



# THE LEAF

LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Established 1943

February 2025

## President's Message - Donna Wasyluk

Hello Everyone,

I hope you are enjoying these sunny and clear wintery days. By the time you read this, it will be much warmer and wetter: Spring is coming, gardeners!

You'd think things would be quiet for the club during the winter season but already our MALS are planning the next PLANT SALE, speakers are being set up for the Fall and early 2026, and plans are being finalized for this year's garden tour and field trip with an extra special tour added in. I'm always keen to have more social activities incorporated into our calendar so the following is a list of outings that have been planned so far. Please mark your calendars now and more details will follow:

- o April 24: Another evening of table talks
- o May 31: Field trip to Nitobe and UBC Botanical Gardens with picnic and possibly a visit to Southlands Nursery
- o June 19: YWCA Rooftop Garden tour in the afternoon (no general meeting that day)
- o July 5: Local Garden tour: Lynn Valley gardens and wind up at Marilyn's confirmed so far!
- o October 16: Gerri Wilms will be returning to show us how to make Christmas floral arrangements.

The following volunteer positions are available:

- Would you like the opportunity to meet your fellow Lynn Valley Garden Club members? We need an extra hand on the **membership table**, before the meetings, to hand out name tags and keep track of registration.
- We also need some technical expertise to help set up the equipment before the meeting. It is [at last!] very straightforward and simple but an extra brain and pair of hands would be welcome.
- We would welcome some extra help to organize the field trip and garden tour. I am thinking of having carpooling but school bus transport could be considered.

If you can help out, please email me: [wasylikdonna@gmail.com](mailto:wasylikdonna@gmail.com)



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 at 7:00 PM*

**SPEAKERS**  
February 20  
LUCRETIA SCHANFARBER  
*The Power of no-dig  
gardening.*

**March 20**  
JASON CROUCH  
*Roses*

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 to THE LEAF  
are welcome:  
[LVGCnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:LVGCnewsletter@gmail.com)

*"Weeds are flowers too, once you get to know them!" - A.A. Milne*

## 2025 Executive

### President

Donna Wasylik

### Co-Vice Presidents

Penny LeCouteur

Daphne Page

### Secretary

Marilyn Bullock

### Treasurer

Sarah-Jane Gray

### Membership Co-Chairs

Jennifer Sydenham

Krystina Madej

### Members at Large (MALs)

Sarah-Jane Gray

Miriam Scott

Tom Davis

Doreen Dew

Stefanie Rezanoff

Daphne Page

### Committees

#### Plant Table

Maggie Davis

#### Hospitality

Sharon Carabetta

Bev Fraine

Brenda Reid

#### Sunshine / Door Prizes

Jacquie D'Auria

#### Website

Aline Burlone

#### Newsletter Editors

Maria Issa

Margaret Campbell

#### Executive Meeting

March 5<sup>th</sup> Executive meeting will be chez Doreen Dew,



Thanks to all who contributed to this edition: Judith Brook, Aline Burlone, Margaret Campbell, Sharon Carabetta, Tom Davis, Doreen Dew, Rita Marshall, Andrew Massil, Courtney Mitchell, Jackie Morris, Alison Parkinson, Stefanie Rezanoff, Wayne Smith, Jana Young



I would like also to say a few words about the [ongoing, constant, never-ending -ED] quest to find meeting room space in Lynn Valley. I know many of you really want to return our meetings to the Lynn Valley area so please know that the executive wants to return too. We have been in constant contact with St. Stephen's Catholic Church but, after going on four years, they haven't even started renovations yet.

We have lost several members because they don't want to drive down to Seymour at night and I agree that at rush hour it really stinks! We are also having many members stay at home to enjoy the speakers on Zoom.

Unfortunately, there are very few suitable rental spaces in Lynn Valley. The Rec Centres do not commit to a regular monthly rental date, nor do they have storage space. Older churches will eventually have the same renovation requirements as St. Stephens as their parts begin to age (sound familiar?) Many places are just too small to consider, especially if attendance numbers go up if we move back.

Where we are now at Mt. Seymour United Church is absolutely second to none: A very reasonable rental rate, lots of parking, lots of storage, free use of kitchen, don't have to set up and put away chairs, free WIFI and a large screen for Zoom or PowerPoint, and a very easy and affable church staff to work with.

So please don't give up on the club because you have to make a somewhat difficult journey out to Seymour once a month. Come out and enjoy the meetings and the camaraderie. We do have everything at MSUC but we continue to look for a suitable venue in Lynn Valley or somewhere closer to the centre of the District and City. If you know of a building with possible potential, please check it out and let the executive know. We do have a list of 'necessary criteria' for rental space and it is available to anyone who would like it.

