

# ***Blueridge Bulletin***

## ***February 2024***



Is anyone else surprised at just how quickly January disappeared? I swear that Thanksgiving was just a couple of weeks ago, and we only just finished the leftovers from Christmas dinner. How can it possibly be February already?

But at least January did fill the local reservoirs. The photo above shows Capilano Reservoir on January 25th, and they were letting water out quite quickly at the time, probably to make room for more rain. The concern is if the snowpack melts too soon. That may be a serious problem this summer, or not. Let's hope we get more snow, but see the *Newsworthy* section for links to a couple of articles on this topic.

There's quite a bit of other news this month as well, including local politics, schools, events, gardening, and more. With this issue we're happy to welcome the first contribution from Erin Bulycz, chair of the Seymour Heights Elementary Parents Advisory Committee. More news from our local schools is always appreciated, and regular updates from Seymour Heights Elementary are an important addition. Of course, we appreciate all our authors. The *Bulletin* would not exist without their combined efforts.

And speaking of those authors and their efforts, would you like to join them? We continue to seek submissions from the community. They can be single articles, photos, event announcements, or recurring columns. Even suggestions for topics to cover are welcome. If you want to contribute, see the *Submit an Article* section below for links and details, or email [bulletin@blueridgeca.org](mailto:bulletin@blueridgeca.org) with your questions or suggestions.

Many thanks! Keep warm and dry!

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- Submit an Article to the *Blueridge Bulletin*
- Sponsors - These businesses help support BCA programs

## Features



## **Cougar Family in Deep Cove**

Holly Reisner, North Shore Black Bear Society

This week we had a very rare and exciting wildlife sighting in Deep Cove: a group of four cougars. An amazing video (see above) taken by a resident was shared with us at the North Shore Black Bear Society, with Global News, and with many local Facebook groups. There were also some photographs of cougar prints that popped up in the area.

As I mentioned, it is very rare to see cougars, but it is not rare for cougars to be travelling through neighbourhoods on the North Shore. They usually (but not always) travel at night, and they are wary of humans, both of which make sightings few and far between. Cougars have large territories, and they commonly move great distances as they search for prey. Hunting is more difficult in the winter, as many animals are hibernating and there is more snow, so they may have to roam further than usual which can increase the likelihood of sightings.

This group of four is most likely a mother with three kittens or cubs. The young stay with their mother for one or two years, dispersing from her in the spring or early summer.

Cougars naturally prey on deer and moose, but they will also eat smaller animals such as raccoons and rodents. They may also take domestic pets, so we recommend not allowing your cats to roam freely and keeping your dogs on leash, especially in the dark hours. It is also important to ensure you are not

attracting rodents (which in turn attract coyotes and cougars) by securing your garbage, organic (food) waste and bird feeders.

If you encounter a cougar, you should:

