



Smart Watering vs WATERING

by Ramiro Coto

I think most of us know by now that we all need to change the way we do things. The same old ways will not do in a world with a changing climate. Even in our little BARAGA corner we are already being impacted in a big way by climate change. This past year (2021) for example, we used far more water than we have ever used before. To be exact we used \$3,500.00 more water than has been the average in the past. If we do not change the way we water, this number will simply keep going up every year.

The following is a list of Do's and Don'ts when using water at BARAGA:

DO use as much rain water as you can. All you need is a couple of plastic water drums placed next to your greenhouse and they will fill up magically with free water during rainy days.

DO fill up your watering can from your rain water drum. It is easier to fill up your watering can in a drum.

DO wash your vegetables and hands in a bucket. Washing your vegetables using the running tap is hugely wasteful.

DO hand watering. Hand watering helps you avoid over watering and watering of areas that do not need it.

DO watering only if the soil is dry. Watering plants that do not need it may actually be harmful. Blueberries for example, will become chlorotic and stunted if their roots are constantly wet.

DO report any leaks or damaged water taps. We have a few members in charge of making sure our pipes and taps are repaired quickly if there are any leaks. They do not have time to do a daily check of the whole system so they need our help with the prompt report of any issues.

DO NOT use sprinklers. Sprinklers use too much water and water everything, things such as weeds for example.

DO NOT leave hoses running unattended.

Each year our summers are becoming longer and drier, and since our gardens must have water, we need to become even more efficient in the way we use water.

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You can
CUT
all the
FLOWERS
but you cannot keep
SPRING
from coming

- Pablo Neruda



VICE PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

by Dick Mackin

Happy New Year to all BARAGA Members

This is the time of the year that many of our members are hunkering down with a hot cup of tea and their seed catalogues, thinking about the beautiful fruits and vegetables they will raise this year. And, given the weather we have been enduring the last few weeks, I suspect that not everyone will have tea in their cups.

Some Thoughts for the Spring

In 2021 we disposed of approximately 36 tons of waste material in the construction bins.

If you are having problems with rats, check around for piles of unused lumber that have been on plots for several years. Rats love to nest there.

Trees and bushes need to be pruned so they are not interfering with pathways. Trees must be pruned to 7 ft in height.

Do you know where your water shut of valve is? A surprising number of members do not know.

In April and May we do not have a hired person to mow the grass, and rely upon volunteers to help with this task. If you would like to help, the mowers are easy to drive and we would give you training.

If you have trade skills that can be used at the garden, let us know and we will call upon you if we have a need.

Composting your own green waste on your plot is the easiest and least expensive way to enrich your soil. Mulching with leaves in the fall will help kill the winter weeds and can be dug in come spring to add much needed organic matter. The worms and fungi will thank you.

See you at the garden.



Some BARAGA news from 2021

2021 was a very successful year at BARAGA. We managed to keep the garden going with the help of a hard-working board, hard-working members and the support of the City of Burnaby.

Some highlights include:

- Successful work parties clearing/ cleaning plots for renewal, clearing tons of garbage, cleaning up and maintaining the east parks, beautifying the orchard/common areas. 40
- Major pruning with the help of the City of Burnaby.
- New paving and parking in the east entrance of the garden.
- Welcoming 15 new members to BARAGA.
- Donations of huge amounts of produce to Ryan's Rainbow food bank.
- Commitment by board members to continue until the next AGM.
- Some actual face-to-face Board meetings in the garden.
- Filming in our orchard for the Netflix show, Virgin River and more use of BARAGA for filming for the tv show, Batwoman.
- Start of the Ambassador program. Volunteers always needed.



BIRTHDAY

News

The Ambassador Program

by Sheila Stickney

The BARAGA Ambassador Program was started as a pilot project last year, as part of BARAGA's anti-theft campaign with 6 people participating, wearing colorful orange BARAGA t-shirts. The purpose is to be visible throughout the garden to discourage unwelcome visitors, to welcome new members and answer questions, to report problems to directors, and to give information such as the location of water shut-off valves in case of broken lines, next work party, etc. to our members.

Feedback from participants has indicated that being an ambassador was a good way to meet fellow gardeners, to report problems and concerns to directors, to encourage members to report thefts and incidents, and to provide information about how to complete and report community service hours and submit the forms. They also informed non-members about our no trespassing policy.

If you are interested in participating in the Ambassador Program for your community service hours credit, email directors@baraga.ca. You must have a good command of the English language, enjoy talking to and sharing information with our members, and be able to walk about the garden. Members walk about in pairs, wearing the BARAGA t-shirt and carrying a clip board. Most of the walkabouts are in the evenings from 7-9, or 2 hours before dark.

