



Blueridge Community News

Editor: Sonia McLeod

Berkley Freeway?

Written by: Angela Duso

We aren't talking about Interstate 580 in California, rather Berkley Road, the main route in and out of our neighbourhood. Lately it has become a freeway (of sorts). Traffic volumes are up, people are speeding, texting, not stopping for pedestrians. It is a real challenge for residents of Berkley Terraces (999 Berkley Road). Over 60 people live in the building, and many are senior citizens. There is no sidewalk (to the Parkway) on the west side of Berkley from the Terraces, so they are forced to cross over in order to get the bus, go to Ron Andrews, or do any walking in the community. Safety of our neighbours is our main concern. There is a potential for injury or worse. Seniors and small children (there is a day care on Berkley) are at risk. Lack of safe walking routes limits the movement of people in the community. What can you do? Be a neighbourhood pace car – travel the speed limit (50 km/hour), stop for pedestrians, put your devices away. Ask people who work for you (landscape, construction, delivery) to respect the speed limit. In the past the BCA had an active Traffic Committee which gave us a coordinated 'voice' with the DNV and representation for residents. We'd love to 'resurrect' the committee - if you are interested please contact info@blueridgeca.org.

Beware Wi-Fi Hackers in our midst . . .

Written by: Michael Bernard

I have just found out from looking at my Telus internet data usage that my wi-fi has been hacked, resulting in data usage that is four or five times higher than the normal month. In fact, there were two days last week when my wife and I were in Seattle that we found that our wi-fi had used up a remarkable 100 gigabytes of data in those two days alone. Now this normally wouldn't be a big issue except that Telus now charges when any internet subscriber goes over 300 Gigabtes a month. Fortunately, with our previously low data use history and the fact that demographically we are not pegged as big Netflix users or video gamers, Telus wiped off the charges and now is giving us unlimited data use for the next six months for free while we update our network security to thwart the hackers.

I would suggest that everyone in Blueridge and Seymour Heights check with their internet provider to see if their data usage has increased dramatically in the last couple of months. There are remedies to dealing with hackers, including changing your network password and downloading new firmware for your router, both of which you can get help to do through your service provider.

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, November 15 at 7:00 PM – North Vancouver School Board meeting –
2121 Lonsdale Avenue (Page 5)

Tuesday, November 22 at 7:00 PM – Blueridge Community Association meeting at Blueridge Elementary
- Guest Speaker David Cook: 'Beasts of the North Shore'

Tuesday, December 6 at 7:00 PM – North Vancouver School Board meeting -
2121 Lonsdale Avenue (Page 5)

Saturday, December 10 - 5 PM to 7 PM – Carols in the Garden (Page 7)

Tuesday, January 10 at 7 PM – Blueridge Community Association meeting at Blueridge Elementary
School – Meet our new neighbours in Blueridge/Seymour Heights

Trail Improvements Advocated

Written by: Donna Sacuta

One of the frustrations of living in Blueridge is that we are so dependent on our cars. There are no retail services within walking distance of most of the area. There is no direct transit to the Parkgate area where the Senior's Centre, Community Centre, Library and retail outlets are located. Cycling, though an option, is available only on Mt Seymour Parkway which does not have safe, separated bike lanes. It is too far for younger children to cycle. The hilly terrain is another impediment to east or west travel.

Many of us have longed for an easier way to get to the eastern parts of the community.

On a hot August afternoon this summer, several members of the executive of the Blueridge Community Association joined other interested neighbours and Elise Roberts, a contractor who leads seniors' hiking programs out of Parkgate Community Centre, for a trail walk from Tompkins Crescent to Parkgate. Elise had asked us if the citizens of Blueridge would like to advocate for a safe and direct hiking trail from Blueridge to Parkgate.

We learned that earlier this year, BC Parks, CMHC, Metro Vancouver Parks and DNV Parks had toured the area. Elise had been successful in having a dialogue with all the parties.

On our walk we discussed improvements that could be made to the existing trail to make it more accessible for all users, regardless of age or ability. Despite the enthusiasm from the group, the process has come to a halt after both CMHC (the landowner) and Mayor Walton have discouraged Elise from pursuing the concept further.

At its September meeting, the Blueridge Community Association agreed to have one of our members write a briefing note on the issue, with the intention of asking our Member of Parliament, Terry Beech, to advocate on our behalf with CMHC, a federal crown corporation, to allow a trail to pass through their lands.

