

Blueridge Bulletin

May 2025



Photo by Missy Shana

May is a busy month, as you'll see in the table of contents below. The Blueridge Community Association is particularly busy, with both our Annual General Meeting on May 20th (DNV Mayor Mike Little will be our guest speaker!) and Blueridge Good Neighbour Day, our premier event, on May 25th. We have articles about both of those events, along with quite a bit more.

But I'd like to ponder something different this month. It turns out I've been editing the *Blueridge Bulletin* for just over three years now, and discovering that made me think. My wife and I moved into Blueridge in 2020, in the middle of the pandemic. Though we moved from far away and gave up quite a few social connections, we seem to have found a place we can call home. And it wasn't too long after we arrived that I began working on the BCA website, something I still do to this day. Those two items require a fair bit of time and effort, but I enjoy them and learn a lot every day.

I mention that because it seems to me that you get out of something what you put into it. If you volunteer for an organization, your life will be more fulfilling, and you will probably learn new things all the time. Volunteering provides purpose and goals. It connects us with others, and it builds community. My time working on the BCA website and the *Bulletin* has introduced me to many people, and given me a much better view of the community we live in.

It may sound silly, but I recommend that everyone find some organization or cause to participate in. That can be anything from singing in a choir to supporting a charity or political campaign. The North Shore is full of groups looking for volunteers. If something appeals to you, ask if you can help. I'll bet you love it! And if you need another reason, National Volunteer Week ends May 3rd. What timing!

As for the *Bulletin*, I sincerely hope you enjoy it, and if all goes well, I will still be editing it three years from now.

Jeff Powell, Editor

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Features



Photo by Missy Shana

Blueridge Good Neighbour Day

Sunday, May 25, 2025 | 11am-3pm | Blueridge Elementary School

Nicole Parfitt

Blueridge Good Neighbour Day is fast approaching! It is a day to celebrate our community with family, friends, and neighbours. This year is our 25th anniversary, so our theme will be “silver” to commemorate 25 years of memories.

A dedicated group of volunteers has been working hard to confirm plans for the day, including some traditional activities and some new ones too. Below are some highlights and important updates:

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! The parade will start at 10:45 am sharp, so please meet at the corner of Berkley & Hyannis by 10:30 am. Everyone is welcome!

Event Info

Following the parade, the festival will get underway at Blueridge Elementary School, and this is where the fun REALLY begins. We'll have activities for the whole family: inflatables, train rides, crafts, a chess tournament, pickleball, live music, a beer garden, food trucks, community tables, a cakewalk, a pie-eating contest, and so much more! For more event information, including times and updates on what's happening this year, check out our website:

blueridgeca.org/blueridge-good-neighbour-day.

Beer Garden

We are very happy to have our beer garden space back outside, next to the live music stage. We will be serving up a large selection of drinks - come and enjoy a beverage with your neighbours and friends. As always, the beer garden 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. Our auction will also be available online, so you can start bidding on items on May 12th at <https://new.biddingowl.com/BDND2025>.

We can always do with more donations. 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!

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 volunteer@blueridgeca.org, or [sign up directly here](#).

Cake Walk

Calling all bakers! A perennial favourite of BGND is our cakewalk, and we are looking for donations of cakes, donuts, cupcakes, or other delicious baked

goods. We are happy to receive homemade and store-bought. For more information, please contact Martina at bgnd.cakewalk@gmail.com.

We hope you can join us to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Blueridge Good Neighbour Day on Sunday, May 25.



Are We Not Good at 'Selling Ourselves'? Learn More About the Blueridge Community Association (BCA) at Our AGM on May 20

Eric G. Andersen, BCA Chair

At the BCA board level, we have often asked ourselves the question, Are we not very good at 'selling ourselves'? What we are referring to is whether the residents in Blueridge and Seymour Heights know about all the activities that the BCA is involved with - many of these have been around for not just years, but decades.

Remember that all our activities, our entire raison d'être, are based on **community building**, the most prominent example of that being Blueridge Good Neighbour Day, which will be held for the 25th time in May.

All this and more will be discussed at our **Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday, May 20 – Mayor Mike Little will be our guest speaker that night – 7 PM in the Seymour Room at Canlan.**

In spite of **social media**, which for us means [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), **our hard-copy newsletter** (that goes out three times a year and is distributed strictly by volunteers), **our monthly e-newsletter** (the [Blueridge Bulletin](#) that you can [subscribe to](#)), our **brochure**, and **our website**, we still feel and experience regularly that many residents just do not know about our many and varied

activities.

Most residents know about our biggest event, [Blueridge Good Neighbour Day](#), but do you also know about all the other activities listed below?

We have a [scholarship](#) that was increased to \$750 last year.

Our '[Project Community](#),' where local residents obtain special discounts, has expanded to many new businesses.

The [Blueridge Sharing Garden](#) across from Seymour Heights Elementary School remains a huge asset with many extremely active participants.

The [Blueridge Business Directory](#) on our website now has 24 products and 41 services.

Our [Blueridge Spirit Award](#) continues to rotate on a quarterly basis between deserving recipients. This award highlights what kind of wonderful people live in this community. Occasionally we also look for recipients for the [Outstanding Neighbour Award](#).

The BCA continues to **fundraise** once or twice a year through Purdys Chocolate's fundraising program.

The BCA lists **baby, pet and house-sitting services** and, lately, also **tutors** on [our website](#).

New residents to Blueridge & Seymour Heights are met and welcomed to the neighbourhood by our [Blueridge Good Neighbour Greeting Team](#).

For the last several Christmases, our [Blueridge Cares Committee](#) has managed to raise money as well as gift cards and goodies for local families who applied to get a helping hand before Christmas.

