



LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Established 1943

November 2017

President's Message - Penny LeCouteur

When I was in grade 10 or thereabouts, we had to learn a poem by the nineteenth century British poet, Thomas Hood. It began as,

*No sun - no moon! No morn - no noon
No dawn - no dusk - no proper time of day.*

And ended with,

*No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds!
- November!*

Living in the southern hemisphere, and in a very temperate climate, this made no sense to me. Not that everything else in our very British school system made sense either, but November was the middle of spring, when flowers abounded, early fruit was ripening and my father would be preparing to take the honey from his bee hives. For some reason the words of this poem suddenly appeared in my mind yesterday – and made total sense! It was wet and drizzly, the sky was a uniform grey, and I couldn't sense the time from looking outside... and of course, there were no flowers, birds, bees, butterflies, fruits or leaves. It was November!

All of you, being gardeners, will point out that you still have flowers in your gardens and that there are still birds around your bird feeders: and I am sure that "Bright Spots" at the November meeting will be just as bright as ever, but to my mind, November does seem to be the nadir of the garden year. December brings us Christmas festivities and floral tributes, January is the New Year and sparkling snow on trees, and by February crocuses and snow drops are usually poking their heads above the ground. In November those things seem a long way ahead.

On a brighter note, we seems to have a full (or almost full) slate of candidates for next year's Executive. This is great news, and those of you who have been trying to hide from the Nominations Committee can – like the crocuses - poke your heads out again. We still need volunteers for some of the committees, so maybe you could still volunteer for a "lesser" position. Don't forget that the Christmas party is the second Thursday of the month *ie* December 14th. We will have some fun activities – no Christmas balls this year which some of you will regret while others will be delighted!

Today the sky is blue, the sun is shining – and I need to rake up leaves. As I started this in a literary mode I'll finish the same way with a quote from another 19th century British poet, Percy Bysshe Shelley: "*If winter comes, can spring be far behind?*"

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

November 16

David Catzel

GLORIOUS ORGANICS
COOPERATIVE

December 14

Seasonal surprise!

January 18

*Howard Wills of Fernwood
Nursery, England*

GREAT BRITISH GARDENS

Mailing Address:

Lynn Valley Garden Club
P.O. Box 16053
1199 Lynn Valley Road
North Vancouver, BC
V7J 3S9

<http://www.lynnvalleygardenclub.org>

September LEAF photo credits: Rita
Aline, Rosemarie

2017 Executive

President

Penny LeCouteur

Vice President

Judith Brook

Secretary

Susan Huber

Treasurer

Jennifer Sydenham

Membership

Bonnie Noakes

Judy Sullivan

Members at Large

Catharine Winstanley

Rita Marshall

Maggie Davis

Daphne Page

Committees

Newsletter Editor

Maria Issa

Plant Table

Norma Buckland

Hospitality

Kitty Castle

Carole Cobbett

Susan Nicholls

Sunshine/ Door Prizes

Carol Bell

Edie Rustemeyer

Website

Aline Burlone

Executive Meetings

1st Wednesday of the month
(We may skip December)

January: *chez* Judy Sullivan

Next Newsletter Deadline

December 8, 2017

If you have material to delight your fellow members - please submit it *via* the time-honoured routes or email to

<mailto:lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter@gmail.com>

Thanks to all who contributed to this edition: and to Bruce Tennant for the photo below!

President's Annual Report for 2017 AGM - Penny LeCouteur

Again, the Lynn Valley Garden Club has had a successful year. Well-attended meetings - more than 60 members most of the time - and a variety of interesting speakers keep the club members active and engaged. Club membership is usually at or near the maximum. The budget is balanced and, as the treasurer will report, we have a surplus for contingencies.

Again, we had a very successful plant sale. This is mainly due to two things: our very hard-working and very organized MALs (Members-at-Large) whose behind-the-scene efforts ensured a great event; and our members' contributions of hundreds (thousands?) of wonderful, healthy plants. Thanks to all those who were involved - the MALs, those of you who grew vegetables from seeds, those who came and did the setup, those who took in and counted the money, the "experts" behind the tables who gave advice to our customers, the hospitality committee who kept us going with tea and coffee and cookies, and all those who stayed behind to clean up, especially those who got down on their hands and knees to tear up the tape that held the tarps in place on the floor! Have I missed out anyone? It is always a great sale and seeing the number of members who come out to contribute in their own way reflects a great deal on the health of the club and I thank all of you for your contributions.

