

Blueridge Bulletin

July 2023



Blueridge Good Neighbour Day 2023



Photos by Missy Shana

The Return Of A Tradition

We hope you enjoyed Blueridge Good Neighbour Day!

Blueridge is a special place, with deep roots and a strong sense of community. The BCA is happy to help bring us together and strengthen the things that make our little neighbourhood so different. And we thank everyone who helped make BGND possible: volunteers, sponsors, donors, and participants!

We're collecting photos from the event for a gallery on our website. If you have photos you would like to share, please send them to:

webmaster@blueridgeca.org

You can send individual photos or a link to an album. We want to credit photographers, so please include your name as you'd like it seen.

And now that BGND is over and summer has officially arrived, all kinds of activities and events are happening that we've been looking forward to. If you know of something that should be shared with the neighbourhood, please send us a note with all the information to the same email address.

Happy Canada Day!

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Features



BC Government Helps Preserve Affordable Housing At The Atrium Co-op

The Office Of MLA Susie Chant

In March of 2022, the Parkgate Housing Society, which manages the Atrium Seniors Co-op, reached out to MLA Susie Chant about the increasing costs to maintain aging housing on the North Shore. Their co-op had faced a doubling of costs to replace their roof, and as seniors living on fixed incomes, there was no way they could raise the funds for the project. If a levy had been applied, members would have been forced to sell, priced out of their community, and that could have brought the end to the co-op complex.

Knowing how much we need to preserve existing affordable housing, Susie spoke with the Minister Responsible for Housing, David Eby and his staff. When David Eby became Premier, a standalone Ministry of Housing was created, with a stronger mandate and dedicated funding for preserving existing housing. In January of this year, it was publicly announced that there would be a new provincial fund, totalling \$500 million, to preserve existing affordable rentals.

Unfortunately, the Atrium co-op would not qualify for this \$500 million fund as it was an equity co-op, and not a rental building. However, another opportunity arose with year-end surplus. Susie submitted information about the financial needs of the Atrium and made a request for funding of the roof project. This paid off, and on March 23 rd , 2023, Susie was able to announce that the Parkgate Housing Society would receive \$731,000 to fix their roof. Mayor Mike Little was present to reassure residents of the Atrium Seniors Co-op that their lease with the DNV would be protected, so long as it remained fully maintained affordable seniors housing. This project is now considered to be the first use of Ministry of Housing funding to preserve existing affordable housing supply under the new mandate. Although, with \$500 million set aside for this goal, many more projects will be announced in the months and years to come.



United Strangers Vandalized

Republished From Instagram With Permission

It "panes" us to share that we were vandalized on Sunday night shortly after 11pm.

#laughingtokeepfromcrying

From video we can assume this is a younger person in our community who we would like to work with to repair the community. The disrespect they showed this window comes with a great cost to us and we want the chance to express how this has impacted US so that they can learn and avoid this behaviour from happening again. To be clear we have filed a police incident report but do not intend to involve the police any further.

We share this information in hopes that caregivers can have conversations with their young people that this isn't cool and if the person who did this is reading

they can know they are apart of a bigger community and that how they show up matters.

Making stupid choices happens. Your actions don't have to define you.

How you choose to repair your mistakes can make all the difference on your personhood.

You get to choose!

So community: Please share. Please come buy things.

Eric Andersen, Chair of the Blueridge Community Association adds:

The BCA very strongly supports United Strangers and its wonderful owners, Joe and Christine. Their strong sense of community is reflected by the way they will continue to show up for our community (as they also did recently when sponsoring an activity and supplying coffee at Blueridge Good Neighbour Day in addition to the Grad Event at Windsor), and this is very commendable.

We very strongly urge everyone to do what they suggested, i.e. spread the word about this senseless act of vandalism. We also urge everyone to show your support by grabbing your next coffee there and purchasing a gift card from United Strangers.



Maplewood Gardens Project Update

The QuadReal Property Group's Maplewood Gardens proposal (2131-2171 Old Dollarton Road) received feedback from Council that required the team to review and make some revisions to the overall plan. After 18 months, we've made some changes and will be hosting additional public consultation in July.

At a high level, the proposal seeks to bring **567 new homes** to the community (through a diverse mixture of condo, live work, market rental, below market rental and local employment housing) in four six-storey buildings. Along with the housing offered, the project will also still include commercial space, a publicly accessible courtyard and amenity spaces for residents.

