

Blueridge Bulletin
December 2022



Whether winter's chill drives you crazy or the warm glow of holiday lights fills you with joy, the fact is that the holidays are here, as is the snow. It's always fun to walk the neighbourhood and see those lights. They remind us that the season is about giving.

And speaking of giving, this issue has several articles related to that. From an update on Blueridge Cares (we still need donations), to giving us your feedback on a survey, to a call for volunteers to organize and run Blueridge Good Neighbour Day 2023. There's even a dog giving thanks to the neighbourhood for helping get him back home safely! There are other articles as well, covering a wide variety of topics, as you would expect from a neighbourhood like ours. We hope you enjoy it, and...

***We wish everyone a joyous holiday season
and a happy new year!***

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Note: the links in the Table of Contents section above should work properly in all browsers when viewing the Blueridge Bulletin in your email. However, if you are viewing this edition as a PDF file from the archive on our website, they will fail. In that case please scroll down to the story or section you are interested in. Technology... just can't make it work right all the time. Sorry!

Features



Blueridge Cares Update

It's December and that means we are thinking about Christmas, about our loved ones and making the holidays an exciting time for everyone we care for! And that is exactly what Blueridge Cares is all about. This year we have 4 families (totalling 14 people) we are trying to help have brighter holidays!

We are still in great need of donations! To date we have received \$2,942 (which includes \$517 from our Purdys campaign), but we need more. Financial donations can be in the form of e-transfers or cheques, please see below for details. Gifts in kind are also greatly needed and would be appreciated! We are in need of the following items, should you wish to purchase any of the item(s) below please reach out to us so that we can remove it from the list of the needed items.

- Grocery Store gift certificates
 - Gas gift certificates
 - Legos (6-8 years old range) one set for a girl and one set for a boy
 - Roblox
 - Gifts for teenagers ranging from 16- 18 years - both genders we have 4 teens in total
 - Gifts for 4 adult females (we have 3 single moms to our families)
 - Gift for 1 adult male
 - Arts and Crafts gifts for a 5-year-old boy
 - Pants and shirts for a 5-year-old boy
 - Soft blankets for kids under 10 years - both genders.
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- Activities gift certificates (santa's village, movies, PNE, xmas train - just some ideas)
- Diapers and wipes (Extra Large GoodNites pullups)
- Gifts for 11 year old girl (no blinking lights)

E-transfer donations can be sent to Ted Bancroft – our diligent BCA treasurer – at tedb85@gmail.com. For cheque donations, please email us to arrange for delivery and/or collection at info@blueridgeca.org

Thanks in advance for making Christmas bright for everyone in our community!



Blueridge Brainstorming Survey

Eric Andersen

After the Blueridge Brainstorming Session in early October we prepared a survey that any Blueridge and Seymour Heights resident can fill in.

If you are interested in making Blueridge even better for those who live here - even if you missed the event itself - we would like your input, enthusiasm and leadership to bring all these great ideas into reality.

This survey will help refine our goals. We need input from everyone. Please take a few minutes and give us your feedback!

We have received a good number of responses already, but we're giving everyone one more chance to fill it in, so if you have not done so yet, please click on the link below:

[Brainstorming Survey](#)

Thank you for your interest, support, and participation in upcoming events and programs!



Blueridge Good Neighbour Day in 2023?

Eric Andersen, Stacie Graham, Elmira Nazar

One of the things that most residents have missed in Blueridge & Seymour Heights over the last three years is Blueridge Good Neighbour Day (BGND) which - prior to COVID - had been held for 22 consecutive years.

This fun-filled event with entertainment for kids of all ages had been a great way to get our community together. If you've never been, or need a reminder, here's a [photo album from BGND 2017](#).

It would be wonderful to resume this tradition in 2023, but... a lot of work has to be done before the event can be held. We have lost some key volunteers who helped organize things, and this means we need some new people to step up and help out! Without help with the planning, the event can't happen! There is a lot that goes into putting on BGND, but no one person needs to do it all. The

more help we get, the easier it is for everyone! Specific tasks can be done on your own, without attending every meeting, and some need to be in collaboration with others on the committee.

We expect the planning committee to meet once a month between January and May, if the intention is to host BGND in June.

