

# Blueridge Community News

Editor: Sonia McLeod

## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Blueridge Good Neighbour Day

Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Blueridge School Grounds

### Our Community, Our Canada



Created by: Denzil Ford

Everyone is invited to get an early start celebrating Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday by joining your neighbours at this year's **20<sup>th</sup> annual** Blueridge Good Neighbour Day. Kids dress up and decorate your bike. Everyone is invited to wear clothing that represents your heritage or go crazy with red and white to celebrate Canada.

**THEME:** Our Community, Our Canada celebrates all of the local cultures that make up our larger national community.

**PARADE:** 10:45am start at the corner of Berkley and Hyannis. Parade travels to Blueridge Elementary.

**LIVE MUSIC:** *The Adam Woodall Band*

**FOOD & ACTIVITIES:** International food trucks, Gyros, concession stands, beverage garden (ID mandatory), Kids Carnival, bouncy castles, rides and games, silent auction (cash/credit) and our famous pie-eating contest.

**CANADA BIRTHDAY CAKE:** At 12:30pm in the Blueridge gym we'll cut a gigantic birthday cake for Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**GREEN INITIATIVE:** Bring water bottles and washable dishes to help us eliminate unnecessary waste.

**FUNDRAISER ON MAY 27:** You're also invited to our **Pub Night Fundraiser at Narrow's Pub on May 27<sup>th</sup>** 6:30pm. Burger & a beer for \$25 + 50/50 draw. Tickets: [bgnd@blueridgeca.org](mailto:bgnd@blueridgeca.org). Proceeds go to sponsor Blueridge Good Neighbour Day.

Blueridge Good Neighbour Day is brought to you by a group of dedicated neighbours and our valued sponsors, especially **Stong's Grocery** who goes above and beyond each year. Interested in sponsoring, renting a community table, volunteering at the event, or donating an item to the silent auction? Please contact us at [bgnd@blueridgeca.org](mailto:bgnd@blueridgeca.org).



### **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Saturday, May 27, at 6:30 PM** – Blueridge Good Neighbour Day Fundraiser, Narrows Pub (Page 8)

**Sunday, June 4 at 10:45 AM – 3:00 PM** – 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Blueridge Good Neighbour Day  
Parade starts on the Corner of Berkley and Hyannis (Page 1 & 8)

**Sunday, June 18 at 9:00 AM** - Soap Box Derby, Carnation Street / **10:00 AM** – Sharing Garden Activities! (Page 7)

## BLUERIDGE AND SEYMOUR HEIGHTS SCHOOL (UPDATE MARCH 2017)

Written by: Doug Blakeney and Barry Fenton

### Blueridge and Seymour Heights School (Update March 2017) by Doug Blakeney and Barry Fenton

Following a successful campaign back in the Fall 2016 of raising concerns about the closure of Blueridge Elementary at Board of Education public Board meetings, a couple of our community members were invited to sit down with North Vancouver School District Superintendent/CEO Mark Pearmain back in January 2017 to further discuss community concerns.

The meeting with Mark was attended by Doug Blakeney and Barry Fenton and covered many topics including Seymour area schools utilization statistics, provincial government priorities, development on the North Shore, and other considerations relating to the current Argyle and Handsworth projects.

One key takeaway from the meeting was that even though the Blueridge closure / Seymour Heights replacement is listed as the highest priority on the District's list of Capital Projects, the likelihood of this happening anytime soon is generally believed to be relatively low. That being said, it is important to remember that the closure of our beloved Blueridge Elementary is currently a question of WHEN, not IF, and that day will inevitably come sooner than we'd all like. So what can you do today? Read on...

