



BARAGA is home to many species of birds and bees, both of which play an important part in our garden ecosystem. They pollinate, hibernate, feed on insects, provide food for other critters, and overall contribute to a diverse ecosystem that we need at the garden.

BEES AT BARAGA

If you look closely at your plants on a warm sunny day, you'll see a variety of insects, some as small as a tiny fly (leafcutter bees) and others as big as a tiny bird (bumblebees). You'll also see many honeybees as well, mostly from local farms. If you go to the orchard on a warm, sunny day, you will be amazed at the honeybees around the flowers – in particular anything that has a blue bloom.

We also have a few mason bee 'hotels' now in place at the garden. You will see them scattered around the garden - one in the orchard, one in the southeast park, one on the shed. Byron (Plot 265) started this hobby a few years ago and has been happy to share his cocoons, knowledge, and interest in keeping these bees. Byron currently has about 3,000 cocoons sitting in his fridge, so there will be plenty of bees available in Spring. We hope to arrange a day in early March to hand out cocoons to anyone interested. You will have to provide your own 'homes' and be prepared to take care of them yourself.



BIRDS AT BARAGA

Birds are also an important part of our ecosystem at BARAGA. For many bird lovers, they also provide a source of wonder, joy, and curiosity. We have a good diversity of species visiting and living at our garden. Majestic Sandhill Cranes have been seen feeding on our paths in Spring, Crows regularly roost on our larger trees and can be seen dive-bombing the Hawks and Eagles that often visit, looking for our smorgasbord of rats, mice, voles and moles! Hummingbirds, Finches, Warblers, Thrushes, Nuthatches, and Towhees are a few examples of the smaller birds that visit. We have bird boxes that have housed Tree Swallows and other birds and we even have a bird house for a Peregrine Falcon placed in the east side park. We also find the odd bird's nest in a gardener's green house or shed gutter!

OUR ECOSYSTEM

Let's keep in mind the wonders of our garden don't just include planting seeds, growing plants and produce. We need all of our critters, especially the birds and the bees, to keep the diversity of our ecosystem healthy, natural and pesticide/herbicide free!

February 2021

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To plant a
GARDEN
is to
BELIEVE
in tomorrow

- Audrey Hepburn



VICE PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

by Dick Mackin

2020 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

As Vice President, one of my major functions is to ensure the garden infrastructure is kept in good repair. This work generally gets done by volunteers, either at work parties or as ad hoc projects. Where necessary, we have professionals come in to do some work and, of course, each year we hire a summer groundskeeper.

The work parties were challenging in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. Even so, we were able to complete a lot of work - clearing abandoned plots, maintaining the orchard, screening and distributing soil from our common compost along with bark mulch on pathways, trimming and clearing ditches, etc. - and the whole garden looks good because of all of your efforts! Last year was also a major tree pruning year, including the removal of several dead or diseased trees. This work was done by professional arborists under the direction of The City of Burnaby and we would like to extend our thanks to them.

Over the course of the year, between members' clean-up of their own plots and work parties, we were able to remove and dispose of over 48 tons of waste wood and scrap. The construction bin will remain on site in 2021 and we encourage members to clear plots of rotting wood which is a haven for rodents and fire ants. If you have wood you need help to clear, let us know and we can arrange to help at a work party.

Unfortunately, the cardboard recycling was contaminated with everything from compost material to metal, rubber, and other garbage. We can do better! Last year, we started a common compost pile at the east end of the garden which has been actively used. We also began to leave a trailer in the area to collect non compostable items which can be cleared at work parties. I hope the members appreciate these added conveniences.

I would like to add a special thank you to the following members who provided assistance with these projects as well as general maintenance and upkeep of the garden: Frank Sartori, George Krastev, John Djuric, Alan Utok, Andrew Davis, Sharon Jackson. I would also like to thank our summer student, Colin Roon, for all of his efforts. Colin has been invited to return again this summer.

