



Blueridge Community News

Editor: Sonia McLeod

Mark Your Calendars! March 24 & May 12

Written by: Eric Andersen

The BCA will be hosting two important meetings in the next couple of months.

On March 24 we will exceptionally be changing the venue of our meeting and host it at Canlan Ice Sports at 2411 Mount Seymour Parkway at 7 PM. The reason is that we are expecting more attendees than usual since Mayor Walton will come out to talk about the TransLink plebiscite. North Vancouver journalist, Bob Mackin, will be our moderator and interviewer for the night. Please bring your questions (tough or not) to the meeting and wait to cast your vote till you have had a chance to listen to the arguments on both sides. We are looking forward to an interesting and lively debate. Following that you will be able to see the interesting proposal about revamping the whole bus system east of the Seymour River presented by our very own resident, Alberto Gonzalez.

May 12, don't miss out on our AGM. We will have a guest speaker, as we usually have at our meetings. If you are interested in joining our board please contact us at info@bluridgeca.org.

This meeting will be held as they normally are at Blueridge Elementary School – in the library at 7 PM.

Blueridge Bus 214 Service Reduction

Written by: Rhoda Irwin

In response to our November newsletter we heard that people in Blueridge are very unhappy with the decreased bus service during rush hour.

As we are willing to be part of the solution, we have formed a committee, collected data and thought about alternative proposals which we presented to the Mayor and a Transportation Planner at the District on Jan 29th.

One of our concerned residents, Alberto Gonzalez, has done a lot of work in preparing a revised routing plan for all of Seymour. By combining all of the routes into one it would appear that this would increase the frequency and could be done with no additional buses.

Before we proceed with a presentation to Translink he is presenting it to the Transportation Consultation Committee (DnV) on Thurs April 16th at 7:00 pm.

Come and find out more about Alberto's proposal at the BCA meeting at 7 PM on March 24 at Canlan Ice Sports on Mount Seymour Parkway.

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, March 24 at 7 PM – Blueridge Community Association meeting at Canlan Ice Sports, 2411 Mount Seymour Parkway – Topics: TransLink plebiscite and transportation in Seymour
SPECIAL GUESTS: Mayor Richard Walton and North Vancouver journalist Bob Mackin

Monday, April 6 at 10 AM – McCartney Park Playground – Easter egg-hunt sponsored by SeymourLife

Friday, April 10 at 9 AM – Bronte Drive – Blueridge Creek invasive plant removal – done jointly with the Grade 4 class from Blueridge Elementary School

Saturday, April 18 at 2 PM – Walk on Blueridge trails – see article inside

Saturday, April 25 at 2 PM – Walk to Hogan's Pools – see article inside

Tuesday, May 12 at 7 PM – Blueridge Community Association AGM at Blueridge Elementary School

Sunday, June 7 at 11 AM – 3 PM - Blueridge Good Neighbour Day at Blueridge Elementary School

Saturday, June 13 at 1 PM - Blueridge Elementary School - Electronic Recycling Association clean-up event for old desktops, printers, TV's and electronics – more details in our next newsletter

Sunday, June 14 at 10 AM - noon – Soapbox Derby on Carnation Street

TRAILS IN THE BLUERIDGE AREA

Written by: Anni Danielson

Join me for a walk in our neighbourhood.

1) Saturday, April 18 at 2 pm - meet me on the corner of Sechelt and Whitman.

I will be walking the same trails as I did in November.

This walk could be any time from 1-2 hours. I will adjust the length of walk depending on the participants. Bring the kids , dogs, cats etc.

Every one is welcome! Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for a long time and maybe are not familiar with all the local connectors this is for you. This is your chance to meet people from the community and get some fresh air and exercise at the same time.

2) Saturday, April 25 at 2 pm -Walk to Hogan's Pools. Meet at corner of Carnation and Berkley.

Trail is rocky, sandy and uneven. Some steep sections.

Call ANNI at 604 929 2807 if you have any questions.

NEW ATTENDANCE RECORD!

