

## **Vancouver Master Gardeners Report to AGM - September 2017**

To celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> we were happy to host this year's Provincial AGM and the tours to Dart's Hill, Burns Bog and this morning's tour here at VanDusen.

In July, Joan Bentley invited us into her lovely garden for a Strawberry Tea which was a very special treat.

Our chapter was financially able to provide grants to VanDusen Gardens, Seeds of Diversity and the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden. We made funds available to master gardener projects – Heartwood Outdoor Garden and Dixon House. In addition, we donated to UBC's Intergenerational Landed Learning in memory of our long-time member, Doyne Sillery. Doyne was from the Basic Training class of 1983.

Our Spring Conference was well attended and the survey indicates that you would like to see both Linda's return next year. Our Spring Affair is booked for March 25, 2018 and we have confirmed that Jonathon Jones from Tregothnan Estate will be our guest speaker. This estate has been producing tea in England for the past 17 years.

Our regular programs continued this year:

- Basic Training – Jan through March with 31 students.
- Workshops and Advanced Training.

Some statistics:

We have 393 members. As we haven't tallied hours for 2017, these numbers are from last year - 9,000 Advice/Outreach Hours for the year, 3,500 hours were at Clinics, 3,300 for Projects and the balance were acquired by writing or speaking engagements.

The challenges for the Vancouver Chapter are to retain and engage our membership and to adjust to the changing environment to vegetable and small space gardening.

Submitted by Jill Wright  
Vancouver Chapter Representative