# THE LEAF

*THE LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB* *Established 1943* *November 2026*

## *President's Message – Hiromi Matsui*

Our October general meeting had some unexpected moments; on arrival, we found we were locked out of the building. Elections BC was setting up in preparation for the Advance Poll the next day and no one was allowed to enter. A scramble and a quick pivot. Thank you for your understanding and patience dealing with such an unexpected situation.

Meanwhile, the executive has been reviewing the budget for 2026-2027. While the Club is in a positive financial position right now, we need to prepare for the future. Our expenses are increasing, including those related to technology. After detailed discussion, we decided it was time to raise membership fees from $20 to $30 per year. This is the first fee increase in over 20 years, and our room rental costs and monthly subscription fees to run the Club have all increased.

Some questions have arisen about the donations we give from the profits from the Plant Sale. Our usual practice has been to give back to the community by sharing our profits with local organizations. But now we find ourselves living in world threatened by global warming and catastrophic weather events. s it enough for us to work at maintaining our gardens, or do we have a responsibility to do more? Should we be actively supporting sustainability initiatives?

We hope you will join us in a discussion about this in the New Year. We need to hear your voices on the direction the Club should be taking in the future. I know there will be lots of positive input ad guidance from all of you!

We're looking forward to our **Christmas party on December 10** and we're thinking of holding a Christmas Trivia quiz along with making some small craft items. More info will be forthcoming in the December Leaf. If you have a great trivia question, or many questions, please email them to *The Leaf*! Please bring donations of toys, small toiletries or socks for Sage House and the Harvest Project. You may also make a donation to the YWCA Hamper project. And we look forward to sharing Christmas treats, savoury and sweet, with you!



---Hiromi

LVGC MEETINGS
3rd Thursday of each month (except July and August)
at
North Vancouver Lawn Bowling Club,
249 East 24th Street,
North Vancouver *Meetings start promptly at* 7:00 PM

## SPEAKER

LIZ KNIGHT WILL LEAD US ON A DISCOVERY JOURNEY OF DARTS HILL GARDEN PARK.

***FOLLOWED BY THE LVGC AGM***

If you need to contact anyone at LVGC please use email or phone!

PLEASE USE ELECTRONIC ACCESS

Your emails are welcome:
lynnvalleygardenclub@gmail.com
*THE LEAF*
LVGCnewsletter@gmail.com

*The bright summer had passed away, and gorgeous autumn was flinging its rainbow-tints of beauty on hill and dale.*
~Cornelia L. Tuthill, "Virginia Dare: Or, the Colony of Roanoke," 1840

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

**Executive 2026**

**CO-PRESIDENTS**
Hiromi Matsui .
Maria Issa .

**VICE PRESIDENT**
Tana Bullock .

**SECRETARY**
Judy Sullivan .

**TREASURER**
Sarah-Jane Gray .

**MEMBERSHIP & MEMBER TABLE**
Jennifer Sydenham .
Nancy Behnsen .
Karen O'Neill .

**MEMBERS AT LARGE (MALS)**
Doreen Dew* .
Daphne Page .
Stefanie Rezansoff .
Anonymous

**Committees**

**PLANT TABLE**
Maggie Davis .

**HOSPITALITY**
Bev Fraine .
Shelley Elgar .
Diana Hanley .
Leneen Webb .
Rosamond Hughes .
MaryAnn McKay .

**SUNSHINE / DOOR PRIZES**
Jacquie D'Auria .

**WEBSITE**
Laurie Smith .

**NEWSLETTER**
Maria Issa .
Stefanie Rezansoff .
Miriam Scott .
Laurie Smith .

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE**
Gillian Konst .

**SET-UP**
Lynn Frith .
Evelyn Davidson .

**DONATIONS**
Fran Watters .
Carol Bell .
Edie Rustemeyer .
Courtney Mitchell .

**Executive Meetings**

November Executive meeting location is *chez* ???
Newsletter items to lvgcnewsletter@gmail.com by **December 1, 2026**

**Thanks to LEAF contributors,** Carol Ferryman, Denis McMahon, Rita Marshall, Stefanie Rezansoff, Donna Wasylik




## SPEAKER
## *Liz Knight*

Darts Hill is a hidden treasure—a private garden turned public that contains unusual, rare, and endangered plants. Join Liz for a virtual tour where you will discover the garden's secrets. Along the way, you will learn why pawpaw orchards are festooned with roadkill, how lungwort got its name, and why the English prefer black tea over green.

Liz Knight retired after a 40-year career in market research, throwing herself headlong into learning everything she could about plants and gardening. She became a Master Gardener in 2019. After serving as a mentor for 6 years, she now helps design and deliver the Master Gardener course. A tour guide at Darts Hill, she is also responsible for all plant labelling and maintaining the park's extensive plant inventory. Liz is the Communications Director for the South Surrey Garden Club, where she was president from 2023 to 2025.

## AGM ANNUAL REPORTS

### *Presidents – Hiromi Matsui & Maria Issa*

This year the Lynn Valley Garden Club has had 150 members with a group of people on a waiting list. The deadline for membership renewal has been changed to January 31, 2027.

Doreen Marbury has been leading the Nominations Committee. Thanks to her work, we're pleased that some of the newer members will join us as MALS. All members are invited to be actively involved in the Club with lots of opportunities to "shadow" a committee member.



The highlight of this year was our successful Plant Sale in May, organized by Doreen Dew and her team of MALS who pulled off a magnificent sale with the help of many dedicated volunteers and their wheelbarrows. The veggies were quickly snapped up as well as the special azaleas. We've received thanks from grateful patrons who were able to grow successful pumpkins and tomatoes. Thank you everyone for your generosity and hard work!

