

Blueridge Community News

Editor: Sonia McLeod

DÎNER EN BLEU WITH YOUR COMMUNITY!

Written by: Eric Andersen

We are getting ready to celebrate the Blueridge Community Association's 25th anniversary with a "Dîner en Bleu" to be held at a secret location in Blueridge/Seymour Heights on Saturday, June 2, from 6 till 10 PM.



Tickets are \$17.50 per person to cover event costs with any remaining proceeds going to support the Blueridge Community Association's many community events and activities.

The event is a blue theme so we highly recommend guests wear blue to create a true Dîner en Bleu experience. Guests are required to supply their starter, main course and beverages, but cutlery, plates and glassware will be provided. Do not bring a dessert, as it will be included.

Tickets will go on sale for Dîner en Bleu on Tuesday, April 3. Purchase your tickets by contacting us at: info@blueridgeca.org Payment can be made in cash or by cheque (issued to the Blueridge Community Association). The event will be capped at 120 guests, so the earlier you book your tickets the better!

Please walk to Dîner en Bleu to keep our community safe. Don't drink and drive. This is an adult only event (minimum age 19).

This will be a great opportunity to see old friends and meet new neighbours. We look forward to hearing from you in early April and to seeing you on June 2!

BLUERIDGE SHARING GARDEN GEARS UP FOR 2018

Written by: Donna Sacuta

This will be the third year of operation at the Blueridge Sharing Garden (located between Carnation and Lytton Streets, across from Seymour Heights Elementary).

We have expanded the number of boxes available to rent to community gardeners to 14. There is a very small rental fee charged, and gardeners are required to donate volunteer time to the overall project. The other 8 boxes will continue to be used as "sharing" plots with produce donated to community groups. We also offer the herb garden for residents to harvest.

Being involved in the Sharing Garden is a great way to meet your neighbours and learn from experienced gardeners. For more information: www.blueridgeca.org/sharing-garden
Email: garden@blueridgeca.org

Volunteer mornings for 2018 will be the second Saturday of each month. We start with coffee/tea and goodies at 9 am and begin playing in the garden at 9:30. Kids are welcome.

- **Saturday, March 17**
- **Saturday, April 14**
- **Saturday May 12 (seedling and bake sale)**
- **Saturday June 9**
- **Saturday July 14**
- **Saturday, August 11**
- **Saturday, September 8**

If you are a gardener who will be growing their own plants from seed, please consider growing some seedlings for our plant sale on May 12. Tomatoes have been the most popular in past years, but anything is welcome.

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, April 3 – 10 AM and 6.30 PM – corner of Berkley and Hyannis – hikes in the forest north of Blueridge

Saturday, April 14 – at 9 AM – noon – Blueridge Sharing Garden work party

Monday, April 30 – Deadline for the BCA Scholarship Award application

Tuesday, May 8, at 7:00 PM – Blueridge Community Association AGM at Blueridge Elementary School

Saturday, May 12 – at 9 AM – noon – Blueridge Sharing Garden work party (seedling and bake sale)

Saturday, June 2 – at 6 PM – 10 PM – Dîner en Bleu – at a secret location in Blueridge!

Sunday, June 3, at 10:45 AM – 3.00 PM – Blueridge Good Neighbour Day

Parade starts on the corner of Berkley and Hyannis

Saturday, June 9, at 9 AM – noon – Blueridge Sharing Garden work party

Welcome Tyler and Amy!

My name is Tyler Pires. I moved to Blueridge about 10 and 1/2 years ago from downtown Vancouver. My family and I used to live near Granville island and I went to school at False Creek Elementary School. I currently attend Windsor Secondary and I am in my grade ten year. In my spare time I really enjoy creating music via studio programs, playing piano, playing soccer, and hanging out with friends. I would include football in that list, but sadly a wrist injury has prevented me from playing for the majority of this school year. My favorite subjects in school are math, and science; especially chemistry and physics within science. When I graduate I hope to go into either computer engineering or software engineering. I also want to continue producing and enjoying music in my spare time as well as playing soccer. I decided to help out with the BCA work because it sounded like fun and considering that it was right up the alley of my targeting career path, I figured it would be a great experience. I also felt that I wanted to give more back to my community and that this would be a good way to help. Being involved with the association has been a blast for me so far and I'm really glad that I decided to take a step forward



Hello Blueridge!

