
RICHMOND GARDEN CLUB

GARDEN TOUR PHOTOS|ROOFTOP GARDEN



RGC Summer garden tour and party

Hubby and I were so disappointed that we were unable to attend our in-person gardens tour and garden party, hosted by member Harold Shury. Thank goodness plenty of photos were taken.

We heard excellent reviews of the uniqueness of the gardens on the tour and the weather cooperated to a tee.

Please enjoy a selection of photos from the tour and party in our summer

Photo by: Lisa
Delarue-Riffel

issue of our newsletter.

Summer watering tips

At this time of year and with the intense heat, gardens do need a deep drink. It is important to continue to encourage a deep, healthy root system and with light watering, the roots stay close to the top of the soil, causing the plants to dry out faster.

Watering early in the day is best as water can soak into the soil rather than evaporate due to heat or wind.

If you missed the early morning window, late afternoon is also fine, but not too late. Water on foliage needs to dry before the sun goes down so it does not develop fungal disease.

A thumb over a hose aimed at the roots of the plants is good for getting a deep soak. A watering wand, drip irrigation, or soaker hoses can better direct water right to the root zone.

Watering slowly, deeply, and infrequently creates damp-but-not-soggy soil that most plants love. Aim for moist soil 5 to 6 inches below the surface.

Some more tips.....

- Resist the urge to water in the heat of the day, even if your plants are wilting. Plants sometimes wilt to conserve moisture, but they should perk up again when evening comes.
- If foliage edges are turning brown, you are probably overwatering.
- Improve your soil's capacity to hold moisture by adding organic compost to the soil. Compost helps stop clay soil from drinking up the water and starving plants and prevents water from draining too quickly in sandy soil.

Summer pruning

Pruning trees, shrubs, and perennials in summer is mostly about housekeeping. Rather than major thinning and shaping (as we might perform in **winter**) or stimulating new growth (**spring**), we are dealing with clutter and overgrowth from the growing season and keeping it from getting too dense or

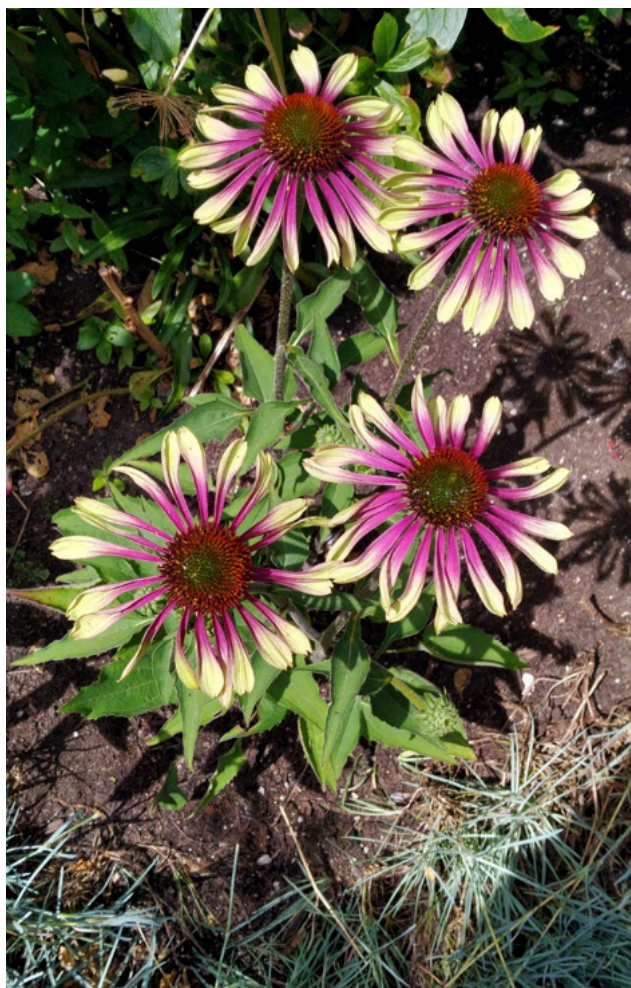


Photo by: Jennifer Morgan

too far out of hand - like my variegated dogwood shrub.

