

ARROYO COURT COMES TOGETHER FOR DINER EN BLEU

By Bruce Bourdon

On June 8, 2019, a sun-kissed Saturday evening, 120 excited Blueridge neighbours trekked towards a silent Arroyo Court. Upon arrival, the blue-clad crowd found a formal outdoor dining room, complete with two 60-person tables covered with crisp linen, china plates, silver utensils, fresh-cut flower bouquets and twinkling white lights overhead. The scene would make Martha Stewart's head spin!

After being serenaded by Windsor piano virtuoso Charlie Calla, and dazzled by the choreography of the Seymour Dance Academy, the diners produced an exquisite feast from the depths of their camping coolers, children's wagons and picnic baskets. Conversation ran amok, long-time residents welcomed new neighbours, retirees mixed with young parents to the background sounds of jazz icons. A sumptuous "Blueridge" cake was devoured as the daylight melted to dusk. When the orange sky faded to black, the diners departed and Arroyo Court sat silent once more.

In four fleeting hours, the second annual Diner en Bleu came and went, too soon perhaps, but nonetheless marvellous, memorable and magical.

A big thank you to: Arroyo Court residents; Blueridge and Seymour Heights elementary schools for tables and chairs; Vancouver Convention Centre for linens; Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle Downtown, cake Freeman, sound system; –tables and chairs. Think your street would like to be next year's secret Diner En Bleu location? Get your neighbours on board now and contact brucebourdon@telus.net.



BLUERIDGE COMMUNITY NEWS

Published by the Blueridge Community Association for Blueridge and Seymour Heights residents



Former corner store born again -- as a community coffee house

By Michael Bernard

After sitting vacant for nearly two decades, the Seymour Heights Store is getting a new lease on life—as a café with a theme based on bikes.

Two young North Shore entrepreneurs—Christine and Joe Reid—are busy transforming the former corner store at Emerson and Mount Seymour Parkway into a bustling community gathering place where people can enjoy a good cup of coffee and tasty baked treats while chatting up their neighbours.

They also hope their café will attract a steady flow of cyclists heading to or returning from the mountain biking paradise that sits above Blueridge.

"We have been looking at this space for some time," says Christine, whose experience includes working for almost two years at the successful bike hangout, the Musette Café at Burrard and Drake.

Joe notes that their new venture's site is well located. "There are so many bikes that pass the store every day. It's kind of half way between two mountain bike trail hubs, one at the top of Berkley and the other at the Old Buck trail (near the Mount Seymour Road). To cater to that crowd, they also plan to feature some retail sales that would appeal to cyclists.

The couple and their new baby, Edie, live in Lynn Valley and, not surprisingly, work at bike-related organizations. Joe is with a bike parts distributor in the Dollarton commercial district while Christine is executive director for the North Shore Mountain Bike Association.

They noted that Blueridge currently doesn't have a place where people can gather; the closest currently are kilometres away at Parkgate Mall, Dollarton and Deep Cove. In trying to contact the property owner, the couple connected with Eric Andersen, chair of the Blueridge Community Association. He shared with them an association survey of Blueridge residents done a few years

ago. The survey—which drew more responses than any previous association poll—found the community overwhelmingly wanted a place where Blueridge residents could congregate.

"It was really wonderful to look through the survey and see that we are very aligned with what a lot of residents are looking for," said Christine. After meeting with the owner's representative, they signed a longer-term lease. While their café's theme is cycling, they say they want to create a place where everyone feels welcome. They plan to set aside part of the 1,800-square-foot space as a place where local groups could hold meetings. "We want to focus on making this for the people in the community," says Christine.

Meanwhile, the Reids have a general contractor modifying the space from its previous role as a convenience store. Saying they want to make cyclists feel comfortable, even if they bring with them some dirt from the trails, They plan to pour a new polished concrete floor, and install appropriate lighting, among other café features.

They hope to have a "soft opening" before Christmas, with something more official early in the new year. They already have a name for their new establishment. "It is United Strangers Coffee," says Christine. "A community is built up of a collection of united strangers. This is a reflection of us."



