

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018 REPORTS**

### **PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT**

Walking around North Vancouver recently, I see signs of Spring coming with daffodil leaves up a few inches already. Our annual general meeting is another sign of Spring for the members of the North Shore Community Garden Society.

The members of Queen Mary Community Garden had the most “interesting” year. Last Spring, we expected to finish spending the last of our 2016 Living City Grant from the City of North Vancouver on re-painting the shed and picnic table. But the Lonsdale Energy Corp (LEC) had different ideas. They wanted to dig a big trench through the garden to lay pipes for Queen Mary School. Therefore, the gardeners had to be done in their gardens by the end of October 2017 because the garden was locked up for the winter in preparation for the work. Once the pipes have been covered up in the trench, we are hoping to have the garden back better than ever by April 1. While LEC's original estimate was that they would have to rebuild 20-25 plots, they now think that it will be less than 10. A big thank you to all of the gardeners who emptied their plots early and to those who came out to move leaves and compost in our pre-construction (or should it be, pre-destruction?) work party.

In other garden news, after four years, St. Andrews Community Garden has decided to stand alone and leave our society. Many thanks to Faye Maddock for your service as their garden coordinator. We wish you well in your gardening adventures.

In 2017, thanks to the efforts of our secretary, Carley Fitzpatrick, we entered into our first sponsorship agreement with Thrifty Foods on Marine Drive in the City of North Vancouver. As part of that sponsorship, Thrifty Foods hosted 2 barbecue fundraisers for our society: one on B.C. Day at Queen Mary, and the other on Slide the City Day at Charros. In addition, we helped them celebrate at their September birthday barbecue with a birdfeeder-making activity in their parking lot. A big collective hug goes out to Ryan and his team at Thrifty Foods for their support, and we look forward to another successful year.



As usual, North Shore Neighbourhood House and the Edible Garden Project staff have been big supporters of our activities in our gardens and in providing meeting space and services to our society. We look forward to continuing that relationship into 2018 and beyond.

The Master Gardener talks were increased this year with two new volunteers, Rosemarie Adams and Tania Xenis, and with talks at additional gardens besides Lynn Valley. Unfortunately, Mary-Ellen MacCallum, our first Master Gardener, moved to Victoria in mid-summer and we were sorry to see her go.

## NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY

This year, the board members and garden volunteers took part in a number of community events with booths with kid-friendly garden activities at both Lynn Valley and Parkgate Days. In this and many other ways, my fellow board members provided support to myself and the society for which I am extremely grateful.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the City and District of North Vancouver because without their support, there would be no community gardens. Thank you for making land available for the gardens and being such good landlords. In particular, a big thank you goes out to Chandra Lesmeister at the City and Cristina Rucci at the District.

It is time to start planning for another year in our community gardens. Our wonderful garden coordinators have been collecting dues and beginning to plan work parties and compost schedules. And another year of putting in work on these tasks toward your community hours is upon us, too. I hope you see the value in working together to make our gardens a source of pride in our neighbourhoods.

With wishes for a great growing season ahead.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Brennan  
President  
North Shore Community Garden Society



## NORTH VANCOUVER CITY HALL COMMUNITY GARDEN ANNUAL REPORT

Our fifth year of gardening at City Hall has wrapped up and we are already looking ahead to the coming season. The 2017 Annual General Meeting was attended by nearly all of our gardeners, and as we had a high turnover, there were many eager new faces. In our breakout session at the AGM we set new tasks for garden maintenance, and ideas for encouraging more volunteer hours involvement.

On April 1st, we welcomed several new gardeners at our first work party, and one brought a cake donated by Thrifty Foods! That added to the cheer on a cloudy damp day. Our experienced gardeners helped to orient new folks to the compost system, weeding pathways and maintenance of tools in the shed. Every two weeks we send out reminders at the start of each compost duty period, and this system continues to work fairly well with everyone contributing in turn.



