



# THE LEAF

THE LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Established 1943

May 2024

## President's Message - Donna Wasyluk

Hello Everyone,

When you read this, our main event of the year, the plant sale, will be over; we won't yet know the outcome but with the meticulous organization and attention to detail that the MALS have demonstrated and with the help of all the wonderful volunteers, I am sure the sale will be a successful one.

**Van Dusen Field Trip:** There are still seats available on the bus - please sign up for this private tour of the gardens.

**Gerry's Garden:** Our club has been approached by Gerry's Garden asking club members to donate plants from their gardens to replace ones in Gerry's that were damaged during the cold of last winter. Gerry's Garden is a favourite of the Lynn Valley Garden Club and we have donated plants to them in the past. Specifically they are asking for *Rudbeckia*; *Bee balm/Monarda* - *Jacob Cline*; *Amelia\** and *Fothergilla*.

If you would like to donate plants, please email [frankmorton@gmail.com](mailto:frankmorton@gmail.com) to advise him of the plants you have. Once he has confirmed that he can use the plants, you can leave them in the garden 'behind the red bench located west of the circle bed which is in the middle of the garden'. You can then email him to let him know that you have dropped off the plants. Alternatively, he has offered to pick up plants from members' houses.

After our Loutet Farm Tour on June 20<sup>th</sup> (more info to come), Gerry's Garden has consented to us bringing our folding chairs and continuing our evening in the garden.

**Donations Committee:** We need to have two club members join with one former Donations Committee member to strike a new committee to choose the recipients of donations of 50% of plant sale proceeds and 100% of proceeds from the DIG for 2024. This would entail one or two meetings for selection which will then be voted on by members at the November AGM. If you can volunteer for this committee please contact Penny Le Couteur. Also, if you know of any potential recipients for, our donations let Penny know as soon as possible, so that we can be sure they meet our criteria and possibly get on the list.

At the end of the year several of our executive will be retiring from their positions. We will need to fill those positions to ensure the successful ongoing operation of the Club. More information will be coming on forming a **Nominating Committee** which finds volunteers for the new executive. Please consider volunteering for an executive position, which is a two-year commitment. The Club needs you! [...and it's fun! - Ed]

Thank you and see you on the 16<sup>th</sup>,  
Donna

[\*if you know what 'Amelia' is please let me know as Google couldn't - I'm serious! - Ed]

LVGC MEETINGS  
3rd Thursday of each  
month (except July  
and August) currently  
at  
**Mount Seymour United  
Church**  
**1200 Parkgate Ave,**  
North Vancouver,  
BC V7H 2X9  
(604) 929-1336  
*Meetings start promptly at*  
**7:00 PM**

**SPEAKER**  
**GERRI WILLMER**  
**FLOWER ARRANGING**

If you need to contact anyone at LVGC please use email or phone! If you must send a thing - phone to get the address and send it to a VIP (list is on the next page)  
**PLEASE USE  
ELECTRONIC ACCESS**

Your emails are welcome:  
[Lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:Lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter@gmail.com)



## Executive 2024

### President

Donna Wasylik .

### Co-Vice Presidents

Penny LeCouteur .

Daphne Page .

### Co-Secretaries

Marilyn Bullock .

Lynne Frith .

### Treasurer

Jennifer Sydenham .

### Membership Co-Chairs

Ann McKinnon .

Krystina Madej .

### Members at Large (MALs)

Jacquie D'Auria .

Sarah-Jane Gray .

Miriam Scott .

Tom Davis .

## Committees

### Plant Table

Cath Rickey .

### Hospitality

Sharon Carabetta .

Bev Fraine .

Brenda Reid .

### Sunshine / Door Prizes

Hiromi Matsui .

### Website

Aline Burlone .

### Newsletter Editors

Maria Issa .

Margaret Campbell .

