

THE BEES OF BARAGA

by Ramiro Coto

If you are wondering what happened to the bees at BARAGA, no worries. We have lots of bees. The honey bee hives we had at BARAGA had to be discontinued starting this year due to the lack of interest from BARAGA members to become involved - and I do not blame them.

This past winter, I took an online seminar on bees with the Ministry's expert, Paul Van Westendorp, and one of the things I learned was that honey bees require a lot of work, have many health issues, and are not as efficient pollinators as our common wild bees.

In any case, we have lots of honey bees around anyways, probably from hives in our area. I confirmed this recently when I heard an incredible buzzing of honey bees in our blooming cherry trees on our main parking lot.



In addition, with the help of Byron - our mason bee expert and enthusiast - we are ramping up the mason bee colonies we have at BARAGA. At this time, we have at least three mason bee hotels so if you see a box similar to that shown in the photo above around the common area parks, please do not disturb. These bee hotels are housing some very important friends.

Mason bees are much easier to maintain, are way more efficient pollinators, and pose little to no threat of stinging.

In fact, BC is home to around 450 wild bee species belonging to several families including Apidae, Halictidae, Megachilidae, Andrenidae, and Colletidae.

All this means that, when it comes to pollinating our vegetables and fruits in our gardens, we are fully covered.

All we have to do is to just keep planting all those wonderful vegetables, fruits, and flowers, and all those busy friends will keep coming to pollinate everything that needs pollinating!

May 2020

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WHAT DID ONE BEE SAY TO THE OTHER?



LOVE BEE-ING
WITH YOU, HONEY.

VICE PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

by Dick Mackin

Spring has finally arrived and we see the increase in activity at the garden. The water is back on and it's time to clean up and start planting. I wanted to share a couple of reminders to help everyone enjoy their gardening experience.

Compost

The best way to build up your soil is to keep a compost bin on your plot and use the compost to create fertile soil for next year. If you have too much vegetable material for your own compost, you are welcome to use the common compost areas. **Please do not add plastic, chunks of wood, large tree branches, paint pails, broken pots etc.**

Where to Put Used Materials & Garbage

- We have an area where large branches can be piled and chipped at a later date
- We have a construction bin for used lumber
- We have a cardboard bin for used cardboard
- We have a garbage bin for everything else

If you don't know where these areas are, please ask your neighbours.

Water

Water is our single largest expense. Please use it wisely. Do you know what to do if you discover a break in the water line?

If not, please ask your neighbors and read the material in the members section of the BARAGA website at www.baraga.ca

Structures

Please submit the required application before you build any structure on your plot. This includes the renovation of any existing structure where the size will be changed. Simple repairs do not require approval.

Wheelbarrows

We have repaired a large number of broken wheelbarrows and purchased another 5. These wheelbarrows are for use by all members. They are not your private property and are not to be left on your plot.

Please remember these are garden wheelbarrows and are not expected to carry loads over 50 pounds.

Meadow Avenue Gate

When leaving BARAGA in the evening, if you are the last car in the parking lot, please close and fasten the chain on the main gate. This will help discourage unauthorized dumping on our property.

East End Gate

Thank you Frank for the beautiful new gate at the east end. Signage for the new gate will be installed soon.

Saving Water in the Garden



Water Early in the Morning

You will lose less water to evaporation and more will get to your plants. It also gives your plants the whole day for leaves to dry, making plants less vulnerable to disease and pests.

Water Deeper, But Less Often

This will ensure plants with longer roots get adequate water, and will also encourage deeper root development for stronger, healthier plants.

Water at Ground Level, Not from Above

Plants need water at their roots, not on their leaves. They'll also be healthier! Give them a drink, not a shower!

Use Mulch to Retain Moisture

Some plants such as strawberries and blueberries do well when mulched with straw or sawdust to help retain moisture between waterings.

AGM & SGM Report



BARAGA held a Special General Meeting (SGM) on November 16, 2019 to vote on the new Bylaws, Rules, and Policies as presented by the BARAGA board and ad hoc bylaw committee. Here is a summary of the meeting:

- The board and the ad hoc committee had agreed on the new Bylaws, Rules, and Policies except for a proposed change to a bylaw regarding the voting status of an associate member.
- There were 64 members registered and, as understood by the members, a 75% majority was required to pass a motion.
- All motions that were presented were defeated due to lack of majority.
- The matter was tabled to the next AGM on February 1, 2020.

At the AGM on February 1, 2020, Vice President Dick Mackin explained that an error had occurred at the SGM as well as in the AGM requirements for a 3/4 majority to pass a Special Resolution. The correct requirement was 2/3 majority as stated by the Societies Act.

Members were referring to the new requirement (75%) in the not-yet-approved BARAGA bylaws. Therefore, the BARAGA Bylaws, Rules, and Policies as presented by the ad hoc committee were approved at the SGM with 68%. Dick thanked the ad hoc committee as well as all of the members who worked very hard to create these documents.

The new Bylaws, Rules and Policies booklet can be accessed at the BARAGA website. Hard copies are also available by contacting directors@baraga.ca

You can find a list of all the 2020 directors on page 4.