A first for this year was a very successful "public talk" by Brian Minter - which we opened up - for a limited number of tickets - to the community. There are plans in progress for a similar event for 2018. We have to rent another venue for an event like this, as our normal meeting room is too small, to say nothing of competing with choir practices and wooden posts! Public talks are a great way of letting our community know that we exist and of able to present exceptional speakers.

Although we did not have the standard annual bus trip in 2017 (hopefully it will run again in 2018), a number of members did some individual trips - open to all - to the Sunshine Coast and then to the South Delta Garden Club open gardens tour. Again, in July, the Members' Garden Tour allowed us to visit four very different North Vancouver gardens. We ended up eating our lunches at Secretary Susan Huber's place. Once again the diversity of terrain and microclimates on the North Shore, and hence the variety of plants and garden types, was amazing. It is always great to see how creative our members are. Thank you to the tour organizers and to the members who opened their gardens (and homes) to us.

Once again we will be having our annual Christmas party. Remember, it is on the *second Thursday* of the month (the 14th Dec) instead of the normal meeting date of the third Thursday of the month. Potluck - please bring a plate of finger food (savory or sweet). Hot apple cider will be served and we will have some sort of Christmas craft or crafts.

This is the end of my term as president and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have made my two-year term such an enjoyable time. The executive - Judith, Susan, Jennifer, Bonnie, Judy, Catherine, Rita, Maggie, and Daphne - are dedicated, hard-working and lots of fun. Maria is doing a wonderful job as editor - I keep getting members telling me how much they are enjoying "The Leaf." Then there are all the committee members: Hospitality, Sunshine, Plant Table, Website, those who organized the pig manure, those who act as club reps for BCCGC meetings etc. Thank you all. The club would not be the success that it is without your contributions!

Respectfully submitted,

Penny

VP Annual Report - Judith Brook

Our 2017 year included a wide variety of speakers at our monthly meetings, including a special Keynote Speaker at the February gathering (Brian Minter). Below is a list detailing this information. A big thank-you to Hiromi Matsui for offering to stand for election as VP for a one-year term



REPORTS

DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
January 19, 2017	Sam Cousins	Invasive Plants
February 16, 2017	Brian Minter	Garden Design; Special Interest Plants
March 16, 2017	David Sellars	Alpine Plants, Photography
April 20, 2017	Egan Davis	Reducing Water Use and Increasing Urban Ecology
May 18, 2017	Conway Lum	Insects: Friend or Foe?
June 15, 2017	Cathy Nakagawa (Lee Valley)	Container Gardening
September 21, 2017	(LifeSpace Gardens)	Community Cultivations for Sustainable Business, Food Systems and Cities
October 19, 2017	(Botanus)	Fall In Love With Unusuals
November 16, 2017	David Catzel (Glorious Organics)	Sustainable Growing, Permaculture

In the club constitution, specific duties are laid out for all executive members *except* the Vice President (see in the Constitution, Part 8, 'Duties of the Executive'). This is an amended version of the job description for Vice President's role and will be presented as a Resolution at the November GM.

The current description is: *"The vice president shall perform the duties of the president in the president's absence."* However that is all that is stated for the VP.

This should be amended to read, in addition, (not replacing current words),

"The vice president shall research, book and arrange payment for monthly speakers year round, excepting July, August and December, within speaker budget parameters. The vice president shall take custody of the sound system and projector, bringing each to monthly meetings in good working order. The vice president shall setup and take down said equipment as required."

Members are asked to please review this slight amendment to the Constitution. We will call a vote to accept this wording at the November 2017 general meeting.

*****Checking for LVGC member interest in a *Growing from Seed Workshop* to be held immediately before either the February or March 2018 meetings OR as the subject of the March 2018 meeting. ????