Even a temporary re-surfacing of portions of the existing trail would be welcome, until decisions surrounding the land's future are made.

Unfortunately, Mr Beech had to cancel his scheduled meeting with us on November 8. We are continuing to try to meet him, and have asked him to respond.



Historic Recognition of Blair Rifle Range on Horizon

Written by: Donna Sacuta

The possibility of a commemorative plaque at the Blair Rifle Range (east of Blueridge near Mt Seymour Parkway and Northlands Drive) is coming closer. The BC Labour Heritage Centre has obtained the necessary funding from Heritage BC and the Deep Cove Heritage Society. The Blueridge Community Association has written a letter of support as well. We are now waiting for approval from the District of North Vancouver to place the plaque on a parcel of parkland adjacent to the site of the former range. An unveiling ceremony will be scheduled and widely publicized once a date is known. We are all excited to see this project finalized, and to be a part of sharing the history of the area with the larger community.

CMHC Lands

Written by: Eric Andersen

Countless Blueridge & Seymour Heights residents had a big scare when they found the signs at many trailheads just north of Blueridge last month stating that this is: Private property – No trespassing – Unauthorized access for recreational or any other activities is strictly prohibited.

How could this happen on our trails? The irony is, of course, that CMHC, who owns the lands, put the signs up (after having let people use the trails for the last several decades), but since the CMHC falls under the federal government WE (the Canadian residents and taxpayers) are, in fact, the owners of the land.

After discussions with other more sensible parties at the end of October the CMHC backed down and has now agreed to 'permit reasonable and responsible recreational use of the property'. The CMHC is stressing that they will not be responsible for any personal injury.

No doubt many people realized, when they first heard about these signs, how much these trails mean to us. So many local residents use the trails on a daily basis that it would be hard to imagine life without access to these wonderful trails.

For many Blueridge residents trail access is one of the reasons that they live here.

Let's not forget how many Blueridge residents fought hard in 1995 to have the lands rezoned to PRO (Park, Recreation and Open Space). It was a battle, but the Council of the day listened to the residents and took note of the 15,000 petitions and rezoned the lands to PRO. Let's keep it this way for everyone's enjoyment!

Love – and respect – where you live

Written by: Christine Miller, Education Coordinator
North Shore Black Bear Society

“Love where you live” is the logo on a mug that was given out by a real estate agent at a community event recently. You will certainly agree that this place we call home is very special. We have clean water and air, magnificent trees, forests with trails for hiking and biking, and green spaces that are wildlife corridors. It is a wonderful place to live for people, pets *and* wildlife. North Shore residents have been given information about how to prevent attracting wildlife



Photo: C. Swales

close to homes and schools for over a decade, and the positive changes are notable. Most Blueridge residents know that outdoor fridges and freezers, accessible garbage, food scraps, unpicked fruit, and bird seed and suet are big attractants that draw bears close to our homes. In spite of so many residents having made improvements to the management of their wildlife attractants, our community lost four bears in September. A yearling, first, and then a mother and her cub (seen in picture) were killed by the Conservation Officers Service and a young bear, approximately 2-3 years old was hit and killed by a car on Berkley. It is known that the first three bears to be killed had been accessing unnatural foods at some residences. It only takes a few locations for bears to develop a route full of rewards.

Representatives of the North Shore Black Bear Society have responded to reports of bear sightings and wildlife attractants with bear-in-area signs, door-to-door canvassing and home visits across the North Shore. It is very disappointing when bears become food-conditioned in communities and are killed due to perceived danger or while crossing a road while foraging for food.

Natural foods are scarce for bears as they prepare for hibernation, and locating caloric-rich food in communities is irresistible for them. Blueridge has done well, but we can do better, and it is hoped that you will know that you have done your part to show your respect for where you live by helping to keep bears wild and away from homes and schools.

More information is available at northshorebears.com and North Shore Black Bear Society's Facebook page, or by calling the District Bearline [604-990-BEAR (2327)] and pressing 2 or the Society's direct cell number (604.317.4911).

Maplewood Community Needs Assessment

Written by: Ryan Schwartz

The District of North Vancouver is conducting a Community Needs Assessment for the Maplewood neighbourhood. All District residents are welcome to provide input via an online survey. If you wish to complete the survey please visit the District's website (www.dnv.org) or enter the following link for direct access: www.research.net/r/MaplewoodNeedsAssessment

Information gathered from the survey will help set direction for future community services and public spaces. This is a great opportunity to voice your opinion if you believe that a certain type of service, program, facility, or outdoor space is needed in Maplewood (or in the surrounding area). Please contact fellow Blueridge resident Ryan Schwartz at schwartz@rcstrategies.ca if you have any questions.



