



The SEEDLING

Newsletter of the Burnaby and Region Allotment Gardens Association



PLANS FOR THE BARAGA ORCHARD

by Ramiro Coto

As everyone has likely noticed, the area previously known as the bee meadow is now being converted into an orchard.

So far, 14 fruit trees have been planted. There are also several blueberries and honeyberries that we hope will be able to survive in the harsh conditions of this area.

Volunteer Caretakers Needed

Since these trees require lots of work in terms of weeding and watering in the summer, no additional trees will be planted until we find more people interested in adopting one or more of these trees to assist with maintaining them.

In addition, we need to continue with adding compostable material to the area to improve the soil. As we are all too familiar with, the weeds here grow very aggressively in the Spring so we will need people to weed either in their preferred times or during work parties.

Plans for Developing the Orchard

We have also decided that the area needs an edge and a fence to give a bit of protection from members that may think they can do their dumping in there. To start, we are going to place wood at the base of the present fence. These boards will prevent the soil from spreading further.

Also, a section of asphalt of ten feet from the platform will be removed and then we will put the fence back in that area. We hope to have this done by the end of the summer. We also want to place a water tap near the present fence so that can be used for watering in the summer.

Looking Ahead

Next year, we hope to build some kind of simple arbor or cover around the platform so we can plant vines that will not only produce fruits but also form a canopy so member can enjoy the area.

Want to Get Involved?

Anyone interested in adopting a fruit tree from the orchard, please contact us by email at workservice@baraga.ca Once we get your interest, we will share information on guild creations and fruit tree maintenance.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Ann Talbot

Updates Around the Garden

Well the snow has finally gone, the rain has stopped and now our gardens are finally growing! What a crazy spring we've had, but regardless, we've had two very successful work parties with some major cleaning up of rotting wood, derelict plots, and general site clean-up. We have decided to keep the large wood debris bin indefinitely as we have already removed three loads and the bin keeps filling. We also have a new recycling bin that has been filling up quickly, so we are considering a bigger bin.

We are very happy to report that our groundskeeper from last year, Matt Kolrud, is back with us for another season. We are glad to have him back working at BARAGA as he knows what to do, he's very good to work with, and he's flexible about his hours and his jobs.

We met with the City Manager for a walk around the garden. He was very pleased with the condition of the garden and reported that City Council is also very proud of this garden as we apparently are 'a world model' of how allotment gardens work. He had no concerns and wanted us to simply keep up the good work.

We have a few plans for site maintenance this season. One important job is to mitigate the drainage problem in the area next to the parking lot. We also want to keep working on improving the parks, including working with the city arborist to control and remove some of our trees as needed.

Well-Deserved Thanks

I'd like to give a special thanks to our great directors this year. We have had a really good working relationship on the board and the meetings have been productive and congenial.

Dick Mackin has done an amazing job of taking on the site maintenance and is a tireless worker at BARAGA.

Cathie Hicks, regardless of her incredible 'James Bond' life of travel and adventure, keeps up with her job as BARAGA secretary.

Jana Solnickova has stepped in as treasurer with help from Joyce; and has taken on the job with gusto. Joyce will now be organizing events, such as the picnic. Look for details in this issue.

Doug Eng, Dullss Kleamyck, Don Hatch, and Sheila Stickney have held weekly meetings to work on the new Bylaws and Handbook document which has required a huge amount of work.

Ramiro Coto has been working really hard coordinating all of our landscaping needs.

Carly Franklin continues to do her graphic magic with signage creation and the Seedling.

Jonathan Candy has set up a new website which is still in progress and he is also working on a better system for sending out bulletins as it takes him about 4 hours per bulletin!

And finally, thanks to all BARAGA members for making this a great, vibrant, friendly, productive community!

Saying Goodbye to A Cherished Friend



by Monica Jones

Francesco Aiello passed away in March of this year. Frank was 92, but you'd never know it. Joan Campana remembers him "walking along the top beam of the A-frame roof of his greenhouse." She rushed over to express concern. "He just gave his usual broad smile, shook his finger at me, and said he was fixing something. He would have been in his late 70s."

