

NOVEMBER 2025 ISSUE

A Busy Year with a promising new one approaching

By Eric G. Andersen, BCA Chair

It is amazing—and a bit scary to consider—that another new year will soon be over. It was not your usual one—but which one has been?

The Blueridge Community FUNDation is now ready and able to help anyone local who wishes to set up events such as a chess tournament, a musical recital, a creek clean-up or even a scavenger hunt.

While we've not had many applications to date, the funding is there to be used by innovative residents of Blueridge and Seymour Heights who want to stage something involving the community.

We had a well-attended AGM this spring with District of North Vancouver DNV) Mayor Mike Little as our guest speaker and numerous introductions, including our 2025 Blueridge Scholarship recipient and the Outstanding Neighbour awards.

Blueridge Good Neighbour Day (BGND), held for the first time in May rather than June, was another big success. The weather was perfect, and the attendance was amazing. Thank you to all the sponsors, donors and volunteers, but most of all the energetic and remarkable BGND team that made it all happen again.

Sadly, it appears it may be the last BGND, at least for a while. Unless, of course, somebody feels like continuing this great tradition. In that case, the association will support the new organizers as much as possible, by providing both experience and financial assistance to get the event going again.

But as one door closes (we hope temporarily) another door opens! We are looking for new, local and fun activities that we could offer to the community residents. One that we are already considering is a Movie Night at Blueridge. We also hope to start a Blueridge community event called 'Cozy Connections Night' on a regular basis, perhaps monthly. What a great way this could be to



Eric G. Andersen

connect with old friends and meet your neighbours, both long-timers and brand-new ones, maybe while listening to a local band!

Other happenings in 2025:

At the end of September, the annual cleanup at Blueridge Creek was held on World Rivers Day. It is another wonderful tradition started by a local resident years ago. It's always great to see kids involved in such activities.

Our association has again shown leadership by firing off a letter signed by all 12 directors on behalf of our community to our NDP MLA Susie Chant, and the DNV council, demanding a public inquiry into the massive budget over-run of the North Vancouver Wastewater Treatment Plant.

We also took on an initiative, previously unseen on the North Shore, to host a Town Hall meeting Oct. 15. We invited our Liberal MP Terry Beech, Ms. Chant, and Mayor Mike Little to field questions from residents. As we do at our election-time All Candidates Meetings, we joined forces with our friends at the Deep Cove Community Association and the Deep Cove Community Association.

Our Blueridge Spirit Award and our scholarship will continue into 2026, and we are also pleased to share some other good news. It appears that our very popular Dîner en Bleu, a feast-on-the-street event, is making a comeback! Look for more than that in future issues of this newsletter and the online monthly Blueridge Bulletin. (Don't forget to subscribe to the Bulletin at blueridgeca.org).

Finally, we are also trying to promote "Neighbours Helping Neighbours"—ways of helping each other out. This idea has grown out of the Blueridge Cares program, which, with sufficient interest, could expand into times beyond Christmas. Again, you can read more about this initiative elsewhere in the newsletter and in the Bulletin.

Should readers have further suggestions for new activities, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact us at info@blueridgeca.org.

Blueridge's new neighbours:

*H*ello neighbours!

We're the Robertsons—Travis, Lauren, Connor, our friendly and energetic four-year-old, and our newborn boy, Hayden.

We moved to Blueridge/Seymour Heights right around last Christmas after searching the area for a couple of years, and we couldn't be happier to finally call this home.

From the moment we arrived, we felt something special about this neighbourhood. Maybe it's the quiet streets, the towering trees, or how easy it is to get out into nature. We're a family that thrives on the outdoors—whether it's hiking the local trails, biking through the forest, or camping under the stars.

Having all of that right at our doorstep is a dream come true.

What has really made us feel at home, though, is the sense of community. Everyone has been so welcoming, whether it is a friendly wave on the street, a chat in the park (and letting us pet your dogs!) or tips on the best hidden spots. It's clear that Blueridge is more than just a neighbourhood—it's a place where people genuinely care about each other.

We're excited to continue putting down roots here and getting more involved. You'll probably see us out of the trails or chasing our boys through the local parks. Don't hesitate to say hi! We're looking forward to meeting more of you.



The Robertsons.

Trails closed while work continues on former Blair Rifle Range

By Michael Bernard

*W*hile it's been many decades since the former military munitions site has been active, Canadian military officials say they will continue searching for unexploded explosive ordnance (UXO) from the site east of Blueridge and Seymour Heights.

