



# MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: [www.millbaygardenclub.com](http://www.millbaygardenclub.com)

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## Next Meeting (ZOOM):

Date: **Tues, September 22, 2020**

Time: 7pm

Place: Your desk or a comfy armchair  
in your home

### Activities:

**Business Meeting; Members'  
Forum; Gardening Q&A; Library;  
Raffle; Plant Sales; Guest Speaker;  
Socializing!**



## October Speaker:

**There will be no speaker for  
September this year.**

*See page 3 for details of October's  
speaker*



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## Hi Everyone!

Back after the summer hiatus, here is the first edition of the Mill Bay Garden Club's monthly (more or less) Newsletter.

I hope everyone enjoyed the "Bulletin" put out twice a month during the summer months, with sterling contributions from Elaine Scott (who organized everything), Barb Kohlman and Bill Herring. Thanks to you three! Thanks also to those who raised money for the club during this difficult season, especially to Norman and Gwen Redcliffe.

This newsletter is a teensy bit rough around the edges because many regular features that are not relevant at this time are leaving blank spaces!

Meetings are also going to be a whole new world on Zoom. If you are participating (I know the great majority of you wanted to do this), be sure to read Gord Hamilton's article on attending a Zoom meeting.

And see also Bernie Juurlink's President's Letter which details how the club will be meeting for the next little while.

Enjoy! And one day, this smoke will be gone!

# President's Report

Bernie Juurlink

Hello Garden Club members, our Executive met on September 2, 2020 to discuss how to maintain a functioning Mill Bay Garden Club. We ended up with a plan to try three approaches.

**1st**, we will maintain the monthly Newsletter and we thank Dave Byrnes for looking after this.

**2nd**, we will have a monthly Zoom meeting. The vast majority of Club members that responded to the survey wished to have monthly Zoom meetings. Instructions on how to use Zoom will be provided by Gord Hamilton.

**3rd**, we will have a monthly in-person event at the Community Hall where entry will be restricted to 25 people at any given time. Masks will be required and hand sanitation stations will be present. At this in-person event memberships can be renewed, library books borrowed, and plants and possibly raffle tickets can be purchased. Note that not all the membership can attend this in-person event in the Hall since the Kerry Park Recreation Centre rules are such that no more than a total of 50 people altogether can use the Hall for any given event. If more than 50 people want to take advantage of the in-person event then perhaps we can make some arrangement for having part of the event outdoors. This in-person membership event will run from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and will be followed by the monthly Executive meeting in the Hall.

**First Zoom Meeting:** The first Zoom meeting will be on September 22, 2020 and will be a trial run. Gord Hamilton will be the official Zoom Host. We will conduct a bit of Club business and have a question and answer period. Please submit any gardening-related questions you would like addressed by expert gardener members in the Club. Such questions can be sent to me at: [bjuurlink@gmail.com](mailto:bjuurlink@gmail.com) and I will collate and forward to Gill Keir, who will moderate the questions, and to our expert gardeners. There is a Chat function in Zoom whereby additional questions can be posed during the meeting.

**Remaining Zoom Meetings:** From October onwards, the Zoom meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of the month. So, for October it will be on the 13<sup>th</sup> with the Zoom meeting starting at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will start with our speaker followed by the business part of the meeting. During this Zoom meeting questions can be posed via the Chat function. These questions will be collected by Gill Keir and then relayed to the speaker at the end of the Talk. Our speaker for October is Arzeena Hamir. Information about Ms Hamir is given by Gill Keir in this Newsletter.

**In-Person Sessions:** The fourth Tuesday of the month will then be the in-person event at the Mill Bay Community League Hall. From 5:00 p.m. till 6:00 p.m. memberships can be renewed, books borrowed (and returned) to the Library, plants and Llama poop purchased and there may be a raffle. The Executive will then meet from 6:00 p.m. till 7:00 p.m. This first in-person event will be on October 27, 2020.

## President's Report (Continued)

**Use of the Hall During Covid-19:** Note the Kerry Park Recreation Centre has set up an elaborate procedure to ensure safe use of the Community Hall. Firstly, the Club must create a Safety Plan that includes a First Aid Attendant. The Club must also keep a record of who enters the Hall and have their contact telephone number. There can be no more than 50 people using the Hall during any event and at any one time there can be no more than 25 people in the Hall. People who are not family must be two metres apart. Hands must be washed before entering and after leaving the Hall and at other times such as when the hands are visibly dirty or before and after use of the bathroom. The preference of Kerry Park is soap and water but this may be tricky so Hand Sanitizer Stations will be in place. We would like people to wear a mask.