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Tuesday, October 15 – 7 PM: Blueridge Community Association co-hosting a federal All-Candidates Meeting at Mount Seymour United Church, 1200 Parkgate

Sunday, October 20, at 9 AM – 12 PM: Blueridge Garden work party – starts with coffee

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 3 PM – 5 PM: Christmas Market, Lynnmour Elementary School, 800 Forsman Ave.

Highlights of Blueridge Community Association's AGM for 2018-2019

By Eric G. Andersen, BCA Chair

At the BCA's Annual General Meeting on May 14, 2019, the current Chair, Eric G. Andersen, pointed out the following highlights for the BCA for 2018-2019:

FIRST OF ALL: A HUGE 'THANK YOU' TO EVERYONE WHO HAS VOLUNTEERED HIS/HER TIME TO THE BCA.

As stated repeatedly before, the BCA could not operate without all YOUR assistance, directors, volunteers and meeting participants.

1/ our scholarship was handed out to a Blueridge youth for the fourth time

2/ our 'Project Community' has expanded from cleaning of fireplaces & furnaces to cleaning of gutters

3/ the BCA's work with the District of North Vancouver to help 5 local owners with BC Hydro transformer boxes on their property with 'Decorative Wrap Installation' was completed

4/ BCA meetings continued to be held every second month (September, November, January, March and May).

5/ we had a couple of guest speakers: DNV planners (September), MP, Terry Beech (November), North Shore Rescue (January) and the Seymour Salmonid Society (May)

6/ three newsletters (May 2018 (8 pages), October 2018 (4 pages) and March 2019 (4 pages)) were prepared in 2018-2019 which reached every household in Blueridge/Seymour Heights (thanks strictly to volunteers!). Another newsletter is scheduled to be distributed during the second half of May 2019.

7/ the BCA hosted a very successful 21th Blueridge Good Neighbour Day on June 3, 2018, at the Blueridge Elementary School. A committee is hard at work on the 22nd BGND.

8/ the BCA has a regularly updated website: www.blueridgeca.org and Facebook page as well as our main e-mail address: info@blueridgeca.org. We have about 530 e-mail recipients in Blueridge/Seymour Heights (gone up from 480 last year).

We have a Twitter account located @BlueridgeCA (if people want to "follow" us). Different hashtags associated with our other account are: #BGND2019 and #SharingGarden. We now also have an Instagram account

9/ the BCA has notified its members of numerous meetings and events of potential interest to them. This is done through our Communication Officer's 'Blueridge Bulletin' which goes out monthly and numerous postings on Facebook.

10/ the BCA has representatives on the Community Advisory Panel, Canlan Ice-Sports Committee, the Seymour Local Plan Monitoring Committee, the Neighbourhood Advisory Committee and North Vancouver Community Associations Network (NVCAN).

11/ the BCA has a traffic committee (ad hoc), a Blueridge Good Neighbour Day committee, a trails committee (hosting walks in the neighbourhood), a Blueridge Sharing Garden committee, a scholarship committee (ad hoc), a Good Neighbour Greeting committee, a nominating committee and a Community Lands Task Force (ad hoc) and a Diner en Bleu committee. Some of the committee chairs will make a brief presentation at the AGM.

12/ the BCA continues to monitor the situation regarding the future of Blueridge Elementary School

13/ the BCA has its own brochure and biz cards with social media information

14/ the BCA is now offering baby, pet and house-sitting services

15/ the BCA had another 'meet and greet' your neighbours aimed primarily at new Blueridge/Seymour Heights residents (in March) with special invited guests from local agencies and organizations

16/ the BCA continues to visit and greet all new Blueridge/Seymour Heights residents when they move to the area

17/ in October the BCA co-hosted both an All Candidates Meeting at the Mount Seymour United Church and later an introduction to the provincial 2018 Referendum on Electoral Reform at Parkgate

Our goals for 2019-2020 should include to look for younger residents for our board and revise our brochure

BUS SHELTER ADS: DOWNRIGHT UGLY AND DANGEROUSLY DISTRACTING

By Michael Bernard

A Blueridge resident says the community should take a more forceful position against what he sees as an ugly and potentially accident-inducing increase in outdoor advertising in Blueridge and Deep Cove.

Steve Rappard says of the 56 outdoor ads in the two communities, 10 promote real estate agents, 22 are for television and radio programming while the remaining 24 advertise cars, food and drugs.

