



Over the Garden Wall

White Rock and District Garden Club, **January, 2024**
<https://www.white-rock-garden-club.ca>

President – Elizabeth Young, Secretary-Pat Catton
Treasurer- Eileen MacBean Editor- Melanie Rantucci

Inside This Issue: President's Message, New Executive, Membership Renewal, Award Winners, Christmas Party Photos, Contemplating Your Winter Garden, More Surprising Things You Can Do with Your Phone, Front Porch

President's Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!!



The amount of talent and knowledge amongst the members of the White Rock and District Garden Club is impressive. I was totally motivated after seeing the members gardens last summer, came home and re-worked my gardens....(cost me a fortune)!I'd like to see our membership grow, and I hope you do as well, so please invite others to our monthly meetings to learn what we have to offer.

I'm looking forward to a new year and getting to know more of you in my new role as President.

Elizabeth Young,, President

Our 2024 Executive

President - Elizabeth Young
Vice President - Gayle Horie
Secretary - Pat Catton
Treasurer – Eileen MacBean,
Past President - Darlene Chamberlain
Membership Director - Fran Deptuck
Show Director- Donna Lawson
Front Porch Director- Joyce O'Brien
Trophy Director – Bev Polywkan
Programs Director – Eleanor Enns
Publicity.Director – Francis O'Grady
Newsletter Director – Melanie Rantucci,
Website Director – Bev Sass,



2024 Committees

Show Secretary – Johanna Mramor
Plant Sales – Terry Haight, Linda Bradley, Joyce O'Brien, Eileen Davidson, Elizabeth Young and Eleanor Enns
Website – Bev Sass, Marilyn Murphy, Melanie Rantucci, Margrit Elmiger-Isert, Eileen Davidson, Ozana Seselja
Tea Conveners – Pat Ezzy, Kathy McAuliffe with assistance from Bev Polywikan
Sunshine – Anne Wiese
Welcome – Karen Jensen, Louise Long
Plant of the Month – Kathy McAuliffe
Decorating – Iris Peacosh
50/50 Draw – Patricia Griesser, Jackie Dupuis
Tidy Up-/ Hall – Hilary Callihoo
Historian – Margrit Elminger-Isert, Yvonne Pont,
Projector – Ken Parker
Microphone/Amplifier – John Davidson

Time for Membership Renewal

At our January meeting, myself and my helpers will be taking membership renewal fees for 2024. The membership fee is only \$25, or \$30 for a family (same address).

I would like everyone including Life members to try to fill in the renewal application on our website before our January 9th meeting, and then you just need to pay me at the meeting. Just click here and follow along:

<https://www.white-rock-garden-club.ca/contact-us-the-gardening-club-south-surrey-bc.html>

If you need assistance filling out the online form, you can spend 2-5 minutes just prior to the January meeting with a Website Committee member (Melanie, Marilyn, Margrit, Eileen Davidson, Ozana or Bev Sass) and they will assist in completing the membership renewal form

online with you. Each committee member will bring either their laptop or tablet and you just need to confirm your details (address, email, phone number and date joining) and tell them what to enter on your behalf.



The club is required by the government to maintain privacy over personal data collected from each member and to ensure each member is aware of how the data is stored. For more information on this please refer to the clubs website at the bottom of each page under the heading of Privacy.

Fran Deptuck, Membership Director

Upcoming Programs for 2024

We have some good speakers coming to our upcoming meetings that I'm sure you will find interesting:

January 9, 2024 – Speaker: Ana Dushyna – Growing & Harvesting Herbs. We are looking forward to hearing about All Season Herbal (Apothecary) garden at our January 9th meeting. We will learn about what plants to choose to allow us to have a garden that will be both beautiful and useful for all four seasons of the year. We will learn how to harvest them and how to use them in everyday wellness routines. You won't want to miss this speaker!

February 13, 2024 – Speaker: BC Bee Supply – Mason Bees & Bee Friendly Gardens

March 12, 2024 – Speaker: Marilyn Holt – Soil Optimization, Beneficial Insects and Discouraging Harmful Insects

April 9, 2024 – Terry Haight – Dividing Hostas (together with Spring Floral Show)

Eleanor Enns, Program Director

December Meeting Winners

50/50 Draw

The draw this month was won by Johanna Mramor.

Sharon Stanley, Raffle

Name Tag Draw -Plant of the Month

A poinsettia was won by Jackie Dupuis.

Bev Polywkan, Plant of the Month

Annual Awards

Pirie Memorial award for highest aggregate points earned during the year for horticultural exhibits was presented to Terry Haight.

Jean Wilde Award for highest aggregate points earned during the year for Floral Art Advanced was presented to Eileen Davidson.

Surprise Award for highest aggregate points earned during the year for Floral Art Novice was presented to Terry Haight.



Honorary Life Membership for outstanding, longtime membership was presented to Claire Muirhead by Donna Lawson.

Bev Polywkan, Awards

Christmas Party Fun

We had a wonderful turnout for our Christmas party. Members brought goodies to share with others at their table and we enjoyed playing games and listening to Christmas music, ending with everyone singing 12 Days of Christmas for

Gardeners written by Life Time member, Mary Openshaw.

Best sweater competition was won by Pat Yorke and best hat by Frances O'Grady.

Winners of donated arrangements were Patti Wolczuk, Elizabeth Young, Lil Penner and Darlene Chamberlain.

A poinsettia was won by Claire Muirhead.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the planning and fun. The hall was beautifully decorated by the Cranley Association and extra floral arrangements were donated by members.



Floral Circle News

The Floral Circle members got together on December 8th to make table centres for the Cranley Homeowners Association Christmas party.

