THE LEAF

LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Established 1943

March 2016

President's Message - Penny LeCouteur

I keep telling myself that come August we will be longing for rain like this but right now I could do with some of the August sunshine. Lots of reminders this month: keep potting up those plants for the plant sale, there is *soil for this purpose at Bonnie's place*, and the first lot of pig manure will be delivered to the church for the March meeting (6:30pm). Also there are still lots of seeds from West Coast Seeds so still time – just - to plant some for the plant sale.

There are a number of *volunteer opportunities* available. Another member is needed for the hospitality committee. Kitty and Carole are doing a scrumptious job but we need at least one more person to cover all contingencies in the kitchen. At the March meeting there will be sign-up sheets passed around for the **Plant Sale**. We need helpers for the afternoon of **Friday May 6th** – and lots more for the big day - **Saturday May 7th**. Don't worry if you can't identify every plant around, or you haven't a clue about making change. You can still sign up for something - we will ensure you find valued talents you never knew existed – like helping our customers carry their purchases to their cars.

We also need a small committee to organize our Members' Gardens Tour in July. This is a "one of" event where you will need to encourage five or so members to put their gardens on the tour. You will need to prepare a brochure about the gardens and a driving map on how to get to each. The last garden is the host for lunch and the committee arranges for goodies and drinks. (Everyone brings their own lunches.) This is not an onerous job and is usually part of the Members-at-Large portfolio but the Plant Sale is such a big undertaking that the MALs have asked for another group to take on this task – but they will be pleased to tell you what is required.

Spring is definitely here as my daphne bush is flowering again – time to get out the chain saw! This daphne was planted (by me) in the wrong place - an awkward position on a steep bank - and is too big to dig out hence I keep cutting it down but it keeps flowering each year. This story goes back a number of years. I was working in the garden and my son was there too, mainly eating huckleberries. Suddenly he said "Is this a huckleberry?" and held out a daphne berry with a bite out of it – a bigger berry and a bit redder than the huckleberries that surrounded it. He hadn't swallowed as it had made his tongue tingle. I was pretty sure it was poisonous so ran in and looked it up. Yes, every part of daphne is poisonous. Just to be sure that we'd done the right thing I phoned Poison Control. The lady there checked that it was indeed poisonous but as long as none was swallowed and that we'd washed his mouth out well, all was OK. And then she said "And how old is your son? "Oh" I said "Thirty two."

LVGC MEETINGS
3rd Thursday of each month (except July and August) at
St. Clement's Church
3400 Institute Road
Please note that meetings start promptly at 7:15 pm

SPEAKERS

March 17th, 2016
MALONIE HEWSTAN
Hydrangeas

April 21, 2016
RON KNIGHT
Everything you need to know about Rhododendrons and Azaleas

Mailing Address:
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http://www.lynnvalleygardenclub.org

2016 Executive

President
Penny LeCouteur
Vice President
Judith Brook
Secretary
Susan Huber
Treasurer
Jennifer Sydenham
Membership
Joy Paulson
Bonnie Noakes
Members at Large
Doreen Dew
Whitney McMillan
Gillian Morris
Catherine Winstanley

Committees
Newsletter Editor
Maria Issa
Plant Table
Judy Stringer
Irene Turner
Hospitality
Kitty Castle
Carole Cobbett
Sunshine / Door Prizes
Maggie Davis
Website
Aline Burlone

Next Executive Meeting
Wednesday, March 2nd, 2016
7:30 PM
Home of Maggie Davis

Newsletter Deadline
April 12, 2016

Greetings from your new newsletter editor!
If you have material to delight your fellow members - please submit it *via* the time-honoured routes or email to lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter @gmail.com

REMINDER: At the March Meeting there will be a vote on the BUDGET as presented at the November 2015 meeting, as well as the CHANGES TO THE CLUB CONSTITUION presented at the February 2016 meeting. Details below.