We will be hosting a **Public Information Meeting on July 12** to share the detailed plans and hear what the community thinks about the revised plans. Details of the Public Information Meeting (both in person and virtual) are below:

In Person Meeting:

- Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 5:00pm-7:00pm (drop in anytime)
- Ron Andrews Community Recreation Centre: Windsor Room (931 Lytton Street, North Vancouver)
- This will include a (free) BBQ and face painting – so bring the whole family along!

Virtual Public Information Meeting

- Between: July 11 to 31, 2023.
 - Please visit the following link to submit a comment: [DNV.org/public-meeting](https://dnv.org/public-meeting)
-



Uninvited Furry Guests

Holly Reisner

This time of year, it is very important that Blueridge residents keep our ground floor doors and windows shut and locked, unless we are in the immediate vicinity. This includes garage and car doors.

Why do I say this? It's to keep out unwanted visitors, and I'm not talking about door-to-door vacuum cleaner salespeople. I'm talking about black bears.

In the warm weather, it's understandable that we want to catch a breeze through our houses. Unfortunately this gives young, curious (and often male) bears the perfect opportunity to follow their noses into our kitchens, looking for a snack. Bears have an incredibly strong sense of smell, and they can locate food from kilometres away, including the loaf of bread sitting out on the counter, bananas in the fruit basket, and frozen perogies inside your freezer!

At this time of year, yearling bears have recently been "dispersed" from their mothers, which means the mother bears have cut off support for them and sent them off to find their own way in the world. These bears are often upset, disoriented and always hungry. They are very curious and have often not yet learned proper etiquette around people. So, as they are roaming our neighbourhoods, they may wander inside to take advantage of some available food. This is natural, curious behaviour that occurs every year on the North Shore.

No one wants to find a bear in their kitchen! And bears that enter an "enclosed space" such as a house, garage, or car, are red-flagged to authorities and will

be killed if they are trapped.

The good news is that with some care on our part, we can avoid this situation, and we can also teach these young bears the limits of acceptable behaviour.

Firstly, be extremely careful to keep these doors and windows closed and locked. Secondly, ensure your car has no food inside, the garbage and organic (food) waste bins in the garage are not odorous (wash regularly with vinegar and spritz a pine scented cleaner around the outside of the bins, and freeze the most odorous parts of your garbage and food waste until the morning of collection). Fridges and freezers should only be located indoors.

If a bear has entered your home, wait for them to finish if they are actively feeding. Slowly back away from the bear, ensuring that the route by which they entered is clear and available to them to use as an exit. When they have finished eating, use a very firm voice to tell the bear to leave and never come back!

Securing your attractants, keeping your ground level doors and windows closed and locked and giving a bear on your property a negative experience by speaking to them sternly will lead to a more enjoyable summer both for us and for our black bears.



Crossing Guards Needed

Sarah Manvell

Seymour Heights Elementary PAC is looking for people who would like to generously volunteer to be a crossing guard for the crosswalk at Carnation street and Blueridge Sharing Garden. If you're looking for a way to support our community this would be incredibly beneficial to our school children! At the moment we have only two crossing guards, but we are slowly seeing the shift in driver behaviour. It's a very addictive and rewarding role!

Training will be provided, the commitment is flexible and the "shifts" are about 20-30 minutes in the morning and/or afternoon. Please email sarahmanvell@gmail.com for more information.



Craig Kalnin, Isla, Kimberly Bernard, Bree, and Jennifer Bernard

Back To The future, Blueridge style

Kimberley Bernard

I grew up in Blueridge in the 80's and 90's. My family lived on a few different streets during this time: Byron, Berkley, Dunstone Place and then finally Walpole Crescent before I left for university and my parents downsized out of Blueridge. I never expected to move back into the area, but the draw of quiet streets, community schools and big trees inevitably drew my husband and me to the neighbourhood to raise our own family.

In reminiscing about growing up here, my first thoughts were about the things that have changed; after all, the North Shore has seen its own growth and development. I remember when Parkgate was just a gravel lot and when we had to take the one-lane bridge to get across the Seymour River. Faye's (now United Strangers) was the best corner store for chocolate bars and off-brand slurpees. Blueridge Elementary, back when it was painted a dark shade of brown and had all open-concept classrooms, had the best zip-line and metal slides to play on. I don't remember all the traffic and the parking issues at the top of Berkley, but I do remember the baseball games at Blueridge Park.