### Executive Meetings

June Executive Meeting will be  
chez Penny Le Couteur



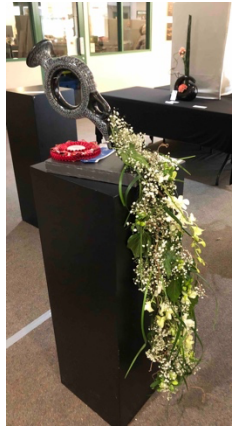
Newsletter items to  
[lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter@gmail.com) by May 10, 2024

### Thanks to LEAF contributors:

Aline Burlone, Sue Callahan,  
Anna Maria D'Angelo, Jackie  
D'Auria, Tom Davis, Carol  
Ferryman, Taylor Hewstan,  
Andrew Massil, Kelly Robertson,  
Miriam Scott

## MAY SPEAKER

GERRI WILLMER  
FLOWER ARRANGING



Gerri Willmer is the current Past President and now Program Coordinator of the BC Floral Art Society. She has traveled to watch floral demonstrations in many other countries, entered many flower shows and has become a Floral Design judge. Gerri recently won *Best in Show* at the Canadian Western Association of Floral Art Clubs: This was the design entered into a class which was to be presented on the black plinth provided by show. The title to be interpreted was "Crazily over the Edge". There were 12 classes in total with a winner in each class; then *Best in Show* is chosen from those 12. Judging is based on all the *Principles and Elements of Design*, plus points for creativity/originality/interpretation.

**Don't forget: the meeting starts at 7:00 PM sharp!! And this one will be in the atrium and there will not be Zoom.**



## REPORTS

### Co-Vice Presidents - Daphne Page and Penny LeCouteur

There is one more exciting speaker lined up before the SUMMER BREAK (July & August) and here is a sneak peek for the fall meetings:

June - NO SPEAKER but we meet at Loutet Gardens (more info later)

September - **Brian Minter**

October - Gardens for Health

November - Rhododendrons

January - Eagles

We are extremely lucky to have such an amazing line-up for the fall. Mark your calendars and plan to attend in person!

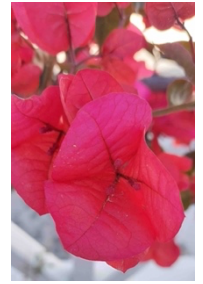
### Treasurer - Jennifer Sydenham

The Club kitty currently contains \$15,218.49. Cool! This is *BEFORE* the Plant Sale and the books are balanced. The auditor will be busy until the end of May. The Plant Sale was a huge \$UCCE\$\$ - the details will be announced at the meeting.

## Membership – Ann McKinnon & Krystina Madej

We currently have 158 fully paid-up members and no waiting list. Your membership cards are available for pick-up at any in-person meeting – or please ask a friend to pick it up for you!

**Your LVGC Membership Card** is worth a fortune! Pick yours up if you haven't already done so. This precious card can net you 10% off at some nurseries – all you have to do is ask. Worst case scenario, they refuse – but the next one won't.



## MALs - Jacquie D'Auria, Tom Davis, Sarah-Jane Gray, Miriam Scott

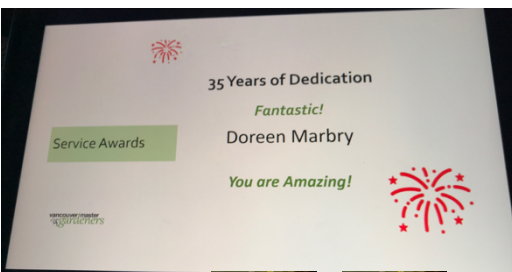
### Plant Sale Follow-up



1. **THANK YOU** to everyone – Success is always a team effort – and this year was no different. You all contributed in your own, wonderful ways – and it was a “Blowout” sale, thanks to you!
2. <<<<<< **IF YOU HAVE ONE OF THESE DEPLOYED ABOUT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD** – Please retrieve it and **BRING IT TO THE MEETING!!!** The wretched things are *expensive* and we can reuse them – so please don't forget them out there in the wild.
3. There were to be no “Early Birds” at the sale, but the Early Bear did not think that that applied to him. See video in the May Links file.  
Again, we want to thank all of you. We very much appreciate all you did!!

## From Marina Bailey

Sorry to say I will be out of town and miss this Thursday's meeting, but wanted to extend my thanks to the late afternoon crew, especially Miriam, who assisted with the unsold plants. **Glad to report that the plants were safely delivered to Mollie Nye House to be sold at their plant sale on May 25.** Some of the proceeds are sent to Sage House, a charity that is helped by both LVGC and Mollie Nye. Have a great meeting and see you soon.