Jackie Morris had the great idea to encourage those growing from seed, either for themselves and/or our club's annual plant sale. The agenda would include *Jackie Morris, Tom Davis, Bruce Tennant and Yvonne Kabata* sharing their "secrets of success", which apply equally to both vegetable and flowers - so I think we would be "all ears"! Please stick up your hand for a count at our November 2017 meeting when we gauge interest in this suggested presentation for early 2018.

Treasurer's report - Jennifer Sydenham

Equity: \$5000.00

Reserve: \$2000.00

Please have a look at NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET at the end of this newsletter as you will have to vote on this budget at the AGM. We will go through the budget in more detail at the November meeting.

Secretary's report - Susan Huber

1. LVGC received a letter of thanks from BC Council of Garden Clubs, Scholarship Fund

2. Message from BC Council of Garden Clubs - President, Lorna Fraser:

- BCCGC has a variety of volunteer activities available, from helping out once a year on a specific activity, to sitting as a member on a committee, to serving in an Executive position. People can contact Lorna Fraser and she will find out where their interests are and try her best to find a way to find something for them that suits their time availability, interest and ability.
- The position of Scholarship Trustee is one that many people would find rewarding. This is a three-year position, where the first year is training, the second year keeping minutes and the third year is chairing the meetings. The chair also attends the BCCGC Executive Board meetings.
- Definitely **communications are very important right now** and it is this area that BCCGC is targeting for the immediate future.

3. [vide infra Margaret Nakahara's report on the BCCGC Fall Meeting]

Membership – Bonnie Noakes & Judy Sullivan

- LVGC is currently standing at 120 members with two Life Members
- The *Membership Renewal* form will be sent out with Nov/Dec/Jan issues of the LEAF; approximately 20 renewal forms will be available at the November AGM
- 35 renewals have been received so far
- An additional \$10 surcharge is now applied to those members who still want to receive THE LEAF by mail
- Members may choose to decline both email and mail delivery of THE LEAF, and instead, pick up a print copy @ Membership Desk during Meetings (~30 copies are printed each month)

You are asked to fill out the Membership Renewal form included with this newsletter

Hospitality - Kitty Castle & Carole Cobbett & Mimi Kuhl & Susan Nicholls

.... Just the usual:

-- mugs!!!!!!

-- move away from the kitchen door so we can get in and out safely with hot water in hand...

NEW: St. Clement's Garbage Rules

(The church reminded us about the procedures for waste disposal.)

- There is a bright yellow notice up on the cupboard above the kitchen sink, it outlines everything.
- The large waste container in the hall is for Beehaven Child Care's use only. It will be locked in the evening.
- Green waste (compostable only) can go into the large green district container in the hallway.
- Containers that can be returned for cash go in the large blue containers near the stairs. Please rinse out.
- ALL OTHER WASTE - must be removed offsite. There are white plastic bags in the lower cupboard RIGHT of the sink for your use. All other waste often includes food containers of all types (coffee cups and pizza boxes for example!). There is no place at St Clements for this material. Please put it in your domestic waste system.

The LVGC Hospitality Committee, has decided – in their own words! – ***“to CONTINUE with our self-inflicted mandate of removing all of our (Hospitality) waste, refuse and recycling OFF SITE at ALL CLUB FUNCTIONS WE TAKE PART IN. We feel our policy negates us from any accusations of wrong-doing as the Church's rules and regulations (past, present and future) re: garbage, refuse and recyclables..... are all so very complicated now! Our thoughts have been that our complete-removal-off-site practices help keep our club in good standing with the Church.”*** [--The Exec totally agrees!]

The only other garbage that we might generate (apart from the Hospitality committee's) would probably be ***left over plant samples from Bright Spots***. Please ensure you either take your samples home or place them in the district Green Waste can in the hallway.

Sunshine - Maggie Davis

If you know of a member who is not well or who has lost a loved one, be sure to let Maggie know: LVGC will send something appropriate.



