



THE LEAF

LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Established 1943

May 2018

President's Message – Anna Marie D-Angelo

It's hard to say what plant sale job I found the most challenging last Saturday. Was it making the thin roll of painter's tape last long enough to cover a vast one-quarter of the room's overlapping floor tarps? Was it crouching under tables, grabbing overflow plants as fast as I could while crowds of customers above scooped them up even faster? And after it was all over, was it figuring out how on earth the room was configured before we tarped and foliated the place. This is despite having "before" photos. The indoor plant rule is one house plant for every 100 square feet. We broke that rule by probably 2,000 plants and the humidity proved it. In the end, what I remember most is how many club members were accommodating and worked hard to make the sale a success. *Sincere thanks to everyone who played a part and especially to the members who spent hours helping.*

Feedback from the public has been positive, especially noting the helpful plant suggestions made, the nice people at the "plant check" table and the friendly first class delivery service to customers' cars.

Next up for club events is the *bus trip* that is on *Saturday, June 2*. We will be having pick up and drop off across the street, not in the church's parking lot, as the church is having a big event that day. Please don't park in the church's lot. There is ample parking on the street.

The next month, on Saturday, July 7, we are planning our *Members' Garden Tour*. Susan Huber and Penny Le Couteur have graciously offered to organize the garden tour again this year. They will be contacting folks soon. When they call, remember that volunteering makes you a better person. That's a good thing.



According to a new study by Dr. David Johnson at the University of Aberdeen, plants communicate to each other through soil. The study shows that when vegetables are infected with certain diseases, they alert other nearby plants to activate genes to ward off the disease when it heads their way. The key to this communication is a soil fungus that acts as a messenger. Needless to say, plant-fungus symbiosis inspired this limerick:

A Fungus You can Grow To Like - By Madeleine Begun Kane

Plants talk to each other through dirt:
"You're in danger!" through fungi, they blurt.
"Use your genes to resist
A disease in your midst,
And render this danger inert."

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

May 17
DEBORAH JONES
Introducing Rain Gardens
June 21
JIM RAHE
Annie's Orchard: Apples and
Pears

Mailing Address:

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

<http://www.lynnvalleygardenclub.org>

- May LEAF photo credits to Ann
Pentland, Anna Maria D'Angelo, Tom
Davis, Hiromi Matsui



2018 Executive

President
Anna Marie D'Angelo
Vice President
Hiromi Matsui
Secretary
Jackie Morris
Treasurer
Ginette Handfield

Membership
Judy Sullivan
Susan Huber
Members at Large
Rita Marshall
Daphne Page
Doreen Dew

MAL#4 for 2019 ?????

Committees
Newsletter Editor
Maria Issa
Plant Table
Norma Buckland
Hospitality
Carole Cobbett
Susan Nicholls
Maggie Davis
Sunshine / Door Prizes
Shirley Lawson
Website
Aline Burlone

Executive Meetings

1st Wednesday of the month
Next Meeting: June 6 7:30 PM
Chez Susan Huber

Next Newsletter Deadline
June 13, 2018

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



SPEAKER

DEBORAH JONES --- Thursday, May 18, 2018 Introducing Rain Gardens or What's a Rain Garden...and Why Should I Care?

As volunteer Rain Gardens Coordinator for Cougar Creek Streamkeepers since 2006, Deborah Jones has been closely involved in the design, construction, planting and maintenance of 28 rain gardens at North Delta schools and other community locations. She also advises The Nature Trust of British Columbia on their rain garden grant program. She has a BA in Urban Studies, a Masters of Library Science, and has worked at Vancouver Public Library for over 30 years.

Topic: "Rain gardens" are sprouting up everywhere. But surely every garden in Metro Vancouver is a rain garden, given the amount of rainfall we get? Not quite! Learn exactly what rain gardens are, the many benefits they provide, and why they're essential to environmental sustainability and salmon. Take a photo tour of some of North Delta's 28 school and community rain gardens, then get ideas for using rain gardens large or small to create drought-resilience and/or to solve property drainage issues in an economical and aesthetic way -- at your house, strata, workplace, church, temple or other property.



REPORTS

VP Report - Hiromi Matsui

Speakers are booked well into next year!! Thanks for all your ideas and submissions: they have been extremely helpful.

As many of you have requested it - RALPH NEVILL's slides from his talk "Pruning trees and shrubs: getting started" are now on the website.

