

Sechelt Garden Club

Newsletter January 2016

Farewell to 2015 & Anticipation of 2016

The Garden Club Thanks:

Charmaine Harris and Christi Blackman for their leadership as Co-Presidents throughout the past two years. Their direction and commitment has allowed the club to accomplish its goals and their sense of fun made for memorable meetings and events! Thank you so much ladies for your time, hard work and dedication. You are an inspiration.

Sandra Friedman who has been our Communication person for 7 years and has kept us informed through her newsletters of upcoming events and gardening tips. Sandra did an incredible job of researching new and interesting articles for our membership. You rock Sandra!

Carol Steedman, for her unfailing attention to correspondence required by the Club. Carol has been the go to person to connect with individuals with letters and cards. We appreciate your attention to our members Carol, a job well done!

Introducing the New Board



Top Left: Karon Kosof, Sharon O'Brien, Nattanya Wardel, Penny Lyle, Edwin Leung
Bottom Left: Lorraine Gallant, Ardath Hoole, Cathy Belfry, Carol Corbet
Missing is Verna Kelso

Upcoming Events

Reserve these date for potting up in preparation of our **Plant Sale on May 7, 2016:**

**March 22 & 23
9:00 A.M to 1:00 P.M**

More information to follow in the next newsletter.

Next Meeting

Monday, January 25 at the Seaside Centre @ 7:30 P.M.

Laurie Creak will present his photos taken on an exciting 16 day garden tour of China.

Please wear your name tag, bring your coffee or tea cup and **do not park at Gilligan's!**

Executive

President: Cathy Belfry

After working at the North Vancouver District Library for 25 years Cathy retired to Halfmoon Bay in 2011. Cathy and her husband built a new home and their yard consisted of blackberries, rock, and not much dirt. As Cathy had little gardening experience she joined the Sechelt Garden Club almost immediately and was inspired by what she found there. Cathy has been involved somewhat in club activities and this November decided to take on the job of President. Cathy can see that she will have a lot of support from the members and looks forward to a great gardening year in 2016.

Secretary: Edwin Leung

Edwin is a professional accountant coming from Hong Kong. In Hong Kong, he worked in tourism and health care services. In Canada, he worked for forestry and aboriginal people. He has lived in Sechelt since 1992 and joined the Sechelt Garden Club in 2011. He wonders where all the years have gone – he says they are like the flowers in his yard. In 2013 Edwin took on the position as Secretary and has faithfully performed the duties of this position. On the last day of 2015, Edwin welcomed his second grandchild.

Directors

Speakers: Ardath Hoole

Ardath moved from Caulfeild West Vancouver to the Sunshine Coast almost 5 years ago. She has been a member of the Sechelt Garden Club executive for almost four years. Ardath's career was in teaching Special Education and also as a High School counselor. She has always enjoyed volunteering and was on the West Vancouver Police Board 6 years, president of West Vancouver Kiwanis 2 terms and very involved on several Mayors committees over the years. Ardath loves to nurture plants, animals and people. She is living her retirement dream of having a beautiful garden by the ocean.

Co-Communication: Carol Corbet

Carol joined the garden club over 2 years ago and has found the club has been beneficial to her in learning about gardening on the West Coast. She moved from the Yukon so is quite excited about being able to garden more than 3 months of the year! Carol has worked in public service positions all her work life so brings skills in communications from positions in counselling and management. She is looking forward to working with Karon in the role of Communication Director.

Treasurer: Lorraine Gallant

Lorraine has been a member of the Garden Club for about 8 years. She has helped out with potting up, plant sales, hosting the Strawberry Tea (the only year it rained) and garden tours, plus selling raffle tickets. When Lorraine joined the Garden Club her knowledge of plants was extremely limited, but through planting her flower gardens, speaking with other members and learning from our speakers, her horizon has greatly expanded. Thirty years of her working career was spent as a Plan Administrator for a Union employee benefits plan, retiring in 2004 to move from New Westminster to Sechelt where she and her husband built a new home.



*One of our winter flowers, Hellebores,
the Christmas Rose*

Web Master and Co-Communication: Karon Kosof

Karon joined the Garden Club in January 2014 after moving from Edmonton. She began volunteering with the website in the Fall of 2014. Karon has been involved in non-profit management, websites, communications, organizational branding and sales for the past 25 years. She is excited to contribute to the Garden Club and to join Carol as Co-chair of Communications. Her association with the Garden Club has proven extremely helpful in her quest to learn about gardening techniques on the lower Sunshine Coast.