Thanks, and see you at the meeting,

Donna

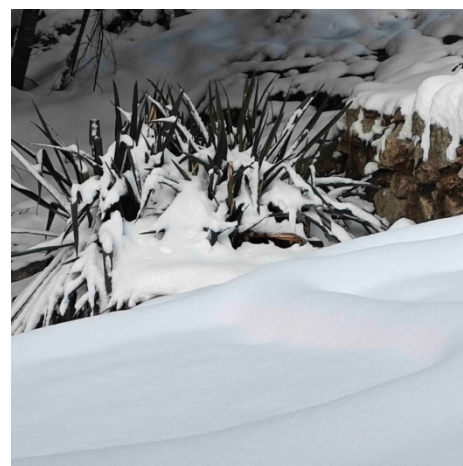


## SPEAKER

LUCRETIA SCHANFARBER

THE POWER OF NO-DIG GARDENING

Lucretia Schanfarber is a dedicated organic gardener, motivational speaker and writer. Her mission is to motivate and teach people to Cultivate Edible Landscapes & Superfood Gardens while Building Soil Health & Fertility. She has worked as a writer for *Alive Magazine*, Canada's most popular health magazine and as a contributing editor to the award-winning *Encyclopedia of Natural Healing*. Lucretia's simple message is: "We will all live longer, healthier and happier lives when we grow more of our own food & work together to build a lasting culture of organic gardening communities." She creatively blends her expertise in natural healing and organic gardening to deliver an entertaining, educational and uplifting presentation. She has written two mini-books "How to Grow Your Own SuperFoods" and "How to Build Your Own SuperSoil".



## REPORTS

### Treasurer – Sarah-Jane Gray

Bank Balance    \$12,822.56

### Membership – Jennifer Sydenham & Krystina Madej

Thanks to all the members who renewed for 2025, and **WELCOME new members!** We are at the unprecedented number of **136/150**. [In case you're wondering – 150 is the number allowed by our constitution and our insurance. -ED]

Currently, there is no waitlist – but that is likely to change as the weather warms up!

Step over ants  
put worms back in the grass,  
rescue baby caterpillars,  
release spiders back  
into your garden,  
open windows for bees  
to fly home.  
**They are all little souls  
that deserve a life too.**



**Only 83 days till the  
PLANT SALE!!**

### MALS – Tom Davies, Doreen Dew, Daphne Page, Stefanie Rezanoff, Miriam Scott

We are now planning for the **2025 Plant Sale** which will be on:

**Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 2pm**

As last year, it will be at the St. Clement's Church parking lot, 3400 Institute Road, in Lynn Valley.

This may seem like a long time away as we dig ourselves out of winter! But you can start thinking about which plants you can divide or dig up for sale and how you are going to grow those seeds. We will be ordering soil for potting and will let you know when and where it will be delivered. We are aiming for mid-March. Watch for an email with all the details and be prepared to bring your own soil container. Pots will be provided at the soil site and if anyone has any unwanted pots you can leave them at this site or contact Miriam.

This year there will be a **RAFFLE** and a **WHITE ELEPHANT** stall – all donations welcome!

Please start collecting beer flats and boxes, which we can use at the sale to carry all those plants home!

The LVGC plant sale this year will have **Vancouver Master Gardeners** answering questions at an information table. If you are a member of the club and also a member of the Vancouver Master Gardeners and would like to register for this clinic, please keep looking at the Clinics on the Vancouver MG website to see when it is posted and open for registration. Let Aline know ([lvgcwebsite@gmail.com](mailto:lvgcwebsite@gmail.com)) if you are interested and she can let you know when she has passed the information on for it to be posted.



## Edibles Tables at the Plant Sale - Jackie Morris

We will soon be organizing volunteers for the *Plant Sale*. The Edibles tables are a specific section of the sale. We have hundreds of mostly smallish pots of a huge variety of edibles. Thank you to all of you who will soon be seeding or dividing or potting up all sorts of vegetables, fruits and herbs.

The Edibles part of the sale is pickier to organize, I think, than other parts of the sale due to the variety and numbers and small size of most pots. We often have one or even two tables devoted to tomatoes alone with many more below and behind and under the tables.

And then there are all the other edibles!

Historically, including last year, there is a rush toward the Edibles at the start of the sale, with people having specific needs in mind or just a general idea. We have to organize the little pots so the desired items are easy-ish to find on the day of the sale - and we have to provide advice, all at the same time!!

Thank you to the volunteers last year and in previous years. I am (again!) looking for volunteers who will be specific to the Edibles section, both for set up on Friday, May 9, and at the sale on Saturday, May 10. We can work times out. Please call or text me.



WHEN TO START YOUR PRODUCE PLANTS			
A quick reference guide for Canadian greenhouse gardeners, for details on outdoor planting reference your Canadian plant hardiness zone (0-9)			
Greenhouse Gardening Guide 2025	Plant Type	Start Indoors	Move to Greenhouse
	Bell Peppers Eggplants Onions Garlic Leeks Strawberries	Early February (1st-2nd Week)	Early April (1st-2nd Week)
	Tomatoes Lettuce Kale Carrots Spinach Broccoli Cabbage Swiss Chard Potatoes Sweet Potatoes	Mid-Late February (3rd-4th Week)	Mid-Late April (3rd-4th Week)
	Green Beans Peas Cucumbers	Early-Mid March (1st-2nd Week)	
	Raddishes Zucchini Pumpkins Squash Beets Turnips Herbs (Basil, Parsley, Thyme)	Mid-Late March (3rd-4th Week)	Early-Mid May (1st-2nd Week)
	Celery Cauliflower Brussels Sprouts Peppers (Hot) Watermelons Cantaloupe	Early-Mid April (1st-2nd Week)	
	Corn Bok Choy Arugula Radicchio Mustard Greens	Early-Mid April (1st-2nd Week)	

## BRIGHT (and not so bright) SPOTS

### Fresh Greens - In the house!!

Wayne Smith reports with glee that he has nurtured choy plants from seeds he saved last year. He is looking forward to some tasty sandwiches!

