



## Tupper Neighbourhood Greenway

Opening day ceremony, June 7, 12 to 2 p.m.,  
marks the culmination of a major collaborative effort

As City of Vancouver staff (and also as Master Gardeners), we wanted to let you know of a very successful community project between the City of Vancouver Greenways Team and several dedicated volunteer Master Gardeners.

For the past several years, Master Gardeners have been helping with the development of the Tupper Neighbourhood Greenway. This project transformed a closed street at Sir Charles Tupper Secondary School in Vancouver into a Neighbourhood Greenway, a community meeting space, and a place of remembrance for a student who tragically lost his life on the school grounds four years ago. The culmination of that project was Saturday, March 8, with a community planting day attended by more than 100 students and neighbours.

Without the knowledgeable assistance of Judy Zipursky, Christine Duamel, Thea Rosenstock, Karin Peter, Shirley Skagen, Rosalyn Grady, and Susan Nordlie, the planting day would not have gone as smoothly as it did. They efficiently laid out the planting areas and assisted the community volunteers with planting more than 1,000 plants in the Greenway. It would have been impossible to accomplish this task in the available time with just the two of us. In addition to their physical help, they consulted on the plant selection and are now creating a manual for the school association whose members will be maintaining the Greenway. The manual identifies the plant species in the Greenway, gives information about plant care, and provides a month-by-month maintenance schedule.

The Tupper Greenway project demonstrated another way in which Master Gardeners can provide a valuable service to the community. This was an

important community project and the involvement of Master Gardeners has been extremely helpful in all stages of the project: planning, implementation, and the future viability of the Greenway. Projects such as Tupper only occur every few years, but we hope the Master Gardeners Association of BC might consider partnerships with us in future Neighbourhood Greenway projects.

**—Theresa (Terry) Dixon  
and Sandra A. James, MCIP,  
City of Vancouver Greenways Program**



Left: MGs Sue Nordlie, Rosalyn Grady, Shirley Skagen, Thea Rosenstock, Judy Zipursky, and Christine Duamel at the Tupper Greenway planting in March 2008. Karin Peter also helped but is not shown in this photo.

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# Letter from the Chair

I am writing this letter just after our April meeting when the new bylaws were passed and I'd like to thank all of those who came to the meeting to cast their vote. I hope everyone realizes that we are now in a transition period with myriad tasks ahead in order to accomplish all that we have set out to do. The Council thanks you for the vote of confidence. The new bylaws now allow the wheels of change to be set in motion for the establishment of a truly provincial association with representatives from many different areas in BC.

There are many committees at work in many areas. The nomination committee is now working hard to make sure we have a full complement of provincial representation for the November AGM. While they are contacting people, other plans are also being formulated. The education committee has been charged with the task of writing education standards for the MGABC. These education standards along with the membership and volunteer requirements will be used as part of any letter of agreement with new chapters as they are formed. To help with public recognition of the MGABC we have sent our dogwood logo and "MGABC" for trademark registration. Our logo is to be used on all material distributed by the MGABC.

This newsletter will come out shortly before summer holidays. Although there will not be any general

meetings during the summer, your Council will continue to work on expansion issues. The implementation committee is in charge of keeping everyone on track because we hope to have a good portion done before the end of the year. A policy and procedure manual which covers both provincial and chapter issues is being compiled, if it is not already complete. New provincial policies and procedures will be written as issues arise, including increased travel expenses and the use of the charity status by both provincial and chapter groups. I am hoping we will have signed letters of agreement with a couple of new chapters, and we will have letters of intent with a couple of others.

We have done a lot over the past couple of years and now we have a lot more to do. This work reminds me of what I call an instant garden—a garden that exists and then you dig everything up, replenish the soil and replant, with some old and some new, and voila, a new garden—different but the same.

It is very exciting to see our garden growing. It still requires some hard work and I need your help. We are redesigning our garden—some old, some new, some dividing, but all good and healthy. As always, you can contact me with ideas, concerns, or offers of help. Enjoy your summer!

