

Blueridge Community News

Bear Aware!

By Christine Miller Bear . Aware Program Delivery Specialist

When do 28 garbage cans become two? In Blueridge in August 2008! We are talking about garbage cans being placed at curbside before the morning of pickup. Thanks to a handful of dedicated volunteers with the North Shore Black Bear Society, Blueridge and three other areas of North Vancouver had success in reducing garbage placed early at curbside. These projects required late night neighbourhood patrols, delivery of education packages and communication with the bylaw office. Yes, it has been an offence to put your garbage out at curbside before the morning of pickup since January, 2008.

We have learned many sad facts about how bad garbage can be for bears. It can make them unhealthy and malnourished. Autopsies have found plugs of plastic bags blocking bears' digestive systems. Residents have found bear scat filled with plastic bags. And the more garbage (and fruit, bird feed and unmanaged composts) that remain accessible to the bears, the more accustomed they become to spending time in our neighbourhoods. And as bears lose their fear of humans and lay claim to attractants on our property, the possibility of human injury increases.

2008 has been a challenging bear season as the berry crops were poor and tolerance for bears was diminished by several unfortunate events. These circumstances have encouraged many residents to improve their habits and manage their attractants more effectively. There is no shortage of information for those who wish to participate in the solution, including helpful websites – www.bearaware.bc.ca and www.northshorebears.com and phone numbers – 604.990.BEAR and 604.317.4911.

2009 promises hope for people and bears on the North Shore. Many dumpsters east of the Seymour River that had become regular feeding stations for bears are being changed to bear-proof models. The Coquitlam study of three bear-resistant residential garbage cans was concluded last month, and once the results are released, the District, City and local bear organizations will be able to recommend a bear-resistant container for residents who cannot store their garbage indoors. Reduced human/bear conflict in our community due to less garbage smorgasbords available to bears in 2009 will be a dream come true!

Seylynn Village

By Eric Andersen

Although the scheduled Seylynn Village is not inside Seymour we should all be aware of this potential development. It is situated on 5.7 acres of land near Highway #1, north of Fern Street and east of Mountain Highway. A public hearing about this development is likely to take place on this side of New Year, so if you have not already attended the Open Houses about this large project now is the time to get informed.

Those in favor stress the importance of creating housing on the North Shore for families starting up. Seylynn Village is close to a high number of jobs and it is anticipated that many residents will be walking to/from work. 70 units will be reserved for affordable housing. Most people will agree that the area in question needs a face-lift rather badly.

Others anticipate that adding 700 units in an area that already frequently experiences traffic jams in rush hours is bound to make a bad situation worse.

The complex is comprised of two x 25 storey towers (444 units), one x 9 storey mid-rise (106 units), one x 6 storey (6 live/work units), two x 4 storey low-rise (74 units) and one x 4 storey low-rise (70 affordable housing units) for a grand total of 700 units. Totally 910 parking spaces will be included in the project.

BCA meeting – Please join our next BCA meeting, Tuesday, 11/04, at 7 PM at Blueridge Elementary School (in the gym)!

Municipal election – Vote! Vote! Vote!

By Eric Andersen

Every three years we have our chance to decide who will be our next Mayor and six Councillors. Unfortunately only very few people take the time to vote when it comes to municipal elections. The last four elections in the District of North Vancouver (DNV) had the following voter lousy turnout: 1996 28% - 1999 35% - 2002 36% and a very disappointing 30% last time in 2005 (let's even forget the 24% at the 2004 by-election). There could be many reasons for not voting at these elections, but a likely guess is that many people simply do not follow the municipal scene well enough to know who to vote for. Unlike other municipalities the candidates for Council in the DNV are rarely running on a slate or for a direct political party (at least officially). This may make it even harder to find the right candidates.

Remember that you do NOT have to vote for all 7 members of the next Council. You can vote for anything from one candidate all the way to 7 - one for Mayor and 6 for Council.

