



BC Council of Garden Clubs Fall General Meeting

Saturday, October 24, 2026
Bonsor Recreation Complex
6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby

You are invited to attend the **BCCGC Fall General Meeting 2026**, which will take place from **10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Saturday, October 24**.

One designated voting delegate from each Affiliated Club Member in good standing will be asked to vote on the minutes from the Fall General Meeting 2025 and on the 2027 budget.

We have some exciting guest speakers who will share their expertise with us at this event. Ron Long, former sciences photographer at Simon Fraser University and photo contributor of the Alpine Garden Club will be our keynote speaker. His presentation will be **Part Two of his Native Plants Series**. Liz Knight, representing Darts Hill Garden, will give us a virtual tour of the gardens, and Lynda Pasacreta, Richmond Garden Club, will share ideas on attracting new members and keeping existing members engaged and involved. Okanagan College student Nick Tooke, now a self-employed vineyard manager, will talk about some different methods of growing vines and give us some insights on this year's wine crop with all the wildfire activity in the Okanagan.

In addition to BCCGC business announcements, reports, and guest speakers, there will be a presentation from Scholarship Fund. See the BC Council of Garden Clubs website www.bcgardenclubs.com for updates and further details.

2027 Budget: We will be asking the members to approve the annual budget at the Fall General Meeting, so it is approved prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. Previously the budget was reviewed and approved at the Spring AGM, which was 3 to 4 months after the beginning of the fiscal year.

Motions for Approval: Along with the 2027 budget, we will also ask our members to approve the minutes of the 2025 Fall General Meeting.

The materials attached include the Agenda, the 2027 Proposed Budget and the meeting minutes from the 2025 Fall General meeting. A designated delegate from each club will be asked to vote on the motions.

All member clubs may designate one person from their club as the **voting delegate**. If you are the voting delegate for your club, please review these documents prior to attending the meeting. (All member clubs are eligible to vote whether you have had a representative attend a BCCGC Meeting before or not.) If you are not sure if the correct person is listed as the voting delegate, drop an email to secretary@bcgardenclubs.com.

Hope to see you there!

Your BC Council of Garden Clubs Team

BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026

AGENDA

Please bring your own coffee cups and a donation for the prize table! 🛍️

1. (10:00 – 10:05 AM) – Lynda Pasacreta – BCCGC Business – Welcome/Announcements
2. (10:05 – 10:10 AM) – **Motion** to approve Minutes from 2025 Fall General Meeting/**Vote**
3. (10:10 – 10:20 AM) – Ann Peters, Treasurer – Proposed Budget 2027
4. (10:20 – 10:30 AM) – **Motion** to approve the Proposed Budget 2027/Discussion/**Vote**
5. (10:30 – 10:45 AM) – COFFEE BREAK (Buy draw tickets, visit vendors and floral art display)
6. (10:45 – 11:00 AM) – Debbie Mellenger, Scholarship Fund Committee – Scholarship Fund presentation
7. (11:00 – 11:45 AM) – Nick Tooke, Okanagan College student, viticulture/wine growing
8. (11:45 – 12:00 PM) – Liz Knight, Darts Hill Garden
9. (12:00 – 1:00 PM) – LUNCH BREAK (Buy draw tickets, visit vendors and floral art display)
10. (1:00 – 2:00 PM) – Ron Long, “Part Two: Native Plants Series”
11. (2:00 – 2:15 PM) – Lynda Pasacreta, Attracting and Keeping Members
12. (2:15 – 2:30 PM) – Floral Design Show
13. (2:30 – 3:00 PM) – DRAW TABLE (Thank you New Westminster Horticultural Society for hosting)
14. (3:00 PM) – Closing remarks/Thank you/**Motion** to adjourn

BC Council of Garden Clubs

President's Message

I would like to thank the BC Council of Garden Clubs executive team for all the work that has been done this year to make it easy for our members to access and share information, renew membership and insurance, welcome new members, continue to grow the scholarship fund for aspiring horticultural students, taking care of our finances so we remain a healthy organization, ensuring access to floral arts and horticultural manuals and floral arts events, and making our website accessible and engaging! Our two in-person meetings need all hands on deck from our executive team.

