

New Westminster Horticultural Society Newsletter

www.newwesthortsociety.org

October 2008



THE GLORY OF THE GARDEN



The "Group of 7 Garden Gals" is having its first public exhibition, *The Glory of the Garden* at the New

Westminster Public Library, 2nd floor, 716-6th Avenue in New Westminster. The exhibit runs from October 1 to 30, 2008.

To say the least we are all totally ecstatic. Greatest thanks and appreciation goes out to NWHS as a whole, Andrée St. Martin and Carolyn McLaughlin of the Arts Council of New Westminster, sketch club organizer Merrill Hall, and the Group of 7 Garden Gals: Dawn Dutrizac-Larose, Jacqueline Shepard, Ursula McNamara, Su-Hui Lormer, Carolyn McLaughlin, Merrill Hall, and Montana King.

—Montana King

A Reflection on NWHS 2008 Sketch Club

The sketch club took on a new format this year that proved to be a success, and I hope to pursue a similar approach next spring. A more formal structure was set: sketchers committed to classes meeting at the picnic shelter in Queens Park with the option of using the Arts Council studio space when the weather did not co-operate. The classes happened a number of Saturday mornings

throughout May and June from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Guest artists kept us inspired to look at our garden in a new and different way, re-kindling our dormant talents! On the whole we had a great time and shared a lot of inspiration and enthusiasm. Our next sign-up will be in the spring of 2009.

Thank you to the Executive for all your help and support.

—Merril Hall

Tonight's Meeting

Tuesday, **October 14**, 7:30 p.m.

Silent Auction

Treasure hunters and bargain hunters stalk the tables for one of a kind object, at unbelievable prices.

Future Meetings

Tuesday, **November 4**, 7:30 p.m.

*****Please note this is the first Tuesday of the month (see page 3).**

Ruth Olde, from Blasig Design and Construction Ltd., is author of *Landscaping Made Easy by Design*. She has been designing and building residential landscapes for over 30 years. She offers practical advice and many photos to inspire and demonstrate her work.

Tuesday, **December 9**, 7:30 p.m.

NWHS Christmas Party

Festive evening with a sit-down buffet, Audrey's Christmas quiz and the Christmas craft raffle. Tickets available at October and November meetings and Carole, (see page 3 for details).

Feedback

Do you have a question, comment or idea regarding the NWHS? Contact Carole. Contact Anna with your feedback on the newsletter.



Some of the volunteers at the NWHS booth, Queensborough Fall Fair 2008 (left to right: Carole Forsythe, Silina Nakatsu, Sharon Seki, Joan Miller and Linda Turnbull). Photo: L. Turnbull

I make this call for volunteers knowing that 73 per cent of volunteering hours in Canada are given by only seven per cent of Canadians. This is a truly discouraging statistic. For as long as I've been a member of this organization, I've seen the "same old" volunteers put their time, energy and skills into keeping it functioning. Several of these volunteers are starting to slow down because they're retiring, or worse, burning out. In order to maintain the level of programs and events the club runs, never mind expand their number, the club needs more of its members to volunteer in both ongoing and short term positions throughout the year.

The most common reasons people give for volunteering certainly explain why I volunteer. They include:

- commitment to a cause,

especially one that personally affects them;

- understanding implicitly that being involved in an organization requires volunteering to support it;
- the opportunity to use skills and experience;
- the positive link between well being and volunteering, a by-product of the social support networks formed that act as buffers against stress and illness; and
- religious obligations or beliefs.

The most common reason for not volunteering is a lack of time. The second is not knowing how to get involved. Other, less talked about, reasons that are not as easily captured by statistical tools are feeling unwelcome as a volunteer, being less community minded and more motivated to work or

preferring to spend free time doing leisure activities.

With the exception of President and Vice President, every position on the Executive is up for grabs next month, including Treasurer, Secretary, Show Chair and five Members at Large. What is expected of a member of the Executive? While each position has its own responsibilities, each is really what you make of it. Is there an existing project you'd like to manage? Do you want to run a new program or event? The only set time commitment is a meeting at 7:30 p.m. on the Tuesday two weeks before the membership's regular meeting. In return, you'll not only have a voice in decision making but actively participate in determining the future direction of the club. How often do you get that kind of opportunity?

Consider giving your time, energy and skills to the New Westminster Horticultural Society. We need your help. If you have questions or concerns about joining the Executive for 2009, contact Audrey, Anna or Rita, the members of the Nominating Committee. If you don't know where your interests and experience might fit in, ask me and I'll help you find a place.

Source: Volunteer Connections: New Strategies for Involving Older Adults, Volunteer Canada, 2001.