The importance of municipal politics cannot be stressed enough. The ultimate weapon Council has is the right and ability to zone and rezone. Any change to a present zoning in the DNV has to be approved by Council, usually after a public hearing. However, the amount of other topics covered by your municipal politicians is staggering: RMCP, the Fire Department, Parks, roads, garbage collection, sidewalks, rec centers, community centers, libraries, developments, adoption of the Official Community Plan and the Local Plans, and the list goes on and on. In fact, much more of our daily life is affected by our municipal politicians than those based in Victoria and Ottawa. Another reason that it is so strange that more residents do not take the time to vote.

How do you pick the best candidates? The incumbents certainly have a great chance of re-election in view of their name recognition. They have all been quoted several times in the local newspapers and some people may recognize them from the Council meetings which are televised, sometimes live on Monday night and sometimes the following Saturday. It is always hard for new candidates to manage to get elected, as it is not easy to get out your message in the short four weeks that the campaign is taking place before election day, this year Saturday, November 15.

This election will bring at least one new face to Council, since Councillor Janice Harris after 15 years on Council has decided to retire. She should be thanked for her dedication over that period of time.

The Blueridge Community Association is extremely proud to have co-hosted All Candidates meetings for EVERY election at all levels of government, since 1999. This year will be no exception, but unfortunately it was extremely difficult to find a location for the municipal All Candidates meeting and it will have taken place well before this newsletter comes out. We hope that you were able to attend the meeting at the Seymour Heights School on October 22! The DNV's excellent website shows where and when ALL the All Candidates meetings are taking place, so you can still attend one, in case you missed the local meeting.

Only 1075 people voted at Blueridge Elementary School in 2005 (Seymour Heights School is not used as a voting station) – pretty dismal considering we have about 1450 housing units in Blueridge/Seymour Heights, but pretty much in line with the low voter turn-out in the DNV.

Do yourself and your community a favor: read up on the candidates, attend All Candidates meetings, ask them questions, read about the election in the local papers and GO OUT AND VOTE on November 15!!! This is the only way democracy works.

Blueridge Good Neighbour Day 2008

By Eric Andersen

In spite of rather cold and a bit wet weather the 11th consecutive Blueridge Good Neighbour Day was a big success. The attendance was great and the parade, that started it all, drew a great crowd where everyone got into this year's African theme. Local politicians, an RCMP officer in her splendid red serge and the Fire Department took part in this.

A free hotdog lunch prepared by the Rotary Club of Lions Gate North Vancouver was provided for the first 500 lucky ones and there was free cotton candy, Tim Horton's coffee and popcorn galore.

New additions had been added to the Kids' Carnival - including the Fun Station from Mad Science and no less than four bouncy castles. There were the Laughing Stock Pony Rides, Yukon Dan, the Silent Auction and Bell E Buttons the Clown as usual. Two superb local bands performed, The Get Downs and Mr M and the All Knighters, and Matthew Johnson, a great magician, kept kids of all ages entertained.

A number of community tables were set up, both local businesses and various non-profit groups and agencies. This is a great event that really gets the residents together - it's all about building a community. Fun was had by everyone. We can only strongly encourage other communities to have their own community days and find out how much fun it is to do! Please visit <http://photoshare.shaw.ca/gallery/blueridgeca/> for photos from this year's event!



Vandalism at Blueridge Elementary School

By Eric Andersen

It was very discouraging to note during the summer that so many windows were broken at Blueridge Elementary School. Too bad that enjoying a nice warm summer evening for some must mean breaking windows at the local elementary school. The repairs sadly will have to come out of the School Board's budget, which means everyone's taxes.

Should you hear or see any suspicious activity near our schools at night (or any other time, of course), please contact the RCMP immediately. This senseless destruction of public property has to stop, and we cannot rely on the RCMP to be there all the time. Let's all take responsibility and ACT when/if we witness such destruction.

