



# Blueridge Community News

Editor: Sonia McLeod

## **Make us proud! Vote on October 20!**

Written by: Eric Andersen

I was going to write: 'Make us happy!', but then I realized that it was not just a matter of making us happy if we all vote on October 20, it would also make us so proud if we were the voting station with the highest percentage of voters in the District of North Vancouver (DNV). Usually the attendance is unfortunately very low at municipal elections. In the DNV we had less than 17% voting in 2008, less than 21% in 2011 and less than 23% at the last election in 2014. It is claimed that a mayoralty election often brings out more voters, and this time we have no less than five candidates going after that position. Wouldn't it be nice to see our numbers in the DNV go up substantially?!

It has always been a bit hard to understand why the voter turnout is so low at municipal elections. Here is the one election (unfortunately only every four years now) that gives you a chance to decide on sooooo many items that truly affect your day-to-day life. The municipality is looking after our rec centers, roads, sidewalks, parks, garbage, recycling, water, bylaws, libraries, the RCMP, the fire department, the Arts office, the North Vancouver Museum, and the list goes on. It decides on your municipal taxes, it makes decisions on density, how much or how little to build, which – in itself – has a bearing on traffic. Isn't it logical that approving buildings with parking spots will bring more cars to our roads?

Yet, roughly four out of five residents in the DNV (and probably Blueridge/Seymour Heights) do not bother to vote! I do not have the voter participation at Blueridge Elementary School, but considering that the candidate with the most votes in Blueridge in 2014 obtained 467 votes, there is definitely nothing to be proud of.

On October 20 we have to vote in a new mayor (our long-term mayor Richard Walton decided not to run this time), six councillors and four school trustees.

Definitely a time to find out more about the new candidates.

The DNV's website ([dnv.org](http://dnv.org)) is an excellent starting point. Closer to the election you will no doubt find some interesting articles in the North Shore News. This paper usually asks all the candidates a set of questions, enabling you to compare the answers. The Global Canadian will no doubt also have excellent coverage.

The North Vancouver Community Association Networks (NVCAN) will also be asking all the candidates questions that will allow you to compare their responses. All the responses will be posted on the website: [nvcn.ca](http://nvcn.ca).

As we have done prior to EACH election (municipal, provincial or federal) for the last twenty years, the Blueridge Community Association will be co-hosting an All-Candidates Meeting on Tuesday, October 16, at 7 PM at Mount Seymour United Church. Last time we had such a meeting the church was full, meaning that a number of people had to watch the debate from the hallway. It is, therefore, a good idea to get there early!

Nobody says that you MUST vote for six parties running for Council. You can choose to vote for ANYWHERE from one to six candidates. The same goes for the school trustees – it is not mandatory to vote for four candidates.

If you do not vote, YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO COMPLAIN about how our municipality is run! This is your chance to make good and sound decisions and vote accordingly. This is what democracy is all about. It is our privilege and responsibility.

One of the candidates, Jim Hanson, is from Blueridge and is currently on Council, and another one from Blueridge, George Tsiakos is running for the school board – the rest of them are from other parts of the DNV.

Do yourself and all of us a HUGE favor: PLEASE take the time to vote on October 20!!! And I will add: Make us proud, too!

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Tuesday, October 16 – at 7 PM** – Blueridge Community Association co-hosting an All-Candidates Meeting at Mount Seymour United Church (*Page 3*)

**Saturday, October 20 between 8AM and 8PM** - Voting Day! Blueridge Elementary School

**Monday, October 22, at 7 PM** – BCA co-hosting an introduction to the four voting systems related to the provincial 2018 Referendum on Electoral Reform at Mary Hunter Hall at Parkgate – facilitated by Dr. Conrad King from Cap University

**Tuesday, November 13, at 7 PM** – Blueridge Community Association meeting – Blueridge Elementary School

**Tuesday, January 8, at 7 PM** – Blueridge Community Association meeting – Blueridge Elementary School

## *Another successful year at the Blueridge Sharing Garden*

*Written by: Donna Sacuta*

Massive thanks to the volunteers and community gardeners who participated in the 2018 growing season at the Blueridge Sharing Garden (BSG). The garden is located between Carnation and Lytton Streets across the street from Seymour Heights Elementary.

We were very excited and grateful to the District of North Vancouver who began a pilot project at BSG this year to determine how much water is used in a garden such as ours. They installed pipe, connectors and a water meter this spring and our garden benefited immensely.

This year we rented 14 boxes to community users and volunteers tended 8 sharing boxes. The Strong Start Program also took care of two small boxes, and planted pumpkins along the north hill. Carrots, beans, peas, beets, squash, kale, tomatoes, cucumbers and tomatillos were shared with the Spectrum Mothers Support Society. <http://www.spectrummothers.ca/>

If you want to be kept informed about the garden, please send us an email: [garden@blueridgeca.org](mailto:garden@blueridgeca.org), and/or join our Facebook group: Blueridge Sharing Garden.

## **A café near Blueridge?**

*Written by: Eric Andersen*

In our last newsletter (May 2018) we asked about potential interest in a café in the Seymour Estates redevelopment (904-944 Lytton Street) and the response was quite overwhelming. Only one person was against that due to traffic and suggested the (in)famous corner-store on Emerson and Mount Seymour Parkway instead. Over a dozen of local residents were in favour of a café and some suggested an additional store/produce market.

Over the summer I met with the developer, Anthem Properties to discuss this with them. They were aware of support for a café, and during my discussion with Anthem it became clear that we would stand a better chance of having this café included in the proposal, if we were able to suggest a specific party who would be prepared to run such a café, whenever it becomes operational (probably at least a year from now, and likely later than that).