To all the Cake Walk Bakers of Blueridge

Written by: Ilona Chapman

Better late than never – I want to express my feelings of gratitude from organizing the cake walk at Blueridge Good Neighbour Day this past June.

I work, have children, and like everyone else, constantly juggle a very busy schedule amidst life's ups and downs. The notable Eric Andersen had been persistent in his pursuit of recruiting me to volunteer. I resisted for many years but finally decided to give it a go. To my surprise, it was an easy task that could be coordinated from home. Leading up to BGND, several people started to send me texts and photos of their baking creations. People went above and beyond baking a cake out of a box. My friend Louise, who could not attend the cake walk, as she was packing for a camping trip instead, managed to whip up 50 teddy bear cupcakes! Cake connoisseur Emma Green, a student from Windsor Secondary, baked two works of art. Emma had recently started an out of home cake and cookie business and bakes rich and distinctive cakes for any occasion. Another friend Raissa took the time to transfer a car full of goodies to her refrigerator so we could still keep milk in our fridge! Shari arrived the morning of to offer her help with hanging up signs. I'm sure I'm forgetting to mention many other names as a large number of women showed up early Sunday morning to drop off baked goods even though they couldn't attend the event. Amidst the cake walk itself, many people stopped by with their donations but never received a thank you.

The cake walk was a ton of fun. There's nothing like winning a baked goodie for only a toonie! I can't express enough the feeling of gratitude I experienced after the event. I feel immense appreciativeness living in a community where so many people are willing to pitch in and contribute.



ART IN THE GARDEN EXPERIENCE.

Written by: Rob Cousin

I have had an interest in art in the garden since visiting gardens during previous shows. One day I mentioned to Naz I have thought about submitting our yard for the show and she said yes, do it. I was kind of nervous about doing it but Naz gave me full support and encouragement, so I went ahead and submitted. Linda and Tessa from the North Vancouver Community Arts Council came by to see the yard and approved it. I also have some paintings I had done over the last few years and submitted those to be shown at the show too and they were accepted as well. Two other artists also showed work in our garden, Doris McDougall showed her beautiful paintings in the back yard with mine and Guy Hollington showed his blown glass work in the front yard. There were two musical groups that played as well. Saturday Blue Bird Day played and Sunday it was Mark and Jack Fortin, both were very good.

The week leading up to the show was a bit gut wrenching especially watching the weather forecast. It went from 30% chance of showers to 60 % chance of showers, to rain, then to 28mm of rain expected and then morning of the show it was 35mm of rain expected, heavy at times. The weatherman got that part right. Saturday morning was pouring rain. We all set up tents and displayed the art under those. The garden was all droopy under the weight of the rain. Everybody's spirits remained high though and it was still fun.

Sunday was a completely different story, the sun was out. We got to display our paintings out in the garden and flower beds, it did make for a really good display.

On the Saturday we had about 80 people come through despite the weather and on Sunday we had about 300 people come through. Naz and I were very happy so many people came by for a look. We received lots of positive feedback from the people that came by. Some people commenting on particular things they liked, the shed, the pond, a particular plant or Naz's vegetable garden...

It was a very good experience for Naz and I. Our neighbors were all very nice and supportive of the whole thing. People that came to visit our yard were also checking out the neighbors yards too, we had lots of comments on how nice their yards were as well.

I tell ya, Blueridge is an awesome neighborhood. One would be hard pressed to find a friendlier or more supportive one than this.

School Closure

Written by: Angela Duso

In April 2016 the Blueridge Community Association held a well-attended meeting on the Future of Blueridge Elementary School. Currently, the school is under a 'closure bylaw' which indicates that Blueridge Elementary and Seymour Heights Elementary will be amalgamated in a new school built on the Seymour Heights property. The timing of this is not clear. As a result of the April meeting, a Blueridge Public Lands Taskforce was created. The Taskforce (a group of talented and concerned residents) met in July to determine what course of action to take in order to keep Blueridge Elementary School open. One of the decisions made was to have a 'presence' at School Board meetings in 2016/2017.

Many thanks to Doug Blakeney for getting the ball rolling and attending the first School Board Meeting on September 20th. Doug was able to speak to the School Board Trustees and report back on the 5-year draft Capital Plan.

