

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012 REPORTS



### PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT: HIGHLIGHTS AND KEY POINTS

2011 was an exciting and successful year for the North Shore Community Garden Society, both for the individual garden plots and the Society as a whole. The fact that the individual plots produced such wonderful bounty is a testament to both the dedication and skill of our gardeners, especially in light of the awful weather at the beginning of the growing season. Congratulations to you all for this wonderful success.

On an organizational level we have also thrived. To our growing family of gardens we added the brand new Charros Garden in the City of North Vancouver. The Charros Foundation, which provided a grant of \$35,000, and the City of North Vancouver, which provided a grant for \$8,000, were both key in enabling us to build the beautiful new space that we have. The garden is now completed and ready to start adding to the bounty as soon as the weather permits. This is a remarkable accomplishment given the tight time frame for construction, the inevitable delays due to uncontrollable circumstances such as weather and the challenge of building plots on a slope. Congratulations to our newest coordinators, Donna and Debe for reaching this milestone. Lillooet Garden, our second garden in the NSCGS family, had the opportunity to host a wonderful official opening late in the summer. Our Lillooet Coordinators, Isabelle and Mag, along with the rest of the planning committee did a fantastic job of organizing the event and ensuring that we properly celebrated the occasion of a second community garden in the NSCGS. Isabelle and Mag ensured that the garden was extremely well run and tended in its first year despite lacking in some of the basics, such as a garden shed and full supply of tools, for part of the summer. Their dedication to the garden and creativity in coping with these challenges is to be commended. Queen Mary, our very first garden, has built on their past successes at food production, stewardship of the public aspects of the garden and has now become the mentor for the newer gardens in managing pesky problems that sometimes occur in spaces like ours. As with the other 2 gardens, all this success could not have occurred without the dynamic Coordinator team of Daren and Dianna.

One sad note from this year is the resignation of Linda Moore from the position of President of the Board. Linda was one of the founding members of the NSCGS who's vision and dedication to community gardens put us on solid footing and will continue to influence our direction as we continue to expand on the North Shore. We all owe considerable thanks to Linda for helping the NSCGS become the success it is today. We are also very pleased that Linda is able to maintain her plot at Queen Mary as this will ensure that we can continue to have contact with her.

The remaining news about 2011 is of a more positive nature. First, we received a generous donation of \$1482.90 from Whole Foods Market. Second, both the Coordinators and Board members have been trying to update our Garden Guidelines, Bylaws and online documentation systems. These efforts will enable us to more effectively communicate, manage each garden, and coordinate our collective efforts as we have become a large group that is spread across the North Shore. Finally, we are almost ready to launch our own website thanks to the volunteer efforts of one of our gardeners, Anita Leonhard. Anita has spent many, many hours designing the public electronic face of our society to ensure that we can more easily connect with the community and each other.

As we now put a close to 2011 and look forward to the future, the Board is excited to continue evolving and expanding our organization so that the many North Shore residents that are keen on growing their own food can have the same opportunity that our current group of gardeners have.

Thank you all for your work in the gardens and our committees.

*Maja Regehr*

President, North Shore Community Garden Society

## QUEEN MARY COMMUNITY GARDEN ANNUAL REPORT

Our second full season in operation and what fun we had! One of the garden coordinators, Sharon Lisette decided to devote herself full time to the bees, along with her husband Ric Erikson, so in March of 2011 Dianna joined Daren as the second garden coordinator at Queen Mary, and things have been a whirlwind of activity ever since!

We established a garden event calendar with advance notice of work parties and garden events, revamped the perimeter gardens ~ and found 4 hidden rose bushes, set up a biweekly food donation for the Harvest House and donated over 100 pounds of produce from our gardens, hosted composting and pruning workshops in the garden, as well as a picnic, were interviewed and featured in a magazine article about community gardens ~ which we would have shared with you, but unfortunately it was in Japanese, and we couldn't get it translated ~ and had a wonderful season in the gardens despite the slow start to summer. We also were fortunate enough to welcome 5 new gardeners to the Queen Mary family, who despite a late start, managed to produce some very bountiful crops. Our bees did their jobs this summer and pollinated for us, but unfortunately the cold wet spring and lack of blossoms led to only small amounts of honey, and there was not a honey harvest for the school this year.



**Corn as tall as your eye!**



**July 28<sup>th</sup> harvest**



**Artichokes**

Of course, we weren't without our 'problems'! The food theft issue became a big concern in April, May and June last year, then seemed to dissipate with the placement of some sternly worded signs, the shed became the favoured hang out of our resident skunk who one day decided Dianna was a little too close and would prove to her that it's best to give skunks a wide berth ~ yes, she got sprayed, and yes, tomato juice and hydrogen peroxide does work ~ and of course, we battled with the rats, who decided if we were going to grow food, they were going to eat it.