Every year we join the [stream clean-up](#) tradition on World Rivers Day on the fourth Sunday in September.

The BCA has recently launched the [Blueridge FUNDation](#), which is meant to monetarily support small local initiatives that will benefit the entire community.

The BCA has representatives on a handful of **local committees** on the North Shore to ensure that Blueridge's interests are well protected.

We had a couple of very successful [Diners en Bleu](#) just before COVID, and we hope that this great community-building exercise will start again – hopefully next year, if we can get a committee together again?

We are constantly looking for **new initiatives and activities that we can start in our community** and **which will benefit everyone living here**, so if you have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to [reach out and tell us about them!](#)

Hopefully this will help you realize the many options of BCA activities that we urge you and/or your kids to take advantage of if you are interested.

Nearly everything is free, just like everyone in Blueridge is automatically a member of the BCA!

We are always looking for new ideas, new activities, and new volunteers!

In the Spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours.

-- Mark Twain



Ports Property Tax Act Expensive for District Taxpayers

Jim Hanson, Councillor, District of North Vancouver

At a recent workshop of the North Vancouver District Council, we discussed the Ports Property Tax Act (“PPTA”) and its implications for District taxpayers. Introduced by the provincial government in 2003 (when Gordon Campbell was Premier), the PPTA creates a legislated assessment value and tax rate for

major port properties. The initiative sought to establish a competitive tax environment for port properties involved in the export of raw materials through the ports of British Columbia in order to ensure international competitiveness. An example of such a property in the District is the Fibreco port facility at 1209 McKeen Avenue.

Since PPTA was introduced, the assessed value of these heavy industry port facilities in the District (what we have come to call the “capped” heavy industry properties) has risen at a set rate tied to inflation. The value of the “uncapped” heavy industry sites on the North Shore (which includes, for example, Allied Shipbuilders at 1870 Harbour Road) has risen at a much faster pace, resulting in the assessment values of the “uncapped” properties now averaging 11 times that of the “capped” properties. The result is a \$4.5 million dollar funding gap that must be made up in a higher tax rate for the other classes of District taxpayers, such as the residential class, light industrial class, and “uncapped” heavy industry class. Put simply, the PPTA results in District taxpayers subsidizing heavy industry in the District.

The matter has been raised by the District (and other municipalities with significant port infrastructure, notably Prince Rupert) with the BCNDP government going back to 2017, but to date no changes to the PPTA have been offered. The ongoing inequity of residential taxpayers subsidizing heavy industry continues.

For my part, I commit to lobbying the provincial government to address this inequity. Much has changed since Premier Gordon Campbell brought in the PPTA in 2003. Notably, the financial pressures on District taxpayers have never been greater. Our tax bills keep rising. It is time for the tax bills of the “capped” heavy industrial taxpayers to rise in tandem and thereby ensure an even and fair distribution of the overall tax bill.

Are you already a subscriber to the *Blueridge Bulletin*?

If so, ***thank you!***

If not, can we persuade you to click on [this link](#) and subscribe, please?

It's only one email a month, we don't sell or give your information to anyone, and we try to fill each issue with useful information. We hope to see you in your

inbox next month!

Oh, and feel free to forward the Bulletin to family or friends!



Is There a Path to Harmony with Nature?

Holly Reisner, Executive Director, North Shore Black Bear Society

What will it take for the humans in Metropolitan Vancouver to achieve harmony with our wildlife?

Metropolitan Vancouver, including the North Shore, may be the city with the biggest wildlife interface in the world. The fact that our city is surrounded by mountains and forest on one side and ocean on the other means that the people living here are neighbours with all kinds of species: on the marine side we have orca and grey whales, seals, sea lions, sea otters, river otters, gulls, ducks, and herons, to name but a few. On the forest side we have elk, deer, raccoons, skunks, eagles, ravens, crows, songbirds, bobcats, rats, squirrels, mice, cougars, coyotes, and black bears. Not far from the city we also have grizzly bears.

It's fair to say that most Vancouverites love the natural beauty of our region. We brag about the trees, waves, and wildlife to friends and relations that don't live here. We put up with a high cost of living partly because we know how special it is to live in a city where you can drive 20 minutes to a ski hill or to a gorgeous mountain hike. A city where you might see orcas off the beach, eagles soaring overhead, and deer on the drive home.

But here are some questions to ask yourself. How many of the species listed above do you encounter on a regular basis? When you do, how do you feel? Do they inspire awe and wonder? Do some of them make you feel afraid? How

about being afraid for your pet or child? How do you feel about the fact that many of these species can be found roaming through our neighbourhoods? Do you feel the urge to protect them? Do you wish they would stay deeper in the forest? How do you feel if your garbage is spilled or your apples are eaten off your tree? What if some of them decide to make a home under your deck? Or inside your roof, walls, or basement?

“Human/wildlife conflict” is a term we use to describe less-than-ideal wildlife encounters. It can refer to discomfort we might feel if we encounter a coyote when out walking our dog. Or if a family of skunks is living under our deck or mice are visiting our pantry cupboard. It can mean a bear accessing your organic waste, knocking down your fence, or killing your backyard chickens.

These situations bring us up against the inconvenience of living so close to the natural world and can put our love for wildlife to the test. They can tempt us to seek resolutions such as using rodent poisons or requesting authorities to trap animals. But we need to remember that our city is literally surrounded and permeated by wildlife habitat and that our development is pushing us further and further into that habitat. The housing crisis we are facing is causing a housing crisis for our wild species.

The answer to the question of how we can achieve harmony with our wildlife lies in knowledge and responsibility. We can't truly love something if we don't understand it. Learning about the animals that share Metro Vancouver with us will help us understand that they generally do not pose us any danger and that we are the ones capable of reducing our conflicts with them.

