Blueridge Bulletin
April 2026

Published by the Blueridge Community Association
Editor: Jeff Powell

This didn't happen! Photo by Jeff Powell

With the arrival of spring, I have a confession to make.

I, and I alone, am entirely responsible for the complete lack of snow here in Blueridge this past winter.

That's right. You can blame (or thank) me.

At the very end of 2025, just a couple of days before the New Year arrived, I purchased a snow thrower. I'd injured my shoulder and didn't want to be shovelling the driveway in my injured state, so I bought a fancy new machine to be ready for the snow when it arrived. That, of course, was the cue for Mother

Nature to decide we wouldn't get any snow this season, and the new machine remains entirely uncontaminated by frozen water in any form. It will have to wait for next winter.

If you're bothered by the absence of snow, I deeply apologize. Alternately, if you're happy we had none, I am delighted. I am nothing if not flexible about this. But either way, now you know the cause. If you like, you are welcome to bend my ear about this at the next Blueridge Cozy Night.

In any case, spring is here and we at the BCA wish you all the best! Enjoy the warmer weather!

Oh, and thank you once again to those in the neighbourhood whose holiday lights still shine in the evenings! You know who you are, and the editor appreciates you!

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Features

Housing Policy, Local Control, and the Politics of Urgency in B.C.

The Office of Susie Chant, MLA for North Vancouver – Seymour

The discussion about small-scale multi-unit housing (SSMUH) and Bill 25 is now a regular part of conversations about housing in British Columbia.

The main issue is a familiar one. Municipal leaders say that land-use planning has always been their job, and some think the province is now too controlling. Bill 25, for example, requires local governments to update zoning bylaws by mid-2026 so that more homes can be built in areas that used to be low-density. The goal is to make housing policy more consistent across the province.

Critics say this adds to the feeling that the province is taking a 'top-down' approach that may not fit each community’s needs. The province, however, is focused on the ongoing housing crisis. Housing remains a top priority in Budget 2026, with the government stressing the need for more supply and better affordability. Housing investments are now almost five times higher than in 2016, and since 2017, more than 95,000 homes have been built or are in progress.

Recent policy changes indicate a shift in pace. The province is moving about $1.4 billion within its housing plan, delaying some projects but keeping the same overall targets for new homes. Much of this money is now going to existing programs, including support for non-profit housing, assisted living, and below-market housing.

By building new homes and supporting current systems, the province is showing its overall strategy. Policies for renters, such as rent caps tied to inflation and measures to curb speculation, are meant to help in the short term while more homes are built. There are also early signs that the market is responding, with rents dropping in some areas compared to last year.

The province sees policies like SSMUH and Bill 25 not as a way to overrule municipalities, but as a way to make sure every community has basic housing opportunities. Since housing shortages affect many areas, a more standard approach is needed to prevent uneven progress.

Municipal governments do more than just carry out plans; they are important partners in building housing. Right now, the debate shows that fixing the housing crisis in British Columbia is not just about making good policies. It also depends on coordination, trust, and how willing different levels of government are to work together quickly when needed.

DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER

Why I Support Balanced Budgets

Jim Hanson, Councillor, District of North Vancouver

At a regular Council meeting on March 16th, 2026, our Council approved a budget that will bring in a 3.5% tax increase, with 2% allocated to operating expenditures and 1.5% for infrastructure renewal. To prevent a larger tax increase, the District was forced to reduce operating costs by $5,000,000 across a variety of departments. The choices are difficult, but we remain

committed to the goal of careful fiscal discipline. As a local government, we are prohibited by Provincial legislation from borrowing to fund operating expenses.

Not so for the Provincial government, which recently tabled a budget that relies heavily on borrowing to fund operations. The 2026 budget forecasts a $13.3 billion deficit (the largest in Provincial history), with debt to rise to $178.5 billion in 2026, and then to keep rising to $230 billion by 2028-2029. The cost of servicing this debt, meanwhile, is expected to rise from 4.7% of revenue in 2025-26 to 7.9% in 2028-29. In dollar terms, this will mean the Provincial taxpayer will bear an estimated $5.1 billion in annual interest payments in 2025-26, rising to $8.7 billion by 2028-29, much of this money flowing out of the Province to foreign bond holders. These facts have caused Moody's to once again downgrade the Province’s credit rating, which will further increase the cost of borrowing.

In defence of the budget, we have heard statements that these deficits will protect health care, which has been declining in quality and availability in recent years. But do sustained budget deficits actually serve the purpose of benefiting health care delivery in the Province?

The “father of Medicare" and founder of the New Democratic Party, Tommy Douglas, was elected Premier of Saskatchewan in 1944, inheriting the second highest per capita debt level of any Province at the time, at 38% of GDP. By 1953, this debt had been fully retired, and the Douglas government ran budget surpluses continually throughout their 17 years in office. Premier Douglas believed it was better to spend on public services than bond interest, and pursued a long-term fiscal strategy to maximize the money that could be available for achieving public good.

In British Columbia, over the next four years alone, we will spend something in the order of $25 billion in interest payments to bond holders. Had we pursued better fiscal policies, during this same time we could instead be building dozens of hospitals, dozens of schools, multiple rapid-transit projects, and addressing so many other social needs. This is why I support balanced budgets.

Stay Cozy with the BCA!

The next Cozy Night is at 7 pm on April 21st at Canlan Sports.

Once a month, the Blueridge Community Association invites you to trade your screen time for some “we” time. Our Cozy Nights are all about slowing down, catching up with old friends, and meeting the neighbours you haven’t had a chance to say hello to yet.

What to expect:

- Casual Vibes: No agendas, no formal speeches — just good conversation.
- Drinks & nibbles are available from Wild Wing.
- Community Spirit: The best way to stay connected to everything happening in Blueridge.

