

Blueridge Good Neighbour Day—Back on the Rails!

*By Eric G. Andersen
Chair, Blueridge Community Association*

For the first time since 2019, we were finally able to host Blueridge Good Neighbour Day (BGND) again on June 11. What a treat it was to see the community come together again for this great local event!

There are so many parties to thank: the very hard-working planning committee, the generous sponsors and donors, the parties who had tables at our event, the volunteers on the day of the event as well as the many Blueridge & Seymour Heights residents who joined us for this event – the 23rd version of BGND since the first one in 1998, and after a long COVID hiatus.

It was a real pleasure to work with an almost entirely new planning committee that put so much time and effort into the event.

The many companies and individuals who were approached about support for the event showed such generosity and willingness to help us. (Removes unnecessary commas). In the same para, please insert a period after Blueridge Elementary School.

The aspect of volunteers is always hugely important for the association. As many of you likely have heard or read, volunteerism has unfortunately suffered greatly during and after COVID. Many people who used to volunteer are no longer doing this for various reasons. Volunteer organizations across the country (and probably elsewhere) are complaining about this huge loss. You may also have heard that



Eric G. Andersen

many programs put on by volunteer groups have had to cut back – not because of funding cuts, but simply for a lack of volunteers.

We have said it before and happily repeat here: Blueridge is not your average community! Although it was a bit of a scramble, we managed to find sufficient volunteers that allowed us to put on our big event. The volunteers in Blueridge who also continue to ensure that you receive the hard-copy newsletter, the emailed monthly Bulletin, and our social media channels, also helped out this past month with the cleanup of Blueridge Creek on World Rivers Day.

What makes it so special to volunteer in Blueridge? It gives you a great opportunity to meet other volunteers who – like yourself – care about our community, share the same values and have the same interest in helping out, whatever it is you may be volunteering for with the BCA. We have a Volunteer

-continued on page 2



Elmira Nazar (left) and In-Ah Mellor, both residents of Tompkins Crescent are already out of the gate with planning for Blueridge Good Neighbour Day 2024. As next year's co-chair and chair, they eagerly await any suggestions for themes and ideas residents have. Send them to info@blueridgeca.org

**Published by the
Blueridge Community Association
for Blueridge and
Seymour Heights residents
Editor: Michael Bernard**

Blueridge Good Neighbour Day

-continued from page 1

Co-ordinator who would love to hear from you if you want to volunteer for some positions currently available, including assisting with social media, where we could really use some help. Please contact her at: **volunteer@blueridgeca.org** for current and future volunteer opportunities.

For those of you who are new residents in our area, this is an awesome way to meet your neighbours and become part of the fun and activities, as soon as you have moved in!

What does the future bring? After our participation in September at Parkgate Community Day, where the BCA had a booth, we are looking at future activities such as the Blueridge Cares program, as well as the planning for both BGND in 2024 and hopefully also getting going again with the Dîner en Bleu next year, which we unfortunately were unable to resurrect in 2023.

All in all, if you are interested in helping out and making Blueridge an even better community, please join us. It is also important to stress that we ALWAYS welcome new ideas and initiatives, so if you have new suggestions, please do not hesitate to share these with us at **info@blueridgeca.org**

T'is the Season... to Lend a Hand

By Carolann Frankel

Blueridge Cares is a neighbourhood program that started in the spring of 2020. It is designed to help Blueridge families who may need a little extra help at the holidays or during a difficult time.

Yes, it's early to think about the holidays... but the elves are already busy thinking about the coming months, and how to help those in our neighbourhood who might need a little extra boost this holiday season.

This year, we are going to approach our program a little differently. Families who request help will be asked to provide us with specific holiday requests. Our elves will transfer the information to a gift tag, which will be emailed and printed or can be picked up. Once the gift is purchased, the giver will wrap the gift and attach the tag and drop it off at a central location. Our elves will sort the gifts by family and arrange for them to be delivered.

We are also going to offer a grocery delivery to our families, and hope that we can get a "grocery list" from each family so that we are not purchasing food that won't be wanted.

