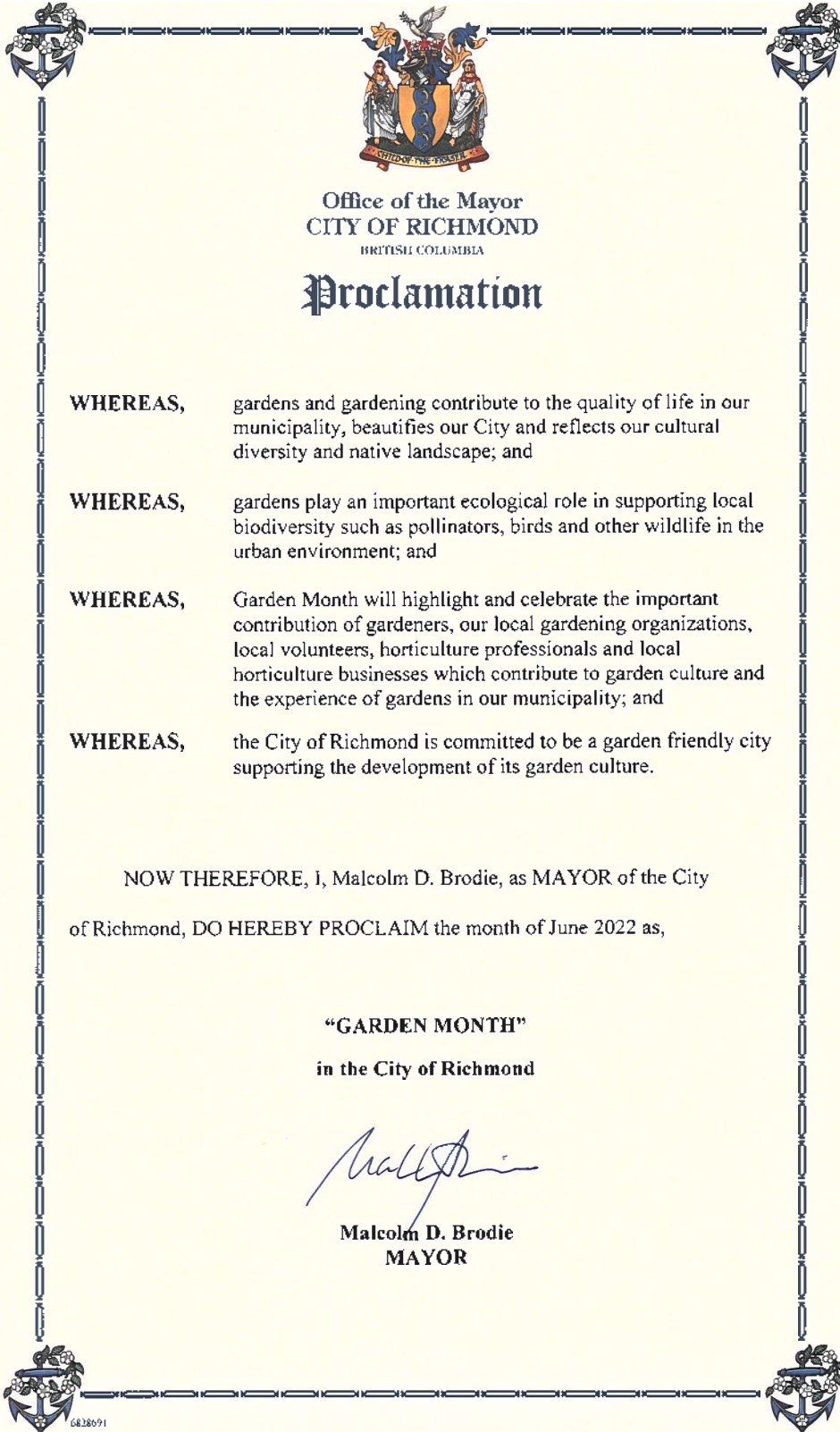


# Richmond Garden Club



Office of the Mayor  
CITY OF RICHMOND  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

## Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** gardens and gardening contribute to the quality of life in our municipality, beautifies our City and reflects our cultural diversity and native landscape; and
- WHEREAS,** gardens play an important ecological role in supporting local biodiversity such as pollinators, birds and other wildlife in the urban environment; and
- WHEREAS,** Garden Month will highlight and celebrate the important contribution of gardeners, our local gardening organizations, local volunteers, horticulture professionals and local horticulture businesses which contribute to garden culture and the experience of gardens in our municipality; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Richmond is committed to be a garden friendly city supporting the development of its garden culture.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Malcolm D. Brodie, as MAYOR of the City of Richmond, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the month of June 2022 as,

**“GARDEN MONTH”**  
in the City of Richmond

**Malcolm D. Brodie**  
MAYOR

## Presidents message

I can feel the excitement in the air. Restrictions are lessening, our community is starting to peek out of their homes looking to see what all the chatter is about.

We have so much to be thankful as the Richmond Garden Club. We have continued on with our monthly Zoom meetings and have enjoyed some very inspirational guest speakers throughout the pandemic.

We have had some really fun contests. My favourite was the membership renewal contest where we all donated prizes then our members received those wonderful prizes through a daily draw as members renewed (my Dan's idea).

Richmond Garden Club has been very active with our volunteering efforts. The Steveston boardwalk team continues to maintain the dozen large concrete containers on behalf of the Steveston Harbour Authority (SHA). SHA gives us a cheque for \$1500 annually to continue this work. Take a walk on the boardwalk down by Pajos Fish and Chips. No matter what time of year you are there, the containers continue to show vibrant colour.

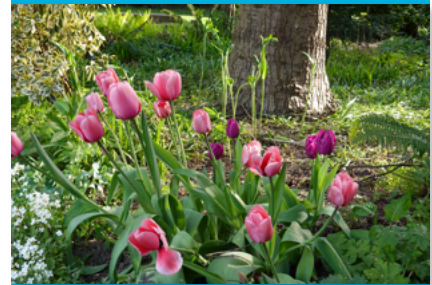
Paulik Park was adopted by Richmond Garden in 2008. Since the pandemic started we increased our number of volunteers from about 12 regular to over 40 volunteers! The 30 plus perennial garden beds look stunning! We put in about 30 hours of work in the gardens, sometimes less, sometimes more, depending on the weather.

Minoru Residences gardens are taken care of by a Richmond Garden crew and continue to delight the residents.

Our rooftop garden on the second floor of the Richmond Cultural Centre is seasonal. We have a team who coordinates weekly shifts for volunteer throughout the gardening season. The raised beds are filled to the brim with vegetables, fruits and pollinator plants. We end the year up with some amazing garlic and a good potato and tomato harvest. We generally use the space to educate the visitors to this delightful little urban farm.

## Mark your calendars!

- **Wednesday, March 23, 7pm** - RGC meeting via Zoom. Brian Minter, guest speaker, Challenging Times Change How and Why We Garden
- **Saturday, March 27, 9am-3:35pm** Vancouver Master Gardeners Spring Affair via Zoom. Great speakers! To register: [www.mgabc.org](http://www.mgabc.org).



We maintain these garden beds in exchange for the rental cost of the facility we use in the Richmond Cultural Centre for our in-person meetings. We are hoping to be back to this space sooner than later!

Joining us in any of the activities we are working on is so rewarding. You have the opportunity to talk to the public, be proud of how we are beautifying the City of Richmond, get to know your fellow members (who are so awesome!) and learn so much about gardening at the same time. If you are interested in helping out in any of these projects email: [richmondgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:richmondgardenclub@gmail.com) and let us know where you can lend your help. No experience is necessary.

