



THE LEAF

THE LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Established 1943

May 2025

President's Message – Donna Wasylik

Dear Members,

The contract for the rental of the North Vancouver Lawn bowling Club for our general meetings has been signed and we will officially begin our rental on September 18, 2025. The address is 249 East 24th Street, North Vancouver. Have a drive by and check out the parking availability. Carpooling is highly recommended. There will likely be wrinkles to iron out for the first few months, but I am confident that this will be a great move. Many thanks to Jackie Morris and her team for bringing this move to fruition.

May is turning out to be an extremely busy month for our club and many of you will be reading this message after our plant sale on May 10. The MALS have been working hard to organize the sale and many volunteers have come forward to set up, work and take down after the sale. Many thanks to all of you for making it a successful day.

After all the hard work on the plant sale, we will take a break from our regular meeting at the Mt. Seymour Church and have an 'at-home' Zoom meeting on May 15. **Linda Gilkeson**, an entomologist and all-around garden guru, will give a presentation entitled 'Where have all the insects gone'. We should also have preliminary results of the plant sale for you at the May 15 Zoom meeting.

So far 24 members have signed up for our self-drive/carpool to UBC Botanical Gardens on May 31. I recommend arriving at 10:45 am and gathering in a group. We will do a count off to get the exact number of participants. Remember to bring your lunch as we will be eating at the garden gazebo. After lunch some may leave to visit Nitobe Gardens. I will contact those who need a ride and will offer them a ride with me.

Our trips to the YWCA and garden tour have also attracted much interest and further information will follow in next month's LEAF.

Donna Wasylik



LVGC MEETINGS
3rd Thursday of each
month (except July
and August)

From September 2025
**249 E. 24th Street,
North Vancouver BC
V7H 2X9**

*Meetings start promptly at
7:00 PM*

**SPEAKER: LINDA
GILKESON**
**TOPIC: WHERE HAVE ALL
THE INSECTS GONE?**
**MAY 15, 2025
ON ZOOM**

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:



LVGCnewsletter@gmail.com

"If you hear frogs in your garden, you have not only built a home for yourself, but for the planet!"

LVGC Tech Support proudly provided by Q Fix 778-866-8783 Artem Korniev

Executive 2025

President

Donna Wasylik .
Co-Vice Presidents

Penny LeCouteur .
Daphne Page .

Co-Secretaries

Marilyn Bullock .

Treasurer

Sarah-Jane Gray .

Membership Co-Chairs

Jennifer Sydenham .

Members at Large (MALs)

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

Jacque D'Auria .

Website

Aline Burlone .

Newsletter Editors

Maria Issa .

Margaret Campbell .

Executive Meetings

June 4 Executive meeting will be
chez Penny LeCouteur

Newsletter items to
lvgnnewsletter@gmail.com by
May 7, 2025



Thanks to LEAF contributors:

Audrey Beugger, Judith Brook,
Taylor Hewstan, Rita Marshall,
Andrew & Liz Massil, Jackie
Morris, Lorna Moxon

SPEAKER

LINDA GILKESON - WHERE HAVE ALL THE INSECTS GONE?

Linda earned a Ph.D. in Entomology from McGill University in 1986, then moved to British Columbia to work for Applied Bio-Nomics Ltd., a company that produces biological controls. From 1991 to 2002 she worked for the provincial government, promoting programs to reduce and eliminate pesticide use. She was head of the provincial State of Environment Reporting Unit for the next six years, then the Executive Director of the Salt Spring Island Conservancy until the end of 2011. Linda now devotes her time to writing, teaching and consulting.

Linda's comprehensive gardening book, Backyard Bounty: The Complete Guide to year-Round Organic Gardening in the Pacific Northwest, is a BC best seller. She has just published a newly revised and expanded 3rd edition of her comprehensive pest management guide, West Coast Gardening: Natural Insect, Weed & Disease Control. In the past, she has co-authored pest management training manuals for the provincial government and organic gardening books for Rodale Press and now focuses on publishing books for local gardeners.

As a private consultant, Linda is a regular instructor in the Master Gardener programs in BC and is busy year around giving workshops on pest management and organic gardening. She has served as President of the Entomological Society of Canada, the Professional Pest Management Association of BC, the Entomological Society of BC and the Salt Spring Island Garden Club. She was awarded a Queen's Jubilee medal in 2003 and an outstanding achievement award from the Professional Pest Management Association of BC in 2005.