Whether you’ve lived here for twenty years or just moved in last week, there’s a seat (and a glass) waiting for you.

Come for the drinks, stay for the neighbours.

On April Fools Day, believe nothing, trust no one, just like any other day.

– Unknown

Chemtrade Rezoning and Chlorine Production

Jeff Powell

If you live in Blueridge, Seymour Heights, or Maplewood, it is likely you have heard about the Chemtrade plant and their request for a rezoning. You probably know they manufacture chlorine gas, along with other products, at their facility at 100 Amherst Avenue. There was a public hearing on the topic on February 24th and 25th at DNV Municipal Hall. This article attempts to summarize the situation briefly so everyone is aware of the details before the DNV Council considers the issue again at their April 13th meeting.

What Chemtrade Does

Their facility makes chlorine gas from salt and ships it via railcar to destinations in both Canada and the USA. Chemtrade says their product is used to purify water in many systems in Western Canada and the Western United States. Chemtrade's plant employs about 120 people here in North Vancouver.

The Rezoning and Lease Issues

Chemtrade currently manufactures their chlorine on land leased from the Vancouver Port Authority. That lease expires in 2030, and the Port Authority is making a push to remove all manufacturing (of any kind, by any company) from all of their land. They want their land used for shipping-related work, not manufacturing. In response, Chemtrade proposes to move chlorine production to land they own, which is adjacent to the leased land. In the process, they will build additional safety mechanisms into their plant to further reduce the risk of an accidental chlorine release. However, this move requires a zoning change from the DNV since the current zoning doesn't allow the production of hazardous substances. It is that rezoning that the DNV Council is currently considering and that will come up for another vote at the April 13 meeting. Chemtrade states that if the rezoning is denied, they cannot continue to produce chlorine at the plant after the 2030 lease expiration.

The Controversy

Chlorine gas is highly toxic and corrosive. An industrial accident or a train derailment could result in serious injuries (or worse), and the number of people affected might be large depending on the specifics of the incident. Opponents and competitors of Chemtrade claim there are significant risks, both at the plant itself and particularly during the transport of the chlorine by rail. Chemtrade says their plant has operated without an accident for a long time, uses the latest and safest technologies, and that there is little risk of anything going wrong. They also claim that chlorine is shipped in specifically reinforced railcars that have never leaked in the past, even during derailment incidents. These starkly opposing views came out at the public meeting in February.

What Happens Next

The DNV Council will vote on at least the second reading of the Chemtrade rezoning request at their meeting on April 13, 2026. DNV staff recommend the rezoning be approved. The decision is a complex one, and how Council votes will have significant implications regardless of their decision. Rezoning to keep the plant operating leaves some level of risk in place during both production and transportation of the product. Exactly how much risk was hotly contested during the public hearing. Denying the rezoning request has implications for many cities that would have to change how they purify their water, and there are additional issues relating to international commerce with the USA.

If you'd like to learn more about this issue, the BCA maintains a page of information about the issue on their website. It contains a summary and links to various news sources that may be of interest.

Note that because the public hearing is closed, Council is now legally prohibited from getting new information from the public about this issue. However, members of the public may contact DNV staff and raise issues or ask questions. At least theoretically, if something significant should come to light, staff could work with Council to roll the process back and reopen the public hearing.

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.

Take Photos to Support Nature!

Isobel Myhill-Jones, Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre

You can support biodiversity by documenting the huge variety of species that call our municipality home. The **City Nature Challenge** is an annual bioblitz where cities around the world compete to make the most observations of nature in a single weekend. The focus is on wild plants, animals, fungi, bugs, and more.

All you need to do is make an observation on the iNaturalist app using photos or sound recordings between **April 24 and April 27, 2026**. Please don't include photos from gardens.

Go deeper in your nature knowledge on a **free family-friendly guided nature walk**, starting on the Baden Powell Trail at the Hyannis Dr. entrance, and continuing along the Berkley Loop. Walks will take place on Sunday, April 26 at 11 am and 1 pm.

Register or learn more at: ecologycentre.ca/city-nature-challenge

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Charity Basketball Game

Windsor Students vs First Responders

Benefiting Cops for Cancer & DNV Firefighters Charitable Society

Tuesday, April 14th at 6pm
Special Guests | Tickets $10 | Half Time Show
Windsor Secondary School

Purchase Tickets

Introducing "Neighbors Helping Neighbors"
A New Way to Connect in Blueridge

Mahnaz Fardghassemi

In a world that often feels fast-paced and digital, there is something timeless about the simple act of a neighbour helping a neighbour. Whether it’s lending a hand with a heavy lifting task, offering a ride to a medical appointment, or simply sharing a walk around the block, these small moments are what make Blueridge such a special place to live.

The BCA is proud to announce the launch of Neighbours Helping Neighbours, a grassroots volunteer initiative designed to support our residents when life throws an unexpected curveball.

What is Neighbours Helping Neighbours?

This program is built on the spirit of community kindness. It is a volunteer-led network intended to provide short-term, one-off support for residents facing unforeseen circumstances.

We know that sometimes a small hurdle—like recovering from a minor injury or being temporarily housebound—can make daily tasks feel daunting. Our goal is to step in and bridge that gap.

What Kind of Help is Available?

Our volunteers are your fellow Blueridge residents. They aren't professional contractors or healthcare providers—they are neighbours. You can reach out to the program for occasional tasks such as:

- Around the House: Help getting garbage and recycling cans to the curb.
- Getting Around: A one-time lift to a local medical appointment or the pharmacy.
- Staying Active: Someone to accompany you for a friendly neighbourhood walk.
- Essential Errands: One-off help with light groceries or picking up a prescription.

