

THE SEEDLING

The Newsletter of Burnaby and Region Allotment Gardens Association
BARAGA, Volume 33, Number 1, April 2, 2014

Happy Spring Everyone

It's the start of another year at BARAGA and we are all looking forward to enjoying the gardens, planting the plots with our favorite crops, meeting friends and sharing the experience with our fellow gardeners. As we get ready to prepare the garden plots for the coming season, let us not forget some of our responsibilities towards our neighbors and the rest of the BARAGA community.

Our property rental with the City requires us to keep the site attractive. The first months of the year are not the easiest ones in which to do this but we ask all members to play their part in creating a good, workman like appearance for all plots as soon as possible. Please act on the following reminders as soon as you can:

- Sticks and lumber must be used, stacked neatly or cut to 4' lengths and put in the dumpster bins
- Rubbish must not be left on pathways or thrown in to the drainage ditches
- Compost must be kept on your plot not in the dumpsters.

2014 BARAGA Annual Meeting

The 2014 Annual Meeting was held January 18. Significant discussions and decisions were as follows:

- The \$35 reduction in annual membership fee has been abolished. Not enough members are volunteering. The members at the AGM decided that all members will be required to participate in at least six hours of service for the BARAGA community. This is much less than other allotment gardens.
- The pathways and ditches along the South, East, and North boundaries need to be cleared in order to maintain compliance with our lease from the City of Burnaby.
- Members need to comply with the BARAGA rules, which limit the size of greenhouses to 10 m² (107 ft²). This limit is based on the City of Burnaby building bylaw, which states that any structures over 10 m² must have a building permit.
- The bee meadow is not complete. We need members to assist with designing, planning and planting. Last year six new hives of bees were added and they are doing well.

- Our expenses exceeded our income by \$12,000 last year.

Initiatives for 2014

This year the Officers and Board of Directors plan to put special attention to cleaning up the boundaries of the BARAGA site and to ensuring that all structures on BARAGA plots are in compliance with the guidelines in the Handbook.

It was noted in the April 2013 Seedling that plots that had encroached onto and past our property boundaries and that we needed to provide access pathways on the North and South garden boundaries. Although a number of members have already cleaned up and vacated their plot extensions along the North and South boundaries, not all members did so. As a result, the Board has re-set a deadline of May 1 for removal of structures from the North boundary and cleanup of the plot extensions. Affected plot holders have been notified.



Work parties have been planned to clean up BARAGA's boundaries. The first work party, held March 15, removed debris from the South Boundary.

There has also been a problem with greenhouses being built that do not meet the current size limits of 10m² (107 ft²), or that are built without plan review and approval. Greenhouses are still being built with glass and nonconforming fences are also being built. This winter all existing structures on plots were photographed and measured. From now on, building approval applications will also be kept on file. When plots are inspected in the future, it will be easy to tell if the plot holder has added or modified a structure without submitting plans for approval.

(Please refer to the online BARAGA Handbook for rules on structures and for the review and approval procedure.)

Although enforcement of rules about structures and plot boundaries may have been more lax in the past, times change. We now have a long waiting list. The Board is undertaking these initiatives to ensure that all members abide by the same rules. Abdul Majid, BARAGA's president, notes that "As a Board of Directors, entrusted with the task of administering this organization we need to implement the rules across the board in an even and unified manner."

Work Parties

At this year's AGM, the membership voted to make participation in BARAGA community service mandatory for all members. At least six hours of service are required.

To make it easier for members to comply, work parties have been planned for the second Saturday of each month. With plenty of advance notice, members can mark their calendars for their chosen dates.

Although each work party has tasks scheduled, there will also be activities for those that are less able to do hard physical chores. For details, watch the web page or e-mail support@baraga.ca and include WORK PARTY in the subject line.

There are also tasks that can be done solo for those not able to attend the work parties. Please contact a director for a list and remember to let us know how many hours you have put in so we can credit you.

Help BARAGA Save Money!

If you are receiving The Seedling by post and are willing to receive it by e-mail instead, please let us know. Also, if your family is receiving multiple copies, please let us know.

New BARAGA Web Page

BARAGA has a new web page. Check it out at **BARAGA.ca**. Besides having more information, the new web page will be easier for directors to post to so it can be kept more up-to-date. The full scope and content has not yet been worked out, so keep checking in.

Dates to Remember

April 1: Removal of structures encroaching on North boundary of garden.

May 3: Plot inspections begin

April 12, May 10, June 7, July 12, August 9, September 13: Work Parties

BARAGA Officers and Board of Directors

Welcome to our 2014 Officers and Board of Directors. Directors can be contacted via the BARAGA snail mail, e-mail or phone number. Or stop by and visit us at our plots or at the office!

