

Blueridge Bulletin

December 2024



You might not know it from the photo above, but December has arrived. It's cold, there's condensation on the windows, and festive lights are making their annual appearance around the neighbourhood. Soon there will be snow!

And yet, the Japanese paper plant in our backyard is blooming. Why they bloom at this time of year is anyone's guess, but they do.

But of course, the holidays are *the* big deal. They tend to take over everything at this time of year, no matter what you celebrate. And this is also when the BCA runs [Blueridge Cares](#), a program to help those in need right here in our community. We have details about that below, along with many holiday-themed articles and activities and the usual assortment of things that matter to Blueridge.

Oh, and if you're looking for something else to celebrate, the [Windsor Wolves won their first Provincial soccer title!](#) Contratulations!

And with that, we wish everyone a happy, healthy, safe, and fantastic holiday season!

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Features



Blueridge Cares

Carolann Fraenkel

Each year we work within our neighbourhood to collect donations and gifts for families here in Blueridge who need some extra help at the holidays. If you could use some help over the holidays and live in Blueridge, please fill out the form linked below. In it, we ask about your specific needs so we can do our best to help. All information you provide is strictly confidential.

[Blueridge Cares Help Request](#)

Help requests are accepted until Dec 5, 2024.

Want to be a part of the Blueridge Cares team?

If you'd like to help those in need, there are several ways to do so:

To participate, [fill out this form](#) or email blueridgecares@blueridgeca.org, and we'll be in touch.

You could...

- Buy a gift for someone in need. We'll provide you with a gift tag and all the details. You purchase the gift, wrap it, attach the tag, and bring it back

to us. We'll collect all the gifts and deliver them before the kids are off school for the winter break.

- Buy a grocery store gift card for a family. We will bundle them with a holiday card and deliver them to a family who needs a little help.
- Donate cash. If you want to help but lack the time, our elves can do the shopping. We accept cheques (email blueridgecares@blueridgeca.org to learn where to drop them off) or e-transfers to the BCA Treasurer Ted Bancroft at tedb85@gmail.com.
- Volunteer. If you are interested in becoming one of our elves and have time to do some shopping and wrapping, or help organize and deliver gifts, send us an email at blueridgecares@blueridgeca.org and let us know. We'll get back to you and let you know where we need help.

Donations will be accepted until December 15th. We look forward to hearing from you before then!

However you choose to help, thank you very much!

Happy Holidays!

From the Blueridge Community Association



All Aboard the Blueridge Christmas Train

Jeff Powell

For the fifteenth time, Brian Gardiner is bringing Christmas cheer to Blueridge by the trainload! The Blueridge Christmas Train begins operation on Saturday, December 14th, and runs until Jan 1. Each evening from 6 to 9 pm, the train will be running in his front yard at 2377 Berkley Avenue.

Brian has been a "train kid" since he was, well, a kid. The Blueridge Christmas Train is a G gauge model that Brian sets up each year to bring a little more joy to the neighbourhood. He loves seeing fans of all ages come by each year. And it's famous too. Back in 2022, Brian was interviewed by Mike McCardell for a [local news video](#).

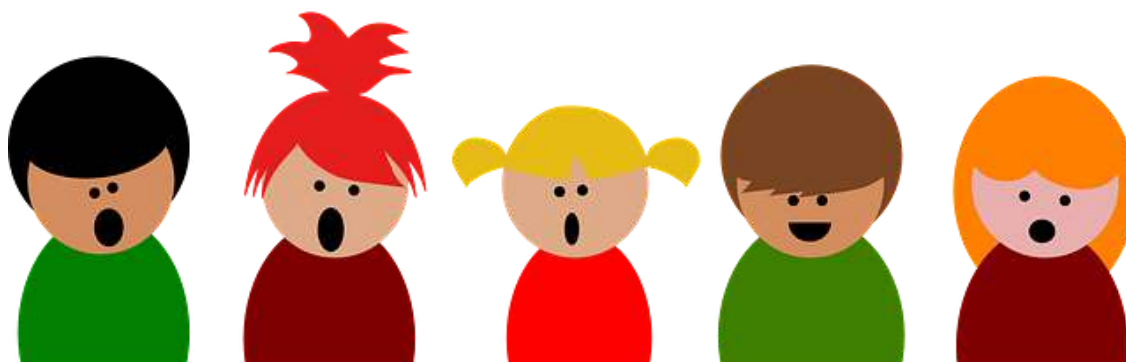
Brian started out with HO gauge trains as a boy, but the Blueridge Christmas Train is G (for "Garden") gauge, which is substantially larger. If you walk by Brian's home, you will definitely see it running, particularly at night when the lights show up so well.

Brian promises to keep the [Blueridge Neighbours Facebook group](#) alerted about the hours of the train, and we'll update the [BCA website homepage](#) with the information as well. If there are questions, contact Brian directly by Direct Message on the Blueridge Community Neighbours Facebook page or by email at briangardiner@gmail.com.

Come on out for some mechanical holiday cheer!

Good morning, happy first day of December. Keep looking up. That's the secret of life.

-- Charles M. Schulz



Carolling for a Cause!

Cathi Wetsch

For the third year in a row, the Berry Family Child Care Society - Huckleberries - and friends will be carolling for a great cause. On Tuesday, December 3rd, when you hear little voices singing outside, open your door and heart for Blueridge Cares. We will carol on Violet and Emerson.

Merry Christmas!



Windsor Wolves Christmas Ornament!

