

Blueridge Bulletin
March 2023



Despite the way February ended - with yet another snowstorm, please think of the above photo as aspirational - March has arrived, and with it there should be a hint of spring. Technically the first day of spring is March 20th, and I don't see the more temperate weather we'd like in the forecast just yet. Still, it's supposed to be coming. And of course we'll also go back onto Daylight Savings Time on Sunday March 12th, and Saint Patrick's day will get us all to wear green. Finally, March 20th is also Persian New Year!

This issue of the *Bulletin* is full of news, as you'll see from the table of contents below. We hope you enjoy it!

Please consider sharing the *Bulletin* with a family member or neighbour. We'd like to increase our readership, and you can help with that. New readers, you can use [this link](#) to subscribe and get future issues delivered to your inbox monthly.

Also, the *Bulletin* is only as useful as we collectively make it. We're always accepting article and photo submissions for future issues. If you'd like to submit an article, we have a page on our website with [all the information you need to make that happen](#).

Thank you! And now, on with the issue!

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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 Great Blueridge Cleanup

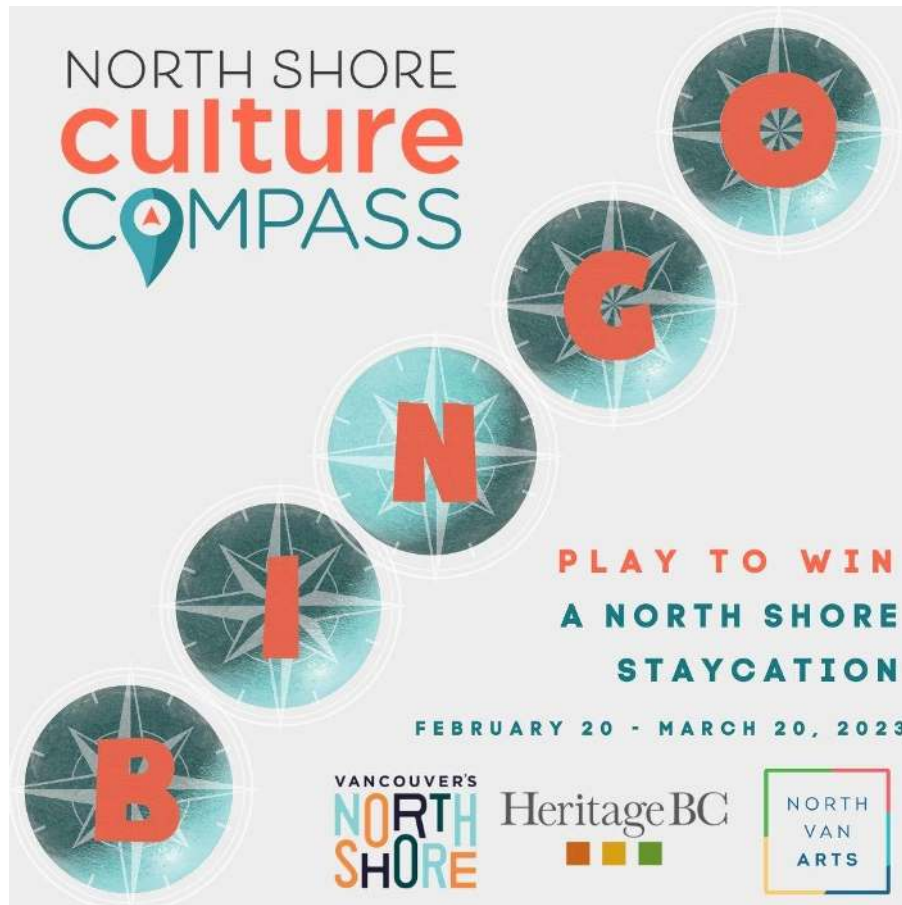
Johanna Moretto

Do you want to do something meaningful on Earth Day? Think globally and act locally! Join us on April 22 for the Great Blueridge Cleanup, a community effort to pick up garbage around our neighborhood. Email Johanna at natureview2000@yahoo.ca to help plan this event or stay tuned for information on how to get involved.

Can't make it? No sweat, here are some other ways to celebrate:

1. Let the kids walk to school. It's good for them and the air.
2. Reduce your single use plastic consumption for earth day week. No plastic takeout containers and no plastic straws!
3. Watch a nature documentary.





Culture Compass BINGO launched on Family Day at the start of Heritage Week 2023 to get you out exploring the North Shore's culture and heritage with family and friends! Play between now and March 20, 2023 to win a North Shore Staycation!

