

Blueridge Good Neighbour Day Returning in 2026

By Nicole Parfitt and Edmund Hayley

After the dissolving of the Blueridge Good Neighbour Day's organizing committee, it was believed 2025 was the last time the event would take place. However, due to the efforts of a new co-chair team, Greg Harper and Jen Dickson, the event is returning. Assistance from the community will be required in order to bring this plan to fruition.

In spring 2025, many of the dedicated volunteers, who had worked at the event for years and who hosted the 25th annual event, stepped away.

Harper and Dickson stepped forward to shoulder the responsibility of actualizing the event's return. Meetings have begun to explore how the event can continue and evolve. The event is anticipated to take place on Sunday, May 31, 2026.

According to Harper, the previous organizing committee was frustrated about the necessity of gaining permission pertaining to the placement and acceptability of displays on the grounds of Blueridge Elementary. Harper said the new committee faces similar challenges.

"Our biggest initial hurdle was getting all the approvals and permitting through the city, through the District, as well as the School District," Harper said.

Some newer residents and younger community members are under the assumption that Blueridge Elementary organizes and finances the event. The event is driven by the community. Blueridge residents, including young children, teenagers, new or single parents, grandparents and long-time neighbours, structurally and financially propel the event.

Harper said the online auction and donations from local businesses have increased the profitability of the event. He also said the committee is hoping to obtain a gaming license.

"We can do some contests, like 50/50, or some auction-style or raffle-style options, which could kick off ahead of the event," Harper said. "We can start advertising those through social media."

Harper said the committee is hoping to add new features, such as the inclusion of Windsor Secondary's music and athletic programs, to the event.

"We're looking at engaging Windsor more," Harper said. "We can maybe do some sports."

Harper disclosed a key new concept, which

includes "engaging the bands" by having them perform on the field.

"Rather than just having the live music events, people can get involved," Harper said.

To help shape the future of Blueridge Good Neighbour Day, please take a moment to complete a short survey. What about the event would you like to keep the same? What about the event would you like to change? Which activities or elements at the event are missing that you would like to see included?

To take the survey, go to: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfvTZTCXoIbI68cCU_tkc1dpkcjlanyvIYqUB2cHkklpvrYTA/viewform or scan the QR code:



Cozy Nights

Left to right: Martyn Shaw, Anthony Slowey and Tammy Shaw attend the second Cozy Nights at Canlan Sports on Feb. 17, 2026.

Photo: Michael Bernard

A New Editor Arrives at *Blueridge Community News*

By: Edmund Hayley

I am the new editor of *Blueridge Community News*, this newsletter, which is not to be confused with the *Blueridge Bulletin*. The newsletter is published in hard copy and also posted online triannually, while the bulletin is posted online and sent to its subscribers monthly.

I would like to congratulate Michael Bernard, the previous editor, for his work as the editor over the last six years. My goal is to build on Bernard's legacy in order to produce newsletters to which all *Blueridge* residents can relate.

I moved with my parents and my sister to *Blueridge* in 1988 when I was three years old. I graduated from *Blueridge Elementary* in 1997.

I have volunteered for the *Blueridge Community Association* since 2015. My volunteering duties have included delivering the newsletters on multiple routes and cooking hotdogs during *Blueridge Good Neighbour Day*.

Although I have moved away from *Blueridge* on several occasions, I have lived in *Blueridge* at my mom's house since October 2012.

I also have lived in exotic places, such as Hilo, HI, where I studied at the University of Hawaii at Hilo on a full-tuition and board scholarship from Fall 2003 until Spring 2005. I competed for the UH Hilo Vulcans Men's Tennis team in NCAA Div. II, and I wrote for the student newspaper, *Ke Kalahea*.

I graduated from Langara College with a Certificate in Journalism on June 20, 2024. At Langara, I completed 14 Journalism courses, including Advanced Copy Editing, Civic Reporting, Storytelling Through Video, Radio Storytelling and Podcast, Photojournalism and Media Law and Ethics.

I work as a delivery driver via Uber Eats. I enjoy hiking, running, cooking, driving, shopping, attending movies and listening to music.