What's surprising is what hasn't changed. The Christmas lights on Hill Drive are still as bright and over-the-top as I remember as a kid – and walking up that hill is just as bad as I remember. The trails at the end of every cul-de-sac are still the local's secret and the best way to get to your friends' houses. The streams provide a great place to explore. I'm thrilled that summer block parties are still a thing as I remember the freedom and joy of running the streets on warm summer nights. Kids are still riding their bikes and playing basketball on the streets. The forest behind the school still has the same magical feel to walk through in the mornings on the way to school.

The houses are getting renovated, and the kitchen colour schemes may change, but the overall feel of Blueridge remains the same as what I remember growing up. As a kid, I could never have put into words what made this place so special. Moving back to the neighbourhood has given me a new perspective on the importance of community. I am grateful that we have friends in the neighbourhood that my kids can meet at the park or run into on the street on a sunny afternoon. I love that we have a wonderful community school within a few minutes walk of our house. It's the same school that I went to as a kid and my kids both think it's pretty neat that they go to the same school. My kindergarten teacher even lives a few houses down from me and has taught my own children from time to time; that's not something you get in many neighbourhoods.

I'm sure all of us have run into neighbours that grew up in Blueridge and have

also moved back. It's clear that we've all been through the same range of emotions about moving back. After all, isn't it natural to move away from where you grew up? But the answer is always that this is a wonderful place to live.

This may sound like a love letter to the neighbourhood, and maybe it is. Blueridge has matured and developed into a very desirable community, and we are living in a lovely little hidden pocket of Vancouver. Thank you, Blueridge neighbours. It's awesome here.



Watch Those Sprinklers!

Jeff Powell

While trying to get a bit more exercise, I find myself walking the neighbourhood many mornings, and it seems some people haven't realized that all of Metro Vancouver is under **Stage 1 Water Conservation** rules.

These rules start on May 1 of each year, and usually go through October 15th, but they may be extended if we don't have enough rain.

What do they mean? Mostly, Stage 1 restricts lawn watering as follows:

Even-numbered residential addresses can water lawns on Saturdays
Odd-numbered residential addresses can water lawns on Sundays

Automatic lawn watering allowed only between: 5 am – 7 am

Manual lawn watering allowed only between: 6 am – 9 am

Watering trees, shrubs and flowers is permitted any day from 5 am to 9 am if using a sprinkler, or any time if hand watering or using drip irrigation. All hoses must have an automatic shut-off device.

Edible plants are exempt from regulations

Please check your automatic sprinkler settings. A surprising number of us are running sprinklers daily. And be aware that the DNV has bylaw officers that patrol, looking for exactly this violation.

These rules are in place to make sure we all have drinking water at the end of the summer. The population of Metro Vancouver continues to grow, and supplying water to everyone is a challenge.

The BCA website has a page full of [information about water conservation](#), including links to official sources. If you want to learn more, please start there!



Photo by Karina Wood.

What's Growing On At The Blueridge Garden?

Emilie Currie

On June 16, volunteers from the garden welcomed Ms. Bird's Grade 2 Seymour Heights Elementary class. The visitors helped prepare garden boxes and beds and helped us plant potatoes to share.

The children, who were born in 2015, coinciding with the establishment of the Blueridge Sharing Garden, lit up the space with joy and excitement as they dug in the soil, picked pebbles, and helped us plant Bintje potatoes. Bintje potatoes are a type known for their abundant yield and suitability for various culinary purposes like boiling, French frying, chipping, and baking. Throughout the summer, the children will have the chance to watch their potatoes grow! Don't be surprised if you see a child excitedly pointing out their potato plant to family members they've brought to the garden for a special visit.

The children were also treated to a tour through the garden's butterfly way. This section of the garden was planted to help conserve butterflies and other native species by providing them with food, and shelter. Some of the beautiful flowers you can find in the butterfly garden include Geranium Himalayense, Lupines,

Foxglove, and Creeping Thyme, just to name a few! In the private garden boxes, gardeners have been overwhelmed by a bumper lettuce crop, so expect to see some of that at our next sale date.

We have also started harvesting our garlic scapes, which are the green stems that extend from the base of the plant. Garlic scapes have a mild garlic flavour and are delicious on the grill, in pasta dishes, and in salads!

As we look forward into July, many of our gardeners are looking forward to harvesting warm weather veggies such as zucchini, early tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, peas, and beans. July is sure to bring with it new colours, sounds, and smells to the garden and we invite you to join us outside as we enjoy this time of growth and abundance!

Interested in starting your own butterfly garden? Check out this [amazing plant guide resource](#) from the David Suzuki Foundation.



