

Over The Garden Wall

White Rock & District Garden Club May-June, 2020

<https://www.white-rock-garden-club.ca/>

Mary Openshaw, President

Johanne Mramor, Secretary

Lorna Bury, Treasurer

President's Message

Mary's Musings

My garden is lush. Including the morning glory and buttercup. My water barrel runneth over, continuously. After our catalogue sales were completed, I found myself a little behind in the garden and have been playing catch up ever since. I have had club members come to my rescue by digging, weeding and helping plant 101 dahlias. I've planted my lettuce in a big wooden box to thwart the bunny. And because my purple Indigo Rose tomatoes did so well outside last year, giving many tomatoes well into November, I decided to plant more of them and save the greenhouse for the other varieties. Last fall's saved oak leaves have been mowed into bits and are now mulching the rose beds.

I've missed attending 20 garden club related meetings (regular meetings, executive meetings, floral circle meetings, website meetings, plant sale committee meetings) so it was a delight being able to see some of you at Patti and Tim's garden on June 4th. The Website Committee regularly meets virtually on Zoom and Bev and members are learning how to post photos and information to all our platforms - Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and the Website. Also, I've heard from Lorna that we've taken in over \$1500 selling plants and tubers in May.

The Show Director (Donna) has a new Virtual Parlour Show for you to enter. The Program Director (Margrit) is taking care of Garden Tours. The Newsletter Editor is coping with the aftermath of a dishwasher leak (a story and a half) and I am working in my "Garden



of Weedin".

Mary Openshaw, President

Does Jail Await You

Can Home Gardeners Multiply Patented Plants

Submitted by Mary Openshaw, President

Margrit (Program) alerted Me to this posting on the Richmond Garden Club Face Book page.

Hi all. I don't usually post about this, but wanted to offer a word of caution to anyone selling plants. As a nursery owner, I am fully aware of all the legalities attached to the business, but some may not. I am posting this in regards to hostas in particular. About 90% of hostas are labeled PPAF, or Plant Propagation Prohibited due to Patents. Simply, this means the plant is patented and royalties must be paid to the breeder for each division sold. Of course, if you are sharing plants with friends or taking divisions to give away, that is fine, but the minute you advertise them **For Sale**, please be careful. Last year, I learned of a lady in south Surrey who was selling hostas from her home and was hit with a \$5,000 fine - a nasty surprise for her. And

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she was not the only one - the PPAF people do not mess around. This is a great group of gardeners here - just posting so that no-one gets into trouble! Thanks!
Pam Erickson, Nursery Owner

I asked North Surrey Club member, Patricia, to contact Pam Erickson and ask about PPAF. She is the one who provided named hostas and day lilies for our sale and she knows Pam.
Here is Pam's reply:

"So Pam thinks that the enforcement is targeting 'for profit' sellers and thinks the non profit club sales should be OK because the plants are donated. Also the people that have been fined were also propagating the plants to sell."

More Info

Increasingly the plants you see on the market bear a trademark (™) and are patented. The label might say PPAF (Plant Patent Applied For) or it will have a plant patent number, plus somewhere on the label you'll see a mention like "propagation strictly prohibited" or "asexual propagation prohibited". Often these are very attractive plants and what gardener would not be interested to try to produce more of them... or at least keep them going by bringing a cutting in for the winter? But does this interdiction apply to amateur gardeners?

Although you might see other interpretations on the Internet, a legal opinion from the Garden Writers Association asserts that the asexual multiplication of a patented plant is illegal without the permission of the patent owner, usually a nursery, even by amateur gardeners. So, legally speaking, you're not allowed to divide it, take cuttings or multiply it by grafting or tissue culture.

Does Jail Await You?

That said, you will never be taken to court for such an offense nor will you even be fined... as long as you don't try to sell the plant you propagated. In other words, what worries the patent owner is when an unauthorized company starts selling its protected plant on a commercial scale. A gardener taking 10 cuttings to decorate his flower box really isn't on the owner's radar.

I checked this out with Proven Winners, a company that owns numerous plant patents, and effectively, they say have no intention of taking home gardeners to court over plant patent infringements. They are well aware that amateur gardeners get a lot of pleasure out of multiplying plants and that dividing plants and taking cuttings is part and parcel of gardening. While they don't actively encourage home gardeners to reproduce Proven Winner plants, the company's policy is to not react when it happens. However, Proven Winners will prosecute fully any commercial dealer caught propagating their plants without permission.

So while multiplying patented plants asexually for personal use remains theoretically illegal, it is not likely ever to be prosecuted. You'll have to look at your own moral compass to decide whether or not that's acceptable for you.

From <https://laidbackgardener.blog/tag/can-you-multiply-patented-plants>

Programs!

Open Gardens

Hope, that everybody is doing OK in this pandemic. Lots of time I felt like a teenager being grounded! Hopefully things will ease up a bit in the next weeks. As you know, we canceled our trip to Victoria. Hopefully we are traveling in 2021. Had a good turnout at our open garden at Patti's and Tim. The weather god was with us. Like Mary said...it was a great opportunity to reconnect and visit with our Garden Family. There will be two or three more in the future. Look for an email from John.

Margrit Elmiger-Isert, Program

Looking Ahead

Pots Wanted

I am looking for 1 gallon pots to start plants for next years plant sale so if anyone has any extra, call me 604-340-9977 or email me terryhight@shaw.ca thanks.

