



You Are Invited!



MBGC AGM and Dinner

Tuesday, June 23rd, 2026 at 5:00 pm
in the garden of Carrie and Richard Nelson

This much-anticipated annual event will begin with a
Potluck dinner, followed by the
Annual General Meeting

Spouses, partners, children all are welcome to join us for the evening!

Please arrive between 4:00-5pm for setup. Please bring the following items (especially chairs!): **Something to contribute to the potluck dinner, including a serving utensil;** **chairs;** **plates, cutlery, napkins, placemats;** **coffee cups;** **favourite beverage and glasses;** and a **light jacket or sweater, just in case.**

There is a space on a mossy lawn for picnic blankets should anyone like to dine in that style!



Please bring a floral decoration for your table!



The club will be providing tea and coffee, and delicious cupcakes for dessert.

Garbage cans and recycling bags for cleanup will be provided.

Look for directions and parking information on page 2.



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

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Mill Bay Garden Club Annual General Meeting Agenda June 23, 2026

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Approval of minutes of the 2025 AGM (attached)
3. Community Flower and Garden Show report, Janice Rose
4. President's Report, Richard Nelson
5. Treasurer's Report, Gord Hamilton
6. Bursary Report, Ann Baty
7. Proposed list of donations:
 - Cowichan Hospice
 - CMS Food Bank
 - Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre
 - Nourish Cowichan
 - Shawnigan Basin Society
 - Somenos Transition House
8. Nominations & Election of the Executive and committee leads, Gill Keir
9. Proposed bylaw revisions
10. Final comments by the President
11. Adjournment

President's Message: AGM 2026

Richard Nelson

The past two years serving as President of the Mill Bay Garden Club have been a joy and an honour. The support, involvement and volunteerism of Club members has carried me along through this time, thank you all for your help. Attendance and participation in our general meetings displays an enthusiasm for the extensive club activities ranging through the raffles, plant sales and Brag Table to a boisterous, delicious break time and the ever inspiring speaker series. While the meetings always seem to verge on chaos I am inevitably filled with awe and gratitude for the collective contributions of the group.

A strong group of leaders meet each month to bring ideas and create a program for the Club. I thank all these members for their guidance, work and wisdom in keeping Mill Bay Garden Club current and ever evolving to meet the future. The executive, Gill Keir, Gord Hamilton, Carol Goodger-Hill and Kathy Code have been invaluable in sharing their knowledge and experience to keep me informed and in line with Club pursuits. A few of the committee leaders have done their time and will move on to other things. Thank you to Stephanie Taylor for managing the raffle for many years, to Carrie Nelson who has kept the plant sales table well supplied with contributions and to Alicia Wonsiak for keeping track of an increasing

membership as well as keeping the membership table staffed at our events. Welcome to a flush of new leaders who we anticipate coming forward at the Annual General Meeting on June 23.

The flagship event of the Club, The Community Flower and Garden Show, illustrates how hard work, dedication and coordination result in joyful success for so many participants. This event is built by a talented core of more than a dozen members, the steering committee, lead by Janice Rose and coordinated by Al and Wendy Mikalishen. Dozens more members work in the background and everyone joins together on the Event days to make a hugely complex effort appear easy and seamless. Heartfelt thanks to all who volunteer, enter and participate in the Flower and Garden Show for your part in bringing the Club to the Community each year.

Throughout and beyond the General Meetings and events during the darker months there is a warm, caring group brought together by common interests and spiced up with individual attributes that enliven conversation to brighten winter evenings as we anticipate spring and the surge of gardening activity that gardeners live for.

In Gardening
Richard

MBGC Elections

Executive for 2026-27

These positions are still open for volunteers to put names forward. They won't close until the actual election is in progress at the AGM.