Regular members of the plot inspection committee walk through all the plots each month to assess each plot's condition and adherence to our bylaws, rules, and policies. Our goal is to be consistent and fair to everyone, and apply the November 2019 BARAGA rules and policies evenly.

Overall, we don't aim to end a plot rental or make gardeners upset, but rather to improve the whole garden, reduce each other's frustrations, and keep all of BARAGA the productive and lovely place we all enjoy each season.

That said, keeping up plots that are approximately 1000 square feet is quite a lot of work! It's not a 6-visits-a-season undertaking! If pandemic restrictions are lifted and we are able to travel/vacation again, it's a good idea to have a back-up person to water, weed, and make sure the paths are clear if you will be away for several weeks.

We are doing an inspection in early May but, given that not everyone can make it to the garden during these times of physical distancing and reduced transit, in May we will be sending out informal emails (not formal letters) where plots need attention.

The main items plot holders need to take care of are noted in the Rules Section of the November 2019 Constitution & Bylaws, Rules, and Policies booklet:

- Weeds need to be kept under control – in the garden, greenhouse, and pathways – all season long
- Pathways need to be a minimum of 30 inches wide and need to be kept open and clear of hoses, boards, and hanging plants. Gardeners are responsible for the North and West paths around their plot.
- The plot must have a flower bed at one end - (2' x 20' for a full plot, or 2' x 10' for a half plot). We gave this notice in the fall 2019 Seedling and general emails to all gardeners. "The first 2 feet (nearest to a main pathway) of each plot shall be planted with flowers". We'll be looking for only annuals, perennials, and small shrubs in the bed. Please note that rhubarb is not a flower. Flower beds can be at the other end of the plot if along the main pathway doesn't work.
- Fruit-bearing trees and shrubs cannot be higher than 7 feet. In November, we sent out reminders to plot holders to say pruning would be required during the dormant winter season.
- Fences, if used, shall be no higher than 92 cm (36 inches) and be set back 6 inches from the plot boundary.
- The plot must be reasonably tidy and free of garbage, debris, old pots, rotting wood, etc.
- Greenhouses, sheds, and fences must be in a safe condition.
- By November 1, plots should be cleared except for winter crops, mulches or perennials

Please do contact us at inspections@baraga.ca or call the BARAGA cell phone at [\(604\) 600-6939](tel:(604) 600-6939) if you are not clear on these requirements, or are having trouble keeping your garden up.

Together, we're here to keep BARAGA the beautiful, unique spot that it has been for many years and especially in these 2020 pandemic times.

Board of Directors

Dick Mackin
Vice President
directors@baraga.ca

Ann Talbot
Secretary
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Zofia Lepa
Treasurer
treasurer@baraga.ca

Doug Eng
Membership
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Landscaping & Flower Beds
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Communications
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Director at Large
directors@baraga.ca

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Director at Large
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Larysa Lyashenko
Director at Large
directors@baraga.ca

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Seventeen plots have changed hands so far in 2020. Let's extend a big welcome to the newcomers to our beautiful garden community.

12 Shannon
36W Tony & Julie
36E Charles
44N Cheryl
50 Zhen
63 Constantin

83 David
111 Ted & Family
136 Akiko & Jacob
150 Andrew
183 Phillip & Family
205 Rasoul & Farzeneh

219 Gabriel & Leonie
287 Tara
294 Alex & Gina
325 Shawn
334 Benita & Family

BARAGA Contact Information

Mailing Address

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

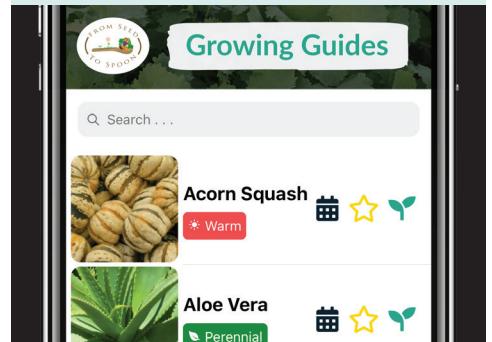
Telephone

(604) 600-6939

Facebook Group

www.facebook.com/groups/BARAGA

Garden Planning & Tracking App



Have you ever wanted to be able to keep track of what you've planted, when seeds have gone in the ground, and when you can expect to harvest the fruits (and vegetables) of your labour?

We recently discovered an amazing app called Garden+ developed by From Seed to Spoon that works with both iPhone and Android mobile devices that lets you enter the seeds and plants you've planted and keep track of when they should sprout, what types of pests are common for a particular plant and how to manage them.

There are also built-in growing guides for a wide range of common fruits, berries, and vegetables so you'll know exactly what to do to get the best yield from your garden!

App Features

The app offers a ton of great features including:

- Personalized planting dates based on your location
- Guidance on when you can expect seeds to sprout and when to harvest
- Growing guides for 100+ plants
- Pest identification and management
- Companion planting recommendations
- Recipes using garden-fresh ingredients

Where to Get the App

You can download the app for free from the Google Play or Apple App Store by searching "From Seed to Spoon", or you can visit their web site at:
www.seedtospoon.net/app