



# Blueridge Community News

## PLEASE VOTE ON NOVEMBER 19!!!

By: Eric Andersen

The purpose of this newsletter is to urge everyone in Blueridge/Seymour Heights to vote at the municipal and school trustee election on Saturday, November 19.

As usual you will be able to vote at Blueridge Elementary School from 8 AM through 8 PM. If you are unable to vote that day you still have the option of advance voting at the District Hall (355 West Queens Avenue) on November 9, 12 and 14.

This year we will have 2 candidates running for mayor, 12 candidates for 6 councilor positions and 5 candidates for 4 School board trustee positions. A local resident, Norm Binion from Hill Drive, is running for school board.

The fact that the mayor will not get in by acclamation will hopefully result in a better voter turnout than at the previous election which saw less than 20% of the eligible voters of the District of North Vancouver take the time to vote.

As we have done for EVERY SINGLE ELECTION since 1999 the Blueridge Community Association (BCA) is proud to co-host an all-candidates meeting for Mayor and Council which takes place as follows:

### **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, AT 7 PM AT THE MOUNT SEYMOUR UNITED CHURCH**

We strongly urge you to join us that day. This is the only way you can find out what the candidates stand for and what separates them from each other. No doubt you will find in the papers when and where the other all-candidates are scheduled, including those for the school board candidates.

The BCA is not endorsing any specific candidates, but we are very strongly urging you to find more about the 19 candidates enabling you to vote on November 19. Through the District's excellent website ([www.dnv.org](http://www.dnv.org)) you can access every candidate's website and thus read up on them. Remember that you do NOT have to vote for all 7 members of the next Council. It is your choice to vote for anything from one to all 7 - one for Mayor and 6 for Council.

We all live very busy lives and you may ask yourself why you should bother taking the time to learn more about the candidates and even vote - unfortunately that was the view of more than 4 out of 5 District residents at the last municipal election in November, 2008. That was the vast majority who didn't vote and had no say in who would represent them on Council for the next three years.

For starters you may consider the property tax bill that you receive every May for payment in early July. This bill has been climbing and from what we hear from our politicians it is supposed to increase substantially in the years to come, alone because of the future enormous garbage, sewage and water projects in the region. These numbers are set by the region, but the municipal taxes are set by our local politicians. These municipal taxes cover extremely important items such as the RCMP, the fire department, parks maintenance, roads, sidewalks, the rec centers, community centers, libraries and the list goes on. In addition to that Council makes the crucial decisions on the right to develop or not develop.

There is no doubt that much more of our daily life is directly affected by our municipal politicians than those based in Victoria and Ottawa.

Please do your civic duty and vote on November 19. This is the only way democracy can work.

The Federation of North Vancouver Community Association (FONVCA) has prepared the following questions for all Mayoralty and Councillor candidates. Their responses will be posted on FONVCA's website ([www.fonvca.org](http://www.fonvca.org)) and you can also find them posted at all the various all-candidates meetings, including our own on November 14.

The following questions were agreed on:

1. What practical experience and accomplishments qualify you for local governance?
2. What three major issues are you most concerned about in the DNV, and how can they be addressed?
3. How would you encourage greater civic involvement by the public?

### **IMPORTANT MEETINGS:**

**November 8** - Blueridge Community Association meeting - 7 PM at the Blueridge School Library

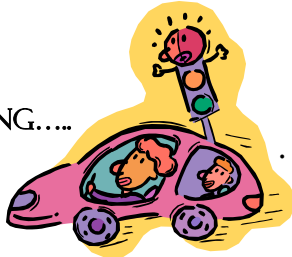
**November 14** - Blueridge Community Association co-hosting an All-Candidates meeting at 7 PM at the Mount Seymour United Church

**PLEASE VOTE ON NOVEMBER 19!!! CONT'D**

4. What role should community associations play?
5. What can be done to reduce the three largest municipal costs: policing, the fire department and NS Recreation Commission?
6. Will you commit to the removal, during the next term of Council, of all encroachments which block access to widely-used public lands such as the waterfront?
7. Aside from mandatory legislated requirements, do you believe DNV should undertake "green" initiatives which are uneconomic in a commercial sense? Why?
8. Under what circumstances do you believe ratepayers should subsidize those who realistically cannot afford to live in the DNV?
9. Will you push for and support doing a published review of DNV salaries, wages and especially benefits as compared to the private sector?
10. Which of the complex DNV by-laws and regulations governing our lives do you commit to simplifying or eliminating within the next term of Council?

**WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING.....**

By: Martin Spieker B.Ec. LL.B.  
email: martinspieker@me.com



**INFRASTRUCTURE CAMPAIGN FOR SEHELDT AND BERKLEY** Letters have been written to the district by myself and Mike Pollard both of Derbyshire Way beginning about 5 years ago concerning pedestrian crossing safety infrastructure. The initial concern we noted was the intersection at Derbyshire Way and Arroyo at Sechelt. We noted the poor visibility for eastbound motorists and pedestrians given the road curvature, the absence of parking restrictions, and driver behavior (in particular, speed, and ignoring the motor vehicle laws which require motorists to stop for pedestrians at unmarked crosswalks which exist at every uncontrolled intersection).

