



THE BULLETIN

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL
OF GARDEN CLUBS

NOVEMBER 2025



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LYNDA PASACRETA

PLEASE FORWARD TO ALL OF YOUR CLUB MEMBERS

One of hubby and my favourite television shows in the 1970s was *Crockett's Victory Garden* hosted by James Crockett out of Boston, Massachusetts. Of course, we bought his gardening book and worked hard in our own garden to recreate his care for vegetables, fruit, and a massive flower garden.

On a business trip to Boston many years later, hubby and I tried to find the famous Crockett's Victory Garden — unbeknownst to us, his program was filmed just outside the television studio in Allston, Massachusetts.

We somehow ended up in a victory garden in Boston that we found a tad shabby.

The month of November always gives rise to thoughts of the value of the victory gardens that were encouraged by governments in the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States, Australia, and Germany during World War I and World War II.

As more and more supplies went to the war effort, people were encouraged to plant victory gardens to supplement their rations and also to boost morale. Gardeners, at the time, felt empowered by their contribution of labour and were rewarded with produce.

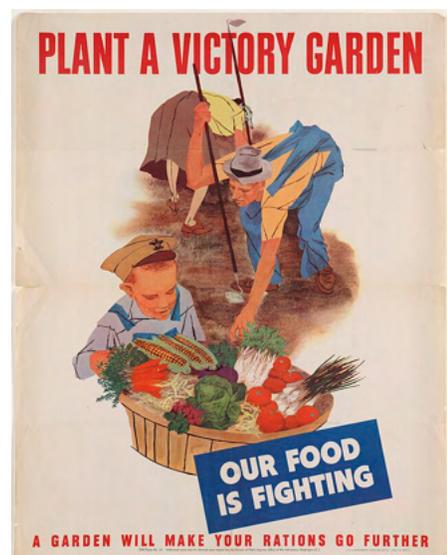
Victory gardens became popular in Canada in 1917. The Ministry of Agriculture promoted "A

Vegetable Garden for Every Home." Women's organizations at the time even went in to schools to get school children and their families interested in gardening. People were also encouraged to keep hens in their yards to obtain eggs.

We were delighted to host the BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation at our recent BC Council of Garden Clubs Fall Meeting. This great organization is reaching out to K-12 students throughout British Columbia to educate our young people about BC agriculture and food.

They have some wonderful programs to engage students such as Spuds in Tubs, Planting a Promise, Common Ground, The Strawberry Project, and so much more.

We were so pleased to see an organization working in the education system to encourage young people to become gardeners. For more information on supporting them visit their website at: <https://www.bcaitc.ca>.



SCHOLARSHIP FUND NEWS

ANITA IRANI, SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE

BC Council of Garden Clubs Award 2025
Thompson Rivers University

Hello,

Thank you so much for this award. My name is Jessica Ten Veen and I am 45 years old and decided last year after being a stay at home mom to my 16, 17, and 19 year old that it was time to follow my dream of becoming a horticulturist.

I have always loved working in my garden, growing beautiful flowers and food for my family and helping all my friends and family do the same. With this award I am putting it towards my second year of tuition as I plan to continue and complete the Diploma in Horticulture.

The past few weeks I completed my practicum hours at the Kamloops Hospice and was able to really dig into what my passion in the field of horticulture looks like. I find that the therapeutic benefit of working in the soil with plants and nature is so impactful.

Working in a beautiful and peaceful environment like the Kamloops Hospice Gardens you can't help but see the benefits that a flower garden can have on families that are going through a very difficult time.

I hope to continue on in horticulture in a therapeutic setting where I can help people experience and harness the healing benefits of growing and being in beautiful environments.

Thanks so much for this award, it really meant so much to me and my family.

Sincerely,

Jessica Ten Veen





HOW TO DONATE TO THE BCCGC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

If you wish to make a donation by cheque please send it to:

BC Council of Garden Clubs
Scholarship Fund, c/o: BC Council of
Garden Clubs

10952 McAdam Road

North Delta, BC, V4C 3E8

Please ensure that the cheques are made out to the "Vancity Community Foundation" and the memo field shows "BC Council of Garden Clubs." If the person or organization that the donation is from does not clearly show on the cheque, please include a brief note with the cheque indicating who the donation is from and a return address (so that an income tax receipt can be issued).

If you wish to donate online with a credit card:

Go to
www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca.

Click the "Funds" button on the top right side of the home page.

Locate the BC Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship Fund, either by scrolling through the list or searching "garden clubs" in the search bar.

Once on the BCCGC Scholarship Fund page, click "Give to this Fund" and complete the form.

OR

Go to www.bcgardenclubs.com.

Go to the "Scholarship Fund" on the top bar and click on the "Donate" page below.

Scroll down to the link to Vancity Community Foundation and click on it. This will take you to the BCCGC Scholarship Fund page.

Click on "Give to this Fund" and complete the form.

Thank You!