Directors (cont'd)

Community Development: Penny Lyle

Penny and her husband joined the Sechelt Club in 2013. They had purchased a house on the Coast with two thirds of an acre of garden which had not been tended for seven years. Many hours have been spent working in the garden, which Penny absolutely loves. She enjoys volunteering and became a Director in the Garden Club last year. Penny co-ordinated a project with stakeholders, to plant the rock wall around the aquatic centre in Sechelt. She obtained generous donations of plants from local nurseries and time from Garden Club members. Her goal for 2016 is to encourage and assist in creation of places of beauty and inspiration in Sechelt to create a more charming, and welcoming community. Penny hopes many members of the Garden Club will work with her to accomplish this goal.

Director at Large: Verna Kelso

After Verna retired from the Vancouver School Board, she and her husband moved from a Coastal climate to very dry conditions in the North Okanagan. The soil was mainly clay and there were a lot of rocks. Verna joined the Vernon and District Garden club and served on the Executive where she helped with the yearly Plant Sales and Flower Shows. In addition Verna has taken a number of Floral Design Courses and does enjoy arranging flowers. Verna presently lives in the Davis Bay area which is also a challenge and her garden areas are a work in progress. Verna is looking forward to serving on the Executive and learning about coastal plants and meeting new people.

Membership: Sharon O'Brien

Before retiring to Sechelt in 2004, Sharon worked at Children's and Women's Hospital in Vancouver for 15 years as a manager of one of the large specialty laboratories. Sharon had done gardening before that and certainly had an interest in growing plants but it wasn't until she bought her little house in West Sechelt that she really started to get her hands dirty. She inherited a big mature garden that needed TLC. With the help of a local landscaper, Sharon has been able to turn it into a relaxing and enjoyable garden. Sharon joined the Sechelt Garden Club shortly after moving to The Coast. She volunteered for various jobs and last year took on the Membership position.

Director at Large: Nattanya Wardel

Nattanya has worked with the Club Executive since 2002. She is skilled at doing floral art and has volunteered her time and talent to the Garden Club for many occasions. Nattanya has been a speaker at Garden club meetings showing how she creates her Christmas decorations and driftwood bird houses plus other projects. She has looked after the plants destined for the plant sale in May for 3 years in a row and made extra flower baskets and other creations for sale. Nattanya has had her own garden on tour many times and has organized trips and tours, the Strawberry Tea and Christmas luncheons. Nattanya has taken a break for a couple of years, and now is back to help out where she can. She is hoping to help people with new gardens and also those just starting out.



Free Drip Irrigation Hose

Ron Knight has hundreds of feet of 1/2" & 1/4" drip irrigation hose to give away. There is enough hose to install complete drip irrigation systems in 2 or 3 city-lot-sized gardens! The hose is left over as a result of Caron Garden's donation of 5 dozen rhodos to the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden. As winter is the best time to do the job **phone Ron at 604 883-9807** to get started on your project. Be ready if we should go to level 4 watering restrictions this summer.

Thanks Ron & Carla for your generosity.

Christmas Lunch

Another excellent Christmas luncheon was held at the Sunshine Coast Golf and Country Club on Sunday, December 13. Sixty people attended and enjoyed a delicious meal and entertainment. Lorraine Blakeman did an excellent job of promoting and selling tickets for the lunch. Guests were entertained by our very own talented singers; Lester Harris performed two solos and Charmaine Harris joined him in a duet. John Duff performed his enthusiastic recitation of "I've Been to a Marvelous Party". Many thanks to Charmaine Harris and Nattanya Wardel for organizing the event. Nattanya also hosted a work party which created wonderful centrepieces for the tables and as prizes. Assisting her were Cathy Belfry, Ardath Hoole, Sally Markham, Christi Blackman, Pat Smit and Mary-Anne Tiede. Many thanks to all of you. Mary-Anne also created a couple of beautiful wreathes as door prizes. We are so fortunate to have such talent in our club.



One of the lovely creations!



From left: Lorraine Blakeman, Nattanya Wardel, Christi Blackman and Charmaine Harris

Volunteering:

We want to encourage our members to get more involved in 2016. Watch for the opportunities in our next newsletters. Some opportunities will be very short commitments and some ongoing commitments and some in between.

Volunteering is the best way to not only feel that you are a part of something greater, it ensures that you are!



Note from the Editor:

I hope that you have enjoyed the newly formatted Newsletter. We have all thoroughly enjoyed Sandra Friedman's monthly newsletters over the years and Karon and I will continue to try to keep up to Sandra's amazing level of commitment. In future the seasonal "To Do's" in our gardens and Tips from the Garden Shed will be included. As Karon continues to spend time on the Garden Club's website, please send me any feedback as to suggestions of the type of information you would like to see included in the monthly newsletters!

Carol Corbet - ccorbet@eastlink.ca

More information about the club can be found at:

www.secheltgardenclub.com