

Blueridge Community Association

AGM Report on “Brainstorming”

Michael Bernard/Director at Large

Good evening,

I will start with a brief history of how the BCA has used with how the association brainstorming initiatives has used “brainstorming” in the last several years to generate ideas the association could pursue for the benefit community. My thanks to Eric for providing some history on this.

For the uninitiated, a brainstorming session is one where participants contribute ideas, in our case aimed at making a Blueridge a better community. As with every brainstorming session, all ideas are worthy of consideration.

The association has held two brainstorming sessions at Canlan: in November 2013 and in October 2022. The two events produced an impressive list of ideas to pursue.

The first in 2013 was attended by 12-15 participants, mainly BCA board members. It produced many suggestions, of which four particular ones were adopted and developed and continue to thrive today: They are:

- The Blueridge Sharing Garden, a lot located south of Carnation Drive on District of North Vancouver land adjacent to Seymour Heights School. The garden provides plots and growing boxes for several residents for growing vegetables. It currently has a waiting list. Its harvest, some of which is sold at United Strangers, has raised funds for charitable causes.
- The “welcome wagon”, in which BCA board member Lesley Brooks greets new residents to Blueridge and Seymour Heights at their doorstep. She gives them information about the community verbally and in a brochure, and invites them to become involved in the community.

- The Blueridge Scholarship, which bestows an annual scholarship on students graduating from secondary school to advance their education at post-secondary institutions. It started with \$500 annually, but now provides \$1,000 to students who volunteer time and energy to community initiatives.
- The establishment and maintenance of social media by BCA including the blueridgeca.org website, the Facebook website and the monthly (online) Blueridge Bulletin, which keep residents informed about various initiatives and issues affecting the community.

The second brainstorming in 2022 attracted about 24 participants, and generated several ideas. Two were developed and held, while two others will be staged this summer and fall. They include:

- A “Blueridge Cares” yard sale, a one-time event that generated revenue for the ongoing Christmas time drive to assist local families in need.
- A “Cozy Night” event, the first of which was held in January 2026 at Canlan and now is staged the third Tuesday of each month. It provides the community with an informal setting in which new and existing residents can socialize.
- A “movie night”, a free outdoor event at McCartney Park, for residents and their families, at which feature films are projected onto a large movie screen. The first movie night will be held this summer.
- An art program to encourage a marketplace for local artists to display and sell their work.

Given this successful record of putting new ideas into action, the BCA plans yet another brainstorming event this fall, tentatively planned for Canlan. We invite all community residents to attend the event, designed to further the BCA’s goals of meeting the community’s needs and making Blueridge a great place to live and raise families. Watch the blueridgeca.org website and subscribe online to and read the monthly **Blueridge Bulletin** for a date and time for the brainstorming.

Any questions?