If you are interested, please contact us soonest at: volunteer@blueridgeca.org and we will get back to you promptly.

For new residents to Blueridge and Seymour Heights, this is an awesome way to get to know a lot of great neighbours who are keen to make a difference in Blueridge.

For the rest of us, it is a wonderful way to reconnect with old friends and meet some new ones.

Please let us know if you are interested, or even if you only want to find out more about what needs to be done to host this BCA event.

Hopefully there will be sufficient volunteers for the planning committee so we can proceed. First of all, please sign up!



Plan Ahead For Tree Chipping

The Blueridge Parent Advisory Council (BPAC) tree chip and bottle drive will be in the Blueridge Elementary School parking lot on Monday, January 2nd, from 10am - 3pm. Suggested donation is \$20. There will also be popcorn and hot chocolate this year!

Please mark your calendar now. Thank you!



The British Columbia Vision Zero in Road Safety Grant Program

Eric Andersen

Vision Zero is a BC initiative to reduce serious injuries and deaths on roads to zero. The idea began in Sweden and the Netherlands in the 1990's and BC has taken up the cause. The *British Columbia Vision Zero in Road Safety Grant Program* supports governments and organizations in improving the safety of their communities. The focus of the program is to protect vulnerable road users (people who walk, cycle, or scoot) from serious injury, disability, or death.

You can read more about this here: <https://www.visionzerobc.ca/>

Since the BCA can apply for such a grant, please send us your ideas and suggestions if you feel that our community needs some improved safety to protect vulnerable road users. You can email us at info@blueridgeca.org.



2022 DNV Election Left Status Quo Intact

Jim Hanson, DNV Councillor

The 2022 Local Government elections on October 15, 2022 are over, and not much has changed. All five of the incumbent members of Council (Mayor Little, Councillors Back, Muri, Hanson and Forbes) were re-elected. Joining them will be new Councillors Catherine Pope and Herman Mah. This was in sharp contrast to several other municipalities in the region that witnessed Mayors and some incumbent councillors defeated.

A close analysis of the underlying trends in the election would suggest an increased appetite for change. The Mayor was re-elected by a surprisingly small margin. At the same time, the story of the election was very low voter turnout. Only 15,032 voters cast ballots, a mere 22.63% of eligible voters. This is less than two thirds of the participation rate for the 2018 election. We reiterate the comments of Blueridge Community Association Chair Eric Andersen before the election that Local Government Elections matter and that residents can make a difference if they show up to vote.

Although not elected, we would like to thank all the Council and School Board candidates, who had the courage and energy to run for office. It is a great effort to do so, and democracy can and will only work well when the electorate is provided with various choices to vote for. We hope to see many of the unelected candidates run again in the future.



New Woodburning Regulations—And A Little Moolah—Changed My Mind!

Michael Bernard

This is one man's tale of switching from a wood burning fireplace to a natural gas fireplace insert—and why he is glad he did.

Starting a couple of years ago, Metro Vancouver regional government adopted [new restrictions on burning firewood in one's fireplace](#). First, they restricted wood burning to between September and April. This year, they have imposed far more restrictive regulations including [registering all wood burning units](#) in use and requiring users file a [declaration of best burning practices](#). Given that many Blueridge homes were built in the 1960s and 1970s, there are many wood burning fireplaces in our neighbourhood. While some aren't used and others have been replaced them with natural gas burning inserts, there are still lots of people who do burn traditional firewood and who should know about these new regulations.

We used to bring in a cord of wood from Maple Ridge every fall to burn through the winter, more for decorative or nostalgic reasons than for heating. For years, it seemed worth it, however the price of firewood has really gone up in the last few years.

Then, a couple of years ago, a lady from Blueridge wrote to me in my capacity as editor of the Blueridge Community News hard copy newsletter. She told me that every winter she suffered when homes around her started to burn firewood.

She has respiratory issues that are aggravated by the lingering wood smoke. That caused us to start thinking about switching from firewood to natural gas. I mean how much pleasure can you get from sitting in front of a wood fire if you know that someone living near you is having trouble breathing every time you light it?

