



# The SEEDLING

Newsletter of the Burnaby and Region Allotment Gardens Association



## TENDING YOUR BARAGA GARDEN

Over the past few months, BARAGA directors have been dealing with plots that have been neglected and, in some cases, completely abandoned. This has been a difficult situation and has taken up a lot of directors' time in trying to deal with members in a fair and compassionate manner. The good news is that several members' appeals have been successful due to negotiations for ways to comply with BARAGA's plot maintenance standards and find solutions to help with upkeep of their garden.

Having a plot at BARAGA is an incredible privilege that requires a lot of hard work, devotion, time, and energy to maintain. All members have been asked to read the handbook and by-laws in order to understand the responsibilities we all have in being a member of BARAGA.

Here is a review of the very basics of plot maintenance, as copied from the handbook:

### 5.2 - Cultivation is Defined As:

"To prepare and work on land in order to raise crops; till the soil in order to grow crops."

**BARAGA members are responsible for the upkeep of their plots. To maintain membership in good standing, plot holders must:**

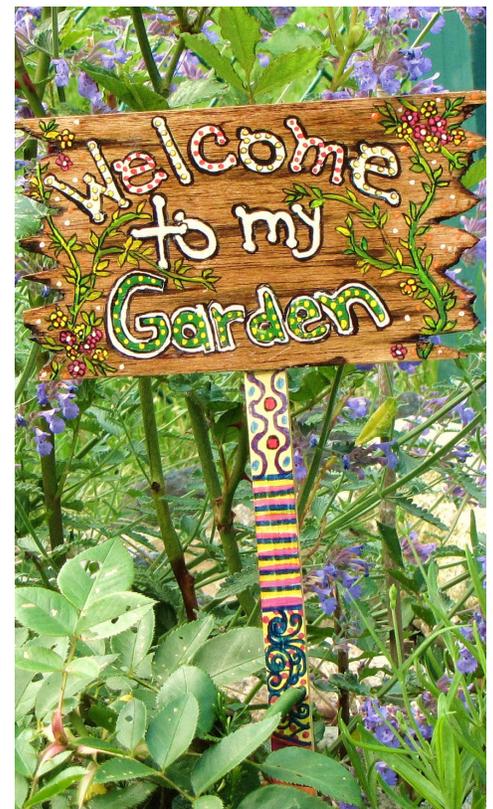
- Begin cultivation of plots no later than May 1. Directors can immediately cancel the rental agreements of a plot not under cultivation by May 1
- Clear plots by November 1, except for actively growing winter crops, mulches or perennials
- Properly cultivate the entire plot at all times throughout the growing season, except for maintained pathways
- Plant the first two feet of the plot width (nearest a main pathway) with flowers to enhance the appearance of the site. If a plot is not on a main path then either end may have the flower bed. If a plot is irregular, then the side closest to a main pathway or park land must have a flower bed two feet by twenty feet
- Keep the plot tidy and free from excessive weeds

Plot inspections are held the first Saturday of every month and decisions are made to send notices to plot holders whose plots do not meet BARAGA maintenance standards. Any plots of serious concern are reviewed by several directors and often a phone call or e-mail helps to clarify issues and concerns.

We are willing to work with our members to improve the standards of the gardens overall, but we need your help and your commitment to this community. Please review the handbook and give us feedback if there are standards that you don't understand or agree with. But, more importantly...**Please tend to your garden regularly!**

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Ann Talbot

I hope that by the time you read this the snow will be gone! This has been quite a winter and it will be interesting to see how it affects our 2017 growing season. I hope everyone is ready to get their gardening gloves on and hunker down to another season of creating goodness for the soul and stomach!

## **BARAGA AGM**

I'm sorry I was unable to attend the AGM due to the sudden death of a family member. Please read the report from our Secretary, Cathie, on the highlights of the meeting. If anyone has any suggestions on the agenda and/or allotted time for future AGMs, please send us some ideas.

## **Many Thanks & Warm Welcome**

Another thanks to outgoing directors, Glenn Helmlinger, Grace Shigenobu, Doris Shi, and Ravil Chamgoulov. We are happy to welcome Dick Malkin, Jana Solnickova and Don Hatch.

## **City of Burnaby Lease Renewal**

We just received word from the City of Burnaby that our five-year lease has been renewed! This is indeed good news and comforting to know that the City really supports the garden and the community that it serves.