More of Carole's Compost

Vote Once, Vote Once Again

In addition to receiving the report of the Nominating Committee and taking nominations from the floor for positions on the Executive and then electing the Executive, we'll be voting on the following amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws:

Be it resolved that the New Westminster Horticultural Society

1. amend Part 2, Section 7b to read *The annual dues shall be payable at the first general meeting of the calendar year. Those whose dues are not paid by the general meeting in May shall cease to be members. From Dues become payable at the first general meeting of the year. Anyone joining during the year will pay on a pro rata basis.*

2. amend Part 5, Section 19 to read *The Executive of the Society shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Show Chair, Webmaster and up to five Members at Large. From The executive of the society shall be the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, show person plus up to five (5) members at large.*

3. allocate \$2,000 from the 2009 budget to cover speakers' fees.

4. allocate \$3,000 from the 2009 budget to cover Plant Sale expenses.

If you would like a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws, pick one up tonight or call Carole.

Extraordinary Volunteers

Dawn Dutrizac-Larose and Paul Larose arrive early each meeting to prepare the tea and arrange the treats we all look forward to after the business portion of the meeting. The husband and wife team have done it for "so long, I can't remember," says Paul. According to Dawn, Rita Solkin "dragged" her into helping her out and, then, when Rita became president in 1998, she and Paul took on the job. Both enjoy having the opportunity to say hello to everyone and to chat with many of the members. "That's the fun part," they agree.

If you'd like to share one of your special recipes, speak to one or both of them during the break. Oh, and, Dawn has a challenge for the men in the club: follow Bob Santarossa's lead and contribute a goodie for tea.

Christmas Party Tickets on Sale Tonight

Tickets for the Christmas party on Tuesday, December 9 are on sale tonight. A buffet dinner, two drink tickets and entertainment are included in the price of the ticket. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. Members may purchase a ticket for themselves at \$18. Space is limited so buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

To allow as many members as possible to attend, members may purchase only one guest ticket at the cost of \$27 at this time. Depending on availability, tickets for additional guests will go on sale Tuesday, December 2 for \$36. Ticket sales cease on Thursday, December 4.

Library

Instead of adding the books culled from our library collection to the offerings at tonight's silent auction, the Executive decided to donate them to the New Westminster Public Library this year and into the future. This makes the books available to all of our members as well as the public from which new members are recruited. Check out the Library's website at www.nwpl.ca to view their collection of gardening books.

Remember, Monica is always looking for title and subject suggestions for our library. She's working on putting together a list of our collection so that you know what is available to borrow.

November Meeting Date Changed

In lieu of Remembrance Day, we will meet on Tuesday, November 4. It's our Annual General Meeting and that means we'll vote on a few motions regarding changes to our Constitution and Bylaws and spending priorities as well as elect members to the Executive for 2009.

Remember, please leave fragrance in your garden. The club meeting is a

**Scent Free
ZONE**

In Your Vege Patch: *Composting in the Fall*

By Roy Pegler

When I first started vegetable gardening, the growing season started in early spring, when we planted the peas and a few leaf crops like lettuce, and ended in the fall when the first killing frost marked the end of the garden and we switched our attention to other things. Now, however, things are very different. Row covers, cold frames and garden greenhouses mean that we can keep something growing in the garden all year long. And it isn't just these structures that help to create the year-round garden.

Plant breeders have developed a number of frost-tolerant vegetable varieties that grow even in unprotected parts of the garden long after the first killing frost.

With the cold weather, it's time to not only keep some vegetables growing, but to also look ahead to next year. What you do now in fall and early winter can have an important effect on what will happen in your garden next spring and summer. Looking at the garden right after the first, really hard frost, all some people see is a mess to clean up. Others seeing the same scene find one final, glorious harvest—but not for the table—for the compost pile. Fall is the perfect time to start making the compost pile you will need next spring and summer.

Much of what goes into compost piles in spring and summer—tender young weeds,

grass clippings and harvested cover crops grown especially for compost—is ready to compost without being chopped, ground or otherwise reduced in size. On the other hand, much of what remains in the garden in fall breaks down slowly and poorly, unless it is chopped, shredded or beaten to render edible by bacteria. For instance broccoli, Brussels sprouts and cauliflower plants, along with tomato vines, cornstalks and melon and squash vines all decompose faster if chopped into smaller pieces, exposing more surface area to the ravenous bacteria.



You need to take these additional steps in fall, not only because the composting material itself is likely to be tougher, but also because time is not on your side as the season slips towards winter. Cold temperatures in the late fall and winter slow down bacterial activity. And, once it gets really cold, the kinds of bacteria that prefer higher temperatures simply call it quits until spring. Access to coffee grounds is a plus in your compost bin. I found adding coffee grounds to my compost accelerates the breakdown of the plant material.

I always have too much material for the compost bins, so I dig a trench 30" deep by 48" wide in early September and fill it in as much as I can. It will settle down over winter and then in early spring I cover all the material with soil and plant or sow in the raised bed.

A Booth to be Proud of



The Club's booth at the Queensborough Fall Fair 2008
Photo: L. Turnbull

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