Keeping it "Neighbourly"

To ensure this program remains sustainable and accessible to everyone, we focus on **one-off assistance** rather than ongoing or professional services. Think of it as the kind of favour you’d ask a good friend for—a helping hand in a "pinch," not a permanent service provider. Please note that **the BCA’s insurance says we can’t let volunteers enter people’s homes as part of**

this program, so we have to work within that limitation.

How to Get Involved

Whether you need a hand or are ready to lend one, getting started is easy:

- **If You Need Support:** Simply fill out our request form on the BCA website or email us at nhn@blueridgeca.org. Our team of coordinators will review your request and get back to you within 24 hours to see how we can help.

- **If You'd Like to Volunteer:** We are always looking for friendly faces! Our volunteer list is low-pressure; we'll notify you when a neighbour has a need, and you only jump in if your schedule allows. To get added to the list, please fill out our NHN Volunteer Form.

Blueridge has always been a community that looks out for one another. With **Neighbours Helping Neighbours**, we're just making it a little more official.

The sun was warm but the wind was chill.
You know how it is with an April day.
When the sun is out and the wind is still,
You're one month on in the middle of May.

– Robert Frost

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!

Help Reduce Bird Strikes

Elmira Nazar

Have you been sitting in your home, heard something smack into your window, and looked down to see a bird that collided with the glass? Have you put up stickers to prevent this from happening again, but it didn't really help? The number of birds that collide with windows and glass is unbelievably high. We're talking in the millions annually according to the BC SPCA website for just Canada. So what can we do to prevent bird collisions and help the bird population?

According to the OWL Rehab website, these are some things you can do to prevent the collisions:

- Close blinds partially. Vertical blinds are the best for deterring birds.
- Draw designs with erasable chalk pens or tempera paint.
- If you have a bird feeder, hang it closer than 3 feet to your window, or more than 30 feet away, and hang it at eye level or slightly higher.
- Choose frosted, etched, or glass blocks for the windows and glass in your house instead of clear ones whenever possible.
- Putting up window decals. There are specific bird-friendly decals available.
- Putting up markers. If you decide to try out this method, make sure of the following:
    1. Make sure the markers are on the outside of the glass – this would mean you'd install it from outside of your home, NOT inside.
    2. Make sure there is high contrast with reflections.
    3. Make sure to space the markers 2x2 inches (5 cm) apart across the entire glass surface. There is a Canadian company called Feather Friendly that sells window markers that are already spaced out appropriately for an easy solution.

Note that there are two types of hazards for birds in terms of window/glass collisions. There is transparent or fly-through glass, where the bird cannot see the glass. This is often in a walkway or railing. The other hazard is reflectivity, which is most likely the case in the windows of our homes, where the bird sees the reflection of nature in the window.

Other resources:

- The Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) app - A BirdSafe Do-it-Yourself Building Risk Assessment app designed to estimate the collision risks for a building that birds may be exposed to
- Government of Canada Frequently asked questions on Bird collisions with glass windows

Please consider improving the glass and window visibility of your home to help with the bird population.

Distraction

This point in the *Bulletin* is usually reserved for something humorous, but nothing made the cut this month. However, as a stone carver, your editor recommends this video from *The Ginger Mason*. She does restoration work at Lincoln Cathedral in England, and it's fascinating!

A Welcome Bit of Advice About Bedtime

Fariba Leilaby

Hello neighbours! I've been part of this community since 2007. I feel lucky to call this place my home. Lately, I've noticed many young parents moving to and settling in our community, and I'd love to share some practical parenting tips. I

don’t claim to be an expert, but over more than two decades I’ve learned a lot of things that may help make life a little easier for younger parents.

Bedtime Tip:

Getting kids to bed can be a challenge, but having a consistent routine really helps. My kids are adults now, but years ago, our family had a Farsi phrase for bedtime: “Mesmak, joujou, lala.” Translated into English, “Mesmak” means toothbrush, “Joujou” is the cartoon character Tweety Bird featured on the tube of popular toothpaste by the same name, and "lala" in Farsi means “sleeping.”

As soon as I said these three words, my kids were ready to go to bed. They were actually excited! If I wasn’t home for bedtime and my husband was supposed to put them to bed, they were very sad because he simply didn’t have the same fun routine as me.

For children under eight years old, I recommend aiming for a 7:30 pm bedtime. Here is a 30-minute routine that can make bedtime smoother and even enjoyable:

Help them brush, then move to story time. Let your child pick a book (or you choose one if they’re very young). Spend about 15 minutes reading to them from lying next to them in their bed or beside their bed. The final step is the most important one: Tuck them in and give them a kiss goodnight. It’s a good way to end their day with warmth and reassurance.

If you approach bedtime as a fun, shared moment instead of as a chore, your child will settle in more easily—and be fast asleep before 8:00 pm.

Stay tuned for more tips in our spring issue of the *Blueridge Bulletin!*

Fariba Leilaby has a Bachelor of Psychology and more than 25 years of experience working with children. This is the first of a series of short, informal tips on negotiating the daunting (but rewarding) job of raising children.

Applications Open for the BCA's Scholarship

Lesley Brooks and Anni Danielson

The BCA is proud to continue its tradition of supporting our local youth by awarding an annual scholarship of $750 to a graduating student residing in Blueridge. We are also thrilled to announce that, starting this year, the total award has increased to $1,000. This boost is made possible by a generous annual $250 contribution from one of our Blueridge neighbours, whose kindness allows us to provide even greater support for our students as they pursue their post-secondary goals.

Applications for the Eric Andersen Blueridge Community Association Scholarship are now being accepted. Students who will be graduating from a North Vancouver high school and are planning to pursue a post-secondary education are welcome to apply. Applying students must have been involved with volunteer community work on the North Shore, and preference may be given to those who have volunteered in Blueridge/Seymour Heights neighbourhood. 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 counsellor, who will provide information about how to apply. The deadline for submitting applications is April 30, 2026.