This is a perfect time to remove aggressive shoots on trees and shrubs with suckering tendencies. It is also a good time to lightly shear hedges. Fruit trees can often benefit from light thinning to allow more sunlight and air circulation into developing fruit clusters. Some fruits, such as apples and plum, benefit from having their clusters thinned as well (best when fruits are about dime-sized), to grow larger individual fruits.

Continue to remove spent flowers but avoid any major pruning of flowering plants such as hydrangea.



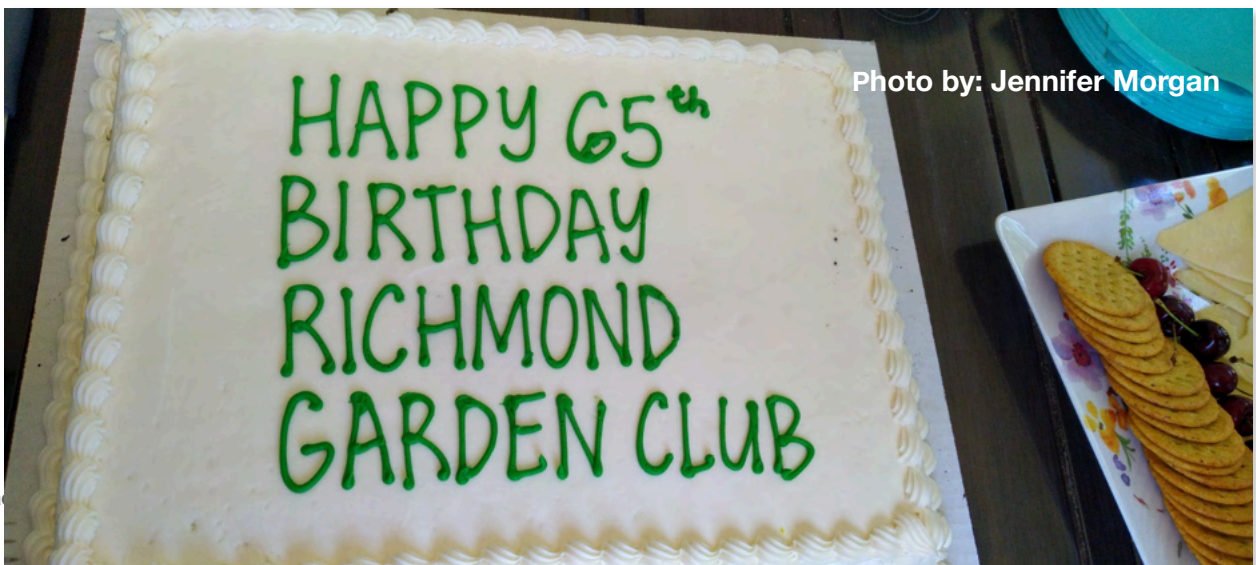
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Garden City Lands garden tour

Thank you to Ian Lai, Urban Bounty, for hosting our members in the new community gardens on Garden City Lands (photos by: Jennifer Morgan)



Homma Elementary School kids garden tour

Thank you to our member Megan Zeni, a school garden and outdoor classroom professional, for including the kids garden at Homma Elementary in our tour. As Megan was away, member Mary Wilson, hosted visitors to this very special garden (photos by Jennifer Morgan).



After tour garden party

Thank you to Harold Shury for offering to host the garden party in his beautiful garden. Also thank you to Gail Stoltz and Harold for arranging the food and drinks for the party (photos by: Jennifer Morgan)



And finally.....

A huge thank you to Joyce Novick and Judy Matheson for organizing a great in-person tour for all of us to get out and enjoy! For more photos of the day, please visit <https://www.richmondgardenclub.ca>.

