



# THE BULLETIN

**BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS**

**August 2021**

# FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY CINDY TATARYN

(PLEASE FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER TO ALL YOUR CLUB MEMBERS – THANK YOU!)



It's not too late to plant for fall and winter harvests. Some of the veggies you can plant in August and enjoy into the fall and winter (and some through until spring) are arugula, soya beans, brussel sprouts (transplants), carrots, overwintering cauliflower, corn salad, kale and collards, kohlrabi, lettuce, overwintering onions, scallions, pac choi and choi sum, parsley, peas, spinach, swiss chard, and turnips.

Go to West Coast Seeds [www.westcoastseeds.com](http://www.westcoastseeds.com) for a list of when to plant veggie seeds and transplant starts.

If you are looking for excellent information from a local BC source for all things related to gardening go to Linda Gilkeson's website at <http://lindagilkeson.ca>. You will find garden tips (also archived articles), information on pests, diseases and disorders, and PDFs on various gardening topics. Linda is an instructor for the Vancouver Master Gardeners and is a very knowledgeable source of information for all your garden enquiries.

To subscribe to Linda's newsletter send an email asking to join her list to [gilkeson@shaw.ca](mailto:gilkeson@shaw.ca).

Happy Gardening!

Cheers,

Cindy Tataryn

First Vice President, BCCGC

[1vicepresident@bcgardenclubs.com](mailto:1vicepresident@bcgardenclubs.com)



# SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND NEWS

BY PATTY MOLNAR, TRUSTEE



Dear BC Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship Trustees:

Thank you for honouring me with one of your 2021 scholarships. I attended the UBC Horticulture Program (HTP) with the purpose and intent to deepen my understanding of the connection between people and plants. The program was a full-time commitment and completely fulfilled my desire to learn. I enjoyed every aspect to building patios and walkways, and planting seeds in the greenhouse, creating garden designs, engaging in plant identification walks, and getting to know my classmates. And there was so much more! I am now working for the City of Vancouver in Stanley Park. I feel that the HTP teachers went above and beyond to prepare me for safe, informed, satisfying work in the landscape.

There were a lot of memorable experiences during my training and I want to highlight two of them here. First, the UBC Botanical Garden is taking steps to create a more inclusive, diverse, equitable, and accessible environment. The IDEA committee engaged the HTP class on a regular basis and I jumped at the chance to be the student liaison for them. Not only did I learn about garden design and maintenance, but also the impact that the study and practice of creating garden spaces has on peoples' lives. The second experience worth highlighting was the opportunity our class had to participate in an art installation at the Belkin Gallery on UBC campus. Holly Schmidt created the installation 'Fireweed Fields', which is an interactive work of natural art. Turf grass was transformed into a fireweed meadow, 'encouraging increased biodiversity through the gradual succession as a metaphor for the resurgence of life after a crisis'. (More information at <https://belkin.ubc.ca/events/holly-schmidt-fireweed-fields/>). Two incredible experiences that give character to the depth of the horticulture profession.

My family history has roots in the farming community of Saskatchewan and I grew up understanding how important our connection to nature is. I took part in gardening and yard maintenance as a youngster, and since moving to Vancouver I have nurtured container gardens big and small. I spend most of my spare time outdoors, travelling and connecting to nature through hiking and backcountry, skiing, as well as studying yoga. I am also a Registered Massage Therapist of 16 years, and yoga teacher, with a special interest in helping people experiencing persistent pain and anxiety.

I truly believe that the horticulture profession can be seen as a healing profession from many different perspectives. With a commitment to combining my previous therapeutic studies, gardening experience and the knowledge I gained in the HTP program, I look forward to the horticulture career ahead of me. Although there are many aspects to working with plants that interest me, my thoughts currently tend towards developing a series of workshops that combine the teachings of yoga, pain science, and horticulture. The scholarship money is much appreciated and will help get me started in this area, including my membership to the Canadian Horticultural Therapy Association. Furthermore, I appreciate the professional connection to the BC Council of Garden Clubs and would love to meet others who garden for fun, food, and social interaction.

Sincere thanks,  
Alison Coolican

## 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:

1. Go to [www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca](http://www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca)
2. Click the “Funds” button on the top right side of the home page
3. Locate the BC Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship Fund, either by scrolling through the list or searching “garden clubs” in the search bar
4. Once on the BCCGC Scholarship Fund page, click “Give to this Fund” and complete the form

OR

1. Go to [www.bcgardenclubs.com](http://www.bcgardenclubs.com)
2. Go to the “Scholarship Fund” on the top bar and click on the “Donate” page below
3. Scroll down to the link to Vancity Community Foundation and click on it. This will take you to the BCCGC Scholarship Trust Fund page
4. Click on “Give to this Fund” and complete the form

Thank You!



# THE ETHICS OF FEEDING BIRDS

## AUDUBON.ORG

Whether you are wanting to attract birds just to our gardens or are an enthusiastic photographer of the avian species, there may be reasons not to offer food to satisfy our needs.

Audubon recently published an excellent article on asking yourself three questions to help make sense of whether we should be stepping in to feed the birds.

We delight in seeing hummingbirds scrapping over an offering of sugar water giving us a close-up view of nature's territorial tiny birds. The same feeling happens when we attract all types of birds to our local feeders.

The article points out important things to think about, such as the status of bird population, habitat needs, physiology, and challenges the species may be facing.

I love the approach the author took. Some advice the author received before speaking was to ask three questions: Is it true? Is it kind? And is it necessary?

Taking the same approach when making decisions about feeding birds leads to three questions to ask yourself.

### 1. Is the species at risk?

The author says to visit reliable sources of information for wildlife in your area. You should be able to find out how that species is doing in your area. If a bird is classified as endangered, threatened or of special concern, this can help you make a decision whether or not to feed this bird. Feeding may result in negative consequences. The article gave an example of an endangered Florida Scrub Jay. Habitat has been destroyed by agriculture and development. Sadly bird lovers love to feed the Florida Scrub Jay peanuts, which causes them to reproduce early. When their babies hatch, the caterpillars they rely on for their young are not available yet.

### 2. Is the food appropriate and safely provided?

As we have seen with pine siskins this year, backyard feeders have increased rates of salmonella in this prolific species. Household cats, window strikes, and the spread of disease are all concerns for offering food for the birds. The article encourages us to grow native plants in our gardens as a healthy alternative.

Recently a barred owl was found dead in a local park. After the local wildlife rescue group verified that the owl experienced some trauma, we found out that one of the seemingly innocent ways we dispose of apple cores and other fruit on the side of a roadway is a problem. Owls, with their keen eyesight will fly to low to pick up the discarded fruit resulting in collision of bird and vehicles.

### 3. Is feeding this bird likely to change its behaviour in harmful ways?

We can create aggressive behaviour in some birds we hand feed. Crows, seagulls, and Canada geese can become nuisances when they get used to an easy source of food. This behaviour can result in harmful results for the birds.

To read the article in full visit the Audubon website at <https://www.audubon.org/news/when-its-okay-or-not-feed-birds>.



## 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 are involved in. You are invited to submit an article at any time (please include photos). 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 August 15th for September 1st.** Submissions/inquiries: [newsletter@bcgardenclubs.com](mailto:newsletter@bcgardenclubs.com).

Lynda Pasacreta, Editor  
Pam Robertson, Copy Editor

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