

BLAIR RIFLE RANGE PLAQUE: IT'S HAPPENING!

Written by: Donna Sacuta

The establishment of a historical plaque recognizing the former location of the Blair Rifle Range in our neighbourhood has been a project your Community Association has supported since it was first suggested.

We are very excited to learn that the plaque will be unveiled later this month.

The "unveiling" ceremony will take place on Friday, March 31 at the Parkgate Community Centre at 5 pm. All members of community are invited. Light refreshments will be served after a brief presentation. The plaque itself will be installed at the corner of Mt Seymour Parkway and Northlands Drive later in the spring.

The historical marker was made possible under a project operated by the BC Labour Heritage Centre. Funding came from the Centre, the Deep Cove Heritage Society and Heritage BC. Organizers ask that you RSVP to info@labourheritagecentre.ca, or 604-419-0400, to assist with planning.



RESPONSIBILITY OF MUNICIPAL COUNCILS

Written by: Lesley Brooks

I encourage everyone everywhere to pay attention to what happens at their municipal council meetings. They affect our daily lives so directly.

My understanding of all underlying decisions of our local councils should be that whilst they move their communities forward, they should work to maintain the quality of life of the people who elected them. In this North Vancouver councils have failed abysmally!

I have lived on the North Shore for many years and I am increasingly feeling like a prisoner in my own home, unable to venture out after 2 o'clock. As the traffic congestion becomes intolerable the councils continue to approve every application for development with minimal upgrade to infrastructure. Hundreds more units are already approved for this year.

At North Vancouver District Council meeting recently a councillor suggested that if residents think this is congestion we should visit Vietnam! Three councillors pleaded for a three month development approval pause but were voted down by four who suggest we should be thinking of where our grandchildren will live. I conclude that they are quite unconcerned about lives of their present constituents.

We must pay close attention to what transpires at our local councils and vote accordingly next time.

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, March 27 at 6 - 8:00 PM – Community Bear Forum

Mary Hunter Hall at Parkgate Community Centre (Page 3)

Friday, March 31 at 5:00 PM – Plaque Unveiling, Blair Rifle Range

Mary Hunter Hall at Parkgate Community Centre (Page 1)

Wednesday, April 5 at 7.00 PM – Garden Steering Committee – Calling all volunteers! Please contact garden@blueridgeca.org for details

Tuesday, April 15 – Deadline to rent a garden box, Blueridge Sharing Garden (Page 3)

Thursday, May 4 at 7:00 PM – All Candidates meeting for the provincial election

Mount Seymour United Church, 1200 Parkgate

Tuesday, May 9 – Provincial election Day – Blueridge Elementary School

Tuesday, May 23, at 7:00 PM – Blueridge Community Association AGM at Blueridge Elementary School

Sunday, June 4 at 10:45 AM – 3:00 PM – 20th Anniversary Blueridge Good Neighbour Day

Parade starts on the Corner of Berkley and Hyannis (Page 4)

Traffic Safety on Berkley Road

Written by: Name withheld at writer's request

Here at the Blueridge Community Association we often get correspondence about Berkley Road. Traffic safety on Berkley is a concern for many people in Blueridge. Berkley Road is the only route into and out of Blueridge for many residents and users of trail networks. There is little-to-no speed enforcement on Berkley, and traffic coming off the Parkway (with its speed limit of 60 km/hour) has a tendency to speed on Berkley where the limit is 50 km/hour. Children living west of Berkley must navigate a busy road with speeding traffic and distracted drivers in order to get to and from school. Here is the text of a letter from a concerned resident to the DNV, followed by the DNV's response. Are you concerned about traffic in Blueridge? If you would like to help with advocacy for a crosswalk at Berkley and Swinburne, please contact info@blueridgeca.org.