The UBC OUTING - May 31

Here is the list of the attendees for the May 31 UBC Tour - so far, 25 people have signed up. If you still wish to go, please let Donna know!

For the rest of you - please use the list to contact each other for carpooling. Donna will phone those who have indicated that they need a ride to check whether they still need a ride, I will drive. If someone decides they want to go on to Nitobe Gardens even though their driver doesn't want to go, I am sure we can be flexible and make adjustments at the last minute. For phone numbers, hunt up the March Leaf as it has the club list in it. **Bolds can drive others. Italics need rides.** Please call each other.

Nancy Behnsen
Ann McKinnon ;
Sally Halliday
Jennifer Sydenham
Donna Wasylik

Daphne Page
Lorraine Robson
Fiona Robertson
Barb Downman
Lynne Frith
Carole & Randy Cobbett
Jacque D'Auria
Sarah Gray

Marilyn Bullock
Alison Parkinson
Karen O'Neill
Miriam Scott

Maggie Davis

Tana Bullock
Susan Celms
Liz & Andrew Massil
Fran Watters
Gwen Miller

Co-Vice-Presidents – Penny LeCouteur & Daphne Page

Reminder that the **May 15** speaker, Linda Gilkeson, is ON ZOOM ONLY – so there is no in-person meeting. Look for the ZOOM LINK in the cover email!

The **JUNE** meeting is replaced with an **LVGC OUTING** – so no speaker and no church that day either.

Then – especially for all the new members – **THERE ARE NO MEETINGS IN JULY AND AUGUST**, enjoy your garden!

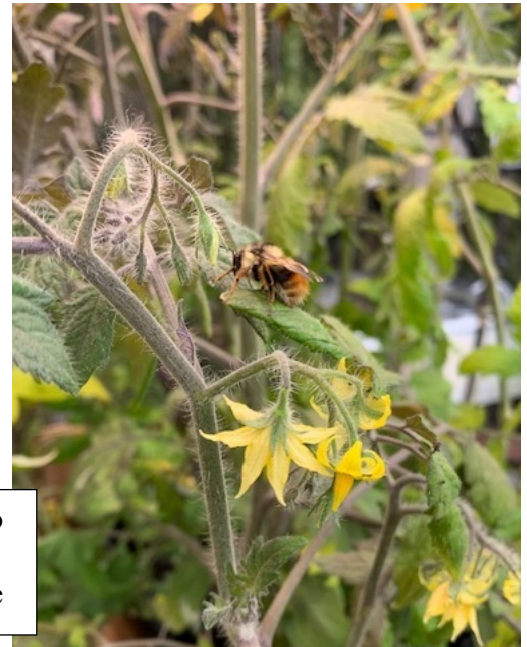
Treasurer – Sarah Jane Gray

The Club kitty currently contains \$10,989.98 + COH \$115.00 = \$11,104.98 - Cool! [But this is before the Plant Sale – so keep that in mind!] See below for the fabulous Plant Sale results.

Membership – Jennifer Sydenham

Currently, there are 145 paid-up members!!!

A visitor to
Lorna's
greenhouse



MALs – Tom Davis, Doreen Dew, Daphne Page, Stefanie Rezanoff, Miriam Scott

The great LVGC Plant Sale is over for another year... [sniff!...]

...but it was so much fun and so good to see everyone!! And the MALs send you this message:

“The MALs would like to thank everyone who participated in the plant sale and made it a success: St Clement’s Anglican Church for reducing their rental rate and allowing us to use their tables and chairs. The mini MAL Maria (who fielded many MAL calls) and waited in the parking lot Friday night with Penny for 3 hours guarding our plants [until the official security showed up – who had to defend the plants from the predation of coyotes and raccoons].

LVGC sends a **BIG THANK YOU** to all the **businesses that donated prizes** for our raffle!!

Most importantly, we thank all the members without whom none of this would have been possible: members who donated plants, went on the digs and dug, all the spouses who helped deliver plants; the volunteers who worked so hard Friday and Saturday to set up and work the sale and cleaned up afterwards; and Sarah who counted the money! If we forgot anyone please know your help was greatly appreciated! Even the weatherperson gets thanks for cooperating once more... sprinkling our plants for free in the morning, and rinsing the parking afterwards – but keeping the clouds at bay during the sale!

We know that the *cash* part of our sale raised a *whopping* \$11,700 (gross) – the costs will be subtracted – but...OH MY!! – a super success!!

