



Your presence is requested



MBGC AGM and Dinner

Tuesday, June 27th, 2023 at 5:00 pm
in the garden of Carrie and Richard Nelson

at

Silver Sage Farm,
1720 Baldy Mountain Road, Shawnigan Lake

This much-anticipated annual event will begin with a
bring-your-own-dinner meal, 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 eat** (due to ongoing Covid concerns, no potluck this year); **chairs**; **plates, cutlery, napkins, placemats**; **coffee cups**; **favourite beverage and glasses**; and a **light jacket or sweater**, just in case.



Please bring a floral decoration for your table!



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

Garbage cans and recycling bags for cleanup will be provided.

Look for directions and parking information in the June Newsletter.



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Inside...

- President's Report p 3
- F&G Show Pix & Report p 5-7
- News & Reports p 8-12
- Barb Kohlman's Tips p 14
- Fran Benton's Column p 15
- 2022 AGM minutes p 17-18



Mill Bay Garden Club Annual General Meeting Agenda June 27, 2023

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Approval of minutes of the 2022 AGM (attached)
3. President's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Questions to the Executive
6. Discussion & Approval of disbursement of Club's surplus funds
 - a. Bursary Fund
 - b. Proposed charities
7. Nominations & Election of the Executive chaired by Bernie Juurlink
9. Final comments by the President
10. Motion for adjournment

Directions to the AGM and parking:

From Mill Bay follow Shawnigan Lake - Mill Bay Rd. approximately four kilometers, turn left onto Sylvester Rd. and then at about one kilometer turn right onto Baldy Mt. Rd. look for the Silver Sage Farm sign at 1720 Baldy Mt. Rd. on the right - drive up the driveway and find a parking spot.

President's Report - June 2023

Gill Keir

This Spring has been good to my roses. I decided that they need to learn how to survive in the ever-changing gardening world with only my admiration. They are fast learners. They haven't been fertilized, pruned, dead headed or watered (unless it fell from the sky). They have been blooming gloriously for a month and producing more blooms than I've seen for years. I'm amazed. Of course, that could mean they are under stress and giving a last gasp before succumbing. We will see if I will have to adjust their treatment this summer.

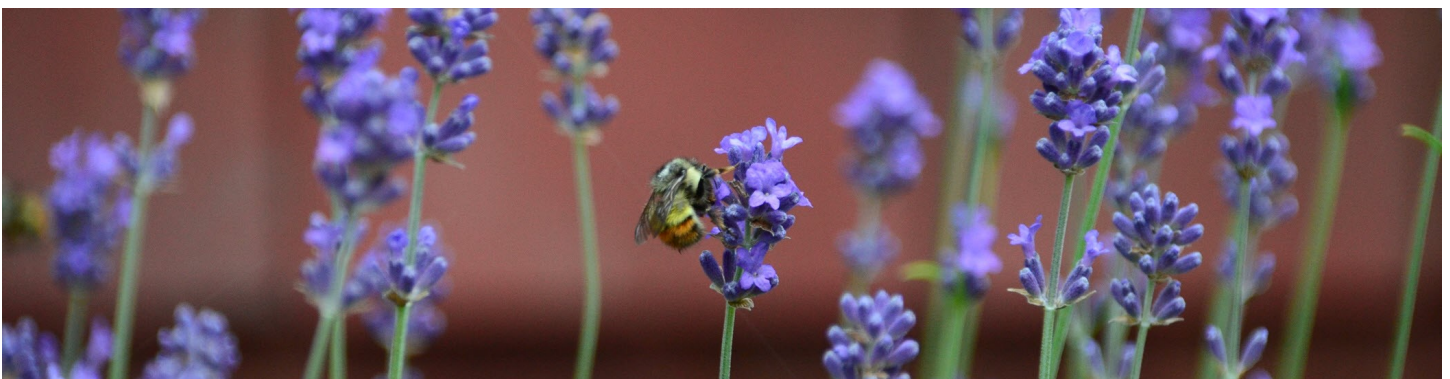
At the last executive meeting of the club year, the members prepare a list of deserving organizations to receive a donation from our fund raising. This year they are the CMS Food Bank, the Shawnigan Basin Society, the Cowichan Estuary Conservation and Restoration Association, Cowichan Hospice, Nourish Cowichan and the Somenos Transition House. We will discuss and approve these at the AGM.

