



The SEEDLING

Newsletter of the Burnaby and Region Allotment Gardens Association

Baraga in History

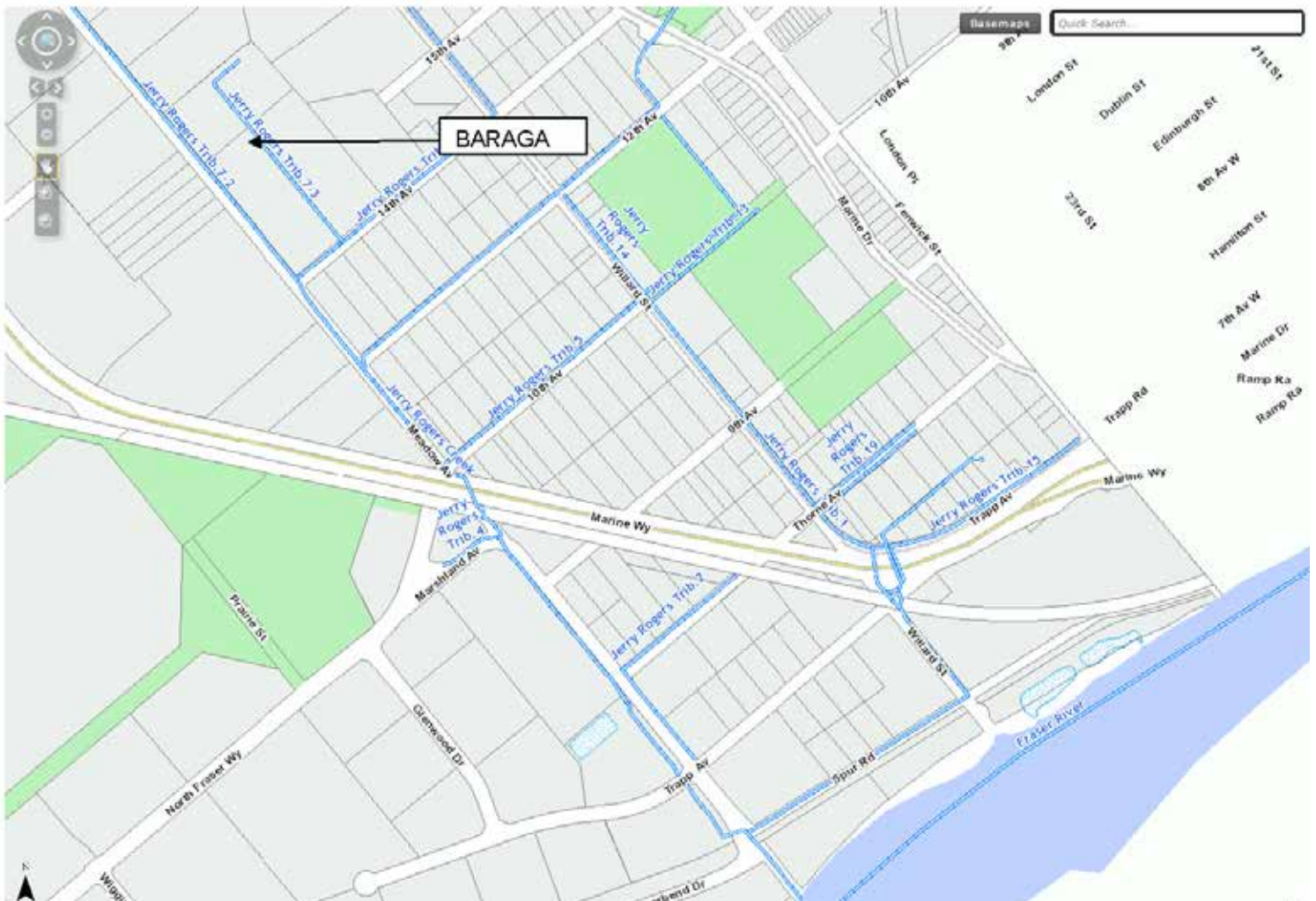
By Dick Mackin

Jeremiah "Jerry" Rogers (b. 1818, St. Andrews, NB; d 24 Oct 1879, English Bay) began logging at a camp near Jericho Beach in 1865 (the name Jericho may be a corruption of "Jerry's Cove.") His operation, which cleared much of what is now Kitsilano, provided spars for sailing ships and logs for Edward Stamp's mill on Burrard Inlet.