Please make sure to thank our team at the fall meeting:

Cindy Tataryn - 1st Vice President (Floral Arts Design)

Ron Ouwerkerk - 2nd Vice President (Speakers List, Insurance)

Ann Peters - Treasurer

Dorothy Barkley - Secretary

Debbie Mellenger - Scholarship Fund Chairperson

Frank Girard - Webmaster (all round technical guy)

Lorna Herchenson - Membership

I would also like to extend a warm thank you to Lorna Cloutier and the **New Westminster Horticultural Society** for their continued support organizing the draw table at our events! Remember to thank them when you bring your door prize to them before the meeting begins.

South Burnaby Garden Club has again extended their "busy bees" help to our BC Council of Garden Clubs executive team. Watch for them at our meeting taking care of all of our needs! Thank you Lucette Wesley and Sofia Khouw! 🐝

Remember to shake hands with our vendors who continue to support the Scholarship Fund (vendor registration fees are passed directly to the fund) and add a nice shopping experience to our day. Thank you to the following vendors:

Organic Dirt Supplements

Front Yard Farms

Fraser Valley Rose Farm

Kelpman

Li's Garden

My Father's Garden

The BC Council of Garden Clubs is a volunteer-based organization. We have monthly meetings via Zoom (except July, August, and December). Most of our positions are two-year terms so we encourage anyone who would like to join our team to contact me directly — president@bcgardenclubs.com. Elections for some of the executive positions will be held at the 2027 AGM.

Respectively submitted by Lynda Pasacreta

BC Council of Garden Clubs
1st Vice President

As the 1st Vice President of the BC Council of Garden Clubs (BCCGC) it is my responsibility to train and certify the floral design judges and the horticultural judges.

I am also the chairperson for the floral design judges committee. This committee is developing floral design courses and have completed Level 1 – Introduction to Traditional Floral Design to Level 5 – Advanced Contemporary Design. The committee is currently proofreading the instructor's manual for Level 6.

Levels 1 through 3 have been rolled out. Earlier this year there were Level 1 classes held in Victoria, Qualicum Beach, and Chilliwack. There were Level 2 classes in Chilliwack. Currently there is a Level 3 class in Chilliwack and another one in Port Kells.

There are plans to roll out Level 4 in the spring.

Earlier this year some of the floral design judges took their second Advanced International Floral Design Judges training course through the United Kingdom's National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies (NAFAS) — taught by Valerie Best and Lesley Sturdy of London and the overseas area of NAFAS. They are both accredited national judges, instructors, and assessors for NAFAS and we very much appreciate them sharing their time and knowledge. Certificates were presented to the floral design judges who are now qualified to judge international shows.

There are currently five students taking the Horticultural Judges course — two in the Fraser Valley and three in the Okanagan Valley.

To register for any courses, please send your contact information to me at ctataryn@telus.net.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Tataryn

1vicepresident@bcgardenclubs.com

BC Council of Garden Clubs
Secretary

I am completing my first full year as Secretary to the Executive Committee of the BC Council of Garden Clubs and would like to thank the members and the Executive for this opportunity. I have found it to be a terrific experience of gardening from an administrative perspective as opposed to the one I am most familiar with — on my knees, in my garden — much tidier! The Council has provided an opportunity to speak with many members, to become familiar with the diverse garden clubs across BC, and to understand different garden club/community garden concerns and priorities.

I also had the pleasure to present the annual BCCGC Scholarship Foundation Bursary to the recipient from the UBC Horticulture Program, David Smith, at their annual awards luncheon.

I thank you for these opportunities and look forward to working with your most dedicated volunteer Executive Committee again this year.

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Barkley

secretary@bcgardenclubs.com



**BC Council of Garden Clubs
Scholarship Fund Committee**

Donations

We have exceeded our 2026 fundraising goal of \$12,000, with donations totalling **\$14,878.52 to date!**

Our sincere thanks to all the clubs and individuals who have supported the campaign so generously this year. It is not too late to contribute to the 2026 campaign. Instructions for making a donation are included in each monthly issue of the *Bulletin*.