Nicely Done LVGC!!



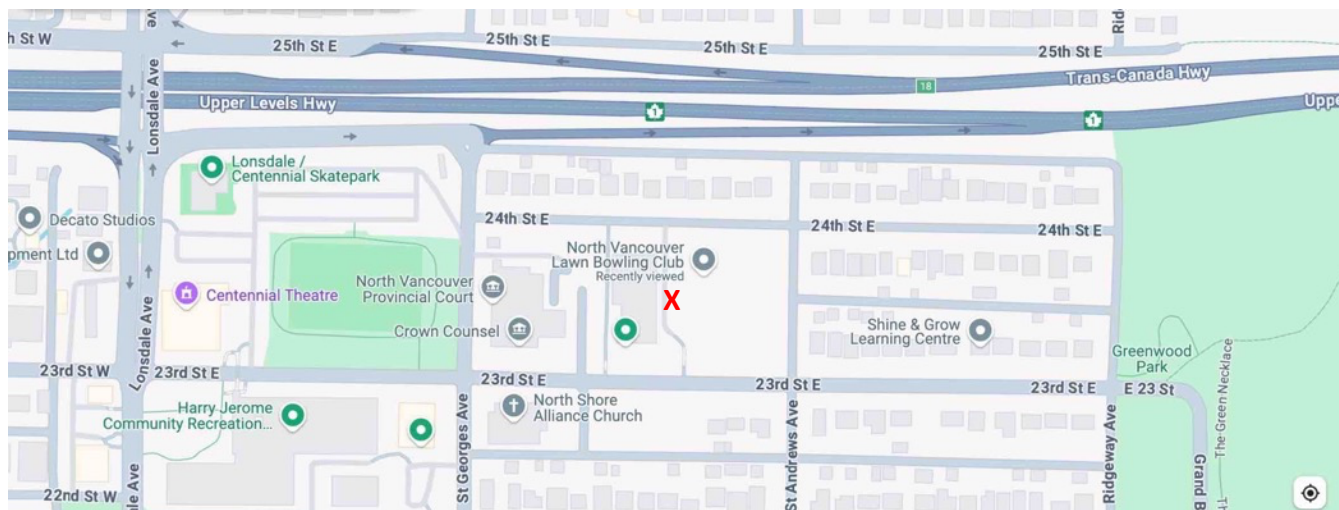
Venue Committee – Doreen Dew, Daphne Page, Judith Brook, Doreen Marbry and Jackie Morris.

Proudly Announce the **New Venue** for LVGC Meetings:

LVGC Tech Support proudly provided by Q Fix 778-866-8783 Artem Korniev

The North Vancouver Lawn Bowling Club's Clubhouse!! It is on 249 E. 24th Street, North Vancouver and is officially our new venue. It is very central and easily accessed by the majority of the membership: see the map below.

We are looking forward to starting 'the school year' there in SEPTEMBER and hope to see you there!



ROSEMARIE's BRIGHT SPOTS



The current oddments in my garden start with this tulip: it's fuzzy! I grabbed some random bulbs at Canadian Tire last fall – and stuck them into my London Drugs sale flowerpots. Every year I stalk those ridiculously expensive glazed pots till they go on sale – then I swoop! Then, of course, something must go in them. This year I tried the "layered bulbs' thing and it worked a treat! I highly recommend doing that.



The camas lilies, *Camassia quamash* syn. *Camassia esculenta*) "Botanist Leslie Haskin notes that, "There is more romance and adventure clustered about the camas root and flower than about almost any other American plant." - so much so that feuds erupted over disputes about ownership of camas fields, which were so extensive they were described as looking like large, deep-blue "lakes."" In the May Links file, there is a link to more information on WHY the feuds erupted. Worth a read!

My *Kerria japonica* is out in full force. Even in pretty serious shade, it manages to light up the garden. Kerria used to be my Mom's favourite flower as it is generous and flowers well, grows happily and can be transplanted and split and propagated easily. It does grow big – 10 ft!! – but I have it arching over a path. If you want some, ask me!



This is the first year that my "flowering quince" [*Chaenomeles speciosa* var 'Spitfire'] has bothered to flower... but it is quite beautiful. As Ann McK knows, I'm a quite the quince *aficionado*, so I hope I get at least one or two quinces out of this one! I have a yummy quince cake recipe if anyone wants it!

