

The Most Important Election

By Eric G. Andersen

Chair, Blueridge Community Association



Eric G. Andersen

The most important election for all of us also happens to be the one that always has the lowest voter participation.

Does this make sense? Not really, but nevertheless it is a fact that municipal elections traditionally have extremely low voter turnout.

Over the last eight municipal elections in the District of North Vancouver (DNV) since 1996, the turnout has varied between a low of 16.58% in 2008 and 36.24% in 2018. Although this is the highest of all eight elections, few will disagree that it is a pretty dismal number and really nothing to be proud of.

Municipal elections are so important for all of us because so much in our daily lives is controlled and overseen by the municipal government (second 'i' in municipal). Think of local roads, sidewalks, local parks, the sewer system, garbage, recycling, water, bylaws, housing options, libraries, the rec centers, the fire department, the Arts office and the North Vancouver Museum.

It may be more glorious to talk about foreign affairs or international trade or defence or the economy etc, but ultimately these weighty issues have a lot less influence and impact on our daily lives in Blueridge.

Why is it so important to vote at the municipal election? Plain and simple, because this is the best way of being heard. At the municipal election in 2018 two Councillors got elected with fewer than 8,000 votes – and remember this was the election with the highest voter turnout over the last 26 years. In other words, every vote counts!

The power of the average resident was truly on display in 1995. At that time, DNV Council considered allowing the development of a forested area north of Blueridge, which would have seen no fewer than 2,100 single-family homes to be built there.

The local residents were strongly opposed to this plan. With the help of many other people across the North Shore and even outside North Vancouver, more than 15,000 signatures were collected on a petition urging council to rezone the area to a park and recreation designation. After much discussion this was done, and we are all grateful that so many local residents took up the fight against these development plans. Just look at how many people are enjoying the trails in our area these days.

It proves that it does work to get involved in local politics – and the Council of the day listened.

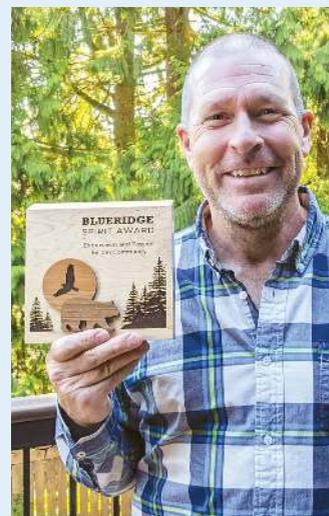
When we vote at federal elections, sometimes the outcomes have already been decided by the larger number of voters in Central Canada. Provincial elections are not likely to be decided in North Vancouver either.

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Blueridge Spirit Award Winner



Graham Gilley

Graham Gilley proudly shows his Blueridge Spirit Award as its newest recipient. Nominator Colleen Mah notes Gilley has been an active community volunteer since moving here in 2011. As well as serving on the Blueridge Community Association Board, he also helped each year set up Blueridge Good Neighbour Days, before they were put on hold by COVID. Already busy in other roles including First Responder, he has taken on chairing the Windsor Parent Advisory Committee for 2022-23.

The Most Important Election (cont.)

However, for municipal elections the fact that everyone's vote typically wields more weight OR is important because so few people vote.

Who should you vote for? This is YOUR civic duty to find out who deserves to be on Council. You can vote for Mayor and up to six Councillors, but you do not have to vote for six. Anything up to six is fine.

Your priorities should help you decide who to vote for. Is traffic important to you? The tax rate? Jobs on the North Shore? Housing? Safety in our community? The standard of our rec centres and parks?

The Blueridge Community Association will never tell you who to vote for. Every person should make up his/her own mind, but we can make your decision easier! As usual we will be co-hosting an All Candidates Meeting. This will be done jointly with a couple of other local associations and organizations, and it will be held at Mount Seymour United Church on Tuesday, October 4, at 7:00 PM.

Be sure to be there and make sure to ask the questions that are important to you. You can also speak with the candidates at the meeting or, of course, contact them before or after the meeting. You will be surprised to see how keen they are to speak with you!

