

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013 REPORTS

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

Despite the difficult weather in June, 2012 proved to be another successful and rewarding year for our 3 gardens, Queen Mary, Lillooet and Charros. As always, most of that success is directly linked to the wonderful work of our garden Coordinators. They consistently demonstrate their commitment by donating an incredible number of hours to make sure the gardens are well maintained and gardeners concerns and questions are addressed. We all owe them a huge debt of gratitude. Unfortunately this year we are saying goodbye to 2 of our Coordinators. Both Mag (Lillooet) and Donna (Charros) have resigned as other commitments have made remaining in the position impossible. But we are happy to report that both will continue to grow veggies and contribute to our network by remaining gardeners and members. After a lengthy search, during which Isabelle managed Lillooet so beautifully on her own, we have found a new Coordinator, Susan Wallace. We hope to announce soon the new Coordinator for Charros.

One of our main formal events this year was the celebration of the opening of the Charros Garden. While the garden itself was open and producing a lovely bounty throughout the year, we held the event in September. It was well attended by the community, and we were very pleased that our main contributors, the Charros family and the mayor and several council members of the City of North Vancouver were also present to help us celebrate.

Since a community garden is based on community involvement we also want to thank individuals and organizations who contribute time, money or supplies to make us so successful. For example, Scott McGregor from Lillooet who fixed the gates that seemed unfixable at one point, Lorene Loewen who spent so much time helping with the Charros opening, the crew that came to relocate picnic tables donated by the North Vancouver School Board and the City of North Vancouver to their new location at Queen Mary to encourage even more neighbourhood engagement, the North Shore Neighbourhood House, Cobs, Fresh Slice, Cheers and GardenWorks for contributing money and in-kind donations for the Charros opening, the City of North Vancouver for donating hundreds of daffodils that will soon help us greet spring, Maple Leaf Garden Centre and GardenWorks for giving our members discount cards, Whole Foods who regularly support our public events, and of course, every one of you who came to a maintenance work party, tidied up a weed, turned the compost or otherwise helped out.

The Board has worked in the past year on finishing some of the formal processes that will help us to maintain this success and expand into new gardens into the future. To highlight some of these, we have: developed a strategic plan; launched our website (<http://www.northshorecommunitygardensociety.ca>); written a Board & Coordinator Manual to clarify policies and procedures, including clarifying that new Coordinators will take on their role for a minimum of 2 years; established a clear link between the Board and Coordinators through the Vice President to make sure that Coordinators are supported and issues that affect all three gardens are addressed consistently; and implemented the Garden Guidelines presented at the last AGM which has clarified expectations and strengthened our renewal process for garden plots to make sure that only community members who have the time to commit to the garden retain their plots. Currently, we are working on completing a contingency fund policy to make sure that we have capacity in the future to maintain our gardens so they can remain safe, bountiful and a source of pride for our community. We have also started the process of seeking both new land and grants for our next garden. We are in discussion with the District about the land, and have submitted 6 grant applications to governmental, corporate and family foundations for funding. We also have an extensive list of other Foundations that might help us with costs for new gardens so that we can continue to seek out sources of funding for new gardens until we have better met the need for plots on the North Shore. Since our waiting list across the 3 gardens is usually around 250 at any given time, we have a few years of fundraising before this goal is met. Finally, the board is always trying to improve the experience for members so if anyone has questions or suggestions we really encourage you to contact us directly through the website or via the Coordinators.



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

*Maja Regehr*

President, North Shore Community Garden Society

## QUEEN MARY COMMUNITY GARDEN ANNUAL REPORT



This year was a fun year in the Queen Mary Community Garden, with many projects undertaken to enhance and improve our space. We spent some money and many cold, wet days in the early months of January, February and April moving our compost boxes and then laying concrete block pads underneath them in an effort to control our little rodent problem, which has proven – fingers crossed – to be extremely successful! Deciding we’d spent enough garden funds, most of our other projects were free, and accomplished by scouring the ‘for free’ websites, and peering into fenced off yards. We moved 2 pick-up truck loads of bricks into the garden, and edged all the perimeter gardens to help with the weeds and the lawn mowers, and used others to create fabulous pads under all our water taps. A special thank you to Yvonne and Steve Nasby who not only

donated the bricks to our garden, when they could have sold them for profit, but then ended up helping us load, transport and unload – twice! And while we are thanking people, a shout out to our friend David Craven, who has become our technical advisor on all things ‘moving and construction related’, and the man who saved me from another encounter with a skunk, by installing some of our left over concrete pads into a door sill in the shed. We managed to save two picnic tables from the jaws of the excavator, and after some frantic emails and negotiation with the City of North Vancouver and the North Van School Board, we muscled the two tables down into the garden, set up one and donated the other to Loutet Farm, and have become the toast of the neighbourhood for adding such a welcomed item to the area! Watch for more improvements this year, as we spruce it up a little and make it fit in with the rest of the garden structures.



