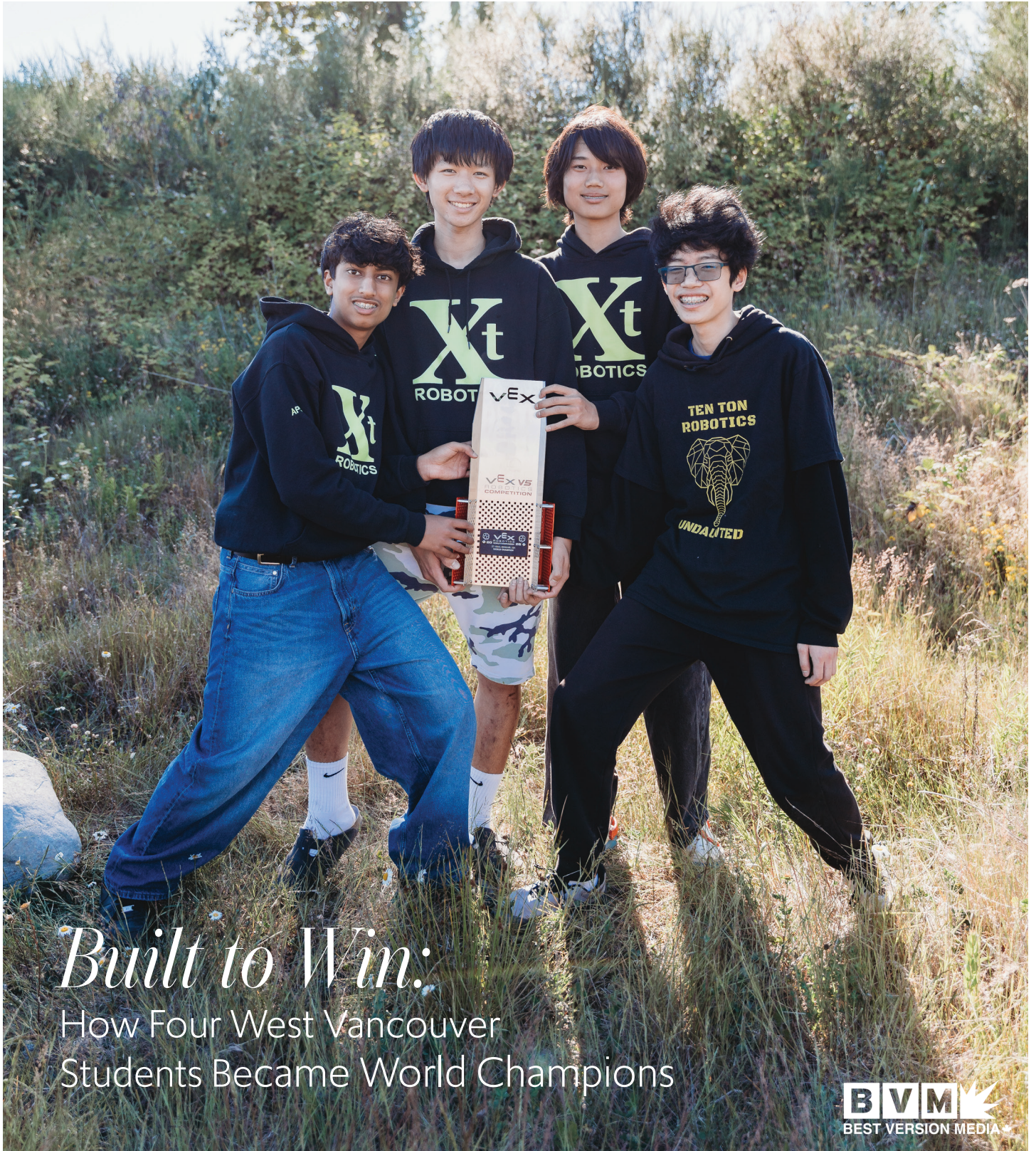


An exclusive magazine for the residents of Dundarave, Ambleside, Altamont, Westmount, West Bay, Bayridge, Caulfeild, and Eagle Harbour

NEIGHBOURS OF

AUGUST 2026

DUNDARAVE



Built to Win:

