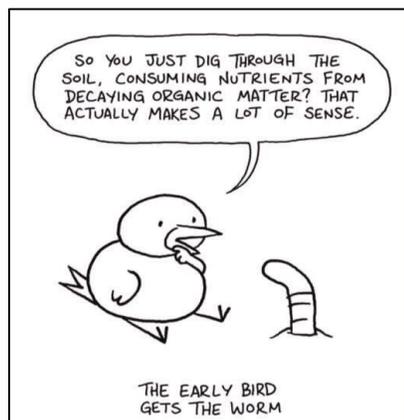


THE SEEDLING

The Newsletter of Burnaby and Region Allotment Garden Association

March 2016

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER	
Plot Inspections	1 st Saturday of the month
Work Parties	2 nd Saturday of the month
Spring Clean-up	April 9 th and 10 th
First Plot Inspection	May 7 th

SPRING CLEAN-UP

Mark your Calendars!

SATURDAY APRIL 9 & SUNDAY APRIL 10

We will be renting a large garbage bin and wood chipper for this weekend, so this will be a great time to clean up any rotting wood, garbage, and pruning refuse.

In the meantime, **PLEASE DO NOT throw compostable material into the garbage bins.** You CAN compost your weeds, etc. on your own plot. See the WEEDS article on page

Please save any untreated, nail-free wood, canes, branches etc. for the wood chipper, on your plot until the clean-up weekend.

SUMMARY FROM THE AGM

Sheila Stickney

The following are some highlights from the 2016 AGM on January 16th.

- The new Societies Act requires societies to enter their constitution, upload their bylaws, and confirm their directors and registered office address in the new online filing system as of November 28, 2016. **Passed Motion:** That a constitution/by-laws/policy committee be struck to review and revise the handbook/bylaws with monthly reports to the Directors and with full revisions ready for the 2017 AGM.
- 3 new motions regarding approved communications to BARAGA members were presented. All communication to BARAGA members must now be approved by the at least 3 members of the Board.
- **Passed Motion:** Members can pay \$100 in lieu of contributing 6 hours of community service work; the additional fee is payable at the end of the calendar year and must be paid in full along with the new year membership and plot fees in order to retain a plot.

ANOTHER SAD LOSS FOR BARAGA



Mike Caldarone

The following is an excerpt of the obituary for a long-time member of BARAGA. Mike was a dear friend to many gardeners

at BARAGA and will be missed dearly by his family and BARAGA friends. Mike's family would like to donate a memorial bench to BARAGA as it was an important part of his life. We will be working with the family on this project.

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Michele (Mike) Caldarone. Mike, a family man, friend, gardener, and winemaker extraordinaire, slipped away peacefully from this life on December 1st at the age of 92; he is now in his everlasting garden in heaven where he can garden without pain eternally.

Mike had a full and interesting life. Born in Civitanova del Sannio, Italy, in 1923 he fought in WWII and received a medal of valor for his courage during battle, worked in coal mines in Belgium, married Pasqualina in 1949, immigrated to Canada in 1952 with Vince Lucarino where they both worked on a farm on Sumas Mountain, then worked with the CPR in Boston Bar/North Bend, moved to Vancouver in 1959 where he worked at the Hotel Vancouver and then worked as a welder with Spear and Jackson Ltd for many years. During this time, he also did private gardening/landscaping jobs in his spare time. When he "retired" he continued to work as a carpenter and jack of all trades with his son Nick and did this well into his 80s. As time went on, his gardens became bigger—he had gardens at his home, at his neighbours' houses and at the Burnaby and Region Allotment gardens where he was featured twice on Global BC Mike McCardell's community interest spot—

his gardens were his full-time job and he continued to garden until he became ill this fall....Special thanks to friends and fellow gardeners Dick Gould, Tony Disalvo, Joe Lucarino, and neighbor Keith for caring for Mike's treasured gardens this fall when he was ill—it gave him great peace to know his gardens were being tended.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ann Talbot

Happy New Gardening Year to all BARAGA members. It's another very rainy day in Burnaby as I write this, but the welcoming signs of spring are here. A few weekends ago, when the sun came out there was a mass exodus to the garden to get started on cleaning up and sowing. It was great to hear the conversations about what to plant, where to get your manure, how your winter harvest was. It is so amazing how much we can now harvest all year round.

