

Community rallies to celebrate Windsor 2020 grads

By Michael Bernard

A few months ago, the prospects were pretty dismal for the Windsor grads of 2020 when word came down that large gatherings were prohibited because of COVID-19. But two Windsor mothers, Marci Deane and Anne Millerd, who had been part of the Quarantined Grads Parent Group on Facebook, were inspired to find a way to celebrate this important rite of passage for their kids, Janie Deane and twins Hannah and Paige Sharpe.

Marci had seen a Calgary news



item about a grad class staging a car cavalcade as a grad event. The two mothers decided it might work for Windsor's 2020 grads, too, since it would meet all the public health restrictions. It could bring everyone together, including the entire neighbourhood, but observe the needed physical distancing requirements.

The initial reaction from the grads was mixed. While some liked the idea, others gave the concept the classic 'whatever.'

But if some of the kids were lukewarm, the (See Page 2)

Blueridge fights COVID with kindness

By Michael Bernard

You could say the Blueridge Community Association was spreading a little good cheer, about eight months ahead of schedule. But instead of bearing Christmas presents, an army of volunteers led by association chair Eric Andersen were delivering some simple gifts of gratitude for various essential

workers who have been putting in double and triple time helping people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than 450 packages containing everything from Cliff bars, chocolates, and cookies to hand sanitizers and beers were prepared by residents of Blueridge and Seymour Heights in their own homes. Those



Hannah and Julia Potyok were among many volunteers working at home to prepare packages

goodies come from fund-raising of \$6,000 in just eight days, a real testament to how people opened their hearts. As well, many local (See Page 2)



Some of the 450 gift packages

Our generous, caring community showers an avalanche of goodies on pandemic's essential workers

(From Page 1) companies contributed in-kind donations.

About 150 bags were delivered to the Lions Gate Hospital ER department and 300 were dropped off at the Berkley Care Centre. Other gifts were to follow, including ones for the local RCMP and fire fighters.

“I am so humbled and feel so privileged to be living in this wonderful, generous, and caring community,” Andersen told a local newspaper.

The project had started earlier this year with an email from a Blueridge resident, who reached out to the association after reading about the need for masks at the Lions Gate Hospital. When Andersen spoke to a doctor at the hospital, he quickly realized what was needed more than a mask was a gesture of support, something that could boost the staff’s morale.

What followed in time was an avalanche of goodies. A list of residents and businesses who helped can be found on Page 7 in this newsletter.

Cheers, cowbells and clapping congratulate 2020 grads

(From Page 1) parents were wildly enthusiastic. The District of North Vancouver provided critical support as well, contributing volunteer time as traffic monitors to ensure the event met all traffic laws.

“The District was immensely helpful,” said Marci. “They met with us about a month ago to help us plan out the route so there would be as few left-hand turns as possible because that requires more flag people. The district was covering the costs too because we had no money”.

The parents also got help from a

former Windsor grad, realtor Marco Reichgeld of Royal LePage Sussex, who donated \$500 with no strings attached.

The grads, aided by Windsor grade 11s and driver parents, designed some pretty creatively decked-out cars—everything from convertibles sprouting palm trees to a car grille wearing a giant-sized face mask!

By 7 p.m. on a lovely Wednesday evening June 17, they were motoring their way up Berkley. Along the route hundreds of Blueridge residents turned out to clap and cheer, ring cowbells,

shake tambourines and wave homemade signs congratulating the grads. It took about 45 minutes for the string of cars and a district fire engine bleeping an occasional siren to wend their way up Berkley, along Sechelt and Hyannis and back down Berkley.

“We were overwhelmed by the number of people that showed up,” said Marci. “There were just more and more people. It was incredible!”

Many with no direct connection to the grad class took time to come out and cheer from the sidewalks.

Saving the salmon on the Seymour River a splendid community effort

By Shaun Hollingsworth

On Dec. 7, 2014, a landslide brought some 50,000 cubic metres of rock and debris roaring down into the Seymour River from the west bank of the river's canyon, about four kilometres from tide water. The slide was deemed to be a result of a crack in the rocks that over the period of 200 years had filled with water, had frozen in the winter, and then expanded, until the final deluge in 2014.

This blockage became a natural barrier to the migrating salmon and steelhead in the river. The Seymour is home to winter, and summer run steelhead, as well as coho salmon, while there are other salmon, pink and chum, that have been introduced over the years that use the river as well.

A roundtable consisting of six levels of government—the Tsleil Waututh First Nation, Squamish, District of North Van, Metro Vancouver, the Province of B.C., and Department of Fisheries and Oceans—quickly formed and convened and put together a plan.

