

THE NEW WESTMINSTER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Club address: Suite 392, 104—1015 Columbia St., New Westminister, V3M 6V3

www.newwesthortsociety.org

Editor: Audrey Barnes, 604-526-8284 before 8pm;

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CLUB MEETING CALENDAR:

CHRISTMAS PARTY & AWARDS NIGHT: More party and less awards than last year! Our feast prepared by A&F Caterers (www.afcateringltd.com, 604-594-3384) runs from 6:30 to 7:30. Before & during dinner, purchase your raffle tickets for some downright nifty prizes. Once again, the elves have been extremely busy creating festive prizes at craft central and in their own homes. Many thanks to every one of you! All proceeds from this year's raffle will go to the **Crossroads Inlet Centre Hospice**, a home for those living with terminal illness, old and young. The money will be earmarked for buying materials or equipment for the hospice's gardens. This year award presentations will be only to the winners of the Photo and Container Contests. The trivial Trivia Quiz is even more so this year. A good time for all is guaranteed.

EXECUTIVE MEETING: The inaugural executive meeting of 2007 takes place 7:30pm, Jan 9th at Audrey's. Extra early, so we can prepare the club mailer and survey well in advance of the February general meeting. *We are looking for ideas for presentation topics, speakers, outings and tours so we can solicit feedback. If you have any, Audrey's phone number and email address is in the header of this newsletter—drop her a line, best before this Jan meeting.* We are also looking for possible recipients for the Plant sale raffle—again any ideas? We'll have to make sure they are acceptable according to the Lottery Corporation.

PLANT SALE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: Sun, Jan 14th, 10:00am at Audrey's. Our plant sale is the club's major source of income but it is more than that. The side-effect of the sale being the one big effort in which we urge every club member to participate, it creates a great sense of identity with the club. To the general population, our sale is the club's public face. In our efforts to get the responsibilities of the plant sale spread amongst more members, we strongly urge you to attend if you are interested in the inner workings of the sale. Speak to Audrey—so she knows how many agenda to print and how many chairs to arrange.

FEBRUARY 2007 MEETING: 7:45pm, Tues Feb 13th. Details of meeting will be in the January mailer. Annual memberships due.

JUDGING THE PHOTO CONTEST: by Steve Grover (stock photographer (very good!), 604-525-5661)

I was pleased to be asked again to judge and comment on the NWHS photography contest. First of all, I noticed that the overall quality of photography is generally quite good and often I had difficulty making my top 3 selections. There were much fewer distracting items such as hoses, dead leaves or bright spots in the submitted photos than in previous years. I also noticed fewer subjects in the center of the frame in this year's submissions. This means to me that photographers are being more careful with their compositions. I would like to point out the majority of the top images were printed on good quality glossy paper. I feel this gives better contrast and more saturated colors generally than a matte paper. Also a lab printed digital photo is generally better than a home printed one, so for a special image I recommend emailing the file to a quality photo lab for printing. Thanks again for allowing me to view your beautiful, funny and interesting photos.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: by Audrey

'Tis the season to thank members: It was suggested by a few committee heads that I thank people who contributed in their areas this last year. That's pretty tricky to do. One might as well just reprint the roster. Our club is very fortunate to have a lot of members who really take part. I think one of the reasons is there are a lot of ways to do so. There is network of visible and invisible participation. Obviously the executive is the most visible (it is part of the job to be so!) Some committees involve a lot of interaction with the membership, their heads are well-appreciated. So instead of thanking individuals, I will list some of the ways in which members have generously donated to the club. This is definitely not an inclusive list: just some ramblings from the top of my head. There are many, many deficiencies in the lists—some blatant.

Donation of things: brought something for the raffle; brought goodies for others to enjoy at tea; donated a book to the library; brought in non-wanted items for exchange on the free table; gathered and donated seeds; offered plants for the sale; donated pots and Venetian blinds; gave the club your unwanted Christmas items; donated or loaned items for use at Queensborough; arranged the loan of needed equipment; lent yard for picnic or plant sale.

Donation of skills: offered to drive other members on a outing; printed those plant tags; potted up those plants; grew cuttings; grew seedlings; organized outings; artistically arranged the raffle table; created displays at Queensborough; entered the June show; showed off gardening skills by volunteering garden for tour; created items for our Christmas raffle; personally created items for the membership at meetings; organized the room for the Silent Auction and Christmas party; shopped for raffle prizes; hosted the picnic; acted as cashier; gave a presentation; exhibited compassionate patience; showed others how to do things.

Donation of ideas: told the executive of a great speaker, place to visit, or topic; asked that question several of us were wondering about; hosted club members on a mini tour and the general garden tour; suggesting possible worthy recipients of offering feedback; suggested how things could be done differently.

Donation of time: This is the most generous gift of all and the most rewarding as it is through spending time with other members that you get to know them. It takes time to donate in any other way. The club thanks you, over and over again. A sneaky thing about this donation stuff: it is what makes the club a real unit. The club is lucky is that it has so many members who consider the season of giving to be 12 months long.