SPEAKER – Thursday, December 16, 2017

DAVID CATZEL

from Glorious Organics Cooperative, Fraser Valley

David has over 20 years' growing experience using organic and ecological principles in a variety of settings, including garden projects in the downtown eastside of Vancouver, coordinating a permaculture project in Ecuador and farming in the Fraser Valley. In 1999 he received his Permaculture Design Certificate from *Linnaea Farm Ecological Gardening and Permaculture Design Program on Cortes Island*. In 2014 he completed an Advanced Permaculture Course in Teaching through the *Cascadia Permaculture Institute*. He has had the opportunity to experiment with seed breeding, low till annual production, intercropping and companion planting, and poultry and sheep integration. He has taught workshops in gardening, composting, and seed saving to adults and children. For the past 13 years David and his wife have made their livelihood helping to run **Glorious Organics Cooperative**, a farming enterprise in the Fraser Valley, while cooperatively stewarding land at Fraser Common Farm Co-op where they live and homeschool their three children.



LVGC Proposed Executive Slate for 2018

President:	Anna Marie D'Angelo
Vice-president:	Hiroimi Matsui (<i>one year term</i>)
Secretary:	Jackie Morris
Treasurer:	Ginette Handfield
Membership:	Judy Sullivan Susan Huber
MALs:	Rita Marshall Daphne Page Doreen Dew (<i>one more MAL needed</i>)



B.C. Garden Council Meeting Fall Meeting Highlights, 2017

- Bonnie Noakes

The BC Council of Garden Clubs, 2018 Fall Meeting <https://bcgardenclubs.com/wp/council-meetings-2/2017-fall-meeting/>:

Marg Nakahara and I attended the October BCCGC Meeting in Burnaby. The meeting was exceptionally well run by the new President. The meeting began with remarks from the various people on the Executive. The Scholarship Committee made a presentation and stated that \$9,900 had been dispersed in scholarship money. If anyone wishes to donate a sum or leave something in their will this can be done directly through the Van City website. There was some discussion on raising the insurance rates so that a percentage of funds could boost the scholarship fund but this is only at the investigative level and would be taken to the clubs. One of the recipients, *Joyce Leung* gave a short presentation on her research towards her *Master's Degree in Pest Management at Simon Fraser University*. Accompanying the package of Executive Reports there is also a form for ordering Judges Manuals and to enroll in the Horticulture Judges Course or Floral Design Judges Course. This form is attached to my report should any of our members wish to send this in. There were lots of vendors with interesting products to sell.

Our first speaker was *Dr. Linda Gilkeson of Salt Spring Island* who spoke on the subject "*Do You Really Know What the Problem Is?*" The main gist of the topic is that we use widespread methods to combat what we think is the problem with our shrubs but we really don't know what it is. Often, it's about getting the correct amount of moisture in a timely manner. Linda said that 75% of problems are not pest or disease related. Salt from the streets, oil, soap and sulphur sprays account for a lot of the problems. Our weather is hotter with a more compressed period of moisture. The snow is heavier and there is more wind damage with a longer

dry period. The jet stream has slowed 15% since the 1980's. Plants can adapt to moderate heat stress or drought stress but not when they occur together. Sunscald might also be the cause of damage and not disease. Cold injury causes die-back, possibly from a frost pocket and flower buds don't open. Water-logged soil and drought kill both roots and root hairs. If tomatoes have green parts it might be a lack of potassium. Water core problems occur on apples from irregular irrigation and bitter pit causes calcium deficiencies in apple tissue. This might be mistaken for apple scab or apple maggot. Buying a recommended variety usually solves the problem.

So, is it a disease or a disorder? One way to determine this is the time of year. For instance, tent caterpillar has a specific time of year. Stress opens the way for insect attack. When diagnosing, look closely for signs like the pattern of damage or timing of damage and are other people having the same issues. Using your phone to take a picture and enlarge the problem helps to identify it. If all else fails and it is an expensive shrub or tree you might want to pay \$16 and send a sample to the Provincial Lab for a diagnosis.

