

All the news from the neighbourhoods of Blueridge  
and Seymour Heights in the DNV

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It's June! And almost feeling like summer! It's been beautiful weather, and we were blessed to have good weather for the annual Blueridge Good Neighbour Day last Sunday! And what a wonderful time that was! Thank you to everyone involved - both behind the scenes,

**Hip Hip Hooray, it's almost summer and halfway through June! Happy June Blueridge! Read on to discover what's happening (the rest!) of this month in our neighbourhood, including guest submissions from North Shore Black Bear Society and the North Shore Streamkeepers!**



Once again our Blueridge Good Neighbour Day was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy the spectacular day! But even more so, thank you to each and every hard working volunteer, both behind the scenes and working the event... it is our dedicated, devoted, and talented BGND planning committee and volunteers that year after year bring this wonderful day from concept to reality. A big thank you, a tremendous thank you to all of you.





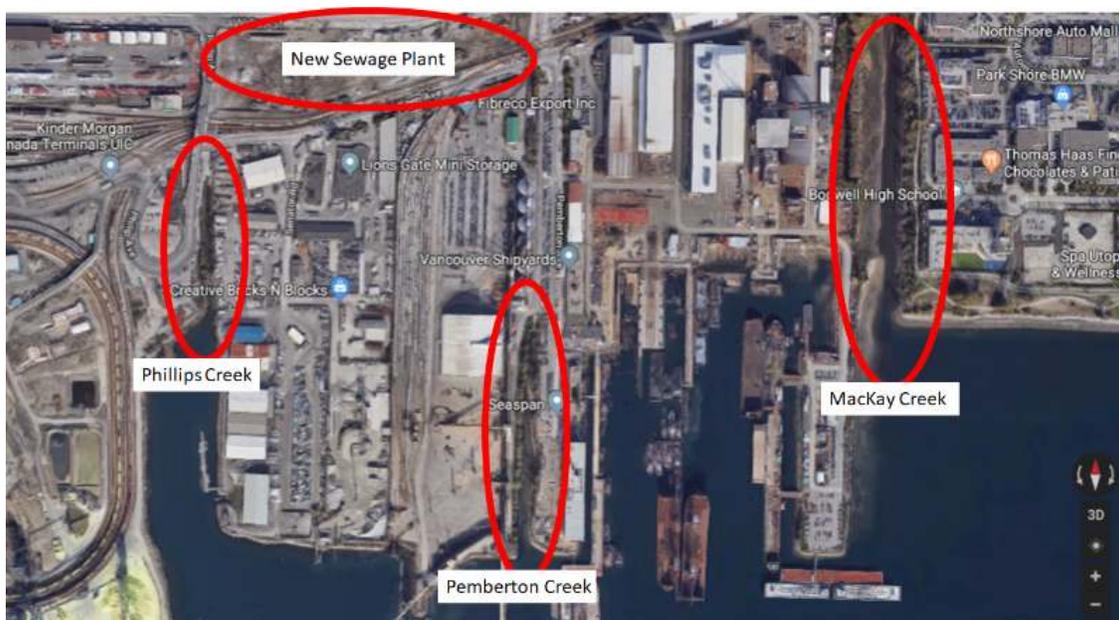
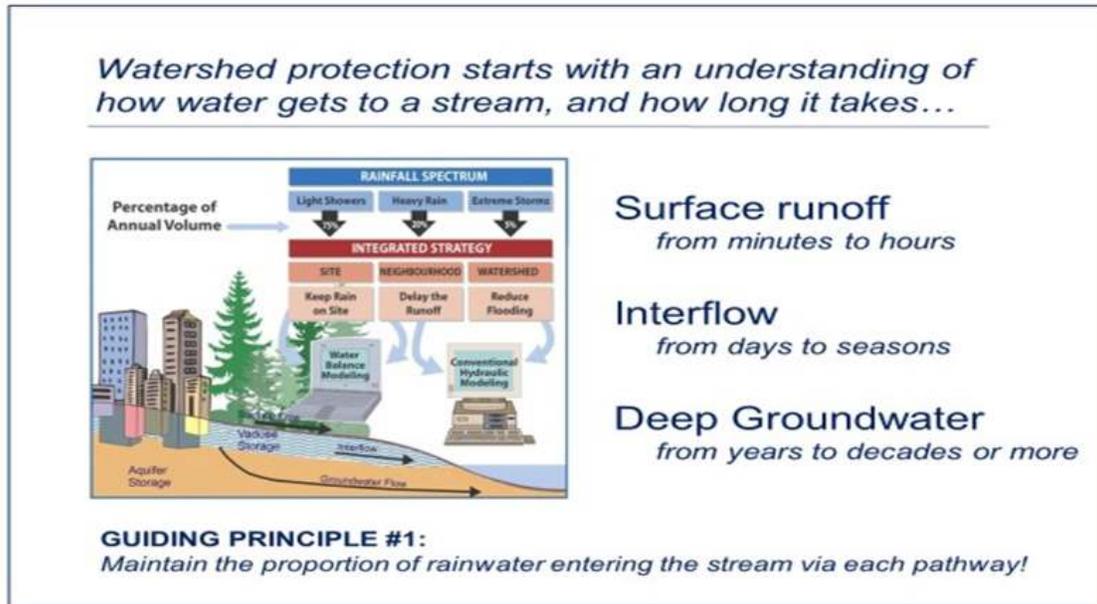
### More Than Just Fishy Friends.....

