

# Blueridge Community News

Editor: Sonia McLeod

## NEW BCA INITIATIVES

Written by: Eric Andersen

Your community association is always on the lookout for new initiatives we can try out.

As a recent Blueridge Community Association meeting we discussed this and received a couple of good suggestions.

One resident suggested that we get some concrete ping-pong tables at McCartney Creek Park. They have some of these tables at the Town Centre Park in Coquitlam and they are well used by local residents.

Is there interest in trying the same thing here?

Another resident made the suggestion that we should try to have a community garage sale where all the proceeds would go to the BCA and these could e.g. be used to buy the ping-pong tables mentioned above.

Since most people have garage sales to get rid of their old stuff that they no longer need, this would seem to be a win-win situation for all: residents would get rid of their 'old junk', and at the same time we would make a bit of money for other BCA projects such as the ping-pong tables.

Another idea would be a 'toy library'. It works just like our little free library at the Blueridge Sharing Garden: residents drop their kids' toys (that the kids no longer play with) and others pick them up and bring their own kids' toys instead etc.

The advantage is that it saves parents money and that they know that the toys will go to a good use after having been used at home. It is a matter of recycling instead of throwing out.

We need help to arrange for all this, if any of these ideas appeal to you. If you are interested in one or more of these suggestions please contact us at: [info@blueridgeca.org](mailto:info@blueridgeca.org), and let's go from there. Your help would be needed to organize and plan for these activities and we also need to know that these ideas are of interest to our community. We look forward to hearing from you!

## SAVE THE DATE!

Written by: Michelle Leroux

### Second Annual Diner en Bleu Saturday June 8, 2019

Don't miss the opportunity to join neighbourhood friends for our second annual al fresco dinner in a secret location in Blueridge that is announced by email the morning of the event.

Bring your own food and beverages. Tables, Chairs, Dinnerware, Glassware and Dessert are all provided. This event sold out very quickly last year! Be ready when tickets go on sale on May 1st.

Proceeds from the event go to the Blueridge Community Association and fund scholarships for local students who serve our community.



## IMPORTANT DATES

**Tuesday, March 12 – at 7 PM** – Blueridge Community Association meeting (open house) – Blueridge Elementary School.

**Tuesday, April 30** – Deadline for the BCA Scholarship Award application

**Tuesday, May 14, at 7 PM** – Blueridge Community Association meeting (AGM) with guest speaker from Metro Vancouver (about new Trails Strategies) – Blueridge Elementary School.

**Sunday, June 2, at 10:45 PM – 3:00 PM** – Blueridge Good Neighbour Day – Parade starts on the corner of Berkley and Hyannis

**Saturday, June 8, at 6 PM – 10 PM** – Diner en Bleu – at a secret location somewhere in Blueridge!

## **SUBMISSION TO BLUERIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**

*Written by: Councillor Jim Hanson*



On October 20, 2018, the voters of North Vancouver District elected a new District Council. I was honoured to have been re-elected. The results of the vote demonstrated that the residents of the District favoured candidates with “slower-growth” platforms.

Since the new Council began two development projects that were before the previous Council were defeated in 5-2 votes. The first was an “affordable” housing and senior’s respite facility proposed for District lands on 600 West Queens. The second was a market condo project on Ridgewood in Edgemont. These votes demonstrated that the new Council has taken its election pledge seriously, and will be pursuing a policy of slower growth. The development of the District lands at 600 West Queens

(the old Delbrook Recreation Centre site) will be reconsidered by the new Council with further input from the local community on the form and character of the project and with a renewed focus on the meaning of “affordable” in the context of housing placed on District lands. The new Council had a concern that the rental rates proposed for the “affordable” housing to be placed on these District lands was too expensive.

In a subsequent workshop conducted in 2019, Council discussed the appropriate meaning of “affordable” in the context of social housing initiatives. While the standard definition is “30% of a family’s household income”, this definition requires further calibration. What income are we using a baseline: the average income in the District (which exceeds \$100,000) or the average income in the Metro Region (which is less). Or, most logically, are we considering the average income of the specific target group we seek to house through District housing initiatives, perhaps persons with disabilities, seniors, students, or local service workers and public safety personnel. Much care must be taken to ensure that housing created through the donation (through long-term leases at nominal rates) of District lands addresses the true needs of our community.

Of interest to Seymour Residents, a renewed proposal is being put forward by Darwin Construction and the Tsleil-Waututh Nation for the development of the Maplewood lands (the so-called “Innovation District Lands”). The new proposal is somewhat smaller (although still a very significant development, likely the largest in the history of Seymour, even in its paired down form) with a focus on workforce housing, employment lands, and services. We expect this new Innovation District proposal to come before Council in the first half of 2019 and it remains to be seen how the new Council members will respond to the revised plan for this important site. Of interest, the new plan no longer incorporates the “Berkley extension” at the south end of Berkley to connect Berkley to Dollarton through what are now forested lands.