BUDGET

	2015 Budget	2015 Actual	2016 Budget
Revenue			
Membership	2,350	2,375	2,350
Guests	50	42	50
Plant sale	4,200	4,655	4,300
Plant table	150	169	150
Trips	----	840	----
Total Revenue	**6,750**	**8,081**	**6,850**
Expenses			
Rent	500	500	500
Office	100	262	200
Misc./equipment	----	42	----
Hospitality	500	247	400
Plant Sale	500	296	450
Speakers	1,400	1,045	1,300
Door Prizes	150	70	150
Donations	2,200	2,200	2,400
Newsletter Printing	240	226	240
Postage/Stationery	200	250	250
Sunshine/Gifts	100	204	150
Christmas Party	400	79	300
Field Trips	500	950	400
BCCGC	320	202	375
Bank charges	100	110	100
Total Expenses	**7,210**	**6,689**	**7,215**
NET INCOME (loss)	*-460*	*1,392*	*-365*

THE FOLLOWING CHANGES (IN BOLD) ARE PROPOSED TO THE LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB CONSTITUTION:

PART 1 - INTERPRETATION

1. The word **Club** will be used in these by-laws interchangeably with the word Organization.
(Note: we are not legally a Society so we should not be using that word.)
2. Words imparting singular include the plural and vice-versa, and words imparting a male person include female **and LGBT persons**.

PART 11 – ADDRESS OF THE **ORGANIZATION**

The address of the organization shall be that of the current **P.O. Box.**

PART 13 – EQUIPMENT DISPOSITION

1. On dissolution of the Lynn Valley Garden Club, any equipment owned by the Club should be sold and all monies received by such a sale, and any monies remaining in the bank account after payment of bills, should be donated to the **Scholarship Fund of the BC Council of Garden Clubs**.

REPORTS

VP Report – Judith Brook

Speakers are booked to September 2016. Judith is working on the speaker list for the fall: subjects, suggestions and ideas are welcome!

Treasurer's report: - Jennifer Sydenham

LVGC continues to have a healthy and available bank balance – we are now able to bank online! – at the end of February we had:

Bank balance	$7872.89
Petty cash	$ 101.05
TOTAL	$7983.94

Membership – Bonnie Noakes

We currently have 118 paid up members and are accepting new members.

Hospitality - Kitty Castle & Carole Cobbett

Hospitality would need ONE MORE club member to be an "emergency helper." This person would be the back-up for times when we can't make club meetings/events, but of course would be welcome to help at any time.

- Please bring your own mug!

Sunshine - Maggie Davis

If you know of a member not well or who has lost a loved one, be sure to let Maggie know.

Members-at-large (MAL) – Whitney McMillan, Doreen Dew, Gillian Morris and Catherine Winstanley

Spring is officially here this month!

Those of you growing the West Coast Seeds already may be seeing the green shoots of your loving labour while others may be just starting to sow the seeds. Vegetables are becoming more and more popular, with most of them snapped up right away at the ***LVGC Plant Sale***. Please know your efforts are greatly appreciated by local 'green thumbs.'

Now is the perfect time to divide and pot up perennials for donation to the Plant Sale, and your garden will benefit from rejuvenated plants and space for new ones! Please also consider dividing house-plants, as they often benefit from re-potting. Bonnie still has lots of soil left for pick-up - if you need any extra soil for your Plant Sale 'babies', please get to her house ASAP.

Plant Sale volunteer sign-up sheets for jobs for both the set-up Friday tasks, and the Saturday sale day will be circulated at the March & April meetings. Roles are on a 'first come' basis, so please sign up early for the tasks you most enjoy. If you can, please take a slot on both the set-up and the sale days. The more people pitching in, the easier it all gets done, and of course, the more fun we share. This is our main event of the year, both for fundraising and public connection - it relies on your support and wise experience. Come join us!

Lawn signs are crucial to advertising the Plant Sale. should be put out about ***10 days to one week before*** the Plant Sale, and taken down immediately after. Please return them at the May meeting – they are expensive, so we need them returned promptly. Posters advertising the sale will be available at the April meeting – they can be placed in your car window, or wherever you think is effective to promote to the public.

Got any beer flats? A strange request on the surface, but as many of us know, they serve as vital plant trays during the Plant Sale. We ask that members please collect and bring cardboard beer flats on May 6 (set-up day). The more the merrier!

To help the Plant Sale run smoothly, here is a quick review of ***club member purchasing rules and privileges for the Plant Sale***: no reserves on Friday; those volunteering on the first shift on Saturday may reserve two plants in the 'holding area' before the sale; family members of first-shifters may line up and shop for them during the first shift; second-shifters can line up and shop during the first shift. Remember the Plant Sale is for members to enjoy too!

Plant Table – Judy Stringer and Irene Turner

The Plant Table is a long-standing tradition of the Lynn Valley Garden Club. It is open for business at most meetings. Members bring plants and gardening-related items for the table, which are then offered for sale by donation. Sometimes items are free!

