

## BC Council of Garden Clubs Meeting April 6, 2019

President Lorna Fraser opened the meeting promptly at 9:00 AM with opening remarks welcoming all members especially those delegates from Quadra Island, Prince George, Castlegar, and Squamish.

**The First Speaker** was Brian Minter speaking about “Connecting People and Plants”

Brian commented on the BC Council anniversary of 75 years and mentioned that in 1944 the first helicopter was flown. The trend now a day is a surge in growing veggies and other types of food. 54% of food grown in containers is due to the lack of land surrounding our urban landscapes. There is an emphasis on food grown for flavor. Also, Tropical Plants are more abundant in our homes to help clean the air pollution from our homes. Parks and Green Spaces are important in our communities and their benefit is reduced health care costs. Trees and forests have a calming effect on our psyche.

Disasters of our environment are the over cutting of trees. There are more than 60 thousand container ships each burning large amount of bunker fuel. There are islands of plastic in our oceans. Our cities are hotter now due to the paved roads, and roof tops. Tree life in the city averages 8 years due to the lack of available water that is wasted into the sewers. 1 million acres is lost yearly to wildlife habitat.

Plants are grown for their flavor and nutrition. The darker the veggies and fruit, the more nutrition and cancer fighting properties. Gardening of healing plants is common in today's gardens.

Lawns are “Dead Zones” which can be replaced by micro clover. The blossom of the clover feed the bees, and the clover grows thickly discouraging weed growth. It does not need fertilizers and therefore it is better for our overall health.

Art in the garden attracts young people, and some plants of interest to young people are Alliums. Daphne “Eternal Fragrance” is hardy to zone 5. Korean Lilac called “Boomerang” is long lasting, and very fragrant. Lavender called “Pink Perfume” attracts and feed the bees and is very helpful around fruiting plants.

Adding Pollinator gardens in a community. Young people are attracted to long lasting color plants, and lighted gardens.

**The Second Speaker** was Douglas Justice speaking on Oriental Cherries in Vancouver. Douglas said that there are more than 43 varieties of Oriental Cherry Trees in the lower mainland. Grafting is the quickest way to propagate a flowering cherry tree. Virus transmitted by bees that have visited native cherry trees. Brown rot on flowering Plum tree flowers will spread to the branch and then proceed to the trunk and kill the tree. Ichio is the largest cherry tree in Vancouver and was brought to BC in the 1930's from Japan.

The Business meeting and AGM consisted of the Election of President Eric Hees who outlined a very visionary future he hopes to achieve with the BC Council. A closer tie to garden Clubs and a liaison with government concerning policies concerning Gardening and Flora culture.

Jake Johnson from Maple Ridge Garden Club was voted in as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, and Lu Schanfanber from Quadra Island was elected to the Scholarship Trust Committee. Ruby Miller was appointed as Treasurer since her bid for the Presidency failed.

The financial report and budget for 2019 is attached to this report.

Our donation to the prize table of a Pink Hydrangea plant was snapped up with the third ticket drawn.

As usual, the lunch was wonderful, and there were cakes with 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary written.

On behalf of Daphne Page and me, I thank you for sending us to this meeting as your delegates.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Nakahara