

# *Blueridge Bulletin*

## *March 2026*



*Published by the Blueridge Community Association*

*Editor: Jeff Powell*



**Welcome to March!** Why is the cover photo of Christmas lights, you ask? That's easy. Your editor loves seeing lights like these up around the neighbourhood. Yes, the holidays are over, but these lights bring me joy, and that's worth sharing. In fact, my little corner of Blueridge has quite a few folks with holiday lights still up (and lit!) every night. I see them when taking our dog out for her walk just before bed, and it always makes me happy.

**So thank you, neighbours, for keeping those lights shining!  
I hope they are still there in August!**

Moving on to a different kind of light: we are right in the path of a total lunar eclipse starting at 12:43am on Tuesday, March 3. That's so early that some of us would still call it Monday night. The darkest part of the eclipse will last an

hour, and the whole thing will go on for well over five hours. Of course, this requires clear skies, something the North Shore is not actually known for. Still, there's hope! See the Nutshell section below for more information and a link to a news article with all the details.

And finally, I know I say it every month, but wow, is this issue full. So many articles this time, some about big things. The two most substantial are about SSMUH (Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing) and the NSWWTP (North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant). They're the first two items this month, and they are probably the two most pressing concerns for North Shore residents these days. Feel free to read one and come back for the other in a few hours or a day later if needed. But of course there's more here. Local elections are coming, and Councillor Hansen is encouraging everyone to vote with excellent reasons why we should participate, and Blueridge Good Neighbour Day is kicking off again. And that's not all.

Our community may be a small part of the District of North Vancouver, and an even tinier part of the North Shore, but we are also well organized and keep ourselves informed about so many things. Thank you for being part of that!

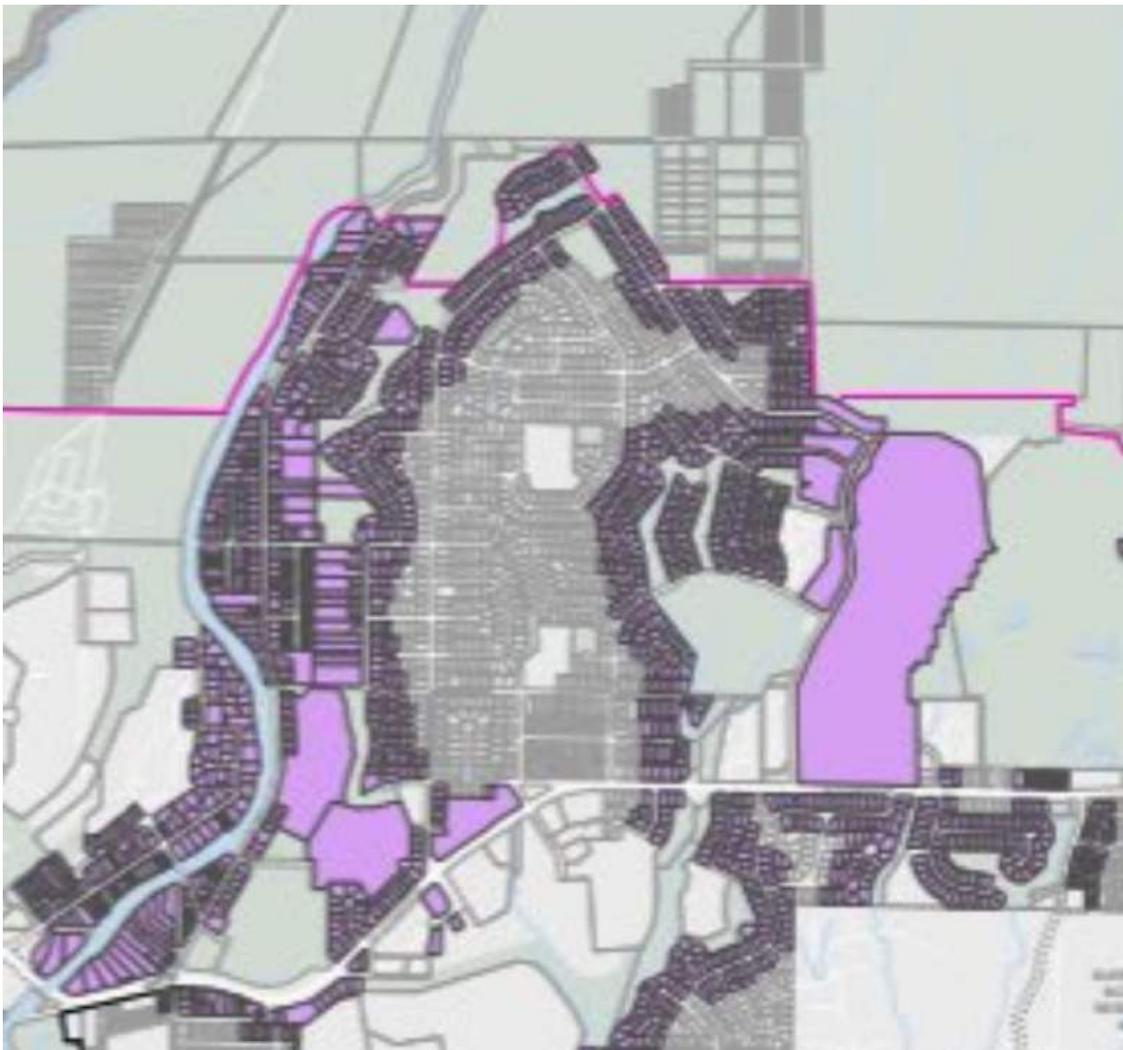
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## Features



## **Night of the Living SSMUH**

Jeff Powell

A council meeting held on February 9th and 10th provided insight into how the DNV is responding to Provincial Bill 25, which imposes Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing (SSMUH) on all communities in BC with over 5,000 residents.

### **That's right. SSMUH is back.**

The province appears to have forced this issue because many communities - including the DNV - didn't respond to their earlier attempt to create SSMUH in their intended way. In particular, the DNV responded by allowing a house, suite, and coach house on just about every single-family lot. But such responses were apparently not acceptable to provincial leaders, and Bill 25 was created to force SSMUH into place. All BC cities of over 5,000 residents must respond to Bill 25 by the end of June 2026.

### **What is SSMUH?**

As a reminder, SSMUH requires cities to allow the development of more housing units on single-family zoned lots. Lots less than 280 square metres must allow up to three units, and lots over that size must allow four units, or six if they are within 400 metres of frequent transit. In the DNV, there are only 57 lots of less than 280 square metres, and there are apparently none in Blueridge or Seymour Heights. The rest - about 20,000 lots - will therefore be allowed 4 or 6 units. But those near frequent transit are only in Lynn Valley and along Marine Drive near Lions Gate. Thus, here in Blueridge, we're only looking at the potential for four housing units per lot.

As happened when SSMUH was first discussed in 2024, some lots are exempt for various reasons. In particular, parcels in hazard zones - high fire risk, flood risk, geotechnical risk, and so on - can be excluded. In the case of Blueridge, the exempt areas form a border around our community, as seen in the dark purple areas in the map above this article. This exempted region is slightly different from the one presented in early 2024. Previously, the area along Blueridge Creek was excluded from SSMUH development as well, but at this time those lots are now anticipated to be allowed SSMUH development.

As the province is requiring all municipalities of a certain size to adopt SSMUH and zone for it, the DNV has no real choice but to comply by the deadline at the

end of June 2026. However, they can apply some limits (like the hazardous areas designated above), and certain other options are available. At the February 9 workshop, DNV staff wanted feedback from Council on those items. The specific questions were:

1. Should staff prepare zoning bylaw changes that restrict SSMUH in hazard areas? Council appeared to unanimously support this choice.
2. Should staff apply for an exception along Marine Drive due to the ongoing planning for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on that corridor? The general idea presented was that once BRT arrives, the area along Marine Drive might be zoned for substantially higher density residential use than SSMUH allows thanks to Bill 47, which created Transit Oriented Areas, which must allow significantly taller buildings. Here Council was mostly supportive, but concerns were expressed over the lack of a deep analysis of the Marine Drive area. It was suggested that more information about the District's commercial and light industrial lands was needed to determine the best future zoning of that area. Along with this question, staff raised the issue of proactively amending the Official Community Plan (OCP) to designate that higher density now. Council seemed opposed to this item, or at least questioned it seriously.
3. The Province has opened the door to allowing municipalities to require affordable or special needs housing in the sixth unit of a SSMUH development, and staff wanted to know if Council supported that idea. Council was divided on this item, but it appears the majority wants to at least consider that option in the bylaws.
4. Finally, the Province also left open the option of allowing Residential Rental Tenure Zoning (RRTZ) in SSMUH developments, but they have recommended against it as they feel it will raise the cost so much as to make SSMUH impractical to build. RRTZ allows a city to require long-term rental to be part of a development. Despite the Province's stated position, Council expressed an interest in learning more about the option, as it might help meet the rental unit construction requirements imposed by the Province.