The 2nd speaker was *Deborah Jones* talking about "*Rain Gardens*". This was a lovely presentation with many pictures of boulevards, schools, etc. which have chosen to slow down water run-off by routing it through a rain garden. Some of the gardens are ditches which have been planted instead of covered up. Some streets are changing to permeable surfaces but they are expensive. Rainwater, allowed to run straight into the storm system, is taking cigarette butts, oil runoff from cars, etc and sending it straight through *versus* allowing the water to saturate into the ground. As our cities grow we keep having to enlarge the drainage infrastructure instead of creating gardens to slow down the runoff. An example of the type of garden she is

talking about is Mountain Equipment Co-Op at the corner of Main and Brooksbank. These gardens provide habitat for wildlife as well as being environmentally responsible. A rain barrel to take water from your roof or a diverter at the base of the downspout sends water to the garden instead of through the drains. Roof gardens are also another example of an environmental solution. Landscape fabric has been shown to be detrimental and blocks water because the small holes in the fabric clog up, so gravel works better or woodchip

mulch, which is the best. Funding for plants for these public gardens is through Stream Keepers.

Both speakers were excellent and hopefully we can bring them to a LVGC meeting. The day was lovely. We were well looked after with a full buffet lunch and coffee break refreshments. Marg took care of our Club's gift to the door prize table as well as winning a prize herself. Thank you for sending us as your Club's representatives.

Bonnie and Margaret

Did you know?

- Susan Huber

- Did you know that the BC Council of Garden Clubs (BCCGC) accredits judges for floral design and horticulture? ...and that they maintain a list of qualified horticulture judges?
- Did you know that they represent 181 garden clubs across BC?
- Did you know that in 2017 BCCGC awarded \$9900 in scholarships to students in horticulture programs? The Council manages a Scholarship Trust Fund with capital of \$253,000!
- *And most important for Lynn Valley garden club:* did you know that our membership in the BCCGC is critical for us to hold meetings? In order to meet as a large group in a public venue, we must have liability insurance. We are able to join the BCCGC's group insurance policy to ensure coverage at a reasonable cost.

Now BCCGC is asking for help to continue their valuable work - they need help with some committees, communications work and the Scholarship Trust committee - the new president is Lorna Fraser and she is keen to find a role or one time activity that you can do to help the BCCGC - whatever suits your time and your interests. Lorna can be reached at: president@bcgardenclubs.com

Thanks for helping the BCCGC to 'Grow BC, one garden at a time'



Useful tip for us Luddites

- from the LVGC WebWizard, Aline Burlone

This might be of interest for our members (many may already know this, but I didn't!!):

When you do an online search, if your type in your **keywords** and add **+ext** your search results will list the educational resources first. (*You won't have to hunt through pages and pages of unrelated ads*). For example, "peonies + ext" gives you all the university sites on the first page!! [*works a treat!* - Maria]

LVGC Fairy Tales

- by Tom Davis & Maria Issa

Once upon a time there was an old cobbler-LVGC member who every night meeting put out the bits and pieces to make next day's shoes chairs. Magically, the next morning after the meeting, the shoes chairs were stitched together put away.

Unfortunately, this only happens in fairy tales.... To be rather Wicked Queen about it, it would be nice if Sleepy, Sneezy, Happy, Grumpy, Lazy, Dopey, Doc and Snow White, who sat on it, would return and stack the chairs and not wait for the handsome prince to do it. Mirror, mirror on the wall - let's make it fair(est) for one and all.

Pledge to be a Lazy Gardener!

- sourced by Aline Burlone



Dr. Rhiannon Crain, who is the Habitat Network's* project manager, encourages all of us to take the [pledge](#)* and become lazy gardeners by doing the following:

- leave fallen leaves on the property as mulch
- leave the dried flower heads in your garden to feed the animals
- let the grass grow tall and seed
- build a brush pile with fallen branches, instead of removing them, to create shelter for little critters
- don't use chemicals
- leave snags on your property
- don't do garden clean up until spring after many days of 10°C, to allow overwintering pollinators the chance to wake up and move on

She was interviewed by Margaret Roach on October 20, 2017, and you can hear the entire interview by going to Margaret Roach A Way to Garden Podcasts on our website [Podcast link page](#). (this link works – see cover email) [*These 2 links on the Cornell, Habitat Network side – don't load. Have patience, they may fix 'em]



For Birds and Bees

- by Rosemarie Adams



Last meeting I brought a branch of Cotoneaster, which I explained, was a big attraction for bees in Spring and birds in the fall. I thought it was *Cotoneaster acutifolius x watereri*, and it is indeed confirmed as identified accurately. After the last club meeting, I took some *cuttings*, hope they will survive winter, in which case I will bring them in *for members* in spring.



