

## Sometimes A Great Notion... from a Family Vacation

By Eric G. Andersen, BCA Chair

At the time of writing, I am just back from a marvellous trip to New Zealand. I am not here to describe to you the beautiful scenery and sandy beaches Down Under. I do want to share with you how impressed we were by Quake City. This museum in Christchurch has a special exhibition telling stories from the two devastating earthquakes that struck this city on New Zealand's South Island in 2010 and 2011.



Eric G. Andersen

The exhibition features hands-on interactives, videos and treasures rescued from the rubble after the earthquakes. What we realized there is how UNPREPARED we are for the earthquake that will sooner or later hit Vancouver. Our friends at North Shore Emergency Management (NSEM) have repeatedly urged us to understand that we need to be prepared for the "big one," a forest fire or some other catastrophe, but a fair guess is that the vast majority of us (myself included) are not.

This may not be a New Year's resolution, but having seen that exhibition in Christchurch, our family will do its utmost to get it all done, so we are prepared, and everyone in Blueridge should consider this, too, unless you are among the few who have already done it all. The recent shake near Sechelt on Feb. 21 is just a pointed reminder to not postpone this! Prepare your earthquake kit and read and follow the *Emergency Preparedness Basics* from NSEM. One day we may be grateful that we took the time to get ready for the big one!

### Some odds and ends...

The Blueridge Cares program was another success this past festive season. With the generous assistance from local residents and local companies, we helped four Blueridge families have a much nicer time of it.

- Congratulations to our recipients of the Blueridge Spirit and Outstanding Neighbour awards! Mary Stern and Tristan Patterson, the dynamic mother-son duo, received the Spirit award. I know both of them and wholeheartedly agree with the choice. Also very deserving (and wouldn't we all love them on our block!) are the truly Outstanding Neighbour award winners, Annette and John Goliath.
- Speaking of spirit, think of bringing your own with a good dose of imagination to the neighbourhood. The new Blueridge "Foundation" is there to spring some dollars to make your idea come to life. See a separate story for details and application deadline.
- We are pitching to get Mayor Mike Little to be our AGM guest speaker, but may have to change our traditional second Tuesday in May to do it because of scheduling issues for Mayor Little and his council. A great opportunity to put questions to him and get his usual frank answers!
- We have been doing Blueridge Good Neighbour Day since 1998, with interruptions due to COVID in 2020-2022. We are looking for donations for our large SILENT AUCTION and sponsors for the special day's many activities. If you can donate, sponsor or volunteer to set up, take down or help on May 25, contact us at [bgnd@blueridgeca.org](mailto:bgnd@blueridgeca.org)
- Unfortunately, it looks like Dîner en Bleu will NOT happen this year. Unless . . . ? If you are up for organizing something a lot less taxing than BGND, let us know by messaging [volunteer@blueridgeca.org](mailto:volunteer@blueridgeca.org). You can learn about this fun-filled event by reading our newsletter archives on our website.

# Blueridge Good Neighbour Day Moved Up to May This Year

By Nicole Parfitt

Blueridge Good Neighbour Day (BGND) is back for another year, but a bit earlier than in past years! We have moved the date up to Sunday, May 25, 2025 - from a traditional June date. We duly noted on-board feedback about the event overlapping with many of the year-end activities taking place in June. We also chose this date as a symbolic way to celebrate the 25th anniversary of this much loved, community-focused event.

Many of your favourite activities will be returning: the parade, bouncy castles, the train, community tables, a live band, silent auction, chess tournament, youth activities and food trucks.

BGND is a success because of you and everyone in our community. If you would like to volunteer and be an important part of this event, please reach out at [volunteer@blueridgeca.org](mailto:volunteer@blueridgeca.org).

Stay tuned for more information over the coming months in a special edition of this newsletter and through your monthly online news service, Blueridge Bulletin, which you can sign up at [www.blueridgeca.org](http://www.blueridgeca.org) to receive it in your email box.

Most importantly, **SAVE THE DATE at 05/25/2025!**



## Christmas Hosts With The Most Go The Distance For Their Neighbours



By Lesley Brooks

Everyone has their own way of kicking off the Christmas season, such as by hanging the Christmas lights or hooking a wreath on the front door. But for the residents of Browning Place, the season really starts off with an invite—to come on down to Annette and John Goliath's place.

That's one reason I nominated them for the Outstanding Neighbour Award. We all have a wonderful evening at their home thanks to their gracious hospitality.

The other reason strikes a personal note. Earlier this year when our beloved dog Lucy died, Annette arrived at our door with flowers and an empathetic condolence card. More recently, another neighbourhood family lost their beautiful dog, Birch. Annette arrived at their home bearing the same heart-felt tokens.