I am writing to request a pedestrian controlled crosswalk at Berkley Rd and Swinburne Ave. Parents and non-parents in this area have seen too many close calls with kids almost being struck and cars driving past at high speeds while kids stand and wait for cars to stop. This intersection has become very dangerous. The reasons for this request are the following:

- Kids walking to school living on the west side of Berkley St have to cross very busy Berkley to get to Blueridge School, on the east side of Berkley;
- The only crosswalks located on Berkley are on Carnation St which is 400 m away and in the wrong direction, and at Layton St, 300 m away, past the school;
- Kids living on Lennox, Birney, Keats, Swinburne and Layton currently cross the street at Swinburne where there is no crosswalk;
- A lot of families attending Blueridge School live out of catchment, making Berkley Rd a high traffic road during drop off/pick up times;
- Parents dropping off to Blueridge school travel north on Berkley, past Swinburne Ave and turn right on Byron, not to mention the regular non-school neighbourhood traffic;
- Swinburne is a popular walking through street, servicing people living on Lennox, Birney, Keats, Swinburne and Layton on the west side of Berkley and the east side of Swinburne where there is a pedestrian bridge at the cul-de-sac. People walking from Walpole cross the pedestrian bridge to get to Swinburne and cross Berkley at this location;

- There are two bus stops on either side of Swinburne and Berkley, and bus users use this intersection to cross the street to access public transit;
- When vehicles are parked on Berkley Rd, it is very difficult for cars to see people wanting to cross the street at this intersection.

Response from DNV Traffic Technician

In reference to your request for a pedestrian controlled crosswalk at the intersection of Berkley Road and Swinburne Avenue, I have been asked to review and respond to your request.

The District gets several requests for additional crosswalks and/or upgrades to existing crosswalks and, we are continuously reviewing traffic studies for crosswalks. The decision as to whether a marked crossing or an upgrade to existing crossing is warranted requires extensive studies and can take several months before we can provide a definitive answer. Unfortunately, providing an unwarranted marked crosswalk can increase the risk to pedestrians and so we need to be very careful.

When we review a location for a potential crosswalk the warrant procedure from the TAC Pedestrian Crossing Control Guide of British Columbia is used. This Guide has established a hierarchical system of signing, marking and signal control to provide a guide for matching crossing systems with conditions found at specific locations. The warrant procedure takes into account the number of pedestrians crossing the road, number of vehicles, crossing distance and number of vehicle gaps at the intersection.

Once we have finalized the review and reached a final decision on whether a crosswalk or upgrade is warranted, the crosswalk is added to a priority list and may be installed or upgraded depending on their priority level and the available budget at the time.

If you wish to better understand how we proceed with crosswalk request, you may view the presentation given to Council at the Workshop on February 2nd, 2016. The link to Council materials is provided here:

<http://app.dnv.org/councilsearchnew/#results>

Please pay special attention to slides 13 to 18 for relevant information.

Thank you for taking your time to share your thoughts. Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to let us know.



Rent a Garden Box!

The Blueridge Sharing Garden has 10 raised garden boxes available for community groups and individuals to rent for the 2017 garden season. Guidelines for this trial program can be downloaded:

<http://blueridgeca.org/garden-rental-guidelines/>

Preference will be given to those who have volunteered in the garden in the past. The Blueridge Sharing Garden is located on between Carnation and Lytton Streets across from Seymour Heights Elementary. This is a project of the Blueridge Community Association.

Deadline: April 15, 2017

Questions? garden@blueridgeca.org

The Ultimate Unbaked Vegan Brownies!

Submitted by: *Sonia McLeod; recipe from Health Magazine*

2-1/2 cups loosely packed pitted dates
 1-1/2 cups walnuts
 1/2 cup plus 2 TBL Cacao powder or unsweetened cocoa powder
 2 teas vanilla extract
 3/8 teas salt
 1/4 cup pure maple syrup
 2 TBL vegetable oil or melted coconut oil

Preparation: Combine dates, walnuts, 6 TBL cacao powder, 1 1/2 tsp vanilla, 2 tsp. water and salt in food processor. Process until completely smooth. - Lightly grease an 8-inch square baking dish, or line dish with parchment or waxed paper. Transfer dough to dish. Press dough very firmly into dish with your hands until dough is evenly distributed. - In a medium mixing bowl, combine remaining 1/4 cup cacao powder, remaining 1/2 tsp. vanilla, maple syrup and oil. Stir until mixture forms a paste (this is the frosting). Spread paste evenly over dough in baking dish. Refrigerate brownies for at least 2 hours to set, then cut into squares. Refrigerate any leftovers in a covered container for up to 2 weeks, or freeze for up to 2 months. Makes 16 servings – Enjoy!

