



-Tyne Cot Cemetery, Passchendaele

For most of us, November is the start of winter, - shorter, darker days, and months of dreary weather ahead. But November means much more than that. Recently, I travelled to France & Belgium, on The Great Canadian War Memorial Tour. Heartbreaking at times, the many cemeteries and memorials I visited, beautiful in their simplicity, were a stark reminder of what Remembrance Day means. I hope you can remember what November means on November 11th, and attend one of the many local ceremonies. Be sure to wear your Poppy with pride!

~ Cheryl



Materials for your Compost pile

By Keith Harris

The highest quality compost is made with a mix of dry, brown material and fresh green material; for example, dry leaves mixed with freshly pulled green weeds with all of your kitchen waste materials also saved and added to the pile. The best plan is to

collect enough browns and greens at the one time to build a pile. Here are some helpful hints for stockpiling materials.

If you are successful in encouraging your neighbours to provide materials for your compost pile, you can stockpile these to allow you to place them into your pile in layers of 4 to 6-inches, rather than dumping large quantities of donated materials into the pile all at the one time.

Leaves. Capture your fall leaves - and solicit your neighbours help for the leaves on their property –for use in your pile during the next season. Set up a ‘leaf corral’ near your compost pile using some chicken wire around posts in the ground, or tie together donated wooden pallets from a building supply store. Dump your leaves in the enclosure and cover them with a tarp to keep them dry through the winter months. I always bag leaves neighbours donate to my cause in ordinary garbage bags, which I stack near my compost bins, ready for use through the following year.

Grass clippings. These clippings, if stored for more than a few of days after cutting, will turn into a mouldy, matted and smelly mass. If possible, don’t add this mouldy mess into your compost bin. It will be too heavy to mix easily with your other materials. Instead, spread the mass out over a spare bed in the garden, or onto a patch of open concrete, and let the sun dry the material for you before you use it. To offset fresh grass clippings from matting, mix your dry leaves with the grass at your earliest opportunity. This mix may begin to compost before you add it to your pile [it will be quite hot to the touch] but at least it will not finish up matted and smelly.

Kitchen waste. Most households do not generate enough kitchen waste each week for an adequate amount to layer onto the compost bin. If you have cooperative neighbours, ask them to collect their kitchen waste for you, in the bucket you provide. If you have a cooperative green grocer near you, ask them to collect the vegetables and fruits they are throwing out. Coffee grounds and tea leaves are excellent materials to add to your compost pile, in any quantity. You will find that your local ‘Starbucks’ will be a willing source for your coffee

grounds. Don't put any grease, meat, fish, dairy products or bones into your compost bin. The smell of the rotting materials will attract vermin and flies.

Manure. Animal manure is an excellent ingredient to add to your compost pile, If you can find a local source, pick up only what you intend to use immediately. If your compost pile can handle a large quantity the only restriction as to how much you should add to the pile is the size of your pile. I am fortunate to be being able to pick up my supply of horse manure from the horse stables on the east end of Burnaby Lake. It's readily available and free for the taking during the hours in which the stables are open through the week, and all day on weekends. It doesn't smell like the manures produced by other animals. Do not use the manure produced by dogs, cats or reptiles in your compost pile.

Paper. Newspaper is an excellent source of carbon for your compost pile. The inks newspapers use for their printing are non-toxic in either the black and white or coloured newspapers. Shredded materials break down easier than whole sheets thrown onto the pile, or sheets torn up into narrow strips. Paper is a high carbon source, so for best results, add it to your pile in small amounts.

If you damp each layer of material as you put it onto your pile, you'll keep your compost material as moist as a damp sponge. If a compost pile is properly aerated, in our temperate climate the finished compost will be ready for use anytime in from 6 to 12-months. Keep in mind that even if your compost pile is considered to be a hot pile, there is always the risk that your finished compost may contain pathogens harmful to humans. Always wear gloves when working in your compost pile. Be sure to wash your hands when you've finished your work. The ideal time to add compost to your garden is at the end of your active gardening season.

