

Hello Blueridge!

There isn't much room in this newsletter, already jammed with news this issue, but I will shoehorn in an intro... My name is *Michael Bernard*, and I am your new newsletter editor. I actually started the job with the last issue in October, but there was no room then to announce my coming on board. My wife, *Brenda*, and I have been Blueridge residents since 1986, raising *Andre* (now 38) and *Annabelle* (now 30) who attended Blueridge Elementary and Windsor Secondary. I am always looking for good stories about our community, so please send them to newsletter@blueridgeca.org or call me at 604-929-1588.

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

The Blueridge Garden

Founding member Colleen Mah shares what she loves most about the garden

In the fall, the Blueridge Garden brims with beauty. Located across the street from Seymour Heights Elementary School, along the path that leads to Mt. Seymour Parkway, the garden is seen by many community members who walk by on a regular basis. During harvest time, it is filled with rich colourful vegetables, fragrant herbs, and flowers dripping with bees. This past year also brought many new book donations to the free library for kids and adults.

As our fifth growing season is about to begin, we are asking one of the Garden's founding members, Colleen Mah, some questions about the evolution of the Blueridge Garden.

—*Donna Sacuta and Anni Danielson*

Q: For those who are new to the community, where did the idea for the Blueridge Garden come from?

A: Someone was 'guerrilla gardening' along Berkley Road. There were sunflowers in the vacant lots at the top of the hill and red runner beans growing up street lights. I didn't know who was responsible, but I was struck by how this small gesture gave me such joy. I thought a garden would add to the community and give people a place to meet, learn and grow together. That was the beginning of a long story that involved working with an organization called Cultivate Projects and the District of North Vancouver. We were also fortunate to have countless financial supporters and, most importantly, some passionate, hardworking volunteers.



(l-r) Colleen Mah, Donna Sacuta and Anni Danielson stand in the middle of the Blueridge Garden, preparing it for the coming spring season.

Q: Why was it called the "Sharing Garden" until recently?

A: In the beginning, we were growing food for not-for-profit and community organizations, such as the Harvest Project. A portion of what we grew also went to the gardeners who volunteered. More recently, we decided to change things up and rent a portion of the garden beds to individuals in a similar way to other community gardens. Now we have 10 beds for sharing with local elementary schools, seniors' programs and organizations like the Spectrum Mothers Support Society (see next page). The remaining beds are rented for \$20/season.

Q: Why has the name changed to the Blueridge Garden?

A: We want to focus on the many Blueridge members now involved in the garden and to be more in-line

—continued on next page

with the naming of other community gardens. We also want to focus on engendering community spirit through involvement with the garden. Of course, we want more community members to become involved too—everyone is welcome!

Q: What do you like best about the Blueridge Garden?

A: There are so many things that I love about the garden! Our volunteers have run countless educational events for kids: building mason bee houses, painting garden signs and planting flowers for the Butterflyway Project through the David Suzuki Foundation. We also had Windsor students paint inspiring messages on rocks and scatter them around the garden. This past June, we partnered with the EcoKids Club at Blueridge Elementary and invited the kids to come plant carrots, beans and beets. In September, we harvested the produce and sold it at one of the school's events. With the money that we earned, we will buy more seeds

and supplies for this year. Learning about the circular economy is a topic that's near and dear to my heart.

Over the years, we've had pot-luck dinners, hosted university students who were looking to do work in the community, and have sung Christmas carols with Kent Spencer on the keyboard. On a personal note, the garden connects me with like-minded people. The original "guerilla gardener" was a woman named Donna Sacuta. She has turned into my friend and ally which all happened thanks to the garden.

Q: So, what should people do if they want to get involved?

A: From April to October, we meet once a month for a work party. Everyone is welcome to join us! Our garden opening celebration is tentatively set for Sunday, April 5 from 9 am - 12 pm. You can contact us by emailing garden@blueridgeca.org

Growing Food for North Shore Mothers

By Sally Livingstone

Here comes Joanne with another delivery of delicious fresh vegetables from the Blueridge Garden!