I would like to thank Monika Morgan and Pat Spezowka, David Morgan and Alex Spezowka, for all the work they did for the Pop-Up Christmas Swag sale. They spent a lot of time organizing the sale and a lot of time making the wreaths and other decorations. They were beautiful.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who worked so hard and spent a lot of time to ensure that the 2023 Community Flower and Garden Show was a success. Next year there will be a change in organization. The Community Flower and Garden Show and the Mill Bay Garden Club will merge into one entity. There will be more information about this at the September general meeting.

I hope to see many of you at the AGM next week. We have an election to hold and I am grateful the current members all put their names forward for nomination and didn't run for the door when they had the chance. I would like to thank this year's executive for giving their time and expertise to ensure the club ran well.

Gill Keir



Executive and Committee Nomination Forms

If you wish to nominate someone for any position, please fill in this form and return it to Bernie 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: __/__/____

Submit nominations to Bernie Juurlink at bjuurlink@gmail.com

Nomination form for Mill Bay Garden Club

I hereby nominate _____ for the position of

_____.

Nominator _____

Secunder _____

I (nominee) _____
accept the nomination. Date: __/__/____

Submit nominations to Bernie Juurlink at bjuurlink@gmail.com

2023 Community Flower & Garden Show

Gill Keir, Chair

The show was a success and a delight. So many beautiful flowers were on display. So many thanks to give out.

I would like to thank Al and Wendy Mikalishen for the excellent organization of the volunteers and the minute taking for this and past years. Al and Wendy will step back next year and offer help as needed. After many years, Dianne Munday and Janice Rose, our treasurers, have decided to cash in. They too will stay in the background to help out. Thank you both for keeping the books straight.

I thank Mary Jean Morrison for organizing the Silent Auction and Nick Jenkins for his help to her. Pat and Alex Spezowka, as always, keep the chaos at the end of the Auction under control. Thank you too. Kathy Muirhead kept the signs from flying across the road – last year was difficult! Thanks Kath. Chris Mercer took on the advertising and offered a new design for the brochures and posters. Many compliments to you. Kathleen Mercer organized the plant sale, and it was well received and sales brisk. Heather and Nick Jenkins managed the vendors, and it was well organized. Thanks.

Next year the Show will need a new Chair. This position is listed under the Executive and will be confirmed at the AGM. Please contact me for information about what it entails. It's fun. All those interested, please send your name to Bernie Juurlink, who is running the elections this year.

Thanks – Gill Keir

And a note from the Past President...

Since it would not be seemly for Gill Keir as President to congratulate Gill Keir as the Chair of the Flower and Garden Show for this year's successful Show, I feel it is incumbent upon me as Past President to do so. This year's Flower & Garden Show was a spectacular success and I thank Gill and her team, especially Al Mikalishen, for organizing and running the Show as well as those who helped with the set-up and take-down of the Show. There were more flower displays than I can recall seeing at any Show since I joined the Club well over a decade ago. The Silent Auction was again a great success with many interesting items to bid on as was the Plant Sale with many lovely plants. As usual Nick and Heather did a great job of organizing the outdoor vendors.

Bernie Juurlink

MBGC Community Flower and Garden Show 2023



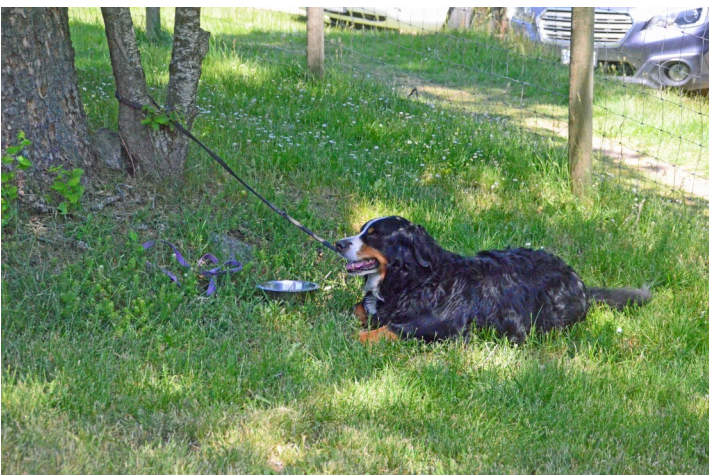
*Photos by
Pauline Dueck*



MBGC Community Flower and Garden Show 2023



*Photos by
Dave Byrnes*



Committee Reports

Membership

Another Garden Club year comes to an end and our membership is as strong as ever.

The membership drive at our Community Flower and Garden Show had 5 new members sign up plus 3 members who took a break during Covid have come back. That takes us to 140 members.