Our funds are held and managed by the Vancity Community Foundation, and we are pleased to report that the fund was valued at **\$388,933.58 as of June 30, 2026.**

Volunteers

We are currently seeking a volunteer to join the Scholarship Committee as secretary, with the term beginning in April 2027.

Serving on the Scholarship Committee is a rewarding opportunity to support students pursuing studies in horticulture and related fields. New members receive plenty of guidance and support from the other committee members.

The committee follows a three-year rotation: the first year is spent as secretary, recording minutes at our meetings held via Zoom; the second year is as treasurer; and the third year is as chair. Throughout this three-year term, each committee member maintains contact with the same four academic institutions, providing continuity, and fostering strong working relationships.

If you would like to learn more about these positions, please email scholarship@bcgardenclubs.com. We would be happy to answer your questions and discuss the opportunities with you.

Academic Institutions

There have been some changes to the horticultural programs at our partner institutions:

- **Camosun College** has paused future intakes into its Horticulture Technician program, with hopes of resuming the program next year.
- **Vancouver Island University (VIU)** has also paused its Horticulture Technician program. We have not yet received any information regarding future plans.

As a result of the pause at VIU, funds originally earmarked for the university have been redistributed to other academic institutions on Vancouver Island. We are also researching opportunities to partner with additional institutions to ensure continued support for students pursuing horticultural education.

Dispersals

The following is a summary of the funds distributed to our academic institutions in 2026. These funds will reach students throughout 2026 and early 2027 as the institutions' financial aid offices identify eligible recipients. Details of these awards will be shared in future issues of the *Bulletin*.

This year, with your generous support, we were able to disperse \$15,500 to institutions across the province:

Dispersal, Cont'd

UBC Horticulture Bursary	\$2,000
UBC Rose Bancroft Scholarship	\$1,600
University of Northern BC	\$1,600
University of the Fraser Valley	\$1,500
Kwantlen Polytechnic University	\$1,500
KPU Farm School	\$500
Camosun College	\$1,800
Thompson Rivers University	\$1,200
UBC Botanical Garden - Horticulture Training Program	\$1,200
Vancouver Island University	\$1,200 (redistributed)
Okanagan College	\$1,000
Pacific Horticultural College	\$1,600

Work in Progress

We continue to work closely with academic institutions across the province to support and encourage the next generation of horticultural professionals. The generosity of the clubs, groups, and individuals who contribute to the BCCGC Scholarship Fund makes this work possible, and we are deeply grateful for their continued support. We welcome the opportunity to connect with garden clubs and other groups to share more about our work, the impact of their contributions, and how together we can help nurture the future of horticulture in British Columbia. To learn more or arrange a presentation, please contact us at

scholarship@bcgardenclubs.com.

Respectfully submitted by Debbie Mellenger, Pam Robertson, and Betty Girard



BC Council of Garden Clubs

ORDER FORM: (For prices and information email Cindy Tataryn at ctataryn@telus.net)

Please indicate your choice with "Yes" or a checkmark:

Judges Manuals:

I would like to order the:

Horticulture Judges Manual _____

Floral Design Judges Manual _____

Judges Courses:

I would like to take the:

Horticulture Judges Course _____

Floral Design Judges Course _____

Flower Arranging Workshops:

I would like to take the Flower Arranging Workshops _____

Level 1 _____

Level 2 _____ (Level 1 is a pre-requisite)

Level 3 _____ (Levels 1 and 2 are pre-requisites)

Level 4 _____ (Levels 1, 2, and 3 are pre-requisites)

Please print legibly:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____ Club: _____

Return this form to: BC Council of Garden Clubs

C/O Cindy Tataryn, 16699 104 Avenue, Surrey, BC, V4N 1Z5

You can also order by email. Send in your request to Cindy Tataryn at: ctataryn@telus.net

BC Council of Garden Clubs

2025 Fall Meeting

October 25, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Bonsor Recreation Complex, Burnaby

1. Welcome and Call to Order:

President Lynda Pasacreta started the meeting at 10:00, noting quorum was met and welcomed everyone. She recognized the Executive, introducing them by name, then the South Burnaby Garden Club for their help serving lunch, and New Westminster Horticultural Society for administering the draw prizes. She introduced the vendors on hand and reviewed who our speakers would be.

