



July 2026 News

Please test that lock before you leave the gate! Open locks are reported several times a week. Take a moment extra to help ensure our harvests and tools are safe from potential theft.

Yes, we have a gazebo



By now you have probably noticed the structure in the corner adjacent to City Hall, providing member gardeners with a little welcome shade. Now that the gravel floor has been added, the CGS Board is happily anticipating how much more pleasant future meetings and social events will be, with a bit of shelter from the elements. If you have a suggestion for a fun get-together, please email us or drop a note into the box attached to the bulletin board.

We also have a new Director!

Bonnie Keleher is helping us to staff and support our volunteer teams more effectively

Though she is a long-time gardener and a CGS member with lots of Board and volunteering experience, Bonnie doesn't rent a garden bed at City Hall. Instead, her focus is on growing teams. There's no better way to get to know other gardeners than by joining one!

Left to right: Masako Walker, Bonnie Keleher, > and Astrid Wilson.



The Living Edge Team looks after boxes 17 & 18, planting, watering, amending soil, and harvesting the vegetables. From June to Sept, every Friday morning (about one hour), the team harvests whatever is ready to eat, packages it up and delivers it to the Open Gate Church at 2612 Sooke Road.

The Work Party Team looks after overall repairs and maintenance projects, including garden box, gazebo and fence repairs, pruning, soil drop-off, pick up and delivery of supplies, and year-end cleanup. Work parties meet the third Saturday of each month, or as needed.

The Garden Maintenance Team is KEY to our garden's sustainability. Grass needs to be cut, weeds pulled, herb and Indigenous gardens weeded and watered, and the shed and Gazebo sites maintained. Volunteer time is *flexible*, about an hour a week.

The Communications Team notifies gardeners of events and activities, via email, newsletter, garden bulletin board and website. They may also do community outreach, such as presentations, exhibits, social media and publicity. Volunteer time is *flexible*.



A huge “thank you” to all of the volunteers who are currently doing these tasks. Please let us know who you are, so we can update our records and tell you who else has volunteered to help. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Bonnie Keleher at mbkeleher55@gmail.com.

Lending library ready for action

Resting on a shelf at the back of the shed are the first 12 titles in what we hope will be a useful resource library for member gardeners. Feel free to look up topics of interest on-site. Take them home for detailed study, but please return them as soon as you’ve finished. Book donations are welcome too, if your personal library needs pruning but you hate to throw out old favourites.

Title	Author
Food to Grow	Frankie Flowers
Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest	Arthur R. Kruckeberg
Herb Bible, The	Peter McHoy & Pamela Westland
Herb Book, The	Arabella Boxer & Philippa Black
In a Victoria Garden	Lynne Milnes
Native Plants in the Coastal Garden	April Pettinger with Brenda Costanzo
Natural Insect, Weed & Disease Control	Linda Gilkeson
Northwest Garden Manifesto, The	John Albers
Pacific Gardening Guide	David Tarrant
What’s Wrong with My Plant?	Steven Bradley
Year-Around Harvest – Winter Gardening on the West Coast	Linda Gilkeson
Year-Round Vegetable Gardener, The	Niki Jabbour

Calendar

July 11 – The Board met at the gardens at 9:30 am, in the gazebo. Minutes are posted on the website: colwoodgardensociety.org.

July 18 – Work party scheduled. Volunteers with handyman skills are essential, but there are always tasks that don’t involve power tools or heavy lifting. Please meet at the gardens at 9:30 am; bring a cordless drill and a coffee cup.

August 8 – Next Board meeting at the gardens at 9:30 am.

August 15 – Next Work Party scheduled. Please meet at the gardens at 9:30 am.

September date TBC – Annual General Meeting in the gardens. Every member of the Society in good standing is entitled to vote on matters of mutual interest.

Questions and comments are always welcome at cgs@colwoodgardensociety.org.

First aid and eyewash kits are available in the shed

Check on the right-hand wall as you enter the garden shed ... first-aid and eyewash kits are now kept there in case of emergency.