

# New Westminster Horticultural Society Newsletter



www.newwesthortsociety.org

July 2009



*Audrey Barnes and Joan Miller relax after a hot day of planting the carpet bed they designed—based on the club's original logo. The bed, on 6th Avenue at the Canada Games Pool entrance, will be the starting point of the July 18th garden tour. Bring your tripod as we will be taking group pictures.*  
Photo: Steve Barnes.

**P**ray for sunny, but cool weather on Saturday, July 18th, the date of our annual in-club garden tour and pot-luck picnic. The tour starts at 2:00 p.m.; the picnic at 4:30 p.m. This tour is for club members and their guests. Adults only on the tour. There is no sign-up sheet for the tour. Pick up the sheet with map and itinerary tonight or at the first stop: our 75th Anniversary carpet bed on 6th Avenue at the Canada Games Pool/Recycling Depot entrance. Since this is a private tour, the route will not be posted on the website. After we take group photos at the carpet bed, we will tour five private gardens. What a variety of gardens! There will be bottled water on the tour (in the Barnes white Volvo wagon). Remember to bring sunscreen and sunhat—and your camera.

For our picnic, once again we will be enjoying the hospitality and garden of Ellen & Nes Berg. Kids are welcome, but be aware that the Berg's garden is the home of a large dog and a cat. The picnic is pot-luck, so it's important you mark on the sign-up sheet your name, the number in your party and the dish you plan to bring. The sheet is available at tonight's meeting, after tonight Audrey will have the list. Please phone her to add or delete your name.

The tour and the picnic are two separate events. You can come to both or just one or the other. The duo event goes rain or shine. Contact information: Audrey Barnes, [audrey@newwesthortsociety.org](mailto:audrey@newwesthortsociety.org).

## Tonight's Meeting

David Tracey

**“Guerrilla Gardening: Can You Dig It?”**

David describes the rising popularity of gardening public spaces with or without permission. David is a long-time community garden activist and author of *Guerilla Gardening: A Manualfesto*.

## Future Meetings

Tuesday, August 11, 7:30 p.m. & Tuesday, September 8, 7:30 p.m.

**Speaker: TBA**

## Contacts This Issue

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## The 75th Anniversary Party a Great Success



At the 75th Anniversary Party, Past-Presidents gather behind the cake in preparation for cutting. Left to right: Molly Stone, Elsie Gloch, Audrey Barnes, Clarice White, Gordon Mackintosh, George White, Rita Solkin.

Photo: Dan Tessaro

## Congratulations

Popular Vote Best in Show

*Garden Glory* – a three-way tie

Jan Potter – Iris  
 Marielle Gauvin – Iris  
 Rita Solkin – Rose

*Floral Arts*

Marya McLellan – 1st  
 Susan Pozniak &  
 Debra Halbig tied for 2nd

## Thank you, thank you, thank you

The June 75th Anniversary Party was fantastic! Thanks to Aldina for serving as master of ceremonies. Long and loud applause for Debra (show & decorations) and Silina (sumptuous eats) for all their hard work and many, many hours put in. Also, thanks to the many members who stepped in to help. Thanks to everyone else who made the night an event to remember for several years to come.

## Congratulations to all the Winners of the June 2009 Show

Category	First	Second	Third
Antirrhinum		Debra Halbig	
Aquilegia	Debra Halbig	Audrey Barnes	Audrey Barnes
Clematis	Gina West	Trudy Finlay	Susan Tamkin
Delphinium	Molly Stone	Debra Halbig	
Dianthus			Dan Tessaro
Echeveria	Dan Tessaro	Brenda Burtnick	Karen Low
Iris, Bearded	Jan Potter	Debra Halbig	Ellen Berg
Iris, Japanese	Marielle Gauvin	Trudy Findlay	Dan Tessaro
Lilium	Sharon Seki	Monica Drover	Sharon Seki
Paeonia	Lesia Gojda	Trudy Findlay	Lesia Gojda
Poppy	Audrey Barnes		
Rose, Hybrid Tea	Rita Solkin	Dan Tessaro	Edith Urchuk
Rose, Floribunda	Deirdre Antonelli	Melinda Aikin	
Rose, Miniature	Dan Tessaro		
Other Flower	Dan Tessaro	Karen Low	Lesia Gojda
Flowering Branch	Marya McLellan	Marya McLellan	Audrey Barnes
Violas & Pansies	Sharon Seki	Pam Racanello	Debra Halbig
Perennial Geranium	Annemarie Mobach	Dan Tessaro	Karen Low
Lettuce	Kristina Jensen		
Rhubarb			Dan Tessaro
"Centre of Attention"	Susan Pozniak	Debra Halbig	Denise North
"A Toast!"	Trudy Findlay	Jean Johnson	Susan Pozniak
"Fancy Garden Hat"	Susan Pozniak	Elven Sims	Lea Sims
"Our Diamond Anniversary"	Susan Pozniak	Debra Halbig	
"6 One Way, Half Dozen Another"	Lesia Gojda	Lorraine Meltzer	

## Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, **July 18**

2:00 to 4:30 p.m.

**NWHS Garden Tour**

4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

**NWHS Potluck Picnic**

Tuesday, **July 28**

7:00 p.m.

NWHS Regular

**Executive Committee Meeting**

RSVP

Thursday, **August 6,**

3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

**Royal City Farmers Market**

**NWHS Booth**

Tipperary Park,

NewWestminster

Want to volunteer at our booth?