Taking actions such as securing garbage, food waste, fruit trees, and bird feeders; not allowing access to potential denning sites on our properties; and understanding how to let wildlife know we are using the trails so they can avoid us are a few of the responsibilities we have for keeping the animals we love safe. Bylaw and conservation officers have their roles to play, but the general public has the most important one.

The human/wildlife relationship is complex. The responsibility for controlling its many factors lies only on our side, but the benefits of doing so well are ultimately felt by both. It's worth the effort.



Update on Chemtrade's engagement process in the District of North Vancouver

Amy Jonsson, Director of Corporate Communications at Chemtrade

We know the future of our chlor-alkali facility, located at 100 Amherst Avenue in North Vancouver, is of interest to many residents living in the Blueridge area. As a member of the North Vancouver community, we are sharing the latest information on our engagement process so you know the next steps and the many ways you can get involved this summer.

As a reminder, Chemtrade's facility is situated on two parcels of land: one part is leased from the Port of Vancouver, and the other is land we (Chemtrade) own. For almost two years, we have been engaging with the community, all levels of government, local Nations, and stakeholders about extending our operations into the future.

In recent months many in our community have become more aware of the value of securing Canadian supply chains for our greatest needs. And we now better understand how reliance on foreign trading partners comes with big risks. Our ability to operate into the future ensures a local, continued source of liquid chlorine essential for our drinking water systems across Metro Vancouver, British Columbia, and Alberta, Canada. It will also allow us to continue to offer good, high-paying jobs in the North Vancouver community.

In April 2025, we announced that Chemtrade and the Port of Vancouver signed a non-binding letter of intent to extend Chemtrade's lease to 2044. This is only one step in the process, because in order to produce liquid chlorine past June 2030, Chemtrade needs to go through the District of North Vancouver rezoning process to have the manufacturing of liquid chlorine listed as an exemption within a bylaw, passed in 1984. We became aware of the need to rezone when we approached the District about development permits regarding several proposed improvements for our site, which will increase safety and greatly reduce any potential risk to the community, bringing the existing risk curves to at or near our property line.

If the District does not approve our rezoning application, we would be unable to move ahead with these planned improvements, and the future of the facility becomes uncertain beyond 2030.

We expect to submit this formal rezoning application later this year, and the application process will include opportunities for public engagement.

Ahead of this formal process, you can stay informed in many ways, including:

- Sign up for newsletter updates at askchemtrade.ca so you can hear from us directly.
- Take a facility tour! We have heard great feedback from the more than 100 residents, businesses, community organizations, and first responders who have come on-site and viewed our operations firsthand. Sign up by sending me an email directly with your interest.
- Come and see us at an event this summer, including Blueridge Good Neighbour Day. All events will be posted at askchemtrade.ca.

This is an important conversation, and we encourage you to be a part of it! Reach out at any time if you have any questions or visit the many resources available at askchemtrade.ca.

*Amy Jonsson is the director of corporate communications at Chemtrade.
Connect with Amy by email at ajonsson@chemtradelogistics.com.*



The new FUNdation is ready for your ideas!

Eric G. Andersen, BCA Chair

You may have read in our last newsletter about the latest activity sponsored by the BCA: the Blueridge FUNdation.

The FUNdation is up and running, and we had already received the first

application. It was a great suggestion, but it was unfortunately killed by the bureaucrats.

So we are still looking for our first application to materialize. Remember that what you wish to promote must be something that will get residents together from across Blueridge and Seymour Heights – and not just the neighbours on your own street.

You can find the application form with full details at:

<https://blueridgeca.org/foundation/>



It's Water Conservation Time

Jeff Powell

Beginning on May 1st, we're all subject to Stage 1 Water Use Restrictions. They will stay in place until at least October 15th and are designed to save water, mostly by limiting lawn watering. As we all face the [unprecedented cost of the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant](#), be glad we are not also having to fund extensive new sources of drinking water. Additional reservoirs, dams, and piping would be another very large expense added to our utility bills.

To help avoid that, we should all reduce water use during peak months. And the Stage 1 Water Conservation rules do that by limiting watering as follows:

Residential Lawns:

- Even-numbered addresses can only water on Saturdays
- Odd-numbered addresses can only water on Sundays

- Automatic watering is allowed between 5 and 7 am
- Manual watering is allowed between 6 and 9 am

Trees, shrubs, and flowers can be watered with a sprinkler any day between 5:00 am and 9:00 am, or any time by hand or using drip irrigation. All hoses must have an automatic shut-off device.

Edible plants are exempt from restrictions.

For full details on the lawn watering rules, see

<https://metrovancover.org/services/water/water-restrictions>.

And if you want to know what Stage 2 and beyond would look like, [this document](#) lists all the restrictions that can be imposed if a drought gets serious enough. Those wanting even more technical data can see:

- [A chart showing reservoir levels from May 1 though the end of October](#)
- [A chart showing inflows to the Capilano reservoir](#)
- Water conservation information from the [DNV](#) and [Metro Vancouver](#)

Finally, the BCA website always has the current water restrictions displayed on our [homepage](#), as well as links to all of the above information on our [Water Conservation page](#).



Desperate for a Night Out? Blueridge Sitter Directory at Your Service!

Michael Bernard

Need a sitter for that rare night out? A tutor to get little Johnny through math with flying colours? Or someone to babysit your cat, dog, or parakeet for a few days? You have come to the right place!

