

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015 REPORTS

### PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

I would like to begin my report by mentioning one of the many heartwarming exchanges I had with a volunteer builder at one of our new gardens. While hauling one of many, many wheelbarrows full of soil with a big smile on her face, she turned to me and said that she had lived in her neighbourhood for 5 years, but until she became involved in this project she hadn't ever really felt like it was home. This sort of reaction to our projects is what gives me a passion for community gardens.

This passion was again richly rewarded this past year. First, because we had a very wonderful season in all our existing gardens, growing beautiful produce and engaging neighbours with each other. Second, we expanded our family of gardens by two, adding to our list the new Lynn Valley Lions and the Garibaldi Park Community Gardens. Third, we had the opportunity to link with the Master Gardener Program. This was a hugely successful pilot project headed by Mary Ellen McCallum, our wonderful resident MG at Lynn Valley Lions garden, and based on this experience we are now working to expand the program into all our gardens.

The success of our existing gardens as always rests with our amazing group of garden coordinators, who manage the day-to-day functioning of the gardens. They spend many hours making sure emails are answered, waiting lists are managed, and the garden is maintained so that we can present a pleasant and welcoming environment to the whole community. Thank you to all of you. And thank you also to all the gardeners who happily assist with the garden maintenance as the coordinators couldn't do it all without you!

I would also like to say a special thanks to two of our coordinators who have taken on projects beyond their formal role. First I'd like to acknowledge my gratitude to Susan from the Lillooet garden. Susan has unfailingly designed the many posters, handouts, public signs etc. that we require for much of our work. To say I am a bit weak on technology is an understatement, so the fact that I could call on Susan anytime for help has been an incredible relief to me. Second, I'd like to thank Dianna from the Queen Mary garden who took on the challenge of developing a new website. This project became even bigger than Dianna anticipated due to disruptions caused by the school strike since she was working with a group of students to develop the new site. Thank you Dianna for your perseverance in moving this project forward despite the unexpected challenges; what a fantastic legacy!

The new gardens also had tons of support, both financial and in sweat equity. First, I'd like to thank our funders and in-kind donors. For Lynn Valley Lions Community garden, I'd like to thank the Lynn Valley Lions, Vancity, Evergreen Foundation, Miura Property Services, Webbcon, Gorilla General Contracting, Poole Construction, Dalton Trucking, Riverside Ironworks, Park & Tilford, WestCoast Seeds, and Wholefoods. For the Garibaldi Park Community Garden I'd like to acknowledge the generosity of WholeFoods, Ian Cunningham-Dunlop, North Shore Law, Vancouver Coastal Health, Miura Property Services, Cotton Brothers Bobcat & Excavating, Signarama and Deep Cove Dental. In addition to incredibly generous financial donations, the Lynn Valley Lions, Vancity, WholeFoods Green Team, Ian Cunningham-Dunlop, and Jaime Ashby from North Shore Law contributed much appreciated time and muscle to actually build the gardens.

Of course, before we could successfully fundraise and put our build team together we had to have land, a precious and expensive commodity on the North Shore. Therefore, I want to acknowledge the generous support provided by District of North Vancouver Council, who made the land available for both these gardens, as well as, covering the costs for the water hook-up. Additionally, the District staff have been incredibly supportive from our very first exploratory meeting, through the community consultations and into the construction stages. While every one of the staff was always available and helpful, I'd like to particularly thank Cristina Rucci who was lead contact to our group and an absolute wealth of knowledge and delight to work with.

And since sweat equity is always part of a new garden build I naturally want to thank the volunteer builders for both these new projects. Without the hundreds of hours donated by community members, who happily are now also our

# NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY

gardeners, the projects could not have been completed. It was wonderful working with the groups at both our new gardens. I was incredibly impressed with how hard they worked and heartened to observe them having fun and meeting new neighbours while doing so. While I suspect that the sale of muscle relaxants spiked over the last 6 months on the North Shore, I'm quite sure that the lovely new relationships formed through this hard work made those sore muscles worth it.