This community, which is comprised of the neighbourhoods of *Blueridge* and *Seymour Heights*, is incorporated within District of North Vancouver. As members of the community, we are all affected by many newsworthy topics, such as: community events, activities and fundraisers; the politics and affordability of housing; DNV Council meeting voting results; Waste Collection Pick-up Day; wildlife-human interaction; trail development and maintenance; scholarship recipients; and educational issues pertaining to *Blueridge Elementary*, *Seymour Heights Elementary* and *Windsor Secondary*.

I am encouraging all members of the community to submit relevant articles or photos to me at: newsletter@blueridgeca.org or ehayley@telus.net.

Many of us will not live in *Blueridge* forever. However, the articles and photos published within this newsletter will keep the contributors eternally entwined with their community.



Edmund Hayley with his sister, Dorothea Hayley, outside their family home in Blueridge in the late 1980s.

Applications Opening for Annual Student Scholarship

By Lesley Brooks and Anni Danielson

Applications for the *Blueridge Community Association Annual Student Scholarship* will be accepted as of March 30, 2026. Students who will be graduating from a North Vancouver high school and are planning to pursue a post-secondary education are welcome to apply for this \$750 scholarship. Applying students must have been involved with volunteer community work on the North Shore, and preference may be given to *Blueridge* residents.

The BCA has previously recognized exemplary volunteers. Some past volunteer activities have included: assisting the BCA with the construction of wooden planting boxes for the community garden; cleaning up local creeks; and assisting younger students with athletic pursuits.

Are you one of these outstanding, community-minded students? Aspiring candidates should speak with a school councillor, who will provide information about how to apply. The deadline for submitting applications is April 30, 2026. More details about the scholarship can be found on the BCA website at: <https://blueridgeca.org/scholarship/>.

Blueridge Spirit Award Winners

By Grover Hernandez

The Blueridge Spirit Award recipients for winter 2026 are Sue Fougere, Hazel Fougere and Thea Fougere. These individuals, who are an integral part of the community, have been recognized for their passion and commitment to protecting the environment. Over the last five years, they have displayed leadership, dedication and perseverance while cleaning up Blueridge Creek during World Rivers Day. Their efforts to maintain cleaner waterways continue to raise awareness in the community.

Solving the Problem

Five years ago, the Fougere family encountered garbage along the Blueridge Creek, and they decided to remove any rubbish or debris. Their cleaning work has inspired an annual tradition. The first year's cleanup required the removal of a substantial amount of garbage. However, their persistent work has decreased the amount of garbage along the creek. Volunteers fill around one or two large garbage bags per year.

A Reminder to Dog Owners

Many people walk their dogs throughout Blueridge. Dog waste bags, which are labeled "biodegradable,"

often take decades to decompose. Blueridge residents must remember to immediately remove their dog waste bags and, particularly, to never toss the bags into Blueridge Creek. Abstaining from littering and cleaning up after dogs benefits the environment and the community.



The most recent Blueridge Spirit Award recipients - Sue Fougere, Hazel Fougere and Thea Fougere - on the deck of their home in Blueridge.

Join the Movement

Congratulations to Sue, Hazel and Thea, as well as the dozens of volunteers who have assisted with environmental cleanup over the years. Avid volunteers can attend the next Creek Cleanup. Watch for announcements in the *Blueridge Bulletin* and on the Blueridge Community Association group pages on Facebook and Instagram.

Did We Get It Right?

By Eric Andersen

At a recent Blueridge Community Association board meeting, one of our directors asked why we have so many undertakings, and was it necessary for the BCA to arrange so many events and activities for Blueridge residents.

The BCA is not obligated to organize countless events. However, according to Vancouver Foundation's 2017 survey, the benefits of organizing numerous community events are evident.

The survey found that "the interaction between people, places and our social environmental spaces can help us build more inclusive and cohesive communities."

According to the survey, "where we live plays an important role in forming deeper relationships" and "better connections lead to stronger neighbourhoods."

Two of the key findings of the survey were that "people still prefer connecting in-person over interacting via technology" and "neighbours want to get to know each other through social gatherings, community festivals, and community projects."

The survey suggested the establishment of strong social connections are the "primary building blocks" of "resilient communities." The BCA's goal is to emulate Vancouver Foundation survey's findings in order to develop an undivided community.

There will be some important events occurring in Blueridge throughout 2026, and the BCA is launching concepts for potential events.

The first two Cozy Nights have taken place at Canlan Sports. The Cozy Nights are monthly social events for Blueridge residents to mingle with old friends and new members of the community. The BCA encourages all residents to attend these social evenings. Please join BCA volunteers and Blueridge residents for drinks, conversations and merriment.