Of special interest to the Blueridge Community is the Draft [5-Year Capital Plan 2016/17](#) which was approved for submission to the Ministry. The Plan highlighted the following funding requests: Seismic Mitigation Programs, Expansion Projects, Replacement Projects* (affects Blueridge Elementary), Building Envelope Projects, School Enhancement Projects, Carbon Neutral Capital Projects, and Bus Replacement Programs.

Of concern to our Community is Project Priority #1 on the [Replacement Projects](#) list:

- Priority Based primarily on Facility condition, with consideration to future enrolment pressures

Project Priority	Facility Name	Project Timing	Project Description	Preliminary Estimate
1	Seymour Heights / Blueridge	2018/19	Replace one school with expanded 60 K / 425	\$ 15,234,815
2	Lynnmour	2019/20	Replace with expanded 60 K / 400	\$ 14,886,181
3	Queensbury	2020/21	Replace with expanded 60 K / 400	\$ 15,327,924
4	Larson	2020/21	Replace with expanded 60 K / 475	\$ 16,984,835
5	Brooksbank	2021/22	Replace with 60 K / 400	TBD
6	Ross Road	6 - 10 Years	Replace with expanded 60 K / 600	TBD

SD44 Draft 5-year Capital Plan 2016/2017

Doug noted that the School Trustees at the meeting were not all in agreement with the priorities in the Capital Plan. Larson and Ross Road Elementary Schools (currently #4 and #6 on the Replacement Projects priority list) are significantly overpopulated and in real need of more facility space. There was also serious discussion regarding Priority #1 and #2 under the Expansion Projects list regarding future planning for the Lower Lonsdale neighbourhood where there is a growing need for an elementary school (which would require land and money for buildings).

Doug spoke during the "Public Comment" portion of the meeting and made the following points:

1. The funding request approved earlier in the meeting for submission to the Ministry is significantly too low

- Blueridge Elementary student population is currently 352 students, an increase of 30% over the last 5 years.
- Adding to an estimated 275 students at Seymour Heights, the current # of students in both schools is roughly 625.
- The Capital Plan approved for submission to the Ministry is only budgeted to build a school for 425 students at Seymour Heights.

2. SD44 has run surpluses for at least the last 5 years so does not appear to be in need of operating savings that the combined schools would supposedly provide.

School Closure Cont'd

3. School Trustees themselves had expressed concerns about other priorities lower down on the Replacement Projects list (Larson and Ross Road); schools which they stated are “*bursting at the seams*”.

Doug asked if priorities in the Plan can change over time as new information becomes available. The Board confirmed that priorities can shift. Doug also asked the Board about Seismic upgrades (#1: Handsworth Secondary – \$43M) vs School replacements (#1: Seymour Heights / Blueridge \$15M) and which would likely have the highest priority? The Board suggested that the Ministry has been placing a higher emphasis on seismic upgrades.

The overall impression from the meeting was that nothing will likely happen in the near future regarding Seymour/Blueridge – even if funding were approved, it would be many years before a new school would be ready. 2017 is also a provincial election year so there may be a change in government coming. The Capital Plan priorities may also change in the future. What IS important (and this was strongly emphasized to Doug after the meeting by Trustee Barry Forward, who is the Blueridge / Seymour Heights School Liason) is for the community to continue to have a presence at upcoming meetings and continue to lobby to keep Blueridge Elementary open as long as possible. Links to the Draft Capital Plan and other documents that related to this article can be found on the BCA website www.blueridgeca.org. Would you be able to attend a School Board meeting? Would you like to join the Public Lands Taskforce? Please email info@blueridgeca.org for more info or to sign up.

Expanding Bike Paths and Walking Trails

Written by: Jim Hanson

Earlier this month, North Vancouver District Council passed a motion calling on us to explore steps to expand the protected bike path network in the District. The aim of the motion (initiated by Councillor Bond, and supported by the entire Council) was to consider how we could expand cycling infrastructure in order to provide better transportation alternatives to residents. Council will hold a number of workshops with a view to making expanded cycling routes a reality. These will take place within the next several months, and the public

