



Blueridge Community News

Editor: Sonia McLeod

'VOTE EARLY AND VOTE OFTEN' COMES TO LIVE IN BLUERIDGE!

Written by: Eric Andersen

Most of us have never had a chance to vote twice in one day, but May 14 is your chance!

We urge you to come out to Blueridge School to vote at the provincial election, but this will also give you a chance to vote a second time that night! The Blueridge Community Association (BCA) is hosting its Annual General Meeting and we will vote for the new directors.

Everyone in Blueridge and Seymour Heights is welcome to come and join us that night. We have no membership fees, so why not go to the voting station in the gym of the Blueridge Elementary School first, and come and join us right after? Our AGM starts at 7 PM like all our other meetings.

We will have two presentations lined up for that evening: the first by Port Metro Vancouver – a business overview. This will be followed by Fortis' waste energy project in Maplewood.

We would love to see you there. The more members we have attend our meetings, the better for our community association. The BCA can only be as good as its members are prepared to make it.

DON'T miss our all-candidates meeting!

Written by: Eric Andersen

As we have done for the last 15 years we will again be co-hosting an all-candidates meeting prior to the provincial election.

As it so happens Blueridge has a close connection to the two top candidates, who are living or have lived here in Blueridge.

Come out and hear more about all the candidates' answers to YOUR questions.

The all-candidates meeting will take place on Monday, May 6, 7:00pm at the Mount Seymour United Church.

Notes from the Webmaster

Written by: Angela Duso

It has been a few months since we migrated the Blueridge Community Association website from its old location to www.blueridgeca.org. The website is now hosted with Site5 web-hosting, on a server that is located 'somewhere in Vancouver'. In addition to switching our hosting service, we registered for the blueridgeca.org domain name. Why all these changes?

For starters, the webpage used to be hosted on someone's personal web space that they had with their Shaw internet account. When this person moved from the community, they changed internet providers and so the web space no longer existed. In addition, we wanted to switch to a site that we would have complete control of - and that anyone (with a bit of computer knowledge) would be able to update.

Several 'free' options exist for web hosting (Go Daddy, Facebook, Webs.com etc) but the 'free' options exchange their web hosting service for the *right* to show advertising on your web page - so we decided to pay a small fee the web hosting and go with an established service provider that would allow us to have complete control over the content appearing on the web page. The web host also took care of registering our domain name. The Internet has increasingly become the first point of contact that organizations have with people - I know that before moving to Blueridge, one of the first things I did was Google the search term "Blueridge" and I managed to find the website for the community association. With that in mind, my goal with the website is to keep it updated regularly (easier said than done!!) and make it easy to read and navigate, while providing information that will be useful to area residents. The web host provides software (RV Site Builder) that allows me (with no html coding experience) to develop and update the site as needed.

In addition to the web hosting service, we also have a number of email addresses associated with the new web site. This has allowed us to move away from using Gmail (again, we have no control of the ads that Google's Gmail may or may not choose to insert into the emails we send). The gmail account is still being monitored - but please direct any future correspondence to info@blueridgeca.org. Other email addresses (newsletter, traffic, chairperson) are listed on our Contacts page.

<http://www.blueridgeca.org/Contact-Us.php>

If you have any suggestions for the site, or content that you'd like to see up there, please drop me a line at info@blueridgeca.org. I'd also like to thank Megan Paris-Griffiths and Graeme Gilley who have been very helpful in getting the site up and running.

IMPORTANT DATES

Blueridge Logo Contest – Due April 30th

All Candidates Meeting - May 6th at 7:00pm

Blueridge Association AGM – May 14th at 7:00pm

Blueridge Good Neighbour Day – June 9th at 2:00pm

IMPORTANT!*Written by: Eric Andersen*

Our next newsletter should come out a couple of weeks before Blueridge Good Neighbour Day on June 9, so this means that the deadline is likely to be around May 10-15. We would love to hear from you. Just write us what you feel strongly about regarding Blueridge/Seymour Heights. Please use our special newsletter e-mail address:

newsletter@blueridgeca.org.

The more residents contribute to our newsletter, the better and more interesting it gets.

We are open to anything dealing with our area, from recipes to trails, activities, complaints, praise and much more.

LOOKING FOR A NEW LOGO....*Written by: Eric Andersen*

Since 2006 we have had the same logo for the BCA:



At our January meeting it was much discussed whether we should keep it, or is it time for a new one?

We decided to take this issue out to our members. You can comment on this issue, but if you do not like our logo please give us your alternative logo(s). We will have a contest and – just like 7 years ago – we will have a \$50 gift certificate for the winner. However, the BCA directors and members present at our AGM reserve the right to keep the present logo if it is felt that nothing superior comes in. Please submit your suggestion for a new BCA logo to our e-mail address: info@blueridgeca.org. The deadline is APRIL 30.

COOL NEIGHBOURHOODS*Written by: Karly Pinch*

Cool Neighbourhoods is pleased to offer special services to Blueridge residents interested in saving energy in their homes.

