

## Message from the Editor

By Lanny Hui

This is my first time to address you in the newsletter. I consider myself lucky to have the guts to take on the responsibility of being the Secretary and Editor of the newsletter. Being involved in BRAGS, I get to improve my skills, to understand the organization better, and to have fun to get to know each of you. (I am still in the process of memorizing everyone's name. At work, I have managed to remember more than half of the tenants in 252 units after almost two years of working part-time. So, I am optimistic that one day I will be able to remember your names and hopefully, your favourite plants! )

As you know, in December, we will have to nominate people for various positions in the organization. Some of us may think that the position is too difficult to handle because of reasons such as 'I do not have the experience', 'I do not have the skills', 'I do not have the time', 'I do not have the energy', 'I am new to the organization', or 'I am not an experienced gardener'. If you can come up with these excuses, then you have the SAME excuses I had, just before approaching Susan Brandl and David Forsyth to be involved in BRAGS. So, here is your chance to discover your hidden talents, to know your limits and to avoid being bored due to lack of challenge.

Each position offers you an opportunity to build a new network of friends from BRAGS, the City of Burnaby, other gardening clubs, other community members, and so on. These relationships are what make us feel that we belong to this community.

We share our stories, talents, and time together. If we share a load, every chore becomes fun. But, when we feel that we are taken for granted, a little chore becomes a mountain to carry.

“TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW  
YOU WILL BE MORE  
DISAPPOINTED  
BY THE THINGS  
YOU DIDN'T DO  
THAN BY THE ONES  
YOU DID DO

SO THROW OFF THE BOW LINES  
SAIL AWAY  
FROM THE SAFE HARBOUR

CATCH THE TRADEWINDS  
IN YOUR SAILS

EXPLORE  
DREAM  
DISCOVER.”

-Mark Twain



## CHRISTMAS PARTY

As well as the Annual Meeting, the December meeting features our annual BRAGS Christmas Party. As there is no speaker this evening, this is a good opportunity to chat and socialize with your fellow members and enjoy Christmas treats.

If bringing food for the party table, finger food is preferable, but plates and forks will be available. An oven is also available for reheating as required.

So come and enjoy this special evening in the BRAGS calendar and get into the Christmas spirit.

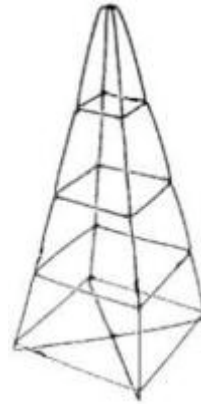
## Topiary in your Garden?

Imagine you are in your friend's garden where the shrubs have all kinds of shapes: cube, ball, cone, pyramid, and animals. As a gardener, you would probably start asking questions: "Are these real? Where did he get those? How did she grow them? How much are these? How long does it take to make such a form?"

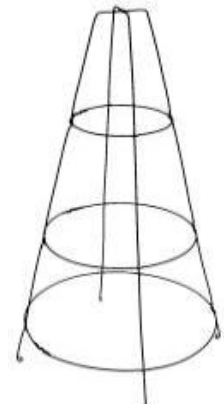
This work of art, as some of you probably know, is called a topiary. I have not done it myself, but it looks like it is something fun to experiment with in the next growing season. I have been flipping through a few books about the subject and have been getting some ideas to make my garden more pleasant to look at.

Some things you should consider when designing a topiary: the plant, the shape, the pot, the location (where you're going to put the topiary), and your imagination. You can start something simple like designing a ball, a cube, or a pyramid using plants with small leaves such as rosemary, lavender, or boxwood. It is better to use wires as a guide when trimming the plants so that they would have the shape you want. You can have a nice-looking pot without spending a lot of money. You can decorate the pot by painting it or simply adding a ribbon around it. When you use a pot, you can easily move the topiary around your garden as you like.