Windsor PAC has commissioned a unique holiday ornament that will add a festive touch to your holiday decorations! It's a handcrafted work, suitable for both current and past Windsor families. Best of all, your purchase supports the Windsor PAC and all their activities in support of Windsor Secondary students.

You can order yours by clicking here: <https://windsor-pac.square.site/>. They're \$22, which includes tax and a beautiful box. Your ornament will come with a green ribbon.

Ornaments should be ready for pickup during the second week of December. You'll get a reminder email with details on how to collect your order when they are available. Order by December 15 to get yours on time!

Windsor PAC thanks you for your support. Your contribution makes a difference in our school community. *Happy Holidays!*



Parkgate Society Winter Lights

On Friday, December 6th, from 5:00 to 7:30 pm at Parkgate Plaza and Community Centre, Parkgate Society invites you to [Winter Lights](#), a night of magic and holiday cheer! The event includes:

- 🎵 Enjoy live musical performances
- 🎨 Discover unique arts, crafts, and our biggest pottery sale of the year
- 🎄 Fun activities and games for kids
- 📖 Story time in partnership with NVDPL
- 🍽️ Savour an affordable warm meal
- 👴 Meet Santa himself

Included in the art on display are original works by the Parkgate painter's group, some of whom are Blueridge residents. You might find a holiday gift from a local at this event.

Those who want to go farther can sponsor a snowflake. Donations support the Parkgate Society's many programs. Those interested can use [this form](#) to become a sponsor. If you'd rather donate by cash or cheque, there's information on the donation form page.

And finally, there's a [video on Instagram](#) from the 2023 Winter Lights event if you want to see last year's highlights!



Ambleside Symphony Orchestra Concert and Charity Event

Anne Powell

The Ambleside Symphony Orchestra is launching the Hedar Instrument Drive in memory of Bernadette Hedar. Blueridge residents Carol Clamp and Anne Powell are long-time members of the string section and knew Bernadette as the kind and talented leader of the second violins.

This charity drive will accept donations of gently used orchestral instruments, which will be passed on to the St. James Music Academy (SJMA). SJMA provides no-cost music education and instrument loans to children who may not otherwise have access to this opportunity. Donations of small-size string instruments are especially appreciated. If you would like to contribute to this initiative but don't have an instrument to donate, financial contributions will be passed on in Bernadette's name. These funds will go toward the repair and maintenance of the Academy's bank of instruments.

The kickoff will coincide with the orchestra's [Christmas concert](#) at 3 pm on December 1 at [Highlands Church in Edgemont Village](#). The performance features a mix of light classical music with works of Vivaldi, Strauss, Puccini, Marquez, and Leroy Anderson.

If you have questions, miss the performance, or would like someone to collect a donated instrument from you, please reach out to HedarInstrumentDrive@gmail.com.

Please help us share the gift of music with children in Vancouver.

Seymour Dance presents

Seymour Dance Presents Two Holiday Productions

The Nutcracker is a holiday favourite, and Seymour Dance is performing it in two different ways this year. All performances are at the [Centennial Theatre](#).

- [The Nutcracker Dream Ball](#) by Seymour Dance Studio, December at 7 pm. This exclusive black tie event features live performances by our dancers alongside the West Coast Symphony Orchestra, as well as heartfelt tributes to our late owner, Sonia Ellis. Proceeds will benefit the [Sonia's Dream Scholarship Fund](#). **Note:** This gala is not a full-length Nutcracker production, but rather a showcase of excerpts from the show with special event-only performances set to live music. Don't miss this magical evening!
- [The Nutcracker](#) by Seymour Dance Studio, December 8 at noon, 3:30 pm, & 7 pm. Dec 9 @ 6 pm. This is the classic annual tradition. Always a hit!

Bring the family! Use the links above to order tickets while they last!

December is a month of invitation to forget ourselves in the service of others.

-- Robert Louis Stevenson



Santa's Christmas Ships 2024: A Magical Holiday Boat Parade in Port Moody & Beyond

Celebrate the festive season with Santa's Christmas Ships, a beloved tradition bringing holiday cheer to the waterfront communities of Port Moody, Deep Cove, Belcarra, Dollarton, and more. This year, the dazzling Christmas boat parade will delight onlookers every Friday and Saturday evenings, beginning on Saturday, November 30, 2024, and continuing through December 21, 2024.

Don't miss this enchanting event as Santa and his fleet of brightly lit ships sail along the coastline, spreading holiday joy to all who gather by the water.

Tentative Schedule:

- **Nov 30 (Sat): Rocky Point Park, Port Moody**
Special early schedule: 6 - 7 pm
(Cheer at the Pier event runs from 5 - 7 pm)
- **Dec 6 (Fri): Deep Cove Christmas Ships Party, 7 - 9 pm**
Route: **Woodlands to Brighton Beach**
Festivities include live music and a bonfire.
- **Dec 7 (Sat): Open Cruise** (No fixed destination, skipper's choice), 7 - 9 pm
- **Dec 13 (Fri): Farrer Cove, Bedwell Bay, 7 - 9 pm**
Water-access-only event.

- **Dec 14 (Sat): Belcarra & Dollarton, North Vancouver, 7 - 9 pm**
Water-access-only event.
- **Dec 20 (Fri): Belcarra, Ravenwoods, Deep Cove, Dollarton, and Cates Park, 7 - 9 pm**
A festive evening covering multiple waterfront destinations.
- **Dec 21 (Sat): Open Cruise** (No fixed destination, skipper's choice), 7 - 9 pm

All the details are online at [Santa's Christmas Ships 2024!](#)



DISTRICT OF
**NORTH
VANCOUVER**



New \$50 Million Firehall and Training Centre Now Complete

Jim Hanson, Councillor District of North Vancouver

At a final cost of \$54,400,000, the new fire hall and training centre on [Dollarton Highway near Maplewood](#) ("Station 1") is now complete. The full project cost is nearer to \$60,000,000 when site remediation is included. This is approximately \$5,000,000 over the original budget.