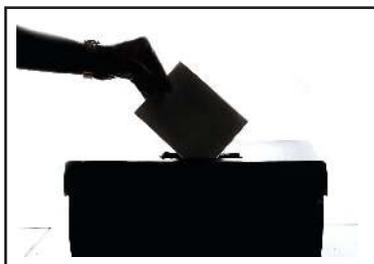
When is the municipal election? The election date is Saturday, October 15. The hours of voting at the voting stations will be announced later, but usually the voting goes till 8 PM.

Where can you vote? You will be able to vote at Blueridge Elementary School. You can also vote by mail ballots, which you will have to contact the District of North Vancouver about, if you prefer that voting option.

In addition to the municipal election you will also have the choice to vote for up to four school trustees the same day.

The North Shore News normally has good coverage of the municipal election with many questions to the candidates and their responses, when/if received.

Councillors Lisa Muri and Jim Hanson, both living in Blueridge, will be running again, and so will local school trustee George Tsiakos. Local resident, Jennifer Branston, will also be running in the election for school trustees.



Please make sure that you vote on Oct.15. It is not just everyone's privilege, but also our civic duty!

Brainstorming for a better Blueridge!

By Ruth Hanson

We are doing it again! After the long hiatus due to Covid, we can again come together as neighbours and friends, old and new, and bring some great new community ideas for Blueridge that have been percolating since we last met!

This facilitated brainstorming event was a tremendous success some years ago and we are now doing it again. Some of our great successes resulting from the inaugural meeting were the Blueridge Sharing Garden, the free Little Libraries and Diner en Bleu, that dining al fresco experience, to name a few!

Maybe you have seen another community do something that would work here. Maybe we are talking about a Pet Parade, or a Blueridge Bubble Fest and Doggie Wash or ? This is your opportunity to join us at the super-fun and facilitated brainstorming event with friends and neighbours.

We will be providing lunch, childcare on the spot, and a great chance to meet and let the ideas flow!

When: Saturday October 1, 2022

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location: Canlan Sports,
2411 Mount Seymour Parkway

Wear comfortable clothes, and bring your positive good cheer! Looking forward to having you join us!

SAVE THE DATE

MUNICIPAL ELECTION ALL CANDIDATES MEETING



TUESDAY
OCTOBER 4, 2022

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

Mount Seymour United Church
1200 Parkgate Avenue, North Vancouver



The CASE for 'GENTLE' DENSIFICATION

By Jim Hanson
Councillor, District of North Vancouver

How are we going to house our growing population? The answer to this question is central to the ongoing debates surrounding community planning in our municipality and others.

Where shall we place the additional housing stock? And in what form will this new housing stock be built: concrete high rises, wooden low rises, townhouses, duplexes, triplexes, secondary suites?

The answer will, of course, vary depending upon the location. The opportunities and restraints of each community must be considered when we assess the options for new housing that are appropriate. In my view, when we consider North Vancouver District, we want to prefer "gentle" densification over massive concrete high-rises and other very high density options.

By "gentle" densification, I mean duplexes, triplexes, basement suites, coach houses, along with "small lot infill"—allowing smaller lots for smaller houses. If we were to re-zone to allow such "gentle" increases in density, and expedite the approval process for such development, I believe that we could increase housing stock in a manner that is consistent with the character of our neighbourhoods. While obviously there will be impacts resulting from

the increase in population, these impacts are, I believe, more compatible with the ongoing the liveability of our community compared to the higher density alternatives.

Focusing on secondary suites, much of the housing our growing community "needs" already exists and sits empty in large homes with one or two occupants. I have called, and will continue to call, for incentives to residents to make these unused suites available. I would like to see education programs sponsored by the District to assist home owners who are interested in renting out the secondary suites to better navigate the regulations surrounding Residential Tenancy and bylaws.

Through such initiatives, I believe, we can more affordably house many of those who are coming to our community, with less disruption to our way of life, compared to the massive concrete high-rise developments that are often put forward as the solution to our housing problem.