### SEEDS, SEEDS, SEEDS!!! - Stefanie Rezansoff

'Tis the season for indulging in the plant porn that arrives every few days in the mailbox from seed companies far and wide, and sorting through all those packets of leftover seeds, wondering which ones should be replaced and which ones might germinate.... (I tried Ferri seeds (Ontario) this year, so far so good, and they carry a more unusual collection of perennial flowers to choose from).

For anyone who doesn't subscribe to Savvy Gardening (it's free) - here is a good article on how long different seeds can be stored and remain viable, including both flowers and veggies, categorized under 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 years of storage. <https://savvygardening.com/how-long-do-seeds-last/> They're only guidelines of course - my romaine came up very well last summer after at least 4 years of sitting in the seed shoebox.

Still, useful information. And there's always the *paper towel test* (folding seeds into a damp paper towel, Ziplock baggie and kept in a warm place to see if they germinate). Seeds collected from last summer's cantaloupes all sprouted, which is very exciting!

Best of luck to everyone who have already started their seedlings. Too many flats of interesting perennial flowers have started taking over the house - many stratifying in the fridge (Does one really need groceries? Priorities!!); others under domes on the heated floors (obstacle course), and those that have poked their heads up under grow lights. Counting the days until May!



The giant pile of seed packets I already have.



Me ignoring that pile and ordering lots and lots more seeds.



Joseph Tychonievich

## Can We Save Plants from Extinction? – excerpted by Margaret Campbell

With botanic gardens at peak capacity, efforts to save plants from extinction are at risk.

University of Cambridge research suggests botanic gardens around the world are failing to conserve the rarest and most threatened species growing in their living collections because they are running out of space. Researchers analysed a century's worth of records from 50 botanic gardens and arboreta, and the results suggest the world's living collections have reached peak capacity, while international restrictions on plant collecting are impeding efforts to study and preserve global plant diversity.

"The rate at which plants are being listed as threatened is increasing much more rapidly than the rate at which we're managing to respond. The risk of extinction is accelerating and our response is too slow."

Botanic gardens are acquiring as many critically endangered plants as they can, but these must compete for space in botanic gardens with beautiful, famous – but less endangered – flowers, trees and landscapes that are intended to attract visitors and inspire people to learn about gardening and the natural world.

According to a recent article in *The Guardian*, the first botanic gardens were founded during the colonial era, and almost all are located in the west. In the past, botanists from these gardens would engage in "extractive, colonial-type practices", visiting poorer nations to "pull out whatever plants they or their rich patrons were interested in, bring them back and cultivate them."

As the article points out, in 1993, a [United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity](#) attempted to stop this by assigning sovereignty over biodiversity to national governments, enabling states to "own" the genetic material within their geopolitical boundaries. However, this is hampering efforts by botanic gardens to collect endangered plants in the wild, and exchange seeds and plant material to protect threatened species from extinction. "Political boundaries do not help us share material and collectively steward the world's most threatened biodiversity."

Researchers recommend founding more botanic gardens close to biodiversity hotspots and forming [a globe-spanning 'meta collection' to safeguard plant populations](#).

As the curator of Cambridge University Botanical Garden says, "The ramifications of not acting are that we will lose far more species to extinction than we would otherwise. Maintaining plant diversity could lead to groundbreaking discoveries about food, medicine or materials in the future. My fear is that we could lose that diversity before we understand its value to human society."

[As the *Guardian* and *Nature* are behind paywalls – I've downloaded the first page of the original paper through UBC Library © – it is appended to the LINKS file. We might be having a talk on plant genomics in the fall – which is also related to this. – ED]

### Book Recommendation – Jackie Morris

[This seems so appropriate after the foregoing; also a woman author-ed]

We seldom have book recommendations in the LEAF. However, I suggest that this book, *The Island of Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak, adds an unusual dimension to our focus on gardening, plants, and, especially, trees.

It is available as a book, as well as an audio book and e-book. The chapters alternate between a third-person story about a Greek/Turkish family from Cypress living in London, especially the daughter, Ada (pronounced ä-dä); and a first-person narrative by a fig tree (*Ficus carica*) who has many stories of ecology, history, life and death.

In the audio version the fig tree is a low, melodious Greek/Turkish accented woman's voice. The family's voice is also a woman with a range of British voices.

The story is dedicated 'to immigrants and exiles everywhere, the uprooted, the re-rooted, the rootless, and to the trees we left behind, rooted in our memories.'

As one reviewer said and I agree "never would I have imagined falling in love with a fig tree; and yet, after reading this, it seems so unfortunate that I ever thought such a thing was impossible.... This is a personal ode to homelands and homes, those we leave behind and those we meet along the way, the nurturing of roots and the grafting of branches. It's a story of war and hope, of loss and love, and of course the fig tree that was there throughout it all."

*"A garden to walk in and immensity to dream in – what more could he ask? A few flowers at his feet and above him, the stars" –Victor Hugo, Les Misérables*



## Invasive Species Alert: Eastern Grey Squirrel

Tom Davis

B.C.'s Invasive Species Working Group has issued a warning about the Eastern Grey Squirrel, an invasive species that is spreading across the province. These small animals were first gifted to Stanley Park in 1914 and have since spread widely. They are very adaptable to almost any habitat where they compete successfully with native squirrels and birds, and damage trees and other plants. They are also a pest for home gardeners because they dig up lawns and eat bulbs.