Frank was always there to help. He was generous with his smiles and readily shared his gardening knowledge. True to his Italian roots, he was always offering food and drink served in the shade. Our northwest corner of BARAGA is not the same without Frank. We also lost his wife Maria and son Luigi, all in less than two years. They were founding members of BARAGA. We offer condolences to the Aiello family.

Read the full article in the Burnaby Now at this link: <http://bit.ly/2rEbKil>

BARAGA Annual Picnic to Be Held on August 12



Mark your calendars! BARAGA's annual picnic will be held on Saturday, August 12th.

This is a potluck event, so plan to bring a food item to share with others.

Produce Contests

Bring your BARAGA-grown produce and enter to win prizes in our contests for the following categories:

- *Best vegetable*
- *Best flower arrangement*
- *Best baking*
- *Best canning*
- *Best fruit*
- *Best presentation*
- *Most unusual*

All produce must be grown at BARAGA. Baking and canning entries must contain ingredients grown at BARAGA. Please include a list of ingredients with baking and canning entries.

Remember these headings and keep them in mind when harvesting your produce – be prepared to enter it/them in the judging events.

Picnic Schedule

- 3:00 – 4:15 - Best in garden entries
- 4:15 – 4:45 - Voting on contest entries
- 5:00 - 6:00 - Food tables open
- 6:00 - Contest winners announced



MANAGING OUR WATER

by Dick Mackin

Our System

BARAGA gets its water from the city of Burnaby and we pay for this water at the current metered water rate. Water is the largest expense BARAGA has, so it is in the best interest of all gardeners to use our water wisely.

Water is provided to all plots through underground pipes, above ground standpipes and taps. Each tap is for the use of the four plots closest to the tap. Attaching a permanent hose or modifying the water outlet is not permitted. A splitter is allowed so that two or more gardeners can access the water supply at the same time. The water is turned on around the 1st week of April each year and turned off at the end of October depending on the weather conditions.

Water Line Breaks

The most common reasons for breaks are:

- The wooden post that supports the standpipe breaks when knocked by a wheel barrow or an attached hose is pulled too hard. If the wooden post supporting your standpipe is rotten, replace it – or call us to get it replaced.
- The underground pipe is broken when a border support stake is driven through it. Some plot borders have crept forward and are now over top of the water pipe. This year we will be contacting members to adjust their borders if necessary.

Dripping Taps

With approximately 200 taps in our water system, dripping taps can result in a lot of wasted water. If you have a dripping tap, let us know and we will have it repaired or replaced.

What to Do If There is a Break in the Water Line

The main distribution line follows the path directly from the city line and goes all the way to the north path.

There are six subsidiary water lines that go from the main line to the plots on the east side, and four that go to the plots on the west side of the main line. Each of these ten lines has a shut-off valve and each of these shut off valves is marked by a sign that identifies the line it controls.

Every plot holder should take the time to see where the shut-off valve for their line is located. Please visit the Members section of the BARAGA web site to view a map of the water lines and location of the shut-off valves.

If you see a break in the line, and water is flowing from the break, you should immediately turn off the water for that line. Once the water line has been turned off, you can then contact BARAGA directors and our groundskeeper who can arrange to have the problem corrected.

BARAGA Emergency Contacts

BARAGA Main Phone: 604-600-6939
Dick Mackin, Vice President: 604-716-4664
Matthew Kolsrud, Summer Groundskeeper: 778-987-1224

Board of Directors

Ann Talbot
President
directors@baraga.ca

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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

There Is No Garden Fairy at BARAGA



While most BARAGA members are conscientious and observe the rules set out in our handbook, there are some who continue to espouse bad habits that create additional work for BARAGA's hard-working volunteers.

Please keep in mind that there is no "garden fairy" to clean up after you if you don't put wheelbarrows, garbage, or recycling in their place. When you don't follow the rules, you create more work for fellow gardeners and volunteers who work hard to keep BARAGA clean and tidy.

Some of the most common bad behaviours we see are:

- Leaving garbage/recycling around the office, garbage area and on the perimeter of your plot
- Leaving wheelbarrows in the parking lot, on your plot or path
- Throwing garbage in the wood chipping pile or the compost pile
- Dumping unwanted old plastic chairs, pots, benches, plastic covering, etc.

As a community, we all have to work together to respect BARAGA and keep it clean and sustainable.

Do your part and take pride in our beautiful garden!

Thank you for your cooperation!