There was a belief that 2025 was the last time **Blueridge Good Neighbour Day** would take place.

- continuing on page 4



Eric Andersen

DID WE GET IT RIGHT? continued from previous page

However, with the assistance of the Blueridge Parent Advisory Council, the event will continue in 2026. The date for the event will be May 31.

After a hiatus of seven years, **Dîner en Bleu** has returned. The event will take place on June 20. Please remember to purchase tickets early. These tickets sell online quickly. The last time the event was held in 2019, the number of participants had to be capped.

The BCA is also pitching the idea of having the first-ever **Movie Night** in Blueridge. The BCA requires the assistance of several volunteers to organize this event. According to the reaction on social media, there is a strong interest in having a movie night in the neighbourhood.

At some point in 2026, we may also have an events and activities **Brainstorming Workshop**. Two such workshops have been held previously, the last time being four years ago. Many lucrative ideas, such as the Blueridge Sharing Garden and Movies, have been generated during these workshops. Please wait for updates, and contact the BCA if you would be interested in attending a workshop.

The BCA is proud to announce the launching of **Neighbours Helping Neighbours**, a volunteer initiative designed to support Blueridge residents facing unforeseen circumstances. For example, subjects may be recovering from a minor injury or they may be temporarily housebound. The BCA's objective is to help these people tolerate adversity. Neighbours Helping Neighbours is a **short-term, one-time support** service.

A Family of Five Moves to Blueridge

By John Lee

I moved with my wife and my kids – ages seven, five and three – into a home in Blueridge in the last week of August 2025. From the moment we arrived, we felt welcome. Our neighbours, who are friendly and helpful, warmly greeted us and offered their assistance. This benevolence enabled us to easily adjust to our new residence.

I was thrilled to observe the wildlife. We saw bears, which we never saw in Burnaby Heights. In fact, the most undomesticated animal we saw in our previous neighbourhood was a racoon.

Blueridge uniquely merges nature with the community. Blueridge Elementary is within walking distance from our house. After being at the house for only one week, our kids had play dates with new friends. When we walk or bike to the park, we regularly run into the kids' acquaintances. Blueridge is scenic, and it is a quiet neighbourhood. People are constantly spending time outdoors regardless of the weather.

Blueridge has many resources for young families. Therefore, this is an optimal place for kids to grow up. We are happy to be here and to call Blueridge "home."



John Lee with his wife and their three kids during a hayride at Aldor Acres Family Farm in Langley, B.C.

FUNdation Finances Community Events

By Lauren Gorgounis, Anni Danielson, Ruth Hanson and Eric Andersen

*T*he Blueridge Community FUNdation provides financial assistance to residents wishing to host non-profit events and activities, beneficial to the community, in Blueridge.

The BCF is ideal for people seeking to create unforgettable moments by bringing neighbours together. This program supports neighbourhood events that celebrate inclusivity and instill a sense of belonging in participants.

Music recitals, picnics, soccer games and chess tournaments are examples of events for which FUNdation would consider contributing funds.

The FUNdation application form, as well as additional information about the program, can be found on the Blueridge Community Association website at: <https://blueridgeca.org/foundation/>.

Applications must be submitted by Sept. 1, 2026 for events scheduled to be hosted in 2026.

The BCF can be contacted via email at: foundation@blueridgeca.org.

The BCF embraces the opportunity to continue financing shareable events which advocate comradery.

Blueridge Residents Can Celebrate Nowruz

By Mahnaz Fardghassemi

Nowruz, the Iranian New Year, takes place on March 20, 2026. Many residents throughout District of North Vancouver will celebrate this ancient holiday.

Nowruz, which is translated as “new day,” marks the inception of the spring equinox. Although Nowruz is a secular holiday, its origins date back over 2,500 years to the Zoroastrian culture of Persia. The holiday is a celebration of the victory of light over darkness and the rebirth of nature.

At the heart of every Nowruz celebration is the Haft-Sin table. Families set out on the table seven items that start with the Iranian letter, *S*, or *Sin*. Each of these items embody hope for the new year: *sabzeh*, or sprouts, which symbolize rebirth and the renewal of nature; *samanu*, or sweet pudding, which represents affluence and fertility; *senjed*, or dried oleaster, which represents symbolized love; *seer*, or garlic, which represents medicine and good health; *seeb*, or apple, which symbolizes beauty and health; *somāq*, or sumac, which represents the color of the sunrise; and *serkeh*, or vinegar, which symbolizes age and patience.