Next event on the membership list is the Cobble Hill Fair August 26, 2023, 7:30am-5pm. Alex & I will do the set-up on Friday, Aug. 25. We will come back on Sat. at 7am to complete the set up. The show opens at 8am so we will take the first shift from 8-11am. I need 4 more volunteers, 2 per shift to do 11am-2pm and 2pm-5pm. We will come back at 5pm to take down the display. The job of the volunteers is fun and easy. You just chat with interested people and hand out information. Membership fees are not collected at this event. **If you are interested in volunteering please contact me at spez@shaw.ca.**



See you all at the Annual General meeting on June 27.

Pat

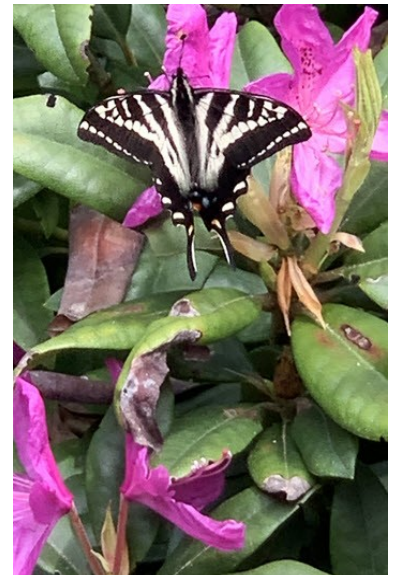
Social Media

If you use Facebook, don't forget to check us out and "LIKE" us at: www.facebook.com/millbaygardenclub

Pauline Dueck
Facebook Coordinator



The Memorial Garden Crew Hard at Work! (Photo by Jim Wisnia)



Committee Reports etc

2023 Bursary Recipients

The Bursary Committee is pleased to announce the 2023 recipients of our two \$500 bursaries. Both students have had exemplary grades, leadership accomplishments and sports involvements at Cowichan Secondary School. Congratulations to Brodie Kelly and Ginger Boehme-Vertefeuille who were presented with their awards at the ceremony on June 5th.



Brodie plans to complete a BSc at either UBC or Uvic, conducting research on plants and algae as food sources. Gardening has always been his special hobby. He was one of the original members of the Eco Club who devised a system to reduce contamination of recycling. Brodie has been awarded an SFU Entrance Scholarship.

Ginger's plans include attending UBC to pursue a BSc with an interest in environmental justice issues and climate action. Ginger co-

founded the Eco Club at CSS. She won a Canada Action Grant to build a butterfly garden with classmates at a Duncan park. She has volunteered with Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society and at a local bird of prey conservation organization. Ginger was recognized as a Horatio Alger Canadian Scholar at the Awards Night.



The committee of Heather Jenkins, Al Mikalishen, Janice Rose and Ann Baty reviewed 10 impressive applications. We would like to wish Brodie and Ginger the best in their future endeavours.

We hope to be able to present two bursaries in 2024 and beyond. We also would like to bring a 5th committee member on board. Contact Ann if you would like to join us. We guarantee you will be left with a feeling of hope for the future.

Ann Baty

Committee Reports etc

Notes from the Library

Many thanks to all our members who purchased our discarded library books at the Flower and Garden show. We brought in a total of \$103. 42! This money will go towards buying new and updated publications in the fall.

If anyone would like to recommend a new book or topic for our library please let me know.

*Your Friendly Librarian,
Janice Rose*

Plant Sales Table

The sunshine was like powdered gold over the grassy hillside.”

— Maud Hart Lovelace

Well here we are in the wonderful, sunny days of June, primed to enjoy another summer of gardening.

I want to send out a big thank you, on behalf of myself and Carrie Nelson, to everyone who brought plants & all manner of wonderful things to the plant sale table each meeting. You helped make our first year on the Plant Sale Table a great triumph!

Also, wanted to say thank you to everyone who contributed plants and volunteered at the Mill Bay Garden Club Plant Sale. The month of May went by in a blur. By the day before the sale, the plant yard was filled with nice looking plants. A huge thanks to Barb & Bernie Juurlink for offering their front driveway for the plants.

We lucked out with the arrival of 4 pickups and a few SUVs and got all the plants loaded for the trip to Cobble Hill Hall on Saturday.

In the morning, the weather was perfect and our volunteers worked tirelessly, unloading the plants, setting up tents & tables, greeting and engaging with the people, sharing their knowledge & love of plants (& plant shopping!) and then taking it all down again at the end of the day. What a team!

