

Blueridge Community News

Editor: Sonia McLeod

Blueridge Good Neighbour Day Sunday June 5th, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM Blueridge School Grounds The United World of Blueridge



Everyone is invited to join the party at the 19th annual Blueridge Good Neighbour Day. Kids, dress up, decorate your bike and wear clothing that represents your heritage. This year's international theme is to reflect our diverse community. Arrive at the intersection of Berkley and Hyannis for a 10:45 parade start. The parade will travel down Berkley and end at the school just in time to take part in some pretty cool activities. Enjoy live music, international food trucks, Gyros, concession stands, beverage garden (ID mandatory), Kids Carnival, gladiator joust, bouncy castles, rides and games, silent auction (cash/credit) and our famous pie eating contest.

Blueridge Good Neighbour Day is brought to you by a group of dedicated neighbours, with the support of generous donors who value this community. Would you like to sponsor an activity on the day, rent a community table, volunteer at the event, or donate an item to the silent auction? Please contact us at

bgnd@blueridgeca.org.



Important Dates

Saturday, June 4, at 9 AM – noon – Blueridge Sharing Garden work party

Sunday June 5 - 11 AM to 3 PM - Blueridge Good Neighbour Day at Blueridge Elementary School

Sunday, June 19, at 10 AM – noon – Soapbox Derby on Carnation Street (in front of Seymour Heights School)

Saturday, June 25, at 9 AM – noon – Blueridge Sharing Garden work party

Wednesday, July 6, 20, August 17 and 31, at 7 PM – Blueridge Community Baseball at Blueridge Park

Tuesday, September 13 at 7 PM – Blueridge Community Association AGM at Blueridge Elementary School (library) Guest Speaker: Mr. Terry Beech, our MP

Want Some Inspiration for your Garden? Not Sure Where to Start?

Written by: Donna Sacuta

A cadre of fellow Blueridge residents are eager to share their garden knowledge with neighbours at the Blueridge Sharing Garden.

Through the spring and summer months up to 20 volunteers at a time plunge their pitchforks and whisk their watering cans around the space, which is located across from Seymour Heights Elementary, between Carnation and Lytton Streets.

For them, it's all about building a stronger community and having fun. A happy side effect is that even though the Sharing Garden is just one year old, many pounds of vegetables have been donated to local groups in need.

Friendships have grown and laughter can often be heard coming from the 20 raised beds at the site. You can help these intrepid gardeners by dropping by on a volunteer day. To find out when the next one is scheduled, join the Facebook page (Blueridge Sharing Garden), OR send them an email to be put on the monthly newsletter list.

garden@blueridgeca.org



At the end of April the Sharing Garden hosted 45 students from UBC who came to learn about the project and share some of their ideas.



Telus – November Phone Outage Final Update

Written by: Eric Andersen

Many of us were affected by the weekly Telus phone outage in November last year.

We wrote about it in our March newsletter and urged you to contact Telus if you had not yet received a \$15 credit from Telus. Many of you did contact them, so we can only hope that all affected 925 customers in Blueridge/Seymour Heights have received what they were due.

In addition we would like to thank Telus for a \$500 donation that they made to the Blueridge Community Association in view of the serious inconvenience that so many of us were subjected to in November. We appreciate their donation. We have so many projects going on in the community that it will not be difficult to find something that we can spend this money on. This will be discussed at our AGM on May 10.

Again, a big 'Thank You' to Telus for having recognized that so many people were inconvenienced in Blueridge. Their generous donation will benefit the entire community!

214 Blueridge Bus – Latest Update

Written by: Eric Andersen

Four of your BCA directors met with Translink & Coast Mountain Bus Company in early April.

We pointed out that the rerouting of the 214 Blueridge bus had resulted in a saving of roughly four minutes per trip (as per CMBC's own schedules), but the connection particularly for buses coming from downtown to the Phibbs Exchange is still not working out well. CMBC promised us at the meeting to make the necessary changes to better enable connections for customers to and from Blueridge. This is supposed to become effective on Monday, June 27.

As usual we would love to get YOUR feedback about the 214 Blueridge bus. What are your reasons for using it or not using it?