We completed two "digs" at Silver Harbour before they moved out and with the help of Karen, Sharon, Edie and others, we dug out roses, rhodies, anemones, Chinese lanterns and azaleas. I planted a rescue poppy which was not at all happy at first, but has now recovered well! We even rescued several large rebar "sculptures" which we successfully recycled at the Plant Sale.

There have been email delivery problems of *The Leaf* for some members. We rely on email running smoothly, and unfortunately, there have been glitches. To sort out the problems is not simple, but we've had helpful advice from Artem and Laurie. We've decided we need to update our email system, and the Club communications systems. We have heard that other local organizations have also experienced similar problems: "misery loves company!" We are actively working on fixing this and will be spending more on technology related items in the budget. That is the reason for the motion to increase the membership fees from $20 to $30.

The BC Council of Garden Clubs invited us to work with Sebastian Chabot, a Canadian film maker to feature some local gardens. After reviewing some gardens, he made a YouTube video as part of the series, "Some Time in the Garden". It featured the lovely garden of Maria Issa and featured many plants she has moved, rescued and received from members.

In June, we held a Garden Party at Maria's home with members decked out in their dresses,

suits and hats. Who can forget the Hosta leaf fascinator made by Kathy Stubbs? There were Lorraine's delicious cakes and lots of goodies to enjoy.

We will be partnering with a community group to upgrade a corner space on Peters Road and McEwen. We will be holding a design competition in the New Year to change this area from an unused space to a community garden. Several community members are enthusiastic to work on this project, and we are pleased to be involved. This is the Club in action.

As you may have noticed, we have made 'friendship' the focus of the year by having more (silly?) fun at meetings and arranging social events (Thanks Donna & Gillian!). At the last Exec meeting, we remarked how much we laughed and how much we got done... We also regularly hear giggling emanating from the hospitality and 'chairs' team: wonder what's going on there? Hmmm... it might be working!

Many studies have shown that connections are important for a happy life - and we make them by working together with wonderful, like-minded people. So do come and volunteer and have fun with us!



## *Vice President – Tana Bullock*

I assumed the role of VP in November 2025. In December 2025 we did not have a meeting, as per the club's tradition to hold a holiday party instead.

2026 started with some great home-grown talent with 3 members giving excellent talks. Laurie Smith kicked off the year talking about houseplants, in February Jane Sherrott spoke about alternatives to lawns (she wasn't an active member at the time, but was enticed to renew her membership!), then in March Jackie Morris, spoke about growing veggies!

In April we had an interesting talk by Lori Ann Bird on rediscovering cultural, native, edible and medicinal plants. In April some members took a field trip to the Lakeland flowers to see the tulips, it was a bit of a trek to Abbotsford, but the tulips were wonderful! Then in May, Derek Churchill gave a funny and informative talk about trees and pruning mishaps. We wrapped up the 'year' with a fun summer party in Maria's garden, complete with hats!

As always, the club breaks for July and August, as folks are away and busy gardening. July did see another small group adventure afar, this time to Squamish to Lavendel farm. It smelled heavenly!

September kicked off with Brian Minter, who's passion for gardening is infectious. Although he has spoken to the club many times, most members rave about his visits and this time was no exception. As the lawn bowling club was not able to accommodate the numbers we expected to attend this talk we held it at Mt Seymour United Church. We sold tickets to guests at $15 each, and the 21 extra attendees more than made up for the extra costs we incurred by bringing Brian in.

October was a fiasco with the Lawn Bowling Club double booking us. Unfortunately, Catherine Dale did not speak, but we have tentatively re-booked her for the spring.

November- Liz Knight from Darts Hill will speak about the garden there



## *Treasurer – Sarah-Jane Gray*

The financial review completed for 2025 by Peter Klinkow found the accounting process, financial records and management of the club's finances to be sound.

The club currently has a balance of $ 21,411.92. [Subtract $6000 once the Donations are formally approved > $ 15,411.92]

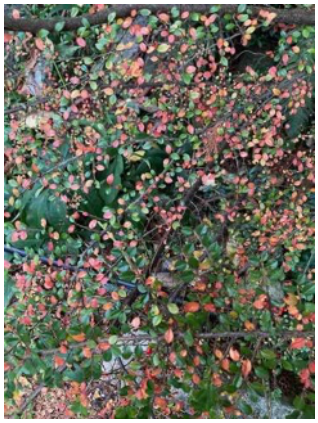
The formal finalized budget is at the end of this *Leaf*. The budget was presented and discussed at the October general meeting and comments were invited. Please be prepared to vote on the following MOTION:

***"That the LVGC financial report and 2027 Budget be approved as presented."***

Moved by the Treasurer Sarah-Jane Gray. Seconded by the President Maria Issa.

## *Membership – Jennifer Sydenham*

The club is currently fully subscribed with 150 members, and 19 people on the waiting list. Most of the people on the waiting list said that they wanted to join because they know someone in the club, or because they met and chatted with



some of our members during the plant sale. So thanks to all of you for spreading the word and being so welcoming to our new members and potential new members!

***Membership renewal forms for 2027 will be sent out after the AGM.***

Please note that we will be making an increased effort to put the newest news on the website – and to have *The Leaf* available on there rapidly. This is so that those of you whose recalcitrant emails keep refusing to accept *Leaf* emails – will have a fast access "Plan B" source of information. If you have not received *The Leaf* by latest Monday evening before the "third Thursday" meeting – then something is very wrong. Check the website for the relevant information – and check your email to see whether it is full, or whether *The Leaf* ended up in the compost – alias your junk folder.

**IF YOU ARE NOT GETTING THE LEAF IN YOUR EMAIL, PLEASE CONTACT lvcgnewsletter@gmail.com and remonstrate.** You can also contact Artem, our techy, who can figure it out for you. His info is on in the footer of every page.