Additional items which can be seen adorning the table during Nowruz include: a mirror, for self-reflection; goldfish, for life and vitality; and decorated eggs, for fertility.

In addition to the main Nowruz celebration on March 20, there will be other celebratory events on the North Shore. The Festival of Fire, which takes place on the Tuesday evening before Nowrouz, falls on March 17, 2026. During the *chaharshanbe suri*, people jump over small bonfires to symbolically burn away the yellowness, or sickness, of the past year and to take in the redness, or warmth and energy, of the fire.



Before the New Year, families practice *khouneh tekouni*, literally translated as “shaking the house.” This event includes a deep spring cleaning to rid the home of the past year’s dust and negativity.

Nowruz celebrations can be enhanced by simple greetings. For example, “Nowruz mubarak,” which means, “happy Nowrouz,” and “Nowruz-et-pirooz,” which means, “may your New Year be victorious,” are common salutations.

To all the Iranian-Canadian residents in Blueridge: may your year be filled with health, joy, and prosperity.

Subscribe to the *Blueridge Bulletin*

By Jeff Powell

Blueridge residents can learn more about the Blueridge Community Association by subscribing to the *Blueridge Bulletin*, which is sent monthly via email to its readers. The bulletin includes: articles from regular contributors; news stories pertaining to Blueridge Elementary, Seymour Heights elementary and Windsor Secondary; an events calendar; and humorous anecdotes.

The bulletin offers readers an alternative community news source to BCA’s Instagram, Facebook and community group pages, as well as its website.

I have been the Editor of the *Blueridge Bulletin* and the BCA Website Design and Maintenance Manager for the last four years. I am constantly updating the website to inform Blueridge residents.

Readers can find links to the latest bulletin, bulletin subscription and the archives under Quick Links on the BCA homepage.

Please visit the BCA website and follow or subscribe to BCA social media group pages:

Website: www.blueridgeca.org

Instagram: [blueridge_community](https://www.instagram.com/blueridge_community)

Facebook: Blueridge Community Association and Blueridge Neighbours

To subscribe to the *Blueridge Bulletin*, scan the QR code:



City Nature Challenge 2026: Blueridge BioBlitz

By Isobel Myhill-Jones, on behalf of Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre

People of all ages can participate in the City Nature Challenge 2026 on Sunday, April 26. Participants can join the District of North Vancouver's Urban Forestry and Natural Areas team for a guided nature walk. This event provides Blueridge residents with an opportunity to support global biodiversity.

To participate, take a photo or record a sound of an animal, plant or fungus. Then, share your photos or sounds on the iNaturalist app. Make sure to document your findings, including the location the animal, plant or fungus was found.

The walks will start on the Baden Powell Trail, at the Hyannis Dr. entrance, and will continue along the Berkley Loop.

For the City Nature Challenge 2026, all photos and sounds must be captured between April 24-27. The deadline to upload photos and sounds is May 10.

City Nature Challenge 2026: Bioblitz in Blueridge
Sunday, April 26 from 11 am to 12 pm or 1 pm to 2 pm

All ages. Free. Register at:

<https://ecologycentre.ca/city-nature-challenge/> <https://www.citynaturechallenge.org/>



Scan the QR Code

By scanning the following five QR codes, Blueridge residents can: read about the community and access the archives on the Blueridge Community Association website; subscribe to the *Blueridge Bulletin*; follow the BCA on Instagram; follow the BCA on Facebook; and join the Blueridge Neighbours group on Facebook.

A big "thanks" to Mahnaz Fardghassemi for providing these QR codes.



Michael Bernard Resigns as Editor

By Eric Andersen

Thank you, dear Editor.

This was the headline for an article I wrote in May, 2019, when Sonia McLeod stepped down after being our Editor for 12 years.

The situation has occurred again – the Editor of *Blueridge Community News*, Michael Bernard, has stepped down.

We are fortunate to have already found a replacement for Bernard, via Edmund Hayley. The introduction about Hayley can be found in this newsletter.

I must thank Michael for his time as our Editor. Michael had many years of Journalism experience. This was reflected in the quality of the newsletters,

and also in the articles that he would regularly contribute to each newsletter.

