

## Executive & Directors

### Sechelt Garden Club 2025 Executive and Directors

President: Lee Tidmarsh

Lee and her husband John Carsley moved to Vancouver and the Sunshine Coast from Montreal in 2007 while continuing to work as physicians. Gardening has always been an enjoyable hobby for both of them. Having enjoyed membership with the Diggers and Weeders Garden Club in Montreal, they decided it was time to get involved with the Sechelt Garden Club in order to continue learning about growing plants. They have had to make adjustments in plant choices given the coastal growing climate. John takes care of the vegetables while Lee attends to the flowers and shrubs and delights in cutting the wild West Coast growth down to size. Lee looks forward to meeting the members and sharing gardening experiences and ideas.

Past President: Gerri Randall

Gerri moved to the Sunshine Coast in the fall of 2018, and has loved every minute in this welcoming community. A former RN and clinical conference planner, she spent the last 20 years of her career as Executive Director of the Vancouver & District Dental Society. With most of her family residing in the lower mainland, her ferry visits there are frequent. Gerri has enjoyed her many travel experiences as well...the journeys in addition to the destinations! Having joined the garden club shortly after relocating, Gerri has found the friendships and camaraderie just as great as the wealth of gardening knowledge available. She has worked on the Community Projects Committee, been in charge of fundraising throughout the pandemic, initiated a group Facebook page for the club, and managed our sharing table at general meetings.

Treasurer: Dora McNeal

My husband and I retired to the Sunshine Coast from Prince George in 2015. A chance walk with Penny Lyle a few years ago led me to buying rabbit poop and then a membership to the Sechelt Garden Club. COVID supercharged my interest in my garden...I got involved in several garden club community projects and so enjoyed the members that I worked with that it was not a hard decision to accept an invitation to run for the executive. How can I go wrong by volunteering with people I like, giving back to the community, and learning more about gardening at the same time?

Secretary: Ellen Heale

Ellen moved to the coast from northern Ontario in 2016. She graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College at the University of Guelph and had a long career in the mining industry. Since moving to the luscious climatic zone on the west coast, she has enjoyed growing new varieties of plants in her garden.. She is an advocate of no grass/lawns and instead focusses on trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals. Forest and seaside walks with Lucy provide hours of entertainment. Ellen is a mixed media artist. She is very much enjoying meeting the members of the Sechelt Garden Club and getting involved. Ellen is also serving as Webmaster and Newsletter Editor.

Membership: Brenda Hawkings

Brenda and Gary purchased their home in Tuwanek in 2015. During the pandemic, neighbour Lee invited me to join the SGC. Having enjoyed gardening all my life and spending more & more

time on the coast, it was the perfect time! Took the next step and retired early in 2021 so we could enjoy full time our piece of paradise along the Sechelt Inlet.

As a career construction project manager, I always liked things in order and on time. Gardening by the sea has challenged me as the climate, weather, and water continuously disrupts. Be it plants not conforming to anticipated growth or the constant intrusion of weeds and vines. I'm looking forward to learning new gardening tips for saltwater & wind environments and meeting new garden-like friends. In return, I am more than happy to help where ever I can to keep this club "on time and in good order"!

Community Projects (shared): Pat Kolterman

Before Pat retired from teaching elementary school, she had visions of spending lots of time with her children and her grandson in their hometown of Terrace. Unfortunately, a week after retiring, her daughter moved to Kelowna and her son and grandson to Vancouver. After several years of traveling to visit them, she convinced her husband, Ken, to move to Sechelt to be closer to family. And what a wonderful move that has been! Always an avid gardener, she joined the Sechelt Garden Club in 2015 and has enjoyed meeting and learning from other gardeners. Her gardening passions are growing vegetables year round and planting with native plants and drought-tolerant perennials.

Community Projects (shared): Marylin Roberts

Marylin and Barry moved to the Sunshine Coast from White Rock seven years ago, to be near the growing number of grandchildren, and to enjoy a one-level house with ocean view. Early retirement provided lots of opportunities to garden again, to travel, and to support the coastal community. Tourism and Hospitality had been the favourite teaching area, as well as Foods, Nutrition and Textiles.

For Marylin, gardens are just good for people, bringing joy everyday! Gardens allow us to reconnect with the positivity of nature – the beauty, colour and aroma, the wildlife! They help us to keep moving and enjoy other people, to express ourselves.

The Garden Club has provided an opportunity for civic responsibility through volunteering in community projects. Most importantly, it ensures growth and learning with amazing people, and helps us see the beauty that's in everyday!

Speakers: Sheila O'Donahue

For the past couple of decades Sheila has lived between Vancouver and Tuwanek/Sechelt. She really enjoyed the Master Gardener course which she took in 2025 in order to learn about gardening. She self-identifies as a 'Curious Gardener' and expects she will remain uneasy with the title 'Master Gardener' for the foreseeable future. She looks forward to meeting and learning about all aspects of gardening from the other members and speakers. She is particularly interested in native and perennial plants and vegetable gardening.

Sheila's partner Chris Thompson will be doing audio visual for the Club.