You can support this effort by joining our team of elves, being a grocery shopper, or a gift purchaser. Or you can make a specific donation to the BCA for the Blueridge Cares Program. To do that, please fill out a form on our website (**blueridgeca.org**) or email us at **blueridgecares@blueridgeca.org**. More information will be in the December issue of the Blueridge Bulletin, on our Facebook and Instagram pages, and on the BCA website as we get closer to the holidays.

Help support local business by shopping local!

By Mahnaz Fardghassemi

Now, more than ever, it's important to shop and support local. Started a few years ago, the Blueridge Community Association now has a business directory service with more than 50 local businesses that provide a range of products and services. It costs nothing to list your company in the directory, which the BCA supports by spreading the word.

If you want to list your business, go to **https://blueridgeca.org/blueridge_businesses**. Residents who need anything from home repairs to a special gift can look over the directory, knowing that they can shop and support local businesses right here in Blueridge. Can't get any more local than our very own neighborhood!



Short-term rentals: seeking the right balance

By Jim Hanson

North Vancouver District Councillor

The District of North Vancouver Council will be making changes to bylaws regulating short-term rentals in upcoming meetings this fall. The issue of short-term rentals is controversial, given the need to protect long-term rental housing stock for residents. At the same time, our local tourist economy benefits from short-term rentals, and for some residents, offering their home for short-term rentals makes owning a home financially more viable.

At present, there is a ban on short-term rentals in the District, while at the same time, it is clear that many owners use their properties for unregulated short-term rentals through use of sites such as “Airbnb” and “VRBO.”

After direction from District Council and significant public outreach, staff presented Council with a recommendation to regulate short-term rentals in a Council Report debated July 24, 2024. Staff had reviewed the regulatory framework in place at other municipalities, including Vancouver, and adopted an approach that allowed short-term rentals so long as the properties involved are a “principal residence.” In other words, the goal behind the proposed regulatory scheme is to only allow short-term rentals while persons are absent from their homes while on vacation or otherwise travelling.

Proposed requirements include the need for a business licence, collection of an additional three per cent short-term-rental tax (to be directed toward affordable housing), a limit on the number of guests permitted at any one time, and “proactive” enforcement to ensure that the rules are followed. This regulatory approach was considered preferable to having an outright ban which in practice is often disregarded.

Council debated the proposed short-term rental bylaws on July 24, 2023, and passed a motion calling for the proposed regulations to be the subject of a public hearing after which the bylaws could be further debated and either passed or defeated by Council. The vote passed narrowly 3 to 2 (with two Councillors being absent). Concern that allowing any kind of short-term rentals would cut into the supply of long-term rental was discussed.

For my part, I believe that the proposed bylaws do strike the right balance between allowing some short-term rentals (limited to the time that an occupant is vacant from their “principal residence”) and protecting long-term rental stock. The requirement that an occupant is only allowed to offer their own “principal residence” as short-term rentals while on vacation or otherwise travelling, in my view, limits the dangers that regulated short-term rental will take away from the supply of long-term rental housing.

All of Council looks forward to hearing from the community on this issue.



Blueridge Good Neighbour Day

It couldn't happen without volunteers!

On behalf on the community, we would like to thank the following people for all their excellent work and hours of dedication in serving on the Blueridge Good Neighbour Day Committee:

Claudia Singh
Crystal Cahill
Cyndie Gilley
Dave and Sharon Hannah
Diane Chen
Elmira Nazar
Eric Godot Andersen
Fariba Leilaby
Giacomo Falorni
Greg Harper
Grover Hernandez
Heather Gall
In-Ah Mellor
Jodene Wood
John Richmond
Kait Critchley
Karen Schultz
Kelly Muirhead
Kim Nazar
Mahtab Rae
Mary Stern
Maya Pires
Missy Shana
Nathalie Drolet
Sabrina Chen
Stacie Graham
Vivian Kay
Zuzana Mosna

We would also like to thank all those other volunteers who gave generously of their time and energy in the time leading up to and including the Blueridge Good Neighbour Day. As with the committee members, the festive event simply would not happen without you.

Thank you!

