



Blueridge Community News

Editor: Sonia McLeod

CELEBRATE YOUR COMMUNITY! COME TO THE 16TH ANNUAL BLUERIDGE GOOD NEIGHBOUR DAY SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH, 10 AM TO 2 PM ON THE GROUNDS OF BLUERIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Written by: Angela Duso

Good Neighbour Day is the perfect day to get to know the people next door, across the street or on the next block and feel part of your community. The event is for *everyone* in Blueridge/Seymour Heights neighbourhoods and there will be activities for ALL ages. Kids muster with their bikes at the top of Berkley at 9:45 am for a parade down to Blueridge Elementary School with local dignitaries. Soap Box Derby cars and the United Carnival Club Dance Group.

Once at the school grounds, you will enjoy Food Trucks, Live Entertainment and Fun Activities for all ages.

9:45 am	Muster for the parade
10:00 am	Parade begins
11:00 am	Masala Moves Bollywood Dancers
11:30 am	S.E.C.R.E.T.
12:30 noon	Purple Soul Caribbean Funk band
1:30 pm	Pie Eating Contest



Activities: Royal Express Train, Radar Ball (measure the speed of your fastest pitch), Inflatable Bouncy Castles, Cake Walk, Holy Perogies, Jappadogs, Gyros, Tim Horton's Community Cruiser, Criss-cross Collision Course, Crafts and Games, Community Info Tables, Doodle Girls Face Painting, Pony Ride and much, much, more.

Silent Auction will accept cash, cheques *and* credit cards.

Blueridge Good Neighbour Day is brought to you by a group of dedicated neighbours, the support of the Silent Auction (donations and purchases) and grants from The Arts Office (City and

District of North Vancouver), and The Provincial Government.

Volunteers are welcome in advance of, and on the day of the event. Email info@blueridgeca.org if you would like to volunteer.



What is the deal with The Blair Rifle Range?

Written by: Colleen Mah

This past spring I called my friend Paul to ask for his advice. “I really like Blueridge, but I’m concerned that it isn’t very walkable.” We had recently sold our house in Kitsilano and were on the hunt for a house on the North Shore. “What are you talking about?” he countered. “There are tons of forest trails to walk on!” I already knew that he was right about that, but what I was referring to was the ability to walk to amenities – a grocery store, the bank, maybe a library, and of course a decent coffee shop. When I explained this, he nonchalantly dismissed my concerns and explained that from his house in Upper Blueridge, he can bike to Parkgate Village in less than 15 minutes. That sounded promising but I really didn’t like the idea of having to walk or bike on the Seymour Parkway to get there. Busy roads are not my thing. “There are trails that will get you there without having to be on the Parkway,” he assured me.

“No there isn’t, I’ve checked all the maps,” I argued as I flipped through the open tabs on my laptop. “I’m looking at the District’s GEOweb site, Google Earth, and GVRD’s trail maps and there is nothing that connects McCartney Park to Northlands Golf Course. There’s just a forested piece of land with no trails.”

Paul was right, of course. Once we bought a house and moved into the neighbourhood, I discovered that what I was looking at was an aerial view of the 272-hectare piece of land known as The (Old) Blair Rifle Range. The Federal Government acquired the land in the 1930s for national defense purposes and so today it is still deemed Crown Land. There are all kinds of undocumented trails traversing through the alders and rocky streambeds of this parcel of land. A few makeshift directional signs are posted high on tree trunks, but there is nothing official to help people determine which way they are heading. I have been fortunate enough to have friends guide me along trails that they have become familiar with over the years, but on my own I have found myself backtracking at dead ends and going around in circles to get to the place that I thought that I was heading.

I ask around at the school when I pick the kids up, at the Blueridge Community Association meetings, at parties... “Does anyone know what the deal is with the Blair Rifle Range?” Besides memories of teenaged parties in the Range, no one

seems to know exactly. Even a rudimentary search on Google came out with a smattering of details. The most popular opinion is that the land is being held by the Federal Government to facilitate future land claim negotiations with First Nations groups. Amidst rumours of environmental contaminants that exist from the days when munitions were used in the Range, no one knows how long an arbitration of a land deal might take. Other than that, the Range will probably go on being a place for walkers and runners, mountain bikers, and nighttime under-aged drinkers for years to come.