Written by: Graham Gilley

When the doors opened on Tuesday January 13 for the BCA Open House meeting, no one was quite sure how many people to expect. But they started coming ... and kept coming until the Blueridge Elementary Library was brimming with over 80 people engaged in lively conversation. Now, to be clear, while we did set an attendance record, it should probably be noted that this was the first time we have held this event - but that's splitting hairs.

The meeting was intended to bring new and old members of Blueridge together for some casual conversation and I think we achieved that goal. One highlight were the *yet-be-residents* of Blueridge who had recently purchased a home in the community but had yet to move here. They had been forwarded the invitation by the current homeowners who added a personal note encouraging them to attend. If that doesn't scream community spirit, what does? Also in attendance were representatives from some of our local services and community groups who graciously gave their time to help us welcome our new neighbors. Watch for this event on the BCA annual calendar!

IMPORTANT!!

We want to hear what YOU have to say!

Come and join the growing number of informed Blueridge/Seymour Heights residents! Join our mailing list!

Please visit our website at

www.blueridgeca.org or

contact us at

info@blueridgeca.org



Growth or low growth?

Written by: Eric Andersen

Although the voter turnout of less than 25% was shockingly low at the municipal election in November, 2014, it was still marginally better than the 21% achieved at the previous election in 2011.

For those of you who took the time to vote, you will have noted that the main issue among voters this time was density/traffic/gridlock. Many residents across the North Shore are complaining about the worsening traffic problems – particularly in the afternoon. As most people will know it is bumper-to-bumper traffic on the Cut most days as early as 3.30 PM.

We thought it would be interesting to hear what the residents in Blueridge/Seymour Heights thought of growth on the North Shore, so we have prepared a small survey that we would invite you to respond to. It will only take a few minutes of your time and it will give us a better understanding of how people in our community feel about this issue.

Please go on our website (blueridgeca.org) and click on the survey posted under 'Growth or low growth'. If you have additional comments please send these to info@blueridgeca.org.

Community Lands

Written by: *Graham Gilley*

Blueridge is unique - we know that - we chose to live here. We are quietly tucked away from much of the bustle of the increasingly busy North Shore. And while our road system into and out of Blueridge keeps most transient traffic away, there are two slow moving developments that will require some community management to find an acceptable, long-term solution; 1] the popular trail network at our backdoor and, 2] the future of the Blueridge Elementary School site.

I have been watching the developments on the Mt Fromme trail network over the years and the increasing tensions that have unfortunately been in the news lately. The people I know who live in that area tell me that this issue has had a negative effect on the feeling of community and that in retrospect it was largely preventable. **How can we ensure Blueridge maintains the peaceful character we value while welcoming forest and trail users of all types?**

The future of the Blueridge Elementary School site is always a good topic of discussion and I have heard opinions ranging from creating a large forest to full scale development. Neither of those options is certain but we do know that at some time in the future, Seymour Heights school will be rebuilt and Blueridge school will close. At a recent Community Association meeting, Mayor Walton noted that any change in the zoning for the Blueridge site would have to be approved by Council, and that Council would look to the community for suggestions. **What would an authentic process for soliciting community input on possible site options look like?**

Under the auspices of the BCA, we will be forming a **Community Lands Task Force** to begin addressing both of these questions. We will seek to serve the needs of the community, not define them. If you would like to be involved in developing and executing the process of community engagement, please contact me at chair@blueridgeca.org in the next few weeks.

UPDATE ON COOL NEIGHBOURHOODS

Written by: *Eric Andersen*

This is an update about **Cool Neighborhoods** (an initiative of local non-profit society [Cool North Shore](#)), and to schedule **free** home thermal imaging in Blueridge/Seymour Heights by the North Vancouver Fire Department for those interested.

A few years ago, many neighbours took advantage of federal rebate programs at that time and had energy audits and thermal imaging done on their homes. Unfortunately the Natural Resources Canada's eco-Action program ended, and there are currently no federal rebates available. However, there are still many simple, low-cost things that can be done to save energy in your home, and to reduce heating costs. In many cases, homeowners can achieve savings of up to 25% with low-cost weatherization efforts such as caulking, weatherstripping, sealing drafts, insulation top-up, etc. And thermal imaging is a great way to identify areas of heat loss so that you can target your efforts more effectively.

