

# *Blueridge Bulletin*

## *February 2022*



Is winter actually done with us yet? The groundhog might have a thing or two to say on that topic, but the end of January came with cold temperatures and even a bit of snow, so perhaps not.

In any case, here we are in February 2023 already. Time flies! But the days are getting longer, and more people are outside when possible. It's a pretty time of year, and we can all hope that 2023 is good for everyone.

This month's Bulletin has lots of news, starting with an update on the signature events here in Blueridge. There are also new award winners, a Sharing Garden update, and more. Read on, and thank you for subscribing!

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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



### **The Good and the Bad News**

Eric Andersen

Or should we say: is the glass half-full or is it half-empty?

In the January Blueridge Bulletin we were looking for volunteers to plan two of the main activities in Blueridge/Seymour Heights: the long-established Blueridge Good Neighbour Day and the relatively new tradition of the Dîner en

Bleu.

Many residents have been asking when these fun events would resume and now that the restrictions have been lifted, we were sincerely hoping that both would start again before the summer break. Our search for volunteers for the Dîner en Bleu has not yet been successful. There are no volunteers and – unless things change over the next month or so - there will be no such dinner in our neighbourhood this year.

The dinner for 120 participants was held at a secret location in Blueridge with all the participants dressed in blue, and it was a great success – a nice way to see old friends again and get to know new residents from the area. However, if there is no planning committee, there will be no such event.

Last call for volunteers for this committee!

If you are interested, please contact us soonest at: [volunteer@blueridgeca.org](mailto:volunteer@blueridgeca.org)

Having shared the bad news, it is time to share the good news! The way it looks right now there SHOULD be a Blueridge Good Neighbour Day (BGND) taking place in 2023! Our first planning meeting took place on January 20 and we have a small, but energetic committee. A few more people indicated their interest in helping out after our first meeting, so it is probably a good idea to pencil in Sunday, June 11 – date and location to be confirmed in our upcoming newsletter as well as the March Blueridge Bulletin.

For residents new to Blueridge & Seymour Heights, this event 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](#).

To make this a success, 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 and the more fun it is for everyone! Specific tasks can be done on your own, without attending meetings, and some activities need to be planned in

collaboration with others on the committee.

If you are interested, please contact us ASAP at [volunteer@blueridgeca.org](mailto:volunteer@blueridgeca.org), and we will get back to you promptly.

For new residents of Blueridge and Seymour Heights, joining the planning committee is an awesome way to get to know great neighbours who are keen to make a difference. For the rest of us, it is a wonderful way to reconnect with old friends and meet 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.

At this point we are cautiously optimistic that BGND – although likely on a smaller scale than in 2019 – will be held this year.

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### **New Blueridge Spirit Award Winner**

The latest winner of the Blueridge Spirit Award is Jennifer Dickson. Graham

Gilley passed the award on to her in January, and shared this:

Jennifer is one of those community members who will step up and just do what needs doing. For the past 10 years she has been involved with a wide range of community sports groups including the North Vancouver Football Club (age group coordinator), GSL Football League (Registrar), Mount Seymour Little League (Treasurer, President & Vice President), NS Spring Flag Football League (Registrar), District 5 Little League (Treasurer) and Windsor Football (Manager). WHEW ... It's a sport just reading all of that! And lest you think she's only about sport, Jennifer has also been the Chair of the Blueridge PAC and is the current Treasurer of the Windsor PAC, for which, as the Winsor PAC Chair, I am very grateful. Jennifer is a very smart, dedicated and humble volunteer and I thoroughly enjoy her healthy sense of humour.

Congratulations Jennifer! Thanks for helping make Blueridge great!

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On a cold and rainy January Sunday the BCA's Volunteer Coordinator, Elmira Nazar, and the current BCA chair, Eric G. Andersen, met with the new Blueridge Outstanding Neighbour Award recipient, Justin Meiklem. He was kindly nominated by his neighbour, Ali Karimi, with the following excellent explanation:

I would like to nominate our neighbour, Justin, and his family, for the Blueridge Outstanding Neighbour Award. If there is one person deserving

of this award, it will be him. I'll explain why below:

We are a senior couple who each has various physical conditions. This sometimes makes it hard for us to work around the house. Shortly after moving to our new place, Justin and his family came to see us. He told us to never hesitate to let him know if we needed help with anything. This was interesting in itself because we still don't know some of our other neighbours.

We had assumed he is a nice and polite neighbour, which is a blessing for anyone, but Justin went beyond that. Every time he would see us working on something, he would come and ask if we needed help. This includes gardening, moving things around, and fixing things. He regularly mows our lawn without us asking him to do so. He has taken away our tree branches, makes sure the compost and garbage bins are in and out, and many other things. His family has also been very kind and helpful. His wife and children have been great. It makes me happy to see such good people living together as a family.