At this point the staff presentation paused for questions & answers. Various items were discussed, but a few of the more interesting things that came up were:

- The current best guess is that SSMUH developments will be very limited, at least initially. The DNV sees about 120 permits per year for new home builds, coach houses, and major additions combined. That's less than 1%

of the housing stock per year. If that rate remains consistent, SSMUH will be slow to arrive.

- New SSMUH developments may be built and sold as strata.
- The District will always have the ability to prohibit a SSMUH development for safety and capacity reasons, specifically around services. If there is inadequate water to fight a fire in a proposed building, or the sewer lines are too small to support the proposed units, building permits can be denied. Developers could opt to enhance those services at their expense, but that would likely be very costly. It is probable that issues like these will slow the development of SSMUH in neighbourhoods like Blueridge. Our water & sewer supplies (along with electricity and natural gas) are only so large. A few SSMUH developments may be enough to strain them to the point that no more can be developed until the limiting system is replaced with a new one of larger capacity.
- There was considerable speculation about whether SSMUH will cause property values to rise, with some councillors worried about resultant speculation. But the counterpoint was made that with so many parcels being available to SSMUH, there may be less pressure on prices. The opposite consideration is also possible. Will lots in the hazard zones see price changes, either because they are unable to be developed for SSMUH (thus becoming less valuable) or perhaps because they and their neighbours cannot be impacted by SSMUH development (possibly making them more desirable)? Only time will tell on this issue, since there is simply no data available.

This is where the workshop ended on February 9th. When it resumed on the 10th, the focus changed to...

### **What Will SSMUH Look Like?**

Next, staff addressed issues around how SSMUH developments might fit into existing neighbourhoods and what they could look like. The details here are a bit complex and hard to present simply. Even the staff presentation left Council with many questions. However, the general idea is that maximum building heights would increase to 3 storeys, fully underground basements would be prohibited (but partial basements on a slope would still be fine), and no more than 2 buildings would be allowed on a single lot. Other changes would allow more building in the front yard and larger coach houses.

There would also be changes to the allowed [Floor Space Ratio](#) (FSR) and how it is calculated. Presently, some items, including basements and garages, do

not count towards the FSR. The intent is to change the calculation so that all square footage applies towards the FSR, but to increase the allowed FSR so that, for normal homes, the maximum allowed house size would not change. For SSMUH, the FSR would increase to a range of 0.7 - 1.0 for the (up to) 4-unit SSMUH developments that we might see in Blueridge. A density allowance increase of about 500 square feet per additional unit would be available so that the resulting units are not too small. A similar range applies to the building coverage percentage.

There were many questions from Council, mostly concerned with the worst-case scenarios possible. Three storey SSMUH developments (and standard single-family homes built without basements) could be visually larger than what is currently built, even as the useable square footage remains the same. While not everyone expressed their opinions on these issues, those that did seemed split. Some were concerned about impacts on neighbouring parcels, and others saw value in new development forms.

Due to the very tight timing allowed by Bill 25, there will be limited additional public engagement before the bylaws must be amended. However, there was extensive public engagement in 2024 on this topic already, and the gist of SSMUH and how it is implemented hasn't really changed since those presentations.

Make no mistake, however. Thanks to Bill 25, SSMUH is coming to the DNV and all of Metro Vancouver. How many SSMUH developments we will see, and when, is an open question, but at this point all Council can do is make the changes required by Provincial law to allow it. If they don't do so, the Province has given itself the authority to step in and make the changes unilaterally.

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March 4th, the only day that is also a sentence.

-- John Green

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## North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant Update

Jeff Powell

Few topics inspire as much heated discussion as the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant (NSWWTP) and the costs associated with it. This article provides a brief summary of the history of the plant and a discussion of the costs residents of the District of North Vancouver face at this point. It attempts to stay as factual as possible.

For the timeline, I have relied on [this web page from Metro Vancouver](#), which provides extensive documentation with links to meeting minutes and committee reports. It's part of a [larger set of documentation about the NSWWTP](#). In addition, I contacted Metro Vancouver and spoke with Chris Mealing, the Director of the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant Program since September 2025, and Kris Etches, who is the Community Engagement Manager in Liquid Waste Services. Both were very helpful, and Chris Mealing mentioned he is a North Shore resident and has the same concerns about these costs that we all have.

### Condensed NSWWTP timeline:

- 2005: Planning for the new NSWWTP began.
- 2008: The selected site was purchased.
  - No cost for the land is shown on the website, but I was told the cost was about \$15 million at the time. That amount is not included in the full \$3.86B budget.

- 2011 & 2012: Planning for the development of the new plant began in earnest.
- Nov 2013: The first cost estimate for the NSWWTP was about \$700 million (in 2018 dollars), with construction to begin in 2014 and completion by 2020.
- Apr 2017: After additional design work, Metro Vancouver contracted Acciona to develop the NSWWTP. The estimated cost was \$780 million, with completion by December 2020. Kris Etches points out that the contract signed here made Acciona responsible for the design, construction, commissioning, and process performance of the plant *at a fixed cost*.
- Aug 2018: Construction begins.
- Spring/Summer 2019: Acciona says they cannot complete the project on budget and on schedule. "Increased costs" are expected, and the completion date moves out 2.5 years.
- Feb 2021: The revised cost estimate is now \$1.058 billion with completion in 2024.
- Jun 2021: Metro Vancouver receives a claim from Acciona saying the project will take another 26 months and cost "an additional cost of almost double the original contract price." (That would make the new estimate approximately \$2.5 billion.) In response, Metro Vancouver says Acciona had "no basis for this claim."
- Sep 2021: Acciona lays off approximately 130 staff working on the project.
- Oct 2021: Metro Vancouver starts the process of terminating the contract with Acciona.
- Early 2022: PCL was selected as the new contractor to help the transition and inform a new estimate for the completion of the project.
- Mar 2022: Acciona begins legal proceedings against Metro Vancouver. Their [legal claim](#) (PDF) is available online.
- Jun 2022: Metro Vancouver countersues Acciona. This [legal counterclaim](#) (PDF) is also available online, as is their [response to Acciona's legal claim](#) (PDF).
- Nov 2023 - Mar 2024: The NSWWTP task force holds 4 meetings to examine options to complete the plant.
- Mar 2024: The revised cost estimate is now \$3.86 billion with completion in 2030.
- May 2024: Cost allocation for the NSWWTP is approved by the Greater Vancouver Sewerage & Drainage District (GVS&DD) Board. This is when the fees passed to various municipalities were set. Those fees get passed on to residents by the municipalities themselves.

- Oct 2024: Metro Vancouver executed the contract with PCL to complete construction of the NSWWTP, with a total contract price of \$1.95 billion. (This is just what PCL is being paid. Adding in expenses already paid and other costs to companies other than PCL brings the total to \$3.86B.)
- Jun 2024: An independent review of the NSWWTP program was announced.
- Jul 2025: Independent review paused until the dispute with Acciona is resolved.

### **Key points about the NSWWTP project:**

- It is still technically possible that there are additional expenses still coming that have not yet been accounted for and that are not part of the \$3.86 billion price tag. However, when pressed, Director Mealing stated that at this time he is confident that the plant can be completed for the existing \$3.86B budget.
- You may have heard about a statement from Cheryl Nelms, General Manager for Project Delivery for Metro Vancouver, who said, "Our new designer of record has taken over the design from the previous contractor, and so there may be some parts that are challenging for construction, which are being discovered at the moment." Director Mealing stated that these are issues like interfacing between old and new concrete pours. It is his stated position that such things are manageable within the existing budget. In addition, Nelms's statement has been interpreted to mean a new designer took over recently, but that isn't correct. The "new" designer of record took over the design in 2022.
- One known additional expense that has not been accounted for is the decommissioning of the old Lions Gate WWTP. Some planning for that is included in the estimate, but the actual work is not. The decommissioning design should begin in late 2026 or early 2027, and a full cost for that decommissioning will be produced as part of that effort.
- The costs for the decommissioning will be split per the cost apportionment bylaw governing the GVS&DD. That bylaw is subject to change at the discretion of the Metro Vancouver Board, but currently it states that 30% of the decommissioning costs will be paid by the North Shore, and 70% will be paid by the other sewerage areas in Metro Vancouver.
- Asked about the very large jump in cost between the \$1.058B and the current \$3.86B plan, and whether Acciona might have grounds for their contention that a large cost increase was required in June 2021, Director Mealing declined to comment due to the ongoing litigation. He stressed that there are good reasons for that lack of communication.

