

News from the neighbourhoods of Blueridge and Seymour Heights in the DNV

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**Tis the Season!! Welcome to the very last bulletin of 2018! What a start to December we've had; cold, crisp, sunny... We hope you've had time to enjoy the beautiful frosty air! While there is lots of events happening around the North Shore over the course of December, Blueridge happenings are pretty minimal! If have any Seasonal events, photos, updates, etc that you would like us to inform the neighborhood about via our Facebook page just let us know!
May your December be merry and bright!**



Our next Blueridge Community Association meetings is taking place at **7pm on January 8** at Blueridge Elementary in the Library (2650 Bronte Dr, North Vancouver). Come join us, all neighbours are welcome! We hope to see you there.



Terry Beech our MP (photo - left) joined us at our November BCA meeting where he was able to meet Jordan Gorgounis (photo - right) who was the winner of the BCA's scholarship in 2018. Thank you both Terry and Jordan for attending!



Barred Owls
by Elise Roberts Lynmour

I found a dead Barred Owl close to a bromadiolone labelled Terminix Co. rat trap near Blueridge Creek. I sent it off to the Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society and discovered through speaking with them, their volunteer and reading media, just how many owls had perished on the North Shore in the past year in 3 Maplewood, 6 Deep Cove, 1 Lynmour, 1 Blueridge, 3 Mosquito Creek and 3-6 Pemberton Heights. I also discovered people get confused about where to report the dead owls and end up burying them in their backyards, so we do not get the statistic. These facts will be verified and statistic of exact locations gathered from the Canadian Wildlife Service Lab in Delta.

I researched the rat poison bromadiolone which is the ingredient in a number of rat poisons with various market names then called across the nation. This 2nd generation rodenticide is very powerful, attracts non-target species such as voles, shrews and deer mice which could also be ingesting it. Owls only go after live prey, animals still move around since it takes time for the poison to take effect, but become lethargic and easy prey for raptors. Rats are increasing in numbers possibly due to green waste containers that are not rat proof. **Coyotes** are also increasing in numbers, according to DNV meeting today largest record year for coyotes POSSIBLY due to rats. So therefore coyotes will eat poisoned rats. This is how we almost lost the Peregrin Falcon, California Condor, Bald Eagles and many more birds-Pesticides. Why is this happening in 2018?

Pesticides are regulated by Health Canada, Province of British Columbia and Municipalities.

According to all the Pest Control Companies I interviewed:

- * *"No secondary effect on animals."*
- * *"No research to indicate harm to other animals"*
- * When told about Owl deaths *"That is the negative side of our business."*
- * When I told pest companies the provincial recommendations bromadiolone is only recommended when explosion of rats are found and not near wildlife, *"It can be sold over the counter and people are using it irresponsibly in their homes...putting their own bait in and small mammals are getting it"* **(In other words it is not their fault)**
- * They do not use the non-pesticide rat traps outside *"because the rat is trapped inside and dies and it is more work to go retrieve it"*
- * Pest Control Companies are recommending pesticides as a first resort and not educating customers about impacts. They have *"many contracts on the North Shore."* According the Province of BC and the Federal Government it should only be used *"As a last resort."*

***Provincial and Federal Web site: "Bromadiolone present a moderate to high risk of secondary poisoning to other animals that might eat the poisoned rat."
"Not recommended near wildlife areas."***

I have started a Save the Owl from Bromadiolone Campaign (**S.O.B.**) and need your support to report any dead Owls to me since I am collecting stats, as well as Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society below who has a volunteer to pick it up. They are sending all Owls from the North Shore to the Canadian Wildlife Service for testing. Pick it up wearing gloves and store it in a cool place in a plastic bag.

I have made the following CONTACTS

1. **Wildlife biologist** for resources is with permission KF; MSc, RPBio., NV, BC referred to DNV Parks as Resource, doctorate on raptor toxicology.
2. **OWL Rehabilitation Society:** info@owlrehab.ca (604) **3800 - 72 Street, Delta, BC, V4K 3N2** Phone: 604-946-3171
3. **Federal Health Canada Contact: Regulates the use of pesticides. Shaun Dhaliwal** (604)666-2153 Shaun.Dhaliwal@canada.ca Good conversation - Followed up with box in Blueridge and interested in this issue: He will follow up on whether or not there should be improved restrictions and enforcement regarding use of this pesticide. Shaun will ask CWS for the toxicology test results.
4. **Provincial Pest Management Branch / Plan Contact: Rob Au** (604) 582-5214. "All other methods should be used before the use of pesticides. Recommends " an explosion" of rats before bromadiolone is used. I told him we have a big problem that despite these recommendations Owls are dying everywhere. it is a recommendation not a law.
5. **DNV Parks Erika** - fantastic meeting Friday, concerned, but it will take time to draft a new bylaw since it is not easy.