My name is Amy Pankratz, and Communications operators! I've lived in Blueridge for about 8 years. Having moved to North Vancouver from the Fraser Valley, I fell in love with the mountains and trails and am very fortunate to be able to call this area my home. When I'm not working or posting on facebook for the BCA, you can find me out in the trails with my dog Bella, walking around the neighbourhood, or taking one of my 6 nieces and nephews for an adventure in the woods. I love our Blueridge neighbourhood, and am honored to be able to assist with the communications part of the BCA, such as checking emails, updating the website, and running our social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (coming soon!).

Calling all Sitters! Babysitters, Housesitters, Dog Sitters!

Written by: Amy Pankratz



As you may be aware, our website has had an extensive babysitting directory in the past. We have decided to expand the directory to include dog/cat/pet sitting, housesitting, as well as babysitting (childminding) services! Our new directory will allow local homeowners to find local neighbours who are interested in housesitting, petsitting/walking, or looking for some extra babysitting gigs. If you are interested in signing up as a babysitter, petsitter/walker, housesitter, or as a homeowner needing a sitter, please email sitter@blueridgeca.org. We will not be posting any private information, such as dates a homeowner may be away, or addresses. Please note, the Blueridge Community Association will not be responsible for any mishaps whatsoever caused by the sitter you choose, so please contact him/her first, ask for references, if necessary, and feel free to meet with him/her before the 'sitting job' to provide yourself with a sense of trust in the sitter in question.

HIKES IN BLUERIDGE!

Written by: Carol Donohoe

Looking for company on your walks/hikes in Blueridge and beyond? Two new groups are starting in April! Just show up – dogs are welcome, as are walkers of all levels. There is no cost or long term commitment required – just an interest in being outdoors with some other like-minded people. The first walk will have a set time and route, after that, it is up to the walkers!

April 3, Tuesday at:

10am corner of Berkley & Hyannis

Walk will go along Hyannis Trail, up Bridle Path, dropping off at any of several trails for those looking for a shorter route, continuing along Cardiac Bypass and looping back to the starting point.

6:30pm corner of Berkley and Hyannis

Walk will go along Hyannis Trail, up Bridle Path, dropping off at any of several trails for those looking for a shorter route, continuing along Cardiac Bypass and looping back to the starting point.

How to contact us:

Web: www.blueridgeca.org / **Email:** info@blueridgeca.org / **Twitter:** @BlueridgeCA

Facebook: Blueridge Community Association / **Instagram:** BlueridgeCommunityAssociation

LET'S IMPROVE THE 214 TOGETHER!

Written by: Marie Venneri

My husband and I moved to the area in 2016. One of the reasons we chose Blueridge was because of the great transit, specifically the 214 bus. We are a one-car household and I work downtown; I can take the bus around the corner from my house and get off at Granville & Pender, which is around the corner from my office! In the evenings, after work or industry events, I can easily take the bus to Phibbs, switch to the 214 and be home efficiently – how convenient! This is great in theory but in practice it has been unreliable and often frustrating.

The issues I personally have encountered are: reduced services from Blueridge to downtown, no show buses on both ends of my commute, and 214 buses at Phibbs not allowing the promised overlap of time between the downtown buses arriving and it leaving.

I emailed the BCA to understand if I was the only one who felt this way – it turns out I am not alone. I learned that others had similar experiences, some drive down to Seymour Pkwy to catch the 211, others drive to Phibbs for the 210/211! How many more alternate commuting methods are there? This is unacceptable.

I see 2 main reasons transit is the way of the future: 1) our city is increasing in density, and 2) it makes environmental sense. The DNV addresses both of these issues. In the DNV the Transportation Plan commits to increasing transit, and as they are part of the BC climate action charter, committing to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Right in the Transportation Plan, it states that their objective is to “support the delivery of an enhanced and more integrated transit system across the community”. This sounds like the DNV would then support our desire to have reliable and efficient service.