- When asked about either winning or losing the lawsuits and the cost implications involved, no answer was forthcoming for the same reason: the lawsuit situation requires him (and other Metro Vancouver staff) not to comment or speculate about such things.
- There have also been questions about whether operating the revised (and much more expensive) plant will cost the same as was originally forecast. The answer is yes, the operational costs will be about the same. Despite the construction cost increase, the plant hasn't changed scope in any way significant enough to change the expected operating costs.
- There have been numerous calls from both the public and various politicians for a public inquiry into the NSWWTP by the province, but all have been rebuffed so far.

### **What will it cost?**

On costs paid by Blueridge residents, this research has revealed that there are two very different ways of looking at how the NSWWTP project is being billed to the residents of Metro Vancouver, and those cause a lot of confusion. This is in part due to the fact that the above-mentioned [cost apportionment bylaw](#) is very complex and has been amended several times, but it's also due to the fundamentally different perspectives the two views take.

In the press we are all likely to have seen a cost breakdown that looks like this:

- North Shore households will pay an extra \$590 per year for 30 years.
- Households in the Vancouver Sewage Area will pay an extra \$150 per year for 15 years.
- Households in the Fraser Sewage Area will pay an extra \$90 per year for 15 years.
- Households in the Lulu Island Sewage Area will pay an extra \$80 per year for 15 years.
- The charges to North Shore households are to be phased in over 5 years starting in 2025. Other areas see the charges phased in over one year.
- These charges are in addition to the ongoing basic charges paid for sewer service.

When presented that way, it looks like North Shore residents are shouldering the bulk of the costs for the plant. However, the truth is more nuanced. As best I can tell:

- For the first \$1.058B - the February 2021 estimate - the North Shore pays 46%, and other areas pay 54%.

- For the remaining \$2.8 billion portion of the overall cost, the three other sewerage areas are each taking on an additional \$10 per household above the usual funding formula.
- This results in 37% of the total bill going to the North Shore and 63% going to the other sewerage areas.
- Households in the other sewerage areas pay less per year than those on the North Shore, and for a shorter period, because the costs are shared across a substantially larger population.

How to convert from one view of these expenses to the other is not at all obvious. Such a calculation requires an understanding of what the cost apportionment bylaw stated at various points in time, details about how such costs are split over the different sewerage areas, and the number of residences in each sewerage area. Without those details, the translation from one to the other is simply not possible. But clearly someone has those details, and such a translation is definitely possible. Our annual utility bills prove that.

**Regardless, it seems that despite the higher annual payments and the longer time we will make those payments, the North Shore is not paying for the bulk of the new plant.** Whether what we are paying is *fair* is an entirely different conversation.

In the DNV, payments are even more complicated. Between 2015 and 2024, under the auspices of a reserve fund bylaw, the DNV collected money to help reduce the cost of the NSWWTP for DNV residents when the bill came due. For the years 2025-29, the DNV is using those collected funds as intended, so our utility bills are somewhat smaller than the full amount they would otherwise be. In 2025 each household saw a credit of \$69.95, and in 2026 the credit is about \$123. In 2030 those reserve funds will be exhausted, and DNV residents will pay the full \$590 annually until the billing period ends in 2055.

Politics continues to play out around the NSWWTP. Theoretically, anything - even the costs paid by North Shore residents as they are currently planned - could change. In addition, these costs are a major point of contention and will be a campaign issue for years to come.

If you are interested in learning more about the NSWWTP, a good place to start is [this page on the BCA website](#) documenting the plant and linking to many resources relating to it.

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## **Why Vote in Your Local Government Elections?**

Jim Hanson, Councillor, District of North Vancouver

In the Montreal area riding of Terrebonne, in the 2025 federal election, a single vote separated the winning Liberal candidate, Tatane Auguste, from the defeated Bloc Québécois incumbent, Nathalie Sinclair Desgagné. In that election, in that riding, 32% of the population failed to vote. This means 28,604 eligible voters did not vote. Given that the current Carney government requires this seat (along with two others currently in by-elections) to secure a majority government, the fact is that any one of these 28,604 non-voters could have decided the majority in our current Parliament.

Let it never be said that a vote doesn't matter.

Closer to home, meanwhile, in the 2022 District of North Vancouver Council elections, only 23% of eligible voters cast ballots, the lowest in a North Vancouver District election since 2011, meaning that 48,802 eligible voters failed to exercise their right to vote. This is a poor rate of participation even compared to our neighbours North Vancouver City (29%) and District of West Vancouver (55%), or the turnout in the 2024 provincial election (58%) and 2025 federal election (69%). In the District, a clear majority of voters are letting others decide for them who will represent their community on Council.

What are the duties of the mayor and council? In the District, we have one mayor and six councillors. We each represent the community. We each get one vote on Council. On our Council, 4 votes out of 7 decide an issue.

What issues are decided by Council? We set tax rates, determining the amount paid and the rate of increases. We decide who pays user fees, for what and how much. We decide how your tax dollars will be spent. We will never have sufficient funds to pay for all our priorities, so we must decide what comes first and what comes last. Do we fund roads or bike lanes, parks or policing, fire halls or recreation centres?

We also decide on land use. Can a property be used for residential, commercial, or industrial development? How do we plan our communities? Put simply, we decide if you will have a grocery store or a liquor store at your closest shopping district and whether (if you drive there) you will be able to find parking. And if that parking will be time-limited, pay parking, or free. We decide whether our recreational amenities will cater to younger soccer players or older pickleball enthusiasts. We decide whether to build libraries or swimming pools.

In 2022, the 48,802 souls who did not vote in the District let others decide all this for them.

In 2026, make your vote count. Familiarize yourself with the issues and the candidates, and vote for a council that reflects your values. This is your community. Take ownership.

Voting in the District is easy. Anyone over the age of 18 and a Canadian citizen, who either lives or owns property in the District is eligible. On election day, October 17, 2026 (Saturday), you will be able to vote at one of over 20 polling places in the District. You can also vote by mail or in advance polls, which open before October 17th. In the District, a very simple and efficient way to vote is at the advance poll at District Hall ([355 West Queens Road](#)), which is open many days in advance of election day. The District website ([DNV.org](#)) will provide simple directions as to when and where to vote.

It matters. It's easy. Without it, your values will not be counted, and your community will grow without your input. Please vote in our upcoming local government elections. Our democracy literally depends on it.



## **Blueridge Good Neighbour Day 2026: A New Chapter Begins**

Nicole Parfitt

After 25 incredible years, we have closed one chapter of Blueridge Good Neighbour Day (BGND). This spring, we are enthusiastically beginning a new one, and it will take the support and action of our community to bring it to life.

In May 2025, a long list of dedicated and passionate volunteers hosted the 25th annual event, what was believed to be the final BGND. Many of these individuals have since stepped away after years of commitment, and we are deeply grateful for the time, energy, and heart they poured into this treasured tradition.

We are excited to share that a new co-chair team (Greg Harper and Jen Dickson) have stepped forward, and planning meetings have begun to explore how BGND can continue and evolve. This event has always belonged to the community and it still does. We are planning towards Sunday, May 31, 2026 for this year's event - so mark your calendars.

It was recently brought to our attention that some newer families and younger community members have wondered, "Doesn't the school run this?" The answer is no, it's us, it's the people who live and grow here. From young children and teens to new parents, single parents, grandparents, and long-time neighbours. BGND is powered by this community.

As we look ahead, we want to hear from you.

To help shape the future of Blueridge Good Neighbour Day, please take a moment to complete our short community survey. What's working? What's missing? What would you love to see? Be honest. Be creative. Be involved.

Thank you for helping write the next chapter.

Please complete the [survey here](#). Thank you!