We raised \$1,378.50. The sale was a big success and we couldn't have done it without you!!

Hope to see you at the AGM in late June but if not, have a fantastic summer. Looking forward to seeing you and your lovely contributions to the Plant Sale Table, in the Fall.

Kathleen Mercer

Bits and Bobs...

Lost and Found

The two pruners mentioned in the last newsletter have not been found yet.

I don't think the brown prescription glasses were ever found either. The lady was visiting her daughter & thanked us for trying & said it must be a "sign" to get new glasses. The missing vase with sentimental value (a gift from her late husband) has been found & returned to the owner. Kathy Muirhead had rescued it during the final clean-up on Saturday. I think Marie Cooke may have a couple of vases that she plans to bring to the AGM.

Al Mikalishen

Growing celery from seed?

Last meeting there was a member who wanted to grow celery from seed but was unsuccessful. I am too successful and have extra celery plants that she can have. If it's you, contact Fran at Fran.Benton@viu.ca.

Gardening with VIRL

Vancouver Island Regional Library, in partnership with the Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Association, is hosting a **Virtual Gardening Series** of free webinars via Zoom.

The series started in March, but there are still monthly webinars to sign up for from July through November. Webinars take place on Monday evenings from 6:30 til 8pm.

Register for each session you'd like to attend at virl.bc.ca/tag/VGS.



The poster for the Virtual Gardening Series features a green background with floral patterns at the bottom. It includes the Vancouver Island Regional Library logo and the Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Association logo. The title 'Virtual Gardening Series' is prominently displayed. Below the title, it states 'Presented in partnership with Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Association (VIMGA)'. A 'SCHEDULE OF EVENTS' section lists dates and topics: March 6 | Late Winter Pruning, April 3 | Growing Vegetables for Winter Storage, May 1 | Growing Herbs, June 5 | What's In A Name, July 19 | Weeds, August 14 | Small Trees for the Urban Landscape, Sept. 11 | Shade Loving Perennial Crops, October 2 | Small Space Design Ideas, and November 6 | Gardening Under Cover. The schedule is held on Mondays from 6:30 - 8 pm on Zoom. Registration information includes the website virl.bc.ca/tag/VGS and a QR code. A note says 'Register for EACH session you are interested in to get the link.'

Virtual Gardening Series
Presented in partnership with Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Association (VIMGA)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- March 6 | Late Winter Pruning
- April 3 | Growing Vegetables for Winter Storage
- May 1 | Growing Herbs
- June 5 | What's In A Name
- July 19 | Weeds
- August 14 | Small Trees for the Urban Landscape
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MONDAYS
6:30 - 8 pm
on ZOOM

To register visit virl.bc.ca/tag/VGS
or take a photo of the QR code with your phone.

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More Bits and Bobs...

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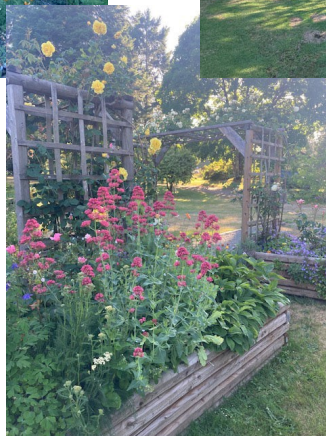
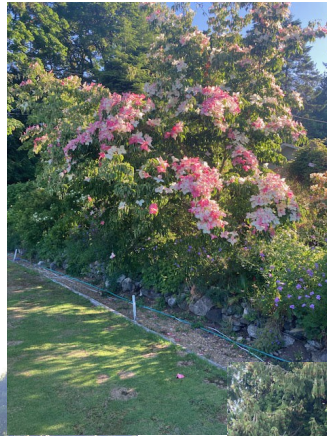
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Al Mikalishen

Bill's Open Garden

Long time member and master vegetable grower Bill Herring opened his garden for MBGC members earlier this month. Despite the downpour on the Saturday, around 30 people attended! Because of the weather, a further open happened on the following Monday evening. Here are some photos of the Monday event, courtesy of Heather Jenkins.

Speaking of open gardens, the club is eager to promote other members opening their gardens for fellow club members to enjoy. If you're interested, send a message to the newsletter (address on page 7, and *we will make it happen!*)



Speaker Topics?

Vice President Richard Nelson is looking for speaker topics of interest.

Please print this page and fill in the table, and then give it to Richard at the AGM.