"To ensure continued safe community use of the site, UXO contractors will continue clearing the munitions from the forested areas until March 31, 2026, with a brief pause over the Christmas holiday and into January, a Department of National Defence (DND) spokesperson says in a recent news release.

"During this time, the contractor will be clearing additional areas in the northern section of the site, and for safety reasons, select trails will be closed on an intermittent and rotating basis while work is underway."

For more details on trail closures, please look at the Blueridge website (www.blueridgeca.org). Open trails continue to be safe for the community to use for walking, jogging or biking.

The website map delineates (in light green) the extent of the UXO clearing since the DND returned to the site in 2023, the spokesman said. "Our priority remains the safety and security of the community, and we are committed to keeping you informed."



Photo submitted by Joan Koop

Meanwhile, the spokesman added, that if residents encounter something that looks like a UXO, they should:

- Not touch it
- Turn around and leave the area the same way you came in
- Call 911 or local RCMP

If residents have any questions about the clearance work, please visit the DND website or email the DND at UXOCanada@forces.gc.ca.



Where Do We Put 20,000 New Living Units by 2041?

By Jim Hanson, Councillor, District of North Vancouver

Provincial legislation (Bill 44) sets a target for housing growth in the District of North Vancouver. The District is required by this legislation to have zoned capacity for approximately 20,000 additional living units by 2041. This is approximately twice the pace of current development in the District. If we fail to create this zoned capacity, we face the prospect of the province intervening to accomplish the goals of the legislation.

It is, to many of us, problematic that the province is setting specific goals of housing growth without putting into place equally detailed plans for expanding infrastructure. Where are the plans to upgrade our transportation and other infrastructure to accommodate this increased population? When will we see a SkyTrain to the North Shore? When will our health-care capacity be developed to meet this increased demand? These are practical questions that, in the view of many, must be answered before we can seriously contemplate doubling our rate of housing development. There are also serious questions to be answered regarding the fiscal impacts of all this growth. Will this plan to add an extra 20,000 living units within 16 years put a strain on District taxpayers?

However, Bill 44 requires us to rezone in advance in a manner that accommodates these new units. The legislation is mandatory. What remains for Council to decide is how and where to direct this mandated population growth.



At the October 20, 2025, Council meeting, we passed the first reading on an Official Community Plan Amendment to guide this future growth. The majority of Council (Mayor Little, Counsellors Muri, Forbes and Mah) voted for a plan to incorporate this extra growth within our existing growth plans. A minority (myself and Councillors Pope and Back) voted in favour of an alternative plan that would have targeted this extra growth

into expanded town centres and growth corridors. As stated in this staff report: "[This alternative plan] on balance provides greater opportunities for further diversity of housing types and more housing in centres and along corridors where there is greater access to transit, daily needs and amenities."

I will continue to speak out against the housing growth mandates of Bill 44. I believe, with all due respect to the provincial government, that Bill 44 is poor public policy and that to mandate housing growth without a plan for infrastructure investment is not in the best interests of the District. However, if we are required to zone to add housing units at this pace, I believe that we are better off adding this zoned capacity in expanded town centres and growth corridors and protecting our single-family zones.

The OCP amendments will proceed to a public hearing. Come out and have your say. Tell us where you would like to place 20,000 additional housing units over the next 16 years. At the same time, please communicate with your provincial representatives (your members of the BC Legislature) and tell them how you feel about our community being mandated to grow in population without a corresponding plan for investments in critical infrastructure.



Jim Hanson

Range of thorny topics raised at town hall meeting

By Michael Bernard

Three Three politicians, three community associations and several community members discussed a variety of topics at a town hall meeting in mid-October.

About 150 residents attended the meeting at the Seymour United Church to hear DNV Mayor Mike Little, NDP MLA Susie Chant and Liberal MP Terry Beech provide their views on the budget overrun at the North Shore Wastewater Plant, traffic gridlock provincial government overrides of property densities and provincial and government budget deficits.

If you were unable to attend the event, you can watch it on youtube at www.YouTube.com/SeymourCA

The meeting, believed to be the first of its kind on the North Shore, was co-sponsored by the Blueridge Community Association, Deep Cove Community Association and the Seymour Community Association.

We'd like to thank our generous Blueridge Good Neighbour Day donors, many of whom support us annually!

