

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2008

Once again a whole year has zoomed by us, and we take a quick look back.

As the year started club members were eagerly looking for new projects to support: we were looking forward to the installation of a pergola at the Butterfly Garden at Burnaby Lake and drumming up more ideas. Dr. Alan Reid from GardenWorks spoke to us on pruning. In February a freak snow storm hit which cancelled the meeting, while few a kilometers away on the sunny south slope we got no snow at all. We were all set for the meeting and startled to find it wasn't happening.

But we were back at it in March, when people enjoyed a Rhododendron Q & A session with Gerry Gibbons. We approved \$1000 for St. Michaels Care Centre to buy pots and other garden furnishings, adding to the Therapeutic Garden we bought plants for in the fall. April's meeting gave us a talk on small water features by Candyse Roberts of GardenWorks, as well as the final planning for our annual plant sale. This year the sale was a group effort and we made about \$2500. Thankfully, the forecasted snow held off.

May's Rhododendron Festival is always the highlight of our year and Judy Wellington did a wonderful job. This year we had good weather, comparatively speaking, and grossed \$3500, with help from Jeanne Mitchell for the Silent Auction. At May's meeting we had a memorable talk by Elaine Cramer on Hydrangeas. The executive was invited to a Donor Appreciation Night at St. Michael's Care Centre, where we received a thank you certificate from BC's Lieutenant Governor, Stephen Point. A group of us got out to view

Sue Klapwijk's gardens and nursery (and bought some plants on the way home).

June saw a wonderful talk on Xeriscaping by Brenda Faulk of Tanglebank Country Garden, which gave us lots of good ideas. In July Faye Kilpatrick headed a very successful garden tour: some 250 people enjoyed seeing seven of Burnaby's private gardens. The tour was celebrated at our September meeting, and we were happy to approve a donation of \$1000 worth of plants for the Eagles Estate. Diane Allison's North Shore garden was featured in Garden's West Magazine.

October and November passed quickly by, with talks from Conway Lum on Fall and Winter Containers, and Stan Kazymierchuk on Turf Management – too late though for my sad lawn. Our SFU scholarship was awarded to a deserving student – finally. We end the year as we started, looking at projects to fund and planning for new events.

I thank everyone for their support: the hundreds of little things that people do that keep the club running. We look forward to next year.

Susan

The Christmas Party table was filled with a lot of yummy goodies, wine, and appetizers. Thank you for bringing the food, the cheer, and your friends/family to the party.

IT'S SAFE NOW!

You can all come out of hiding and enjoy the regular BRAGS meetings and social events! It is our pleasure to announce that the empty executive positions have been filled, that most of the standing committees are chaired and that the days of hiding and hoping to attract no attention are over.

This remarkable achievement did not happen by accident but is due to the magic of Cheryl Fiddis, of our nominating committee. When the annual meeting ended with only one position filled, Cheryl went to work in the social hour that followed. She moved through the gathered members, suggesting, encouraging, cajoling, negotiating, affirming, teasing; she noticed and picked up on indications of interest; she found out who might like to work with whom; she offered support to those who felt unsure or inadequate --- and all with incredible patience and good humour! By the close of the Christmas party, the miracle was accomplished.

We on the nominating committee are very grateful to Anne Forsyth who had agreed to chair the Membership Committee, even before the Annual General Meeting (or the big BRAGS bribery caper). And we are also sincerely grateful to those who agreed to fill the other open positions. They are:

<i>President</i>	<i>Judy Wellington</i>
<i>V.P.</i>	<i>Lanny Hui</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Lois Brown</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Linda Cholette</i>
<i>Rhodofest Chair</i>	<i>Wendy Thompson</i>

As well, the Welcome Desk will be taken over by Faye Kilpatrick.

We are truly appreciative of Cheryl's dedication and patient persistence. Now we can look forward to another interesting and exciting year of programmes and events. Come out, come out wherever you are and support our new executive.