Which Plants Can Live Under a Cedar Tree?

- sourced by Rosemarie Adams

<http://homeguides.sfgate.com/plants-can-live-under-cedar-tree-51475.html>

Cedar trees (*Cedrus spp.*) are conifers with thick canopies that prevent water and sunlight from reaching the ground below, and thrive in acidic soils. This dry, dark and acidic soil can be difficult for plants to survive in, leaving the area underneath the cedar tree dull and unattractive. However, some ground covers, perennials, shrubs and ferns require

acidic soils and tolerate drought and shade, and these plants will successfully grow under cedar trees.

Ground-Covers: Acid-loving ground covers that tolerate shade and dry soils will creep along the ground underneath the cedar tree, creating a carpet of foliage that hides the unattractive ground. Wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*) is a broadleaf evergreen that grows about 6 inches tall, in U.S. Department of Agriculture plant hardiness zones 3

through 8, in full or partial shade and acidic well-drained soils. Once established, wintergreen can tolerate drought and dry soils. Several cultivars of Japanese spurge (*Pachysandra terminalis*) thrive in shaded areas and tolerate all soil types and pH levels, including dry acidic soil. *Variegata* and *Green Sheen* are two cultivars growing as ground cover in USDA zones 3 through 9. Reaching heights between 15 and 20 inches tall, both *Variegata* and *Green Sheen* are deer resistant and drought tolerant.



Perennials: Many species of perennials can survive the harsh growing conditions found under cedar trees. *Big Blue lilyturf* (*Liriope muscari*, *Big Blue*) produces grass-like foliage in a clumping form and spikes of purplish blue flowers. It grows in acidic to neutral, dry or average soil in shaded locations found throughout USDA plant hardiness zones 6 through 9. This 12- to 16-inch-tall, drought tolerant plant is also resistant to rabbits and deer. *Bergenia* (*Bergenia cordifolia*) is a shade-loving perennial reaching 1 to 3 feet in USDA zones 3 through 8, with red stalks bearing pinkish red blooms in late winter and early spring. *Bergenia* grows best in acidic, neutral or alkaline moist soil but can tolerate drought once established.

Shrubs: The azalea (*Rhododendron*) genus offers many acid-loving flowering shrubs, including various cultivars and species that grow in USDA zones 4 through 9. Most azaleas grow best in dappled shade with moist soil and cannot handle dry conditions. However, Florida flame azalea (*Rhododendron austrinum*) is a drought-tolerant

deciduous species that grows between 8 and 10 feet tall. *Variegatus aralia* (*Eleutherococcus sieboldianus*, *Variegatus*) is another deciduous shrub growing in shaded areas and tolerates drought and dry soils. *Variegatus* is not picky about pH levels and can grow in acidic, neutral or alkaline soils. This 6- to 8-foot-tall shrub displays green foliage edged in creamy white and black berry-like fruit.

Ferns: Ferns are commonly found in shaded areas, where they receive an abundance of moisture. However, a few species can tolerate some degree of drought once established and will provide interesting texture to the area underneath cedar trees. Lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*) grows up to 3 feet tall with light green fronds in USDA plant hardiness zones 4 through 8. Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) tolerates drought conditions and dry, shallow and rocky soil in USDA zones 3 through 9. This deer and rabbit resistant fern grows between 1 and 2 feet tall, producing green lance-shaped fronds with a leathery texture. Both lady fern and Christmas fern prefer acidic soils with a pH level between 4 and 7.

To lower soil acidity to the soil pH range that most plants normally need, add lime, organic matter or mulches. One quick solution is to occasionally spray the soil with a mild solution of 1 tablespoon baking soda mixed in 2 liters of water. Fresh coffee grounds are acidic but used coffee grounds are neutral. If you rinse your used coffee grounds, they will have a near neutral pH of 6.5 and will not affect the acid levels of the soil. To use coffee grounds as fertilizer, work the coffee grounds into the soil around your plants.