"These unnecessary outdoor ads do nothing to promote our beautiful community and present a constant distracting danger to anyone driving our streets," Rappard said in an email to Eric Andersen, chair of the Blueridge Community Association.

"We as a community need to work towards a city that celebrates its creativity and independence, where communities have a say in

"We as a community need to work towards a city that celebrates its creativity and independence, where communities have a say in what they see in the city's streets and other public places. Billboards and other corporate outdoor advertising, contaminate our visual environment and we need to work towards returning the unique natural identity of our city and uphold the values of local communities and the local economy."

Rappard warns that there are 28 bus stop shelters in Blueridge and Deep Cove, with newly installed Pattison shelters being equipped with brighter LED lighting arrays with reflective glass back walls that double the size of the ads at night, which poses a hazard for drivers when the light reflects off the reflective road surfaces.

Rappard also said 50 per cent of accidents occur at intersections where bus shelter advertising panels are mounted. At Berkley Road and Mount Seymour Parkway, for instance, he said, ICBC recorded a 50-per-cent increase in accidents after Pattison's company installed new shelters in 2014.

Citing safety concerns, places such as Montreal, Toronto and Prince Edward Island have passed legislation to control or eliminate entirely outdoor advertising, he said. In Washington state, communities there have virtually eliminated outdoor advertising on billboards and bus stops.



BABY SITTERS, PET SITTERS, HOUSE SITTERS--WE GOT 'EM ALL!

By Eric Godot Andersen

Once a year we go over the sitter directory on our website to find out who is still interested in being listed and who is not (some of our babysitters e.g. graduate from high school and move away to universities across the country).

This means that we currently have 18 active sitters listed. It opens up for others to sign up, which you can do on-line (check our website: blueridgeca.org).

We currently mostly have baby-sitters and pet-sitters, but also one house-sitter, so if this is something that you would like to offer, please sign up so we can include you.

This is a great tool for anybody living in Blueridge/Seymour Heights, and we hope that many of you will be taking advantage of this directory when you have a date-night, when you go on holidays, or if you need your pet looked after during busy times in your life.

We must stress, as we have done before, that we have not 'vetted' any of the information provided by any of the sitters, so it is your responsibility to interview prospective candidates and ensure that you find them qualified to look after your children, pet and/or house. You may wish to ask for references which would be provided by other Blueridge residents.

The service is offered to Blueridge/Seymour Heights residents only.

Blueridge reps sought for Community Advisory panel, Canlan meeting

By Alex McNeil

My wife and I are planning on travelling more, and I will, consequently, be unable to get to several scheduled meetings! So, I am looking for assistance from someone to take over the Community Advisory Panel (CAP) and Canlan meetings. Both meetings are extremely interesting and bring us in touch with what's happening with Canlan (the rink at the bottom of Berkley), DNV waterfront industries, Rec Commission and Maplewood expansion, Capilano, and Wild Bird Trust etc.

The Canlan meetings held twice a year (usually in October and April) generally are between 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m, with dinner at 6:00 and followed by discussion. The meeting is always held at their office upstairs above the ice rink. If interested, please contact the manager, Brent Honey (604 924 0828 –ext. 2131 –bhoney@icesports.com).

CAP meetings locations can vary, but generally are held at the Chemtrade Logistics Plant (formerly known as Canoxy and Nexen).

The contact for CAP is Daniela Cohen (604 515 0115 capnorthvancouver@gmail.com). Information will be sent from Daniela for locations and times for CAP! The meetings are bi-monthly and usually take place in September, November, February, April and June.

The BCA representative then verbally reports back to the next meeting of the Blueridge Community Association board what happened at the CAP and Canlan meetings. No written reports are needed! I must stress that one person does not have to join both committees. You can pick whichever you prefer, or both. Both CAP and Canlan put on a good dinner for those attending the meetings!



BLUERIDGE GOOD NEIGHBOUR DAY 2019 ANOTHER SUCCESS ---FOR TWENTY TWO YEARS IN A ROW!

By Eric Godot Andersen

In all modesty we can say that Blueridge Good Neighbour Day 2019 was another success! The usual most unpredictable part is the weather, but we lucked out this year. It was a very nice day, not too hot, not too cold and – perhaps the most important part - no rain!