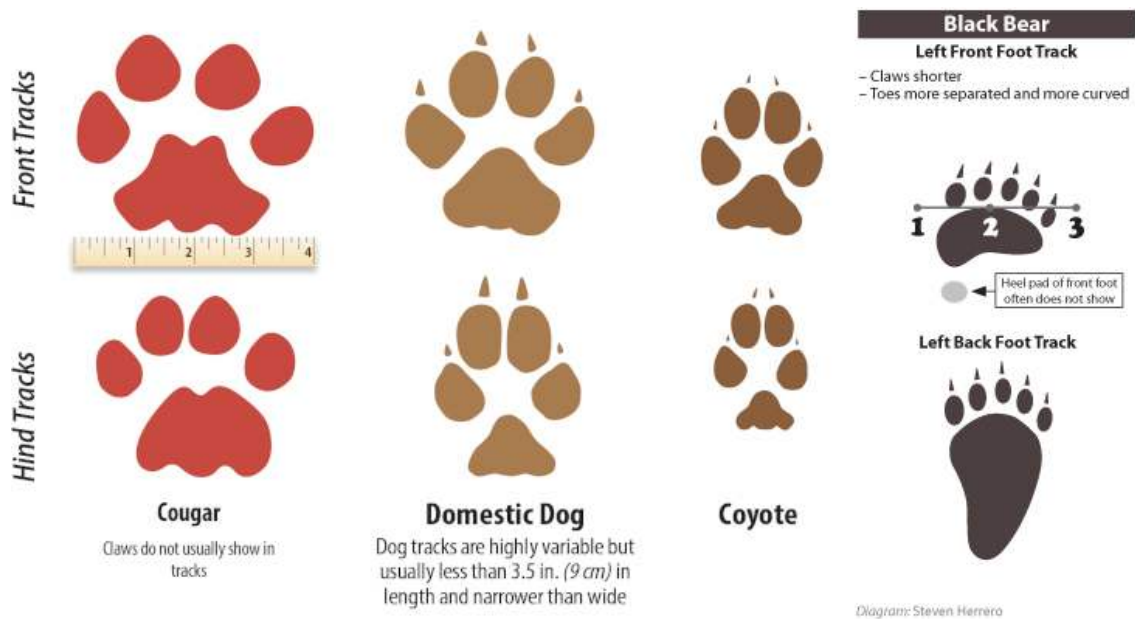
- Stop.
- Pick up pets and small children.
- Make yourself look large by raising your free arms.
- Use a firm, loud voice and make eye contact to communicate to the cougar that you are not prey.
- Slowly back away from the area.

Even more rare than seeing a cougar is to have a cougar encounter, so there is little chance you will have to use this advice. Best practise is to use your voice while on the trails to let any wildlife (cougars, bears, coyotes) know you are there, which will further decrease the likelihood of encounters. If you use trails regularly, we do recommend carrying bear spray in an easily accessible holster and knowing how to use it properly.

We also have active bears in North Vancouver now, despite the recent snow and cold temperatures. We know that food being available in the community interferes with denning (see above advice about securing garbage, organic waste and bird feeders).

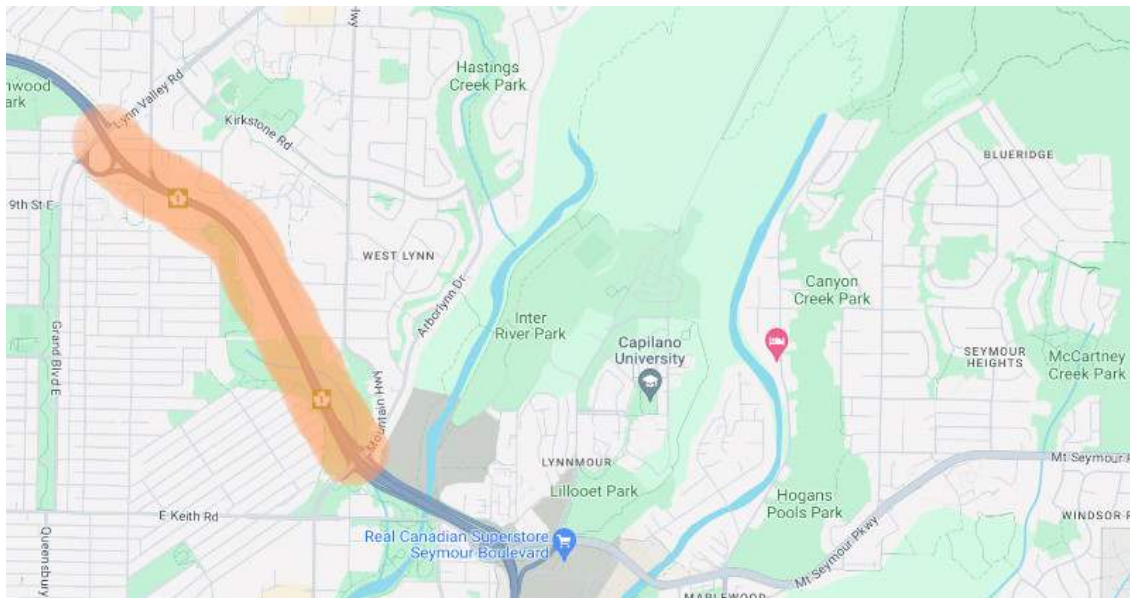
If you find prints, here are a couple of ways to differentiate cougar prints from bear prints:

- Cougars have four toes, bears have five.
- Cougar prints usually will not show claws, whereas bear prints usually will.
- A cougar print could be contained in a circular outline. A bear's hind footprint has a shape similar to a human footprint, and a bear's front footprint would be closer to a rectangle or a flattened oval.