The work on the new firehall commenced in February 2022 (with site remediation occurring earlier), and the construction was completed in late November 2024. A grand opening is being planned for the spring of 2025.

This new 45,000-square-foot facility will replace Fire Hall #2 on Mountain Highway, the fire training facility on St. Denis Avenue, and the administrative offices currently housed at Fire Hall #1 on Lynn Valley Road.

The building is located at the bottom of the Windridge Escarpment and immediately to the north of Dollarton Highway, near the Wild Bird Trust Conservation Area. The site was contaminated with approximately 200,000 tonnes of development waste placed there between 1960 and 1990. The remediation of the area required removal of this waste, removal of invasive plants, reforestation, and improved stormwater management. This has created

a much healthier riparian area.

The new facility aims to improve emergency response times, especially for Seymour residents, and offers improved state-of-the-art operational and training facilities for fire fighters. The building is entirely electric and has been built to the most advanced post-disaster standards, offering resilience in the event of earthquakes or power outages. The exterior of the building has artwork by Tsleil-Waututh artist Olivia George.

The construction of this facility allows the District to decommission both the existing fire-training site at St. Denis and the old Fire Hall 2 site on Mountain Highway. This will free up two large District-owned sites for other public benefits, likely social housing. Planning for the highest and best use of these two decommissioned sites continues and will likely be finalized in 2025.



SUSIE CHANT

NORTH VANCOUVER-
SEYMOUR

Getting Back to Work

The Office of Susie Chant, MLA for North Vancouver—Seymour

Earlier this month, I was sworn in again as MLA for North Vancouver-Seymour. As I begin my second term, I am grateful for the trust reposed in me by this community and reaffirm my commitment to serve with the utmost care and attention to your concerns and interests.

With the end of the election period and the appointment of a new provincial Executive Council, my constituency office has now resumed its full range of functions. My staff and I are once again able to make inquiries with provincial ministries and advocate to them on your behalf, and we welcome the opportunity to do so. My office at [217-1233 Lynn Valley Road](#) is staffed five days a week and can be reached by phone at 604-983-9859 or by email at susie.chant.mla@leg.bc.ca.

In addition to my role as MLA for North Vancouver-Seymour, I will be wearing two additional “hats” in the time ahead. As [Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors’ Services and Long-term Care](#), I will assist the new Minister of Health, Josie Osborne, in dealing with this area of critical importance. I have also been given responsibility for the [Consular Corps](#) and will be tasked with representing the Province in an official capacity at events.

With the next legislative session not beginning until the new year, I have been able to focus most of my time since the election on meeting with local businesses, organizations, and individual constituents, as well as planning seasonal outreach activities and attending events in the community and around the region. If you’d like to keep up with some of what I’ve been up to, I recommend subscribing to my monthly updates (normally published at the end of the month) [via this link](#). Social media users can also now find me (and a steadily increasing number of other MLAs!) on Bluesky. My handle there is susiechant.bsky.social.

I’d like to conclude this brief update by extending my very best and fondest wishes for a happy holiday season and a wonderful new year to everyone in Blueridge. I hope to talk to you soon!



Bear Encounters of the Uncommon Kind

Holly Reisner, North Shore Black Bear Society

A typical black bear encounter usually goes something like this:

A person is walking quietly on a trail or in their yard, comes around a corner, and discovers a bear at close range. In this type of **surprise encounter**, we recommend that you:

- Stop.
- Speak to the bear in a calm voice.
- Slowly back away.

Speaking in a calm voice identifies you to the bear as a non-threatening human. Black bears are disinterested in humans and don't want to be very close to us. Backing away slowly gets you out of the bear's personal bubble, allows you to keep an eye on the bear, and gives the bear space to leave the area, which is typically what they will do. They may also make a note of your presence and continue along the way they were going. It's important to never run from a wild animal, as this can trigger a natural chase instinct.

On the North Shore, we sometimes see a **defensive encounter**. This could occur when a resident discovers a bear accessing their garbage, organic waste, fruit tree, or bird feeder. If you approach or yell at the bear when he or she is feeding, the bear thinks you are trying to compete for their food source, and they may defend it. Bears tell you to back off using bear body language, which ranges from subtle signs such as yawning or drooling to more overt signals such as jaw popping (opening and closing their mouth to make a clacking sound), huffing or woofing, and the most obvious: bluff charging. A bluff charge is when a bear takes a few very fast steps towards you and stops without making contact. They may slap their front paws on the ground. The bear is saying, Give me space and back away. Never try to interrupt a bear that is feeding or napping. Wait until the bear is finished, tell them to leave from a safe place such as an open window, and clean up whatever was attracting the bear in the first place.

Very rarely, we may see a **non-defensive encounter**. This can happen with young, typically male, bears where the bear purposefully approaches a person, generally out of curiosity and even playfulness, not out of aggression. It can also be a result of having been fed by people before.

Start as usual: stop, speak calmly, and slowly back away. If the bear moves towards you, rather than leaving or going along their way, it's time to set a boundary and communicate to the bear that they aren't allowed to approach people:

- Stop.
- Make yourself look large (group together, open your jacket, raise your arms), and make eye contact.
- Yell at the bear with a deep, strong voice to tell him or her to back off.