The Blueridge Sitter Directory has been operating for a few years now, and by all accounts, users have been happy with the service. You can check for available sitters at www.blueridgeca.org. Meanwhile, you can also feel good giving a young person a chance to learn to be responsible minding someone's loved ones, as one of our stars, Ava Cortiula, will tell you. A Blueridge scholarship recipient, Ava has stepped down from her role as she is away at university but writes about her time babysitting and tutoring:

"Being on the Blueridge sitter and tutor directory was an excellent experience for me! It connected me with my neighbours and allowed me to meet and help other Blueridge residents. The directory also provided me with work experience and helped further develop my leadership skills."

"I would strongly recommend (young people) joining the directory to any responsible, neighbourly individuals because it provides flexible work and allows you to be involved in the community. So please think of these resources next time you feel that you need a baby-, pet- or house-sitter or a tutor for your kids."

A Rhododendron's favorite topic to study is STEM.



Blueridge
Elementary

BPAC Update – April 2025

Cheryl Sauve

The Blueridge Elementary School community has jumped joyfully into spring this month. More families are walking and rolling to school in this lovely weather, so please drive carefully, especially between 8:20-9:00 am and 3-3:30 pm (2-2:30 pm on Wednesdays!).

Side note, if you're a morning person in Blueridge with no kids in elementary school, consider reaching out to your neighbours with school-age kids to see if you could help out by being a walking "drop-off buddy" one or two days a week. It's amazing what a help that can be to a family trying to get everyone out the door in the morning. Drop a note in their mailbox and get those text messages going.

Track and field season has kicked off at school, and students in grades 4-7 are in training mode, running, jumping, and throwing heavy objects. Track meets against local schools are on deck for May. Thanks to all the teachers and parent volunteers who make it happen!

Back by popular demand again this year is the kilometre club! Students collect popsicle sticks as they run laps of the field. Three sticks = 1 kilometre, and they can trade in kilometres for ribbons. Thanks to all the volunteers who help the kids get those wiggles out on Wednesdays at lunch!

Students from the older grades at Blueridge have been hard at work rehearsing for the Lion King musical, which will be on display for parents May 13 & 15. Big thanks to the Blueridge music program! That will be a busy week, as the spring Scholastic book fair is on in the library May 12-15. Don't forget family night, Wednesday, May 14, 6:15-7:45.

Blueridge Elementary's Parent Advisory Council (BPAC) is looking for new volunteers for next year, particularly parents with kids in younger grades (K-3). You can give time as you have it, and many roles don't require daytime availability. Email bpacblueridge@gmail.com to put your hand up, or come out to our year-end meeting (all Blueridge Elementary parents welcome!), Thursday, May 29, at 6 pm in the school library.

The grade 4 students have just returned from an overnight trip to Outdoor School at the Cheakamus Centre. What a wonderful opportunity for our students that has been going on for generations of North Shore families. Big thanks to all the parent and teacher volunteers.

Blueridge Good Neighbour Day is coming up on May 25, and our Grade 6 families will be running the tombola wheel. Stop by and spin to win!

On May 28 we will host a Staff Appreciation Breakfast for the amazing staff of Blueridge Elementary. We are so grateful for how hard they work for our

community!

Keep your eye open for tickets and mark your calendars for the annual BPAC parent social (open to the community) scheduled for May 30 at our local Good Co. and organized by our grade 2 families.

Enjoy your spring and all these beautiful gardens around Blueridge!



**SEYMOUR
HEIGHTS**
ELEMENTARY

**Seymour Heights
Elementary**

North Vancouver School District

Seymour Heights Update

Erin Bulycz, SHPAC Chair

Wow, spring has sprung! At Seymour Heights we are celebrating the warmer weather with hikes and walking field trips, track and field practices and meets, and a Primary Spring Concert at the end of May. We're also focusing on the outside with our playground improvement project too. Did you see our big news in the [North Shore News](#)?!?

In April we celebrated Earth Day with a school-wide grounds clean-up and assembly. From our principal, Ms. Hudson:

This spring, the Seymour Heights Wolf Pack is focusing on learning to care for the land we live on. This involves being mindful of how and why we respect our school grounds. Unfortunately, we've noticed an increase in the amount of trash appearing on our grounds.

In honour of Earth Day, we conducted a school-wide cleanup. At an assembly afterward, we displayed all the litter collected. With the help of a school district Indigenous Support Worker, we learned about the importance of caring for the land and how we are all connected. We are eager to continue this work throughout term 3.

Moving forward, we encourage families to take a closer look at what they pack for lunches and snacks, as well as how we pack them. We are not

requiring perfectly “litterless lunches,” but we ask families to find ways to reduce the amount of trash created from lunches and snacks. We understand that time is tight and that prepackaged food is sometimes necessary in busy households. We simply ask that you do a small “lunch audit” with your child to see how it can be improved.

Gardeners get so excited about spring that they wet their plants.



Getting Kids Involved in the Garden

Emilie Currie

One of my favourite things about the Blueridge Sharing Garden is seeing kids come out with their parents to tend the garden.

Whether you have a box in the Sharing Garden, a big backyard, or just a few pots on the patio, gardening offers a hands-on way for kids to learn, explore, and have fun.

Here are some tips:

- **Start simple.** Choose fast-growing plants like sunflowers, cherry tomatoes, or snap peas—great options for small hands to plant and care for.
- **Plant things they like to eat.** Last summer, my little cousin demolished an entire plant's worth of cherry tomatoes before I even realized what was happening.

- **Make it playful.** Turn weeding into a treasure hunt, watering into a game, and bug-spotting into a nature safari. We love collecting and counting worms in the garden.
- **Create a kid-sized plot.** Even a small corner can become their mini kingdom. Personal touches like signs or painted rocks make it feel extra special.
- **Celebrate the little wins.** Every sprout, bloom, and harvest is a chance to cheer. Gardening teaches patience and responsibility—but also brings joy and a sense of wonder.