—Lynne Christmas

## Recognition for a Job Well Done MGs with more than 100 volunteer hours

Karen Shuster 390 hours  
Linda Sears 376 hours  
Marguerite Miller 300 hours  
Linda Derkach 242 hours  
Pat Taylor 214 hours  
Diane Hartley 194 hours  
Ken McDonald 174 hours  
June Pierson 166.5 hours  
Trish Miller 164 hours  
Colleen Martin 163 hours  
Andrea Lebowitz 160 hours  
Pam Harrison 156.5 hours  
Doreen Godwin 151 hours

Brian Campbell 149 hours  
Susan Lazar 148 hours  
Vivien Clarke 147 hours  
Alice Kilian 143 hours  
Kathy Shynkaryk 134 hours  
Jo Toon 134 hours  
Judy Bell 134 hours  
Barbara Bowers 129 hours  
Linda Rehlinger 123 hours  
Robin Rance 122.5 hours  
Sue Damm 122 hours  
Janet Sawatsky 114 hours  
David Stemler 113 hours

Lindsay Macpherson 112 hours  
Ann-Marie Metten 110 hours  
Shirley Rainey 108.5 hours  
Jacqueline Bakker 108 hours  
Judy Zipursky 106 hours  
Lynne Christmas Too many to count

Thanks to all MGs who put in more hours than expected.

—Diane Hartley  
Secretary/Overall  
Clinic Coordinator



The clinic season is well under way for 2008. Some of you will have already completed your hours and put away your books for another season.

This year there are fewer clinic spots available, but still lots of empty spaces. Again, students are looking for hours. Some are trying to make up hours they missed last year as a result of the strike that closed VanDusen Gardens. If you can see your way clear to offering a few extra hours to help a student, please call the Area Coordinators to let them know. One extra clinic per qualified MG would make a world of difference.

From time to time throughout the season I receive requests to have Master Gardeners provide clinics

at various venues. I put these special requests out by email on the *mgclinics* email discussion forum. If you are not yet a subscriber, I encourage you to join by sending an email to [mgclinics-subscribe@yahoogroups.ca](mailto:mgclinics-subscribe@yahoogroups.ca). You will receive a response within a few days telling you that you are now a subscriber and you will start to see requests for clinic exchanges, new clinic venues, and any information related to clinics in your email inbox. Notices regarding clinics are no longer being sent out via the *mgadmin* email discussion forum so you will miss out if you do not subscribe to *mgclinics*.

Thank you for all your help with clinics and see you at the Garden Party at VanDusen on June 10!

—Diane Hartley  
Clinics Coordinator



## Summerland Master Gardeners

The Summerland Master Gardeners have expanded opportunities for training in the Interior of BC. We will be running Basic Training courses in two locations in the coming months: in Kamloops in the fall of 2008, and in Kelowna in February 2009. The Kamloops initiative has been the work of Master Gardener Leslie Welch, who has obtained support from the Friends of the Gardens at Thompson Rivers University to launch this program. Kamloops Master Gardeners and students will remain with the Summerland Master Gardeners until their numbers warrant establishing their own chapter.

Okanagan Master Gardeners are having to answer more and more questions about the newest pest in our area—rabbits. They are a problem, particularly in Kelowna where released “pets and gifts” have multiplied and become a nuisance for home gardeners. Master Gardeners advise besieged homeowners to use organic means of control, such as trap-and-release and prevention (by enclosing tree trunks in chicken wire and vegetable beds in netting). These pests can also be deterred with aromatic plants and mega-strength garlic solutions sprayed on plants.

This season Master Gardeners will be active at nurseries, plant sales, farmer’s markets, the Interior Provincial Exhibition, garden tours, and Communities in Bloom judging, as well as at hospices. We look forward to these opportunities to educate the public about water-smart gardening in our water-stressed Interior.

—Linda Sears  
Program Coordinator

# Within a Hundred Miles: Home and Beyond

## 2008 Spring Seminar, Sunday, March 16

Four speakers addressed the theme of this year's MG update—"Within a Hundred Miles: Home and Beyond."

The day started with Kim Sutherland, who is regional agrologist for the Fraser Valley with the BC Ministry of Agriculture. Sutherland gave a succinct account of agriculture in the Fraser Valley, including such alarming statistics as the continuing loss of farmland to development. She explained that the valley has one of the richest zones for agricultural production in the world, particularly for dairy farming. It is not only extremely productive but is intensively used and there is no more land to put into agricultural production. This means that every hectare taken out of agriculture cannot be replaced. As an example, the Gateway project to twin the Port Mann Bridge will bisect dairy farms that will then just disappear as they will be too small to be viable. Sutherland raised the prospect of our grandchildren drinking powdered milk when we can no longer afford to truck milk from Saskatchewan because of fuel costs and because local production is unable to meet demand. The Fraser Valley is ideally situated adjacent to a large, ethnically diverse market which increases the viability of food production close to the consumer.

