

THE SEEDLING

*The Newsletter of Burnaby and Region Allotment Garden Association
BARAGA, Volume 26, Number 1, April 2007*

Just for You!

All members take note. There is a new BARAGA Handbook.. You may pick up your copy of the new Handbook on Sunday afternoon April 29, 2007 from 1:00p.m. until 3:00p.m. You may also pick up a copy from the office whenever a director is available. You will have to sign for your copy in order that no duplication takes place. Please remember your plot number when you come.

May 1st Deadline for plot cleanup

The BARAGA By-laws specify that cultivation of the garden plots must begin no later than May of each year. This means that all weeds and dead plant material must be cleared off, most of the plot dug over, and planting for the current year has begun or is about to begin soon, by May 1. This provision is strictly enforced, and will be the focus of the inspection committee during its first

inspection of all garden plots in early May. Anyone who can't or won't have their plot in shape by this time could have their rental agreement cancelled by the Directors.

Membership Volunteer Commitment

All BARAGA members are asked to volunteer for six hours this year to look after the common areas of the garden and maintain our society's programs. The list of tasks, as approved by the Directors, is much the same as last year's. Included are: flower bed maintenance, newsletter mailing, telephone tree, membership mail-outs, food bank support, park maintenance, parking lot maintenance, ditch maintenance, equipment and building maintenance, water system maintenance, plot inspections, bee keeping, tree pruning, spring and fall grass cutting, the annual picnic, and general cleanup. A detailed (Continued on page 2.)

description of all tasks is posted on the outside wall of the Office, just to the north of the parking lot.

To be credited for any volunteer work that you do, you must first sign up on the sign-up sheets on the office wall (there are two sets of sign-up sheets – one for the flower beds and another set for all other tasks). You can only sign-up for ONE task, as you may deny someone else the opportunity to get in their volunteer hours. When you put your plot number against the task you want to do, you also need to fill out and deposit a yellow information sheet so that the team leaders know how to get hold of you. New members please sign up as soon as possible for the work that you want to do. Members who sent in their renewal forms with their choice to do the same task as last year do not need to sign up.

Some work needs to begin immediately, and we need to know who is available to do it. Finally, when you've completed your work, make sure that you fill out and deposit a time sheet in the box at the Office (or make sure that the team leader does it for you). If you are working alone you will have to have a director sign your time slip to verify that the work was done.

In accordance with the established policy, all members who don't complete the required hours of volunteer work will be required to pay the full \$100 fee for 2008.

Plot Inspections 2007

To help keep BARAGA plots well maintained, clean and safe, a plot inspection team conducts monthly inspections. This year, the inspections will take place on **May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5, September 2, October 7 and November 4**. If a plot holder is found to be in violation of the plot maintenance guidelines (outlined in Chapter 11 in the BARAGA Handbook), a letter will be sent explaining the basis of the violation. Plot holders then have 14 days to correct the situation. Delinquent plots are then re-inspected. If the plot holder is still in violation, they will be sent a registered letter explaining that their membership has been canceled. Lease cancellation takes place 15 days after the registered letter is sent. Members do have the right to appeal the cancellation of their membership to the Board, but there must be very compelling reasons for the continued violation for the appeal to be granted.

Dumping Waste Materials

The Directors have designated a place near the chip piles where you can dump organic materials that you don't want to compost on your own plot. In this designated location, you can dump noxious weeds such as horsetail or morning glory or diseased plants (for instances potatoes or tomatoes that have been afflicted with blight). Please do NOT dump any

garbage, lumber, prunings, plastic or metals in this place.

All those materials should be placed in the large green garbage bins near the garden entrance.

Please compost all you can on your own plot, it's good for your garden.

Approval required

Before you start construction of any structure, such as a greenhouse, tool shed or fence on your garden plot, you must receive approval of your plans. The BARAGA Board has authorized Don Hatch and Derrill Thompson to give that approval on its behalf. If you can't find either of them working at the garden (on nice days), they can be reached by phone, please look on the Notice Board for their numbers or on the last page of this newsletter. Please read the new Handbook for details concerning construction of structures.

14th Street Entrance

All members that use the back gate entrance off 14th Street please note: there has been considerable dumping of garden waste outside our back gate. If this has been BARAGA members you must STOP immediately. That area is a City of Burnaby street, not a garbage dump. If you have refuse put it in the proper place.

Gardening for a good cause

Food banks do pretty well supplying canned goods and staples to people, but fresh fruits and vegetables are often not available. Local gardeners often find that they can't use all the produce their garden grows at the peak of the growing season.

Five years ago, some local gardeners had the brilliant idea of putting the surplus food and the food bank together, and the results have been amazing: Last year, local gardeners donated an astonishing 70,000 lbs of produce to the Food Bank, through the Plant a Row, Grow a Row program.

A generation ago, a community would know when a family needed a bit of help due to the loss of a job or a sickness in the family, but in the city we've lost that connection. Until we come up with a better solution, the food bank helps to fill that gap.

BARAGA members have contributed to the Food Bank in the past. When planting your allotment you might plan to have a little extra. One garden can produce such an abundance, it is nice to have a worthwhile destination for surplus produce. Details of how to do this will appear in the July newsletter.