More details about the scholarship and the application form can be found on the BCA website at: https://blueridgeca.org/scholarship/.

Exciting News: Increased Funding for the Blueridge Community FUNdation!

BCA FUNdation Committee

About a year ago, we launched the Blueridge Community FUNdation to help local ideas come to life. Whether you've dreamed of hosting a neighbourhood chess tournament, a musical recital, a creek clean-up, a scavenger hunt, and the list of creative ideas goes on..... we want to help you make it happen!

To spark even more community creativity, the BCA board has generously decided to DOUBLE the maximum grant amount. Applicants can now apply for up to $500 per request (increased from $250)!

If you are a local resident looking to host a non-profit event or activity within Blueridge/Seymour Heights for the benefit of our neighbours, we want to hear from you. We look forward to your applications and can't wait to see the great ideas that will shape our community this year!

BPAC Update - April 2026

Nichole Parfitt

We hope that all Blueridge families enjoyed a restful and relaxing Spring Break!!

April has kicked off with the start of some exciting new afterschool programs for students, the return of one of the most exciting weeks for students and families - the Scholastic Book Fair and the start of the Track and Field season. Keep an eye out for students running, throwing and jumping their way to district qualifications.

Neufeld's Frozen Food Fundraiser Orders
A favourite fundraiser is back - Neufeld Farm Market! With the weather getting warmer and our days getting longer, now is the time to stock up on top-quality frozen foods that are delicious, easy to BBQ and great for entertaining.

Orders are open until April 15, with pickup at the school on April 23 at 2:30 pm. You can place your order and find more information here: https://app.neufeldfarms.ca/fundraising/2026-blueridge-elementary/ref/em
Thank you for supporting BPAC initiatives!

Tumbler Ridge PAC Go Fund Me
BPAC has made a donation to the PAC in Tumbler Ridge to help support families in their community who have been directly affected by February's tragic event. We stand with Tumbler Ridge during this difficult time and encourage others who are able to consider supporting these families as well: https://gofund.me/d86f484ce

Our next BPAC meeting will be on Thursday, April 30, at 7pm in the school library. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

Spring photo by Barbara Rennie

The Great Box Rebuild – Volunteers Needed

Emilie Currie

Spring is here, and the Blueridge Sharing Garden is getting ready for the **Great Box Rebuild**, an important project to prepare the garden for the 2026 growing season.

The rebuild will take place over two days in April at the Blueridge Sharing Garden:

Demolition Day – Saturday, April 11 at 9AM
Volunteers will help dismantle old garden boxes that have reached the end of their lifespan and prepare the area for new construction.

Rebuild Day – Saturday, April 19 at 9AM
On this day we'll work together to build the new garden boxes that will support this season's planting.

Community volunteers are welcome to help on **either or both days**. If you're interested in participating, please email garden@blueridgeca.org so we can include you in the planning process and coordinate tools and equipment needed for a successful couple of days.

Thank you!
Once again, we'd like to thank the District of North Vancouver for supporting this project through their Sustainability Grants Program, which provides funds to support small-scale, community-based environment and sustainability projects.

And a special thank you to **United Strangers** for their continued and ongoing support of the garden, including their generous supply of coffee for volunteers during these work days and throughout the **2026 gardening season**. Thank you for keeping us caffeinated!!

Seed Starting for Spring
Once those boxes are rebuilt, many of us gardeners will turn our attention to the growing season ahead.

April is a great time to start seeds indoors for many vegetables and herbs. Crops like **tomatoes, peppers, and herbs** benefit from an early start so they're strong and ready to plant once outdoor temperatures warm up.

Use seed trays or small containers with seed-starting soil, keep the soil lightly moist, and place seedlings in a bright window or under grow lights. Once seedlings are strong and the weather improves, they can be gradually introduced outdoors before planting in the garden.

Be sure to check the backs of seed packets for specific instructions!

This is also a great resource for specific growing conditions based on zones: https://www.westcoastseeds.com/blogs/regional-planting-charts

Starting seeds now is a great way to get a head start on a productive growing season.

We're looking forward to seeing you back in the garden this season!

Would You Like to Help Create the *Blueridge Bulletin*?

Jeff Powell

As you might have noticed, the *Blueridge Bulletin* has become a labour of love. A lot of time and effort goes into each issue, and while I am happy to do it, I could use some help.

I regularly ask for articles and photos, and that is great, but I could use some help in my role as the editor as well.

For starters, I'd love to have someone very detail-oriented take over the collection and organization of the monthly calendar. It takes 2 - 4 hours per month to organize the monthly calendar article. It also interacts with the Events Calendar on the BCA's website and (usually) one or more articles in each month's issue. If you have some time for a particular task that needs attention to detail, please email bulletin@blueridgeca.org and let me know. The right candidate may grow into additional editing duties on the *Bulletin* if desired.

For starters, all you need are the following:

- a computer & web browser
- a few free hours each month
- a seriously keen attention to detail
- an understanding of Google Docs
- the ability and willingness to meet the monthly deadline

Other attributes that could be useful:

- Familiarity with MailChimp and/or WordPress will make things easier if you want to grow in the role

- A quirky sense of humour is definitely an asset

Please note: this is all volunteer work. Everything the BCA does is run by volunteers, and this is no exception.

Again, if you are interested in helping make the *Blueridge Bulletin* interesting and useful, please email bulletin@blueridgeca.org and let's talk!

April comes like an idiot, babbling and strewing flowers.