**Statistics** – For the number crunchers among us, Superintendent Pearmain shared capacity and utilization data from the past 4 years for Blueridge, Seymour Heights, and Lynnmour schools. He also provided specific catchment data which the District considers important. One of the areas of note is that even though Blueridge enrolment is near capacity, just over a third of Blueridge students come from outside of the catchment. And even though most of these students come from neighbouring Seymour Heights or Lynnmour areas, the District makes long-term capital decisions based on where students actually reside. Here are the 2016-2017 enrolment statistics:

School	Capacity	Student Utilization	Open Spaces
Blueridge	365	345	20
Lynnmour	295	170	125
Seymour Heights	320	274	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>191</b>

**Government Priorities** – It was emphasized that the provincial government is very much focused on two key areas: i) Seismic upgrades; and ii) New schools in Surrey. On the seismic front, Superintendent Pearmain stated that Vancouver still has over 65 high risk seismic projects that have yet to be funded (with costs exceeding \$500M), whereas North Vancouver seismic risk schools have already received or been approved for upgrades. The other priority for the province is dealing with the exponential population growth in Surrey and that district's desperate need for new schools to meet this demand.

**North Vancouver Development** – Questions were raised regarding the District's past prioritization of the Blueridge closure / Seymour Heights replacement ahead of a new school in the ever-growing Lower Lonsdale area. Superintendent Pearmain clarified that the province will not fund new schools until kids are in place and the need is fully *realized* (i.e. not just *forecasted*). Questions were also raised relating to the development along the Seymour corridor, including Maplewood Town Centre. Superintendent Pearmain confirmed the District is closely monitoring this development and that once a project such as the Seymour Heights replacement is given a green light, detailed studies will be conducted (including community consultations) before budgets/plans are finalized.

**Learnings from Argyle/Handsworth Projects** – The province has generally prioritized seismic upgrades over school replacements. In North Vancouver, two schools were on the province's original priority seismic list: Argyle Secondary and Handsworth Secondary. Argyle was originally approved for *seismic upgrades* in

May 2012, however, the project was subsequently resubmitted for *full replacement*. That resubmission and subsequent re-approval took four years (approved June 2016). The latest forecast is for the new Argyle to open in September 2019. And while Handsworth was originally approved for seismic upgrades in 2013, the District only requested that project be upgraded from *seismic only* to *full replacement* last Spring. With nothing announced in the recent provincial budget and with the May election now upon us, it will likely be several months (at least) before a final decision is made regarding Handsworth; and from there, it will be several years before the project completes. These timelines and delays are important as they may play a role in determining when the province will look at other major North Vancouver capital projects. In addition, capital project priorities can change over time. This will include future North Vancouver development in the lower Lonsdale area and in the Seymour area including Maplewood Town Centre.

So what does all this really mean?

Based on the declining student enrolment trends in the period 2000-2010, the North Vancouver School Board made the decision in April 2010 to close Blueridge and rebuild a new a larger Seymour Heights school. However, since this School Board decision was made the student enrolment has increased and many young families continue to move into the Blueridge area. In addition, the 2016 Supreme Court decision impacting maximum class size may have an important impact on the schools in our area. Accordingly, we believe that the School Board Trustees should develop a new long term plan for schools in the Blueridge and Seymour areas before the province approves funding to build a larger Seymour Heights – such a plan may conclude that keeping Blueridge open may be in the best interest of the District. Our local residents may also be wondering what may happen to the Blueridge school property once the school is closed.

We all know that Blueridge Elementary is a critical hub for this community. It draws in families who get to know their neighbours as a direct benefit of the smaller school size before the kids disappear into larger high schools. But if/when Blueridge is closed, and a large replacement school at Seymour Heights comes in its place, we will inevitably lose some of that tight community connection.

And what will come in its place? More private schools like we've seen at Plymouth and Maplewood? Or will the land be sold and its use changed? Might we even see condos being proposed one day?

These aren't questions any of us want to necessarily think about, but if we simply kick the can, leaving it for others down the road, then these are questions that will shape how our community evolves.

So what can you do?