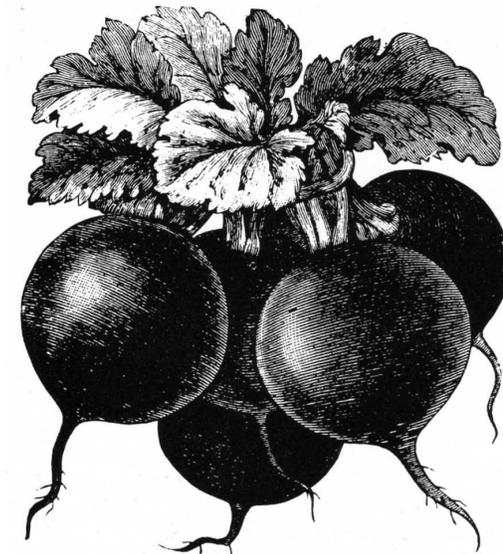
Pesticides at the Garden

One of the amendments to BARAGA's bylaws passed at the AGM in January was a change in pesticide use. Pesticides include insecticides, herbicides and fungicides. We - BARAGA and all plot renters - must conform with the City of Burnaby regulations and guidelines; this is in the agreement for our use of land for the garden. The following is a list of what can be used on plots:

- ◆ acetic acid (Domestic)
- ◆ animal repellents (Domestic and Commercial) except thiram
- ◆ bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki (BTK)(Domestic)
- ◆ boron compounds (Domestic)
- ◆ boron compound with up to 5% copper for insect control and wood preservation (Commercial)
- ◆ corn gluten meal (Domestic and Commercial)
- ◆ fatty acids (Domestic)
- ◆ ferric phosphate (Domestic and Commercial)
- ◆ ferrous sulphate (Domestic and Commercial)
- ◆ insect bait stations (Domestic)
- ◆ insect pheromones (Domestic and Commercial)
- ◆ mineral oils for insect and mite control (Domestic)
- ◆ pesticides in aerosol containers (Domestic)
- ◆ pesticides registered under the federal Act for application to pets (Domestic and Commercial)

- ◆ plant growth regulators (Domestic)
- ◆ pyrethrins (Domestic)
- ◆ resmethrin (Domestic)
- ◆ rotenone (Domestic)
- ◆ silica aerogel, also referred to as silica gel, amorphous silica and amorphous silica gel (Domestic and Commercial)
- ◆ silicon dioxide, also referred to as "diatomaceous earth" (Domestic and Commercial)
- ◆ soaps (Domestic and Commercial)
- ◆ sulphur, including lime sulphur sulphide sulphur and calcium polysulphide (Domestic)
- ◆ surfactants (Domestic and Commercial)
- ◆ tetramethrin (Domestic)

NO OTHER PESTICIDES CAN BE USED!



Dividing Perennials

Plants live varying lives. Some flourish, flower and die in a few months (annuals), others take two years for the process, during the first they make sturdy plants, next year they flower, set their seeds and fade away (biennials); yet others grow many years. We call them perennials, or herbaceous perennials because their foliage may die back completely in winter but grow anew in spring. While annuals (including tropical perennials which are treated as annuals) are almost always grown from seed, perennials are often propagated by division.

For the gardener perennials have some advantages. Obviously if a plant grows back year after year it doesn't require as much labour or care. Since perennials are usually propagated by division, new plants will always be part of the old one and retain the characteristics of the parent plant. In this way highly desirable plants are multiplied. For example, the blue bellflower, *Campanula glomerata* 'Superba', will be a tall plant with intensely blue purple flowers. If it makes seedlings they may resemble the parent or may be inferior, off-colour, plants. A division of Superba will be superb because it is genetically identical.

Division has more advantages than making an identical plant. If a plant has grown big, probably many new plants can be started by dividing the old one. As herbaceous perennials age many of them tend to get woody

at the centre; the strongest growth may be at the edges. While the old plant might have extensive roots extending a long way into depleted soil, a freshly divided plant will grow with new vigour if given a favoured location in well prepared soil. In many cases the division will encourage growth of a vigorous new root system that will support an invigorated plant. Dividing one plant will often make many - some to pass on to friends and neighbours.

Most perennials can be divided, but not all. Plants with a single main stem or a tap root are obvious examples of untouchables. Aster, campanula, hosta, iris, peony are among the many species that can readily be divided. The most important factor in successful division is to do it at the beginning of a sustained growing period which usually means early spring. After digging the plant, examine it for buds that form the centre for new growth. Back to back spading forks is the method of breaking the plant apart most often recommended, but bare hands, a sharp spade, or an old kitchen knife will do the deed. A piece with at least one bud and some healthy roots will have an excellent chance of making a new plant. Some plants can be divided in situ, meaning cut them in pieces but leave them to recover in the ground until the spring growth starts.