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## **Diner en Bleu Returns**

Your Diner en Bleu Committee

After a seven year hiatus, we are thrilled to announce “Diner en Bleu” is returning to the neighbourhood. For those new to the community, this event (a ticketed event for adults over 19 years) provides an opportunity for Blueridge residents to come together on a street (kept a secret, as is the tradition) in Blueridge, share a meal and get to know their neighbours better.

### **NOW FOR THE IMPORTANT STUFF!**

Here’s the date: SATURDAY, JUNE 20 (early evening).

We are asking for your assistance in making this community event truly successful. If you have a business and would consider making a donation (in kind), we can help promote your locally owned service as well as providing some much enjoyed prizes for games we intend to include in the event.

IN THE PAST this event sold out very quickly! Be ready when tickets go on sale (early May). Proceeds from the event cover the cost of "incidentals," with any extra revenue going to the Blueridge Community Association’s scholarships for local students who served our community.

Questions? Please send to [info@blueridgeca.org](mailto:info@blueridgeca.org) and include "Diner En Bleu" in the subject line.

Looking forward to a great event!

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March to the beat of your own drummer.

-- Henry David Thoreau



*This "charming" image courtesy of Holly Reisner*

### **Bear Alarm Clocks are Starting to Go Off!**

Holly Reisner, Executive Director, North Shore Black Bear Society

After a pretty warm winter, we are starting to see signs of bear activity. There have been a couple of bears out and about in February, and sadly, one has already had access to garbage.

We will see more bears leaving their dens in March. Usually, the first bears up are males. Lone females will come later in the month, and females with cubs will be the last to emerge, sometime towards late April. We are excited for the possibility of new baby bears this year!

When they emerge, bears will be looking for spring greens such as grass and dandelions to eat before the first berries (salmonberries) are ready and insects are more plentiful. It can take them 1 to 2 weeks to properly wake up and start their regular feeding regime. During this initial period, they may be a little slower and less hungry than usual.

Springtime bear scats are often... significant! After 3 to 4 months spent not eating or excreting, the roughage from grass and other greens helps get their systems moving. You may find bear scat around that is greenish, with pieces of grass visible. Many people don't realize how much bears like to eat grass. They use their front incisors to nip it off. If you have a bear grazing in your yard, consider yourself lucky – lawn mowing is done for free! We don't recommend trying to shoo away a bear that is busy eating or napping. It's enough to wait an hour or two, and they will usually move along on their own.

### **How to prepare for bear season:**

- Carefully sort garbage from food waste, keeping the most odorous parts of both in the freezer until the morning of collection. Please wash all your bins out with vinegar after your next collection day. Try to keep them as empty as possible between collection days.
- Wash any recyclables and food wrappers before putting them in the appropriate bin.
- Take down bird feeders.
- Drive slowly and carefully. Bears are often attracted to grass that grows on roadsides. We believe one bear has already been hit by a car this month.
- Keep vehicles free of any food, lock the doors and keep windows rolled up.
- Keep ground-level doors, windows and garage doors shut unless a person is closely monitoring them.

### **After you've seen a bear, report it!**

#### **Ways to report:**

- [www.northshorebears.com/report](http://www.northshorebears.com/report) – the North Shore Black Bear Society (NSBBS) web form, our top choice! Fill out our form and also upload photos and videos here if you have them.
- 604-317-4911 – NSBBS cell phone for voice or text messages and to send photos/videos. Quick and easy!

- 604-990-2327 – The District of North Vancouver’s BearLine. Press 1 for NSBBS, or 2 for the BC Conservation Officer Service (BCCOS).

### **Why report wildlife sightings?**

At **NSBBS**, your sighting reports help us monitor wildlife activity on the North Shore. We can then target our support to where it’s needed most: we come to neighbourhoods with a lot of wildlife activity or attractants being accessed to help residents learn more about the animals and what we can all do to live together peacefully. Reports help us monitor injured bears when they are moving through our neighbourhoods and coordinate the supports that may be available to them. Because of the support of North Shore residents, NSBBS has a unique understanding of wildlife here, which we know helps to foster coexistence and reduce harm. No harm will come to a bear or other animals by reporting to NSBBS. And we keep your reports confidential. If you have time to post on Facebook, please also take a minute to report to NSBBS.

You should report to the **BCCOS** or the **RCMP** if you feel that your safety is threatened. Their mission is to protect public safety. They often let us know when they feel some support in the neighbourhood would be helpful, which also helps to keep our animals and residents safe.

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**Your Safety Starts Here:**  
**Transforming School Zones in North & West Vancouver**  
Presented by the [North Shore Safety Council](#)

**When:** Thursday, April 16th at 6:00 pm  
**Where:** [Canyon Heights Elementary](#) - Gymnasium

Your voice is crucial in shaping a safer community for everyone. Save the date for our upcoming event dedicated to openly discussing and addressing the safety concerns you may have for both your neighbourhood and school community.

This free, interactive forum will feature insightful guest speakers, alongside collaborative discussion tables designed to foster dialogue and identify key issues, and an opportunity to directly connect with local

officials. Your voice is crucial in shaping a safer community for everyone.

Registration required at <http://t.ly/amQaw>

[More information available.](#)



## **The Big Screen is Coming to Blueridge! (But We Need Your Help)**

Mahnaz Fardghassemi

The results are in, and they are loud and clear: Blueridge wants Movie Nights at the park!

Following our recent social media post, we were blown away by the incredible response from the community. It's obvious that you're as excited as we are about the idea of gathering under the stars for some cinematic magic.

At the BCA, we hear you loud and clear—and we want to make this happen!

### **From Vision to Reality**

While the BCA is ready to provide the support and resources to get this project off the ground, an event of this scale requires more than just a "thumbs up" on social media. To turn the park into a community cinema, we need the most important ingredient: **manpower**. We are looking for a dedicated group of volunteers to help us with:

- Planning & Logistics: Choosing the films and mapping out the setup, getting vendor quotes, etc.
- Event Support: Helping with event setup, concessions, or "theatre" seating.
- Promotion: Spreading the word to ensure a great turnout.

## Let's Build This Together

This is a chance to create the exact kind of community event you've been asking for. We have the will; now we just need the hands. Whether you can give two hours of your time or want to join the planning committee, every bit of help brings us closer to opening night.

Ready to step up? Please reach out to us at [info@blueridgeca.org](mailto:info@blueridgeca.org) to express your interest. Let's get to work and make this summer in Blueridge one to remember!



### Cozy Night, Take 2

Michael Bernard

Taking advantage of Cozy Nights, Blueridge's newest meet-your-neighbour do (left to right) are Martyn Shaw, Anthony Slowey and Tammy Shaw at Canlan Ice at the bottom of Berkley. After hearing of the success that the Pemberton Heights residents' association experienced holding a similar do, the BCA decided to stage our own on the third Tuesday evening of each month. There is no cost and no RSVP. Just show up from 7 p.m. on, mingle and make some new friends! Canlan Ice offers its own bar service.

**Editor's Note:** The next Cozy Night is scheduled for March 17th. See the Calendar section below for more details.

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### **Local Amphibian Goes for a Swim**

Fiona Dyck, one of our readers, recently found this Blueridge resident in her pool. But don't fret. He's been released into the garden. There isn't a lot to go on, but based on [this document](#), your editor's best guess is that he's a [Common \*Ensatina\*](#), one of the species living along BC's south coast. If you want to see a tiny bit more, here is a [short video](#) made just before the rescue took place.

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#### **Are you enjoying this issue of the *Blueridge Bulletin*?**

If so, and if you haven't already, why not subscribe? You'll get each issue delivered to your inbox every month, ready to read without having to hunt it down or have someone share it with you. It's totally free, we don't share your information with anyone, and it helps us communicate more effectively with the entire neighbourhood.

Please [click on this link](#) to subscribe.

And if you are already a subscriber, feel free to share this issue with a friend or neighbour who might find it useful!

**Thank you!**

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## **BCA Student Award Scholarship**

Lesley Brooks & Anni Danielson

Every year the Blueridge Community Association chooses a student graduating from a North Vancouver high school to receive a \$750 scholarship. Precedence may be given to residents of Blueridge and Seymour Heights. This student will have been involved in volunteer community work and is planning to attend postsecondary studies at a Canadian college or university.

Over the past eleven years, we have recognized many incredible young people who live in this area. Are you one of these amazing folk, or do you know anyone who fits the description? If so, talk to your school counsellor, who will have the information about how to apply. More information and the application form can also be found on the [BCA website](#). Applications are due by April 30.