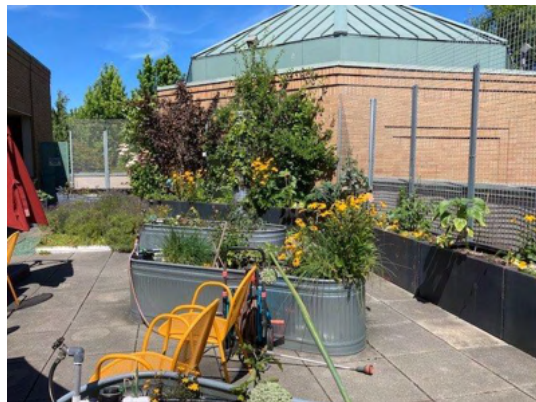
Richmond Cultural Centre rooftop garden update

For those new members who may not know, we maintain a little urban farm on the 2nd floor of the Richmond Cultural Centre in exchange for free rent of the Performance Hall for our monthly meetings.

This garden is such a delight to work in. We plant potatoes, garlic, pollinator flowers and other vegetables. We really use this platform as a teaching moment when visitors come up to see the gardens. There is not enough produce to pass on to the Food Bank at this point.

Children are so surprised to see carrots, potatoes, onions being harvested. Many young folks do not know where our vegetables come from. And the more we encourage adults to grow their own food, the healthier our community and environment will be

Thank you to the rooftop team of Janis Woolford, Lorraine Dowdall, Ruth Henderson and Donna Morin for leading our volunteers to care for this delightful space. (Photos by: Lorraine Dowdall and Janis Woolford)



Rooftop volunteers needed

For those that missed the email, the rooftop team is looking for volunteers to fill the weeks in September and one week in August (August 15 - 19):

September 4 - 10

September 11 - 17

September 18 - 24

September 25 - 30

If you can help out, email Ruth Henderson at ruthchenderson@shaw.ca. No experience is necessary! You will be advised what work needs to be done. Tools are provided also.

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Without hard work, nothing grows but weeds!

It is mind boggling that our precious plants in Paulik Park are struggling so much with the recent heat wave, yet there is a prolific amount of creeping buttercup, bindweed, ground elder, all healthy and vibrant much to our dismay.

Thank goodness we have a steady group of volunteers who, right now, are watering and weeding all the gardens in the park.

Some tips about weeding include:

- Keep on top of weeds
- Stop and plan to weed
- Let sleeping weeds lie. Dig out the roots but do not disturb the soil and the dormant seeds
- Use proper weeding tools — weeds have to be dug out!
- Mulch, mulch, mulch.



Team from BDC Business Development Bank
helping out with weeding in Paulik Park ~ June 2022

Richmond Rotary Hospice House, help wanted!

Jennifer Dufour, coordinator of hospice volunteers, at the Richmond Rotary Hospice, 6460 No. 4 Road reached out to Dorothy Dawson, one of our long-time members and one of her volunteers about our recent garden tour.

At the hospice house they have a full contingent of hospice-trained visiting volunteers who come in on a regular basis to sit with our residents and bring our community to people who often feel that they are no longer part of that bigger picture. The volunteers are trained to listen, to validate a life lived and to support the resident's family and friends. But at the hospice house we have other needs and it is important to try and encourage other volunteers to come and help out in other ways around the house. One of the most critical things they have is a **backyard garden** which can be viewed from all of the resident's rooms and serves as their final window on the world. In the recent past we were very blessed to have a dedicated volunteer who oversaw that garden, plantings, and guided several other casual volunteers in the weeding requirements. Unfortunately that volunteer has had to resign.

If you are able to help out Jennifer and the Richmond Rotary Hospice House, you can contact her on her cell phone: 604-240-0383.



Mark your calendars ~ first in-person meeting!

We are finally able to meet in person, **Wednesday, September 21, 6:00pm to 8:45pm**, in the Performance Hall of the Richmond Cultural Centre, 7700n Minoru Gate. Usually, when we meet in person, we meet the 4th Wednesday of the month. Because of Covid, we were not able to get those dates for September, October, and November. We also have to meet earlier now, as Richmond Cultural Centre has to close the Performance Hall by 8:45pm rather than 9:00pm.

We are delighted to have everyone back in person and have lots of fun planned for our first meeting. More details to come.



Photo by: Lisa Délarue-Riffel