Treasurer's Report - Ginette Handfield

Balance as of April 31/2018	
Bank Balance:	\$7930.52
Operating Funds/Petty Cash	\$ 438.95
Total	\$8359.47

THIS IS WITHOUT the PLANT SALE results. That will be probably forthcoming at the meeting. As there were a LOT of plants and a LOT of people, we are anticipating a great result.

Membership Report - Judy Sullivan

The current membership stands at 114. We had membership information available at the PLANT SALE and a number of people picked up information - so there might be more to come.

Plant Table - Norma Buckland

(Was anything exciting rescued from the Plant Sale? Come to the meeting to find out!)

Hospitality - Carole Cobbett & Susan Nicholls & Maggie Davis

- In case you were wondering, you may all rest assured, literally! We only serve DECAFFEINATED coffee and teas at club meetings.
- There is now a thermal carafe full of hot water for you: you can water-down our teas, make your own from home, or just drink the hot water!

- Please keep using the blue and the green table-top garbage and recycling containers provided on our snack tables. The Church has a "garbage-in... garbage-out" policy: they do NOT want us using their garbage and recycling facilities.
- Lastly, we ask that after getting your beverage and snacks, could you KINDLY MOVE AWAY to socialize. Our team needs the kitchen door area clear so that we can quickly and safely replenish the hot beverages. Also, we'd like everyone to be able to get to the tables before the guest speaker begins.
- [While you are grabbing that mug and teabag – please also grab a non-perishable item for the food bank!! – Maria]

MAL Report – Maggie Davis, Rita Marshall, Daphne Page

(via email from a very tired Rita)

The annual plant sale was a [great!] success. A big thank you to all our hard-working volunteers, plant donors and the executive. A huge thank you to Linda Feddersen and Lyle and Carol Ferryman for donating such wonderful hand-made items to the raffle. Thank you to Doreen for selling the jars of honey. I heard compliments from happy plant shoppers on the helpful and informative customer service received from our volunteers.

Please email us if there is anything anyone wishes to inform the executive and members at Large about the plant sale, recommendations, room for improvement, compliments, any feedback and or observations (what plants were hot, what plants were not) so we can build on our plant sale. We will forward all input to the executive and discuss it at our next executive meeting. For a few highlights of the **great event**, see below!!!



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

- Aline Burlone

If you missed the Pruning presentation by Ralph Nevill you can see a PDF copy of his slide presentation as he has graciously allowed us to post it on our website on past speaker by name and topic pages (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/guest-speakers/past-speakers-by-name/>).

If you are interested in pruning, a good reference book is "the American Horticultural Society Pruning and Training" book by Christopher Brickell and David Joyce (at the North Vancouver District Public Library). Another good source for pruning is the Plant Amnesty website (<http://www.plantamnesty.org/>)

There are two very interesting podcasts about insects on the Joe Gardener Show - episode 049 When Good Bugs Eat Bad Bugs: The Business of Beneficial Insects and episode 050 Organic Pest Control: Beneficial Insects And Beyond. His interviews with Suzanne Wainwright-Evans of Buglady Consulting (<http://bugladyconsulting.com/>) explain how beneficial insects are now being used in nurseries rather than chemicals to control pests. I was pleased to find out that almost every tomato plant grown in a greenhouse in Canada has been grown with beneficial insects. The direct link to these episodes are <https://joegardener.com/podcast/049-when-good-bugs-eat-bad-bugs-the-business-of-beneficial-insects/> and <https://joegardener.com/podcast/organic-pest-control/>

A great website for information regarding insects is Linda Gilkeson's site (<http://www.lindagilkeson.ca/>). You can subscribe to her free newsletter that always has information regarding vegetable growing and pest management specifically for our climate.

Don't forget to email good links, upcoming events, PDF articles or photos to be posted on the website to lvgcwebsite@gmail.com



Exercises for the Gardener by John Braithwaite

-sourced by Bruce Tennant

SQUATS: Before gardening, warm up those hips, back and knees. Softly and easily folding from the hips, let your hips glide back as you fold from hips toward an imaginary wall behind you. Knees will bend as a result of your hips folding. Feel the energy through your big glute and thigh muscles (front and back). Back is neutral and the knees are soft. Breathe! Squats are a dynamic stretch through all the hip fibers as well as strength through glutes, quads and hamstrings.

