

Update on issue of re-unification

Written by: Councillor Jim Hanson

During the 2014 Municipal election, the topic of amalgamation of the City and District of North Vancouver was frequently raised by voters on doorsteps and at all candidates meetings. Because the City and District were originally one municipality, until the City was cleaved out of the District by order of the Provincial government in 1907, supporters of the idea of bringing both governments back together prefer the word "re-unification."

The goal of re-unification has the support of the council of North Vancouver District. Joining together the two North Vancouver's offers the advantages of better regional planning (especially better transportation planning), less duplication of bureaucracy, and increased political weight within the Lower Mainland's community of municipalities. The combined North Vancouver would become the fifth largest city in the region. Re-unification would also provide significant potential to reduce the combined size and cost of North Vancouver local government, allowing potentially for tax savings and service improvements.

The District has recently commissioned a report entitled "Merging Municipalities, Insights on North Vancouver Reunification", which has been discussed by council in a Council Workshop and is now available

to the public. As discussed in the report, under the governing Provincial legislation, re-unification is not possible without a vote conducted in both the City and the District with more than 50% majority in favour of re-unification in each municipality. I believe this must be our goal.

District council voted in January, 2016, to take as its next step a thorough review of the most recent similar amalgamation in British Columbia, the 1993 amalgamation referenda that brought the citizens of Matsqui and Abbotsford together with "yes" votes of 77% and 58%.

I will continue to speak out for re-unification of the District and the City. I believe "North Vancouver" will be stronger if we are together. Let us hope that the Abbotsford-Matsqui study provides useful tools for those of us seeking continued political progress on the re-unification of the two North Vancouver's. My goal will be to have the issue of re-unification on the ballot for both the City and District residents in the next municipal election in 2018.



Important Dates

Tuesday, March 8 at 7 PM – Blueridge Community Association meeting at Blueridge Elementary School (library)

Saturday, March 12 at 10 AM to 2 PM – Work party at the Blueridge Sharing Garden

Monday, April 4 at 7 PM – Special Blueridge Community Association meeting at Blueridge Elementary School (gym) with invited guest, School Trustee Barry Forward (Page 2)

Saturday, April 16 at 2 PM – Local Trail Walk – Meet on the corner of Sechelt and Whiman (Page 3)

Friday, April 29, at 9.30 AM – UBC/BCA project at the Blueridge Sharing Garden (Page 4)

Sunday, May 1 at 1:30 PM – Meet at the top of Berkley Avenue and Hyannis Drive (Page 3)

Tuesday, May 10 at 7 PM – Blueridge Community Association AGM at Blueridge Elementary School (library)

Saturday, May 14 at 11 AM – Blueridge Sharing Garden – Electronic Recycling Association clean-up event for old desktops, printers TV's and electronics (Page 2)

Sunday, June 5 at 11 AM – 3 PM – Blueridge Good Neighbour Day at Blueridge Elementary School (Page 4)

ELECTRONIC RECYCLING*Written by: Eric Andersen*

Last spring many Blueridge/Seymour Heights residents got rid of their old electronic items when the Blueridge Community Association partnered with the Electronic Recycling Association (ERA). We have been asked by ERA to do it again this year, so we will offer their truck for the disposal of your old electronic equipment.

This will be done on Saturday, May 14 at 11 AM next to the Blueridge Sharing Garden (on the trail connecting Carnation Street with Lytton Street opposite Seymour Heights School). The ERA will bring their 5 ton truck.

The service is free, but we are suggesting donations which will be used towards the Blueridge Sharing Garden.

The following items will be accepted:

Desktops - PC & MAC partials, parts, motherboards, etc.

Notebooks/laptops/tablets - PC & MAC docking stations, parts, cables, etc.

Other handheld devices - MP3 players/CD/Cassette players/ipod, etc.

Printers - Inkjet & Laserjet plotters/copiers, scanners/fax etc.

Peripherals - Keyboard, mouse, CD/DVD roms, cards/accessories, etc.

Servers - rack mount, stand alone, all brands, etc.

Phone Systems - voicemail Nortel/lucent, parts/accessories, etc.

Mobile phones - chargers, headsets, etc.

Monitors & TVs - CRT&LCD Plasma, projection etc.

Software - operating systems, editing, design, etc.