Blueridge Booster Pump Station Project

By Eric Andersen

As reported in our last newsletter of May the DNV has to construct a water pump station to allow the residents to receive similar water pressures as they have in the past. This project was necessitated by the construction of Metro Vancouver's Water filtration plant which will cause a significant decrease in water pressure in the pipes in the northern part of Blueridge. Due to the configuration of the District's water distribution system, much of the higher elevations of an area stretching from approximately Hyannis point to Indian River Drive would experience lower water pressures than they currently have.

A meeting was held on the site situated on the north-west corner of Berkley and Hyannis on 09/17 for the most affected residents. Mr. Lorn Carter represented the DNV and answered everyone's questions. If you wish to find out more about this project please find more (including plans) on the BCA's website

<http://members.shaw.ca/blueridgeca/>

Block Watch

By Eric Andersen

Since May 1, 2007, through the end of August, 2008, the following break and enters were reported in the Blueridge/Seymour Heights area:

May 03	1800 block Larkhall Cr.
May 04	1000 block Berkley Road
June 14	900 block Berkley Road
June 18	900 block Berkley Road (attempt)
July 27	2600 block Standish Drive
September 04	1500 block Lennox Street
December 08	2800 block Mount Seymour Parkway
December 09	2800 block Mount Seymour Parkway

Blueridge/Seymour Heights is the area in North Vancouver with the highest percentage of Block Watch participation. This year Block Watch celebrated its 20 years in North Vancouver.

If you are not already in Block Watch or if you just moved to the area and do not know who your Captain is, please contact your local Area Coordinator, Eric G. Andersen (604 929 6849), who will make sure that you get in touch with the right party - or you can call the Block Watch office directly, i.e. Jayne Brownlow, 604-982-8911 (Local 8911).

Coming Soon... the Blueridge Bartering Club (BBC)!!!

By Iain Bendall

Re-thinking your family finances? Dealing with unexpected economic uncertainty? Interested in toning down some family expenses and building some community spirit at the same time? Then check out the upcoming BBC!

Yes, its "back to the days of yore" for local Blueridge residents - back to a time when neighbours were closer and cooperation was a way of life - a time when local residents saved both time and money by cooperating and exchanging various assets at a local level. Do you have goods, services or other items that you would like to exchange for reciprocal benefits with your neighbours? Items you need, or perhaps need to be rid of? Ideas around shared transportation arrangements? Vacation destinations to trade? Services you require, or can offer, locally? If so, then the upcoming BBC is for you!!

Your local BCA Executive is in the process of creating a no-fee, not for profit community exchange network for goods and services for local residents. If you are able to assist in setting up this program, BCA exec members are committed to keep it going! We merely require a little IT help to get it up and running, and would also welcome some local input on such issues as format, access, advertising, categories, update frequency, privacy issues and vetting submissions. If you are willing to be part of setting up this exciting BCA initiative, please contact the executive by email and an executive member will contact you!

Blueridge Good Neighbour Day Silent Auction Sponsors:

We would like to say A BIG THANK YOU to all the sponsors who donated generously to help make our silent auction the best ever.
Your Neighbourhood businesses that Support BGND.

Barb Wilks – Sutton	Chrysalis Your Urban Refuge	Michelle Alford – INVIS
North Shore Credit Union	Kosta's Taverna Restaurant	White Spot
Shoppers Drug Mart	3P Natural & Exotic Meats	Raven Pub
Park and Tilford Starbucks	Maa Yoga	London Drugs
Seymour Golf & Country Club	The Kamali Family	Indigo/Chapters
Super Value	Little Caesars	Dykhof Nurseries
Bean Around the World	Macy's	Capilano College
Safeway	Mystic Wardrobe	Merletti Construction
COBBS Bread	Carol's Costume Corner	North Shore Credit Union
Dollarton Starbucks	Northlands Bar & Grill	Mike Minchin – Prudential
North Shore Recycling	Fruition Day Spa	Pacific Honda
Village Dental Centre	Solomon Living	Kuddle Muddle
Sacre Family	M & M Meat Shop	Earls Restaurant
Cove Bikes	Subway	Arms Reach Bistro
Canadian Tire	Mount Seymour Spirits	Seymour Chiropractic
Save-on-Foods	Cam Clark Ford Lincoln	Deep Cove Kayak
Deep Cove Music	Canlan Ice Sports – North Shore	Success Dog Grooming
Black Bear Pub	Chevron Town Pantry	HMV
Vancouver Water Ski Club	Terry's Roofing & Renovations	North Vancouver Recreation Commission
Jefferies Dry Cleaner	Monica Noel – Mary Kay	Lazerdome Plus – Dollarton
Dr. Katherine McKay – Mt Seymour Optometry Clinic	North Shore Sport Swap	Impex Auto Service
Red Tom-Bo	North Shore Sports Medicine	Belmondo Café