The Working Group is urging people to avoid feeding these squirrels, to control access to attractants such as compost, garbage and bird feeders, and to use a squirrel deterrent in bird seed to repel squirrels while still attracting birds.

They also ask that people do not possess, breed, release, sell or transport Eastern Grey Squirrels in B.C. To learn more, see [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/invasive-species/alerts/eastern\\_grey\\_squirrel\\_alert.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/invasive-species/alerts/eastern_grey_squirrel_alert.pdf).

At this time, these squirrels are found in the Lower Mainland, the Okanagan, and Vancouver Island.

If you see Eastern Grey Squirrels in your area, contact [www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species](http://www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species)

## Winter Gardening with a Difference – Alison Parkinson



You can create lovely easy-care plants anytime. Just use Lego! I thought Lego was just for boys until my daughters presented me with a Lego orchid kit. Since Christmas, during several couple-hour sessions, I have assembled the more than 600 minute and larger pieces, following excellent directions, to create my beautiful bloom. I have nothing but admiration for the designer. [Requires no watering – though note the glass of wine...- ED]

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PLANT SALE!!**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

(There is good news and bad news)

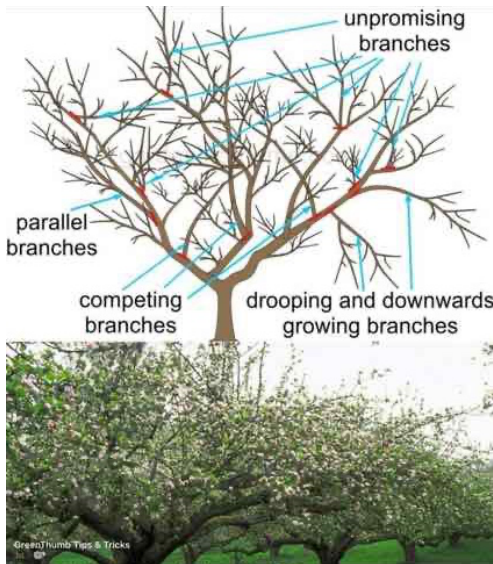
### The Good News - Aline Burlone

“Thank you to all members who wrote letters and spoke at the City Council meeting on February 10 in support of the expansion of Pollinator Meadows in the City. **The Council unanimously approved the expansion for 2025.** The presentation can be found at this link <https://www.cnv.org/City-Hall/Council-Meetings/Council-Agendas,-Minutes-and-Videos>. If you click on the Feb 10 Council Meeting Agenda package, you can access the presentation and report and if you want to watch the presentation you click on the Feb 10 video link. When you click on the link the video will show up with a list of the topics below it so you can just click on the Pollinator Meadow presentation, and it will take you there right away. It was an excellent presentation and is a great step in the right direction to join all the other Cities across the world who use the principles of ecological landscaping to maintain, restore and expand habitat and therefore help in preserving biodiversity and combatting climate change.



*“The men of experiment are like the ant; they only collect and use. But the bee gathers its materials from the flowers of the garden and of the field, but transforms and digests it by a power of its own.”*

– Leonardo da Vinci



## More Good News: The “Buy Canadian” Movement – Judith Brook

With more people avoiding purchase of American products including food, this can be a good opportunity for local food & farmers’ markets.

Watch this encouraging news clip from Quebec: “Growing fresh organic vegetables and flowers on our 160-acre farm in Papineauville, Quebec.” They've experienced **20% bump** in customers :) [See LINKS file for the news clip and their website]

And also note our own **Winter Farmers Market - Riley Park, (50 East 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver), Saturdays, 10 - 2, until end-March 2025.**



Don't clear dead plants in your yard yet! Those dried stalks are full of overwintering bees, butterflies, and moths.

## The Bad News – Judith Brook

You recall LVGC joined and the signed on to the BC Climate Emergency Campaign – a declaration with 600 other organizations, urging the Provincial government to take 10 climate actions. "B.C. Climate Emergency Campaign, a group of civil society groups "anxious about the climate emergency, who are collaborating to increase the ambition of climate policy and action" in B.C. The group – which says it represents more than 600 businesses, non-profits, think-tanks, churches and Indigenous organizations – presented its latest assessment Tuesday (Jan. 14). The verdict included a trio of 'Fs' along with "minor progress" in seven of 10 other policy areas. "

### 3 Fails, and 7 Minor Progress (link to report in LINKS file)

You may wish to consider writing to your MLA to express your thoughts.

Contact [Bowinn.Ma.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Bowinn.Ma.MLA@leg.bc.ca) OR [Susie.Chant.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Susie.Chant.MLA@leg.bc.ca)

[as our letters were so successful with the municipal government – let's aim for something BIGGER – the provincial government – ED].

## ESOTERICA

### Persephone's Ascension – Jana Young

In Greek mythology, Persephone is the daughter of Zeus and Demeter, the goddess of harvest and agriculture. Hades, god of the underworld, saw Persephone and was captivated by her beauty and vowed to make her his own. One day while she was picking flowers, the ground opened up and Persephone fell into the underworld. Hades trapped her and made her his wife.