The meeting was officially opened at 10:00am

2. MOTION to approve the 2024 Fall Meeting Minutes, held October 26, 2024.

Moved by: Victor Froese of Floral Artists of the Fraser Valley

Seconded by: Lisa Colby, Vancouver Master Gardeners

Motion Passed.

3. Treasurer's Report – Ann Peters, Treasurer

Ann Peters presented the proposed 2026 budget, which was circulated to member clubs ahead of the meeting in the delegates package, reporting that it had been prepared somewhat earlier than usual. The biggest change was with courses and manuals, noting a small profit forecast otherwise very much as 2025. She noted that meetings, which there are two, spring & fall, run at a small loss due to costs being greater than the revenue generated by members attending.

MOTION to approve the proposed budget for 2026 made by Ann Peters, BC Floral Art Society,

Seconded by: Dorothy Frost, West Vancouver Garden Club

Motion passed.

Lynda acknowledged the vendors in attendance, thanking them for their support and encouraging attendee representatives to support them.

[coffee break]

4. Scholarship Fund Report – Betty Girard, Chair, Scholarship Fund Committee

Donations

We are now over 80% of the way to our 2025 donation goal of \$10,000. Thank you so much to the clubs and individuals who have supported us so far in 2025. It is not too late to make a donation to the 2025 campaign. The directions on how to do so are included each month in the *Bulletin*. Our funds are held and managed by the Vancity Community Foundation and we are happy to report that the fund was valued at \$380,029.34 as of June 30, 2025.

Volunteers:

We were actively seeking a volunteer to complete a 3 year term that will end in 2027, however I am delighted to report that Pam Robertson, past BCCGC Secretary has just volunteered to take that position. Anita Irani was recognized for stepping forward to assume the role of Committee member to complete the year's term. Debbie Mellenger was recognized as Fund Treasurer, and upcoming Chair with Betty Girard's end of term in 2026 which will again open a vacancy on the Scholarship Fund Committee.

Academic Institutions

We were able to make a commitment to the Kwantlen Polytechnic University Farm School in Richmond for \$500 for the next three years due to your generous support. This is the first new program we have supported since 2018.

Unfortunately, some of the academic institutions have struggled with offering horticultural programs in the last few years. The Integrated Pest Management Program at SFU has had admissions on hold for the last two years due to faculty retirements and unfortunately they have not been able to award the BCCGC Mildred Wells Graduate Scholarship since 2023. We are working with SFU to find an alternative horticultural program that would benefit from our support.

Dispersals

The following is a list of the monies that were dispersed to our academic institutions in 2025. This money will flow into students' hands in 2025 and early 2026 as the various financial aid offices identify the recipients and will be reported in a future issue of the Bulletin.

This year, with your generous support, we were able to disperse \$14,000 to institutions across the province.

UBC Horticulture Bursary	\$1,900
UBC Rose Bancroft Scholarship	\$1,500
University of Northern BC	\$1,500
University of the Fraser Valley	\$1,300
Kwantlen Polytechnic University	\$1,300
KPU Farm School	\$500
Camosun College	\$1,200
Thompson Rivers University	\$1,200
UBC Botanical Garden - Horticulture Training Program	\$1,200
Vancouver Island University	\$1,000
Okanagan College	\$600
Pacific Horticultural College	\$800

Work in Progress

We continue to work with the academic institutions to support horticultural students throughout the province. We are so appreciative of the groups and individuals that support the BCCGC Scholarship Fund. We are happy to speak to any group or club. Please contact us through scholarship@bcgardenclubs.com

5. Speaker Mikhayla Roht, UBC Landscape Architecture Student and Bursary Recipient

Mikhayla, who grew up in Nelson, detailed her educational history, began at Emily Carr, then moving to England, returning to Victoria. She was working in floral retail, but realized that wasn't her area of interest, rather she was beginning to focus on design. She then moved to Courtenay where she worked in Nurseries, initially focused on shade plants and conifers, but then transferring to perennials. It was then that she registered again, entering the Landscape Architecture program at UBC where she is in her final year.