Our suggestions are to become more actively involved which includes talking about this issue:

- 1) Talk to your spouse - figure out if this is something you want to be part of doing something about.
- 2) Talk to your neighbours - see what they think and start to rally up support for doing something. Why not come out to one of the Blueridge Community Association meetings and see what others think!
- 3) Talk to our School Board Trustee Liaison, Barry Forward ([bforward@sd44.ca](mailto:bforward@sd44.ca)) - he genuinely wants to hear from people in the community so he can make sure your voices are heard by the rest of the Board. Better yet, come out to one of the monthly public Board meetings and talk to the full Board yourself during the public comment period - don't worry, they don't bite! Barry Forward and the full Board need to know that the community wants the 2010 School Board closure decision to be reconsidered. For a full list of meetings, go to: <https://www.sd44.ca/Board/Meetings/Pages/default.aspx>
- 4) Talk to our MLA, Jane Thornthwaite ([jane.thornthwaite.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:jane.thornthwaite.mla@leg.bc.ca)) - let her know that the entire Education system needs more funding and strategic long term planning.

Thanks for your continued interest in what's going on with this important community issue - we'll provide updates when we learn anything new. Watch for additional information on the BCA website

[www.blueridgeca.org](http://www.blueridgeca.org)

## BEAUTIFYING BLUERIDGE TRANSFORMER BOXES

Written by: Kuhan Milroy

Have you ever seen a BC Hydro transformer box with a beautiful pattern on it and noticed how much more visually appealing it appears. But then you come home to your own unsightly, off-colored box.



We've discovered that with the support of the Blueridge Community Association (BCA) you, too, may be able to disguise your box within the beauty of your garden or choose a bold pattern and make it the flashy cornerstone of your street.

It's formally called "Decorative Wrap Installation" and is part of BC Hydro's Beautification Program.

**Who can apply?** Individuals are not eligible to request a box to be wrapped. Only businesses, governments and approved, "well-established and sustaining community groups" can apply. BCA has been approved. BCA will sign the contract with BC Hydro to allow individuals or groups within Blueridge to purchase their own decorative wrap and the service to wrap the box.

**How do you get started?** There is a bit of due process to get a box wrapped. You need to check with BC Hydro that no maintenance is planned to be done to the outside of the box in the next 10 years.

**What's the fun part?** Picking the pattern! There is quite a selection of imagery to choose from that vendors offer or you can choose your own and the vendor can have it printed. You like starfish? Postcards? Or simply just a cedar hedge? Another thing to keep in mind is that patterns do need to be approved by the DNV (and it would be nice if we all checked with our neighbours). BC Hydro also needs to give final approval, at which point BCA actually signs the contract that allows the decorative wrap to be applied.

Beautifying Blueridge Transformer boxes cont'd....

**Who pays for it?** In short, we the homeowner/s who request the wrap pay for it and the installation. For a typical box on a single dwelling lot, prices range from \$450-600. Depending on the vendor, this can include minor maintenance touch-ups, but for the most part the wraps are maintenance-free for a minimum of 10 years.

**Future possibility:** We learned that there is a Beautification Fund from BC Hydro that covers 33% of the costs if the municipality covers the rest. More research needs to be done to apply for this program for interested parties.

**For more information:**

[https://www.bchydro.com/community/in\\_your\\_region/decorative-wraps.html](https://www.bchydro.com/community/in_your_region/decorative-wraps.html)

or email

[info@blueridgeca.org](mailto:info@blueridgeca.org).



### LATE-BREAKING NEWS!

Written by: Eric Andersen

Just days before this newsletter was sent to our printer, Budget Printing, the BCA had a meeting with the District of North Vancouver about the transformer boxes that Kuhan Milroy eloquently wrote about on this page.