The District initiated a traffic/pedestrian count on a poor weather morning. Relying on their traffic engineering handbook for "crossing opportunities" per minute, they concluded that no infrastructure was indicated. They stated speed calming was not possible on bus routes and that future reviews could take place.

They were reminded by myself that the preface of the Handbook states it is a guideline only, that local conditions need to be considered, and that the concerns raised in letters, exposes their potentially negligent conduct for failing to take action in the event of tragedy followed by litigation.

My concern is that inexpensive steps ought to be taken where they may reduce the chance of tragedy and the resulting costs to society. This follows the "what do we have to lose" approach in considering minimal costs against unquantifiable yet potentially massive benefits of injury avoidance.

I more recently renewed my concerns by noting that nothing has taken place and asked that they consider placing curb extensions with painted crosswalks at the Derbyshire - Arroyo at Sechelt intersection; Whitman - Byron at Sechelt intersection; and Berkley - Swinburne intersection. The first two are strategically important for those persons crossing Sechelt as crossing at Berkley is unsafe, the routes are highly used for pedestrians going to schools, and road curvature visibility and driving behaviors make the crossing unsafe. The Berkley-Swinburne crossing is desperately needed as a result of poor driving behavior.

The District has referred the recent requests to engineering for consideration. I am not optimistic - and would ask anyone who feels they have the time to write the District or begin a petition to further advocate for such infrastructure upgrades.

Undoubtedly there are numerous residents who can attest to driver behavior problems on Berkley (and Sechelt) - particularly SPEEDING; myself and most otherwise responsible drivers included. Over half of all collisions happen within blocks of a negligent driver's residence; we also know that the chance of successfully stopping for vulnerable road users such as a darting child, pedestrian, jogger, bicyclist, motorcyclist, or animal are greatly increased by going at or below the limit. Even at 50 km/h the average driver will not even begin to apply brake/ slow down for about 1.5 seconds as the vehicle travels almost 21 meters or 69 feet. At 60 km/h that distance increases to 25 meters or 82 feet.

**Next Blueridge Creek clean-up on  
Saturday, December 3rd at 9:00 AM at  
Sechelt (off Derbyshire Way)**

### *Watch where you're going...Cont'd...*

There are permanent speed reading boards which have been proven when permanently placed on a roadside pole, to reduce driver's speed. This is a call for any person or group who has been involved or interested in taking up that cause with the District along with ICBC who likely has community targeted funding for such initiatives.

It occurred to me that another traffic matter which may generate interest is the absence of traffic controls for Sechelt to Berkley left turners given the visibility problems of yielding to Berkley southbound traffic. I'm not sure if the answer is to advocate for some form of 3 way stop or add a stop sign for southbound Berkley traffic or leave Berkley unimpeded (which seems to encourage increased speed at that stretch). The difficulty is that the speed of southbound vehicles in conjunction with the curve together produces many aborted turns and close calls

for the turners and southbound drivers alike. Some user input would assist in any whether there should be a request for a review.



### A COOL PROJECT / A COOL NEIGHBOURHOOD

By: Eric Andersen

Blueridge has become a pilot project in the District of North Vancouver for home energy reduction.

With the extremely competent assistance of Tarah Stafford from West Vancouver a number of local residents have met and discussed the following items:

-Fire Department and thermal imaging

The District of North Vancouver, along with the City and the District of West Vancouver, have purchased 3 thermal imaging cameras that they have dedicated to using in the 'Cool Neighbourhoods' community initiative. The fire department is able to thermal image each of our homes in order for us to get a clear visual of where we are losing heat. This is done for free and the fire department can do 3 to 5 homes in a day. Not only will this reveal where each home is losing energy but thermal imaging is defined as: a non destructive method for detecting deficiencies or abnormal conditions within a building.

The infrared thermal imaging camera can capture moisture and temperature differentials which reveal water penetration, condensation and the source of mold problems. Several homes in Tarah's neighbourhood had problems of this sort that the home owners would never have known about without the thermal imaging. This is not the main reason for doing the thermal imaging but is a great added benefit.

-Energy Assessment: an energy assessment/audit of each home can be done at a cost of \$150 per home. This assessment is necessary to receive government energy-grants that homeowners are granted when they finish any work that they want to do (small or large).

Cool Neighbourhoods has been using City Green Solutions due their good work and because it is a nonprofit enterprise and slightly less expensive than some other for profit companies. They have also been very helpful when the neighbourhood conveners are scheduling the assessments as it can be quite a bit of work for people like me that are doing all the scheduling to make it easy for the neighbours to get the work done.

