

The Blueridge Garden: We need your help to protect this beautiful space

By Lauren Gorgounis

We, as community volunteers who help keep the Blueridge Garden vibrant, need your assistance. In the past few months, vandalism, break and enter, and arson, have negatively impacted this space. We welcome visitors, just not in that capacity.

For those who may be unfamiliar, the garden sits along the path off Carnation Street and connects to Lytton Street. It is a well-travelled safe pass-through and a vibrant centre point in our community.

To help address these serious concerns and in collaboration with the RCMP, we have installed cameras in the area to monitor the garden and ensure that it remains a safe space for the community. Notices have been posted to inform everyone about the presence of the cameras and the fact that we have access to camera footage, which we hope will serve as a deterrent to destructive acts. The community volunteers will be working with the RCMP to prevent continued incidents.

We ask that you take a moment to discuss this issue at home and help the Blueridge Garden volunteers maintain the security and beauty of this area. We encourage everyone to visit and enjoy the space respectfully.



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Editor: Michael Bernard

Now, there is an award for that!

By Michelle Leroux

Do you have the best neighbour? Maybe someone who takes in your garbage bins or looks after your pet when you are away? Want a special way to recognize them? We have the solution!

Thanks to local resident, Toby Barazzuol of Eclipse Awards, we now have six beautiful awards to honor residents in our community.

We are very excited about one particular award - **the Blueridge Spirit Award!** It will be presented to "residents who show enthusiasm and passion for the community." The Association's board of directors will choose the first winner and then that person will pass the award within three months to another resident he or she feel demonstrates Blueridge Spirit! Our very own Pay it Forward!

Winners of the following annual awards can be nominated by residents themselves by visiting our website at www.blueridgeca.org or you can call me (Michelle) at **604.929.9665**. Nominations will stay open until May 24, 2021, with winners announced in early June. In future years, when we can gather again for Good Neighbour Day, traditionally held in June, we can announce the winners there!

Outstanding Neighbour Award — Recognizes a resident who goes above and beyond in supporting their neighbours.

Dedication Award — Recognizes a resident who has contributed to the community in a substantial way for a prolonged time.

Volunteer Award — Recognizes a volunteer who makes a special contribution to the community.

Sponsor Award — Recognizes a sponsor or donor who makes a special contribution to the community.

Elementary School Volunteer — We are planning this award for the next school year in September 2021. Stay tuned!



What has the Blueridge Community Association been up to?

By Eric G. Andersen

*I*n February, Mayor Mike Little approached many of the community associations and requested one-on-one meetings with the respective chairs in their own neighbourhoods. Mayor Little is the first District of North Vancouver (DNV) Mayor to suggest such a meeting, which shows he wants to know what's going on in the many communities in our municipality. When preparing for our meeting, I had a chance to take a bird's-eye view of our own activities. I soon realized why we have been so busy over the last year: COVID has not slowed down the BCA. Quite to the contrary.



After the publication of our November newsletter, we had our AGM. **Donna Sacuta** stepped down from our board. She deserves our thanks for her dedication and all the work she has done for us over the last many years – not just in our Blueridge Garden, but with many other activities. Three new directors joined us and their enthusiasm and energy have been palpable! **Michelle Leroux** took on a totally new function as our first ever Volunteer Coordinator! She has been working hard on this and you will find some of her requests for volunteers in this newsletter. **Lauren Gorgounis** decided to focus and expand on our popular Project Community that many of you have already participated in. **Mahnaz Fardghassemi** teamed up with **Amy Pankratz**, and that awesome tag team is running our social media. Amy continues to prepare our monthly e-newsletter, the Blueridge Bulletin, which now has ads from local businesses. Don't forget to sign up on our website to receive this e-newsletter. And please contact us if you wish to place an ad for your own business – either for one issue for \$30 or 12 consecutive issues for \$250.



Prior to Christmas, a small committee took it upon themselves to do a bit of fundraising and get goodies for local families who needed a helping hand. This much-appreciated initiative—which you can read about elsewhere in this newsletter—truly displays the Blueridge spirit.