## *Secretary – Judy Sullivan & Webguru – Laurie Smith*

The DRAFT October minutes will be posted on the LVGC website. The Minutes of the 2025 AGM have been sent to you as a separate file with your usual cover email. They are also posted on the LVGC website – and the link to them is in the November Links file. Please look over them to be able to approve them at the 2026 AGM.

## *MALS– Doreen Dew, Daphne Page and Stefanie Rezansoff and Krystina M.*




Doreen D. writes this on behalf of Daphne, Stefanie, and Krystina.

Our Plant Sale this year was extremely successful in so many ways!

We had the help of a warm sunny day, an army of wonderful hard working volunteers and 1000s of happy healthy plants. The local community came out in droves to support us. So, thank you fellow members for all your contributions!!!

***Our Sales were a tad shy of $14 ,500 ……this has enabled us to donate $6000 back into our community!***

By having the soil available earlier in the year, members took advantage of the good weather and produced lots of plants to sell. This made a huge difference to our success. We also had soil available in September, which disappeared very quickly, so that bodes well for the 2027 Plant Sale.

The other things that worked well for us this year was the ***Raffle***. Stefanie did an awesome job finding prizes. Also the Mothers' Day gift table was very popular, so thank you to the members who contributed and especially to Krystina who made the lovely gift tags and posters.

We managed to get some North Shore Honey from Bring Back the Bees – ad this too, was immensely popular. Our lucky members had a chance to buy honey before the Plant Sale. The remainder was quickly sold by our Honey Ladies ……the "dress for the day" was awesome and fun!

The MALs' Mantra for 2026 was 'Communication'. *[It worked! And the red sashes were very fashionable... -ed]*

We have built a good relationships both with the staff of St Clement's Church and Loutet Farm who gave us generous support with publicity and the loan of tables. This is an excellent foundation for future Plant Sales .

Looking forward to 2027, we will need members to fill the vacant MAL positions so please consider volunteering to be involved in the best, most fun Plant Sale in the Lower Mainland !

***Please mark your calendars…. …the Plant Sale is 8th May 2027***

## *Donations Committee - Carol Bell, Barb Downman, Edie Rustemeyer, and Fran Watters*



Each year, the proceeds from the Plant Sale and various *digs* allows the Club to support organizations that share our values — organizations that teach gardening, inspire a love of growing things, help our local community, and encourage people to understand the value of growing food and planting for pollinators. The Donations Committee's well-considered and discussed and debated suggestions are appended to this *Leaf*. They were also presented and discussed at the rather bizarre and displaced meeting in October.

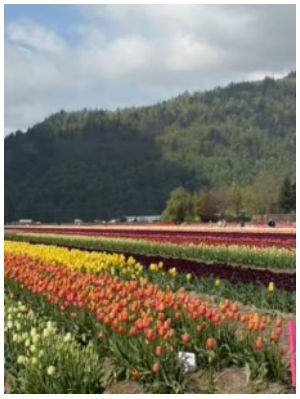
**"The Donations Committee recommends that the 2026 Lynn Valley Garden Club community donation of $6,000 be allocated as specified in the committee report published in the October Leaf."**

## *Social Committee Annual Report – Gillian Konst, Donna Wasylik*

**Lakeland Flowers – 2026 Abbotsford Tulip Festival – April 23, 2026**



For our first tour of the year, six garden club members carpooled out to Abbotsford to the 2026 Tulip Festival. ***Lakeland Flowers*** was first established by Peter Warmerdam, a Dutch immigrant, after WW2. The name 'Lakeland' derives from the Sumas Lake flooding story of which we were reminded after the devastating floods of 2021. Peter settled in the valley where sandy soils and steady wind made for ideal flower growing conditions. The farm continues in the family with the third-generation owner, Nick, who for the last 30 years has adapted to the changing demands of the flower industry and continues to provide fresh cut tulips, gladiola, peonies and daffodils to markets across Canada and the U.S. The farm now practices regenerative agriculture, a holistic approach to farming.





Good weather made the tour of the farm a beautiful experience. We saw millions of tulip and daffodil bulbs of all varieties and colours, all displayed in traditional Dutch rows. Some of us enjoyed a variety of food trucks and some bought bulbs at the store before returning home.

**Lavendel Farm – Squamish – July 11, 2026**

Our second outing was to beautiful Lavendel Farm just north of Squamish.Four of us visited the farm, which was established in 2018 and is open to the public for visits to their large variety of penned farm animals and a venue for outdoor events. Unfortunately their website describes them as a seven acre lavender farm. This was not the case! They had 13, 75 foot rows of 400 *Lavendula Augustofolia* plants: basically a smallish patch of lavender! The patch was beautiful but hardly a field. The farm's website was closed down for the season and communication with the owners was somewhat difficult before the visit but we did enjoy seeing the animals and walking around a vintage car show which was held on the farm that day. We topped off our tour with a visit to the farmer's market in Squamish for lunch before heading home.

## *THE LVGC 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING*

... will follow promptly after the tea break after Liz Knight's talk. The AGENDA for the meeting is at the END of this Leaf, as is the 2027 BUDGET. During the meeting, we will follow *Robert's Rules of Order* – a simplified version is provided as a separate file in your cover email.

Please note that if there is something you wish the club to make a decision upon – and you don't see it in the agenda, you can make a 'motion from the floor.' Please be specific about the wording.

If at least one other member also deems this issue to be worth discussing – then that person must 'second' the motion. Then a discussion ensues, followed by a vote.

If nobody 'seconds' the motion, it is not discussed and it is not voted upon.