## **Plans for 2017 Underway & Additional Directors Sought**

The board is now busy trying to organize projects for the 2017 season, with special preference on the revisions of the BARAGA by-laws and handbook. We still have 3 spaces available on the board, so if you are interested in helping out BARAGA with any of your special skills, we'd very much appreciate it. You can contact us at [directors@baraga.ca](mailto:directors@baraga.ca)

## **Be a Good Garden Neighbour**

Now that our new season is soon to start, please remember to be a good gardener. Compost and recycle all materials from your plot, plant healthy and beneficial plants for the soil and bees, learn and share with your neighbours, help each other out and give back what you can to those in need.



## **Bee Colony Update**

As of February 23, 2017, six BARAGA colonies survived what some of us would consider a harsh west coast winter.

On recent warmer days, the bees have been active foraging for early spring pollen. They have been bringing in rich yellow pollen from crocuses and soft pastel pollen from Hellobores and Hazel.

Honeybee populations are most successful when they have a diet of diverse chemical-free pollen and nectar sources. With common use of neonicotinoids in agriculture, bees are more and more exposed to chemicals that affect their health. Neonicotinoids are synthetic insecticides that are directly applied to food and ornamental plants as well as coated onto flower, vegetable, and fruit seeds.

Neonicotinoids are systemic, meaning the harmful chemicals are distributed to all parts of the plant. This makes the nectar and pollen toxic to pollinators, including honeybees. Research has shown that honeybees exposure to these neonicotinoids is devastating.

Their memory is affected and they cannot find their way back to their colony. If the bees do manage to find their way back to the colony, their immune system is compromised and susceptible to pathogens. Furthermore, the survival rate of the larvae in a hive is reduced when exposed to the toxic pollen that is brought back to the hive by the foragers. Bees are battling these toxins and many others in their environments.

## AGM Results



Baraga's AGM was held Saturday, January 28, 2017 to a good showing of members and friends.

Food was plentiful and gratefully devoured by the attendees. In addition, the donations of various handy gardening items by Garden Works raffled off were appreciated by the many recipients. Many thanks to all of those who assisted with these aspects of the meeting as well as set up and organization.

As noted by the outgoing VP, Glenn Helmlinger, who chaired the meeting, it proceeded without a lot of drama with very positive and constructive comments from attendees on the various motions.

The Society has a healthy bank account and looks forward to a very constructive 2017 with the approved budget.

Motions that were defeated were the change in community service hours and the contracting of an Executive Secretary.

The new Board is made up of returning board members Jonathan Candy, Ramiro Coto, Doug Eng, Carly Franklin, Dullss Kleamyck, and Sheila Stickney. Nominated from the floor were Don Hatch and Jana Solnickova.

Your elected executive directors are: President Ann Talbot, Vice-President Dick Mackin, Secretary Cathie Hickson, and Treasurer Joyce Wishart.

There are three openings for additional directors on the board. Come join us and help shape the future of BARAGA!



## BARAGA MEMBER RESOURCES

### Borrowing Baraga Equipment

There is a notice on the equipment shed with the names of members who have access to the equipment and can distribute equipment. Please note that the equipment must be returned to the shed by the person who has distributed the equipment. Also, the ride-on mower and tractor can only be used by qualified members.

### BARAGA Web Site

The web site can be found at: [www.baraga.ca](http://www.baraga.ca)  
The password for the members' area is: **garden**

### Products

BARAGA is providing this information for members' interest only and is not promoting these products specifically. If members have any other recommendations to share, please contact us at: [communications@baraga.ca](mailto:communications@baraga.ca)

### Nurseries

BARAGA members can receive discounts at certain nurseries as long as they show their BARAGA membership card. If you don't have a card, please e-mail us at [directors@baraga.ca](mailto:directors@baraga.ca) and we will send one to you.

### Greenhouses

Ray's Welding Ltd. Custom Fabricating, #103 – 5113 Byrne Road, Burnaby  
Phone: 604-451-3930 | E-mail: [rayswelding@telus.net](mailto:rayswelding@telus.net)

To supply and fabricate galvanized HSS square tubing, 10ft wide X 10ft long the cost \$2,200 plus GST/PST. To supply and fabricate galvanized HSS square tubing 10ft wide X 20ft long the cost is \$3,200 plus GST/PST.