## Year of the Garden 2022

And let's celebrate! 🎉 BC Council of Garden Clubs has partnered with the Canadian Garden Council to help celebrate the Year of the Garden 2022. The federal government proclaimed 2022 the Year of the Garden. Richmond Garden Club is a member of BC Council of Garden Clubs. I am the communications coordinator for BC Council of Garden Clubs. We have put out a challenge to all garden clubs in BC to approach their mayors and councillors to proclaim the Year of the Garden 2022 in their community. So far there are two BC communities that have proclaimed – Campbell River and Silverton (outside of Nakusp).

***We approached the City of Richmond to make the same proclamation. City of Richmond has a policy to not proclaim anything for a one year period. They were very happy to proclaim June 2022, "Garden Month" in the City of Richmond. That works well with our 65<sup>th</sup> birthday planning.***

Here is some fun we can have for March/April. Let's grow **red flowers**. We can start seeds of columbine, cosmos, echinacea, helenium, hollyhock, lupin, nasturtiums, salvia. and zinnia - **choose red-coloured seeds**. You can **direct-sow** poppies right now - choose **red poppies**.

Grow enough for our **May 7 plant sale**. Can you imagine a sea of **red coloured flowers** at our sale?

We can also grow **red-hued** fruits and vegetables for our plant sale - 'bright lights' swiss chard (direct sow in April), tomatoes can be started by seed now.





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## Cutting back perennials

Only on the West Coast can we say that we were working in the gardens in Paulik Park in February. We have been diligently removing aggressive weeds such as creeping buttercup, bittercress, invasive plants such as blackberry, holly and laurel. Sometimes we are not sure who is winning the battle.



We have switched gears and are now cutting back perennials that died back to the soil level through the winter. We left them in the gardens to add winter interest, in the form of height and structure. The seed heads and stems offered food and habitat sources for our Paulik Park wildlife.

Some selective cutting in the autumn was done to plants where signs of decay or fungal growth appeared.

More tender plants with woody stems like **penstemons** are left to protect the crown from frost. These should be pruned in April or May.



Evergreen perennials like **Kniphofia (red hot poker)** and **Carex grasses (ornamental sedges)** are not cut back but tidied up during spring and summer.

### *Cutting back in the spring*

With our tools at the ready – pruning knives, shears and secateurs, some of the dead plants in Paulik Park are getting a haircut. We have to be very careful not to damage new shoots and the many bulbs well on their way to spring blooms. It is best to avoid being in the garden when the soil is too wet, making the soil too compact. The spring winds are right on time to dry the soil.

- ✦ Using knives, shears or secateurs, cut stems close to the crown or dormant top of the plant. Be careful not to remove new shoots.
- ✦ Many of the plants in Paulik Park are already showing new growth at the ground level such as **sedums, grasses, asters, heleniums, goldenrod**. We have to be very careful not to remove these new shoots. Sometimes we can just pull out the dead stems.
- ✦ The tall dormant plants we are cutting back now, are cut into small bits and spread around the garden beds. We then top with nutritious leaf mulch. Types of **sunflowers, goldenrod, helenium (sneeze weed)** and other tall plants that were left for their seed heads for the birds are getting a haircut.
- ✦ Cut back perennials that produce leaves and flowers such as **crocosmia** right to soil level

## Pruning roses

With one of the mildest climates in Canada, Richmond is a prime location for gardening. Our roses are already leafing out making it hard not to get outside and do some pruning. We are in gardening zone 7/8 so we can prune in March. A great way to know that it is time to prune is right after **forsythia** finishes blooming. Pruning roses feels a bit intimidating but with some simple fundamentals to follow, you will have healthy and beautiful rose bushes.

