



# THE BULLETIN

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL OF  
GARDEN CLUBS

MARCH 2023

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## CINDY TATARYN, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

### PLEASE FORWARD TO ALL OF YOUR CLUB MEMBERS



**Celebrating 80 years!** Save the date and come for CAKE! You are invited to our next Annual General Meeting **April 1, 2023**. Your club should have received by email the registration form for attending the meeting from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Bonsor Recreation Complex in Burnaby.

Registration forms are also available on our website. Our speakers will be **Maria Valana** with a presentation on 'Starting Seeds' and there will be a presentation from our scholarship recipient, **Trevor Schibli** from the University of Northern BC in Prince George.

The elections this year will be for:

**President (two-year term);** <https://bcgardenclubs.com/about/exec-board/president-terms-of-reference/>

**Second Vice President (two-year term);** <https://bcgardenclubs.com/about/exec-board/second-vice-president-terms-of-reference/>

**Secretary (two-year term);** <https://bcgardenclubs.com/about/exec-board/secretary-terms-of-reference/>

**Scholarship Fund Committee (three-year term);** <https://bcgardenclubs.com/about/exec-board/scholarship-committee-terms-of-reference/>

Our secretary Pam Robertson has agreed to stand again as secretary. All of these positions are very rewarding and not too challenging and we would love for you to join our team. Please contact our secretary

Pam Robertson at [secretary@bcgardenclubs.com](mailto:secretary@bcgardenclubs.com) or myself at [1vicepresident@bcgardenclubs.com](mailto:1vicepresident@bcgardenclubs.com) if you are interested in any of these positions.

There will also be a Floral Art Show again. The show schedule will be available on our website [www.bcgardenclubs.com](http://www.bcgardenclubs.com).

Come for the presentations! Come for the food! Come for the vendors! Come for the Floral Art Show! Come for the camaraderie! Come for the cake! We would love to see you there, so please come!

BCCGC will be teaching flower arranging courses again. If you have a love of flowers and would like to learn how to make them into arrangements, our Level 1 – Introduction to Traditional Designs was created just for you. It teaches flower arranging as a hobby to beginners. If you are interested in taking this course please contact me at [1vicepresident@bcgardenclubs.com](mailto:1vicepresident@bcgardenclubs.com).

Our 80th Anniversary celebration 🎉 continues with another Zoom presentation on **March 8 at 7:00 PM** by Betty Girard, **'Gardening in Iceland; It's Not as Icy as You Think!'** Betty is a member of the South Burnaby Garden Club and both the Vancouver and Fraser Valley Dahlia Societies. To register for this presentation, please contact me at [1vicepresident@bcgardenclubs.com](mailto:1vicepresident@bcgardenclubs.com).

# SCHOLARSHIP FUND NEWS

BY ANITA IRANI, SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE

## LOVE OF GARDENING LEADS TO EBB AND GROW

Aimee Isakson has a lifetime of experience with gardening and landscaping, starting when she was just six years old when she worked at her parents campground in Pierre's Point in Salmon Arm. Through her business, Ebb & Grow Garden Co. in Victoria, Aimee not only shares her love of "growing things" but her love of photography and engaging with others.

Dear BC Council of Garden Clubs,

I was the recipient of the BC Council Garden Clubs Award in the Spring of 2022 through Camosun College.

Thank you so much for the generous contribution!

In 2020 I was laid off with my position as a Flight Attendant with Westjet. At that moment I knew I had to follow through with my passion for landscaping and elevate my side gardening gig. I bought a truck and took on more clients and 'cleaned up yards' and mowed lawns. After too many questions like, "what is this plant" and I couldn't always answer, I decided to sign up with Camosun to attend their Horticulture Technician program. School helped me grow the confidence to answer that question along with more confidence overall in the field. During full-time school, I managed to still work and practice in my clients' gardens along the way.

I have been able to use the bursary towards continuing education in Garden Design, more gardening books and a few other online programs. It has also gone towards updating a few important tools in my tool box!

Thank you again from myself and my business, Ebb & Grow Garden Co.!