## *ROSEMARIE'S BRIGHT SPOTS*

*[Alias: what's blooming now. EVERYONE is requested to contribute to this column – please send 100KB (low res!!) photos of your 'find' with the name of the plant, some interesting facts about it, something about why you have it or how come it's blooming in your hands; or some other edifying anecdote to share. It doesn't have to be long – a few sentences. This section is named in memory of Rosemarie Adams who always had the most interesting plants to talk about – she was a walking encyclopaedia].*

As nobody sent in anything >>>AGAIN<<< – you miserable lot! – you are now stuck with what little is left growing in my garden. Here are a few pictures of some random bits and bobs.

The fall garden is gold, copper and bronze. These colours light up the looming black clouds. Architectural seed heads swing gently with the raindrops. Squirrels find the last pecans and hazelnuts and bury them – somewhere – I hope they remember. The raccoons have already done their thing and eaten every last sour grape, and the bear has cleaned up the apples and I have to clean up the branches he broke getting to them. I think it might be time to pull up the dahlias and dry the tubers. The asparagus needs transplanting to a better spot – it's living in a black bag and needs less transient housing. I'm considering 'chaos gardening' by pooling all my saved seeds in a bowl, giving them a good mix and sprinkling them like Tinker Bell's magic powder. Imagining me as Tinker Bell... oh, stop laughing!















Then *(Thank heavens!!!)* **Carol Ferryman** came the rescue at the 11th hour – with a completely telepathic email:

"I just love these autumn colours which have few diseases. The *Callicarpa* "Beauty Bush" and *Cotinus* "Smoke tree" both have leaves and berries that seem to survive the November rain.

The fairy toadstool or *Amanita muscaria* is growing in my daughter's driveway in Burnaby. It gets larger by the day. Its' poisonous and psychoactive so don't eat it with on your T-bone steak!"

## *Schönbrunn: A Royal Garden – Denis McMahon*

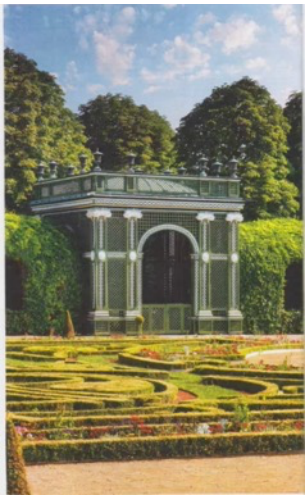


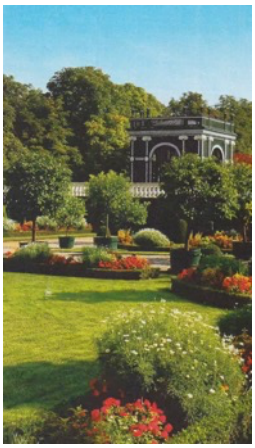
[It is our luck that Denis is not only a gardener, but an inveterate world traveler – and he visits gardens wherever he goes.]

Last year I had the opportunity to visit the park and gardens at the Schönbrunn Palace, the main summer residence of the Habsburg rulers, in Vienna, Austria. The gardens are quite extensive, but I only had time to visit some areas, including the Meidling Privy Gardens and the Great Parterre.



The Imperial Palace of Schönbrunn, together with its numerous outbuildings, is one of the most important cultural monuments of Austria. The Baroque layout of the garden, together with the additions made during the last decade of Maria Theresa's life, has survived more or less intact, and today still determines the characteristic appearance of the garden at Schönbrunn. *[Maria Theresa was one tough lady - she ruled the Habsburg monarchy from 1740 until her death in 1780, and was the only woman to hold the position in her own right. She was the sovereign of Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Bohemia, Transylvania, Slavonia, Mantua, Milan, Moravia, Galicia and Lodomeria, Dalmatia, Austrian Netherlands, Carinthia, Carniola, Gorizia and Gradisca, Austrian Silesia, Tyrol, Styria, and Parma. By marriage, she was Duchess of Lorraine, Grand Duchess of Tuscany, and Holy Roman Empress. -ed]*







One of my favourite gardens was the Meidling Prince Gardens, which were remodelled around 1750. Along the eastern front of the Palace lies the sunken area known since 1865 as the Crown Gardens, its section is enclosed with colourful flower borders. The two eastern sectors of the Privy Garden were laid out or replaced with simplified designs around 1770. *[The pictures show the parterre beds decorated with flowering plants and gravelin different colours, framed by the leafy pergola and its pavilions.]*

There are eight plots intended for fruit trees and cold frames. The last part of the garden was divided into four compartments with a fountain at the centre and was reserved for growing exotic fruit such as bananas, pineapples, or plums, and to accommodate other rarities. Some of the fruit grown here supplied the imperial table at Schönbrunn Palace.

I would highly recommend that any members of the garden club who are in Vienna visit this outstanding garden.

[Denis has a personal interest in the Schönbrunn, as his uncle-three-times-removed was presented to Franz Joseph, on two occasions and was hosted by Countess Melanie Metternich-Zichy.]

## *ANNOUNCEMENTS – OURS*

### *We seek some fun-loving people for the various committees and the Executive –*

If you have ever wondered what the giggling is all about, or why people on LVGC Committees are always so happy and friendly - you, too, can find out! There are two major ways of doing this:

1. Trot over to someone on a committee – see list on the second page of this *LEAF,* and take the leap, offer your time (usually about an hour or two a month) and be a part of something grand, something you believe in. There are always people who will show you the ropes[1], and help you.
2. If you are 'not into commitment': no problem!!! You can go along to a committee or the Executive and watch them in action. Hang out with them to see what's what and whether there is a piece of the action that suits your style. You are always welcome. And your input matters.