When our family goes for forest walks, we usually head over to the end of Tompkins Crescent and enter the Blair Range from the fire access road that is sandwiched between the backs of the homes on Hyannis Drive and Larkhall Crescent. Over the months, my children have become proficient in skipping over slippery rocks and balancing on wet logs to get over streams with no bridges. After a few weeks of rain in the winter, the rushing water tests my nerves while I hold my breath until they safely make it to the other side. We generally keep heading along the trail until it terminates at a junction, and then as the main trail veers sharply to the left and uphill to meet with the Bridle Path, my boys and I head straight and to the right. The trail is squeezed by the foliage of the forest as it traverses over large boulders and fallen logs until it joins the gravel trail at the lower end of the golf course. We have discovered from experience that this is the quickest way to get to Parkgate for our reward - coffee and hot chocolates.

While I’m walking this route, I can’t help but dream about a path that would be more accommodating to people of all levels of abilities. I think about all the moms with strollers, the four and five-year-olds just learning to ride bikes, and the seniors that find the terrain too challenging. For these people, I wish we could come together as a community and make the small adjustments that would give the residents in Blueridge/Seymour Heights a well-marked, safe, direct connector to the lower portion of the golf-course and beyond to the stores and amenities at Parkgate Shopping Centre.

When we moved in last year, I knew that Blueridge was deemed a “car-dependent” neighbourhood. I was aware that I would no longer be able to walk three blocks to a variety of

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YOUNG NATURALISTS' CLUB OF BC

Written by: Eva Nagy, a YNC Director and the Vancouver Section Coordinator

Our club has been connecting children with nature through a unique program of volunteer-led nature clubs across the province of BC since 2000. Originally the club was a dream of Daphne Solecki, and with hard work and perseverance she made her dream come true.

According to world renowned naturalist Robert Bateman... 'British Columbia needs a few thousand more Daphne Soleckis'. - "Daphne is the extraordinary individual who developed an idea into a very successful and hugely important organization called the Young Naturalists' Clubs of British Columbia. Over 10,000 children have been introduced to the importance of nature, the value of their environment and the need to preserve it through the network of more than fifty Family and School clubs spanning the Province. Daphne has had a profound impact not only on the lives of BC children but also on the naturalist movement in BC and Canada where she has served as a diligent board member and valuable mentor."

The YNC has an exciting nature discovery and environmental program for young people ages 5 to 14. We organize "Explorer Days" with local experts, and learn about wildlife and plants and also take part in environmental actions to protect their habitat.

Young Naturalists' Clubs can be found across the Province of BC from Vancouver to Atlin, Fort St. John to Prince George. There is a network of Family and School nature clubs that engage youth in exploring the wonderfully diverse ecosystems of British Columbia, and developing a sense of pride and responsibility for our natural heritage.

We also have a very successful magazine called "NatureWILD". This is BC's only home grown nature magazine for children. It is produced by YNC with contributions from some of BC's leading naturalists and biologists, and it's an excellent resource for environmental education. Most of us heard the phrase *nature deficit disorder* by author Richard Louv. There is a human cost when we "alienate from nature". The result is attention difficulties and higher rates of physical and emotional illnesses. Therefore our mission is to get kids outside in nature and make it possible for them to lead a healthier, happier life.

To find out more about our club please visit our website: www.ync.ca

"the human child in nature may be the most important indicator species of future sustainability" - Richard Louv 2006

BABYSITTERS IN BLUERIDGE

Written by: Angela Duso

Did you know that there are many parents of young children in the Blueridge neighbourhood who are looking for a babysitter? They might want to go out for dinner and a movie, or find someone to watch their kids while they go shopping or for a bike ride on the trails. The elementary school has a directory of babysitters, but it is only available to parents associated with the school. Parents of younger children cannot access the directory.

As a community service, the Blueridge Community Association would like to post a list of babysitters on our website. Babysitters must be 12 years of age or older to post in the directory. They can provide the following information: name, grade (e.g. Grade 7), qualification (e.g. Red Cross babysitting course, First Aid, CPR) and contact information (email or phone) which will be posted on our website. Including information about which street you live on (not street address, just street) would also be helpful for parents in locating a babysitter nearby. This is not limited to school age children, older teens and students home from college for the summer can also post to the list. Parents in need of a baby sitter can then contact baby sitters and make a connection. The BCA suggests that parents of babysitters be involved in the initial interview with anyone who needs a babysitter. *The BCA is providing this information as a service to parents, but it is the responsibility of parents to ensure that babysitters they hire are qualified to care for their children. The BCA will not be screening babysitters who want to post to the directory.*

To post to the directory; please send an email with appropriate information to info@blueridgeca.org. Put 'babysitter' in the subject line.