If you bring plants, please put them into pots with labels. Books are welcome, as are newer magazines.

The one proviso is that items unsold by the end of the meeting must go home with those who brought them, as we cannot keep them over.

When you are dividing plants or giving away some of your gardening items, keep the Plant Table in mind. It adds a bit of money to the club's coffers, but also serves as a sharing place at our meetings. Some very interesting conversations occur around the Plant Table as members try to identify various plants and swap stories with others about their adventures in gardening.

REMEMBER TO CHECK THE PLANT TABLE BECAUSE….

Canna Lily Invitation - from Yvonne Kabata

I received ***Canna lily*** bulbs from a friend of a friend of a friend …. What I expected to be two plants turned out to be two boxes and a bag - all in all, about ***four dozen bulbs***. They vary from fist-sized to clusters of about a foot. I will pot some up for the plant sale (thanks Brian Didier – I 'stole' some of your pots!), but would be happy if I could give the rest away. You can either keep them for yourself or help me pot them up for the plant sale. There are just too many for one person alone to handle.

I will bring them to the next general meeting on March 17. If you are interested please bring bags or boxes to carry them away. (*cont'd*)

Here is some information I received along with the Canna lily bulbs:

The Canna, or more specifically Canna (Foliage Group) 'Auguste Ferrier,' grows six to ten feet high, needs sunshine. It has large brown-green leaves with small budding red flowers on top, a magnet for humming birds...

The bulbs of this plant come from Southern Ontario from a garden of the ages that a beautiful woman gifted to her son upon her passing. The son passed them on to my gardener friend who has cared for the bulbs since then: "The Canna spend the winter in peat moss in my basement... I usually plant

them in April when the tulips are in full bloom... Google has all the maintenance information if you choose, some people leave them in the ground year round covered by leaves, and loosen the dirt around them in the spring... A true heirloom."

Call Yvonne if you have any questions or if you want to arrange a pick-up other than the meeting on March 17.

GOOD THINGS TO KNOW

Attention New Members: ***- from the Executive***

Did you know that LVGC membership earns you 10% off at certain places?

Rumour has it that if you present your 2016 LVGC membership card then certain plant emporia will grant you a discount. Try it! These need to be confirmed but: Avant Gardener (http://www.avantgardener.com), GardenWorks (https://www.gardenworks.ca/hours-locations/north-vancouver/), and Maple Leaf Garden Centres (http://www.mapleleafgarden.ca). Please add any other perks and let The Leaf know: thanks!

From the Loblaws company website: ***- submitted by Judith Brook***

VANCOUVER, March 2, 2016 /CNW/ - (TSX: L) - Imperfect or misshapen produce that tastes great and is good for you, is now available at Real Canadian Superstore®, Your Independent Grocer® and select no frills® locations in British Columbia. Furthering its commitment to offering affordable, quality products to customers, Loblaw Companies today makes the no name® Naturally Imperfect™ line of fruits and vegetables available to British Columbians. Starting with apples and peppers, no name® Naturally Imperfect™ produce costs up to 30 % less than traditional produce options found in store.

Launched in March 2015 with apples and potatoes in Ontario and Quebec, no name® Naturally Imperfect™ produce can now be found across the country in select Loblaw stores.

"When it comes to produce, Canadians know that beauty is more than skin deep," said Ian Gordon, senior vice president, Loblaw Brands, Loblaw Companies Limited. "Our customers recognize they get the same flavour and nutritional benefits in spite of appearances. The positive response to our initial offering of apples and potatoes in Ontario and Quebec demonstrated the opportunity to expand the no name® Naturally Imperfect™ line and offer more selection at a great price to more Canadian families."

Produce included in the no name® Naturally Imperfect™ program was previously used in juices, sauces or soups, or may not have been harvested due to their small size. With this program, Loblaw Companies is working to ensure farmers have a market for smaller, misshapen fruit ensuring it does not go to waste.

The Loblaw produce teams continue to work with partners to further deepen the offering. Customers should be on the lookout for more no name® Naturally Imperfect™ products before the end of the year.

Fresh Flowers: ***- submitted by Elizabeth Jones***

Lynn Welsh at "jl fresh wholesale flowers" – if you need wholesale prices for home or events or personal use then contact her. I found her to be a great deal. jlfreshwholesaleflowers.com

Report-A-Weed: on-line invasive plant reporting – submitted by Jennifer Syndenham

http://www.reportaweedbc.ca Have a look at this website. There is also a down-loadable cell phone app. The site has the names of invasive species and lots of photos and useful links – however it only works with Internet Explorer - other browsers don't work.

