

# Blueridge Community News

## 2005 Good Neighbour Day

By Michele McKnight

Sunday September 11th was a beautiful day for the 8th annual Blueridge Good Neighbour Day. We had a great response to the return of the event to Blueridge Elementary School, which many felt added to the community atmosphere.

Good Neighbour Day kicked off with a huge procession through our neighbourhood. It was probably one of our **biggest** and best parades, with North Vancouver RCMP Police, North Shore Fire leading the way for the estimated 100 children and parents who dressed up in costumes and decorated their bikes. Once at Blueridge School, everyone enjoyed a hearty and tasty pancake breakfast served by Julie Shaw and her staff. Many people commented on the great musical entertainment provided by Lotus and Celtic Medley and as always, Cinemazoo was a big hit with the kids. The Jump Crew displayed some awesome bike jumping maneuvers that thrilled everyone young and old and the silent auction had some great items, which earned over \$2500 for BGND.



Many local community services and business set up community tables to contribute to our event: Mount Seymour Lions Club, North Shore Black Bear Network, Seymour Art Gallery - Kids Project, John Henry Bikes, North Vancouver Recreation Commission, the Ron Andrews Rec Centre; Jell E Bean from Kelsey's Restaurant; Ever After Jewelry Design and Monique Noel from Mary Kay Cosmetics.

Next BCA Meeting - Jan 10, 2006 Blueridge School, 7pm

I would like to recognize some of the many volunteers who made this event a success: Eric Andersen, Rick Greenwell, Lesley Brooks, Anne Cockle, Don S. Williams, Jocelyn Clennet, Dave Lamont, Judith Spencer, Marc Stokes, Robert Duncan, Anita Montgomery and grade 7 students from Blueridge and Seymour Heights Elementary Schools. There are also many other unnamed volunteers who helped out in a variety of ways and to each of you we thank you!

We are already planning for next year's event and we hope to add more activities and entertainment and of course, we plan on making this event even more successful. Good Neighbour Day 2006 will take place in June at Blueridge Elementary School, so get ready to mark your calendar!

Please also consider volunteering a few hours on the BGND Committee and help bring families and friends together to celebrate the pride we have for our community.

You are invited to participate in the public election meeting at Seymour United Church.  
Where: 1200 Parkgate Avenue  
When: November 15 at 7:00pm

## All Candidates Meeting

By Eric Andersen

As has now been the case for the last 6-7 years the Blueridge Community Association continues to be very proactive when it comes to all candidates meetings. We have been co-sponsoring these events for the elections at all three levels of government. The upcoming municipal election on November 19 will be no exception. We have again joined forces with the Mount Seymour United Church and the Seymour Community Association

and will co-host an all candidates meeting at the Mount Seymour United Church, starting at 7 PM on Tuesday, November 15th. This will be your chance to ask the candidates some hard questions which should hopefully help all of us deciding how to get the very best Mayor and Council for the next three years. These meetings are a very important part of an election and a democracy, and we urge all our friends and neighbours in Blueridge/Seymour Heights to come out and participate in this important event. A number of other all candidates meetings are scheduled both before and after our own, but all in the Western part of the North Vancouver District.

For those of you unable to make this or other all candidates meetings please note that you will find all the candidates' responses to FONVCA's well-chosen and interesting questions on the website: [www.fonvca.org](http://www.fonvca.org). FONVCA stands for the Federation of North Vancouver Community Associations and is an umbrella organization for the community associations primarily in the North Vancouver District. It is not political, but its primary goal is the sharing of information between the community associations across the District. The Blueridge Community Association is an active member of FONVCA.

## Local Candidates

By Eric Andersen

No less than three residents of Blueridge/Seymour Heights have chosen to run at the upcoming election.

Maureen McKeon Holmes of 1688 Larkhall Crescent, who has been on Council for three years, has chosen to run for Mayor and will be running against four other candidates, including two from the Seymour area. Sixteen candidates are running for 6 Councillor positions. None of them are living in Blueridge/Seymour Heights, but four of them live in the Seymour area. Ginny Diebolt of 1358 Lennox is an incumbent who is running for school trustee. Jane Thornthwaite of 2675 Wyat Place is a first time school trustee candidate. A total of four trustees must be elected out of six candidates.

Find out for yourself who all of the candidates are, what they stand for, what they believe is good for the community, how much community involvement have they had, ask them tough

questions BEFORE the election. Practically all the candidates have e-mail addresses - which can be found on the North Vancouver District's website, [www.dnv.org](http://www.dnv.org) - and they all have phone numbers listed on the same website, so please take the time to contact them and find out for yourself and don't let individuals with their own agenda tell you whom to vote for.

Above all: make sure that you vote on November 19 for Mayor, Councillor (up to 6) and School Trustee (up to 4). Remember that you do not have to vote for all, but you may elect only to vote for Mayor and a couple of the other ones. Vote! Vote! Vote!

## The Bear Truth

By Christine Miller

There are fewer bears around the North Shore now that about 50 have been translocated. Have we found the solution to our bear problems? **Absolutely not!** Translocation is NOT a solution; it merely mitigates the issue.

