

Blueridge Bulletin

May 2024



April showers bring... April flowers? That magnolia tree was photographed in mid April, and it was a late bloomer. Many magnolia trees elsewhere in Blueridge bloomed much earlier. The point - for me - is that time continues to pass, and things don't slow down to make it easy to stop and sniff the magnolia blossoms.

This month's issue reflects that truth. There's a lot in here about the new provincial housing laws, which will affect everyone given enough time. And if you want more information about those laws, your next chance is at our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, May 14, at 7 PM in the Seymour Room at Canlan Sports. DNV Mayor Little will be our guest speaker and he will be taking questions from the audience. In other news, May 1 is when the usual water restrictions begin and Blueridge Good Neighbour Day is coming on June 15th. We have details about both of those. Also, be sure to see the Important May Dates section. Each month there's more on the calendar. As usual, there's lots more in this issue as well, so sit back and dig in.

Oh, and if you're tired of your editor's amateur cover photos, please consider sending one of yours in! Blueridge related photo submissions are always

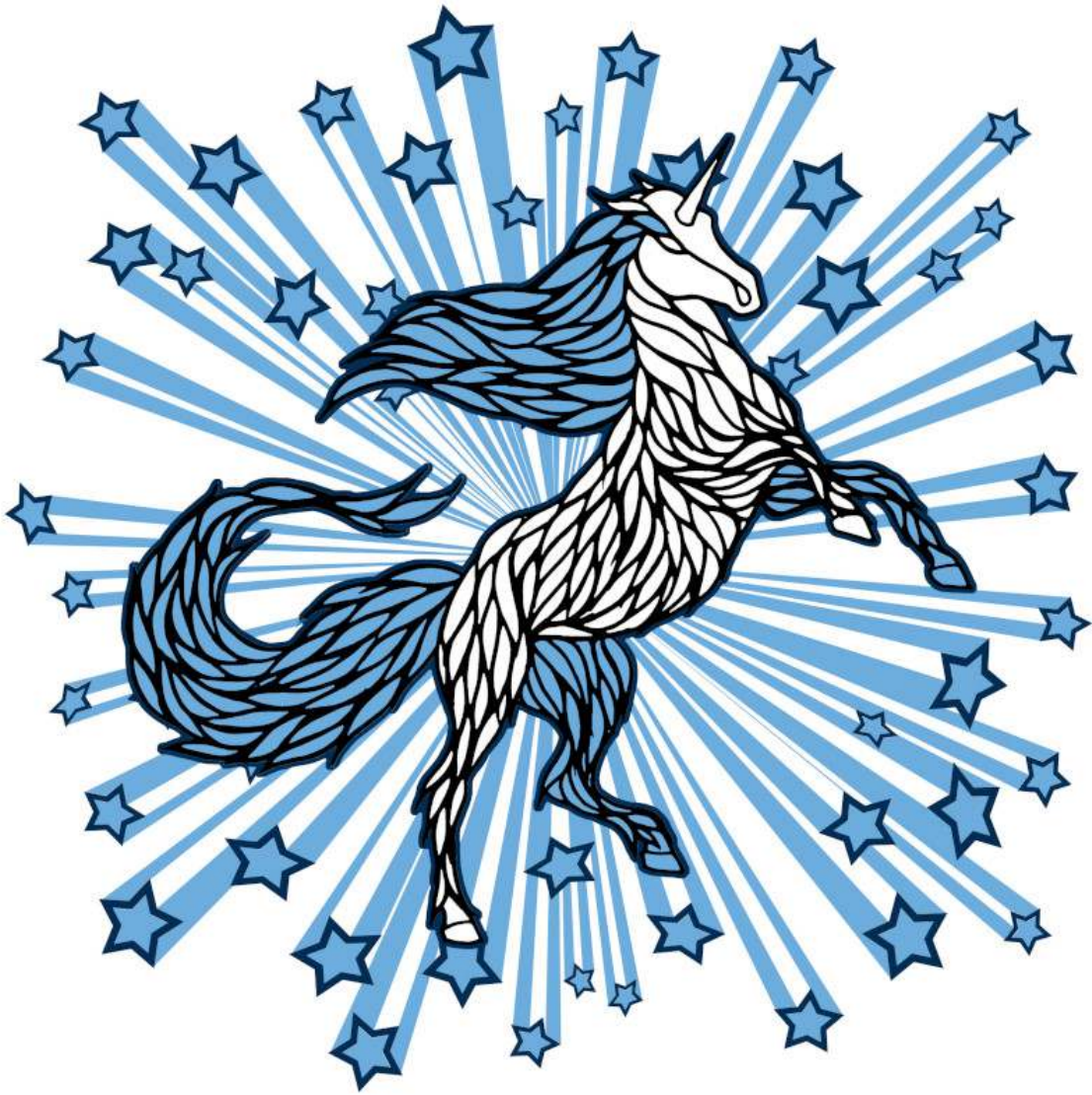
welcome, and you have to be a better photographer than me. Send your photos to bulletin@blueridgeca.org. Thank you!

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Features



Blueridge Good Neighbour Day 2024

Saturday, June 15, 2024 – 11 am to 3 pm

Stacie Graham

With just over a month to go until Blueridge Good Neighbour Day (yikes, there is still so much to do!), a dedicated group of volunteers have been working hard to confirm plans for the day, including some traditional activities, and some new ones too! We have some important updates we wanted to share:

Parade

The day will start with a parade down Berkley... but it's not your typical parade – you get to be IN the parade! So decorate your bikes, scooters, strollers, or anything with wheels, and join the parade! This year's theme is "Fantasy". Get creative with your most fantastical decorations!