This little *Pulsatilla*, Pasqua flower, came with the house. I noticed it after I cleared off about 6 inches of periwinkle from on top. It comes up every year – shy, unobtrusive, pretty - and then quietly vanishes. Apparently, it is native to North American meadows; there are about 40 species; and it is the official flower of Manitoba (just like BC's is the Dogwood).



PEAT MOSS vs COIR – from the BC Council of Garden Clubs – Eliza Olson*

* Eliza Olson, LLD, (h.c.), B.Ed. President/Executive Director Peatlands Protection Society.

Choosing coir over peat moss can be challenging until you discover the differences and the long-term effects of whichever one you choose.

Peat moss is a plant material produced over thousands of years, while coir, the waste of coconut husks, is removed before the fruit is sold. Coir is much more renewable than peat moss. Washington State University points out that coconut coir is a “readily renewable, pH-neutral, non-hydrophobic soil amendment that aerates, improves water retention, and is more environmentally friendly than peat moss.” Here are some of the pros and cons of peat moss vs coir.

Coconut Coir

Pros: It has a neutral pH that is better for plants. Coir is a by-product of the food industry so using it keeps the coir out of landfills. It is readily renewable. Compacted bales/bricks reduce shipping costs and storage size. It is easily rehydrated on-site. (And wow! does it rehydrate! I got a compact disc with an Amaryllis last fall. I soaked it in water overnight. By morning it grew from about a half-inch disc to one that was about a foot high!) Coir aerates the soil well and holds moisture so you use less water. The cation (negative ion) exchange capacity is higher than that of peat moss.



Cons: Coir is harder to find in bulk. This is changing. I got a bale a few years ago from Garden Works in Burnaby. (I thought I was never going to get rid of it all.) It used to have a high salt content but luckily, this is no longer a concern.



Peat Moss

Pros: Peat moss is easy to find. It aerates soils well and promotes holding moisture well when enough water is applied consistently.

Cons: Peat moss more acidic than most garden plants need. It is hydrophobic once it dries and becomes very difficult to re-wet. Strip-mining peat causes massive environmental and cultural resource damage. Most of the peat moss used in Canada and the US comes from unceded

territories in Canada. American companies make millions, if not billions, destroying our Canadian peatlands. Even though the shipping distance is less than for coconut coir, sea travel for coir uses less fossil fuel than trucking the peat moss. This reduces the concern about shipping costs.

In 2007, the UN stated that by reducing the use of peat, we would reduce 10% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. The UN also declared that saving peatlands is a quick and cost-effective measure to reduce climate change. Considering our current political climate, refusing to use peat in our gardens could be considered a patriotic act.

For peat's sake, don't use peat! Sources: www.bobvila.com/articles/peat-moss-vs-coco-coir/ www.cleannorth.org. [MORE hot links are in the May links file]



Pro Tip – Soil pH

If you have no idea, but wish to know whether your soil is acidic or alkaline, you can do two quick experiments to see where on the pH scale your garden lies. If you are lazy but have a suspicion, then you can get away with just one...

Is my soil acidic?

Materials: a scoop of soil in a small container; baking soda, maybe some water to moisten the soil if it's bone dry.

Methods: Sprinkle some of the baking soda on the moist soil. Watch for fizzing.

Results: If the soil fizzes, it is acidic!

Why: If the baking soda finds acidic materials in the soil to react with, the reaction releases CO₂ which bubbles off as a gas.

Acidic soil is great for blueberries, azaleas, potatoes.

No fizz? Then you have to do a second experiment – similar to the first but reversed.

Is my soil basic/alkaline?

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Materials: a scoop of soil in a small container; vinegar, maybe some water to moisten the soil if it's bone dry.

Methods: Drizzle some of the vinegar on the moist soil. Watch for fizzing.

Results: If the soil fizzes, it is alkaline!

Why: If the vinegar finds basic materials, like calcium carbonate, in the soil to react with, the reaction releases CO₂ which bubble off as a gas.

Basic/alkaline soil is great for clematis, lavender, cabbage and many herbs.



WORLD NAKED GARDENING DAY - 2025

YES – and there is evidence!! – that there are intrepid naturists among us who commune with their gardens in the buff.

While not many are willing to share that evidence, here is one stalwart soul whose unclothed appendage(s) can be observed among the blooms and greenery from none other than the Giardino Giusti, Verona, in Northern Italy.

Salve Anonymus nudus! Qui vestiti sunt, te salutant!