- If you have bear spray, remove it from the holster and remove the safety.
- You can also take one quick, heavy step towards the bear while yelling (i.e., you can bluff charge the bear).
- If the bear still does not stop, a quick release of bear spray in their face will be extremely effective.

We can use rare encounters like this to teach bears proper manners. Bears are very intelligent and have excellent memories. A negative encounter with a human who sets a strong boundary will be remembered and will prevent the bear from approaching humans in the future. While it is extremely unlikely for a bear to approach a human with intent to do harm, it is very likely that approaching a human will put the bear in harm's way.



Blueridge Elementary

Blueridge Elementary Update

Cheryl Sauve

The Blueridge elementary school community designed a beautiful assembly to honour Remembrance Day. The tribute was led by the students, who showed compassion and respect. They shared meaningful stories, reflections, and performances that reminded us all of the significance of the day. The art that accompanied the day was also outstanding.

Blueridge celebrated World Kindness Day on November 13th, including building a Blueridge Kindness Tree and encouraging acts of kindness.

On behalf of North Shore Family Services, BPAC is accepting donations of new toys, gift cards (for adults & teens), new/gently used winter clothing (outerwear), and new toiletries. Bins are inside the front entrance of the school. Feel free to make a donation anytime up until December 20.

The primary students are excited to prepare to put on a Winter Concert

December 3 & 5 with the Blueridge Music program. This will be an in-school production of The Nutcracker! Thanks to all the volunteer families helping out!

Grade 6 families are preparing for a few sleeps without their kids at home as they head off to the North Vancouver district right-of-passage... Outdoor School at the Cheakamus Centre in mid-December. Pack those warm clothes!

Blueridge Elementary's Winterfest happens again this year on December 17 & 19. It's hosted by the upper grade students; the other students all get a chance to do winter crafts at 'make and take' stations. Have a dig through those backpacks on the 19th!

On December 20, BPAC is putting on Frosty's Family Fundraising Breakfast in the school gym. It's an eagerly anticipated breakfast each year, with excitement running high with the joy of the season!

On January 1, come out to the Blueridge Elementary front courtyard and let us help you clean up from the holidays with the annual BPAC tree chip (by donation)!

2025 will bring lots more fun around Blueridge...

- Mt. Seymour ski & snowboard days in January for grade 6 & 7's.
- "Blueridge night" at the North Vancouver Wolfpack Junior A hockey game, January 25.
- Blueridge family movie afternoon (Dogman) at Park Royal Feb. 2.
- After-school programs from 3D Basketball, Lights Up!, and Basics of Farsi from Farsi dar BC.

For anyone who may need a little extra help during the holiday season, there's help to be found by reaching out to [Blueridge Cares](#) or [North Shore Family Services](#).

May the holiday season bring light and joy!



SEYMOUR
HEIGHTS
ELEMENTARY

Seymour Heights Elementary

North Vancouver School District

Heilllo December!

Erin Bulycz, SHPAC Chair

Over here at Seymour Heights Elementary, we slogged through November. Our Planning Team (composed of students, parents, NVTA and CUPE staff, and Admin) met to discuss "What is important to us about our school?" and "Where can we grow as a school?" We had parent/teacher conferences, our Remembrance Day assembly, and our grade 7 boys basketball team won 4th place in the NVSD playoffs! The PAC has been hard at work with several online fundraisers that are supporting a technology upgrade in each of the classrooms.

Looking ahead to December, we are offering Santa photos on Dec 5th, and we have our annual Winter Market on the 13th, where students can purchase pre-loved items for family members. We love this tradition of bringing our community together to help our students gain independence in choosing gifts while also reducing the environmental impact of this often excessive holiday season. SHPAC also sponsors our traditional Camp Read on the last day before the winter break with hot chocolate for all students while they cozy up with books in their pjs.

And lastly, as our Multicultural group was planning our events for the new year, we discussed how beautiful it is to learn more about the many holidays celebrated this month. Here's a list, each with a short video link.

- [Krampusnacht/Krampus](#) (Dec 5th)
- [St Nicholas Day](#) (Dec 6th)
- [Bodhi Day](#) (Dec 8th)
- [Saint Lucia Day/ Lussi Night](#) (Dec 13th)
- [Las Posadas](#) (Dec 16-24th)
- [Hanukkah](#) (Dec 18-26th)
- [Yalda](#) (Dec 20th)
- [Winter Solstice/ Toji/ Dongzhi](#) (Dec 21st)
- [Yule](#) (Dec 21-Jan 1st)
- [Christmas](#) (Dec 25th)

- [Kwanzaa](#) (Dec 26- Jan 1st)

Happy Holidays from everyone at Seymour Heights!

December: the only month where it's acceptable to eat cookies for breakfast.

-- Unknown



Outstanding Neighbour Award Nominations Open

Eric Andersen

It's been a while since we last handed out the Outstanding Neighbour Award (in fact, 2022), so we thought it would be a good idea to bring this back now. This award recognizes a resident who goes above and beyond in supporting their neighbours. Residents nominate their neighbours, and the BCA board selects the winner. So if you find that you have a fantastic neighbour(s) on your street, please feel free to [nominate him/her/them](#) (by clicking on that link) and let us know why you think they are so awesome! Once the winner has been selected, we would love to have a picture of you and the party you nominated, which we will post on our website and include in our next newsletter.

Deadline: December 31.