The parade will start at 10:45 am sharp, so please meet at the corner of

Berkley & Hyannis around 10:20 am. Everyone is welcome!

We also invite those with collector cars to join in the parade. Email bgnd@blueridgeca.org if you have a car you'd like to include in the parade.

Event Info

Following the parade, the festival will get underway at Blueridge Elementary School and this is where the fun REALLY begins. Join us for tons of activities for the whole family: inflatables, train rides, crafts, a chess tournament, pickleball, skateboarding, a beer garden, food trucks, community tables, a cakewalk, a pie-eating contest, and so much more! For more event information and updates on what's happening this year, please go to the [BCA website](#).

Also check the Blueridge Community Association's social media accounts for more information: [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)

Beer Garden

Due to challenges we have encountered with our school rental agreement, and restrictions now being enforced by the school district, the beer garden will be held **inside** the school gym. The beer garden space will be 19+ and ID will be required, so please plan accordingly (and drink responsibly)!

Silent Auction

The event this year will feature another amazing silent auction. Money raised from the auction helps pay for the event and keeps the cost of activities free, or very affordable. So be sure to stop by the auction tables and bid often!

We'd also love help collecting more donations. So if you're able to make some asks, or if you know of a business that can donate, please reach out to bgnd@blueridgeca.org and we will connect you with our silent auction team! And a HUGE thanks to all of our amazing sponsors!

Volunteers

This event wouldn't be possible without countless volunteers giving their time to help. You can help with setting up for the event, be part of the clean-up crew, or volunteer at different activities throughout the day. You can help all day or for just an hour. Find out more about how you can help by emailing Elmira at volunteer@blueridgeca.org.

See you June 15th!!



Stage 1 Water Use Restrictions Begin May 1

Jeff Powell

As usual, Stage 1 water use restrictions began on May 1. These rules go into place every year to reduce water consumption and ensure we have enough water to get through until significant rains return in the fall. Restrictions are usually in place until October 15th, but can be extended if rains don't start at the usual time.

The key restriction for Blueridge residents is to limit lawn watering to only one day per week as follows:

- **Even-numbered addresses can water lawns only on Saturdays**
Odd-numbered addresses can water lawns only on Sundays
Automatic watering is allowed from 5-7 am; manual watering from 6-9 am
- **Trees, shrubs, and flowers**
Watering allowed any day with a sprinkler from 5-9 am; manual or drip irrigation can be done any time
- **Edible plants**
Watering allowed any time
- **All hoses must have an automatic shut-off device**

If you have an automatic sprinkler system, be sure it is programmed to water only during the allowed times. The District has bylaw officers that look for lawns being watered at the wrong time and there are fines for violating these rules. Restrictions are similar for businesses. You can find all the details on the [BCA website](#).

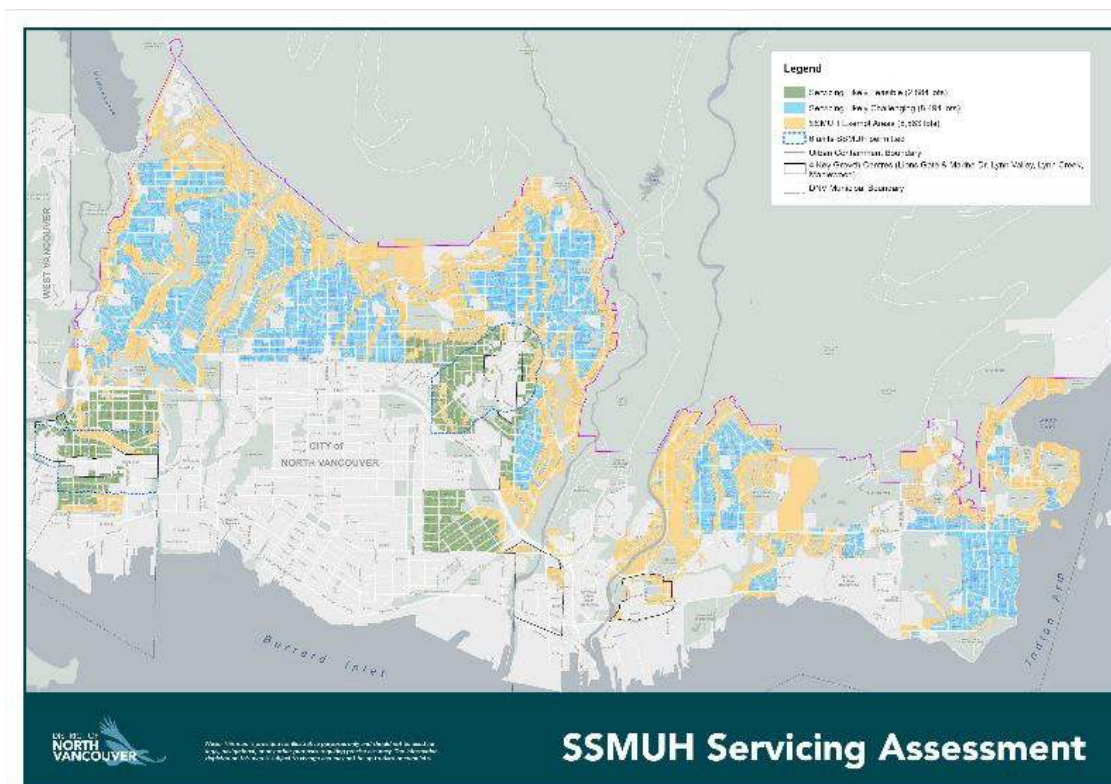
But perhaps the best option is to avoid watering your lawn entirely. Instead, let your grass go dormant. It will come back in the fall when the rains return. That's the request of Malcolm Brodie, chair of Metro Vancouver's water committee, who said in a statement: "This year, we're hoping to avoid escalating restrictions for as long as possible, but it really depends on you. Let your lawn go brown this summer, and save water for where it's needed most: cooking, cleaning, and drinking."