**Brick brigade at work**



**Water spout pads**



**Newly acquired picnic table**

We also had a fabulous windfall of daffodils donated by the City of North Vancouver that we sorted, dried, tied and then planted, so 400 or 500 sunny yellow heads should soon be waving in the spring breezes. GardenWorks donated a lovely cherry tree to us for Earth Day in April, and Maple Leaf Garden Centre cleared out their stock of spring bulbs in November and spread them out amongst the community gardens on the North Shore, so we have an amazing assortment of spring bloomers to add to the gardens for next year. One of our compost captains, Marge, visited her son in law for Thanksgiving with a large roll of wire in hand, and just happened to mention we needed a new compost screen – she came home with left-over turkey and two of the most beautifully crafted compost screens, with beveled edges and nary a stray metal prong in sight. Many thanks to her son-in-law, Andy Stokes who spent his holiday weekend crafting compost screens for people he’s never even met!

Based on feedback from the AGM last year, we polled our gardeners about a notice board in the garden, and this year we bought and installed a locked display board on the west side of the shed. It looks amazing, contains some basic information on the garden’s origin and membership requirements, and is available to publicize any events that might be of interest to the gardeners or the community – just contact Dianna or Daren. We’ve had many compliments on the

## NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY

signage, and a lot less theft of food in the garden this year, so perhaps the notice on the board about stealing our food, and our gate signs have helped!

We also held our first coffee, snacks and work party – on the wettest and coldest November day you could have asked for – and had the biggest turn out! So, we now know our volunteers are motivated by food and drink – handy to know, but even more fun to put on. Everyone baked or brought treats, coffee was served, and a canopy over the picnic table gave us a dry place to huddle. This could be a popular event that we'll try to repeat a couple of times each year.

Our 'issues' this year were very manageable – we know that theft is something we can't eliminate, but it was much less prevalent than in years before. We seem to be rid of most of the garden 'pests', we've become the second home to a neighbourhood kitty who loves to visit and have it's belly rubbed, and many of us were visited by aliens early in the year, who left evidence of their visit tucked in our plots. We have a good handle on composting thanks to our fabulous compost captains, and our community neighbours are learning what can and can't be added to our compost bins. While Queen Mary School is out of commission, the four plots normally utilized by the students were used this year by the Edible Garden Project folks to grow and harvest 9 different grains, which brought a lot of folks to visit and see what was growing, and of course the gardens are still the destination of many folks just out for an evening walk.



Aliens in the garden!



We were fortunate enough to welcome five new gardeners into the Queen Mary family this last year, and once again, we are very lucky to have some of the best volunteers in any organization. We have a core group of folks who show up for whatever is asked of them, and many others who come out when their schedules allow, and that has kept the garden looking as fabulous as it does. We were able to start our membership program this year for all three gardens, which provided all gardeners with a 10% discount on regular priced items at GardenWorks, and we're pleased to tell you that the 10% discount is now being offered to all the North Shore Community Garden Society gardeners at Maple Leaf Garden Centres as well. We set up a suggestion box in the shed, and following ideas that made their way into the box, we improved our hose hangers and hanging system, stopped the skunk from getting access to the shed and stocked the shed with a first aid kit and some small tools. We look forward to finding more suggestions from you in 2013!

Our wait list currently has 104 people who are anxious to get into the garden – some who have been on the list since 2009 – and every month we have more folks who inquire on how they can be part of the garden. Our gardeners manage to coax the most awesome displays of veggies and flowers from their plots of earth each and every year, and whether they are dining on their fresh, hand raised produce, sharing that bounty with the Harvest Project, or giving a passing child a bouquet of flowers, you quickly realize why everyone wants to be a part of the garden. We are truly very lucky to have such a wonderful space, and to have had such a fun year, and we look forward to another exciting and eventful year with you all. Thankfully, the City of North Vancouver extended the Queen Mary contract for another 3 years! We had a meeting last month and took a realistic look at our project list for 2013 – there doesn't seem to be that much on it, but then 2012 started out blank too, and just look at what we've all accomplished!