[no: I didn't make this up and no, I'm not quite sure how to execute this. Maybe we could all try it at the meeting..?- editor]



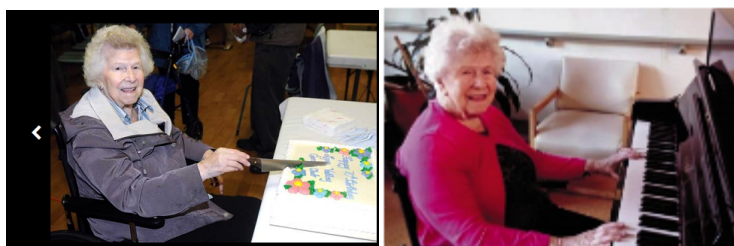
Unfortunately, it is now too late to get *THE LVGC T-shirt* for the plant sale as it took me two weeks and one day to get it. I phoned in my order to Dog's Ear on 15th at Marine next to Subway in West Van. I asked for a Ladies' Large. Gave my credit card number. He called and I picked it up so actually only one trip to do this purchase. The stitched logo and color are really nice. Not super quality as far as T-shirts go but fine. \$26 with tax to \$28 total. Not so bad.

You too, can be the proud owner of the ultimate fashion statement LVGC club T-shirt: forest green with the club's embroidered logo – and you can wear it on the *BUS TOUR* and the *Members' Garden Tour*.



LVGC Past and Present

-submitted by Judith Brook



Name	LILLIAN SPEERS
Date of interview	Interviewed in December 2007 by Rosemarie Adams, another LVGC club member.
Joined LVGC	LVGC was first started in the 1940s. Lillian recalls the Parlour Shows the club used to have in those early days with awards for <i>best vegetables</i> , <i>best cut flowers</i> , <i>best baskets</i> , etc. Lillian would enter her plants and vegetables, Mollie Nye also always had many entries as did Mrs. Walton and Mrs. Pierard. Lillian says that in those days they didn't have guest speakers, the President or other members would give talks. She enjoys the present format with the different guest speakers.
First started gardening	In the 1940's
Favourite style of garden	Likes all styles
Current style of garden	Likes natural look and native plants
Favourite garden centre	Doesn't have a favourite
Favourite shrub/flower	Favourite shrub is scented <i>Peony</i> , and favourite flower for cutting is <i>Peace Rose</i>
Favourite gardening reference book	"Containers" by Stephanie Donaldson
Favourite gardening magazine	Canadian Gardening
Words of Wisdom	Lillian says she doesn't have any words of wisdom for us, but as our oldest active member who regularly attends meetings (and by oldest I mean in terms of years of membership), I think "Staying Power" comes to mind.
Note from Judith Brook	Lillian was born at home in Lynn Valley in 1914, and passed away also in Lynn Valley in January 2017.

Welcome to one of our new members!!!

Name	LUISA VESCHINI
Date of interview	Interviewed on May 9, 2018 by Judith Brook
Joined LVGC	May 2017
First started gardening	Long ago, her mother loved vegetable and flower garden and inspired Luisa. Luisa learned from her mother in Italy and used this knowledge in her own garden here in Canada, starting from seed and from plants from friends.
Favourite style of garden	Never thought about having a style; likes to keep things simple so able to go somewhere with her plan; enjoys simplicity because easier for upkeep.
Current style of garden	At one time liked to grow for necessity, now Luisa is growing more what she likes and enjoys, and will buy something special to be able to to enjoy it.
Favourite garden centre	Costco and also Superstore at the beginning of season; also the Maple Leaf store in Lynn Valley. (Remember we get 10% Discount at Maple Leaf as LVGC members!)
Favourite shrub/flower	Used to have geranium as favourite with different kinds and pots; now loves her 5 or 6 types of hosta plants.
Favourite gardening reference book	No actual favourite gardening book -- receives more inspiration by what she sees - by seeing friends' places or while out walking.
Favourite gardening magazine	May browse in store, but no real favourite.
Words of Wisdom	Gardening is very therapeutic and allows you to create your own outdoor sanctuary. The garden is her favourite summertime spot, like a meditation space.

The Things That Bring Us Joy



Tom gave me this cauliflower (as a small seedling late last summer. I planted it in my garden and forgot about it. It survived the winter and woke up this spring and look at it now!

Driving around North Van, I came across this spectacular dogwood at its peak. Not white, not pink but RED. In case you want to drive by and admire it – it's around St Andrew's and 23rd.



Found in odd places by Bruce Tennant



******* Is there anyone interested in keeping LVGC historical records and liaising with the North Vancouver Archives??? Also – we need someone to handle the LVGC Facebook page.**

The Famous LVGC Bus Tour.... June 2!!!