Note that Stage 2 restrictions prohibit all lawn watering, along with other things. Our local snowpack is well below normal, and we will see those additional restrictions kick in this summer and fall - as happened in 2023 - if we don't conserve water starting now.

The [BCA website](#) always shows the current water restrictions status on the [homepage](#), and contains links to more information as well. It's a good place to start if you have questions.

The month of May is the gateway to summer.

-- Jean Hersey



Click to enlarge. Map from DNV.

Blueridge and Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing (SSMUH)

Jeff Powell

There's a lot of discussion and concern about Provincial Bill 44, which changes how residential zoning is done in BC. In short, the bill requires the District to rezone all single family residential areas to allow Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing (SSMUH, pronounced "shmoo"). Stated differently, the District must now allow multiple dwelling units on what had previously been a single residential lot. There may be 3, 4, or 6 units allowed, depending on the lot size and whether or not there is frequent transit available nearby. Other key points:

- All municipalities with more than 5000 people have until June 30 to adopt bylaws that permit SSMUH, and designating Transit Oriented Areas (TOAs) which allow much more dense development. That is a very short time frame to accomplish all the needed analysis.
- In the DNV, the only TOAs are around Phibbs exchange and Capilano University.
- No one is required to develop multiple units on their property, but if someone wants to add more units the DNV is prohibited from disallowing it if the lot is properly zoned.
- These rule changes will affect many other bylaws: building heights will go up, FSRs (Floor Space Ratios) will increase, setbacks may be changed,

tree canopy rules will be impacted, and so on.

- Once these new bylaws are adopted, the new density is locked into place forever. If a municipality rezones an area in the future, residential density may not decrease.
- DNV staff continues to evaluate the entire District to determine which areas are excluded from these rules for various reasons. A key concern is hazardous conditions, things like fire danger, geologic hazards, and flood hazards. These can be used to exclude areas from SSMUH development unless the risks can be reasonably mitigated.

As you can imagine, the potential impacts of this new law are large. Due to the tight time frame and the need to make the public aware of this as soon as possible, the DNV held public information meetings in April to share information with residents.

The District has also prepared [a website providing more details](#) and an introductory video:



You can also read the [full report presented to Council on April 2nd](#) (PDF). All of the above are excellent resources.

One key point is that municipalities may exclude areas from multi-unit development for a few specific reasons. One such exclusion is if the land is subject to one or more hazardous conditions. More specifically, situations in which the density increase provided by SSMUH would "create risk that cannot be reasonably mitigated". In the map above, the orange areas are tentatively classed as exempt from SSMUH development because of fire, creek (flooding)

or slope related hazards. In addition, other factors may add to the exempted areas. In particular, a transportation service review had not yet been completed when the map was first presented. Other factors could reduce the exempted areas over time, if a hazard can be mitigated in some way.

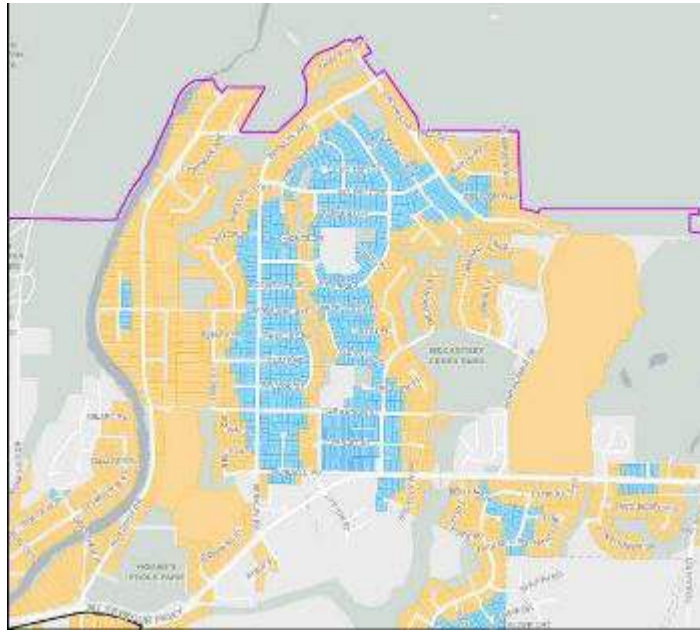
Note, this is still early data based on a high level analysis. It may change depending on many factors.

This tentative new zoning information for individual parcels is now available in [DNV's Geoweb property viewer](#). To check on a given property, click on that link to bring up the application. Move the map and zoom in to find the property in question, then click on the lot. A Property Information window will appear. Scroll down to the Regulatory section and note the "Proposed Zoning for Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing (SSMUH)" information for that lot. If you have questions or find errors, the District wants your feedback at planning@dnv.org.

Items of note from the map:

- Orange regions are currently excluded from SSMUH development as described above.
- Blue regions are more challenging to service SSMUH development because of limited infrastructure (water, sewer, roads, power, etc.). Substantial infrastructure improvements will be required to support significant SSMUH development in these areas.
- Green regions already have more substantial infrastructure, and are thus more readily able to support SSMUH, though infrastructure investment will still be required in those areas.
- Blue dashed lines surround areas where 6 unit SSMUH can occur in the District.

Here's a closer look at Blueridge, extracted from the map above.



Click to enlarge. Map from DNV.