COMMUNITY BEAR FORUM

In 2016, 4 (of 7) North Shore bears died in Blueridge, and it is hoped that 2017's statistic will be lower. **Bring your ideas, concerns and questions about North Shore black bears to a panel of experts.** There will be short presentations made by each organization, followed by a question and discussion period.

you can consult with:

- Mike Badry

Wildlife Conflicts Manager

- Chris Doyle

Deputy Chief of COS

- Murray Smith

Inspector of COS - South Coast Region

- Christine Miller

North Shore Black Bear Society

Monday, March 27 • 6-8 p.m.

Parkgate Community Centre

Mary Hunter Hall

This is a free event and no registration is required.

Hosted by Jane Thornthwaite, MLA, North Vancouver Seymour

OUR COMMUNITY, OUR CANADA

Written by: Denzil Ford

Come Celebrate 20 Years of Blueridge Good Neighbour Day

On **June 4, 2017**, the loving community of Blueridge will celebrate its 20th **Blueridge Good Neighbour Day**, and to help kick off Canada's 150th birthday later in July, the theme this year will be:

Our Community, Our Canada.

With the hope of embracing the fact that our local and national communities have developed out of the blood, sweat and tears of people from diverse backgrounds, ethnicities and cultures, we invite you to come out and help all of us commemorate 20 years of sharing in community and life.

As always, **Blueridge Good Neighbour Day** will start with the **PARADE** at 10:45am at the corner of Berkley and Hyannis. We **invite all kids** to join in with their bikes decorated in as much sparkle, pizzazz, cultural pride and Canadian flags as possible. The parade will end on the grounds of Blueridge.

Elementary where you will be met with a decked-out **20th anniversary celebration** featuring all of our traditional activities, such as: games, rides, pie-eating contest, kid's carnival, cotton candy, popcorn and demos. You'll see a **SILENT AUCTION** like you've never seen it with a selection of high-quality items you are sure to love. You'll also get to experience the cake walk, gyros, live music, face painting, food vendors and **MORE FUN THAN YOU CAN SHAKE A STICK AT.**

Cultural attire, Canadian garb and fun costumes of all kinds for all ages are encouraged!

Local Businesses: we invite you to rent community tables to promote your organization, donate an item to the silent auction, or even sponsor an activity like the band, kids rides or inflatable fun house. This is a great chance to get involved in your neighborhood, have fun and make a difference! We look forward to seeing everyone at this event.

For 19 years, Blueridge has celebrated Blueridge Good Neighbour Day starting with the parade that leads residents to a community celebration, entertainment, food and activities for all ages. The event now regularly sees around 1800 participants, and this year's 20th celebration will honor the diversity of Blueridge as well as our national heritage with Canada's 150th birthday. All proceeds go to fund the event. Questions about this even or volunteer inquiries should be directed to bgnd@blueridgeca.org.

WE NEED AUDITORS!

Written by: Eric Andersen

Over the years we have built up some funding, particularly for our yearly event Blueridge Good Neighbour Day. We all know that the weather will have a large influence on the attendance at this (mostly) outdoors event, so the surplus could disappear quickly – that is why it is called our 'rainy day fund'!

However, in view of our bank balance we thought it prudent to have a couple of 'auditors' go over our books before our AGM on May 9. We already have one party, who has agreed to be part of our 'audit team', viz. long-time Blueridge resident, Mike Lam, but we would like to have at least one more auditor. You do not need to be a CA or CGA to help us with this, but some accounting experience from work or from other volunteer organizations would be most helpful. The audit is not expected to last more than 90-120 minutes and will be done jointly with Mike Lam and the BCA's treasurer, Ted Bancroft, who will be there to answer any of the audit team's questions.

If you are interested and willing to help out, kindly contact us at: info@blueridgeca.org.

Web: www.blueridgeca.org / Email: info@blueridgeca.org
 Twitter: @BlueridgeCA / Facebook: Blueridge Community Association