Last but not least, I'd like to thank the rest of the Board of the North Shore Community Garden Society for including me in this group and its passion for creating spaces that grow affordable, healthy food and facilitate community engagement. It has been a pleasure and I wish the journey could continue. However, life being what it is, my time is becoming much more constrained in the next while so I will not be seeking re-election for the role of President. While I would love to remain involved and see where the next few years take the group, I'm going to have to enjoy watching the next evolution of the society from the side lines. Thank you all for your work in the gardens and on our committees.

I wish everyone the very, very best in the gardens and your life in general.



Thank you all for your work in the gardens and on our committees.

*Maja Regehr*

President

North Shore Community Garden Society



## QUEEN MARY COMMUNITY GARDEN ANNUAL REPORT

What a fabulous year in the garden - no construction, great weather, a growing season that ran into November, and most importantly, an incredible response from nearly all the gardeners to take a more active part in the everyday tasks at the garden ....

This year we welcomed 12 new gardeners into the Queen Mary garden, and we are so pleased to have them join us. However, during the summer we had a lot of people express interest in gardening at Queen Mary, and our wait list now stands at 141! We implemented shared compost duty, which was somewhat successful (but still needs some fine tuning), and held work parties throughout the spring and summer on rotating weeknights, which proved to be a big hit, as we saw many new faces over the seven months it ran. We installed new hose reels in part of the garden as an experiment which proved to be very popular, so we'll try to add more this year, and we got our own 'lawn care specialist' - Trevor - who kept the lawn mown and looking great all year long. Our volunteer sign in sheets filled up quickly with people helping out, and we thank everyone who gave their time to making the garden a thriving, happy and well cared for place.



After the construction last year, the lawn was reseeded, but this year, we decided to enhance the entrance to the garden, and redo the two new flowerbeds at the base of the sidewalk leading into the garden. One side became an extension of the EGP sharing garden that is filled with berries, so we continued the theme, and planted a dozen blueberry bushes that hopefully will provide a delicious snack for people out for a stroll. The other side was turned into a lovely patch of grass near the picnic table, bordered by a beautiful perennial bed filled with crocosmia, lavender, lambs ear and ground covers, and a climbing rose to hide the back of the compost bin!

We did encounter some mischief in the garden this year, with some theft of produce being reported, but it appeared to be more vandalism than need of food. A couple of young boys were caught pilfering from plots, and one came back to one of our evening work parties, with his Mom and Dad, and spent an hour pulling weeds with us - hopefully a lesson learned! Once again, we were lucky enough to have many people stop by the garden each night in the summer, when out for a walk, and our picnic table was used almost daily by people who made the garden their lunch time destination. We picked the only rainy day of the entire season to hold our first attempt at a seed swap and seedling sale, we installed our beautiful iron numbers on all our plots and we all reaped bounties of vegetables and flowers from a season that just kept on producing. Even when the frost should have been on the pumpkins, we found this happy fellow, hanging out in the garden, enjoying the fall sunshine!



## NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY

We were very fortunate to again have the North Shore Recycling folks hold two compost workshops for us this year, and they also came back for a sneak - peak review, and graded our efforts. Congratulations to Marge who earned an 'A+' in their books for being the compost captain on the 'best compost bin we've seen in a community garden.' Although the workshops were open to the neighbourhood, they were only attended by gardeners, and we wondered if the novelty of a community garden in the area had worn off. And then came our July 1 event - Fireworks and Watermelon; we put up the decorations, cut the watermelon which was graciously donated by Thrifty Foods and waited for people to stop by. We had neighbours, and gardeners and other gardens' gardeners and visitors galore! Many stopped for a cool slice of watermelon on their evening stroll, and lots of us stayed until darkness settled, to see if the fireworks were visible from the garden. Imagine how fabulous it turned out to be when the fireworks appeared to be going off at the end of our sidewalk - score another plus for our great location! We're planning on this being an annual event, and we hope you'll all stop by this year to join us for some watermelon and a feast for your eyes.



Respectfully submitted,

*Dianna Allen & Daren Toppin*

Garden Coordinators

Queen Mary Community Garden



## LILLOOET PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN ANNUAL REPORT

Lillooet Park Community Garden has become a neighbourhood gem. It's the place where people stroll by and admire what is growing. Little children come and pick the strawberries and raspberries and some help their parents water their plots. We also see many happily munching on kale and beans.