P.S. MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

'TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING:

With the year end comes the finalization of many of the club's "donations to great causes"

DONATION COMMITTEE: Many thanks to the club members who nominated the five potential recipients for some or all of the \$1000 budget the committee had to award. The committee's final decision was to split the money evenly into 4 awards. The executive supports the recommendations. In regards to the 5th nominee, the New West Parks Greenhouse project, the committee felt it was up to the government (i.e. the city) to look after government facilities. The committee also decided that although the nomination form was sufficient for this inaugural instance, discussions showed several unsuspected areas in which it will be changed for next year. \$250 will go to each of the following organizations:

Scouts Canada for their ongoing "get those invasive species out of Queens Park" program. A good program which will benefit the educational development of young people and all residents of New Westminster who enjoy the park.

New Vista Society (a care facility for persons with dementia and related disorders) to transform a barren neglected area outside the dining room window to one of colour, interest and pleasure for the residents.

Royal City Education Fund for a scholarship for a student graduating from New Westminster Secondary who is enrolling in a horticultural related program of study. We have given a scholarship with the same criteria for the last two years.

Lord Kelvin Elementary School for the development of an educational herb garden. Produce from the garden will be used in the school's lunch program.

Again, many thanks to the members who took the time to nominate these very good programs—and bringing to the club's attention that they exist! Thanks too, to the donation committee personel who took the bull by the horns and drafted the protocol and nomination forms—and to those committee members who evaluated the nominees against the criteria. After the plant sale, the executive will again decide on how much to suggest the 2007 donation budget will be and the club membership will vote on the total budget.

THE PLANTS OF ST. MARY'S: Many years ago, just prior to the demolition of St. Mary's Hospital, NWHS was given legal permission to remove any plant material from the Healing Garden. This permission was granted because years earlier, the club was very involved in the actual physical planting of the garden. We quickly dug up many plants. It seemed wrong just to plant them into our gardens so we sold the plants (many to people who want a sentimental souvenir of the hospital). We took in \$500. At that time we made a commitment to donate the money to the Queen's Park Care Centre's therapeutic garden for the residents. The money transfer stalled because they were in the process of redesigning the garden. We wanted the money to go to something concrete and lasting. Until now, we have been holding the money in trust. The garden has now been redesigned but is in need of an irrigation system. The St. Mary's Garden money will be used on the system.

BULB SALES AT QUEENSBOROUGH FAIR IN SUPPORT OF PLANT A ROW, GROW A ROW:

Many thanks to club members who purchased bulbs from the club at the fair. We hope you got them planted! The \$200 profit raised is in the process of being transferred to the Food Plant via the Plant a Row, Grow a Row program.

IN YOUR VEGE PATCH: by the Urban Gardener, also known as Roy Pegler (604-520-6467) who would love talk "grow'n veges" with you. *Roy has stepped down from executive—after 10 years! Thankfully he is not retiring from writing this column.*

Winter has arrived and any garden work will be miserable so it's time to gloat over the new seed catalogues. I advise you all to order early so as not to be disappointed if you can't get the exact variety you wanted.

To summarize: the work for December is the harvesting of the winter crops such as Brussels sprouts, leeks, rutabaga, carrots and broccoli. Hopefully you have planted the garlic and broad beans and put a cloche over the beans. Prune the raspberry vines. This is a good time to fertilize your bare ground with lime and steer or mushroom manure. I have found that Sea Soil has been a very good fertilizer. Maybe a good idea is to check your tools by cleaning and oiling and sharpening as, in spring, it will make gardening much more enjoyable. Keep filling the trench, that I hope you have dug, with garden and kitchen waste. When you cover it with earth in the spring, it will be very beneficial to your veges.

I would like to take the opportunity of wishing all gardeners a Happy Xmas and a Prosperous New Year.

GardenWorks Appreciation Day: Dec 21st.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: Arzeema Hamir gave an excellent power point presentation on growing vegetables in containers. Many of her points are valid for any container planting. It is was a shame that the pending storm kept members in their homes. Arzeema was excellent—a very knowledgeable, articulate speaker.

THIS & THAT:

■ There are several club members who would have liked to been at the party tonight but just could not manage it. They each send you seasonal cheer and say "See you in the new year".

Clarice White	Charlotte Rozman
Buff O'Shaughnessy	Nancy Leathley
Ann McNamara	Riet Romein
Ellen Berg	Joan Miller
Florence Ustare	Erika d'Esterre

■ Bill Swan doesn't think he will make it to the meetings next year but says "Hi" to his pals in the club. If you are in Langley, he would love if you could drop in.

■ Wish you had purchased a basket or tray at last month's meeting? Well, all the baskets are sold but Audrey still has a stash of the plant saucers at her house. If you missed last month's meeting, we are selling black plastic plant saucers 12", 14" and 18" diameter for \$1 each. The good sturdy ones. Great Christmas presents.

■ Gift certificates for a 2007 club membership are also available through Audrey (\$10 each, of course)

THE 2007 NWSH EXECUTIVE:

President: Audrey Barnes

Vice-President: Carole Forsythe

Secretary: Rose Oke

Treasurer: Mary Barnard

Show Chairperson: Sharon Seki

Members at Large: Anna Camporese; Debra Halbig; Micheline Ippersiel, Monica Mowat, Silina Nakatsu