Sutherland next addressed the effect of climate change which, while it will make some areas of Northern BC theoretically more suitable for agriculture, will be severely limited by the availability of water. BC at present produces just over 50 percent of the food we consume and this figure will inevitably decline as farmland is lost.

### **Our food supply**

Next we heard from Dr. Iain Taylor, professor emeritus of botany at UBC and author of *Genetically Engineered Plants: Interim Policies, Uncertain Legislation*, which was published by Haworth in 2007. Dr. Taylor said that we want a food supply that is healthy, diverse, safe, convenient, and cheap. These demands are often contradictory.

Dr. Taylor then gave a clear explanation of the difference between genetic engineering and genetic modification. The first adds foreign genes into

those of an organism; for example, the relatively new technology of inserting the gene for cold hardiness from antarctic fish into plants to correspondingly increase their hardiness. In contrast, genetic modification has been achieved for centuries by farmers who breed only those plants and animals with desirable characteristics, aiming to improve offspring. It can also be achieved by techniques such as radiation, which slightly alter DNA molecules. Despite these differences, the terms "genetic modification" and "genetic engineering" are often used interchangeably.



John Bishop charms

Finally, Dr. Taylor tackled the definition of organic. Surprisingly, Canada took years to agree on a definition which comes into effect on December 14, 2008. It was not clear how the Canadian Food Inspection Agency currently does its job without a legal definition, particularly when inspecting imported food. Dr. Taylor emphasized how important it is to understand this situation and to not automatically assume that organic carrots shipped from California are better than locally produced conventional crops.

### **Fresh food preparation**

The afternoon speakers were a distinct contrast to those who presented in the morning. Gary King, the owner of Hazelmere Organics, covered a somewhat rambling set of topics ranging from grounding yourself in the garden through to a new initiative to verify organic farms and gardens in BC. He pointed out that sustainability and organic production are not synonymous and that, rather than the single bottom

“Chefs are now much more aware of ingredients as the starting point for all cooking and the trend is to look at where food comes from.”

line of profit, organic producers look at what he calls the triple bottom line of social and environmental impact as well as economics.

Gary King was followed by John Bishop, owner of his namesake Vancouver restaurant and customer of Hazelmere Organics. Bishop described his observations on changes in the restaurant business since he started cooking in his teens. Chefs are now much more aware of ingredients as the starting point for all cooking and they look at where food comes from. This means less reliance on commercially prepared ingredients from wholesalers and more use of seasonal, locally grown products.

Bishop also described the efforts restaurants are making to become more sustainable, including the Green Table Society (*greentable.net*), a Vancouver-based initiative working to reduce waste and benefit the local community. The list of restaurants on the website ranges from the usual high-end eateries to more modest establishments such as Terra Breads and Ouisi Bistro.



The seminar's book sale is always popular



Plant Sale Committee members, including Nigel Bunning, Joan Bentley, Joanne Tench, and Shelley Deglan

John Bishop did admit that using high-quality local ingredients does affect menu prices but that needs to be considered with the wider criteria that Gary King mentioned earlier, namely the social and environmental impact of food grown closer to the consumer. He also emphasized that seasonality is a recent idea and that formerly restaurants did not vary their menus but stuck to the same items whether they were in season or not. King said he would like to see more local food preservation so that some ingredients are available year-round but still local.

It is difficult to say what conclusions can be drawn from the afternoon's speakers. Master Gardeners who already grow their own fruits and vegetables are the best example of eating locally and don't need to be convinced of the advantages of food grown by their own hands. In this case, the 100-foot diet always trumps the 100-mile version. Master Gardeners are also promoting local food production at clinics and through the many community projects that teach children and help other groups learn to grow their own food. Ultimately it is up to each of us to interpret and implement the ideas presented.

—Ron Clancy

## Tour to Ferndale, Washington

### Visit the MG Demonstration Garden at Hovander Homestead Park and the Tennant Lake Fragrance Garden



Join members of the Master Gardeners Association of BC on a tour to the sweetest garden south of the border—the Tennant Lake Fragrance Garden in Ferndale, Washington. At this award-winning fragrance garden Master Gardeners will be encouraged to touch, smell, and enjoy the beauty of the more than 200 scented plants.