The current #1 issue in our community is the growing use of the local trails which has brought an avalanche of visitors to upper Blueridge. Although most visitors are respectful and realize that this is a

residential neighbourhood, there have been issues which have prompted the BCA to engage in a dialogue with both the DNV and trail-user groups. With these groups we have now put together a flyer that is being distributed on the windshields of the visitors' cars. The trails are, of course, for everyone's enjoyment, but it remains a fact that a few blocks in upper Blueridge have been impacted severely by these unintended consequences of COVID-19. We will continue to address these issues.



A small team of directors has been completely revamping the BCA brochure, and we expect to have it printed and to post it on our website and in social media soon. Another short bit of news: it should be mentioned that the BCA will be joining the Seymour Trails Strategic Planning, a DNV initiative supposed to start later in the spring.



The latest association activity was our Blueridge & Seymour Heights street sign auction. After a local resident alerted us that the DNV was replacing the local street signs, we contacted the district, which very kindly gave us all the old local signs. These were included in an on-line auction site. The auction was a tremendous success, raising over \$3,700 which has already been earmarked for our annual \$500 BCA scholarship for a local Grade 12 student who is doing volunteer work. We managed to raise this substantial amount thanks to **Bruce Bourdon** and family, **Stacie Graham** (our auction specialist), the DNV, the many generous residents of Blueridge, and everyone else who helped out with this!



Our next projects include working out final criteria for the Blueridge Awards as well as trail maintenance! Thanks to Blueridge resident, **Tony Barazzuol**, owner of Eclipse Awards, we will now be able to hand out various types of awards to deserving residents of all ages. You can also read about the awards and see a photo of one in this newsletter. With so many local trail users, both bikers and hikers, we also believe that Blueridge residents might want to give back to the community by occasionally helping out with a bit of trail maintenance, starting with the Berkley Loop. We now are looking for volunteers!

Interested in volunteering? Look no further!

By Michelle Leroux

It has been a few months since I started in the role of Volunteer Coordinator for the Blueridge Community Association (BCA). The first activity that I had the pleasure to support was the Blueridge Cares initiative in December. (See article elsewhere in this newsletter). I was overwhelmed with the generosity of this community and the many people who volunteered their time. We had more volunteers step forward than we could actually use! Thank you so much for extending your hand to help.

We learned a few things from the **Blueridge Cares initiative**. One important lesson is that we need a more streamlined way of communicating volunteer opportunities to you and collecting information from those who express interest. To address this, we will be posting current opportunities on our website and on our BCA facebook page. If you have previously volunteered in the community, you will receive an email from me when new opportunities are posted.

We currently have some volunteer opportunities available that are outlined below. Volunteering in the community is a fantastic way to meet new neighbours, stay connected with current activities and contribute to maintaining Blueridge and Seymour Heights as amazing places in which to live. Or maybe you have an idea for a community activity or event now (or post Covid) but don't know where to start? For example, it might be a neighbourhood cleanup day or a community garage sale. We can assist you with recruiting volunteers and we have a Communications group to help you promote the activity. If you are looking to lead and organize such an activity, we're here to help and support you!

Feel free to reach out to me by email at volunteer@blueridgeca.org with questions, comments or suggestions!



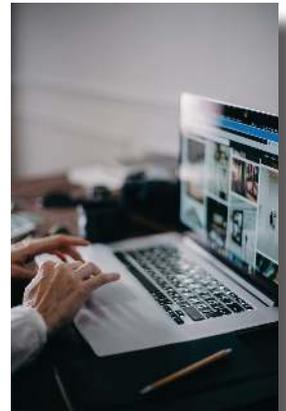
Canlan Ice Sports Advisory Committee

Canlan Ice Sports (located at the base of Berkley Road) consults with representatives from the local area and their customers twice a year in the form of an advisory committee. Many thanks to Alex McNeil who has represented us on this committee for more than a decade! Alex and his wife have plans to travel (post Covid-19 of course!) and so we are looking for a new Blueridge resident to represent us.

