

COVID brings trail visitors and traffic problems to Blueridge

By Eric G. Andersen and David Hannah

If you are one of the many Blueridge residents who enjoy using the trails, you have noted that COVID has brought a huge number of visitors to upper Blueridge.

The trails are, of course, here for everyone to enjoy. However, the hundreds of cars are more than we can accommodate. Our neighbourhood streets were not designed for the volume of car traffic we are experiencing. Further, while the overwhelming majority of visitors are respectful, there have been some unfortunate incidents, including excessive noise, blocking and parking in residents' driveways, backing into intersections, damaging private property, changing in public, tailgating, and even public urinating. Those who live closest to the trails often deal with noise from sunrise to sunset.

Most people not living in the affected area of Blueridge may not even be aware that all this is happening, that many local residents are not able to enjoy the privacy on their own property, something we should all have the right to.

Our association's own Traffic and Parking Task Force set out to develop community-wide solutions to these challenges. Among our activities, we have hosted an online community meeting in January, collaborated with the North Shore Mountain Bike Association to produce educational materials, and asked the District of North Vancouver (DNV) to look at parking and traffic safety. So far, the District

has reduced the speed limit on Berkley in front of Blueridge Park to 30 km starting at Whitman Avenue, and has implemented a no-parking zone at the top of Berkley past Blueridge Park and a bit of Hyannis Drive. A more extensive study of the intersection at Berkley and Hyannis will take place this summer and may lead to more changes. Meanwhile, DNV has asked residents to call its Bylaws department (604.990.2400) to report parking infractions so officers can ticket these violations.

In early May, members of the task force also participated in a Zoom meeting with our newly elected MLA, Susie Chant, to discuss the possible renewal of the day pass requirement for accessing Mount Seymour Provincial Park. We fear that if the provincial government decides to reinstate this requirement, it will shift even more visitors to Blueridge, where no day pass requirements apply. Mayor Mike Little and two DNV Councillors attended this meeting where none of the 50 participants supported reinstating the day pass requirement.

The Task Force has also reached out to other DNV departments and community organizations, and there has also been a good dialogue with the RCMP who have confirmed that Parks Patrols will start in June. A new meeting for the community was scheduled for June 1, just before the distribution of this newsletter, to discuss this further.

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Editor:
Michael Bernard

Local business directory up and running!

By Mahna Fardghassemi

Over a year ago we started our Blueridge Business Directory with the ultimate goal of supporting the local businesses within our very own community. It started off small, and it was hosted on the BCA Facebook page, but as the word got out and more businesses wanted to list with us, we decided it was time to move it to our website. With the help of our amazing resident website design volunteer, Jeff Powell, we have created a page on the Blueridge website (www.blueridgeca.org) dedicated to our local businesses.

So the next time you are looking to buy a gift or need something done around the house, please do take a look at our Business Directory first and help support local. And if you are a business that is based locally and would like to be registered on our directory, please go to our website and complete the form which is linked at the bottom of the page! Happy Shopping and please spread the word!

www.blueridgeca.org/blueridge_businesses/

And the winner is...

Blueridge hands out its first annual awards to deserving residents

By Michelle Leroux



*W*e are pleased to announce the winners of the first annual Blueridge Awards. Thank you to everyone who nominated residents in the community. Winners were chosen by the Blueridge Community Association (BCA) Board of Directors. Blueridge resident Toby Barruzol of Eclipse Awards, kindly donated the awards. Congratulations to all of the award winners and thank you for helping to make our community special!

The **Blueridge Spirit Award** recognizes residents who show enthusiasm and passion for the community. The first winners are Bruce Bourdon and his wife Beth Ede, they are continually coming up with great ideas for the community, such as the neighbourhood dine-outside program, *Diner En Bleu*, selling old Blueridge street signs to raise money for the BCA, and the local Adopt-a-Street program among other volunteer initiatives. From now on, the current award winner will choose and deliver the award to a new deserving recipient.

The **Outstanding Neighbour Award** honours a resident who goes above and beyond in supporting their neighbours. This year, we have joint winners: Siggy and Ruth Toews. Blueridge resident Doris Behrenz, explains why she nominated the couple: "Both Siggy and Ruth have been our neighbours for a good number of years. I am caring for my 97-year-old mother and Ruth often appears on my door with fresh bread or cookies. Siggy took over mowing our lawn due to my husband having knee surgery and now that my husband's back is bad, they are taking out our garbage every week. Siggy also mows his neighbour's lawn on the other side of us as she is on her own. I could not ask for more caring neighbours. I would not hesitate to go to them for help whenever needed. But I don't even need to ask—they are always there."

