



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Next Meeting (ZOOM):

Date: **Tues, November 23, 2021**

Time: 7pm

Place: Your desk or a comfy armchair
in your home

Activities:

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



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB



See page 4!

Add some Christmas joy to your home with
handmade wreaths, stars, swags, tree ornaments
and a selection of loose greens

All items are made, gathered and donated by MBGC members
All proceeds go to our charities

November Speaker:

Jeff Moore

**On Climate Change
for Gardeners**



- * Items are outdoors on a covered deck
- * Cash or cheque only
- * Wearing a mask and following distance rules is mandatory
- * Please park on the street

SHOPPING DATES

Thursday, Dec. 02 to

Sunday, Dec. 05, 2021

10am - 4pm



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President's Report - November 2021

Bernie Juurlink

General Meeting and Christmas Event

Because Covid-19 is still a major health problem the Executive has decided that it is far too early to have in-person meetings indoors and our November meeting will be via Zoom as likely will be the January meeting, and perhaps into the spring. Hopefully there will be a Flower & Garden show during the last weekend of May 2022. There will be no usual Christmas gathering at the Hall this year, but we will again have a Christmas Swag sale, organized by Pat Spezowka, in December.

The reason we are postponing in person meetings is that as of November 13, there are 546 active Covid-19 cases within Island Health, with 111 in North Island, 314 cases in Central Island, where we live, and 121 cases in South Island. This is 62 cases higher than what I reported in the October Newsletter.

Getting Canada's, as well as the entire world's, population vaccinated is the key to countering Covid-19 since as long as there is a reservoir of people that can get infected, there will be mutations of the virus with some of these mutations being more deadly than the parental strain. Indeed, we have already seen this with the Delta variant, which is becoming the dominant viral variant in many regions, including BC (here, the Delta variant forms 95% of new cases). This variant is twice as infectious as other strains of the Covid-19

virus with several studies (including a Canadian one) indicating that this variant can give rise to a more severe version of the disease. There is also the additional concern of the Delta variant mutating with BC Health keeping a close eye on two such mutations. Unfortunately, some people have a profound misunderstanding of how the immune system recognizes viruses and bacteria with the erroneous thinking that just because one's immune system recognizes and deals with various flu strains, one's immune system can readily vanquish the Covid-19 – this is not necessarily the case. It is important that everyone gets vaccinated so as not to provide a reservoir where the virus can proliferate and mutate.

Honouring Members Who Have Served The Garden Club Over Many Years

The Club has honoured members who have served in many capacities over the years by giving them Lifetime memberships. We have 12 such Lifetime members in the Club. It was proposed by Janice Rose that each year we further honour those members who have made an extraordinary long-term service to the Club. The Executive agreed. This year we have honoured Mary Gale and Ruby Armour. Mary Gale was a founding Club member in 1985 and has fulfilled many roles over the years, as Club Historian and more recently as Sunshine Girl. Several decades ago, on several

Presidents Report (Continued)

occasions, when no one wanted to take over the presidency, Ruby stood up and volunteered to be president. Mary and Ruby were continually active in other roles such as, for example, being cashiers at the Plant Sale at the annual Flower & Garden Shows. The honouring event, organized by Janice Rose and hosted by Mary Gale's son and daughter-in-law, was held at Mary Gale's home on Saturday, November 6. Because of Covid-19 Mary asked that only a small number of people attend. Bill Herring

presented Mary and Ruby small framed photos commemorating their service, taken a few years ago when they were cashiers at the Plant Sale at the Flower & Garden Show. Pat Spezowka baked a delicious, beautiful garden-themed, decorated cake for the occasion and Mary insisted the event end with a sip of port. I believe both honoured individuals enjoyed the occasion. The photos below are some of which were taken at the event.

Bernie



November 23, 2021, Mill Bay Garden Club Agenda

- 1) 7:00 p.m. Speaker: **Jeff Moore** - chaired by Cliff Stainsby
- 2) 8:00 p.m.: Club Business
 - a) Approval of the agenda
 - b) Approval of September minutes
 - c) President's Report – Bernie Juurlink
 - d) Flower & Garden Show – Gill Keir
 - e) Executive Committee reports
 - f) Virtual Brag Table
 - g) Garden-related Questions with our Master Gardeners
 - h) Questions for the Executive?
 - i) Adjournment

Christmas Pop-Up Sale

December 2 to 5, 2021. 10am-4pm

Hello Everyone. It's that time of year again. Since last year's Christmas Pop-up Sale was such a success we are going to do it again this year. It's a lot of fun but also a lot of work so we are asking our membership to help out this year.

We are having a work bee at Pat's home on November 24 & 25 from 10am to 3pm, address below. Bring a lunch, drinks provided, and come for the day or come for any time you can spare. At the workshop we will be doing piecework for the construction of wreaths or Pat will assist you in making a wreath for the sale. Please wear a mask, and bring your pruners and gloves. Full vaccine necessary for you to attend please.

We are also looking for decorations for our wreaths and swags. Any unused Christmas decorations you may have no need of anymore would be appreciated, e.g. stars, tree balls and bobbles, silk Christmas flowers, pine cones, artificial berries, small characters such as snowmen, Santa's, angels, ribbon, etc.

We will also need a lot of fresh evergreens. Maybe time to prune? We have a lot of cedar but any other evergreen branches, e.g. juniper, fir, pine, eucalyptus, etc., would be appreciated. You can deliver to Pat or Monika or we can come and pick it up if you can't deliver.