Racks & misc. - server racks, lab equipment, disk arrays, etc.

Specialty items - Cisco networking, switches, routers, etc.

Not acceptable items include: kitchen appliances, as there are different process

214 Blueridge Bus – UPDATE*Written by: Eric Andersen*

In spite of the rerouting last September the 214 Blueridge Bus is still not connecting well with the other buses at Phibbs Exchange – particularly with the buses coming from downtown. The bus subcommittee has requested another meeting with Coast Mountain Bus Company to see how this persistent schedule problem can be tackled once and for all. More on this in our next newsletter!

Public Land in Blueridge: Let's Start the Conversation*Written by: Donna Sacuta*

The rumours have swirled for years.

Will Blueridge Elementary School eventually close, to be merged with a new Seymour Heights Elementary?

What is the timeline for the merger?

What will happen with the public land the school sits upon?

What will this mean for the neighbourhood's connectivity and traffic issues?

Have you ever wished Blueridge had more purpose built affordable and supportive housing for aging residents?

Would you like to have a community facility (e.g. recreation, social) located within Blueridge?

On Monday, April 4 the Blueridge Community Association is hosting a special forum to begin addressing these questions. As a first step, we have asked School Trustee Barry Forward (who has responsibility for the two schools) to speak with the community and give us his perspective on the matter.

We are also excited to welcome a student from UBC's School of Community and Regional Planning to provide ongoing advice and support to the Association as we grapple with the many issues involved. Amy McDonald is a former resident of Blueridge (her family still lives here). She attended Blueridge Elementary and Windsor Secondary and is passionate about our neighbourhood.

Let's start the conversation on **Monday, April 4 at Blueridge Elementary gymnasium, at 7 p.m.**

Want to know more ways to get your thoughts and ideas to the Blueridge Community Association? Want to know what we are up to?

Here are other ways to check us out!

Web: www.blueridgeca.org

Twitter: @BlueridgeCA

Facebook: Blueridge Community Association

Telus – November Phone Outage Update

Written by: Eric Andersen

According to Telus' own public service announcement dated November 20, 2015 about 925 customers in North Vancouver (the vast majority of whom were in Blueridge/Seymour Heights) had been without landlines for five days. This debacle carried on for another couple of days, meaning that most Telus customers in Blueridge were without a landline from November 16 through 23.

The same announcement stated that 'Telus will be reaching out to customers affected by this outage'. Did you all receive a letter from Telus?

Since Blueridge had been so heavily affected by this lengthy outage the BCA contacted this phone provider and respectfully requested that Telus make a donation to the BCA for our Blueridge Sharing Garden, as we felt that they would need some good PR in our community. We promised that due recognition would be given to Telus. The response from one of their Executive Customer Relations Advisors was that 'it was a lengthy repair process and we understand the frustration customers felt. As such we are issuing a \$15 credit on every affected customer's bill'. Did everyone receive a \$15 credit?

Here is what we are finding out now: those residents, who THEMSELVES contacted Telus, were initially told on the phone that they would get a \$10 or \$15 credit, and eventually this was increased to waiving the next month's phone bill.

However, many Blueridge residents, who did not contact Telus, have – from what we now hear – so far received no compensation from Telus.

It is puzzling in many ways. Some people use Telus for both phone and Internet, other people use Telus for their home-based businesses. Can it really be so that a large company like Telus will not automatically refund every customer (big and small)?

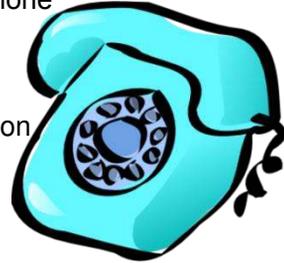
Another aspect of this lack of landlines is that many people (not at least many seniors) were without contact to the rest of the world and were unable to phone 911 in case of an emergency. We will be dealing with this separately, but wanted to point out the issues affecting so many members of our community when you are without landlines.

In a highly competitive world of telecommunication we hope that Telus will do the right thing and ensure that ALL affected customers receive a credit and

make a donation to the BCA for the major inconvenience it was for so many Blueridge/Seymour Heights residents to be without a phone for eight days in November. It is time to get some positive PR in Blueridge, Telus!