Contact Anna or Audrey.

### ***Seed Exchange Changes Hands***

After years of managing the seed exchange, Buff O'Shaughnessy is handing the reins over to Karen Low. Buff did a fantastic job diligently cleaning chaff from seed, packaging and labeling. She even tested the germination rate for some. She loved the job but is glad to be leaving it in Karen's capable hands (see page Karen's Seed Saving tips on page 4).

Thank you Buff!

## CONTAINER AND PHOTO CONTESTS

Now's the season when plants are looking their best; meaning now's the time to get snapping those photos for the October entry in our contests. A reminder there were changes to the contest categories this year (see your April newsletter).

Photography Contest categories:

- My Three (3) Seasons: three individual photos showing the same subject in three different seasons
- Visitors in the Garden: May include humans, animals, insects, gnomes...but must be in your garden.
- A Colour in the Garden -Yellow: Best capture of the colour yellow in any garden. Photo must be taken in 2009.
- View of a NWHS garden: Photo must be of a member's garden.

Container Contest: "Start to Finish": Two photos required this year: one when the container was freshly planted and one when it looks its best.

### THE SHOW GOES ON

Debra Halbig, Show Chairperson, has stepped down from executive. What a finale! The June Show was a super success. You did a great job, as we expected you would. Your enthusiasm was the prime reason for the unbelievable 45 members exhibiting. (Show results are below and on the bulletin board.)

Val Fabick is taking over as the Show Chairperson for the remainder of the year. Welcome aboard Val.

—Audrey Barnes

### ROSE GARDEN ACCOLADES:

City Recognizes NWHS contribution

Tributes to the club's involvement in the restoration of the Queen's Park Rose Garden continue. At the June 20th Opening of the Garden, Dean Gibson, head of New Westminster Parks and Recreation, spoke at length about NWHS's contribution: from the money we donated, to the digging and selling of the roses. A few days later, Councillor Lorrie Williams reiterated some of this praise at the City Council Meeting.

### From the Treasurer: Carla Sharp

1) Financial Roots

As of June 30, 2009, our financial position is as follows:

Chequeing Account

Guaranteed Investment Certificates

Petty Cash

Month End Total

2) The 2009 2nd quarter year-to-date revenue and expense report is now ready. If you would like a copy, please contact Carla Sharp at [carla@newwesthortsociety.org](mailto:carla@newwesthortsociety.org).

## In Your Vege Patch — *Tomatoes: Relatively Simple*

By Roy Pegler

**T**he care of tomato plants is relatively simple: stake, water and fertilize.

### Staking

Support tomatoes on stakes or in wire cages. This practice keeps plants neat and avoids fruit rot by keeping the fruit from touching the soil. If you use stakes, choose sturdy ones at least one inch thick and six feet tall. Hammer stakes into the ground six inches from the plant at the time of planting. Tie tomato vines to stakes with strips of cloth or other soft ties.

### Watering

Water often enough to keep the soil in the root zone damp, but not soggy. This may mean watering seedlings every day

or two until they become established. During dry spells you should water well-established plants deeply, about every ten days.

### Fertilizing

If the soil is well-prepared you probably won't have to fertilize tomatoes until the fruit starts to develop. At that time you can apply a low nitrogen fertilizer that is high in potassium and phosphorus. Avoid giving a high nitrogen fertilizer, which would encourage lush foliage at the expense of fruit production.

### Blossom-end Rot

One of the worst problems when growing tomatoes is blossom-end rot which looks just like its name:

a hard, brown rotten spot on the blossom-end of the fruit. Though this problem is still somewhat of a mystery, it tends to be associated with wide fluctuation in soil moisture and perhaps a calcium deficiency. Personally, I apply a handful of lime to the planting hole or during the growing time, and I've had no problem with blossom end rot.

### Tomatoes in Containers

Any tomato plant can grow in a container that's large enough. The dwarf and miniature varieties are best suited for pots with a soil capacity of one cubic foot. The variety called Tumbler, will do very well in a container.

Good Luck.



**S**ummer and fall is the time when most seeds are ripening. If you've never collected seeds before, here are a few tips.

What to collect: Almost anything goes! Seeds from annuals, perennials and vegetables are welcome.

You'll need scissors or pruners, paper bags or envelopes, and a pen or marker

Collect seeds when ripe. Most seeds are ripe when the seed pod is ready to burst open and disperse their seeds on the ground. The seed pod will change colour from green to brown or white.

Always harvest your seeds on a dry day. Around mid-day or early afternoon on a sunny day is ideal. Try not to collect them when they're damp. If you can't avoid it, lay them out separately on newspaper to dry out before putting them together in paper bags. If you don't have paper bags or envelopes, you can make one by taping 2 sheets of paper together.

Label the seeds with the

harvest date, the plant name, and other characteristics, such as colour, height and spread, and growing conditions. Any information you provide will be very much appreciated as it will save me time from looking it up and will probably be more accurate as you have seen what the plant looks like in your garden!

Bring your saved seeds and leave them in the seed drop-off box. Please refrain from taking anything from the box so I have a chance to divide the seeds into small packets.

I'll take the seeds home, sift out the other plant material, and package them in small envelopes and label them with pictures and info. The seeds then will be made available at a future meeting.