Spectrum Mothers Support Society is very thankful to the Blueridge Garden for including us in the distribution of fresh fruit and vegetables to the community. This year we have received an abundance of produce to provide to our clients. In some cases, the produce has allowed us to make soups, dips and salads that have been enjoyed by the families.

Spectrum Mothers Support Society is a non-profit organization that provides support to mothers living on the North Shore with newborns or newborns with children under three, who are courageously caring for their children under difficult circumstances. Clients are matched with a caregiver who spends six to eight hours in their home. This consistent, reliable, trustworthy support makes a real difference in the lives of these mothers as they move forward on their parenting journey. As one mother said, "The help I received from Spectrum when I was in crisis was life-saving. My relationship with the caregiver is life-changing."

We are always looking for ways to connect with the community and are delighted to be working with The Blueridge Garden. For more information, visit our website at www.SpectrumMothers.ca

(Sally is founder and program director of the Spectrum Mothers Support Society.)



Meet the Mayor!

On Thursday, April 2, Mayor Mike Little has agreed to come out to meet Blueridge & Seymour Heights residents and answer any questions. The meeting will take place at 7 PM in the Seymour Room at Canlan Ice Sports on Mount Seymour Parkway. We expect the meeting will last about 90 minutes.

This will give everyone a chance to ask Mayor Little about anything under the sun: you can ask him about transportation, housing, climate emergency, the OCP (Official Community Plan), parks & recreation, taxes, safety concerns and even topics mentioned in this newsletter, and anything you feel like and can think of.

We are looking forward to an interesting meeting between our residents and Mayor Little.

Get Ready for Blueridge Good Neighbour Day

Sunday, June 14th, 2020

By Jasmine Broad

Blueridge Good Neighbour Day (BGND)

is our big yearly event in Blueridge/Seymour Heights. Bring your family and friends to our fun-filled event, from the parade at 10:45 in the morning to the festivities in the afternoon at Blueridge Elementary School until 3 p.m.

Contact us at
info@blueridgeca.org

if you would like to
volunteer for
BGND!



Important dates to Note:

Thursday, April 2 – 7 PM - Meet Mayor Little! – The Seymour Room at Canlan Ice Sports on Mount Seymour Parkway

Friday, May 1 - Tickets go on sale for the Dîner en Bleu on June 6

Tuesday, May 12 – 7 PM – Blueridge Community Association meeting – AGM – Blueridge Elementary School

Saturday, June 6 – 6 PM – 10 PM - Dîner en Bleu – A secret location somewhere in Blueridge/Seymour Heights!

Sunday, June 14 – 11 AM – 3 PM - Blueridge Good Neighbour Day – The parade starts at Berkley and Hyannis at 10.45 AM

ULTIMATE COUNTRY HOEDOWN!



Sunday, June 14th



**Don't forget your cowboy boots and hat to this year's
Blueridge Good Neighbour Day!**

HERE'S THE LOWDOWN ON THE HOEDOWN!

Blueridge Good Neighbour Day (BGND) is our big yearly event in Blueridge/Seymour Heights. There will be tons of entertainment, including live music, lots of different food, a beverage garden (bring your ID!)

The hoedown fun will begin at 10:45 AM at the top of Berkley Avenue, and once the parade makes it to Blueridge Elementary School, that's when the party really begins, yeehaw!

We are excited to announce, at this year's BGND, the addition of the 1st Annual Blueridge DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT as part of the program. Get ready for some fun and compete as a team with your family and neighbors. Teams of 6 must include at least 2 girls and 2 boys. Sign up information to follow soon. Let's DODGE!

Contact us for more info! info@blueridgeca.org



Residents gather in 2018 for the first "Diner en Bleu" in Blueridge. Organizers are looking to hold another dinner this year. Watch this space!

Save the Date

Third Annual Diner en Bleu

Saturday June 6, 2020

Get Ready, Set, Go!