– Edna St. Vincent Millay

BLUERIDGE Community Association

BLUERIDGE COMMUNITY NEWS

BLUERIDGE Community Association

Submit Articles for the May *Blueridge Community News*

Edmund Hayley

The deadline for submitting articles for the *Blueridge Community News* May issue is April 28, 2026.

Articles pertaining to the neighbourhoods of Blueridge and Seymour Heights will be given precedence for publishing. All submitted articles should relate to the District of North Vancouver.

There is no minimum length requirement for articles, which can be as short as 2-3 paragraphs or as long as 500-650 words.

Some writing topics for articles include: community events, activities and fundraisers; scholarship and award recipients; educational matters regarding Blueridge Elementary, Seymour Heights Elementary and Windsor Secondary; housing development and construction issues; DNV council meetings; waste collection pick-up day; outdoor activities; and wildlife-human interaction.

Please send articles to: newsletter@blueridge.org.

Editor's Note: Which "Newsletter" Is Which?

Given the two articles above, this is a good opportunity to remind everyone that the BCA has two different publications that can be called "newsletters."

- One is the *Blueridge Community News* - a printed newsletter that comes out three times a year and is distributed by volunteers to all mailboxes in Blueridge and Seymour Heights.

- The other is the email you're reading right now, the *Blueridge Bulletin*. It comes out on the first of each month and is emailed directly to subscribers.

Both publications accept submissions from the community, both are archived on the BCA's website (see the links above), and both work to bring useful information to the residents of the Blueridge and Seymour Heights. Happy reading!

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, particularly if it's not relevant to Blueridge and Seymour Heights.

Mar 2, 2026 Meeting:
This meeting covered a lot of material. Public input featured a number of

speakers concerned about the announced closing of the Hastings Creek Trail. In response, Mayor Little and new Chief Administrator Mike Fox both said they heard from the public on this issue and that the DNV is looking into whatever they can to keep the trail open. However, there is a $5M price on just some of the remediations needed, and that doesn't include replacing the bridge. Expect to hear more about this in the future, particularly as any large expenses will be a challenge given the budgeting environment. Next there was a delegation from the Intellectual Disabilities Society of North and West Vancouver, discussing the work they do and inviting Councillors to visit and learn more.

Next came opening remarks on the budget. It sounds like most of Council will vote for the budget mostly as proposed, with a 3.5% tax increase. However, there were differences on where and how to focus some priorities. It seems everyone realizes that money is tight, but there will be differences in how best to meet the expectations of the public while maintaining fiscal responsibility. There will probably be clashes between Councillors during debate over the budget. This was followed by public input on the Draft Financial Plan. Only one member of the public signed up to speak, and he praised Council for showing fiscal restraint this year.

Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing (SSMUH) was next on the agenda. Specifically two items relating to a stretch of Marine Drive where the future Bus Rapid Transit project could cause changes in zoning. Council supported staff's request to apply for an extension from the SSMUH zoning requirements for this area due to the uncertainty and timing of the BRT effort. Should BRT come to pass, there may be a requirement to support much denser development than even SSMUH allows, and zoning for SSMUH now might result in new and somewhat denser construction going into place just in time to face even larger density requirements from the Transit Oriented Area (TOA) rules. The other thing Staff recommended was zoning the area for higher density in advance. This was defeated with a split Council, with Mayor Little and Councillors Muri, Forbes, and Mah opposed, and Councillors Hanson, Back, and Pope in support. There were strong opinions here, and it is possible that the Province will force SSMUH zoning on the area regardless of the Council's stand.

Next was discussion of an Age Friendly Strategy (soon renamed an Aging and Older Person Strategy). In this effort, Staff will develop a 10-year strategy to make the DNV more accessible to those "of a certain age." There was some discussion about the kinds of things this strategy will do, but everyone supported it.

Finally, the Purple Chair Campaign support request received unanimous support. This campaign places purple chairs in public locations to commemorate those lost to drug overdoses.

Mar 9, 2026 Workshop:
This workshop covered the public input to the 2026-30 budget, along with Councillors and the Mayor proposing and debating their own changes to the budget. There wasn't a lot of budget input from the public this year, but it was about average. There was one year where a large number of inputs were received on a single, organized topic, but discarding that, the public input on the budget was essentially normal.

There were two additions to the budget. Councillor Pope proposed adding $25,000 to the budget to support a temporary youth coordinator position in Lynn Valley. This has been brought up repeatedly at recent Council meetings, and here it was finally debated to some degree. It was pointed out that this isn't the usual way such things are funded, and the members of the public present to support this effort indicated they had never heard of the DNV committee that handles grants of this type. There was some concern about setting a precedent, and some raised worries, but it passed unanimously. Next, Mayor Little asked for an additional $40,000 to add to the District's program for handling invasive species. Ivy on our local cedar trees is a serious problem, and while there were concerns about the effectiveness of this effort, it also passed unanimously.

There was additional discussion about various aspects of the budget, including concerns over spending from the reserve funds, debt, and the costs of the District's RCMP contract, among other things. However, no additional changes were made. In the end the additional $65,000 added to the budget will bring the tax increase from 3.5% to 3.53%, and Council voted unanimously to prepare the needed bylaws to enact this budget.

Mar 16, 2026 Meeting:
As is usually the case, there was a lot on the agenda for this meeting, including a particularly contentious development proposal in Lynn Valley, and it was over three hours long. The items relevant to Blueridge were:

A development at Riverside & Windridge Drive was approved. This replaces a few homes at the corner of Mount Seymour Parkway and Riverside Drive with

36 strata-owned townhouses in buildings of 3 or 4 storeys. No public hearing is allowed on this development because it is in agreement with the Official Community Plan (OCP) and Provincial law now prohibits public hearings in such cases. Despite some concerns about tree removal, the project received unanimous approval from Council. Mayor Little, however, cautions that this development is on the fringes of Maplewood Town Centre, and because of the way a past DNV Council dealt with the plan for that area - they locked in permission for tall developments in the OCP - he thinks people may be surprised at the heights of some of the developments coming in the centre of Maplewood. And again, there will be no public hearings about them thanks to the changes in Provincial law.