All the information and your bingo card can be [found online](#).

Good luck!



The BCA Communication Team Is Growing!

In today's world communication is everything! We at the BCA absolutely recognize this and we have been striving to keep up with the times and be current with all the communications methods so that we can reach all of our lovely residents! With this in mind, our communications department has been growing with the number of volunteers we have which is amazing! However, we now find the need to have someone coordinate and streamline the process so that the BCA team can function more effectively and communicate with you, our amazing residents! If you see yourself with a few hours free in the week and have some communication and/or team management background please reach out to us we would love to have your support!

For more details about the role please visit <https://blueridgeca.org/volunteer-opportunities/>



Happy Nowruz 1402!

Elmira Nazar

Also known as the Persian New Year! This year it is celebrated on Monday March 20th, 2023 at 2:24pm (Vancouver time). Like the new year in every culture, the Persian New Year is a way for families and friends to get together for some quality time and bring in the new year with positivity and happiness. The above image is the Haft-Sin (seven 'S' sounds). Each of the 'S' sound has a specific meaning for the new year.

1. Sabzeh - the wheat sprouts displayed in the centre, it symbolizes growth and being together
2. Samanu - wheat germ pudding that is in the bottom right next to the clock, it symbolizes strength and power
3. Senjed - Oleaster – this is something you eat and it has a bit of a sour and dry taste, it is below the mirror on the top left, it symbolizes love
4. Serkeh - vinegar, next to the clock in the glass on the bottom right, it symbolizes patience
5. Seeb - apple, centre left, it symbolizes beauty
6. Seer - garlic, bottom right, symbolizes good health
7. Somagh - sumac, centre right, symbolizes the sunrise

It is also common to include a mirror for self reflection, flowers (sonbol-

hyacinth) to welcome the arrival of Spring, coins (sekkeh) to symbolize wealth, and a clock (sa-at) to symbolize time. There are variations of how to set up your Haft-Sin, and many people include more items such as eggs which are usually painted by kids to symbolize fertility, candles (sham) to symbolize enlightenment, goldfish to symbolize progress and a book to symbolize knowledge. You can also include other things that start with the 'S' sounds such as sabzi, which includes green onion, mint, parsley and etc. (just about any greens of your liking). And finally shirini which is sweets such as pastries or candy and is added to the Haft-Sin and shared with everyone.

The day after the new year, families get together and share a meal. There are many different traditions depending on the family history and the region of the country. A common meal is Sabzi Polo ba Kuku (or Mahi) which is a rice dish with herbs served with herb patties (or fish). This is served with yogurt and/or a salad. A common salad is Salad Shirazi. Here is the recipe if you'd like to give it a try:

Salad Shirazi

- 3-4 Persian cucumbers or 1 long English cucumber
- 1-2 regular size tomato or two handfuls of cherry or grape tomatoes
- 1/4-1/2 red or yellow onion
- 1-2 limes
- fresh or dried mint
- salt and pepper

Cut the cucumbers, tomatoes and onion in small pieces and put it all in a bowl. Squeeze in the fresh lime juice and add some salt and pepper to taste. The mint can be added as much as you prefer. That's it!

Happy Nowruz to everyone!

Editor's Note: We've been including recipes from Blueridge residents the last few months, and we're always looking for more. Please send your favourite recipe (and a picture of the prepared dish, if you have one) to bulletin@blueridgeca.org for inclusion in a future Blueridge Bulletin. And you can find past recipes on our the [BCA website](#).



Where to Find Blueridge Information Online

Jeff Powell

Many Blueridge residents participate in social media, and some have found our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) feeds. On those platforms there is a lot of chatter about local events, but things posted there generally get lost after a short time.