How Four West Vancouver
Students Became World Champions

BVM
BEST VERSION MEDIA

Cover Photo by by Persia Anjam-Campo | Simayatography

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Built to Win:

How Four West Vancouver Students Became World Champions

◆ By Patricia Barnes
Photos by Persia Anjam-Campo | Simayatography

By the time the lights dimmed inside the packed arena and thousands of spectators turned their attention to the championship field, four middle school students from West Vancouver had already spent months preparing for that moment. They had tested, rebuilt, coded, failed, adjusted and tried again more times than they could count. Now, standing on the famed "Dome" stage at the VEX Robotics World Championship, they had one final opportunity to prove themselves.

Moments later, Team 10012Y from Ten Ton Robotics Academy heard the words they had dreamed about all season: VEX V5 Middle School World Champions.

For Max Gao, Aryavardhan Purohit Singh, Marcus Ip and Ricky Chen, the victory represented far more than a trophy. It marked the culmination of countless hours of hard work and made history as the first Canadian middle school team ever to win the VEX V5 World Championship. From a field of more than 32,000 teams worldwide, these four West Vancouver students rose to the very top.

Although each teammate brings different strengths to the table, they share a common mindset. They describe their ethos as: hard work, dedication and resilience.

Those qualities have defined their journey from the beginning.

The team first came together through friendship and a shared fascination with robotics. All four members began years earlier in the elementary-level VEX IQ program, where assembling simple plastic pieces sparked a passion that would only grow stronger with time.

As the competitions became more sophisticated, so did their commitment. Their afternoons were rarely spent relaxing after school. Instead, they headed to the robotics lab, where hours disappeared as they built, dismantled, redesigned and reprogrammed their robot.

If something failed, they started over; if something almost worked, they kept refining it, and when one solution didn't succeed, another was waiting to be tested.

That relentless pursuit of improvement became the foundation of their success.

Four Ways to the World Championships

Each member also discovered robotics through a different path.

For Aryavardhan, the inspiration came from watching Boston Dynamics' humanoid robots perform seemingly impossible feats through advanced autonomous programming. Those videos opened his eyes to what robotics could accomplish and inspired dreams of one day working with NASA or the Canadian Space Agency in aerospace engineering.

Max's fascination began much earlier. He has always loved building things and solving problems, and as the competitions became increasingly challenging, so did his enthusiasm.

Marcus credits his older brother for introducing him to robotics. While waiting at the academy during his brother's practices, he found himself experimenting with parts and creating his own designs. Today, he especially enjoys the creative freedom of designing robots while meeting like-minded students from around the world.

For Ricky, programming quickly became his favourite aspect. Having learned coding and Python from a young age, robotics to be the perfect opportunity to apply those skills on a much larger scale.

Four Students = One Team

Together, their individual talents form a well-balanced team. Max serves as the primary builder and driver. Aryavardhan manages the engineering notebook and keeps the team organized. Marcus develops strategy and coaches during matches, while Ricky leads the programming that brings the robot to life.

That combination proved invaluable throughout an extraordinarily demanding season in which the road to the World Championship was anything but smooth.

Robots broke.

Code failed.

Competitions ended in disappointment.

There were weekends spent in the lab, late nights refining designs and countless setbacks that tested both their patience and determination. However, rather than identifying one defining obstacle, the team believes the greatest challenge was maintaining the right mindset throughout the season.

Every setback became another lesson, and every loss became motivation.

Instead of allowing frustration to take over, they learned to become more resilient, more disciplined and more determined with every competition. Subsequently, their progress carried them through regional events, provincial championships and international tournaments before they finally earned the chance to compete against the world's best teams.

Even then, their expectations remained surprisingly modest.

Their initial goal wasn't necessarily to become world champions; it was simply to earn a place on the prestigious Dome stage, reserved only for the division champions.