How to use_report-a-weed

Open **Map Display**; then navigate and zoom to the location where you spotted the invasive plant.

1. Activate the **Report-A-Weed** tool;
2. Mark the location of the infestation on the map with your mouse;
3. Enter the necessary data in the Report-a-Weed wizard screens.

And that's All! The invasive plant specialist in your area will receive and action the report.

Ontario Farmers Show Support for Neonics Pesticide at Hearing – by Eric Atkins - submitted by Judith Brook

The Globe & Mail, March 9, 2016 - The farmers came from Windsor and Cornwall and all points in between to crowd into a Toronto courtroom. They came by the busload – five in all – to the Ontario Court of Appeal on Wednesday morning to listen to lawyers and judges spar over a new provincial law that restricts their ability to use a controversial [group of – *ed*] pesticide, neonicotinoids.

The pesticide is believed to play a role in the widespread deaths of bees and other pollinators in Ontario and elsewhere. But farmers see neonics, as they are called, as a vital tool that protects their crops from insects, and their lawyer is asking the three appeal court judges to order a new trial, after the first one didn't go their way.

So more than 150 growers took a day off from their chores to board Toronto-bound buses chartered by the Grain Farmers of Ontario. They sat shoulder to shoulder and stood in the aisles of the wood-paneled courtroom, which was not nearly big enough to hold them all.

"We're just here to support [Grain Farmers of Ontario chairman, Mark Brock] with the turnout," said Allan Carruthers, who grows grain east of Peterborough and boarded a bus in Campbellford well before the sun came up.

Mr. Brock, who farms 1,500 acres in Southern Ontario, said the fact that so many farmers made the trip to the provincial capital shows how strongly they feel about the matter.

"We'd all be getting ready for spring [otherwise]," he said. "It's a beautiful day. There's always something on the to-do list."

"The court will see this and will understand it's important to people," Eric Gillespie, lawyer for the grain farmers, told the group outside the courtroom.

Mr. Gillespie was their advocate and de facto tour guide of the justice system, explaining the appeal court procedures to a group that is, like most Canadians, unfamiliar with the courts. "We're not going to be arguing the facts. We're going to be arguing the law, so it may be a little difficult to follow," he said before the start of the hearing, which was over in less than four hours.

Ontario last year became the first jurisdiction in North America to restrict the agricultural use of neonics. Farmers cannot use the seed treatment on half their land in 2016, and on any of it in 2017, unless they submit crop and soil assessments that show they have infestations of crop-eating worms and insects.

The Ontario government took the step after beekeepers lost more than half their hives in the winter of 2013-14. Experts say the neonics sicken the bees and make them more vulnerable to mites, viruses and winter starvation. Early in the growing season, the neonic-laced dust generated by planting treated seeds has also been linked to bee deaths. "It happens right from spring till fall," beekeeper Tibor Szabo said.

But farmers say the neonic insecticides, banned in Europe and facing restrictions in Quebec, are needed to protect their crops. Mr. Gillespie told the court the farmers are not opposed to pesticide regulations, but he said the new set of rules is unworkable and infringed farmers' right to use their land as they want.

Justice John Laskin questioned if anyone had such a right, and told Mr. Gillespie farmers are not prevented from using neonics – they just have to show they need them. He asked if the court had the authority to reverse a law, given the farmers were making no constitutional or jurisdictional challenge.

"You're asking us to rewrite the regulations," said Justice Laskin, who noted that the court would issue a ruling at a later date.

Crown attorney Sandra Nishikawa, who is representing Ontario's Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, said the new law simply limits the use of neonics to where they are needed, and that other insecticides have always been heavily regulated.

"There is no right to use whichever pesticide one chooses," Ms. Nishikawa told the court.

[*Ed – **the basics from*** WIKIPEDIA: *Neonicotinoids are a class of neuro-active insecticides chemically similar to nicotine. In the 1980s Shell, and in the 1990s Baye,r started work on their development. […] Compared to organophosphate and carbamate insecticides, neonicotinoids cause less toxicity to birds and mammals than to insects. Some breakdown products are toxic.*

Neonicotinoids, like nicotine, bind to nicotinic acetylcholine receptors of a cell and trigger a response by that cell. In mammals, nicotinic acetylcholine receptors are located in cells of both the central nervous system and peripheral nervous systems. In insects these receptors are limited to the central nervous system. Nicotinic acetylcholine receptors are activated by the neurotransmitter acetylcholine. While low to moderate activation of these receptors causes nervous stimulation, high levels over-stimulate and block the receptors causing paralysis and death. Acetylcholinesterase cannot break down neonicotinoids and their binding is irreversible.