Then we learned that Metro Vancouver government had been [offering residents \\$500](#) to give up their wood burning fireplace. On top of that incentive, Fortis Gas [offers a \\$300 rebate](#) for converting to a natural gas insert where the wood burning fireplace used to be. Last summer we took the leap. While the log sets are not quite as romantic as watching real wood burn, they are a lot cheaper and produce a more efficient heat at the flick of a switch. You also have a reliable source of heat, even when the power goes off. And most importantly, you aren't depriving someone in our neighbourhood of life-sustaining fresh air.

You can learn more by visiting metrovancover.org and searching for 'Residential Wood Burning' or 'Wood Stove Exchange'. And here is a [summary of the new rules](#) from the Vancouver Real Estate Board.



Thank You From Hozay!

Mary Ann McDevitt

Hozay wants to thank all our great neighbours on Hayseed Close and all the Blueridge strangers for assisting in the search for him after he was traumatized by excessive fireworks on Halloween. A special thanks goes to Scott, who posted it on social media, Craigslist and much more. He and M.C. also spent hours Monday night and Tuesday morning searching for our puppy. Thanks also to Fred, who knowing Maggie and Hozay were friends, drove around with Maggie hoping she would attract Hozay if they saw him. And thank you to everyone on the street who expressed their concern and/or asked what they could do to help. Hozay is home safe again after what was obviously a cold scary night in the woods. He is doing well and we expect he will make a full recovery. Please support the ban on fireworks before more animals go through this or worse, and to protect our properties and forests.

Thank you again!



Project Community Deal - Christmas Light Installation

Project Community is the BCA's effort to bring useful discounts to residents of Blueridge. The idea is that vendors can save money themselves by doing several jobs in a row in our neighbourhood - avoiding extra driving and overhead - and pass the savings on to you.

The latest offer is timely, but you have to move quickly!



Not looking forward to putting up your Christmas lights this year? Let us handle it for you!

Illuminate Light Solutions is a local company based out of the Seymour area that completes professional Christmas Light installations in the holiday season. We usually complete installations using commercial grade products built to withstand our wet weather which have a wealth of customizable options, but, we can also install lights provided by you! Our goal is to provide a hassle-free service, tailored to your needs and home, with exceptional customer service and communication with each client.

For the first ten days of December, we will be offering a 20% off all last minute installations exclusively to customers located in the Blueridge/Seymour Heights area!

Text Boston & Alec at (778) 989-5895 or email illuminatelightsolutions@gmail.com to arrange your free consultation.

Let's start something special!

Thanks,
The Illuminate Lights Solution team

*Remember, all the current Project Community deals can be found [on our website](#), including the current offers from **Eaton's Heating** and **Take A Bough!** Take a look!*



Graffiti in the Park

Mahnaz Fardghassemi

This weekend we went for a walk on the trails and then a visit to the park. When my children saw the park playground they ran to it, but a few moments later one of my girls came running back to me. She was very upset that people had drawn all over the playground. She led the way and I saw to my utter shock that there was graffiti all over one section of the climbing structure. With a heavy heart I had to explain what this was and that I too was disheartened by it.

At that moment I did all I could do, I snapped this photo and I have reached out to the North Vancouver District to report the issue. I hope that this is cleaned up and that we don't see this again at our parks. If you see anything that needs reporting to the district please reach out to their email infoweb@dnv.org or call them at 604-990-2311

Update: The district has scheduled this for cleaning.

Second Update: The graffiti was removed just a few days later! Thanks to the DNV for such quick turnaround!



Quick and Easy Shepherd's Pie

Ruth Hanson

This dish is hot and hearty and a nice change from the usual routine, using ingredients you may already have in your kitchen. Fun to make with the kids too.

- Brown **one pound of ground beef** (or ground beef/pork combination)
- Add in one chopped **white onion** and keep cooking until it is tender (fresh sliced mushrooms are good here too, but some kids don't like mushrooms)
- **Salt, Pepper**, fresh crushed **garlic** to taste, or powdered garlic, plus **onion salt** if desired. (Other herbs/spices such as Paprika can be added here too.)

Once all nice and browned and flavours have blended set aside to cool slightly.