(Images from [www.westernwildlife.org](http://www.westernwildlife.org))

Please report all wildlife and wildlife sign sightings to us at [www.northshorebears.com](http://www.northshorebears.com). We love to know who is in and around our community, and to help human residents understand how to co-exist with our wildlife.



### Third lane on “The Cut” Eastbound

Jim Hanson, Councillor District of North Vancouver

On January 8, 2024, the North Vancouver District Council voted unanimously to support my motion to call upon the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to build a third lane (for local traffic) on “The Cut” eastbound between Lynn

Valley Road and Mountain Highway.

As a regular commuter on this route, I am well aware (as are many other road users) that a portion of eastbound vehicles are local traffic who wish to exit at Mountain Highway. Despite this, these local vehicles must wait in line with all of the other cars heading to the Iron Workers further congesting Highway #1.

The shoulder along this portion of Highway #1 eastbound is adequate to construct a third lane, which could be segregated for local traffic only with an entrance near Lynn Valley Road and an exit at Mountain Highway. The construction of such a third lane would be relatively inexpensive, and would divert some of the eastbound traffic away from the vehicles waiting in the stop-and-go congestion to access the Iron Workers. Those travelling west to east on the North Shore are now forced to enter bridge-bound traffic when they could instead stay in a lane designed for exit at Mountain Highway.

From my point of view, this initiative represents the “low hanging fruit” of road improvement for east-west connectivity on the North Shore.

We will wait with interest to see how the idea is received by the Provincial decision makers.

**Editor's Note:** See the *Newsworthy* section below for how local media reacted to Councillor Hanson's motion.

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Thirty days hath September,  
April, June, and November,  
All the rest have thirty-one,  
Except February, twenty-eight days clear,  
And twenty-nine in each leap year.

-- Traditional

*But we all know it really goes like this:*

Thirty days hath September,  
April, June, and November,  
All the rest have thirty-one,  
Except February, which has two hundred and fifty six.



**SUSIE CHANT**

NORTH VANCOUVER-  
SEYMOUR

## **The Speculation and Vacancy Tax**

The Office Of MLA Susie Chant

The annual declaration for the Speculation and Vacancy Tax is coming up and Blueridge residents should receive their declaration letter by February 9th, with the deadline to declare for the tax at the end of March. Should you not receive your letter by the end of February, please call 1-833-554-2323, or reach out to my office for assistance.

When these letters go out, our office always sees an uptick in inquiries about the tax from residents in North Van, so I thought it would be good to have this article answer some of the frequently asked questions. The first thing to note is that there are new communities included this year in the tax, so if you own a second property/vacation home in some larger communities in the interior or on Vancouver Island, you may have to declare this year for that property. To get a full list of communities included, please visit [gov.bc.ca/speculationtax](http://gov.bc.ca/speculationtax) or reach out to my office.

So, what does the tax do and how does it work? The Speculation and Vacancy Tax was created with the intention of converting empty homes into rentals or owner-occupied units. Domestic owners subject to the tax pay a nominal rate of 0.5% of the value of the property, while foreign owners pay 2%. Some municipal governments, like Vancouver, have created policies that increase that tax rate within their jurisdiction. The creation of this tax led to approximately 20,000 homes being added to the market, and as new communities are added, so are new homes. Of course, when this tax was introduced, and when it is introduced to a new community, owners are given a couple of years to make plans on what to do with their property, so the impacts of this tax are not seen immediately.

