

2021 Blueridge Community Association Annual General Meeting Chair's Report

At the BCA's Annual General Meeting on September 14, 2021, the current Chair, Eric G. Andersen pointed out the following highlights for the BCA for 2020-2021:

Due to COVID-19 we had to postpone our AGM (a Zoom call) from May to November, 2020, so the previous period covered was actually a total of 18 months, instead of the usual 12 months period.

We are now hosting our AGM in September this year, and we hope to be back on schedule with our regular AGM in May, 2022.

This means that the current period was only 10 months (November till September).

FIRST OF ALL: A HUGE 'THANK YOU' TO EVERYONE WHO HAS VOLUNTEERED HIS/HER TIME TO THE BCA during this difficult time.

It has been said countless times before, but the BCA could not operate without EVERYONE's assistance: directors, volunteers and meeting participants alike.

1/ our **scholarship** was handed out to a Blueridge youth for the sixth time.

2/ our **'Project Community'** has expanded from cleaning of fireplaces & furnaces to cleaning of gutters, cleaning of chimneys and hedge, tree trimming, house painting and carpet cleaning – it has become quite popular.

3/ the BCA continues to be in contact with Recreation Sites & Trails (from the provincial government) regarding a **potential trail from somewhere in Blueridge to Parkgate** as well as **the CMHC Mt. Seymour Recreation Access Management Plan**. This will take time and patience, but we are helping them to reach out to our community with an on-line survey.

4/ no in-person **BCA meetings** have been held since September, 2019, due to COVID, however, a successful on-line meeting with introduction to the many BCA activities was held in June, 'Something's happening here'.

5/ the **Blueridge Garden** remains a huge asset with very active participants.

6/ our **finances** are in a reasonable shape and have increased marginally thanks to the increasing number of ads that are included in the monthly Blueridge Bulletin.

We have four sub-accounts: Blueridge Good Neighbour Day, Farmers' Market money (now dedicated for our yearly scholarship), the Blueridge Garden and the general account.

7/ three **newsletters** (March 2021 (8 pages), June 2021 (8 pages), and September 2021 (4 pages)) were prepared in 2020-2021 which reached every household in Blueridge/Seymour Heights (thanks strictly to BCA volunteers!).

8/ for the first time we were able to hand out the first annual **Blueridge Awards** in June for which we had five categories.

9/ thanks to an idea from a local resident, the BCA managed to raise about \$3,200 by **selling the old Blueridge street signs** (kindly donated by the District of North Vancouver) at an on-line auction in March.

10/ the BCA has a regularly updated **website**: www.blueridgeca.org and **Facebook** page as well as our main e-mail address: info@blueridgeca.org. We have over 700 e-mail recipients in Blueridge/Seymour Heights (gone up from 589 last year and 530 the year before).

We have a Twitter account located @BlueridgeCA (if people want to "follow" us). Different hashtags associated with our other account such as #SharingGarden. We now also have an Instagram account.

A new and improved website will be launched in September.

11/ the BCA now has a **Blueridge Business Directory** on our website.

12/ the BCA has notified its members of Zoom meetings and events of potential interest to them. This is done through our Communication Officer's '**Blueridge Bulletin**', which goes out monthly, and numerous postings on Facebook. We are accepting ads in this e-newsletter

13/ the BCA has **representatives** on the Community Advisory Panel, Canlan Ice-Sports Committee, the Neighbourhood Advisory Committee and North Vancouver Community Associations Network (NVCAN).

14/ in view of COVID most of the BCA committees have been dormant or ad hoc. The committees include: **a traffic committee, a Blueridge Good Neighbour Day committee, a trails committee (hosting walks in the neighbourhood), a Blueridge Garden committee, a scholarship committee, a Good Neighbour Greeting committee, a nominating committee, a Blueridge Awards Committee, a Blueridge Cares committee, a Community Lands Task Force and a Dîner en Bleu committee.**

15/ the BCA has assisted the **Traffic and Parking Task force** dealing with the influx of visitors in our area due to the trail access in upper Blueridge.

16/ the BCA is planning on a **creek clean-up** on September 26 spearheaded by a local volunteer.

17/ the BCA continues to monitor the situation regarding the **future of Blueridge Elementary School**.

18/ we offered **electronic recycling** in June partnering with the Electronic Recycling Association with donations going to the Blueridge Garden

19/ the BCA co-founded the **Seymour Trail Liaison** with the North Shore Mountain Bike Association, with a meeting in the spring and one scheduled in September.

20/ the BCA has its own **updated brochure** including social media information and local information.

21/ the BCA continues to offer **baby, pet and house-sitting services**.

22/ due to COVID-19 the BCA embarked on a number of rounds of **Blueridge Community Care Packages**.

23/ the BCA continues to visit and **greet all new Blueridge/Seymour Heights residents** when they move to the area. Due to COVID this has been done by leaving our brochure in their mailbox.

24/ in September the BCA co-hosted an **All Candidates Meeting** via Zoom for the federal election.

25/ the BCA offered its first **local trail maintenance** day in May which was, in fact overbooked (limitations due to COVID).

We also offered a **street cleanup** in May.

26/ before Christmas the **Blueridge Cares Committee** managed to raise \$5,250 in gifts and cash which were donated to six local families

27/ the BCA joined the **'Fundraise with Express' program** offered by Return-It

28/ the BCA started the **Blueridge Book Club** in July

Our **goals for 2021-2022** include:

to continue looking for **younger residents for our inclusive board**,

support our **volunteer coordinator**

start the **FireSmart program** in Blueridge,

try new **fundraising** (perhaps paper-shredding and/or scarecrows?)

improve how to **advertize and highlight our many activities**