At our AGM in January, the members voted in a new Board. Please see the back page of this Seedling for a full list of the new Board members. On behalf of BARAGA, I'd like to thank Abdul Majid and Don Hatch for their many years of service to the Board. Having been in the President's chair for only a few months now, I can attest to the huge amount of work that goes into the President and Vice-President's jobs. Thank you! I'd also like to thank Andrea Tylzak and Liliana Hoogland for their work on the Board over the past few years. Roman Bobrownik was voted in, but has since stepped down, so Doris Shi has taken his place. The Board has already been busy setting priorities and trying to get organized for the 2016 gardening season.

This brings me to one priority for 2016. There were many members at the AGM who voiced their displeasure with the 2015 (December) board motion to forgive members who had not contributed their 2015 or 2016

community service hours. While this is totally understandable, there were many reasons why the Board made this motion, the main one being a breakdown in the system of recording deposits, hours, unpaid deposits, and so on. By the time we got to our December meeting, there were going to be far too many gardeners to issue termination notices to, many of whom had been proactive in trying to complete their community hours. There were also other members who were struggling with health and aging issues. So, I hope we can move forward with a better system of accounting for community service hours. We have already made great progress in a new database created by one of our own gardeners, Aleks Zakharov. He and Grace Shigenobu have put in many, many hours of work in creating a new database of our members. The Board is also discussing the possibility of creating a "Good Samaritan" program to help gardeners who are coping with issues that prevent them from contributing their community service hours. A very good example of this is the good samaritans who helped out Mike Caltarone last year while he struggled with health issues. His BARAGA friends took care of his gardens but also contributed much more than the required community service hours.

Some other personal priorities for 2016 include completion of a few projects such as the composting area and renovation/redesign of the Bee Meadow. Last year, a few of us met to start a five-year plan for BARAGA. We hope that this advance planning will help us stay on track as well as on budget.

We have a great Board of Directors this year with lots of expertise in planning, budgeting, project management, and communications. We have had two meetings so far and I'm happy to report that they both went very well.

On a final note, let's remember our message on our website that reads:

*We are western Canada's largest allotment gardens. We grow healthy vegetables, berries, and flowers on fourteen acres of farmland in south Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada. We share a passion for gardening and good food. We supply the motivation and muscle, renting and working individual plots. The City of Burnaby supplies the farmland we garden on. If you're landless, but a peasant at heart, come down and visit us in person. Find out who we are and what we grow. Check out coming events and membership in BARAGA: **You may find you belong in our community.***

Let's keep working on being a COMMUNITY.

UNDERSTANDING PLOT INSPECTIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Doug Eng

Below is a brief outline of what is expected in plot maintenance and inspections. The Board of Directors wants to work with all garden members in understanding plot inspections and to assist members when they can. We would appreciate that you contact the Board if you are having any problems with maintaining your plot, so that we can come to a solution. Please review Chapter 5 and 6 in the BARAGA handbook for more details. Also, you can email questions and comments to inspections@baraga.ca

Here are the main items you need to keep your plot well-maintained:

- Cultivation must be started no later than May 1st.
- The plot must be properly cultivated throughout the growing season.
- The plot must be tidy and free from excessive weeds.
- The plot must have a flower bed at one end.
- All border pathways must be clear and at least 30 inches wide.
- The north and west pathways are the responsibility of the plot member.

- Non-fruit bearing trees are not allowed; trees can be no higher than 7 feet.
- All compostable materials must be composted on the plot.
- Greenhouses/sheds/fences must be in safe condition.

