

## Message from the President

Well, how did your garden grow? Did it look great despite the cold June, dry July and rainy August because you cleverly chose plants that perform well no matter what? Or are you like me, with a collection of things you love but which never really live up to their reputation? Every year I get sucked in by plants new and old that look great in the pictures but do nothing in my garden. This year I had hot flashes for a hot pink perennial Salvia by the name of Wild Watermelon and sprinkled it liberally around the yard. It probably won't survive the winter but I have to say it has bloomed heavily all summer, thrived on neglect and is an outrageous pink color that stands out even to my weak eyes. Loropetalum is another of my current faves, with reddish or burgundy foliage that looks wonderful both in containers and in mixed plantings. And again very pink flowers. This is a color I used to hate but now that I'm older absolutely love. Purple clothes are probably next.

My containers plants are finally starting to look good, with the cooler fall weather and the rain. Local nurseries have some beautiful fall and winter containers, so make the rounds to get some inspiration (and cheap plants - there's some bargains out there right now). Conway Lum will be speaking to us about fall and winter features for the garden in October. He's both entertaining and knowledgeable, so don't miss this one.

I've gone back to school after almost 25 years - I now understand transplant shock - so any garden chores that aren't done yet probably won't get done. If you do have time though, remember to pot up some plants for our sale now, as it's sure to be cold and rainy in the spring and we won't be able to get out. Speaking of which, we still need someone to head up the plant sale. It's not an onerous job and it's a very rewarding one.

In fact all our jobs are coming up again and we hate to repeat ourselves, but you get more out of life if you get involved. If you haven't tried something, give it a whirl. New people and new ideas keep things moving. Us oldies are happy to get back to pottering.

Happy gardening.



## *CONDOLENCES*

We were saddened to hear that fellow member Arlene Hrastnik lost her husband recently. All of us at BRAGS join in sending our heartfelt condolences.



## History and Origin of Canadian Thanksgiving

In Canada, Thanksgiving is celebrated on the second Monday in October. Unlike the American tradition of remembering Pilgrims and settling in the New World, Canadians give thanks for a successful harvest. The harvest season falls earlier in Canada compared to the United States due to the simple fact that Canada is further north.

The history of Thanksgiving in Canada goes back to an English explorer, Martin Frobisher, who had been trying to find a northern passage to the Orient. He did not succeed but he did establish a settlement in Northern America. In the year 1578, he held a formal ceremony, in what is now called Newfoundland, to give thanks for surviving the long journey. This is considered the first Canadian Thanksgiving. Other settlers arrived and continued these ceremonies. He was later knighted and had an inlet of the Atlantic Ocean in northern Canada named after him - Frobisher Bay.

At the same time, French settlers, having crossed the ocean and arrived in Canada with explorer Samuel de Champlain, also held huge feasts of thanks. They even formed 'The Order of Good Cheer' and gladly shared their food with their Indian neighbours.

After the Seven Year's War ended in 1763, the citizens of Halifax held a special day of Thanksgiving.

During the American Revolution, Americans who remained loyal to England moved to Canada where they brought the customs and practices of the American Thanksgiving to Canada. There are many similarities between the two Thanksgivings such as the cornucopia and the pumpkin pie.

Eventually in 1879, Parliament declared November 6th a day of Thanksgiving and

a national holiday. Over the years many dates were used for Thanksgiving, the most popular was the 3rd Monday in October. After World War I, both Armistice Day and Thanksgiving were celebrated on the Monday of the week in which November 11th occurred. Ten years later, in 1931, the two days became separate holidays and Armistice Day was renamed Remembrance Day.

Finally, on January 31st, 1957, Parliament proclaimed...

"A Day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed ... to be observed on the 2nd Monday in October."

Source: [www.twilightbridge.com](http://www.twilightbridge.com)

*Happy Thanksgiving!*



### ***NOTICE OF AGM***

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at 7:30 PM, Wednesday, December 2 2008, in the Discovery Room at Burnaby Village Museum.

If the meeting cannot be held at this time, it will be rescheduled for the following Wednesday at the same time.