Annette and John are very kind and thoughtful folk and deserve to be recognized. Congratulations to them... and thanks for making Blueridge a better place!



# Vote coming on Short-term rentals rules in the District of North Vancouver

By Jim Hanson, DNV Councillor

The District of North Vancouver Council will be voting this spring on the regulatory framework for short-term rentals. To this point, short-term rentals have been prohibited in the District.

However, in practice, many homeowners have rented out homes as short-term rentals, with our research indicating that close to 1,000 properties in the District are listed on the internet as short-term rentals.

Provincial legislation passed in late 2023 sought to limit the use of properties as short-term rentals, with the aim of increasing long-term rental stock. Under the provincial legislation, a homeowner may not use their property as a short-term rental unless they are renting out their principal residence and up to one accessory dwelling unit such as a secondary suite or coach house.

A “principal residence” is defined as the place where an individual “lives, makes their home, conducts their daily affairs.” Some resort communities (such as Whistler and Tofino as examples) are excluded from this legislation in order to facilitate tourism.

A local government may pass legislation that is more restrictive than the Provincial legislation. Therefore, our options in the District are:

1. Maintain a total prohibition on short-term rentals.
2. Allow short-term rentals in one’s principal residence but not in otherwise vacant accessory units (secondary suites, coach houses).
3. Allow short-term rentals in one’s principal residence and in accessory units attached to the principal residence.

At a January Council Workshop, a majority of councillors indicated a preference for modelling our regulatory framework on the Provincial legislation, and therefore allowing short-term rentals in principal residences and accessory units.

The issue will come back before a regular Council meeting in the next few months. If a majority of Council votes for this regulatory framework, it will then be referred to a Public Hearing, after which Council will vote and adopt new bylaws.

The proposed regulatory scheme will allow the District to collect a three-percent tax on short-term rentals revenue (to be earmarked for affordable housing), and will be accompanied with new enforcement tools and increased fines for violators. Owners will be required to have business licenses and register with the District. Properties used for short-term rentals will need to meet certain safety standards and be available for inspection.

For my part, I believe that the Provincial legislation strikes a reasonable balance between allowing some short-term and long-term rentals. The demands of the tourist industry for accommodation encourage us to ensure that units are available for short-term rental while the ongoing housing crisis demands that we protect long-term housing stock.

If you have an opinion on how short-term rentals should be regulated in the District, please let your voice be heard by communicating with Council and speaking at the pending public hearing.



Jim Hanson



## Sometimes bad things happen to good people

By Michael Bernard

Lesley Brooks and Ted Bancroft adopted a new puppy, Lucy, last August. In January, while Ted was picking up a package at their front door, Lucy slipped out, Lesley explains. “We and our neighbours frantically hunted for Lucy. We found that she had run onto the highway and was struck and killed by a car. “Over the ensuing days and weeks, we received many condolence cards as well as gifts for our new puppy, Jasmine, (photo) from our incredible friends and neighbours on Browning Place. We are so grateful and thankful to live amongst the kind and sensitive folk of Blueridge.”



# Moving to Blueridge A Family Affair

*Hello neighbors!*

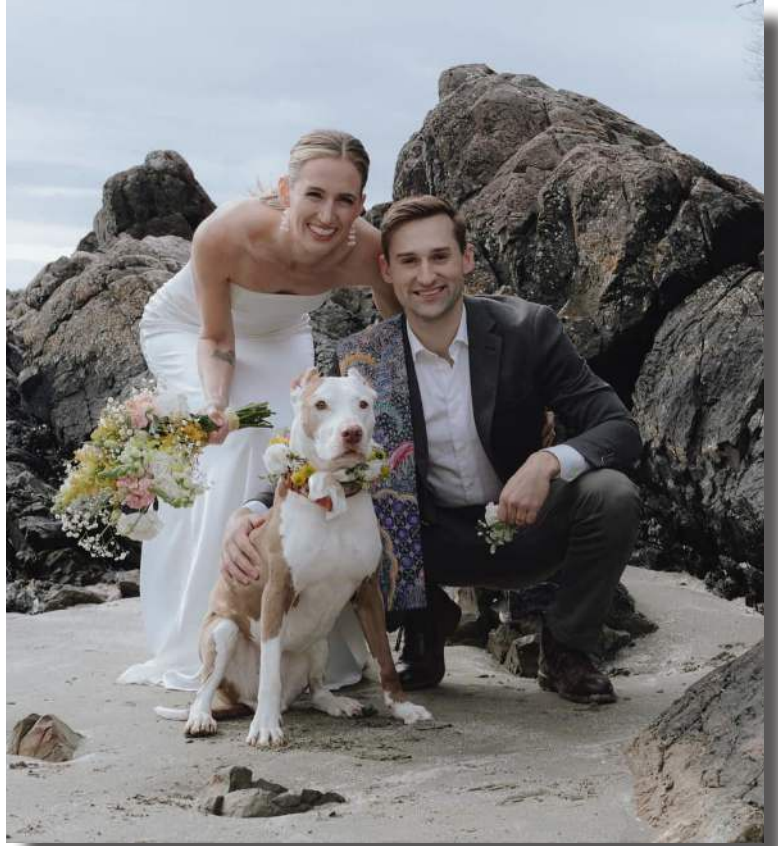
We're the Williamson family—Char (that's me), Chris (my husband), Megan (our old dog), and Baby Williamson (arrival ETA: late March 2025, personality still in development, open to name suggestions). We recently moved here full-time and are so excited to call Blueridge home!