Demeter searched for her daughter and learned of Persephone's demise from Hermes, messenger of the gods. Zeus sent Hermes to negotiate Persephone's return. A compromise was struck: Persephone would live eight months each year on Earth and four in the underworld. Before she returned to Earth, Hades placed a pomegranate seed in her mouth – its divine taste compelling her to return each year.

To the ancients, this myth explained the annual change of seasons. Persephone's ascension from the underground represented the return of spring and the growing season. In the eight months that Persephone is on earth, her



The Return of Persephone, by Frederic Leighton (1891)

mother Demeter, the goddess of the earth and vegetation, blooms and blesses everything from her joy while in the four winter months that Persephone is banished to the Underworld, all the fruits of the people wither and die like Demeter's sorrow upon losing her daughter.



The myth of her abduction, her sojourn in the underworld, and her temporary return to the surface represents her functions as the embodiment of spring and the personification of vegetation, especially grain crops, which disappear into the earth when sown, sprout from the earth in spring, and are harvested when fully grown. In Classical Greek art, Persephone is invariably portrayed robed, often carrying a sheaf of grain.

Horticulture has the term "Persephone Period": the time of year when days have less than 10 hours of sunlight. Plant growth is largely a function of the length of sunlight and temperature. Naturally, we have shorter days and lower temperatures in the fall and winter. With fewer than 10 hours of light, crop growth halts. But as the days lengthen, growth resumes.

[So when does Persephone return – when does spring come?]

February 2<sup>nd</sup> was traditionally known as Candlemas in Christian traditions (the day on the church calendar when all of the candles would be blessed for the year ahead) and in North America, it is known as Groundhog Day, when superstition says that a small animal will see his shadow or not, forecasting an early or late start to spring. (Great news: Warton Willy predicted an early spring, but he's at odds with the American Punxatawney Phil this year who saw his shadow, indicating 6 more weeks of winter. I'm sticking with the optimistic Canadian critter!)



## *The Back/techstory – Maria Issa*

Once upon a time, a North Shore garden club decided that they needed their own computer, microphone and camera – so that they could do excellent *in situ* and Zoom presentations. To this end, the small but determined team of Krystina and Maria sallied forth to accost the Best Buy electronics store at Park Royal. After much discussion, dialogue and expostulation with the local Geek – the hardware was acquired.

Then came the problem of loading the software and making sure it worked. We bought a Geek Squad membership and had them do the work because a) we didn't know how b) didn't want to know. To make sure that all was taken care of, we even booked the Geek Squad to be on site at 6 PM at Mt. Seymour United Church the evening of the LVGC meeting to provide "a\$\$ coverage" and to make sure everything they suggested, set up, uploaded, linked – worked as expected. We checked several times that they would, indeed, be available and present. They assured us that we were booked in. We were feeling proud as cats with two tails for having it all this sorted.

That's when the wheels fell off.

Two days before the meeting, a text message arrived: "The Geek Squad will be at your house at 12:30 on Thursday". No, no, no, *no!* Wrong time, wrong place. Call Geek Squad. No response. Left a message. Second message. Third message. Called again. Pushed different buttons until I got a human.

The Human told me that they don't book anything more than 2 days ahead and my booking was now 12:30 at my house.

I assured them it was NOT and I didn't want anything at 12:30 at my house but at 6 Pm at MtSUC.

Human said that they don't work after 4:30 and how would 4pm work for us?

No, still no.

After much remonstrations, my call was "accelerated to the local store".... who, of course, didn't call me back.

Next morning (Thursday!) I called back and demanded to know what was what. Then got super mad and cancelled everything, got into my car, went to Best Buy and demanded our money back.

They "don't give money back".

Whaaaat? ????

Went to have a quick word with the Manager. Manager called Geek Squad Central. *The Manager* [!!!] couldn't sort it out. So we agreed to cancel everything – and 'as a personal favour' the Manager gave me the appointment cancellation money back.





Then the Geek local advised me that they were coming. After I had just cancelled them. I re-cancelled them.

Apparently, the Geek Central's and the Geek Local's booking systems don't talk to each other. So if they are Geeks but can't handle their own software or manage their appointments - I'm not sure I trust them anymore.

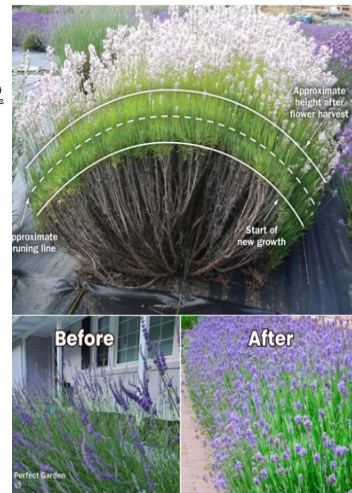
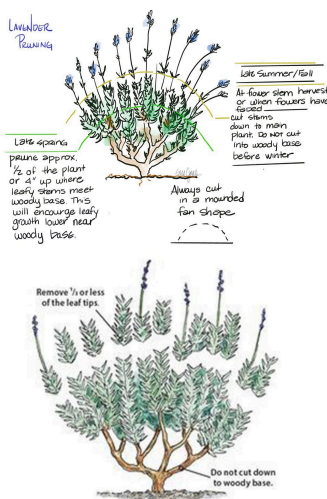
So there we were, up tech creek without a paddle.