The **Dedication Award** recognizes a resident who has contributed to the community in a substantial way for a prolonged time. This year's winner is Marsha Unheim. Nominator and resident Judith Jane Spencer says: "Marsha has always been a welcoming, humble spirit in neighbourliness for over 25 years. She has quietly and diligently been our vice block captain and gracious voice in times of strife."

The **Volunteer Award** recognizes a volunteer who makes a special contribution to the Blueridge-Seymour Heights community. The first winner is Fariba Leilaby. The judges note that Fariba had multiple nominations from people citing her passion for volunteering in the community, including for Good Neighbour Day (normally held each June), Blueridge Cares, and delivering this newsletter to 1,500 residents.

The **Sponsor Award** honours a sponsor or donor who makes a special contribution to the community. The award's first winner is Judy Killeen. A local realtor, Judy has been a sponsor of Good Neighbour Day since 1998, supported our Blueridge Community Care Packages and assisted with the distribution of this newsletter.

Resident raises the alarm about the risk of forest fires near Blueridge

By Michael Bernard

*E*very time she goes for a walk through the Blair Rifle Range Lands just east of Blueridge, Rachelle Weicker gets worried. But it isn't the recent reports of bears, cougars and coyotes that have her on edge. It's the many firepits amongst the trees and trails.

Some pits have the burned remains of logs and aerosol cans. Some are the size of a lawn mower while others are triple that size. Her particular concern is that sparks or embers from the blazes—accelerated by exploding aerosol cans scattered about—could be carried skyward and ignite nearby dried out trees, triggering a major forest fire. So a few weeks ago she phoned the local fire department.

- continued on page 3



Blueridge resident Rachelle Weicker stands beside one of many firepits she has found on the Blair Rifle Range just east of her home. District of North Vancouver fire prevention officials agree with her that such fires, especially during the summer, are a major worry and have promised to look at ways of managing the risk.

Resident raises the alarm (continued from page 2)

“I phoned the non-emergency number and talked to them,” Weicker said. “They said, ‘Okay, there is not much we can do about it. We’ll have the fire captain call you.’”

She (the fire captain) called the next day and said we take all forest fires very seriously, but she also said basically there was not much the department could do. She said just call us when you see a gathering.” Weicker said she told the captain she can’t see anything because her home is a good distance (a 15-minute walk) from the relatively secluded spots in the federal Crown-owned lands. She added that it would be very difficult for a fire truck to reach the fire pits, which can only be accessed by rough trails and creek beds.

“The fire captain told me she would pass it on to the Parks Board, but no one has ever called me.”

This newsletter contacted the DNV Fire Department for their response to Weicker’s concern and received both an email and a phone call within an hour from Nathan Walker, acting assistant chief—public safety for the DNV fire and rescue services. “We share your concern about the potential wildfire risk of fire pits and unattended fires, especially during the summer months when the fire danger rating reaches the ‘High’ or even ‘Extreme’ rating,” he said.

Walker acknowledged that it is challenging dealing with teens lighting fires, one theory about who is building and lighting the bonfires, but notes that his service talks to high schools and uses social media to try to reach that target group. He urged Blueridge residents to phone 911 if they encounter burning fires because tracking calls helps to focus department resources where they are needed. Walker said he would be contacting Rachelle and offered to have a staff member accompany her to the fire pits and assess the forest fire risk. Walker also provided the following website links for Blueridge residents to learn how they can reduce the risk of wildfires.

<https://www.dnv.org/your-home-property/how-you-can-help-reduce-risk-wildfire>

<https://www.dnv.org/your-home-property/forest-fire-prevention-and-current-fire-danger-rating>

<https://www.dnv.org/your-home-property/construction-work-near-forest>

Consultant engaged to assess recreational use of CMHC lands surrounding Blueridge

By Michael Bernard

Blueridge residents will have an opportunity to talk about their recreational needs and desires for a parcel of largely undeveloped land framing Blueridge.

A landscape architectural consultant firm, Eric Lees and Associates, has won a bid competition and was contracted in May to begin the project of seeking input from interested parties about the future of 644 acres of land jointly held by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. (CMHC) and the B.C. government.

The consultant, who has undertaken similar assessment projects, will canvas a broad range of interest groups, including the general public and stakeholders, such as the Blueridge Community Association, the North Shore Mountain Biking Association, the District of North Vancouver and Metro Vancouver governments, and seven First Nations with interests in the land parcel, said Daniel Scott, trails specialist with the provincial agency Recreation Sites and Trails BC. The study is part of what is called a Recreational Access and Management Plan and it will help define the future use of the land parcel.