President: Kathy Code

Membership: Emily Bendall

Vice President: Sian Richards

Memorial Garden: Heather Jenkins

Treasurer: Gord Hamilton

Newsletter: Dave Byrnes

Secretary: Carol Goodger-Hill

Plant Sales: Sally Emory

Past President:: Richard Nelson

Raffle: Alex Spezowka

Bursary: Ann Baty

Social Media: Pat Spezowka

Flower & Garden Show: Angie Stanta

Social Secretary: Janice Rose

Kitchen: Judy Raimondo

Library: Katherine Miller

Webmaster: *

* We need a volunteer for the Webmaster position. The monthly duties are as follows:

- Add the current newsletter to the Newsletters page
- Update the coming events page
- Update the next meeting details with date, speaker, and brag table theme.

Executive and Committee Nomination Forms

If you wish to nominate someone for any position, please fill in this form and return it to Gill Keir before the AGM.

Nomination form for Mill Bay Garden Club

I hereby nominate _____ for the
position of

_____.

Nominator _____

Secunder _____

I (nominee) _____

accept the nomination. Date: __/__/____

77th Community Flower & Garden Show 2026

BRAVO! Our 2026 Community Flower and Garden Show was a resounding success! A huge thank you goes out to all the members of the Flower and Garden Show committee. They worked like a 'well oiled machine' for many months to create a wonderful event. This team is a cheerful, dedicated group determined to put on an excellent show.

We also have an enormous appreciation for the 75 plus enthusiastic volunteers who put in many hours to create a memorable experience for the club and the community. Thank you all!

There are many highlights from our 77th Show. Firstly a record number of people entered exhibits to be judged. In total 40 club members and 5 community members displayed 350 flower, veggies and creative designs.

Congratulations to Heather Jenkins for winning the Aggregate Award. The Spezowkas and Bill Herring should be mentioned for receiving a high level of points.

Shari Wilson was thrilled to win the People's choice Award for her Ikebana Design. Congratulations also go out to Donna Birtwistle, Pat Spezowka, Liz Lindquist, Penny Grossman, Joanne Harris and Gwen Carlson-Redcliffe who also received votes.

The Plant Sales table buzzed with enthusiastic shoppers! No wonder the plant sales team brought in more money than ever before (\$3943.) The team of volunteers working at this part of the show should be congratulated for their hard work and dedication.

The Silent Auction was also a busy place to hang out as people placed their bids on over 108 interesting and varied items. Many thanks to the Silent Auction team for creating such an inviting atmosphere and for raising \$4203.

A very special highlight this year was the culinary delights created by our very own award winning chef Dorothy Molnar. Dorothy kept our bellies full and spirits high as we tasted her delightful food.

On behalf of the Community Flower and Garden Show Committee I wish to thank everyone for a wonderful show and memorable experience.

Janice Rose

Executive Members

President

Richard Nelson

Vice President

Kathy Code

Treasurer

Gord Hamilton

mbqcfees@gmail.com

Secretary

Carol Goodger-Hill

Past-President

Gill Keir

Committee Leads

Membership

Alicia Wonsiak

mbqcmembership@gmail.com

Flower & Garden Show

Janice Rose

Library

Katherine Miller

Kitchen

Judy Raimondo

Plant Sales

Carrie Nelson

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Committee Reports

2026 MBGC Bursary Recipients

The Bursary Committee is pleased to announce the 2026 recipients of our two \$1000 bursaries. Both students have shown notable academic accomplishments, extra-curricular involvements, and the quality of dedicated leadership, as noted in by their teacher references. Congratulations to Damen Marinakis from Frances Kelsey Secondary and to Ashley Pepper from Quw'utsun Secondary who were presented with their awards at school ceremonies earlier in June.