- The meeting consists of updates from Canlan on their activities that may impact their customers or community. The Blueridge representative would provide an update on any community news that would impact Canlan. There are no formal reports required!
- There are two meetings a year, spring and fall that run for 1.5 - 2 hours.

Website Design Coordinator

We have an exciting opportunity for someone to help us redesign and maintain the BCA website! This role involves working closely with the Communications Committee and our Web Architect to enhance our existing website. Once the redesign is completed, this role is responsible for keeping content fresh and relevant to our community. The Website Design Coordinator actively connects with members of the Board and with local residents to uncover new content for the website on an ongoing basis. Some experience with web design software and marketing or communications is required. Experience with Wordpress would be a bonus!



Local Trail Maintenance

We have partnered with the District of North Vancouver to organize an effort to provide some much needed maintenance on the Berkley Loop Trail (this is the trailhead at the very end of Berkley Street). We know that our trails have seen increased use over the past year and we felt this would be a great opportunity for residents to get involved. The work would involve:

- "Patching" the trail with soil to protect tree roots and increase safety for trail users.
- Redirect water flow where it puddles and creates mud on the trail.
- Remove invasive plant species.
- Remove garbage.
- Protect habitat and discourage off-trail usage by disguising offshoot trails with branches, logs etc.

An exact date is pending; however, we are looking at a weekend day at the end of April or beginning of May. Tools will be supplied by the District of North Vancouver and we will ensure that we work with Covid safety precautions in place. If you are interested in any of these volunteer positions, please contact me directly at volunteer@blueridgeca.org.

Some thoughts about walking our dogs in the forest!

By Eric G. Andersen

Whether due to COVID-19 or for other reasons, many more people are using our trails these days – both local residents and visitors.

Many are bringing their dogs, and they, too, enjoy their exercise on our beautiful trails. Being a good dog owner doesn't just mean giving your dog the exercise that Fido needs. The responsibility as a dog owner doesn't stop there.

This article is about dogs on leash while in the forest – and you are likely to encounter them every day on your own walks.

There could be many reasons that a dog is on a leash in an off-leash park or area, such as the forests near Blueridge. It could be a new dog that its owners do not feel is ready to be off the leash. Or 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.

The District of North Vancouver's dog bylaw (#5981) is rather clear about dogs in off-leash areas, which includes the Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve above Blueridge. 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. A dog "under control", leashed or unleashed, means that the dog immediately returns when called by the person who has care and control of the animal. The bylaw also qualifies allowing dogs by noting that the dog must not be annoying, harassing or attacking any human, wildlife or other animal.

So, if you see any leashed dog in the forests, take a moment to consider that the owner has leashed their dog for a valid reason. Both the dog owner and the dog itself quite likely would prefer to be running off-leash, like yours, but simply can't. You may not understand the reason if you have never had a dog with a behavioural problem that needs fixing. Just like humans, dogs also come with faults, some bigger than others.

Remember that these owners walking their leashed dogs are being responsible, not only by keeping their own dog controlled but keeping your dog 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 ignoring their particular circumstances.

Traffic and Parking Issues get thorough airing during ZOOM meeting

Mayor Mike Little and two District of North Vancouver (DNV) councillors attending a ZOOM meeting heard numerous complaints from several Blueridge residents about parking and traffic issues stemming from hikers and cyclists using trailheads at Berkley and Hyannis.

The January ZOOM meeting, attended by 46 residents, including BCA directors, focused on concerns about road safety, the risks of crowds gathering during COVID-19, and the nuisances of littering, lawn and property damage, and noise, especially early in the morning and late at night.

Mayor Little and DNV councillors pointed out that these problems are being experienced throughout Metro Vancouver including other North Shore areas, Belcarra and Coquitlam. It is a given that the trails are to be shared by everyone; that the affected groups need to work collaboratively in finding solutions, and that residents and their homes need to be respected.