Our notice board inside the shed works well to facilitate communications between gardeners, notifying each other about good places to collect brown leaves, information about organic manure sales, and arranging exchanges such as watering other plots while people are on vacation. Many thanks to those who added value to our garden this year by stenciling plot numbers on our raised bed boxes, installing hooks in the shed for hanging up tools, and bundling up the wooden stakes at the end of the fall to help tidy up the shed. It is a very small shed, so this was a big help. The City had the exterior of the shed repainted, which was most welcome.

While we experienced less theft from our garden compared to past years, we had an ongoing problem with vandalization of our signage. Lianne Shyry from the City's Engineering, Parks & Environment Department provided us with new laminated signs. However, they tend to deteriorate with the weather and we look forward to a new system for our compost bins to identify which ones to use. Chandra



Lesmeister, also from the City department, assisted us with our request to have a safety cone placed on the utility hole cover, which is protruding from the pathway due to erosion of the gravel. Chandra also fielded our concern over big holes which appeared in two plots, when the City building was being repainted and ladders were placed in our plots. She assured us that we will be notified of any future City work that may affect our garden.

In September, one of our Coordinators, Briony Croft left the garden to move into Vancouver and give up that daily commute. We thank her very much for her enthusiasm and cheerful presence over the past two years! Happily, our search for a new Coordinator proved fruitful, and we welcomed Kay Jollymore who is a terrific addition to our team and our Society.

Our second work party in October saw a concerted effort by attendees to clear weeds from the pathways. We used our Thrifty's gift card to supply our worker bees with coffee, snacks and fruit. It seems that gravel is the perfect medium for growing weeds! Unfortunately, we put some bags of weeds with gravel attached in the City waste receptacle, and were promptly notified not to do that again. Sorry!

## NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY

As coordinators, we continue to be challenged to encourage gardeners to participate in community events and activities beyond simply tending individual plots. This coming year we will make it a work party priority to paint the interior of the shed during good weather. In 2016 several gardeners cleaned and prepped the shed ready to be painted, but we were unable to recruit volunteers for the main task. Overall, our average logged volunteer time (including AGM and compost) is about 6 hours. However, several keeners attended Master Gardener workshops, and volunteered at the NSCGS table at Lynn Valley Days and that showed initiative on their part. We also look forward to hosting a public event at our garden in 2018 to spread the word about the importance of urban gardening to provide food security and community-building with our neighbours in North Vancouver.



Best wishes for a great season in 2018.

Respectfully submitted,



Sheila Cano & Kay Jollymore  
Garden Coordinators  
North Vancouver City Hall Community Garden

## QUEEN MARY COMMUNITY GARDEN ANNUAL REPORT

Since the garden closed down in the fall of 2017 for the pending construction in 2018, both Aline and Jayme have stepped down as garden coordinators, so like a bad penny, I'm back to deliver this report for you :). First, let me thank everyone for their incredible patience and endurance this year – we've had a garden in upheaval due to construction that threatened to shut us down three different times during last year, and while we all waited to find out exactly when we'd be asked to give up our gardens, we spent most of the year surrounded by major road construction, along with all the dirt, noise, grime, dust and heavy equipment that brings. I'm happy to tell you all that the construction project to lay the pipeline under the garden commenced on January 29, 2018, and we are hopeful the garden will be back in our hands by April of 2018.



But 2017 was not all doom and gloom – despite some challenges, we had some fun, as we usually do. We started our 'garden' year early with a big Chinese dinner in February open to all the Queen Mary gardeners – and we enjoyed a feast, and some great company. We're in the planning stages of the 2018 dinner, so hopefully by the time you read this, we'll have another successful adventure under our belts :) We opened up the season with a work party and some treats in April, and soon plots were blossoming with new green shoots, which makes

everyone happy. Especially thrilled were the 12 new plot holders who joined the Queen Mary garden family – our biggest year of adding new gardeners in one season! We had a massive pruning of all the fruit trees in our orchard this year, two Master Gardener workshops – sadly not well attended, but wonderful for the people who did attend, a series of work parties to look after our grounds and flower beds, and our resident handyman Louis made some much needed repairs to some of our compost bins and plot boards. Unfortunately, Queen Mary is starting to show her age as a garden, and the weather is taking its toll on the wooden structures, but we'll try to stay on top of every repair that we can, as long as you let us know what's not working.



## NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY

One of the biggest events this year at Queen Mary, and for the entire North Shore Community Garden Society was the sponsorship agreement entered into with Thrifty Foods. As the largest garden in the City, with the most area to accommodate a crowd, Queen Mary was lucky enough to host a community BBQ, put on by Thrifty Foods with Ryan and his amazing staff, aided by some great volunteers from Queen Mary. Despite it being a long weekend, the turnout was amazing, the day was beautiful, the crowd was plentiful and everyone had a blast! Josee took off in her wheelchair and was directling traffic from blocks away to come to the garden for a cheap and delicious lunch - and people came! Thrifty's also donated all the proceeds of the BBQ to our garden society, in addition to all the food and their time, and we can't wait to do another event - or two or three - with them this year!



We had a couple of false alarms with the construction crews thinking they would start the pipeline through the garden in August, so we spent a lot of July planning to shut down the garden early, only to have the work delayed until October. Then in September, everyone was forced to clear their gardens a bit earlier than the end of the garden season, and three days before construction was to start, it was delayed again. Our final official work party in October was a garden wind up and feast for all, with delicious sandwiches and pastries from – who else, Thrifty

Foods. We're all going to be well fed with Thrifty's as our sponsor – no complaints about that from anyone! We finally had the definitive word on the garden closing in November, and at the beginning of December we had to dismantle as much of the garden as we could so construction could commence. We planned four hours to remove all the plot numbers, empty compost bins, move leaves, plant bulbs, add dirt to perimeter flower beds, and clear everything that had been left in plots, but there's one thing you know for sure – and that is the Queen Mary volunteers are awesome! We had an amazing turnout for a cold December work day, but surprisingly the sun even



## NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY

appeared and with so many people, we were done in an hour and a half instead of four, so we padlocked the gates, and left the garden in the hands of the City and the construction crew.

So, while it's been quiet at the garden, we have assembled a new crew of coordinators for Queen Mary, and I'm thrilled to be able to introduce them to you now, if you haven't met them already. Norma joins us from North Vancouver City Hall garden (okay, we stole her basically) and Anthony, Emily and Sal - all avid gardeners from our wait list - will be joining her



to bring a fresh perspective and some vital enthusiasm back to the garden. We're going to have a big job to do when we get the garden back from construction, we'll have an exciting year with Thrifty Foods and their ongoing events, we have some big garden happenings on the calendar for this coming year, and I'm convinced these four will bring their best to the table and make your garden year awesome. I'm so happy they are all on board – 2018 is going to be a great year!

Respectfully submitted,



Dianna Allen  
On Behalf of the Garden Coordinators  
Queen Mary Community Garden

## NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY

### LILLOOET PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN ANNUAL REPORT

It was another amazing year of gardening at the Lillooet Garden. The weather created bumper crops, particularly of tomatoes it seemed and fortunately we didn't have another drought.

We reduced the number of sub committees slightly this year. The outside border committee - evolved into mostly Janice doing all the work, except at work parties. A number of plants were replaced (she donated plants) and a major tidy/prune was done at the end of the year, thanks Janice. Other sub-committees like watering the border plants, shed tidy and inside border plants were continued again this year. The bindweed committee is keeping this weed under control. The blueberry patch is underway, so that committee just evolved into getting watered by the inside border committee and interested gardeners. We do have some issues with watering too much and not enough, so at the AGM we plan to discuss how to monitor this better in 2018.

The harsh winter killed a number of the herbs in the herb garden. Herb plants were replaced. We had some rotten boards as well, that were replaced with wood donated by Queen Mary. Thanks Todd for repairing the boards, we will likely have a much better crop of herbs next year.

We had a Spring Clean and Potluck in April. Then we had clean ups in May, June, July and August. In October, we had a clean up and potluck a little too early for cleaning, so it just turned into a pot-luck. A fall clean up was then scheduled for later in October, when the garden was ready for cleaning. At the fall potluck we were able to purchase food with the Thrifty Foods Gift Certificate given to us. Huge thanks to Thrifty's for their generosity! The only other events we had were two Master Gardener sessions.