Fair weather at the beginning of the year prompted gardeners to put out their peas but something, pea weevils perhaps, caused many to not sprout. Other challenges were flea beetles eating our tomato seedlings but warmer weather made our tomatoes grow and as such, outgrow the flea beetles. We had a compost workshop and extended the invitation to our neighbours. It was attended by several gardeners and a couple of neighbours. We always learn something new! Thanks to Rose Vlaar at the North Shore Recycling for providing the workshop. To keep the garden looking it's best, we had two clean-up parties, one in the spring and one in the fall. The fall clean-up also included a revitalization of the strawberry beds where the beds were edged with rocks and built up with more soil and compost. The clean-up parties are a great collaboration amongst the gardeners and it's great to see everyone working, enjoying iced-tea and catching up on the latest veggies gossip growing in the garden.

The garden plots have new cast iron numbers replacing the laminate paper ones. They add a nice touch to the overall look of the garden. We also have a new bulletin board that was built from scraps with the lock being the most expensive item at \$8.00. We welcome gardeners to email us your photos of your prized veggie, a weirdly shaped carrot or your popular poppies!



A number of our gardeners have left to join the newly built Lynn Valley and Garibaldi garden. We wish them well in their new spaces. We are so happy to welcome eager new gardeners to Lillooet in the new year! We want to extend our thanks to Scott and his dad for taking the time to resolve our garden gate problem. We have a few options and hopefully a resolution will happen in 2015. Also thanks to Jenn for arranging to have the City of North Vancouver provide us with a load of leaves for our compost bins. The EGP sharing garden has a new volunteer. So in addition to our own Marj, Suzanne and Susan, we will be joined by Anne in the new year. The EGP would like to thank those who dropped off their extra produce for the Harvest Project and would encourage other to consider this. We hate to see unpicked vegetables go to waste.

Thanks to everyone for making Lillooet Park a wonderful place to garden. We look forward to seeing you in 2015!



Respectfully submitted,  
*Susan Wallace & Isabelle Howells*  
 Garden Coordinators  
 Lillooet Park Community Garden

## CHARROS COMMUNITY GARDEN ANNUAL REPORT

This year was absolutely amazing! Things started off with a variable winter – it wasn't very cold and was ideal for planting fall bulbs. The rain and light amount of snow allowed for a nice winter planting season. Spring soon rolled around, which led to a new coordinator, Kate Sandilands. A great addition to the Charros team! As flowers were beginning to bloom, so was the start of preparation for a busy summer season. New signs were created to protect gardener's produce from theft. They were hung on each gate as a friendly reminder of who this garden belongs to. This turned out to be a success, as the amount of theft diminished.

All the gardeners had a huge success during the summer growing season. Tomatoes were the most popular to grow and did excellent! During the summer months, we held a couple of summer work parties. The objective was to clean up the big compost pile in the back corner, as well as tackle organization in the shed and of course, weeding. Gardeners who couldn't do some of labour intensive work, baked cookies instead. This allowed everyone to participate and create a loving community within the garden. The work parties were well attended and very successful. Everyone loved pitching in and making this garden shine beautifully.

Near the end of the season, a huge work party with lunch was provided to tackle the perimeter garden. Another successful attendance and the task was accomplished rather quickly with everyone present! This work party was followed by a hot lasagna lunch, allowing gardeners to mingle and admire the work that was completed. An information session was held a couple weeks later at the north shore neighborhood house. The meeting was created to hear input from the gardeners on what they would like to see in the new year. The final decision was to prepare and look into a new seating area for the garden by the shed.



Looking forward to the new year at Charros!



Sincerely,  
*Danielle Saele & Kate Sandilands*  
Garden Coordinators  
Charros Community Garden



## NORTH VANCOUVER CITY HALL COMMUNITY GARDEN ANNUAL REPORT

Another fantastic year of gardening has come and gone as we celebrate the end of our 2<sup>nd</sup> full season of gardening at City Hall. We started the year off with a bang with close to 100% City Hall Garden member participation at the Annual General Meeting. At the meeting (Sheila Cano co-coordinator pictured here), joined as a co-coordinator of the City Hall Garden. It has been a welcome addition bringing great gardening experience and perspective in helping build a strong membership and garden. We are a fairly small garden with only 22 family members, and so we are gradually getting to know one another better to jump in to help out!