Please give either of us a call if you have any questions.

Monika & Pat

Committee Reports

Plant Sales

We hope to see a few of you at our wreath making sessions on November 24 or 25 . (See our poster.) Attend an hour or 6, whichever works for you. And then remember to come & check out the end results dec 2-5 on Spezowka's deck. Lovely to look at & very reasonable prices. The moneys made will go back into our community. We will also have another cash donation box for our food bank.

We've received some plant donations from a neighbour that has moved. Is anyone interested in a half a bag of lawn food? Let Monika know. You can pick up at her place.

Getting into a festive mode!

Monika Morgan & Sharon Martin

Your friendly Plant Sales team



“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.



A Passion for Seeds by Fran Benton

There's an old saying about farmers that they put their faith in the ground. Gardeners do this too and it's that glorious time again when we gardeners can scroll through the vast selection of seeds available around the world. Thanks to the Internet we can get seeds from Tasmania as well as seeds from Russia. Seeds are the international language of green hope and curiosity! If you have a gardener in the family and are looking for a present, how about seeds from somewhere interesting? Likely the seeds will not arrive until after xmas but you can include the printed material in a basket with the compulsory gift card for excellent coffee/tea and pastry! So let's look at some of the wide world of seeds.

We will start with local seeds. This is a personal bias but I think you get the best seeds at a garden centre. Big box stores certainly carry seeds but they are not always suitable for this climate and often are not the highest quality. High quality means the seeds are fresh and many will sprout. I find the hardware and big box stores carry cheaper seed. That's fine if you have a small budget and lower expectations. Speaking of expectations. If you order seed from a good seed company and they do not germinate or they are the wrong seeds, they often will send you replacements. This year I ordered cherry tomato seeds from a good supplier and what grew were eggplants. Well, I was going to contact them but like many businesses during the pandemic I gave them a pass for being able to send ANYTHING!

Now if you are a beginner gardener I would suggest you buy seeds from Westcoast Seeds. They are widely available and they have a great information catalogue that is free. If you want to join legions of sadly addicted gardeners send away for some SEED CATALOGUES. This is a powerful garden drug and must be taken sparingly. I once received 3 garden seed catalogues in a week and was sofa ridden for a very very long time. Experienced gardeners should broaden their horizons by going online and browsing some of these lovely catalogues. Here's a sample sent to me by garden expert Elaine. <https://delphinium.co.nz> Gob smackingly gorgeous flowers! I will be ordering these seeds soon!

Here is a collection of seed companies that many of us use. There are TONS more. Of the Canadian seed companies, I really like T & T Seeds out of Manitoba and William Dam seeds from Ontario.

Order seeds! Dream of the spring!

Canadian Seeds	Location	Specialty
1 Westcoast Seeds	Langley	Our climate
2 Saltspring Seeds	Saltspring Island	Heritage and heirloom organic
3 Brother Nature Seeds		heirloom
4 Veseys Seeds	P.E.I.	Large selection
5 T & T Seeds	Manitoba	Vegetable seeds and starts
6 William Dam Seeds	Ontario	Great quality nice people
7 Stokes Seeds	Ontario and USA	Used to be very popular
8 MacKenzie Seeds	Alberta	Often in hardware stores
American Seeds	Location	Specialty
1 Burpee Seeds	Pennsylvania	Non gmo high germination
2 Johnny's Seeds	Windslow Maine	Organic wide variety
3 Swallowtail Seeds	California	Good seed quality
4 Territorial Seeds	Oregon	Locally trialed
World Seeds	Location	Specialty
1 Plant World Seeds	Devon England	Super wide selection
2 Jelitto Seeds	Germany	Wide selection
3 Barnhaven Seeds	France	Primula and Polyanthus seeds
4 New Zealand Delphiniums	New Zealand	Delphiniums



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

7:00 pm, October 26, 2021

Via Zoom

7:00 p.m.: Talk on plants he loves by Bryan Emery

Garden Club Meeting

Call to Order at 8:06 p.m.

Acceptance of Agenda – moved by Dave Byrnes, seconded by Janice Rose, all in favour

Acceptance of Minutes from October 12, 2021 – moved by Melanie Fiander and seconded by Cliff Stainsby, all in favour.

1. Presidents report: Bernie Juurlink

Bernie thanked Monika, Pat Spezowka, Gord Hamilton and all involved for their hard work for the plant sale and Melanie Fiander for stepping up as Secretary.

2. Treasurer's Report: Gord Hamilton: nothing to report

3. Secretary's Report: Melanie Fiander: nothing to report

4. Vice President's Report: Cliff Stainsby:

Cliff announced that he, Gord and Bernie had solved the issue of Zoom in the hall. Speakers can present virtually when we return to in person meetings saving travel time and expenses. Note that only 60 people are allowed in Kerry Park hall at this time so November's meeting will be via Zoom.

5. Committee Reports:

Plant Sale: Monika Morgan: Monika recapped results of plant sale

Library: Janice Rose:

update on plans to honour Mary Gale and Ruby. Photos and plaques to be presented by Bill Herring hopefully by Nov 14th. Pat to make a cake. To be held at Mary's home. A very small group only.

Brag Table:

Bernie shared that he had roses, nerines, fuchsias and beans still producing. Janice Rose had Korean Chrysanthemum, delphiniums and roses.

Discussion about Flower Show to be held May 28th next year. Master Gardeners to host a table.

Monika and Pat to host a Christmas Sale and wreath making classes.

Cliff moves to adjourn. Janice seconds. Meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.