Web: www.blueridgeca.org

Email: info@blueridgeca.org

Twitter: @BlueridgeCA

Facebook: Blueridge Community Association

Project “My Community”

Written by: Alberto Trujillo González

It's already been four years since my family and I moved to Blueridge, and since the very first day when Jim and Alf knocked on our door and presented to us the Blockwatch program, we got involved with the community...we love it. We love the trees, we love the neighbourhood, we love our house and our yards, our neighbours, and not to mention this enchanting forest.

The first time my wife saw the sign for the Blueridge Community Association meeting she left it very clear to me that WE had to attend. What wasn't so clear was that by WE she meant ME (somebody had to take care of our rugrats), and here I am a few years later looking back and...really? I became a member of the BCA, re-built its website, helped Email accounts and electronic documents, got involved with public transit (some people say that I'm a really “passionate” Spanish guy), helped to build the shed at the sharing garden, attended to our awesome BGN days... It can't be? I'm not even one of the most involved people at the BCA. But it is possible, because this community is united and works hard.

All this made me think, if one person with a full time job, two active kids under the age of 6, and very little spare time is able to accomplish things like this, what would we be able to accomplish together? What could the benefits be, and why aren't we doing it? Think about it for a second, us helping each other, gaining from it, and I'm not talking about adding more burden to your already busy life, but totally the opposite, benefiting from it. But how?

Almost all of us live in single family detached houses, houses that... here we are... need maintenance, and although I admit is pleasant to mow the lawn and I really enjoy fixing and tinkering around my house, I simply don't have as much time as I need. Do you? But what if all of us get together and we help each other. I'm not talking about you coming to clean my house, or me sweeping your chimney, but getting together and hiring one company to do the job. Companies tend to offer better prices to groups, and benefit from having guaranteed clients and not have to gather around all the time for new ones. I just think about it and try to figure out how beneficial it would be for a company to be in charge of the entire lawn mowing

on Blueridge, and at the same time how much it would cost per house. It must be really affordable. All right, all right, I'm just focusing on law mowing, but what about: house cleaning, leaf raking, chimney sweeping, car maintenance... you name it.

I'm planting the seed here. Would you like to see your life improved at the same time you help others? Do you own a company and would like to work with us? How many clients/houses would be needed to make this possible? Do you think this is a good idea?

Tell me, what tedious duty of your life would you like to see taken care of?

PUBLIC LAND IN BLUERIDGE

Written by: Brian Gardiner

A lively discussion was the order of the day on April 4 when over 60 Blueridge residents gathered at Blueridge School to hear from School District trustee Barry Forward give a report on the future of the school. Sponsored by the Blueridge Community Association, the evening provided an opportunity for parents of students at the school and others to ask about the school's future and what might happen with the land if it was closed.

Forward gave a presentation on the history of the discussion around the school, making it clear that the District has plans to close Blueridge Elementary if they get funding to replace Seymour Heights. There was much discussion on what that meant, including questions as to whether a bigger elementary school at Seymour would be a step forward for the education of students from Blueridge.

While discussion around the possible closing of the school dominated the discussion, there are still concerns about the land use should the school ever close, for whatever reason.

The future use of the school property, which is presently owned by the public, access and other issues are clearly still up in the air.

The meeting was hosted by the Blueridge Community Association, taking a cue from the mayor, who had said some time ago that the community needed to be proactive in speaking out about any plans for the school or the land.

The Blueridge Community Association will be having a follow-up meeting with people who volunteered to help keep the discussion going.

Please watch future issues of the newsletter and our web site and Facebook page for updates.

UBC meets Blueridge – reflections from April 29

Written by: Sunny Chen

It was drizzling lightly when we arrived in Blueridge. We, a group of university students freshly out of school for summer, were sleepy yet excited. It was early morning, Day Two of training to become student leaders for UBC's Center for Community Engaged Learning. After a day of team bonding and reflecting yesterday, we were visiting Blueridge to learn from the Community Association today. The plan was to rotate through stations, each facilitated by a different Director, to learn about various projects of the Blueridge Community Association, and to offer suggestions.