The Financial Plan Approval Bylaw also passed unanimously, however, there was some consternation over the allocation of up to $50K from a specific DNV reserve fund in support of a Lynn Valley Youth Centre. Not all Councillors were aware that item was going to be raised, and there was some confusion over the specifics. The bylaw allowing 3.53% tax increase passed unanimously, but there were ruffled feathers.

Council also received information from Staff about the possibility of using Residential Rental Tenure Zoning (which would require some Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing (SSMUH) units to be kept as rentals) or requiring one unit in a 6-unit SSMUH development to be developed as affordable housing. Staff reported that neither of those options is currently economically viable. Council voted unanimously to accept this information, but nothing there implies action by Council on SSMUH in the DNV.

Council also decided to send a letter to the BC Premier in support of the BC Rent Bank, which is a tool for helping keep people housed when they are impacted by an unexpected expense.

Mar 30, 2026 Workshop:
This workshop will discuss the Community Transportation Plan Update and potential changes to the southern section of Mountain Highway. However, due to the timing, it will be reported on in the May issue of the *Blueridge Bulletin*.

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.

BLUERIDGE Community Association

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 neighbours
- 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.

A Night on the Town

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

Ambleside Symphony Orchestra:

> **Young artist showcase! Hear four different soloists on piano!** The concert includes pieces by Morawetz, Chopin, Saint-Saëns, Knudson, and Gershwin.
>
> - April 18, 2026
> - Admission $25 per adult. Children up to 12 are free.
> - Highlands United Church
> - 8 pm
> - At least two Blueridge residents play in the Ambleside Symphony!

Centennial Theatre presents:

> Laugh Out LIVE**!** One night. Big laughs. You won't want to miss this hilarious show that combines improv, sketch comedy, stand-up comedy, original short films, huge prize giveaways and more! It will be a night of unforgettable, non-stop fun.
>
> - April 10, 2026
> - Admission $37 (18+ recommended) - Buy tickets
> - Centennial Theatre, 2300 Lonsdale Ave
> - 7:30 pm

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 **Fleatham Stevens**

- April 17, 2026
- 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?

- April 2 - 10, 2026 (We, Th, Fri, Sat @ 7:30 pm)
- Matinee 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:

Singers in a Smoky Room - Welcome to the Flashback Club, a rockin' 80's venue with live house band, Teaze! Packed with hilarity and hijinks

from a totally tubular cast and like, the most rad tunes from the 80s, you'll be, like, dancing in your seat and singing along!

- April 30 - May 16 (Th, Fri, Sat @ 7:30 pm)
- Matinees May 2, 9 & 16 (@ 2:00 pm)
- In the Shaw Theatre in downtown Deep Cove.
- Tickets and more information are available at the link above.

Presentation House Theatre presents:

Fat Joke - A fusion of stand-up comedy and storytelling, Fat Joke unapologetically thrusts fatphobia into the spotlight. Comedian, actor, and writer Cheyenne Rouleau's razor-sharp wit will surgically dissect everything you think you know about bodies, diet culture, and what it means to feel sexy and powerful in your own skin. Brace yourself for a night of social commentary that keeps you laughing at every turn!

- April 16 - 18, 7:30 pm, Ages 14+
- In the Presentation House Theatre, 333 Chesterfield Ave, North Vancouver
- Tickets and more information are available at the link above.

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

- **Always use a credit card when buying any type of battery.** That's not for tracking or record-keeping purposes. It's simply that batteries work best when they're charged.

- **Not Many Items Here** - It turns out there aren't a lot of short announcements this month. But the bad jokes continue regardless!
- **What is it called when a banana eats another banana?** Cannibananabalism. I know, that joke isn't appealing.
- **Water Conservation:** Reminder: Stage 1 water conservation rules will begin on May 1, 2026. And this year, given the warm winter and the relatively poor local snowpack, it is possible Stage 2 restrictions will be applied at some point. This is a good time to consider replacing your lawn with something that doesn't need watering, as lawns are a huge consumer of water in the summer months. If you can't do that, at least let your lawn go dormant. If you don't water it, it will simply turn brown and await the fall rains, which will cause it to green back up. Dormant lawns also don't need mowing, so they save work too!
- **Fun fact: Koi fish always travel in groups of 4.** If attacked, the A B and C koi will scatter, leaving behind the D koi.
- **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 read that giraffes can grow up to 18 feet.** But the ones I've seen only had four.

Newsworthy

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

- TransLink votes to tax hike property taxes even as fares set to increase on July 1

- First responders encourage North Shore residents to stay safe around the Capilano River
- Police warn of increase counterfeit bills circulating in community - this is in North Vancouver specifically
- **DNV Council Examines Requiring Affordable and/or Rental Housing in SSMUH Developments**
    - 'Not viable': North Van council hears report on economics of affordable small-scale multi-unit housing
    - Staff report examines affordable unit requirements for small-scale multi-unit housing
- **Townhomes at Mount Seymour Parkway & Riverside Drive**
    - 36-unit townhouse project proposed in North Vancouver's Maplewood area
    - Staff to recommend advancing rezoning for 36-unit townhouse project - on Riverside Drive
- **North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant**
    - North Vancouver, B.C., mayors ask Eby for inquiry into water treatment project
    - Editorial: David Eby must address the North Shore sewage plant problems
    - NSNA demands inquiry into Metro Vancouver Wastewater costs
    - North Vancouver mayors press premier on sewage plant boondoggle
    - North Vancouver, B.C., mayors ask Eby for inquiry into water treatment project
    - Mayors call for BC to act on wastewater plant - from the DNV website
        - Full text of the letter sent to Premier David Eby
- **Meteor Over North Shore on Tuesday, March 3**
    - NASA says meteor that lit up Vancouver sky was travelling 100 times speed of sound
    - Could you find pieces of the meteor that flashed across Metro Vancouver?
    - Fireball, sonic boom over Vancouver Tuesday evening, likely meteor - one of the many stories about the bright light and loud thump on Tuesday evening, March 3rd
- **The end of Daylight Saving Time in BC**
    - B.C.'s daylight-time decision 'scientifically not a good idea,' says researcher