In Blue Ridge, all lots are large enough to allow up to four SSMUH units, but none are eligible for six units because Blue Ridge lacks frequent transit.

As you can see, much of Blue Ridge is expected to be exempt from SSMUH rules due to hazards, and the rest suffers from limited infrastructure that will make extensive SSMUH development difficult.

Discussion

Community attendance at the public information sessions about these changes was high, and it is clear that District residents are paying close attention to this issue. Conversations with various people - both session attendees and District staff - indicate that a wide variety of opinions and concerns have been shared. These range from people asking why the District is letting the province impose these rules at all, to people wondering how quickly they can start working on their own SSMUH development. And from those worrying about the impact of SSMUH development on communities to those worrying about their properties being excluded from development and thus losing out on a potential increase in property value.

Interestingly, there seems to be a divide along generational lines. As a rule, older DNV residents are generally more concerned about the impacts of SSMUH development while younger residents appear to be more interested in seeing it happen. There is also a diversity of opinion about the law itself, with some seeing government overreach and large scale imposition of rules, while

others are happy to see a government trying something new to address the housing crisis.

It is clear that we in Blueridge will not be of a single mind about these changes, or about what their impacts will be.

Though this ventures into opinion, your editor continues to believe that adding multiple units to lots in Blueridge and other outlying areas of the District will be relatively rare for the foreseeable future. No doubt a few will occur, but they will probably happen when an owner wants to build additional dwellings for family members, rather than be driven by speculators or developers. Property values continue to be so high that units built on spec will be both high in price and relatively small in size, a combination that makes them unlikely to be built at this time, particularly without ready access to transit. As a result, the town and village centres, the TOAs, and certain other areas in the District that are already more developed will probably see the bulk of SSMUH activity for some time.

But what actually happens remains to be seen, and no one really knows yet. DNV staff are at pains to point out that SSMUH development will be market driven, and what drives the market changes over time.

That said, in the long term, substantial change is possible anywhere in the District, including here in Blueridge.

The *Blueridge Bulletin* takes a lot of effort by quite a few people to produce. If you value it, [please subscribe](#). And if you have a neighbour who might find it useful, please share it with them so they can subscribe as well. Thank you!



BCA AGM with Guest Speaker Mayor Little - May 14, 7 pm, Canlan Sports

It's time once again for the BCA's Annual General Meeting. This year it's being held on Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00 pm, in the Seymour Room at Canlan Sports North Shore, 2411 Mount Seymour Parkway.

Like last year, our guest speaker will be DNV Mayor Mike Little. Last year Mayor Little took extensive questions from the audience on a variety of topics. With things like SSMUH going on, we expect there will be plenty of questions this time as well.

Come join us!



Understanding the Impacts of the Haida Agreement on BC

The Office Of MLA Susie Chant

This was not an article I thought would need to be written, but there has been significant misinformation about this agreement and its impact for all British Columbians so I feel this must be addressed. On April 22, The Haida Nation Recognition Amendment Act was introduced to the BC Legislature, marking one of the first recognitions of title in BC's history. Aboriginal title is the underlying claim that Indigenous People have to the lands of this province, and was recognized by the Supreme Court back in 1973. This is based on the fact that BC was the only province to not engage in a treaty process to negotiate land claims, while the rest of Canada was doing so in the early 20th Century. Most of this province, including all of North Vancouver, is on unceded land of

Indigenous Nations, with treaties and negotiations ongoing. Last year, our province signed the first memorandum of understanding with the Tsleil-Waututh Nation here.

This background is important as the Supreme Court has said that all governments have a duty to consult with First Nations on issues of land use, even if title is unproven or being negotiated. This means that even if a government does not recognize title, or attempts to delay that process, duties remain and are owed. That is the first piece of misinformation I wanted to address: that the recognition of title does not change duties owed by the government of BC to any First Nations government or community. The recognition of title provides clarity as to where those duties exist, and for the residents of Haida Gwaii who are not Nation members, this agreement provides stability to the understanding of who owns the land.

On the topic of ownership of land, this is the next piece that needs to be addressed: private property ownership will not be affected. The recognition of title comes with explicitly worded consent to the maintenance of private property rights. Existing governmental jurisdictions are also upheld, with self-governance negotiations still ongoing. Municipal services will continue and will not be affected either.

The final issue that needs to be addressed is that this agreement is better than the alternative of litigation. Our government supports reconciliation and Nation to Nation partnerships with Indigenous People. We have demonstrated that by resolving claims outside of the court system. Even for people opposed to this approach, choosing to go the route of litigation on title claims is much more expensive and uncertain. This was discovered by the previous government in 2014, when they went to the Supreme Court regarding T̓silhqot'in claims, and the Court declared title to about 1700 square kilometres of land with no notice or negotiation. This caused stress and massive uncertainty to private landowners in the area, as the government had to scramble to sort out what the recognition of title would mean. A negotiated agreement is a more secure and well thought out plan, that considers its impacts on everyone living in the area, not to mention the savings of millions of dollars of court costs.

This article is just a short remark on some key areas of the Haida Agreement where there has been significant misinformation floating around. Should you have any questions or need more details, please do not hesitate to reach out to

my office at Susie.chant.MLA@leg.bc.ca. You can also read the full agreement at <https://gov.bc.ca/HaidaTitle>.

Among the changing months, May stands confest
The sweetest, and in fairest colors dressed.

-- James Thomson



How do I Keep That Bear Out of My Bin?

Holly Reisner, North Shore Black Bear Society

We've had a few inquiries lately about beefing up the security of our garbage and organic waste bins, to try to prevent bears from getting them open. Some suggestions include using a much stronger latch than the carabiners supplied with our carts, or attaching straps to the top and sides of the cart to hold the lids shut.