Cash Donations:

Brian Rybchinsky – RE/Max Crest Realty	Kris and Majid Rohani	The Camali Family
Judy Killeen – Sutton	Vanport Canada	Hynes Development
Cowichan Lumber	IRCA Development	Carter Wolf Chev Olds
Matthew's Family	Mike Alford and Marco Reichgeld – Sutton	

Our website

The BCA has had its own website for a number of years, but NEVER have we had so much information and it gets continuously updated. Kudos to our webmaster, Michele McKnight, who constantly ensures that it gets updated and has done a tremendous job for the BCA!

We would still encourage you all to bring more local info that Michele can post on the website. Remember it will only get better as more people take the time to send us pictures, articles, links, questions, and, yes, the BCA will accept criticism!

Pictures of old Blueridge are in the works and hopefully we should be able to post the first ones in the near future.

Our website is <http://members.shaw.ca/blueridgeca/> - don't miss it!

Seymour - Capilano Water Utility Projects

By Anne Cockle – Member of C.M.A.C.

The Large Filtration Plant and surrounding and support projects are very close to completion. Final testing of electrical, plumbing and landscaping are being completed at this time. It is expected we will have water from the plant early in 2009. We can receive water from the plant without the twin tunnels being finished. There will be lots of advertising and publicity for us to use tap water for drinking water in future as this will be the finest and purest water in North America and the world.

The twin tunnels are still shut down but are being maintained at this time. The twin tunnels are half way to their final destination at the Cleveland Dam. The tenders are out and there are 3 interested consortiums so far. The tender is open until the end of October 2008. This delay will put the tunnels back 1 year. It is hoped the drilling will commence early in 2009.

The public road to Rice Lake and the Filtration Plant has been upgraded and newly paved and is open to the public.

Many of the related projects such as the Seymour Dam upgrading and the pumping station at the Cleveland Dam plus other related construction are all near completion or are completed.

Interesting to us in Blueridge is the Maplewood Creek Park at Mount Seymour Parkway and Seymour River where construction is taking place at this time. The Department of Fisheries required a realignment of Maplewood Creek and a new channel and refuge ponds, which will wind their way through the parkland then rejoin the existing creek. There is a walking trail and lookout area being constructed to view fish and will be open to the public on completion. The park should be finished by the end of October 2008. This park will be a new District of North Vancouver park.

NOTE: The park construction has been halted as of October 10, 2008 by Squamish First Nation as they claim this is their land and claim that they have not been notified. There is hope that the almost completed park can be finished and that we can all enjoy it.

Recipe Corner!

By Sonia McLeod

Are you stumped on what to make for your next soirée? Well, have I got a menu for you!

This dish can be made a day ahead to marinate then 1 hour before, you assemble...pop it into the oven and your ready to go!

Chicken Blueridge Serves 10 to 12

10 lbs of chicken (chicken legs are perfect for parties...easy finger food!)

1 head of garlic, peeled and finely pureed

¼ cup dried oregano

Course salt and fresh ground pepper to taste

½ cup red wine vinegar

½ cup olive oil

1 cup raisins (you could also use prunes cut in half, dried cranberries...apricots)

½ cup of sliced green olives

½ cup capers with a bit of juice

6 bay leaves

1 cup brown sugar

1 cup white wine

¼ cup fresh Italian parsley or cilantro

In a large bowl combine chicken and next 9 ingredients (up to and including the bay leaves) cover and marinate overnight.

