

Over The Garden Wall

Issue #7

September, 2018

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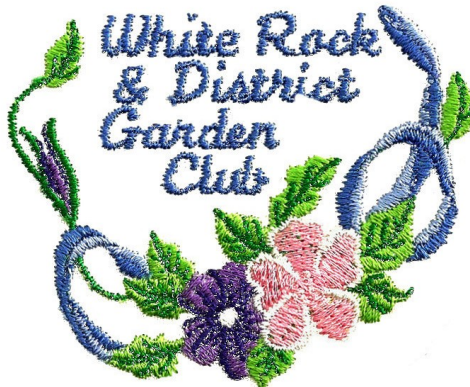
President's Message

Great Summer

What a wonderful summer we have had in White Rock! The hot weather has been a challenge, but it was beautiful most days and as long as you watered, the plants have thrived – I have to pick my scarlet runner beans every day! The dahlias are abundant in my garden too, but unfortunately I will not be here to enter them in our Annual Dahlia Show at Semiahmoo also miss our September garden club meeting. Margrit Elmiger-Isert has agreed to chair the meeting in my absence.

Discussion

I am sorry to miss the meeting because the Executive will be bringing the discussion of a website for our club to the members. The idea for our club to build a website has been percolating for a while now. Some of our newer, (and social media savvy) members approached me and asked why we don't have a website. If you "google" White Rock Garden Club you get the South Surrey Garden Club!!! I felt so embarrassed for our club – we were living in the past. We want to attract new members to keep the club alive and active, yet we have to rely on the Peace Arch News (which does not even get delivered to my street in White Rock at present) to even announce our regular meeting. And they don't have much interest in publicizing our events or writing stories about the things we do like they used to – our archives are full of newspaper clippings from over the years. I



realized that we need this presence on the Internet to "Show what we grow, and share what we know". Looking up garden clubs on the internet you can see the wonderful websites that other garden clubs around Vancouver have, and the possibilities it can bring – distributing and archiving our

newsletter, publicizing upcoming events, sharing our knowledge, sharing photos and stories about our trips and club activities. It could be something of which we are proud! (read on for more about this). Even though I cannot attend the meeting, I will be sending my thoughts and wishes. I hope that as many of our members as possible will attend this important meeting and I will look forward to hearing your thoughts when I return. I am hoping the Membership will feel like I do, that this is a critical project for the future survival of our club, and vote to get started as soon as possible!.

Launching The WR&DGC Into The Future

When the idea to launch the White Rock and District Garden Club into the Internet was first brought to the Executive almost a

In This Issue

- **President's Message**
- **Winners**
- **Thank You**
- **Plants Plus**
- **Upcoming Events**
- **Photo Contest**
- **Creating Privacy**
- **Juicy Bit**
- **Marketplace**
- **Next Meeting**

year ago now, they were leary of the idea. Wouldn't it cost a lot of money? Wouldn't it require work? What about security and privacy? Why do we need to bother? How would we do it when so many of us don't feel knowledgeable about computers or the internet? All good questions that needed to be answered. So we set up a working group including several very media savvy members and a few of us who want to learn (Debbie Magson, Margrit Elmiger-Isert, Marilyn Murphy, John Davidson and myself and other members who asked to come to some meetings for information). It has been a steep learning curve for some of us – and a little embarrassing to realize how little we understood. But Debbie Magson gathered information about the ins and outs and arranged for someone to speak to us about building websites.

Finally we feel we are ready to bring a proposal to the members. The Executive have agreed that in-spite of various misgivings, it is something our club needs to consider. We have asked Debbie to present the necessary information and to invite discussion and questions at the September 11 WR&DGC meeting. The Executive ask that members listen, ask questions, and discuss as much as needed to make a decision that is right for the club.

We are proposing that we build a website and have an email address. The website would be built on a DIY website builder platform, Wordpress, with the help of a consultant who will work with a group of people at our club to decide what our website would look like and to load all the information we decide we want. Once that is done we would have a contract with a company (a domain host) to manage the website and email, and provide security.