Damen has been an avid gardener at home and describes his employment at Dinter Nursery as the "perfect job for me." Besides bird-watching and fishing, he has volunteered as a research assistant in Yellowstone National Park collecting wolf howling data and at a research station in Costa Rica monitoring several restoration and conservation projects. Damen had planned to enter the University of Victoria's Bachelor of Science program with a specialty in Environmental Conservation and Sustainability research and innovation. Subsequent to our bursary committee meeting in April, Damen, one of 100 students across Canada, was awarded the prestigious Schulich Leader Scholarship, Canada's premier STEM and entrepreneurial award. He will attend Queen's University in the fall.



Damen Marinakis

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Committee Leads (cont'd)

Bursary

Ann Baty

Sunshine

Janice Rose

Brag Table

Barb Kohlman

Memorial Garden

Heather Jenkins

Raffle

Stephanie Taylor

Website Administrator

Gord Hamilton

www.Millbaygardenclub.com

Social Media

Pat Spezowka

Newsletter Editor

Dave Byrnes

mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Social Media

If you use Facebook, don't forget to check us out and "LIKE" us.

[https://
www.facebook.com/
share/g/179g2iN22r/](https://www.facebook.com/share/g/179g2iN22r/)

Committee Reports (continued)

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Ashley plans to attend the University of British Columbia's Bachelor of Science program with a focus on protecting the natural environment. Her goal is to earn a PhD. She is an accomplished pianist, rower, QSS Eco Club vice-president, and was selected as a student representative to SD 79's Climate Action Advisory Committee. Along side her father, she has checked for invasive species and counted wildlife with Ducks Unlimited at Somenos Marsh.



Best wishes to these two deserving students. A special thanks to Dustin Carlson for presenting Ashley with her award at the QSS awards evening on June 2nd.

The Bursary Committee: Norman Redcliffe, Robert Liston, Reyna Jenkyns, Heather Jenkins, Al Mikalishen, and Ann Baty.

Ann Baty

Plant Sales Table - General Meeting

Ahh, the year end is here, at least for general meetings, but there's really no rest for the wicked! It's a great time to take cuttings and expand your garden! Mid June to mid July is ideal for taking softwood and semi-hardwood 4- 6 inch cuttings of many perennials and trees. Following is a short list of plants that are fairly easy to propagate from cuttings. Check out "how to propagate....." on line. And include "Pacific NW" in the search line. I have success with the following starred (*) plants.

Perennials: nepata, monarda, salvia, Russian sage, lavender*, rosemary*, forsythia*, duetzia*, daphne*, kalmia, deciduous azaleas*, and clematis*.

Trees: dogwood*, stewartia*, styrax japonica*, and lilac, to name a few.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Barb J for helping with the sales, not to mention helping to set up and clean-up. I've enjoyed meeting so many enthusiastic gardeners, those who are sharing their plants and knowledge, and those who know a

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Committee Reports (continued)

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good bargain when they see one, taking home an unusual plant or two.

I'm pleased to confirm Sally will take over the lead for the plant sales in September and will be grateful for any contributions from members.

Hope to see you on June 23 at the AGM.

Carrie

Social Media

Hello everyone,

Thanks for all the nice comments I am getting about our Facebook page. Keep on posting!

To join the group page please email me at spez@shaw.ca and I will send you an invite, go to our Facebook page and sign in, or click on the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/179g2iN22r/>

Happy posting.

Pat

Raffle Committee

This June meeting will be my last one at handling the monthly raffles.

My first meeting at the garden club was on October 24, 2017. I had just purchased my home and garden in Cowichan Bay.

My first role as raffle person was on March 26, 2019. A year later, most group events were cancelled due to COVID-19. Bernie Juurlink arranged ZOOM meetings for members. About 18 months later we were back in the swing. We were thriving on the companionship and topics about gardening.

A big thanks to those that brought donations to the raffle. All being valuable and making the meeting nights fun. Thank you to Barb Jensen for pitching in with set-up and ticket sales. And to Dustin Carlson for describing the prizes and announcing the lucky winning numbers. I give much thanks to the executive whose support made my job easier and enjoyable.

Sincerely, Stephanie Taylor.