It's important to know that the carts we have are the property of the District of North Vancouver, so we are not permitted to make any holes in them or modifications to them. Also, any lock we use would have to be left open for collection, as is the case with the supplied carabiners.

The Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC), an organization formed in the lower 48 States of the US, and includes Canadian wildlife agencies, developed a protocol for certification of bear-resistant containers. Products are tested by being baited and left with captive grizzly bears. If the grizzly bears do not open the containers within one hour of contact time, the product may be certified as

bear-resistant (NOT bear proof).

Consider this quote from the IGBC's Bear-Resistant Products Testing Program Protocol:

“Designation of a product as bear-resistant by the IGBC does not assert that these products are “bearproof” or that the containers will never be accessed by bears... In conjunction with properly utilizing certified bear-resistant products, ***the IGBC strongly encourages people living or recreating in grizzly bear habitat to take personal responsibility for maintaining a high level of diligence in their sanitation and attractant storage to further minimize the chance of a human-bear conflict.***”

There are no bear-proof bins. Adding stronger locks or straps to ours will not stop a bear that smells something delicious inside the bin, the bear will simply break a weaker part of the bin such as the hinges or side. This is natural bear behaviour: they use their sense of smell to find food, and their natural strength, teeth, claws and intelligence to access it. In the forest they would be turning over rocks or tearing apart logs to access insect larvae, for example.

The root cause of bears accessing our bins are the delicious odours emanating from them. Therefore, to stop that bear from strewing my garbage or organic waste, I must ensure there is no smelly garbage or organic waste in the bin, and that the bin itself does not have residual odour.

This is why we continue to advocate for people to store the most odorous parts of their garbage and food waste in the freezer during the week, to scrub all their bins out with vinegar after collection, to wash out containers for recycling with hot, soapy water, and to remove other attractants such as bird feeders.

If these things are done consistently throughout our neighbourhoods, we will be able to relax and enjoy the occasional sight of a beautiful black bear roaming through without the worry of cleaning up strewn garbage, or of the chance of that poor bear being killed for exhibiting natural behaviour.



Unexploded Ordnance Removal Continues on the Blair Rifle Range

Jeff Powell

The Blair Rifle Range was the site of extensive military training between 1927 and 1968, and unexploded devices have been found on the site during previous searches. Last September, the Department of National Defence returned to the site to continue the search for unexploded ordnance. At this time the project continues, and DND has announced that has been extended until June 28, 2024. In addition, follow on work will resume in the fall.

A [fact sheet](#) (PDF) is available from DND describing the current work and which trails will be impacted.

In general, the area currently being searched is east of the intersection of Larkhall Crescent and Northlands Drive. There will be intermittent trail closures there until this phase of the work is complete. See the above link for more details.

The current status of UXO work is also maintained on the [BCA website](#), and updated whenever new information becomes available.

Update: On April 17, 2024, another unexploded device was found and detonated in place on April 18th. [This NSN article](#) has the details.



SEYMOUR
HEIGHTS
ELEMENTARY

Seymour Heights Elementary

North Vancouver School District

Hello, Spring!

Erin Bulycz, SHPAC Chair

This month PAC volunteers are knee deep in planning!

We have our first multicultural potluck dinner for our Seymour Heights families who will have an opportunity to share a favourite family dish with others. We're also looking for an indigenous caterer for the base of the shared meal. And we will be taking advantage of the warmer weather to enjoy this outdoor potluck while our little ones get their afterschool beans out on the playground. Lots of space for big kids to rest in the sun with some snacks too!

We also have a growing team working on the details for our annual Heights Night that will fundraise to sustain our newly implemented long-term technology plan.

In the school, we have a few PAC initiatives this month: not only is [TCO²](#) coming to talk to our intermediate students about consensual and non-exploitative relationships both on and offline, we also have Saleema Noon facilitating sexual health workshops with our students too! And we have our first Spring Concert on May 29 and 30th!

To add to the spring fun, we also have a Neufeld Farms fundraiser open to our whole community! Ordering opens on May 3rd and you can find the link here: <https://seymourheightspac.net/new-page-1>. Order pick up will be in front of our school off Carnation on May 28th at 4pm. It would be so fun to see some community members pop by to pick up or just say hi!



Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve Trail Work

The April newsletter from the Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve (LSCR) notes that a number of trails are being worked on this year, and during those projects there may be trail detours or closures. Those include:

- **Coho Trail (Old Growth)**

The replacement of the second bridge on Rainbow Creek will occur this summer, marking the final bridge upgrade on the Coho Trail system. Expect intermittent closures and/or detours on Coho Trail. Access via Seymour Mainline and Coho Trail to Spruce Loop may be limited during work periods.

- **Dog Mountain Trail**

Upgrades to Dog Mountain Trail will recommence this summer, working towards bringing the trail up to LSCR trail standards. Areas will be addressed based on public safety and environmental concerns. The trail will remain open during work periods with intermittent closure.

- **Fisherman's Trail**

The Fisherman's Trail upgrade project will wrap up this summer. Crews will be back on site to finish trail resurfacing work between the Riverside trailhead and Seymour River Suspension Bridge. While the trail will likely stay open during work, please use caution, obey signage, and expect to

see heavy machinery on trail. This has been a lengthy project and we would like to thank visitors for their patience.

- **Powerlines/BMC/Greenland Trails**

Upgrades to the Powerlines Trail as well as the southern portions of Greenland Trail and the BMC Connector are planned for this summer. Work will include drainage upgrades and trail resurfacing. Expect intermittent closures in the area while upgrades are underway.