Mill Bay Garden Club Speaker Survey

Please indicate your preferences for the type of presentations you would find interesting, useful or essential for the upcoming seasons.

Indicate your level of interest by checking in box 1-5 with 1 being least of interest and 5 most.

	1	2	3	4	5
Particular plant groups – ie. Roses, Irises . . .					
Garden styles – ie. Japanese, Rock and Alpine . . .					
Local initiatives – ie. Local gardens, Businesses . . .					
Garden Travel – ie. New Zealand, Ireland, Japan . . .					
Vegetable Gardening					
Fruit trees					
Design strategies					
Birds, Insects					
Plant pathology – ie. Insects, moulds, viruses . . .					

Please suggest other areas of interest for presentations, use the back of the page if you wish.

Mill Bay Garden Club June 2023+ Tips by Barb Kohlman

Soil piled up to a peak in hedges or specimen tree plantings is futile, stresses plants, and can be fatal. Rather than piling the soil, create a “moat” or dip in the soil around the tree or hedging material, so that water will flow into the root area. This is especially vital in hot weather, and with new hedges, shrubs, or trees. Install a drip hose under newly planted hedge areas.



Deadhead annuals, perennials and some roses, to promote more blooms. The deeper into the plant structure you cut, the longer new flowers will take to develop, so don't go overboard if you want to see another flush of blooms.

Water hanging baskets and patio plants as needed. Smaller pots may need to be watered twice on some very hot days. Larger baskets hold more moisture thus require less frequent watering. Water adds considerable weight, so make sure your basket hangers are secure.

Does anyone do this? Great project to challenge ourselves---

This month you can also take semi-woody cuttings from herbs like sage, rosemary, lavender, more. Use a light, airy and gritty potting medium, something like 1/3 perlite, 1/3 seed starter mix and 1/3 sand. Lightly moisten, and fill 4-in. pots to the top. Put 6-12 cuttings depending on width (they should not touch) with most of the leaves cut off, pinching the top shoots. Put the pots in trays with plastic covers, or cover pots with plastic bags and fasten with elastic bands. Do not water again unless soil is dried out and growth is observed – about 6-8 weeks.

Your compost should be cooking along. Make sure to add water if needed – don't let it dry out.

Keep bird baths clean and filled with fresh water; leave shallow bowls of water around your garden for bees, butterflies, wasps, other beneficial insects too –

Take a break. Relax, and enjoy your garden.

Barb Kohlman

Bugged!! by Fran Benton

Oh boy its hard to manage all the bugs and critters that are trying to consume our gardens! After lots of hard work growing vegetables and flowers by seed it is so frustrating to see them chewed down to a stub. My big frustration is flea beetles. A few years ago they severely damaged my potatoes and I have no one to blame but myself. I relied on vintage knowledge about storing potatoes in the ground over winter. No, we do not do that. It causes pests and diseases to get in your potatoes. Why I did this I do not know but now I pay the price. The flea beetles arrived with glee and laid their eggs and the larva joined the potatoes underground. Now when the potatoes are planted they are chewed to nothing by the newly emerged flea beetles. The harvested potatoes were ruined and I was not best pleased! But it gets better. Flea beetles like beans, tomatoes, and peppers too! Fortunately they have no interest (yet) in squash and peas and celery. Actually there was a lot of swearing , grumbling, muttering and generally a profusion of oaths. Sorry neighbours.

So now I have to deal with flea beetles every year. But guess what! Flea beetles are tiny black critters and can get through insect exclusion cloth. Arggggh!

My weapons of mass flea beetle destruction have been diatomaceous earth and Safer's spray. I also get myself worked up and then have a squish a thon. That's fun! But they are FLEA beetles and they can hop off the plants. Oh come on, that's just mean, eh?

I mix the diatomaceous earth in water and spray it on the plants. Not much worry from the beans but the peppers and tomatoes are really annoyed and stop growing for a while. The theory is that the diatoms (being made of glass exoskeletons) get in the cracks in the beetles exoskeleton and kill it. They do this by drying out the fats and moisture in the insect, and killing it. Yahoo! Although I have thwarted a huge infestation my tomatoes look sad as do the peppers and the bush beans.

I don't like chemicals on my plants but I have invested in a product called grub be gone in the hopes that it will kill the flea beetle larva. I will use it in the fall after any meagre harvest occurs!

Hope no one else has to deal with these bugs!



From the Archives...

These are the minutes taken by Mary Gale at the inaugural meeting of the Mill Bay Garden Club on Valentines Day, 1985.