Short-term actions include educating visitors about parking bylaws verbally, and producing and distributing a pamphlet on vehicle windshields, with help from the North Shore Mountain Biking Association. It was also suggested that DNV provide more "no parking" signs, especially around Berkley, and Hyannis, and that DNV bylaw officers be more proactive in enforcing regulations.

Possible longer-term solutions include creating more trail access points and recreation options in other DNV neighbourhoods to expand recreational opportunities and for BCA to continue its involvement in the Seymour trail development process and address parking and safety in that forum as well.

(A more complete summary of the meeting can be viewed at <https://blueridgeca.org>)

Farewell To Colby Wilson

By Edmund Hayley

A well-known member of the community, **Colby Alan Knowles Wilson**, died on January 25, 2021, following a tragic car accident. I was shocked to hear about Colby's passing; he was only 36 years old at the time of his death. Colby and I were classmates at Blueridge Elementary as part of the graduating class of 1997. A kind and loving brother, son, uncle and friend, he will be greatly missed by many people. I remember attending Colby's birthday party in Grade 1. One of the activities included smashing a piñata at a nearby North Vancouver District park. Then we all went bobbing for apples back at Colby's house. Of course, every kid received a goodie bag at the end of the party.

Colby was a very popular student at Blueridge. As a Grade 7 student, Colby was one of the first boys to have a steady girlfriend. Colby was cool and self-assured. He was cognizant of all that was currently fashionable. For example, Colby had already purchased No Doubt's best-selling album, *Tragic Kingdom*, before students began bringing their newly-purchased CDs to school. He grew quickly and was sizable as a pre-teen. I, on the other hand, was thin, short and delicate. One day, Colby and I were next to each other at the urinal of the boy's washroom. I looked over to say "hello." When Colby looked over in my direction, he noticed that I lacked the growth of the reproductive organ and pubic hair that other 11-year-old and 12-year-old boys were undergoing. "*Puberty-less!*" Colby exclaimed with a calm grin, as he made his exit. I was not bothered by the fact that he referred to me as this, as I knew I was late at entering puberty.



Colby Wilson

Colby's father, Al Wilson, played football for Montana State University from 1968 to 1972. Al then was a B.C. Lions offensive lineman for 15 seasons. Al won the Grey Cup with the Lions in 1985. Al is a member of the B.C. Sports Hall Of Fame and the Canadian Football Hall of Fame. Al attended the evening practices of the Mount Seymour Boys U13 Gold soccer team, of which Colby and I were a part. The



1993 photo from left to right: Scott Nicholson, Bryan Mclean, Edmund Haley (arm outstretched), Colby Wilson, (with the orange peel in his mouth) and Matt Turner.

practices were held at the gravel field at Windsor Secondary. Al was very vocal and supportive of Colby. One night, to encourage Colby to increase his intensity during practice, Al shouted at Colby, "*Get your butt in gear!*" With a famous father like Al and two successful older sisters, Colby did not allow himself to be overshadowed. Colby attended Windsor Secondary and later graduated from the theatre program at University of Victoria. He went on to have an illustrious acting career, appearing in films, such as *The Invisible* and *She's The Man*, and in several TV series, including *Psych*, *Fringe* and *Lost In Space*. He was also involved with theater. I can still remember watching Colby singing an excerpt from the musical, *The Pirates Of Penzance*, with his sister, Alana, during a Blueridge talent show in the early 1990s. Colby loved animals, including his golden retriever, Cypress. Donations can be made in Colby's memory to the BCSPCA at: <http://support.spca.bc.ca>.

Colby will always be remembered for his artistic flair, and for his charming and confident demeanour. He touched the lives of many. Colby is gone, but he will not be forgotten.

Blueridge Cares at Christmas

By Michelle Leroux

It was a different Christmas this year. For some it can be difficult with the additional expenses we incur to create that festive atmosphere. After the success of the care packages to healthcare workers in the spring, we embarked on helping families over Christmas with food, gifts and gift cards. We reached out to Blueridge and Seymour Heights for assistance and were amazed at the generosity of our community. We raised \$5,250 worth of gifts and cash to give to six families in the area who were very grateful! Way to go Blueridge and Seymour Heights!



