



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Your presence is requested MBGC AGM and Dinner

Tuesday, June 28th, 2022 at 5:00 pm

This returning - and much-anticipated - annual event will begin with, thanks to the pandemic, a bring-your-own-dinner meal, followed by the Annual General Meeting (see the President's Message inside for details of the AGM) and the Garden Hat Contest!

Spouses, partners, children... all are welcome to join us for the evening!

Please arrive between 4:00-5pm for setup. Please bring the following items (especially chairs!): Something to eat (due to Covid, no potluck this year); chairs; plates, cutlery, napkins, placemats; coffee cups; favourite beverage and glasses; your garden hat inspiration (see p2); a cash donation for the food bank; and a light jacket or sweater in case the heatwave (haha) passes.

Please bring a garbage bag to take your garbage home with you!

The club will be providing a delicious cake for desert.



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Garden Hat Theme: **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

Get inspired! Make and wear a hat using materials found in your garden or home following the theme "The Queen's Platinum Jubilee".



There will be one prize for the best hat.

President's Report - June 2022

Bernie Juurlink

Spring is slowly limping into summer with clematis flowers eagerly awaiting the sun. Everything seems to be about a month behind in our garden. I think we all would appreciate some more sun and warmer weather.

The Mill Bay Garden Club has survived another year of Covid-19 via Zoom meetings. Hopefully, we can have in-person monthly Club meetings again in the fall. I thank all the members of the Executive for their work enabling the Club not only to survive but to thrive. I thank Ann Baty for chairing our Bursary Committee, Cliff Stainsby for organizing our speaker sessions, Dave Byrnes for putting together our Newsletters & News Bulletins as well as sending out announcements to the Club members, Donna Kaiser for providing advice as past President, Gillian Keir for Chairing the Community Flower & Garden Show, Gord Hamilton for looking after our funds, our website and organizing the Zoom sessions, Janice Rose for looking after our library and Stepping in for Mary Gale's role as "Sunshine Mary", Katherine Miller for looking after the Memorial Garden, Melanie Fiander for stepping in as the Club's Secretary, Monika Morgan for looking after plant sales, Pat Spezowka for membership, Pauline Dueck for looking after our Facebook page and Stephanie Taylor for looking after the Raffle.

I also thank the large number of Club members who volunteered this year at the three Club outdoor events listed below.

1. Plant Sale and Raffle: this event last October raised almost a thousand dollars, thanks to Monika and Stephanie for organizing and all the dedicated volunteers who assisted in donating plants and other materials and helped in the running of the sale at the Sylvan Church grounds last October.
2. Christmas Swag Sale: this event on the Spezowkas' deck last December raised almost \$1,700. Thank you Pat and Monika for organizing as well as all the volunteers who helped make the swags and run the sale.
3. Community Flower & Garden Show: The fire at the Pioneer Mall on Friday, May 27 shut down the Trans Canada Highway in Mill Bay creating absolute chaos in setting up for the Community Flower & Garden Show. Despite the problems on Friday, the Community Flower & Garden Show was again a huge success. I thank Gill Keir for Chairing the Community Flower & Garden Show. Gill had an excellent team who put in long hours and worked very hard to make the Show a success: Al and Wendy Mikalishen were the Hall and Inside Coordinators, Mary Jean Morrison was in charge of

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President's Report - June 2022 (continued)

the Silent Auction, Heather Jenkins looked after the outdoor vendors, Nick Jenkins prepared and printed the posters, brochures and judging sheets, Barb Kohlman, Judy Raimondo and Melanie Fiander fed the Judges and provided beverages and food to the volunteers, Janice Rose and Gord Hamilton looked after the cash, Chris and Kathleen Mercer looked after publicity, Kathy Muirhead looked after signs and Norman Redcliffe was the official event photographer. In addition, I thank the many volunteers who helped with the set-up, running and take-down of the Show.

Contrary to my concerns, there were lots of flowers and other displays – thanks to all who entered displays, many of you for the first time. I thank the judges of the Show who encountered blocked roads and detours but managed to arrive at the Cobble Hill Hall eventually, albeit hours late. I congratulate Barb Kohlman for being the Aggregate Winner at the Flower & Garden Show and her name will be inscribed onto the Club's Annual Aggregate Winner Plaque. There were lots of Silent Auction items - thanks to all the Club members and generous community businesses who donated items. The advice given at the Master Gardener's Table by the Master Gardeners Sally Emerson, Liz Lindquist and Glenda Wilkinson was much appreciated by the

public as well as by the members of our Club.

The Community Flower & Garden Show raised almost \$5,200 and after expenses of running the Show was looked after, was able to donate \$2,000 to the Club

There was also a Plant Sale at the Community Flower & Garden Show. Thank you to everyone who donated plants and to the volunteers who helped run the Plant Sales Table. The Plant Sale at the Show generated almost \$1,700 for the Club.