Luckily, I had an ace up my sleeve: Artem Korniev, my Ukrainian friend and tech genius, who has rescued my phone, computer, router, television and other electronic wizardry. I handed him the hardware, asked him to check everything out - then dragged him to the meeting to make sure we had things working.

Yes, there were tech issues - thanks to the Geeks - but at least we functioned. We are still fixing things, returning bits and have worked out an idiot-proof, step by step manual: coming to a church near you. It can only get better.

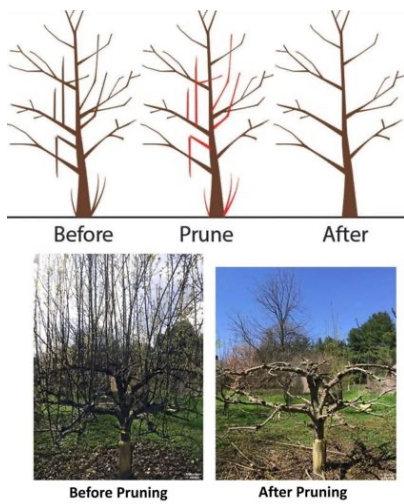
Bottom lines:

1. As the Geek Squad wouldn't give our "membership money" back - **LVGC has ONE YEAR computer repair available. You are LVGC.** This means, if your computer dies, the Geek Squad will fix it for FREE if you take it in. Yes, you will need to talk to me - as they have my name on the account. *I want revenge, so I want to extract ten times our money's worth... so BRING YOUR DEAD COMPUTERS...*
2. **Artem Korniev** - is starting his own business repairing electronics: call him. He will fix it for you. Whatever it is. He makes house-calls. For now - and for you - he charges \$30/hr. His motto is "*Ukrainians never give up!*".



## CORRESPONDENCE

### BC Council of Garden Clubs - via Donna Wasyluk



The BC Council of Garden Clubs is responsible for the training and accreditation of judges for both Horticulture and Floral Design. BCCGC provides horticultural judging courses and floral design judging courses for the accreditation of new judges, as well as the updating of current judges throughout the province of BC. We provide judges for club events, shows and meetings, as well as community events such as fairs and exhibitions.

The updated judges list can be found in the LINKS file. Please pass it along to your club members who are involved in planning such events, or who may otherwise have an interest in floral art, horticulture and floral design judging, or pursuing training in those areas.

A copy of this list and more information about the courses, manuals and other resources available from the BC Council of Garden Clubs can be found on our website. You may also contact First Vice President Cindy Tataryn at [1vicepresident@bcgardenclubs.com](mailto:1vicepresident@bcgardenclubs.com).

Also see the BCCGC newsletter -The Bulletin - on their website -find the LINKS file.

### THANKS -

#### From the Harvest Project

Dear Lynn Valley Garden Club ,

On behalf of all of us at **Harvest Project**, I wanted to take a moment to sincerely thank you for your efforts in organizing a Christmas food drive.

It truly is inspiring to see the community come together to help extend a hand up to our neighbours in need.

Please extend our gratitude to everyone who contributed their time, donations, and support.

**Let me know if you ever wanted to come to our facility for a tour to learn more about how we support our community.**

Thank you again for your kindness and generosity!  
Kind regards, Rose

***From the Lions Gate Hospital Foundation***

Dear Ms Wasylik,

Thank you so much for the Lynn Valley Garden Club’s thoughtful donation to assist with garden care at the North Shore Hospice. Your Club’s gift and on-going support are greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the residents and families who will benefit from your generosity for years to come, we offer you our thanks for helping to make every day count.

Wishing you a happy, healthy New Year,

Sincerely,

Louise Campbell,

Vice President

***From the Lynn Valley Library***

To Donna Wasylik, President,

Thank you very much for your generous donation of \$300n this year to purchase gardening and sustainability books for Lynn Valley Library. We purchased the following 11 titles:

- Compost: Transform Waste into New Life* by Charles Dowding
- Garden Tool Handbook* by Zach Loeks
- Greenhouse Book* by Tom Brown
- How to Design a Garden* by Polyanna Wilkinson
- Kindest Garden: A Practical Guide to Regenerative Gardening* by Marian Boswall

- Permaculture Garden* by Huw Richards
- Sustainable Gardening* by Catherine Heatherington
- Ultimate Guide to Planting and Growing Vegetables at Home*, Eds. Creative Homeowner
- Water-Smart Garden*, by Noelle Johnson
- Waterwise Gardening* by Richard Restuccia
- Your Natural Garden* by Kelly D. Norris

The tiles will added to the Lynn Valley Library and the Lynn Valley Garden Club will be credited with a donation label inside the front cover so that patrons will be aware of your generous gift.

Warm Regards,

Kalen Greenwood

Collections Services and Evaluations Librarian

***From Sharing Abundance***

Dear Donna,

Thank you and the Lynn Valley Garden Club for your generous donation of \$500. I know how hard your organization works to raise these funds and the contributions you make to our wonderful community.

Please pass on my thanks to your members. For years [we] were friends of Maurice Jones who was an avid gardeners and member of your Club in years gone by. I admired the wonderful tomatoes and veggies he grew and shared with us at the Lynn Valley Legion. [Now I know why we came to store our folding tables at the LVL-ed]

After over 16 years, y partner Chef Bette Geddes and I have decided the time has come to retire from *Sharing Abundance*. We have been fortunate to have been able to move our assets to *A Loving Spoonful* who have taken over all the community meal programs we have offered in the three North Shore communities. Our financial transfer will happen soon assuring the money you have donated will be providing meals to folks in need in our communities.

