

## September 2019!



September, Yes! Many ask, “Where did the summer go?” I must echo that phrase! It seems just a short while ago we were at our June meeting, and looking forward to the summer. It came! It went! But as Fall approaches, I hope you have good memories of your summer, and remember it as a great one. Our September meeting will be a recap of the summer, and sharing those memories. We look forward to seeing you and hearing about yours!

### *BRAGS Picnic 2019*

Our annual picnic, held at the home of Bev & Bill, was once again a wonderful day and enjoyed by the 14 members and guests who attended. Perfect weather, perfect company, and a lovely garden to spend an afternoon in over a picnic lunch. Priceless! Thank you Bev and Bill for hosting!



Remember, 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, or saw something of interest, don't be shy. We'd love to hear all about it!

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

### *Your September Birth Month Flower*

Since this is the September issue, this month we wish all those folk a Happy Birthday!

Fall-blooming Asters symbolize a strong and powerful love and are the birth flowers for September.



### **The Eastside Garden Tour**

*by Rosemarie Daviduk*

The Eastside Garden Tour, in Vancouver, occurs each June on Father's Day. It is a project of the volunteer group Britannia Neighbours. The group keeps their neighbourhood interesting and engaged by undertaking various projects. One can buy their \$15 ticket for the tour in advance, or on the day of the tour at Figaro's Garden shop on Victoria Drive.

Maps are only given out on the day of the tour. The tour map also has a description and history of the gardens. As this is a self guided tour from 10am – 4pm, one does not have to hurry. One can start at any time and can break up the tour by stopping for coffee/lunch on Commercial Drive or even do a bit of fruit/veggie shopping there.

The gardens, 13, are usually arranged in 2 – 3 areas so they are easy to walk to after parking. This tour differs from the North Shore Art in the Garden tour, as there are no artists showing their work or musicians to listen to. Vancouver lots are usually smaller than Burnaby's. Some gardeners have had their gardens for 20 – 30 years and they are evolving all the time. Others have been gardening for a shorter time.

An interesting feature when walking on the tour are the houses one passes. Some of these grand ladies were built 80 – 100 years ago.

It is always interesting hearing the gardeners choices re plants for their garden. Most gardens are informal, not formal. In the words of one gardener, "organized chaos". Some plant in front of their house, along the side of their house, in the back, and also on the City boulevard. Some gardeners plant just flowers and others veggies, flowers and fruit. One gardener enjoys growing raspberries, blueberries, peas and carrots so that children can pick and enjoy. Some started when they bought their house with a weed infested yard and poor soil. Thus with a labour of love and hard work the gardens have evolved into an oasis of beautiful plants. Most gardeners also enjoy composting and shredding leaves for mulch.

A favourite garden that I've enjoyed viewing is at 2135 Charles Street. The house was built in 1920 and sits on the back lane. The front is divided into a series of rooms which can be viewed from the street. There is a veggie patch, flower area, patio, picnic gazebo, fountain/fern, sitting area under a street, and an art studio. A very good use of space.

I always find that after going on a garden tour, I'm always eager to go home and start working in mine.



Thank you Rosemarie for sharing this tour with us!

## BRAGS EXECUTIVE

**President**  
Wendy Thompson

**Vice-President**  
Bev Glover

**Treasurer**  
Susan Brandl

**Secretary**  
Linda Cholette

**Past President**  
Verna Adamson

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### STANDING COMMITTEES

**Membership**  
Anne Forsyth

**Nominations**  
Verna Adamson

**Publicity**  
Evelyn Crawford

**Rhododendron Festival**  
Verna Adamson

Bev Glover

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### 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



## BRAGS Membership

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! If you haven't yet switched to 'digital only' newsletters to keep our costs down, please speak to David or email him at [info@brags.ca](mailto:info@brags.ca).

## Upcoming Meetings Events/Club News

### September 4, 2019 Meeting

Our September meeting will be our usual 'interactive member sharing summer garden stories'. Be sure to take those pictures and bring something to 'show and tell' from your garden if you wish.

### October 2, 2019 Meeting

Join us for our speaker Jennifer Zuk, - her topic is Dahlias. She will be bringing dahlias from her garden as part of her presentation.

### November 6, 2019

Kristen Crouch will give a presentation on "How to start a cut flower garden". After all, it's time to think about next years' garden!

## Out & About Etc...



### Gardenworks Customer Appreciation Days

September 19, 2019

Mark the date for 15% savings all day!

*Long time member Colin McCaffrey forwarded a message about how much he enjoys receiving his BRAGS newsletter. While he is no longer able to attend our meetings, he keeps himself in the loop this way. Nice to hear from you Colin!*