Jim Hanson

From Outer Space to Your Community Garden

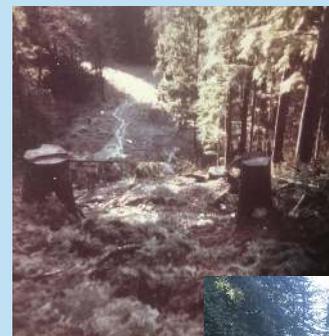
By Carolan Frankel

Our Blueridge Sharing Garden was host to aliens! This past spring, a Blueridge teacher and her elementary class planted tomato seeds that had had a trip on the space station along with tomato seeds that didn't go to space. Part of a life science unit, students started seedlings in the classroom and transplanted them to one of the designated sharing plots at our garden. Unfortunately, the tomatoes didn't fare very well, but our gardeners planted new seedlings so there would be tomatoes to harvest late in the season when the kids were back in school this fall.

Along with the tomatoes, students planted rainbow-coloured beets—purple, red, pink, yellow and white ones. A very unscientific taste test determined that they all tasted... *like beets!* They also planted peas, potatoes, and beans. The vegetables were sold at United Strangers to our Blueridge community. Thanks to those who support our garden this way.

The garden is always looking for volunteers. If you would like to help out by weeding, pulling ivy, tidying the free library, picking up trash, helping with repairs or anything else you think would make this community space a better place, please contact us at garden@blueridgeca.org. We would love your help, or your input. This is a community space, and your voice is always welcome.

Blueridge: Then and Now



In 1972, Ursula and Bernhard Ernsting built their home at the end of Hyannis Point. Shortly after, they took this picture (left) of their backyard overlooking the Seymour River. Fifty years later, their backyard looks very different.

Project Community: Saving money through group buying power

Managed by Lauren Gorgounis



We are offering the following services this fall to Blueridge residents through Project Community:

- **Furnace service & safety inspection**
is \$149 plus GST
- **Fireplace service, safety inspection, tuneup, and cleaning**
is \$149 plus GST
- **Hot Water Tank safety inspection**
is \$149 plus GST
- **Boiler safety inspection**
is \$149 plus GST
- **Combi Boiler safety inspection**
is \$189 plus GST

For an appointment, please email eatonshomecare@gmail.com or call 604-535-8434.

Take A Bough Tree Care

Special Offer: 10% discount to the Blueridge Community ONLY. This discount is applicable to all jobs and is valid until the end of 2022. Call 778-836-9144 and mention you are from the Blueridge/Seymour Heights community to get this offer.



Take A Bough is a family-owned and operated tree service company based out of North Vancouver. Our team members are avid outdoor enthusiasts with a passion for environmental stewardship and sustainability. We are insured, bonded, and our methods respect nature and the health and safety of our crews.

Now may be the right time to check on the condition of your trees to make sure they are not a hazard as winter arrives. A garden can be a great source of peace and tranquility and we want to do our part to help. Last season many of you got in touch with us with worries about the infestation of looper moths that hit North Vancouver for the third straight year. Many trees are affected by it, and the effects could become a hazard for your family. The damage may not be obvious. We are happy to give you free expertise.

At Take A Bough, we take stewardship of the natural environment seriously and that shows in every tree service we provide and every company policy we set.

You can find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/takeaboughtreecare>

Here's a way to show you care this Christmas

By Mahnaz Fardghassemi

We are fortunate to live in such an amazing community as Blueridge and to be able to give back and help one another. Out of this community spirit, the Blueridge Cares initiative was born. This initiative began during the first year of COVID as the holiday season began and we knew it could be much harder for some right here in our neighborhood.

Over the past two years that we have been running the Blueridge Cares initiative, there was tremendous support from our community and businesses that have donated financially, through gifts, and, of course, their time! We have really made a big difference in making the season more festive for community members who needed the extra helping hand.

We keep their requests for help confidential. We have a form that can be filled out by our community members that find themselves struggling. We then reach out to them and find out how best to help them. Then our Blueridge Elves begin the process of raising funds, shopping, gift wrapping, and finally delivering all the gifts to the families just in time for Christmas.

We would love to continue with Blueridge Cares again this year but we need volunteers that can help with this initiative. Please reach out to us if you would like to volunteer at info@blueridgeca.org.