Scott said the lands include some of the former Department of National Defence Blair Rifle Range, parts of the Baden Powell Trail and some of the mountain biking trails there, such as Dale’s Trail and Ned’s Atomic Dustbin, and rough paths between Blueridge and the Parkgate shopping centre.

“The consultant will be looking at all the various values within this management area and how recreation fits within this larger spectrum, such as what are the pros and cons of different types of recreation, as well as the environmental and ecological concerns and how human recreation could impact these things,” said Scott.

Scott’s agency first became involved as an impartial intermediary after CMHC ran into fierce public opposition in 2016 for posting No Trespassing signs throughout the land parcel, effectively barring thousands of hikers, dog walkers and mountain bikers who had enjoyed free access to the Crown lands for decades. The federal agency, which maintained it was concerned about public safety and its liability, eventually relented to the public outcry and removed the signs.

Scott said his agency’s goal is arrive at a consensus for managing and protecting the parcel, including consideration of a proposal for developing a trail between Blueridge and the Parkgate shopping centre. “We are not a proponent. Our goal is to figure out what is feasible from everyone’s perspective,” he said, adding that a first draft could be ready in the next six months.



COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

JUNE 26, 2021

Get rid of the electronics cluttering up your home, garage, or workplace and help the environment!

E-WASTE MANAGED BY



WHAT IS ACCEPTED

- Consumer Electronics** (gaming consoles, iPods etc)
- Desktop Computers** (PC & Mac, monitors, parts, motherboards etc)
- Handheld devices** (smart phones, cell phones, tablets etc)
- Laptops** (PC & Mac, docking stations, parts, cables etc)
- Phone Systems, Racks and miscellaneous** (Server racks, lab equipment, disk arrays etc)
- Printers** (Inkjet & Laserjet, plotters, copiers, scanners, fax machines etc)
- Peripherals** (Keyboards, mice, CD/DVD roms, cards, accessories etc)
- Servers** (Rack mount, stand alone, all brands etc)
- Software** (operating system, editing, design etc)
- Specialty items** (Cisco networking, switches, routers etc)

ELECTRONIC RECYCLING ASSOCIATION (ERA) | INFO@ERA.CA | 1.877.9EWASTE | WWW.ERA.CA

METAL RECYCLING

There are many metals that are readily found in our homes that can easily be recycled. Here is a list of metals that we will be collecting and where you might find them in your home.



Copper: Plumbing Fixtures, Piping & Fittings, Electrical Wire, Pots & Pans



Steel: Clothing hangers, tools, Pots & Pans, Cabinet Hardware (knobs and Pulls)



Aluminum: Some kitchen pots & pans, Tire Rims, Door & Window Casings, Gutters



Brass: Plumbing Fixtures & Fittings, Instruments, Pots & Pans, Bed Frames, Home Décor



Stainless Steel: Sinks, Water Bottles, Kitchen Utensils, Pots and Pans



Lead: Pipes, Car Batteries, Fishing Weights

TIME: 10:00AM TO 12:30PM
LOCATION: BLUERIDGE SHARING GARDEN AT THE NORTH END OF LYTTON STREET IN NORTH VANCOUVER



Windsor Grade 12 students take to the streets to celebrate graduation

By Michael Bernard

For the second COVID year, the Windsor Grads of 2021 are working with a parent group to send their decorated car cavalcade through Blueridge on Thursday, June 17, at 7 p.m.

“The grads of 2020 were met with many unexpected challenges due to the COVID pandemic,” says parent organizer Lauren Gorgounis. “The rite of passage, as far as celebrations go, was left of normal,” she said. “Last year, the news of the Parade was met with mixed reviews at first by the Grads, but it was the highlight in the end.”

Hundreds of Blueridge and Seymour Heights residents lined the streets of the neighbourhood last year awaiting the cavalcade. The students, many of them dressed in formal grad attire, assembled in their decorated vehicles in the Canlan Ice Sports parking lot. The vehicles then drove slowly through the Blueridge route to the hooting and cheering of onlookers with happy music blaring from the car radios.

Gorgounis, whose own son Lucas is graduating this year, said she and some volunteer parents are working with the Grad Council, which represents the 157 students graduating, “to support what they want. The Parade is at the top of the list.”

“We are working closely with support and direction from Windsor Secondary, the District of North Vancouver, Vancouver Coastal Health, and the Grads of 2021. As a parent group of Grads, we are really hoping that the Ministry of Health orders will permit the Grads to come together in a safe environment to celebrate their successes.”