Fish flowing up Stream of Dreams on Blueridge Elementary fences

*By Kate Garnett
Blueridge Parent Advisory Committee*

We have been working hard at Blueridge Elementary to bring back some of the amazing school spirit and community that we have known and loved. For example, if you have wandered through our schoolyard and gazed towards the tennis courts you may have noticed some new sights. Last spring, thanks to our amazing staff and funded by the Blueridge Parent Advisory Committee (BPAC), we finally were able to replace the stream of dreams, aka the fish on the fence. Each student was given a fish to paint as they saw fit.

The results? Amazing, as you can see in the adjacent Blueridge school photo. To learn about the national award-winning environmental education and community art program, go to <http://streamofdreams.org>

Hopefully, this latest school of fish will last as long as the previous ones. In addition, many parts of the school have been repainted and new basketball nets have been put up.

Meanwhile, the committee is pursuing our primary goal to rebuild the connections within our school community that were lost during the pandemic. We had a pretty good year last year, resuming familiar favourites like the Back to School BBQ, Santa Breakfast and Movie Night. As well, we have included some fundraisers such as Purdy's Chocolates, Growing Smiles, Neufelds Farm, Family Photos and more, including a parent social in the gym!

Our first big (and successful) event this year was the Back-to-School Barbie-Q! on Sept. 21. Stay tuned for upcoming dates. Our first fundraisers will be Neufeld's Farm, Growing Smiles, winter decorations (think wreaths, poinsettias and more in late November/ early December) and Purdy's Chocolates (December).

Our biggest challenge has been getting parents more involved and, of course, recruiting volunteers. We can't run our events without them! We are hoping to further foster a feeling of belonging and encourage all parents of our students to come out to our monthly meeting in the school library, where we are able to engage in person-to-person discussions with our school administrators. If you have a student at our school, please come out. We want to hear from you!

Lastly, we want to remind everyone that with the start of the school year kids are everywhere. Please be extra aware at the beginning and end of the school day, especially as we continue to encourage walking/biking/scootering to school. Please drive with care!



The Blueridge Community Association (BCA) needs YOUR help!

By Elmira Nazar



As the news spreads rapidly using social media, we are looking for two volunteers (ideally) to help communicate news about what is happening in the community. A Communications Coordinator is greatly appreciated and valued within the community, especially in our association. The main duties for these very important roles include:

- Using the Instagram and Facebook pages to distribute information and share posts.
- Keeping these pages Instagram and Facebook pages up to date with events and relevant news.

These roles don't require a major time commitment, probably a maximum of one hour weekly.

If you're interested, please send an email to volunteer@blueridgeca.org and we will be eager to speak to you!

Your BCA Committee Members

Fall Brings Hungry Bears... and some choice words of advice

By Holly Reisner

North Shore Black Bear Society

With fall here, black bears are preparing for winter. During this phase, called hyperphagia, bears roam further looking for food, so expect increased bear sightings. They can spend 20 hours per day eating (anytime of the day or night) and eat 20,000 calories per day!

When bears have had a good meal (for example from a neighbourhood apple tree or an unsecured organics bin), they may need to nap. They use spots called daybeds in the forest or in a peaceful backyard. If you find a bear sleeping in your yard, wait until they've woken up. Don't let pets or children out. Once the bear wakes, go to a safe place such as a balcony or open window and use a very strong, deep voice to tell the bear to move along.

Hyperphagia is very important for bears, as they must build up fat stores to last through the winter months. Bears typically den down in late November or early December and enter a phase called torpor during which they do not eat, drink, urinate or defecate. This lasts until spring when they emerge from their dens, having lost up to 30% of their total body weight.

If female bears that mated in the early summer gain enough body fat during hyperphagia, the embryos that have been waiting will implant and start to grow. This amazing adaptation called delayed implantation ensures healthy mothers and healthy cubs.

The amount that she ate in hyperphagia determines the number of cubs she will have and how well they will survive. Bears typically have one to two cubs, but they can have up to four! The cubs are born in January and spend the first three to four months inside the den, nursing. She uses her fat stores to produce extremely rich milk so that when the cubs emerge they will have grown from about one pound at birth to approximately three to four pounds.

Natural foods that bears consume during hyperphagia include insect larvae, which provide more protein than meat does. Torn apart logs are a sign that a bear has used their claws and canines to access the ant or wasp larvae inside the rotting wood. They also dig up ground wasp nests. Their thick fur helps keep them safe from stings.