- B.C.’s Eby is urging West Coast governors to fall in line with daylight time change
- Past attempts at year-round daylight time have all failed, sleep expert says
- Ending seasonal time change could help business, but not enough for universal support
- B.C.’s move to end clock changes won’t be without complications
- Why most Canadians will keep daylight saving time changes as B.C. stops
- Experts slam B.C. moving to Daylight Time for good
- Last spring forward for B.C. as it moves to permanent daylight time
- B.C.’s premier is celebrating the move to permanent daylight time. Others aren’t so sure
- B.C. makes daylight time permanent after years of promises
- Canadian province to adopt year-round daylight saving time - International coverage from the BBC
- Alberta’s Smith looking to ditch clock changes as B.C. moves to permanent daylight
- Alberta mulls ditching time switch — again — as B.C. moves to permanent daylight
- Spring forward: Will Quebec follow B.C. in abolishing time change?

This Month In Cheese

- Two GTHA chefs just won prestigious pizza prizes - I hope we hear about some local winners one of these days
- Quebec wants its poutine cheese curds to squeak on the world stage
- Scandinavians swear by this simple kitchen tool — and now, I'm obsessed too
- This Is Your Cheese Horoscope for 2026
- Prosciutto and Kettle Chip Mountain with Parmesan Cheese - why didn't I think of that?

Monthly Calendar

April is:

- Autism Acceptance Month

Important April Dates:

- **Apr 1**: Meet DNV Mayor Mike Little, 10 – 11 am, Parkgate Community Centre
- **Apr 1 - 30:** BCA scholarship applications accepted
- **Apr 2 - 4:** Deep Cove Stage Society presents *Nana's Naughty Knickers*, 7:30 - 10 pm, Shaw Theatre, Deep Cove
- **Apr 2 - 16:** Virtual Public information meeting about 328 and 332 Seymour River Place development, https://www.dnv.org/business-development/328-and-332-seymour-river-place
- **Apr 3:** Good Friday - schools closed
- **Apr 5:** Easter
- **Apr 6:** Easter Monday - schools closed
- **Apr 6:** Tartan Day
- **Apr 7:** Chemtrade emergency siren test, 10 am (First Tuesday of every month)
- **Apr 7:** DNV Council Workshop, usually 7 - 10 pm, DNV Municipal Hall
- **Apr 8:** International Day of Pink
- **Apr 8 - 10:** Deep Cove Stage Society presents *Nana's Naughty Knickers*, 7:30 - 10 pm, Shaw Theatre, Deep Cove
- **Apr 9:** Vimy Ridge Day
- **Apr 10:** Day of Silence
- **Apr 11:** Blueridge Sharing Garden volunteer work day, Great Box Rebuild - Demo Day, 9 - 11:30 am, Blueridge Sharing Garden

- **Apr 11:** Deep Cove Stage Society presents *Nana's Naughty Knickers*, 2 - 4:30 pm, Shaw Theatre, Deep Cove
- **Apr 11:** Centennial Theatre presents *Laugh Out LIVE!*, 7:30 - 10:00 pm, Centennial Theatre
- **Apr 12:** National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day
- **Apr 13:** Windsor Secondary PAC meeting, 7:30 pm, library
- **Apr 13:** DNV Council Meeting, usually 7 - 10 pm, DNV Municipal Hall
- **Apr 13 - 16:** Scholastic Book Fair at Blueridge Elementary
- **Apr 14:** Vaisakhi
- **Apr 14:** Charity Basketball Game, 6pm, Windsor Secondary, (see article above)
- **Apr 15**: Meet DNV Mayor Mike Little, 11 am - noon, Capilano Library
- **Apr 16:** Transforming School Zones in North & West Vancouver, 6 - 8:30 pm, Canyon Heights Elementary (see article above)
- **Apr 16:** In-Person information meeting about 328 and 332 Seymour River Place development, 6 - 8:30 pm, Jaycee House
- **Apr 16 - 18:** Presentation House Theatre presents Fat Joke, 7:30 - 9:30 pm, Presentation House Theatre
- **Apr 17:** Deep Cove Coffee House presents The Tanglewood Trio with Karla Mundy, Karla Mundy and Michael Creber, and Fleatham Stevens, 7 - 10 pm, Mount Seymour United Church
- **Apr 18:** Ambleside Symphony young artist showcase, 8 - 10 pm, Highlands United Church
- **Apr 19:** Blueridge Sharing Garden volunteer work day, Great Box Rebuild - Construction Rebuild Day, 9 - 11:30 am, Blueridge Sharing Garden
- **Apr 19 - 25:** National Volunteer Week
- **Apr 20:** DNV Council Workshop, usually 7 - 10 pm, DNV Municipal Hall
- **Apr 21:** Blueridge Cozy Night, 7 - 9pm, Canlan Sports
- **Apr 22:** Earth Day
- **Apr 23:** World Book Day
- **Apr 23:** Meet DNV Mayor Mike Little, 11 am - noon, Lynn Valley Library
- **Apr 26:** City Nature Challenge Bioblitz hike in Blueridge, 11 am - noon or 1 - 2 pm, Baden Powell Trail & Hyannis Drive (see article above)
- **Apr 26:** Submission deadline for the June issue of the *Blueridge Bulletin*.
- **Apr 27:** DNV Council Meeting, usually 7 - 10 pm, DNV Municipal Hall
- **Apr 28:** Deadline to submit articles to the May issue of the Blueridge Community News, the BCA's printed newsletter (see article above)
- **Apr 28:** National Day of Mourning
- **Apr 29:** Seymour Heights Elementary Staff Collaboration Day - early dismissal, 2 pm