All the arrangements were identical with 4 large Chrysanthemums in Christmas greenery.



They made a beautiful display and the Association was very pleased with them.

Donna Lawson, Show Director

Website Committee



Early December the group got together and had a wreath making workshop. It was a lot of fun but very cold out on Bev's deck. We also made a couple of arrangements that were raffled at the meeting. Here are two pictures from the day.

Bev Sass, Website Director

Christmas Centre Pieces for Seniors in Care Homes

The Brella and White Rock Seniors Home both really enjoyed getting the arrangements our members made, especially the latter,

The lady called me to thank us all, and said every resident would get one for their room. That made me feel so good.



I am sure there was 175, though we did not do an exact count,

A big thank you to all our members for donating your time and talent to help make Christmas happy for people in care homes.

Donna Lawson, Show Director

AGM Highlights: Donation to Food Bank

At our December Annual General Meeting, our new executive were elected and 2023 Directors made reports on the year's activities. You can read the reports at the end of the December Minutes. Our members also voted to donate \$100 to our local food bank.

Plant Sale

The Plant Sale committee will be having its first meeting on January 16. We are all looking forward to this year's Plant Sale. Thank you to Pat Yorke and her husband for dropping off a number of pots at my house, both one and 2 gallon pots. If anybody will be needing them for replanting plants for the Plant Sale this spring, please come by. They are in my driveway between the boat and the fence and help yourself. No phone call necessary, but the early birds get the best pots.

I hope this gives people incentive to get started planting up the plants for the sale. We will not be needing your hanging baskets this year as we are going in a different direction with regards to the baskets but we could still use some four and 6 inch pots. These also can be dropped off either at my house or brought to the next meeting. Happy New Year to all!

Terry Haight, Plant Sale Director

Front Porch

Was Santa good to you? Were you the recipient

of a somewhat doubtful item? Something that just doesn't suit you. Now is the time to discreetly bring it along to the meeting, leave it on our Front Porch and it will generate funds for the club.

February is a good month to have a theme for the Porch. While we look in drawers at those long ago sweetheart mementos we should perhaps parcel them up and make room for new things. Valentines represent love, we love others but most of all, ourselves so bring along your purse so that we might trade with each other, leaving \$\$\$ on the Porch.

Lastly, I wish you all good health in the New Year, “let's soar in 24!”

Please call 604-538-2549 or email Joycebrien@shaw.ca if you need pick up or you are doubtful about your gift to The Porch.

Joyce O'Brien, Front Porch

Master Gardener Tip Contemplating Your Winter Garden

After the busy Christmas season, we want to rest and just enjoy looking out the window from a cozy spot. What do you see in your garden? You might be surprised to see some flowers blooming like Rhododendrons, apples or berries, or other shrubs. These plants have been confused by the cold fall weather followed by spring-like temperatures and been fooled into thinking it is time to bloom. Those buds won't bloom again in spring, but hopefully the whole plant won't be affected. If other plants are putting out shoots, take note and protect them if we get an arctic blast by mulching or covering them with garden fabric. Areas that have been mulched may need re-mulching if those strong winds blew away the mulch you piled up.



While you are looking out the window, think about what you might like to see there next winter. Maybe some colourful twigs on shrubs or evergreen plants would make a nice display instead of mud and leaves. Make plans to do some gardening renovations in the spring to add winter interest or peruse plant and seed catalogues. Enjoy this season of rest!

Melanie Rantucci, Master Gardener

Website Committee Techie Tip: Third Surprising Things Your Phone Can Do

Reference: Consumer Reports, October 2023, CR Insights, Tech Update, p12

Here is another extremely clever feature that can help you with everyday tasks that is hidden inside the settings on many smartphone models.

Tip 3. It Can Magnify Everything for You

Need help reading that tiny type on a prescription label or a restaurant menu? Your phone can magnify written text for easier reading.

On an iPhone: Go to setting > Accessibility > Accessibility shortcut > Magnifier.

To activate the magnifier, click the side button three times. Then drag the slider to zoom in or out.

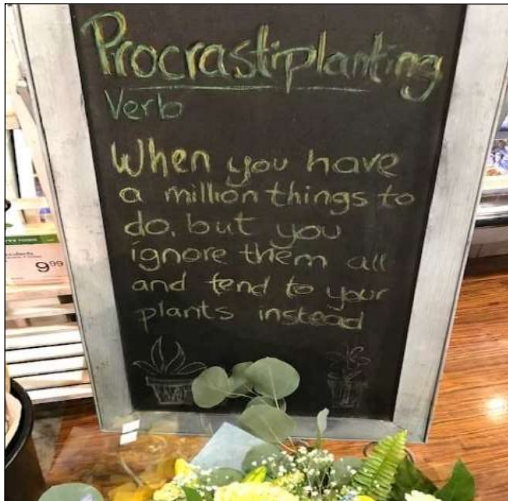
On an Android: Open your phone's camera and point it at what you want to magnify. Then place

two fingers on the screen and slowly spread them outward to zoom in on the text you want to enlarge.

Next Month: Tip#4

Eileen Davidson, Website Committee

Juicy Bits:



Who's cute Christmas socks



Next Meeting

Tuesday Jan. 9 at 2pm

See you at Cranley Hall, 2141 Cranley Dr., Surrey. Meeting starts at 2 pm. Hall opens at 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: Ana Dushyna – Growing & Harvesting Herbs will start after the break.

Don't forget to bring \$25. cash or cheque for membership renewal!

WRDGC Executive

A few reminders of our last meeting



Prize winning hat





Great costumes!