Music On The Court

Don & Roxie Giles

Some of the "positives" from the pandemic are the Outdoor Garden Concerts we have hosted over the past years. These concerts were started to provide income for musicians, and their talents gave us wonderful memories.

This year we are hosting [Marcus Mosely & his Ensemble](#) on Saturday, July 29th, 4-6 pm.

Marcus (like accompanist, Bill Sample) is in the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame. His songs of hope, social justice, and belief in the good of people will inspire listeners. Tickets are \$35 per person. All proceeds go to the musicians.

If you are interested in attending, please email host Roxie Giles at roxiemusic2017@gmail.com.

Continued sincere thanks go out to our immediate neighbours who always have supported these ventures by sharing parking on the street and leaving their lawn cutting until another time.

Hope to see you at our home on the 29th: 1969 Arroyo Court. Please bring the beverage of your choice and an appetizer. We'll provide everything else, including chairs and glassware.



2023 BCA Scholarship Winner

It's that time of year, when the BCA announces the winner of the Eric Andersen BCA Scholarship. Each year this is awarded to a Blueridge or Seymour Heights resident who is graduating from high school and continuing on to post-secondary education in British Columbia.

This years winner is Bella Caswell, who is graduating from Windsor High School. She'll be attending the University of Victoria this fall to study Human Rights, Social Justice, and Social Work. She's an outdoor enthusiast and downhill mountain biker, and she's worked at United Strangers. (So if she looks familiar, that might be why. Many of us will have seen her there.) Bella has organized fundraisers for programs such as UNICEF vaccine distribution, Doctors without Borders, and for residents living in Downtown Eastside. During COVID she wrote cards to elders in homes on the North Shore and Christmas cards to people living on the streets in downtown Vancouver. About this award she says she's "beyond grateful for the Blueridge Community Association to offer support to young students."

Please join the BCA in congratulating Bella on her award, and wish her good

luck in her studies!

This is also a reminder to all residents with high school students out there: the BCA awards this scholarship this every year. We'll start taking applications again next March - announced here, on our website, and on social media - and your new graduate might get some help with expenses when they go off to school. More information is always available [on our website](#).



If A Tree Falls In The Forest...

Mahnaz Fardghassemi

Recently walking on one of our local trails, I came across a tree that had fallen and completely blocked the path. I snapped a photo of the fallen tree and emailed the DNV, and of course I shared the news on our community Facebook group. After that, I walked over the fallen tree and continued my walk with my dog. Then next day, I discovered that the tree had been moved and the trail was as before.

So next time you find something wrong on any of the wonderful trails that surround our community, please snap a quick photo and share the information with District of North Vancouver so they can address the issue as soon as possible. And if you are not yet a member of your Facebook community group please join and find all the news about Blueridge (click here to join)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BlueridgeNeighbours>

Email: infoweb@dnv.org

Telephone: 604-990-2311

The DNV states that email will be reviewed within one business day.



Everybody loves saving money! Project Community helps Blueridge residents by finding discounts on products and services and passing them on to you. Here are this month's offers!



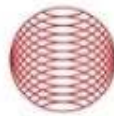
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Discount offer from July 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023



In A Nutshell

- **Someday, Canada will rule the earth.** And then you'll all be sorry!
- **Bears and Garbage** - There's nothing here about that this week. Instead, there's an article by a member of the North Shore Black Bear Society up above.
- **I didn't believe it when I was told the Prime Minister was re-elected.** It's Trudeau.
- **Water Conservation** - We've included an article above about sprinklers. Please read it, and check when your sprinklers are running!
- **My wife made a cake shaped like Canada,** and sliced it to match the province and territory borders. I said I wanted the largest piece, but she told me I could have none of it.
- **It's summer, and you know what that means.** That's right. It's getting warm - or hot! - which increases fire risk. Exercise caution with anything that might start a fire, and keep informed about the current fire danger level by checking the [BCA website's home page](#).
- **What's the difference between America and Canada?** The Americans have really nice neighbours.*
- **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.
- **Did you know Canada is building a rocket that will take astronauts to the moon?** It's called the Apollo-G!

** Your editor is an American expat, and he approves of this joke.*

Stay Connected

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

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

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

[Blueridge Neighbours Facebook Group](#)

[Blueridge Breakout Network Facebook Group](#)

Got questions? Send us an email: info@blueridgeca.org

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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 August 2023 edition is July 28, 2023.

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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Blueridge Community Association

Canada

