



It's a busy time for our hummingbirds here at BARAGA. They are loving all of our flowers and food we are providing for them. They especially love the Crocosmia right now! Hummingbirds love nectar, which is their primary source of energy, and they need a lot of it to keep those wings going! They also love the flowers that are long and tubular because these are hard for insects (like bees) to get at. Hummingbirds also eat insects and tree sap. They even sometimes use spider webs to help build their nest.

FLOWERS THAT ATTRACT HUMMINGBIRDS

Here are some flowers that are recommended for hummingbirds. Rather than use sugar solutions, consider planting more of these in your garden next year.

- Alstroemeria • Crocosmia • Hollyhock • Nicotiana • Red Hot Poker
- Calibrachoa • Digitalis • Honeysuckle • Penstemon • Salvia
- Canna Lilies • Fuchsia • Lobelia • Petunia • Wild Columbine



August 2021

Vice President's Update **2**

Work Party Tasks to Do Anytime **2**

An Alternative to Fruit Trees: Fruiting Shrubs **3**

Ideas for Water Conservation **3**

Reminders to Members **4**

Board of Directors & Contact Information **4**

2021 BARAGA Picnic - Mark Your Calendars!

Saturday, August 14th at 1:00 PM

This year our Annual Picnic will be a little different in consideration of minimizing possible Covid-19 risks. We ask you to bring your own food, drinks, coolers, cutlery, chairs and if possible tables to share with your own group.

Walter and Renzo will carry on their pasta and sausages tradition. We will ask people to line up safely with their own plates to get some helpings of this wonderful food.

We will still hold the Garden Contest: *Best Vegetable, Best Fruit, Best Mixed Presentation, Best Plot, Best Flower Bed, and Most Unusual.*

Weeds are
FLOWERS
too
ONCE
you get to
KNOW
them

- A.A. Milne



VICE PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

by Dick Mackin

2021 Season - BARAGA is Looking Great!

Hello to all Baraga members! I hope you are all enjoying the summer weather and your gardens are growing and producing well. The extreme hot weather of a couple of weeks ago presented quite a challenge but that seems to have passed.

I think the gardens are looking pretty nice and that is due to all of the efforts of our members at the work parties as well as Colin Roon, our summer groundskeeper. The work parties have been quite busy keeping the ditches trimmed, parking areas weeded, and compost areas tidy. The orchard has received a lot of effort this year and we hope to have a good crop of fruit for members to try. There has also been a good deal of additional produce raised for the food bank.

Special effort has been made to improve the East Park area with weeding and cleaning. A new wheelbarrow stand has been installed so the wheelbarrows won't be strewn about (thanks Frank and Tito). Our infrastructure is in good shape with no major problems. The bridge at the east end over the ditch was repaired and levelled (thanks Victor) and Allen and Andrew have been on top of any problems with the irrigation system. Speaking of which, *do you know where the main shut off valve is for your water line?* This is important information to have.

We continue to look into installing solar power but have had some bumps along the way with permitting from the city. We are exploring options. Speaking of the city, we need to thank them for repairing the Meadow Avenue entrance, making it safer to use and members at the work parties have painted the barriers a bright yellow. Thanks to Walter and Renzo for levelling the gate and making it easier to close and lock. Earlier this year the city also re-paved 14th avenue and rebuilt the parking area for us so, overall, things are looking great! If you see any problems or have a comment, please let us know at directors@baraga.ca

2021 Plot Inspections and BARAGA Rules

The BARAGA Rules and Bylaws set out the standards for all member gardeners to maintain through the year. Each month, the inspection committee walks through the garden and Board members often have another look to verify what was written down. Our goal is to be consistent and fair to everyone, and apply BARAGA's Rules and Policies evenly. Overall, we don't aim to end a plot rental or make gardeners upset, but rather improve the whole garden, reduce each other's frustrations, and keep all of BARAGA the productive and lovely place it is. That said, keeping up full plots that are approximately 1000 square feet is quite a lot of work. It's not a 6-visits-a-season undertaking!

Let us know if something temporary has come up and you cannot tend the garden, or ask someone to help with your plot. If you need to discuss an issue with us, you can email directors@baraga.ca or leave a message on our voicemail at (604) 600-6939. The BARAGA rules are pretty clear – it's the plot renter's responsibility to contact us in this type of situation.

Check your Junk Mail folder if you get BARAGA correspondence by email. When you fill out an email address on your annual membership form, we assume that you will receive bulletins and inspection letters at that email address. *If you're not getting the regular bulletins, then you need to contact us – something needs to be corrected!*

Work Party Tasks to Do Anytime

Want to do some Community Service Hours outside of a regular work party? Here are a few choices. Please take before & after photos of your work!

Screen Some of Last Year's Compost

Screeners can be found beside the bee shed. Put the screened soil on the pile or start a new pile.

Help with Pathway Improvements

Fill a wheelbarrow with wood chips and use it to fill pot holes and low areas along any of the main pathways. You can also use screened soil from the compost.

Work on Ditch Grass Trimming

Get a weed whacker and cut back the grass along our side of the ditch beside Meadow Avenue (aka South Path) or along the ditch at the east end of the garden property.

Clean Up the Compost Areas

Remove inappropriate material such as plastic, metal, wood and large branches. Dispose of the items in the garbage bins and add branches to the brown material pile in the parking lot.

Tidy Up the Garbage & Recycling Areas

Put items around the garbage containers and recycle bins in their proper place.

When you have completed 6 hours, print the form from the members area of the web site, complete it and send it and your pictures to workhours@baraga.ca or put them in an envelope and slide them under the office door.



