

# Comox Valley Horticultural Society

December 2017

Welcome to the Comox Valley Horticultural Society update for members. A November newsletter was not issued, as the CVHS Board was still in transition. Now that we are up and running again, we thought this email update would be convenient, and this may be the way we will communicate information to our members going forward.

## **CVHS Board and Committees**

The Board of the Comox Valley Horticultural Society has changed – some new faces, and some just changing hats. At the December 6 CVHS Board meeting the following positions were confirmed:

- President: Gordon Stewart
- Vice President: Gerry Chwelos
- Secretary: Norma Chambers
- Treasurer: Sylvia Stone (also Past President)
- Director at Large: Joanne Gesell
- Director at Large: Dee Horie
- Director at Large: Elizabeth Johnson
- Director at Large: Pat Mason

Two more Director at Large positions remain to be filled, which should occur at our January Board meeting.

The following Committees are operational – many faces are the same, while some new faces also appear:

- AV Set-up: Frank Hovenden
- Glacier View Gardens: Ron Barker, Laura Miller & Arnie Sollberger
- Grow'n Show: Frank Hovenden
- Herb Garden (Filberg): Cathy Story, Eleanor Riddell
- Library Committee: Maire McElwain, Dolores Vander Maaten
- Membership: Cheryl Fink, Carolyn Mulvaney, Barb Barker & Norma Chambers
- Newsletter: Marlene Felsing
- Opportunity Table: Elizabeth Johnson, Gaynor Dewhorst, Judith Lindo & Connie Prain
- Plant Sale: Pat Mason & Darlene Berry
- Program: Christi York
- Publicity: Dee Horie
- Raffle Table: Mary Bogue & Deanna Piquette
- Webmaster: Arianne Huene
- Workshops: June Ballantyne & Sonia Gonsalves

The following Committees have no volunteers and are not operational at this time:

- Bus Tour

- Gardens in Bloom
- Information Table
- Open Garden Tour

Anyone wishing to volunteer for any of these positions may do so through the CVHS web site ([comoxvalleyhortsociety.ca](http://comoxvalleyhortsociety.ca)) under Volunteer Opportunities, or speak to one of the Membership Committee Team members or a Board member at our January 15<sup>th</sup> General Meeting.

## **Committee News**

### **Membership**

It is that time of year, when a CVHS membership makes a great gift! Membership forms are now available on the CVHS website. Once you have completed the form, you have two ways of receiving your 2018 membership card and reaping the benefits:

- You can drop your completed form and cheque in the mail by December 31, 2017. Your 2018 membership card will be available for pick-up at our January 15 meeting; or
- You can bring your completed form with cheque/cash to our January 15 meeting and place it in the drop box at the Membership table. In this case, your 2018 membership card will be ready for you at the February meeting.

The Membership table is a bustling place at CVHS general meetings and we need your help! We are looking for another set of hands and a smiling face to help us greet our members. Duties include monitoring the sign-in table, handing out door prize tickets, and registering guests.

We are also looking to add to our list of New Member Ambassadors. These are existing members of the Society who volunteer at a meeting or two to show new members around, explain the variety of information available at the meetings and explain the benefits of membership.

If you are interested in either of these great opportunities to meet new people and help out CVHS, contact the membership committee at [membership@comoxvalleyhortsociety.ca](mailto:membership@comoxvalleyhortsociety.ca), or speak to one of the Membership Committee Team members at our January 15<sup>th</sup> General Meeting.

Interested in joining the CVHS? Meet us at the Courtenay Filberg at 645 pm. You can print off and fill in your Membership Form and bring it in along with a cheque or cash for \$20 for a single or \$30 for family membership. What a splendid Christmas gift for your favourite plant lover!

Details at [www.comoxvalleyhortsociety.ca](http://www.comoxvalleyhortsociety.ca) Let's start the New Year off on the right garden path!

### **Opportunity Table**

Season's greetings from the Opportunity Table! We are looking forward to getting back into business in January and seeing our loyal customers and donors. While we may not have many plants at this time of year, we do have some lovely books and our always popular magazines, perfect for browsing during the winter months. And we are sure some of our seed-savers could help us out with samples of seeds they have tucked away in the fall.

As you start to peruse the new seed catalogues and place your orders, we hope you will think of us when you start some seeds. If you can spare a flat of spinach, lettuce or green onions - those early spring staples that make one want to get outdoors again – we would be most grateful!

Our crew of Connie, Gaynor, Judith and Elizabeth will all be back to tempt you with our wares, so please support your Opportunity Table in 2018. The CVHS will benefit, and so will you!