### What you will need:

- ✦ Good gloves
- ✦ Bypass shears, not anvil. The overlapping blades of the bypass shears make a clean cut.
- ✦ Heavy long sleeves to protect arms from thorns



**Bypass shears**

### Basic pruning steps:

1. Remove all remaining leaves so you can clearly see the canes. This will also remove any pests or diseases that may have been hiding in the foliage over winter.
2. Start with the dead wood. If it is brown after cutting, it is dead. Cut dead wood back to the base.
3. Open up the centre of the plant. Take out crossing branches which can rub, causing damage and encouraging disease. The goal is to have upward-reaching branches with an open, vase-like structure.
4. Remove any thin, weak growth. Remove anything thinner than a pencil.
5. Prune the remaining canes by cutting 1/4' to 1/2' above and outward-facing bud eye (a small bump where a leaf would meet the stem). New stems grow in the direction of the bud. The goal is to encourage them to grow outward, not inward. Make cuts at a 45-degree angle sloping away from the bud, allowing water to run off.
6. Clean up. After pruning, make sure to clean up the surrounding area underneath. All leaves and cut branches should be disposed of in your green bin as diseases and pests could be lurking.

### What is Growers Delight? (new RGC advertiser)

Our organic granular soil activator 4-2-2 blend is a coarse-grade granular humic acid and is enriched with calcium along with traces of copper, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, zinc and cobalt. All nutrients are in their naturally occurring form to provide continuous slow-release nutrition. This activator can be used as a fertilizer for organic production in soil/soilless medium for all plants. This blend is also an ideal blend for seedlings and as an additive for soilless mixes. All the ingredients are sourced here in Canada.

We would like to offer a promotion code: **activator15** on all three sizes we have available. Please note that the website is still under construction, you can still enter your promo code. [organicdirtsupplements.ca](http://organicdirtsupplements.ca). Any questions, feel free to call (604-780-5272) or mail anytime.

### The Benefits of Growers Delight Granular Soil Activator

- ◆ Increases microbial activity and organic matter.
- ◆ Improves soil structure + nutrient and water retention.
- ◆ Promotes strong root structure.
- ◆ Chemical-free, non toxic.
- ◆ Human and pet friendly.
- ◆ Helps control and prevents diseases in the soil, reducing toxicities.
- ◆ Helps with the development of seeds using the soil activator.
- ◆ Improves and balances the PH levels.
- ◆ Enhances urea performance.
- ◆ Stabilizes soil temperature.
- ◆ For **Chafer beetle problems**, please contact for more information.

## Pruning climbing and rambling roses

The first step is to check out Amanda Jarrett's garden blog on her website [www.thegardenwebsite.com](http://www.thegardenwebsite.com). She offers some simple advice on dealing with climbers and ramblers.

Early spring is the time of year to prune repeat blooming climbing roses. They can also be pruned after flowering and a bit in the fall.

Amanda offers tips on proper pruning



techniques of climbers for this time of year.

- ✦ Remove dead, diseased, weak and spindly, rubbing canes and canes that cross each other,
- ✦ She recommends cutting back all side shoots by 1/3 just above an outward facing node, but keep the main branches. Also cut back each lateral stem whether it has flowered or not, to 3 to 6 inches just above an outward facing bud or leaf.
- ✦ Check on your ties securing the canes to continue to protect them from cold blustery winds.

## Welcome to spring contest!

Refer a friend to become a member of the Richmond Garden Club. Once your friend has paid membership you will be entered into a draw to win one of three prizes.

Enter as often as you like - email your referral to [richmondgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:richmondgardenclub@gmail.com) with all of the contact information. Contest closes Wednesday, April 30, 2022.

## Goodbye Joyce

We were so very sorry to hear of the passing of Joyce Burrett February 22, 2022, a long time member of Richmond Garden Club.

Joyce was such a huge supporter and volunteer of many of the projects and events going on in our club. She and her sister, Eileen Axford, would show up to so many happenings with big smiles on their faces and ready to help.



Joyce volunteered in the gardens in Paulik Park. She had a special bed that continues to showcase her canna lilies. She came by often to make sure we were continuing to take care of her garden bed.

Joyce's family is planning a private memorial for Joyce sometime in the summer with the hopes of holding it in her very favourite park.

Our thoughts are with her sister Eileen and the rest of Joyce's family as they deal with her loss. We will miss her dearly.