As we always do, we would like to thank our very generous sponsors and donors who are all listed below. We would also like to suggest that you support these generous donors when you have a chance. Please support those who support our event! Believe it or not, but a few have been doing this consistently for now 22 consecutive years!

Blueridge Good Neighbour Day (BGND) could not take place without their wonderful support. It could also not happen without the devoted team of volunteers who spent so much time on the Blueridge Good Neighbour Day planning committee. These are (listed alphabetically): Eric Andersen, Alison Anderson, Jocelyn Clennett, Cyndie Gilley, Stacie Graham, Nazreen Ishak, Sanaz Kashani, Dimitri Katsiris, Dagmar Kocsis, David Kustner, Fariba Leilaby, John Richmond, Judith Spencer and Wafaa Masri.

Thank you also to all the many volunteers who came out to help us on the day of the event on June 2. We could not have such a big event without everyone's help.

We would also like to thank Blueridge Elementary School and the school board for letting us use their facilities for Blueridge Good Neighbour Day.

Finally thanks to all those who attended – we hope you all enjoyed it and had lots of fun that day. A HUGE thank you to all of you! Let's do it again next year! For the 23rd time!!!

THANKS TO OUR MANY BGND SPONSORS!

Sponsors:

Neptune Terminals
North Vancouver Recreation & Culture
Stong's Market

Anthem Properties
BlueShore Financial
Millerwalk Real Estate Team
The Provincial Government (Jane Thornthwaite's office)
Telus
Tupper Landscaping
Western Stevedoring

Brian Rybchinsky
David Maquignaz
Judy Killeen
North Shore Neighbourhood House
North Vancouver Child Development Centre
Dave Moucks

Silent Auction Donors:

30 Minute Hit – Dollarton
Alaire Homes North Shore
Amica Edgemont Village
Anita Montgomery
Arc'teryx Equipment Inc.
Arms Reach Bistro
Aspire Naturopathic Health Centre
Barb Wilks: Your Realtor – Sussex Group
Beautycounter
Blueridge Dental
Booster Juice
Bosa Foods
Bridge Brewing Company
Browns Social House – Lower Lonsdale
Canlan Ice Sports - North Shore
Capilano Suspension Bridge
Cobs Bread
Concept Computers
Cove Health
Crudo Dog Food by Surrey Meat Packers
Cutie Pie Wax Bar
DB Perks & Associates Ltd. / Team Aquatic Supplies
Deep Cove Music
Dickison Agencies – Avex Drinkware
Dykhof Nurseries and Florist
Emco Corporation
Everything Wine
F. Leilaby Chartered Professional Accountant
Fawcett Insurance

FirstMate Pet Foods
Forbidden Vancouver
Fruition Spa
Genesis Hair Studio
Grouse Mountain
Jump Gymnastics

OUR BGND SPONSORS CONTINUED

Kids Physio
Kitchen By Design
Kore Salon

LaserDome Plus
Little Pink Door Boutique
Local Lift

Maplewood Taphouse & Eatery
Meat the Butcher
Morning Moon
Mount Seymour Optometry
Nesters Market
North Shore Bio-Energy
North Shore Sports Medicine
NV Markets & Events Inc.
North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission -
Ron Andrews Community Recreation Centre
Northern Touch Landscape Installations
Northland Bar & Grill
Northlands Golf Club
Odlum Brown Limited
Osteria Savio Volpe
Panago Pizza
Parkgate Farm Market
Pepino's Spaghetti House
Pilates From the Center
Pillar to Post - DeJong Vancouver Team Home
Inspectors
Pollard Family
RBC: Nazreen Ishak, Lindsay Witham, Ronnie Nordholm, Valentina Swierczynski
Real Canadian Superstore
Rexford the Barbershop
Romantique
Ruth & Jim Hanson
S-8088 Detail Centre
Seymour Golf and Country Club
Seymour's Pub
Shoppers Drug Mart - Parkgate
Skoah
Smithwerks Carpet & Upholstery Care Ltd.
Special Times Out of School Care
Sussex Insurance – Superstore Location
Takaya Golf Centre
Techniks Hair Studio and Spa
Telus
The Destination
The Hive North Shore
The Pint Public House
The Port of Vancouver
The Raven
The Sanctuary
Time Out Source For Sports
Tour de Feast
Vancouver Aquarium
Waterline Plumbing Ltd.
Windsor Ethical Butcher and Provisions