Aimee Isakson





## **Celebrating over 50 years of scholarship. Help BC horticultural students further their education by donating to the scholarship fund.**

### **How to Donate to the BCCGC Scholarship Fund**

If you wish to make a donation by cheque please send it to:

BC Council of Garden Clubs  
Scholarship Fund c/o: BC Council of  
Garden Clubs

10952 McAdam Road

North Delta, BC, V4C 3E8

Please ensure that the cheques are made out to the "Vancity Community Foundation" and the memo field shows "BC Council of Garden Clubs." If the person or organization that the donation is from does not clearly show on the cheque, please include a brief note with the cheque indicating who the donation is from and a return address (so that an income tax receipt can be issued).

If you wish to donate online with a credit card:

Go to

[www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca](http://www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca).

Click the "Funds" button on the top right side of the home page.

Locate the BC Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship Fund, either by scrolling through the list or searching "garden clubs" in the search bar.

Once on the BCCGC Scholarship Fund page, click "Give to this Fund" and complete the form.

OR

Go to [www.bcgardenclubs.com](http://www.bcgardenclubs.com).

Go to the "Scholarship Fund" on the top bar and click on the "Donate" page below.

Scroll down to the link to Vancity Community Foundation and click on it. This will take you to the BCCGC Scholarship Fund page.

Click on "Give to this Fund" and complete the form.

Thank You!

# CLIMATE RESILIENT LANDSCAPING CAN COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

BY JUDI STEEVES, DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS, OKANAGAN XERISCAPE ASSOCIATION

With the weather extremes resulting from climate change, we need to create gardens that are adaptable to dry summers and drought conditions — landscapes that are resilient.

Xeriscape is about gardening with nature; about choosing the right plant for the right place; about creating landscapes that take cues from wild plants that grow naturally in our region.

In the Okanagan Valley, xeriscape is about beautiful outdoor spaces, using drought-tolerant plants, often selected from the same plant families we find on our hikes in the hills around the settled portions of the valley.

However, xeriscape is not only relevant in the semi-arid conditions of the Okanagan, but just as important in the rest of the province, where dry spells are now a common part of weather patterns during the growing season.

The Okanagan Xeriscape Association was founded in 2009 by Gwen Steele, a nursery-founder and member of a pioneer Kelowna gardening family, and Lisa Masini, a landscape designer.

The next year, the founding board of this non-profit organization created a Xeriscape Demonstration Garden outside the H2O Aquatic Centre in Kelowna, which they dubbed the UnH2O Xeriscape Demonstration Garden.

Support came from the federal government's environment ministry, the City of Kelowna, which owns the land, and the Okanagan Basin Water Board, as well as the local landscape and irrigation industries.

The goal of the garden is to educate everyone about the versatile range of garden styles that can be achieved using xeriscape principles, a vital concept in today's changeable climate.

It's a 5,000-square-foot garden with seven theme plots: the Mediterranean, Pollinator, Ornamental Grass, Gravel, Native Plant, Woodland, and Lawn Alternative Gardens.

Some will always need a little supplemental water, but others, now that they're established, will survive and thrive without any more than natural precipitation, saving a considerable amount of a rare resource — water.

Volunteers learn as they work to maintain the gardens, which feature lush growth and colour and interesting structure throughout all seasons of the year.

Last year, OXA created another, smaller xeriscape demonstration garden in the adjacent city of West Kelowna, called the West Kelowna Xeriscape Spirit Square Garden, using different perennials, on the whole. Here, new varieties are on trial to test how well they respond to the seven principles of xeriscape used to build and maintain the garden.