GOOD TO KNOW: *Nandina* alias “Heavenly Bamboo”

“In some regions, nandinas are considered invasive. However, this is only true of varieties that produce berries. Many new cultivars are sterile — they do not bloom or produce fruit. The berries of the classic and most common variety of nandina, the one that is referred to as “heavenly bamboo,” are not only problematic because they contain the seeds that cause the plant to become invasive. These bright red berries make the plant more attractive in the winter months to both the human eye and as a food source for birds. Unfortunately, **these berries are so toxic to our feathered friends** that they cause internal bleeding and death. Because they contain cyanide and other toxins, nandina berries are also toxic to pets and humans. This is certainly not a plant you want to have where children and dogs play.

To prevent the possibility of toxins reaching your loved ones or wildlife, opt for one of the many non-seed-bearing varieties, like Gulfstream or Lemon Lime. If you already have heavenly bamboo in your landscape and do not or cannot remove it (mature plants are very difficult to eliminate), **clip off the blooms before they mature into berries**. To find out more – read the link in the May Links file.



The gardener who took a Canadian city to court for the right to not mow his lawn

By Campbell MacDiarmid The link is in the May Links file

Mississauga officials have twice forcibly cut Wolf Ruck's grass and billed him, after he decided to rewild his garden

Most mornings, Wolf Ruck walks the mown paths in his yard in Mississauga, Ontario, watching for insects landing on the goldenrod, birds feeding on native seed heads, and chipmunk kits playing in the tall grass. The septuagenarian artist, film-maker and former Olympic canoeist began rewilding his garden with native plants three years ago, as part of a growing movement across Canada towards replacing water-thirsty lawns with “naturalised gardens”.

Letting nature take its course has been a blessing to

observe, Ruck says. But to city officials, his garden violates the city's nuisance weed and tall grass control bylaw. Twice, officers responding to anonymous neighbour complaints have brought workers to forcibly cut Ruck's garden, billing him later for the work.

“My property is not abandoned. It's not a blight on the community. It simply seems to offend some neighbours who don't like the look of it,” Ruck says.

A growing number of Canadian gardeners are facing legal action for their efforts to rewild their gardens, a movement that took off during the coronavirus pandemic, as people confined to their homes reconsidered their relationship with their lawn. *Proponents of rewilding cite greater biodiversity, drought resistance, and lower upkeep as advantages.*

Beyond sidewalk gardens overflowing with black-eyed susan, hairy beardtongue and white turtlehead, signs of the growing movement can be seen in the proliferation of community initiatives, such as wildflower seed libraries and butterfly ranger programs. In recent years big-box retailers and garden centres have started carrying native plants alongside Kentucky bluegrass seed and hybrid tea roses.

But the growing movement is facing blowback from lawn-loving neighbours complaining about gardens overrun with “weeds”. Prof Nina-Marie Lister says the Ecological Design Lab she directs at Toronto Metropolitan University is receiving more requests than ever to help gardeners facing bylaw complaints. “The number of cases we have supported with advice through my lab has more than quadrupled since 2020,” she says.

Across Canada and the United States, local bylaws regulate private gardens, often using subjective terms such as “tidy” or “neat”, arbitrary rules such as limiting grass height to 20 cm, and vague or undefined terms such as “weeds”. Enforcement is driven by anonymous complaints and is carried out by often-harried bylaw officers without specific botanical training, who may also be dealing with noise complaints, parking violations and vermin outbreaks.

Lister is helping local bodies update their garden regulations and cites 12 municipalities in Ontario alone that have updated or are updating their bylaws.

“The aesthetic of the lawn has been increasingly challenged as out of date, especially at a time when many cities – and the city of Toronto specifically – encourage residents to plant native

species,” she says.



“The advice we give to municipalities is this: diversify the palette of what a garden looks like. Recognise the rights of residents to plant, cultivate and grow native species ... the only proviso must be that they are not harmful to human or ecological health.”

For ordinary citizens concerned with habitat loss, environmental degradation and climate change, their garden is one of the few areas in which they have agency to act, says Lorraine Johnson, an author on native gardening. “The growing appeal is that it’s something you can do locally that has an important and demonstrable positive impact,” she says. Ruck agrees.

“It’s certainly helping me in terms of countering that feeling of helplessness, because I can say at least I’m trying to do my part,” he says.