So, what now? The BCA has put together a survey for us to fill out. Please take the time to answer it!

Translink needs to know that they have riders in the area, the DNV needs to know that transit service is not as promised to their constituents or in line with their plan and for those like me, it would be nice to know we're not alone!



TransLink/Coast Mountain Bus Company Survey

Written by: Eric Andersen

As it seems that many Blueridge residents have again experienced a period with TransLink/Coast Mountain Bus Company service failures, we encourage every local transit user to fill in the below survey on our website (blueridgeca.org):

- 1/ Do you take transit?
- 2/ If so, how often? (daily/weekly/monthly)
- 3/ If not, why not?
- 4/ If the bus service were more reliable would you take it?
- 5/ Where do you go?
- 6/ When/if mobility pricing is introduced in the Lower Mainland, will that make you take the bus more often?
- 7/ Is your experience with TransLink/Coast Mountain Bus Company good, bad or indifferent?
- 8/ Do you drive from home to an alternate location to take transit because the 214 is inadequate?
- 9/ How could the bus service to/from Blueridge/Seymour Heights be most improved?
- 10/ Have you experienced that the 214 bus simply does not show up?
- 11/ How often do you arrive at Phibbs exchange to see the 214 bus leaving without you, or it has just left a few seconds earlier?
- 12/ Has TransLink's service failures forced you and your family to buy a (second) car?
- 13/ Would you consider car-pooling?
- 14/ Any further comments?

Please have everyone in your family that uses transit reply to the survey individually.

Age groups:

0 – 18	19 – 40
41 – 64	65 plus

BEAUTIFUL MUSIC, EAST OF SEYMOUR!

Written by: Barb Rennie

Hello neighbours – do you know we have a professional chamber quartet that has been going for over 30 years, performing 3-4 times a year just down the road at Mt. Seymour United Church? If you've never attended a chamber music concert and you enjoy classical music, give it a try – admission is by donation, seating is comfy, music is outstanding, and there are complimentary refreshments at the intermission. What more could you ask for, 5 minutes and no bridges away? The Pro Nova ensemble is a great no-pressure way to learn more about music, and enjoy a nice evening out. The next concert is Sunday May 27th at 7:30 pm; check out the website at <http://www.pronova.ca/>.

SAVE THE DATE!

BLUERIDGE GOOD NEIGHBOUR DAY – SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 2018

Blueridge Good Neighbour Day (BGND) is our big yearly event in Blueridge/Seymour Heights. It starts up with a parade at 10.45 AM at the top of Berkley Avenue, and once the parade makes it to Blueridge Elementary School the fun begins for kids of all ages. There will be tons of entertainment, including a live band, lots of different food, a beverage garden (bring your ID!) and activities for everyone.

The event will last from 11 AM till 3 PM.

Our theme in 2018 is: **Retro**

Time to get your old outfits out of the closet and try them on! This will, of course, also be part of the music played at BGND this year.

There will be games, bouncy castles, a train, pony rides, a pie-eating contest, food trucks, a cakewalk, live music, face painting, a kids' carnival, cotton candy, popcorn and much more. As usual, we will have a fabulous SILENT AUCTION (cash, cheques and credit cards accepted). The proceeds will help us fund the event.

Nearly ALL the activities will be free (except for the pony rides). We do this because we want EVERYONE in our community to have fun and not be restricted due to costs.

The flip side of doing everything for free is that we NEED HELP!

If you own a business (or just want to support an amazing event) there are a few ways you can help:

- pay for a community table to promote your business (bookings for these are required ASAP)
- sponsor one of the activities, similar to what some companies have been doing over the years.
- make a cash donations to cover the many costs it takes to put on such a large community event
- donate to our silent auction. This is a great way to promote your business and at the same time to help us with the funding for all our activities at BGND.
- volunteer with the planning or on the day of the event. Our volunteer committee meets once or twice a month, or you can sign up for an hour long shift on June 3rd.

Should you have any questions about BGND or comments or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact us at bgnd@blueridgeca.org

Become involved in our community, have fun and make a difference!
We are looking forward to seeing everyone at this great annual event!