Eric, the association's chair, had emphasized a two-way exchange. But going into the first session, I'll admit I was feeling hesitant to speak up. As a student accustomed to listening to professors, and as a child of immigrant parents whose culture prioritizes respect for elders – I was skeptical of how much we, as youth, could offer to a community with such a long history of activism and engagement. However, that soon changed. As Eric began sharing the story of Blueridge's Community Newsletter and Good Neighbor Day, two things quickly became obvious: Eric's passion for his community, and his genuine interest in our ideas. Soon, we were peppering him with questions, and buzzing with ideas. What if we used recycled paper for newsletters? Is there a recipe for a Blueridge blueberry pie (or Blueridge blue cheese)? What if we engaged the youth right here in Blueridge – how about creating a Youth Committee for planning programs, or partnering with the high school newspaper? This two-way intergenerational exchange could happen within the Blueridge community! Blueridge has so many valuable resources – it has so much potential!

By the time my group rotated to Rhoda's station, I was still buzzing with ideas and questions. As we walked through the neighbourhood trails, we chatted about how the neighbourhood – and the world at large – has changed over the years. As the conversation shifted towards current politics, I was surprised to find that we shared a lot of beliefs and values, despite plenty of demographic differences. I was also surprised – and humbled – when Rhoda mentioned that her older generation could learn plenty from our younger one, especially in being conscientious and caring for the earth. I learned from Rhoda, too. Over

lunchtime conversation, Rhoda advised me to not “be afraid to retire”, like many people who keep working in fear of losing purpose. It might be a while before I retire (having yet to fully enter the workforce), but her message struck home. In my first years at university, even as I delved deeper into academics (the equivalent of my “job”, as a student), I've also been detaching academics from my identity. Community-based learning has played no small role in this shift. My profession is an important part of who I am, but not the whole of it. “You are not your job,” Rhoda concluded.

In the afternoon, my group visited the Sharing Garden. By now, the sun was dazzling, and it felt lovely and warm to work with our hands outdoors. As Margaret and Joanne told us about the garden, we planted flowers and munched on radishes. I felt satisfied to be gardening, fascinated by companion planting, and intrigued by an oddly shaped carrot. But most of all, I was in awe that such an amazing garden was entirely volunteer-built and run. Especially wonderful is the concept of the sharing garden: neighbours came together to nurture the garden, and the produce was either shared or donated to those in need. This garden also served as a community center, bringing together neighbours for potlucks and music. Having previously been used to dump litter, the space was truly trash turned to treasure. As the community nurtured its growth, the garden in turn nurtured the community.

As we returned indoors for final reflections on our day, the importance and power of a community was a recurring theme. My fellow UBC students, each in their own words, expressed wonder and gratitude for having the privilege to be welcomed warmly into such a vibrant community, and to witness firsthand a surprising truth: “that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” The people of Blueridge inspired us with their passion and tenacity, and also with their kindness and humility. Somehow, they've struck a graceful balance between pride and humility. It was apparent how much pride and love the community members have for Blueridge, but they also conveyed a humble openness to listening and learning new perspectives. As Eric said from the start, it was a two-way exchange. I've learned so much with you, Blueridge! And I'm happy we've been able to give you small gems, whether it's fresh ideas for projects or hope in the younger generation. Thank you for having us, Blueridge – we may have only stayed a while, but the lessons learned and ideas planted here, will continue to grow.

A little Gem from UBC!

UBC meets Blueridge

N E W S L E T T E R
 S E N G A G E D E U
 U B L U E R I D G E
 B P T Z E L G O O D
 C O M M U N I T Y V
 D B L E A R N I N G
 Q N E I G H B O R D
 V R U B C B V P Q A
 S H A R I N G N I Y
 A B T T R A I L S E

UBC	BLUERIDGE	COMMUNITY
ENGAGED	LEARNING	SHARING
GOOD	NEIGHBOR	DAY
NEWSLETTER	TRAILS	PIE

Syrian Refugee Family Update

Written by: Angela Duso

Some of you may have seen the recent article in the [North Shore News](#) about the Syrian family (one of two) moving to Blueridge. Here is an update about the family and how the community is helping out. This family has been sponsored by the 'Regional Ecumenical Support Team' (REST), a partnership of 10 churches and individuals who have come together to support the sponsorship of refugees. The group operates in close cooperation with the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster and includes several churches on the North Shore. REST has agreed to provide financial and other support for the family for one year).