Terry Haight, Plant Sale

Do Plants Help You?

Pictures & Stories Wanted

During our time of quarantine many of us plant lovers have found solace in the plants we grow. The act of planning, planting, nurturing and visually seeing the results can be a wonderful distraction from the worrying news. Do you find this true in your experience? If so, please share images of your green spaces – be it a balcony, window sill, front or back garden – and tell us how plants are helping you in these challenging times. Just a few words to accompany the photo would be fabulous too. We will post your entries with comments to the clubs Facebook Page and the photo will be added to the Website Gallery via our Instagram feed. Please let us know if we can mention your first name in the Facebook posting so other members know whose garden we are seeing. Send entries to bev.sass@shaw.ca

The Website Committee

Open Garden

Patti & Tim's

On an overcast Thursday, June 4th, 25 Garden Club members visited Patti and Tim's garden with their outstanding peonies, irises and some roses in peak bloom.



Program Director, Margrit arranged 30-minute time slots from 9:30 - noon to aid physical distancing. The lush raised bed vegetable

garden was bunny-proofed with wire fencing. A selection of plants still waiting to bloom surrounded a lawn that had not one buttercup. After walking the garden perimeter, guests were invited to chat on the patio, sitting in chairs six feet apart. We noted that the rose bush, "Beloved", a wedding gift from the club, was looking lovely in it's chosen setting. Patti and Tim's generosity has prompted three more club members to step forward to offer their gardens for viewing over the summer months and Margrit will be advising us of dates and times. This was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect and I'm hoping more will attend our next garden tour.

Mary Openshaw, President

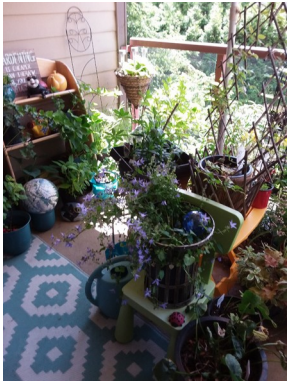


Pandemic Gardening

Keeping Sane

Today is the 90th day of my isolation at this senior independent living condo. No one can leave the property for any reason other than medical. Thank heavens I have a large balcony with many plants in pots.

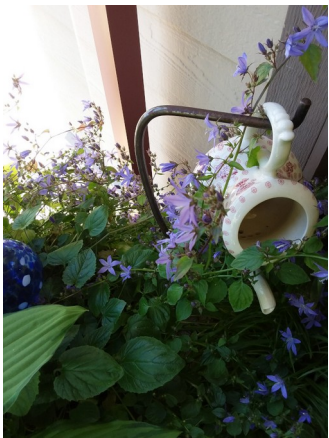




these hard times of isolation. Enjoying many types of greens now and soon the peas, beets, Swiss chard, turnips, carrots, onions and spinach will be eaten for a delicious lunch.

So looking forward again to seeing my friends at the Garden Club, doing community work and visiting my family. This too will end as Dr. Bonnie Henry says—can't come too soon for me.

Collene Ford, Publicity



Wedding Tim & Patti



Because I couldn't go out to buy anything, I chose to seed many pots with flowers to attract the bees. This has been quite successful except when the friendly Stellar Jay chose to enjoy a dinner of newly planted seeds! I am looking forward to enjoying the tomato plants from Mary.

We are very pleased to announce that our marriage took place on May 6th at our country estate near White Rock, B.C.

Jean Matthews officiated over a lovely service surrounded by many flowers and songs of native birds. Unfortunately due to the untimely arrival of Covid-19 the projected large gathering of family and friends could not be held to celebrate this long-awaited event other than the required two witnesses who were Shaun O'Roark & Patricia Catton. The wedding date of May 6th, 2020 was chosen being the 50th anniversary of our meeting at a Health Dept. Inservice in Vancouver way back in 1970. Our many thanks to the late Robert Scott, Director, Division of Public Health Inspection for the introduction.

Best wishes Tim & Patti



Outside, on the property, I have the use of two raised garden plots. I used Sea Soil to replenish the soil before I seeded the beds (I found two bags of Sea Soil in my car). Looking after these vegetable beds have been keeping me relatively sane through

From the Club

Melanie Rantucci (past past president) and I met at Select Roses in Langley to choose a gift from the White Rock Garden Club for Patti

Wolczuk and Tim Roark after receiving the announcement of their marriage on May 6th. The Rose we decided on was one named "**Beloved**", described as "large, fully double, and appearing on long, sturdy stems, this dark red hybrid tea captures the essence of romance!"

We thought about a card but with all this distancing, decided that members might each like to send a card to them at 3301 - 164A Street, Surrey, V3Z 0G5, something special for their album.



We delivered the rose today, rainy weather being excellent for transplanting. And had tea with the two of them, hearing stories about their beginnings as a couple. Great fun!

Mary Openshaw, President

Newsletter

Missing Newsletter

Some of you may have noticed there was no May newsletter and I have a good reason (I hope). We had a major water leak caused by a rupture in the water line running to the dishwasher. The short story is we spent 5 days in a hotel and our house is still a shambles. Anyway, this is the May-June newsletter (I thought that was clever). Cheers.

John Davidson, Newsletter

Juicy Bits Cleaning Techniques



Submitted by Bev Sass, Website

Be Careful Where You Plant!



"I told you not to plant it too close to the house."

*From 6th Treasury of Herman, Jim Unger
Submitted by John Davidson, Newsletter*