Gardening Tips for June 2026

by Barb Kohlman

Finish planting out bedding plants. Water well and fertilize every two weeks — nice to make organic choice.

Remove faded flowers from baskets to encourage more bloom.

Stake tall plants before they fall over!! Whoops I missed this!!!

Sow perennials and biennials (columbine, delphinium, oriental poppy, lupine, foxgloves and campanula) for next season.

Check roses for blackspot. Pick off and destroy the diseased leaves.

Remove moisture-robbing weeds from the garden, then mulch with compost (2") to suppress new weeds and help retain moisture.

Mow grass to 2-1/2 inches to allow the plants to carry on photosynthesis.

Fertilize bulbs that have finished flowering, alliums especially.

Remove yellowed foliage.

Prune spring flowering shrubs when they are finished flowering and then fertilize.

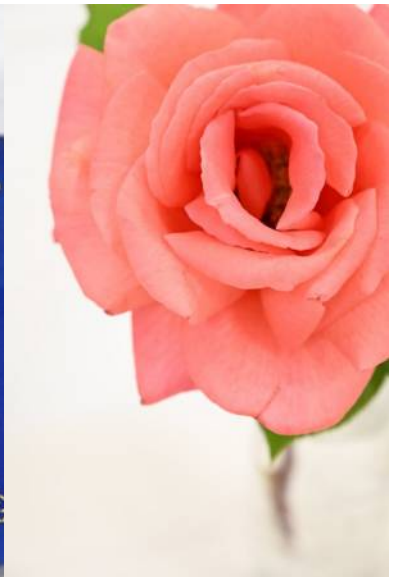
Clip hedges and keep newly planted hedges, trees and shrubs well-watered.

Houseplants can go outside for the summer months---shaded and sheltered for best results, at least until they are acclimatized.

Barb K



Flower & Garden Show 2026



Flower & Garden Show 2026



*Photos by
Janice Rose,
Stephanie Taylor and
Dave Byrnes*





Minutes of the Mill Bay Garden Club Annual General Meeting, June 24, 2025

President Richard Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM in the garden of Gayle Volker and Randy Thompson.

Judy Raimondo moved acceptance of the Agenda; seconded by Norman Redcliffe.
Passed.

Gillian Keir moved acceptance of the minutes of June 25, 2024; seconded by Janice Rose. Passed.

President Richard Nelson congratulated the club on a very good year. He pointed out that we need someone to volunteer as a backup for David Byrnes to distribute emails when he is away.

Janice Rose said that we had over 90 volunteers for our Flower and Garden Show this year. It was a very successful day. Barbara Juurlink won the aggregate trophy award. Heather Jenkins was second and Pat Spezowka was third. It was a close race since all winners were within three points of each other. The People's Choice Award went to Liz Lindquist. The show for next year is already booked.

Treasurer's Report. This year we will not disperse funds to local groups until after the financial year is closed. We will deal with this during the first meeting in September.

Bursary: Two bursaries have been given this year; one to a student from Frances Kelsey and one to a student from Quw'utsun Secondary School.

Past President Gillian Keir facilitated the election of officers for the next year. The following executive members were acclaimed:

Richard Nelson as President, Kathy Code as Vice President, Gord Hamilton as Treasurer and Carol Goodger-Hill as Secretary.

The committee chairpersons were acclaimed as follows:

Bursaries : Ann Baty

Flower and Garden Show: Janice Rose

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Kitchen: Judy Raimondo

Library: Katherine Miller

Membership: Alicia Wonsiak

Memorial Garden: Heather Jenkins

Newsletter: David Byrnes

Plant Sales Carrie Nelson

Raffle: Stephanie Taylor

Social Media: Pat Spezowka.

Web Master: Gord Hamilton

Richard thanked our hosts Gale Volker and Randy Thompson for once again allowing us to hold our AGM in their lovely garden.

Gillian Keir moved adjournment at 5:17 PM