"I'd like to foster a positive relationship between members and the Board." – Doug Eng

Officers:

Abdul Majid - Plot 172 - President
Don Hatch - Plot 121 - Vice-President
Eleni Harvalias - Plot 297 - Secretary
Linda Dubois - Plot 35e - Treasurer

Directors-At-Large:

Ramiro Coto - Plot 203 - Landscaping

Claire Skolos - Plot 94 - Work Parties

and Public Works, Membership

Coordinator

Eric Crosby - Plot 247 - Beekeeping

Merv Hajnrych - Plot 2 - Equipment

Maintenance

Andrea Tylczak - Plot 95 -

Communications

Doug Eng - Plot 272 - Inspection

letters/communications

Sandra Riley - Plot 35 - Integrated Pest

Management

Heather Ewasew - Plot 303 - Plot Rental

Luigi Aiello - Plot - 326 - Portfolio TBD

Liliana Hoogland - Plot 173 - Portfolio

TBD

The BARAGA mailing address is:

Burnaby and Region Allotment Gardens

Assoc.

Box 209, 4974 Kingsway,

Burnaby, B.C. V5H 4M9

Contact phone number is:

604-525-4497.

You may also e-mail us at

support@baraga.ca

This newsletter was edited by Andrea Tylczak and Don Hatch with input from Abdul Majid. Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of BARAGA.

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appearance for all plots as soon as possible. Please act on the following reminders as soon as you can:

- Sticks and lumber must be used, stacked neatly or put in the dumpster bins
- Rubbish must not be left on pathways or thrown in to the drainage ditches
- Encroachment onto pathways must be pulled back before the new season gets underway
- Compost must be kept on your plot not in the dumpsters.

Pathways are meant to provide access to plots, not extra bits of garden, not rubbish dumps, and not obstacle courses. Please keep all pathways clear and free of garden debris.

Keeping the soil sweet – a note for new members

The soil at the garden is very peaty. For this reason, lots of lime is needed, especially at the start of the season. Be careful about putting it where you are going to be planting crops like strawberries and potatoes which do not like lime, but otherwise use it liberally as you prepare the ground.

No dogs or fires are permitted at the garden.

Tips for transplanting

Try these tips for transplanting. Transplant late in the day. If you expect sun, prop up a board to shade your young plants for a day or two. Don't always water them in. If the soil is damp an inch below the surface your transplants are better without extra water because they'll send roots down to find it and thus get better established.

Watering of plots must not be left unattended and absolutely no overnight watering is allowed.

You must adhere to Municipal watering regulation when in force. A notice will be posted on the bulletin boards when restrictions are at a level that impact on the garden.

Please report any leaks or broken pipes immediately and shut off the water at the branch shut off valve. New signs have been put up at all water line valves.

Plot rentals will start shortly to fill all the vacated plots from last year. New members will be arriving soon so welcome them and pass on all your gardening tips and helpful hints. Let them know you are their neighbour by introducing yourself and maybe sharing some leftover seeds you may have as a welcome gesture.

Minutes from BARAGA AGM held Saturday, January 18th, 2014

Call to order at 1:20 pm.

President stated previous minutes were posted and declared read.

Sheila plot 194 moved to accept, plot 150 Camilla seconded.

Minutes were adopted.

President read his 2013 report. The highlights were:

Thanked all volunteers and especially those who did more than required of them.

Thanked board members Laura, David, Ravil, and Brano who are stepping down.

Commemorated Terry Copeland a long time BARAGA member and former director who passed away late last year. Bees: lost all but one hive over the winter of 2012. Now under the management of Eric who started new colonies last year, now at 11 all doing well this winter.

Bee meadow was created to deal with area that has been used as a dumping ground.

Harvest power donated \$10K for soil and the meadow was fenced. It is currently planted with rye grass.

Abdul asked for volunteers to help realize the completion of the area with

designing, planning and planting. Members were advised about future projects and future operating costs. Members were reminded that our water bill is still the largest single annual expense and that next year the City is increasing water rates by 5.5%.

City of Burnaby has concerns about structures being built over 10 sq. metres as well as garbage dumping in and around the northeast ditch.

Reminded membership that our lease is up in 2016 and shoddy management could lead to termination of our lease.

There are a number of plots with far too much junk that is not required on our garden plots.

It was stated that Volunteerism is not an option and an ad hoc committee was struck to discuss how to increase participation to keep BARAGA in good shape. Plot 150 Camilla moved to accept report and plot 94 Claire seconded. Presidents' report adopted.

Linda Dubois, treasurer read actual budget and proposed budget.