One of the shed committee members really improved the shed by creating a much better way for us to hang the tools. Murray and his sons created a way for us to keep the tools much more organized and will be making a new bench inside the shed this year.

The gates had to be repaired a few times this year. They are aluminum and quite large, so they come loose from the wood fencing really easy, and then need repairing frequently. Part of the problem is people sometimes slam the gates, but if they are careful, they close nicely.

Barb, from a local horse stable in Lynn Valley delivered another load of manure for us. We had a handful of very brave people help unload the ripe manure. It's been maturing and will be ready for next year.

Trisha from District of North Van was awesome again this year. Any time we had yard waste bags ready for pick up, she responded right away and they were picked up.

Thank you to all the gardeners who came out to the work parties. It was great to catch up and contribute to the garden looking so great!

The EGP garden's crew is small and could probably use some more help this coming year. Please email Susan if interested.

Marj continues to donate plants, including purple tomatoes this year to the gardeners and the EGP. Thanks Marj!

At the fall Potluck, awards were presented to the following gardeners:

- Super Keen Lil' Bean.....Jasper and Mica, plot 4

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Whenever we see these little guys in the garden, they are so excited to see what's growing, asking questions, nibbling on chives, watering their plot. Way to go guys!

- Creative Use of Space.....Susan Wagner, plot 25  
Susan is a new gardener and utilized every square inch! Nice!
- Most Unique Veggie.....Lucita, plot 38  
She's not afraid of trying new things. Lucita grew banana shaped tomatoes!

We said goodbye to Susan Wallace from one of the garden's coordinator positions, after 5 dedicated years of service. Fortunately, she is just leaving the coordinator position, so we will still have her expertise in the garden and with the EGP. Janice Morton from the garden has taken on the task of filling Susan's big coordinating and gardening boots. Thanks Janice and Susan.

We said good-bye to quite a few gardeners again, who either moved or couldn't tend to their gardens anymore. So, 2018 will see many new faces who will bring a variety of experiences and stories with them. We look forward to a great gardening season with you all!

Respectfully submitted,



Janice & Caroline  
Garden Coordinators  
Lillooet Park Community Garden

## CHARROS COMMUNITY GARDEN ANNUAL REPORT

In our 6<sup>th</sup> growing season at the Charros Community Garden, we saw some changes - we welcomed a lot of new gardeners, said farewell to an equal number of gardeners, undertook a number of small projects and participated in community events.

With the start of the new gardening season came 12 new gardeners including 2 new garden coordinators. Orientation was provided at the first “work-bee” of the season in April. In spite of the soggy day (the rain poured down), we had an amazing turnout.



This year we focused on improving the plantings in the border outside the perimeter fence – cutting back overgrown plants and shrubs, removing mint that had gone rampant and adding perennials and annuals. Thanks to the diligent watering by our gardeners, most of the new plantings survived our unusually hot and dry summer. We received many compliments on the garden from passersby.

A “sharing” garden was created in the border on the south side of the fence where we planted kale, herbs and tomatoes. Signs were posted inviting Charros neighbours to pick from this garden bed (and reminding them that produce inside the fence was privately owned). The jury is still out, but it may have helped to reduce the produce pilfering.

Another area of focus was cleaning and organizing the garden shed – volunteers thoroughly cleaned the exterior, cleared the roof of pine needles and painted the trim a nice crisp white. The interior of the shed was cleared out and re-organized. The condition of tools and other garden accessories was assessed and non-functioning items were disposed of.

The Charros fairy garden that was started in 2016 was enhanced with the addition of some miniature garden gnomes and decorative rocks, much to the delight of the children who visit the garden with their parents. We hope to continue enhancing this little garden every year.



## NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY



In June we co-hosted a sold out event with the Edible Garden Project on container gardening. The event was a great success and we look forward to holding similar events in the future. We also hosted the Master Gardeners in June and while attendance was small, we will continue to organize these in the future.