Plot Inspections will be conducted the first Saturday of each month. What is expected from monthly plot inspections:

- The plot must be free from excessive weeds
- The pathways must be safe, tidy and clear of overhanging plants
- The plot must be reasonably tidy and free of garbage (debris, old pots, dead plants, rotting wood, etc.)
- Greenhouses, sheds, fences must be in safe condition
- Any fruit-bearing trees must be under 7 ft.

Plot Inspection Reports

(See Chapter 6 in the Handbook)

- If your plot needs attention for specific items, you will receive a notification with details.
- You will have one month to address the issues.
- If you receive 3 notifications in a one-year period, you will be sent a termination letter.
- If you receive a termination letter, you have the right to appeal within a 2-week period.
- A meeting will be called with the Directors to appeal the termination letter. The Directors will vote to make the final decision.

DEALING WITH WEEDS

Sheila Stickney

Because the City of Burnaby will no longer permit compostable material to be put in the garbage bins, we have to find other ways to dispose of our own garden waste. BARAGA members are expected to compost their garden waste. Some weeds breakdown in composters, but what do we do with horsetail or buttercup weeds? Here are some options:

From Ask Organic:

Annual Weeds: Most annual garden weeds add beneficial 'green' elements to your compost, with the additional benefit of adding millions of beneficial bacteria from the soil clinging to the roots. Annual weeds that reproduce through seed dispersal (groundsel, chickweed, bittercress) should ideally be added to the compost before they flower, so there is no chance that seeds survive the winter in the compost. However, if the compost is in a sunny location, has a good mix of green and brown ingredients and is kept moist, it will generate a high enough temperature to destroy the seeds.

Perennial Weeds: Ground elder (goutweed), couch grass, nettles, creeping buttercup, dandelions, docks: Leaf growth from these weeds can safely be added to your compost. Do not compost the roots as they will not be destroyed after one season of composting. The roots do provide valuable nutrients, however, and can be treated in the following ways:

Drowning: Place the roots in a bucket, cover with water, and weigh the roots down with a stone or weight to keep them covered. Place a lid on the bucket and leave for several weeks. Then drain off the liquid and pour onto the compost heap, or dilute the liquid and use it as plant feed. The drowned roots can now be safely added to the compost.

Stewing: Put the roots in a black plastic bag and mix 50:50 with grass clippings. Tie a knot in the bag and leave in a sunny place for a few weeks. By this time, everything will be a soggy mess, the roots will be dead, and the bag contents can be safely composted. Horsetail can probably be killed this way but may require a longer period of time in the sun.

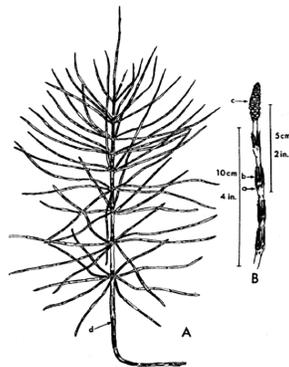
From University of Wisconsin Weed Science and Penn State Extension:

Horsetail: Particularly troublesome due to its prolific rhizome and tuber system, the rhizomes grow vertically to 6 feet deep and horizontally to depths of 10 - 20 inches. The horizontal rhizomes branch freely, forming rounded tubers for food storage (by photosynthesis), and produce numerous shoots. The tubers develop into new plants if removed from the rhizome. Horsetail thrives in wet, poorly-drained, acid soil. The plant produces 2 types of stems - fertile stem and sterile stem. Fertile stems appear in early spring, sterile stems later.



Horsetail Control

measures: Improved drainage, adequate lime and fertilization, repeated cutting and mechanical removal (digging by hand and pulling out the vertical and horizontal rhizomes) will help suppress horsetail growth. Removal of sterile stems (cutting them down) in early spring depletes the carbohydrate reserves and will eventually exhaust the rhizome. Because horsetail thrives in full sun, shading can help deter growth. Manual removal of the stems followed by mulching with black plastic can also be effective. Note: Tilling the soil can make the problem worse by spreading the rhizomes and/or tubers.