You may recall that we put money aside as an additional line in the budget for 2018, which will cover the initial outlay for a consultant to design

the web page (\$500 to \$800). In addition there will be ongoing costs for a contract with a company (a domain host) to manage the website. The contract with the domain host, would be an average of \$244.50/year or \$20.38/month. This would provide:

- securing our domain name (whiterockgardenclub.org)
- email (info@whiterockgardenclub.org)
- hosting (providing the technology to put it on the internet)
- privacy protection
- SSL Certificate (security protection)
- Search Engine Optimization – directing a gardening like minded audience to the website
- 24/7 support – helping us if we run into technical problems

The development of our website will not happen overnight, and interested members will be involved in making it what we want. Ongoing, we will have a group of members responsible for adding content. We are confident that our members, now and more so in the future, will have the ability to manage this or to learn to do so (even as we get older, we still want to keep up with the times). There will be opportunity for all to learn and understand (or stick with a printed newsletter if they want).

We know this is a lot to take in. Debbie will go over it at the meeting, and answer questions. Please come to the meeting with an open mind, perhaps look up a few websites like the Richmond Garden Club to see what we aspire to. Also, if you, or someone you know, would be interested in being part of the team who would design our website, please speak up.

Before moving forward, the Membership must all agree that this is a critical project for the future survival of our club. Then we can get started on launching the WR&DGC into the future as soon as possible!

Calling For Volunteers To Be Part Of The Executive

Unfortunately our Vice-President, Lynn Moran, has had to step down from Vice President position, due to work commitments. This leaves us without someone to step in to President position next year, when we will also need a new Secretary, and Treasurer. Please consider becoming part of the Executive. You will become a valued part of a group of people passionately working to make our club a fun and interesting activity in our community. There will be lots of help learning what is needed – it is all carefully written down and others can help explain what needs to be done. It just requires a little of your time each month – one extra day for a meeting of Exec and a little time to prepare sometimes. As a relatively new member when I joined Executive, it was interesting to learn what goes into running the club – but it is not “brain surgery” and we are all capable of filling most roles. No one is alone in their role – we all help each other do what needs doing. You can even share a role with a friend if you prefer. Ask past and present members of Executive what is involved. Please, please consider being part of the team that makes it all happen!

Melanie Rantucci, President

Winners

Name Tag Draw

Linda Bradley won the plant of the month.

Iris Peacosh, Member

50/50 Draw

Sharon Stanley is \$47 richer because her ticket was drawn.

Maylis Snickars won Note Pads donated by **Ilse Disterhoeft**

Ilse Disterhoeft won a Bouquet donated by **Donna Lawson**

Marilyn Gillan, Raffle

Rosettes

Iris Peacosh Best Red Rose – Class #1

Iris Peacosh Best Entry (Campanola) in show

(from Class #1 to #20)

Jan Zimmerman Best Floral Art (Triangle) in Show (chosen from all entries in Novice & Advanced)

Melanie Rantucci Most Points in April Spring Show

Darlene Chamberlain, Trophies

Thank You

From Gibson's Garden Club



Gibsons Garden Club enjoying a wonderful visit to White Rock Garden Club July 25/18. A big thank you for their hospitality and wonderful gardens. Oh yes, can't forget the great lunch, decorations and raffle prizes. An outstanding day.

Laurella, Gibson's Garden Club

From Margrit

A big thank you to Benice and volunteers (you know who you are!) for a amazing luncheon you prepared for the Gibson Garden Club and our members.





Also, many thanks to Donna, the Floral Art Group to make and display such unique Land Art and donating the centre pieces for the tables.



We had a perfect day, a perfect setting...and lots of compliments.

Margrit Elmiger-Isert, Program

Members Garden Tour



I like to thank Sharon, Margaret, Claire and Melanie for showing us their garden. Also many thanks to Melanie and her husband who let us enjoy our lunch with a view. Your beverages and desserts were a added bonus! It was a great day to socialize and see their beautiful Happy Place.