Another option if you are looking to have a date-night is *Kids Night Out* which is a service offered by North Van Rec for 3-8 year olds. *Kids Night Out* is a childcare activity at Ron Andrews (Friday nights; 5:45 - 8:30 pm) and Lynn Valley (Saturday nights; 6:45 - 9:30 pm) Community Centres. The cost is \$9.50/child and they offer supervised play, crafts and a movie for 3-8 year old children. Check out the North Van Rec website for more info www.northvanrec.com - the service only operates on certain weekends but they are offering dates in May, June and July.

What is the deal with The Blair Rifle Range? Cont'd

restaurants and boutique grocery stores. I even accepted that I could no longer catch one bus that would zip me into Downtown Vancouver in less than 15 minutes. My husband and I decided to trade all of that convenience for the stunning forest that begins as soon as we walk out our back-gate. Still I look forward to a day when our friends and neighbours are encouraged to leave their cars at home because they are given a viable alternative to traveling on the Mount Seymour Parkway. I can't wait to cross paths with them as we pedal along with our five-year-old son bringing up the rear, and our backpack filled with library books, fruit and fresh bread.

Colleen Mah is a new addition to the Blueridge area, a mother of two very active boys, and a member of the Blueridge Community Association's Trail Committee. If you are interested in getting involved, visit our website at www.blueridgeca.org.

THE THANK YOU CORNER

Written by: Eric Andersen

In our last newsletter we asked for suggestions for a new logo for the BCA, since we have had the same for the last seven years. We have received no less than 18 suggestions from three very gifted members of our community, Keely Smith, Rafael Santa Ana and Alberto Trujillo Gonzalez. Thank you all so much! These logos will be dealt with at our AGM on May 14 (before this newsletter goes out) and this will not be an easy task. Since we recently received a grant from the Provincial Government, which was partly earmarked for signage for Blueridge Good Neighbour Day, the timing for a new logo could hardly be any better!

We also had an interesting article in our March newsletter about everyone's favourite eyesore: the corner store at Mount Seymour Parkway and Emerson. Do people care about it? You bet! No less than 119 residents took the time to fill in Landon Voth's excellent survey. He will discuss the results with the owner of the corner store and we hope that this may have some bearing on the future of this much-discussed corner store.

So a big thank you goes out to all of you who took the time to work on logos and go to our website to answer our survey. Blueridge/Seymour Heights is, indeed, a very special place!

If you have anything you are thankful for in Blueridge, please write about it to our editor (newsletter@blueridgeca.org) and we will include it in our next newsletter.

PARKGATE SOAP BOX DERBY

JUNE 16, 2013 FROM 9 AM – 12:30 PM

SEYMOUR HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY
CARNATION ST. BETWEEN
BERKLEY RD & EMERSON WAY

Local Children, aged 10-12 years old have designed their own soapbox Racers as part of a Parkgate Community Center program designed to increase social skills and community wellbeing. After months of work and commitment, it's now time to race them! We invite you, the community to come out and support local young people.

- RACES
- MUSIC
- GAMES
- CONCESSION

Come and join in on the fun!

YOGURT BERRY BLUERIDGE BRAN MUFFINS

Recipe donated by: Colleen Mah

1 cup plain or vanilla yogurt
1 tsp baking soda
½ cup light brown sugar
1 egg
½ cup canola (or other vegetable) oil
1 cup natural bran
1 tsp vanilla
1 cup all-purpose flour
2 tsp baking powder
½ tsp cinnamon
1 cup berries (blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, etc)

Preheat oven to 350.

Grease a 12 compartment muffin pan or use paper liners.
In a bowl, stir together the yogurt and baking soda. Set aside.

In a large bowl, beat together the brown sugar, egg and oil. Stir in the bran and vanilla, and mix well; then add the flour, baking powder and cinnamon, and stir to combine. Fold in the yogurt mixture and the berries. Spoon into prepared muffin pan and bake about 30 minutes or until a toothpick poked into the centre of a muffin comes out clean. Makes 12 muffins.

For more information email us at
info@blueridgeca.org
or visit our website www.blueridgeca.org