## CONGRATULATIONS to Doreen Marbry

- Anna Marie D'Angelo

Doreen Marby – was recognized for her 35 years being a Master Gardener (at the Vancouver Master Gardeners' May 6 AGM). This is an amazing accomplishment by an amazing gardener and all-around great person. Well done! ... and we are very proud as she is 'ours'!!



What insect is a quarter of a bear and a half of a deer?

Answer: a Bee



Friend who makes wax and lots of honey

Friend who is extra fuzzy and really loves flowers

Friend who pollinates and eats pests but needs more personal space

*World Naked Gardening Day* ... brought out more submissions than I expected.



Kelly R wrote "I don't have any naked selfies to share, but grew this well-endowed dirty little carrot in my garden a few years back and found it amusing.

Naked artistry was evident in a submission from **Andrew M** who wrote the following:

"...thought this would be interesting as AI seems to be

discussed everywhere these days. On a whim I asked AI to create a poem for "naked gardening day" and within seconds it produced this:

*Bare feet on the earth below,  
Naked skin, a natural glow.*

*Gardening free, without a care  
Connecting with nature, without a single snare.*

*The sun shines bright, the breeze is light,  
As we tend the garden, in all our might.  
No clothes to bind, no worries to bear,  
Just the joy of growth, and the beauty we share.*

*So let us embrace, this day of delight,  
And garden naked, under the warm sun's light.  
For in nature's embrace, we find our peace,  
And our connection to the earth, release.*

..and then the cheeky AI added:  
*Happy Naked Gardening Day!  
(May 6th)"*



*Plant Sale*

- Enquiring minds want to know: Which MAL was seen last week at Loutet farm - buying tomatoes?

"BEFORE"



# “DURING”

## From Carol Ferryman “

By the time my shift started there was little to do other than take down tables and move around some rather miserable looking plants. However, I must tell you about the highlight of my day and a potential new club member.

Close to the checkout table, I saw a young man carrying a baby in a snuggly, so I smiled and said, “You are introducing your baby to gardening at a young age.” He opened the snuggly to reveal a tiny baby, just 9 days old. His wife then appeared with some plants she had purchased. This started a conversation from which I learned that the couple, Sam and Niki, lived near Cates Park and only have a small sunny balcony. Then another young-looking women appeared who turned out to be Niki’s mother, and she had recently moved to North Van from Toronto. (This started a conversation about Toronto where I met and married Lyle after arriving from U.K. in 1967.)

To cut a long story short, I invited them to come up to our garden as I had lots of *hen and chicks* which are sun loving and drought tolerant, as well as cherry tomatoes which were all sold out at the sale. Niki then had to feed baby Robin so she sat on the bench in the garden at St. Clement’s whilst Mum and husband followed me up to Dempsey. They were so interested in the plants I had growing in the driveway and the time soon went by along with talking about places I remembered from our days in Toronto.

Unfortunately, they had to leave to rescue Niki and baby Robin from St. Clement’s, but mother (I think her name is Linda or Lynn) showed interest in joining the Club. She is currently renting somewhere near Berkley and volunteers at the Thrift Shop in Mt Seymour United Church where the club meets. She will go on the website and who knows, we may have found a future President or Secretary!!

Just wish I had taken a photo of the baby, but it just goes to show you that plant sales attract people of all ages and they are prepared to travel quite a distance. Unfortunately, I didn’t find out how they had heard about the sale, but judging by the number of people who attended, word got around.

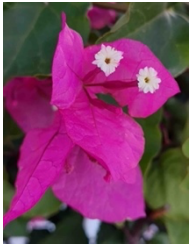


*From Tom Davis*

One year, back at the original, indoor St Clement's sale, Diane S and I were cashiers. A young couple with 2 kids came up with a flat of tomatoes. I said, "Wow, you must have a big yard!" The man asked, "Why? Don't you get 1 tomato off each plant?" After a short conversation, he asked if he could return most of what he had bought and ended up buying 4 plants instead of the many he originally thought he needed.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS - LVGC CLUB STUFF



- **REGULAR MEETINGS now commence at 7:00 PM sharp!!**

The "business" part of the meeting will be 30 minutes - so if you have items for the general populace, please let Donna know in good time for it to be put on the agenda. Please keep comments and announcements mercifully short.