Weed Control without Pulling:

- Pour boiling hot water directly on the leaves, stem, and base of the weed
- Pour a mixture of 1 gallon white vinegar, 2 cups epsom salts, and 1/4 cup regular blue Dawn dish detergent directly onto leaves, stem, and base of weeds. Almost as effective as the boiling water.

COMPOSTING & CONSERVING WATER

Composters Available for Purchase

The Burnaby EcoCentre Yard Waste Depot at 4855 Still Creek Road (near Willingdon Costco) has composters available for purchase for \$30 including taxes. Call 604-294-7972 for more information.

Water Conservation Ideas

Last summer was very hot and dry and many of us tried to reduce the amount of water we used to keep our gardens growing. This summer, let's think of ways to limit or reduce the amount of water needed, such as:

- **Mulching** – This is a good way to keep water in the soil from evaporating.
- **Collecting Rain Water** – Using rain barrels is an effective way to collect water for hand watering, washing produce, etc.

The Burnaby Yard Waste EcoCentre has 341-litre rain barrels for sale for \$70 including taxes.

Shannon in Abbotsford also sells cheap food-grade 55-gallon water barrels for \$20. Call 778-808-3534 for more information.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Cathie Hickson, Secretary and Structures
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BARAGA CONTACT INFORMATION

Burnaby and Region Allotment Gardens
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Burnaby, B.C. V5H 4M9

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PLEASE NOTE the new e-mail addresses listed
under the directors' names.

FACEBOOK GROUP

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/146218968736245/>

SEEDLING EDITOR

This newsletter was edited by Ann Talbot and
Carly Franklin. We hope you enjoy this issue.

Please let us know what content you'd like to
see in the Seedling by e-mailing us at:
communications@baraga.ca

BARAGA CALENDAR: 2016

March 2016							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Notes:
		1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	Sat/19 th : 9-4: Work Party
							1-3: Members Support Group
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	Come share gardening info!
							REMINDERS & RESOURCES
27	28	29	30	31			BARAGA garbage pick-up Mon. & Thurs. NO compostable garbage allowed.
							http://www.canadiangardening.com/

April 2016							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Notes:
					1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Sat/Sun - 9th & 10th: 9-4: Major Cleanup
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	REMINDERS & RESOURCES
							Please donate extra produce! Food Bank Box by the main parking lot. You can leave food up to 18 hours in advance.
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Mon/25th: Food Bank Pickup 10-12
							https://www.westcoastseeds.com

May 2016							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Notes:
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Sat/7th: Plot inspections
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Sat/14th: 9-4: Work party
							1-3: members support group
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Everyone welcome!
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	REMINDERS & RESOURCES
							Food Bank Pick-Ups: Mondays 10-12
29	30	31					Cheap food-grade water barrels available in Abbotsford: 778-808-3534

BARAGA CALENDAR: 2016

June 2016							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Notes:
			1	2	3	4	Sat/4 th : Plot Inspections
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Sat/11 th : 9-4 Work Party 1-3 Members Support Group
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Share your gardening knowledge!
							Sun/19 th : Summer Solstice Party: 6-8 p.m.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	REMINDERS & RESOURCES Food Bank Pick-Ups: Mondays 10-12
26	27	28	29	30			BARAGA garbage pick-up Mon. & Thurs. NO compostable garbage allowed.
							Cheap food-grade water barrels available in Abbotsford: 778-808-3534

July 2016							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Notes:
					1	2	Sat/2nd: Plot Inspections
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Sat/9 th : 9-4 Work Party 1-3 Members Support Group
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Have questions? Ask your neighbours.
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	REMINDERS & RESOURCES Food Bank Pick-Ups: Mondays 10-12
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Have you completed your 6 community service work hours?
31							http://www.organicgardening.com

August 2016							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Notes:
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Sat/6 th : Plot Inspections
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Sat/13 th : 9-4 Work Party 1-3 Members Support Group
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Sat/20 th : BARAGA Annual Picnic
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	REMINDERS & RESOURCES Food Bank Pick-Ups: Mondays 10-12
28	29	30	31				http://www.farmersalmanac.com