



THE BULLETIN

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL
OF GARDEN CLUBS

JANUARY 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LYNDA PASACRETA

PLEASE FORWARD TO ALL OF YOUR CLUB MEMBERS

How exciting and timely! I am always so grateful how gardening can bring us back to a sense of peace and a space to breathe.

Pantone introduced the 2026 colour of the year — Pantone Cloud Dancer — “*a whisper of tranquility and peace in a noisy world.*”

The month of January, when the garden is quiet, is a great time to check the “bones” of your garden or landscape for visual appeal. Let’s add some peacefulness, enhanced clarity, a place of quiet reflection, a feeling of cleanliness that inspires well-being, inspiration for new beginnings, a place of serenity to hear our inner voices, and open the door to new approaches.

Gardening with white flowers helps create a serene and calming atmosphere. Add magnificent white blooms of hydrangeas, dripping white flowers of peonies, white flowers of cosmos blowing the wind, and white lilies standing tall and emitting heavy perfume. Contrast the beauty and serenity of white florals with deep greens or pair with pastels. White flowers alongside variegated foliage adds texture in your garden.

Benefits of white flowers:

- Calm and serene
- Nighttime glow
- Adds texture



Photo by Alice Jensen-Stanley, Richmond Garden Club.
Philadelphus 'Belle Étoile', mock orange shrub.

Popular white flowers:

- Perennials: hellebores, echinacea, Shasta daisies, astilbe, phlox, anemones
- Annuals: cosmos, zinnias, sweet alyssum, impatiens, petunias
- Shrubs and trees: hydrangeas (smooth, paniculata), roses, magnolias, camellias, viburnums, dogwood
- Bulbs: snowdrops, daffodils ('Thalia'), alliums, lilies
- Vines: moonflower, sweet autumn clematis

I can hear a collective sigh of relief that we gardeners have an easy solution to creating a way to cut out the noise and immerse ourselves in the peacefulness of a beautiful white garden.



SCHOLARSHIP FUND NEWS

BETTY GIRARD, SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIR

SHAWN WAS THE RECIPIENT OF THE BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS SCHOLARSHIP IN 2025, FOR \$1,400. HE RECENTLY GRADUATED FROM KWANTLEN POLYTECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (KPU)

My name is Shawn R, and I graduated from KPU studying in the Horticulture Technology Diploma program. I am very excited to be receiving the BC Council of Garden Clubs Award, and I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you.

This award means a lot to me. It's not just about the financial help, although that's definitely appreciated, it's also a reminder that my hard work and love for horticulture is being recognized. My goal is to work as a landscaper for the city and one day start my own landscape maintenance and installation business. This award gives me even more motivation to keep pushing towards those dreams.

Thank you for your generosity and for supporting students like me.

Best regards,

Shawn

Photo by Ellen Heale,
Sechelt Garden Club.
Dandelion clock.



SCHOLARSHIP FUND NEWS

BETTY GIRARD, SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIR

Thank you to all the garden clubs, community gardens, and individuals who got the thermometer over the top! We have met our fundraising goal of \$10,000 in 2025. This will allow us to continue to support students from 10 different institutions in 13 different programs at post-secondary institutions in British Columbia.

We hope you have had a chance to read the thank you notes received from students that have been in recent issues of *The Bulletin*. Your generosity has helped many students reach their goals in 2025, and we will be able to support more horticultural students in 2026.

Photo by Brenda Viney, Vancouver Rose Society. Rosa 'Sally Holmes.'



HOW TO DONATE TO THE BCCGC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

If you wish to make a donation by cheque please send it to:

BC Council of Garden Clubs
Scholarship Fund, c/o: BC Council of
Garden Clubs
10952 McAdam Road
North Delta, BC, V4C 3E8

Please ensure that the cheques are made out to the "Vancity Community Foundation" and the memo field shows "BC Council of Garden Clubs." If the person or organization that the donation is from does not clearly show on the cheque, please include a brief note with the cheque indicating who the donation is from and a return address (so that an income tax receipt can be issued).

If you wish to donate online with a credit card:

Go to
www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca.

Click the "Funds" button on the top right side of the home page.

Extra! Extra! Read all about it!
Thank you to everyone who contributed — we exceeded our goal and raised **\$12,005** in 2025.



Locate the BC Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship Fund, either by scrolling through the list or searching "garden clubs" in the search bar.

Once on the BCCGC Scholarship Fund page, click "Give to this Fund" and complete the form.

OR

Go to www.bcgardenclubs.com.

Go to the "Scholarship Fund" on the top bar and click on the "Donate" page below.

Scroll down to the link to Vancity Community Foundation and click on it. This will take you to the BCCGC Scholarship Fund page.

Click on "Give to this Fund" and complete the form.

Thank You!