By Michelle Leroux

*D*on't miss the opportunity to join neighbourhood friends for our third annual al fresco dinner in a secret location in Blueridge that is announced by email the morning of the event.

Bring your own food and beverages. Tables, Chairs, Dinnerware, Glassware and Dessert are all provided. This event sells out quickly as we have a limited capacity of tables, chairs and space in case of rain. There are 120 tickets available and each household can buy up to four tickets! Be ready when tickets go on sale by emailing blueridgednb@hotmail.com on May 1st.

Proceeds from the event go to the Blueridge Community Association and fund scholarships for local students who serve our community.

Thanks!



The latest word on a dog park in Blueridge

By Eric Andersen

A dog park? Perhaps not much to woof home about! In our last newsletter a dog named Spruce was helped by his guardian to write an article about the possibility of a dog park in Blueridge.

Feedback on a dog park was suggested in an on-line survey, and it was one of the most popular ones that the Blueridge Community Association (BCA) has ever done. More than 100 residents took the time to fill it in, with 73% of the respondents in favour of a dog park, and we also received many comments. Two areas were considered: Eliza Kuttner Park on Blueridge Avenue (former Berkley slide site), and the open grass area (east of Emerson Road, south of the playground, and west of the sport fields) in the western part of McCartney Creek Park.

We presented all this information to the District of North Vancouver (DNV) parks department, who invited me to a meeting in late February. Both the above options were discussed, and unfortunately there are challenges with both sites as candidates for a Blueridge dedicated dog park, say DNV staff.

Regarding the Berkley site (Eliza Kuttner Park), there is still some hesitation regarding the use of this area as a dedicated dog park. This naturalized park serves as a memorial for Eliza Kuttner, who died during the devastating 2008 Berkley landslide. If the open grass area of McCartney Creek Park was considered,

it would be important to leave a sizable (at least 2/3 of the area) open grass area for informal play (e.g. ball, Frisbee), picnicking, etc. There are substantial grading and drainage challenges in this open grass area, which does not drain well, with standing water throughout much of the year. Significant and costly grading and drainage upgrades would need to be undertaken in this entire open grass area before dog park surfacing (e.g. rock dust or bark mulch) and fencing could be installed.

more than 100 residents took the time to fill in the survey, with 73% of the respondents in favour of a dog park

As well, we would have to determine whether the adjacent neighbours on the two streets for both suggested sites (Berkley Avenue and Emerson Way) would be agreeable to a dedicated dog park which may cause more noise in the area (including early in the morning) than they are currently accustomed to. Unfortunately, there are no other options available in Blueridge and Seymour Heights for a dedicated dog park, other than at the suggested sites. Off leash options are available on trails in the area and parks (e.g. Inter River Park and Myrtle Park).

We are not saying that the dog park in Blueridge is dead, but that there are many challenges ahead of us, if this ever were to happen here.

As usual with any articles in this newsletter, your feedback is always welcome - please drop us a line at: info@blueridgeca.org



Project Community continues - gutter cleaning again

By Eric Andersen

There is strength—and savings—in numbers. After a contractor successfully completed the cleaning of fireplaces, chimneys, furnaces, heat pumps and vents for interested parties in Blueridge and Seymour Heights over the winter, we are again offering gutter cleaning services through the same contractor.

This contractor is able to provide the service based on the following promotional pricing - all rates quoted include GST:

- For split level homes (usually older homes) built in the 60's or 70's between 2000 to 3200 square feet the price is \$141.75.
- For two level homes with basement between 2000 to 3200 square feet the price is \$173.25.
- For homes with two levels and basement that are 3200 square feet or more (usually the newer homes) the price is \$204.75.
- For smaller homes less than 2000 square feet the pricing would be estimated on site starting at \$89.25.



All work is 100% fully guaranteed, and labour is covered by Workers Compensation Board (WCB). Gutter cleaning is defined as “the removal of debris from inside the gutter system.”