Laid out by local engineering companies Northwest Hydraulics Consultants and BHC, the plan called for keeping the rivershed as natural as possible.

That entailed drilling and

breaking rock, some as large as vans and buses, during the low water flows in the summer. Then Mother Nature, and the high-water water flows in winter flushed those smaller rocks, the size of microwave ovens, tumbling down the river. Please keep in mind that this is a multi-use river, and all activities conducted on the river to allow fish passage were vetted by the local kayak and canoe user groups.

While all this work was going on, another plan was developed to transport the migrating fish around the rockslide. Seymour Salmonid Society staff, its directors, volunteers, and the community came to the aid of moving the fish. In the first years, Pool 88 was seined for fish, and then the fish were put into water-tight back packs and carried up the 148 stairs to awaiting tanks on trucks and trailers to continue the journey around the rockslide, some to the river to spawn naturally, and some to the hatchery for use in the program.



Breaking up rock



Brian Smith, former Seymour Salmonid Society manager, joins an army of volunteers to help transport fish

We were able to install a fish fence in the lower river, behind Maplewood Farm, to allow us to capture fish at an easier spot for transport. Again, we could not do it alone, and the community again answered the call, helping to capture fish to be transported to above the rockslide.

The work that has been performed with the drilling and rock breaking has been conducted by GRW, a fearless and expert rock scaling company from Squamish.

We had great news last year: we had our first mature migrating fish swim up through the rockslide, which was confirmed through tags inserted into fish below the slide, with the fish being tracked by a radio antenna.

This year, we are once again asking the community to please respect our work force on the Fisherman's Trail for the summer of 2020. We will utilize our signs to warn the public of the works being undertaken, and the exact dates.

Shaun Hollingsworth is the president of the Seymour Salmonid Society

Wonderful memories of the joys of living in Blueridge community

Iain B. and his family lived in Blueridge between 2002 and 2018. He now lives on idyllic North Pender Island. This is a reminiscence about the family's time here.

Shortly after the events of 9/11, we found ourselves looking for a new community in which to raise our children and plant deeper roots. Our West Point Grey locale was nice, but in terms of buying that ship had long sailed! Colleagues who had similarly moved from Vancouver's West Side to the North Shore suggested Delbrook, Edgemont and Blueridge.

In 2002 we moved to a rental home on Standish Drive and two years later were fortunate to buy our first home on Derbyshire Way.

It was a wonderful move in so many ways! We were actively involved in so many aspects of this amazing community: block parties; Blueridge Good Neighbour Days; the BCA and delivering the newsletters with our children (sometimes with a dog of course!); the local BlockWatch Program; coaching and managing minor hockey rep teams; and 10 years of active involvement with the Windsor's PAC Executive.

That included lobbying for the

amazing new field, various sports academies, celebrating Windsor's 50th Anniversary, and the first expansion of secondary French Immersion east of the Seymour River.

Here are a few anecdotes, some sadder than others but all true. Six months after moving to our new home, we lost both of our indoor/outdoor cats; one to a car and the other to a cougar.

The distraught neighbour who accidentally hit our cat came to our home to let us know the very same day. With our other cat's demise, our Sechelt neighbour across the road alerted us that her dogs had found 'the results' hidden in her back yard. In both cases, we were able to have closure and give our kitties the appropriate ceremony.

Our next three cats, understandably, had to be content with the indoor and balcony life! Also, a year earlier on Standish, we (and all our neighbours) received a very respectful note in all our mailboxes, advising everyone there would be a June Grad house party on the block the following weekend.

The note asked us to call them at a certain number if it got too

'If you are already here, you know...'



Painted rock on a Blueridge trail

loud! Now, really?! How often does a community support and embrace its own in such ways these days? If we were not sold before that, we certainly were after.

Our entire family was actively involved in everything from school to community-based soccer, dance, rugby, choir & rep minor hockey programs for many years. Our now adult children continue to live, work, play hockey and attend university on the North Shore and stay connected to this most positive and amazingly close-knit community.

If you are already here, you know; if you are thinking about moving here or putting down deeper roots, there are few better decisions you could make for you and your family!

Stay well, be positive, and test negative.



Lynn Valley family ready for new Blueridge chapter

First community cafe launching to offer coffee and bakery treats

Christine and Joe Reid, and baby Evie, are ready to launch the next phase of their lives and a new chapter for Blueridge. The United Strangers Cafe is set to open momentarily in what used to be the Seymour Heights corner store at Emerson and Mount Seymour Parkway.