The DNV very kindly proposed to make this a pilot project and agreed to apply for the grant from BC Hydro's Beautification Fund that will cover 33% of the costs. In addition the DNV will be paying another 33% of the costs, meaning that the homeowners will only have to pay for one third (assuming that the grant application is approved by BC Hydro). Since the deadline for the grant application is October 1 we had to get this into the current newsletter, because our next newsletter is not likely to be distributed till November. We will find out whether the grant is approved by BC Hydro – or not - by January 31, 2018 (at the earliest).

There will be more details to discuss with interested parties, but at this point we are just trying to determine who might be interested in participating in this project in Blueridge. Being a pilot project, only a limited amount of applicants will be considered, so if you are interested, please contact the BCA (at [info@blueridgeca.org](mailto:info@blueridgeca.org)) NOW! First come, first served!

Even if you are not prepared to commit at this point, please let us soonest know about your potential interest in this 'Decorative Wrap Installation' project. We will get in contact with each applicant.

## **Dogs on-leash in the forests**

*Written by: Eric Andersen*

We love our dogs. We love our forest. Our dogs love our forest, but... all dogs don't love all other dogs. After being blessed with our first three dogs, our fourth dog, Molly – also an adopted one – proved to be... well, let's say... a bit of a challenge.

She is a gem with people, and we have no issues with her inside our home, but... she occasionally does show signs of defensiveness with some other dogs. We are learning what her triggers are and it is usually towards smaller dogs. Fortunately it never escalates to causing harm to another dog, but this is clearly a behavior that we do not accept. Reflecting on past dog ownership experience we tried different ways of dealing with it. Unfortunately the behaviors were beyond our scope of canine behavioral knowledge so we decided to get the best help we could find in the area, viz. Joan Klucha. She is a long-time dog-trainer and has been writing regularly about dogs and dog behavior in the North Shore News. Her columns appear in the Sunday issue of the North Shore News and are titled 'Canine Connection'. If you are a dog-owner, you really should read her articles!

We are very diligent with our homework, but know that there is no quick fix and it is 'work in progress'. With Joan's help we have seen great progress with Molly, and we continue to follow Joan's great advice and guidance.

What has surprised us, however, is to see how the owners of the other dogs react when they see us in the woods with Molly on her leash.

There could be many reasons that a dog is on a leash in an off-leash park or area (such as the forest near Blueridge). It could be a new dog, that the owners do not feel is ready to be off the leash, it could be a dog that takes off in the wilderness and doesn't respond when called back, or it could be a dog that may have issues with some other dogs – like in the case of Molly.

The District of North Vancouver's bylaw 5981 is rather clear about dogs in off-leash areas (also applicable in the Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve):

Dogs ARE ALLOWED throughout North Vancouver on all thoroughfares and in certain parks, provided they are on leash or, in some cases, off leash, if under control of a competent person.

Along our walks, we have come across many dogs who are off leash, in designated off leash areas with their owners. Some of these owners are very conscientious and when they see Molly and I approaching, automatically call their dogs to either leash them or have them in a controlled off leash heel as they walk by. Others ask if we would like them to leash their dogs before they pass by us. But a fair amount of people do nothing. For the most part this isn't an issue, unless that off-leash dog takes issue with my leashed dog and chooses to attack her. It is clear that these owners either have no control over their dogs, or simply do not care about their dogs' behaviour along a trail. As a result, there have been times when I have had to physically intervene to save my own leashed dog from being harmed by these off-leash dogs. To make matters worse, the owners then deflect their responsibility onto me by making uneducated, judgmental remarks that my on-leash dog should not be on the trails. The irony of those comments is clearly lost on the dog owner shouting them.

We have been granted the privilege, which many people consider their right, to walk our dogs off-leash along many trails on the North Shore, but unwittingly it will be the irresponsible dog owners with off-leash and out of control dogs, who will eventually cause that privilege to be taken away, not the responsible dog owner with the leashed dog. Please consider how you and your dogs' behaviour are impacting the lives of others along the trail. Our community is not getting any smaller, we must all become more considerate if we are going to continue to enjoy the trails at our disposal, with our dogs.

