

Board of Directors

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Sheila Roswell

Inspections
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Directors at Large -

directors@baraga.ca

Vania Alexieva**Mark Anderson****Rolf Schrader****Monica Jones**

Membership

By Doug Eng

Handling the Membership this past year has been a learning experience and a good one for me. Keeping accurate records of members' addresses, phone numbers, emails, etc. is especially important in staying in touch with members when we need to send out information.

I also encourage members to send any changes to their personal information to membership@baraga.ca. Also, be assured that any of your personal information is well-protected and not shared outside of BARAGA.

I would also like to add that if you are looking for help on your plot, for whatever reasons, we can try to find you an associate member to help you. If you are interested, please send an email and I can give you all the details in having an associate member.

Best of luck to you in the new growing season, 2019.

Are you having a difficult time gardening your plot? We may be able to arrange an Associate to help you.

Please contact membership@baraga.ca

Foodbank Liaison

By Monica Jones

Working with Teresa from Ryan's Rainbow Outreach on their foodbank program continues to be gratifying. They are so grateful to receive our beautiful fresh food. Teresa calls us angels. A big thank you to all who donate and a big welcome to those who come forward this coming summer to fill the donation box. We could not do this without the help and guidance of Dick Mackin, our VP, who always manages to be on site at the right time.

Work parties and Community Service Hours (CSH)

By Sheila Stickney

Time to start thinking about how you are going to complete your compulsory CSH next year – 3 hours for ½ plots and 6 hours for full plots. There are a few things you should know about CSH:

- Work parties start April 13 and continue on the second Saturday of every month til October 14, 9 a.m. – 12 noon (there are 7 altogether). Work parties are a good place to meet fellow gardeners and your directors, experience camaraderie over coffee and muffins, and contribute to the overall running of your community garden.
- There is more work available early in the growing season than later in the season, so plan on completing your CSH early in the year. It is your responsibility to complete your CSH – if you are having difficulty doing so, contact work@baraga.ca early in the year to discuss options available to you.
- If you cannot attend work parties due to work commitments, talk to Dick Mackin, vice-president & director responsible for work parties, early in the year to assign work to complete on your own. When completed, have Dick sign your CSH form and submit it to work@baraga.ca or to any director.
- To receive credit for CSH you must submit a CSH form signed by a director by October 31.
- Fellow gardeners generally report that they enjoy the work parties, so come out and see how much fun you can have!

Mailing Address:

Burnaby and Region

Allotment Gardens Association

Box 209, 4974 Kingsway

Burnaby, BC V5H 4M9

BARAGA Emergency Contacts:

BARAGA Office: 604-600-6939

Dick Mackin, Vice President: 604-716-4664

Ryan's Rainbow Foodbank



We are pleased to announce the "Plant A Row, Donate A Row" program. Westcoast Seeds has donated seeds to help encourage more gardeners at Baraga to donate produce to the Foodbank.

Two years ago we began a partnership with Ryan's Rainbow Outreach. They pick up our fresh vegetables, herbs and fruit every Monday morning from June through September. On Thursdays they open their doors and distribute it to folks in need. These folks are single moms and seniors and others who can't pay \$4 for a bunch of kale or Swiss chard at the store.

We will be distributing seed packets at the AGM. If you already donate, please come by the table for some seeds. We'd love to hear what your experience has been donating. You may have some suggestions. We'd like to hear them.

If you haven't donated yet, let us help get you started with some seeds.





The BARAGA History - The first year 1982

By Don Hatch

The Burnaby Allotment Gardens was set up in 1975 controlled by the Provincial Government under the Minister of Horticulture and Food. The Provincial Government in 1981 decided to discontinue the Allotment Garden Program. The Burnaby and Region Allotment Garden Association (BARAGA) history actually started on December 7, 1981 when at a general meeting of the former members of the Burnaby Allotment Gardens, it was decided to carry on.

The first executive meeting of BARAGA was held two days later on Dec. 9, 1981. At this meeting they decided to approach the Minister for a transition grant to cover the cost of setting up the new society and a separate grant for a drainage system. It was noted that the prior two years were extremely wet at the garden. They also sent a letter to Burnaby Council asking for a lease on the 14.2 acre property and exemption from taxes on the grounds that the society will maintain the quality of the agricultural land. In that letter it mentioned that the garden had been in existence for six years. Prior to 1982 the government had been leasing the plots for \$20.00 per year. The new directors were advised to incorporate as a non profit society.

