

2021-2022 Chair's Report

At the BCA's Annual General Meeting on May 10, 2022, the current Chair, Eric G. Andersen, pointed out the following highlights for the BCA for 2021-2022:

Due to COVID-19 we had to change our AGM from November in 2020, to September in 2021, so the previous period covered was actually only 10 months, instead of the usual 12 months period.

We are now again hosting our AGM in May and we are back on schedule with our AGM to be held in May, as in pre-pandemic times.

This means that the current period (2021-2022) was only 8 months (September till May).

FIRST OF ALL: A HUGE 'THANK YOU' TO EVERYONE WHO HAS VOLUNTEERED HIS/HER TIME TO THE BCA during this difficult time.

It has been said so many times before, but the BCA could not operate and function well without EVERYONE's assistance: directors, volunteers and meeting participants alike.

1/ no **scholarship** was handed out to a Blueridge youth in view of the period (September-May), but will be done later this spring as usual – for the seventh time.

2/ our **'Project Community'** has expanded to many new businesses.

3/ the BCA continues to be in contact with Recreation Sites & Trails (from the provincial government) regarding a **potential trail from somewhere in Blueridge to Parkgate** as well as **the CMHC Mt. Seymour Recreation Access Management Plan (RAMP)**. This will take time and patience.

4/ the **Blueridge Garden** remains a huge asset with extremely active participants. Even a few setbacks with vandalism done to the garden, has not deterred the participants.

Significant repairs and maintenance were done by volunteers, and vegetable sales provided donations to a local charity.

5/ our **finances** are in decent shape and have increased marginally thanks to the ads that are included in the monthly Blueridge Bulletin.

We have five sub-accounts: Blueridge Good Neighbour Day, Farmers' Market money (now dedicated for our yearly scholarship), the Blueridge Garden, 'other projects' and the general account.

6/ one **newsletter** (March 2022 (8 pages)), was prepared in 2021-2022 which reached every household in Blueridge/Seymour Heights (again thanks strictly to BCA volunteers!).

7/ the **Blueridge Spirit Award** has rotated as scheduled between very deserving recipients and outstanding community members.

8/ the BCA has a regularly updated **website**: www.blueridgeca.org and **Facebook** page as well as our main e-mail address: info@blueridgeca.org. We have over 700 e-mail recipients in Blueridge/Seymour Heights. We have a **Twitter** account located @BlueridgeCA (if people want to “follow” us). Different hashtags associated with our other account such as #SharingGarden. We also have an **Instagram** account. A new and much-improved website with frequent updates was launched in September.

9/ the **Blueridge Business Directory** continues to expand on our website.

10/ the BCA has notified its members of Zoom meetings and events of potential interest to them. This is done through our Communication Officer’s ‘**Blueridge Bulletin**’, which goes out monthly, and numerous postings on Facebook. We are accepting ads in this e-newsletter (unlike the hard-copy newsletter).

11/ the BCA has **representatives** on the Community Advisory Panel, Canlan Ice-Sports Committee, the Neighbourhood Advisory Committee and North Vancouver Community Associations Network (NVCAN).

12/ in view of COVID many of the BCA committees have been dormant or ad hoc. The committees include: a **traffic committee**, a **Blueridge Good Neighbour Day committee**, a **trails committee (hosting walks in the neighbourhood)**, a **Blueridge Garden committee**, a **scholarship committee**, a **Good Neighbour Greeting committee**, a **nominating committee**, a **Blueridge Awards Committee**, a **Blueridge Cares committee**, a **Community Lands Task Force** and a **Dîner en Bleu committee**.

Our hope is that many of these activities will resume again over the next year.

13/ the BCA has continued to assist the **Traffic and Parking Task force** dealing with the influx of visitors in our area due to the trail access in upper Blueridge. Finally a bit of help has come from the DNV.

14/ the BCA continues to monitor the situation regarding the **future of Blueridge Elementary School**.

15/ the **BCA continues to fundraise twice** a year (before Easter and Christmas) through **Purdy’s Chocolate’s fundraising program**.

16/ the BCA co-founded the **Seymour Trail Liaison Committee** with the North Shore Mountain Bike Association, with a meeting in the spring and one to be scheduled in the fall.

17/ the BCA has its own **brochure** including social media information and local information.

18/ the BCA continues to offer **baby, pet and house-sitting services**.

19/ the BCA continues to visit and **greet all new Blueridge/Seymour Heights residents** when they move to the area. Due to COVID this has been done by leaving our brochure in their mailbox.

20/ before Christmas the **Blueridge Cares Committee** managed to raise \$5,600 as well as gift cards, toys, beer and other goodies for seven local families who applied to get a helping hand before Christmas.

21/ the BCA continues the '**Fundraise with Express**' program offered by Return-It.

22/ the **Blueridge Book Club** started last year continues to add new members and meets monthly.

23/ a meeting between BCA board members and **MLA, Susie Chant**, was held in March.

24/ for the first time a **Halloween contest was held for the best decorated house** in Blueridge.

25/ The BCA has become a **registered society** (which is different from a registered charity), the advantage being the higher level of recognition by certain governmental agencies and larger corporations, particularly in terms of grant applications.

Our **goals for 2022-2023** include:

find a new **volunteer coordinator**.

host a dedicated **BCA workshop** in the fall, with emphasis on developing new activities and increased local involvement.

co-host an **All Candidates Meeting** on October 4 prior to the municipal election.

develop a closer **working relationship with the local PACs** – so far we have connected with Seymour Heights Elementary School.

start the **FireSmart program** in Blueridge.

try new **fundraising** (perhaps paper-shredding and/or scarecrows?).

improve how to **advertise and highlight our many activities**.

continue to promote the **Blueridge Awards**.