- from Judith Brook

The keynote speaker is the Director of Farm Operations for Sole Food Street Farms, downtown eastside Vancouver...
November 18, 2017
In the Pacific Room at the Pacific Coliseum | 9:00 am - 4:30 pm
 Join us for a day of urban farming panel discussions, networking, and fun!

Donate Christmas Cards!!!

- Jackie Morris

A small group I belong to are the only outside people at the annual WISH Society Christmas Party. We have operated a table for several years where we offer Christmas cards – as many as the women want. It started out as a literacy project but it is more importantly a way for the women to keep in touch with family and friends. Women who know of this table will bring a list and often ignore their dinner to write cards. We will mail them, if requested. We often see them giving cards to the WISH staff and thanking them.

WISH operates a drop-in centre open 6 PM to noon in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, where female sex trade workers can relax in acceptance and safety and meet their basic needs (food, clothing, nursing care, personal items, showers), receive individualized support and participate in programs. There are security gates and live door monitoring and no men are allowed at all.

We are looking for donations of unused Christmas cards with envelopes. The cards the women seem to prefer are sparkly/shiny, colourful, fun, kids themes, featuring animals or birds. We often have donations of a few INDSPiRE cards (not Christmas) by First Nations artists with Aboriginal themes. We put these out a few at a time and only allow one per person. The cards seemingly not wanted are dull or featuring scenes of fancy homes, happy white children or lots of presents.

I will pick up any card donations you have, at the November meeting and the Xmas party. Thanks in advance!



[...and while we are on the topic – 'Tis almost the season, so please remember the **Greater Vancouver Food Bank** <https://www.foodbank.bc.ca> - so many people need our help and it is so easy to give. - maria]

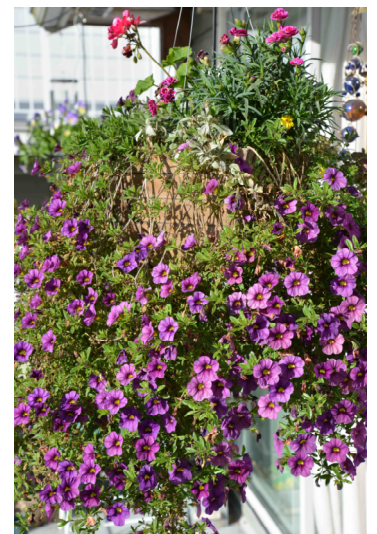
Green Fingers and Thumbs [alias sources of jealousy]

- Rosemarie Adams, Rita Marshall

Can't believe it's November, weather is cold, but hanging baskets still going strong (had them since April!)
- Rosemarie



If you find yourself wanting more plants than you have garden space, next spring, small perennials in large pots is an option. The *mouse ears hosta* shown below is perfect on a deck in a ceramic pot. A few herbs near the kitchen for those who like to cook with fresh herbs is practical too: we have Italian parsley, chives, mint, cat grass for the cat and an ornamental grass. - Rita



What happens if the honeybees disappear?

Wild bees and Russian bees might be able to help.

A honeybee queen, when all is right in her world, should live for two to three years. But in the United States, beekeepers have seen that life span drop by more than half over the past decade, and researchers are trying to determine why. It's one of many questions surrounding the mystery of honeybee mortality, a disturbing phenomenon that's linked to a mix of factors, including parasites, pesticides, and habitat loss.

Aside from making a delicious natural sweetener, honeybees—which are not native to the U.S.—also provide a crucial service to agriculture: pollination. From apples to almonds, many crops would suffer without honeybees. And while about 90 percent of beekeepers in this country are hobbyists, the majority of hives belong to large-scale, commercial operations, says North Carolina State University entomologist David Tarpy.



Colony collapse in general could be devastating to food production. So scientists are looking for alternatives. Most honeybees in the U.S. today are of Italian heritage and vulnerable to a pest called the varroa mite. But Russian bees are more resistant to it, and backyard beekeepers have had success with them. The problem, says Tarpy, is that Russian honeybees don't make as much honey as their Italian counterparts and "aren't as amenable" to the migratory nature of pollinating large-scale farms.

