babysitting appointment. Confirm the rate of pay, time of appointment and contact information in case of emergency.

HELP WANTED

Two people with "Food Safe" certification to serve food at Blueridge Good Neighbour Day, Sunday June 8th from 11 am - 3 pm. Previous food service experience an asset. Wage is \$25/hour. Please contact info@blueridgeca.org for more info or to apply.

Please visit our website at www.blueridgeca.org or contact us at info@blueridgeca.org

Soapbox Derby 2014!

Written by: Dale Cheyne
Youth Services Supervisor
Parkgate Community Services Society

Building racers, making friends, learning life skills, and RACING DOWN A HILL! These are the key aspects of the Parkgate Community Centre's Social Success by Soap Box program, which on Sunday, June 15th will see local preteens conclude the last lap of the program with a derby race. This program has been generously supported by The United Way for the last three years and again this year the youth have worked extremely hard for the last couple of months to build, customize, and decorate their special racer for the derby. Seymour Heights Elementary and Carnation Street will play host to this family friendly event, which will include soap box racing, music, a BBQ, and various fun activities for the children. The first qualifying runs start at 10am with the finals scheduled to take place at 1:30pm. Come make a pit stop and cheer on the young people from our community!



*In memory of Bruce Danielson
Bruce and his Wife Annie have been long
time residents in Blueridge as well as
members of the Blueridge Community
Association. We thank him for his efforts
and support through the years. He will be
missed.*



Seymour Heights Preschool
parent participation programs

Written by: Lisa Bovell

Even if you live in North Vancouver, unless your children have attended **Seymour Heights Parent Participation Preschool (SHPPP)**, you have probably never heard of this little school. It is a non-profit school that has been quietly teaching kids in Blueridge for over 50 years while tucked away in a forested pocket between Ron Andrews and Windsor High School. It is an unassuming building and I would have missed it had I not tripped on their open house sign while strolling my crying daughter one morning. At that time, we had a 3 year old and a newborn.

It was only after getting a spot on the wait list that we learned what parent participation was all about. The big draw is that PPP parents got to spend time in the classroom and got to know the other kids as well, but more importantly they got to know us. I saw that my children began to see themselves as part of a larger group of caring adults whom they interacted with everyday.

SHPPP offers a play based program which provides social, emotional and cognitive learning through a structured exploration of the environment both indoor and out. Children grow by doing and so the school fosters a collaborative, positive space where children become independent learners. The curriculum focuses on play and teaching children what they need to know for a successful transition into kindergarten.

My children participated in a 3 hour program 3 days a week. But things are changing. In recent years we have noticed that more and more parents are working and though they want to be part of a PPP they are finding it difficult to commit to classroom time and getting their children to and from school mid-day. So we thought why not be the first parent participation preschool on the North Shore to offer a full day program in addition to our usual morning program. Full day children get to participate in a stimulating classroom environment with 18 peers for half the day and then will become part of a much smaller group of 8 during the afternoon. As parents, you get the best of both worlds for your children and for yourselves while participating in every aspect of the preschool community.

If you are searching for a program where you can be involved in your child's first school experience even if you work full time please check out our preschool at www.shppp.ca or look for us on Facebook to see more!