We must screen for potential illness through a series of questions for all who enter. No one who has travelled outside of Canada within the past two weeks can enter. We may make this more rigid by not allowing people in the Hall who have been off-island within the past two weeks since the mainland of BC has *forty* times the incidence of Covid-19 compared to the Island. If you have a fever, cough or frequently sneeze you will not be allowed in. If you have had flu-like symptoms or diarrhea in the past few days you will not be allowed in.

**Safety Addendum Document: Before anyone can enter the Hall, the Safety Addendum Document must be reviewed by that individual and we will ask if the document has been read. This Safety Addendum Document appears at the end of this Newsletter.**

**Other Issues:** We are looking into setting up an online membership renewal process with eTransfer payment option.

Finally, if anyone has suggestions of what else the Club can do, please forward such to me. The Annual Christmas Dinner will not be held. If anyone has an idea of what to replace the dinner with, please let me know as well.

**Condolences:** On behalf of the Club, the Executive has extended condolences to Dave Byrnes on the passing of his wife, Anna Milton.

## October's Speaker (Tuesday, October 13):

**Arzeena Hamir, via Zoom, on**

**Natural Pest Control: Use Common Kitchen Products to Control Garden Pests**

Bio: Arzeena earned her Bachelor's degree in Crop Science from the University of Guelph and a Master's in Sustainable Agriculture from the University of London, England. She worked as a CUSO volunteer in Thailand and as a researcher in Jamaica, India, and Bangladesh. She was the staff Agrologist for West Coast Seeds from 1997-1999 and served as the Coordinator of the Richmond Food Security Society from 2008-2012, and in 2010 helped launch the Richmond Farm School. She and her husband moved their family to the Comox Valley in 2012 and run Amara Farm, a 25-acre certified organic farm in Courtenay, BC. In 2018, Arzeena was elected to the Board of the Comox Valley Regional District where she serves as both Vice Chair and Director, Area B.

## How to ZOOM by Gord Hamilton

The next meeting will be a virtual meeting via Zoom. The executive decided that our first meeting of the year should be a test case for holding a Zoom meeting before we start inviting presenters to subsequent ones. That way it might look like we know what we are doing. Zoom meetings have one or more hosts who schedule and control the meeting and, in our case, up to 100 allowed participants. Since I have hosted one executive meeting, this vast experience means that I get to try hosting a larger one. While I will be the host, the meeting will still be run by our president, Bernie.

For those not familiar with Zoom here are a few things to know.

You will receive an invitation via email a few days before the meeting. There will be a link that you can click on that will take you to the Zoom app. You do not need a Zoom account to participate in meetings. All you need is the meeting ID number 837 6814 2714.

In the email invitation, click on the link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83768142714> to go to the Zoom website and join the meeting. If you have never used Zoom before it will automatically download a small program that needs to be installed on your machine. Once it is downloaded, run the program to install it. When it has finished installing, Zoom will automatically take you to the meeting and place you in the Waiting Room. I will then let you in to the meeting.

At some point there will be a window with your participant name. Please ensure that you fill in both the first and last name as this will be your displayed name. When prompted, be sure to join the meeting by clicking "Join with Computer Audio". That way, you will hear the participants even if your own device does not have a microphone. If your device has a camera and you wish to join the meeting with video, click the camera icon located in the lower left side of the screen.

If you want further information about joining a Zoom meeting please copy and paste the following link into your browser: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193>

Should you lose the email invitation you can join the meeting simply by going to [zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) and entering the meeting number mentioned above. Hopefully we'll see most of you on the 22nd.

## Committee Reports

### Notes from the Library

With enormous anticipation it seems that we will be able to visit the MBGC library once again. The 4th Tuesday of October is your opportunity to return books that have been collecting dust. Please start searching for them now! Members will also be able to borrow books and even buy books that were slated to be sold at the 2020 Flower and Garden show. Books for sale will be by donation and the proceeds will go into the club for much needed revenue (and more books!)