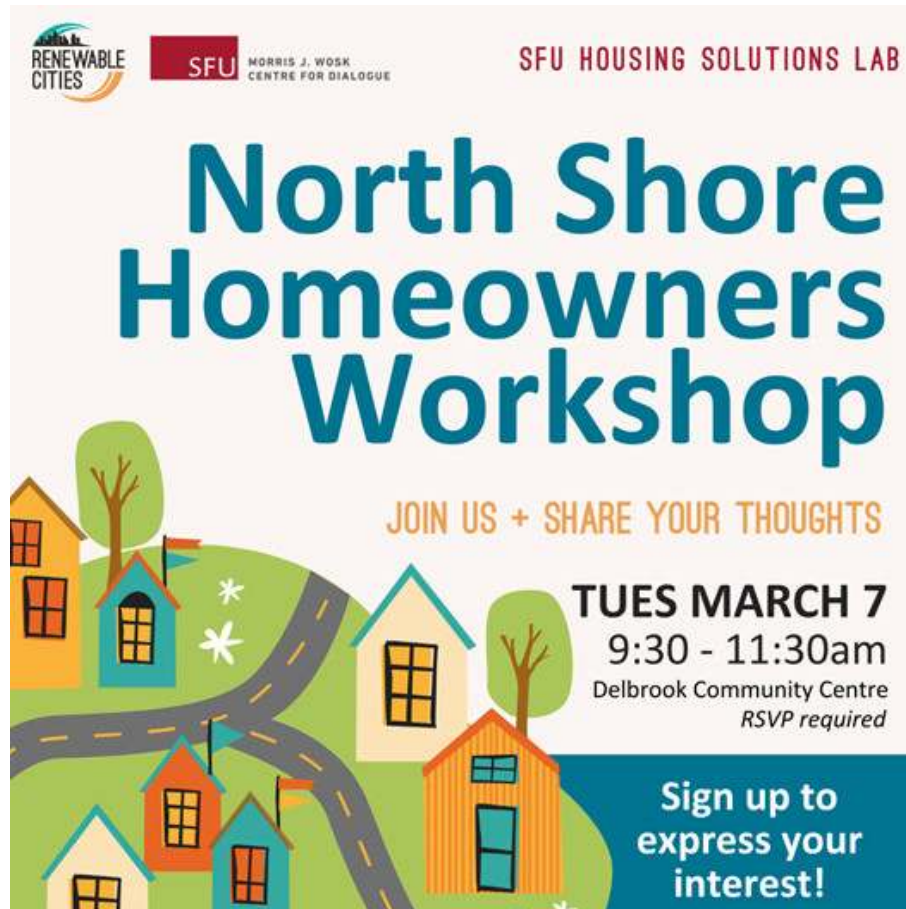
For that reason, we've put a lot of useful information on the [BCA \(Blueridge Community Association\) website](#) where it should be easy to find.

Our [Home page](#) has links to current events and various important places. The [Resources page](#) contains all kinds of information about living in Blueridge and Seymour Heights, from tips about living with bears to which phone app will remind you about the next garbage pickup. We list (and link to) key phone numbers, political representatives, and schools. One goal of our website is to make living in Blueridge simpler by putting the information you need in one place. We probably won't announce the latest bear sighting, but we will let you know about long term road work. We'll also keep you up to date on what the BCA itself is up to.

While we do our best to keep the site relevant, you can help us with that. If you see or know something that should be widely shared, please drop us a line at webmaster@blueridgeca.org and tell us what we can add or change.

And if you have not used the website lately, please take a look. We build and maintain it for you, it's free to use, and we continue to add to it over time. The URL is <http://blueridgeca.org>. Consider bookmarking it.

Give us a click next time you have a question about Blueridge. The answer may already be there, waiting for you.



Calling All North Shore Homeowners!

Are you over 55 and interested in exploring homesharing? How about renting out secondary suites?

Join our free [SFU Housing Solutions Lab](#) workshop. Together we'll identify barriers, brainstorm supportive solutions and create a bright path forward.

Our two-hour workshop for older adults is on **Tuesday, March 7** from **9:30-11:30am** at the Delbrook Community Centre. RSVPs are required.

[Register here](#)

There is an honorarium available for participants as an expression of appreciation, and to help cover costs for attending (e.g. transport, time and childcare).

Find out more about our Housing Solutions Lab and our workshop [on our website](#). We look forward to hearing from you!

Questions? Contact Rebekah Parker, Events and Engagement Coordinator, at rebekah_parker@sfu.ca or 778-652-4077 x6



Adopt A Street

Jeff Powell

Do you walk along our streets? If so you might notice a fair amount of trash. Some is just litter, accidentally or deliberately dropped by someone. But quite a bit comes from (or never makes it into) the garbage and recycling trucks.

Thankfully we don't have to live with it. Picking up something in front of our homes is easy, but if you have the time for an occasional walk, you might adopt your street. The DNV has a program that provides pick up tools and safety vests to volunteers who agree to pick up trash along their selected street (or section of trail) at least once a month.

The benefits are obvious: less trash on our streets, less debris in the sewers, creeks, and oceans, and those who volunteer get some exercise. You might also start to recognize and meet some of your neighbours if you do it regularly.