Contact Cool Neighbourhoods to:

- Take advantage of **free thermal imaging** in your home until mid-April. A Fire and Rescue Services inspector will visit your home, and with the use of an infrared camera, explore with you where there may be cold air entering your home, as well as being able to offer tips on fire safety in the home.

- Access a **reduced-rate** for home caulking and sealing services, with caulking provided free-of-charge by FortisBC and Cool Neighbourhoods. Draftproofing your home is a low-cost way to ensure that your home retains heat and reduces energy loss.

Many Blueridge residents have been able to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Cool Neighbourhoods program by getting free thermal imaging done in their homes, or attending an information-sharing get-together.

Are you interested in improving the warmth and comfort level in your home? Cool Neighbourhoods can offer you support in making changes small and large that will improve:

- Value.** Improved home energy efficiency increases the value of your home, and saves you money on your energy bills.

- Security.** So your family can feel safe in your home.

- Comfort.** Cozy in a well-sealed house.

- Fun.** Navigate confusing sustainability issues with friends, over food and drinks.

During the cold months of winter, there are many ways to save on your energy bill and keep your home nice and cozy.

Did you know that:

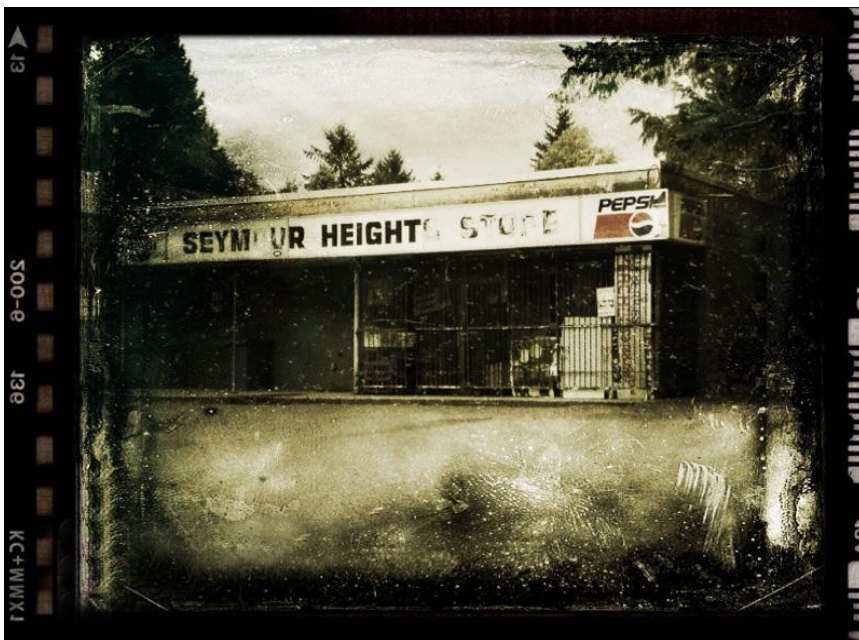
- Closing even sheer curtains over windows can make a 2° difference? For colder rooms, use heavier drapes to retain warmth and reduce heating costs.

- By moving floor lamps to corners of the room, they reflect light off the two walls, making the room brighter without adding more lamps.

- You can save energy by running dryer loads back to back to make use of dryer's heat, and using 2 dryer balls can reduce drying time by up to a third.

For more information on the Cool Neighbourhoods Program, more low-cost, no-cost energy saving tips, and to access Cool Neighbourhoods services, visit www.coolneighbourhoods.org or email info@coolnorthshore.ca.





Seeking The Future Of “Our” Corner Store

Written by: Landon Voth

I’m pretty sure most of the reader’s would agree that the unoccupied corner store at Mt. Seymour and Emerson is an eyesore. Instead of writing another letter of complaint, I thought I’d see if I could spark some ideas about what it could be.

Like most of you, I have fond memories of growing up near a corner store where the owners knew your name and it was the only real “convenient” place to buy something between the weekly grocery shopping visits. Those days have changed where convenience stores are now either attached to gas stations for one-stop efficiency, or as 7-Eleven’s in dense communities where you can be sure to be greeted with anonymity.

While living in Kitsilano for the majority of my single adult life, there was no shortage of unique and convenient stores to choose from. You certainly didn’t need a car as you could find the majority of your food and community spirits (in all meanings of the word) within walking distance. It was the closest thing to what I envisioned a European lifestyle might be. I know it’s still far off, but I really enjoyed it.

My family and I moved into Blueridge in 2008 and we really enjoy the people and surroundings in our area. Walking down to the Chevron with the kids to enjoy a slushy or hot chocolate works on some days, but we certainly miss the close community gathering spots. When we heard that the bylaw was passed in 2008 for the corner store zoning to add café service,

and the rumour that the store would reopen as such, we are notably excited. It’s unclear why the owner did not follow through on the proposed Café/Corner Store, but the bylaw was passed for the 3 remaining corner stores in the District of North Vancouver. The bylaw proved very beneficial for two of the three, which is The End Of The Line General Store in Lynn Valley and The Corner Store in Pemberton Heights.