Also under discussion at Council is the Official Community Plan (2011) (“OCP”). At a recent workshop, Councillors weighed in their goals for an OCP review. Are we seeking a wholesale review of the OCP, or merely a “tweaking” of the plan to reflect updated conditions, particularly updated realities of road congestion and housing affordability? Again, it remains to be seen exactly where the new Council will land as to the scope and direction of the planned OCP review.

Council meets most Mondays. The public are always welcome. At each Council meeting there is an opportunity for any resident to speak for three minutes on any topic of their choice. Please, come out and let your thoughts be known.

## WE NEED YOU!

*Written by: Eric Andersen*

To cut to the chase: our community association can only be as good as its members make it. A few very dedicated residents have done a lot of the work over the last many years, and this is the reason that we have had such an active community association with many projects and initiatives that many people have enjoyed. That is great, but we need help. We have a couple of specific areas where we could need some more help right now.

Blueridge Good Neighbour Day is coming up in early June and we need more volunteers on our planning committee. This is a fun committee to be on and there is great satisfaction in seeing our project come to fruition, but with some 'veterans' stepping down in 2018 after having served on the committee for many years, we need some new energetic members to take over from them.

We need new ideas and new initiatives for our board. Please consider joining our board. No extra time required for additional meetings – just the odd e-mails and fresh ideas.

The Blueridge Sharing Garden can always need some extra help!

Finally we also need new volunteers for the distribution of the newsletter that you are reading at this very moment.

In all cases, please contact us at: [info@blueridgeca.org](mailto:info@blueridgeca.org) and let's see how you can help us and our community and make this an even better place to live!

### **Project Community' continues – now gutter cleaning**

*Written by: Eric Andersen*

After having successfully completed the cleaning of fireplaces, furnaces, heat pumps and vents for interested parties in Blueridge & Seymour Heights, we are now offering something new to all local residents: gutter cleaning.

We have decided to join forces with a company that comes highly recommended by Blueridge residents who have been using them for many years.

The company in question would be able to provide the service based on the following promo pricing scenario – all rates quoted are INCLUDING GST:

For split level homes ( usually older homes built in the 60's or 70's ) between 2000 to 3200 square feet the price would be \$141.75.

For two level homes with basement between 2000 to 3200 square feet the price would be \$173.25.

For homes with two levels and basement that are 3200 square feet or more (usually the newer homes) the price would be \$204.75.

For smaller homes less than 2000 square feet the pricing would be estimated on site starting at \$89.25.

All work is 100 % Fully Guaranteed, and labour is covered by WCB.

Note: Gutter cleaning is defined as the removal of debris from inside the gutter system. Gutter washing (the washing of the outer metal facing of the gutter) would be an extra charge .

If you have any questions and/or inquiries regarding this information, or if you wish to have your gutters cleaned please contact us at: [info@blueridgeca.org](mailto:info@blueridgeca.org) We also hope to see good participation with this project.

### **DEBUNKING A MYTH**

*Written by: Eric Andersen*

Some of you may have received a small notice in their mailbox. No sender's name or contact details were given, but it was signed: '... cough, gas, choke' The red flag always goes up when something goes out with no name or contact details provided.

It was alleged that if you are bothered by 'unhealthy neighbourhood smoke' from somebody's wood burning fireplace, all you have to do is contact Metro Vancouver Air Quality to 'report offenders who will be notified of the anonymous complaint by letter'. Well, I phoned the number given, not to complain about any of my neighbours, but to get to the bottom of this, which is that... there is no current bylaw in place that will tell you not to use your wood burning fireplace or stove.

What is not permitted is to burn garbage or anything else causing pollution. I do not think this occurs much, if at all in our neighbourhood.

We are not encouraging local residents to use their wood burning fireplaces, that is up to the individual home-owner, but we are not encouraging fear-mongering and promoting half-truths either. At this moment it is not illegal to use your wood burning fireplace. Of course, nobody knows what the future brings.

# Blueridge Good Neighbour Day!

**SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 2, 2019**

**10:45AM to 3:00pm**

**2019 Theme: Blue(ridge) Hawaii**



**Love event planning? This event is only possible because of a dedicated team of volunteers, and we could really use your help this year! Help at the event is also appreciated! Contact us at [info@blueridgeca.org](mailto:info@blueridgeca.org) if you would like to learn more!**

## How to contact us:

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

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

**Twitter:** @BlueridgeCA

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