I’d like to take this opportunity to wish you and your members a very healthy, happy 2025.

In gratitude,

Lizz Lindsay,

Executive Director

**Give a man a fish, he eats for a day.  
Teach a woman to garden and the  
whole neighborhood gets zucchini.**



**EVENTS**

***Gardenworks has free workshops – sourced by Sharon Carabetta***

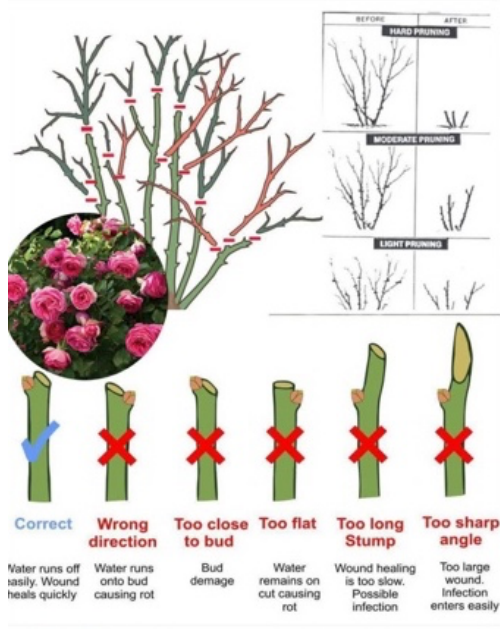
Look in the LINKS file – but all this month and next, Gardenworks is hosting a wide range of workshops at many of its locations.; or just use the Ecosia browser and type in “gardenworks/activities” And di I say FREE?

***BC Communities in Bloom – newsletter is out. Check out the LINK!! <https://www.bccib.ca/>***

### When and How to Prune a Rose Bush for Amazing Blooms

Pruning roses might seem intimidating, but it's easier than you think! With this simple guide, you can help your rose bushes thrive and produce stunning blooms.

When to Prune... See more



## Bradner Flower Show: an Invitation – Lynda Richard

Once again, the Bradner Flower Show will be taking place at Bradner Community Hall, 5305 Bradner Rd, Abbotsford. The show takes place April 11-13 from 10 am to 4 pm daily. Admission is \$2.50. This will be our 95th show and is once again being coordinated by Pauline Isherwood, whose grandfather started the show.

The iconic show, which began in 1928, attracts attendees from all over the lower mainland. There will be many varieties of daffodils on display, most of them developed right here in Bradner. There will also be plants and shrubs for sale at wholesale prices from vendors who do not normally sell to the public. An array of crafts and art will also be on display and for sale. Decorating for the show will be done by the floral design experts at Simply Perfect Flowers of Abbotsford with the theme “Springtime in Paris”

Our Tea Room features soups, sandwiches and goodies all made fresh in our licensed kitchen. As always, all proceeds from cut flower sales will be donated to Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre. Opening ceremony takes place Friday, April 11th at 2 pm with special guest Country 107.1 DJ Stevie De La Rose.

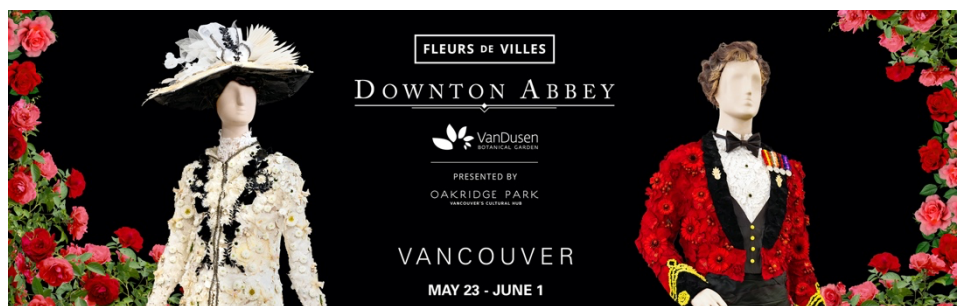
We hope you will take the time to come to our event, or at the very least tell your members and friends. Bradner Community Club is a registered non-profit society. Event info in the LINKS file.

## BIRDS, BIRDS, BIRDS!!

*The Vancouver Avian Research Centre – workshops- nominal fees* - Have a look at their website (see LINKS file) for a range of cool seminars – and if you're quick about it, Feb 19 is HUMMINGBIRDS!! <https://www.birdvancouver.com/>

You might also be interested in the *Wingspan Magazine* (also see LINKS file) [https://drive.google.com/file/d/129J-rWFDPw8Jb\\_MyRfSpakSW-GEekCzP/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/129J-rWFDPw8Jb_MyRfSpakSW-GEekCzP/view)

## Fleurs de Villes Returns to Vancouver – Sourced by Margaret Campbell



Fleurs de Villes is launching a special *Downton Abbey* collection this Spring/Summer. Fleurs de Villes will offer a “celebration of the famed period drama that follows the lives of the aristocratic Crawley family and their loyal servants in early 20th-century England.” Period fashion and the iconic characters will be brought to floral

life with a display of gorgeous flower arrangements, heralding the third season of *Downton Abbey* that will launch in September 2025. The floral extravaganza will be seen in ten cities across three different countries, and Vancouver will be part of the salute to a much enjoyed show.