The DNV doesn't want volunteers handling heavy or dangerous items (those get reported for collection by those with specialist equipment) but simple trash and litter is easy to collect and dispose of.

I adopted the street I live on, and I usually collect the trash once a week, shortly after the garbage and recycling trucks are done. As a rule I pick up 3-5 pounds of trash, which I put into my regular garbage can.

Please consider joining me in making Blueridge a cleaner place. More information is available on the [BCA website](#), and directly [from the DNV](#).

Thank you!



Project Community is the BCA's ongoing effort to help residents of our neighbourhood get discounts on products and services to keep their homes in top shape. Offers vary over time, and more information about past and current offers is always available on the [BCA website](#). Here is our latest offer.



FRESH PERSPECTIVE HOME SERVICES

Fresh Perspective Home Services is the only number you need for all your exterior Home cleaning needs. We are a Family based local Blueridge company, dedicated to making your home look beautiful from the outside.

We are offering all Blueridge residents a 20% discount on all exterior home cleaning series if booked by March 15, 2023 with work completed by Sept 1, 2023.

We offer the following services: roof cleaning (moss removal), exterior house washing, power washing, gutter cleaning, junk removal.

We are small enough to care, but big enough to get the job done!

Please call or text Rob. Check out my website!

www.northvanpowerwashing.ca

778-847-2747



Virtual Public Meeting

Next Phase of Baden Park development at Mt. Seymour & Lytton

Anthem Properties is continuing to develop Baden Park at the corner of Mt. Seymour Parkway and Lytton St.

A virtual public meeting is going on now through March 8 to collect input on the project.

More detail is available in this [meeting notice](#) (PDF) and the meeting itself can be accessed here: <http://www.dnv.org/public-meeting>. More information about the Baden Park development can be found from the [developer website](#).



The UXO Team Is Back

In 2018, experts from the Department of National Defence searched along the trails east and north of Blueridge for UXO - unexploded ordinance - leftover from when the land was the Blair Rifle Range, a training range for the military.

Some was found and removed at the time. Now they have returned to expand the search area farther off the trails. They began in late February and will continue the search for at least six weeks. During that time, access to some trails may be restricted.

More information about the latest search is available in this [North Shore News article](#). History buffs can learn about the Blair Rifle Range from this [older NSN article](#), and this [extensive history](#) (PDF), written by local resident Donna Sacuta for the BC Labour Heritage Centre.

Hike safely!



Trail Damage and Repair

Once again our weather did some damage to the local trails. The above photos were taken by BCA board member Mahnaz Fardghassemi near McCartney Creek Park. But this time the DNV appears to have made a more durable repair, paving part of the trail to keep it from eroding again.

If you see trail damage or vandalism in parks, report it to the DNV by emailing a photo and location information to infoweb@dnv.org or call them at 604-990-2311. They have been very responsive!



Blueridge Park Update!

The DNV has begun the work of installing new playground equipment in Blueridge Park. Construction began on February 13th and should complete this spring. More details are available [from the DNV](#).



In A Nutshell

- **Save the date!** The Blueridge Community Association's Annual General Meeting will be held on May 9th at United Strangers. More information will be provided in future Bulletins, in our Newsletter, and on our website.
- **Did you see all the snow and ice is melting?** Yes! I thaw!
- **Scholarship Reminder!** The Eric Andersen BCA Scholarship is still accepting applications. If you know a graduating student going on to post-secondary studies in BC, they might be eligible to receive this scholarship. Application deadline is April 30. See our [scholarship page](#) for more information.
- **Vancouver in 1907** - Ever wondered what Vancouver looked like in 1907? Take a streetcar ride with this [restored and enhanced video](#).
- **Why is Yoda such a great gardiner?** He has a green thumb!
- **Bears** - Rumours say that some of our local bears are back and feasting on garbage. That's not good! Please see the [garbage and recycling page](#) on the BCA website for rules and tips on how to avoid this.
- **Bulletin or Newsletter?** The BCA has two different publications. This one - an email - is the *Blueridge Bulletin*, sent to subscribers once a month. The other is the *Blueridge Community Newsletter*, which is printed and delivered to every mailbox in Blueridge three times a year. We do this because not everyone subscribes to the *Bulletin*, and despite our best efforts not everyone reads the *Newsletter*! But we thank you for keeping up with us, however you do it!
- **Why should you wait until after March 20th to wash your Slinky?** Because then it's actually spring cleaning.
- **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.

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 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 April 2023 edition is March 28, 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!



Hey there Blueridge homeowners!

We're an elite interior design and decorating firm serving North Vancouver.
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