BRIGHT SPOTS will be enjoyed at 7:30 in the foyer to facilitate interactions, questions, and tea and cookie consumption.

The PRESENTER will start at 8:00 PM sharp and this month is will be HANDS-ON flower arranging.

- **PLANT TABLE AND SEED EXCHANGE**

We are reopening our new **Plant Table and Seed Exchange**. There won't be a member present at the table and we hope that everyone will abide by the honour system to pay for their purchases.

If you have a special plant, gardening book, magazine, tool or garden doodad that you'd like to donate to the table, simply put a price on it and all monies will be collected and added to the Club's income. Everything should be in new or near new condition and plants should be well potted up and appealing to members.

Seeds for the seed exchange should be labelled and dated. They can be left in the box.

**If you have brought a plant for the table remember to check the table before you leave and TAKE YOUR UNSOLD PLANT HOME.**

- **Please remember to BRING YOUR NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM for the HARVEST PROJECT....**

and your own **MUG** for tea (*decaf, of course!*), ...and your 'something' for the **PLANT TABLE & SEED EXCHANGE**; and **CASH** if you want to buy something from the Plant Table (*no, we don't have a slate*).



## THE GREAT LVGC BUS TRIP IS BACK!!

Thanks to Rita Marshall, we'll go to VanDusen Gardens on **June 1**.  
**THERE ARE STILL SEATS AVAILABLE!!!!**



**June 1st, Saturday, Van Dusen Gardens Guided Tour, 9AM to 2 PM**

Meet at Mount Seymour United Church Parking Lot **9:00 AM**.

*Please park outside the Mount Seymour United Church parking lot as they use this space on weekends.*

Bus leaves a few minutes after 9:00 AM. (Bus is provided by LVGC)

**YOU PAY the \$10.00 entrance** at the Gardens, and this includes a 45 minute guided tour.

Lunch is optional: you buy your own at the cafeteria, or make reservations at restaurant, or bring your own picnic.

**Return bus leaves at 2:00 PM.** If you are not on the bus, it is assumed you made your own way home via transit or Uber.

Sign-up sheet will be available at the May meeting, the first 54 people get to go. Club will pay the cost of the bus. The guided tour will be split into two groups, 27 people per group, rain or shine.

Sign-up sheet will require your name and phone number. Obviously, as there is limited room on the bus, it's "first signed up, first served" ... Wait list will be available... last minute cancellations accepted,



**Thursday, June 20 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Loutet Farm - 1400 Rufus Avenue - North Vancouver**

**PLEASE GO DIRECTLY TO LOUDET FARM**  
**There will not be a meeting at Mt. Seymour United Church**

Our VP, Penny LaCouteur, will be your club member contact for this tour.

Becka Nathan, Education and Program Coordinator for the Edible Garden Project, will be our host. She will take us on a tour of the farm and the area behind the farm where Loutet Farm is working on restoration projects such as removing invasive species and planting and supporting native plants.

There is free paved parking near the entrance to the farm (lot shared by Loutet Farm, Loutet Park, and Gerry's Garden). Once inside the farm, paths are wood chips, and there are no steep inclines on the site. We may also use the dirt trails of the forest and/or the grass field during the field trip. There are no animals on site, but other environmental allergens may be present.

Washroom facilities are available while the park is open (generally from sunrise to sunset) and are wheelchair accessible. After the tour we will gather in Gerry's Garden for social interaction amid the flowers! Please bring your fold up chair and any refreshments.

- *Wear appropriate shoes and clothing*
- *Bring folding chair*
- *Bring own treats*

### **OTHER PEOPLE'S STUFF:**

#### **Spring Gardening Workshops: Continuing to June 15**

Learn gardening techniques suitable for BC's coastal environments. This program is a partnership between the Edible Garden Project and the District of North Vancouver. By donation. Location: check location of each event prior to registration. One is bound to catch your interest.

#### **Arts In The Garden: May 25, May 26**

They need volunteers so sign up on the link in the April Links file – or check out their website.

**Arts in the Garden need more volunteers to 'person' the different gardens. They are desperate!! – Consider it, it might be fun!!**

#### **Gerry's Garden needs plants**

Please see the President's message for details and contact. If you would like to donate plants, please email [frankmorton@gmail.com](mailto:frankmorton@gmail.com) to advise him of the plants you have.