We are now **90%** towards our goal!
Students are back to school so remember to support our aspiring horticultural students. **DONATE TODAY!**



“WAR GARDENING” LAUNCHED CANADA’S OFFICIAL FOOD RULES

Victory gardens were more commonly known in Canada as “war gardens.” The basic idea of encouraging home gardening was looked at as a patriotic form of wholesome leisure.

Canadians were encouraged to use their front and backyards, vacant lots, and former flower gardens for growing produce.

The victory garden produce was touted as an important part of a healthy diet, which evolved to the creation of Canada’s Official Food Rules (1942), which then became Canada’s Food Guide.

In 1944, it was estimated that approximately 210,000 victory gardens were in operation across Canada producing a total of 57,000 tonnes of vegetables!

But not all was rosy in the early days of victory gardening. The Department of Agriculture was concerned that inexperienced gardeners were likely to waste valuable commodities already in short supply.

A pamphlet created by the Department of Agriculture in 1942 actively discouraged “city-folk” from planting food gardens. The department cited

that these folks would create a demand on garden tools, fertilizers, and sprays, which were made with materials required by the war effort.

In 1943, this position was reversed by the Department of Agriculture due to public protest by Canada’s avid gardeners.

Home food production was already a common practice throughout rural Canada so the concern really was addressed to the “city folk.”

Despite the efforts to get everyone involved, the victory gardens were more common for the better-off, urban homeowners.

The typical victory garden was usually planted on private property and encouraged new entrants to gardening, particularly young children and men. It brought a new respect for farmers and food producers and increased their self-sufficiency skills.

The most significant outcome of victory gardens was the feeling of supporting the war effort with home-front participation, and the enjoyment of wholesome domestic labour versus the less pleasant realities of war.



As part of Vancouver's
Sustenance Festival

Saturday, Nov. 15th, 2025
1pm - 3pm
Hastings Public Library Meeting Room
2674 East Hastings St.



Seed Saving & Processing Social



Free Event!
Free Seeds!
Learn to make seed envelopes!

In this two-hour event, we will spend time to discuss about the advantages of locally acclimatized or adapted seeds from our microenvironment.

There will be a hands-on opportunity to process seeds collected from Pandora Park Community Garden and around the neighbourhood.

Participants are encouraged to bring their own seeds for processing and/or sharing. We will have sieves, paper and craft materials available for use.

Juice and water refreshments will be available during the event.



HOW TO PLANT A VICTORY GARDEN

Back in 1917, governments were promoting home gardening in order to free up crops to feed soldiers overseas. Many students at that time were inspired to get involved in planting a home garden. They called themselves “soldiers of the soil” who planted Liberty Gardens that later became known as Victory Gardens.

Growing your own food has become popular again with the same results experienced during the war — lots of healthy outdoor time, exercise, moral boost, and supplementing food supplies (that are now very expensive and may have been treated with harmful chemicals).

Today we have environmental concerns with changing climate so growing our own food will help the environment. Eating food that does not have to travel long distances to arrive on our plate and rebuilding soil health all contribute to a healthier world.

Fewer trips to the supermarket and saving on your budget, with an added bonus of providing your family with healthy, fresh, and nutritious food, adds to the benefits of growing your own food.

Grow what your family likes to eat. Turnips and kale may not be favourites for your family but fresh

tomatoes, beans, and leafy greens may be a great addition.

Most fruits and vegetables need at least six hours of continuous sun so determining what will grow well in your garden space is important.

The first place to start when growing food is to ensure your soil is healthy, to create healthy produce. Use compost, leaf mulch, and organic soil to repair your soil health before planting.

West Coast Seeds provides an annual gardening guide that helps determine seed planting throughout the season and many tips to help with a successful harvest. You can download the 2026 Gardening Guide at <https://www.westcoastseeds.com>. Renee’s Garden and Cornucopia Seeds are sister brands of West Coast Seeds and are available across Canada.



SEND US A PHOTO OF FALL/WINTER BERRIES!



Photo by Visnja Gasparic Vojvodic, Richmond Garden Club.

Send us one photo of fall or winter berries in your garden. We will add some to our December newsletter and also post all the photos on our website for all to enjoy! Email to newsletter@bcgardenclubs.com.

**BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS
FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY**

Help Fund Your Garden Club with BeSharp Sharpening

Partner with BeSharp Sharpening, a mobile sharpening service based in Richmond, to raise funds for your garden club.

- BeSharp will participate in your monthly meetings, plant sales, community events, and workshops.

A portion of the funds raised will be shared with your club or community gardens.

**BESHARP SHARPENS SECATEURS,
LOPPERS, AND GARDEN SHEARS. WILL
ALSO SHARPEN KITCHEN KNIVES,
SERRATED BREAD KNIVES, AND MOST
SCISSORS**

**CONTACT BESHARP
SHARPENING AT
604-245-6663 OR
EMAIL
BESHARP@TUTA.IO**

Offer available to Richmond and local communities only. Visit www.be-sharp.io.