In August as part of the “Slide the City” event, Thrifty Foods in conjunction with the new NSCGS sponsorship agreement set up their tent at Charros. Though the turnout was less than anticipated, we were able to welcome some visitors to sit and have lunch while enjoying the surrounding gardens.

Thank you to all of the Charros gardeners who volunteered in our garden this season – we appreciate all of the weeding, pruning, watering, cleaning, wood chipping, and mulching that you do! We are also very fortunate to have a few gardeners who spend far more than their 12 hour minimum working in our garden. This does not go unnoticed – thank you!

In 2017 we said goodbye to coordinator Eliza Waddell. We would like to thank Eliza for all of the time and effort that she contributed to Charros and the NSCGS. We would particularly like to thank Eliza for taking the time to train and guide us in our new roles as coordinators for Charros.

Respectfully submitted,



Ieva Zarina & Debbie Selley  
Garden Coordinators  
Charros Community Garden

## LYNN VALLEY LIONS COMMUNITY GARDEN ANNUAL REPORT

It was a busy year at the Lynn Valley garden. We had 5 plots that changed hands. The new gardeners were very happy to have plots after about a 2-year wait. We currently have almost 40 people on the waiting list so the demand for garden plots remains strong.

We had two work parties this year where we focused on weeding the paths between the plots and tidying up the perimeter garden. We were pleased to have two Master Gardeners attend the spring work party. They shared valuable information about how to get a good start to the growing season.



As the dry summer wore on, we all had to dedicate extra time to keep our plots well-watered. It was challenging to get enough water to the perimeter garden but most of the perennials did very well despite the dry conditions. This year, gardeners appeared to have the most success with kale, basil, lettuce, tomatoes and squash. One gardener had great success with a vine of cucamelons which look like tiny watermelons but taste like cucumbers. We even had a crop of cherry tomatoes which started growing out the sides of a compost bin.

The garden is getting older and requiring a bit more maintenance so this year we plan to host a few more work parties to help us keep the weeds at bay. The work parties also give us an opportunity to meet fellow gardeners and exchange gardening tips.



Respectfully submitted,



Fiona Lewis & Steve Kors  
Garden Coordinators  
Lynn Valley Lions Community Garden

## NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY

### GARIBALDI PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN ANNUAL REPORT

As we look back at 2017 which marked the third growing season of Garibaldi Park Community Garden, we want to start by thanking our amazing group of gardeners who make “Garibaldi” a beautiful and welcoming space to everyone who visits. We trust that the garden is fulfilling your hopes of growing your own food, engaging in community, getting some good quality outdoor time... and more!



We started our year at a well-attended AGM in February and had a chance to re-connect with other gardeners and brainstorm about potential improvements to our garden. Not long after that, we kicked off the growing season by a spring work party and it was lovely to see everyone’s excitement as we shared our tips for “best of” vegetables to grow in small plots. Kale, salad greens and carrots were high on the list! We swapped seeds and advice, cleaned the garden, distributed compost (more on that later) and welcomed several new gardeners.



We were lucky to be visited by Master Gardeners twice during the summer and lots of us took the opportunity to have our plot “inspected” by an experienced gardener with lots of advice. We had advertised both Master Gardeners sessions in the neighbourhood and were hoping that some local residents would join us but that did not happen... but we’ll be putting posters up again this year! We see that many people visit our garden and walk around admiring the plots but we would like to better engage with our neighbours and will work on it during this gardening year. One way we reached out to our local community was when we joined the NSCGS

board members at “Parkgate Community Day” in late summer. Lots of children stopped by our table to do some colouring crafts with leaves and some were brave enough to look for bugs and worms in a small bucket full of our own garden compost.

Everything grew well over the season and we had some unique plants to look at such as cucamelons, quinoa and lots of different flowers. Unfortunately, we have also experienced some vandalism and theft – one plot lost their full harvest of onions and beets overnight! Overall though, we’ve been quite lucky given the fact that there’s a very busy playground on one side and a basketball court on the other side of our fence. We started using little signs saying “Please water me, my gardener is away” that are left at plots when people go on holiday and we believe that all plants survived the dry summer months! Once

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again, a big thanks to everyone who is happy to spend extra 15 minutes watering their neighbours' plots.