They are excited to offer coffee and a selection of tasty baked treats produced by Modern Pantry on Old Dollarton. The new cafe will start up cautiously, operating by COVID-19 cautionary rules: you can order coffee and treats at the window but there will be no seating inside until B.C. has a better handle on the coronavirus.

In addition to serving as Blueridge's first community cafe, the Lynn Valley couple hope the Cafe will become a magnet for the mountain biking crowd that flocks to the trails in the Lower Seymour Conservation Area every day. Take a leisurely neighbourhood stroll, stop by and have a cup, and wish them well on their new venture!

Get a 10% discount for tree and hedge work

By Eric Andersen

After having successfully completed the cleaning of fireplaces, furnaces, heat pumps, vents, gutters, and also chimneys for interested parties in Blueridge and Seymour Heights over the last 12 months, we will now be offering tree-cutting and hedge-trimming this summer.

The BCA is joining forces with Take A Bough Tree Care, a family owned and operated tree service company based in North Vancouver. The company is prepared to give program participants a 10 percent discount, and has also agreed to donate five percent to the LGH's North Shore COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund!

Here's the company's intro: "We work with maximum care and respect for nature. We aim to protect our environment by prioritizing recycling. We transform most of our trimmed branches into fresh organic wood chips which are used in residential garden beds and in most city parks here on the North Shore. We cut large slabs of wood from removed trees for those customers who choose to repurpose it into a beautiful piece of furniture for their homes. Each of our crew members is fully insured (WCB, commercial insurance) to carry out all work.

"Our team is trained in the latest arborist techniques, and has state-of-the-art equipment to ensure that your tree work is carried out to the highest standard, quickly, and with maximum safety. Our services include (but are not limited to): hedge trimming, tree removal, tree pruning, crown reduction, spiral pruning, 24/7 emergency tree service, tree planting, stump grinding/cutting, animal rescue, storm damage clean-up, free wood chips and slab, and hedge maintenance. Questions or inquiries, or want a service? Please contact us at: info@blueridgeca.org."

Seven garden beds will benefit less fortunate residents

Bring the kids to learn about joys of planting

By Carolann Fraenkel

The Blueridge Garden started our season with the usual activities, pulling weeds, preparing garden beds, sprucing up the garden area, and general clean up.

This year the to-do list happened via email and our gardeners came when they could instead of all at the same time, but the net effect is the same.

As the weather warms up, our gardeners are getting seeds and seedlings in their new garden homes.

This year our gardeners are planting and tending seven beds to share with local organizations who help to feed our less fortunate residents.

Garlic, beets, potatoes, carrots, and other hardy vegetables will be grown and donated to the North Shore Harvest House, Spectrum Mother's Support Society, and other local non-profits.

If you know of a non-profit group who could use some vegetables at the end of summer, please send us information at garden@blueridgeca.org.

We also have a children's garden. Gardening is a great way for kids to learn about seasons (K), plant survival (1), adaptation of plants



The Blueridge Garden is progressing with the season

to their environment (2), ecosystems (3), seasonal patterns (4), soil and rocks and minerals (5), multicellular organisms (6), and natural selection (7).

If you want to bring your kids to the garden to observe, draw, or journal please feel free. There are some lovely benches all through the garden and a

covered area by our garden shed that is a lovely spot to sit on a rainy day.

The garden has been plagued by vandalism this spring. Our shed was broken into, bricks smashed, and locks stolen and cut off.

Please keep your eyes and ears out – it's all of our shared space.

Please give peace and quiet a chance

By Barb Rennie

It's prime outdoor time in Blueridge. Can you help us all enjoy our beautiful neighbourhood by minimizing your noisy outdoor maintenance? If you have to pressure wash, leaf blow, mow, etc. your neighbours would really appreciate you keeping the noise as brief as possible.

District bylaws permit use Monday -Saturday 7 a.m. – 8 p.m., Sunday and holidays 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. But who wants to listen to a noisy machine when you are enjoying dinner in your yard? So please, folks, keep it short whenever you can. A little peace and quiet is a wonderful thing.

Blueridge Community Care Package Initiative

Huge thanks to all of our volunteers and donors!