You can use the same skillet or place the meat mixture into a casserole and

- Mix in **one can of creamed corn** and
- **One can of mixed vegetables** or mixed carrots and peas
- Top with a nice thick layer of **homemade mashed potatoes**

Bake in oven at **300F** for half an hour or so until bubbly and potatoes have started to get a little golden on top – this is a very forgiving recipe so time it to suit your needs by varying the oven temperature.

Serve this with an extra veggie and some fresh buns and butter and dinner is on the table!

(Can also be made ahead of time and held in the fridge for a day or two, frozen for another night, or given to another busy family. It can be doubled easily for a bigger meal or eat one and freeze the other for another day.)

Editors Note: We're always looking for [submissions from our readers](#), and we suspect there are a lot of great cooks out there. Please send us your recipes for inclusion here and on our [website](#)!



In A Nutshell

- **What Does Santa Suffer From If He Gets Stuck In A Chimney?** Claustrophobia.
- **OK, So Why Does He Always Enter Through The Chimney?** Because it soots him!
- **Reminder: Sidewalks Must Be Cleared Now** - This has changed since last winter. The DNV now requires sidewalks to be shovelled by 10am or we could face a possible \$150 fine. If this is difficult, now is the time to work with friends and neighbours to see if you can find help to get it done. Snow angels, are you out there?
- **What do you call a snowman with a six-pack?** An abdominal snowman.
- **International Students Need Host Families** - If you are interested or would like more information, please contact host@mlihomestay.com or 1-855-946-4701 or visit mlihomestay.com
- **How Much Did Santa Pay For His Sleigh?** Nothing! It was on the house!
- **Your Item Here** - Do you have a short item for next month's Blueridge Bulletin? If so, see the [Submit an Article](#) section below for details on how to send it in. And yes, we love dad joke submissions!
- **What Was Dr. Frankenstein's New Year's Resolution?** To make new friends.

Stay Connected

There are many ways to keep up with the neighbourhood and the BCA.

We're on: [Instagram](#) - [Twitter](#) - [Facebook](#)
Our Website: <http://blueridgeca.org/>
[Blueridge Neighbours Facebook Group](#)
[Blueridge Breakout Network Facebook Group](#)
Got questions? Send us an email: info@blueridgeca.org

Subscribe to the Blueridge Bulletin

The Blueridge Bulletin is emailed to subscribers once a month. If that's how you got this edition, you're already a subscriber. But if you got this copy from the BCA website or were forwarded it by a friend or neighbour, you can subscribe to get it sent directly to your inbox using [this link](#).

Thank you, and we'll see you next time!

Submit an Article to the Blueridge Bulletin

Do you have something for the bulletin? We welcome articles, photos, short items, and even bad jokes from the community!
We have [publication guidelines](#) that we recommend you review.

The submission deadline for the January 2023 edition is December 30, 2022.

Submission deadlines for later editions can be found [here](#).

Questions? Send us an email at bulletin@blueridgeca.org.

Sponsors



Advertise in the Bulletin!

\$30 per month, or \$250 for 12 consecutive issues. This revenue is used to defray some of our costs (such as signage, website, etc). If you or your company are interested in advertising in the Blueridge Bulletin, please contact us at: info@blueridgeca.org

These ads all contain links. Give 'em a click if they are interesting!
These people and organizations support the Blueridge Bulletin. Thank you!

A holiday-themed advertisement for Dave Maquignaz. The background is dark with a glowing, golden, starry effect. In the center, Santa Claus is shown from the chest up, wearing his traditional red suit and white beard, holding a glowing lantern. In the top left corner, the quote "Christmas isn't just a day, it's a frame of mind" is written in a cursive font. In the bottom left corner, the text "Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays" is written in a cursive font. In the bottom center, there is a small photo of Dave Maquignaz, a man in a suit. To the right of the photo, the text "Dave Maquignaz - REALTOR®" and "www.maQrealty.ca/blueridge" is displayed. In the bottom right corner, there are two logos: "Dave Maquignaz" and "Macdonald Realty".

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3. Jaycee House location (Capilano University)

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We definitely have fun and we also do homework with kids

Contact Fariba by phone (604) 812-4449 or email

specialtimesoosc@gmail.com

You can also [find us on Facebook](#)



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