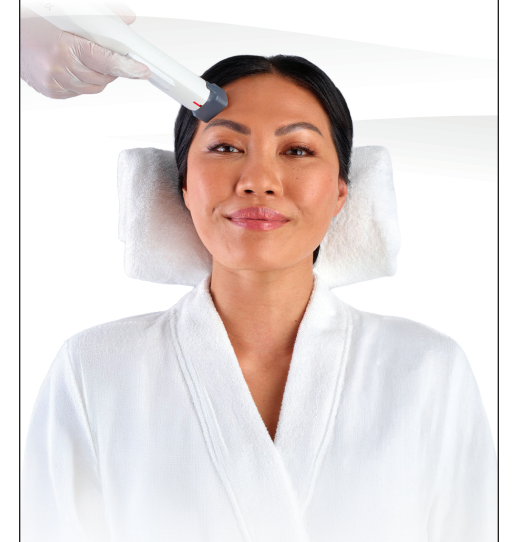
At the Dome

At the VEX World Championship, hundreds of elite teams compete within each division before only two alliances advance to the Dome, where the top 14 teams in the world battle for the championship.

Making it that far was an extraordinary achievement.

Then came the unforgettable final. With more than 3,000 spectators packed into the arena, the lights flashed across the stage, and the announcer energized the crowd just like any other championship sporting event.

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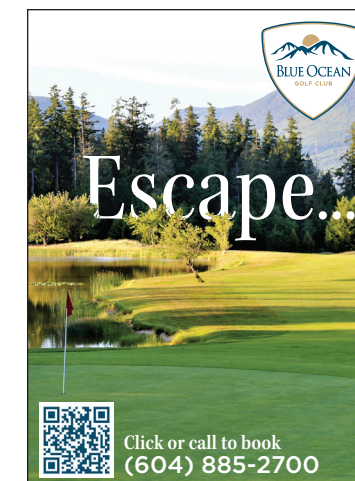


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When the moment arrived, they confidently walked onto the stage together, enjoying every second, and then they delivered the performance of their lives.

Months of sacrifice, sleepless nights and relentless practice had paid off.

Competing against elite teams from countries including China, Thailand, India, the United States and Canada, the students felt immense pride representing their country. When victory was secured, they couldn't resist celebrating with the Canadian flag, creating an emotional moment they say they'll never forget.

While robotics revolves around engineering and technology, the team believes its greatest lessons extend far beyond building machines. They point to resilience, teamwork, dedication, and organization.

Using schedules, timelines, and Gantt charts helps them balance demanding practices with school and everyday life. Their build sessions are intense, highly focused and occasionally dramatic when frustrations arise, but they have learned how to regroup quickly and keep moving forward.

Their historic victory also belongs to the many people who supported them along the way.

Winning the World Championship has also changed how they view their place within the larger robotics community.

Onward and Upward

Already, they're preparing for the new VEX game, *Override*, and hope to bring another world title home during the coming season.

For younger students considering robotics, their advice is remarkably simple.

It's advice they know firsthand.

A group of four young men, members of the Xt Robotics team, are posing for a photo outdoors in a wooded area. They are all wearing black hoodies with the 'Xt ROBOTICS' logo and the word 'UNDAUNTED!' printed on them. The person on the far right is wearing camouflage shorts and white socks. They are all smiling and have their arms around each other's shoulders. The background shows trees and a clear sky.

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john.devincenzi@rbc.com
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AUGUST 2026

An exclusive magazine for the neighbours of Edgemont

NEIGHBOURS OF EDGEMONT



Sue Bath

And The Garden That Grew
Into a Neighbourhood Landmark

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Cover Photo by Persia Anjam-Campo | Simayatography

Sue Bath

And The Garden That Grew Into a Neighbourhood Landmark

■ By Patricia Barnes

Photos by Persia Anjam-Campo | Simayatography

Most 'Meet Your Neighbours' stories begin inside a family home. Sue Bath's story begins beneath a willow tree.

In fact, she jokes that she and her husband bought the majestic willow, and the house was simply an incidental bonus. Thirty years later, that sentiment still rings true. Hidden behind the flowers, the foliage, and the lush window boxes, their home is almost secondary to the remarkable garden that surrounds it, a living work of art that has become a destination for neighbours strolling through Edgemont.