The tax raised \$81 million in 2022 and is estimated to raise approximately \$90 million this year. The money raised goes towards affordable housing projects. The tax is not technically revenue neutral, as that requires much more paperwork and costs to certify it, so it goes into general revenue, but we have spent well over the amount collected from the tax on building housing. For example, last year, we spent almost \$400 million on new capital housing projects.

There has been a slight increase in the number of domestic owned homes that are paying the tax lately, which could indicate that it is not working as intended. This is primarily due to the rise of short-term rentals in recent years which have come mainly from BC residents. Owners of such properties only pay a 0.5% tax. The Ministry of Finance was noticing this, and it was part of the rationale in introducing new legislation to address this issue. Between this tax, the recent short term rental legislation, and our efforts to dramatically increase housing stocks, our province is working to correct the market a little bit and bring more attainable housing for people.

As always, this article is very surface level, so if you have any further questions, do not hesitate to reach out to my office!



## **Fireworks Are Not Banned in the District**

Jeff Powell

On January 22nd, the DNV council met for one of their regular evening meetings. One of the items on the agenda was the fireworks ban that came up last year. The intent was either passing it or voting it down.

It did not pass. Only two councillors were in favour: Hanson and Forbes. Mayor Little and councillors Back, Muri, and Mah were opposed. Councillor Pope did not attend this meeting and so did not vote.

Watching this particular sausage being made was interesting, if a bit disheartening, but that doesn't matter anymore, as the issue is no longer under consideration. Firework use in the district remains legal and the rules around it are unchanged. The North Shore News has [a good summary of the debate](#) on this issue.

Other items were handled at the meeting. The council took decisive action to remove a ten-year-old legal hurdle that was keeping a family from selling their property, and referred an apparently serious traffic speed and safety problem to staff for more research. (Neither of these were in Blueridge.) There was also a presentation regarding a long term business development plan that the District is developing.

Most interestingly, this meeting was also the last chance for public input on the draft budget, but there were no speakers on that topic present. Apparently there has been public feedback provided via email since the draft was released earlier in January. A meeting to discuss and approve the budget was scheduled for January 29th.

If you're interested in things coming before the DNV council, the best source of information is the [Council Minutes, Agendas and Notices page](#), where you can sign up to get an email every time a new meeting is scheduled. Even if you never attend, the agendas point out what issues our local government is facing at any given time. Also useful is the [DNV News Page](#). That page does not contain an RSS feed, so it needs to be checked manually for new items. The *Bulletin* attempts to bring you relevant DNV news as well.

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## **Blueridge Good Neighbour Day 2024**

Stacie Graham

It's hard to believe, but planning has already started for [Blueridge Good Neighbour Day](#) 2024. This community event will be taking place on Saturday, June 15th and is only possible thanks to an amazing team of volunteers who coordinate all of the festivities!

If you'd like to be part of the planning, we'd love to hear from you:  
[volunteer@blueridgeca.org](mailto:volunteer@blueridgeca.org)

Through the generous support of local businesses and the money raised in our amazing silent auction, Blueridge Good Neighbour Day activities are free for all to enjoy! If you have something you'd like to donate to our auction, or if you would like to help the committee collect donations, please reach out!

We are also looking for volunteers to help with planning youth activities! If you love kids and are good with arts and crafts, we would love your help!!

Email us at [bgnd@blueridgeca.org](mailto:bgnd@blueridgeca.org) for more information!

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While reflecting on past relationships and learning from them can be helpful, February isn't the best time to try and gain insight.

-- Amy Morin



**SEYMOUR  
HEIGHTS**  
ELEMENTARY

# Seymour Heights Elementary

*North Vancouver School District*

## **Seymour Heights Elementary Update**

Erin Bulycz, SHPAC Chair

Happy New Year, everyone! We hope you all enjoyed the pause from your weekly and daily routines, got some rest, and had plenty of fun together over the break. There are so many different ways to celebrate winter holidays and we hope you made some memories with your loved ones.

