

## Blueridge residents discuss Seymour Trails plans with consultants

*By Michael Bernard*

Blueridge residents love to use local trails for everything from walking their dogs to simply absorbing the peace and tranquillity of the forest, Blueridge representatives told a provincial government trails expert and a recreation consultant firm at a ZOOM meeting about the future of the trails.

The provincial rep, Daniel Scott of Recreation Sites and Trails BC and staff from Lees and Associates, a land recreation use firm, were eliciting views about future trail usage on 644 acres of land controlled by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. (CMHC) north and east of Blueridge. Those views will be incorporated into a report being prepared by Lees at the government's request over the next several months. The study follows a controversial attempt by CMHC in 2016 to close off access to the trails by thousands of hikers, bikers and dog walkers, citing concerns about public safety and its own liability. An immediate public outcry forced the federal agency to back down and remove No Trespassing signs it had posted.

The Blueridge residents told the consultants that they hoped that the current trails would be "protected in perpetuity" for public enjoyment but were told there are no guarantees that would happen, especially in view of the fact that CMHC's prime function is land development. Eric Andersen, chair of the Blueridge Community Association also said that while the trails are

meant for everyone to use, some residents, especially those living around the trailheads, are concerned that the amenities could become "too attractive" to hikers and bikers, many of whom come from communities throughout Metro Vancouver. That surge in popularity and trail visits during the COVID pandemic has created parking, noise and trespassing problems.

The Blueridge group also said it was concerned the consultants did not pay more attention to resident hopes for developing existing trails between Blueridge through the Blair Range lands to the east leading to Parkgate shopping centre. Both Scott and Lees and Associates pointed out, however, that there are many stakeholders involved with that area, including several First Nations, CMHC and both regional and municipal governments. That involvement complicates any planning they may recommend for future trail development. The Blueridge group also pointed out there appeared to be no need for additional trails but that any plans should include better maintenance of existing trails and provision for off-leash dog walking.

Scott and the consultants encouraged residents to express their views through a survey LEES and Associates had developed to gather opinions on future use of trails in the area. That survey will be available in early September at [www.blueridgeca.org](http://www.blueridgeca.org). It was scheduled to remain open for resident input until Sept. 19.

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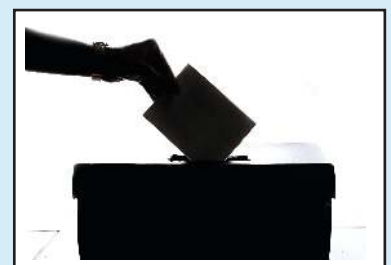
Editor:  
Michael Bernard

## Do your democratic duty and vote Sept. 20

*By Eric G. Andersen*

As the chair of the BCA, I can say that one of our association's proudest achievements is that we have co-hosted an All Candidates Meeting (ACM) before EACH election at all levels since the late 90s. This is one the BCA's most important *raison d'être*: ensuring our residents get to meet all the candidates.

Unfortunately, the voter turnout in the seven federal elections this century varies between 58.8% and 68.5% - nothing to be proud of. Regardless of the reasons for that disappointing response, the BCA's board very strongly urges everyone who CAN vote, do so. Take the time to find out where the parties and candidates stand on the issues that really matter to you. If necessary, hold your nose, but PLEASE make sure that you vote!



## Blueridge Book Club: Come and talk about books with us

*"I think books are like people, in the sense that they'll turn up in your life when you most need them."*  
- Emma Thompson

By Mahnaz Fardghassemi

Looking to try out different types of books? Enjoy having a discussion about it with others to see their perspectives? Well we have great news! Blueridge now has a book club!

Never been part of a book club? Don't worry! Many of us have not been either. We just started the club this summer and we already have more than 20 members! It's open to anyone, men and women, who has a passion for reading! Just join our Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/325200369235517>), get in on the conversation and track upcoming books and meet dates!

In August, we read *Hillbilly Elegy* by J. D. Vance, and met on Aug. 31 to discuss it. We look forward to reading and chatting with you!



## Blueridge Park gets a long-needed upgrade

By Mahnaz Fardghassemi

During our recent Community Zoom meeting, Something is Happening, we heard from many residents about how Blueridge Park was not up to par. Well, we heard you and reached out to the District of North Vancouver on behalf of our community and we have great news. The park is going to be redone in 2022!

A bit of background: Blueridge Park playground, located off the top of Berkley, is divided into two sections. On one side is the play area for three to five-year-olds, which was redone about five years ago. The main area of district focus is the play structures in the area dedicated to children five to 12 years old, which have not been updated in a long time.

We had numerous conversations with different departments within the District of North Vancouver Parks Department and we now have a firm confirmation that the budget has been approved for the play structures in the five to 12 year-old area.

The District will be reaching out to Blueridge through a survey to find out what kinds of play structures residents would like to see. We expect the survey to be conducted late this year or early in 2022. Thank you for bringing this to our attention!

## Blueridge Shorts

By Michelle Leroux

### New Blueridge Community Association Website is launched

This month, the BCA will be launching a new and improved website. Jeff Powell, our new website design coordinator, has done an absolutely amazing job with creating a website that will be a fantastic resource for our residents.