The North Shore Streamkeepers (NSSK) have been active since 1993 and are focused on fish. Our efforts aim to enhance our valuable natural ecosystems and educate our community on how help with these efforts. To be effective we must both advocate for fish and demonstrate action in our community to earn the right to advocate. In short, we must be part of the community to be effective. The North Shore is fortunate to have many other like-minded groups, including the Blueridge Community Association (BCA), that make the North Shore a great place to live.

NSSK's presentation in May to the BCA highlighted an enhancement project Lynn Creek and the photos below show one of the four engineered structures placed in the creek. This year NSSK plan to add structures to Mosquito Creek and establish a kelp bed at the mouth of Lynn Creek. Volunteers, local industry, students and the DNV all helped with projects.



We also highlighted two of our recent advocacy efforts related to stormwater (runoff) and wastewater (sewage). Stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces harms fish and their habitat. Our advocacy is for more taxes, yes **more** taxes, based on a user pay system to allow water soak into the ground. If a property has a lot of impervious surfaces, that cause more runoff, it should have higher taxes to pay for the management of that runoff. A dedicated rate for stormwater management will help manage flooding, climate change, and protect the fish. In other words, monster houses and paved parking lots should pay their fair share!



Our wastewater advocacy is focused on reducing the pollutants sent to the ocean for dilution. The new Lions Gate Sewage Treatment Plant is not being built to forward looking environmental standards and we think that is wrong.

Current standards for treatment are relaxed if you have an ocean to dilute waste but these standards are changing. Metro Vancouver was presented with the option of building for the future but selected to save about 20% by delaying. What makes the fishy people mad is that if the wastewater was cleaned to the higher standard, it could be placed back into streams at the foot of Pemberton and Phillips creating valuable fish habitat. Instead, Metro decided to continue to use an outfall under the Lions Gate Bridge to dilute the partially treated sewage. The image below shows the location of the possible enhanced streams. Consider this, we could have the equivalent of another Lynn Creek and the associated benefits if we treated our sewage like Calgary does.



2016 - Before any Rock Breaking

At the BRCA meeting the Seymour Salmonid Society (SSS) also presented. The SSS works specifically on the Seymour River and has been busy addressing the rockslide that blocked fish access to some of the best habitat on the North Shore. The rockslide work is nearing completion and it is expected that the 2020/2021 season will see adult salmon above the slide. This has literally been a million-dollar effort, combined with dozens of fish rescues since 2016 to preserve the run. The images below show the slide in 2016, the rockslide after most rock has been broken up, and the river flood flows this past winter. The last barrier, a wall of rock about 10 feet high, that should be

removed this summer can be seen at the left of the last image.