Mammals and insects have different composition of the receptor subunits and the structures of the receptors. Because most neonicotinoids bind much more strongly to insect neuron receptors than to mammal neuron receptors, these insecticides are more toxic to insects than to mammals.

In the late 1990s neonicotinoids came under increasing scrutiny over their environmental impacts. Neonicotinoid use was linked in a range of studies to adverse ecological effects, including honeybee colony collapse disorder (CCD) and loss of birds due to a reduction in insect populations. In 2013, the European Union and a few non-EU countries restricted the use of certain neonicotinoids.]

EVERYTHING WE ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT GARDENING, BUT NEVER DARED TO ASK:

This is a request to the general membership: Many of you are expert, even Master gardeners. Many others (*eg* yours truly) are not. Those of us who are less experienced and knowledgeable probably joined LVGC ***to learn – from you!!*** LVGC members please share your expertise, ideas and suggestions with your less erudite colleagues. Please email lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter@gmail.com with your answers, or just write them on a piece of paper and deposit them at the next meeting. We would like to do this "Dear Abby" style. All answers will be printed in the next LEAF.

Q1: From "Ready to Kill"

I live next to a public walkway. This leads to endless mischief – besides the "usuals" being dumped in my garden, people also *take* things: whatever I plant, they help themselves to and pull up. What should I plant that is colorful, but thief-resistant?

Q2. From "A Beginning Gardener"

My grass is looking all lumpy and weedy and patchy and I think the raccoons have been into it. Should I top dress it, roll it, put some chemicals on it or give up and grow moss? I had it top dressed last year and I have to say I don't think it has helped at all.

Q3. From "Loony from *Lamia*"

I have been pulling up the dreaded *lamia* as fast as I can. Could you please suggest a plant that can handle lots of shade, top-of-Fromme altitudes and the ability to out-compete this pesky plant? Please – not ferns, periwinkle or ivy - they too, are on my hit list.

Lynn Valley Garden Club – Plant Rescue!!

We all see the many FOR SALE signs around us. With so many North Shore homes slated for demolition, many plants just get ploughed under, broken, removed with the dirt. Wouldn't it be nice to save these plants from destruction, pot them up and sell them at plant sales or the plant table? Apparently Bonnie Noakes has been rescuing plants for years and she says that she has found some wonderful things.

Who would be interested to participate in a rescue group? We would need "spies" to identify houses with the dreaded orange mesh; a SWAT team willing to dig; transporters, potters…. It would make sense to have an expert gardener to identify the "buried treasures".

If there are members who would be willing to participate – obviously *ad hoc* – then Maria Issa will look into whether the City Halls will assist by identifying demo permits. She will gather permissions and deal with other logistics. Please email lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter@gmail.com with "Plant Rescue" in the subject line.

This is an idea still in the evolutionary phase – so all ideas, suggestions – and contacts! – are VERY welcome.

- from Rosemarie Adams

Lynn Valley Garden Club **BUS TRIP** *Saturday June 11, 2016*

There will be a ***sign up sheet*** at March and April meetings - Diane Sekora and Doreen Marbry will keep track of sign-up.

We will visit several private gardens and nurseries in the Fraser Valley.

DETAILS:

$20 per person (this is a subsidized price!)
Bus will leave at **8.30 AM** promptly and return approximately 4.30 PM
Please remember to ***bring your own lunch, a drink***.
Wear comfortable shoes and dress for variable weather.
You may need sunscreen or bug spray.
Don't forget your plant carrier!

For now, the full itinerary and details of gardens to be visited - is a surprise! – the specifics will be handed to you when you board the bus.

Initially, the trip is for members only. Please sign up and pay promptly to confirm your seat. Payment is due by no later than our May general meeting – after that date any seat reservations not paid for will be given to people on the wait-list or to non-members.

If you cannot attend the March or April meeting and wish to go on the trip, please contact either Diane or Doreen and they will add your name to the list.

This has proved to be a fun event in past few years – get on board!

What's new on the Lynn Valley Garden Club website?

