

## From the President . . .

We have had, all of us I hope, a wonderful summer. This is the best time to just sit and enjoy all the hard work put into the garden the rest of the year, and to enjoy all the other gardens in our area. The increasingly extreme weather we've been experiencing these last few years has added some challenges but also given us lots of sun – eventually – which has really made some plants stand out and as always, reminds us to adapt our gardens to the ever-changing conditions in our yards.

Hopefully your garden has benefited from our club's many talks and events, which are packed with invaluable information. I know I am enjoying several new plants picked up at the plant sale and RhodoFest, as well as others I heard about from our monthly speakers. I'm looking at the garden with new eyes too, after hearing design basics tips and seeing some fine examples of these principles during our talks and tours. The tour is a great way to check out practical ideas and "must-have" plants and chat with other gardeners about what works and what doesn't. For those who missed it, we'll have a chance to see some pictures at our September meeting. October brings a talk on grasses, which we are increasingly realizing can add an incredible amount to the landscape. Lots more of this sort of stuff to come, so check out the speakers list and get excited all over again. The fall is a good time to reflect and renew the garden and implement some of the many ideas we've seen over the past year.

Summer gives a welcome breather for BRAGS too, as our busy season which started with rain for the Plant Sale digs, progressed with community projects and the Rhodofest, finally culminated with the Garden Tour. But the days are already getting shorter and it's time to get back at it. Although we don't officially begin the new year until January, fall is the time when we plan for next year's events. Just as in the garden, it's the work put in now that ensures great results next season. So bring some of the renewed energy you feel as the weather grows cooler to our next meetings – we'll be needing it. We have lots of plans and projects coming up and look forward to seeing you!

Susan Brandl

## Garden Tour 2007

A day that started with a clap of thunder and a bit of drizzle turned into a perfect tour day with some warm sun among the clouds. The owners and visitors enjoyed showing and seeing the gardens with each other. At the Harris garden, a young family member played a cello for everyone's enjoyment. You could get a write-up of the history of the Johnston garden. A refreshing glass of ice-tea was served at the Larsen garden. Scotty dogs rivalled the garden for attention at the Rietze garden. Raffle tickets sold at the Fuller garden were lucky for the winner owners.

Tickets sold: 162 - City of Burnaby  
9 - BRAGS members  
13 - Day of tour  
10 - Mail outs etc.  
194 - Total

~ Thank You ~

### Garden Tour Volunteers

#### Coordinators

Faye Kilpatrick  
Wendy Snyder

#### Sitters

Diane Allison  
Lily Auyeung  
Peter Barnsdale  
Gillian Crowther  
Cheryl Fiddis  
Anne Forsyth  
Margaret Griffith  
Arlene Hrastnik  
Judith Hollick  
Rimka Laman  
Joy Makepeace-Smith  
Heather MacKay  
Lindsey McCann  
Susan McDougall

#### Master Gardeners

Anna Camporese  
Andrea Chan  
Terry Clark-Kveton  
Linda Eaves  
Dale Fitzpatrick  
Lynda Taylor  
Judy Wellington

#### Publicity

Jackie Walker

#### Photographer

David Forsyth

#### Poster & Brochure

Randy Snyder

We will have the owners of the gardens on the tour for special recognition and appreciation at the September 5 meeting.

PLEASE REMEMBER to return Garden Tour signs at September's meeting.

## THE GREAT FUCHSIA FLURRY

B.C. Day dawned bright and beautiful. Since it was a holiday and we were expecting the family to come for a barbecue, I decided that I would take my fuchsia pots out of hiding to add a bit of colour to the patio. I had dragged them all out and arranged them nicely here and there when I looked across to the neighbour's garden and spotted them: four large young men in hard hats, sun glasses, orange vests, jeans and boots: the foliage inspection crew!

Let me explain. On July 24 an oil pipeline was ruptured on our street and oil sprayed throughout the neighbourhood. We were on the margins of the disaster and barely affected. However, we were informed that our gardens would have to be clipped and pruned and the lawns cut and thatched. As our turn approached, I saw that the clean up of other yards was total; little remained of foliage or flowers. Now, my fuchsias are in pots in a sheltered area behind the house. I checked them carefully and found no traces of oil so.... I hid them in the garage. When the crew descended, ten to fifteen of them, armed with power mowers, chain saws, weed whippers, and hedge pruners, hand rakes, leaf blowers, brooms and plastic bags, I left the house. I returned to find the tidiest yard imaginable. The straggling cotoneaster was cut back; lawns mowed, edged, and raked; driveway, patio, and sidewalks swept clean; and all the flower beds totally empty except for the neatly raked soil. It has taken me a while to take stock of all the plants that are gone – the infant hydrangea, the young rhododendron hybrid, the hellebores, the begonias, the glads, the hostas and, bitterest of blows, the cascade of trilliums that has been seeding itself in our rockery and growing luxuriant, super-sized flowers for twenty or thirty years.

I am fully aware that we are very lucky to have been so marginally affected by the spray of oil. My neighbours, in some cases, have had their entire gardens scraped away and many are not yet able to return to their homes. Nevertheless, our lives have been disrupted and we have endured days and

nights of noise, visits from sundry authorities, the loss of bedding plants, climbing vines, the apple crop and so on.