Gutter washing (the washing of the outer metal facing of the gutter) would be an extra charge. The same company can also help with tree debris removal off your roof, cutting tree branches as well as window-washing - also for an additional cost. If you have any questions regarding this information, or if you wish to have your gutters cleaned please contact us at: info@blueridgeca.org We hope to see good participation with this “Project Community” as well.



Parking for an RV Needed!!

A Blueridge family is looking to park year-round a 28-foot 2018 “A Class” Newmar Motorhome. The family will pay for use of your space whether it is in storage or if the motorhome is on a trip. To discuss this possibility, please contact Walter and Lynda Sellmer at **778-846-3161**. Thanks!

United Strangers Café Still On Track

You may have noticed there has been a lot of activity lately in the old Seymour Heights Convenience Store at Emerson and the Parkway. This is a really good sign! The construction crew for proprietors Christine and Joe Reid are busy gutting the building, which has been vacant for more than 20 years. The Reids are getting ready to launch their United Strangers Café this June.

However, there are a few things that have changed since we reported on the café in our October newsletter.

“We really have had to embrace the corner store convenience model, (under which the property is zoned), but we will still have coffee service and freshly baked goods,” Christine said. “But we will not be able to prepare those things in-house, except for the coffee.” Meanwhile the pair have plans to create a unique space. There will be lots of chairs and tables outside for patrons to lounge over a cup of Joe. They also want to focus on sustainable operations by setting up a zero-based refill station for people to refill their shampoo bottles, laundry detergents and other cleaning products. Their plans also call for a bike-washing station and a bike tool bench to attract the cycling crowd.

Stay tuned for more details in our next newsletter.

Blueridge Community Association (BCA) request for a trail considered

By Eric Andersen

Interested in a trail from Blueridge to Parkgate?

At the Feb. 24 DNV council meeting, the Blueridge Community Association made the request below during the public input session for the DNV's 2020-2024 Financial Plan.

We would like the possibility of having an improved and upgraded trail connection between Blueridge from the most eastern part of Tompkins Crescent to Parkgate. The issue was discussed a couple of times with former Mayor Richard Walton, who was not opposed to the idea. However, we all know that seeing it through would not be an easy task, not so much because of the limited funding needed, but because of the federal Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) ownership of the land on a portion of the trail.

The rationale for the request is that many local residents feel it would be nicer to walk or bike to Parkgate shopping centre to visit a store, have a coffee or go to the Library or Recreation Centre rather than drive all the way down the already crowded Mount Seymour Parkway. When you are biking that route you also have to consider the steep hill up Berkley coming back from Parkgate! The BCA would like to see a gravel trail that will allow residents with a regular bike or a stroller, or those who have mobility challenges, to make the trip in a peaceful and safe environment between Tompkins Crescent in Blueridge and Parkgate.

The trail is already there, but it is not a very user-friendly trail if you do not have a mountain-bike or solid hiking boots or even rubber boots. It is particularly bad in the wintertime when one of the creeks at times is fairly

high, and regular bikes and strollers are automatically excluded in view of the terrain on the trail.

Off-hand it would not seem that the trail would be terribly costly to upgrade. We are certainly not asking for a fancy paved connection, but just an upgrade with gravel that will allow more residents the pleasure of walking or biking between Blueridge and Parkgate.

This is completely in line with the DNV's Official Community Plan, which supports sustainable transportation choices. This suggestion supports walkable communities, hubs for bicycle networks and will hopefully help to boost the number of walking and cycling trips.

The District has recently spent a fair amount to upgrade a trail network in Lynn Valley, so we are hoping that our turn will be coming soon and that Council will consider this request in the 2020-2024 financial plan. We realize that a dialogue with CMHC would be necessary.

Who knows, we might even be able to drum up some volunteers to help with this project in the community and from the North Shore Mountain Bike Association (NSMBA). As well as CMHC issues, there is also an issue with the Department of National Defence (DND), since a number of unexploded mortars were found near trails on the former Blair Rifle Range lands two years ago.

Please let us hear your views on our vision of a trail between Blueridge and Parkgate by e-mailing us at: info@blueridgeca.org.