Preheat oven at 350F

Arrange chicken in a single layer in one or two large, shallow baking pans and spoon marinade over it evenly. Sprinkle chicken pieces with brown sugar and pour white wine around them.

Bake for 50 minutes to 1 hour, basting frequently with pan juices. Chicken is done when thigh pieces, pricked with a fork at their thickest, yield clear yellow (rather than pink) juice.

With slotted spoon transfer chicken, raisins, olives and capers to a serving platter. Moisten with a few spoonfuls of pan juices and sprinkle with parsley. Place remaining sauce in sauceboat.

To accompany the chicken, simply place small white potatoes (tossed in olive oil and salt) on a cookie pan and roast at 400F for 30-45min.

Last but not least....steam your favorite vegetable and you have a dinner your guests won't forget. Enjoy!

We are always looking for people to join the North Vancouver Save Our Shores Society group in the ongoing task of responsible stewardship of our Foreshore and Beach. Phone Maureen Bragg 604-985-7272 for further information concerning the worthwhile work we do.

See What the North Shore News has to say about Community Associations!

"Stay plugged in" Article published: October 3, 2008

Curious about what's happening in your neighbourhood? Want to stay up-to-date with your local community association? Then visit www.dnv.org. The District's website contains contact information and website links for all its local community associations – helping you stay in touch.

Community Associations represent your neighbourhood to the District; their mandate is to improve the quality of life in your community. They do so by representing a unified voice to District Council on any issues or concerns regarding your neighbourhoods. They are also involved in community planning, and play an important role in helping foster community pride.

Community Associations are a great source of information and are an excellent way to stay involved and up-to-date on the events in your community. Most community associations hold regular meeting for all community members to discuss issues and events relevant to their neighbourhoods. Many have their own regularly-updated websites, helping you stay 'in the know'.

The Blueridge, Lynn Valley, Maplewood, Mount Fromme Residents, Pemberton Heights and Seymour Valley Community Associations all have detailed websites accessible through www.dnv.org. Each provides its community with a wealth of information pertinent to living in their unique pocket of the District. Many of these community association websites link to other community resources, some have maps of their neighbourhoods, links to community newsletters and most have a community events calendar.

Community Associations help foster community pride and promote community involvement. To Keep up-to-date with all your neighbourhood news and to get to know your local community association, visit www.dnv.org.

North Shore Save Our Shores Society

By Alf Cockle

Presidents Report 2008

This year North Vancouver Save Our Shores Society [NVSOSS] is seeing the results of its efforts to raise public awareness of the declining condition of our Foreshores and Beaches and how necessary it is to protect them from further desecration. Hopefully we have instigated a process of restoration and preservation for future generations.

Other groups are starting to form in the Seymour Community, concerned with the proliferation of private docks along the foreshore. This is welcome support and goes along with the recommendations of NVSOSS for a shared dock system. Our preference remains for no docks. Alternative methods of moorage should be investigated, for example mooring buoys.

This year the Vancouver Port Authority approached NVSOSS and the people of the Seymour Community for the first time and asked for comments on a dock application in the Harris Beach area. The application was denied after considerable public input voicing opposition to any dock in Harris Bay.

In collaboration with the District of North Vancouver the "Save Our Shores" group, have started a new project, which involves the clearing and cleaning up of beach accesses. The first to be tackled was the new waterfront park at Lowry Lane, which NVSOSS helped to plant. We cleaned out the weeds and cut down the recurring Knot weed. Later we concentrated on the street end at the bottom of Dollar road. This beach access was once a very pleasant, nicely landscaped street end, but had become badly overgrown with weeds. We plan to return shortly to do some restorative planting. Also on the list, is the planting of the view point at the end of Panorama Drive. This work is due to commence within a few weeks, volunteers for this worthwhile project would be most welcome.