- Under the heading ***Guest Speakers***: - Emma Holmes (February 18, 2016 guest speaker) can be found under Past Speaker by name (http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/guest-speakers/past-speakers-by-name/) or Past Speaker by topic – Sustainable Agriculture in Cuba (http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/guest-speakers/past-speakers-by-topic/)
- Under the heading ***Links:***
  - Under the heading ***Seeds:*** (http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/links/seeds/) there is a link to the handout "How to be Successful with Seeds" by Marilyn Holt which was available at the February 18, 2016 meeting.
    - There is also a link to "How to grow guide" from West Coast Seeds.
  - There is a new heading ***Specific Plants***: (http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/links/specific-plants/) that has information on clematis, dahlias and roses.
- Under the heading ***Newsletter – 2016***: The February 2016 newsletter has been posted. (http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/newsletters/2016-2/)
- Check the ***Announcements:*** page for upcoming events (http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/bulletin-board/announcements/)
- Check the March and April calendar for up-coming events (http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/calendar-2/) Click on the date of the event to find out further information and useful links.
- **Please email good links and PDF articles to be posted on the website to** :lvgcwebsite@gmail.com

The Great Rhodo Rescue – by Maria Issa

Part 2. (*continued from The Leaf, Feb 2016*)

Fast forward to December 2015.

"Hey, there is orange mesh around the trees in front of your Dad's house!" announced Patrick, my adopted son and fellow gardener. "I think the place is up for demolition. Do you think the new owners want the rhodos?"

"Let me do some digging…" said I, prophetically.

I contacted my realestate agent and asked him the same question. He got to work. After a week of chasing and telephone tag, he told me that the new owners had "plans" and they would let us know in the spring. (You guessed it: they were flipping the place for big bucks and the old house was an eyesore.)

Sigh.

A week passed.

Then of a Tuesday evening, a text arrived: "You have till Friday to get out as many plants as you want!"

Yippeee.

Yippeee??? It was days before Christmas. With panicked phoning I managed to organize some sinfully expensive landscapers, but complete with a truck, trailer and tools. Patrick rounded up 4 of his buddies to dig.

Yikes: 1 shovel + 5 diggers = Home Depot. We also needed burlap and string. Have you ever tried to find burlap in winter? Long story….

We arrived to find the house in the throes of being demolished.

We dug. It rained. We dug. It snowed. We dug, squished in the mud and watched as the rather stoned demolition crew tossed random pieces of house all over the garden and the plants we were trying to extract. We rescued what we could but there were some sad losses.

The expensive landscapers drove the trailer back and forth to North Van, but did little digging. I, looking like the monster from the swamp, had to run to a meeting at VGH, change in the washroom, emerge like a butterfly, then reverse the process post meeting, and dig some more. 12 hours of mud, sweat and choice language.

It was worth it: nine 10 ft rhodos, one 8 ft camellia, a purple evergreen azalea, an old peony tree, a climbing rose and an assortment of irises and blue globe thistles. We were proud (and veeeeery dirty)!

The expensive help dumped the rhodos along the North Van driveway and sent us a big bill. Did I mention that some of the root-balls weighed over 300 lb? (*ergo* the choice language!)

Then came Christmas, which Patrick and a friend spent digging holes. Digging holes in North Van is not like digging in Shaughnessy. Up here it's rocks (big rocks!) or roots, or rocks *and* roots. Still, in about 2 weeks, the holes were dug, the rhodos lovingly planted with a delicious mix of compost, peat, vermiculite and chippings. The trees were staked, root crowns burlapped, then the root area mulched.

The neighbours came by regularly. They were envious. We were the proud plant rescuers… and were ready to rest on (under?) our laurels.

(*to be continued in the April LEAF*)

Coming Events

Alpine Garden Club of BC - 2016 Spring Show & Plant Sale - April 2, 12 PM – 4 PM
Van Dusen Floral Hall http://www.agc-bc.ca

Permaculture Gardening and Food Forestry Workshop April 22 (Vancouver)
May 8 (Robert's Creek)
http://gaiacraft.com/category/courses/intro-days
FREE!!! Register by email delvin@cosm.org for more details

Lynn Valley Garden Club Plant Sale – May 7, 2016
St. Clements Church, 3400 Institute Road, Lynn Valley, North Vancouver.

Lynn Valley Garden Club Bus Trip - Saturday June 11, 2016
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM Surprise destinations!