Respectfully submitted,

*Dianna Allen & Daren Toppin*

Garden Coordinators, Queen Mary Community Garden

## LILLOOET PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN ANNUAL REPORT

2012 was the second full season of operation of the Lillooet garden. We witnessed many successes and enjoyed a bounty of fresh produce, herbs and strawberries. Our neighbours have also enjoyed the beauty and community spirit that this garden has brought. We are very lucky to have wonderful gardeners who have helped us in so many ways. Marj Carroll donated her tomato seedlings to those who wanted them and Scott McGregor donated his time and expertise to repair our gates so that they close with ease. Jennifer Meilleur organized a drop off box in our shed for the Edible Garden Project. Donations were made and Jennifer kindly delivered the produce. We hope to continue sharing more of our bounty this year. This fall, many gardeners filled bags and bags with leaves to help produce a good compost product.



We were fortunate, through one of our gardeners, to receive bags of soil and bulbs from Canadian Tire. Also, through the aid of one of our gardeners, the garden received a \$100 monthly credit for three months from Dykhof Nurseries. This credit was used to buy plants, fertilizer, tools, and a half -barrel for the garden. We have also been given bags of bulbs by the West Vancouver Maple Leaf Gardens store. The bulbs will be planted this year. All of the donations have greatly enhanced our garden. We are very fortunate and appreciative of the help of the gardeners and the businesses in the community. They have all contributed to the success of the Lillooet garden.

We welcomed three new gardeners to the garden in 2012. Our wait list is growing with, currently, close to 60 people. While the spring weather slowed down the planting season, we did grow some wonderful crops. We held two compost workshops in the spring. There was a definite improvement in the condition of our compost following the workshops.

Unfortunately, our compost captains all found it necessary to give up their positions and we will be maintaining our compost bins by having gardeners do a monthly rotation. We are confident the rotation will work well. We want to thank our compost captains for the work they did to maintain our compost bins. The work of Susan Wallace and James Hillen (who maintained two bins) is greatly appreciated.

Our compost bins have become a matter of great concern since they are in constant need of repair and there is a rodent problem. The NSCGS board was asked to extend the money to put toward new bins. Also, a poll was conducted asking if gardeners would be willing to donate \$20 toward acquiring new bins. The majority of gardeners replied favourably and, in the fall, we began collecting these donations. Collection is still on going. The NSCGS also received a grant of \$500 from North Shore Neighbourhood House which will help offset the cost of the bins. The planned replacement will be in the spring of 2013 and we will be asking our gardeners for help with this project.





**Our compost bins began to compost themselves!**

Work parties were also held during the year to help maintain the garden and the border. We have a wonderful core group of volunteers but, unfortunately, we find that the majority of gardeners are not volunteering. In 2013, we hope to encourage more gardeners to help with the maintenance of the garden. It is so important that we all participate.

This fall, Mag Koslowska found it necessary to resign as garden coordinator. Thanks are given to Mag for her work for the garden over the past two years. Mag has continued to help with the compost bin donation collection and is storing leaves for us at Park & Tilford. In November we welcomed Susan Wallace as the new garden coordinator. Susan has spent the last two years as compost captain and has many new ideas such as the compost bin rotation and she will, definitely, be an asset to the Lillooet garden. Thanks to Susan for volunteering.

We had a very good year in 2012 and we are anticipating an even better year in 2013!



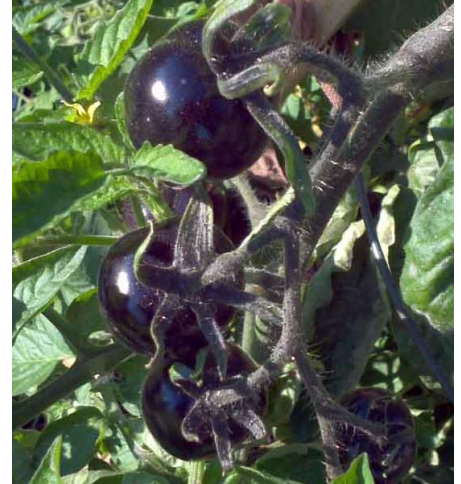
Sincerely,  
*Isabelle Howells & Susan Wallace*  
Garden Coordinators, Lillooet Park Community Garden



**Our resident guardian!**

## CHARROS COMMUNITY GARDEN ANNUAL REPORT

It was the first full year for the Charros garden and its gardeners and it was surprising to see how quickly the garden grew into something so well established! There were great plots of kale, lovely broad beans and many colours of tomatoes! The border filled in tremendously and the creation of different supports and arbours was fascinating in the variance of material and design.