After his arguments failed to convince bylaw officers, Ruck took his case to court. Legal precedent supports naturalised gardening in Ontario, where in 1996 a court ruled that Sandy Bell, a Toronto gardener, had the right to express her environmental beliefs through gardening, overturning a fine issued to her under the city’s weeds and grass bylaw.

But Ruck, who represented himself, lost his case on procedural grounds after arguing that the city had applied the bylaw unfairly and arbitrarily. Now on the hook for the municipality’s legal bills of \$6,000, he has filed an appeal. Officials have tried to work with Ruck in dealing with nuisance weeds and tall grass complaints at his property, a Mississauga spokesperson said. “Because this matter is before the courts, the city does not have any further comment at this time.”

In the meantime, Ruck remains on alert for the sound of garden trimmers. “It’s a cloud hanging over my head,” he says.

Sometimes supporting your local pollinators is as simple as this :)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is your official invitation to ANOTHER event on the YWCA Rooftop Garden on May 22nd that may be of interest. We will be hearing from a Women of Distinction nominee, Jessica Regan, CEO of FoodMesh that redirects unsold products to individuals in need.

YWCA IMPACT SERIES – May 22, 5:30- 7 PM 535 Hornby Stree, 4th floor

Addressing Food Insecurity

Please RSVP here by May 16 (or in the May links file)

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Please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to YWCA Crabtree Corner. Your generosity will support the YWCA's food security initiatives.

If you are unable to attend this event YWCA hopes to see you at the June 19th tour with the Lynn Valley Garden Club on the YWCA Rooftop Garden.

Plant Talks by Our Members – Donna Wasylik



Do you have knowledge of a particular plant or plant species that you would like to share with other members? We are planning a plant knowledge exchange for our September meeting. Your presentation would be no more than five to ten minutes, with a question-and-answer segment.

Your presentation would focus on no more than three bullet points related to your subject/plant. "Tips and Tricks" are particularly helpful.

Examples of topics are:

Starting veggie seeds

Digging out and moving larger trees or bushes

Particular plants such as hostas, camellias, clematis, fruit trees, pollinator plants, to name just a few...

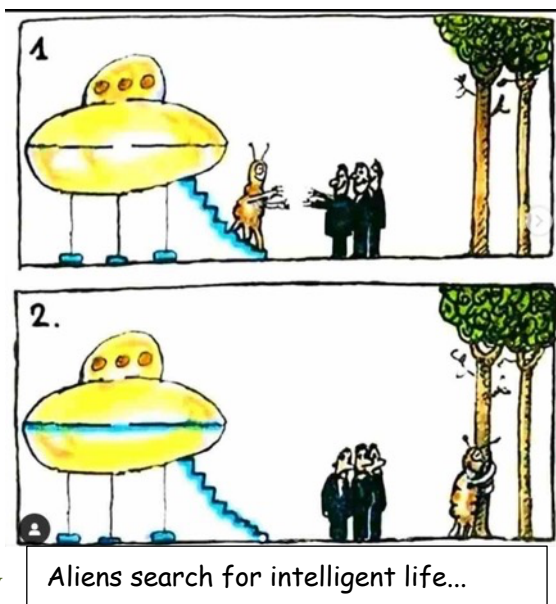
If you can participate, please contact Donna at: wasylikdonna@gmail.com. Let's make the first meeting in our new venue a memorable one!

Canadian Naked Gardening Day – June 4, 2025

If you missed the World Naked Gardening Day – don't worry, you get another chance – there is an official **CANDIAN NAKED GARDENING DAY** on **JUNE 4**. *The Leaf* will publish all formal evidence of your having participated in that Naked Gardening Day. Photographs are awaited with bated breath.

Harvest Project

With life as we know it, and the economy going to hell in handbasket – people who, before, were on the edge of a financial cliff, are dropping off, one by one. The Harvest Project provides support and sustenance to local people who find themselves in a bind. **PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO BRING A NON-PERISHABLE ITEM** to the meeting. Every can counts: it's the difference between something in the tummy or going hungry. "There, but for the grace of God, go I." Julie kindly drives your gifts to the Harvest Project office.... and they are very happy to receive every little bit.



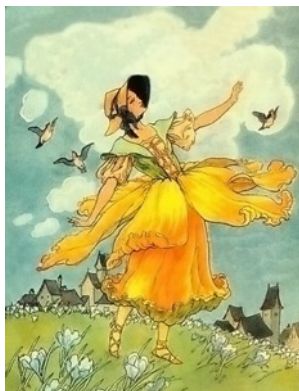
BC Council of Garden Clubs

The imaginatively named BULLETIN is out. Please read it on the BCCGC website – which can be found among the May links. There is some quite useful stuff in there, if you hunt a bit.