- **Apr 29:** Windsor Secondary Staff Collaboration Day - late start, 9:50 am
- **Apr 30:** Blueridge Elementary PAC meeting, 7 pm, library
- **Apr 30:** First Impressions Theatre presents *Singers in a Smoky Room*, 7:30 - 10 pm, First Impressions Theatre (more dates in march as well, see *A Night On the Town* above)
- **Apr 30:** Snow-rated tires no longer required by the province on most roads. (There are a few exceptions.)
- **Apr 30:** Federal taxes due for most Canadians.

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/m4rqsnivbm6ejkcan2t48tq5lg%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics

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Top 10 Links from the April *Blueridge Bulletin*

1. Blueridge Good Neighbor Day - Community Feedback
2. Salamander Rescue Video

3. Principal Tuba Carol Jantsch's arrangement of Vulfpeck's "New Beastly" - True heavy metal music
4. Acciona's Legal Claim in the NSWWTP Saga
5. New off-leash areas proposed in District of North Vancouver dog strategy
6. Ensatina salamander information
7. One teen dead, another person in serious condition after crash in North Vancouver - December news story about the accident
8. Italian restaurant opens in former Raven Pub location in Deep Cove
9. North Vancouver RCMP investigate fatal single vehicle collision - December RCMP press release
10. Statistics Canada staffing 32,000 census jobs across Canada

Overall, 40 out of 123 different links were clicked on at least once each, and there were 98 clicks total.

Thanks for being wonderful readers!

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

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 May 2026 edition is April 26, 2026.

Submission deadlines for later editions can be found here.

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

Sponsors

Advertise in the *Bulletin*!
$30 per month, or $250 for 12 consecutive issues. This revenue is used to defray some of our costs (such as signage, website, etc.). If you or your company are interested in advertising in the *Blueridge Bulletin*, please contact us at: info@blueridgeca.org

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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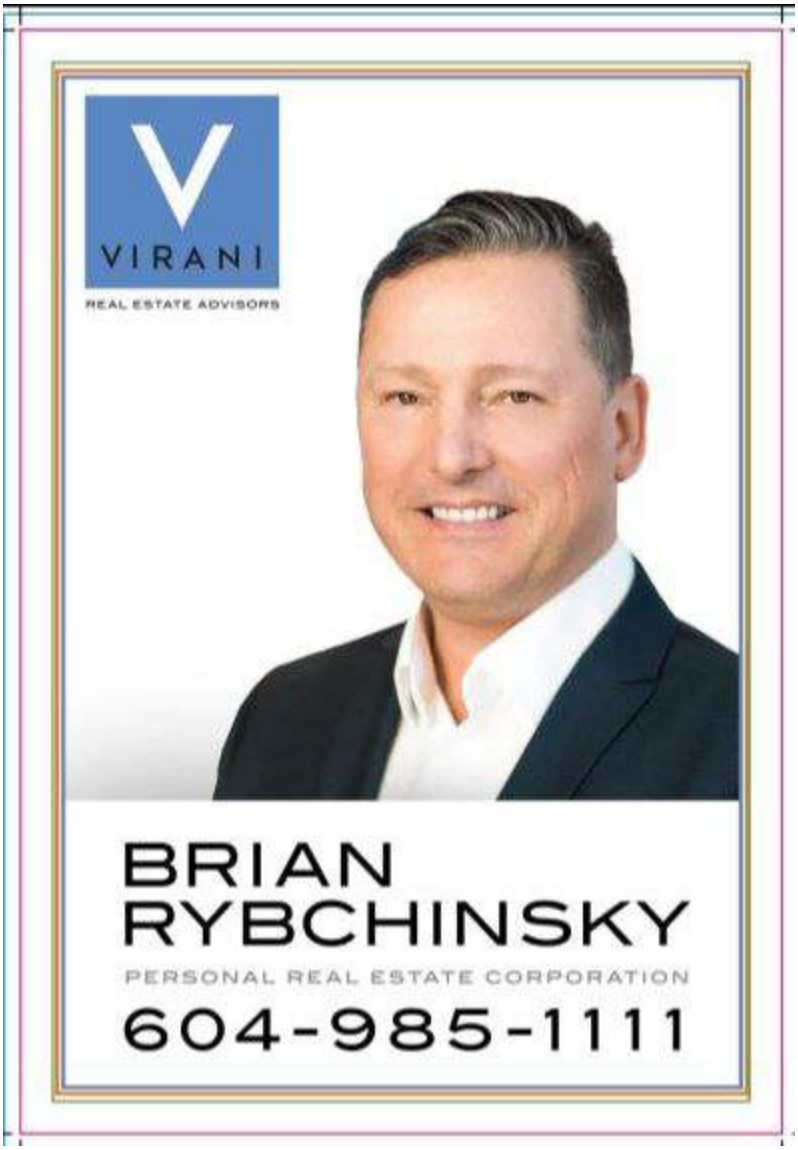

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20 years of licensed childcare in Blueridge area
We are licensed for before and after school care since 2007
Open 7am until 6pm
Three Locations:
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