I thank Norman and Gwen Redcliffe for propagating many lovely plants and donating the proceeds from the sale of their plants and seeds to the Club.

I thank Monika Morgan who also sold plants, seeds and alpaca poo and donated the proceeds to the Club.

Club Donations: The Club is in a better financial than ever before and our Treasurer has informed us that we have a \$6,500 surplus that the Club can donate to worthy causes. The Executive has suggested to set aside \$2,000 for our Bursary program: two \$500 bursaries for 2023 and two \$500 bursaries for 2024. The remaining \$4,500 will be given to local charities. The charities and amounts that the Executive has proposed will be distributed at the AGM for approval by the membership.

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President's Report - June 2022 (continued)

AGM: The AGM will be held at 5:00 p.m., June 28th, 2022. Gill Keir has kindly, once again, offered her yard for the AGM. The address is: 2591 Keir Road, Mill Bay. We will be getting tables from the Mill Bay Community League Hall and setting them up at 4:30 p.m. Because Covid-19 is still present in our community we will not be doing the usual pot-luck dinner: we expect everyone attending to bring their own food, drink, dishes, etc. as well as their own chairs. The Club will supply a large cake as desert for the end of the meal as well as tea and coffee – please bring your own cups. There will be a door raffle and garden hat contest, as has been done in past years.

I have served as President of the Club for the last two years and have enjoyed working with a great bunch of people. I would encourage

members to consider joining the Executive.

Election of the Executive: At the AGM we elect a new Executive. Many on the current Executive are willing to stand again; however, we are looking for people who are willing to stand for: President, Vice President, Plant Sales and Kitchen Organizer. We are optimistic that we can meet in person in the fall; hence, we do need someone to look after the kitchen. So, please do not hesitate to be nominated. – you will be interacting with a wonderful group of people.

Sunshine Mary: It is with sadness that I am announcing that one of our Founding Club members, Mary Gale, passed away on June 18th of this year. Elaine Scott has written a tribute in this Newsletter in memory of Mary Gale.

Mill Bay Garden Club Annual General Meeting - Agenda June 28, 2022

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Approval of minutes of the 2021 AGM (attached)
3. President's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Questions to the Executive
6. Discussion & Approval of disbursement of Club's surplus funds
 - a. Bursary Fund
 - b. Proposed charities
7. Questions to the Executive
8. Nominations & Election of the Executive chaired by Cliff Stainsby
9. Final comments by the President
10. Motion for adjournment



Mary Gale

It is with great sadness that we must advise you that Mary Gale died at 11 am on Saturday June 18. She had been ill for the last few months but prior to that was a very active member of the Mill Bay Garden Club from its inception. Mary would have been 95 on her next birthday.

Mary and her husband Fred instigated the first meeting of the Mill Bay Garden Club and Mary held many positions in the club over the years.

Mary and Fred moved to Mill Bay just over forty years ago. Over the years they were members of not only the Mill Bay Garden Club but also the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society, a variety of bridge clubs, a dance club and Mary's Sorority. Mary started the Mill Bay Bridge Club

and was also involved in the early years of the Welcome Wagon. In all of these organizations both Mary and Fred were very active participants.

Our hearts go out to her son Chris and daughter-in-law Kathleen, her son Frank, and her daughter Anne as well as her many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

We will miss Mary's cheery smile at the meetings and receiving the cards she sent out to our club members.

To quote some of our members.

- She was inspiring and so much fun.
- She worked her way into our hearts.
- Mary was such an enthusiastic, cheerful and iconic member of our club. In many respects she was the golden thread that connected us all. She will be missed.



**A Funeral Mass will be held at 10:30am on Saturday, June 25, 2022
at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 790 Kilmalu Road, Mill Bay, BC.**

**To honour Mary's accomplishments and special memories,
a Celebration of Life will be held on a separate occasion
with the location and date to be announced at a later date.**

2022 Community Flower & Garden Show

Hello Volunteers,

The Flower & Garden Show Steering Committee would like to express a heartfelt thank you to all those people who volunteered to help make our 73rd Annual Show a big success.

We had some challenges on Friday with “the fire”, but for the most part we managed. We couldn’t do anything about the cold & the showers on Saturday, but people were still able to maintain a high degree of enthusiasm.

People who, for one reason or another, were unable to fulfill their duties, let us know or stepped up to help in another capacity, all of which was greatly appreciated.

It was such a pleasure to see so many of you again and to meet so many new members. The joy at doing something so major & in person again was clearly evident.

Hoping to meet everyone again, perhaps at the AGM or one of the Open Garden events that will come along.

Again, many thanks.