The NSSK and SSS would like to thank the BCA for all their good work in the community and allowing us to share our current efforts with you.



Post Rock Breaking No Flood Flows



Post Rock Breaking Flows (December 2018)

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### **Call to action**

by Christine Miller

North Shore Black Bear Society

The call finally came in on May 27 - a bear had been sighted in our neighbourhood! I recorded the information with mixed feelings. I was excited to know that the bear had survived another year in spite of the hardships of living near people. The instinct to

follow their noses in search of food can create problems for people and bears, and all too often the bears pay with their lives.

The North Shore Black Bear Society jumped into action and hung signs and distributed information to the area.

This was the first sighting report the North Shore Black Bear Society has received in 2019 from the Seymour Heights-Blueridge area, although many bears have been reported throughout the North Shore, and one was killed in Upper Westlynn in Lynn Valley in April for breaking into garbage and organics carts that were stored outdoors.

One of the challenges our residents are facing is figuring out how to effectively manage kitchen scraps and household garbage with the two carts that each house was issued. Many people still regard the carts as bear proof when in fact they are only bear resistant. If the carts are stored outside containing odorous food scraps (and dirty diapers), it is possible a bear will try to access the contents. Thankfully, many people follow the advice of the District of North Vancouver and the North Shore Black Bear Society to freeze odorous foods scraps, especially meat and fish, until the morning of collection, but until it is a more widespread practice bears will receive enough rewards to keep coming back. And mother bears teach their cubs about the rewards that can be found near people's homes.

You might recall that one of the bears that was killed last year near Riverside Drive was the mother of two cubs. They had been spending time in the community locating accessible carts. After the mother was killed, the cubs were rescued; sent to Critter Care, a wildlife rehabilitation centre in Langley, for a year; and named Seymour (male) and River (female). Reports from Critter Care staff say they have grown into healthy and energetic yearlings. They will be released into a wilderness area after the spring bear hunt. Thanks goes to the residents who generously helped to sponsor the cubs at Critter Care.

We must remember that bears are not out to harm people of any size; instead, they are looking for other food rewards in the community: garbage & food scraps, bird seed & suet, pet food, contents of outdoor fridges & freezers, and grease traps on dirty barbecues. Remember to keep your garage door closed as much as possible. No carts – garbage or organics, locked or unlocked – are to be placed at curbside before 5:30 on collection morning as per the District of North Vancouver Solid Waste Bylaw No. 7631. This bylaw is presently being enforced.

Now that you know there is a bear around, here are some safety tips:

- To avoid a surprise encounter, use your voice to alert wildlife of your presence, especially when moving around corners, or travelling near bushes, on paths between streets, and on our local trails.
- If you encounter a bear that has not noticed you, quietly and slowly retreat backwards and change your route.
- If you encounter a bear and he is aware of your presence, stay calm! Speak in a calm voice as you back away.
- Do not try to scare a bear away from a food source. It is hard to move a hungry bear off food. Wait until he is finished eating and has left, and then remove the

attractant. He will return again because bears remember where they found rewards.

- Keep your dog on leash on the street and on trails, and under close supervision on your property. If a dog corners a bear, especially if there is no tree for the bear to climb, the bear might injure your dog.
- Do not get close to wildlife to photograph. Using a smart phone for wildlife photography is not smart! We need to respect the space of wildlife to prevent a dangerous situation. In addition, bears that get accustomed to being close to people can be classified as “habituated to people” and they might be killed.

To report sightings or get more information, visit [northshorebears.com](http://northshorebears.com), email [nsbbsociety@gmail.com](mailto:nsbbsociety@gmail.com) or phone 604.317.4911.



*Bears often leave the forest in search of food in the neighbourhood.* Photo Norm L



*Young bears develop an appetite for household waste*

Photo Dylan M



*This big bear is wearing an ear tag because he was given a second chance with a short-distance relocation. But he came back, as they usually do.*

Photo Dylan M



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