- Advantages include: group buying, low-interest loans @ Vancity for those who may be interested in these, assistance with the multitude of available government energy-grants, students that will come to our homes, when/if needed to caulk and seal leaks revealed by the thermal imaging (at no cost to the home owners other than materials), technical information and individual help to figure out what works best for you  
-The District of North Vancouver's absolutely phenomenal website about solar heating was discussed and it can be found as follow:

[www.geoweb.dnv.org](http://www.geoweb.dnv.org)

-Take a look at it if you like, as it has lots of great information about our homes: whether they are good candidates for solar hot water, your rooftop's heat map, your potential solar savings and CO2 savings, and much more.

If anybody is interested in hearing further about this on-going project or participate in our next meeting/wine and cheese party, please contact the undersigned @ 604 929 6849 or email BCA at: [blueridgeca@shaw.ca](mailto:blueridgeca@shaw.ca).

## What a GREAT Community!

By: Michele McKnight

It's amazing what happens when a community comes together. Last year we celebrated the 14th Good Neighbour Day, originally named by our own Blueridge resident, Don Williams. Each year GND grows and morphs slightly and last year was no different. A large circus theme parade made it ways down Berkley to Blueridge School and started another successful event. This year in addition to our regular attendants: Yukon Dan, Laughing Stock Ranch Ponys, Mad Science, Vancouver PartyWorks Interactive (the bouncy castles) and Bell E Buttons, we had Paul Rickman and his brave volunteers for the dunk tank! Four Blueridge Youth were showcased in an inspiring display of talent: Olivia Steele-Falconer, Hannah Winterhalder-Berg, Ariel Kanegae and Brody Bigwood. Highrise Lonesome and Soren's School of Hop also entertained the crowd. And thank you to the Lions Gate Rotary Club for cooking a hot dog lunch and Lauren and Perry Gorgounis for the gyros sandwiches.

## A BIG "THANK YOU" to all of our GND Silent Auction sponsors listed below

3P Natural & Exotic Meats	Dykhof Nurseries	Paul Rickman - Remax
4 Cats Studio – Deep Cove	English Lawns	Peter & Kim Jackman
Airotec hvac.com	Flying Wedge - Park and Tilford	Pike's Rental
Angel Restoration Inc.	Home Depot	PNE
Arms Reach Bistro	Ideal Distributors	Rain Water Spa
Aussie Pet Mobile	JJ Bean Park and Tilford	Ray and Karen Zaremba
BC Hydro	John Henry/Escape Adventures	Ron Andrews Rec Center
Bell E. Buttons donated by	Judy Killeen – Sutton Group	Rona
Marci Deane, Meridian Pacific	Kenneth Gordon Maplewood School	Ruth Hansson - Prudential Sussex
Mortgages	Kids Books	Realty
Bridge Church	Kim Mattinson - MacDonald Realty	Safeway
Belmondo Café	Kostas Taverna	Seymour Golf and Country Club
Benjamin Moore	LaLa's	Seymour Mountain
Blenz Coffee	Lazerdome	Seymour Pub
Block Buster - Park and Tilford	Little Caesars	Shoppers Drug Mart
Blueridge Massage Therapy	M & M Meats – Parkgate	Sleep Country – Marine Drive
BooLaLa (formerly Carol's Costume Corner)	Maa Yoga	Special Times Out of School
Brian Rybchinsky – Remax	Majid Rohini & Family	Starbucks
Browns	Mary Kay – Kim Lewis	Super-Value – Deep Cove
Burgoo	Mobile Pet Grooming	Susan Cooper Agency
Burnaby Pet Hospital – Donated by	Mount Seymour	The Gorgounis Family - Gyros Stand
Mike Minchin	Mystic Wardrobe Nails by Ariel	The Gull Liquor Store
Capilano Suspension Bridge	Neptune Terminals	The Mystic Wardrobe
Cobbs Bread	North Shore Credit Union	The Rotary Club (Staffing hotdog stand)
Cove Bikes	North Shore Recycling	Tim Hortons Coffee Truck
Creativ Music Centre	North Shore Sports Medicine Clinic	Tim Hortons North Vancouver
Creative Edge Quilting and Sewing	N. Vancouver Child Development Center	Time Out Source for Sports
Cuddle Muddle	N. Vancouver Recreation	Usborne Children's Books
Curves – Deep Cove	Commission	Vancouver White Caps
Dave Moucks – electrician	Northlands Bar & Grill	Wal-Mart
Deep Cove Music	Northlands Golf Course	Western Stevedoring/Lynnterm
Deep Cove Stage Society	Norwex – Donated by Grace Brown	West Vancouver Youth Band
Different Bikes	Parker Mattress Factory	White Spot
District of North Vancouver		

**Next year we celebrate our 15th year! If you have ideas, please let us know! And we are always looking for more volunteers!**