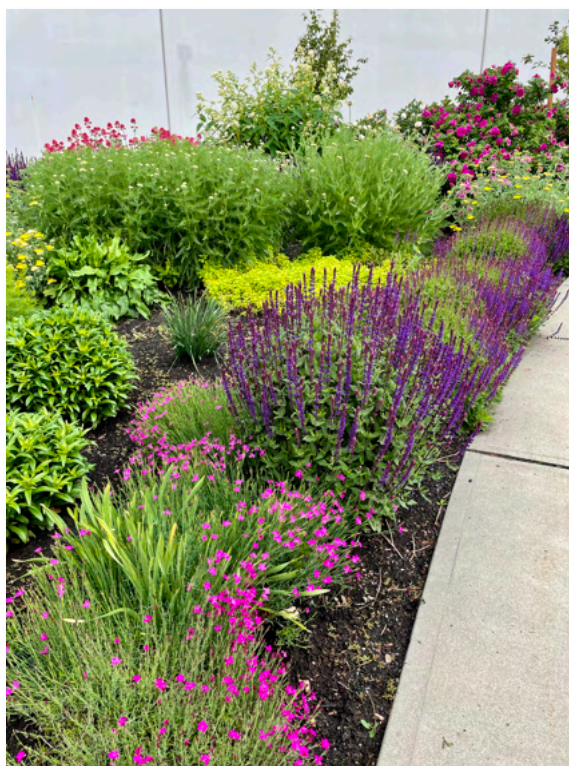
In addition to the gardens, OXA maintains an evolving website: <https://okanaganxeriscape.org>, which includes a continually updated blog with knowledgeable articles about xeriscape topics. It features a popular and extensive xeriscape plant database featuring hundreds of plants, with a search engine that can select plants by such criteria as growth habit, flower colour, height and spread, etc.

Anyone can learn about the principles of xeriscape on the website, as well as enjoy vivid photos of the demonstration gardens and other examples of xeriscape.

OXA does ask that those who use and enjoy the website support the non-profit's work by taking out a membership, which is only \$25 a year.



Photos by Judi Steeves, Okanagan Xeriscape Association



# Growers Delight

## Granular Soil Activator

NEW ORGANIC HOUSE BLEND 4-2-2 with HUMIC

Growers Delight is a soil activator enriched with organically sourced materials. Along with NPK plus CA, also includes many other trace elements. Improves soil structure and activates the soil's fertility naturally.



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- Lawn maintenance & care

[www.organicdirtsupplements.ca](http://www.organicdirtsupplements.ca)

Growers Delight is now a member of COTA, the Canada Organic Trade Association. Check us out: <https://organicdirtsupplements.ca/>. Use code BCCG12 for special discounts.



Llona Godin, Williams Lake Garden Club

# HELP THE CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST INVASIVE SPECIES

## SPREAD THE WORD, NOT THE PLANT PEST!

As spring approaches, many people in Canada will be preparing to refurbish their gardens.

Help us inform gardeners from coast to coast of the role they can play in protecting Canada's environment.

We have compiled some of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) calls to action and existing resources that could be shared with your members and amplified through your communications channels. We also have activities and tips for junior [plant health heroes](#) and new gardeners.

### Calls to action

Be aware before you buy seeds or plants online. [Tiny seeds you buy online can cause big trouble](#) for Canada's environment.

Just because certain seeds are available on a website, doesn't mean that the plant species is safe for native plants and animals in Canada, or is allowed to be imported.

- A person importing seed into Canada must comply with Canada's [Seeds Act](#) and [Seeds Regulations](#), and other applicable legislation.
- Check to see if the species you are considering is a [plant regulated as pest in Canada](#). Prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species.
- We also encourage gardeners to [be plant wise](#) by looking for provincial "Plant Wise" or "Grow Me Instead" campaigns to learn which plants are invasive and harmful to our communities.

We welcome your ideas on topics of interest and suggestions for opportunities to work together in the future to provide gardeners with information on invasive species, and more.

Michelle Wilcox (her/elle)  
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Canadian Food Inspection Agency/Government of  
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<http://www.inspection.canada.ca>





Live the  
garden  
life

AND MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE



Vivre  
la vie  
de jardin

C'EST FAIRE UNE  
DIFFÉRENCE



Jane Timmis, Gibsons Garden Club

To continue with our theme of planting purple to support the Canadian Garden Council and Communities in Bloom inviting us to plant purple in 2023, we are featuring some photos from our members of *Camassia*, Indian hyacinth, camas, wild hyacinth.

*Camassia* is a genus of plant in the asparagus family. They are bulbous perennial plants that emerge early in spring. The colours vary from pale lilac or white to deep purple or blue-violet. This is a wonderful flower to colour entire meadows when in flower.

Indigenous people of the Pacific Northwest actively managed and cultivated blue camas. It was an important food source and also acted as a physical boundary marker. Camas bulbs were pit-cooked and tasted like baked sweet potato. Eating too many baked bulbs caused excessive flatulence, especially if undercooked!



