



# Blueridge Community News

**Don't miss the Blueridge Community Association –  
Annual General Meeting Wednesday, May 10th at 7 PM at  
Blueridge Elementary School**

## **The Blueridge Community Association's Annual General Meeting**

*Written by: Eric Andersen*

On May 10 at 7 PM we will have the BCA's AGM at the Blueridge Elementary School's library where we meet every second month.

I have been the Chair of this association for the last 16 years and must admit that I would very much like it if more residents agreed to join our board of directors as new blood is always needed on any board.

Any community association can only be as good as YOU, the members, are willing and prepared to make it. It all depends on the work that YOU put into it, as it is YOUR community association.

Our association continues with our regular activities which include Blueridge Good Neighbour Day (June 12 this year), the creek clean-ups (four over the last 7 months), all-candidates meetings (one held in April before the federal election and another will be held in October/November before the municipal election) and we send out newsletters a couple of times a year that go out to every household in Blueridge/Seymour Heights, distributed strictly by volunteers.

An Adopt-a-Street program will be suggested at our AGM, but whether we push for it will depend on the support and not at least the enthusiasm shown that day.

We are ALWAYS open for new suggestions from our members, so please bring your ideas to the AGM or send us your input.

The BCA has its own website:

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

and our e-mail address is [blueridgeca@shaw.ca](mailto:blueridgeca@shaw.ca).

The association can only get better when its member contribute more, so we are always hoping to hear more from YOU, our members and neighbours, the residents of Blueridge/Seymour Heights.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members of our community who have volunteered their time for the BCA, be it as directors on our board, as members on various committees (in and outside of Blueridge/Seymour Heights), our editor, our webmaster and those who have been distributing the newsletters, including the one that you are reading right now.

## **TIME FOR OUR YEARLY TAX INCREASE**

*Written by: Eric Andersen*

May is the time for your yearly tax increase from the municipality. Whereas the residential taxes will be going up by 3.3% the utility rates have also been approved at \$1,177 (water \$509, sewer \$398 garbage \$270), which will also show on your annual tax notice. These rates include an increase of \$114 which derives mainly from Metro Vancouver.

Later in the spring the District of North Vancouver (DNV) will hold meetings to decide what DNV programs may be cut or scaled back in the future, since continuous tax increases are unsustainable over the long term.

Your input will be sought and let us hope that a healthy discussion will come out of this much needed evaluation of our DNV programs.



## THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

Written by: Eric Andersen

Most District of North Vancouver (DNV) residents are hopefully aware that the Official Community Plan (OCP) has gone under review over the last two years. We have now reached the final stage of the process and District Council has now sent the OCP to a public hearing which will take place on Monday, May 16. Two other dates have been set aside in case it takes more than one night, i.e. May 17 and 19.

At a public hearing you can speak for as long as you want to, although Council will ask the speakers to go for only 5 minutes at a time to let the maximum number of members of the public speak at the beginning of the evening.

If you have any specific thoughts on this new plan please let your views be known by speaking on May 16. Details can, of course, be found on the DNV's website: [www.dnv.org](http://www.dnv.org).

The OCP calls for 20,000 new residents to live in the DNV over the next 20 years. The intention is that these will mostly be living in two town centers (Lynn Valley and Lower Lynn) and two village centers (Maplewood and Lower Capilano). In addition to this, further growth can and is likely to take place on First Nations land, but these growth numbers are not included in the OCP.

Staff has ensured that the Draft OCP respects EXISTING land use designations by incorporating the Seymour Local Area Plan land use designations into the new consolidated Draft OCP Land Use Map.

The topic of the OCP will be brought up for the last time at our AGM on May 10.

### DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT!

Written by: Eric Andersen



The day before Father's day last year a well-respected member of our community went for a run as he had probably done countless times before. The sad difference is that this time he did not make it home.

While running he collapsed and died near a local park. This is very tragic in itself, but what made this worse was that he had no ID on him. Therefore, the family could not be notified immediately. While they could have been at home

wondering where he was and why he was late, the RCMP were desperately trying to identify this resident. I spoke with the RCMP about this while they were preparing to go door-to-door with a picture of the deceased to find somebody who would lead them to the right family.

Bringing an ID with him would, of course, not have prevented his death, but it would have made the RCMP's work easier as well as avoided a possible and unnecessary lengthy wait for the family.

Next time you venture out in your own neighbourhood please bring at least some ID with you. It is no big deal, but can prove very helpful should something unfortunate happen to you. As the old ad says: don't leave home without it!

### AND THE WINNER IS... VALERIE DUKE APRIL 2011 BLUERIDGE CREEK CLEANUP UPDATE

Written by: Laura Wells

Valerie is the very observant and lucky neighbor who spotted this treasure in Blueridge Creek Park off Sechelt. This little treasure is very fragile, like a little angel sitting amongst the ferns and appears for such a short time in the early spring of each year. We have only one of these treasures in this park. Take a stroll along the path and you may be lucky to spot it as well. Good Luck!

*Native Trillium*



We have other native species out in bloom just now. These were planted by our hard working youth in the neighbourhood. These young naturalists certainly added a new dimension to the team effort of eliminating the invasive species in this wildlife corridor that extends the length of Blueridge Creek. Neighbours please remember not to dump out flower pots or other garden debris into the green areas as this introduces species of plants which smother our little native treasures.

## Will this Blueridge bear find food at your house?

The challenge is about to become more complex.

By Christine Miller Photo: Warren Goodman



Many residents who are without basements or garages face an ongoing

challenge – storing their garbage in a way that doesn't attract bears. The North Shore Black Bear Society suggests freezing odorous kitchen scraps until collection day.