Five-Year Lease Renewal with City of Burnaby and our 40th Birthday!

We have had a lease agreement with the City of Burnaby for 40 years starting with our incorporation in 1982. We are happy to report that the City has approved our lease renewal for the next 5 years. We applied in late fall and our City manager/liaison was very supportive of our organization and what we do. Our application included documentation of the membership, AGM's, budgets, review of the past 5 years, our bylaws, policies and procedures and proof of insurance. The application was approved by council in early December pending details of our insurance coverage. The major concern of council was the number of non-Burnaby residents on the membership list. We clarified that after the City of Burnaby required that we only allow Burnaby residents to apply, we remained vigilant in requiring proof of Burnaby residence and have communicated this through our website and any information requested for the waiting list.

40TH

ANNIVERSARY



We are VERY fortunate to have a municipality that is food-security focussed, that supports community gardening and that respects the integrity of non-profit organizations to run their organizations effectively. **SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CITY OF BURNABY!**

Board of Directors

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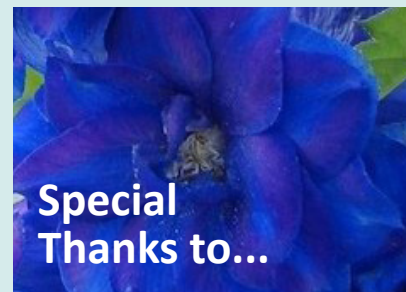
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LEONG'S NURSERY AND WING WONG'S NURSERY
for their significant donations of seedlings

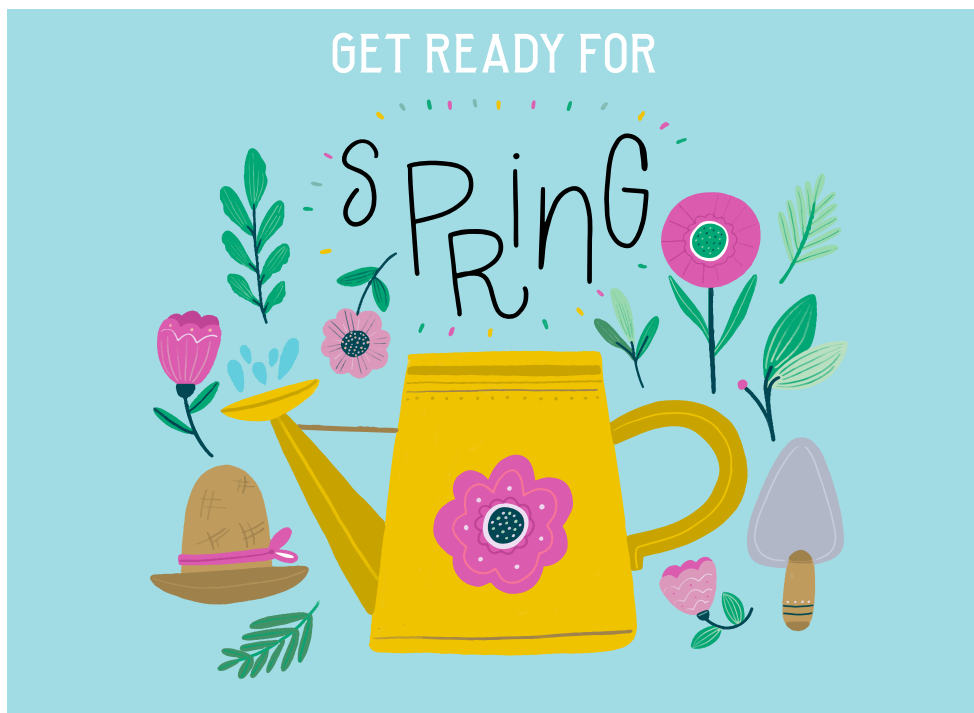
WEST COAST SEEDS

FRANK, GEORGE, JOHN AND MANY OTHER GARDENERS
who went above and beyond in helping us out at the garden.

NOELENE R., our garden work party/coffee ambassador! Noelene will no longer be gardening with us and we will miss her dearly.

DOUG ENG, our intrepid, long-standing, hard-working member of our board.
Doug will be moving to Texada with his partner, Chris and both will be dearly missed.

CARLY FRANKLIN for her creation of our BARAGA logo, Seedling and the many beautiful signs in our garden.



BARAGA Contact Information

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