**BRAGS  
2008 EXECUTIVE**

**President**  
Susan Brandl  
433-4250  
**Vice-President**  
Faye Kilpatrick  
434-5921  
**Treasurer**  
Heather MacKay  
438-1342  
**Secretary**  
Lanny Hui  
415-4564  
**Past President**  
Cheryl Fiddis  
435-2801

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Fund Raising**  
Peter Barnsdale  
421-8987  
Cheryl Fiddis  
435-2801  
**Membership**  
David Forsyth  
298-6350  
**Nominations**  
Cheryl Fiddis  
435-2801  
Lois Brown  
298-6681  
**Publicity**  
Jackie Walker  
420-0275  
**Rhododendron  
Festival**  
Judy Wellington  
434-8287

**OTHER COMMITTEES**

**Garden Contest**  
Vacant  
**Garden Tour**  
Faye Kilpatrick  
434-5921  
**Plant Sale**  
Vacant  
**Newsletter**  
Lanny Hui  
415-4564  
Anne & David Forsyth  
298-6350  
**Raffle & Greeting**  
Sheila Chowdhury  
298-1196  
Judy Wellington  
434-8287  
**Refreshments**  
Helen Vaughan  
299-2014  
**Speakers**  
Debbie Vallee  
436-2311  
**Website**  
David Forsyth  
298-6350

**October Meeting**  
Wednesday, October 1, 2008

**Conway Lum**  
"Fall & Winter Garden  
Features"

**Thank You**

To Susan Brandl, Cheryl Fiddis and Lois Brown for contributing articles to this edition of the BRAGS Newsletter. Contributions from Members are always welcome.

**New gardening books @  
Burnaby Public Library**

Patios & walkways idea book / Peter Jeswald, at Metrotown, McGill and Cameron.

Stone landscaping / editor: Michael McKinley at Metrotown

New garden design / Zahid Sardar at Metrotown, McGill and Cameron.

**Out and About**  
**Farmers Market, Saturdays**

**until Oct. 25** from 10am to 2pm, North Parking Lot at Burnaby City Hall, 4949 Canada Way at Deer Lake Parkway.

Sep 27 (Sat) 10am to 3pm VanDusen Compost & Spring Bulb Sale Parking Lot at VanDusen Botanical Garden. More info at VBG Website.

**Gardening 101**

A new feature on the BRAGS website links to free, interesting information on other gardening websites. This month's feature is an excellent and timely Fine Gardening magazine article and short videos on "Dividing Perennials".

**Nominations! Nominations!  
Nominations!**

**by Cheryl Fiddis & Lois Brown,  
Nominations Committee**

Well here we are! Summer has sped by, fall is in the air, and soon it will be time for our club elections. As a BRAGS member we encourage you to consider applying for a position as our Club can only continue to exist with replacement leadership.

As advised in previous communications, the following positions are up for election:

*President*  
*Vice-President*  
*Treasurer*  
*Publicity*  
*Membership*  
*Fundraising*  
*Rhodofest*

The election process is a simple one. At the October and November meetings your Nominations team, Cheryl Fiddis & Lois Brown, will have the nomination forms available..

Nominations by members must be in writing, signed by the Nominee and two (2) members who are making the nomination, and given to the Nomination committee not less than 14 days before the AGM (for example, at the October or November meetings).

**\*\*Please keep in mind that while the elections take place at our AGM, our December meeting, no nominations can be accepted at that time, due to the 14 day deadline stated in our By-Laws.\*\***

If you think you would like to apply for a position, please make your intentions known, and complete the form with two members who will formally nominate you.

Should a position receive no nominations by the date of the AGM, then a position can be filled by acclamation once the AGM is concluded.

A reminder that pretty well all of the positions can be co-chaired, so if you and someone else wish to share the role, both of you can complete the one form, with the nomination of two members, and hand the form in.

And please remember that all of these positions are currently filled by very capable members who will be there for guidance and support down the road.

So have no fear!

We look forward to answering any questions you may have.