We'll then tour the Hovander Homestead Demonstration Garden, where a committed group of veteran Master Gardeners has created an educational demonstration of the fruits and vegetables that can be grown in the home garden. The demonstration garden plan includes vegetables, small fruits, herbs, a weed iden-

tification garden, native plant garden, perennials, dahlia garden, and a greenhouse. Last summer the garden grew 50 vegetables, 8 small fruits, 40 herbs, and the weed identification garden displayed just over 100 weeds.

Washington State Master Gardeners will be on hand to guide our tour through the garden, where each year they contribute approximately 1,200 volunteer hours to the demonstration garden projects.

The tour takes place Wednesday, August 13, departing Vancouver at 9:00 a.m. and returning at 5:00 p.m. Garden tours take place in Ferndale between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Travel plans and cost will be established once numbers are confirmed. Tentative cost by coach is \$40.

To cross the border, Canadian citizens age 19 and older will need to present a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's licence, along with proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate or naturalization certificate or passport.

**Some help planning this trip would be appreciated. To help plan or to reserve a place on the tour, please email Judy Zipursky at [jaz6470@hotmail.com](mailto:jaz6470@hotmail.com).**



### Tour the Terra Nova Schoolyard

Ian Lai of the Terra Nova School Schoolyard Society is happy to conduct an interpreted walk for Master Gardeners. The tour will take place on Thursday, July 17, from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. at their educational organic vegetable garden for children located at 2631 Westminster Highway in Richmond.

**To get there:** Once in Richmond, travel west on Westminster Highway until you cross No. 1 Road, where Westminster Highway begins to head southwest. Continue to Barnard Drive, turn right on Barnard Drive, and continue to Westminster Highway and turn right. The Terra Nova Schoolyard Society is located at 2631 Westminster Highway. Check [www.myterranova.ca](http://www.myterranova.ca) for more information.

—Robin Rance

## Basic Training Students Show Their Research Skills



*Hydrangea* – Kathleen Glynn-Morris and Ruth Hunter



*Ceanothus* – Yu-sho Cherng and Susan Allison



*Viburnum* – Michael Stockdale, Monica Schroeder, and Sheila Skeans

All photos by Sally Maclachlan

# New book by MG covers “every aspect of growing herbs for household use in Canada”

## **Herb Gardening for Canada**

by Laura Peters

Softcover, 248 pages, 8.5-inches-by-5.5-inches, \$21.95

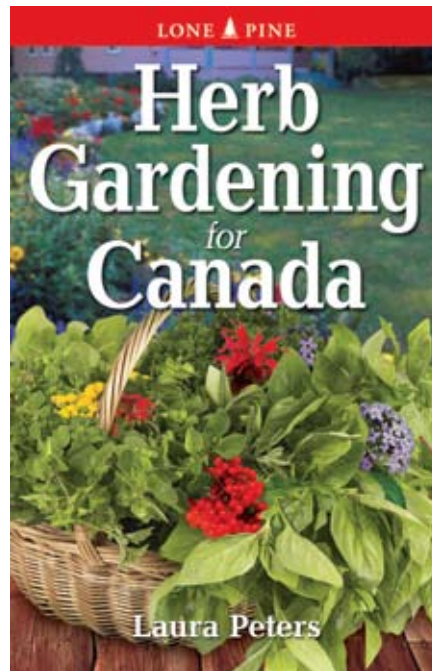
ISBN 978-1-55105-590-9

Lone Pine Publishing

Laura Peters is a qualified Master Gardener with 30 books to her credit. She has a great deal of organic gardening experience, all reflected in this new book covering every aspect of growing herbs for household use in Canada.

This is a friendly book to use. The compact, well-bound paperback has neatly rounded corners with the ability to fit into a large pocket in the gardening outfit, becoming a constant companion when in the herb garden. The type in the contents section is easy to read quickly since it is set in capital letters and brightly coloured. Likewise the index at the back of the book highlights the herbs that appear in the main body of the book, allowing a good cross reference when in a hurry to locate the plant.

*Herb Gardening for Canada* is truly a Canadian production, taking into account the diverse climatic diversity in this country. In the introduction to the book, Peters provides a helpful hardiness zone map with information on microclimates—a map of frost-free days is a rare asset in a Canadian publication. She also clarifies the basic types of herbs and then considers herb garden design. Growing herbs indoors as well as outside, or both inside and outside, is considered. Ornamental gardens are compared with the practical herb garden.