A critical element of sponsorship involves finding suitable housing – no easy task in the tight housing market we find ourselves in. A new resident of Blueridge has very kindly decided to move out and provide her house at below-market rent to two Syrian refugee families. She felt that the families would have a good start in Blueridge – as we have such an active and welcoming community.

As you can imagine, it will take many hands to support the new families (the second one to arrive in the next few months). REST has worked very hard to

raise funds and organize everything required to bring the Syrians to Canada. The Blueridge Community Association (BCA) asked them to let us know how we can help.

- 1) Lesley Brooks (BCA [Welcome Committee](#)) attended a pot luck put on by the sponsor group and welcomed the family to Blueridge.
- 2) The BCA was asked to help "Fill the Fridge" and pantry in anticipation of the family's arrival. We had 5 or 6 volunteers (Including [Rotary Club](#) members) shopping for groceries and Middle Eastern specialities.
- 3) [Ruth Hanson](#), Blueridge resident and local realtor has donated \$300 to the family for helping with setting up the household. Jim Hanson (local resident and DNV Councillor) has done the same for the second family who will be moving in later on. Thanks to Ruth and Jim, both long time supporters of the Blueridge Community Association and Blueridge Good Neighbour Day for helping out.
- 4) Bunk beds for the two boys were donated (many thanks to Marilyn Mackenzie and Sheryl Smythe) and transported (thanks to Erwin Mah and Rhoda Irwin).
- 5) A Blueridge resident who speaks Arabic is willing to help with interpretation. REST has organized other interpreters as well.
- 6) One local resident is providing transportation to and from Windsor Secondary School for one of the children.

To everyone, I want to say thank you for your willingness to help and your generosity. I am reminded (again) of what a great community we live in – with so many people who are interested in helping.

Stay tuned for more updates. There will be a second family (Mum, Dad and baby girl) arriving in the next few months. Once both families have arrived and settled in, the Blueridge Community Association will host a welcome party.



Q & A with the Blueridge Chamber Music Festival

Written by: Dory Hayley

Have you ever sat at home on a long summer evening and found yourself thinking “what this community needs is a chamber music festival”? Well, there is one: it’s called the Blueridge Chamber Music Festival, and you’re invited!

What is the Blueridge Chamber Music Festival?

Founded in 2010 by soprano and Blueridge native Dory Hayley and Colombian-Canadian pianist Alejandro Ochoa, the annual festival offers four high-octane concerts played by some of Canada’s best-loved classical musicians.

What is chamber music anyway?

Chamber music is written for small groups of instruments, and was originally designed to be played at home among friends. Nowadays, chamber music is more often performed in the concert hall, but it still maintains that quality of intimacy, camaraderie, and fun.

Isn’t classical music boring?

Well, we don’t think so! Our theory is that a lot of people get turned off classical music because of the traditions around it—you can’t talk, you can’t move, you can’t fidget, you have to wear a tie. At Blueridge we try to create a more relaxed, democratic atmosphere. You can come in jeans, have a snack, talk to the musicians. Plus, you don’t have to invest a fortune on the tickets.

Can I bring the kids?

Absolutely! Studies have shown that listening to classical music can improve concentration, memory, and even IQ scores in children, so it’s a great idea to expose them to chamber music at a young age. And your kids won’t be alone—some of our festival musicians bring their kids along to listen, too.

For kids with more musical experience, Blueridge also offers an action-packed two-week chamber music workshop with an intensive schedule of lessons, group coachings, and performance classes.

What’s on this summer?

This year’s festival, inspired by the theme “Seventh Heaven,” features audience favourites like Beethoven’s jovial Gassenhauer Trio, Schubert’s lilting Shepherd on the Rock, and Fauré’s majestic piano quartet, as well as rarer but no less lovable works like George Crumb’s kaleidoscopic

Makrokosmos. You’ll also be among the first to hear hot-off-the-press pieces by Blueridge Composer in Residence Dorothy Chang.

The Blueridge Chamber Music Festival takes place August 13th to 22nd at Mount Seymour United Church (1200 Parkgate Ave.). Tickets will be available starting June 1st at www.brownpapertickets.com. For more information, please visit www.blueridgechamber.org, or call 604-779-6737.