2021 - THE YEAR AHEAD

For the 2021 season, our plans for improvements at the garden include:

- Repair more bridges and flower bed borders.
- Recruit 2 or 3 members to operate our tractor and mowers. We have jobs that can be done any time, aside from work parties, for people who can operate these machines. If you are interested please contact me.
- Recruit a couple of members to take on the task of wheelbarrow maintenance/repair to be done at times other than work parties.
- We will post a list of work that can be done at times other than work parties. This will help members who cannot attend work parties to complete their CSH.
- Install a solar power unit to provide electricity to our office and sheds, allowing us to purchase battery-powered tools and help members recharge theirs.
- Install security camera

14th Avenue Road Re-Paving



East end gardeners will be pleased to know that the City of Burnaby has re-paved 14th Avenue, which leads to the east entrance to the garden.

The City has also added gravel to the area next to the fence where members usually park, so conditions for parking should be much improved over the muddy, rutted mess it has been!

Please be sure to put down a tarp large enough for any soil, manure, or wood chip deliveries for your plot so we don't mess up the freshly-laid gravel!

ALOE, HOW ARE YOU?



LONG THYME NO SEE!





Rules for Plot Succession

In the event of the death or incapacitation of a plot renter, the following will apply:

a) The spouse or a family member listed on the membership form is entitled to garden that plot until the end of the year. The spouse or family member may succeed to the plot if they wish, provided they do not already rent another plot, regardless of city of residency.

b) An associate member is entitled to garden that plot until the end of the year and the associate member may succeed on the plot if desired if the following conditions have been met:

(i) There is no family member listed on the plot rental agreement who wants the plot;

(ii) The associate member has had associate member status, evidenced by payment of membership dues and being named on the rental agreement, for at least a period of three consecutive membership years;

(iii) They have adhered to BARAGA's Bylaws and Rules; provided the plot was not lost due to negligence.

Please also note that, according to Rule 1.2, only one plot shall be rented per household, until such time as the waitlist is reduced in size to less than 90 applicants.

Some members might remember that in 2010 and before, the orchard area was used as dumping ground. The area was not something nice to see.

The Board of the time decided that something had to be done, so the area was cleaned up as much as possible. A fence was added and several truckloads of soil were brought in.



The Board members wanted to create something easy to maintain, so they thought of a wildflower meadow. The flower meadow was nice the first year, in 2012. But, during the second year, the area grew weeds that were capable of swallowing any kid that might happen to wander into it by accident. Lot of members were needed to clean up all the weeds during several work parties.

Because a flower meadow requires extensive maintenance, the Board subsequently decided that creating a fruit tree orchard would be a better use of the area. So, in 2015, we started improving the soil by adding lots of composted material and planted the first few trees. Over the next few years, berries, vegetables, and flowers were added which makes the entire orchard look amazing in the summer - all thanks to dedicated volunteers!



The area is for the enjoyment of all members and we invite them to take a stroll or even take a break by sipping your favorite drink under the vines that cover the platform. The fruits and vegetables grown in the orchard are harvested during work parties and given to the members to take home. Last year we collected and donated hundreds of squash, potatoes, and apples.

The orchard is still a work in progress. More fruit trees and shrubs could be added and they need year-round maintenance. There is always lots of work that can be done on your own time which could easily cover your community service hours. If you want to get involved and learn about fruit tree care, write to directors@baraga.ca or look for me around the orchard at the garden.

Board of Directors

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2020 Financials & 2021 Budget



The Board discussed the year ahead and our 2021 budget at its January meeting.

The final budget was sent to members by email bulletin February 4. The budget proposes spending \$53,724 and estimates income of \$50,449 for the 2021 gardening season.

Overall, we are in a healthy operating position as confirmed in the 2020 Financial Statements.

We agreed to transfer up to \$10,000 from our contingency funds (term deposits) for the purchase of security cameras, a new riding lawnmower, and a new solar power system this year.

Our Financial Statements were approved by the Board at the February meeting and are posted in the Members section of the BARAGA website.

Last year, the Board changed our fiscal year which is now January 1 to December 31. This makes it easier to calculate GST and provide statements to the Canada Revenue Agency. As of December 31, 2020 BARAGA had \$89,794 in cash assets and \$14,305 in capital assets.

Many thanks to Reda Akladios, our Treasurer and Board Director for all his hard work on the budget and financial statements.

The Board is still hoping to be able to hold an Annual General Meeting sometime later in 2021 with members attending. This will depend on the public health measures in place during the Covid-19 pandemic.

HANG IN THERE
Spring
IS ALMOST HERE

BARAGA Contact Information

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Facebook Group

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