The Baths deliberately chose North Vancouver's Edgemont Village when it was time to put down roots. Sue walked neighbourhood after neighbourhood before deciding this was where she wanted to raise both a family and a garden. Big lots, good schools, and plenty of recreational opportunities with recreation centres, libraries and shops all within walking distance. It was the perfect fit.

"I prefer to walk rather than drive," she says, "and I wished to pass that on to my children."

That love of walking also shaped Sue's vision for the property. While exploring the neighbourhood, she admired homeowners who had created gardens for everyone to enjoy. When the family finally bought their home, they installed a picket fence, not to keep people out, but to invite them in.

"It was intentional," She told me, "There is no gate at my entrance on purpose."

For Sue and her husband, who both grew up moving frequently, creating a permanent home was especially meaningful. Their son was just one year old when they moved in, and six years later, their daughter joined the family. Today, at 30 and 24, both children still love returning home and hope their parents never leave.

And, like the family itself, the garden has evolved through the decades.

The Experimental Gardener

In the early years, the garden was a playground with toys, trampolines, swings hanging from trees, a sprawling play fort and plenty of lawn for running. It hosted Easter egg hunts, birthday parties and endless childhood adventures.

Then, as the children grew, Sue slowly began to claim areas of the yard, carving flower beds where play equipment once stood. She joined a local garden club and learned from experienced neighbours. This transformed not only her knowledge but also her landscape, and while many of those generous gardeners are no longer here, their gifts remain.



"Their homes no longer exist," Sue reflects, "but I have their plants and the memories of them in my garden."

Sue is quick to point out that she is not a master gardener. Most of what visitors see today was created through a mixture of curiosity, persistence, and creativity rather than by hiring professionals or having an unlimited budget. She encourages others to embrace gardening with whatever resources they have, relying on free materials, seeking advice from fellow gardeners, being open to experimentation, and 'enjoying' plenty of trial and error along the way.

One of her favourite discoveries was "urbanite," a type of reclaimed broken concrete used as inexpensive flagstone, and it now borders many of her garden beds.



"I have done most of the work myself. My son's friend was a massive help with the flagstone walkways, and my son has been invaluable in moving the heavy stuff like all the rocks I collect. I adore big rocks!" Sue then adds with a mischievous chuckle, "Much to my son's chagrin."

Sue decided long ago that the goal is not a perfect, formal garden with structured planting and a dearth of errant weeds. So she eschewed all herbicides and pesticides.

The Heart of an Artist

Long before gardening became her creative outlet, Sue studied art. Practicality eventually led her into restaurant work, and once children arrived, painting took a back seat. Luckily for Edgemont, her creativity found a new mode of expression. One that now hangs from the trees!

What began with three old chandeliers has grown into more than 80 suspended throughout the garden, giving rise to the whimsical landscape locals now affectionately know as the "chandelier garden." Every spring, Sue repaints each fixture so the collection feels intentional rather than random.

Many of the chandeliers have been donated by family, friends and neighbours.

"I come home some days to find a chandelier or a fancy lamp on my front steps," she says. "Gifts from the neighbourhood always make me smile."

As darkness falls, the garden becomes even more enchanting. More than 100 individual solar lights are carefully placed throughout the chandeliers each evening. Because the trees block the sunlight, Sue removes the lights daily to recharge them, then reinstalls them at dusk, a labour-intensive ritual she insists is well worth the effort.

One memorable evening, however, that routine brought an unexpected visitor. While placing lights, Sue found herself face to face with a bear, close enough to touch. "It was the longest 30 seconds of my life," she recalls.

These days, she starts the lighting process much earlier!

Reaping What She Sows

Being outside so often has turned Sue into one of the neighbourhood's most familiar faces. Curious passersby rarely stay strangers for long.

"If I see you peeking in," she says, "you can bet I will pop out and offer you a tour."

She especially enjoys watching children discover the garden, quietly hoping to inspire the next generation of gardeners.

Seasonal celebrations bring even more imagination to the property.



Nina Knudsen, PREC
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"Please come visit," Sue says. "I made it for you."

Christmas offers another opportunity for reinvention. Silver, white and turquoise ornaments decorate the willow tree while illuminated white Christmas trees surround a herd of reindeer beneath chandeliers dripping with crystal-like snowflakes.