Our challenge is about to become more difficult! It is proposed that, in accordance with Metro Vancouver's waste reduction plan, all organics will be set in a container (without plastic bags) at curb side once per week. This means that all food items, including vegetable, fruit, pizza, meat and fish leftovers and scraps – cooked or uncooked – will be stored at each household until collection day. Freezing remains the best solution for foods that you cannot compost.

Composting in bear country can be done effectively. In a compost bin, layer green (nitrogenrich) fruit and vegetable scraps from your kitchen with equal amounts of brown (carbon-rich) fallen leaves and/or low-quality paper products, such as paper towels, cardboard egg cartons, toilet paper rolls, and torn newspaper. Add water during dry periods to keep it moist and add oxygen by regularly poking the compost with a sharp stick or a device called a wingdigger that is available at the North Shore Recycling Drop-off Depot, 29 Riverside Drive. Subsidized compost bins are also available there for \$45. More information is available at [compost.gardensmart.ca](http://compost.gardensmart.ca).

We all have to adopt good practices in preparation for the wildlife-attractant challenges that await us. Try composting fruits and vegetables and freezing the other food scraps...or freeze it all until the morning of collection day. Otherwise, if kitchen scraps are stored outdoors, the noses of bears will lead them to your property, and their remarkable

memories will keep your address on their regular routes. If a particular bear is removed from the area, another one will take its place as long as the food sources remain accessible.

For more information, please call the North Shore Black Bear Society Education Coordinator/Bear Aware Community Coordinator at 604.317.4911.

## BLOCK WATCH

Written by: Eric Andersen

Since our last newsletter in June of last year the following break and enters have taken place in Blueridge/Seymour Heights:

07/13	2500 block Byron Road
10/27	2200 block Hill Drive
11/26	2700 block Violet Street (attempt)
12/17	1200 block Berkley Road
12/29	3100 block Mount Seymour Pkwy
12/31	2500 block Keats Road
01/06	2900 block Mount Seymour Pkwy
03/12	2900 block Dresden Way

Our biggest crime problem in the area over the last year has no doubt been that we saw a very high number of thefts from autos before and around the end of the year. Over 30 such incidents were reported to the RCMP, and Block Watch worked really well since the Block Watch Captains kept repeating the message to their participants that any crime, big or small, MUST be reported to the RCMP. Thanks to good police work the party committing these crimes was eventually arrested in early February, and it was discovered that he lived in our own neighbourhood. He was sentenced to 4 months in jail of which two months had already been served before the sentence in early April. What we can learn from this experience is always to lock the doors of our cars, to always remove all valuables from our cars (including any kind of GPS) and to report ALL crimes to the RCMP.

The BCA website: <http://www.members.shaw.ca/blueridgeca/>  
and e-mail address is [blueridgeca@shaw.ca](mailto:blueridgeca@shaw.ca).

## TRAFFIC, TRAFFIC, TRAFFIC...

Crossing Review – Sechelt Drive at Derbyshire Way and Arroyo Court

Written by: Eric Andersen

A couple of parents living near the intersection of Sechelt and Derbyshire Way/Arroyo Court have been trying for a few years to have the DNV install a marked pedestrian crossing at this intersection.

So far the DNV has refused to do so as it is felt that a marked crosswalk at this location is likely to increase collision risk as it may create a false sense of security in pedestrians and is unlikely to be respected by drivers.

The proponents of this pedestrian crossing feel that we should urge the District to at least restrict parking at strategic areas along Sechelt to improve sightlines where curves affect visibility.

We would like to hear your views in this matter. Should a marked pedestrian crossing be installed and/or should parking be restricted? Please let us have your views so we can decide if this has public support and affirmatively if we should, consequently, push the DNV for this crossing.



### 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Blueridge Good Neighbour Day 2011 ! Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> 2011 from 9:45AM – 2 PM

Bring your family and friends and come and celebrate with your community! The theme this year is **Circus!** So come as a funny clown, Ring Master, tattoo man or even a ferocious lion! Prizes will be awarded for best costume!

#### **As always, Volunteers are welcome !**

For more information on this GREAT EVENT check out face book page at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=203788559647229>

### **A big "THANK YOU" to all our sponsors/silent auction donations at the 2010 Good Neighbour Day....we could not have done it without you!**

3 P Natural & Exotic Meats	Ideal Distributors Ltd.	Rainwater Spa
Alchemy Centre	Judy Killeen	Robert Matthews
Angel Restoration Inc.	Kuddle Muddle Kids	Rusty Gull Liquor Store
Arms Reach Bistro	La La's	Ruth Hanson Prudential Sussex Realty
Barb Wilks Sutton Realty	Mad Science Vancouver	Save On Foods – Park and Tilford
Blockbuster Canada Co	Mary Kay – Gislaine DaSilva	Seymour Fitness Results
Blueridge Massage Therapy	Mike Alford	Seymour Golf and Country Club
Brian Rybchinsky	Mike Minchin Prudential Sussex Realty	Seymours Pub
Central Motor Service	Nails by Ariel	Source for Sports
Creative Edge Quilting	Neptune Terminals	Special Moments Flowers & Gifts
Deep Cove Canoe & Kayak	North Burnaby Pet Hospital –	Special Times Out of School
Deep Cove Stage Society	Anne Irwin	Starbucks – Park and Tilford
District of North Vancouver	North Vancouver Recreation Commission	Terry's Dial-a-Roof Ltd.
Dr M Prescott – Park & Tilford	Northlands Bar & Grill	The Raven
Dental Center	Northlands Golf Course	Tim Horton's Coffee, Vancouver
EB Games	Parker's Mattress Factory Stores	Walmart
English Rose Jewelers	Pikes Rentals	Western Stevedoring/Lynnterm
Escape Adventures	PNE	White Spot Park and Tilford
Flying Wedge Pizza		
Honey's Donuts		