Let us know what you think and what you may have experienced after November's phone fiasco: info@blueridgeca.org.

If you have not contacted Telus yet, we suggest that you do it soon – and you can quote their own reference number: 104587307.



Local trail walks

Written by: Anni Danielson

Join me for a walk in our neighbourhood

1) Saturday, April 16 2016 at 2pm

Every one is welcome. If you are new to our neighbourhood or have lived here for a long time and just want to get out and meet new people this is for you.

Meet me on the corner of Sechelt and Whitman. The walk may take anywhere from 1 -2 hrs depending on the participants. We will be walking on the connector trails in the area. Everyone is welcome.

2) Sunday, May 1 2016 at 1:30pm

Duration 1.30 - 2 hrs.

Walk to the Seymour River slide area. Meet me at the top of Berkley Ave and Hyannis Drive.

We will be walking on trails in the forest. Some steep sections. Not suitable for buggies. In the event of heavy rain this walk will be canceled.

Please call Anni at 604 929-2807 if you have any questions.



SAVE THE DATE!*Written by: Tammy Sharp***Blueridge Good Neighbour Day Event**
JUNE 05, 2016

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. Last year we had a record breaking attendance of 1,800 people! This year's theme celebrates the world with "The United World of Blueridge". Feel free to dress up in your favourite cultural attire - wear a sari, a kilt, lederhosen or come as you are to Blueridge Elementary School on Sunday, June 5th from 11:00am - 3:00pm.

The parade starts at the corner of Berkley and Hyannis at 10:45am. Kids, decorate your bikes and join in the fun. The parade ends at the ground 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 of which will fund the event.

Do you have a business that would like to rent a community table to promote your business or perhaps you'd like to donate an item to our Silent Auction? Would you like to sponsor an activity such as the band, the pony rides or an inflatable fun house or ride? If you have any questions about BGND or would like to volunteer in organizing the event or the day of, please drop us a line at bgnd@blueridgeca.org. Become involved in your neighbourhood, have fun and make a difference! We look forward to seeing everyone at this great event!

Blueridge Welcomes UBC!*Written by: Eric Andersen*

You may wonder what this is all about?! Have we completely lost it?! What would Blueridge have to do with UBC, which has consistently been ranked among the 40 best universities in the world? Well, now there is a connection.

Last summer the Blueridge Community Association (BCA) applied to get a handful of UBC students to come to the Blueridge Sharing Garden (BSG) during Reading Week in mid-February, 2016. This would be a way for them to help us out and to learn about all the things that are going on both in the BSG and in our community. Our proposal was not accepted, but instead UBC's Centre for Community Engaged

Learning picked the BCA for a much larger project. We will jointly work on a one-day experience as part of the spring training for a student leadership program run by UBC.

This most exciting event will take place on Friday, April 29, from 8.30 AM through 3.30 PM. No less than 45 students will come to Blueridge/Seymour Heights accompanied by their program advisor to find out more about our community and all the activities that the BCA is involved in. Canlan will be used as the base for this exercise and the plan is that the students will spend time and help out in the BSG, and they will also have an opportunity to see where the BCA's creek clean-ups take place.

Seven members of the BCA will spend time that day with the UBC students and tell them about what a community association can achieve when people have visions and work together as a team on various projects. However, this will not be a one-way street. We are very excited to hear back from the students and learn from them as well. They are being taught about community-building at UBC, so this will enable them to compare textbooks with reality and no doubt give us some new great ideas and suggest how we could do some things better. It looks like a total win-win situation for both the 45 students and for the BCA.

Come on down to the BSG on April 29 and say hi to the students, come and talk with them and make them feel at home in our community. Let's make this a great learning experience for everyone, students and Blueridge/Seymour Heights residents alike!

Eric Andersen Blueridge Community Association Scholarship*Written by: Anni Danielson***Application deadline March 31 2016**

The scholarship was awarded for the first time last year and we are delighted to be able to offer one again this year.

The \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a student resident of the Blueridge/Seymour Heights area who is graduating from a North Vancouver High School this year and will be attending a post secondary BC college or university. The successful candidate must demonstrate that he or she has offered volunteer services. The criteria and application form can be found on our website at www.blueridgeca.org under the heading "What we do". Preference may be given to candidates who have volunteered in their neighbourhood.