Your Input Needed

Jeff Powell

As editor of the *Blueridge Bulletin*, I do my very best to include articles that are of interest to the community. I scour the news each day looking for things that are relevant and even attend DNV Council meetings to keep track of what is happening, just so I can share it with you. But I am only one person, and I definitely don't know everything that is happening or all of what is interesting and important. That's where you come in.

As always, your story submissions and suggestions are welcome, as are photos related to Blueridge. I ask for those regularly and really appreciate your submissions! But there are also a number of people that write for the *Bulletin* who might be able to answer questions or address issues. There's Jim Hanson, a DNV Councillor who writes for us regularly, and Holly Reisner, of the North Shore Black Bear Society. We have writers from the Parent Advisory Councils for both Blueridge and Seymour Heights elementary schools as regular contributors. In addition, we have the ear of MLA Susie Chant's staff, and questions can be sent to them. And of course there's the entire board of the BCA, who all care deeply about the neighbourhood and can answer questions on a wide range of topics. If pressed, other writers can be found as well.

So, do you have a question about how things are done or what is happening in the neighbourhood? Send it to us at bulletin@blueridgeca.org. We can't promise a response to everything, but we will answer what we can and work with the right people to get the answers that matter.

Thanks for reading, and for your suggestions!



Christmas Tree Chipping Event Supports Blueridge PAC

It's a bit early to be thinking about this, but mark your calendars! The Blueridge Elementary PAC is once again hosting a tree chipping event to benefit their organization and the students at the school.

- Date: January 1, 2025
- Time: 10 am - 3 pm
- Blueridge Elementary parking lot
- Cost: By cash donation

Sponsored by Silverback Treeworks. Thanks for supporting your local school!

Are you a subscriber? If you got this issue of the *Blueridge Bulletin* sent directly from us to your inbox, you are. Thank you! But if you're reading this on the [BCA website](#) or if someone forwarded it to you, then you haven't yet subscribed. Please do! It matters! Just fill out this [simple form](#), and every issue will be emailed to you automatically each month.

Thank you!



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.

Oct 29, 2024: Council Workshop:

This entire meeting centred around the ongoing budget process that the District goes through each year. Initial comments from DNV Chief Administrative Officer David Stewart pointed at many sources of risk and instability in both the local and global situation. These provide a challenging environment, but he believes that DNV staff and the Council have what it takes to make it through these turbulent times. There followed a presentation by Rick Danyluk, the General Manager - Finance and CFO. He gave an overview of the budget process and where things are at now. Staff has been planning for a 5.5% increase in the budget, but Council still has the option to change that. The final budget will be voted on and approved by Council in February 2025.

After the presentation, the mayor and councillors discussed the budget and their questions and concerns. There was a lot of concern expressed about not wanting to spend more than is needed and for trying to find ways to reduce expenses without delaying committed projects and deferring infrastructure maintenance, which only makes things more expensive in the future. Concerns were also raised about borrowing money and the impacts of the large tax increase coming from Metro Vancouver for the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Overall, councillors were reluctantly supportive of the currently planned 5.5% increase but told staff that borrowing wasn't a great idea at this time, and to keep looking for ways to reduce expenses within reason.

Nov 4, 2024: Regular Council Meeting:

Public input at this meeting covered a range of issues, but the most relevant from the perspective of Blueridge residents were the comments of Ted Bancroft, BCA treasurer. He spoke in support of a public inquiry into the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant cost increase.

The rest of the business of the meeting actually went smoothly, and all items before Council carried unanimously. Issues that are at least peripherally relevant to Blueridge included:

The Council meeting schedule for 2025 was approved, with notes that changes might come due to conflicts that arise, like the federal election.

This year's progress report on the Provincial Housing Target Order was approved. Discussion centred on the points that (a) DNV has met the requirement for the first year and (b) the market is in control of actual construction, and there is nothing the District can do if economic conditions cause developers not to build.

Council approved the motion by Councillor Pope requesting a public inquiry into the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant. Deep concerns were raised about the oversight of the plant and about the current audit that Metro Vancouver is running, along with wanting to be sure that Metro Vancouver doesn't wind up in this situation again in the future. All of the councillors and the mayor spoke on this issue, and the level of concern among them was obvious. However, Mayor Little did say that he'd had discussions with the province before the recent election, and they had indicated that they were not interested in running a public inquiry until after the current audit was complete and shown to be inadequate. Mayor Little hopes that now, after the election, opinions may have changed.

Nov 11, 2024: No meeting: Remembrance Day

Nov 18, 2024: Regular Council Meeting:

There wasn't a lot in this meeting that directly impacted the Blueridge area. Most items were related to developments happening elsewhere in the district or

were not controversial. There was a delegation calling for domestic cat control bylaws. There were many questions, and some councillors weren't particularly supportive of the goal, but the delegation was received unanimously. The update to the MONOVA (Museum of North Vancouver) strategic plan was accepted unanimously, with councillors wanting to see more engagement, more success, and more promotion of their archive.

The second amendment to the Annual Financial Plan was accepted unanimously. There was discussion on various related topics, with a particular focus on the impact of the recent atmospheric river damage and wanting clarity on which projects are delayed or deferred. The annual review of fees & charges was also accepted unanimously. Fees and charges will largely increase by 5% to catch up with the consumer price index. A few fees will increase more to get them in line with similar fees in other municipalities. A proposal to replace an environmental fee with an environmental levy was referred back to staff as the businesses that would be impacted had not been given adequate notice of the change. More publicity for that item is needed, though it won't affect residential users.