Since 2008, Tracey Cochrane (owner of The Corner Store), has successfully challenged the bylaw for her corner store to rent bikes, serve liquor and expand the seating area for the café. As stated in a

recent article in the [Outlook](#), Counc. Alan Nixon said, “What we have obviously is a community that’s ready to make a bit of a leap in terms of a more mature, sophisticated approach to how we consume liquor”.

It’s clear that our buying and socializing behaviours have changed since the days of mom and pop corner stores. If a corner store were to re-open in this location and thrive it would need to differentiate itself from the Chevron and the markets and superstores that surround it. Perhaps it will be a community store and café that carries local and organic products with prices comparable to convenience stores. It might also serve quality coffee, bakings and healthy sandwiches and soups. Maybe it will have comfortable seating to eat-in for those who work from home, studying students, the retired or the mom’s and dad’s meeting up while the kids are in school. Potentially there will be a Whitecaps or Canucks game on the big screen with some snacks and drinks available, but these are just my dreams. In the end, it will be us “the community consumers” whom will shape what stable, adored and long lasting business that could re-open in our neighbourhood.

I put a survey together in hopes of gathering your current feelings and ideas on this property so that we can provide it to the owner, the city and any potential entrepreneurs with the guts to take this on.

Please find the 5-minutes survey on our website, www.blueridgeca.org, and let us know how you like the different options and suggestions.

Blueridge Good Neighbour Day, June 9th, 2013 10 AM - 2 PM

Written by: Angelo Duso

A quick quiz for area residents.

Blueridge Good Neighbour Day (BGND) is:

- a) An event for families, teens, grandparents and EVERYONE living in Blueridge
- b) A giant block-party for our community
- c) Fun! There will be music, food, entertainment and much more.
- d) All of the above

If you answered D) you are correct! BGND 2013 takes place on the grounds of Blueridge Elementary School, but is NOT just an event for children or members of the school. There are activities for all age-groups. The event was developed to bring everyone from our community together. In 2013, we are having an International Theme, featuring food and performances from around the world. Some of the events and participants at the 2013 BGND include:

10:00am - parade from Berkley and Hyannis to the elementary school. Led by the West Van Youth Band, featuring United Carnival Club dancers from the Trinidad and Tobago Cultural Society

11:00am - Masala Moves Bollywood Dancers. Learn to Bollywood Dance

12:30 - 1:30pm - Purple Soul - A Caribbean Funk Soul Band

Many other activities and events will take place, such as: Doodle Girls Face painting, Pony Rides, Radar Ball (measure the speed of your baseball pitch), Bouncy Castles, Criss-Cross Collision Course (race a friend down an inflatable track inside transparent balls), Perogies from Holy Perogy, the infamous Japa Dogs street hot dog cart, Tim Hortons Community Cruiser, and much more. Once again - we will have a Silent Auction with proceeds benefiting the event. Cash AND credit cards will be accepted.

Publicise your local business - we are renting community tables. For more information, or to donate an item to the Silent Auction, please contact us via email: info@blueridgeca.org.

Pitch-In Week, April 21-27, any interest?

Written by: Eric Andersen

Last year the BCA participated in Pitch-In Week for the first time and there was a lower than average turn out. We feel that cleaning up the neighbourhood is important and are willing to give it another try, but we need to know that there will be better support in 2013. Please contact us at info@blueridgeca.org if you are interested in coming out to participate in the clean up effort and/or help to organize the event in advance. Also, please remember that you can still join your neighbours and adopt a street which is one of the District of North Vancouver's new and worthwhile initiatives. The residents on Arroyo Court, Cactus Court and Derbyshire Way will be joining forces and will be starting their adopt-a-street program on April 14. You can start yours, too. Please contact us for more details, or find these on our website: www.blueridgeca.org.

THANK YOU

Written by: Eric Andersen

A special thank goes out to our editor, Sonia McLeod, who year in and year out has been putting our newsletter together and lived with deadlines that have not always been respected by some of our writers.

A big thank you also goes to all our friends and neighbours who have helped out with the distribution of our newsletters. The below parties have taken a route for our last three newsletters - many of them do this with their spouses or children:

Alex McNeil, Marta Carlucci, Miemie Brink, Ann Reynolds, Angela Duso, Christine Miller, Annie Danielson, Lesley Brooks, Dagmar Kocsis, Ursula Ernsting, Mary Donnelly, Agneta Eineigel, Alf Cockle, Gordon Keir, Olga Smakhtina, Rhoda Irwin, Lauren Gorgounis, Mary Castley, Jeff Boag, Paddy Chyzyk, Sonia McLeod (yes, our editor!), Colleen Mah, Cyndie Gilley, Ilona Chapman, Corinne Volpatti, Don Craven, Fred Gooch, Scott Murray, Linda Janzen, Linda Davis, Fariba Leilaby, Stacie Graham, Vanessa Bragg, Reid Spencer, Karen Piccolo, Jocelyn Clennett, Michele McKnight, Nasrin Jannatifar, Javier Montemayor and yours truly.

We can always use more help, so please contact us if you are willing to take one of our routes – about 60 homes on average.