Our home on Mowat Place is a bit of a family project. My parents, Natalie and Craig, co-own the house and plan to use it as their summer retirement retreat. When they're not here enjoying the sunshine, they're basking in much warmer weather in Indonesia, where I grew up. It's safe to say they've mastered the art of chasing endless summers.

Chris and I met at University of B.C. in Vancouver and bonded over a shared love of adventure, which eventually led us to this mountain-biking mecca. While I'm temporarily sidelined from the trails (doctor's orders), we've been channeling our competitive energy into learning squash at the Ron Andrews Community Centre. Chris is a true sports enthusiast, with mountain biking, backcountry skiing, and soccer all on his list of favorites. I'm more the creative type—I love sewing, knitting, cooking, and dreaming up new projects.

After spending the past few years in East Van, we've been relishing the peace and quiet here in Blueridge. The slower pace is a welcome change, and so far, we've yet to experience any truly terrible bridge traffic (check back in with us in a few weeks). We've also been learning new skills that come with suburban life: tending to a backyard, cleaning gutters, and hosting dinner parties now that we finally have the space for them. When we're not playing house or on the trails, you might find us at United Strangers, our new coffee spot. We're already looking forward to joining the parents' mornings on Tuesdays!

We're thrilled to be here and can't wait to meet more of our neighbors. If you see us around—whether we're biking, grabbing coffee, or being walked by Megan—please come say hi. We'd love to connect, share stories, or even challenge you to a squash game!



Warmly,  
The Williamsons

## Dates to Remember!

<b>Blueridge Community Association AGM</b>	<b>Tuesday, May 13</b> Time/Place to be determined
<b>Blueridge Good Neighbour Day</b>	<b>Sunday, May 25</b> 11am - 3pm
<b>Blueridge Foundation Submission Deadline</b>	<b>September 1</b>
<b>Sharing Garden Great Box Rebuild</b>	<b>Sunday, April 6 and Saturday, April 26</b>

Are you up for a  
Community Sign  
Board?



# Mother and Son Team awarded Blueridge Spirit Award

*The Blueridge Awards are given to residents who strive to make a difference to the community. Thanks to local resident Toby Barazuol of Eclipse Awards, we have beautiful awards to honor residents in our community.*

*Sarah Manvell, the preceding recipient, explains why she chose this dynamic duo.*

It's an absolute pleasure to share the incredible contributions of two remarkable members of our Blueridge community: Tristan and his mom, Mary.

When I thought about who I would nominate for the Blueridge Spirit award, there was no hesitation—Tristan and Mary were at the top of my mind! And how exciting to be giving this award to our first young adult AND a mom and son duo. The pair have been living in Blueridge for the past few years, and together they created a welcoming and vibrant chess community for people of all ages. Before diving into that, let me share a little more about Tristan's journey with chess.

Tristan, now in Grade 9, started playing chess at age five, learning from his dad. By the time he was nine, he was competing at a provincial level. These intense tournaments, held at UBC, bring together around 100 players, all vying for top spots.

"The atmosphere is incredibly focused," Tristan said. "It's fun outside the game, but when you're in that room, you need to be laser-focused." Tristan said that the hours of practice, online games, and competition can be emotional, but he's learned not to get discouraged.

"You really get to represent yourself," he said, and his advice to slow down and remain positive is something we can all take to heart. After tournaments, he spends time reflecting on his games with his family, his biggest supporters!