Types of soil, exposure to sun and shade, as well as preparing the garden to receive the herbs or planting them in containers are all succinctly set out. Propagating techniques are very adequately explained. Mulching, weeding, pruning, staking, deadheading, fertilizing, and watering of herbs are clearly explained.

The introduction continues with advice on pest problems and their cures using integrated pest management, which is strongly advocated throughout the book. General comments on harvesting and using herbs is covered before the book leads into its major section—a very informative dictionary of recommended herbs. The herbs chosen tend to be mostly culinary ones rather than those with medicinal properties; however, where applicable, medicinal uses are given. The common name of each herb is listed prominently,

followed by the botanical name in italics. Thereafter the features of the herb, the growing conditions required, and the recommended varieties are highlighted for quick reference. Harvesting information specific to each herb and ideas for their use very neatly conclude discussion of each herb. Some herbs only need a double-page spread while others demand several pages to accommodate all the information as well as the excellent photo illustrations.

Throughout, the text is enhanced by little *bon mots* sometimes of historical interest. Carefully chosen photographs showing both close-up views as well as *in situ* shots make judgement of suitability for each growing situation easier whether it be in the garden or container or even a good companion for a neighbouring plant.

Peters has taken most of the outdoors photography used in this book and she is her own craft and food stylist. She was assisted by studio photographer Nanette Samol. Together their photography is a distinct attribute in this book, complementing the text and comprehensive enough that it could satisfy both the beginner and the expert culinary herb gardener.

*Herb Gardening for Canada* covers all bases for someone wanting a convenient, fully informative handbook on herbs, which could become a great favourite and frequently used book.

—Audrey Ostrom



# Everything you need to know to keep good bugs happy

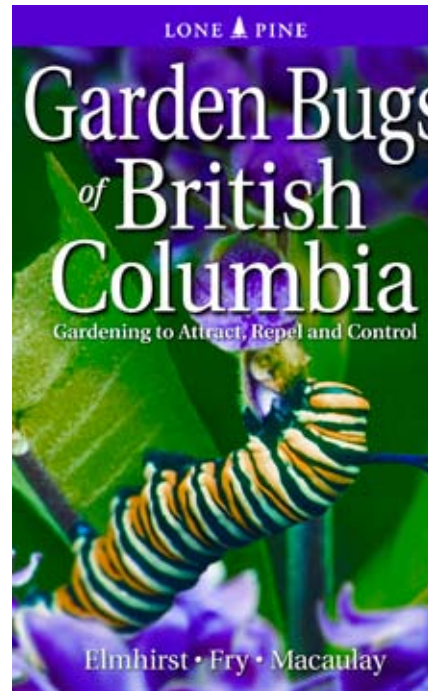
## Garden Bugs of British Columbia Gardening to Attract, Repel, and Control

by Janice Elmhirst, Ken Fry, and  
Doug Macaulay  
Softcover, 224 pages,  
8.5-inches-by-5.5-inches, \$21.95  
ISBN 978-1-55105-591-6  
Lone Pine Publishing

Bugs may rule the world, but it's the full-colour hand-painted illustrations depicting 126 species of the creepy-crawlies commonly found in British Columbia gardens that rule *Garden Bugs of British Columbia*, an impressively presented yet compact reference which should quickly earn its way onto every Master Gardener's list of essential tools.

Complementing the vivid imagery is a bounty of information that covers the natural history of each species as well as the basics essential to recognizing and evaluating their presence in BC gardens: identification characteristics, scouting information (when to look and what to look for), and habitat and range are provided for all. Listings for the beneficials also include specific tips on how to attract and encourage them into the garden, while for occupants that are potentially more harmful, cultural, physical, and biological controls are noted.

In addition to the Garden Bug Directory itself, which is organized by species, the book includes an extensive index, glossary and references list. There is also a handy Quick Reference Guide at the front and a Garden



Bug Scouting Chart at the back—making all of the information instantly accessible in a variety of ways.

Experienced gardeners will further appreciate the authors' efforts to convey why proper identification of bugs is just the first step in acquiring real knowledge about them and respect for the significance of the roles they play. In describing the morphological traits that imbue the adaptive and resilient nature of bugs, authors Dr. Janice Elmhirst (Plant Pathology), Dr. Ken Fry (Entomology), and Douglas Macaulay (Biology) also point out the intrinsic value of bugs to virtually every other living thing on the planet—whether as food sources, pollinators, decomposers, and/or predators. By examining the interdependence of these relationships within the food web, the authors explain why gardening to attract, repel, and control is more ecologically desirable than any attempt at pest eradication. Instead, they stress, it's a sound strategy that effectively limits the potential for outbreaks while at the same time encouraging the balance and biodiversity that is essential for healthy plants and gardens.

