

2024 BCA Chair's Report

At the BCA's Annual General Meeting on May 14, 2024, the current Chair, Eric G. Andersen, pointed out the following highlights for the BCA for 2023-2024:

FIRST OF ALL: A HUGE 'THANK YOU' TO ALL THE BLUERIDGE/SEYMOUR HEIGHTS RESIDENTS, WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED HAVE THEIR TIME TO THE BCA.

It has been said countless times before, but the BCA could not operate and function at all without EVERYONE's assistance: directors, volunteers and meeting participants alike.

1. Our **scholarship** was handed out for the ninth time: **BELLA CASWELL** was the deserving winner.
 - As of 2024 the scholarship has been increased to \$750.
2. Our 'Project Community' continues to expand to many new businesses.
3. The BCA continues to be in contact with Recreation Sites & Trails (from the provincial government) regarding a **potential trail from somewhere in Blueridge to Parkgate** as well as the **CMHC Mt. Seymour Recreation Access Management Plan (RAMP)**. This unfortunately will continue to take time and patience. The Provincial Government now seems to show interest in such a trail – from a fire risk management perspective.
4. The **Blueridge Garden** remains a huge asset with extremely active participants.
5. Our **finances** remain in a reasonably good shape and have increased thanks to the ads that are included in the monthly Blueridge Bulletin, as well as Blueridge Good Neighbour Day being back after three years with COVID.
 - We have five sub-accounts: Blueridge Good Neighbour Day, Blueridge Cares, yearly scholarship, the Blueridge Garden and the general account.
6. Three **newsletters, all with 8 pages** (June 2023, October 2023 and March 2024) were prepared in 2023-2024, which reached every household in Blueridge/Seymour Heights - again thanks strictly to BCA volunteers!

7. The **Blueridge Spirit Award** has rotated as scheduled approximately quarterly between very deserving recipients and outstanding community members.
8. The BCA has a frequently updated **website**: www.blueridgeca.org and **Facebook** page as well as our main e-mail address: info@blueridgeca.org. We have about 700 e-mail recipients in Blueridge/Seymour Heights.
 - We also have an **Instagram** account, but have decided to move away from Twitter.
9. The **Blueridge Business Directory** continues to expand on our website with 22 products and 39 services.
10. The BCA has notified its members of various meetings and events of potential interest to them. This is done through our Communication Officer's '**Blueridge Bulletin**', which goes out monthly, and numerous postings on Facebook. We are accepting ads in this e-newsletter (unlike the hard-copy newsletter).
11. The BCA has **representatives** on the Community Advisory Panel, Canlan Ice-Sports Committee and North Vancouver Community Associations Network (NVCAN).
12. After COVID many of the BCA committees have remained dormant or ad hoc. These committees include: **a traffic committee, a trails committee (hosting walks in the neighbourhood), a Community Lands Task Force and a Dîner en Bleu committee.**
 - Our hope is that many of these activities will resume again over the next year, and no doubt they will when/if there is a need.
13. **Blueridge Good Neighbour Day (BGND)** was back for the first time since 2019 on Sunday, June 11, at Blueridge Elementary School. Our 24th community event is scheduled for June 15 – and for the first time on a Saturday.
14. The BCA continues to monitor the situation regarding the **future of Blueridge Elementary School.**
15. The **BCA continues to fundraise once or twice a year** (before Easter and Christmas) through **Purdys Chocolate's fundraising program.**
16. The BCA co-hosts the **Seymour Trail Liaison Committee** with the North Shore Mountain Bike Association, which continues with a meeting in the spring and one

in the fall.

17. The BCA has its own **brochure** including social media information and local information.
18. The BCA continues to **offer baby, pet and house-sitting services**, although we are currently looking for local house sitters.
19. The BCA continues to visit and **greet all new Blueridge/Seymour Heights residents** when they move to the area.
20. Before Christmas the **Blueridge Cares Committee** managed to raise money as well as gift cards and goodies for three local families who applied to get a helping hand before Christmas.
21. Our **stream clean-up** tradition on **World Rivers Day** continued on September 24.
22. Jointly with local PACs the BCA is considering the option of a **community sign board** to be located somewhere in Blueridge/Seymour Heights.
23. The BCA is considering a small **Blueridge Foundation** which would help local residents who may need some financial assistance to spearhead a local project that benefits the community.
24. The BCA was crucial in spearheading a **workshop held by the North Vancouver Community Associations Network** in January. It was a revitalization workshop held for all interested community associations in the DNV and was facilitated by one of our directors, and another handful of BCA members attended and contributed. It was attended by about 45 community leaders from the North Shore.
25. The BCA participated in **Parkgate Community Day** on September 9.
26. **Meetings** were held for local members with guest speakers from FireSmart (May) and Metro Vancouver & the North Shore Black Bear Society (April).

Our **goals for 2024-2025** include:

- Remain focused on developing a closer working relationship with the local PACs – we will continue to build on the success of including notes from the PACs in our newsletter as well as – for the first time – having representatives from local PACs on the Blueridge Good Neighbour Day planning team.
- Start and promote the **FireSmart program** in Blueridge.
- Continue to improve how to **advertize and highlight our many activities**.
- Beef up our **Communications team with special emphasis on social media**.
- An **All Candidates Meeting** on October 8 will be co-hosted with other local organizations prior to the provincial election