Organized by Rosemarie Adams

This is your reminder!

Please be at Church by 8.15 AM. Bus will leave promptly at 8.30 AM. Our first stop is at *Free Spirit Nursery* and Lambert is opening early for us at 9.30 AM. If you plan on purchasing plants, *please bring cash*.

IMPORTANT - The Church has a function on that day. We will need to *park on the street* and will load the bus from the street. Car-pool to the church with a friend or neighbour if you can.

Don't forget to *bring your lunch* - we can eat at Thomas Hobbs Farm.
If you intend to buy plants, please bring a bag (Ikea) or container with your name on it.



We plan on being back to the Church between 4.30 and 5 PM, but this is always subject to traffic and people!

It's going to be great fun!

Lynn Valley Garden Club – Annual Members’ Garden Tour – July 8, 2018

2018 Members’ Garden Tour Coordinators would like to teach you the ropes!

The garden tour you’ve all been waiting for – the event of the summer! On Saturday, July 7, we will again be inviting several LVGC members to show their gardens – so we can all learn about your successes and your challenges. *Penny LeCouteur* and *Susan Huber* will coordinate the tour – this will be their third appearance and they would like to have one or two members assist and “learn the ropes” of this event. You can try it out and perhaps work on the event in 2019.



Looks like Penny and Susan are on the hook coordinating the Members’ Garden Tour ONCE AGAIN. While there is nothing like success and adulation for past excellent tours, they have sworn that next year it’s YOUR TURN. There have been some volunteers – SURPRISE!! – and there will be some arm-twisting as there is a “hot list” of people whose gardens everyone wants to see.... So please consider being among “the chosen”. It’s time to show off your hard work to your fellow gardeners! Have you found the secret to growing immense cucumbers? Do you have a verdant shade garden? Do you have a selection of extraordinary plants? We’re not looking for perfection or perfectly weeded flower-beds – we do want to showcase your solutions to garden challenges – (for example areas that are clay or steep or shady or boggy). And if you are looking for ideas to solve problems - club members can bring their suggestions.

We have one volunteer garden now and ideally would like an additional 3-4 gardens – please see Penny or Susan if you’d like to know more or if you want to suggest (set up?) another members’ garden that you’ve visited. ☺ [You can also call Penny LeCouteur or Susan Huber or see them at the May meeting (Susan will be sitting at the Membership desk) or you can email: lynnvalleygardenclub@gmail.com



Bees and Honey

If you missed getting some of delicious honey at the plant sale – like I did – you will have another chance! As there was such demand, Doreen will order some more. Place your order at the May meeting.

However, if you are more interested in the bees than the honey, then you can sponsor a hive: contact ART BARKER, 604-534-9864, art3bhoneybee@gmail.com, www.bringingbackbees.ca

And if you want to keep bees – in general – alive, then sign this petition <https://act.credoaction.com/sign/ban-neonics?t=5&akid=28537%2E4403492%2ERC7mbr> . If you need a US ZIP code – just type in 12302. That’s a very red area near Albany, NY.

The PLANT SALE PAGES

- by Tom, Anna Marie, Hiromi, Ann and Maria

On Friday, there were some early arrivals to help the set-up,



Then things really took off. Like in the Walrus and the Carpenter, “thick and fast they came at last; and more and more and more...” And the place started filling up. In the ornamental category, the “hostas were the mostest” and the ferns were not far behind. Every surface – table and floor – was covered. The rule was “one line on the table, the rest below”.



Then there were veggies...! We did West Coast Seeds proud. There were so many veggies, that entire new tables had to be emergency-created – and the floors were full.



All was ready for the next day.



and then we cleaned it all up as if nothing had ever happened



...

Tales from the Plant Sale – a Greek Tragedy

Cast of Characters [in order of appearance]

The Chorus (narrators)

Deus ex Machina (Fate; offstage)

Ethicist (the moral compass)

Pathos (the protagonist: normally they are the agonized, in this case the role is reversed)

The Fool (borrowed from commedia dell'arte; luckily we're not theatrical purists)

Executos (who deals)

Chorus: The great LVGC Plant Sale is drawing to a close. Only 30 minutes and a handful of buyers remain. As per tradition, at this point, plants go on sale at _ price.

Deus ex Machina: Bring in the Pathos; the Ethicist. Set up the problem.

