

SUMMER 2021 NWCGRS NEWSLETTER

NEW WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY GARDENING SOCIETY



GARDEN NEWS

Board News:

Our President, Joana, recently provided a comprehensive email update to members on new initiatives. These include our society's support of the new community garden at Ryall Park through a donation for purchase of new garden tools by the Port Royal Gardening Society. Additionally, we are preparing to distribute a short survey to find out which neighbourhoods in New Westminster would be interested in new community gardens, should space and funding become available.

Lastly, we want to acknowledge the tragic finding of Indigenous children on the grounds of various residential schools across Canada. We were honoured to accept an invitation to help realize the vision of Elder Valerie of growing wildflowers at community gardens in memory.

City Hall Garden (Amanda):

City Hall Garden is overflowing! The sun has caused big gains for our sunflowers, pumpkins and other veggies. After our shed tampering and a few tap mishaps that the city took care of, things are going well otherwise. We do have a few rat visitors, but the best way to avoid sharing your veggies with the city wildlife is to visit often and pick early. Did you know tomatoes can be picked when green and ripened in a sunny spot on your windowsill or in a brown paper bag in a warm area?

St. Mary's Garden (Derek):

St. Mary's has enjoyed the summer sunshine, quality gardening time, and seeing people out in our neighbourhood.

This season we were able to increase our garden trellis size to make the most of these months. The tomatoes, beans, zucchini and beets are all donated to the local community food bank for distribution.



Simcoe Garden (Jana):

The Simcoe Garden is having a good season, despite the intense heat and lack of rain that we are experiencing this year. The visitors to the garden often mention that it is a favorite place to visit. There is great interest in supporting the request for a wildflower area in the garden to commemorate children of residential schools, and a permanent home has been designated.

SUMMER GARDEN JOYS

Summer brings us fresh vegetables, bright flowers and long days to explore and relax outside. This summer I find myself grateful for the many ways our community gardens can be enjoyed.

When it comes to eating garden-fresh vegetables, cheese boards are my new favourite. Cheese boards are both practical and fancy – take whatever’s in your garden and some bits from your fridge, then arrange until fancy.



This summer at Simcoe, I encountered photographer Marie Van Hecke, who mentioned how much she enjoys photographing the garden. Meeting Marie was a nice reminder of how our gardens provide not only vegetables to eat, but also add visual interest and recreational opportunities to the city environment.

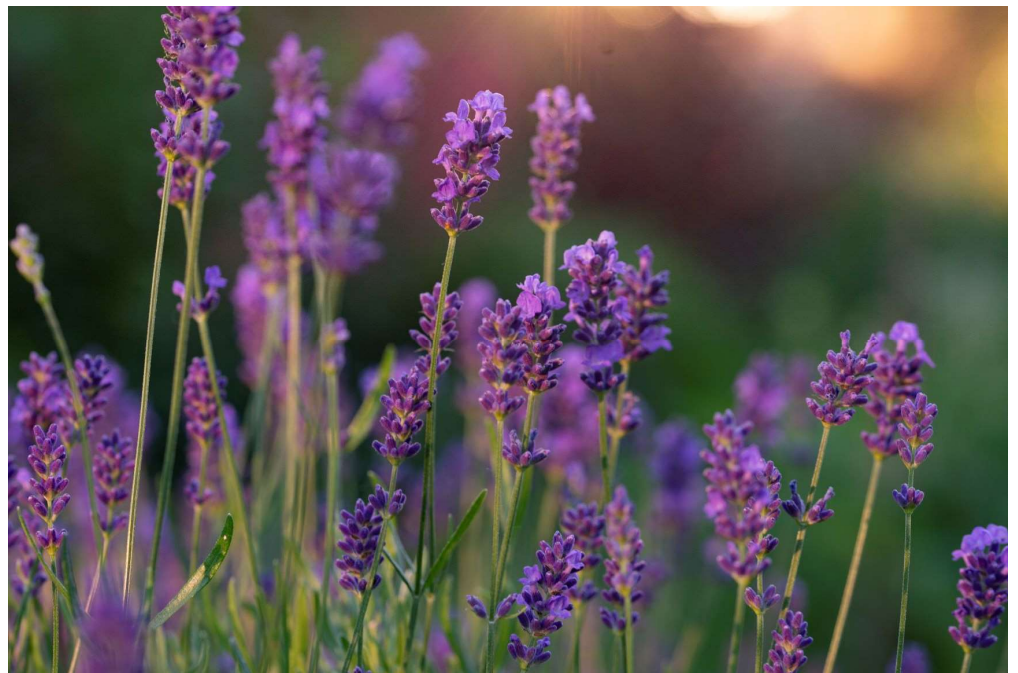


Photo: Marie Van Hecke, A Touch of Art Photography

Summer is the perfect time to enjoy the parks and neighbourhoods surrounding the NWCGS gardens. Have you seen the city’s new Agnes Street Greenway? The protected bicycle lane and enhanced sidewalks run along Agnes Street, right past St. Mary’s Garden, and a couple blocks downhill from City Hall Garden. This blissfully unhillly route is perfect for a leisurely outing, perhaps with a stop at St. Mary’s to enjoy the spacious picnic benches and well-kept gardens.

— Rachael

YOUR NWCGS

Did you know that Simcoe has a private Facebook group for its gardeners called “Simcoe Community Garden”? This group allows members to connect online and share photos, tips and resources.



Stay connected:

Facebook @newwestgardens

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