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Diane Chen
GFL Environmental
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Stong's
The Cooperators
- Melnyk Financial Planning and Investments Ltd.
The Mellor Family
The Milroy-Ford Family
United Strangers Coffee
Valhalla Pure Outfitters

We'd also like to thank the many donors to our silent auction. Once again, many of these organizations and people support us every year!

3D Basketball
Allan McGavin Sports Medicine Clinic
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Banda Volpi
Barb Wilks, Realtor
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Monika's Art Studio and Boutique Gallery
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In addition, many thanks to everyone who volunteered or simply joined us for the day.

Can you help someone at Christmas Time? (Or use a little help yourself?)

By Carolann and Cris Fraenkel



Each year, we work in our neighbourhood to collect donations and other gifts for Blueridge families who need a little help during the holidays.

So first of all, how can **you** help? **You could** buy a gift for someone in need (or for more than one in need.) Blueridge Cares will provide you with a gift tag and help with the details. You purchase a gift, wrap it, attach the tag and bring the package to us. We'll collect all the gifts and deliver them before the kids are off school for the winter break.

You could buy a grocery store or gas gift card for a family. We will bundle them with a holiday card and deliver them to a family who needs a little help.

You could 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 send E-transfers to BCA Treasurer Ted Bancroft at tedb85@gmail.com and make sure you put in the "notes" part "Blueridge Cares".

You could visit with a neighbour for a couple of hours. We are adding that option this year because a chat and a cup of tea or coffee might really brighten someone's day.

You could volunteer. If you're interested in becoming one of our elves and have time to shop or wrap, or organize and deliver gifts, send us an email at blueridgecares@blueridgeca.org and let us know. We will get back to you and let you know how you can help.

Donations will be accepted until Dec. 15. We look forward to hearing from you. Whatever way you choose to help, thank you very much!

So, what if you need a little help during Christmas. **How can we help you?**

If you live in Blueridge and need some assistance, we want to hear from you. Please fill out the Blueridge Cares Help Request form, available on blueridgeca.org or available through the QR code below. That questionnaire asks about your specific needs so we can do our best to help you. All the information you provide is strictly confidential. Help requests are accepted until Dec. 5.

**Meanwhile, Happy Holidays
from the Blueridge Community
Association!**



Grover Hernandez: First to Arrive, last to leave

By In-Ah Mellor

Grover Hernandez, was a natural to receive the Blueridge Spirit Award for his considerable contributions to last May's Blueridge Good Neighbour Day (BGND).

Born and raised in East Vancouver, Grover is a true local! He moved to North Vancouver to settle down with his family and enjoy everything the North Shore has to offer. An outdoor enthusiast, he has many gadgets and toys in his garage that greatly benefited the BGND planning committee. We are so lucky to have had Grover join our little group of organizers post-pandemic to help revive this much-loved community event. A shout-out to Tracey at this point for volun-telling your husband to cross the street and join a BGND meeting!



Grover Hernandez, Blueridge Spirit Award, winner, with In-Ah Mellor, BCA board member

Grover wears many hats at work, organizing and planning as a business analyst at a cyber security company. He brought these skills to the table for BGND, putting together the event site map and improving the flow and layout of the business tables and activities—a huge job that Grover executed with ease and a wonderful calmness when things were going sideways.

In preparation for the event, Grover made the contents of his gear garage available to BGND without hesitation—tents, BBQ, wash stations, and a huge carport cover among other items. On the big day, Grover was one of the first to arrive and last to leave. He helped everyone find their spots and ensured no one was lost or overlooked.

"Seeing it all come together is what makes it all worth it," Grover says.

I couldn't agree more.

Artist In-Ah Mellor is a previous Spirit Award Winner and one of the Blueridge Community Association's newest board members

Other Extraordinary Volunteers for BGND

We've chosen two special people for awards this issue: Edmund Hayley (left photo) has volunteered with lots of enthusiasm for Blueridge Good Neighbour Day every year. He even dresses up for the occasion! He said he can BBQ as long as required. Najma Naderi is the "master of flexibility" and undertook any task asked of her for BGND. She was willing to BBQ the entire day and more if necessary.



Volunteer Edmund Hayley and Elmira Nazar, BCA Volunteer Co-ordinator.



Volunteer Najma Naderi with Elmira.

Opinion: Is the Board of Metro Vancouver Worth the Cost? A Call to Action.