The hottest topic in our library has always been pruning so I have purchased another Pruning book to keep members from fighting over them! If anyone would like to request any other book on any gardening topic please let me know. Just send me an email.

*Your friendly librarian,  
Janice Rose*

### Plant Sales

Almost time to replenish our gardens in prep for the next gardening adventure.

Again we will make alpaca gold available on request. We should have some available at our in person meeting in October or call or email me & we can organize drop off or pick up before then.

We hope to have plants or perennials, harvest items etc. that members are eager to donate. We hope to have the plants & alpaca gold outdoors (maybe out of my trunk) . In order to help control people numbers it would be helpful to know how many donations to expect . Please contact Monika Morgan at 250 743-1915 or email me at davidmorgan80@shaw.ca

Hope to see many of you (a few at a time) soon

*Your plant sales team,  
Monika Morgan & Sharon Martin*



## Gardening Tips for September-October 2020 by Barb Kohlman

- October is still a good time to plant trees and shrubs.
- If you have empty garden spots, cover with leaves, manure, or compost. Or, plant winter cover crops such as rye grass or clover. All will enrich the soil and keep weeds away.
- If you wish to convert yard space to garden beds, use newspaper or cardboard covered by mulch; by spring, all weeds will have died. (hopefully)
- Dig up and repot herb plants to bring them inside for the winter; keep them in a sunny place.
- Trim or stake your bushy perennial plants to avoid any wind damage.
- Apply a layer of mulch around your roses, azaleas, rhododendrons, and berry plants for winter protection. (only if there is good drainage – otherwise you may “drown” their roots over the winter)
- Protect grafted roses. Before the ground freezes, mound soil about 12 inches in and around canes, making sure graft is completely covered. (again only with good drainage) (I have seen this done at Providence Farm and wondered how they could possibly survive the winter wet!!!)
- Clean up your annual flower beds. Remove any diseased plants to help prevent any insects from overwintering in your garden. Hardy or “own-root” roses don’t need special protection.
- Clean up your lawn of any leaves and fallen fruit and vegetables to discourage pests and diseases from your lawn and gardens.
- Save seeds from your favorite vegetable, fruit, and flower plants. Dry the seeds and store them in airtight containers in a cool and dry place over the winter.
- Dig and divide rhubarb every 4 years.
- Reduce the water supply for houseplants to help harden them off for winter.
- Dig out geraniums if you are overwintering.
- Cover compost piles with black plastic to keep rain from making them too soggy.
- Keep watering your evergreens; this helps them to keep from drying out during the winter.
- Shut off your water and drain systems. Put away your hose and equipment.



These tips are from <https://www.almanac.com/gardening/tips/BC/Duncan/10> with side comments from my experience.

**Cheers Barb Kohlman**

## “Sunshine Mary”

Our esteemed Life Member Mary Gale, has for very many years, been sending cards and kind words to those members who are experiencing illness or loss. She does this on behalf of the Mill Bay Garden Club, bringing a spot of sunshine into what is often a stressful time for a club member.

If you know of someone in the club who is sick, in hospital, or has lost a loved one, please let Mary know and she will send a card on our behalf.



## Last Bits of the Summer Garden by Fran Benton

Ah the last bits of summer make the garden a sweet place to be. I hope everyone has enjoyed their space as much as we have enjoyed ours this year. There are always a few jobs to do in preparation for a really fine garden next year. I like the slacker jobs that mean I can sit in the garden with pastry and coffee and make cunning plans. The first thing I write is my list of what I will grow next year. This year I grew Canna lilies and I certainly will grow them again. In fact they are so easy I might grow more. I put some of them in pots and those were the most successful. They have such nice tropical leaves like bananas but none of the hassle or fuss of bananas. I discovered they like to have their roots crowded in a pot. They also really like tons of sun. My friend Iris brings her canna inside and lets it grow as a houseplant.

One thing that is going on my 'do this again' list is growing a squash or pumpkin in the flowerbeds. It gives you something to smile about when all the lovely flowers are dying back. And you get something to eat!