#### **Plant-related Bits & Bobs**

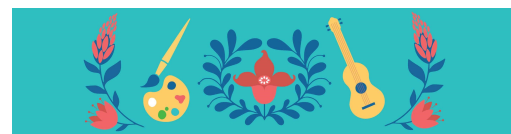
It is truly amazing how many hours one can waste looking at Instagram – and I seem to have ben 'bubbled' by plant-related material. Here are some choice items curated for your clicking pleasure: [You can copy/paste these links – or go to the live links in the May Links file and just click on them. They – should – have the same numbers. Also, if I may suggest, go through them in sequence – they are sort of set up in groups that relate.]

##### **1. Tangle free hose – I NEED THIS!!!**

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C1PsyGtpofN/?igsh=MWJiNGE5YTV1cGo0cQ==>

##### **2. Clever garden shed organizing ideas**

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C5PW1t2uf-T/?igsh=MWozcj3MmlqZDVveg%3D%3D>



### **ARTS IN THE GARDEN CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS**

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, MAY 25 & 26**  
**10:30-4:30PM**  
**RAIN OR SHINE!**

Private and community gardens serve as the backdrop for this annual event, with visual artists, musicians, and performers showcasing their art practices between the flowers, pathways, lawns, and patios of the outdoor spaces, allowing audiences to experience the arts while connecting with nature.

Volunteers will be assigned a garden and help set and attend to the event. Volunteers will be the first point of contact for visitors and responsible for sharing information, collecting admissions, handing out promotional material, and gathering surveys.

Note: Garden hosts will provide a table and chair for you at the garden entrance.

**[Sign up with your availability here](#)**

Questions? Contact our Administrative Coordinator, [Gwenyth Chao](mailto:Gwenyth.Chao)  
Email: [Gwenyth@northvanarts.ca](mailto:Gwenyth@northvanarts.ca) Phone: 604-988-6844

### 3. Pots/Philosophy

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C517GOfvWxH/?igsh=MWcydHNwdWcwmImbg%3D%3D>

### 4. What to do with those pots in your - now - organized shed - slug traps!

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6bpGLMqGKu/?igsh=MXZsNnA1bnN2aHN6bw%3D%3D>

### 5. Clever stone path idea

[https://www.instagram.com/p/C6WWHzZM3oA/?igsh=MXFzazBxd3dkMzAyaw%3D%3D&img\\_index=1](https://www.instagram.com/p/C6WWHzZM3oA/?igsh=MXFzazBxd3dkMzAyaw%3D%3D&img_index=1)

### 6. Easy tree planting - Maggie, this is for you! - and all the other rogue gardeners out there: it's quick!

[https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6PXGa4vD\\_p/?igsh=MWM5c3lodXR1ajBtYQ%3D%3D](https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6PXGa4vD_p/?igsh=MWM5c3lodXR1ajBtYQ%3D%3D)

### 7. Lavender and olla - I'll be doing this as soon as the Leaf is out.

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C51HgmJqgIH/?igsh=MWdscm43bWtpMGh5Yg%3D%3D>

### 8. This plant watering just tickled my fancy

<https://www.instagram.com/p/C6xVj2KrLKy/?igsh=GhmNTIjYWR4NXV1>

### 9. Commentary on 'LIFE'

<https://www.instagram.com/p/C6PuMDwp5Hf/?igsh=cDVsy3djZ2RpeHIw>

### 10. .... And we are all better for the commentary above because

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6XZ8QOoWjd/?igsh=MW01dm15cjha2U0dA%3D%3D>

### 11. ...and here is the full list.

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6hfx-rONDS/?igsh=MW14cnkybWp3MWxoMw%3D%3D>

### 12. Consequently - this is "US"!!

[https://www.instagram.com/reel/C5\\_JRIestNN/?igsh=N2Y5ano1N3VmNTM3](https://www.instagram.com/reel/C5_JRIestNN/?igsh=N2Y5ano1N3VmNTM3)

### 13. For the nurses/hospital types among us

<https://www.instagram.com/p/C6U1UAFvP46/?igsh=bXpsZ3RwNXVxbW55>

### 14. Kiku exhibition in Japan

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6iRbKVteFJ/?igsh=Ynpjend4OW9iZGlm>