Donna Sacuta – Recipient of the DNV 2015 Heritage Award

Written by: Eric Andersen

We are extremely proud to let everyone in Blueridge know that one of the BCA’s directors, Donna Sacuta, received one of the District of North Vancouver heritage awards in early February, 2016. She was selected by the Heritage Committee for heritage advocacy in order to recognize Donna’s research of the history of the Blair Rifle Range property in the District of North Vancouver. Some of you may have seen her most interesting presentation on this subject – others may remember her article in our newsletter about her findings.

It is definitely very well deserved and we are so grateful that a local resident has spent so much time and efforts on finding out more about the past history of this part of North Vancouver.

A big congratulations goes out from the BCA to Donna for her incredible research in this field and her well-deserved award. Well done!

Sooner or later we will be getting the plaque for the site that you have been suggesting – all we need is a generous sponsor or a government grant for this!



Blueridge Good Neighbour Day – Please be generous!

Written by: Eric Andersen

You can read all about our upcoming Blueridge Good Neighbour Day on the front page of this newsletter. Most residents in Blueridge/Seymour Heights will know about the Blueridge Community Association's yearly activity which will take place on June 5 this year.

What you may not be aware of is that our budget has also been rising rapidly every year. Last year our expenses nearly reached \$15,000 and our total surplus for the year was \$146, or less than 1% of our expenses. That is totally fine, since we are not trying to make money or fundraise at Blueridge Good Neighbour Day. All we are trying to do is break even every time and last year was one of the most 'balanced' years that way.

We have been very fortunate in the past to receive various grants and donations that have helped fund a large portion of the event. Unfortunately this year a handful of grant applications were not approved and a previous large sponsor of \$1,700 will not be donating this year. This means we will be underfunded in 2016 by several thousand dollars compared with prior years.

Of course, we are fortunate to have other generous sponsors, but as you will know we are offering all the activities for the kids for free (except for the ponies). This enables every family in Blueridge/Seymour Heights to participate without having to consider the costs – in theory, you could show up without your wallet (although we are not suggesting that!).

In view of the lack of grants and major sponsorships this year, we will have more donation boxes available. We ask you kindly to consider this and we also urge you to be generous at our Silent Auction. We would like to stress that EVERY dollar raised at the Silent Auction goes to support all of the free activities that everyone gets to enjoy. So whether supporting the silent auction by bidding on prizes, or by donating a prize yourself, you're helping to support the Blueridge Community Association's efforts! There will also be opportunities to spend at the food trucks, concession stand and beverage garden, and at certain activities credit cards will be accepted, too.

A few very dedicated people put this event together that everyone participates in for free, so please help us out break even again this year. We decided that we did not want to scale down our event in 2016, hoping that YOUR generosity will allow us to continue with this fun-filled event also in the future.

Should any of you have any donations you wish to make, both monetarily or for our Silent Auction, please do contact us at bgnd@blueridgeca.org. Please use the same e-mail address for any questions you may have about Blueridge Good Neighbour Day, and –not at least- if you wish to volunteer for an hour or two at Blueridge Good Neighbour Day!

Thanks for helping us and our community out!

Help Wanted!

Two people with "Food Safe" certification to serve food at Blueridge Good Neighbour Day, Sunday June 5th from 11 am - 3 pm. Previous food service experience an asset. Wage is \$25/hour. Please contact bgnd@blueridgeca.org for more info or to apply.

Recipe Corner!

Submitted by: Sonia McLeod

I can't tell you how many times I have made this recipe for our kids. I remember my parents making this for me when I was a little girl, on Sunday mornings...Oh how I loved to wake up to the smell of Kaiserschmarrn through the house! Now I am proud to serve the same recipe, handed down to me, to our kids! This is definitely the favorite in our household for breakfast treats! I hope you enjoy them as much as we do!

Kaiserschmarrn (a.k.a. scrambled pancakes!)

2 cups milk
4 eggs (separated)
60 grams (about ½ cup) sugar
250 grams (about 1-3/4 to 2 cups) flour
Raisins ... If desired.
Icing sugar

Combine the milk, egg yolks, sugar and flour in a bowl and mix together until smooth.

Beat the egg whites in a separate bowl. Mix until stiff peaks form.

Gently fold the egg whites into batter mixture.