Once divided getting the pieces off to a good start is the next consideration. Each new plant needs a

location where it will get the water and nutrition it requires. The sooner replanted the less stress and the greater the chance of strong growth; few divisions will withstand drying out. Abundant water (short of drowning) will prevent wilting. Shade from intense sun and heat. A very dilute liquid fertilizer sometimes referred to as a transplant solution can be a help starting new growth. After a few days (or weeks) new roots will grow; all the coddling can end when there is obvious new growth. A plant pot for a couple of months is often an effective way to care for the new divisions.

All plants are different; so too with divisions. Some will take off, grow and flower the first year; others will take longer to re-establish. One thing is sure; very satisfactory results can almost be guaranteed from this simplest of all plant techniques.



Buying Seed and Supplies

This is the time of year gardeners usually stack up on seeds, new plants, and equipment. Here are a few items to consider:

Seeds: lots of seeds stay viable for a long time - five years or more. It depends how they are stored; dry and cool is usually best, an airtight container in a second refrigerator is ideal. To test the viability of old seeds wrap a few seeds (about ten) in a damp paper towel in a plastic bag. Hold in a warm spot for two weeks checking every couple of days. If five or more germinate, a reasonable crop can be expected.

Many vegetables grow best when directly seeded where they are to grow and thinned later as required. Unlike some garden ornamentals, germination is usually easy for vegetables. To get maximum germination even moisture and temperature are best; seeds are very vulnerable to drying out (or saturating rains). A temporary cover, an old board for example, can protect seed for a few days; just don't forget it. Filling a one inch trench with a potting mix will provide a good medium for small seedling like carrots to get a good start. Fine seeds can be mixed with sand to avoid spotty clumps and sparse areas in the row.

Seed supply is mega business. Very often the suppliers name on the package means very little; all the seed houses buy their stock from the

same sources. The difference in package price is often due to the number of seeds; read the fine print.

Many gardeners want to buy their seed from a supplier who is willing to certify that they are organically grown, untreated and not genetically modified. One well known source of such seeds is West Coast Seeds which has displays in big nurseries and their own shop in Delta. West Coast and other suppliers also specialize in varieties that do well in our climate.

Often Italian groceries carry a seed supply line; it is reported that these come from reliable sources and contain an abundance of viable seed.

When planting, consider how much is needed; one zucchini squash provides plenty. In such a case, buying a plant or two might make better sense than starting seeds from a package. Some gardeners like to experiment with varieties. There are many kinds of tomatoes; it is nice to have some sweet cherry type, or some roma, as well as the standard productive beefsteak.

Finally, many gardeners can take advantage of their BARAGA membership. Some nurseries will give a discount; before purchases are rung into the till remember to show your BARAGA card and ask if that retailer offers a discount. We know that Garden Works stores offer ten percent (once a month on customer appreciation day, the third Thursday of each month, it is fifteen percent). Unfortunately some of the local

suppliers claim their prices are rock bottom or offer a mere five percent.



Farewell to Rick Gates

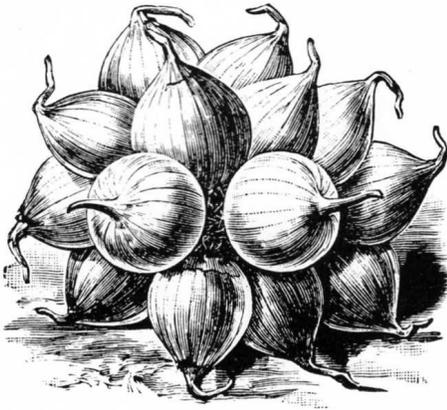
On April 4th Rick Gates resigned his membership in BARAGA. He and his wife have found a small acreage on Vancouver Island and that's where he will be gardening this spring.

Rick, of course, was the BARAGA president for several years. He is a big man and he will leave a big hole to be filled. Both Rick and his wife were longtime BARAGA gardeners; we wish them well in their retirement vocation.

The board elected Don Hatch (presently vice-president) as our next president. Don's vacancy as VP will be filled by board member Derrill Thompson.

Guide to Baraga Contacts

Cellular Phone & Voice Mail		604-780-8148
Water System Problems	Don Hatch	604-312-3003
	Derrill Thompson	604-436-0324
Structure Approval	Don Hatch	604-312-3003
	Derrill Thompson	604-436-0324
Wait List	Derrill Thompson	604-436-0324
Baraga Officers		
President	Don Hatch	604-312-3003
Vice President	Derrill Thompson	604-436-0324
Secretary	John Florek	604-526-4710
Treasurer	Joyce Wishard	604-412-3890
Directors	Roman Bobrownik	604-520-1846
	Aldo Chervatin	604-439-1503
	Janet Filippelli	604-432-9379
	Liliana Hoogland	604-433-6346
	David Tamblin	604-521-4318



Editorial Policy

Included in this newsletter are items of business that all BARAGA members need to know about; there are also articles of more general interest. Newsletters increase in interest if there is a widespread input; members who can share information or have a special outlook on gardens, gardening and any other topic common to BARAGA members are invited to contribute their articles. Also welcome are art work or pictures of special occasions at the garden. Contact David Tamblin (by phone at 604-521-4318 or by email at d_tamblin@telus.net). Views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of BARAGA.