And last but not least, there's the "compost surprise" vegetable of the year. In 2016, after we had shared our first few bins worth of composted soil, we all ended up with one or two tomato plants (initially mistaken for marigolds). Last year it was the Delicata squash seeds that survived the winter in our compost and were unknowingly transported to our plots in spring. We are excited to see which veggie makes it in 2018!



Respectfully Submitted,



Sue, Gary, Jana and Lori  
Garden Coordinators  
Garibaldi Park Community Garden

## NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY

### TREASURER'S REPORT: HIGHLIGHTS

- As at Dec. 31, 2017, the North Shore Community Garden Society has \$30,336.63 in our bank account.
- Garden fees are due on March 15, 2018 this year, due to the late date of the AGM. Please give your payments to your Garden Coordinators. Cheques can be post-dated and made out to NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY. Cheques will be deposited after April 1, 2018, so please make sure you have funds to cover those cheques in your account in April.
- Anticipating that all garden plots will be rented, our funds should increase by approximately \$5,000.
- It's been my pleasure to serve as your treasurer and we are very happy that Sharon, our former treasurer for many years is rejoining the Board, and will take over the Treasurer's position once again.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017

<b>Opening Balance in Fund:</b>	
Queen Mary Gardens	6,823.63
Lillooet Gardens	1,584.16
Charros Gardens	4,347.72
North Van City Garden	341.94
St. Andrews	252.99
Lynn Valley	6,942.07
Garibaldi	2,479.65
General Fund	110.00
VanCity Interest Earned	15.40
BSF Contingency/Savings Fund	
Interest Earned	66.77
<b>Donations &amp; Grants:</b>	
Grant from City of North Vancouver - Queen Mary	977.69
	23,942.02
VanCity Membership Shares	5.28
BlueShore Financial Membership Shares	27.85
	<b>23,975.15</b>
<b>Funds Received:</b>	
<b>Plot Rentals:</b>	
Queen Mary Gardens	2,065.00
Lillooet Gardens	741.00

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Charros Gardens	836.60
North Van City Garden	215.00
St. Andrews	137.00
Lynn Valley	672.00
Garibaldi	722.00
	<b>5,388.60</b>
<b>Sponsorship Funds: Thrifty Foods</b>	<b>3,792.00</b>
<b>Total Funds Received</b>	<b>9,180.60</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>	
Queen Mary Gardens	(674.58)
Lillooet Gardens	(243.79)
Charros Gardens	(132.10)
North Van City Garden	(18.40)
St. Andrews	(59.11)
Lynn Valley	(381.35)
Garibaldi	(427.99)
	<b>(1,937.32)</b>
<b>Grant expenditure</b>	
Grant from City of North Vancouver - Queen Mary	(977.69)
	<b>(2,915.01)</b>
<b>Closing Funds:</b>	
Grant from City of North Vancouver - Queen Mary	-
Queen Mary Gardens	9,563.21
Lillooet Gardens	2,568.95
Charros Gardens	5,316.42
North Van City Garden	575.34
St. Andrews	449.10
Lynn Valley	7,995.42
Garibaldi	3,629.64
General Fund	110.00
BSF Contingency/Savings Fund	
Interest Earned	66.77
VanCity Interest Earned	28.16
	<b>30,303.01</b>
BSF Membership Shares	28.17
VanCity Membership Shares	5.45

NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY

	<b>30,336.63</b>
<b>Balance Sheet as at Dec.31, 2017</b>	
<b>Assets</b>	
VanCity Bank a/c	15,539.33
VanCity Membership Shares	5.45
VanCity Term Deposit	5,000.00
VanCity Contingency Fund - Lynn Valley (Lions Club)	4,500.00
BSF Bank a/c	2.26
BSF Savings Account/Contingency Fund	5,261.42
BSF Membership Shares	28.17
	<b>30,336.63</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Garden Members Equity	30,336.63
	<b>30,336.63</b>

THANK YOU TO OUR VALUED PARTNERS