This summer, dig in and grow something together. And please come visit us at the Sharing Garden!



And Speaking of the Garden

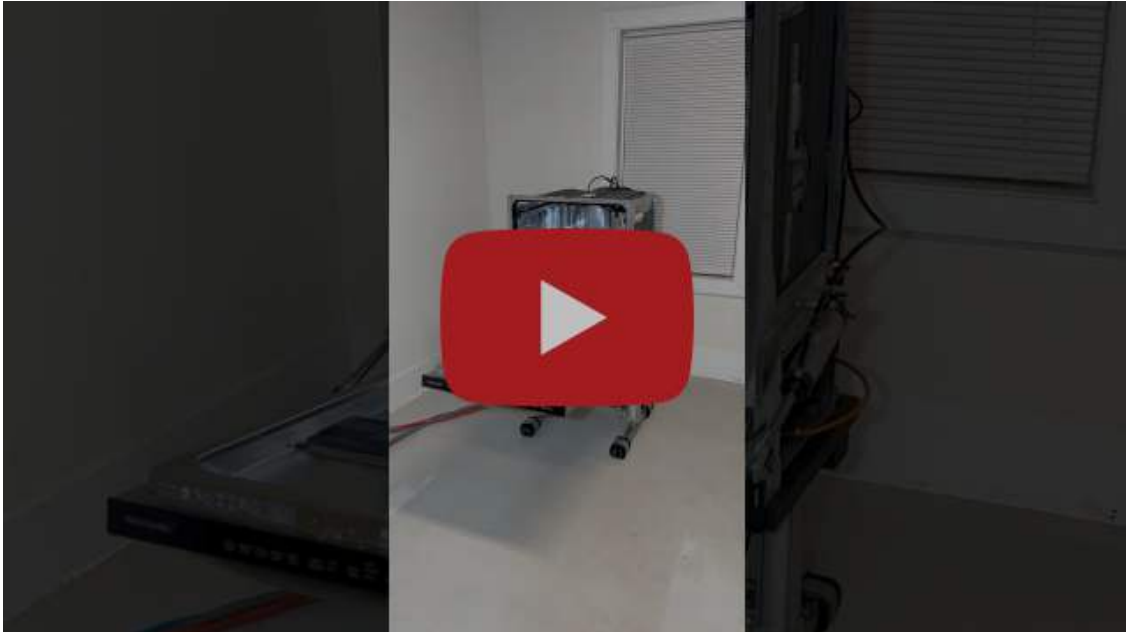
Remember last month when we said the Great Garden Box Rebuild was happening on April 26th? The image above arrived in our inbox on April 25th with the subject line "Dirt has arrived." By now, if all has gone well, that big pile has been put into the new boxes, and gardeners are planting their seeds!

Many thanks to Cris Fraenkel for the photo (and suitably terse message). In

addition, thanks once again to the District of North Vancouver's Community Sustainability Grant, which helped purchase the materials for this project.

Humour Break

If you're in the market for a new dishwasher, you might consider this one. It's from a new manufacturer, but as you can see below, their YouTube feed shows constant and dramatic "improvements" to the product!



On Shaky Ground

Jeff Powell

As you probably know, we all live on the [Ring of Fire](#), a geologically active region surrounding the Pacific Ocean. As a result, we're subject to earthquakes, and those can be very serious. Getting ready for an earthquake - or any natural

disaster - is a good idea, and there are resources to help. Many are referenced on the BCA website's [resources page](#), but here are a few to get you started:

- [Earthquakes – Get Prepared](#) - from the federal government website
- [Building an Emergency Kit](#) - from the BC government website
- [Earthquakes and Tsunamis](#) - from the BC government website
- [Wildfires](#) - also from the BC government website

Families with children should specifically make plans for who children should contact in the event the parents are away. Work with your neighbours to create a safety net that can handle surprises and get everyone back together. And if you have pets, plan for them too.

There's a lot to consider, but being prepared is a huge step forward. Instead of needing help, you'll be the one able to help others.



Paper Shredding Event May 24th

Tax time is over, and if you've got the traditional huge pile of paper that needs to be shredded, here's your chance to get rid of it and support a good cause at the same time.

The Lions are hosting a paper shredding event at [Parkgate Community Centre](#) on Saturday, May 24th. The event starts at 10am and goes until the truck is full.

Shredding is by donation, and your support helps fund Parkgate Society programs.

So make some more space in your office by getting all those documents shredded and out of the way!



Camp Creative at Maplewood House

North Van Arts Staff

Summer Camps 2025 | Registration opens early May

North Van Arts is offering 6 weeks of camps for 6-11 year olds. Campers will delve into visual arts, drama, music, textile arts, nature-based projects, outdoor play, and more.

The camps run Monday - Friday | 8:30am - 3:30pm | \$395

All camps are located at Maplewood House | 399 Seymour River Place, North Vancouver

Learn more about [Camp Creative](#):
northvanarts.ca | 604 988 6844



Geological Rambles: Rocking Around the North Shore

ElderCollege Program

This course consists of 4 field trips to locations within local parks or nature areas containing interesting and significant rock exposures. Led by Lindsay Bottomer, P.Geo, who has over 45 years of experience working in mineral exploration worldwide, the last 35 years in Vancouver, participants will learn about the history and geological evolution of the region.

Participants must provide their own transportation. A moderate level of fitness and mobility is required, as the course takes place outside on natural terrain with some steep, uneven ground. The course will proceed regardless of weather conditions, so please dress accordingly. Walking poles and sturdy footwear are recommended. Exact locations and directions will be emailed to registrants in late April.