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It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.

-- Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*

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## **FUNdation!**

The BCA FUNdation Team

Do you love bringing neighbours together? Do you have an idea for something fun and welcoming, but aren't sure how to get started?

Maybe it's a community picnic beneath the trees, ball games in the park, a musical gathering, an inclusive "sports day," chess or card games, or another get-together that celebrates life in our beautiful Blueridge community.

Our FUNdation is here to help neighbours create meaningful moments together. We provide financial support for neighbourhood events that strengthen belonging, celebrate inclusivity, and nurture the connections that make Blueridge feel like home. Events may limit the number of participants, but they should always be open and welcoming to everyone in our community.

Application forms and details about the FUNdation and available financial support can be found on the [Blueridge Community Association website](#).

If you're hoping to host an event in 2026, please submit your application on or before September 1, 2026.

We look forward to hearing your ideas and working alongside you to bring neighbours together in the spirit of community.

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**Interlude: A Little Heavy Metal Music**



**Celebrating Nowruz: Welcoming Spring in Blueridge**

Mahnaz Fardghassem

As the winter chill begins to fade and the first signs of spring appear in the Blueridge Sharing Garden, many of our neighbours are preparing for one of the world’s oldest and most beautiful celebrations: Nowruz, the Persian New Year.

**A Legacy 2,500 Years in the Making**

Nowruz, which translates to "New Day," marks the exact moment of the spring equinox. While it is a secular holiday today, its roots date back over 2,500 years to the ancient Zoroastrian culture of Persia. It is a celebration of the victory of light over darkness and the rebirth of nature.

## The Symbolism of the Haft-Sin

The heart of every Nowruz celebration is the Haft-Sin table. Families set out seven items that start with the Persian letter "S" (س), each representing a hope for the new year:

- **Sabzeh (Sprouts):** Symbolizing rebirth and the renewal of nature.
- **Samanu (Sweet Pudding):** Representing affluence and fertility.
- **Senjed (Dried Oleaster):** Symbolizing love.
- **Seer (Garlic):** Representing medicine and good health.
- **Seeb (Apple):** Symbolizing beauty and health.
- **Somāq (Sumac):** Representing the colour of sunrise.
- **Serkeh (Vinegar):** Symbolizing age and patience.

You will also often see a mirror (for self-reflection), goldfish (for life), and decorated eggs (for fertility) gracing the table.

## 2026 Key Dates & Facts

- **The Main Event:** In 2026, the spring equinox (Nowruz) officially occurs on Friday, March 20th. In Vancouver, the exact moment of transition happens at 7:46 a.m. PST.
- **The Festival of Fire:** On the Tuesday evening before Nowruz (March 17th, 2026), you may see families celebrating Chaharshanbe Suri. People jump over small bonfires to symbolically burn away the "yellow" (sickness) of the past year and take in the "red" (warmth and energy) of the fire.
- **Clean Slate:** Before the New Year, families practice Khouneh Tekouni (literally "shaking the house"), a deep spring cleaning to rid the home of the past year's dust and negativity.

## Our Blueridge Neighbors

The North Shore is home to one of the largest and most vibrant Persian communities in Canada, and here in Blueridge, we are lucky to have many Persian families as friends and neighbours.

When you see your neighbours celebrating this March, we encourage you to join in the spirit of the season! A simple greeting of "Nowruz Mubarak" (Happy Nowruz) or "Nowruz-et-Pirooz" (May your New Year be victorious) goes a long way in building the community ties that make our neighbourhood so special.

To all our Persian residents: we wish you a year filled with health, joy, and prosperity. Happy Nowruz!

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## **Parenting in the Digital Era**

Nicole Parfitt

On January 29th, Blueridge Elementary parents gathered for a parent information session with Registered Clinical Counsellor Sharon Selby on *Parenting in the Digital Era – The Risks and Proactive Strategies*. The conversation felt incredibly timely and as a parent myself, scary, but also reassuring and motivating.

Our kids are growing up in a world very different from the one we knew. Smartphones, gaming, YouTube, group chats, and social media are woven into daily life. Technology brings connection and opportunity, but it also brings real risks, including anxiety, depression, sleep disruption, comparison culture, and exposure to content children aren't developmentally ready for.

My biggest takeaways from Sharon Selby weren't fear-based, but rather about being proactive.

**Some of the strongest guidance shared included:**

- No smartphones before high school (age 14)
- No social media before age 16
- Phone-free schools
- Far more unsupervised play and childhood independence

The research is increasingly clear: delaying access matters. Giving kids more time to mature before handing over powerful devices can make a meaningful difference.

**As parents, we were encouraged to focus on a few core goals:**

- Be positive role models with our own screen use (something I know I can work on!)
- Mentor our children in becoming responsible digital citizens
- Build open, trusting relationships so they feel safe coming to us if something online scares them or if they make a mistake
- Talk openly about the mental health impacts of too much screen time
- Have discussions about followers, FOMO, comparison, the “perfection” posted on social media
- Give our children more independence and opportunity to build resilience away from screens - they need more outdoor “risky” play

**Creating a Family Digital Plan** - practical strategies included:

- Establish screen-free zones (bedrooms, bathrooms, cars)
- Set screen-free times (meals, homework, 30–60 minutes before bed)
- Charge devices overnight in a central family area and even turn WiFi off at night
- Consider one screen-free day per week
- Set privacy settings, filters, and parental controls/permissions before downloading apps

**Helpful Resources for those wanting to dive deeper:**

- *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt
- *The Amazing Generation* by Jonathan Haidt and Catherine Price

Families were also encouraged to explore the [Unplugged Canada pledge](#) as a shared commitment to delay smartphones until at least age 14. There's strength in numbers. Together, we can protect childhood.

## **Moving Forward Together**

What stood out most to me is that this works best when we move together - when families align around delaying smartphones, waiting on social media, and intentionally encouraging independence in our kids.

As a Blueridge parent, I left feeling both challenged and empowered. We may not control the digital world our children are growing up in, but we can shape how they experience it.

And we don't have to do it alone.

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**SEYMOUR  
HEIGHTS**  
ELEMENTARY

**Seymour Heights  
Elementary**

*North Vancouver School District*

## **Seymour Heights March Update**

Vesta Emmett

Spring looks like it's just around the corner here at Seymour Heights. The trees are starting to bud, and the flowers are in the process of blooming. Students are taking advantage of this amazing weather and enjoying our new playground, and we hope that others in the community have taken an opportunity to visit.

One of our Grade 4/5 classes participated in the global reading challenge called the READBowl. The challenge was to read for four weeks leading up to the Super Bowl. The contest had 1,086,320 participants from 17 different countries, and our students placed 8th in the international division!

This past month we celebrated Black History Month. Students were challenged to learn about Black Canadian authors, musicians, artists and other individuals who have made contributions to their respective genres. We were also

fortunate enough to learn more about Lunar New Year with a special presentation from our own students.

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# Blueridge Elementary

## **BPAC Update - March 2026**

Nicole Parfitt

Community is built in the everyday moments, cheering from the sidelines, supporting a fundraiser, or helping our children learn what it means to give back. February was filled with those moments at Blueridge.

On February 24, students took part in Jump Rope for Heart, learning the importance of staying active while raising funds for the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada. Our goal is \$500, and there's still time to donate: <https://jumpropeforheart.crowdchange.ca/114115>. We're so proud of how our students continue to show generosity in action.

Our Grade 3 students also carried on the meaningful tradition of visiting the Bighouse for the Indigenous Cultural Day Program at Cheakamus Centre. Immersed in the daily life of a traditional Ch'yáǰmesh village, students experienced hands-on cultural learning that will stay with them for years to come.

Our Grade 6 and 7 boys' and girls' Triple Ball teams have been hard at work over the past few weeks and are doing incredibly well. It's been wonderful to see their teamwork, sportsmanship, and school spirit on display. Go Blueridge!

## **Looking Ahead to March**

Spring Break runs March 16–27. We hope all our families enjoy a restful and fun-filled break!!

Thank you for continuing to show up for our school and one another. It's the small acts of participation that make a big difference in our community. Due to Spring Break there won't be a BPAC meeting in March, but all parents and guardians are welcome to attend our April BPAC meeting on Thursday, April 30, at 7pm in the school library.

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Beware the Ides of March.