Another option, says wildlife biologist Sam Droege of the U.S. Geological Survey, is to embrace the thousands of North American wild bee species, which are excellent pollinators, rarely sting, and are typically the size of a grain of rice. The drawback for some people is that none of the wild bee species produce honey. But, says

Droege, "we can always get honey from other countries."

"L'Art pour l'art"

– Rita Marshall

The North Shore Arts Council is having their *Anonymous Art Sale November 16th to December 17th*. All 8" by 8" pieces are for sale for \$100.00 each. Monies raised goes towards a number of programs, one of which is the Art in The Garden tour through the North Shore late spring. The art for sale can be viewed and purchased at the Gallery on 3rd and Lonsdale: over 700 works to choose from!

Harry's Travels

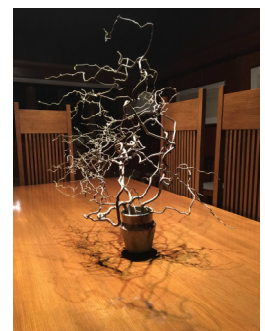
– Bonnie Noakes & Maria Issa

Sir Henry "Harry" Lauder (1870 -1950) was a Scottish singer and comedian popular in both the English music hall and vaudevillian theatre tradition; he achieved international success. He was described by Sir Winston Churchill as "Scotland's greatest ever ambassador". He became a familiar worldwide figure promoting images like the kilt and the *cromach* (walking stick) to huge acclaim, especially in America.



The *Corkscrew Hazel* ornamental cultivar of common hazel (*Corylus avellana*) is sometimes known as *Harry Lauder's Walking Stick*, in reference to the crooked walking stick Lauder often carried.

"Harry" moved from Bonnie's back yard to Maria's. While he misses his old abode, he is adapting well to his new digs.





Lynn Valley Garden Club

Registration Form

- Annual membership Fee is \$20 per person or \$35 per couple.
- Renewals must be received by December 31, 2017.

After this deadline, new members will be accepted from the waiting list.

- Payment by cheque is preferred, payable to 'Lynn Valley Garden Club'. Post-dated cheques (December 31, 2017) will be accepted. Please note - cheques will not be cashed until after January 1, 2018.
- Please make sure to fill out this form and bring it, along with your payment, to the next meeting or mail them to: Lynn Valley Garden Club, P.O. Box 16053
- 1199, Lynn Valley Rd., North Vancouver, BC. V7J 3S9

Last Name: _____ First name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____ [to receive the newsletter via email]

Would you consider helping with a committee
or taking an executive position in the future? Yes _____ No _____

Do you want your phone number
included on the membership phone list? Yes _____ No _____

Do you need a receipt? Yes _____ No _____

Do you have a suggestion for a speaker or a topic? _____

***** All LVGC email addresses & phone numbers are private information and only to be used at the discretion of the executive.**

THE BUDGET FOR 2018

Includes rental increase for St. Clement's Church meeting room (total \$300 increase for Sept. 2017- June 2018)

	2017 Budget	2017 Projected	2018 Budget
<u>Revenue</u>			
Membership	2400	2345	2400
Guests	255	160	150
Plant Sale	5000	4586	4600
Plant Table	250	120	120
Trips	1200		
Total Revenue	9105	7211	7270
<u>Expenses</u>			
Rent	700	700	1000
Office	100	202	200
Misc	30	92	30
Hospitality	500	450	400
Plant Sale	800	130	300
Speakers	1800	1333	1800
Door Prizes	200	350	350
Donations	1625	2400	1975
Newsletter	425	600	400
Sunshine Gifts	300	0	0
Christmas Party	400	400	400
Field Trips	1850	0	300
BCCGC	300	340	340
Bank Charges	75	65	75
Total Expenses	9105	7062	7270
Net	0	149	-300
Plant Sale net	4200	4456	4300

If you got this far, and read the budget – you deserve a bit of fun:

*This year too, he came, that bear,
To help himself to rightful share
Of arbour grapes, left hanging there
By the back door, near the stair.
This time he came by night, not day -
But high-tech caught him anyway:
Motion-active, infra-red,
Red-handed, on cam'ra, as he fed!
Healthy, black and very dapper
He was – clearly - a great crapper.
Evidence, that he was 'able?' Three huge plops upon the table. [sigh]*