The BCA continues 'Project Community'

By Eric Godot Andersen

One of our former directors, Alberto Trujillo González, suggested a while back that we should embark on what he called 'Project Community'. In short, this means that we offer something that many residents would like to participate in. Others may call it bulk purchases. We have done it for cleaning of fireplaces and furnaces for the last number of years, and we also offered the possibility for the BC Hydro box wrap in 2018. Earlier this year we offered for the first time a gutter cleaning for the last number of years, and we also offered the possibility for the BC Hydro box wrap in 2018. Earlier this year we offered for the first time a gutter cleaning service which went well.

With the weather getting colder we should all focus on our furnaces and fireplaces – is anybody really dying to host a Christmas dinner when the furnace is not working? We still believe that by offering a certain number of residents we can obtain better prices, and our regular service provider loves the fact that the service crew can work all day in Blueridge/Seymour Heights without having to spend hours on the North Shore going from job to job and being stuck in the infamous and unproductive North Shore traffic jams. Environmentally this is also the right thing to do.

If you are interested in participating in this local project please contact the BCA (info@blueridgeca.org) by October 31, and we will coordinate this for mid-November. In addition, by doing this before November 30, the participants will also be eligible for the Fortis BC rebate for furnaces and fireplaces (\$25 each).

Our service provider's prices are \$79/furnace, \$99/fireplace, \$119/heat pump and \$199 for vents subject to GST, but also subject to 10% group-rate discount, because we expect more than 10 local participants. We continue to look for NEW projects. What else can we work on to the benefit of Blueridge/Seymour Heights residents? Painting? Garden work? Bulk purchases (solar panels anyone?!)?

If you have any suggestions and great ideas, please let us know!

A DOG PARK? NOW THAT'S SOMETHING TO WOOF HOME ABOUT!



Hi! My name is Spruce. I'm a 13-month-old chocolate lab and I like swimming, hiking, food, playing fetch and making new friends. I moved to Blueridge in October 2018 and my parents take me on the trails regularly but they're always worried about my playing fetch with all the potential hazards. There is this one park that my mom brought me to where she threw the ball but she said I wasn't allowed so we had to be quiet and couldn't stay long. Although there are a lot of Park spaces in Blueridge, none allow dogs!. There just doesn't seem to be a wide open safe park where I can play ball - this makes me sad.

I've also met several other furry friends on my walks around the neighborhood but it's so hard to actually play together - the parents are always getting themselves all tangled up with those darn leashes! It makes me sad that we can't play free. But then I had an idea- why don't we ask the District of North Vancouver for a dog park!? A safe, fenced in area where all the Blueridge furry friends could play free! Here are some of the benefits:

- An opportunity to connect with other dog families
- A safe place where dogs can socialize with other dogs
- Another opportunity to have a central meeting point; strengthening our community.

The BCA kindly reached out to the District who did a bit a research. They confirmed that if there was a community need they would build one! They will have to have a community consultation with all the humans of Blueridge first. When this

does happen, I hope you all speak in favour of this idea. If it is confirmed that there is a community need, the District will then look at Park options:

One potential location may be the empty lots on Berkley (from the past Berkley slide). The DNV would need to engage some experts to assess the land to make sure it's safe for us first of course but it already is fenced off of Berkley and it's an empty green space right now. Why not use it? Instead of creating a new park, perhaps we can dedicate one of the existing parks as a Dog only or Dog-Human shared park? This may be less effort overall. Maybe another park area could be created entirely?

What I need from you: please express your support for this park by sending an email to info@blueridgeca.org or by filling out this survey (<https://blueridgeca.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f32eac40835ae8336189005db&id=43baf1cc61&e=96b1f47190>).

Also, please show your support during the neighborhood consultation. Now I know I'm not supposed to say my birthday wish out loud, but I did wish that by my next birthday there would be a dog park in our community. I'm sure all my other dog friends would be very excited too!!!

Thank you to all and please say "hi" next time you see me on a walk or on the trails.
Woof – woof
"Spruce"

(Written for Spruce by Marie-France Venneri)