Our primary goal for the website was to create a hub of easy-to-navigate information for residents about all of the activities happening in Blueridge and Seymour Heights. We also wanted to ensure that it could be easily and frequently updated with current information. Thanks to a local North Vancouver artist, we have added some "whimsy" to the website with illustrations of a new resident bear!

Please visit the website at [www.blueridgeca.org](http://www.blueridgeca.org) and tell us if we should add or change anything. It is important to note that there are still some pages within the website that are a work-in-progress.

We cannot thank Jeff enough for his dedication, enthusiasm and time spent on this project! His hard work will help our residents get the most out of their community.

### Michelle Bids Goodbye to Blueridge

I have had the honor of serving as Volunteer Coordinator for the BCA since last November. It has been a very rewarding experience and I've had the pleasure of working with and meeting many of our residents on different activities. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered for our community.

Our family has made the decision to move to the Comox Valley on Vancouver Island and we'll be leaving Blueridge next month. We are grateful to have found a community on the island that reflects all of the wonderful attributes of this one.

While we search for a new Volunteer Coordinator, Stacie Graham will be acting as interim Volunteer Coordinator, effective Sept. 14. Should you have any questions or wish to express interest in volunteering, please email [volunteer@blueridgeca.org](mailto:volunteer@blueridgeca.org) or visit the Volunteer page on our website [www.blueridgeca.org](http://www.blueridgeca.org).

## To everything there is a season...

By Carolann Fraenkel

### *It's starting to feel like fall.*

Things are still growing at the Blueridge Community Garden. Our warm and sunny summer produced some amazing crops at the garden. Some gardeners went on vacation to come back and find their lettuces were as tall as they are! Squashes seemed to really love the heat. The pumpkin patch is happy, the winter squashes are happy, and the zucchini just won't stop.

We have been harvesting carrots, zucchini, lettuces, kale and other vegetables for sharing by donation at United Strangers, and to date we have raised over \$250 for charity. Did you know that the donations you make for fresh, organic, lovingly raised vegetables go to the North Shore Harvest House, and Spectrum Mothers Support Society? Watch the Blueridge Neighbours Facebook page for posts when we deliver vegetables to United Strangers.

Garden members are currently involved in the Restorative Justice Process with the vandals who were caught by the RCMP at the garden earlier this summer. We will have some re-building to do, but it will wait until the growing season is over. We are happy to report that Penfold's Roofing has offered to repair the damaged roof to the garden shed as a gift to our community. Thank you Penfold's!

As we prepare our garden beds for our winter harvests (kale, radishes, cabbages), we are reminded that school will be in session soon, and are hoping that we can share our love for growing things with a new generation of gardeners. Bring your kids down to the garden. We'd love to see you.



*Alice Fraenkel proudly holds a potato she dug out of the Blueridge Sharing Garden on a recent weekend. The Garden has raised more than \$250 for local charities by offering fresh produce for sale by donation at United Strangers.*

## It all starts with a local creek...

### **Join Us World River Day to clean Up Blueridge Creek on Sunday, Sept. 26**

By Susanne Mueller

Whether we have read the reports or not, it is clear that climate change is here with us. This dry summer has been especially eye-opening with the record heat waves and ongoing wildfires. It seems this wasn't just a one-off year, but a taste of what's to come. It can feel scary, and I admit to spiraling into hopelessness on this topic. I have spent many of these abnormally warm nights worrying about what is ahead for us.

But in the midst of the recent heat wave, I heard a heartening quote from Greta Thunberg: "Don't look for hope. Act and hope is everywhere."

Locally, I was amazed at last year's World River Day just how many bags of garbage were collected in our own Blueridge Creek in one hour, and how many people and kids offered a helping hand. I left feeling hopeful and realized what is possible when a community comes together.

Come out on Sunday Sept 26th when we will once again focus on cleaning up along Blueridge Creek from 9-10am. I have bags and gloves for you to use that day. If you would like to participate please email me at sus.mueller@gmail.com. I will be in touch with further details.

### **The Blueridge Community Association invites you to attend its Annual General Meeting**

**Tuesday, Sept. 14, from 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.  
at United Strangers, Emerson and Mount Seymour Parkway**

Attendance capacity is limited due to current COVID-19 restrictions.

However, you may also attend the meeting via the following ZOOM link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85945849165?pwd=OExZLzJqV2xRZ09JWDIvWWdwSWRzUT09>

Meeting ID: 859 4584 9165 • Passcode: 567137

# FEDERAL ELECTION ALL CANDIDATES MEETING



MONDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 13

7:00 TO 9:00 PM  
Doors open at 6:30 pm

## Mount Seymour United Church

1200 Parkgate Avenue, North Vancouver

Face masks and proof of vaccination will be required

*Space is limited so event will also be available via Zoom Webinar and YouTube:*

Register for Seymour  
United Church: [finewerx@telus.net](mailto:finewerx@telus.net)

Register for Webinar: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Qg-e\\_yNCRw6D8NAFeZX0Jg](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Qg-e_yNCRw6D8NAFeZX0Jg)

Link to YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSeIMV2c0KZcqX8t3DISJiQ>