In Grade 7, Tristan, with a friend, started the Chess Club at Braemar Elementary, which they ran independently every Wednesday at lunch for all grades. When the Blueridge Good Neighbour Day was reinstated post-COVID in 2023, Mary volunteered for the Youth Committee and asked Tristan for his advice on the best way to get youth involved. He replied confidently, "A competition!" He jumped in to lead the planning of the first-ever chess tournament at BGND, applying for and receiving a youth community grant from the North Shore Neighbourhood House

to fund clocks and chess boards. As they prepared to transition to high school, Tristan, with the support of his mom Mary, launched the Blueridge Chess Club. They began with a small tournament (which my son had the pleasure of attending and enjoyed.)

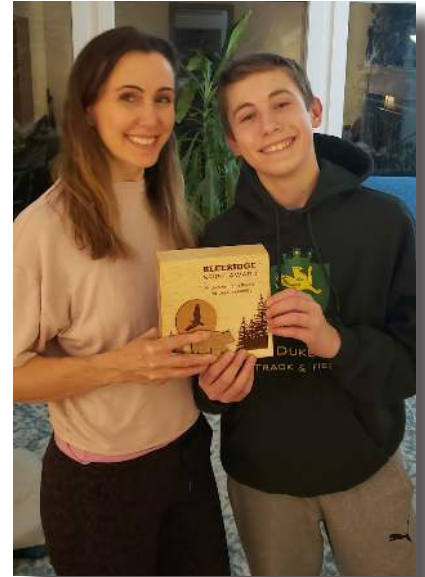
It was heartwarming to see the joy chess brought to people of all ages. Fast forward to 2024, when Tristan took things up a notch during Blueridge Good Neighbour Day. Tristan expanded the age group of the tournament attracting a wide range of players, from eight years old to 81.

Beyond chess, Tristan is also a dedicated athlete, participating in hockey, soccer, cross country, and track and field. He has a packed schedule and even helps out his parents with coaching his sister's soccer team!

Asked what advice they had for those looking to improve their chess skills, Tristan and Mary had some excellent suggestions. First, "find friends who also play chess." Online platforms like Chess.com are fantastic for learning and practicing, and Tristan uses this platform to help prepare for those competitive provincial tournaments.

Perhaps what Tristan and Mary are most excited about is the upcoming 25th Blueridge Good Neighbour Day when they're planning another fantastic chess tournament.

Keep an eye out for the email and feel free to contact [blueridgechessclub@gmail.com](mailto:blueridgechessclub@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



*Mother-Son team of Mary Stern and Tristan Patterson*

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Seymour Heights residents  
Editor: Michael Bernard



# Blueridge Community Association Board Seeks New Director(s)

*By Eric G. Andersen*

*A*t our AGM in May we will need to replace at least one board member, since Ruth Hanson stepped down last year after many years on the board.

So we thought we would reach out to the community to encourage anyone who might be interested in joining our board.

We have a well-functioning board, but would welcome new board members who show interest and passion for Blueridge/Seymour Heights.

It doesn't matter how long you have lived in Blueridge; what's important is that you want to join the board and participate in its work. The more ideas for new initiatives you may bring, the better!

The board has started meeting about 10 times a year (mostly online, but quarterly in person. The time required for each director probably amounts to two hours a month.

## **Director attributes and duties include:**

- Understand and demonstrate a continued commitment to the BCA's mission, activities and projects

- Take interest in the field of community association work and keep up to date with issues and trends that affect the BCA
- Prepare for meetings by reading agendas, minutes, reports, and other documentation required to actively participate
- Attend board meetings regularly and provide as much notice as possible when unable to attend
- Contribute knowledge, skills and expertise, in a collaborative manner, by participating in board meetings and related activities
- Inquire and seek clarification or more information when required
- Represent the BCA's best interests among stakeholders and the public.

If interested in a board position, please let us know via [info@blueridgeca.org](mailto:info@blueridgeca.org)

# The Blueridge Foundation Looking for Good Ideas

*By Anni Danielson*

*H*ave you always wanted to host a community event?! Do you have a fantastic idea for a community activity, but don't know where to get funding? Well, we have an exciting development for you!

The Blueridge Community Association proudly announces the Blueridge "Foundation". We have created it to provide financial assistance for approved non-profit events or activities hosted by Blueridge residents within Blueridge/Seymour Heights. The bottom line is that it must benefit the community.

Successful applicants will receive up to \$250 per approved event or activity per year. The Blueridge Foundation will distribute a total of \$1000 for assistance from the Foundation each fiscal year.

Applications will be reviewed by the Foundation Committee as they are submitted. The cut-off for same-year funding is Sept. 1 each year. For example, if you wish to host an event in November of a calendar year, you must submit your application by Sept. 1.