-- William Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*

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*Sue, Hazel, and Thea Fougere with Grover Hernandez*

## **New Blueridge Spirit Award Winners**

The newest recipient of the Blueridge Spirit Award is Susanne Fougere and her family. Congratulations! Previous winner Grover Hernandez explains why he selected them:

### **Celebrating Community Champions: Meet Our Latest Blueridge Spirit Award Winners**

We're thrilled to announce this year's Blueridge Spirit Award recipients: Sue, Hazel, and Thea Fougere. For the past decade, this remarkable family has been an integral part of our community, and their five-year

dedication to the Blueridge Creek Cleanup during World Rivers Day perfectly embodies the passion and commitment this award celebrates.

### **From Problem to Solution**

Five years ago, the Fougères encountered a bit of a mess along our beloved creek and made a choice that would impact our community for years to come. Rather than looking the other way, they rolled up their sleeves and launched what would become an annual tradition. That first year required a substantial cleanup effort, but their persistence has paid off—subsequent years have seen more manageable hauls, typically one or two large garbage bags annually.

While it's disappointing that waste still accumulates, their ongoing efforts continue to raise community awareness and keep our waterways cleaner.

### **A Call to Action**

A friendly reminder to our dog-walking neighbours: those poop bags you plan to “pick up on the way back” often get forgotten — or worse, end up tossed into the creek area. Let's all do better for our community and environment.

### **Join the Movement**

Please join us in thanking Sue, Hazel, and Thea, along with the dozens of volunteers who have contributed over the years. Even better? Be part of the solution at the next Creek Cleanup. Watch for announcements in future bulletins and on Blueridge Facebook groups.

Together, we keep Blueridge beautiful.

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# Blueridge Sharing Garden



## **Blueridge Sharing Garden – 2026 Season Applications**

Emilie Currie

The Blueridge Sharing Garden is preparing for the 2026 growing season. We welcome both returning and new gardeners to apply for a plot.

### **Links**

- [Application Form](#)
- [Garden Guidelines](#)

### **Process & Key Dates**

- Application deadline: March 6, 2026
- Gardeners will be notified by March 9, 2026.
- Payment (\$40) is due by March 13, 2026. If fees are not received by this date, the plot will be reassigned.
- The Garden Manager must be notified within 2 days if you are accepting the plot; otherwise, it will be offered to the next person on the waitlist.

If all plots are filled, you may add your name to the waitlist. Gardeners will be contacted if a plot becomes available.

Happily, we have once again been awarded funding from the District of North Vancouver to rebuild four more garden boxes this spring, and the following dates for volunteer garden work days have been selected:

- Saturday, March 7, 9 - 11:30am: General garden maintenance
- Saturday, April 11, 9 - 11:30am: Great Box Rebuild - Demo Day
- Sunday, April 19, 9 - 11:30am: Great Box Rebuild - Construction Rebuild Day

You can also find these dates on the [Sharing Garden webpage](#) and on the [BCA's Events Calendar](#). There will be more information on [our Facebook page](#) and future issues of the *Blueridge Bulletin* as well.

We look forward to seeing you in the garden this season!



## **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.

### **Feb 2 Regular Meeting:**

As usual for DNV Council meetings, this one considered a number of issues, but oddly they were all at least somewhat relevant to Blueridge residents in this case.

First there was a delegation from Pemberton area businesses, who presented significant concerns about illegally parked RVs in that area. They contend that many of these are homes for people working at Seaspan or on the new wastewater treatment plant and wonder why enforcement (which requires vehicles to move on after 72 hours) isn't happening. Council was definitely sympathetic on this issue, but there were also concerns about vulnerable people with nowhere to go. It felt like this presentation might get some traction with the RCMP and DNV staff, and many of us patronize businesses in that area.

Next, the expansion of Jasmine's Childcare (at the corner of Berkley and Swinburn) was approved unanimously.

The main event of this meeting was the discussion of the People, Dogs & Parks Strategic Plan. DNV Staff have been working on this plan since the fall of 2023, and there has been extensive interaction with the public on this topic. The plan itself was included with the package given to Council (and is available in the package online at the [DNV meetings page](#)). It's extensive and takes a holistic view of dogs in the District. Aspects of the plan cover potential new off-leash dog parks, concerns over the environmental impacts of dogs, the handling of dog waste, and many other topics. Overall, Council wants to support dog owners and not restrict off-leash areas. But there were concerns raised about how much dogs actually cost the DNV and whether dog license fees offset those costs. (The answer appears to be "no." It is estimated there are about 20,000 dogs in the DNV, and only about 5,500 are licensed, which, oddly, is apparently a pretty good ratio compared with other cities.) In the end, Council accepted the plan unanimously.

Finally, the new Fire and Rescue Services Bylaw and the Fees and Charges Bylaw were adopted unanimously. Both had already been fully discussed at previous meetings and were only up for adoption.

### **Feb 3 Workshop:**

In this meeting, DNV staff provided a brief presentation about the state of the draft budget to Council. This budget reflects an increase in property taxes of 3.5% (2% in general and 1.5% for asset renewal). The documents accompanying this workshop were not particularly deep or dense, as it was really an overview. Council members asked a lot of questions and raised a number of general concerns, but nothing that directly impacted the presentation of the budget to the public as far as I could tell. However, Councillor Pope did ask that the [budget documents](#) be made available to the public earlier and that they be given a prominent place on the DNV website, and those requests have been acted upon. The budget will still be presented to Council in a meeting on February 17th, but the public comment period will begin on February 13th instead of waiting for the Council meeting.

### **Feb 9 Workshop:**

This meeting was to cover how the DNV is responding to Provincial Bill 25, which imposes Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing (SSMUH) on all communities in

BC with over 5000 residents. The issue is so complex that it became the SSMUH article above. Please see that for details.

### **Feb 10/23 Workshop:**

This meeting was split over two days. It allowed DNV staff to present information about the zoning bylaw rewrite project to Council. Most focused entirely on commercial and industrial zones, however, and so has no real relevance to Blueridge. There was a section at the end that focused on zoning as it relates to parking and mobility in general. However, this also commented more on industrial and commercial areas, or mixed-use zones, rather than residential parts of the District. In addition, it was so high-level that there wasn't much that could be understood from it.

After the meeting ended, I asked when we would hear about the changes to residential zoning. I was rather surprised to discover that DNV staff think that has already been presented to Council, starting with the original responses to Provincial Bill 44, which passed in 2023 and introduced SSMUH (Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing). In preparing for that, DNV staff were already working on the zoning bylaw rewrite and used the opportunity to present it to Council along with potential responses to Bill 44. You can see a summary of the [proposed residential zoning bylaw changes](#) (PDF) and learn more about the [entire zoning bylaw update](#) on the DNV website.

### **Feb 17 Special Meeting:**

There were only two items on the agenda for this meeting. The first took most of the time and was the formal introduction of the 2026-30 Draft Financial Plan to Council and allowed Council to ask some questions of DNV staff about it. The [Draft Financial Plan](#) (PDF) is a 90-page document discussing the DNV budget for 2026 and beyond. Council has asked staff to hold the tax increase for 2025-26 to 3.5%, which is a 2% increase plus an additional 1.5% to address the ongoing infrastructure deficit. These numbers were set months ago and remain unchanged. However, they don't include the utility fee increases imposed by Metro Vancouver, largely for the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant (NSWWTP), among other things.

Limiting the tax increase to such a low number in the current economic situation means there will be tradeoffs. Council asked several times for more clarity on which services will be reduced and which projects are being pushed out or are being cancelled outright in order to be better able to convey that information to DNV residents. Major costs mentioned in the meeting included the

maintenance and replacement of District buildings and RCMP service costs. The largest place where DNV staff have reduced the budget was in the maintenance of DNV facilities.

The District is [seeking public input on the Draft Financial Plan](#) through March 2, 2026. On that date Council will address the plan at a meeting. The final budget must be approved before the end of March.

The only other item on the agenda was a motion from Councillor Pope, asking the Lower Mainland Local Government Association to request the appointment of a Provincial Auditor General for Metro Vancouver to oversee and investigate all of its operations, including the NSWWTP. Council unanimously approved this motion.

### **Feb 17 Public Hearing:**

This brief hearing covered the Development Approvals Process Review (DAPR) and specifically sections relating to letting DNV staff approve some kinds of development in business parks and industrial areas without Council having to be involved. As such, it's not particularly relevant to Blueridge residents unless you own such a building.