Bears are still eating the remaining fruit and berries from summer. This year in particular our local bears enjoyed a bounty of figs, apples, plums and pears, in addition to the various berry crops.

The salmon in our local rivers are a very important food source. Bears take the fish into the forest and eat their favourite parts (brain and roe), leaving the leftovers to fertilize the trees.

Please ensure your garbage and organic (food) waste are not attracting our local bears. Separate food carefully from plastic; wash odorous wrappings and containers with hot, soapy water, and freeze meat, fish, chicken scraps and grease to add frozen to the organics bin on the morning of collection. Scrub all your bins out with vinegar.

These good habits help prevent messes, and they help the bears. Lack of food is an important trigger for bears to den. Available food from our waste may keep our bears up this winter.

Please report bear and attractant sightings to the **North Shore Black Bear Society: www.northshorebears.com. (604) 317.4911** to leave a voice message or send a text message.

*Holly Reisner is Co-Executive Director of
North Shore Black Bear Society*



2023 Blueridge Good Neighbour Day Silent Auction Donors and Event Sponsors

Now that the dust has settled on our Blueridge Good Neighbour Day, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the many, many donors and sponsors that helped to revive the day after the COVID imposed hiatus. Your support made it possible. If we've missed anyone, please forgive us and let us know so that we can be sure to add our thanks to you in the next edition.

32 Books & Gallery
Altitude FC
Arc'teryx Equipment Inc.
Arms Reach Bistro
Aspire Naturopathic Health Center
Barb Wilks
Bean Around the World
Belentina's Workshop
Blueridge Community Association
Blueshore Financial
Bosley's Pet Food - Dollarton
Canlan Ice Sports - North Shore
Capilano Suspension Bridge
Central City Brewers and Distillers
Chemtrade Logistics
Christine Tunnoch Art & Illustration
City Soda
Code Ninjas
Cove Paddleboards
Danny Filippone, The Penthouse Nightclub
& Forbidden Vancouver Walking Tours
Dave Maquignaz, realtor
David Moucks
Dollarton Liqueure store
Dominion Securities
Dykhof Nurseries
Everything Wine
eXp Realty - Diane Chen & Kelly Muirhead
Family donation - Carmichael family
Family donation - Hanson family
Family donation - Richter family
Family donation - Wilks family
Fawcett Insurance
Fresh Skin Lab
Fuse & Sip
grit meditation
Grounded Path Yoga
Harris & Brun Law Corporation
Helicon Books
Herschel Supply Co.
In-Ah and Michael (BGND Team Members)
InGrain Pastificio
Isobel's Card Company
Judy Killeen Real Estate
Kim Cairns Beauty Consultant - Mary Kay
Kobe Japanese Steakhouse
Kore Salon
Laura Caballero Photography

Little Pink Door Boutique
Lonsdale Place Veterinary Clinic
Lordco North Van
Maa Yoga
Maplewood Farms
Mel Montgomery Real Estate
Melnik Financial Planning and Investments Ltd.
Moja Coffee
Monika Art Studio
Morning Moon Nature Jewelry
Mount Seymour Optometry
Neptune Terminals
North Shore Marine
North Shore Sports Medicine
North Van Rec Centre - Ron Andrews
North Vancouver Child Development Center
Northlands Golf Club
Odlum Brown Limited
Osteria Savio Volpe
Panago
Penfolds Roofing & Solar
Pepinos Spaghetti House
Pigott Properties Group
Professional Photography
Pups on the Pier
RBC Financial Consultant Nazreen Ishak
Riverfront Bed & Breakfast
S8088 Auto Detail
Safeway
Savio Volpe Caffè e Alimentari
Shoppers Drug Mart - Parkgate
Signature Mazda
Smallprint Vancouver
Special Times Out of School Care
Steamoji
Stong's Market
The Co-Operators (Park & Tilford)
The Hive
Time Out Source For Sports
Toby's Liquor Store
TOCA North Vancouver
United Strangers Coffee
Waterline Plumbing Ltd.
Well Fed
Western Stevedoring
White Spot, Park & Tilford

Note: Waterline Plumbing is now Pink Plumbing



Making Newcomers Feel Welcome

By Lesley Brooks

I am on the board of the Blueridge Community Association and one of my tasks is to visit and welcome people who have chosen to make Blueridge their new home.