[VANCOUVER PARKS BOARD](#) reviewing the use of rodenticides

[Local scientific study](#) that examined rodenticides in owls from the Lower Mainland - found Bromadiolone in owls



When there's no snow outside, make snowmen inside!!!! This guy was too cute to not include!

[Courtesy of parents.com](http://parents.com)

He'll melt in your mouth: Microwave canned white frosting on high for 10 seconds. Dunk 24 plain doughnut holes in frosting; allow to set. On half of the holes, squirt on eyes and a mouth with chocolate tube frosting. Stick in a dried papaya triangle for the nose. Make a hat with half an Oreo Mini and a piece of an Oreo Cookie Stick. Place a fruit-leather scarf on top of an undecorated doughnut hole. Top with the face.

For most special occasions, be it birthdays, holidays, seasonal festivities, memorable occasions, etc, families have their own special recipes. Grandmother's recipes are brought out, barely used appliances are unearthed, trips are made to the shops to

obtain vast quantities of specially needed ingredients. This holiday season will be similar to most others for our family; I will make our usual shortbreads and sugar cookies and gingerbreads and much more besides. But there is one classic recipe that I first made when I was 10; I still recall my best friend coming over and she and I carefully followed a "Kris Kringle" cookie recipe from a 1986 Canadian Living Magazine (christmas edition!). It was a first time recipe for me, similar to a sugar cookie, but rolled into balls, dipped in coloured sugar, and when baked they spread out into beautiful crispy circular cookies. We counted over 80 cookies! Now I still make these delicious cookies, which are so simple even my 2 year old niece helped me dip them in the sugar and place on the pans! If you are looking to try something new, I highly recommend pulling out the butter and sugar and giving these a whirl!

We hope you enjoy them as much as we do.

Kris Kringle Cookies

2 cups butter

2 cups granulated sugar

2 eggs

4 cups all purpose flour, sifted

4 teaspoons cream of tartar

2 teaspoons baking soda

sprinkles, granulated or powdered sugar for decorating (optional)

Cream butter and sugar. Beat in eggs. Combine flour, cream of tartar and baking soda; blend gradually into creamed mixture. Shape dough into 3/4" balls, dip into coloured sugar or sprinkles if desired, and place 2 inches apart on grease baking sheet, sugar side up. Bake in 350F oven for 12-15 minutes or until edges are slightly browned. (Cookies will flatten during baking). Cool slightly before removing from baking sheets, then cool completely on wire racks. Sprinkle with powdered sugar/icing sugar if desired. Makes about 8 dozen. Economical, fast, and great for swapping! Enjoy!

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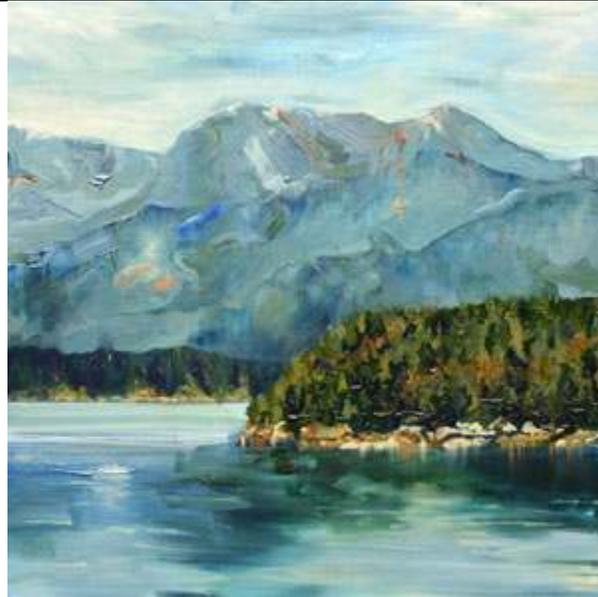


*There's More to Christmas...
There's more, much more to Christmas
Than candle-light and cheer;
It's the spirit of sweet friendship
That brightens all the year;
It's thoughtfulness and kindness,
It's hope reborn again,
For peace, for understanding
And for goodwill to men!*

From our homes to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!



We want your input! What would you like to see in the next Blueridge Bulletin?
We are open to submission ideas! If you know of an event or relevant issue taking place in our community, please email your thoughts and ideas to info@blueridgeca.org.



Rebecca Donald Visual Art

Studio Art Classes

Art classes for elementary age, teens, and adults in Rebecca's Riverside Drive private art studio. Small class sizes and lots of individual attention for fun and informative classes that range from drawing and painting to mixed media. Rebecca has taught drawing and painting at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts, Emily Carr University, and the University of British Columbia. Please visit rebeccadonaldartist.com for more information on classes.



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