Blueridge Scholarship Recipient Chosen



Tom Terblanche, a Lions Gate Christian Academy Grade 12 student, is this year’s Blueridge Community Scholarship winner. Tom has been helping out with numerous community events, including weekly dinner programs and a Capstone project in Grade 11 that helped fundraise for an initiative in Guatemala. He says his experiences taught him great humility and to be grateful for what he has. He plans to attend UBC Okanagan in the fall and to study for a degree in Applied Sciences. Congratulations Tom. We are proud to have you living in our community!

Anni Danielson

COME OUT AND CHEER!!

WINDSOR GRAD 2021 CAR PARADE

R...O...U...T...E

THURSDAY JUNE 17TH @ 7 PM

START CANLAN ICE SPORTS

LEFT ON HYANNIS

RIGHT ON SECHLT

NORTH UP BERKLEY

LEFT ONTO MT SEYMOUR PWKY WHERE CARS DISPERSE

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

"We would like to express our gratitude to Blueridge residents for their support and help in finding Chase, our 10-month-old border collie. From the moment Chase got lost at Mount Seymour Resort on Saturday May 15, 2021, at 9 a.m., to 60 hrs later when he walked out from behind the Tobogganing building on Monday, May 17, 2021, at 7:30 p.m., the Blueridge community was with us every step of the way.



Thank you to all Blueridge residents who spread the word, drove up the mountain, hiked, biked, brought us food, and, in general, sent us positive notes. Every step of the way, you were all with us, working side by side with us looking for Chase. Your support gave us a needed boost of energy and relief. It felt like the whole neighbourhood was working together to find Chase.

Thank you all. Your help directly contributed to finding Chase! We are so grateful to all of you. See you on the trails."

Sanja Frketich and family
Blueridge

(A longer story of the family's ordeal can be found on the Blueridge Facebook page. The Blueridge Newsletter encourages readers to submit letters on any subject or issue. We reserve the right to edit for brevity, clarity, taste and legality.)

Dates to Remember:

Thursday, June 17

Windsor Grad Cavalcade through Blueridge, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, June 22

Blueridge Community Info Meeting, (Via Zoom)
"Something's Happening Here" 7 p.m.

Saturday, June 26

Community Clean Up (Recycling), Blueridge Sharing Garden (Lytton Street), 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

June 26, July 25 & August 29

Blueridge Garden work parties

Tuesday, Sept. 14

Blueridge Community Association AGM, Blueridge Elementary School and/or Zoom, 7 p.m.

September 2021

Next issue of the Blueridge Community Newsletter

Blueridge Volunteer Opportunities

By Michelle Leroux



We strive to offer our residents a variety of volunteer opportunities. Since our last newsletter, we have filled four key roles: Website Design Coordinator, Newsletter Distribution Coordinator, Canlan Ice Sports Committee Representative and the DNV Customer Advisory Panel Representative. We also have had three newcomers to our Newsletter Delivery team. Thank you to our new volunteers and welcome to the BCA team!

Our website is always updated with current opportunities. Please visit www.blueridgeca.org/volunteer-opportunities/ to learn more about or express interest in the roles below. If these do not interest you, but you're interested in learning about future opportunities, please subscribe to our volunteer emails through the website.

Newsletter Delivery

Join a dedicated group of volunteers who distribute our community newsletter three times a year (March, June and November) to 1,500 homes in Blueridge and Seymour Heights. We have 26 routes that we require volunteers for. Most routes take approximately 45 minutes to 60 minutes to finish. Several volunteers involve the whole family as a way to introduce volunteerism to their children. Joining the group does not mean committing to every newsletter delivery. You can opt in or opt out as your schedule allows.

Content Writer

Over the past 18 months, the Blueridge Community Association has greatly expanded communication to its residents. In addition to this printed newsletter, we send out a monthly e-bulletin to subscribed members and are very active on Facebook and Instagram. We are also currently re-designing our website. To help us with all of these communication channels, we are seeking individuals who are passionate about the people and activities in their community and have excellent writing skills. This would be a fantastic opportunity for a journalism or marketing student. Expected time commitment is two to four hours per month. Find full details of this role outlined at www.blueridgeca.org/volunteer-opportunities/

Keeping Blueridge Clean, Beautiful and Safe

By Michelle Leroux

Trail Maintenance

Earlier this year, a resident reached out to the Blueridge Community Association to ask if anything could be done about the mud on our local trails. We reached out to our partners at the District of North Vancouver (DNV) to talk about the possibilities. After our discussions, we thought it would be a great opportunity to involve our residents given the district's resources. With training and tools supplied by the DNV, a fantastic group of community volunteers performed maintenance work on the Berkley Loop Trail which is entered at the corner of Hyannis and Berkley.