We have come up with a great reader feature, starting in our next Blueridge Newsletter issue (March 2024.) We will be introducing one of our new families, complete with a photo and a few words about them to help welcome them to the neighbourhood.

For those newcomers as well as those of you who don't know very much about what the Blueridge Community Association does, here's a quick primer about some of our activities throughout the year.

We share local news of importance at no charge in two ways: through an online service to those who subscribe and a newsletter distributed to 1,500 Blueridge doors three times a year by an army of volunteers.

We stage a huge family-oriented day with amusement rides, booths, beer garden and food at a local school each June.

We award an annual scholarship to a young person graduating to post-secondary education that recognizes their volunteer contributions to Blueridge.

We advise local politicians and institutions about the wants and needs of Blueridge residents. We raise funds and purchase items to local families in need over the holiday season.

So stay tuned to the next issue to learn a bit about those who have moved into our neighbourhood.



Blueridge Residents Receive 10% Discount Off Regular Priced Services	 Ground Control <i>Property Maintenance Inc.</i>	Ground Control Property Maintenance 604-603-7256 groundcontrolpminc@gmail.com
<p>Discount offer from October 1, 2023 to November 30, 2023 Discount applies to new customers for all regular and one time lawn and garden maintenance.</p>		

Blueridge Residents Receive 10% Discount Off Tree/Hedge Services	 TAKE A BOUGH <i>tree care</i>	Take a Bough Tree Care 778-836-9144 jan@takeabough.ca
<p>Time to check on your trees. With the prolonged drought, it is especially important this year to have an arborist assess the health & safety of the trees on your property before the heavy rain and winds arrive. Family Owned & Operated Based in North Vancouver - Sustainability Carbon Reduction Minimal Waste</p>		
Discount offer from October 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024		

Need More Neighbourhood News? Sign Up for the Bulletin!

By Jeff Powell

You're reading the Blueridge Community News. This publication keeps you in touch with things happening in the area and is delivered to your mailbox three times a year. But what about the rest of the year? The BCA has an answer: *the Blueridge Bulletin*, our monthly email.



The Bulletin has been around in various forms since 2013. These days it comes out at the beginning of each month and - just like the Newsletter - it contains news about where we live: Blueridge, Seymour Heights, McCartney Woods, and Northlands. Recent issues have discussed things like the fire on Mt Seymour, a group purchase of automatic gas shutoff valves, and the new fireworks ban in the DNV. And that's only some of it.

It's only one email a month and it's completely free. Why not subscribe? You can scan the QR code and fill out the (very short!) form, or you can visit blueridgeca.org and click on "Subscribe!" in the Quick Links section of our home page.

But perhaps you want to see what recent issues have looked like before you subscribe. We've got that handled too. Visit blueridgeca.org and click on "Keep Informed" in the menu. There you will find pages about both the Bulletin and the Newsletter, and each contains an archive of past issues.

Happy reading, and we look forward to you becoming a subscriber to the Blueridge Bulletin!

Thanks to volunteers for cleaning up Blueridge Creek

By Suzanne Mueller

We had another successful day at the annual creek clean-up on World Rivers Day. People in 100 countries pitch in to clean up rivers on the fourth Sunday of each September. The concept was started in 1980 when B.C. conservationist Mark Angelo organized B.C. Rivers Day.

Some parts of Blueridge creek were wonderfully absent of litter while others had plenty of litter. Thank you to all the volunteers who came out with gloves and bags ready to take on the task. A few came out with cutting shears to tackle invasive species and kids especially love to turn this activity into a kind of treasure hunt.

It would be great to involve more creeks and rivers next year. If you are interested in participating and want to stay in the loop, feel free to email me sus.mueller@gmail.com.



PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH!!

The BCA is on these social media sites, follow your favourite.

 Facebook: Blueridge Community Association

 Instagram: Blueridge__Community

Web: www.blueridgeca.org

Email: info@blueridgeca.org • newsletter@blueridgeca.org