I feel very lucky to have a neighbour who helps us without even asking for his help. I know that there are many good people around us, but I think Justin should get recognition for all his kindness and goodness. Kindness is contagious, and I wish for every neighbourhood to have at least one person like Justin, who elevates the sense of joy around them and makes people live better lives through their kind and selfless acts.

Congratulations Justin!

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## Blueridge Sharing Garden Update

Carolann Fraenkel

Did you know that Blueridge has its very own organic community garden?

Our garden is located across from Seymour Heights Elementary School and is accepting applications for the 2023 growing season until March 11, 2023. Garden applications and our Garden Rental Guidelines can be found on our [BCA Website](#).

The cost per year is a minimum of \$40, though if you can pay more, we could sure use the money. Our Cedar boxes are starting to fall apart, and building garden boxes is expensive. As always, if you really want to garden, and can't afford the rental fee, let us know. Everyone is welcome!

The garden is a great way to meet people, to grow your own food, and to learn from our Master Gardeners. If you want more information, email us at [garden@blueridgeca.org](mailto:garden@blueridgeca.org)

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### **The Eric Andersen Blueridge Community Association Scholarship**

Lesley Brooks

Applications for the \$500 2023 Blueridge Community Association scholarship are now being accepted. Applicants must be residents of Blueridge or Seymour Heights and presently attending a high school in British Columbia. They must have volunteered with some form of community service such as environmental protection, seniors or youth activities, sports etc. Finally, they must plan to attend a post secondary institution in British Columbia in September 2023.

Students may apply for the scholarship by completing an [application form](#) which can be found on the BCA website. Also included should be a detailed description of the service they have provided and why they should be considered, in no more than 250 words. A reference from a person who has been involved in their service activities should be included.

The application deadline is April 30th 2023 and may be sent to:

[scholarship@blueridgeca.org](mailto:scholarship@blueridgeca.org)

OR mailed to:

Blueridge Scholarship

c/o 2554 Byron Road

North Vancouver BC  
V7H 1M2

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## 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](mailto:newsletter@blueridgeca.org) ***Time is running out!***

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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Before photo by Mahnaz Fardghassemi, after photo by Jeff Powell.

Recent rains damaged some of the trails around McCartney Creek Park. This was reported to the DNV for repair and has already been fixed!

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## **Tortilla Soup**

Carolann Fraenkel

3 tablespoons olive oil

4 small corn tortillas, cut into 1-inch squares

1 1/2 tablespoons minced garlic  
2 tablespoons minced onion  
1 1/2 teaspoons minced jalapeno pepper  
2 cups corn kernels (frozen and thawed is fine)  
1 can chopped ripe tomatoes  
1/3 cup tomato paste  
2 1/2 teaspoons ground cumin  
1/8 teaspoon ground pepper  
1/2 teaspoon chili powder  
1 1/2 cups water  
1 quart chicken stock (or vegetable stock)

#### Garnishes

24 blue corn tortilla chips  
2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese  
1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro

Over medium-high heat, fry tortilla squares in olive oil until they begin to crisp and turn a golden yellow. Add garlic, onion and jalapeno; cook 1 to 2 minutes, until onion becomes translucent. Add half the corn along with all other ingredients (except garnishes), reserving other half of corn to be added at the end. Bring the soup to a low, even simmer. Simmer for 5 minutes.

Remove soup from heat. Use a blender to puree. Return the soup to the burner and add the reserved corn. Bring the soup to a boil once again being extremely careful to avoid scorching or burning the soup.

To serve, garnish with blue corn tortilla chips, cilantro and sharp Cheddar cheese.

**Editor's Note:** What's your family's favourite quick and easy dinner recipe? Please share it with us so others can give it a try! Email it to [bulletin@blueridgeca.org](mailto:bulletin@blueridgeca.org). Thank you!

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## In A Nutshell

- **Do you know any good Groundhog Day jokes?** Because I keep hearing the same ones over and over...
- **Blueridge Park Update:** Our DNV contact says: "We are aiming for the Blueridge Playground to be completed this winter if the weather cooperates and the equipment arrives on time." When we learn more, we will share it with you.
- **I can't believe the movie Groundhog Day came out 30 years ago!** It feels like yesterday.
- **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.
- **How is Covid-19 like Groundhog Day?** If you stick your head outside and see another person you get six more weeks of quarantine!

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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](mailto: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 every month.

**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 March 2023 edition is February 26, 2023.

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

Questions? Send us an email at [bulletin@blueridgeca.org](mailto: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](mailto:info@blueridgeca.org)

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[specialtimesoosc@gmail.com](mailto:specialtimesoosc@gmail.com)

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