The Landscape Architecture students along with Masters of Architecture students participated in the "Study Abroad" program, travelling to Sardinia in Italy. They spent the first half of their time in rural settings and the second half in Semestene, a suburb of Sassari. They toured parks, gardens, islands and learned about local crafts all of which she shared with photographs.

Mikhayla is now focusing on the Island rail corridor between Victoria and Courtenay which is no longer in active use.

She reported as well the involvement of Landscape Professionals with the students in the program, with both teaching and mentoring. She notes that with financial cutbacks to education, faculty positions are being lost, class offerings are being reduced and the added programs such as Study Abroad, will no longer be available to students.

Mikhayla expressed her great appreciation and thanks to the BC Council of Garden Clubs, stressing the value and importance the bursary makes to a student's life.

6. Floral Design Update:

Ann Peters, current President of CWAFAAC (Canadian Western Association of Floral Art Clubs) recognized and thanked Cindy Tataryn Past President of CWAFAAC, for going to Oman and presenting the case for CWAFAAC to become a full member of WAFA (World Association of Floral Artists). Mei Harper is currently Vice President of CWAFAAC but will not be seeking nomination as President in April 2026. Every 3 years WAFA holds an international floral design show. The next will be in 2027 in Sydney Australia.

(Lunch)

7. Speaker: Cheryl Johnson, BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation

Cheryl advised of her great love for gardening, showcasing photos of her garden, but acknowledged she was new to her role, having only assumed it two months prior. She gave a great and lively presentation, belying her novice status, in which she told us of their goal to bring agriculture and food education to students and their educators across the province. She named and described the programs:

- Spuds in Tubs
- Harvest Bin Project
- Planting a Promise
- Common Ground, The Strawberry Project
- AG Adventures, with Tours & Camps

The Foundation is always looking for volunteers. The Spuds in Tubs program is oversubscribed right now but with donations can be revived. Cheryl reported their availability to speak to and partner with clubs (contact through BCAITC.ca)

8. Speaker: Dr Elizabeth Elle, "The Bees of Your Backyard, Pollinator Protecting Practices for your Garden"

Dr Elle is a former SFU Provost and continues to teach at SFU. She is an avid gardener and shared photographs of her garden, while showing a picture of its bare lawn upon purchase, with only a single pampas grass planted on it, and the lush and many plantings today.

Her study has revealed that 90% of plants need animal pollination, 60-73% of which require insects to pollinate. Of those, 70-93% of insect pollinators are bees. There are over 800 species in Canada, of which 500 are to be found in BC. There has been a decline in native species, however the "exotics" or immigrant bees are expanding. She reviewed the many types and varieties of bees, both in size, colouring and socialization. She compared and contrasted bees with look alike wasps and flies, noting that bees are vegetarians (ie only consume pollen) while wasps are carnivores; Bees have 4 wings while flies only have 2.

Of the bee populations, most females are solitary, nesting alone but for the honeybees which are very social and have large colonies. Most males do not participate in the pollen gathering, but live separately. Their foraging distance is determined by their size, which varies greatly, their nesting in stems or in the ground. They are most active in the spring. Dr Elle tracked the insect visits in her garden seeing 1518 insects, 72 species, of which 1200 were by bees.

She recommended as resources:

- Xerxes Society for Invertebrate Preservation
- [Pollinator.org /guides](http://Pollinator.org/guides)
- ElizabethElleEcology.ca

Finally she reviewed how to clean mason bee houses, thanked the Council and made herself available for questions.

[coffee break]

9. Club Roundtable

Lynda invited attendees to update everyone about their club's current activities.

10. Floral Arts Show Results

Sandra Froese judged the many entries.

- Best in Show - Catherine Deslauriers of Floral Artists of the Fraser Valley
- Novice Winner - Jean Sorensen
- Best in the Judges' Classes - Dorothy Scott of BC Floral Art Society.

10. Draw

The New Westminster Horticultural Society drew prize numbers until all of the prizes were claimed. A total of \$685 was raised for the Scholarship Fund.

11. Adjournment

Lynda thanked everyone who took part in the meeting, and conducted a giveaway of the plant centre-pieces, via zodiac signs.

Meeting ended by Lynda Pasacreta at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes taken by BC Council secretary Dorothy Barkley