### **Publicity**

January 15 General Meeting - CVHS welcomes Carolyn Herriot, who will explore the role of soil, insects and wildlife in maintaining a healthy garden. Balancing your garden with nature means you spend more time enjoying it and less time fighting problems.

Carolyn ran The Garden Path Centre in Victoria for 25 years. She is a passionate gardener and cook, who encourages others to grow food and save seeds. She is a well-known lecturer, and the author of 'A Year on the Garden Path- A 52 week Organic Gardening Guide' and 'The Zero-Mile Diet' (Harbour Publishing).

**Spring Fund Raiser:** It's that time again! We are starting another fund raising with Vesey's in January! This is your chance to add to your spring garden and benefit the Comox Valley Horticultural Society at the same time. Spread the word around to your friends, too. The CVHS keeps 50% of all of our sales. Our fall fund raising netted the club \$839.00 - let's see if we can beat that this spring! Catalogues and order forms will be available at the January 15, 2018 meeting. Sylvia is going to be away in Mexico, but she left Joanne Gesell behind to help you out if you have any questions. If you want a sneak peak at the catalogue, here is the link to the Spring catalogue:  
<https://www.veseys.com/media/contentmanager/content/2018-SPR-FUNDRAISING-CAN-web.pdf>

### **Webmaster**

The Board has begun the process of updating the CVHS website to improve functionality and expand our online presence. We are looking into being able to offer digital payment for membership fees, supporting digital transactions at our plant sales and at our General Meeting sales tables.

We welcome your feedback in updating our online presence, which includes revamping our website and perhaps starting a Facebook page. Are you interested in assisting with this initiative? Then we would welcome your input – please contact our webmaster through the CVHS website Contacts page.

### ***Upcoming CVHS Events***

**January 15, 2018**      General Meeting, Florence Filberg Centre, 6:30 p.m. Guest Speaker:

### **Carolyn Herriot – Natural Pest & Disease Control in the garden**

**April 16, 2018**      General Meeting & Member Plant Sale, Florence Filberg Centre, 6:30 p.m.

**April 28, 2018**      Annual Spring Plant Sale, Florence Filberg Centre

***Please Note: we are no longer providing a Social Table at CVHS General Meetings. Please bring your own tea or coffee.***

### ***Presidents Message***

As the ecological cycle continues and the long, productive growing season winds down, the garden enters a period of dormancy and a much-deserved rest. We, too, feel that need to hibernate and take a break from garden chores. But the gardening season turns quickly into the Christmas season where we are left wondering “what shall I get for..?”, “...are they sold out of..?”, “...were they naughty or nice..?”, or perhaps, “where shall we go for the sun?”. Well, I cannot help you with the latter moral decisions nor vacation plans, but I can suggest a great gift idea – a CVHS 2018 membership. It is a gift that will keep giving all year through. It is a chance to hear fantastic speakers who will impart their gardening knowledge. The adventure of finding a new plant at the spring plant sale, which is an event that brings out the whole community. Best of all, a CVHS membership is an opportunity to network and share information with like-minded folk who are passionate about their gardens! For membership details please visit: [comoxvalleyhortsociety.ca](http://comoxvalleyhortsociety.ca).

Since we are in the season of giving, perhaps you would consider giving of your time – to fill one of the vacant volunteer positions with the CVHS. After all, we are a “*Society of gardeners, for gardeners, by gardeners*”. This means it only works if members step up and give of their time and talent to help manage and run the Society, to make it an exciting and worthwhile experience for all of us. The Committee positions are where the really exciting stuff happens! These folks mastermind the design and delivery of many of the activities we all enjoy about the Society. Which means, if there are no volunteers for those positions, then these activities do not happen. Currently the following activities do not have Committee members and, therefore will not happen in 2018: Gardens in Bloom, Bus Tour, Information Table and Open Garden Tour. If you are interested in any of these positions you may read a description of them on the CVHS website under “Volunteer Opportunities”. If you are not available now, how about keeping CVHS in mind for next year? All of the Board positions are for a one-year appointment, which means come next October once again we will be seeking out members to fill vacant Board positions.

I seem to have rambled on, so I will close with the reminder that the first CVHS general meeting of 2018 is scheduled for January 15 at the Florence Filberg Center. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Carolyn Herriot, and she will be sharing her knowledge about “Natural Pest & Disease Control in the garden”.

In case you are not aware, 2018 marks a 40-year milestone for CVHS – an achievement worth celebrating! I hope to see you there!

Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

**Gordon Stewart**

**President**

**Comox Valley Horticultural Society**