“ We are thrilled to return to Vancouver this spring for the Canadian premiere of *Fleurs de Villes Downton Abbey*– a spectacular fresh floral celebration inspired by the famed period drama, created by Vancouver’s talented floral artists.

**Join us at VanDusen Botanical Garden from May 23 - June 1.**

We hope you will follow along on our journey this year, in the cities where you live and visit, as well as around the world by following [@fleursdevilles](https://www.instagram.com/fleursdevilles). #FDVDowntonAbbey “<https://www.fleursdevilles.com/event-page/vancouver-downton-abbey-2025>

## The Compost Bin – Maria Issa

“You can’t save the world, but you **MUST** create beauty around you!”, was my grandmother’s favourite saying. She should know: she survived a pair of genius, polymath twins, two world wars, tuberculosis, cancer and the communist occupation. Chaos. She was an artist – and around her was beauty, calm, peace and elegance. She had a magnificent garden. I destroyed it once – but that’s a story for another time.

Creating beauty is something that resonates with gardeners – we all aim for our personal definitions of beauty and serenity. We source our perfect plants. We find the perfect, happy spot for them. We nurture and protect them, our green babies. We marvel at nature.

Then nature turns on us. If you are a climate change denier – you can stop here: I mean to offend you. The weather patterns are changing – the fires, the floods, the freezes show that climactic patterns are shifting. Don’t wish to believe me? Have a look at NASA’s *data* – factual information. [Item 4 in the LINKS file, under “**Interesting info in a changing world**” <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DE7TWofzMy0/?igsh=bzBpeGo5YnNncnp0>] This is not political – it’s just what it is. Even for the naïve observer – there is trouble afoot: the problem is accelerating. The way we did things, the seasons we are used to, the flowers we planted – no longer work how they are supposed to.

So what more can one individual do – especially in the face of the chaos that is happening on the political landscape? Our generation is certainly unprepared for the current and coming chaos – we have not lived through wars and famine: we are comfortable in our slippers. We talk about “the economy” in a capitalist system where making money is of primary importance. We protect our pocketbooks. However, as my colleague used to say, “Shrouds don’t have pockets”. So if we can’t take the money with us – maybe it’s time to build the legacy of a better world.

As with everything: baby steps (though, I think we should be running as fast as we can, just to stay in the same place; and we need to run twice as fast, if we mean to get ahead).

Convincing the City to expand pollinator meadows is such a step. [Many thanks to all those who wrote letters to Council!] Creating many more – is another. Guerrilla gardening – re-greening lanes and boulevards – and sneak planting saplings into greenways to ensure trees for the future, scrapping lawns, rescuing gardens, planting native plants... these are all tiny acts of defiance against the ugliness: they create little pockets of beauty. We are doing/running as fast as we can.

Now we need to run twice as fast.

In the past, great need brought great movements together. There were revolutions, protests. People *showed up* to demand the changes that would benefit us

all. Signing the BC Climate Emergency Campaign was a no-brainer – and cost your pocketbook nothing. No cost – no results. The government failed miserably. So what to do? Trash the government? Of course not. We are in a nasty political pickle not of our/their making – and if we are to have the ability to affect change then we need to ride the crisis. We need to do things in **parallel** (stop it already with the binary thinking and the “my issue only” reaction).

We are used to things taking their sweet time. In the digital age, with instantaneous information exchange, things move swiftly so we do need to run twice as fast. So, in parallel, we need to keep reminding the government that a liveable future is only possible if we protect the planet we live on. That’s the “holding their toes to the fire” bit – we are working to fix the symptoms. But we also need to look at source of the problem: and that, unfortunately, is “the economy” and our ways of doing business.

An extractive economy, where wealth concentrates in the hands of a few, is similar to industrial agriculture that pumps in fertilizers and herbicides to pull out more (aptly called) produce – until the soil is so depleted to the point that the nutritive value of the food is almost not worth the effort. Makes sense – the soil adds more to a plant than just potash. Look at the information from the National Geographic in the LINKS item 14 in the same section – “Fruits and vegetables are less nutritious than they used to be”: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DFbcbf-PLVd/?igsh=MWFwNXdibjRtdnEweA%3D%3D>. It is time to actively support local growers and small farms – not only because we want to “buy Canadian” but also because it makes good sense.

So can we affect the world? A great movement is afoot – and I hope you will be a part of it. On February 28, there will be an **INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC BLACKOUT** – see item 2 in the LINKS. Be a part of it. This is important: the world is changing fast around us – and this is a simple weapon that we do wield. **DO NOT BUY ANYTHING SOLD BY A MULTINATIONAL** <https://www.instagram.com/p/DF70kKjR8r0/?igsh=amVoY3V1N2NobWZo>

**Buy local. For a day, sign off social media, streaming entertainment, skip that Amazon delivery, use transit/taxi, not uber... the list is endless. All of these things are a matter of convenience. The slippers. Put your (gardening) boots on instead!**

If you don’t want to listen to me rant – then listen to Jane Goodall – she has ‘street creds’. See item 16 – in the links file.

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DGJMIQopakG/?igsh=MWtkeHowbGN5YTVvbA==> -

...and don’t forget to switch to Ecosia as a browser.