### Yellow Cedar

Sunbury Cedar in Delta has 1"x 6"x8' yellow cedar planks. All he has left are 120 pieces of the 1x6, for \$4.80 + tax. Has a lot of 2.5"x6"x10 for \$13.50 each+tax. This cedar is only available for a limited time, so we ask for your interest before March 25th. If there is enough interest from the membership, we could share on the \$95.00 delivery charge. If you are interested contact Dullss at [waitlist@baraga.ca](mailto:waitlist@baraga.ca)



# Board of Directors

**Ann Talbot**  
*President*  
directors@baraga.ca

**Dick Mackin**  
*Vice-President & Inspections*  
directors@baraga.ca

**Cathie Hickson**  
*Secretary*  
directors@baraga.ca

**Joyce Wishart**  
*Treasurer & Community Events*  
directors@baraga.ca

**Jana Solnickova**  
*Co-Treasurer*  
directors@baraga.ca

**Doug Eng**  
*Membership*  
membership@baraga.ca

**Dullss Kleamyck**  
*Plot Rentals & Waitlist*  
waitlist@baraga.ca

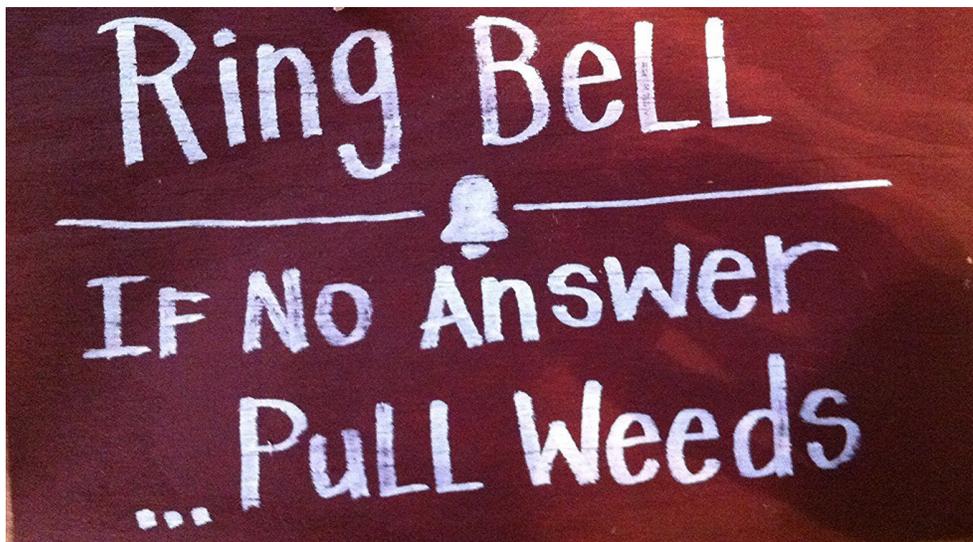
**Don Hatch**  
*By-Laws & Handbook*  
directors@baraga.ca

**Ramiro Coto**  
*Landscaping & Flower Beds*  
directors@baraga.ca

**Sheila Stickney**  
*Work Hours & Work Parties*  
workhours@baraga.ca

**Jonathan Candy**  
*Communications*  
communications@baraga.ca

**Carly Franklin**  
*Communications & Seedling*  
communications@baraga.ca



## BARAGA Contact Information

### Mailing Address

Burnaby and Region Allotment Gardens Association  
Box 209, 4974 Kingsway  
Burnaby, BC V5H 4M9

### Telephone

(604) 600-6939

### Facebook Group

[www.facebook.com/groups/146218968736245](http://www.facebook.com/groups/146218968736245)

## Bee-Friendly Planting Ideas



What can you do to help BARAGA's honey bees stay healthy?

First, plant seeds that are not coated with neonicotinoids. Second, refrain from using herbicides or pesticides. Honey bees love dandelions and clover!

Also, consider planting the following plants that offer early-Spring and late-Fall pollen sources for BARAGA's bees.

### Early Spring

Pussy Willows (near ditches)  
Hellebores  
Oregon Grape  
Yew  
Oregon Maple  
Some Alders  
Crocus  
Snowdrop  
Lupin  
Birch  
Poplar  
Hazelnut

### Late Fall

White and Red Clover  
Sedum  
Verbena  
Asters  
Goldenrod  
Marjoram  
Purple Loosestrife  
Chicory  
Knapweed  
Borage  
California Poppy  
Sunflowers