**Good year for garlic!**



**Little red radishes**



**Broccoli**



# NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY

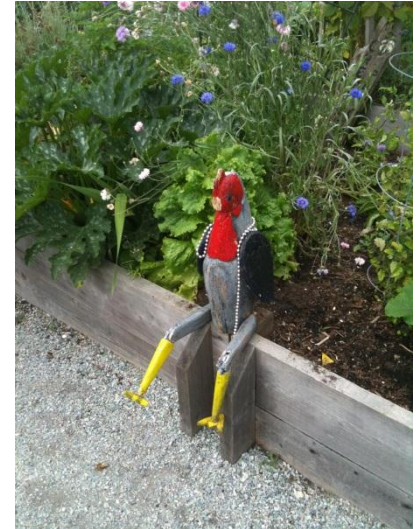
We once again were plagued with the familiar problem of getting more volunteers out to the work parties in the garden. We did have a small but wonderful group of volunteers who took on some more organized tasks last year, and of course we had our core group of folks who showed up for almost every work party and did whatever was asked of them. Volunteers in any organization are always the unsung heroes, and we truly appreciate and want to thank each and every one of you who gave up your time to make our garden a nicer place to be.



**Joanne, Cindy, Colleen, Leanne  
(Garden work party)**



**Daren (Garden work party)**



**Standing guard**

Our plans for this coming year include the new battle plan for winning the war with the rats by revamping our compost system, and making sure that ripened food in the garden is picked and not left for the 'critters', as well as our plans to 'skunk proof' the shed. We also are working on some permanent garden signage, membership cards that will provide the gardeners with a discount at some of the local garden centres, setting up a suggestion box for things you'd like to see us do or buy for the garden, and we'd would like to establish a committee to plan and produce an annual garden event that we could welcome the surrounding community to every year.

Our wait list currently is sitting at 81 people who are anxious to get into the garden, and get their hands in the earth, and our Queen Mary parents are waitlisted also for the next school plot that comes available, too. We've had a fun year, and learned a lot of things – stay away from skunks being one very valuable lesson! – and we look forward to another fun and productive year with you all.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dianna Allen & Daren Toppin*  
Garden Coordinators



**Colourful flowers**



## LILLOOET PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN ANNUAL REPORT

The 2011 year at the Lillooet Park Community Garden was busy and successful.

During the gardening season we held workshops, clean-up sessions, and our biggest event, the grand opening. We began our composting project, and now--thanks to our compost captains--have access to a beautiful product. Our major building project was completed this summer. The tool shed is now home to a variety of tools, both new and old. Many thanks to the coordinators of Queen Mary Community Garden for donating many of the tools you see in our shed.

The grand opening was held on September 17. Highlights included a speech by North Vancouver District Mayor Richard Walton, presentations about honey bees and seed collections, children's games, the balloon man, prizes, delicious food (thanks to The Pantry Restaurant), and rain showers of course! The organizing committee, local businesses, and attendees pitched in to make it an enjoyable and memorable event.

We are looking forward to another productive year at Lillooet Park Community Garden!

Sincerely,

*Isabelle Howells*  
*& Mag Kozłowska*  
Garden Coordinators





## CHARROS COMMUNITY GARDEN ANNUAL REPORT

On Saturday, September 10, 2011, Charros Garden officially got underway with our first work party weekend. It was all hands on deck for the construction of what would become 43 garden beds. Over the course of the next eight weeks our volunteers - and soon to be Charros garden members – bonded over the hard work involved in getting this garden on its feet. Chabane and his son were pros at putting together the beds, while Eliza proved to be a one-woman digging operation as she worked patiently to carve out the space where the water lines were located. This was no mean feat as we were all to discover very quickly how challenging the hard-packed ground at the site was in terms of digging into it. As Hossein will attest, there were more rocks being moved than dirt (and many of those rocks really didn't want to move anywhere!)



It was wonderful to see volunteers come out with their children, many of whom happily pitched in along with their parents. Mary-Anne was a star in the child minding department, taking advantage of the park right next door to keep the little ones entertained as needed while their parents were in the garden. Other volunteers kept us in terrific spirits by providing wonderful baked goods and other fantastic treats (Debbie's cupcakes were not to be missed!). A big thank you to Michael who sent round pizzas and beverages during one long afternoon session!





## NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY

Amidst all the work, the laughing – and cursing! – our garden shaped up very quickly. On November 8, 2011 we completed the final task of covering the beds and perennial border garden with leaves. All the beds were in, the shed had been completed, and the fence had been installed. We all stood back and looked on it with a sense of wonder and a tremendous amount of pride. It truly was inspirational to see what could be accomplished in such a short time.