So... if you see any leashed dogs in the forest, take a brief moment to consider that the owners have their dogs leashed for a valid reason. Both the owner of the leashed dog and the dog itself would probably prefer to be running off-leash, like yours, but can't. You may not understand the reason as you have never had a dog with a behavioural problem that needs fixing, but just like humans, dogs also come with faults, some are bigger than others. Remember that these owners walking their leashed dog are being responsible, by not only keeping their own dog controlled, but keeping yours safe as well. Help them by being respectful of their responsible choices. Be a good human as well as a responsible dog owner by showing kindness rather than righteousness.

## OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN (OCP) BYLAW IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW

*Written by: Eric Andersen*

The District of North Vancouver Council adopted its Official Community Plan (OCP) in the spring of 2011, so after six years Council decided to do an OCP Implementation Review. How is the plan working? Are we ahead of or behind the developments, which the OCP is calling for, particularly in the four designated town centres? Have the OCP's goals been met?

Make sure you follow the Council discussion that will continue to take place during the next couple of months, about a year and a half before the next municipal election (October 2018). You may wish to contribute to this discussion and let your thoughts be known to the DNV Council.

### *Good bye, Kent Spencer*

*Written by: Eric Andersen*

Many of you will already have heard the extremely sad news that local journalist Kent Spencer passed away on May 17. Kent and his family have lived in Blueridge for several decades and have countless friends in our neighbourhood.

Kent, who had just turned 64 and passed away from pancreatic cancer, worked for 44 years at The Province – amazing these days to work for that long for one single employer. He worked with this local paper till less than four weeks before his untimely passing.

He was a really gentle and wonderful person with extremely positive vibes. On many occasions he would contact the Blueridge Community Association to hear about our position on various local issues. Considering how many larger communities he would be dealing with through his work, it was always nice to notice that he never forgot his roots in Blueridge.

A couple of years ago the tradition with the Christmas Carols in the Blueridge Sharing Garden was started, and Kent promptly volunteered to play the piano, since he loved playing this instrument. Kent will be sadly missed, and the Blueridge Community Association is offering its sincere condolences to his wonderful family, his wife Judith, and two children, Brooke and Reid.

## HOW DO WE REACH YOUR TENANTS?

*Written by: Eric Andersen*

We all know that a number of homes in Blueridge/Seymour Heights have secondary suites, as is often the case across North Vancouver. Tenants are a very important part of our community and some tenants stay in our neighbourhood for several years. We want to make sure that we can reach these residents, too, when we send out our newsletters.

In most instances it is not easy to see, when you come to a house, if there are tenants living in that house. Only rarely is it evident that there are two separate entrances, one for the owners and one for the tenants.

So in order for us to know that you want two newsletters for your house (including one for your tenants), please drop us a line to let us know that we need to leave two newsletters at your house instead of one. You can rest assured that this information will not be divulged to any other parties. Kindly e-mail us at: [info@blueridgeca.org](mailto:info@blueridgeca.org).

### **The North Shore News Delivery**

*Written by: Eric Andersen*

Many of us have experienced that the delivery of the North Shore News has not been as regular as it should be (meaning delivery every single Wednesday, Friday and Sunday). It is, obviously, also a concern for the North Shore News and the many parties who advertize in our local paper. The North Shore News is always looking for local carriers, so if you and/or your kids should be interested in taking on a route (meaning a commitment to deliver the North Shore News three times a week), please apply directly on-line. If you have troubles with the delivery of this paper and you do not receive it three times a week, please contact the North Shore News' field operations manager, Russ Blake, who would like to hear about this. He can be reached at 604-369-2465 or [rblake@nsnews.com](mailto:rblake@nsnews.com).