Al & Wendy Mikalishen

Volunteer Co-ordinators

2022 Flower & Garden Show Report

It was a pleasure and a bit of a surprise to see how many entries the exhibitors brought in, given the chilly weather this spring. The flowers were lovely. Those who entered the design category were imaginative. Barbara Kohlman was the overall winner this year and gets the trophy. The People’s Choice was Liz Lindquist – 1st and Pat Spezowka – 2nd.

We had 13 Outdoor Vendors accept our invitation and 12 participated. A good balance between them all in merchandise.

The Silent Auction received 96 items. The membership donated excellent items and some members donated multiple items. Thank you. The gross income from the sale was \$4400.00 Pat and Alex Spezowka made the display of items extremely attractive.

The plant sale went well and no plants were left.

I would like to thank the steering committee. They are a great team and pulled it altogether while facing a late start and some absences.

Thanks – Gill Keir

Committee Reports

Membership

Welcome to new members from nearby and far away!



Joining this month:

- Reanna and Scott
- Mary Graydon
- Christa Green
- Maureen Hayes
- Beverly McCooey
- Sue Shortreid
- Gayle Thompson
- Lisa Veefkind

Plant Sales

Well another year with covid & no in-person gatherings. Who would have thought...

When we do gather we sure make it worthwhile. We did have an in-person plant sale on the Sylvan United property in the fall & raised almost \$800. Our Xmas pop up sale also brought in \$1,657 (plus \$211 for the food bank). Not bad for a few hours. In the spring we sold lots of Bill Herring's peas through Norm Redcliffe. So we raised over \$1,000 plus the funds raised at our Xmas pop up sale. Thank you all for your donations & for making purchases. Lots of volunteers made these events fun & less work.

So... lets hope we can gather in person in the fall & please consider volunteering for one of the vacant positions. Plant sales coordinator is one of them. I've been at it for a number of years & look forward to passing this hat onto someone with new ideas & enthusiasm. It really takes two people at our monthly meetings. We have a possible candidate who is new to our club & may consider this position if someone will assist. I will mentor as needed till the new team is comfortable (won't take long).

Things to think about. See you at our picnic next Tuesday. Come out and enjoy the company of our garden club members and all that's planned for the eve. Bring your enthusiasm and lets keep this great club going

Been fun

Monika Morgan & Sharon Martin

Your plant sales team to date.



Committee Reports etc

Bursary Recipient 2022

Congratulations to Frances Kelsey Secondary School graduate, Maya Tomin, our 2022 recipient of the Mill Bay Garden Club Bursary of \$500. Maya, hoping to specialize in Environmental Sciences, has been accepted to the Faculty of Science at both UVic and UBC. She has yet to decide which one to attend.

A top academic achiever, Maya is passionate about climate action and social justice. She has been a member of Cowichan Valley Earth Guardians, a youth group whose goal is to spread environmental awareness and responsibility in the community and in our schools.

While a student at FKSS, Maya has been a member of several clubs, has been active in the performing arts and rock-climbing, and has still saved money from part-time work for university. We wish Maya the best in her future studies.

Ann Baty



From the Memorial Garden

As of June 20th, we are very close to finishing up the work on the Memorial Garden. We only need to spread the mulch and do a weeding and tidying up. It has taken at least two years to get to this point and the results are impressive. Many thank to Barb Kohlman for donating her time to create the design, to Elaine Scott for her help sourcing plants, and thanks to the small band of volunteers who showed up with shovels, gloves and a great “get ‘er done” attitude.

Once the garden is finished up, we will consider how to add a commemorative plaque to remember club members who have passed.

Yours in gardening

Katherine Miller, Committee lead

Lost and Found

A small cloth bag with a Pender Island Conservancy logo and printing on it containing a travel mug and personal items was left behind at the Community Flower & Garden Show. The owner should contact the MBGC to claim this bag.

MBGC Community Flower and Garden Show 2022

Photos by Norman Redcliffe



Bits and Bobs...

Mill Bay Garden Club Plant Sale on May 28, 2022

Thankyou to all the club members who donated plants and worked at the Club's Plant Sale Table at the Flower and Garden Show on May 28, 2022. Everyone really went the extra mile to make the plant sale a success in spite of the problems on Friday caused by the fire in Mill Bay and the resulting road closures. The selection of donated plants was excellent and without the generous donations from the club members there would be no plant sale.

The Club also received donated plants from the "Plantaholics" Group, The Victoria Master Gardeners Group and the Cairnsmore/Hospice Gardening and Plant Sale Group. Many of our club members are prominent members of these groups. Thank you to all of these groups who generously donated plants to our club.

The following club members volunteered to transport plants or work at the plant sale table on May 28th: Fran Benton, Nicole Swinton, Elaine Scott, Sharon Martin, Angie Stanta, Nick and Heather Jenkins, Monika and Dave Morgan, Jill Jones, Noreen Carver, Jeanette Eade, Connie Miller, Barb Juurlink and Bernie Juurlink.