The grand opening was held on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and went amazingly well. The volunteers and community donations were so very generous – thank you Cheers, Cobs Bread, FreshSlice Pizza and Thrifty Foods! It needs to be mentioned that Loreen Loewen put her super hero suit on and made a fantastic accomplishment of garnering the generous co-operation of various food vendors of Lower Lonsdale area. The rock painting was very popular – thanks to Elizabeth Brodie for coordinating – and was fun that will carry over for a long time, as the border for the espaliered fruit trees. Thanks again to the Charros Foundation and the City of North Vancouver for the grants to make this garden happen.





Along with glorious veggies comes the inevitable midnight appropriation of those veggies which sometimes also resulted in damage to carefully tended plants. We plan to plant some of our extra seedlings into the border in hopes that this will help camouflage the fruits (and vegetables!) of our labour inside. There has also been some initial frustration with the composting that hopefully will improve as time goes on. There are solutions within every problem that are usually discovered with careful observation, discussion and experimentation. Community interest continues to grow in our garden and there are, at the time of writing, 88 people on the waiting list.

Finally, it is sad to see, due to a very strained schedule, Donna will be stepping down from coordinator position effective March 1<sup>st</sup>. Many thanks to her for all the time and effort she put into making Charros a successful and happy place! She still plans to be about in the garden though, so you will still be able to share smiles and conversations with her over the peas and carrots!



Sincerely,

*Debe White & Donna Waye*

Garden Coordinators, Charros Community Garden

## TREASURER'S REPORT: HIGHLIGHTS

- As at Dec 31, 2012 the North Shore Community Garden Society has \$7,114.10 in our bank account.
- **Garden fees are due on March 31, 2013.** Please give your payments to your Garden Coordinators. Cheques can be made out to North Shore Community Garden Society.
- Anticipating that all garden plots will be rented, our funds should increase by approximately \$2,700.
- In 2012 the board set up a general fund to pay overhead expenses for the running of the society (eg Bank Service Charges, Annual Society Report Filing, AGM). The general fund is financed from the individual gardens based on plot fees collected from each garden. I anticipate the general fund expenses for 2013 will be minimal – approximately \$500.00
- After all fees are collected and known expenses paid, including garden petty cash funds for the coming year, the Society will have approximately \$8,500 in our Bank Account. Accordingly, we will be allocating \$3,000 of those monies into an interest bearing account at the North Shore Credit Union to start our Contingency Fund. The guidelines for the Contingency Fund have been circulated to the Garden Coordinators.
- If there are questions I would be happy to address them at any time. It's been a pleasure to serve as your Treasurer.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2012

<b>Opening Balance in Fund:</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>4,859.60</b>
<b>Funds Received:</b>	
<b>Plot Rentals</b>	
Queen Mary Community Garden	1,585.00
Lillooet Park Community Garden	563.00
Charros Community Garden	624.65
<b>Donations &amp; Grants</b>	
Charros Community Garden (Whole Foods)	1,482.90
Charros Community Garden (North Shore Neighbourhood House Grant)	500.00
Lillooet Park Community Garden (North Shore Neighbourhood House Grant)	500.00
	<b>5,255.55</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>	
Queen Mary Community Garden	1,230.45
Lillooet Park Community Garden	890.21
Charros Community Garden	925.37
Apiary	25.00
	<b>3,111.04</b>
<b>Closing Funds:</b>	
Queen Mary Community Garden	2,632.77
Lillooet Park Community Garden	1,957.66
Charros Community Garden	2,415.58
Apiary Fund	(1.90)
General Fund	110.00
	<b>\$ 7,114.10</b>
Chequing account as at Dec 31, 2012	7,029.54
o/s deposit – Charros Petty Cash Returned	114.05
o/s cheques	(29.49)
Balance, as per Dec 31, 2012 North Shore Credit Union Bank Statement	<b>\$ 7,114.10</b>
<b>Balance Sheet as at Dec 31, 2012</b>	
<b>Assets</b>	
Bank account as at Dec 31, 2012	7,114.10
North Shore Credit Union Membership Shares	26.23
	<b>\$ 7,140.33</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Garden Members Equity	7,140.33
	<b>\$ 7,140.33</b>