Submitted by Lois Brown, the sleeping (but appreciative) partner on the Nominating Committee

~~ERRORS~~ ERRATA

Kim Taylor, the author of "*The Rooftop Garden*" (November 2008 newsletter) has requested the following corrections in that article:

Paragraph one, first sentence:

Typo: The last spring

Correction: This past Spring,

Paragraph three, 12th line:

Typo: For visitors

Correction: For the visitor,

Last paragraph, 3rd line:

Typo: non-profit

Correction: not-for-profit

Apologies to Kim for the Editor's typos!

Lanny



Trevor's New Year's Eve party was an annual occurrence with numerous guests arriving. During the evening, a man knocked on the door, was greeted heartily although no one knew who he was, and was led to where the drinks were, in the kitchen. He sat there happily, chatting away, for a couple of hours before a strange light dawned on his face. 'You know,' he confided to Trevor, 'I wasn't even invited to this party. I just came over to tell you that some of your guests' cars are blocking my drive.' He continued, 'My wife's been sitting out in the car waiting for me to get them moved, so that we can go out.'



BRAGS

2009 EXECUTIVE

President

Judy Wellington
434-8287

Vice-President

Lanny Hui
415-4564

Treasurer

Lois Brown
298-6681

Secretary

Linda Cholette
298-9059

Past President

Susan Brandl
433-4250

STANDING COMMITTEES

Fund Raising

Vacant

Membership

Anne Forsyth
298-6350

Nominations

Cheryl Fiddis
435-2801

Lois Brown
298-6681

Publicity

Vacant

Rhododendron Festival

Wendy Thompson

OTHER COMMITTEES

Garden Contest

Vacant

Garden Tour

Faye Kilpatrick
434-5921

Plant Sale

Vacant

Newsletter

Lanny Hui
415-4564
Anne & David Forsyth
298-6350

Raffle & Greeting

Sheila Chowdhury
298-1196

Refreshments

Helen Vaughan
299-2014

Speakers

Vacant

Website

David Forsyth
298-6350

Out and About

To Jan 4, 2009: Burnaby Village Heritage Christmas. Enjoy the boughs, red bows and all the other old-fashioned ornaments and decorations throughout the village and farmhouse. The season features traditional entertainment, demonstrations, hands-on activities and exhibits from the early 1900s.

VanDusen Festival of Lights. Through January 4th, 4:30 to 9 p.m. except for Christmas Day (December 25th) when the Garden is closed. Avoid the line-up and purchase your tickets in advance through Tickets Tonight at www.ticketstonight.ca (service charge applies) or 604-684-2787. Also, you can pick them up in person at the Garden Shop (no service charge) or Garden Administration Office. Tickets will also be available at the Gate every evening. All funds raised go to help VanDusen grow.

Feb 18-22 (Wednesday - Sunday), Northwest Flower & Garden Show

Thousands of green ideas, 6 lush acres, 26 breathtaking gardens. Celebrate sustainable design for landscapes large & small. Washington State Convention Centre, Seattle. Daily 9am-8pm (6pm Sunday).

Farmer's Market in 2009 Janice Bobic will be at the Farmers Market to sell jams, jellies, chutneys, pickles, fruit vinegars, fruits and berries, herbs, unpasteurized honey, dried flowers and potpourris. Baked goods are available by special order. (Her apple crumble is sooo yummy!). She can be contacted by phone at 604-298-6164 or 604-317-4946 or by e-mail at myfathersgarden@telus.net. The event will be held at Port Moody Social Recreation Centre, 100 Ioco Road, Port Moody.

Sunday, January 11, 1-5pm

Sunday, February 8, 1-5pm

Sunday, March 8, 1-5pm

Sunday, March 22, 1-5pm



2009 membership fee is due now. The cost is \$12, you can pay in cash or cheque payable to BRAGS at the next meeting. When shopping at garden centres, don't forget to show your card to get a 10% discount off regular priced items. New members are welcome.



We still need volunteers for fund raising, plant sale, garden contest, and arranging monthly speakers. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact one of the executive members. Thank you.