- **Cambodia/TNT Trails**

Cambodia Trail will open this spring with connections via Cabin and the BMC Connector. Trail upgrades were completed by the NSMBA in close partnership with the LSCR. The recently upgraded TNT Trail will also open this spring. Both trails will now meet the LSCR Multi-Use Standard. Please respect closures until the trails are officially opened.

In addition to the above, note that Fisherman's Trail is closed between Homestead Trail and Fisherman's Connector due to a washout. That's on the east side of the Seymour River, north of the Seymour Suspension Bridge.

More details about active work and trail closures are available on the [LSCR webpage](#).

FIRST IMPRESSIONS THEATRE

First Impressions Theatre News

The last show of the 2023-25 season is

PAPARAZZI: Opera on the Rocks.

Prepare yourself to enjoy one of the most unique theatrical experiences you'll ever 'experience', when you 'experience' acclaimed tenor Luciano Pavarotti for an evening of Operatic Comedy. Yes, finally, Opera and comedy TOGETHER as they were never meant to be!

[Showtimes and tickets available online!](#)

In addition, the 2024-25 season has been announced and includes:

- **Ol' Blue Eyes**

With a distinct fusion of jazz and classical sound created by the

combination of horns, bass, and drums along with the singer's attention to musical detail, you will think Ol' Blue Eyes has returned to croon all over again.

- **The 39 Steps**

The 39 Steps is a parody play adapted from the 1915 novel by John Buchan and the 1935 film by Alfred Hitchcock. A man with a boring life meets a woman with a thick accent who says she's a spy. When he takes her home, she is murdered.

- **Pump Boys & Dinettes**

A smash hit on and off-Broadway, this crowd pleasing country-western musical features Prudie and Rhetta Cupp, from the Double Cupp Diner, singing and performing along with the talented boys from the gas station next door.

- **Songs for a New World**

A vibrant collection of songs that gives voice to hope. Elevating ordinary moments that resonate through lives bonding generations and creating community. It's about us ... It's about one moment.

And there are two special events:

- **Songs for Nobodies**

Winner of Outstanding Actor and Outstanding Small Musical at 2024 Ovation Awards, Sheila Sharma returns for three nights only before embarking on a tour.

- **Jim Byrnes in Concert**

Jim has been doing fund-raisers for us starting from when we were raising funds to build this venue which opened in 1992. His shows are always a crowd favourite and we are thrilled that he is coming back for two shows in January 2025. Tickets for Jim Byrnes concerts are \$50 each.

[Full season brochure!](#)

[Season Passes available online!](#)

How are we doing? Does the *Bulletin* meet your expectations? Is it missing something? Please let us know at bulletin@blueridgeca.org. And if you'd like to

contribute an article to a future issue, that'd be very welcome. We have [submission guidelines, deadlines and more](#) online at the BCA website.



Notes from the Sausage Factory

Jeff Powell

These are highlights from DNV council meetings, intended to help Blueridge residents keep up with local government happenings that may impact our neighbourhood. Not every item before the council is mentioned, and some items unrelated to Blueridge are mentioned only briefly.

April 2, 2024:

This workshop focused exclusively on how the District is addressing Provincial Bill 44, which requires the District to allow small scale multi-unit housing (SSMUH) in areas that were formerly zoned for single family homes. See the article above for detailed information about this law and how it affects Blueridge.

April 8, 2024:

This meeting covered items that weren't directly related to Blueridge. More specifically, Council:

- Received a delegation from the Canadian Mental Health Association
- Approved a mixed use development on Monashee Drive
- Approved a license to serve liquor at Bridge Brewing on 15th Street

- Extended the Provincial Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Project until 2028
- Approved funding for emergency services improvement
- Considered issues around road marking visibility, specifically addressing the problem of lane lines that are difficult to see at night in the rain
- Approved a workshop on how to improve and encourage public participation in local government.

April 15, 2024:

This council workshop discussed only one issue: how should the upcoming 7% property tax increase (set last month) be divided over the various business and residential classes. All councillors agreed that the best allocation at this time was to split the 7% evenly over all classes, without shifting the burden from one class to another. Staff was directed to prepare a bylaw to do that.

In the process there was discussion about how to make the public more aware of which parts of the annual property tax bill the District has control over, and which parts they do not. In particular, fees from Metro Vancouver are not controlled by the District in any way, and those will eventually include a large hike associated with the new wastewater treatment plant cost overruns. There was discussion about reworking both communications and the property tax bill itself to make the distinction clearer, as well as splitting out the fees DNV cannot control into a separate bill (something Burnaby already does) to further highlight the distinction.

[NSN summary of this meeting.](#)

April 22, 2024:

This was a long meeting - 3.5 hours - covering many topics. Most didn't directly relate to Blueridge and are only briefly mentioned.

There was a presentation of Heritage and Design awards, followed by ten public speakers: four supporting more pickleball courts, five discussing concerns about Deep Cove parking, and one concerned about areas being excluded from SSMUH development due to hazard conditions. Mayor Little responded to this last commenter, saying that in the past there have been ways to allow development if hazards can be mitigated, and he expects that in the medium term such things will be possible for SSMUH as well.

By unanimous consent, a variance for a development on Lynn Valley Rd, the extension of the Electric Scooter Pilot Project, and supporting a grant application to do shoreline restoration in Cates Park were all approved.