At the January meeting directors decided to ask the Minister for an administrative transfer grant of \$3,960.00 and a special purposes grant of \$11,616.80 for a drainage system.

Burnaby Council agreed to a lease on Feb. 8, 1982 at a cost of \$1.00 per year.

Minutes of the Feb. 17th meeting indicated that there was a small storage shed on the grounds, probably for tools. At this meeting the executive were attempting to set up a one plot per household rule but due to a slow handover of the rental agreements from the Ministry it was felt this was going to be difficult to do.

The Mar. 16th meeting minutes indicated that 104 plots were well maintained, 123 had compost containers that may infringe the regulations, and 52 plots exceed their boundaries. It was also noted that 80 plots required work by the associations work committees. The Ministry offered a transition grant of \$10.00 per plot to a total of \$ 3720.00 but declined the grant for drainage.

The April 14th meeting reported that 216 plots were rented and 156 were vacant but that 66 of those were not fit to rent. The directors purchased liability insurance for \$150.00 for one million dollars coverage. A contract was also signed for garbage pick up for \$37.50 for two pick ups per month. Two rental toilets were installed for the convenience of members. It was noted that if projected membership levels were reached they may be able to put in the drainage system. A work party installed two bridges across the centre ditch and said that two more were required.

The May 12th meeting reported that 22 more plots were rented for a total of 238. A work party had cleared the sides of the ditch. Publicity was circulated in the community to get new members and that included CBC Radio. It was decided that a set of policies would be created. Newsletters were apparently being sent out monthly.

The June 16th meeting noted that one student had been hired, Lois Enns, and approval was given to hire a second student.

The July 14th meeting noted that a second student, Alan Main, was hired. A telephone answering machine was approved for purchase by the secretary/plot rental director.

The Aug. 16th meeting noted that due to heavy and continual pilfering of produce from plots a watchman was hired. He was to park his vehicle and trailer on site and that his contract will cease on October 31, 1982. It was reported that of a total of 372 plots, 289 were rented. The first picnic was organized in order that members become better acquainted. It was noted that the creation of a flood control system by Burnaby on the North bank of the Fraser River could be the solution for last years drainage problem at the garden.

The Sept. 2nd meeting reported that a new bylaw was to be drafted to cover the need to take action against a member for the theft or interference on other members plots. It was also agreed that produce from abandoned plots be distributed to charitable organizations.

The Nov. 15 meeting reported that a plot inspection had been done and it was recommended that a concerted effort be made concerning the problem of structures and buildings exceeding permitted sizes. It was agreed to purchase a 12' x 16' shed with double doors from Sunbury Cedar for a price of \$2080.00 and that the shed would be placed where the ministry's trailer had been. A deposit was paid on the shed. It was proposed to purchase a mowing tractor but that the decision would be carried over until January for the new directors.

There was no regular meeting in December. The AGM had been slated for Nov. 28 and the first meeting of the new board was set for January 1983. There is a financial statement for the year.





Message From The Board

By Sarah Gordon

Winter may be the best time of year for gardeners. Most non-gardeners think its spring, but winter is when we get to enjoy our harvests in jars of jewel like preserves and a full freezer of gorgeous vegetables. Then we get to pour over our seed catalogues and plan for spring. That's the amazing thing about gardening, we renew and grow every year.

Membership renewals are being mailed. Please review your invoice carefully as GST has now been added by order of the Canada Revenue Agency. The membership renewal team will be at Van City Community room January 11, from 4 – 8 pm; and January 12, from 10 am – 4 pm. The Van City Room is three doors down from the Tim Hortons closest to the garden at 7384 Market Crossing, Burnaby. Don't forget your signed membership form, with your CSH preferences. Associate members must have the plot holder sign their form before they can renew their membership.

The AGM this year will be January 26 at 1:00 pm, Alan Emmott Centre, 6650 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby. This is the same venue we have used for the past 3 years. Doors will open at 12:10 pm for registration. One of the important tasks at the AGM is electing a 2019 Board of Directors to run the garden and guide BARAGA for the next few years. Is there something you'd like to change or a project you have in mind? Run for Director! The 2018 president is not returning and there are 14 other positions to fill.