A proposal to partner with churches and other faith-based groups to facilitate the creation of affordable housing on their properties proved more controversial than anything else on the agenda. Concerns were raised about what happens to organizations whose land suddenly becomes much more valuable due to zoning changes, and about the difficulty newer religious groups would face because land will be too expensive to purchase as a result of such a change. It was also argued that the DNV already prioritizes requests like this from such groups and that there wasn't much to be gained in terms of development speed as a result. As a result of the concerns, the motion was defeated with Councillors Forbes, Muri, and Mah, as well as Mayor Little opposed.

Nov 25, 2024: Special Council Meeting:

This covered the potential removal of one lane of traffic from part of Mountain Highway as part of a safety plan. It was well covered in [local media](#).

Nov 25, 2024: DNV Council Workshop:

This workshop allowed staff to get input from Council on the 2025 Transportation Plan Update and about a traffic calming effort on Kilmer Road in Lynn Valley. There was some confusion about what staff was looking for, and discussion revealed that they are working to find ways to keep Council better informed about transportation-related projects and to get input from council

about what areas are particularly problematic. There was a lot of focus on active transportation and how to get more people out of cars (and into any alternative). In the end, it seemed staff had a number of items to consider and hopes this new plan (along with a curbsite management strategy, also being developed) will keep council better informed and able to address the concerns of DNV residents.

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Those wanting more information can attend council meetings in person or online, read the meeting minutes, 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://www.dnv.org/government-administration/meeting-agendas-and-minutes>.



Local Events

Looking for an evening out? Or maybe a local holiday market? Here are some options:

Seymour Dance Holiday Productions

- The Nutcracker Dream Ball, December 7, 7 pm
- The Nutcracker, December 8 @ noon, 3:30 pm, & 7 pm; Dec 9 @ 6 pm
- See article above for more information

Ambleside Symphony Orchestra Concert and Charity Event

- Dec 1, 3pm
- See article above for more information

Parkgate Society Winter Lights

- Dec 6, 7 - 7:30 pm
- See article above for more information

[Polygon Gallery Holiday Shop](#)

The Polygon Gallery's main floor will be beautifully decorated and carefully curated with unique gifts by independent makers and artists. Come get festive and shop local at The Polygon this holiday season. Join us every week for fun, interactive holiday events and workshops!

- Dec 1 - Jan 5 (times vary with date; see [here](#) for specifics)
- [101 Carrie Cates Court, North Vancouver](#)

[Deep Cove Stage Society](#) presents:

Cinderella, a magical pantomime by Tom Whalley

- December 19-29, 2024 (times vary by date, matinees available)
- In the Shaw Theatre in downtown Deep Cove.
- Tickets and more information available at the link above.

[First Impressions Theatre](#) presents:

Jim Byrnes in Concert - A blues icon, an actor, and an artist who lights up every stage with songs and stories, tried and true.

- Fri, Jan 24th, 2025, at 7:30 pm
- Sat, Jan 25th, 2025, at 7:30 pm
- In the Shaw Theatre in downtown Deep Cove.
- Tickets and more information available at the link above.

Are there other local events that should go on this list next month? [Let us know!](#)



In A Nutshell

- **Your editor is addicted to brake fluid.** But it's OK. He can stop at any time.
 - **The bears are still out and about.** They're still eating and eating and eating. Please [keep them out of your garbage](#), recycling, and green waste. With luck, they will be hibernating next month!
 - **What did the prescriptivist owl say?** Whom whom.
 - **Remember to shovel your sidewalks!** It's required that we all [shovel our sidewalks](#) by 10am after a snowfall. If you can't do it yourself, please work with your neighbours to find some help. And if that fails, try visiting [snowangelscanada.ca](#) and ask for help. (And if you're able, please check that same website to see if someone near you needs assistance!)
 - **How do you find Will Smith in a snowstorm?** You look for Fresh Prints.
 - **Short section this month!** There's no water conservation rules to worry about for the moment (given all the rain), and the fire danger is as low as it gets, so that's two regular items that aren't here. You can help, though! Do you have a short item for next month's *In A Nutshell* section? A notice about a garage sale or an art show you are participating in, perhaps? If so, see the *Submit an Article* section below for details on how to send it in. And remember, the more items you send in, the more bad jokes and puns can be included. (Hmmm. Maybe that isn't really a great motivator?)
 - **What do you call a snail that isn't moving?** An escar-stay.
-



Newsworthy

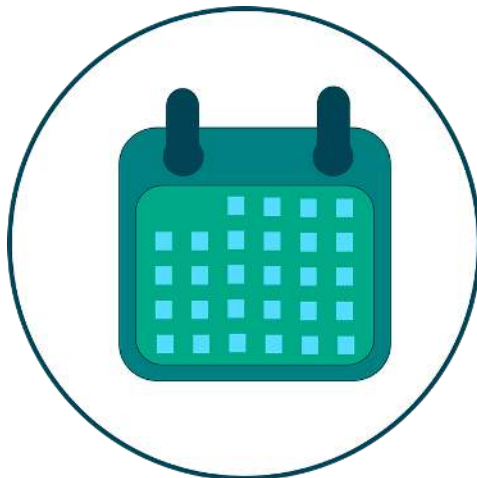
News articles and other items that Blueridge residents might find interesting or useful.