Thank you again Keith!

If you have anything to share, - stories or pictures, that you think our BRAGS members might enjoy, please send them on! We'd love to see them!

Send to Cheryl Fiddis @ ecfiddis@telus.net

The Palace & Gardens of Versailles

My recent European adventure included a trip to Versailles, located outside Paris. The Gardens of Versailles occupy part of what was once the *Domaine royal de Versailles*. These spectacular massive gardens cover some 800 hectares of land, much of which is landscaped in the classic French Garden style perfected by André Le Nôtre. While the

Queens' garden hosted flowers, the Kings' garden was filled with elaborate fountains, landscaping and acres of well-maintained green space. An incredible place! Here are a few pictures.



BRAGS Membership

Still only \$12 per year, BRAGS members share various gardening interests and enjoy monthly guest speakers, plus are entitled to discounts of regularly priced items at GardenWorks and other garden centres, simply by presenting their membership cards. Monthly meetings (excepting July & August) start at 7 pm at the Burnaby Village Museum, - Main Building, up on the 2nd floor. Easy to get to with ample free parking and refreshments are served! Please join us!

Upcoming Meetings Events/Club News

November 1, 2017

BRAGS EXECUTIVE

President

Wendy Thompson
604-420-6513

Vice-President

Bev Glover
604-540-2883

Treasurer

Susan Brandl
604-433-4250

Secretary

Linda Cholette
604-298-9059

Past President

Verna Adamson
604-294-5550

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STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership

Anne Forsyth
604-298-6350

Nominations

Verna Adamson

Publicity

Evelyn Crawford
604-437-8395

Rhododendron Festival

Verna Adamson
604-294-5550

Bev Glover

604-540-2883

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OTHER COMMITTEES

Plant Sale

David & Anne Forsyth

Newsletter

Cheryl Fiddis
604-435-2801

Anne & David Forsyth

604-298-6350

Welcome Desk

Janet Hayes
604-420-5995

Refreshments

Faye Kilpatrick
604-434-5921

Speakers

Beth MacLaren
604-253-7036

Website

David Forsyth
604-298-6350

Peter Brolese, Vice President of the B.C. Bonsai Society, will talk on "Bonsai". A perfect way to spend a winter evening. Why not invite a friend along?

December 6, 2017

AGM and Christmas Party! Bring your favorite dish to share, and a guest if you can...everyone is welcome!

Klub Kudos!

Congrats to Rosemarie and Janice for their wins at the annual South Burnaby Garden Club Fall Fair!

Two 1st for Rosemarie, Pole Beans and Sunflower bloom under 6", and one 2nd for a foliage plant.

And to Janice Bobic who won a 1st for her Blackberry Jelly, a 2nd for her Honey Cookies, and more! Well done ladies!

Kudos to Beth MacLaren, for organizing a very successful wine tasting tour, on Saturday, September 23rd, to the Goat Cheese farm and the various wineries located in Langley and Delta. She'd thoughtfully pre-ordered exactly the weather that was conducive to ensure the success of the tour. A day of brilliant sunshine and scattered high cloud. She'd assembled a group of 10 vivacious and fun loving garden enthusiasts / wine aficionados from two different garden clubs, the Burnaby Rhododendron & Gardens Society and the Vancouver Shade Garden Society, who quickly became good friends on the bus. Our affable tour guide/bus driver, Ron, met us at the Scott Road skytrain station. It was there that we discovered that, although Beth was there, something had come up to not allow her to join us on the tour. This was a well-planned tour with short drives between each destination, which allowed for longer stays at our different destinations. Our lunch stop was at the JD Turkey farm in Langley, who provide a varied and flavourful menu in their cafeteria/store. Our final destination was a winery who make all of their wines from fruit. Brilliant, and each with distinctive flavours. This was a memorable tour with all participants obviously enjoying their participation. Thanks Ron for the part you also played in keeping our fun loving group in having fun. A repeat event for another year?