Agneta Eineigel
Alana Duckett
Amy Pankratz
Anita Montgomery
Anne Stobart
Anni Danielson
Ariyanna Pascuzzi
Ashley Baker
Barb Butterfield
Barb Rennie
Barry Fenton
Beth Ede
Bonnie Richter
Brenda Laishley & Bruce
Dancik, Edmonton
Bryan Miller
Catherine Rickey
Christine Miller
Colleen Tyler
Corinne Volpatti
Deadbird Animation c/o In-Ah
Dee Dutton
Derek Brown
Donna Sacuta
Eleanor and Keith Reading
Elmira Nazar
Eric G. Andersen
Fay and Tracey Ferreira
Grace Cheung
Hannah Potyok
Hannah Welwood
Heather Gall
Helen Moore
Ian Robertson
Janet Stringer
Jenny Simpson
Judy Killeen

Julia Potyok
Karnak Pro Builders
c/o Kirsty Baker
Larry Kancs
Linda Dong
Lisa Muri
Liz Purvis
Lorry Dickson
Lynda Sellmer
Mahnaz Fardghassemi
Mark Guiton
Mark and Tracey Porter
Marnie Armstrong
Mathé Grenier
Nicola Ros
North Vancouver Child
Development Center Ltd. c/o
Nasrin Jannatifar
Patti Davis
Randy, Sue and Shayne Wrixon
Rob Esaw
Rob Laishley, Auburn
Washington
Sandy Quon
Sian Oliver
Solar Connect Company c/o
Jennifer Johnson
Stacie and Syd Graham
Stewart Martin
Special Times Out of School
Care c/o Fariba Leilaby
St. Simon's Church
Susan Scott-Twarog
Tammy and Martyn Shaw
Ted Bancroft
Plus 12 anonymous parties

Our in-kind sponsors included:

The Arm Group c/o Jasmine Broad
Bad Dog Bread
BlueShore Financial
Bucha Brew
Central City Brewers & Distillers, Red Racer Beer
Deep Cove Kayak
Dollarton Liquor Store
Howe Sound Brewing Co.
Infinity Printing
Isobel Rennie
Judy Killeen
Kate Bourdon
Kim Cairns & Vanessa Lewis
Lush Cosmetics
M1 Sports Management
Mira's Happy House c/o Mira Borejszo
Nesters Market
The NSMBA
Parkgate Farm Market
Pure Integrative Pharmacy
Rene Rey Swiss Chocolate LTD
Room 6
Special Times Out of School Care c/o Fariba Leilaby
Stong's Market
Toby's Pub
United Strangers Coffee
Vancouver In The Box, Packing Services
Wild Trails Coffee
Wildeye Brewing



**Please stay
in touch!**

Website: www.blueridgeca.org

Email: info@blueridgeca.org

newsletter@blueridgeca.org

Facebook: Blueridge Community Association

Simple practices help keep bears away from your property

By Christine Miller

Some residential bear-resistant carts in Blueridge need some repairs to do their jobs effectively. Is there a clip missing or broken on one of your carts or is a lid bent? If so, there is an easy solution. The District of North Vancouver will come and repair your carts at no cost.

All you have to do is submit a service request to www.dnv.org/repair or call the

front desk at 604-990-2311. Please remember to submit a service request as soon as you need one in the future before a bear determines that you have accessible food in your carts.

Then the rest is up to us. We need to clean our carts occasionally and take care with what we store in them during the week.

This is especially important if the carts are stored outside. For

the organics cart, it is recommended that odorous food scraps be frozen until the morning of collection, and peelings and less odorous kitchen scraps be wrapped in newspaper or paper bags and layered with yard trimmings.

If the garbage cart contains any food containers and wrappings that are not recyclable, these items should be washed before being discarded. Also, soiled diapers are an attractant and should not be stored outside. Carts are to be placed at curbside on the morning of collection day 5:30 - 7:30 a.m., and not the night before.

These simple practices can keep bears away from your property and protect the carts. Bears follow their noses as they forage for food, and if they spend too much time in residential areas it can result in their preventable death.

More information is available from the North Shore Black Bear Society at northshorebears.com or by contacting us at nsbbsociety@gmail.com or 604-317-4911.

The North Shore Black Bear Society is offering some interesting free ZOOM workshops for children and adults this season. Contact us or check our Facebook or Instagram pages for more information.

The North Shore is Bear Country

Black bears are awake and active across the North Shore



Tony Joyce

Black bears travel extensively in search of food and can be found in any community. It is normal for bears to pass through the neighbourhood – please do not invite them to stay.

Every year, black bears are killed on the North Shore for accessing food in residential areas. It is our responsibility to manage attractants on our property.

Feeding bears, even unintentionally, is against the law

Store garbage and organics carts in a secure area until the very morning of collection (fines applicable). Freeze odorous organics and clean carts regularly. *DNV-issued lockable carts are not bear-proof.



Brian Aikens



Remove bird seed, suet and hummingbird feeders until winter




Pick fruit as it ripens and collect fallen fruit as soon as possible

Bears can smell frozen food. Store freezers and fridges inside



For more information and to report bear sightings visit northshorebears.com

   #northshorebears

 604 317 4911