None of this is 'rocket science'[2] – in fact it is a lot easier than you may think! It is also great fun and a great way to make new friends. I know, as over the years, I've developed a serious fondness for my past LVGC partners-in-crime.

We need some warm bodies for the following 'high profile positions':

1. Someone with **spreadsheet expertise** to manage the Membership list.
2. Several people – as many as we can get, but a minimum of 4 would be good! – to join the MALs to plan the Plant Sale.

The more the merrier – and the less the work – so corner your friends and do it as a group thing.

[1] "Show you the ropes" comes from sailing, where sailors had to learn the ship's complex rigging; it later came to mean teaching someone the basics of a task or job.

[2] See 'Rocket Science' LINK in the October Links file




## *Meeting Report: BC Council of Garden Clubs – Hiromi Matsui*

The BC Council of Garden Clubs is an umbrella organization that links together Garden Clubs and provides services such as our insurance. On October 24, 2026, I attended their Annual General Meeting held in the Bonsor Recreation Centre in Burnaby. It was well-attended with representatives of many clubs present. The business portion of the meeting went smoothly and there was a report on the Endowment fund which supports the scholarships they award. There was a good talk by Nick from Kelowna, one of the Scholarship winners about his work growing grape vines in Penticton and dealing with the smoke from forest fires. They held the annual Floral Design Competition and the guest speaker, Ron Long, showed many lovely slides of BC wildflowers. There were several vendors selling garden-related products and a large member draw with lots of prizes.

There was some discussion about recruiting volunteers and retention of members. Each club has developed its own governance structure that usually relates to the community where members live. There are challenges finding volunteers to take on executive roles which seems to be a common thread among many clubs.

The link to *The Bulletin* is in the November Links file.

*"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."*
— Albert Camus

## *Wild Opportunities*

### *Lotsa Potsa!! - You are in luck – as last month "never happened" you didn't miss these!!*

**Sharon** is bringing ***~60 4-inch (plastic) pots*** to the October meeting. For those of you who will do veggies and seedlings for the Plant Sale – jump on this now! AND – See next page....



**Sally** discovered a historic hidey hole by the side of her house, with many CERAMIC pots. As a result of her guilty cleaning frenzy, there are many clean pots available – for a donation to LVGC. Please contact the *THE LEAF* if you would like some!!



### *El Cheapo Garden Gloves – time to stock up!!*



Rona has 3 pairs of bright, fluoresscent green, hard-to-lose gloves for $2.99. Go get 'em while they're still there. I burn through these, so I appreciate that they are "cheap and cheerful".



### *Big Bag of Yellow Daffodil Bulbs*

Canadian Tire at Park and Tilford has daffodil bulbs for sale for $9.99 – ½ price because they have to get rid of them before they rot. I'm planting mine when there is a lull between atmospheric rivers.

## *Garden Design Contest Coming Soon – a 'Heads Up!' still awaiting the result of the grant application.*

If you have ever wanted to design a garden, but yours was already all done... here is the perfect thing for you!

LVGC will be running a contest to DESIGN (not plant, just plan – so no physical labour involved) a garden for a strip of District land that is annoyingly used for dumping everything from tires to toilets (!!yes!!), in the hope that a nice garden will deter the dreaded dumpers.

Background: a group of local homeowners have had their fill of this dumping and have approached the NV District to support their quest for a garden. The District agreed in principle, IF they partner with LVGC. (Yes, we're famous.) So, they contacted us and we decided that the best way to support them is to help them design the garden. *Ergo* the contest. They will choose the winner and will actually create the garden based on the winning design.

The details, *desiderata* and contest criteria, will become available when the finances come in. Obviously. Until then, you can get your creative juices flowing. Go visit the site and start plotting. It starts at the North West corner of Peters Road and McEwen Avenue with the sad strip running along the West side of McEwan.

### *Looking ahead to the Holiday party – [hint hint hint: start collecting pretty cones!!]*

## *Harvest Project*

Please don't forget your ***HARVEST PROJECT DONATION***. Everyone can manage one can of something without hardship. No excuses. That one can that you forget about – can be a life-saver for someone else, so please just stuff it into your handbag and drop it into the box. Remember, *"There, but for the grace of God, go I"*.

## *WISH – Drop-in Centre Society Christmas Cards – Courtney Mitchell*

For more than 10 years Lynn Valley Garden Club members have donated Christmas cards and various occasion cards for the women who access the WISH Drop-In Centre Society in the Vancouver Downtown East Side. Once again, I will collect any card donations at the November and December meetings and then take them to the Drop-In Centre. I will ensure that donations arrive in time for their Christmas dinner. In the past, WISH has requested nature- or peace-themed cards- rather than sparkly, opulent, presents-filled ones, for obvious reasons. Indigenous art is particularly appreciated.

WISH has been desperately underfunded this past year and would also appreciate donations of new make-up, toiletries, undies and socks, and new or gently used towels. I can also take these along with the Christmas cards should you wish to donate them. If you cannot bring cards, *etc* to the meetings, contact me for a pick-up at (604) 925-8816.

## *ANNOUNCEMENTS - THEIRS*

***GRIN***

The Green Roof Infrastructure Network (GRIN) is the interdisciplinary voice for green roofs and green infrastructure in BC. Please see the link to their website in the November Links file.

***Soil Seminars***

There are some interesting seminars on soil that you may want to try: "Biological compost and regenerative farming". FREE webinars – we missed two, but there are more. Where and how, in the November LINKS file.

***Backpack Buddies***

This is a group that we support already – and they do seriously good work. The following email came from them:

"Backpack Buddies has been selected as a finalist in the iA Financial Group Philanthropic Contest! We're one of just three charities competing for the $200,000 Western Canada prize, and we would love your vote to help us win!" The vote is done on a webpage – and the LINK to that webpage is in the 'November 2026 Links' file that came with the cover letter that brought you this Leaf.