AN ALTERNATIVE TO FRUIT TREES: FRUITING SHRUBS

by Ramiro Coto

Ideas for Water Conservation

Several years ago, we put up a notice on the office whiteboard to try and get ideas from our gardeners on how to conserve water at BARAGA. Here were some of your ideas:

- Leave buckets out to collect rainwater
- Water at the base of plants
- Stop watering so much
- Wash your vegetables in a bucket, then use the bucket to water plants
- Water once per week
- Post water meter records on office board
- Drink Beer!

These are all excellent ideas and hopefully some people have thought a little more carefully about our water situation, considering the drought conditions we've had for most of the summer.

Our water budget for 2021 - \$14,000 - hasn't changed in several years. Perhaps this is a good sign that gardeners have learned to be wiser in their use of water.

We are in our fourth year of major drought conditions caused by climate change.

We have just reached record heat temperatures and we are now going into the full heat of the summer.

We have worked hard together as a community to keep our gardens and our community garden healthy, vibrant, and a place of refuge. Let's keep working together to **BE WATER SMART!**

As many BARAGA gardeners may know, I am crazy about fruiting trees and shrubs. However, I have always known that fruit trees need a lot space, at least the "normal" ones. Is there an alternative? Yes. A well-placed and cared-for fruit shrub can easily rival a small fruit tree in terms beauty and pounds of fruit produced.

There are several plots in our community garden that have one or more large blueberry shrubs that produce pounds and pounds of fruit on just one shrub! What if you do not like blueberries or they do not do well in your plot? Are there any other fruiting shrubs you can consider? Yes there are. Below is a short list of fruit shrubs that are easy to grow.

RASPBERRIES

These are also very easy to grow, but you have to contain them. Otherwise, they can send out runners that can take over your plot, and the plots of your neighbours, too!

HONEYBERRIES (HASKAP)

These have been described as a combination of blueberry, raspberry, and blackberry. They are great in pies, cookies, smoothies, etc. They are easy to grow, but you have to get the right variety and learn about their proper pruning.

GOUMI BERRIES

These berries are not too sour, and are sweet. They need full sun, and little to no care after planting.



CURRENTS & GOOSE BERRIES

There are hundreds of different types of currants and gooseberries, and the ones I have seen around the gardens are loaded with fruits around late June early July.

ARONIA & ELDERBERRIES

If you are into the "just healthy" fruits, you might want to try Aronia or Elderberries. Both of these shrubs produce lots of fruits, but they are usually planted for their medicinal or health properties. In other words, they are not that good eating them straight from the plant.

All these fruiting shrubs are featured in the orchard. If you see me and you want to know more about these shrubs, please come talk to me. I would be happy to show you what we have. Please remember that what is in the orchard and all of our common areas belong to BARAGA, and we want to take care that this bounty is shared with all members and, when possible, the food bank. We don't mind members taking a few berries or fruit, but in moderation and with respect for fellow gardeners. Also, please do not plant any trees or shrubs in the common areas unless you have approval from the board. BARAGA is a wonderful place. Let's all do our part to keep it that way!

Board of Directors

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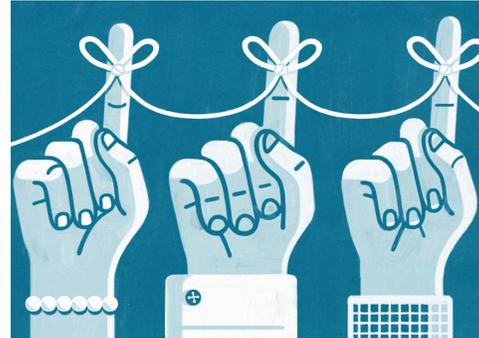
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Reminders to Members



ENSURE E-MAIL DELIVERABILITY

Please make sure you can receive notices from us by email. We send bulletins, inspection notices, personal emails, the Seedling and other important information that is sometimes very important for you to know.

If you have a 'junk or spam' folder, please ensure that BARAGA emails from inspections and directors do not end up in these folders.

KEEP COMPOST PILES CLEAN

Please make sure you put COMPOST only in the compost piles. Better yet, compost on your plot!

Did you know that dead pea vines make a great mulch?!

REMEMBER THAT PLOT RENTALS AT BARAGA ARE A PRIVILEGE

Our wait list is currently at 316 with a 4-5 year expected wait time. Please consider how lucky you are to have a plot or even more than one plot!

COMPLETE YOUR COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

You need to complete 6 hours of Community Service Hours by October 31. If you can't attend work parties, there are lists of things you can do on the bulletin boards.

BE DILIGENT WITH RECYCLING

Please recycle responsibly. All of your plastic containers should be taken home for you to recycle at home. We have a cardboard recycling bin.

Take your small garbage items home with you rather than throwing them in the compost pile!

What Does it Mean If I Receive a Plot Inspection Letter?

If warranted, plot inspection letters are sent to the email address or mailing address we have on file for you shortly after monthly inspections. Each letter is titled the 1st, 2nd or 3rd letter. The 2nd letter indicates the situation is serious – you need to reply to the email or letter. When someone receives the 3rd letter, the situation is reviewed by the Board. To be clear, your ability to continue at BARAGA may be in jeopardy.

- 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. Gardeners are responsible for the North and West paths around their plot.
- Every plot must have a flower bed at one end (2x20 feet or 2x10 in a half plot) that has annuals, perennials, or small shrubs in the bed.
- Fruit-bearing trees and shrubs cannot be higher than 7 feet.
- 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

BARAGA Contact Information

Mailing Address

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

Telephone

(604) 600-6939 (voicemail only)

Facebook Group

www.facebook.com/groups/BARAGA