### **Feb 24/25 Public Hearing - Chemtrade Rezoning Request:**

Another two-day meeting. This was an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed rezoning that would allow Chemtrade to continue making chlorine at its facility at 100 Amherst Avenue. There was a presentation from District Staff discussing the rezoning specifics, and a presentation from the applicant with additional information. Then public input began, occasionally interrupted to allow DNV staff to answer written questions submitted from Council members. Approximately 18 different people commented on the issue, either in person or over Zoom, and Council received considerable input via email as well. At least two people chose not to speak after signing up to do so. In addition to local residents, there were several speakers who were not local. Some were speaking as subject matter experts, one was a resident of East Palestine, OH, USA, where a major train derailment and hazardous materials spill & fire happened in 2023, and another was legal counsel for one of Chemtrade's competitors.

As with any topic like this, wildly differing points of view were presented. In the end, the speakers were split approximately 40% for and 60% against the rezoning proposal. There were many times when speakers presented

information as factual that disagreed (often significantly) with information presented by other speakers. There was no opportunity to query the veracity of any of the claims made in the meeting or to verify the qualifications of the speakers.

Council is now faced with making a decision on the rezoning question, and input to Council itself is legally closed. They are required to make a decision based on the information they have in hand. Members of the public can still speak to DNV staff about the issue to get answers to questions and raise concerns, but the ability to contact Council itself is over until the matter is voted upon. The issue is tentatively scheduled to come back before Council for second reading on April 13, 2026. Meeting dates can change, however, and we were encouraged to confirm the meeting date on the [DNV website](#) a week in advance.

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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>.

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I'm sorry for all the things I said when it was February.

-- Unknown, but honest



The BCA has many programs and resources that benefit the residents of Blueridge and Seymour Heights. Some of them are:

- [Blueridge Business Directory](#) - find businesses based in and around Blueridge
- [Blueridge Cares](#) - supports Blueridge families during the holidays and difficult times

- [Blueridge Community FUNdation](#) - helps fund activities in our neighbourhood that promote goodwill, social benefit, or good to the community
- [Cozy Nights](#) - casual gathering for residents to catch up with new and old neighbors
- [The Eric Andersen Blueridge Community Association Scholarship](#) - a grant given to a community volunteer going on to post-secondary study in Canada; applications accepted March 1 - April 30
- [The Blueridge Sharing Garden](#) - a community garden and oasis between Carnation and Lytton Streets
- [Sitter and Tutor Directory](#) - find child, house, and pet sitters, as well as tutors

You can find a full list of our programs on the [BCA website](#).

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## **A Night on the Town**

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

[Centennial Theatre](#) presents:

**AMPS Unplugged: Niki Kennedy & Jennipher Shillings (Roots)** - Born and raised in Aotearoa New Zealand, Niki Kennedy is a Pasifika singer, songwriter, and musician based in Vancouver. Anchored by feel-good grooves and emotive melodies, she blurs roots, soul, and pop sensibilities to offer honest storytelling with heart.

Rooted in her love of folk music and championing her African roots,

Jennifer Shillings delivers lyrically grounded performances infused with rich melodies and powerful storytelling. As an intentional lyricist, her songs are raw, introspective, and emotionally resonant.

- March 4, 7-9pm
- Centennial Theatre, [2300 Lonsdale Ave](#)
- Tickets \$20 - [Buy tickets](#) or see the link above

[Deep Cove Coffee House](#) presents:

**Feature: The Tanglewood Trio with Karla Mundy** - Vocal trio

Tanglewood brings an eclectic tapestry of warm harmonies, rich rhythms, and precision delivery. Karla Mundy, Noa Neuman Spivak, and Emily Villavicencio blend their voices seamlessly to deliver an unforgettable musical experience that incorporates folk, bluegrass, jazz, French Canadiana, and global music traditions. Be prepared to have your heart and mind opened wide! They regularly perform with special guests like Michael Creber.

**Openers: Karla Mundy and Michael Creber**, and maybe one more

- April 17
- 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

[Deep Cove Stage Society](#) presents:

**Nana's Naughty Knickers** - Bridget and her grandmother are about to become roommates. However, what Bridget saw as a unique opportunity to stay with her favorite nana in New York for the summer quickly turns into an experience she'll never forget. It seems her sweet grandma is running an illegal boutique from her apartment, selling handmade naughty knickers to every senior citizen in the five-borough area! Will Bridget be able to handle all the excitement? Will her nana get arrested – or worse – evicted?

- March 27th to April 10th, 2026 (We [8th], Th, Fri, Sat @ 7:30 pm)

- Matinees March 29th, April 11th (@ 2:00 pm)
- In the [Shaw Theatre](#) in downtown Deep Cove.
- Tickets and more information are available at the link above.

[First Impressions Theatre](#) presents:

**Art** - The comedy revolves around three friends — Serge, Marc and Yvan — who find their previously solid 15-year friendship on shaky ground when Serge buys an expensive painting. The canvas is white with several fine white lines.

- March 5 at 7:30pm, March 6 at 7:30pm, March 7 at 2:30pm
- In the [Shaw Theatre](#) in downtown Deep Cove.
- Tickets and more information are available at the link above.

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*Editor's Note: This column collects information about local shows that Blueridge residents might want to attend. Are there other local events that should go on this list next month? [Let us know!](#)*



### **In A Nutshell**

- **A man entered his home** and was absolutely delighted when he discovered that someone had stolen every lamp in the house!
- **Total Lunar Eclipse!** Visible early the morning of March 3. Starts at 12:44am and ends at 6:23am. Totality is from 3:04am to 4:02am. [More information](#). Let's hope for clear skies!
- **Did you hear about the antiques collector who found an old Coca-Cola lamp?** She was soda lighted.
- **Living with Bears in Our Backyards** - A presentation from the [North Shore Black Bear Society](#). March 24, 10:30 – 11:30am, [Lynn Canyon](#)

[Ecology Centre](https://ecologycentre.ca/wildlife-weeks/). Ages 5+ with an adult. Admission by donation. Register at <https://ecologycentre.ca/wildlife-weeks/>.

- **What happens to bad rainbows?** They're sent to prism. It's usually a light sentence, and it gives them time to reflect.
  - **City Nature Challenge Bioblitz in Blueridge.** Sunday, April 26, from 11 am to 12 pm or 1 pm to 2 pm. Join the DNV's Urban Forestry and Natural Areas team for a guided nature walk. Start on the Baden Powell trail and continue along the Berkley Loop while identifying and documenting forest plants, fungi, and animals. All ages. Free. [Registration coming soon](#).
  - **I was going to use a moonlight pun here, but I changed my mind.** It was just a phase.
  - **Garbage Notes:**
    - If you're putting shredded paper into your recycle bag, please put it into a paper bag first and fold it closed. That way it won't blow all over the streets.
    - Styrofoam isn't recyclable at the curb, but you can recycle it for free at the [North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre](#).
    - Note that foam peanuts are not recyclable at all. Some (made of cornstarch) will dissolve in water, and that is a way to get rid of those. Any that don't dissolve should be put into a bag in your garbage, again to avoid them blowing all over the street. Or better yet, reuse them!
  - **Light travels faster than sound.** That's why some people appear bright before you hear them.
  - **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.
  - **I seem to be a little light on jokes this month.** Sorry!
-



## Newsworthy

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

- [DNV Utility bills mailed in late February: due March 31](#)
- [Vancouver port applies to dredge Burrard Inlet this year to fuel oil exports](#)
- [New off-leash areas proposed in District of North Vancouver dog strategy](#)
- [Why vote in local elections on North Shore?](#) – written by Blueridge resident Councillor Jim Hanson, who has also submitted it to the March issue of the *Blueridge Bulletin*
- [Metro Vancouver wants input on their 2027 budget](#)
- [Letter: We must be patriotic, even when snacking on the couch](#) – while we generally avoid opinion here, this letter writer is quite correct: Cheezies are the superior product!
- [DNV schedules public hearing on chlorine zoning change](#)
- [B.C. cities left in limbo as province quietly abandons Bear Smart oversight](#) – this is disheartening, as the DNV only recently received our Bear Smart designation. If it bothers you, you can [contact MLA Susie Chant](#) about it.
- [How to celebrate Lunar New Year across the North Shore](#) – February 17 brings us the Year of the Horse
- [DNV to hold public hearing on Development Permit changes](#) – this is related to improving the development permit process for some non-residential applications; the residential portion is coming later
- [North Vancouver's Grouse Grind reopens to hikers early](#)
- [North Vancouver girl awarded \\$3.6 million in crosswalk crash](#) – while not related to our community, we all pay taxes, and some of those taxes will go to this decision. Hopefully the DNV has improved their vegetation management in the 10 years since this horrible accident happened.
- **Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing**