are welcome to attend. At the same time, Council is interested in improved and expanded walking trails. Quiet, safe routes connecting various regions of the District could provide yet another transportation option, with the infrastructure cost being relatively modest in comparison to other alternatives. During the recent debate in Council regarding bike lanes, some councillors, while supporting the motion, expressed concern that we ensure that bike lanes do not encroach upon our existing road infrastructure for vehicles, thereby making a bad situation even worse in regards to vehicle traffic congestion. In my view, cycling and walking infrastructure must be developed in addition to improvements in existing vehicle road infrastructure, and in addition to improvements to transit. We must tackle our traffic issues by providing better transportation alternatives of all kinds. One walking path that could be developed in the Blueridge area would be a direct route connecting Blueridge to Parkgate. Although this would require the consent of the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (the owners of Blair Range), the terrain would easily permit the construction of an easy walking path, at relatively modest cost. What are your views? Do you support expanded cycling and walking infrastructure in North Vancouver District? These will be among the topics of debate in Council in the coming weeks and months, and the views of District residents are always welcomed by Council as we form our opinions. We look forward to hearing from you by e-mail, telephone, or best of all seeing you in person at Public Input at our Regular Council meetings, held most Mondays.



BLOCK WATCH REPORT

Written by: Eric Andersen

The North Shore (including Blueridge & Seymour Heights) is usually a fairly safe place, but lately you may have heard about a fair amount of crime taking place in the Deep Cove area, i.e. not terribly far from here.

Block Watch has always had strong participation in Blueridge/Seymour Heights - in fact, we are proud of having the highest participation rate in North Vancouver. The Block Watch sign at the bottom of Berkley confirms that we have in excess of 85% participation, however, over the summer the Block Watch program has been pushing to get more households involved.

Chances are, therefore, that you are already part of the Block Watch program (which is free to all participants), but if your block is not part of Block Watch, or if you have not heard from your Captain in quite a while (there is always a possibility that he or she has moved out of the area), please contact us (info@blueridgeca.org) and we will be sure that you get directed to the correct party in our neighbourhood.

Block Watch is a great way of keeping in touch with your neighbours and finding out what is happening in the area.

Thermal Imaging

Written by: Eric Andersen

The colder season is getting closer and this is the right time for you to find out if your house is properly insulated or if your heat is literally going out the window. How can you better check this than through thermal imaging?

The BCA can help getting this arranged for any of our residents. Just drop us a line

(info@blueridgeca.org) and we will coordinate this for you through our friends at Cool North Shore.

They will arrange for the local fire department to

come to your house one evening and do the thermal imaging on your house.

It's easy, it's free and it will let you know if work needs to be done anywhere in your house to keep it well insulated.



TWIN BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Written by: Name withheld at writer's request.



On Saturday Sept 24 MetroVancouver held the first "LSCR (Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve) Annual Event", attended by 70-80 people. Mike Mayers, (A) Director Watershed/Env Mgt & QC, has announced that MetroVancouver are not delaying plans for a bridge replacement. An engineering firm is working on design and the hope is that construction will commence in 2017. Rock breaking (in the rock slide itself) continues, but it could be a number of years (up to five) until they see results from the rock breaking – which is primarily to mitigate the passage of fish around the rock slide. Many of us in Blueridge are looking forward to the replacement of Twin Bridges.

Carols in the Garden

Submitted by: Brian Gardiner

Mark the date!



Saturday, December 10

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

2nd Annual Carols in the Garden

Blueridge Sharing Garden, Lytton and
Carnation Street

Rain, Shine or Snow!

Come and join your friends for some Christmas
Carols

Bring some treats to share!



Be neighbourly and keep to the law

Written by: Sian Oliver

Dear Blueridge residents that border a sidewalk. Did you know that it is the law that you must maintain your trees and shrubs 6 inches back from the sidewalk? With so many neighbours walking our sidewalks it would be in good faith that you maintain your trees and shrubs that may overhang on it. Please keep this in mind for all those walkers/runners/ dogs/kids that may have to step onto the street if your overhang is too much. Please respect the law and maintain your yard so we can be safe on the sidewalk.

ONCE AGAIN...THANK YOU!!!

Written by: Eric Andersen

A huge thank you to all the generous donors and sponsors who very kindly donated to our Blueridge Good Neighbour Day in June!!!

They helped us make it another success and fun time for all. We urge you to support these local merchants, who support Blueridge Good Neighbour Day, whenever you can.

This event could not take place without their generosity, but it would not happen without our tireless volunteers either – both those on the Blueridge Good Neighbour Day Planning Committee and those who helped out at the event.

Thank you all for your help – you make a huge difference in your community.

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