September 2011



November 2011



Just after completing the garden, we assigned the plots to our volunteers. We had such an enthusiastic and consistent turn out during the work parties that there were no plots left over for anyone who hadn't put in some time on the construction of the garden! We continue to receive emails from people wanting to be a part of the garden, with 52 names currently on our wait list.



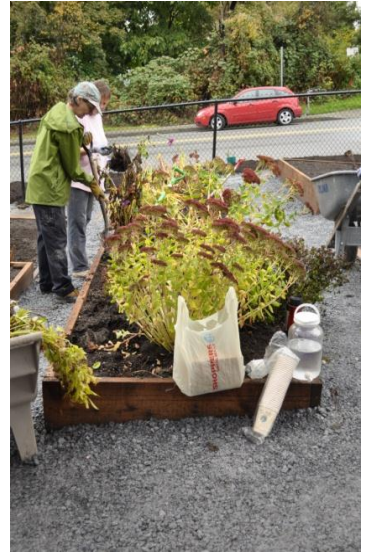
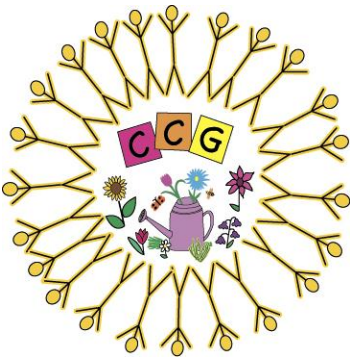
# NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY

Since November our members have participated in a Composting Workshop put on by Amanda Vantol of the North Shore Recycling Program. The composting bins at Charros were then readied and are now open for business with members having been advised that they can begin adding material to the bins. We're all looking forward to the next few months to see what our bins will churn out! In addition to the composting workshop, some of gardeners took in Rik Ericson's very informative and enjoyable Native Bee Presentation held in early February. Thanks to Dianna Allen from Queen Mary Garden for organizing that for everyone!

As the newest kid on the block – literally! – the members of Charros Garden are thrilled to be a part of the gardening community on the North Shore. We're all looking forward to Spring and the start of the traditional growing season. Please stop by and watch our gardens grow this summer!

Sincerely,

*Donna Waye*  
*& Debe White*  
Garden Coordinators



# N O R T H S H O R E C O M M U N I T Y G A R D E N S O C I E T Y

## TREASURER'S REPORT: HIGHLIGHTS

- As at Dec 31, 2011 the North Shore Community Garden Society has \$4,859.59 in our bank account (Queen Mary: \$2,278.22, Lillooet Park: \$1,784.87, Charros: \$773.40, Apiary Fund: \$23.11).
- Our known expenses for February 2011 will be: \$25.00 (filing fee with the B.C. Ministry of Finance Annual Report), \$97.41 (AGM notice printing, photocopy, envelopes, stamps for 19 gardeners)
- **Garden fees are due on March 31, 2012.** Cheques made out to North Shore Community Garden Society can be given to your garden coordinators.
- If all plots are rented our funds will increase by \$1568.00 (Queen Mary), \$553.00 (Lillooet) and \$609.00 (Charros)
- If there are questions I would be happy to address them at any time. It's been a great pleasure to serve as your Treasurer for this past year and I'm really looking forward another year of great gardening.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2011

<b>Opening Balance in Fund:</b>	
Queen Mary Community Garden	1,643.98
Lillooet Park Community Garden	3,839.72
Charros Community Garden	0.00
Apiary Fund	23.11
	<b>5,506.81</b>
<b>Funds Received:</b>	
<b>Plot Rentals</b>	
Queen Mary Community Garden	1,902.00
Lillooet Park Community Garden	509.00
Charros Community Garden	315.46
<b>Donations</b>	
Charros Community Garden	8,000.00
	<b>10,726.46</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>	
Minister of Finance	15.00
Bank Service Charges	56.00
Queen Mary Community Garden	1,267.77
Lillooet Park Community Garden	2,563.86
Charros Community Garden	7,542.06
Apiary	-
	<b>11,444.68</b>
<b>Closing Funds:</b>	
Queen Mary Community Garden	2,278.22
Lillooet Park Community Garden	1,784.87
Charros Community Garden	773.40
Apiary Fund	23.11
	<b>4,859.59</b>
Minister of Finance	15.00
Bank Service Charges	56.00
	<b>4,788.59</b>
<b>Closing Funds</b>	
	<b>4,788.59</b>
Chequing account as at Dec 31, 2011	4,802.58
o/s cheques	(13.99)
Balance, as per Dec 31, 2011 North Shore Credit Union Bank Statement	<b>4,788.59</b>
<b>Balance Sheet as at Dec 31, 2011</b>	
<b>Assets</b>	
Bank account as at Dec 31, 2011	4,788.59
North Shore Credit Union Membership Shares	25.84
	<b>4,814.43</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Garden Members Equity	4,814.43
	<b>4,814.43</b>