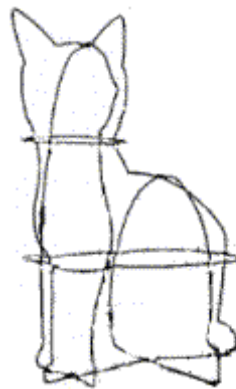
These are some shape ideas from [www.wheathampstead.net/topiary/](http://www.wheathampstead.net/topiary/):



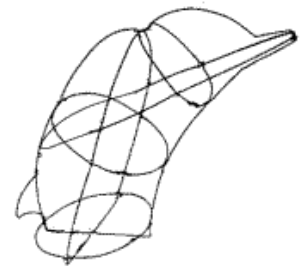
Obelisk



Cone



Cat



Dolphin



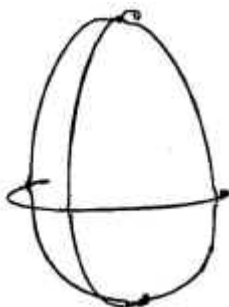
Airplane



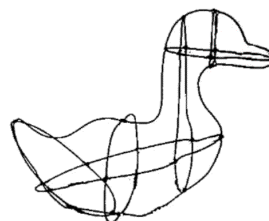
Ball



Heart



Egg



Duck



### An Irish Blessing for You at Christmas

The light of the Christmas star to you,  
The warmth of home and hearth to you,  
The cheer and goodwill of friends to you,  
The hope of a thousand angels to you,  
The love of the Son and God's peace to you.  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## 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 Editor

Lanny Hui  
415-4564

#### Newsletter Distribution

Anne & David Forsyth  
298-6350

#### Raffle

Sheila Chowdhury  
298-1196

#### Greeting

Judy Wellington  
434-8287

#### Refreshments

Helen Vaughan  
299-2014

#### Speakers

Vacant

#### Website

David Forsyth  
298-6350

## Christmas Events in Burnaby

### To Jan 4, 2009

**Burnaby Village Heritage Christmas.** Enjoy the boughs, red bows and all the other old-fashioned ornaments and decorations throughout the village and farmhouse. The season features traditional entertainment, demonstrations, hands-on activities and exhibits from the early 1900s.

### Dec 2 (Tue)

#### Christmas Holiday Concert

The Burnaby Symphony Orchestra will present a concert of your favourites along with newer Christmas works that will help refresh those wonderful feelings and get us in the mood for the 2008 Christmas celebrations and holidays. Shadbolt Centre. Tickets: Adult \$35

Youth/Senior \$25

### Dec 4 (Thur)

#### 13th Annual Seasonal Celebration.

Bring the entire family to celebrate the spirit of the season. Creative opportunities include music, dance & theatre performances, hands-on arts activities. Shadbolt Centre, free admission, 5:30 to 8:30pm.

### Dec 7 (Sun)

#### Friends of the Carousel - Christmas Party

A Chinese Dinner and unlimited rides on the Carousel for \$10 (Friends of Carousel are free). Possible silent auction of Carousel memorabilia. Don Wrigley Pavilion, 6 to 10pm. Contact Don Wrigley ASAP if interested at 604-521-5569 or email don.wrigley@shaw.ca.

### Dec 20 (Sun)

#### "The Nutcracker"

The traditional Nutcracker ballet comes to life bringing Magical Soldiers, Mice, the Sugar Plum Fairy & a growing Christmas Tree. Dance of the Mirlilons, Waltz of the Flowers and other favourites, all performed to Tchaikovsky's beautiful score! A Royal City Youth Ballet presentation. Massey Theatre, 2:30pm. Call 604-521-5050 for tickets.

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## Welcome New Members

Alison Dewhurst – April 07

Kathy Downes – May 07

Gail Sterling – May 07

Kim Taylor – June 07

Lynne Harvey – Nov 07

Mary Hamaliuk – Jan 08

Diane Pollock – March 08

Aki Sakagami – March 08

Tim Sargeant – March 08

Wendy Thompson – March 08

Lorraine Robson – March 08

Moira Nichol – April 08

Glenn Gytenbeek – April 08

Verna Adamson – May 08

June Jeffries – June 08