***You have to vote before November 25!!***



***Do you want to BUY or GROW your own SAFFRON??***

Gagan, whose farm produce I get sometimes because it's of great quality and great price, supports Avtar Uncle, the only saffron farmer in Western Canada. He grows the world's most expensive spice right here in Abbotsford, BC, and is creating a new farming industry in Canada**....** And if you mention "Gagan", he'll give you FREE SAFFRON with your purchase.

Unfortunately,. you missed the "pick and dry your own" – maybe next year!! – but you can still **buy dried saffron** from him directly: Avtar sells locally grown, hand-harvested dried saffron. $50 per gram. Mention 'Gagan' and get 0.25 grams FREE for every 1 gram purchased. Perfect for rice, tea, desserts and traditional dishes. *[... and a mean paella!!]*

You can also **grow your own saffron**: Avtar also sells saffron bulbs (corms). They're planted somewhat like garlic, produce beautiful purple flowers each fall and can multiply over time. Contact him for bulb prices.

VISIT -Abbotsford Saffron Farm - 3131 Towne Rd, Abbotsford, BC 778-878-6576 ramsarfarm@gmail.com

HOURS: Mon–Fri: 8 AM–5 PM; Sat: 10 AM–5 PM; Sun: 10 AM–4:30 PM. Call before visiting to confirm availability.

Avtar Uncle is taking a chance growing something different. Let's help him turn his dream into something bigger.

Don't forget to mention Gagan for your FREE saffron.



***Gardening Supply Store - passed along by Stefanie Rezansoff & Gwen Miller***

I wanted to pass along a quick tip in case it might be of interest for the upcoming newsletter or club announcements. Jons Plant Factory—a well-known local shop with a 35-year history serving both hydroponics and mainstream gardeners—recently closed its Hastings Street storefront in Burnaby at the end of October.

Rather than retiring, they are transitioning to a new online model starting this Tuesday, November 17th, and will also welcome personal pick-ups and visits at their new warehouse in Port Coquitlam. Since many local gardeners rely on them for their great service and lower-than-retail prices, I thought members might appreciate knowing they are still around so no one assumes they've closed for good. See the November LINKS file to their information.

*"When life throws you a rainy day, go jump in the puddles."* – Winnie the Pooh (AAMilne)



## *The Compost Bin – Maria Issa*

Who are we, and why are we here? I need to figure this out sooner rather than later, as my time here is limited. Probably the best answer I can come up with is 'connections'. Ultimately, that is what we – let's expand that! everything!! – is, and seeks. We like to have friends, family, a community – we even join garden clubs to hang out with like-minded individuals. "Birds of a feather flock together" whether it is a gang or a volunteer organization. Even those poor souls hiding with a computer screen have an on-line community. How all these people – weird or not - interact is the society we live in. Animals and plants do the same and their interactions are the ecological underpinnings of what makes life and human society possible – because without them, we can't breathe or eat. No plants – no oxygen. No plants – no food.



Every living thing and what it consumes starts with that photon nabbed from the nearest star by a plant (or in some cases, a microorganism) [LINK 8], shoved through Photosystems II and I and ejected as ATP (energy) that is then used to forge the bonds that make CO2 cycle into glucose (food). Glucose is the simple sugar from which all other molecules (food, information, structure, function) are converted and built. The resultant complexity is magnificent. It is alive. Whether it's us or plants or anything else, our cells, our tissues and organs, and entire organisms are all based on connections and interactions of increasing complexity.

There are the connections and interactions among organisms. Just like human societies, there are the vast ecologies – like the Amazon rainforest, or Canada's great North and the African savannah, or tiny ones like the tundra tussocks or even what happens in a flowerpot: from macro to micro.

Slowly, the awareness is spreading that "nature" is important. After all, don't influencers peddle "it's natural" to every fleeceable victim? In all those great ecologies, the tiny soil microorganisms [LINKS 11, 16, 39] are important not only to plants but also to our health. Mycorrhiza and soil fungi connect plants and transport messages among them while soil bacteria transform the population distribution of our microbiomes and regulate what we absorb and how. We now also know that molecules breathed out by forests regulate our immunity and our physical health – as well as our mental states and stress levels. [This, alone, worries me for long-distance space travel – and the stretch of that umbilical cord linking us to the Earth.... The idea, that we can hydroponic farm with only chemicals is somewhat worrisome [LINK 17], as the nutrient content of the 'feed' is what determines the nutrient content of the resultant 'food'. Sub-optimal.

Where does this leave us city rats in the asphalt jungles of the modern world? The loneliness and depression faced by many people is also a product of their environment: an apartment box, no green, no nature, no connections.

I would argue that every flowerpot, balcony planter, backyard and city park is a part of the 'necklace of nature' that connects us all - with each garden, big or small, being a pearl on that necklace. This is why it is so important to advocate for 'green spaces' – real ones, not just lawns.