Thank you to all of the donors and volunteers listed below for making this possible!

Marnie Armstrong
Lauren Gorgounis
Ruth Hanson
Lesley Brooks
Ted Bancroft
Mahnaz Fardghassemi
Amy Pankratz
Anni Danielson
The Bourdon Family
Judith Spencer
Bonnie Richter
Fariba Leilaby
Corinne Volpatti
Michelle Leroux
Ernie Janzen
Talia Janzen
Amelie Janzen
Riley Janzen
Eric Andersen
Barb Rennie
Stephanie Griffith
Alison Stooshnov

Dragos Vasilescu
Stephanie Fraser
Bernie Jones
Sheila Kennet
Lorry Dickson
Ron and Diane Baker
Erica Yick Ka Liu
Sue McLeod
Tammy Shaw
Elsbeth Turner
Michael Joseph Reilly
Christine Denty
Larry and Shirley Kancs
Sian Oliver

Stong's
Colony Restaurant
North Vancouver Child
Development Centre
Belle and Roast Catering
North Shore Optometry

Advertise your business for free through the BCA Website!

By Mahnaz Fardghassemi

Have you heard that Blueridge has a business directory?

As an initiative to find and support local businesses within our community, we have created a **Blueridge Business Directory**, which is posted to the BCA Facebook page. Our aim is to provide our residents with a rolodex of businesses currently operating within our neighborhood.

The range is impressive: from bakers and jewelry makers, to house painters and tutors. Additionally, we have been putting a spotlight on one local business so that you can get to know them better in our weekly business features on Facebook and Instagram.

So, the next time you are looking for a service or product, why not first check out the Blueridge Directory? Nothing is better than supporting local business.

And if you have a business that is based in Blueridge, we want to know about you and want to list you in the directory as well as feature you on our social media so that our residents can get to know you better! The best news is there is no charge to be listed or featured. To have your business information posted, please go to the following site:

<https://forms.gle/jVcCndfSZ2a9MfFq9>

Recycling for Blueridge

New BCA fundraising - Bottle drive made easy!

Since we need funding for many of our projects and to pay for our on-going expenses, we are trying out 'Fundraise with Express', now offered by Return-It.

This is how it works: Take your unsorted containers in standard-size transparent recycling bags (70-75 litres in size) to the Return-It depots at Brooksbank Avenue or on Riverside Drive. Then please log in using our account phone number which is 604 767 0970. Using the label stand, print off labels, tag each bag and leave them with Return-It. They will sort the bottles and cans and will credit the refunds to our Express account. To skip the depots' tagging lines, contact us for the physical stickers to attach to your bags.

Further information can be found at these websites:

<https://www.return-it.ca/express/faqs/> and <https://www.return-it.ca/beverage/recycling/brochures/>

Neighbours helping neighbours

By Lauren Gorgounis

Do you own your own business and would you like to offer your services to your neighbours in Blueridge?

We are looking for local businesses who are interested in serving the Blueridge Community under the banner of **Project Community**. Ideally these businesses are operated by owners who live in Blueridge; however, we will also review companies based outside of the community. **Project Community** is specifically for services that maintain the interior and exterior of our homes. Some examples are window-washing, power washing, roof de-mossing, gutter clean-out, lawn care, hedge trimming, pool and hot tub cleaning, general garden duties including transplanting and weeding, and trade work such as electrical, plumbing and interior/exterior painting.

Project Community will feature a few local Blueridge businesses every couple of months

that reflect the seasonal needs of Blueridge residents. The intent is to establish loyalty, by offering homeowners a significant discount for booking a seasonal service. In return, the business would benefit from providing its services in bulk in Blueridge while eliminating unnecessary travel time between jobs. The business would also stand to benefit over time by garnering positive homeowner reviews, building loyalty in the community by offering a reliable service year after year.