By Ted Bancroft, BCA Director

Before the debacle of the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant, I took it for granted that the Board was on the side of the three million citizens of Metro Vancouver. I didn't pay much attention to what was happening until the Board gave its members huge pay increases while at the same time announcing the original cost of the Treatment Plant, estimated at the time at \$700 million, was going to cost \$3.9 billion. Without providing any substantive explanation. And refusing to allow any kind of audit. And taking steps to ensure that no audit, at least an independent one, would never take place.

Of course, the Board runs its own show. No accountability to those three million citizens who pay for their projects, their salaries and perks, including travel to faraway lands and expensive hotels and meals. Not even any apparent embarrassment for mishandling the construction of the Treatment Plant. And there is more to come.

The current estimate does not include the remediation of the current treatment plant under the Lions Gate Bridge. It does not include costs of litigation leveled against Metro by the engineering firm entrusted by them to carry out the project. True, there may be some offsetting income from the countersuit that Metro has levelled against the same engineering firm. Is this all that we can expect from Metro in terms of looking after our interests? Or is all this posturing an expensive tactic to avoid letting us citizens, the people paying the bills, know the details of what went wrong and who is responsible?

The court cases will not come to trial until 2027. Note that civic elections will be over and done with by then. No examinations for discovery (a step in

law suits where the parties ask each other questions) have started. What's your bet that we will ever find out who bears the blame for this fiasco? Or will the cases be settled and the results hidden behind non-disclosure agreements? Given what has transpired so far, my bet is that we will never know. Unless...

The Provincial Government has both the power AND the responsibility to invoke Section 764 of the Local Government Act to order a public inquiry into this horrifying situation. That is the ONLY avenue that can ensure that facts are established, procedural processes are amended to potentially avoid recurrences of huge projects going off the rails, and any negligence brought to light.

Why does the Provincial Government not do its job and invoke Section 764? Are they hiding something? Protecting someone? What level of TRUST do you have in our democracy and its ability to withstand mismanagement and/or deliberate malfeasance? On a scale of one to ten, mine has dropped from eight to one. Yes, I'm angry. That's what disillusionment does.

Your Association has done its job by writing to the North Vancouver District Council and our local MLA. You can find the letter on our website. Now it's your turn to let our government know what you think. The more that citizens push, the more likely it is that elected officials will do the job we elected them to do.



Ted Bancroft

Neighbours Helping Neighbours – Blueridge Style

By Eric G Andersen

Recently, a neighbour asked why doesn't the Blueridge Cares holiday season initiative do more during the rest of the year? Not just by putting presents under the tree, but more generally helping a neighbour out when life throws a curve ball.

Part of being a great community is knowing your neighbours and what is going on in their lives. We encourage you to make the time to chat with those who live around you and let us know if you think we should do more to help out people in Blueridge.

Do you have a neighbour who needs help but is hesitant to ask? Or is that you? Sometimes things happen and we have trouble coping with what life throws at us. The Blueridge Community Association is considering setting up ways we can help each other out, assistance like everything from picking up groceries and mowing a neighbour's lawn to driving a senior or covering babysitting costs.

Please send your thoughts to us at info@blueridgeca.org, and we'll bring it up at our next BCA meeting.



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**Cozy Connections Night
Let's get together Blueridge!**

by Toby Barazzuol and Eric G. Andersen

Join us for Blueridge Community Night, a monthly gathering designed to bring neighbours together in a warm, welcoming atmosphere! Enjoy light refreshments, engaging conversations, and fun activities to spark new friendships and strengthen community bonds. Whether you're new to Blueridge or a longtime resident, come share your ideas and connect with others in a casual setting.

We'd love to hear from you! Please respond with your ideas to info@blueridgeca.org

What activities or themes would make this event exciting for you?

Do you prefer Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday evenings?

Let's make Cozy Connections Night a highlight of your month!

If there is interest in this new activity, we will start it early in 2026. We will provide all the details of the dates, time and location.

**Blueridge
Christmas Train
Ready to Roll**

Engineer Brian Gardiner is ready to blow the whistle on the Christmas trail for the 15th year this December at his yard at 2377 Berkley. Check blueridgeca.org for dates and times.



PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH!!

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

 Facebook: Blueridge Community Association

 Instagram: Blueridge__Community

Web: www.blueridgeca.org

Email: info@blueridgeca.org • newsletter@blueridgeca.org