- [Translink Expansion Limited by Depot Space](#) - but extending the R2 to Metrotown is high on the priority list
- [DNV Prepares for a Cold Winter](#)
- [CRTC Wants Comments on Cellphone and Internet Plans](#)
- [Windsor Wolves Win Provincial Soccer Title](#)
- [Two North Shore Ski Hills Open on November 23 Weekend](#)
- Recent weather has closed some North Shore trails, including the [Grouse Grind](#) on Nov 20 due to snow and avalanche risk, and a [trail at Duval Road and Ross Road in Lynn Canyon Park](#) due to downed trees from the bomb cyclone.
- [Latest Atmospheric River Caused \\$110M in Insured Losses](#)
- [DNV Releases Fall 2024 Community Report](#) (PDF) – it will also be in your mailbox soon
- [What You Need to Know About Radon in Your Home](#)
- [DNV Lifts Last Evacuation Orders in Deep Cove](#)
- [Metro Vancouver Hopes to Dodge Future Sewage Plant Upgrades](#) – by fixing sanitary sewer / storm sewer cross connections
- [DNV Lifts Evacuation Order for One Deep Cove Home](#) – two others still evacuated due to issues following recent storms
- **Canada Post Strike**
 - [Details About Mail Disruption](#)
 - [Canada Post Goes on Strike](#) – started on Friday, Nov 15
- **Metro Vancouver Tax Increase / North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant**
 - [Acciona and Metro Vancouver Fight in the Open](#)

- [Metro Vancouver Budget Information](#) – straight from the source
- [DNV Council Calls for Public Inquiry on Wastewater Plant](#)
- [CNV Mayor and DNV Councillor Tried to Limit Tax Increase](#)
- [Metro Vancouver Approves 25.3% Tax Increase](#) – but that's the average; here on the North Shore the increase is much higher thanks to the wastewater treatment plant cost increase; our increase will be from \$813 to \$1147 this year, or 41%; note that this particular increase is not imposed by the DNV; they only collect the money and pass it on to Metro Vancouver

This Month in Cheese

- [The Case of the Missing Cheese Packets Goes Viral](#)
- [Canary Island Cheese Makers Win 48 Awards at the World Cheese Awards](#)
- [Cheese Is Complicated](#) - Even In Singapore
- [Why So Many Cheese Thefts?](#)
- [UK Cheeses Miss the World Cheese Awards](#) – possibly because of Brexit
- [Best Cheese of 2024 at the World Cheese Awards](#)
- [Thief Nearly Makes Off With \\$12,000 in Cheese from North Vancouver Whole Foods](#)
- [Kraft Subject to Mac & Cheese Lawsuit](#)
- [Cheese Crime on the Rise](#) – really!
- [Is Cheese Bad for You?](#) – say it isn't so!
- [Viral Mac & Cheese Recipe](#) – this looks really good!
- [Arrest in \\$540,000 UK Cheese Heist](#) – but the goods are still MIA (this is a follow up to [the original story](#) from October)



Important December 2024 Dates

As you might expect, the December calendar is loaded!

- **Dec 1:** [Ambleside Symphony Orchestra Concert](#), 3 pm; see article above
- **Dec 1 thru Jan 5:** [Polygon Gallery Holiday Shop](#)
- **Dec 2:** Last day to order for the Seymour Heights Elementary Purdys fundraiser. Contact a Seymour Heights family to place an order.
- **Dec 2:** Windsor Secondary PAC meeting, Library, 7:30 pm
- **Dec 3:** Blueridge Elementary Winter Concert - The Nutcracker, Gym, 1:30 - 2:30 pm
- **Dec 3:** Christmas Carolling (on Walpole and Emerson with donations to Blueridge Cares!)
- **Dec 3:** Windsor Secondary Review and Completion - no classes today
- **Dec 3:** [International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#)
- **Dec 5:** Blueridge Elementary Winter Concert - The Nutcracker, Gym, 1:30 - 2:30 pm
- **Dec 6:** All schools closed; curriculum implementation day
- **Dec 6:** [Parkgate Society Winter Lights](#), 5 - 7:30 pm; see article above
- **Dec 6:** [Deep Cove Concert & Bonfire](#), 6 - 8 pm
- **Dec 6:** [Santa's Christmas Ships](#), 7 - 9 pm. Deep Cove Christmas Ships Party, Route: Woodlands to Brighton Beach; see article above
- **Dec 6:** [National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women](#)
- **Dec 7:** [The Nutcracker Dream Ball](#), 7 pm; see article above
- **Dec 7:** [Carols in Lynn Valley Village](#), 11 am – noon
- **Dec 7:** [Santa's Christmas Ships](#), 7 - 9 pm. No fixed route; see article above
- **Dec 8:** [The Nutcracker](#) by Seymour Dance Studio, noon, 3:30 pm, & 7 pm
- **Dec 9:** [The Nutcracker](#) by Seymour Dance Studio, 6 pm
- **Dec 10:** Windsor Music Holiday Concert, [Key Meek Theater](#) in West Vancouver, 7 - 9:30 pm
- **Dec 11:** Anniversary of the [Statute of Westminster](#)
- **Dec 13:** Seymour Heights Elementary Winter Market, open to the community, 3 - 4 pm in the Seymour Heights Gym
- **Dec 13:** [Santa's Christmas Ships](#), 7 - 9 pm. Farrer Cove, Bedwell Bay
- **Dec 14:** [Holiday Magic in Lynn Valley Village](#), 11 am - noon
- **Dec 14:** [Santa's Christmas Ships](#), 7 - 9 pm. Belcarra & Dollarton, North Vancouver
- **Dec 14 thru Jan 1:** Blueridge Christmas Train at [2377 Berkley Ave](#). 6 to 9 pm nightly