If you are a locally based business that provides any of the services listed (or other services not mentioned), please contact **Project Community** asap by writing to info@blueridgeca.org.

(Companies may be required to provide proof of workers compensation coverage and licencing of their trade or craft.)



Special Discount for BLUERIDGE Residents!

50% off All Cleaning Services!

CARPETS Retail price @ \$50 per room less discount = \$25 per room, steps/landing/hallway priced separately

UPHOLSTERY, BLINDS, DRAPES, AREA RUGS, TILE & GROUT, COLOR SEAL OF GROUT, CONCRETE, STONE & WOOD FLOOR CARE,

Orders must be booked by: MARCH 30, 2021 to qualify for this discount!

Minimum charge applies at a special rate of \$110 plus applicable taxes and \$15 discounted Service Charge. All work must be complete by April, 10, 2021

Mention promocode: BLUERIDGE-RES

PLEASE CALL (604) 296-4000 TO BOOK A FREE ESTIMATE/SCHEDULE PICKUP OR TALK TO YOUR TECHNICIAN ABOUT THESE SERVICES!!



Windsor Grade 12 student Sabrina Wei (left) is pursuing her Capstone Project, an assignment all Windsor 2021 Grads complete to show what they've learned during high school before leaving to enter the "real world." Sabrina loves to read and so chose to bulk up the freebie library at the Blueridge Sharing Garden with donated books, with some assistance from her mentor, gardening enthusiast Lauren Gorgounis. E-mail Lauren at info@blueridge.org if you have some books to donate.

Living in harmony with nature (and our wild neighbours)

By Luci Cadman

The North Shore Black Bear Society knows that coexistence with wildlife is possible if we learn more about their behaviour, their reasons for being in urban areas, and if we act to minimize food opportunities around homes.

Last year, six black bears found food from humans in Blueridge, and two young bears, Plum and Huckleberry, were killed. Others will suffer the same fate if the temptation of easy food is not removed. Access to unnatural food fueled bears to be active over the winter in Blueridge. Bears “den” because of low natural food availability, not the cold. With reports of bear families already leaving their dens in other local communities, we expect this season to be a long, busy one. Thankfully, most bears denned, but another critter kept our reporting line alive over the winter: coyotes.

Coyotes are intelligent, family oriented and incredibly adaptable; they live in the green spaces around our neighbourhoods. Coyotes are more visible and vocal in late winter during mating season and in the spring and summer months when the family is focused on teaching pups survival skills.

Pups are born in the spring. During this time, adult coyotes are more assertive and may escort you and your dog away from their family. Your dog will be seen as a danger to coyotes, who are not

domesticated. Pressure to protect their family and food can cause defensive behaviour. Keep dogs on a short leash to reduce negative encounters with all wildlife. Scan your property and supervise dogs when off-leash in your yard. Carry a flashlight when walking your dog at night. Coyotes are most active between dusk and dawn; however, daytime activity in urban areas is common. While a coyote’s main reason for being in the community is rodents, their natural chase instinct makes outdoor cats vulnerable.

We encourage raising cats indoors and feeding all pets inside.

By managing rodent attractants around homes, you reduce important food sources for coyotes. Keep garbage and organics secure (ideally inside a garage). Remove fruit trees if you cannot commit to managing them, and instead plant vegetation to encourage birds instead of using feeders.

These steps will greatly reduce a coyote (and a bear’s) reason for being in the neighbourhood.

If you meet a coyote: pick up small children and pets, be intimidating by raising your arms and use a firm tone to tell them to leave. Coyotes are timid by nature and we should set boundaries to keep them that way.

Luci is Executive Director of the North Shore Bear Society



Coyotes are a common phenonema in the urban landscape, including in our area. You can take steps to ensure your safety and theirs.



BLUERIDGE
Community Association

PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH!!

Web: www.blueridgeca.org

Email: info@blueridgeca.org • newsletter@blueridgeca.org

 Twitter: @BlueridgeCA

 Facebook: Blueridge Community Association

 Instagram: Blueridge__Community