One snowy winter evening, a photographer was so captivated by the display that they later returned with a large silver-backed print as a thank-you gift and for Sue, moments like that are deeply rewarding.

"I feel so happy when others get joy from my garden," she says.

She has also shared her garden through the former Arts in the Garden event, welcoming visitors to experience the space alongside local artists and musicians.

At the entrance to this magical neighbourhood world, a rose grows with a name that perfectly captures the spirit of the place.

"Once Upon A Time."

Sue didn't know the rose's name when she planted it, but she tells me that when she found out, "It was perfect."

Perhaps no name could better describe a garden that has grown alongside a family, honoured friendships, welcomed strangers and become a source of joy for an entire neighbourhood.

"The garden gives me so much joy," Sue says. "It is my canvas, my gym, my therapist, and it always heals me, heart, soul and body."

And if you happen to walk down an Edgemont street and notice someone working among the flowers and chandeliers, don't be shy.

Sue will almost certainly invite you in and happily talk far longer than she intended.

Halloween transforms the garden into an elaborate theatrical production. Life-sized spirit ladies dance among cobweb-covered chandeliers while skeletons sway overhead. A graveyard featuring handmade headstones accumulated over two decades includes several created by her own children. Crows, curious oddities, rats invading a snack table, lounging ghouls smoking cigars and drinking scotch, fog machines, and Gregorian chants complete the immersive display.

It takes a full month to assemble.



AMPLIFY YOUR MESSAGE ONLINE.

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August Events

Thur 30 Jul

Hot Summer Nights
@Mahon Park

Hot Summer Nights provides kids and their parents with a welcome cool-down. Event attendees can meet the local fire prevention teams, tour the fire trucks and equipment, and enjoy activities and giveaways. Come meet the firefighters, ask questions, get fire safety info, and enjoy fun for the whole family.

Time: 6:30-8pm | Cost: Free
Details: cnv.org/parks

Mon 3 Aug

Pride Overtime: The
Monday After with Dandy,
Carlotta & Phyllis Hull
@Khaghan Restaurant Capilano Mall

Use the holiday Monday to dust yourselves off and laugh your butts off. Comedy heavyweights Dandy, Carlotta Gurl and Phyllis Hull join forces to carry you back into the land of bland, where we say farewell to Pride with one last hurrah! Prizes, fun and games, plus performances and a delicious meal. Help us raise funds for The North Shore Pride Alliance, too!

Time: 1-3pm | Cost: \$35
Details: nvrc.ca

Tue 4 Aug

Eve Lazarus-History, Heritage
Buildings and Murder
@Lynn Valley Legion Branch 114

History buffs, true crime fans, and curious minds- join bestselling author and Cold Case Canada host Eve Lazarus for an unforgettable evening exploring Vancouver's hidden history, fascinating characters, heritage buildings, and intriguing mysteries. Space is limited, so reserve your spot today by emailing goodtimes@lynnvalleylegion.ca

Time: 7pm | Cost: \$10
Details: lynnvalleylegion.ca

Thur 6, 13, & 27 Aug

Tech Café
@Capilano Library

Join us on Thursdays for personalized guidance and answers to your technology questions. Bring your device: laptop, phone or tablet. First come, first served. 30 minutes per patron. Appointments can be booked. Go online or call 604-987-8175 ext. 8175. Drop-in availability may change.

Time: 10:30am-12pm | Cost: Free
Details: nvdpl.ca

Sun 9 Aug

Sound Healing
- Sound Bath Healing
@Kahlana Movement Studio

This Sound Healing Ceremony will restore the energy in body and mind, balance the chakras and wash away stress and make you feel whole, vibrant and reenergized! We will enjoy a blend of sound healing, guided meditation, reiki, affirmations, and magnesium healing.

Time: 7-8:30pm | Cost: \$55
Details: kahlana.com/schedule

Fri 14 Aug

Live & Local: Queer as Funk
@Location

NVRC's Live & Local summer concert series delivers free, fun community experiences for residents and visitors all summer long. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the tunes!

"Not your typical dance band, Queer As Funk are part-advocates, part-funk revivalists, turning stages into dance floors and audiences into family for over a decade."

