

Blueridge Bulletin

January 2023



Photo by Daniel Bloch.

Welcome to 2023! The start of a whole new year!

This issue has a lot going on. For starters, we have many images captured by residents during the recent snowfall, starting with this lovely cover photo of bald eagles in snow covered trees. Thanks to everyone who submitted photos! Quite a few are scattered through this issue, so be sure to read the whole thing.

We love publishing images of our neighbourhood, but you don't have to wait for us to ask. If you have an image that needs sharing, please send it to us for inclusion in a future issue! bulletin@blueridgeca.org is the address to use, and be sure to give us your name so we can credit you properly.

In addition to all the snow coverage, we have stories about Blueridge Cares and Christmas carolling, volunteer opportunities, dogs, road safety, and a whole lot more. So snuggle up with a warm beverage and enjoy!

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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 properly all the time. Sorry!

Features



Blueridge You Are Amazing!

Blueridge Cares is an initiative born out of COVID, recognizing that families are struggling to make ends meet with the restrictions and limitations of that time. For the past 3 years a group of our local residents have come together to canvas local businesses, receive donations, shop, wrap, and deliver gifts to our families that reach out to us for extra support during the holiday season.

This year was no different! The number of reverse advent calendars that were filled was outstanding, and our families really appreciated them! You gave so many boxes that extras were donated to Quest Food Exchange on behalf of the Blueridge Community.

So many families donated toys, clothes, and gifts and gift certificates - so many gift certificates! The number of businesses that shared their staff Christmas gift funds or staff party funds with our initiative was unbelievable. During these difficult times when we are all struggling, to hear that staff members opt to donate their gifts for the sake of others is beautiful to hear.

Each and every donation had a touching story behind it, and not to diminish any of them but one that really stood out was one of our resident 9-year-olds - Mateo - donated \$10 of his allowance to our families. We asked him to use his donation to purchase Christmas cards for the four families we were supporting this year.

The families that received the Christmas hampers this year have reached out to thank the community. They have shared how 'overwhelming the generosity of the community has been' and 'how it has helped ease the worries that come with the holiday season'.

Being part of this initiative really has really shown me that Blueridge is an amazing community of wonderful families, and that we are very blessed to be part of this neighbourhood. Thank you, Blueridge, for caring.

Curious about how amazing we did this year? Check out the summary on [our website](#).



Christmas Carolling For A Cause

Rebecca Ashton and Cathi Wetsch

In mid December Elderberries Child Care Centre hosted our first annual Christmas Carolling night with close to 60 children and adults in attendance. We walked the Seymour Heights area giving back to the community that we operate in. The children practised songs throughout the month of December and were so proud to perform for their community. We requested our “Berry Families” bring donations to support those less fortunate in our neighbourhood. Our staff generously donated their wages for the evening and Elderberries matched all parent donations. The night was a huge success! We not only raised \$1080 for the Blueridge Cares Initiative, but created a wonderful sense of community for all those involved.



Photo by Tiffany Paul.



Blueridge Good Neighbour Day – Now VERY Doubtful In 2023

Most Blueridge & Seymour Heights residents have had a chance to experience Blueridge Good Neighbour Day (BGND) over the years, and many friends and neighbours have expressed how much they have missed this event, which ran for 22 consecutive years before COVID changed everyone's lives.

This fun-filled event with entertainment for kids of all ages has 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](#).

Unfortunately, the way it looks right now, there will be no BGND in 2023. In the December *Blueridge Bulletin* we asked for volunteers to help organize the event, but only a couple did so.

BGND cannot be held based on the planning of a handful of people. A lot of work has to be done before the event can occur. We have lost some key volunteers who helped organize things in the past, and this means we need 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.

If we proceed with this event, we expect the planning committee to meet once a month between the end of January and May, if the intention is to host BGND in June.

If you are interested, please contact us immediately 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 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 right away if you are interested, or even if you only want to know more about what needs to be done to host this BCA event.

We are still hoping that there will be sufficient volunteers for the planning committee so we can proceed, but time is running out.

Please sign up!

Without more help this popular event will not take place in 2023.



Photo by Jenny Taylor.



Dîner en Bleu

This fabulous event was held twice before the start of the pandemic. A dinner for about 120 participants was held at a secret location in Blueridge with all the participants dressed in... blue!

Like Blueridge Good Neighbour Day (see separate article about that) we need a (smaller) planning committee also for this event. So if you are interested in helping out with this activity, please drop us a line at:

volunteer@blueridgeca.org

Unfortunately (as is the case for any of the BCA's activities) this will not happen without somebody taking charge and agreeing to help out with the planning of the event.



Photo by Jeanette Berkmann.



Dogs In Parks And On Local Streets

Eric Andersen

Since there occasionally seems to be a bit confusion about what is and isn't allowed when walking your dogs, just a little reminder based on the local bylaws and the signs posted in our very own neighbourhood:

- When you are walking your dog on a street, the dog must be on leash at all times.
- When you are walking your dog on the trails, the dog must be under your control. Note that 'under control' means that your dog keeps within 10 metres of you, stays on marked trails, returns to you when you call, and does not harass or chase other dogs, people or wildlife.

These are not difficult or hard requirements. Let's all abide by these simple and logical rules and keep everyone happy when Fido is taken for a walk in our area. Woof!



Photos by Michael Bernard.



Inflation, The DNV's 2023 Budget, And Taxes

Jim Hanson, Councillor District of North Vancouver

As we enter 2023, a priority issue facing the District is the effect of inflation on the cost of District services and infrastructure investment and how these increased costs will impact taxation for District residents.