### 15. Cherry petals

[https://www.instagram.com/reel/C5\\_fWI5MeeI/?igsh=Z3g4MHlpMmV1emhu](https://www.instagram.com/reel/C5_fWI5MeeI/?igsh=Z3g4MHlpMmV1emhu)

### 16. Plant art - I remember seeing (smaller) such things in Indonesia and marveling at the artistry.

[https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6TFxiS\\_tB/?igsh=cm9veDg0aWVncjc2](https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6TFxiS_tB/?igsh=cm9veDg0aWVncjc2)

### 17. There is so much I don't know about Trilliums - and these beauties make me happy.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/C6evOUutEdF/?igsh=MWMwanY1dWx0MG4zZg%3D%3D>

### 18. ...and here is another cool thing - a 'resurrection' plant - I've seen them in real life, but didn't realize...

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6P5GmsRZJN/?igsh=b3Fsc2ttM2Q0cGjq>

### 19. Twin trees - this is just cool.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/C6UTgSTviBe/?igsh=MXgybWZibWRqajl1MQ%3D%3D>

### 20. How to interpret tree rings -

<https://www.instagram.com/p/C6PjIL4uuI9/?igsh=YjliaDU3Znk3MzRz>

### 21. Megaflora - I'm sure you have all seen these somewhere - but... impressive.... watch the whole video!

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C5tF75lr4k6/?igsh=MXh6d3M4eThpdTI0bg%3D%3D>

### 22. Mega seed - this thing is HUGE

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6oD53DNdX3/?igsh=MXV5dzluMGEsMXgzNw%3D%3D>

### 23. Leaf-cutter bee in action

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C5QfoYhRvim/?igsh=MTQ3dW03eHd6YTIsNA%3D%3D>

### 24. Mushroom spores on the wind

[https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6Hvmlp\\_a0/?igsh=MW1nbzBxZWfuznc4dA%3D%3D](https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6Hvmlp_a0/?igsh=MW1nbzBxZWfuznc4dA%3D%3D)

### 25. Spore structure - for those of you into materials engineering: people have been struggling to create 'memory' molecules, metals, structures. Proteins do it all the time.

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C5QfoYhRvim/?igsh=MTQ3dW03eHd6YTIsNA%3D%3D>

### 26. Breathing through stomata

[https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6RV7\\_RrVFz/?igsh=MTZsdGJ0Ynk1ZmNzOQ%3D%3D](https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6RV7_RrVFz/?igsh=MTZsdGJ0Ynk1ZmNzOQ%3D%3D)

### 27. Important Road Safety Announcement - thanks Gillian, for starting me off on this road.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/C6EohchriAc/?igsh=ZnN6am5ncTNhNXN2>

### 28. Weekend work

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C5HHtTRu6HO/?igsh=MWZjMmZwNG9tY25tbQ%3D%3D>

### 29. Approaching the LVGC Plant Sale

[https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6OOQsppr\\_7/?igsh=MW04eW4zZTR1YzZzbQ%3D%3D](https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6OOQsppr_7/?igsh=MW04eW4zZTR1YzZzbQ%3D%3D)

### 30. Nursery

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6XZ8QOoWjd/?igsh=MW01dm15cjha2U0dA%3D%3D>

### 31. Plant shopping

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6CspQTsRGC/?igsh=MWduazc2aW9ndnFwbw%3D%3D>

Walked out of the garden center and the receipt blew out of my hand!





### 32. During plant sale

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6Rt04oq5-I/?igsh=MWVvNWRlejJubHluaw%3D%3D>

### 33. Bringing 'baby' home

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C5tF75lr4k6/?igsh=MXh6d3M4eThpdTI0bg%3D%3D>

### 34. My veg story

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C5HVwDpxtVO/?igsh=MTBta3Vtbmo5MDIy>

