

## Funny in the Garden by Fran Benton

Recently I changed some volunteer activities because they lacked the one thing that is most important in my life- they weren't funny. I am cursed with a mad sense of humour that has gotten me in a lot of trouble in past. HOWEVER, I could not survive without my sense of funny. It's gotten me through so many of life's challenges. The garden provides much of this amusement from spectacular pratfalls to oddly shaped carrots. Nature is so goofy sometimes!



My weekly list of funny includes this gem. We all struggle with keeping squirrels out of the bird feeder. I like squirrels, even the invasive grey ones, but I like the little birds even more. Our entire neighbourhood shares the fun of watching all the critters at the feeders, especially the hummingbirds. Our seed feeder provides a big challenge as the squirrels constantly try to raid it.

My very funny husband invested in an extremely cool feeder called a Yankee Flipper. Oh excellent! This feeder has a bar on it that will spin around when the squirrel grabs it. The squirrel usually goes around once or twice and then flies off onto the ground. Squirrels get dizzy fairly easily and the feeder usually loses its allure. Then the squirrel has to be content with the rain of food dumped on the ground by the Juncos and Nuthatches. However, every so often you get a squirrel that tries to defy the odds and hangs on hoping the spinning will stop. And it doesn't. This inspires howls of laughter from everyone who watches. I think even the Nuthatches are sniggering! There are so many different ways to fool the squirrels and so many products. Check out this website for some Canadian products - <http://www.forthebirdsnatureshop.ca/> Most garden centres have knowledgeable staff who can discuss this problem with you too! Just so you know, no squirrels were harmed in the writing of this article, although a few were very embarrassed.

We will not be embarrassed to see you at the Mill Bay Garden Club meeting on Tuesday March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:45, Cobble Hill Hall. Did I mention we have coffee and tea as well as cookies?