December at Seymour Heights was filled with community spirit! Our families donated their time and energy, their household items for our holiday market and baked goods for our pancake breakfast, and we were able to sponsor a North Shore family through the [Christmas Bureau](#). Every person who helped plan and execute and every person who attended events made our holiday events come to life!

January brought cold temperatures, cancelled sports and recesses, and then enough snow to slow our pace for a few days. The sounds of kiddos giggling, laughing and yelling filled the hills at McCartney Park and Windsor Secondary for TWO snow days! Since then we have embraced the outdoor slushee and warmer weather as we return to those routines we so carefully planned out before the holidays.

We're still looking for engaged and caring community members (no need to be a parent of our students at Seymour Heights!) to help us support safe driving between 8:40 and 9:00 am and/or 2:55 - 3:15 pm each weekday. The backed-up construction traffic on the Parkway is consistently diverting impatient drivers along Carnation Street during school hours and we need more people in traffic vests to help drivers learn and remember that Carnation Street is a school zone. Can you come by for 20 mins once a week? Or perhaps even just once? We'd sure appreciate it! Please email Safety Sarah at [sarahmanvell@gmail.com](mailto:sarahmanvell@gmail.com) or [theseymourheightspac@gmail.com](mailto:theseymourheightspac@gmail.com) to volunteer for a 20 minute shift!

Regardless of temperamental weather and traffic, the Seymour Heights PAC will be moving forward with a few exciting new projects: we are consulting with District IT to improve technology access by adding devices to each classroom and we have subscribed to Konstella, a highly recommended and streamlined communication tool for families. In addition, we are forming an Intercultural committee to learn from and celebrate our diverse community with a Spring event and we're also starting to plan for inclusive after-school programming for next school year.

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## Blueridge Elementary

### **Hello from Blueridge Elementary!**

Rachel Harper, BPAC Chair

February is a chance for our students to enjoy the great outdoors - snow, rain or shine! Our grade 6 and 7 classes will spend four Fridays learning how to ski or snowboard on Mount Seymour. Their first session was cancelled due to -28 degree weather. Thank you to Mount Seymour for offering to reschedule!

Since 1969, students in grade 4 and 6 have participated in the Outdoor School Program at Cheakamus Centre. This program was disrupted during Covid so we're thrilled to have it up and running again. If you were lucky enough to grow up in North Vancouver, you probably have fond memories of outdoor school!

February also brings the NVSD Band and Strings Festival at Centennial Theatre. The elementary band and strings program is entirely funded by registration fees. This includes staff salaries, facilities and additional equipment and supplies. We're so lucky to have the resources and dedication of our families to keep this program running.

It's of vital importance that these programs remain accessible to every student in our school community.

Financial assistance for school programs is available by contacting the school principal. Information on bursaries for band and strings is available through the band and strings PAC.

The Easter Bunny comes early this year, so we will close out the month with our Purdys Fundraiser. The pastel eggs, chicks, and bunnies are a sweet reminder that spring is right around the corner! You can join in using this link:

<https://fundraising.purdys.com/1188477-115195>

Thank you!

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## **Garden Planning**

Emilie Currie

As we emerge from a snowy cold spell, summer gardens are feeling far away. However, the grocery stores are starting to stock spring flowers, and soon it will be time to sow our seeds. With the growing season just around the corner, many of us gardeners are actively filling the winter months with plans, anticipating the warmer and vibrant days that lie ahead.

**Choosing Your Green Companions:** The prospect of starting a home garden is filled with excitement and possibilities. One of the key decisions every home gardener faces is choosing what to grow. Whether you're dreaming of vibrant flowers, fresh herbs, or a bounty of vegetables, thoughtful planning and consideration are essential

## **Tips for Your Plant-Picking Journey:**

**1. Define Your Garden Goals:** Before immersing yourself in the world of seeds, clarify your garden goals. Picture the vibe you want – a burst of colorful flowers, a kitchen garden full of fresh herbs, or a practical veggie patch.

Knowing your goals will help guide your plant selection journey.