Thu 9:50 am – 12:00 pm

May 8 – 29

\$30

If you are interested, please call the Silver Harbour front desk at 604-980-2474 to register.

May 8: Cleveland Dam

- 9:50 am for a short preliminary discussion
- Meet at the parking lot of Cleveland Dam, 5077 Capilano Road, North Vancouver

May 15: New Brighton Park

- 9:50 am

- Meet at Park & Tilford Shopping Centre, main parking lot, NE corner (near Moore's)

May 22: Deep Cove & Berkeley Escarpment*

- 9:50 am
- Meet at Park & Tilford Shopping Centre, main parking lot, NE corner (near Moore's)

May 29: Princess Park & Greenwood Park*

- 9:50 am
- Meet at Princess Park parking lot, Princess Avenue at Osborne Road, North Van

* Please note: May 22nd and May 29th locations are not yet confirmed. You will be informed of the correct location on Tuesday, May 20th.

Editor's note: *The May 22 event may be of particular interest to Blueridge residents.*

Spring cleaning is a challenge. They keep bouncing everywhere.



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.

Mar 31, 2025: Council Workshop

This meeting covered two issues: the Strategic Transportation Plan and safety improvements to the central portion of Mountain Highway.

The Strategic Transportation Plan is a big-picture overview of transportation in the DNV, tying together all the major transportation systems and issues in one place so DNV staff and the Council can see it all and make sure that all aspects are coordinated properly. It's a long-term document with certain portions to be developed quickly as they are needed to keep other projects moving.

Council discussion here was wide-ranging, covering everything from why there is so little bicycle use in the DNV despite years of building infrastructure to transit funding concerns. There were also concerns raised about the time needed to create this document and whether or not it was the proper focus of staff attention in these challenging economic times. In the end the report was accepted, and staff took a lot of notes to review as they move forward.

The discussion of Mountain Highway safety improvements doesn't directly relate to Blueridge, but it was important to note that this is a good example of the fact that Council members are consistently working for the benefit of DNV residents. Questions and concerns were expressed about everything staff brought up in this discussion, including traffic congestion in the area, thoughts on the entire road, and so on. If you are one to think that Council members aren't responsive and don't listen to the concerns of DNV residents, attending a few meetings like this one will convince you that is not the case. The real challenge is in the diverse values of DNV residents. It is never possible to make everyone happy.

April 7, 2025: Regular Council Meeting

Only two items at this meeting had any particular relevance for Blueridge. The first was rezoning and development permit approval for a large development at 2131-2171 Old Dollarton Road, 229-291 Riverside Drive, and 2102-2128 Front Street. On the zoning question, no debate was allowed, as this was the final adoption vote only. On the development permit, Councillor Muri raised concerns about parking in the area and about whether the retail space in the complex could ever be merged into a larger space, something she objects to. The developer answered her questions about parking as best he could, and we

learned that at the moment there are no limits on minimum or maximum retail space sizes in that complex, but the developer indicated their intent is to keep the retail spaces smaller rather than merge them together. Mayor Little asked how construction traffic will be managed, and the developer indicated a full plan would be provided to the district. In the end, both the zoning and the development permit passed unanimously.

The other relevant issue was the 2025-2029 financial plan adoption. There was also no debate on this item, as it was up for adoption only, and it carried unanimously.

Other items before the Council included a development permit on Glenaire Drive and the need for a Lynn Valley Youth Centre. One agenda item - for an emergency preparedness grant - was withdrawn just before the meeting began.

April 14, 2025: Special Council Meeting

This meeting was "special" only because it was not on the original meeting schedule set last December. Another meeting collided with the federal election, so it was removed from the schedule to give everyone more time to vote, and two meetings were set in its place, one before and one after. The only time-critical item on the agenda for the cancelled meeting was short-term rental regulations, so it was moved into this meeting as the only agenda item.

There has been extensive public input on short-term rentals, and it was clear that Council had heard those comments. The complication is the tightness of the schedule and the provincial rules and permitting process going into effect. Any changes made to the rules that were presented at the public hearings would require another round of public input, which would delay things too long. All councillors supported the current rules but want to see the maximum stay time extended to 89 days, which would put the District in line with the City of North Vancouver and the Province. The existing rules passed unanimously to let short-term rental operators apply for their business licenses in time for the Provincial system. In addition, a motion was added to have staff come back with bylaw modifications to extend to the 89-day limit as soon as possible. That motion also carried unanimously.

April 22, 2025: Special Council Meeting

This meeting had only one item on the agenda: the final adoption of the short-term rental rules that were debated on April 14th. As no additional debate was allowed, the vote happened immediately, and it passed unanimously. The

meeting then adjourned to start the next item.

April 22, 2025: Council Workshop

This meeting was a chance for Council to provide feedback to staff on how the 2025 tax levy will be distributed over the various taxation classes in the district (heavy industry, light industry, residential, etc.). Public input was moved to the beginning of the meeting, and the only speaker was from Allied Shipbuilders. He discussed the tax burden that Allied faces and how it compares with other regions. A staff presentation discussed various options for how the levy might be distributed over the different tax classes. One item specifically highlighted was the fact that "capped" businesses pay substantially less property tax here in the District than similar "uncapped" properties. (The "capped" vs. "uncapped" issue is caused by the Ports Property Tax Act, a provincial law that the DNV can't directly change. See Jim Hanson's article above for more details on this and how it pushes approximately \$4.5M in tax payments every year onto other tax classes here in the District.) Another key issue is the way annual property assessments - sometimes seen as unfair by various businesses, in particular - impact property taxes. In the end, Council unanimously opted for an even distribution of the levy, with no adjustments this year.