Translocation is extremely hard on the bears and it's very expensive. And we don't know what happens to them once they have been moved. Are they easy prey for hunters? Do some starve to death with no human attractants to satisfy their hunger? We know that some bears become habituated to human attractants, and they will travel long distances over and through obstacles, such as rivers and mountain ranges, to return to communities. These bears have to be shot, like the two tagged ones that showed up recently in Princeton.

Not only does feeding the bears from our garbage cans, birdfeeders and fruit trees attract and habituate bears, it also interferes with natural selection. Dr. Woods from Columbia Mountain Institute in Revelstoke has determined that the DNA of "urban bears" is higher in protein than the DNA of their wild relatives. Higher protein leads to more cubs because a fetus will not develop in bears with too little protein. Only the females with adequate protein give birth. That's nature's way. Unnatural food from human attractants boosts the protein level and more bears are born.

What's the solution then? It's simple --- the management of garbage, bird seed and fruit trees is all that is required. Without improved

management in our community, new bears will be attracted to take the place of those that have been translocated. We all need to continue to work together to decrease the human attractants that bring the bears out of the forests and into our yards.

For more information about how you can help our community, including how to purchase of a bear-proof garbage container for storing garbage safely outside, contact the North Shore Black Bear Network at 604.990.BEAR or go to [www.NorthShoreBears.ca](http://www.NorthShoreBears.ca).

## Block Watch

By Eric Andersen

Since September 1, 2004, the following break & enters in our area were reported to the RCMP:

11/02 - 2500 Carnation St (attempt)  
02/01 - 2500 Keats Rd (attempt)  
04/07 - 2500 Byron Rd  
05/21 - 2800 Mount Seymour Parkway  
06/19 - 1400 Emerson Way  
07/13 - 1300 Emerson Way (attempt)  
07/18 - 1700 Berkley Rd  
08/11 - 2100 Berkley Rd  
08/12 - 2500 Carnation St  
08/14 - 2400 Bendale Rd  
08/15 - 2500 Belloc St  
08/27 - 2800 Carnation St.  
09/09 - 1900 Dunrobin Cres.

The above is gives an average of about one B&E (including attempts) in Blueridge/Seymour Heights every month, but clearly the thieves have been very active during the summer and Christmas periods. This should be a reminder for everyone to ask your neighbours to look after your house when you are not around, to take in your mail and newspapers and turn your lights on and off etc.

Blueridge/Seymour Heights has one of the highest participation in Block Watch on the whole North Shore, so if you are not already a member of Block Watch please contact the Block Watch office at the RCMP (604 985 0800) or your Area Coordinator (Eric Andersen - 604 929 6849) and they will put you in contact with your local Zone Coordinator or Captain.

Web - <http://members.shaw.ca/blueridgeca/>  
Email - [blueridgeca@shaw.ca](mailto:blueridgeca@shaw.ca)

## Caution Before You Move to Renovate

By Fiona Marshall White

At the cost of buying a home these days and the many taxes involved, a word of caution if thinking of renovation either what you have or what you may be thinking of moving to!

When we purchased our current home in Blueridge just 4 years ago, we discussed the potential of updating 2 bedrooms with the realtor at the time. "Great idea" she said. "Would make total sense!". Yes ... until you know the bylaws!!

The zoning of all neighbourhoods throughout District of North Vancouver was changed back in the early '90's. Many our homes were built before that time and to the code of the time. Since the change of zoning, many of these homes are now either built over the new allowance or built to the max of the new allowance. Hence ... word of caution... no changes may well be allowed!

When thinking of renovating a home ... be sure you know exactly the square footage you have. Not what you think you have ... but the exact. Then check your lot zoning via the District. Don't be fooled by ads by realtors saying "add over the garage" - "ready to renovate"! You may be fooled into buying something that cannot be changed and some realtors are really not sure of the exact zoning themselves unfortunately and are not prepared to go the distance to ensure you have the correct information as it may result in lack of saleable property.

The Variance process in this District is very strict and hard fast. In many cases it just isn't worth the anxiety!! Check out the CURRENT ZONING BY-LAWS of current or prospective properties yourself via the District of North Vancouver!!

### Blueridge Community Association

**Newsletter Editor:** Michael McKnight

**Chair:** Eric Andersen, 604-929-6849

**Directors:** Lesley Brooks, Alf Cockle, Rick Greenwell, Don S. Williams, Stephen Parker (Treasurer), Michael McKnight

**Editor's Note:** The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual writers and not official positions held by the Blueridge Community Association.

## Your Unwanted Car Can Save Lives

By Robert Duncan

The North Shore Lifeboat Society is an all volunteer organization that provides and mans the 3 Search and Rescue Boats that cover Indian Arm, Vancouver Harbor, English Bay, West Vancouver and Howe Sound.

Over 70 Marine Search & Rescue, plus 30 Special Event Missions per year, with over **120 Lives** Saved or Assisted per year.



For more information visit our web site: <http://www.northshorelifeboat.ca>

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