Tech Support

LVGC's tech rescue, *par excellence*, is now officially provided by Artem Korniev – whose new business name "Q-Fix" has been officially registered in BC. His website will be up soon, but if you drop your cell phone in the toilet (like I did) or your computer seizes up and starts blinking, or any other weird technological gremlin attacks your electronics, feel free to call him. His prices are reasonable, and his motto is "Ukrainians never give up!" and I am sure you will be happy with his work. You can reach him at 778-866-8783.

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DAFFODOWNDILLY:

She wore her yellow sun-bonnet,
She wore her greenest gown;
She turned to the south wind
And curtsied up and down.
She turned to the sunlight
And shook her yellow head,
And whispered to her neighbour:
"Winter is dead."

Alan Alexander Milne of Winnie-the-Pooh fame.



COMPOST BIN – Maria Issa

The Plant Sale is always a lot of fun – a LOT of work, by so many people – but definitely a lot of fun! This year was no exception. “Thick and fast, they came at last and more and more and more!” Many, many plants appeared as everyone – even people who were out of town! – sent/trucked/brought/dragged/dug their contributions. The parking lot turned into a jungle!

It was truly a fabulous sale – and we were in luck as it could have poured rain, but it didn’t. Consequently, there were a lot of happy plant huggers, haulers, handlers and hefters (see photos below) who were delighted to pose for us with their loot. At the end of the sale, the cleaners swooped in, swept up, sent off the remainders to the Mollie Nye sale – and as if by magic – the parking lot was a parking lot again. Well, not quite. We really had a surfeit of irises, so Marina quickly planted about 10 pots’ worth along the back edge of the parking lot. They will be spectacular when they bloom!

Every little bit of happiness is welcome these days, as the international news is grim – I had sincerely hoped that mine would be the generation that doesn’t ‘own’ a war, or other direct disaster. As the US’s grip on reality loosens, other despots that were held in check by the US potential, start to posture, sabers rattling. There is little that I can do, but what little I can, I do to stick my elbows up, support fellow scientists, women, and marginalized groups – selfishly! – as they stand between me and the precipice: they get pushed over first.

I’m not too cheerful as my friend and colleague, (whose 2nd (!!!) PhD in Education, is about teaching children about plants and scientific approaches to the environment,) had a bit of a nasty surprise. She works out of Van Dusen Gardens and collaborates with a botanical garden in Hawaii. The latter had a DOGE visit. DOGE told them that ‘diversity’ is distasteful and must be stripped out of everything. “But plant diversity in an ecological niche?”, they gasped. “Diversity - baaaaad!” was the eloquent and logically argued ruling, “Out!”. Currently, everything is being re-oriented with ‘variety’. Male and female plants or plant parts are being re-scientified to *dioecious* as the DOGE word searches did not hang up on that. There goes the great scientific initiative of “lay, jargon-free” writing for the public. The public doesn’t understand and doesn’t want to understand. It’s easier to be mad at scientists that way... and thus it’s easier to rationalize cuts to research. If you are interested in seeing what scary cuts are happening, check out the science link in the May Links file.

This reminds me of my aunt’s true story. There were some rather undesirable, mafia type people living on the Danube island where we had a summer place. They cut down centuries-old trees, built big, stone walls topped with cameras and razor wire – to keep the world and the Danube out. The Danube, undeterred, sent the annual floodwaters over the wall. The US may seem to save money by cutting down distant defenses/infectious disease testing programs outside its walls, but the pressure of the diseases will rise and pour over the wall – and this time, there will not be an early warning. This may be the only warning you will see before the next pandemic.

Having totally depressed myself – here is a cheerful challenge: Please immortalize the Plant Sale or things LVGC in a Limerick. All limericks will be published – even if rickety – and the voted winner will get something – not sure what – probably more plants! Here are some to prime the pump – the first one is by Poet Laureate Carol Bell.

Some gardeners of dubious fame
Wanted charity to be their aim,
So they seeded and grew
And divided plants too,
Held a big sale and everyone came!!

The Plant Sale grew so over-sized
It moved to the car park outside
For plants to be found
People bent to the ground
And presented their second-best side!

And now it’s your turn!!

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Plant Sale May 2025 – MORE PICS IN JUNE!!!