**2. Assess Your Growing Conditions:** Understand your garden's nuances – sunlight exposure, soil type, and climate. Plants have preferences, and aligning them with your garden's conditions sets the stage for success. Check out sunny spots, areas with a touch of shade, or those under cool shadows to match plants accordingly.

**3. Prioritize Favorites and Must-Haves:** Create a list of your go-to plants and must-haves for your garden – but keep it real. Identify the regulars in your kitchen, your favorite flowers, herbs, and veggies, and decide how many plants you need. Prioritize these choices to ensure your garden brings joy, satisfaction, and some delicious bites.

**4. Consider Maintenance:** Be honest about the time and effort you can invest in maintaining your garden. Choose plant buddies that match your schedule. If it's packed, lean towards low maintenance plants. Your garden should be a joy, not a chore. Ok, maybe a little chore... but mainly joy!

**5. Experiment with New Varieties:** Don't be afraid to experiment with new plant varieties. It may be a flop – the first year I grew Brussels sprouts, I planted them too late in the season and the snow got to them first. But I learned something new, and my local deer had a delicious winter feast.

Choosing the right plants for your home garden is a personal journey full of rewards. Set your goals, consider your growing conditions and maintenance, and embark on creating a lush and delightful garden. Enjoy every moment of discovering new plants and bringing your green haven to life. Happy gardening!



My first attempt at Brussels sprouts... the deer loved them!

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February is the shortest month, so if you're having a miserable month, try to schedule it for February.

-- Lemony Snickett

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## **Blueridge Sitter Directory**

Eric Andersen

Did you know that the Blueridge Community Association maintains a [sitter directory](#)? It includes babysitters, pet sitters and house sitters.

That directory is updated annually and we're going through that process now. As usual, we expect some of the sitters listed will drop out. This is completely normal and is primarily caused by sitters graduating and moving out of Blueridge for various reasons.

Please visit our website ([blueridgeca.org](http://blueridgeca.org)) and look for 'Sitter Directory' if you wish to find local residents (including youths) to help you out with any of these functions. Or you can just visit [this link](#).

Likewise we also urge anybody interested in being listed in our directory to contact us at: [sitter@blueridgeca.org](mailto:sitter@blueridgeca.org).

Obviously parents can also sign their kids up for this, if they are interested.

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## **Dîner en Bleu Cancelled for 2024**

Michael Bernard

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

Like Blueridge Good Neighbour Day held annually in June, we needed a (smaller) planning committee for this event. Sadly no one stepped forward to lead such an effort, so we are cancelling it for this year.

The good news is that there are organizing materials from the last planning committee that can serve as a template for an event next year.

If you are interested in planning Dîner en Bleu for June 2025, please drop us a line at: [volunteer@blueridgeca.org](mailto:volunteer@blueridgeca.org).

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## **Burnaby Refinery Incident Causes Foul Smell**

Jeff Powell

Did you notice a chemical odour on Sunday morning, January 21? Or perhaps you have the Alertable app installed on your phone and it told you about it? It seems there was an incident at the Parkland refinery in northern Burnaby. The [Vancouver Sun](#) has a full timeline of the event at Parkland refinery, and the [North Shore News](#) discusses the refinery shutdown that resulted from the event.

This is an excellent reminder that while Blueridge itself seems removed from the bustle of the harbour and the city, we're actually very close to a number of large industrial sites, and we could be subject to the impacts of various incidents, like this one.

To keep up to date on major events that could impact us, consider installing the Alertable app on your phone. And be sure you give it permission to send notifications. Alertable is the chosen mechanism used by North Shore Emergency Management for communicating with residents in the event of a major accident or natural disaster. You can learn more about Alertable on [the BCA website](#).

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## **A Tale of Two Snowstorms**

Jeff Powell

January saw two major weather events in our area with surprisingly different outcomes.

On January 11 about an inch of snow shut down travel in most of Metro Vancouver. And "shut down" is the correct term. There were [numerous news reports of traffic issues](#) all over the area. Your editor needed 4.5 hours to get home from Vancouver by transit that evening, and many others experienced similar issues.