- - -

Those wanting more information should 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>.



A Night on the Town

Looking for a local night out? Here are some options:

[Deep Cove Coffee House](#) (Facebook link) presents:

Feature: Mike Rud with Russel Botten - Mike is a Juno award-winning composer, guitarist, and vocalist

Openers: Tess Meckling & Bradan DeCicco, Linda Villarreal & Michael Dunn

- May 16, 2025
- Mount Seymour United Church, [1200 Parkgate Ave., North Vancouver](#)
- \$20 each, cash only, at the door - includes delicious baked goodies, dark roast decaf coffee, teas and cold lemon water (Youth: \$5 / children & musicians: free)
- Doors open at 7 pm
- Opener: 7:30 - 8:30 pm
- Refreshment break: 8:30 pm
- Feature: 9 pm
- If Facebook doesn't work for you, [this link](#) may help. For more information or to be added to the Deep Cove Coffee House monthly mailing list, contact Jane Osborne: ejaneosborne@gmail.com or 604-363-5370.

[First Impressions Theatre](#) presents:

Songs for a New World - This contemporary song cycle weaves characters and history together, illuminating the timelessness of selfdiscovery. "It's about one moment. It's about hitting the wall and having to make a choice, or take a stand, or turn around and go back."

- May 1-2, 7-10, 14-17 at 7:30 pm
- Matinee May 3 at 2 pm
- In the Shaw Theatre in downtown Deep Cove.
- Tickets and more information are available at the link above.

[Deep Cove Stage Society](#) presents:

Five Alarm - A fairground in Killaloe, Ontario, is home to the annual Wayne Rose Memorial Chili Cook-Off, where Killaloe residents come

each year to compete for the honour and the cash prize. The most determined of these is Ava Rose, who has tried (and failed) to win for sixteen years. This year, with the help of a new assistant, Ava returns to battle her former childhood friend and rival. If she can piece together her late father's missing Five Alarm Chili recipe, she might just piece together the mysteries of her past.

- June 6th to 20th, 2025 (Th, Fri, Sat @ 7:30 pm)
- Matinees June 8th, 15th and 21st (@ 2:00 pm)
- \$12 Preview June 5th @ 7:30 pm
- In the Shaw Theatre in downtown Deep Cove.
- Tickets and more information are available at the link above.

[Presentation House Theatre](#) presents:

The Magic Flute - Presented by the North Shore Light Opera Society. All of Mozart's magnificent music, a stunning cast of singers, and a whimsical update of the story and setting into our corporate, technical world.

- May 15 to May 25
- Ticket Prices: Student: \$20 / Senior: \$25 / Adult: \$30
- Tickets and more information are available at the link above.

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



In A Nutshell

- **Why couldn't the pony sing in the choir?** He was a little horse.
- **Bears** - I mention it regularly, but we live with bears, and we need to respect them. See Holly Reisner's article above for some perspective. And there's this [North Shore News article about bears coming out of hibernation](#). How we treat bears says a lot about us. Think about it.

- **Don't ever believe an atom.** They make up everything.
- **Water Conservation** - Metro Vancouver is in **Stage 1 water conservation** rules now. Please see the article above for details about lawn watering rules!
- **Be kind to dentists.** They have fillings too, you know.
- **Music in the Garden Returns** - The annual concert series hosted right here in Blueridge returns this year with 3 concerts, 2 in July and 1 in September. We'll have all the details next month, but if you can't wait, be sure to see the latest issue of the Blueridge Community News - the BCA's printed newsletter - that will be in your mailboxes in May. The details will be there as well!
- **All the toilets in the North Vancouver RCMP headquarters have been stolen.** The police apparently have nothing to go on.
- **Fire Danger is on the Rise** - As usual for this time of year, we're going from low to at least moderate fire danger. A discarded cigarette butt in the duff along the street might already be a problem. Please be careful. The [BCA website's homepage](#) also has the current fire danger level and a link to the [DNV's forest fire prevention page](#). Update on April 28th: [A wildland fire is already burning in Squamish](#).
- **Why did the can crusher quit her job?** It was soda-pressing.
- **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.
- **Did you hear about the sale on paddles?** It was quite the oar-deal.



Newsworthy

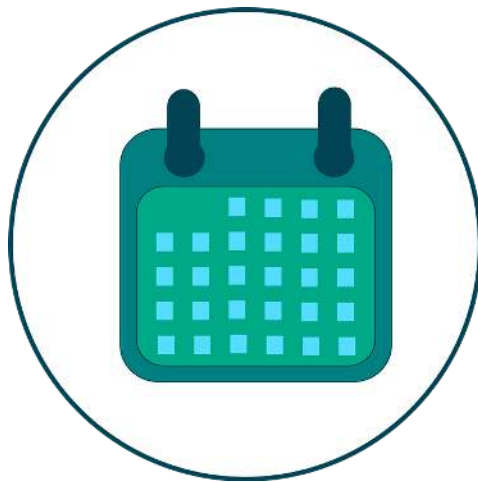
News articles and other items that Blueridge residents might find interesting or useful.