Visnja Gasparic Vojvodic,  
Richmond Garden Club

**Canadian Western Association of Floral Art Clubs  
Emmanuel Baptist Church  
2121 Cedar Hill Cross Rd  
Victoria**

**April 22  
12 – 2PM  
by donation**

**Floral Art Show  
“Islands in the Sea”**



**Unique Quality Vases for  
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**Show Schedule available at:  
[www.cwafac.weebly.com](http://www.cwafac.weebly.com)**



## **BROWN ELFIN BUTTERFLY, *CALLOPHRYS AUGUSTINUS***

**BY CINDY TATARYN, VANCOUVER MASTER GARDENERS**

**Range:** The brown elfin is found in the Lower Mainland near Burns Bog and in parts of southern Vancouver Island and parts of the interior of BC.

**Larval Food Plants:** The larvae eat the flowers and buds of Labrador tea. Also the flowers, buds, and seeds of salal (*Gaultheria*), arbutus (*Arbutus*), bog laurel, bear berry, Kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva ursi*), California lilac (*Ceanothus*), and apple.

**Adult Food Source:** The adult elfin butterfly eats blueberry, cherry, buckwheat, willow, kinnikinnick, and plum.

**Time of Flight:** April to May

**Life Cycle:** The brown elfin is a frequent visitor to bogs, pine forests, and urban areas where it can find its preferred host plants.

### **Description:**

**Larva:** The eggs are laid at the base of or in the flower bud. It is green when laid but quickly changes colour as the larva develops. The egg hatches within five days and the larva feeds on the flower and developing fruit. The entire development from egg to pupa takes one month from mid-May to mid-June. Pupation take place on the ground among dead plant material. The pupa remains dormant until the following spring.

**Adult:** The adult brown elfin lacks a tail. The upper side of the wings are similar to other elfin but the underside of the wing is a uniform chocolate brown.

**Native Plant:** Kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)

Kinnikinnick is a food source for both the larva and adult brown elfin butterfly.

Kinnikinnick is a trailing evergreen, often forming mats of vegetation with long, flexible rooting branches. It has dark brownish-red bark. The leaves are alternating, leathery, oval-shaped, dark-green and shiny on the top and paler underneath.

The flowers are pinkish-white, small and urn shaped. They droop and are in clusters at the end of branches. The bright red berries are 7-10 mm and have very hard seeds. They ripen late and stay on the plant into the winter.

Kinnikinnick grows in sandy, well-drained exposed sites, dry rocky slopes, dry forest, and clearings. It grows from low elevation to alpine tundra areas, from the Alaskan panhandle to Oregon and across North America. It is a good plant for dry places. It also forms a low-growing ground cover and can also be used as a trailing plant in a container or rock garden. It can be propagated by layering.

Kinnikinnick provides food for mammals and birds, including hummingbirds. It is also an important early-season butterfly flower nectar source.

### **Sources:**

*Butterflies and Butterfly Gardening in the Pacific Northwest*, by Mary Kate Woodward (2005, Whitecap Books).

*Native Plants in the Coastal Garden* by April Pettinger with Brenda Costanzo (1996 & 2002, Whitecap Books).

*Plants of Coastal British Columbia including Washington, Oregon & Alaska* by Jim Pojar & Andy MacKinnon (2014, BC Ministry of Forests, Partners Publishing and Lone Pine).

*E-Fauna BC: Electronic Atlas of the Fauna of British Columbia [efauna.bc.ca]*. Lab for Advanced Spatial Analysis, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, by Brian Klinkenberg, 2020/2021.

BROWN ELFIN, CONT'D:



Brown Elfin and Kinnikinnick photos by [stock.adobe.com](https://www.stock.adobe.com)



## NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

We would love to feature your club or community garden in the newsletter.

Tell us about some of the projects your club or community garden is involved in.

You are invited to submit an article at any time (please include photos and name of author). Photos should be high resolution and you should include the name of the photographer if possible. Articles should be in the range of 300 - 500 words. If you have an idea for a

longer piece, connect with the newsletter editor in advance to discuss your idea.

Articles are due on the 15th of the month preceding publication. If they are submitted after that date, they will be held for the next issue.

The **next due date is March 15 for April 1**. Submissions/inquiries: [newsletter@bcgardenclubs.com](mailto:newsletter@bcgardenclubs.com)

Lynda Pasacreta, Editor

Pam Robertson, Copy Editor

### BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS

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