Place about a 1 cup scoop of batter into heated pan that is coated with either butter or Pam.

If you like raisins, sprinkle about 2 tablespoons or more (you decide) over the batter in pan.

When the bottom is nice and brown, flip the pancake..(it may be messy)...and wait a few minutes. Next, take a wooden spoon and the spatula and tear the pancake up in pieces.

Continue to scramble until batter is cooked through. Place on plate and dust with icing sugar. Enjoy!

At the BCA's Annual General Meeting on May 10, 2016, the Chair, Eric G. Andersen pointed out the following highlights for 2015-2016:

FIRST OF ALL: A HUGE 'THANK YOU' TO ALL THE RESIDENTS WHO VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME AND EFFORTS TO THE BCA.

An amazing amount of help was given by an increasing number of volunteers in Blueridge & Seymour Heights. The BCA could not operate and exist without all YOUR assistance!

We had a number of firsts this year:

- 1/** our first scholarship ever was handed out to a Blueridge youth
- 2/** our first toy sale was held, albeit not as successfully as we would have liked it to be
- 3/** a hugely successful partnership was explored with UBC – a great day of learning for both parties
- 4/** the BCA had Coast Mountain Bus Company change the routing for the 214 Blueridge bus after a meeting.
- 5/** a well-attended extra BCA meeting was hosted in April pertaining to public land in Blueridge and the potential closure of Blueridge Elementary School
- 6/** an electronic recycling was offered to our residents in June, which will be repeated in May, 2016
- 7/** BCA members had a strong participation in input in the creation of the new NV CAN (North Vancouver Community Association Network)
- 8/** BCA meetings continued to be held every second month (September, November, January, March and May).
- 9/** we had a number of guest speakers – Mike Mayers of Metro Vancouver (September), Shaun Hollingsworth and Sharee Dobowits from the Seymour Salmonid Society (November) and Warren McKay of Cool North Shore (May)
- 10/** three newsletters (June 2015 (8 pages), Nov 2015 (8 pages) and March 2016)) were prepared in 2015-2016 which reached every household in Blueridge/Seymour Heights (thanks strictly to volunteers!). Another newsletter is scheduled to be distributed during the second half of May 2016.
- 11/** the BCA hosted a very successful 18th Blueridge Good Neighbour Day on June 7, 2015, at the Blueridge Elementary School. A smaller, but very dedicated committee is already working on the 19th BGND.
- 12/** the BCA general account has a negative balance of \$290 – in addition we have some earmarked as seed-money for Blueridge Good Neighbour Day.
- 13/** the BCA has a regularly updated website: www.blueridgeca.org and Facebook page as well as an e-mail address: info@blueridgeca.org. We have about 400 e-mail recipients in Blueridge/Seymour Heights. We have a twitter account located @BlueridgeCA (if people want to “follow” us). Different hashtags associated with our account are: #BGND2016 and #SharingGarden
- 14/** the BCA has notified its members of numerous meetings and events of potential interest to them. This is done through our Communication Officer's 'Blueridge Bulletin' which goes out once or twice a month.
- 15/** the BCA has representatives on the CMAC water committee, Community Advisory Panel, Canlan Ice-Sports Committee, the Highway Interchange working group, the Seymour Local Plan Monitoring Committee, the Natural Hazards Working Group, and most recently on the Neighbourhood Advisory Committee.
- 16/** the BCA has a traffic committee (ad hoc), a Blueridge Good Neighbour Day committee, a trails committee (hosting walks in the neighbourhood), a sharing garden committee, a scholarship committee (ad hoc), a Good Neighbour Greeting committee and will shortly establish a Community Lands Task Force. Most committee chairs will make a brief presentation at the AGM.
- 17/** the BCA has its own brochure and business cards with social media information
- 18/** the BCA continues to offer a baby sitting service
- 19/** the BCA's Constitution and bylaws have been finalized – and will hopefully be adopted at the AGM
- 20/** the BCA had its second wine tasting (in January)
- 21/** the BCA had another highly successful 'meet and greet' your neighbours aimed primarily at new Blueridge/Seymour Heights residents (in January) with special invited guests from local agencies and organizations
- 22/** the BCA co-hosted an All Candidates Meeting prior to the October federal election