Next came discussion of the tax hike distribution. Council unanimously approved the even distribution rather than shifting the burden among the tax classes. There was a lot of conversation about the entire taxation situation, including notes that the 7% increase is quite large. But it was noted that costs - particularly construction costs - are going up astronomically, that coming increases in utility rates will dwarf the DNV tax increase, and that there is a severe inequity in the way certain large industries are taxed on the North Shore which requires a provincial fix. Several councillors noted that the District has to find ways to "live within its means".

Then there was a presentation of a Housing Target Progress Report that is to be sent to the Province to meet a Provincial requirement. The District is currently ahead of the Province's requirements, and it appears that will continue through the end of the five year reporting period. The report was accepted unanimously.

There followed a motion directing staff to find ways to slow traffic in Edgemont Village, which passed unanimously.

Pickleball courts were next on the agenda. Specifically the shortage thereof. This motion asking staff to identify locations for new pickleball courts to help more people participate. There was a lot of support for this, and a larger report about all of DNV's recreational facilities - including courts of all kinds - is being developed by staff, but it was noted that while pickleball courts are less expensive than tennis courts (being smaller) the conversation just an hour before had been about "living within our means". This motion passed, though Councillor Mah voted against it over monetary concerns, but he did note that he is a player of the game.

The final item was the new Deep Cove Parking plan developed by DNV staff. After much discussion and an amendment that was voted down, the plan passed unanimously.

This meeting was relatively heavily attended, including those present for the awards presentation, many in support of more pickleball courts, and many more concerned about parking in Deep Cove.

April 29, 2024:

This council workshop will be covered next month due to the *Bulletin's* publishing schedule.

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Those wanting more information can attend council meetings in person or online, or watch the recording of a meeting after the fact. You can comment about issues before the council via email or by attending a meeting. Information about all these options is available at <https://app.dnv.org/councilsearchnew/>.



In A Nutshell

- **Pete and Repeat were on a boat.** Pete fell off. Who was left?
- **Metro Vancouver Fees On The Rise** - You've probably read about the expected increase in fees coming to cover the new wastewater treatment plant - currently estimated at \$725 per year on average for each home in the north shore for 30 years. But that's not the only increase coming, and it won't arrive until 2025. This year's Metro Vancouver water & sewer tax increase (for an average DNV home valued at just under \$1.7 million) is expected to be about \$88 per household, or a 10.3% increase over last year. Note that the DNV has no control over these fees. The district simply collects them and pass the funds on to Metro Vancouver. 2025's increase promises to be huge in comparison, assuming the \$725 per home estimate holds.
- **Pete and Repeat were on a boat.** Pete fell off. Who was left?
- **Need a Laugh after that tax news?** Try this video about what happens if every human on the planet got together and jumped at the same time: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p2M8Y0z9RI0>

- **What do you call a line of rabbits marching backwards?** A receding hairline.
- **Bears and Garbage** - This is the regular reminder that bears are out and about, and they love to eat garbage. Our bins are sources of easy calories for bears. See the [garbage and recycling page](#) on the BCA website for tips on how to do keep bears out of your garbage. It's better for them and for us. Also, see Holly Reisner's article above for more information.
- **Why was the math book sad?** Because it had too many problems.
- **Water Conservation** - As mentioned in the article above, Metro Vancouver is in **Stage 1 water conservation rules** at this time. Lawn watering is limited to just once a week now. [Click here](#) to learn which day you can water, and here are all the [other water use restrictions](#). The current water restrictions are always listed on the [BCA website's home page](#).
- **Why did the chicken cross the playground?** To get to the other slide.
- **Fire Danger** - There was a lot of rain in April, but it will slow down and our local fire danger will go up, probably in May. The [BCA website's home page](#) always has the current fire danger level and links to the [DNV's forest fire prevention page](#). Please do your part to reduce fire danger around the home and while outdoors.
- **How can you tell if it's been raining cats and dogs?** When you step in a poodle.
- **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 side of a sheep has the most wool?** The outside.



Newsworthy

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

- [Stage 1 Water Use Restrictions Began on May 1](#) - lawn watering limited to just one day per week; also see the article above

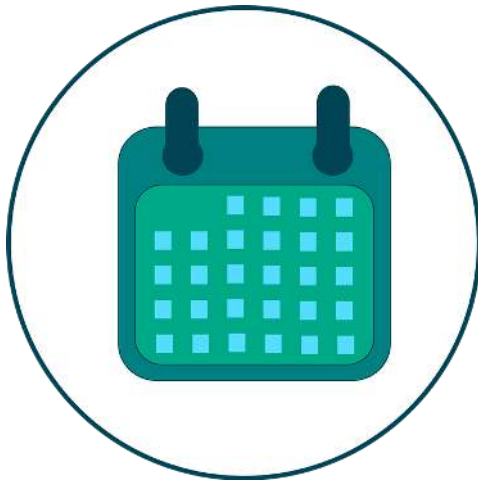
 - Wastewater Treatment Plant
 - [North Shore Wastewater Plant](#) - a summary of the political situation
 - [DNV Mayor Mike Little Argues for Wider Sharing of Wastewater Treatment Plant Costs](#)
 - [NSN Editorial Calling for Wider Sharing of Costs](#)

 - Fire Season
 - [2024 Could be a Monster Fire Year for Fires](#)
 - [Multiple Wildfires Already Affecting BC - over 100, in fact](#)
 - [More Burn Bans Go Up In Northern BC](#)
 - [BC Snowpack at 50 Year Low](#)

 - Housing
 - [Federal View of Fourplex Housing](#) - It's not just the Province
 - [Provincial Short Term Rental Rules Start May 1](#) - DNV still working out local rules

 - Scams
 - [Scams Continue to Plague Us](#) - avoid being a victim
 - [Be Careful of Interac E-Transfer Scam](#) - so many different scams out there!