## SOAPBOX DERBY

Written by: Dale Cheyne  
Youth Services Supervisor  
Parkgate Community Services Society



Building racers, making friends, learning life skills, and RACING DOWN A HILL! These are the key aspects of the Parkgate Community Centre's Social Success by Soap Box program, which on Sunday, June 18th will see local preteens conclude the last lap of the program with a derby race. This program has been generously supported by The United Way for the last five years and again this year the youth have worked extremely hard for the last couple of months to build, customize, and decorate their special racer for the derby. Seymour Heights Elementary and Carnation Street will play host to this family friendly event, which will include soap box racing, music, a BBQ, and much more. The neighbouring Blueridge SharingGarden will also getting in the action this year with additional free and fun activities based on increasing people's garden IQ. The fun kick offs at 9am (Garden activities at 10am) with the first qualifying runs and concludes around 12pms with the final laps. Come make a pit stop and cheer on the young people from our community!

How to contact us:

Web: [www.blueridgeca.org](http://www.blueridgeca.org)

Email: [info@blueridgeca.org](mailto:info@blueridgeca.org)

Twitter: @BlueridgeCA

Facebook: Blueridge Community Association

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY X 2!

Written by: Eric Andersen

We are getting ready to celebrate a couple of important birthdays.

On Sunday, June 4, Blueridge Good Neighbour Day will take place for the 20th time!

From a small event back in

September 1998 our local community day has grown into something large that involves a lot of our residents, both as participants and as volunteers. We are excited about this milestone and hope that many of our neighbours and friends in Blueridge/Seymour Heights will come out and help us celebrate this birthday on June 4. Yes, there will be something special for all those who show up!

**Even more important is the Blueridge Community Association's 25th birthday early next year!**

Our treasurer has found that our first receipt is dated February 24, 1993, meaning that early next year our association will celebrate its 25th birthday. We are looking for ideas to celebrate this birthday and will very much look forward to your suggestions. After all, everyone living in Blueridge/Seymour Heights is automatically a member, so please give us some ideas of how to celebrate OUR big birthday next year. Please let us have your suggestions at: [info@blueridgeca.org](mailto:info@blueridgeca.org).



## HELP SUPPORT BLUERIDGE GOOD NEIGHBOUR DAY



*Created by: Denzil Ford*

2017's Blueridge Good Neighbour Day theme – **Our Community, Our Canada** – ties our annual neighbourhood celebration together with Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday year, and this year's event is going to be bigger than ever.

As in recent years, however, several of our grants and donations have not come through. We'd like to go big this year anyway and give our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the pizzazz it deserves.

Ways you can help support Blueridge Good Neighbour Day 2017

### Before Blueridge Good Neighbour Day

- Purchase tickets to attend our first annual Pub Night Fundraiser at Narrow's Pub
- \$25 for a burger & a beer, Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm, at Narrow's Pub, 1970 Spicer Rd.
- Email [bgnd@blueridgeca.org](mailto:bgnd@blueridgeca.org) for ticket purchase.
- Donate a prize to Blueridge Good Neighbour Day's Silent Auction

### On Blueridge Good Neighbour Day – June 4, 2017, Blueridge Elementary

- Be generous when bidding at the Blueridge Good Neighbour Day Silent Auction
- All proceeds go to support the day's events
- Spend plenty on food trucks, the beverage garden and other activities
- Cash or credit accepted
- Contact us now for more information on how to be a volunteer on June 4

**\*\*For more information or to make donations, write to [bgnd@blueridgeca.org](mailto:bgnd@blueridgeca.org)**

Bakers wanted  
for donating a cake  
or anything yummy  
to BGND cake walk.  
Please contact Iлона  
at [ilonaj@yahoo.com](mailto:ilonaj@yahoo.com).

**HELP WANTED!!**  
Two people with "Food Safe"  
certification to serve food at  
Blueridge Good Neighbour Day,  
Gyros sandwich food table on  
Sunday June 4. Previous food  
service experience an asset. Wage is  
\$25/hour. Please contact Lauren @  
[gorgounisfam@gmail.com](mailto:gorgounisfam@gmail.com)