Thank you to the Board and all the other volunteers this year for their hard work and dedication to BARAGA. With almost 6 hectares and over 400 members, nothing would happen without our plot neighbours ensuring BARAGA is maintained for all our benefit. From first year members to 35-year founding members, it is a very special community indeed.

Wishing you and your family the very best of health, harvest and happiness for the holidays and 2019.

Vice President

By Dick Mackin

I think I should make a confession
My garden's my favourite possession
To my spouses dismay
I'm out there all day
In fact its become an obsession

Seasons Greeting to all Baragians

BARAGA GST Status Update

By Jana Solnickova

In 2018, the Board continued a conversation about BARAGA's GST status. We entered into a ruling process and advocated an exemption for our membership fees. The process concluded in October. The Canada Revenue Agency rejected our argument and ruled that all BARAGA's fees are subject to GST.

The mandatory registration date was set effective February 1, 2017.

This means that a 5% goods and services tax is now added on top of all fees and also on honey sales. **This is not an increase in fees** that would provide more funds for BARAGA's operation. BARAGA has to collect this tax and remit it to the CRA. In return, it can now claim GST on purchased goods and services. For 2017, we reported a small GST refund owed to BARAGA. It was because the renewals, our main taxable sales, were processed in January, before the GST took effect. The fee in lieu of Community Service Hours was invoiced in October; however, the tax was offset by GST paid on purchases.

For 2018, the records are currently under review. It is very likely that there will be GST payable. More details will be included with the January 26th AGM Notice and members will have a chance to ask questions at the AGM.

For 2019, the GST was included in the amounts:

Membership:	\$20.00 + \$1.00 GST = \$ 21.00
Full Plot rental:	\$100.00 + \$5.00 GST = \$105.00
Half Plot rental:	\$ 50.00 + \$2.50 GST = \$ 52.50
Community Service Hours:	\$100.00 + \$5.00 GST = \$105.00

Communications

By Anna McWatt

From the Prairie farm I fled far away
Confused my family did say
But in the soil is where she likes to play
For years I wandered and explored until I found BARAGA
Garden and friends abound
My hands deep in the soil, I am once again smiling every day

Happiest Holidays!



Treasurer

By Jana Solnickova

This was my second year as a Treasurer. It was a great learning experience for me and I much enjoyed working with a dedicated group of Directors and members of the Bylaws Committee.

2018 was a challenging year. Actual income came \$2,500 short of planned due to a reduced Summer Student Grant and lower income from Community Service Hours as more members participated in the program.

The new Bylaws process made great demands on our resources, in both time and funds. In total, \$7,350 was spent on 2018 General Meetings. While costs of AGM held in January were included in the Budget, the SGM held in June resulted in additional, unplanned costs of \$2,600.

In total it meant \$5,100 less to run the Garden and the Board had to make many compromises. Work that didn't get done due to the austerity will be proposed for completion in 2019.

The 2019 budget will reflect BARAGA operating needs based on current market adjusted cost of utilities, goods and services.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season!



Price of Food To Rise In 2019

By Doug Eng

So, here I was on an early December morning wrapping a few presents with the morning news on when I heard a report that the price of food was expected to go up in 2019. Of course this peaked my interest because I love to tell people that I grow a lot of my own vegetables and organically! And to further tell them how much it would cost me in a year, if I was to have to buy all of what I grow in stores or markets.

So, here's what I heard. An Ontario university had reported that overall food prices could rise between 1.5 to 3.5 percent AND that the biggest increase would come from vegetables AND that that increase was likely to be between 4 to 6 percent.

After hearing that, I could see an even bigger savings for me by growing my own! How great to have so much space at BARAGA to do so. So I spent the next bit of time calculating in my head, how much I paid in membership fees, plot rentals fees, seeds, plants, etc. and figuring out how much I was actually going to save over the coming year.

While doing so, the report continued on about the changing weather pattern and El Niño returning in 2019. El Niño? How would this affect me? So, off to the Internet to find out more and what I found was it could mean less moisture here and drier weather. And that El Niño would likely affect areas where we procure a lot of vegetables, that being the U.S. and Mexico, which would then likely raise the prices of those vegetables coming from there.

Listening further to the report, it said that both meat and seafood would be cheaper in 2019 which was nice to hear, but since I am not raising cattle or have an ocean on my plot at BARAGA, it means more vegetable planting to come...

Enjoy the 2019 growing season and think about the SAVINGS!