However, through all the annoyances, I derived comfort from the thought of those fuchsias tucked safely away in all their blooming glory – my guilty secret. So, on that B.C. Day morning, when I spotted the clean-up inspectors next door I scurried back down to the patio, and started to return the pots to hiding. I got two away and was dragging the third to safety when they came around the corner of the house. What could I do but confess? After I had explained all, the leader agreed that the pots should be spared and need be hidden no longer. They went on with their inspection leaving me to enjoy the results of my exercise in civil disobedience.

There is an epilogue. Now, less than two weeks after the big clean up, I am noticing bits of green here and there. The lupines are sending up tender leaves. The rhubarb is bursting up out of the earth. Tiny, self-seeded snapdragons are appearing in the planter, and the Virginia creeper is poking out of the ground here and there near the concrete fence that separates us from Inlet Drive. This is the miracle of gardening. Whatever abuse is visited on them, the wonderful life energy of plants brings them to regeneration. I will wait with some anxiety to see if the trilliums sprout forth in the spring, but when I see life bursting out of the bare soil today, I am hopeful.

Lois Brown



Rudbeckia.peppered with oil

## BRAGS' Year at a Glance

### September 5, 2007 Meeting\*

Slide Show: *Burnaby Garden Tour*

### October 3, 2007 Meeting\*

Barbara Fairclough:

*Ornamental Grasses in the Landscape*

### November 7, 2007 Meeting\*

Randy Solomon:

*Attracting Birds to the Garden*

### December 5, 2007 Meeting\*

*Agenda to be announced*

### \*Meetings: 7:00 pm

Burnaby Village Museum

(Discovery Room)

6501 Deer Lake Avenue

## Seeking New Editor for BRAGS Newsletter

As of January 2008, BRAGS will require a new editor for the newsletter. A familiarity with Microsoft Word, Internet searches, gardening, and an enjoyment of writing are definite assets. During the transition period, I will be happy to assist whoever takes over. Keep in mind that this is now more of an editing job than a creative writing exercise as other BRAGS members are increasingly willing to come forward with interesting contributions. I am especially grateful to Diane Allison for her "My Favorite Plant Today . . ." which I know everyone has looked forward to reading every month. Equally well received is Susan Brandl's "Message from the President". This month, Lois Brown was generous enough to write an article about the big oil spill from a neighbour's point of view. David and Anne Forsyth have been extremely helpful in taking over the job of distributing the newsletter by mail and e-mail. All in all, I find that the job of editor is much easier and streamlined than when I replaced Lois Brown almost 5 years ago. Please consider taking over this responsibility – I'm sure you'll find it as rewarding as I have.

Margot Moser

## GARDEN QUIZ

Check which statements apply to you – if you dare!

- I would rather shop at a garden centre than anywhere else.*
- I avoid trips out of town during the growing season.*
- I enjoy long conversations about almost any garden-related topic.*
- I get as much satisfaction from weeding as planting.*
- I wonder how long it will be before new runners become garden shoes.*
- I welcome summer rainfalls.*
- I have been known to continue working in the rain or after dark.*
- I consider dirty fingernails a point of pride.*
- I think any dry day between 0C and 40C is perfect for gardening.*
- I take on major garden projects without hiring help.*
- I can't remember where or how I get scratches, cuts and bruises when I'm working in the garden.*
- I can pick up worms and squish aphids with my bare fingers.*

Add up how many items you checked and then look to the bottom of the page for an analysis of your results.

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## Refreshment Committee Looking for New Members

If you don't have the time or interest to take over as newsletter editor but still want to get more involved with the club, what about helping with the Refreshment Committee? Talk to Wendy Snyder or Susan Brandl.

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## Garden Quiz Results\*

Now . . . if you checked 1 to 4 items, you obviously have a well-balanced life in which gardening plays a significant role.

And . . . if you checked 5 to 8 items, gardening is unquestionably a very important part of your life.

But . . . if you checked 9 to 11 items, you likely don't have much of a life outside of gardening – not that there's anything wrong with that.

HOWEVER . . . if you checked all 12 items, you should seriously consider seeking professional counselling. (Call me – I can give you a couple of good referrals.)

\* Quiz results are accurate 3.1%, 19 times out of 20.

## BRAGS 2007 EXECUTIVE

**President**  
Susan Brandl  
433-4250

**Vice-President**  
Faye Kilpatrick  
434-5921

**Treasurer**  
Heather MacKay  
438-1342

**Secretary**  
Lanny Hui  
525-0201

**Past President**  
Cheryl Fiddis  
435-2801

### STANDING COMMITTEES

**Fund Raising**  
Peter Barnsdale  
421-8987  
& Cheryl Fiddis  
435-2801

**Membership**  
David Forsyth  
298-6350

**Nominations**  
Cheryl Fiddis  
435-2801  
Marti Tutti  
436-1942  
& Val Wuensche  
298-2836

**Publicity**  
Jackie Walker  
420-0275

**Rhododendron Festival**  
Judy Wellington  
434-8287

### OTHER COMMITTEES

**Garden Contest**  
Judy Wellington  
434-8287

**Garden Tour**  
Wendy Snyder  
937-0556  
& Faye Kilpatrick  
434-5921

**Newsletter**  
Margot Moser  
250-468-9167  
Anne & David Forsyth  
298-6350

**Plant Sale**  
Susan McDougall  
432-9641

**Raffle & Greeting**  
Val Wuensche  
298-2836  
Judy Wellington  
434-8287

**Refreshments**  
Wendy Snyder  
937-0556

**Speakers**  
Peter Barnsdale  
421-8987

**Website**  
David Forsyth  
298-6350