Garden Meeting, February 14/1985.

The pilot meeting of the Mill Bay? Garden Club was held on Thursday February 14th. at the Community Centre Hall, with fifteen interested people attending.

Fred Gale chaired the meeting and gave a resumé of the running of the Duncan Club, with some ideas for guest speakers and visits to various gardens.

Wally Barber gave a very informative talk on the properties of various soils, followed by an impromptu answering of various questions. It was decided that members would write out their questions ahead of time, to give Wally time to answer them in full.

Jack Long has volunteered to speak at the next meeting on propagation, and Wally is bringing plants to the April meeting to have an auction.

Officers have not been elected as yet, but will be next meeting. It was decided to hold the meetings on the second Thursday of every month, and to bring any excess plants to sell to raise money.

The door prize of a primula was won by Dorothy Worsley, and the heater which was raffled for \$2.75 was won by Emmie Hardwick.

The evening ended with coffee and small group discussion.

Respectfully submitted
Mary Gale

Editor's Note:

The minutes for the 2022 Annual General Meeting were taken by a last minute volunteer, Cliff Stainsby. Cliff's inimitable note taking is on evidence here. I do want to acknowledge with gratitude Cliff for stepping up to do this, and to state firmly that our wonderful current secretary had absolutely nothing to do with these minutes.

Report:

2022 AGM: Mill Bay Garden Club

The meeting was hosted, once again, by Gillian Keir. About 25 MBGC members turned up; generally characterized for their lack of enthusiasm for gardening. If they were enthusiastic gardeners they would have had no time for such frivolity.

However, with the skies suggesting possible rain, we set up tables and chairs under two of the Club's prized awnings. So, despite the skies and the uncertain nature of the attendees (such uncertainty is endemic amongst gardeners world wide, we are certainly not an anomaly.) and because of the glorious location, the unexpectedly good behaviour of the Members and the Wonderful hosting by Gillian, we had a marvellous AGM.

One noticeable difference from such past events. In the past we have enjoyed great potluck meals. This time, because of the Covid context, everyone brought their own food. So, the quality of the food generally is unknown, but let it be said - there were no criticisms.

So on to the highly anticipated:

Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting

Date: June 28

Time: to be precise - I forget. It was a fairly early dinner.

AGENDA:

Motion to approve: M/S/C

(meeting junkie slang for Moved/Seconded/Carried)

President's Report:

(here the recorder of the Minutes steps out of line, highly unusual for this particular recorder, and makes a personal comment - Note: this recorder's comments are generally weirdly inane)

This is the end of the line for the President - Bernhard Juurlink. He did an exceptional job despite difficult circumstances - 2 years of COVID and the difficulties that entailed. And, the difficulties were many and persistent. So: **Thanks Bernie!!!**

Note: The grateful assembled showed their appreciation by retroactively doubling Bernie's immense compensation to bring it in line with that of Executives throughout the Country. Don't spend it all in one place Bernie, unless you must.

Back to business: the President reported that:

- It was a good year given the circumstances, and
- The reworked Millennium Garden is wonderful

... continued next page

Treasurer's Report

As is well known, these reports are about money (treasure) and involve considerable dissembling; but here it is:

- The actual report is in the Newsletter
- We have surplus of \$6,500 (he smiled while saying this, conclude what you will)

M/S/C: community donations as proposed in the agenda:

- CMS Food Bank - \$1,000
- Cowichan Hospice - \$500
- Providence Farm - \$500
- Somenos Transition House - \$500
- Clements Society - \$500
- Nourish Cowichan - \$500
- Warmland House & Outreach - \$250
- CERCA - Cowichan Estuary Restoration and Conservation Association - \$750

Other reports:

- None
- Unfortunate as the assembled like long, rambling, repetitious meetings. The norm amongst gardeners - too many daisies probably.

Executive Election

4 positions to be elected. The rest remain occupied by the incumbents - no insurrection here. The positions and the results:

- President - Gillian Keir
- Vice President - Richard Nelson
- Plant Sales - Kathleen Mercer
- Secretary - tbd, however there appears to be a candidate.

Parting motion:

Be it resolved (strange: resolution is unusual among gardeners) that the MBGC increase its General Meeting Speaker's Honorarium to \$150 and maintain the travel allowance for the Speaker at \$25.

M/S/C

Adjournment:

Not sure but quite certain was some time subsequent to convening. And, strangely given the Club members demographic, everyone seemed to still be awake; probably a short meeting then.