In the 1870s, he became one of the first logging operators in Burnaby, establishing a camp in South Burnaby in about 1870 at Woolard Creek (Byrne Creek), where he cut timber for ship masts. Rogers constructed a ditch to facilitate the movement of the large trees. It is likely a series of locks were installed in the ditch to trap the waters of the Fraser River when the tides were high, and to trap water flowing from Woolard Creek. When the locks were released, the logs could more easily make their way to the Fraser River. A similar system of locks was used west of Jerry Rogers' Ditch, at Byrne's logging ditch constructed by Peter Byrne in 1893.

April 2019

- Baraga In History 1
- Plot Inspections and Maintenance 2
- Work Parties and Community Service Hours 2
- The 2019 AGM 3
- Fun Facts 4
- Plant a Row, Donate a Row 4





Plot Inspections and Maintenance for 2019

By Sheila Roswell

Overall BARAGA gardeners are doing a good job throughout the season and there certainly were some impressive and productive plots in 2018. 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! Regular members of the plot inspection team walk through 387 plots each month. Our goal is to be consistent and fair to everyone, while following the guidelines set out in the BARAGA handbook.

Here are the main items plot holders need to take care of:

- gardening must be started no later than May 1, and the plot must be cultivated all growing season
- weeds need to be kept under control – in the garden, greenhouse and pathways – all season long
- the plot must be reasonably tidy and free of garbage, debris, old pots, rotting wood, etc
- pathways need to be a minimum of 30 inches wide and need to be kept open and clear of hoses, boards, hanging plants. Gardeners are responsible for the North and West paths around the plot
- the plot must have a flower bed at one end (2 by 20 feet)
- fruit bearing trees and shrubs cannot be higher than 7 feet
- 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 a Director at (604) 600-6939 if you are not clear on these requirements or are having trouble keeping your garden up. There are many people on the waitlist for a plot at BARAGA. We often hear from frustrated neighbours when weeds or blocked paths aren't taken care of. If you do need help or something has happened temporarily, please do contact us. Directors can look for associate gardeners or take the temporary situation into account. If plot holders get 3 letters in a season (usually through email), the Board will follow up and gardeners' ability to stay at the garden is in jeopardy. Then it's up to the plot holder to contact us.

Together we're here to keep BARAGA the lovely, productive and unique spot that it has been for many years and will be in the 2019 season ahead.

Work Parties and Community Service Hours (CSH)

By Sheila Stickney

Each year, plot renters are required to complete 3 hours of CSH for ½ plot, 6 hours of CSH for full plot, or to pay in lieu of CSH (\$50 for ½ plot, \$100 for full plot) plus GST. To complete CSH, members can:

- Attend work parties – 2nd Saturday of every month from April through October, 9 a.m. to 12 noon
- Sign up for special tasks (plot inspections, dahlia bed, special committees, events); you should expect to hear from the director in charge of that function about work opportunities available to you
- Arrange individual work tasks with Dick Mackin (#181), our vice-president, before beginning the task, and have CSH form signed by Dick upon completion

To receive credit for CSH completion or 'in lieu of':

- When each task is completed, have a director sign it off on a CSH form. When your 3 or 6 hour requirement is completed submit the form to workhours@baraga.ca or to any director. CSH forms can be downloaded from the BARAGA website. CSH forms are also available at the office during work parties
- Pay the \$50 or \$100 plus GST in lieu of completed CSH

CSH requirements must be completed and forms received by October 31 of each year. Payment of 'in lieu of' must be received before membership and plot rental renewal can be completed for the following year.

The 2019 AGM

By Jana Solnickova

This year's AGM was held on January 26th at the Alan Emmott Centre.

Coffee and tasty sandwiches were appreciated by all attendees. West Coast Seeds made a significant donation of seeds for our "Plant a Row, Donated a Row" program. Many members signed up and we look forward to an overflowing Donation box this year.

The AGM was well attended and generated a productive discussion with constructive comments and many good ideas adopted.

President Sarah Gordon reported that the 2018 Board, in cooperation with the Special Bylaws Committee, made a significant progress on the new Bylaws document. It will be up to the 2019 Board to finish and present it for a vote at a 2019 SGM. The date tbd.