Our first big event of the year (and becoming an annual event!), was compost training day. Here we welcome an expert to come in to teach and train all the gardeners how to manage our compost. This year the North Shore Recycling Society sent Tracey to train us, she also brought along some very helpful compost aerators that make bringing oxygen into the “mass” much easier. Once again we had near 100% participation in this workshop and the membership is doing a fantastic job managing our compost.

We were blessed with incredible summer weather so all the plots really looked great. Productivity was high especially with tomatoes and other heat loving plants. This kept everyone on their toes with watering. We had some interesting plants growing in our garden this year while people experimented with new and different varieties including several 8 foot tall Quinoa plants! Yes, gardening is an adventure, and we know we have to be patient as we try new things. The fall brought our final workshop with Mike the Mountain Gardener who is a professional biologist and an expert on least toxic pest control and....garlic! We had a very informative workshop with Mountain Mike and now everyone knows everything they ever wanted to know about garlic, aphids, earwigs, and cottage moth, and.... well many more critters that make our plants disappear. City Hall Garden member Karen Duthie organized this workshop, thank you Karen!



That wraps up another successful gardening season! Well...actually, most City Hall Gardeners keep their plots going all winter so ... for us we are just entering into another season to garden, but like every other gardener out there we can't wait for spring!

Here's to a wonderful gardening season in 2015,



Best wishes,  
*Susan Kurbis & Sheila Cano*  
 Garden Coordinators  
 North Vancouver City Hall Community Garden

## ST. ANDREWS COMMUNITY GARDEN ANNUAL REPORT



St. Andrews Community Garden is small, only 11 plots, but we have a big impact. We are located directly on the street beside St. Andrews Church. Children coming to the schools in the education building pass our gardens and watch the growth and change every day. Small children visiting St. Andrews Park also watch the garden grow. Neighbours walking along the street will stop to chat about gardening and the particular plants in the gardens.

We began the garden season this year with a potluck dinner in the church hall. Rev. Judith Hardcastle, minister of the church, is very involved with our garden and enjoys our social activities too. It is the perfect opportunity for gardeners to share gardening problems and successes.

Luckily for us, the church hired a summer student who is a student at Kwalicum University studying urban and sustainable agriculture. So she prepared a workshop for all of the North Shore Community Gardeners on the topic of natural pest control and small space gardening. She gave lots of interesting suggestions and all of the attendees were able to share their experiences and successes with their own gardens. Because our garden is new and many others have been gardening for many years, some of us were able to benefit greatly.

At the end of the summer we held another potluck dinner to celebrate the end of the growing season. At that time a group decided to help weed and organize the church gardens. We were able to spend a couple of days weeding and removing dead plants from the church beds.

This was the first full year that our garden has been in operation. It began in June of 2013. All the gardeners would like to express our appreciation to Judith Hardcastle and St. Andrews United Church for providing this opportunity for us to have a community garden on the church property.



Kind regards,

*Faye Maddock*

Garden Coordinator

St. Andrews Community Garden



## LYNN VALLEY LIONS COMMUNITY GARDEN ANNUAL REPORT

The Lynn Valley Lions Community Garden was created at the Lynn Valley Recreation Centre, from a plot of grass that was transformed in little more than a week this past July. The creation of our garden was driven by the dedication and hard work of Maja, along with funding and (seemingly endless) volunteer support from the Lynn Valley Lions Club. The hours they committed provided a solid foundation before the build weekend (July 18-20) and allowed the build to proceed quickly and smoothly. It was amazing to watch and extremely gratifying to be a part of for the large turnout of volunteers. Requests for garden plots exceeded the number of plots (45) before the build was completed, and our waitlist was started as soon as the plot "lottery" was completed.



# NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY

With less than half a growing season remaining most of our gardeners forged ahead planting their plots with a wide variety of flowers and produce. The spectacular weather stretched our growing season well into October with amazing results, as plants flourished and by the end of August it appeared that we had been growing since early spring. A well-attended Grand Opening Celebration was hosted at the garden Sunday, September 28 with food and refreshments served up by the Lynn Valley Lions Club. Workshops were offered by our Master Gardener (Mary Ellen MacCallum – autumn in the garden and planning for spring) and North Shore Recycling (Rose Vlaar on composting) and District Mayor Richard Walton presided over the official opening of the Lynn Valley Lions Community Garden.



As the days lengthen we can already look forward to spring planting and welcoming new gardeners to our community as several of our original members participated in the building of the Garibaldi Community Garden and were successful in acquiring plots in the new garden. Best wishes for the New Year to everyone and a special thanks to Maja (and Glenn) for all the hours and effort you put into making it happen!



Kind regards,  
*Jessica Stanley & Steve Korsia*  
Garden Coordinators  
Lynn Valley Lions Community Garden

## TREASURER'S REPORT: HIGHLIGHTS

- As at Dec 31, 2014 the North Shore Community Garden Society has \$18,898.65 in our bank account.
- **Garden fees are due on March 1, 2015.** Please give your payments to your Garden Coordinators. Cheques can be made out to North Shore Community Garden Society.
- If there are questions I would be happy to address them at any time. It's been a pleasure to serve as your Treasurer.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2014

<b>Opening Balance in Fund:</b>	
Queen Mary Community Garden	3,243.87
Lillooet Park Community Garden	(96.22)
Charros Community Garden	2,666.26
North Vancouver City Hall Community Garden	(7.25)
St. Andrews Community Garden	60.46
General Fund	110.00
Contingency Fund Interest Earned	43.71
	6,020.83
Blue Shore Financial Membership Shares	26.98
	<b>6,047.81</b>
<b>Funds Received:</b>	
<b>Plot Rentals</b>	
Queen Mary Community Garden	2,039.00
Lillooet Park Community Garden	713.00
Charros Community Garden	801.40
North Vancouver City Hall Community Garden	186.00
St. Andrews Community Garden	99.00
Lynn Valley Lions Community Garden	568.00
<b>Donations &amp; Grants</b>	
Lillooet Park Community Garden	1,672.00
Garibaldi Park Community Garden	10,356.35
Lynn Valley Lions Community Garden	22,000.00
	<b>38,434.75</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>	
Queen Mary Community Garden	1,268.38
Lillooet Park Community Garden	1,235.56
Charros Community Garden	313.18
North Vancouver City Hall Community Garden	90.84
St. Andrews Community Garden	37.08
Lynn Valley Lions Community Garden	14,732.90
Garibaldi Park Community Garden	13,222.86
	<b>30,900.80</b>

**N O R T H   S H O R E   C O M M U N I T Y   G A R D E N   S O C I E T Y**

<b><i>Closing Funds:</i></b>	
Queen Mary Community Garden	4,014.49
Lillooet Park Community Garden	1,053.22
Charros Community Garden	3,154.48
North Vancouver City Hall Community Garden	87.91
St. Andrews Community Garden	122.38
Garibaldi Park Community Garden	2,133.49
Lynn Valley Lions Community Garden	7,835.10
Capilano	-
General Fund	251.50
Donations Account	100.00
Contingency / Savings Fund Interest Earned	101.03
VanCity Interest Earned	12.97
	18,866.57
Blue Shore Financial Membership Shares	27.08
VanCity Membership Earned	5.00
	<b>18,898.65</b>
<b><i>Balance Sheet as at Dec 31, 2014</i></b>	
<b><i>Assets</i></b>	
Balance of Petty Cash Funds on hand	224.84
VanCity Bank Account	13,023.57
VanCity Membership Shares	5.00
VanCity Donation Account	100.00
Blue Shore Financial Bank Account	417.12
Blue Shore Financial Savings Account / Contingency Fund	5,101.04
Blue Shore Financial Membership Shares	27.08
	<b>18,898.65</b>
<b><i>Equity</i></b>	
Garden Members Equity	18,898.65
	<b>18,898.65</b>