One plant that really performed for me this year is *Salvia microphylla* "hot lips" (left). The hummingbirds used this plant all summer long. I am taking a ton of cuttings that I hope to share with everyone next year. Another success from the garden is the Castor Bean, *Ricinus communis* (below). My plant is the red variety and it has been a great hit with garden visitors. Be careful with young visitors or nosy pets as this plant is the source of the deadly poison Ricin. One funny thing I grew this year was 'Freedom Dream' a type of marijuana. Well that was a

disappointment! From the permitted number of seeds I grew 3 males and one female. I didn't know the males produce huge amounts of pollen. I grew them in the spring in the greenhouse and discovered that the pollen gave me huge bouts of sneezing and coughing. All four plants were banished to the patio where they continued to blast out clouds of pollen. As my drugs of choice are coffee and quality pastry I consigned the dismal results of my 'four plant grow op' to the compost heap. Maybe the pillbugs got a bit of a buzz! The last bit of garden excitement was the second flower of my cactus *Echinopsis Elegant Lady*. I have some babies of this plant and if you are interested you can email me and I'll arrange a prickling. Or maybe a spiny embrace? [Fran.Benton@VIU.Ca](mailto:Fran.Benton@VIU.Ca)



Happy gardening!

# COVID-19 Addendum to Facility Use Agreement/License

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!**

Dr. Bonnie Henry stated on May 16, 2020 that “COVID-19 is new for all of us”. We at the Cowichan Valley Regional District responded to the direction from our public health officials to first close our facilities and cease offering services, and we are now responding to the direction to reopen our facilities and offer services to our community cautiously, with the safety of our staff and community being our priority. This includes permitting user groups access to our facilities, **but solely on the basis that COVID-19 precautions will be adhered to by any and all user groups and individual participants.**

COVID-19 remains a worldwide pandemic and a threat to our local health and safety. We know the following (this list is not intended to be exhaustive):

1. The infectious agent, SARS-CoV-2, has caused cases and outbreaks of a serious communicable disease known as COVID-19 among the population of the Province of British Columbia;
2. Our public health officials have determined this constitutes a regional event, as defined in section 51 of the *Public Health Act*;
3. A person infected with SARS-CoV-2 can infect other people with whom the infected person is in contact; and
4. The gathering of people in close contact with one another can promote the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and increase the number of people who develop COVID-19.

We cannot be certain that a person (of any age) will not contract SARS-CoV-2 at one of our facilities and/or while participating in one of our programs, but we have taken the steps required to develop our COVID-19 Safety Plans, which are available for your review on our website ([Kerry Park Recreation Centre](#), [Shawnigan Lake Community Centre](#), [Mill Bay Community League Hall](#)). We have implemented our COVID-19 Safety Plan, but **the risk remains that a COVID-19 outbreak could occur despite our efforts.**

As the representative of a user group, you are required to read and confirm that you understand the COVID-19 Safety Plan. You are required to circulate this Addendum to the participants in the activity for which you are utilizing our facilities. **You are required to take steps to ensure that participants act in accordance with the COVID-19 Safety Plan. Failure to adhere to the same could result in your user group’s license being revoked without refund of any fees and/or any particular person being banned from access to our facilities.**

It is vital that no person who feels sick in any way visit any of our facilities and/or utilize any of our services. It is also vital that no person brings a child who feels unwell or is showing any symptoms of illness to any of our facilities and/or programs.

It is vital that any person who believes that they may have become ill or their child may have become ill within 14 days of visiting one of our facilities report this immediately to us by contacting Sheena Boyles, Facility Booking Coordinator, South Cowichan Recreation, at [sheena.boyles@cvrd.bc.ca](mailto:sheena.boyles@cvrd.bc.ca) or 250.743.5922 ext. 3702 and seek appropriate medical attention by first calling 8-1-1. **We will share personal information for the purposes of contact tracing if the need arises.** To attend our facilities, all persons taking part in your activities must consent to the same.

For more information regarding the risks associated with COVID-19, please review the [BC CDC Guidelines for Recreation Facilities](#).

I have reviewed the <a href="#">Kerry Park Recreation Centre COVID-19 Safety Plan</a> and/or <a href="#">Shawnigan Lake Community Centre COVID-19 Safety Plan</a> and/or <a href="#">Mill Bay Community League Hall COVID-19 Safety Plan</a> .	INITIAL HERE
I have read, understand and agree to this Addendum to Facility Use Agreement/License.	INITIAL HERE
I have reviewed this Addendum to Facility Use Agreement/License with all participants in the activity(ies).	INITIAL HERE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name Clearly

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Organization

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mobile Phone Number

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Emergency Email