

New Westminster Horticultural Society

Newsletter

www.newwesthortsociety.org

February 2009



RESCUING ROSES FROM QUEEN'S PARK

Dig In and Help

Eighteen hardy members dug through snow last Saturday to remove roses from the Herb House Rose Garden in Queen's Park in preparation for its renovation. We'll return next Saturday, March 14th, to finish the job. Join us between 1 and 3 pm. Contact Carole Forsythe at 604-515-1927 or carole.forsythe@shaw.ca.



Claude LeDoux, Parks Horticultural Manager, demonstrates how to prune roses. The roses will be on sale at our Plant Sale on Sunday, May 3rd at École Glenbrook Middle School.

AT THE PODIUM

Tonight's Meeting
Tuesday, February 10, 7:30 pm
Fashion Inspired by the Garden by Ivan Sayers

March's Meeting
Tuesday, March 10, 7:30 pm
What Does the Future Hold for Horticulture?

Smaller or no place to garden, aging baby boomers, climate change, loss of independent nurseries and garden centres, sustainability, increasing demands on time and resources –what does the future hold for horticulture? Joan Miller will moderate a panel discussion featuring a grower, retailer and academic.

Polite Reminders

Refrain from speaking to your neighbours when someone is at the podium.

Meetings are fragrance free for the enjoyment of everyone.

Return your library book at the next meeting so that another member can borrow it.

COMING OF AGE GIFT

Current members born in 1934 or earlier will receive the gift of membership in honour of our 75th anniversary year. There's one catch, however. You'll have to prove to us that you're no longer 29.

MATCH EACH MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE TO HIS/HER INTERESTING FACT

How Well Do You Know Them? by Aldina Isbister

A. Has flown a helicopter.

B. Started gardening at the age of 3 when she fell into the tomato patch the day before she was a flower girl at her aunt's wedding.

C. At the age of 8, assumed another's identity in order to enter Canada.

D. Has over 16 years of post-secondary education. Has run two marathons.

E. Is a professional CPF (Certified Picture Framer). Learned how to install plumbing last year.

F. Has sat on the same chair as both the Queen and several Governors General and has the picture to prove it.

G. Has a twin brother. Has a "thing" for shoes.

H. Is a ski instructor. Sings in the shower.

I. Joined a band in a parade in Hawaii. Mistook spouse for a burglar and called 911.

J. Was chased by a range bull in the Caribou.

For the answers, visit our website at www.newwesthortsociety.org.



- ___ Debra Halbig
- ___ Mary Barnard
- ___ Dan Tessaro
- ___ Carole Forsythe
- ___ Sharon Seki
- ___ Audrey Barnes
- ___ Karen Low
- ___ Rita Solkin
- ___ Silina Nakatsu
- ___ Aldina Isbister

Icing On the Cake

Every month, we are fortunate to sample a treat or two along with a cup of tea. Do you have a favourite goody you'd like to share? Contact Dawn Dutrizac-Larose or Paul Larose at 604-522-5907.

BEST OF THE WORST CONTEST

Do you see the glass half full or half empty? Depending on your point of view, the damage this winter's snow and freezing temperatures did to your garden might be viewed as an opportunity or as a setback. Either way, let's celebrate the best of the worst with a contest.

To enter the contest, photograph the worst of the damage in your garden. Choose from among the "best of the

worst" and bring up to three photographs to our meeting in March. During the tea break, those in attendance will cast their vote for the photo which illustrates the worst instance of storm damage. One last thing, the contest is open to members only.

The top three winners will receive a gift certificate to our Plant Sale to help with garden restoration.

OUT AND ABOUT

Skagit Valley Tulip Festival

Tour the renowned display gardens and fields of tulips surrounding the waterfront town of La Connor in Washington. We'll stop for lunch and do a little sightseeing and shopping. The chartered motorcoach leaves Queen's Park at 9 am and returns in time for dinner. Price includes a ticket and transportation.



Skagit Valley Tulip Festival. By Marilyn Morgan

Saturday, April 18, 9 am to 5 pm

\$22 for members, \$27 for guests

Contact Sharon Seki as soon as possible to reserve a spot at 604-525-1611 or sseki@telus.net.

BC Council of Garden Clubs AGM

Richard Hebda, the Curator of Botany and Earth History with the Royal British Columbia Museum, will speak on our province's entombotany. We'll also hear

from Ingrid Hoff, the Horticultural Manager of UBC Botanical Garden, on pest management. Lunch is included in the price.

Saturday, March 14, 8:30 am to 2:30 pm

\$15 for members, \$20 for guests

Contact Carole Forsythe by Sunday, March 1st at 604-515-1927 or carole.forsythe@shaw.ca.

WORKSHOP

Pressed Flowers Plus By Linda Turnbull

Want to share your garden in the off season? This workshop is great for those wet and dreary days when you just can't be out there. Join us in learning how to create note cards, all occasion cards, gift tags and bookmarks. Not artistic? The neat thing about this craft is that you

don't have to be. All that is required of you is to bring a pair of eyebrow tweezers and your imagination. We have a good supply of pressed flowers and greenery to work with. You'll also learn how to collect and preserve your own plant material.

Saturday, March 28, 10 am to 12 pm

Plaskett Room, New Westminster Public Library

Sign up tonight or contact Linda Turnbull at 604-937-7204 or lturnbull@shaw.ca.