Margrit Elmiger-Isert, Program

Plants Plus

Share Your Abundance

Bring your over abundance to the meeting:

Veggies: zucchini, tomatoes, garlic, beets, beans, potatoes

Herbs: parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme

Fruit: apples, plums, grapes, apples

Preserves: pickles, jams, jellies, salso

Flowers: bouquets and small arrangements

Mary Openshaw, Plants Plus

Upcoming Events

October Speaker

Andre Eramus

Demonstration on Harvest/Halloween

Arrangement October 9, 2018 at 2pm.

December Bus Trip

VanDusen Garden

Bus Trip on Dec.6 2018 4pm-8pm. Sign Up Sheet at November Meeting.

Margrit Elmiger-Isert, Program

Photo Contest

November Parlour Show

- Best Photo of a Hanging Basket
- Must be planted by member, not purchased
- More than one entry is allowed
- Photo size 4x6" or 5x7" - no larger
- Judged by members and Rosettes Given to Winner

Donna Lawson, Parlour Show

Creating Privacy

In Your Backyard Or Patio

Backyards and patios are a great way to enjoy time with friends and loved ones. In addition, they can be designed to create a place for quiet relaxation. No matter how you plan to utilize your outdoor space if privacy is an issue, then check out the options below:

Drapes have come a long way and are now one of the most budget-friendly and stylish ways to screen off your patio. They are very versatile since they can be moved in a variety of positions. There are many fabrics to choose from and make sure they are water and mould resistant.

Fencing is one of the most common solutions to privacy issues. They can range in height, size, styles and color. In order to avoid future problems, remember to check city ordinances and HOA policies before installing one.

Hedges also come in all shapes and sizes and are usually planted along property lines. Climate is key to their growth so you might want to check with a gardening centre before making a selection.

Pergolas are often used to block views from second-story windows and balconies. They can be solid for shade or spaced to allow varying degrees of light.

Screens are one of my favorite options for specific privacy challenges. Depending on your space you can get three or four panel folding screens. There are many visual elements to consider – Color, height, weather-resistant canvas/fabric, wood, wicker and so on.

Trellises are usually made of wood or plastic with a lattice configuration. Climbing vines are often used to weave their way into the lattice, creating additional privacy. As with any plant, it is a good idea to ensure all specific climate, sun and care requirements are addressed.

Vertical Gardens or living walls are a great way to increase privacy and grow herbs. They can be purchased in prefabricated tower planters for easy installation.

Lastly, noise is sometimes another issue to consider. Some of the items above can help with noise reduction. In addition, water fountains and soft music are not only relaxing but a great way to muffle unwanted sound.

*Submitted by Mary Openshaw with permission
from
Members Debra and Roberta Davis,
welcome2dpts.com*

Juicy Bit

Non Sprouting Seeds?

Have you ever bought seeds, planted them and nothing happened – no sprouts, no plants?

Must have been too old is the usual excuse. Well look at this.

This is a flowering specimen of *Silene stenophylla* sprouted normally from fruits frozen for 30,000 years in Siberian permafrost. They sure don't make them like they used to.



*Picture from Discover mag, June 2018
John Davidson, Newsletter*

Marketplace

Corporate Ads



Cedar Rim Nursery
ESTABLISHED 1978
PO Box 175, Milner, BC V0X 1T0
(Location: 7024 Glover Road, Langley)
Phone: 604-888-4491 • Fax 604-532-1009
sales@cedarrim.com • www.cedarrim.com



Phone: 604.596.9201
Fax: 604.596.9240
Address: 4391 King George Blvd
Surrey, BC, V3Z 0L2

John Davidson, Newsletter

Next Meeting

September 11th, at 2pm

Doors Open at 1pm

Cranley Place Hall, 2141 Cranley Drive, Surrey.