So now the question is whether any of our residents might be interested in operating such a café in the

neighbourhood or... if perhaps a friend of a friend of a friend might be interested in doing just that?!

Please speak with your family or friends, and if somebody expresses interest in running such a café, please ask that person to contact us at [info@blueridgeca.org](mailto:info@blueridgeca.org) to discuss it further.

It may take a village to raise a child, but it takes a community to find somebody prepared to operate a local café. Looking forward to hearing back from... somebody out there.

## **BC Hydro Transformer Box Beautification - It's a wrap!**

*Written by: Kuhan Milroy*

As some of you may have noticed, there are now six decoratively wrapped BC Hydro boxes in Blueridge. The process started early in 2017 as we collected interest from Blueridge neighbours. We submitted BC Hydro grants application by October and received grant approval in January. The boxes were wrapped in July/August.

Requesting neighbours were able to pick their choice of pattern (with approval by The District and BC Hydro).

A big thank you to Eric Andersen and the Blueridge Community Association for discovering the grant and for supporting the project. Applying and receiving this money allowed us to reduce the cost by 33%. Megan Cooper from the DNV contributed another 33% of the cost. Thank you Megan!

The total cost came from approximately \$600/box down to \$200/box.

In the end we had a total of 6 boxes wrapped. Here are some quotes from happy residents:

"Yes thank you so much, love the wrap...." - Lisa Muri

"The wraps look great and are installed very professionally, covering edges and corners very well." - Kuhan Milroy

"Our wrap was installed while we were away and it was such a nice surprise to see it in place on our return" - Cathy Harmer



## 'Project Community' continues

Written by: Eric Andersen

A few years ago one of our directors, Alberto Trujillo González, suggested that we should embark on what he named 'Project Community'. In short, this means that we offer something that many residents would like to participate in, also known as bulk purchases.

We have done it for cleaning of fireplaces and furnaces for the last couple of years, and we also offered the possibility for the BC Hydro box wrap where we easily managed to fill the five openings offered by the District of North Vancouver.

With the weather getting colder we should all focus on our furnaces and fireplaces – who wants to host a Christmas dinner when the furnace just broke down?

We will not be able to take advantage of the \$25 Fortis rebate for furnaces and fireplaces, as their cut-off for this was moved up to August 17, however, we still believe that by offering a certain number of residents we can obtain better prices, and the service provider loves the fact that the cleaning crew can work all day in Blueridge/Seymour Heights without having to spend hours on the North Shore going from job to job and be stuck in the infamous North Shore traffic jams.

If you are interested in participating in this local project please contact the BCA ([info@blueridgeca.org](mailto:info@blueridgeca.org)) by October 31 and we will coordinate this for November.

Last year the prices were \$69/furnace, \$99/fireplace, \$119/heat pump and \$199 for vents with no GST because we had more than 10 local participants. We hope to have the same prices this year, but it will depend on the number of participants.

We are also looking for NEW projects. What else can we work on to the benefit of local residents? Painting? Garden work? Bulk purchases (solar panels anyone?!)? If you have any suggestions and great ideas, please let us know!

## OUR SITTER DIRECTORY

Written by: Eric Andersen

No less than 25 local residents (some of them youths) have signed up to get listed on our 'Sitter Directory'. If you have never used it before, you may ask yourself what this is? On the BCA's website ([blueridgeca.org](http://blueridgeca.org)) we have a separate 'Sitter Directory' which lists all the interested parties by first name (only). What initially started up as a baby-sitter directory has now expanded to include pet-sitters as well as house-sitters. This is how you can connect to a LOCAL baby/pet/house-sitter. We must stress that we have not 'vetted' the information provided by the babysitters, so it is, obviously, the responsibility of any interested party to interview prospective candidates and ensure that they are qualified to look after the children, pet or house.

This directory is a service for Blueridge/Seymour Heights residents only.

Use this service when you have a date-night, go away on vacation or need somebody to walk your dog because you are in the middle of a big project at home or in the office.



## MEET KUHAN MILROY!

Please welcome our new web master Kuhan Milroy. He will be heading up the Blueridge Community Association website, working with our student site/content manager Qintu Tao. Kuhan comes from a background in Computer Science and the Tech industry.

He shares a love for Blueridge and is happy to be contributing to the community however he can. We thank our previous web master Alberto Trujillo Gonzalez for all his great working and bringing the site to it's latest modern look and feel.



### How to contact us:

**Web:** [www.blueridgeca.org](http://www.blueridgeca.org)

**Email:** [info@blueridgeca.org](mailto:info@blueridgeca.org)

**Twitter:** @BlueridgeCA

**Facebook:** Blueridge Community Association

## BLUERIDGE GOOD NEIGHBOUR DAY

*Written by: Eric Andersen*

Blueridge Good Neighbour Day 2018 was another success. For the first time since our first Blueridge Good Neighbour Day back in 1998 we had some rain – it came towards the end of the event, but perhaps everyone was just too busy having a good time that they didn't notice it. In any case, it didn't affect the attendance much at all.

As usual we would like to thank our very generous sponsors and donors who are all listed below. We would also like to suggest that you support these generous donors when you have a chance. Please support those who support our event! Some have been doing this consistently for 21 consecutive years! Blueridge Good Neighbour Day could not take place without their wonderful support. It could also not happen without the devoted volunteers who spent countless hours on the Blueridge Good Neighbour Day planning committee, and all the many volunteers who came out to help us on the day of the event in early June. Also a big thank-you goes to Blueridge Elementary School and the school board for letting us use their nice facilities.

Finally thanks to everybody who attended – we hope you all enjoyed it and had lots of fun that day.

**A HUGE THANK YOU** to all of you! Let's do it again next year!

### SPONSORS

Neptune Terminals	Anthem Properties	North Vancouver Recreation & Culture
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### DONORS!

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