At the last meeting of council in 2022 we discussed a possible 5.5% tax increase for District residents, to be averaged out over the next four years to achieve a cumulative 3.75% increase per year for our term. This is higher than the 3% increase that has been maintained for several years. With inflation at 8%, and with many of the costs incurred by the District facing inflationary pressures beyond 8%, notably costs of construction, we cannot maintain the operations of the District without either increasing taxes, drawing off reserves, or both. At the same time, during upcoming years we can expect significant increases to levies from Metro Vancouver for water, sewer, and solid waste.

All of this adds up to a large fiscal challenge for the District and indeed all other Local Governments in Metro. For my part, I will be advocating a balanced approach, with the goal of maintaining necessary services and infrastructure investment but without dramatic tax increases. Over the long term, I will not vote in favour of tax increases significantly in excess of the 3% annual increases that we have adopted historically. To maintain tax increases at or near this 3% target will involve some hard decisions.

At upcoming meetings of Council, our budget will be finalized and our rate of taxation set for all taxpayers. Please come out and have your say. How do we balance our need for services and infrastructure against our need to maintain a reasonable level of taxation? As taxpayers, your voice is necessary on these important issues.



The British Columbia Vision Zero In Road Safety Grant Program

In the December Blueridge Bulletin we included an article about the BC Vision Zero in Road Safety Grant Program, an initiative to reduce serious injuries and deaths on roads to zero. You can read more about Vision Zero here:

<https://www.visionzerobc.ca/>

The BCA can apply for a grant under this program and we asked for suggestions. A local resident contacted us and made the following suggestion (this is a condensed version):

As an avid cyclist, I would like to suggest a road-dieting and separated, protected bike lanes for Berkley. Speeds are well beyond 50km (which is already too high for a residential area with safe and active school programs) and cycling is uncomfortable for our most vulnerable road users who thereby continue to take vehicles.

I would love to see a skinning of the traffic lanes, and at the very least wide mobility lanes separated with reflective bollards. This would also encourage many recreational cyclists and mountain bikers to arrive at the trail heads on their bikes, and reduce safety issues related to congestion and parking.

Since the grant application deadline is coming up fast, January 16, we would like to hear if there is support for this suggestion, or concerns, or other suggestions, or comments in general.

Please send us your comments ASAP at: info@blueridgeca.org



Photo by Simona Grunwald.



BLUERIDGE COMMUNITY NEWS



Deadlines For The Next *Blueridge Community News* (our hard copy newsletter) Issue

Michael Bernard

Got something you want included in the next *Blueridge Community News*? We're looking for submissions and there is a deadline so we can get the issue prepared and printed, and our volunteers can get it into your mailbox.

Copy/Photo Deadline: Friday, Feb. 3, 5 p.m. Submit to newsletter@blueridgeca.org

Submission guidelines:

- Maximum 450 words.
- MS Word format preferred (but copy contained in an email accepted. Please, no PDF files.)
- Copy is edited for relevance, brevity, grammar and legality.

Questions: michaelwrbernard@gmail.com, 604-506-5742 (cell)

Newsletter door-to-door delivery starts Friday, Feb. 24, 5 p.m. Sign up to help at volunteer@blueridgeca.org.

As a reminder, what you are currently reading is the *Blueridge Bulletin*, the BCA's monthly email sent only to subscribers. The *Blueridge Community News* is a hard copy newsletter hand delivered to every mailbox in Blueridge and Seymour Heights three times a year.



“More Please” Easy Mac And Cheese

Ruth Hanson

This one is super quick and everyone loves it! Serve with sliced tomatoes or a fresh salad, steamed green beans or some other yummy green veg.

Get one big pot of water and bring it to a full boil, add 1-2 tsp salt.

Pour in 3 cups* of dry macaroni noodles and stir so they don't stick to the bottom. (You can add half a tsp of butter/margarine to the boiling water to keep the noodles from being sticky.)

Boil all for 8-9 minutes (just until al dente “kind of soft but still with slight chewy texture”) and strain into a colander in the kitchen sink, draining away all the water.

Into the big pot stir (while it is still hot but off the stove top) a couple tablespoons of butter and let it melt, then pour the cooked noodles back into that pot and stir them around til well coated with the butter.

Pour all that into one or two casserole dishes and generously cover the entire top of the noodles with shredded cheddar cheese (the more the better in my family).

Place it into a preheated oven at about 300 for about 5-10 minutes until the cheese has melted down into the mac noodles, and it is ready to serve!

*Note: Mac noodles roughly double in volume when boiled so measure your noodles according to the group you are feeding.

Editor's Note: Do you have a favourite recipe you'd like to share? Please send it to bulletin@blueridgeca.org and we'll include it in a future issue!





Photos by Danial Bloch.



In A Nutshell

- **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!
- **What do you say to the mathematician who invented zero?** Thanks for nothing!

- **Snow Removal in the DNV** - Want to know how the district prioritizes snow removal? Or what the rules are about clearing that sidewalk in front of your home? Everything is on this web page: <https://www.dnv.org/programs-and-services/snow-removal>
 - **Why doesn't Admiral Ackbar ever spell "part" backwards?** Because it's a TRAP!
 - **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.
 - **What do you call a fish with no eyes?** A fsh.
 - **Have you lost track of your garbage pickup day and need reminders?** Or maybe your garbage wasn't picked up thanks to the snow and you need to know what to do. There's an app for that! The DNV Collect app provides those features and more. All the info is on our [garbage and recycling page](#).
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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 February 2023 edition is January 29, 2023.

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!



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