The group removed invasive plants (e.g. holly and laurel), covered tree roots and other tripping hazards on the trail and worked to divert water and mud by digging channels that allow water to run off the trails and into the forest. Thank you to a fun and dedicated group of volunteers!



Earth Day Clean-Up

Long-time resident Jeff Williamson led the idea for a community clean up on Earth Day. Volunteer groups focused on 3 areas: Blueridge Garden and Seymour Heights School, Blueridge School and the Hyannis trailhead area. The groups collected over 50 pounds (23 Kgs.) of garbage in just over an hour. We also encountered a few residents who have done their own Earth Day clean-up for years so we hope to see even more people join us next year. Thank you to all of the volunteers and to Jeff for inspiring the event!

A few things that you can do to protect our community, trails and planet:

Do	Don't
Support the adopt a street program by contacting your street captain or become a captain. Visit www.dnv.org for more information.	Put garden clippings into forested areas even if attached to your property. Garden clippings can promote the growth of invasive plants in the forest and disrupt the natural growth of indigenous plants and harm the overall ecosystem.
Dispose of cigarette butts in the garbage. Birds may eat them, feel full and then die due to lack of nutrition.	Allow chemicals or soaps to go down the storm drains on the street. There is no filter on the drains and they run straight into the ocean.
Pick up and dispose of even the smallest piece of plastic around storm drains. Plastic that washes down the drain ends up in the ocean and breaks down into microplastics that can block the digestive systems of aquatic animals.	Undertake unauthorized work or digging on our trails. This includes building jumps etc for mountain biking purposes. The safety of trail users and root integrity of trees can be compromised.
Stay on designated trails. Off trail hiking causes erosion, damages vegetation and disrupts wildlife.	Leave doggie poop bags in the forest even if the bags are compostable or biodegradable. Many products take much longer to break down than the product claims. They also are not pleasing to look at or smell!

Something's happening here: Join us online to find out!

Would you like to know more about your community and understand what the Blueridge Community Association does? Have questions or suggestions? Want to find out how you can get involved?

Join the Blueridge Community Association Board of Directors for an online meeting that is open to all residents. Our aim is to provide a fun, interactive meeting that informs, consults, inspires and recognizes our residents. Be on the call to see a special presentation of the winners of the first-ever Blueridge Awards and the Eric Andersen Scholarship.

Tuesday, June 22/ 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Zoom Link will be posted on the Blueridge Community Association website homepage and Facebook pages.

PROJECT COMMUNITY: strength and savings in numbers

By Lauren Gorgouinis

To all residents of Blueridge and Seymour Heights, we are again offering gutter cleaning services through the same contractor, Canadian Homepro, Peter Machula. Painting services are through Two Lions Painting, Ramses Romero. Please send an email message with your name, the contractor you want, your address, and phone number to info@blueridgeca.org.

Canadian Homepro Cleaning Services

- Peter Machula

This contractor is able to provide the service based on the following promotional pricing + GST:

- a one level or small split level home (around 1200 to 2000 sq/ft) with one level of gutters - price \$125+gst
- a standard size split level home (around 2000 to 2500 sq/ft) - price \$160+gst-a two level home (2000 to 3000 sq/ft) - price \$180+gst
- a larger home (above 3000 sq/ft) - price \$210+gst
- All prices are estimates and may vary slightly according to roof design, gutter type and gutter accessibility. 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.

Special offer to Blueridge Project Community is valid from June 1, 2021 til end of the year

Two Lions Painting

- Ramses Romero

Two Lions is a Blueridge-based painting company. We specialize in high quality residential interior and exterior painting. We offer superior results in a professional and timely manner. Getting the job done to the customer's complete satisfaction is our goal. We believe in building our clients from prior customers' referrals and satisfaction. We look forward to serving you and being your preferred Blueridge painting company!

Interior work:

- One \$25 Stongs gift card per each room painted up to four rooms
- One \$20 Stongs gift card for a full interior repaint

Exterior work:

- One \$100 Stongs gift card per every trim painting or staining including decks
- One \$250 Stongs gift card for a full exterior paint job

Please get in touch for a free estimate.
Sincerely, *Ramses (Ram) Romero*

Special offer to Blueridge Project Community is valid from June 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022



PLANT SWAP

Windsor Secondary Grade 11 student Maya Aubron-Albert and her mother Raphaelle Albert built and painted this Plant Swap stand, located on Berkley Road, just south of Carnation. The concept is simple. Bring a plant and take a plant. She says sharing their gardening passion brings her and her mother joy that they hope to spread around the neighbourhood with the stand from May to October, weather permitting.




PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH!!

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