- **Dec 16:** Windsor Grad Trivia, MP Room, 5 - 7 pm
- **Dec 17:** Holiday Jazz Night, MP Room, 7 - 9:30 pm
- **Dec 18:** Blueridge, Seymour Heights, and Lynnmour Band Concert at Windsor Secondary Large Gym, 7 - 8 pm
- **Dec 20:** Windsor Secondary early dismissal (1 pm)
- **Dec 20:** Frosty's Family Fundraising Breakfast at Blueridge Elementary, 7:45 - 8:45 am
- **Dec 20:** [Santa's Christmas Ships](#), 7 - 9 pm. Belcarra, Ravenwoods, Deep Cove, Dollarton, and Cates Park
- **Dec 20:** Blueridge Elementary: Deadline for collecting donations for North Shore Family Services (new toiletries, new toys, gift cards, and new and used outerwear). Bins/Locked Box located at front entrance of school.
- **Dec 21:** [Santa's Christmas Ships](#), 7 - 9 pm. No fixed route
- **Dec 21:** [Winter Solstice](#)
- **Dec 23:** Winter break begins; schools closed until January 6th
- **Dec 24:** Christmas Eve
- **Dec 25 thru Jan 2:** [Hanukkah](#)
- **Dec 25:** [Christmas](#)
- **Dec 26:** [Boxing Day](#)
- **Dec 26 thru Jan 1:** [Kwanzaa](#)
- **Dec 31:** Deadline for nominations for Outstanding Neighbour Awards
- **Dec 31:** New Year's Eve

And Remember:

- **Jan 1:** Tree Chipping at Blueridge Elementary, 10 am - 3 pm, by donation (see article above)

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.
 - 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](#).
-

Top 10!

Top 10 Links from the November Blueridge Bulletin

1. [The Blueridge Business Directory](#) - 42 clicks
2. The BCA's annual Purdys fundraising campaign (now closed) - 17 clicks
3. [No one knows what they're doing YouTube video](#) - 17 clicks
4. [Register your wood-burning fireplace with Metro Vancouver](#) - 11 clicks
5. [Snow Angels Canada](#) - 9 clicks
6. [How to donate to Blueridge Cares](#) - 7 clicks
7. [Firesmart Inspection Application](#) - 5 clicks
8. [UXOs detonated near Blueridge](#) - 4 clicks
9. [New pay parking rules go int effect at some DNV parks](#) - 4 clicks
10. [Alertable app in Apples's App Store](#) - 3 clicks

Overall, 50 out of 88 different links were clicked on at least once each, and there were 179 clicks total.

Thanks for being wonderful readers!



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

15% off Installation of Christmas Lights

Illuminate Light Solutions

604-341-7498

illuminatelightsolutions@gmail.com

www.illuminatelightsolutions.ca



ILLUMINATE

15% OFF Custom Christmas Light Installations for Blueridge Residents!

Illuminate your home this holiday season with a stunning, custom Christmas light display!

Don't miss out on the magic—make your home shine like never before!
Contact us today to schedule your free in-person consultation!

Discount offer from November 1, 2024 to December 15, 2024



Blueridge Residents Discount

20% off when you book 2 or more details
\$0 Transportation Fees

Perfection Auto Detailing

604-816-7792

clydeleese@gmail.com



****Special Deal Alert!****

Get *0 transportation fees* PLUS ****20% OFF**** when you book 2 or more details with Perfection Auto Detailing!

Don't miss out on this limited-time offer to give your ride the ultimate shine. Book now and save!

Discount offer from October 1 - December 15, 2024



Blueridge Residents Discount

20% off all sharpening jobs of 6+ pieces

Cove Blades

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



Kitchen knives
Scissors
and more...

Discount offer from September 30 - December 15, 2024

Stay Connected

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 January 2025 edition is December 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!

Working for You
in North Vancouver-Seymour

Our office can assist you with
provincial issues and concerns
Reach out to us anytime!

217-1233 Lynn Valley Rd
Susie.Chant.MLA@leg.bc.ca
604-983-9859

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MLA - NORTH VANCOUVER SEYMOUR



20 years of licensed childcare in Blueridge area
We are licensed for before and after school care since 2007

Open 7am until 6pm

Three Locations:

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

Contact Fariba by phone (604) 812-4449 or email

specialtimesoosc@gmail.com

You can also [find us on Facebook](#)



Host Families Needed in North Vancouver

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.

Requirements

- Provide a nurturing and supportive home environment
- Offer a private bedroom, meals and inclusion in family activities

Benefits

- Monthly compensation for hosting
- Opportunity to make a positive impact in a young person's life

Interested? Please contact us to learn more

Argyle, Carson, Handworth, Seycove & Windsor Secondary

Contact Mozghan

604-441-0056 or mzolfi@mlihomestay.com

Sutherland Secondary

Contact Candice

780-619-7552 or cwichers@mlihomestay.com

Host Families Needed in North Vancouver for High School International Students. 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. 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



Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays

Dave Maquignaz - REALTOR®
604-512-5459
www.maQrealty.ca/blueridge

Dave Maquignaz
Macdonald Realty





Hey there Blueridge homeowners!

Keely Smith, award-winning interior designer here. Space is everything. My passion is creating beautiful spaces for homeowners. Recently, I was awarded the prestigious "Best of Houzz" award for interior design for 2024.

Talk to us to see how we can help. We offer a complimentary, no-obligation in-home consultation where we can thoroughly discuss your interior design project.

=> [Click here to learn more](#)
Tel. 604-262-2310



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604-985-1111



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