Sarah further noted that growing marijuana anywhere on BARAGA site is prohibited by City of Burnaby and will result in immediate termination. Many members were affected by produce and tool theft in 2018. A special Theft prevention Committee was established to assist with incidents tracking and researching theft deterrents. BARAGA may be eligible for Site accessibility and/or amenities improvement grants. A special Grant Research Committees was established to assist with identifying such opportunities.

Dick Mackin, our VP, reported that the garden infrastructure is in good repair. Dick emphasized the importance of the continued waste removal from the garden and thanked members for attending Work parties and assisting with plot cleanup. If you can't complete the volunteer work, you can pay a fee instead. Matt, our last year's summer student will be returning in May. There is one project carried over from last year, the front entrance repair.

Treasurer, Jana Solnickova, reported that the Society is in a good financial position and looking forward to another productive year. Baraga is now registered for GST. Our fees have not increased in years, but prices of materials & services keep going up. In 2019, we may need to supplement up to \$9,260 of operating expenses from our Contingency Fund. Members approved the budget as presented.

Members also voted on the restrictions of new temporary structures and number of plots rented to one unit.

The new Board is made up of returning board members Dick Mackin, Don Hatch, Doug Eng, Dullss Kleamyck, Grace Shigenobu, Jana Solnickova, Monica Jones, Ramiro Coto, Sheila Rowswell and Sheila Stickney.

Newly elected directors are Chang Han, Mary Orr and Wally Chow.

Your elected executive directors are: Vice-President Dick Mackin, Secretary Chang Han, and Treasurer Jana Solnickova. The position of President remains vacant.

Big Thank You to 2018 directors: Sarah Gordon for her excellent service as President, Anna McWatt for the Seedling publishing, Rolf Schrader and Vania Alexieva as the Bylaws Committee Liaison, and Mark Anderson as Director-at-Large.

Many thanks to those who organized the AGM and assisted with the many aspects of the meeting.



Board of Directors

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President
directors@baraga.ca

Dick Mackin
Vice-President
directors@baraga.ca

Chang Han
Secretary
directors@baraga.ca

Jana Solnickova
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New Member Gardener Support
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Coordinator for the Food Bank –
Ryan's Rainbow
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BARAGA Emergency Contacts:
BARAGA Office: 604-600-6939
Dick Mackin, Vice President: 604-716-4664

Ryan's Rainbow Foodbank

"Plant A Row, Donate a Row"

As you plan your spring planting, please keep in mind the Foodbank. Seeds were donated from West Coast Seeds and many members received theirs at the AGM. The first pick up of our donations will be Monday June 3.



Fun Facts

Early Burnaby: Up to 1904
1892 pop. 300
1904 pop. 800

The earliest known human occupation of the Lower Fraser Valley dates to approximately 10,000 years ago, shortly after the retreat of the last glaciers. However, the present configuration of the Fraser River and the height of sea levels did not stabilize until at least 5000 years ago creating the unique land forms and lush native vegetation of Burnaby.



A complex society of aboriginal peoples utilized many locations around Burnaby as seasonal food gathering and camp sites, leaving behind today's archaeological resources. The year 1825 was a critical turning point as it marked the founding of Fort Langley by the Hudson's Bay Company. The establishment of the fur trade economy and the immigration of Europeans to the region would radically alter settlement patterns, health and population of First Nations. When gold was discovered on the sandbars of the Lower Fraser River, it started a human stampede to the newly incorporated Crown Colony of British Columbia in 1858.

The development of Burnaby was sparked by the creation of the City of New Westminster in 1860 and the arrival of the transcontinental railway and incorporation of the City of Vancouver in 1886. The construction of an electric interurban tramline between these two cities created the impetus for local landowners and residents to incorporate the Municipality of Burnaby in 1892. Early growth, however, was hampered by the onset of an economic depression in the 1890s. Despite this setback, the area was soon developed with small market gardens of fruits and vegetables. The construction of the Vancouver, Westminster and Yukon Railway in 1904 and the introduction of electrical power from Buntzen Lake, enabled many logging and sawmill operations to transform the primeval landscape. The early growth set the stage for a dynamic economic boom that would radically change the sleepy rural district.

Source: <https://gis.burnaby.ca/storymaps/chartingchangeatlas/index.html>

Warning



Don't drink from your garden hose.

Hazardous materials are found in garden hoses which can lead to serious health problems. Look up www.eco-center.org/healthy-stuff/pages/executive-summary-garden-hose-study-2016 to see test results