Why did this happen? Weather forecasters provided days of warning about both the snow and the polar vortex that followed, and yet that tiny snowfall was enough to cause chaos and gridlock. Similar events with motorists stranded in their cars for hours have occurred in the past, but in those cases much more snow was present.

And as if summoned to make the point, a much more significant snowfall arrived on the morning of January 17th, but it did not cause nearly the disaster that the first event did. With almost a foot of snow here in Blueridge, the plows were running and the streets were open. There were - of course - some

accidents around Metro Vancouver, but collectively we handled this second storm much better than the first, despite it bringing over ten times the snowfall.

Why did the system fail so spectacularly with the first storm? It would be good to find out so we can avoid such things in the future.



Speaking of snow, the above photo is from a sidewalk here in Blueridge.

I've had the experience of taking my 80-year-old mother for a walk on our snowy sidewalks in years past, and it was not something I enjoyed. The sidewalk pictured above clearly gets plenty of use, but it was never shovelled after the recent storms.

Remember, the bylaws have changed. Shoveling sidewalks along the periphery of your property is now [required by 10 am after a snowfall](#). Please make an effort to shovel to keep everyone safe and avoid potential fines. If you are unable to shovel a sidewalk yourself, perhaps you have a neighbour who can do it for you. On the other hand, if you know your neighbour can't shovel, consider doing it for them without them even asking.

In a pinch, try signing in to [snowangelscanada.ca](http://snowangelscanada.ca) and requesting help.

Thank you for helping keep our pedestrians upright!

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**Did you know:** A "windrow" is the snow that a plow throws back onto your driveway as it goes by. Some cities have a service that clears windrows, and some (like [parts of Toronto](#)) are looking to cancel those services to save money.

Here in the DNV, windrows are left to residents to deal with on their own. Happy shoveling, should we get more snow!

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## The Drummer Joke

Jeff Powell

Alright... admit it. This is why you're really here, reading this email, right? Last month I promised a drummer joke from [Brian McNeill](#), at one time the head of Scottish Music at the Royal Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow. I doubt he will ever see this story, but if he should, thank you sir!

To start, it's important to note that while there are jokes about all kinds of musical instruments and the people that play them, a few rise to the top: accordions, violas, banjos, and drummers. For some reason those instruments get more abuse than others, at least in my experience. (Don't ask about bagpipes... just don't!) Last month's accordion joke is an excellent example. As for violas, let's just say I am not going to mess with them and leave it at that. I mean, they start with things like this:

Q: What's the difference between a violin and a viola?

A: The viola burns longer.

That's enough for me. I like all of my fingers. But banjo jokes are famously short:

Q: What do you call perfect pitch?

A: Throwing a banjo into a dumpster without hitting the sides.

Q: How long does it take to tune a banjo?

A: No one knows. It's never been done.

Some drummer jokes are similarly short:

Q: What do you call a guy who hangs around with musicians?

A: A drummer.

Q: How do you get a drummer off your porch?

A: Pay for the pizza.

But this particular drummer joke is slightly more involved. You have been warned. And again, I am not responsible. I'm just repeating what I was told.

So... there's a drummer, and he is tired of all the drummer jokes. (See above.) No, really. He's had it. To the point that he thinks it's time to take up a different instrument so he can avoid the problem. But - being a drummer - he decides that he will take up the accordion. Yes, really... the accordion.

In pursuit of this dream he goes to the music shop and asks to see the accordions. The sales guy gives him the side-eye but says, "Sure thing," and takes him into the accordion room.

And here our drummer realizes just how much he is out of his depth. It's a large room, and it is *full* of accordions. They are closely packed together and hung on all the walls, from floor to ceiling. In addition there are specialized racks full of accordions all over the floor. They come in all colours, shapes and sizes. There must be over 250 accordions in this room alone, and the shelf full of catalogues he can see suggests that many more are available, perhaps even custom made instruments. It's overwhelming.