Thermal Imaging by the North Vancouver Fire Department

To that end, as part of an ongoing partnership with the three North Shore municipalities, Cool North Shore through the Blueridge Community Association works with the North Vancouver Fire Department to provide **free** thermal imaging for Cool Neighbourhoods participants. Those, who have had thermal imaging done, have found that being able to visualize heat loss is especially helpful in targeting where to focus your efforts. Cool North Shore provides a "homeowner checklist" for taking notes on the temperature and problem areas as you walk through the house with the fire inspector doing the thermal imaging, as well as information and tips on improving energy efficiency in the home. Other helpful resources are also available, such as BC Hydro's Guide for Air Sealing and Insulation Retrofits: <https://www.bchydro.com/content/dam/BCHydro/customer-portal/documents/power-smart/builders-developers/standards-practice-manual-weatherization-draftproofing.pdf> And until March 31st, BC Hydro is providing a variety of rebates for eligible retrofits: https://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/residential/rebates_savings/home-energy-rebate-offer.html

So if you are interested in booking a thermal imaging appointment, let the BCA know (info@blueridgeca.org), and we will make the arrangements with the North Vancouver Fire Department. Times are normally Monday, Wednesday or Friday after 6.30 pm, and they prefer two weeks notice, if possible. For those working and unable to be home at that time, with enough advance notice, other times can be arranged. For those who have already had thermal imaging, feel free to pass this information along to other Blueridge/Seymour Heights neighbours.

And if anyone has any questions about Cool Neighbourhoods, don't hesitate to get in touch via the website: www.coolnorthshore.ca!

Blueridge Good Neighbour Day!!!

Written by: Angela Duso

Blueridge Good Neighbour Day (BGND) is an annual community celebration that starts with a parade, followed by a great day of entertainment, food and activities for all ages. This year we are having a Western theme - so put on your ten gallon hat and cowboy boots and mosey on down to the grounds of Blueridge Elementary school on **Sunday June 7th from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm.**

The parade starts at the corner of Berkley and Hyannis at 10:45 am. Kids, decorate your bikes and join in the fun. The parade ends at the grounds of the school where all of the activities will take place. There will be games, rides, a pie-eating contest, food trucks, a cake walk, gyros, live music, face painting, a kid's carnival, cotton candy, popcorn, demos and so much more. Once again we will have a fabulous Silent Auction (cash and credit cards accepted), the proceeds from the Silent Auction will fund the event.

Do you have a business that would like to rent a community table or donate to our Silent Auction? Would you like to sponsor an activity (like the band or the ponies or one of the inflatables)? Do you have questions about BGND? Then drop us a line at bgnd@blueridgeca.org. We look forward to seeing everyone at this great event!

WHAT'S BEEN TEARING UP OUR LAWNs?!

Written by: Angela Duso

It's Beetlemania - European Chafer Beetle that is... First spotted in New Westminster in 2001, the European Chafer Beetle has migrated across Burrard Inlet and is now actively infesting lawns in North and West Vancouver. The beetle lays its larvae in grass lawns, then raccoons, crows, and skunks dig up the lawns to get at the tasty larvae, resulting in grass that looks like this...



Short of re-doing your lawn with something other than grass, there aren't many solutions to this problem. One treatment is to add nematodes – tiny grubs that will eat the chafer beetle larvae. Nematodes have to be added around mid-July to early August and require that the lawn be well-watered. The City of North Vancouver website www.cnv.org/chaferbeetle has information about nematodes as well as other methods of preventing/reducing the infestation. Local garden centres are taking orders for nematodes NOW – it's a good time to get into contact with them to let them know your needs for this summer.



Blueridge Community

Eggstravaganza

MONDAY, APRIL 6TH, 2015
10:00 AM • MCCARTNEY PARK PLAYGROUND
AGES 2-10 YEARS

Families are invited to grab their baskets and join us in the search for goodies left by the Easter Bunny... The park will be divided into different areas by age, so everyone has a fun and fair time. **The event is free***, and there is no registration required. Presented by:

SeymourLife
The Community Life Connection

*There is no fee for this event, but participants are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items with them to be donated to The Harvest Project.