Elaine Scott had organized the club's plant sale for many years before Barb and Bernie took over this year. Due to Covid the club did not hold a Flower and Garden Show in 2020 and 2021. This meant there were no Garden Show related Plant Sales in these years. We thank Elaine for her many years of hard work and dedication to the Mill Bay Garden Club.

The funds raised by the Club's Plant Sale was \$1,689.25 this year. Great job everyone!!

The Garden Club Executive will decide which local charities will receive funds from the club this year.

Barbara and Bernie Juurlink
2022 Plant Sale Coordinators

Al & Wendy's Prize Winner at the Flower and Garden Show

Several people asked what the name of our Hawthorn sprig was. We hadn't dug through our box of labels, so didn't know the exact name at the time of the show. The plant is a Crimson Cloud Hawthorn.

The only two downsides might be, if we get a sudden, heavy wet snow, some branches may get broken off. The other is that every few years we get a minor infestation of tent caterpillar which, with a little clipping, is easy to control.

Al & Wendy

Mill Bay Garden Club Tips - June 2022 by Barb Kohlman

Borrowed from Dinter's!!!!

What should I be doing in the garden now?

Training roses. Tie in new stems of climbing and rambling roses horizontally to supports, to encourage more flowers. Keep a watch for insect damage and since we appear to have some sun in forecast keep an eye on watering needs.



Fertilize annuals. Give container displays and hanging basket liquid fertilizer every two weeks to encourage flowering. My choice would be Reindeer's Natural Plant Foods---Canadian Seaweed, from Dinter's.

Tomatoes. Regularly pinch out the side shoots of indeterminate tomatoes to encourage maximum fruit production. Tomatoes should be watered regularly and consistently to prevent fruit from splitting. Also fertilize tomatoes with a fertilizer that contains calcium to prevent blossom end rot.

Watch for nitrogen deficiencies. Nitrogen comes from soil organic matter as it is released by soil organisms, and if you are growing in a new garden it is likely that you have not built up the soil organic matter yet. Nitrogen deficient plants grow slowly and leaves turn light green or yellow. The lowest leaves (oldest leaves) turn yellow first. If you notice signs of nitrogen deficiency give plants a water soluble fertilizer so they can quickly recover. Frequent low dose fertilizer applications are preferable to one large dose.

Be Aware

Cabbage moths are small and white. The female lays tiny white eggs on the underside of Brassicas (broccoli, kale, cabbage). The eggs can easily be knocked off, but if left unchecked the eggs hatch into medium-sized green caterpillars. The caterpillars can cause severe damage to the leaves of Brassicas and members of the mustard family. Using floating row covers prevent the moths from landing and laying eggs. The organic pesticide BTK (*Bacillus thuringiensis*, a naturally occurring soil bacteria) can be sprayed if pest problems are severe and the moth is in its actively feeding caterpillar stage.

Barb Kohlman

Mill Bay Garden Club: AGM Meeting

22 June 2021

7:05 PM, by Zoom

Participants: 21 computers

1. Speaker: Dr. Linda Gilkeson “Where have all the Insects Gone?”

Causes of rapid decline: Climate change (higher temperatures; rising CO₂), pesticides, artificial light at night;

What can we gardeners can do?

Provide insect habitat, water, and a variety of flower; bring in the natural enemies of pests.

Plant NATIVE species in lane ways, ditches, public land, and gardens.

Use warm LED lights.

Use insect controls correctly.

Minimize cultivation; use mulches and no-till methods.

Clean your Mason bee condos! Get the kind that you can open and wash.

Note that butterflies do not use Butterfly Bushes! It is an invasive plant and serves no purpose to butterflies.

Don't use pesticides, miticides, fungicides, herbicides!

Don't use bug-zappers!

Huge reduction in bumble bees. Cleared lots remove nesting sites from habitat.

2. AGM

- a) Agenda: Approved
- b) President's Report: The Club survived more than a year of Covid-19 with successful monthly Zoom meetings, lots of volunteer activities by members that allowed us to donate to many local charities.
- c) Election of Executive: With the exception of the position of Vice President, all current Executive members volunteered to continue for another year. There were no nominations from the floor so Cliff Stainsby volunteered to be Vice President for the coming year. All Executive positions were filled by acclamation.
- d) Virtual Brag Table: Due to illness Barb Kohlman could not make the meeting. Pip Woodcock did have a Doris Pinks to show us.
- e) Gardening-related Questions: Eva asked if anyone had Bay leaves that she could obtain. Judy Raimondo had some she could give her.
- f) Questions to the Executive: Cliff asked if we would require members to be fully vaccinated to attend the in-person meetings this September. The Executive had decided we would ask people attending to be fully vaccinated.
- g) Final Comments by the President: Hope everyone has a great summer and we should see each other in person in September, and possibly earlier at Open Gardens.
- h) Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.