

*January 2019!*  
*Happy New Year!*



The New Year has arrived, and winter is here. Our forecast for this winter, is that it is expected to be warmer and drier than 'average', but I guess we shall have to wait and see. Either way, once January arrives, in no time at all the days seem to get longer, and those sunny days more frequent. Yes!

A short visit to Hawaii in November was a welcome blast of sun and heat for me, and the flowers, oh such a treat for the eyes...and the nose! Here's a few inspiring tropical flowers to brighten your winter day.

After all, Spring *must* be just around the corner!





Great Blue Heron taken by David @ Granville Island

*Vancouver can also be lovely in the winter!*

If you have anything to share, - stories or pictures, that you think our BRAGS members might enjoy, please send them on! If you've been on a vacation, or visited a local attraction, and saw something of interest, don't be shy. We'd love to hear all about it!

Send to Cheryl Fiddis @ [ecfiddis@telus.net](mailto:ecfiddis@telus.net)

### ***Your January Birth Month Flower***

Yes, your birth month has a flower! Since this is the January issue, this month we wish all those with their birthdays in January a happy day.

### ***...Carnations & Snowdrops...***

Spicy-scented carnations, like 'Cinnamon Red Hot', are the birth flowers for January. Different colors convey different meanings. White carnations symbolize pure love, while yellow means "wish you were here" and pink says, "you're unforgettable." Snowdrops, which indicate hope and beauty, are also flowers for this month.



### ***January Garden Chores!***

Even though it might be winter, there's always a few 'chores' this month, when it comes to your garden.

#### ***Order your seeds!***

Many gardeners plan their gardens and order special seeds early in the year. It is often tempting to order a lot of seeds and before you know it you may have a very long list! Luckily, we live in an area with numerous garden centres which are well stocked, and staff are happy to spend a rainy afternoon helping you with your choices. Take the time to learn about something different that you may wish to try this year, and do some research prior to making your purchase. With anticipated rising vegetable prices, now is the time to broaden your taste buds, and grow something new and delicious.

#### ***Seed catalogue codes!***

Confused by the seed codes? Here's a few descriptions that may help you.

**GM** – seeds have been genetically modified

**Organic** – seeds that come from an organically-grown plant

**HA** – hardy annuals (plants that can be sowed in the spring and can stand some frost)

**HHA** – half-hardy annuals (plants that can be sowed in late spring and are killed by frost)

**BI** – biennial (plants that are sowed in early spring and survive through the winter)

**HP** – hardy perennials (plants that can overwinter without protection in some climates)

**HHP** – half-hardy perennials (plants that can overwinter if they are protected by a cover or brought into a greenhouse)

#### ***Add Lime to Your Soil!***

Heavy rainfalls can leach the soil of nutrients, making the soil acidic. To balance this out, sprinkle lime on your garden beds. Coarse dolomite is a good source of lime. Avoid areas where you will plant potatoes, strawberries and blueberries. These plants prefer an acidic soil. You can lime your soil anytime in the winter and early spring.

#### ***Feed Your Soil!***



## **BRAGS EXECUTIVE**

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Wendy Thompson

**Vice-President**  
Bev Glover

**Treasurer**  
Susan Brandl

**Secretary**  
Linda Cholette

**Past President**  
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### ..... **STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Membership**  
Anne Forsyth

**Nominations**  
Verna Adamson

**Publicity**  
Evelyn Crawford

**Rhododendron Festival**  
Verna Adamson

Bev Glover

### ..... **OTHER COMMITTEES**

**Plant Sale**  
Linda Cholette

**Newsletter**  
Cheryl Fiddis  
Anne & David Forsyth

**Welcome Desk**  
Judy Wellington

**Refreshments**  
Faye Kilpatrick

**Speakers**  
Beth MacLaren

**Website**  
David Forsyth

Winter is a great time to build up your soil. Add mulches that will create rich, natural humus, which plants love. Natural mulches include shredded leaves, grass clippings, straw and seaweed.

## **BRAGS Membership**

*\*Reminder: it's time to pay the 2019 dues\*  
Please visit Anne at the Membership desk!*

Still only \$12 per year, BRAGS members share various gardening interests and enjoy monthly guest speakers, plus are entitled to discounts of regularly priced items at GardenWorks and other garden centres, simply by presenting their membership cards. Monthly meetings (excepting July & August) start at 7 pm at the Burnaby Village Museum, - Main Building, up on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Easy to get to with ample free parking and refreshments are served! Please join us!

## **Upcoming Meetings Events/Club News**

### *January 2, 2019 Meeting*

Andrea Bellamy presents "Growing in Containers & Small Spaces"...always a great topic for those of us trying to downsize! Focus will include flowers and shrubs, plus edibles. Andrea is the author of "Small-space Vegetable Gardens: Growing Great Edibles in Containers, Raised Beds, and Small Plots".

### *February 6, 2019 Meeting*

Our presenter will be Victoria Otton. She is a member of Burke Mountain Naturalists. Her presentation will be: "Attracting birds to backyard gardens and feeding through the winter months and bird identification". Includes a fun quiz on bird ID!

### *March 6, 2019 Meeting*

Pending...stay tuned!

### *\*Speaker Program\**

Beth is looking for new ideas for 2019 speakers. If you have a suggestion, or perhaps know of a speaker who attended another club you belong to, please let her know. As well, if you have an idea for a group outing, please bring it up during one of the meetings.

## **Out & About Etc...**

*Gardenworks Customer Appreciation Days*  
*January 17, 2019, February 21, 2019*  
Mark the dates for 15% savings all day!