 - Other News
 - [Prepare for the Big One](#) - it's only a matter of time
 - [New Rules Require More Distance Between Cars and Cyclists](#) - beginning June 4
 - [BC's Low Snowpack and Power Generation Concerns](#)
 - [Season 2 of Search and Rescue: North Shore Gets a Trailer](#)
 - [BC Hydro Offering AC Unit to Low Income Individuals](#)
-



Important May Dates

- **May 1, 2024** - [Provincial short term rental rules](#) go into effect - DNV's rules are still being developed
- **May 1, 2024** - Stage 1 Water Use Restrictions begin - see article above
- **May 3, 2024** - All NVSD schools: Professional development day - school closed
- **May 3 - 5, 2024** - Vancouver Fleet Week - Navy ships are docked at The Shipyards and available for tours, [more information](#).
- **May 5, 2024** - Vancouver Hong Kong Fair, 11 am - 7 pm at The Shipyards, [more information](#)
- **May 6, 2024** - Windsor Secondary PAC meeting, 7:30 pm in the library
- **May 11, 2024** - Lynn Valley Garden Club plant sale, 10:30 am to 4:00 pm in the parking lot at St. Clement's Church (3400 Institute Road), [more information](#)
- **May 12, 2024** - Mother's Day
- **May 14, 2024** - BCA Annual General Meeting - Guest speaker: Mayor Mike Little, 7 pm, in the Seymour Room at Canlan Sports, 2411 Mount Seymour Parkway
- **May 20, 2024** - Victoria Day - all NVSD schools closed
- **May 23, 2024** - Seymour Heights Elementary PAC AGM, 7 - 8 pm in the library
- **May 23, 2024** - April 25, 2024 - Meet DNV Mayor Mike Little at Parkgate Community Centre in the seniors' lounge. 4:30 - 5:30 pm. Drop in and bring your questions.
- **May 25, 2024** - Windsor Music Annual Jazz Cabaret, 5:30 - 11 pm, Mt. Seymour United Church
- **May 28, 2024** - Meet MLA Susie Chant. 10-11 am at Parkgate Library in the fireplace lounge. Or 7-8 pm at Lynn Valley library in the fireplace lounge. Bring your questions.

- **May 30, 2024** - Blueridge Elementary PAC AGM, 7 pm in the library
- **May 29, 2024** - Seymour Heights Elementary spring concert, 6-7 pm in the gym
- **May 30, 2024** - Seymour Heights Elementary spring concert, 6-7 pm in the gym
- **May 20, 2024** - Taxes due

Save the Date - Important Dates in Coming Months

- **June 15, 2024** - Blueridge Good Neighbour Day, 11 am – 3 pm Blueridge Elementary School
- **October 8, 2024** - Provincial All Candidates Meeting, 7 pm, Mount Seymour United Church

Notes:

- Our local schools - even the two elementary schools, Blueridge and Seymour Heights - have differing schedules and do not always have the same short days or days off. If in doubt, check the official calendar for your specific school. They're linked in the "schools" tab of the [Resources page on the BCA website](#).
- Blueridge Elementary ends school at 2 pm on Wednesdays while the rest of the week days end at 3 pm. This is not the case for Seymour Heights Elementary.
- If you're looking for these dates later, they are all on the [BCA Events Calendar](#).



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. Thank you!



Blueridge Residents Discount

20% off Knife and Tool Sharpening

Cove Blades

www.coveblades.com
604-210-8180 (Erik)
erik@coveblades.com



Kitchen knives
Scissors
and more...

Discount offer from April 15 - June 30, 2024



Blueridge Residents Discount

50% off first subscription visit
10% off one-time cleaning
\$30 off BBQ Cleaning

Mr. Can Clean

604-308-9040
booking@mrcanclean.ca
www.mrcanclean.ca



We clean residential garbage, organics, BBQ's and recycling bins and donate \$1 from each can cleaned to the North Shore Black Bear Society.

50% OFF first order for any subscription cleaning
CHECKOUT CODE: BCA
10% OFF one-time cleans - CHECKOUT CODE: BCA10
\$30 off BBQ cleaning - \$250 now \$220

Discount offer from April 15 - June 30, 2024

There are many ways to keep up with the neighbourhood and the BCA.

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

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 June 2024 edition is May 27, 2024.

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!



20 years of licensed childcare in Blueridge area
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1. My home daycare
2. Blueridge school
3. Jaycee House location (Capilano University)

We are open during school break and pro-d days

Our fee includes drop off, pick up, snack and field trip on pro-d days

We definitely have fun and we also do homework with kids

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Host an International Student in North Vancouver

Hosts are
compensated

Do you have a spare room?

MLI HOMESTAY is seeking young and active, enthusiastic and caring families to host international students arriving for the current school year to study in North Vancouver.

To learn more, please contact one of our North Vancouver Local Coordinators

Sutherland School contact Candice Wichers
780-619-7552 – cwichers@mlihomestay.com

Windsor Secondary contact Christine Glendinning
778-855-1523 – cglendinning@mlihomestay.com

Argyle, Seycove, Carson and Handsworth Secondary Schools
contact Mozghan Zolfi 604-441-0056 – mzolfi@mlihomestay.com

www.mlihomestay.com

Hosting an International student provides an incredible experience for families to explore new cultures, learn about global issues and travel the world without leaving the comforts of your home. Students will be studying in North this coming school year, would you consider being a host? We are welcoming students for short and longer term studies. To learn more, please contact MLI Homestay at 1-855-946-4701 or visit www.mlihomestay.com

Check Out My Dedicated
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217-1233 Lynn Valley Rd
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