- [DNV Council to consider delay in small-scale housing rollout](#) – that headline is a bit misleading; any delay sought would only be for the Marine Drive corridor where Bus Rapid Transit is being planned
- [The NDP's Push for Density Is Working. Not Everyone Is Happy](#)
- [\\$1-Million Question: Do the Province's new housing rules make North Shore more affordable?](#)
- [DNV Council to review options for Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing](#) – this happened at the Council workshop on February 9 & 10
- **DNV 2026 Draft Budget**
  - [District of North Vancouver homeowners face 3.5% tax increase](#) – this is old news to regular readers of the column, or the *News from the Sausage Factory* column in the *Blueridge Bulletin*. The anticipated tax increase hasn't changed in months.
  - [Share your input on the 2026 draft budget](#) – public input open from February 13 to March 2.
  - The DNV's 2026-2030 Draft Financial Plan will be introduced at a DNV Council meeting on February 17, 2026, with the public input period running from February 13, 2026, to March 2, 2026. You can learn more, review the plan, and comment here: <https://www.dnv.org/government-administration/2026-2030-financial-plan-budget>
- **North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant**
  - [District of North Vancouver wants auditor general for Metro](#)
  - [Experts, not politicians, should oversee projects like North Shore Wastewater Plant: Catherine Pope](#)
  - [1,500 concrete deficiencies, design conflicts identified in North Shore Wastewater project: Metro Vancouver](#) – between 2022 and 2025; these are not new
  - In an [early 2026 conversation on Instagram](#), Metro Vancouver confirms that the current cost estimate does not include the decommissioning of the old WWTP.

## This Month In Cheese

- [Cheese-throwing incident ends in minor crash, ticket in Lloydmminster](#)
- [Order Up: Old City Cheese & Market](#) - in Nanaimo, not as close as [The Cheese Man](#), but if you're on that side of the Island...
- [Mac and Cheese with Cracker Crumble](#)
- [Letter: We must be patriotic, even when snacking on the couch](#) - This is the first time an article has appeared in both the general news section (above) and here in cheese news, a remarkable feat. And we could

substantially increase the USA's trade deficit with Canada if we started exporting these in a large way! Plus, there is something about the colour...

- [It's Time to Meet Your Unexpected New Source of Protein — and It's a Fan-Favorite Italian Ingredient](#) - As someone on Instagram said "I plan to boldly abuse this knowledge"
  - [Italian gymnast posing with wheels of cheese is the Olympic hero the internet needed](#) - not recent, but very important nonetheless
- 



## Monthly Calendar

### Important March Dates:

- **Mar 1:** [Blueridge Scholarship](#) applications accepted. Deadline is April 30
- **Mar 1 - 6:** [Blueridge Sharing Garden](#) Box applications accepted; see link for rules and application form
- **Mar 2:** Windsor PAC meeting, 7:30pm, Library
- **Mar 2:** DNV Council regular meeting, 7pm, [DNV Municipal Hall](#)
- **Mar 3:** Lunar eclipse visible this morning 12:45am - 6:30am; Totality from 3:04am - 4:02am
- **Mar 6:** Windsor Secondary spring choir concert, 7:30pm, multipurpose room
- **Mar 7:** Volunteer work day at the [Blueridge Sharing Garden](#), 9 - 11:30 am
- **Mar 8:** [Daylight Savings Time](#) begins - move clocks forward 1 hour at 2am
- **Mar 8:** [International Women's Day](#)
- **Mar 9:** Seymour Heights Elementary student-led conferences. Early Dismissal: 1:55pm
- **Mar 9:** DNV Council workshop, 7pm, [DNV Municipal Hall](#)

- **Mar 9:** [Commonwealth Day](#)
- **Mar 10:** Meet DNV Mayor Mike Little, 2 - 3 pm, [Capilano Library](#)
- **Mar 12 & 13:** Windsor Secondary early dismissal for parent-teacher interviews, 1pm
- **Mar 14 - 29:** Spring break - all schools closed
- **Mar 16:** DNV Council regular meeting, 7pm, [DNV Municipal Hall](#)
- **Mar 17:** [Blueridge Cozy Night](#), [Canlan Sports on Mount Seymour Parkway](#), 7 - 9pm
- **Mar 17:** [Saint Patrick's Day](#)
- **Mar 19:** [Ramadan](#) ends
- **Mar 20:** [Nowruz](#) (also see the article above)
- **Mar 20:** [Spring Equinox](#)
- **Mar 20:** [Two-Spirit, Indigenous 2SLGBTQIA+ Celebration and Awareness Day](#)
- **Mar 22:** [Eid al-Fitr](#)
- **Mar 24:** *Living with Bears in Our Backyards*, a presentation from the [North Shore Black Bear Society](#). 10:30 – 11:30am, [Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre](#). Ages 5+ with an adult. Admission by donation. Register at <https://ecologycentre.ca/wildlife-weeks/>.
- **Mar 24:** Meet DNV Mayor Mike Little, 6 - 7 pm, [Lynn Valley Library](#)
- **Mar 30:** DNV Council workshop, 7pm, [DNV Municipal Hall](#)
- **Mar 31:** Last day to file [BC Speculation Tax declaration](#)
- **Mar 31:** Last day to pay your [DNV Utilities Bill](#)
- **Mar 31:** [International Transgender Day of Visibility](#)

#### 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.
- DNV Council meetings are generally scheduled far enough in advance to be predictable here, but sometimes they change the schedule after these dates get published. You should always confirm DNV Council meeting dates & times on the [DNV website](#) a day or two before the date shown here.
- If you're looking for these dates later, they are all on the [BCA Events Calendar](#).

- To subscribe to the BCA events calendar, use this link in your calendar software:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/m4rqsniivbm6ejkcan2t48tq5lg%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics>

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### Top 10 Links from the February *Blueridge Bulletin*

1. [2 Cats, 2 Theremins](#) (video) - 45 clicks
2. [Statistics Canada staffing 32,000 census jobs across Canada](#) - 32 clicks
3. [North Vancouver RCMP investigate fatal single vehicle collision](#) - about our horrific accident on Dec 12, 2025 - 16 clicks
4. [The BCA website](#) - 14 clicks
5. [What's that deep sound booming across the water in Vancouver lately?](#) - about ship horns in Burrard Inlet - 13 clicks
6. [Italian restaurant opens in former Raven Pub location in Deep Cove](#) - 12 clicks
7. [Riverside Drive affordable housing site](#) - 11 clicks
8. [One teen dead, another person in serious condition after crash in North Vancouver](#) - another article about the December accident - 9 clicks
9. [Census jobs](#) - the main census jobs page from Statistics Canada
10. [These were the top 10 most 'unusual' 911 calls in B.C. in 2025: E-Comm](#) - 7 clicks

Overall, 48 out of 104 different links were clicked on at least once each, and there were 264 clicks total.

Thanks for being wonderful readers!

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Stay Connected

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

We're on: [Instagram](#) & [Facebook](#)

Our Website: <http://blueridgeca.org/>

[Blueridge Neighbours Facebook Group](#)

[Blueridge Breakout Network Facebook Group](#)

Got questions? Send us an email: [info@blueridgeca.org](mailto: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 April 2026 edition is March 27, 2026.

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

Questions? Send us an email at [bulletin@blueridgeca.org](mailto:bulletin@blueridgeca.org).

### Sponsors



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These ads all contain links. Give 'em a click if they are interesting!  
These people and organizations support the *Blueridge Bulletin*. Thank you!

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## **Hosts for High School International Students Needed in North Vancouver.**

Hosting an International student provides an incredible experience for families to explore new cultures, learn about global issues and travel the world without leaving the comforts of your home. Students will be studying in North Vancouver this coming school year!

Would you consider being a host? We are welcoming students for short and longer term studies.

To learn more, please contact Carol at MLI Homestay at 604-376-6954 or visit [www.mlihomestay.com/hosts](http://www.mlihomestay.com/hosts)

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## **Working for You** in North Vancouver-Seymour

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Susie.Chant.MLA@leg.bc.ca  
604-983-9859





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