Term deposits are changed to \$30K from \$40K in order to pay for operating costs this year. We went \$12K over budget which, if continued will see our finances reduced to nil in 3 years. This year the budget is just \$3K over budget as long as nothing untoward happens.

Floor was opened for questions regarding budget items:

Plot 95: requested information about student expense. We received an unexpected grant of \$2500 from the government after the budget was completed.

Plot 273: requested information about the contingency fund. Ans. Any surplus has always been put into contingency but not this year. Questioned whether we should raise fees to increase the contingency.

Plot 367: inquired why the inspections expenses were so much more than the budget. The cost of postage for non compliance of rules was much higher than anticipated. The new directors will rethink how inspections will be done. Postage rates have also gone up. Plans are to be in place to reduce expenses for this.

Plot 103: proposed we don't allow hoses to reduce the overuse of water.

It was noted that shut off valves sites will be posted in the case of emergency breaks in water lines.

Stressed that we are all responsible to shut off water and report immediately.

Plot 239 wanted it noted that we have a lot of slobbs at the garden.

Motion to accept financial report by Plot 273 Plot 94 seconded. Approved.

David Tamblin read his ad hoc report regarding Volunteerism.

Volunteerism, touched on significant recommendations:

Volunteers can be utilized in a much more efficient way.

Certain specialized tasks should be compensated monetarily.

Most tasks can be completed by members. Tasks can be juggled.

Handbook is contradictory in stating volunteerism is mandatory and also that it can be paid \$35 reduction of fees for volunteer work.

Abandon the \$35 incentive and work on educating the members.

Reorganize the tasks (eg) large work parties a number of times a year and those without a specific task would be designated at the work party. The organization of major work parties would need to be a major factor.

Plot 367 inquired how and when volunteers are going to be held accountable if incentive is taken away.

Didn't know how it would be accomplished. It was proposed that we post regularly dates for work parties well in advance.

Plots 271, 297, 363, 193, 95, 94, 311 made comments and suggestions which were discussed

Plots 279, moved and 194 seconded to accept report. Accepted

New business:

1: Motion to remove \$35.00 rebate for volunteer hours:

Plot 94 moved and plot 297 seconded. After some questions from the floor the membership voted and the motion was carried.

2: Motion that the BARAGA board is authorized to increase the plot rental fee for 2015 to \$100 if required to balance the budget.

Plot 94 moved and plot 273 seconded. Plot 279 made a motion to amend the motion to delete the words, 'if required' plot 346 seconded. Carried

Original motion was reread and after a vote the motion was carried.

3: There were a number of wording changes to the handbook to clarify our policies and procedures. The new handbook will be available online at baraga.ca.

Elections:

Camilla Dietrich explained rules for elections and at this point the present board of directors resigned.

President: by acclamation Abdul Majid

Vice President: by acclamation Don Hatch

Secretary: Eleni Harvalias

Treasurer: by acclamation Linda Dubois
Directors at large: currently there are 10 nominations. Vote for # of directors at large:

2 nominations were added, Claire Skolos plot 94 and Andrea Tylzak plot 95 agreed to stand.

Motion by plot 367 to have 12 directors at large. 279 seconded. Carried

Directors at Large by acclamation:
Patricia Spannier (since resigned),
Heather Ewasew, Eric Crosby, Liliana Hoogland, Byron Quam (since resigned), Luigi Aiello, Doug Eng, Sandra Riley, Merv Hajnrych, and Ramiro Coto.

Meeting adjourned at 3:19pm

Door prize draw and refreshments took place.

Respectfully submitted by Eleni Harvalias

With two resignations we are now open for adding two new directors. Anyone wishing to submit their application please send an e-mail to support@baraga.ca.

Dates for Planting Our Gardens

March 1 – 15 broad beans, corn salad

March 15 – 24 peas, spinach, onions, leeks, turnips

March 25 – 31 lettuce, radish, Chinese vegetables

April 1 – 7 early potatoes, cabbage, green onions

April 8 – 30 cauliflower, broccoli, carrots, parsnips, celery, onion transplants

May 1 -10 beets, chard, transplants of cole crops from frames, lettuce

May 10 – 15 main crop potatoes, carrots, Brussel sprouts

May 15 – 21 pole beans, lettuce, green onions

May 23 – June 1 corn, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, squash, pumpkins, cucumbers

June 5- 20 rutabaga, lettuce late cole crops (not sprouts), purple sprouting broccoli

Up to July 10 carrots, beets, green onions, broad beans, peas, kohlrabi, peas, transplants of late cole crops

Up to Aug. 12 lettuce Chinese vegetables

August 24 winter radish, endive, spinach, turnips

Sept. 5 – 15 radish, corn salad, fall rye (for green manure)