As we well know, lawns were (are) an ostentation, to show that the owner is so rich, that vast swathes could be turned over to non-productive green LINK48]. Somehow, this became the North American ideal, as wannabes aped the rich, and adulation of the 'front lawn' began. Since then, the lawn industry has marketed to us that we need to grow lawns greener faster with chemicals ($$$) mow (with power mowers $$$) – because the grass grew greener and faster - then remove the cut grass (and take the nutrients with it) to add more chemical to replace the nutrients. Then we must provide water with sprinklers ($$) to grow more useless green. Oh yes, and they provide proprietary seeds to do this even faster... Nothing much can live in this grass because we zap every hapless dandelion or other wayward weed with weed killer ($$$). [Sorry golfers, don't get me started...]. We then send the kids out to play on this semi-synthetic carpet, without considering that what we spread and spray on it, may not be ideal to be absorbed by growing humans – not to mention insects, birds and other critters. I've heard people complain that their grass has insects in it... how truly awful! Luckily, the tide is slowly turning, and lawn replacements are becoming somewhat acceptable, though the uptake by public spaces is not enough and not fast enough. [LINK 49]

This then brings me back to the necklace. Where lawns are inhospitable and the poor bugs see green starvation, a private garden or a pollinator patch can become a life-saver. A little critter can get from one to the next. The little guy on the 5th floor flowerpot may have a harder time, staring at a monumental wall of concrete, but the more green the city provides, the better its chances. So why are cities not designing green spaces into high-rises and commercial buildings? Because 'green' is seen as a cost, not as a value.

Remember the days when we used to have to wash the car's windshield after every trip – to get the squashed bugs off? [LINK 67] Or do you remember the joke, "How can you tell that a biker is happy?" "He has bugs between his teeth!" – no longer applies. When did you last wipe a bug off your car – a single bug? Why should we care about the nasty insects that lurk in our lawn? Because insects – not just bees – are not only pollinators but are food for birds who are food for larger critters and so on – the food web is complicated. We tend to think only of bees as pollinators – when in fact everything from moths to bats to even frogs and monkeys can help plants reproduce. They are the expression of the network and connections that have been established over millennia that support the living ecosystem.



As with any complex system, (you must have played Jenga...) if you mess with one corner and pull out the support, the rest of the edifice collapses. If we knock off the insects, not only will the plants suffer, but the animals as well – and guess what? – we are animals. [Imagine my dismay when I heard that the supplement industry is harvesting krill - the bottom of the marine food web - to provide trendy omega-3 fatty acids. What will the whales eat? – granted, we have hunted their population almost to extinction... but...] Our food systems are heavily reliant on insects to keep the generations coming. When you are eating French fries have you thought about the canola oil it was fried in and how that rapeseed was pollinated? According to the US forest service [LINK 9]

- More than half of the world's diet of fats and oils come from animal-pollinated plants (oil palm, canola, sunflowers, field peas, safflower, lentils, sorghum, soybeans, linseed, flax, faba beans etc.).
- More than 150 food crops in the U.S. depend on pollinators, including almost all fruit and grain crops.
- The USDA estimates that crops dependent on pollination are worth more than $10 billion per year.

We need to start thinking differently to value the webs of nature. Let me present Tenzin Seldon, who asks whether a new way of approaching economic growth can protect nature and the networks we value. [LINK 10] Tenzin Seldon, besides being a mathematician (and rumour has it, smarter than Steven Hawking) is a venture capitalist rethinking how economies operate in the age of climate and nature breakdown. She proposes that GDP be superseded by GDR—or "Gross Domestic Regeneration"—a framework that measures and values **restoration** rather than extraction and measures national and corporate progress by what an economy restores rather than what it produces or extracts. In other words, we will only protect it, if we value it. "Nature" and every flower pot has to have an economic value attached to it.

All this is to say that gardening is not just a pleasurable pastime of pretty plants – it is so much more. It is both the practical/physical and philosophical/epistemological means to return functional ecosystems and 'the economic value of nature' to an increasingly urbanized desert. Gardening is a small but important component of recognizing and formalizing the value we assign to nature. That, in turn, is the only way we can safeguard the living systems of the planet.

Lo! I am come to autumn,
When all the leaves are gold;
Grey hairs and golden leaves cry out
The year and I are old.

In youth I sought the prince of men,
Captain in cosmic wars,
Our Titan, even the weeds would show
Defiant, to the stars.

But now a great thing in the street
Seems any human nod,
Where shift in strange democracy
The million masks of God.

In youth I sought the golden flower
Hidden in wood or wold,
But I am come to autumn,
When all the leaves are gold.

*Gold Leaves – G.K. Chesterton*

# LVGC Annual General Meeting 2027
# AGENDA

**Quorum (35)**
**Call to order.**

1. **Approval of the agenda**

Moved: Seconded:

2. **Reading and approval of the Minutes of the 2025 AGM - appended as a separate file in your cover email.**

Moved: Seconded:

3. **Business arising from the Minutes of the 2025 AGM: – Donations to be paid from the 2026 budget as presented for approval. Recommended Donations for 2026 based on a budget of $6000**

1. Is a non-profit organization;
2. Promotes knowledge and love of gardening;
3. Has a focus on the environment (specifically including plants, birds and pollinators);
4. Supports our community at a local, regional or national level, with a preference for the North Shore;
5. Supports food security and sustainability within that community

| | |
|---|---|
| Backpack Buddies | $400 |
| Edible Garden Project – Sharing Gardens | $800 |
| Edible Garden Project – Loutet Farm | $1,200 |
| Gerry's Garden | $400 |
| North Shore Hospice / Lions Gate Foundation | $300 |
| North Van City Library – Seed Library | $500 |
| North Van Community Gardens | $500 |
| North Van District Library – Gardening Books Collection | $400 |
| Wild Bird Trust of BC, (Maplewood flats) | $500 |
| YWCA Rooftop Food Garden | $1,000 |
| | **$6,000** |

**Motion: "That the donations be disbursed from the 2026 budget as presented by the Donations Committee"**
Moved: Seconded:
**Discussion:**
**Points in support of the motion:**
**Points in opposition:**
**Vote on the motion:**

4. **Reports from the Executive:**

Co-Presidents: Hiromi Matsui/Maria Issa
Vice President: Tana Bullock
Treasurer: Sarah Gray
- Audit report for 2025: Our books were vetted by Peter Klinkow, who commended our financial management as "excellent organizational tracking and perfect financial accuracy." (Budget 2027 will be presented separately)
Membership: Jennifer Sydenham
For the MALS: Doreen Dew