Please note: To allow the committee sufficient

time to review applications, please submit applications for events to be held in the months January to September at least 4 weeks in advance of the event date.

The application form, containing full details, will be available on our BCA website soon. Check regularly at [www.blueridgeca.org](http://www.blueridgeca.org) for a downloadable form.

It's time to put on your thinking hats! Need some inspiration? For example, you could organize:

- a chess tournament
- scavenger hunt
- a backyard music recital
- a creek clean-up

Foundation monies can be used for required equipment rentals, prizes, refreshments etc.

The sky and your imagination are the limits (subject to the Foundation Committee's approval:) The current members of the Blueridge Foundation Committee are Eric Andersen, Anni Danielson, Lauren Gorgounis and Ruth Hanson. We look forward to see your ideas!





## Time to Get Down and Dirty (Hands that is!)

*By Corrinne Bergdal*

The weather is warming up and things are starting to stir in the Blueridge Community Sharing Garden.

We've set the dates for the Garden's Great Box Rebuild of 2025: two weekend days in April, Sunday, April 6 and Saturday, April 26. Any and all volunteers—both inside and outside of Blueridge—are welcome. Those interested can email [garden@blueridgeca.org](mailto:garden@blueridgeca.org) to tell us what they would like to do and to request more information.

I ask that you read the updated Garden Application Form and the Garden Rental Guidelines for this season. Look for both at [blueridgeca.org](http://blueridgeca.org).

For those new to Blueridge or to the inspiring and addicting passion of gardening, the Blueridge Sharing Garden is across the street from Seymour Heights Elementary School on Carnation. In addition to boasting a small storage shed and a roof to escape the rain, there is also a small library shelf of free books.

## Blueridge Sharing Garden

*By Cris Fraenkel*

If you hadn't noticed, it's cold and grey out - hardly the season to be thinking of gardening. However, we all need to start thinking ahead, and for the sharing garden, that means another fun couple of weekends rebuilding another four garden boxes. (Not so sure about the fun part.) The first two weekend work parties in the spring will be spent demolishing and then rebuilding another four boxes. Gardeners, reserve April 6 and April 26 for our work party days.


The District of North Vancouver has awarded the garden another Community Sustainability Grant to purchase the materials for the box rebuild. This is the third year running they have supported our garden. We are very grateful for their support, as otherwise the garden would not be able to rebuild the boxes. This year they are also supporting the rebuild of the little free library at the garden, so watch for a new (hopefully dry) spot to pick up a new-to-you book.



## PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH!!

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

 Facebook: [Blueridge Community Association](https://www.facebook.com/blueridgecommunity)

 Instagram: [Blueridge\\_\\_Community](https://www.instagram.com/blueridge__community)

Web: [www.blueridgeca.org](http://www.blueridgeca.org)

Email: [info@blueridgeca.org](mailto:info@blueridgeca.org) • [newsletter@blueridgeca.org](mailto:newsletter@blueridgeca.org)



# BCA PROJECT COMMUNITY GROUP PURCHASE DEALS

**Cove Blades**  
Blueridge Residents  
Receive 20% off all  
sharpening jobs over \$100



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

- Kitchen knives
- Scissors
- and more...

All pricing and drop-off  
procedures can be found at  
www.coveblades.com

Discount offer from March 1 - May 31, 2025

**The Junk Haulers**  
Blueridge Residents  
Receive 10% Off Junk Removal  
and Recycling Service



778-956-1587 (Kyle)  
kyle@thejunkhaulers.ca

Smaller loads and single  
items for customers available.

1 x full load = \$675  
15 Cubic yard truck

Discount offer from March 1 - March 21, 2026

**Nathan Blake Professional Painting**

**Blueridge Residents**  
Receive 20% Off All Painting Jobs!  
Plus Receive \$100 For Referrals!



@northshorepainter  
778-986-9300  
nathanblakebc@gmail.com

Discount offer from February 1, 2025 to April 30, 2025

**Blueridge Residents:**  
Receive 20% Discount Off  
Interior & Exterior Detail Packages



**SoapnShine**  
778-989-5895  
boston@soapnshine.ca  
www.soapnshine.ca

SoapnShine Mobile Detailing is offering Blueridge Community residents an exclusive 20% discount on all interior & exterior detailing packages—for any vehicle size! Our professional mobile detailing service brings top-quality cleaning and care right to your doorstep.

Enjoy a spotless, showroom-quality clean while saving big. Don't miss out—book your appointment on our website today using:  
PROMO CODE: 'Blueridge'

**Discount offer from March 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025**