Farewell Ken By Audrey Barnes

It is sad to announce that Ken Graham died last month. Ken was a NWHS member for the past eight years and, until last year when his health declined, was a fixture in the front row at our meetings. Being keen on enjoying living to the utmost, he embraced club activities. Thank you, Ken for your good

nature and chuckling laugh. You will definitely be missed.

Our condolences to his wife, Colleen, and daughter, Lori. We hope to see you two back at club functions soon. NWHS has made a donation to the Heart and Stroke Foundation in Ken's honour.

THE WAY THINGS WERE ...

In 1934 By Audrey Barnes

To research 1934, I scanned back copies of The British Columbian, an excellent source for local history. My first impression: some things just never change. Premier Thomas Dufferin Pattullo presented a huge deficit budget. There was controversy regarding the proposed high level bridge over the Fraser--should tolls be charged? The Royal Columbian Hospital needed more money.

My second impression: the global economy was a real mess. British Columbia, along with the rest of the world, was dragging itself out of The Great Depression. Global unrest was lurking: riots in France, Mussolini takes power in Italy and demands to re-arm in Germany.

My third impression: the city of New Westminster and life within it were very different from today. It was a major deep sea port with over 30 ships visiting monthly. Phone numbers were 2, 3 or 4 digits. Whereas white workers at Fraser Mills were paid 35¢ per hour, "Orientals" got 25¢. The average annual income in BC was \$350, drastically down from the pre-Depression \$600. A house could be rented for \$8 per month. Purchasing an older house cost \$550, a newer one \$1500. Macintosh apples were 7 pounds for 25¢, butter 3 pounds for 87¢, fresh rhubarb pies 20¢ each and loin lamb chops 2

pounds for 35¢. New car prices ranged from \$700 to \$1700. St Mary's Hospital got a new "shock-proof" X-ray machine, the most advanced at the time and the only one of its kind in BC. Grappling (i.e. wrestling) was a popular spectator sport. The society page was thick with news such as "Mrs Braden of Vancouver was the guest of her sister, Mrs. Middleton, for a few days last week."

Horticulturally speaking: Bradner was earning a place on the map as a bulb growing centre. In a garden on 6th Avenue, the "primrose display excites the admiration of flower lovers." Some of the primula descended from plants brought here on the first boats reaching New Westminster by the way of the Cape Horn. The Burquitlam and Surrey Women's Institutes held flower shows and teas. The South Burnaby Horticultural Society and the Farmer's Institute held a joint meeting on April 23rd. (Unlike our club, South Burnaby has had a break in its existence.) On March 21st, there was the first mention of the birth of our club. Then on April 25th, "Horticultural Society Plans Show on May 1." The article detailed the show schedule and revealed plans that the newly formed New Westminster Horticultural Society would hold a parlour show every month.

Peas By Roy Pelger

Hopefully, the winter's snow and cold is over and we can start cleaning up the mess it left. After removing the debris, put a good top dressing of lime on your veggie patch, preferably Dolopril or another quick acting lime. (Dolomite lime takes up to six months to work.)

Peas, broad beans and radishes are the first veggies to sow as they like the cooler ground. Sowing lettuce, broccoli, chard and spinach indoors will give you a good start for spring.

Peas fresh from the garden are mouthwatering. One of the first crops to be sown, you'll get the most from your pea crop if you prepare the soil for spring planting in the fall by turning lots of compost or rotted manure into it. So that the seeds germinate quickly, wait until the soil warms up or use dark plastic mulch to warm it. Dipping the seeds in an inoculate solution also encourages germination. While it takes a few weeks before the plants actually get any nitrogen from the bacteria, pea roots are exceptionally good at capturing nitrogen from the soil.

I've had good results with very close

spacing, about one inch apart and one inch deep. I've also found that peas grow healthier and are easier to harvest when they are grown on a trellis. Less seed and young plants are lost to birds and mice when remay is laid along the top of the rows. Do not use plastic as the plants will not be able to breathe or get enough water. Remove the remay when the peas are about four inches high. When seedlings are two to four inches tall, fertilize lightly with a complete organic fertilizer. Avoid fertilizer with a high level of nitrogen as it will reduce the harvest in favour of foliage.

Like corn, peas are delightfully sweet if you pick them at the right time, but turn starchy if you don't. Pick snow peas as soon as the pod reaches its mature length, but before the peas in the pod have developed much. Check often. The right stage doesn't last more than a day or so. For best flavour and texture, pick garden peas when pods have filled out, but aren't bulging around the peas. Pods left too long on the vine signal the plant to stop producing more peas. After harvesting, I cut the plants at ground level so that the roots renitrogenize the soil.

TRAVELLING T-SHIRT

Look closely and you'll see our honorary member Claude LeDoux wearing the classic, always in fashion NWHS T-shirt on the Tigre Delta outside Buenos Aires.

Wear your NWHS T-shirt on your next holiday to Kew Gardens or to the Classic Gardens of Suzhou, but don't limit yourself to gardens. We'd love to see you in your T-shirt kissing the Blarney stone, bungee jumping off Victoria Falls or gambling in Monte Carlo. Send us a photograph and we'll publish it.



FEEDBACK

Do you have a question, comment or idea regarding the NWHS? Contact Carole Forsythe at 604-515-1927 or carole.forsythe@shaw.ca.