5. **Presentation of the Executive's motion:**

**Motion: "That LVGC raise its annual membership fees from $20 to $30"**
Moved: Maria Issa; Seconded: Hiromi Matsui

**Background:**

The reason we propose to raise the fees is that we need to upgrade our IT software infrastructure that has become increasingly unreliable. Our 150 members expect secure communications, updates and information that are increasingly difficult to deliver with the current infrastructure (the case of the bouncing emails). An improved IT will cost money: a Google workspace has a monthly 'rental' – but would result in a more secure and reliable email system, website, information storage and collaborative space for the Executive, telephone for two-factor authentication and ease of transfer and security for the working positions; and the creation of position-specific emails, so individuals' private emails are not used for club matters and are not compromised (scams abound).

Bottom line –the work of the Executive would become easier. It would also place LVGC in a position to attract younger members and set up the club and the future Executive for much easier functioning - which, in turn, would facilitate getting volunteers.

For your reference - the Club has not raised its membership fees at least since 2016 when I became a member and took over *The Leaf*. Since then, costs have gone up: venue, food, speakers, even the cookies. We also have more members to eat those cookies. Considering that we get about 9 excellent speakers a year, and social events, outing options as well as 10% off at some nurseries – we are more than getting our money's worth. An extra $10 should keep up with inflation and should not be a hardship. However, if it is, please speak to a member of the Executive and we will work on a personalized solution.

**Discussion:**

**Further points in support of the motion:**

**Points in opposition:**

**Vote on the motion:**

6. **Treasurer's Presentation & Budget**

The 2027 Budget was presented in detail at the October meeting. A summary is below for your convenience.

**Motion: "That the LVGC budget for 2027 be approved as presented."**

Moved: Sarah Gray, Seconded: Maria Issa

**Discussion:**

**Points in support of the motion:**

**Points in opposition:**

**Vote on the motion:**

7. **Elections:**

Due to the Club's rule that the maximum time in an Executive Position is two years, the following positions are turning over: Treasurer, Membership, MALs.

**Motion: "That the following LVGC members in good standing be elected to the positions on the Executive as listed"**

| | |
|---|---|
| Treasurer: | Karen O'Neill |
| Membership: | Nancy Behnsen |
| MALS: | Flo Kwan, Daniel Chandra, Libby Kelly |

Moved: Doreen Marbry; Seconded: Hiromi Matsui

Currently, there is still room for (many) more MALS. As well, we need a 'spreadsheet specialist' to back up Nancy on Membership – so we will be taking (self?) nominations from the floor.

**Discussion/nominations:**

**Vote on the motion:**

8. **New Business:**

a) LVGC is 83 years old!!! The Executive would like to take a broader look at the LVGC – to review LVGC's mission, vision and values; governance structure and anything else the membership wishes to suggest. This would be a **formal, facilitated event** where we seek the membership's input and guidance to create a vibrant club for the future. – Potentially in APRIL 2027.

b) A formal thanks to Doreen Marbry for being the entire one-person Nominating Committee and for finding such stellar MALs.
**Motion: That we gratefully acknowledge and thank Doreen Marbry for her hard work in finding candidates for the Executive.**

Moved: Hiromi Matsui Seconded: Maria Issa

**Discussion/presentation**

**Vote on the motion**

9. **Motion to adjourn:**

Moved: Seconded:

**Vote on the motion:**

# Lynn Valley Garden Club Proposed Budget 2027

Please note that this is a projection of anticipated income and expenses for 2027. Your Executive recommends this proposed budget for approval at the November 2026 AGM. A copy of the 2026 budget has been included for comparative purposes.

| | 2026 to Date | Estimated to End 2026 | 2027 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Income** | | | |
| Membership | $3,000.00 | $3,000.00 | $4,5000 |
| Guests | $312.76 | $312.76 | $100.00 |
| Plant Table | $205.00 | $205.00 | $250.00 |
| Plant Sale | $14,550.00 | $14,550.00 | $12,000.00 |
| The Dig | $230.00 | $230.00 | $300.00 |
| **Total Revenue** | **$18,297.76** | **$18,297.76** | **$17,150.00** |
| **Expenses** | | | |
| Accounting Review | $100.00 | $100.00 | $150.00 |
| Bank Charges | $66.17 | $100.00 | $125.00 |
| BCCGC | $420.00 | $420.00 | $500.00 |
| Christmas Party | $0 | $200.00 | $250.00 |
| Discretionary Spending* | $0 | $0 | $2,000.00 |
| Donations | $0 | $6,000.00 | $5,000.00 |
| Door Prizes/Sunshine | $177.64 | $250.00 | $300.00 |
| Field Trips/Garden Tours | $0 | $0 | $950.00 |
| Hospitality | $145.98 | $200.00 | $350.00 |
| Office supplies | $32.05 | $32.05 | $50.00 |
| Plant sale Expenses | $2,959.61 | $2,959.61 | $2000.00 |
| Property/Equipment | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| Rent | $1,380.00 | $2,055.00 | $2,250.00 |
| Speakers | $1,774.76 | $2,474.76 | $3,200.00 |
| Tech Support | $980.00 | $1,200.00 | $1,500.00 |
| Tech Subscriptions | $580.76 | $580.76 | $600.00 |
| **Total Expenses** | **$8,616.97** | **$16,572.18** | **$19,225.00** |
| **Net** | **$9,680.79** | **$17,25.58** | **-$2,075.00** |

* Discretionary Spending for 2027 to reflect initial and ongoing outlay for required technology overhaul as per President's presentation at October GM.