Time: 7-9pm | Cost: Free
Details: nvrc.ca

Sat 15 Aug

Family Bubble Dance Party
@Capilano Library

Join us for a morning of dancing, music and bubbles! Best for kids under 6 years old.

Time: 11am-12pm | Cost: Free
Details: nvdpl.ca

Sun 16 Aug

Summer Reading Rave
at Caffè Artigiano
@Caffè Artigiano, 3154 Highland Blvd.

Step away from the noise and join us for a different kind of rave. Bring your current read, grab a coffee and a snack, and enjoy dedicated offline reading time and fresh air with other adults. Prizes from this session are provided by Helicon Books and Earnest Ice Cream.

Time: 3:30-5pm | Cost: Free
Details: nvdpl.ca

Wed 19 Aug

Music And Discussion presented
by the Iranian Music Society of BC
@Capilano Library

This hour-long performance is brought to you by the Iranian Music Society and is made possible thanks to funding by the Government of Canada's New Horizons Grant for Seniors program. The performers will speak English and Farsi and will feature around 1 hour of music and half an hour for questions and answers.

Time: 6-8pm | Cost: Free
Details: nvdpl.ca

Sat 22 Aug

Paws to the Pedal Second
Annual Adoption Event
@North Shore Mitsubishi,
1695 Marine Drive,

Come and discover how you can make a difference for the many dogs waiting to find their forever home. Learn about fostering and adoption, meet some of the dogs currently available for adoption with Endless Pawsabilities Animal Rescue, and enjoy a free BBQ courtesy of North Shore Mitsubishi.

Time: 1-3pm | Cost: Free

Sun 23 Aug

Capilano Library Summer
Reading Club Celebration
@Capilano Library

Have you completed your 50 days of reading for the Summer Reading Club? If so, you're invited to our celebration of reading! Join us at Capilano Library for a medal presentation with music and activities to follow.

Time: 6:30-7:30pm | Cost: Free
Details: nvdpl.ca

Mon 24 Aug - Sat 29 Aug

Kindergarten Book Bags
@Capilano Library

Kindergarten is a very big milestone! We'd like to celebrate your child's journey into kindergarten with a personalized "Book Bag" fit to inspire a lifelong love of reading. Each Kindergarten Book Bag will contain 3 personally chosen library books, 1 snack, and some fun activities to excite them for their first day of school.

Time: All day | Cost: Free
Details: nvdpl.ca

Wed 26 Aug

Introduction to FireSmart
@Virtual

Learn how to apply FireSmart principles to increase the wildfire resiliency of your property & neighbourhood with West Vancouver's FireSmart Coordinator, Assistant Chief Jeremy Calder, of West Vancouver Fire and Rescue.

Time: 6-7:30pm | Cost: Free
Details: WestVanLibrary.ca

At the time this magazine went to print, all event details were accurate to the best of our knowledge, but please check event websites or call ahead for the most current information.

Fri 28 Aug

Summer Reading Rave: After
Hours at Lynn Valley Library
@Lynn Valley Library

Join us in the library "after dark"! Step away from the noise and join us for a different kind of rave at the library after hours! Bring your current read, grab a mocktail and snack, and enjoy dedicated offline reading time at the library in a cozy, low-key atmosphere with other adults after the library doors close for the day. Prizes from this session are provided by Rocky Mtn Chocolate and Earnest Ice Cream.

Time: 6:30-8pm | Cost: Free
Details: nvdpl.ca

Sat 29 Aug

Ballet Storytime
with Tutu School
@Capilano Library

Join us for a very special ballet storytime with the Tutu School! Our Librarian will guide a short storytime warm-up. Then we will sing, stretch, and plié with ballerinas from the Tutu School. After the event, the space will stay open for your child to play with the other tiny dancers. This storytime is for all ages. (Fancy dress optional!)

Time: 11am-12pm | Cost: Free
Details: nvdpl.ca



Dates to Remember

Aug 1st:
Emancipation Day

Aug 3rd: British
Columbia Day

Aug 12th: International
Youth Day

Aug 15th: National
Acadian Day