POPULAR FOOD GARDENS TO VISIT IN BC

Prince George:

- 🌶️ The Rotary Community Garden at University of Northern BC
- 🌶️ The historic Gilliard farm
- 🌶️ Prince George Urban Farmscape project

Kamloops:

- 🌶️ Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Indigenous Food Sovereignty Program's edible garden
- 🌶️ School food forest designed by Shelaigh Garson

Kelowna:

- 🌶️ KLO Farm Market
- 🌶️ Don-O-Ray Farm Adventure
- 🌶️ Kempf Orchards

Nelson:

- 🌶️ Kootenay Corner Gardens
- 🌶️ Nelson Farmers' Market

Cranbrook:

- 🌶️ Cranbrook Urban Farm (hydroponic farm)
- 🌶️ Cranbrook Farmer's Market

Dig for Victory — Working on an allotment garden in Kensington Gardens, London, 1942. Photo from Wikimedia Commons

- 🌶️ Cranbrook Public Produce Garden

Kimberley:

- 🌶️ Kimberley Edible Gardens & Greenhouses
- 🌶️ Mountain Grass Gallery + Bistro

Vancouver Island:

- 🌶️ Fernwood Allotment Gardens
- 🌶️ James Bay Allotment Gardens
- 🌶️ Beban Learning Gardens
- 🌶️ Quadra Village Community Centre
- 🌶️ The Gardens at Horticulture Centre of the Pacific

Lower Mainland:

- 🌶️ UBC Botanical Garden's Food Garden
- 🌶️ VanDusen Botanical Garden

And so many more!



TWO OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN FLORAL DESIGN

CINDY TATARYN, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS

Do you want to be a horticultural judge?

I am starting a horticultural judging course in the spring and you are invited!

The theory part of the course can be done at home. It consists of reading the BC Council of Garden Clubs Horticultural Judging and Exhibiting Standards Manual and completing 18 assignments over the first year.

Assignments will be emailed to you, which once completed will be sent back to be marked. There is a requirement to achieve a minimum of 75% on all assignments and the final exam.

In the second year, the in-person portion of the course involves:

- Five (5) observe judging with a qualified BCCGC horticultural judge at public shows (not club meetings).
- Five (5) co-judging with a qualified BCCGC horticultural judge at public shows (not club meetings).
- Entering ten (10) horticultural exhibits in public shows (not club meetings).
- Receiving three (3) first place ribbons for horticultural exhibits in public shows (not club meetings).

The BCCGC Horticultural Judging and Exhibiting Standards manual costs \$25 plus postage.



Sandra Froese, Judge, Floral Artists of the Fraser Valley



Cindy Tataryn, President, CWAFA



TWO OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN FLORAL DESIGN, CONT'D

CINDY TATARYN, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS

Do you want to learn how to do flower arranging?

BC Council of Garden Clubs has developed several hands-on classes just for you!

You will start right at the beginning, learning all the basic information you need to know. Each course is seven (7) classes — fourteen (14) hours of demonstrations and hands-on classroom workshops with help from the BCCGC certified instructor.

The first level — Introduction to Traditional Design will teach you the basics. This course covers the common designs such as table centrepieces, vertical, crescent, inverted crescent, Hogarth curve, triangle, asymmetrical triangle, and Pavé designs.

A BCCGC certificate is given upon completion of the course.

The second level — Introduction to Contemporary Design is also seven (7) classes — fourteen (14) hours of demonstrations and hands-on classroom workshops with help from the BCCGC certified instructor.

There are six (6) levels in total teaching a variety of design types and the Elements and Principles of Design are taught in each level. Certificates are given upon the completion of each level.

All instructors are certified BCCGC floral design judges who have been trained and certified to teach these classes.

Anyone interested in becoming a BCCGC floral design judge is required to complete all six (6) levels prior to applying to take the BCCGC floral design judges course.

BC Council of Garden Clubs is also developing a BCCGC certified demonstrator course as well. Candidates are required to take levels one through six (1 - 6) prior to applying to take the demonstration course.

If you have questions or would like to register for the courses, please contact Cindy at ctataryn@telus.net or 1vicepresident@bcgardenclubs.com.

Best in Judges by Dorothy Scott,
BC Floral Art Society. Photo by
Lucette Wesley, South Burnaby
Garden Club





Floral art design entries at our Fall Meeting. Photos by Lucette Wesley, South Burnaby Garden Club.





NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

We would **love** to feature your club or community garden in the newsletter. 🙏

Tell us about some of the projects your club or community garden is involved in.

You are invited to submit an article at any time (please include photos and name of author). Photos should be high resolution and you should include the name of the photographer if possible. Articles should be in the range of 300–500

words. If you have an idea for a longer piece, connect with the newsletter editor in advance to discuss your idea.

Articles are due on the 15th of the month preceding publication. If they are submitted after that date, they will be held for the next issue.

The **next due date is November 15 for December 1**. Submissions/ inquiries:

newsletter@bcgardenclubs.com

Lynda Pasacreta, Editor

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