Ethicist: Yes, these plants are now _ price. You can have them for just a few dollars. Just trot them to the cashiers, they will take care of you.

Pathos: Oh, I don't have money with me, can I take them and bring the money later?

Ethicist: Not a good idea. How about leaving the plants there on the holding table – and then coming back with your money? It's not a problem. We can hold them for you.

Pathos: OK. I'll put them there while I look for some more plants.

Chorus: She loads up. Time passes. The sale is over. Everyone starts the clean-up process.

Deus ex Machina: Bring in The Fool to stir things up.

The Fool: Well, that's it then. The sale is over. Let's give away as many plants as we can so that we don't have to haul them home. Free plants!!!

Pathos: Then can I have these plants for free now?

The Fool: You can have what's left for free.

Pathos: Then I'll get my plants.

Chorus: Pathos gets her _ price plants from the holding area and quickly heads toward the door.

Ethicist: Those were NOT free. Those were your _ price plants! You need to pay for them. The free ones were those that were left.

Pathos: But I don't have my money.

Ethicist (a little frustrated): You can go get your money – we'll save your plants for you.

The Fool: *&^%\$ Here, I'll just pay for them and then she can go.

Chorus: No, no, no! That's not the point. The Ethicist was trying to make the point that Pathos should pay for her _ price plants. Now she will pay for nothing.

The Fool (singing): "Oh what a Fool am I!!

Chorus: That was well managed by Pathos. They finally let her take her plants – for FREE - and go. Time passes again.

Deus ex Machina: Bring in Executos. There must be more to this tragedy.

Chorus: Pathos is wandering in the parking lot, looking miserable.

Executos: Is everything OK?

Pathos: My shoulders hurt. These plants are too heavy. Could you please help me?

Executos: Happy to help. I can take them to your car for you.



Pathos: Oh, I came by bus. The bus stop is sooooo far away.
Executos: No problem. I'll drive you to the bus stop.
Chorus: Executos settles Pathos in the car and heads for the bus stop.
Pathos: Now that we're in the car, do you think you could drive me home?
Executos: Now that really is too much. I'll take you to the bus stop then I have to go back.
Chorus: ...and she did. Pathos was ejected at the bus stop along with her free plants.

Ethicist (head sticking out
 Fool!! I will not let you live this down!!



[exeunt]
 [curtain falls]
 through the curtains):

EVENTS

Garden Films – from Hiromi Matsui

There are 2 Garden films coming up at Vancity theatre, 1181 Seymour Street 604.683.FILM as part of *Vancouver Film Festival*:

https://www.viff.org/ArticleMedia/Files/documents/VIFC%20Calendars/2018/VIFC_MAY2018_Monthly_Calendar_WEB.pdf

"Five Seasons - Garden of Piet Oudolf" May 19-21

"Leaning in to the Wind: Andy Goldworthy" June 1-7

Sunday June 25 from 10 AM to 4 PM

The **South Delta Garden Club**, in partnership with The Rotary Club of Tsawwassen, is hosting
a 10-garden self-guided tour

As the number of tickets will be limited we will attend LVGC's *May meeting only* to sell tickets directly to your members at the advance purchase price. As an added incentive we would like to donate two free tickets to your raffle when we come. Tickets go on sale May 12 at three retail locations in Ladner and Tsawwassen for \$15 each. On the day of the tour they will be sold at one location only for \$20 each.

As a bonus, tour-goers will have private access to the Secret Garden of Boundary Bay, a labour of love by one local resident. The garden has been described as 'so elegantly designed and cleverly planted that you would think it had been done by a team of professionals.'

The "Compost Bin"

1. I am still awaiting evidence from *World Naked Gardening Day*. I am deeply disappointed with the lack of submissions.

2. *The Trans-Plant...* or the diary of an un(ful)filled garden.

I.

After being traumatized by a cold and wet spring – we searched for respite "beach with umbrella drinks". Not really, but close...

The intermittent internet let through an email from Hiromi – to the effect that "Bonnie needs to move a large* *Pieris japonica* NOW. It needs a home. Your home. Tomorrow."

I was 5000 km away 'today' so was unlikely to be home 'tomorrow'. Now what? I suggested that a nice root ball sitting on the driveway could do the trick; "Perry" would survive as it was cold and wet. Then I would find it a lovely home when I came home.

-- "Nope" came the email, "Perry is pretty naked. Roots are exposed. We can plant it. Where do you want it?"

-- "Well, how big is it?"



ria Issa

on a

-- “*Only 7 ft.”