He wanders around with his head spinning, not sure what to do. How to make a choice? Finally, he plucks up his courage and points to one at random.

"I'll try that one," he says to the sales person.

"You're a drummer, aren't you sir?" is the response.

"Ummm, yes. How did you know?"

"That's a radiator, sir."

Once again, thank you to to the legendary Brian McNeill for the story.

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### In A Nutshell

- **Why Is February 2024 A Frog's Favourite Month?** Because it's a leap year!
- **Mt. Seymour Pkwy Traffic** - Construction of the Baden Park project requires updating the storm sewer beneath Mt. Seymour Parkway, and you have probably noted traffic control there for some time. Updates from the companies doing the development are posted each week on [this page on the BCA website](#), which is also linked from our [homepage](#). If this traffic affects you, or you need to know what to expect there on a given day, give those pages a click.
- **What Kind Of Music Should You Listen To On Leap Day?** Hip Hop!
- **Transit Strike May Return** - As of this writing, there is a chance that the transit strike will return on February 3rd. We're tracking the news as best we can and keeping [this page](#) on the BCA website updated with what we know. And once again you can always visit our home page - [blueridgeca.org](http://blueridgeca.org) - for that link as well.
- **Where Should You Go To Celebrate Leap Year?** IHOP.
- **Bears? Bears!** - As of late January there are still bears active in our area. Any easy to access food - particularly from our garbage, recycling, and green waste bins - helps keep them from hibernating. Please secure your bins to avoid easy meals!
- **Originally I Wasn't Going To Celebrate Leap Day.** But then I decided to hop on the band wagon.

- **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's The Best Thing About Leap Year Jokes?** You only hear them every four years.



## Newsworthy

News articles and other items that Blueridge residents might find interesting or useful.

- [Metro Vancouver Already Thinking About Water Use in 2024](#) and [The Current Snowpack is Very Low Across the Entire Province](#) - expect water use restrictions this summer - conservation is key, and lawns are the biggest problem
- [2024 Property Values Are Available](#) - the change in Blueridge appears to be small - [check your property value here](#)
- [DNV Councillor and Blueridge Resident Jim Hanson Calls for Improvements to Highway 1](#) - traffic between Lynn Valley Road and Mountain Highway is a huge problem in the evenings - see his *Bulletin* article above!
  - [Another Article](#) - from after the council meeting
  - [North Shore News Editorial Says it Won't Happen](#) - for a variety of reasons
- [2024 Fire Season May Be Particularly Bad](#) - though this article discusses all of BC, our own risk may be high too
- [DNV 2024 Draft Budget Ready](#) - From their website: "The Financial Plan (budget) contains our proposed operating and capital budget, highlights of

our work program, and a proposed 7.0% tax increase (6.5% to maintain service levels plus 0.5% to address the infrastructure deficit)." [North Shore Daily Post Summary](#)

- [Winter Weather Resources from the DNV](#) - when it gets cold, these can help
- [Flu, RSV, and COVID Continue to Plague BC](#) - please get vaccinated
- [Transit Strike Looms for Feb 3](#) - if it happens, it could impact SkyTrain in addition to buses and the SeaBus - keep an eye on the [BCA website](#) for more information as we learn it



Everybody loves saving money! Project Community helps Blueridge residents by finding discounts on products and services and passing them on to you. Here are this month's offers!

If you use one of the companies offered through Project Community please give us your feedback. Send us an email at [info@blueridgeca.org](mailto:info@blueridgeca.org). Thank you!



## Blueridge Residents Discount

10% Discount on Tree/Hedge Service

### Take a Bough Tree Care

778-836-9144

jan@takeabough.ca



**TAKE A BOUGH**  
*tree care*

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

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### Stay Connected

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We're on: [Instagram](#) & [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 2024 edition is February 26, 2024.

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

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

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Our office can assist you with  
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217-1233 Lynn Valley Rd  
Susie.Chant.MLA@leg.bc.ca  
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