Please... No Dogs on School Property



Last year at some North Vancouver district schools there were a number of unfortunate incidents involving dogs and students on school playgrounds. We remind you that the District of North Vancouver has a bylaw prohibiting dogs from certain public spaces such as school grounds (see regulation 5981 for specifics). While our four-legged friends are usually just that, friends, some children are allergic to dogs while others are often frightened by them. Even when leashed or tethered, dogs can be unpredictable, especially when the owner isn't present. In other cases, dogs can leave their calling cards, which isn't pleasant. Thanks in advance for helping us maintain a safe and pleasant environment for all members of the community.

(Submitted by a local Parents Advisory Council)

COVID-19: What it means to Blueridge

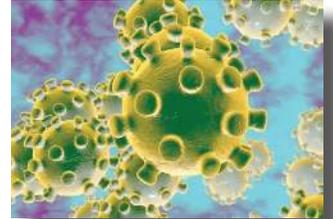
By Eric Andersen

As all of us struggle with the coronavirus pandemic, here are some of the ways it affects Blueridge. Firstly, the Blueridge Community Association will be closely monitoring the situation over the next few months to see if it will be prudent to cancel Blueridge Good Neighbour Day on Sunday, June 14. We hope that the worst of this will have passed by that point. At the same time, as organizers, we can't consider staging it if we put anyone at risk of contracting this potentially dangerous disease. We will keep you posted about any cancellations or postponements.

Secondly, we have people in our community who are already thinking of others and how the pandemic will affect them. Jasmine Broad, a young woman who grew up with her family in Blueridge, is one of those people. She is considering how she could help seniors who are house-bound get around to shopping for groceries and other important day-to-day activities.

She is personally setting a goal to assist those who are identified as needing help. Can you spare some time to help a senior cope with the current situation? If so, drop us a line at info@blueridgeca.org and we will connect you with Jasmine. Also, seniors, please contact us if you need this kind of assistance.

The COVID-19 situation may affect other BCA events, such as our meeting with Mayor Mike Little on April 2, our AGM on May 12, and our Diner En Bleu on June 6. Please stay updated by checking our website, our Facebook page or by subscribing to our monthly Blueridge Bulletin, which comes by email. You can also check with us at info@blueridgeca.org



Meanwhile, stay safe and stay healthy!

Former Windsor Senior Secondary Student Wins Annual Scholarship

By Anni Danielson

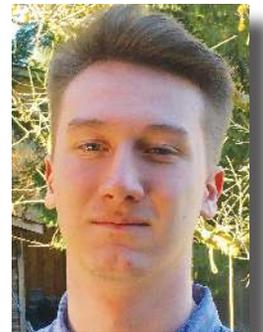
We are pleased to announce that Matthew Pollard has been chosen the winner of the 2019 Eric Andersen Annual Scholarship, which recognizes young people who serve their communities through volunteering.

A Blueridge resident with his family since 2005, Matthew has an impressive record of volunteer work in our community. Among his contributions are:

- Several years volunteering in various roles for Blueridge Good Neighbour Day
- Several years volunteering as a swimming instructor at Ron Andrews Pool
- Five years volunteering as the "rabbit" for the Blueridge Elementary School Cross-Country Running Club

- Five years volunteering as a basketball referee at Blueridge Elementary

Matthew says he enjoys being involved in the community and finds it rewarding to see joy and sportsmanship when working with the children. He is currently taking liberal arts during his first year at Capilano University, which he is enjoying immensely. We wish him every success for the future.



*Matthew Pollard
2019 Eric Andersen
Scholarship Winner*

For those interested in the \$500 scholarship, applications can be found at scholarship@blueridgeca.org. Deadline for the applications is April 30, 2020.



BLUERIDGE
Community Association

How to Contact Us

Web: www.blueridgeca.org

Email: info@blueridgeca.org

 Twitter: @BlueridgeCA

 Facebook: Blueridge Community Association

 Instagram: Blueridge__Community