-- “Only?” [yikes!] Here is the ‘before’ picture, complete with Rick as size reference.

With another umbrella drink pending, I thought for a while, then came up with some inaccurate directions to approximate the right general area. Knowing my garden, and the fact that if one digs anywhere, one does not hit oil, but rocks, or roots, or rocks AND roots... I mentally wished them good luck. Fingers crossed. The airwaves went silent. I went back to my umbrella drink. It was delicious.

A time later, the following photo appeared. Do you see the “rocks and roots” potential? However, apparently, according to Rick and friend, the poor souls who did the serious heavy lifting, the ground “wasn’t so bad”. Liars.

By the time I came home, Perry looked as if he’d always lived there, green and happy, as in spite of my inaccurate directions, Rick had found the perfect spot, and Hiromi had done some serious watering.

This is definitely the best mode of long-distance gardening – drink in hand, wave the magic internet wand – and watch plants appear in your garden. I highly recommend it.

II.

“Pride cometh before a fall” & “God does not smite with a stick” were my mother’s regular admonishments to me – with good reason. Blithely watching plants appear in my garden was just too good to be true.

-- “My neighbour’s house will be demolished. He had a lovely garden. He has some rhodies,” quoth Hiromi, the bearer of temptations.

-- “I will try to negotiate them for you, but don’t hold out too much hope as the lady said something about ‘not letting people dig stuff up’.”

Hope springs eternal, but fizzles immediately thereafter.

Negotiations were reaching NAFTA proportions, when triumphant, Hiromi announced that there was good news and bad news. The good news – she had made a deal with the contractor to let us rescue what could be rescued: one 12-ft azalea and three 8-ft rhodies. The bad news was that while the contractor was happy to rip out the rhodies with a backhoe, as they were near the house foundations and they had to be gone, the azalea was up to us to dig, and “good luck with that”. I was seeing Fate’s *Pieris* parallels. Still, it was a great deal: three live rhodies instead of three trashed rhodies – and they would be “dug” out – I would only have to dig them *in*.

Feeling positive, Hiromi and I made a dig-date for the weekend before the backhoe came.

Fate’s parallel was working again: that weekend was hot. Hiromi and I dug, and scraped, and pulled, and dug, and got sunburn and dirty, and heaved and hauled. Instead of internet magic, I generated a personal blister. It was thirsty work. Instead of umbrella drinks, we nearly emptied Capilano dam. We got Ally-the-Azalaea out. We ruddled her to the car on a dolly. We had a problem. The car’s trunk was 6 ft. Ally was 12 ft. The back seat down, Ally was bundled into the car, roots first – but that still left a lot hanging, so to speak. We covered her with that thin anti-frost fabric so that the 50 kmph winds wouldn’t rip her leaves off. Then, with a rope, we attached the roots to the front seat – so she wouldn’t hop out as we headed up Mountain Highway.

The caravan set off: first car-with-Ally and Ally-hanging-out; second car with Hiromi and hazard lights flashing. If I went slowly, Ally dragged on the ground and the cursing was palpable from the long trail of people held up behind me. If I went fast, the aerodynamic lift raised Ally, ready to take off like a kite, with Hiromi’s telepathic ‘slow down’ messages coming thick and fast.



Dollarton is long, very long. Main street is a mess. Mountain highway is crowded.

On the Lynn bridge, a woman in the car next to me rolled down her window and angrily hollered over,

-- “Yer plant is draggin’ on the road!” Yeah. I was stopped. So was the airfoil effect.

-- “Oh really? Thank you. Very kind of you for letting me know.” Meanwhile thinking, “... and what do you suggest I do about it right now?” Yup: I was tired and getting grouchy.

Mountain highway: the operative word is “mountain”. Finally, we made it up that mountain, we made it home. An exhausted Hiromi was reprieved and allowed to go to her home and Ally and her naked roots (Fate!) went straight into

the pond. An exhausted me was certainly not going to dig any more that day.

The next day, the perfect spot chosen, the dig was proceeding well until Fate had me hit “rock bottom”. The rock wasn’t big by North Van standards: 3x2x1 – feet, not inches! Still it had to be “egyptianed” out, like they built the pyramids: levered up, soil pushed under; levered up the other side; soil pushed under and thus slowly lifted till it could be rolled. Then Ally was finally in and settled. She is GLORIOUS.

Tomorrow we go to pick up the Rhodies: that chapter in June.