- [Volunteer Opportunities in the DNV](#)
- [Some Provincial Short-Term Rental Regulation Dates Extended](#)
- [Wildland Fire in Burning in Squamish](#) – started on April 27th
- [DNV Traffic Calming Program](#) - if your street has a problem, submit it here
- [Province To Provide \\$200K for New Playground at Seymour Heights Elementary](#)
- [The Bears are Out!](#) - some appear thin or injured too
- [DNV Council Approves Short-Term Rentals](#) - also this [North Shore News story](#)
- [Grouse Grind Reopens for 2025 Season](#)
- [DNV Councillor Jordan Back Calls for District to Investigate Water Metering](#)
- [DNV Adds Economic Development Section to the Website](#) - information for business owners and those wanting to start a business in the District
- [Blueridge Resident Gets Home Painted for Free](#)
- [Short-Term Rental Business License Applications Now Open](#)
- [Bears Are Waking Up](#)
- [DNV Fire Station has All Female Crew](#)
- [Another Article On Metro Vancouver Cost Savings](#) - this one also says “tighter water restrictions may be needed during droughts”
- [Windsor Secondary Students Start Charity Basketball Game](#)
- [Article Discussing Public Feedback on Short Term Rentals in DNV](#)
- [Metro Vancouver Announces \\$364 Million in Cost Savings](#) - in their general budget, not in the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant
- [Spring 2025 Community Report](#) is out from the DNV; it'll be in your mailbox as well.
- [Metro Vancouver Announces Stage 1 Water Restrictions Begin on May 1](#) - as usual
- **Translink**
 - [TransLink Might Need Vehicle Levy in Metro Vancouver](#)
 - [Vancouver Sun Article on TransLink Funding Plan](#) - with more details
 - [TransLink Funding Plan Includes Provincial Funding, Fare Increases, and Property Tax Increase](#)

This Month In Cheese

- April 12th was [National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day](#) - I had no idea!

- [The Best Cheeses For Grilled Cheese Sandwiches](#)
 - [Drop the Skillet and Make Your Next Grilled Cheese Like This](#) - with an air fryer?!?
 - [Cheers to Cheese in Kelowna!](#) - There's not much time remaining this year, but maybe next?
 - [Buy Canadian: 5 Exceptional Cheesemakers That Give a Sense of Place](#)
 - [Oxford County Cheese Trail Celebrates 10 Years](#)
 - [What It Takes to Make Switzerland's Most Famous Cheese](#)
 - [Group Protests Against Dairy Ending Cheese Making](#)
 - [How To Eat Norwegian Brown Cheese—And Actually Enjoy It](#)
 - [Dietitians Reveal The Healthiest Cheeses You Can Eat](#)
-



Important May Dates

- **May:** [Asian Heritage Month](#)
- **May 1:** [Stage 1 water conservation rules begin](#). Lawn watering limited. (Also see the article above.)
- **May 4-10:** [Emergency Preparedness Week](#)
- **May 5:** No school. District-wide professional development day.
- **May 5:** [Red Dress Day](#)
- **May 5:** [Music Monday](#)
- **May 5-11:** [Canadian Mental Health Week](#)
- **May 8:** Seymour Heights PAC meeting, 7-8pm, staff room
- **May 8:** Meet DNV Mayor Mike Little, 11am-noon, DNV Public Library, [Capilano branch](#)
- **May 11:** Mother's Day
- **May 12:** Windsor Secondary PAC meeting, noon-1pm, library

- **May 17:** [International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia](#)
- **May 19:** [Victoria Day](#) (all schools closed)
- **May 19:** [North Shore Triathlon](#) - this event closes a lane on Mt. Seymour Parkway
- **May 20:** Blueridge Community Association Annual General Meeting, 7pm, [Canlan Sports](#). Guest speaker is DNV Mayor Mike Little.
- **May 21:** Meet MLA Susie Chant, 10:30-11:30am, DNV Public Library, [Parkgate branch](#)
- **May 21:** Meet MLA Susie Chant, 6-7pm, DNV Public Library, [Lynn Valley branch](#)
- **May 22:** Blueridge Elementary early dismissal (2pm)
- **May 22:** Meet DNV Mayor Mike Little, 7-8pm, DNV Public Library, [Lynn Valley branch](#)
- **May 24:** Shred It for a Cause - shred your documents by donation at [Parkgate Community Centre](#), 10am until the truck is full
- **May 25:** [Blueridge Good Neighbour Day](#) (Also see article above.)
- **May 25-31:** [Red Shirt Day - National AccessAbility Week](#)
- **May 29:** Blueridge Elementary PAC meeting, 6pm, library
- **May 31:** Windsor Music Jazz Cabaret, 5-11pm, [Mount Seymour United Church](#)
- **May 31:** Meet DNV Mayor Mike Little, 10-11am, [Parkgate Community Centre](#)'s Senior Lounge

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 weekdays 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 Links from the April *Blueridge Bulletin*

1. [Australian lamb commercial](#) - 40 clicks
2. [The BCA homepage](#) - 27 clicks
3. [Seymour Community Association YouTube page](#) - 20 clicks for the all-candidates meeting
4. [The Blueridge Good Neighbour Day web page](#) - 16 clicks
5. [Google Maps to Mt. Seymour United Church](#) - 14 clicks
6. [The BCA FUNdation web page](#) - 14 clicks
7. [The BCA FUNdation grant request page](#) - 13 clicks
8. [Quote Investigator](#) - 13 clicks
9. [News story about an arrest in Blueridge](#) - 8 clicks
10. [DNV post about managing extra yard waste](#) - 7 clicks

Overall, 44 out of 99 different links were clicked on at least once each, and there were 244 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!



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20% off all sharpening jobs over \$100

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www.coveblades.com
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erik@coveblades.com

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



Kitchen knives
Scissors
and more...

Discount offer from March 1 - May 31, 2025



Blueridge Residents Discount

20% Discount Off Interior & Exterior Detail Packages

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boston@soapnshine.ca
www.soapnshine.ca



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



Blueridge Residents Discount

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Filth Fighters

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www.filthfighters.ca

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Discount offer from May 1, 2025 - September 1, 2025

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 2025 edition is May 27, 2025.

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

Questions? Send us an email at bulletin@blueridgeca.org.

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