### 35. A matter of perspective

<https://www.instagram.com/p/C6xFF1wNSiB/?igsh=MWN6ZGtyYW5nNTJpMw%3D%3D>



## COMPOST BIN – Maria Issa

The Plant Sale brings out the best of LVGC, both in the human and botanical departments (concurrently!). I had forgotten how much fun it is to see everyone, get a moment to chat, exchange gossip, knowledge, thoughts – the wonderful flotsam of social interactions that make life worth living. Hmmm – that reminds me of ‘gossip’ – I read recently that the word ‘gossip’ did not always mean ‘women’s idle talk’ but came from the Old English *godsibb*, from *god* and *sibb*, the term for the godparents of one's child or the parents of one's godchild, generally very close friends. Only in the 16th century, did the word assume the meaning of a person, mostly a woman, one who delights in idle talk, a newsmonger, a tattler. This denigration of the word was also synchronous with women's labor status that eroded considerably – even collapsed entirely– during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

According to their self-representations, western European guilds in the early modern period (1500–1800) were archetypal patriarchal institutions and their statutes prevented women from being anything except wives, daughters or widows and restricted women’s economic participation. (See link) As inheritors of a mostly Western European culture, that economic gap, established so long ago – still exists, and we are still talking about it – but under a different rubric: “According to Statistics Canada (2022) as of 2021, the gender pay gap for full-time and part-time employees is 0.89, which means women make 89 cents of every dollar men make. The gender pay gap for full-time employees is 0.90, which means women make 90 cents of every dollar men make.” (see link).

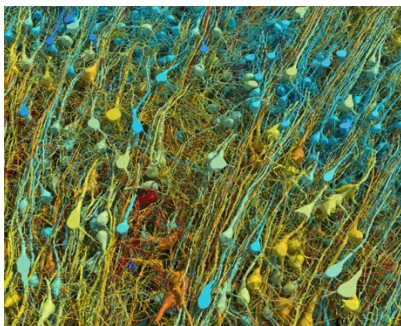
In this context and economic climate, it makes eminent sense to offset food insecurity (Thank you LVGC for bringing those Harvest Project contributions!) and to “teach a man to fish” – or in our case, advance the knowledge of growing one’s own food, of living sustainably, of being stewards of nature and our ecology – of “rogue gardening”.

Oh yes – you’d be surprised how many of our members do that!! Not only do they ‘harrumph’ and clean up the nearest swath of greenway; make butterfly gardens out of public walkways; plant rescued trees in the greenbelt; grow veggies on the boulevard; encroach on the neighbour’s nasty garden and plant flowers for pollinators; go on digs and rescue plants, *etc. etc. etc.* LVGC has a secret, unsung ARMY of militant gardeners... They make the world a better place, one plant at a time. Or as my Granny used to say, “You can’t save the world, but you can create beauty around you, and indeed, you must!”

All this came from ‘idle gossip’ at the Plant Sale... It started with my discussion with a happy Maggie as she hauled away her cedar sapling for planting *behind* her property, and Julie who owned up to gently encroaching on a neighbour, or Jackie who openly tends city property, and Judith who cleans up DNV messes... and I know about Aline’s and Kitty’s butterflyways... and probably there are many, many more.

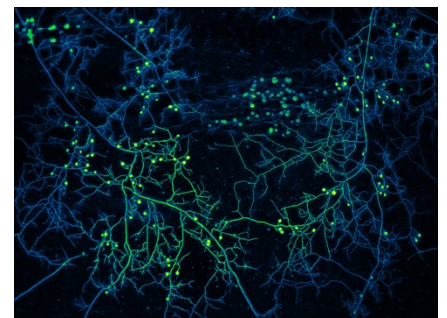
I would love to get a census of LVGC’s militant gardeners’ works: please let me know about your almost-legit gardening projects! I am pretty sure we would all be VERY surprised.

Getting together at the Plant Sale opens up all sorts of new possibilities – beyond just generating money to donate to LVGC’s good causes that further the practise and love of horticulture.



<<This image has nothing to with anything – I just thought it beautiful and wanted to share it. It is from an article by Carissa Wong, in *Nature*, May 9, 2024: It is a cubic millimetre of brain mapped in spectacular detail. Google scientists have modelled a fragment of the human brain at nanoscale resolution, revealing cells with previously undiscovered features. (see link)

Does it remind you of the fungal network that connects the roots of trees? (link!) Just sayin’.>>



*“My garden of flowers is also my garden of thoughts and dreams. The thoughts grow as freely as the flowers, and the dreams are as beautiful.” - Abram L. Urban*