I have enjoyed our meetings at United Strangers prior to the publishing of the newsletters.

Michael has also picked up the printed newsletters at the printshop in South Vancouver. Furthermore, he has also consistently delivered the newsletters to one or more routes.

Fortunately, Michael will remain on the Blueridge Community Association Board. Therefore, the BCA will continue to benefit from Michael's skills and dedication.



Parenting in a Digital Society

By Nicole Parfitt

On Jan. 29, 2026, parents of Blueridge Elementary students attended an information session. The event was hosted by the Blueridge Parent Advisory Council, along with Sharon Selby, a registered clinical counsellor. The discussion was titled, “Parenting in the Digital Era – The Risks and Proactive Strategies.”

According to Selby, children are growing up in a much more digitalized society than previous generations. Children are exposed to smartphones, computer and video games, YouTube, group chats, and social media apps on a daily basis. Although digital devices enhance connectivity and increase awareness, they also adversely affect children’s development by breeding anxiety, depression, sleep disruption, comparison culture and overexposure to inappropriate content.

One suggestion tabled during the discussion was the establishment of a family digital plan. This plan would include: the establishment of screen-free zones in bedrooms, bathrooms and cars; the designation of screen-free times during meals, homework sessions and 30-60 minutes before bedtime; adjusting privacy

settings, filters and parental permissions before downloading apps; turning off Wi-Fi at night and charging all devices in a centralized location; and having one screen-free day per week.

Parents were encouraged to manage over-digitalization by creating several basic goals. Some of these goals included: parents being positive role models by minimizing their screen time; mentoring children to cultivate digitally-responsible citizens; encouraging transparency so children feel comfortable discussing their digital fears and deviations; discussing the relationship between mental health



and excessive screen time; having discussions about anxiety - triggered by followers, fear of missing out, over-comparison and the pursuit of “perfection” - related to social media app usage; and providing children with incentives to decrease screen time and to play outdoors.

Some of the boldest suggestions tabled during the event included: banning smartphones before high school or before the age of 14; banning the use of social media apps before the age of 16; creating phone-free schools; and encouraging children’s independence in an ideally unsupervised environment.

Selby stressed being proactive to lessen the damage to children resulting from digitalization. According to Selby, delaying access to devices allows children to smoothly transition from childhood to adulthood.

Some helpful resources recommended during the event included *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt and *The Amazing Generation* by Jonathan Haidt and Catherine Price.

Families were also encouraged to sign the Unplugged Canada Pledge, which is a shared commitment to delay smartphones until at least age 14.

When families align their beliefs regarding the delaying of smartphone use and social media apps, as well as encourage children’s independence, tangible changes occur.

The information tabled during the event was challenging yet empowering. Parents may not be able to always filter the material children are exposed to, but they can regulate the way children access and absorb digital content.



Dîner En Bleu Returns

By the Dîner En Bleu Committee

Dîner En Bleu returns, after a seven-year hiatus, to Blueridge on Saturday, June 20, 2026. This ticketed event, for people 19 and older, provides Blueridge residents with an opportunity to assemble at a secret location on an undisclosed road. Attendees share a meal while socializing with their neighbours and members of the community. Participants contribute their own food and beverages.

The committee promotes local businesses upon donation. The donations substantiate prizes offered during the event.

Previous Dîner En Bleu events have sold out very quickly. Remember to purchase tickets early. Tickets go on sale in early May.

Proceeds from the event cover the cost of incidentals. Excess revenue goes towards the Blueridge Community Association Annual Student Scholarship.

Please send questions to: info@blueridgeca.org. Please put "Dîner En Bleu" in the subject line.



**Published by the
Blueridge Community Association
for Blueridge and
Seymour Heights residents**

Editor: Edmund Hayley

Important Dates

- March 17: Cozy Nights at Canlan Sports at 7 p.m.
- April 21: Cozy Nights at Canlan Sports at 7 p.m.
- April 30: Applications close for the Annual Student Scholarship.
- May 12: BCA's Annual General Meeting at Canlan Sports at 7:15 p.m.
- May 19: Cozy Nights at Canlan Sports at 7 PM
- May 31: Blueridge Good Neighbour Day Blueridge Elementary School at 11 a.m.
- June 16: Cozy Nights at Canlan Sports at 7 p.m.
- June 20: Dîner en Bleu, exact time TBA



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