—J.R. Rendón



Illustration from “Garden Bugs of British Columbia,” published by Lone Pine Publishing. Copyright 2008. Used with Permission.



# Newsletter

of the Master Gardeners Association  
of British Columbia  
in Association with  
VanDusen Botanical Gardens Association

## Mission Statement

The Mission of the Master Gardeners Association of British Columbia is to provide information about gardening to the community and to educate people about environmentally responsible gardening practices.

Please send all **contact information changes** to Pat Taylor, membership chair.

All other **newsletter correspondence** can be sent to the editor, Ann-Marie Metten, at [ametten@telus.net](mailto:ametten@telus.net).

Newsletter layout by Wendy Jones.

The MG Newsletter is published in March, June, September, and December. **Deadline for submissions** to the September newsletter is July 15, 2008.

[www.bcmastergardeners.org](http://www.bcmastergardeners.org)  
[gardener@bcmastergardeners.org](mailto:gardener@bcmastergardeners.org)



# MG Calendar

All events take place in the Floral Hall at VanDusen Botanical Garden, unless otherwise noted.

## Tuesday, June 10, 7:00 p.m.

General meeting  
**MGABC Annual Garden Party**  
After a short business meeting guided tours of VanDusen will be led by VanDusen Guides. Strawberries and cream will follow

## Thursday, July 17, 9:00 to 10:15 a.m.

Garden tour with Chef Ian Lai  
**School Gardens: The Terra Nova Project**  
2631 Westminster Highway, Richmond

## Wednesday, August 13, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Garden tour and fieldtrip  
**Tennant Lake Fragrance**

**Garden and Hovander Homestead Demonstration Garden**  
Fernwood, WA

## Tuesday, September 9, 9:30 a.m.

General meeting  
**What's New at the UBC Botanical Gardens**  
Dr. Ingrid Hoff  
Joint meeting with VanDusen Guides

## Sunday, March 22, to Thursday, March 26, 2009

2009 International MG Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada  
Find out more at [www.unce.unr.edu/imgc](http://www.unce.unr.edu/imgc)

## Master Gardeners Association of British Columbia Contact List 2008

<b>Chair</b> Lynne Christmas	<b>Advanced Training (AT)</b> June Pierson	<b>Finance</b> Ron Fawcett	<b>Plant Information Line</b> Sheila Watkins	<b>Web Masters</b> David Watkins
<b>Chair Elect</b> Barry Roberts	<b>Basic Training (BT)</b> Doreen Godwin	<b>Fundraising / Special Events</b> Barry Roberts	<b>Plant Sale Coordinators</b> Joan Bentley Loretta Barr	<b>Welcome Table</b> Shirley Mason
<b>1st Vice Chair</b> Susan Lazar	<b>Bylaws</b> Doug Courtemanche	<b>Membership</b> Pat Taylor	<b>Publicity</b> Dana Richardson	<b>Writers Group</b> Barry Roberts
<b>2nd Vice Chair</b> Penny Koch	<b>Clinic Coordinator</b> Diane Hartley	<b>Newsletter</b> Ann-Marie Metten Sally Maclachlan Wendy Jones	<b>Selection (BT)</b> Doreen Godwin	<b>VIMGA (Vancouver Island)</b> <b>Chair</b> Pam Harrison
<b>Secretary</b> Diane Hartley	<b>Coffee Convenor</b> Judy Zipursky	<b>Nominations</b> Janet Sawatzky Council Liaison	<b>Speakers Group</b> Linda Shulman	<b>Vice Chair</b> Sally Shivers
<b>Treasurer</b> Ron Fawcett	<b>Community Projects</b> Joyce Fitz-Gibbon Cheri Trewin	<b>Picture Library</b> Barry Roberts	<b>Telephone/Email</b> Colleen Martin Linda Wright	<b>SMGA (Summerland)</b> <b>Program Coordinator</b> Linda Sears
<b>Members-at-Large</b> Leslie Ann Ingram Dana Richardson Janet Sawatzky Linda Sears	<b>Database Manager</b> Pat Taylor		<b>Spring Seminar</b> —available—	
	<b>Education Committee</b> Jack Grant		<b>Website Committee</b> Karen Shuster, Chair	