LORNA HERCHENSON, BC FUCHSIA AND BEGONIA SOCIETY

BC Bee Keepers Association
BC Fuchsia and Begonia Society
Chilliwack Valley Horticultural Society
Cloverdale Garden Club
Delbrook Garden Club
Dunbar Garden Club
Evergreen Garden Club
Langley Garden Club
Maple Ridge Garden Club
New Westminster Horticultural Society
North Surrey Horticultural Society
Richmond Garden Club
South Burnaby Garden Club
Sullivan and District Garden Club
Vancouver African Violet Club
Vancouver Horticultural Society and Farmers Institute
Vancouver Rose Society
West Vancouver Garden Club



BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

Help Fund Your Garden Club with BeSharp Sharpening

Partner with BeSharp Sharpening, a mobile sharpening service based in Richmond, to raise funds for your garden club.

- BeSharp will participate in your monthly meetings, plant sales, community events, and workshops.

A portion of the funds raised will be shared with your club or community gardens.

**BESHARP SHARPENS SECATEURS,
LOPPERS, AND GARDEN SHEARS. WILL
ALSO SHARPEN KITCHEN KNIVES,
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CELEBRATION OF PANTONE 'CLOUD DANCER'

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS MEMBERS



Photo by Margot Moser, Alpine Gardeners of Central Vancouver Island. *Cyclamen hederifolium* var. *albiflorum*. This plant in Margot's garden is at least 20 years old.



Photo by Maureen Denny, North Island Rhododendron Society. Double white *Primula*, 'Jack in the Green', meaning outer flower petals have become a ruff of green leaves encasing the blooms.



Photo by Susan Lilholt, South Delta Garden Club. *Helleborus* Winter Jewels 'Sparkling Diamond'.

CELEBRATION OF PANTONE 'CLOUD DANCER'

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS MEMBERS



Photo by Lisa Zhu, Pandora Park Community Garden. Community garden flowers.



Photo by Diane Saunders, Central Vancouver Island Alpine Club. Aster 'Puff White' in Diane's garden at Cedar by the Sea, Nanaimo.



Photo by Mary Openshaw, North Surrey Garden Club. Sulphur tuft mushroom (poisonous but beautiful).

CELEBRATION OF PANTONE 'CLOUD DANCER'

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS MEMBERS



Photo by Krista Wilson, Upper Lonsdale Garden Club, North Vancouver. Rosa 'Sally Holmes' with hosta in the background. This rose makes Krista feel like she is dancing on the clouds.



Photo by Avis Laphan, Capilano Garden Club.



Photo by Lissa McCulloch, Capilano Garden Club. Even in the winter, white steals the show.

CELEBRATION OF PANTONE 'CLOUD DANCER'

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS MEMBERS



Photo by Moira Mackenzie,
South Surrey Garden Club.



Photo by Phil Knight, South
Surrey Garden Club.



Photo by Brenda
Viney, Vancouver
Rose Society.
Snowdrops in the
snow.

CELEBRATION OF PANTONE 'CLOUD DANCER'

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS MEMBERS



Photo by Ellie King, Mission Garden Club.



Photo by Eric Kowalski, Vernon and District Garden Club. Eric's tree peony the deer had not destroyed. It looks like it is dancing... à la Isadora Duncan, perhaps.



Photo taken by Catherine Deslauriers, Floral Artists of the Fraser Valley.

CELEBRATION OF PANTONE 'CLOUD DANCER'

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS MEMBERS



Photo by Gail Wilson,
Gabriola Garden Club.



Photo by Marilyn
Froich, Dogwood
Garden Club. Double
trillium.



Photo by Martine Arnold,
South Burnaby Garden
Club.

CELEBRATION OF PANTONE 'CLOUD DANCER'

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS MEMBERS



Photo taken by Greg Templeton, South Burnaby Garden Club. *Astrantia* dancing in the clouds.



Photo by Joyce Caines, Vernon Garden Club. Roses against the backdrop of sky, East Hill Garden, Vernon BC.



Photo by Li Yue, Dogwood Garden Club and Poco Garden Club. Wisteria in Li's garden.

CELEBRATION OF PANTONE 'CLOUD DANCER'

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS MEMBERS



Photo by Cynthia Waiz,
Darts Hill Garden
Society. *Magnolia*
macrophylla. Mrs. Darts
really loved magnolias.



Photo by Marlene
Gurvich, Darts Hill
Garden Society.
Edgeworthia.



Photo taken by Maaike van Zwaaij,
Vernon and District Garden Club.
Ghost plant in the forest in Vernon.

CELEBRATION OF PANTONE 'CLOUD DANCER'

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS MEMBERS



Photo by Sally Toft,
Capilano Garden
Club. Christmas
rose.



Photo by Susan
Burdak, Capilano
Garden Club.



Photo by Visjna Gasparic Vojvodic, Richmond
Garden Club. Solomon's seal, *Polygonatum*, in
Paulik Park.



Photo by Hilary
Brockway, Alpine
Club of Central
Vancouver Island.
Type of umbel
flowerhead.

CELEBRATION OF PANTONE 'CLOUD DANCER'

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS MEMBERS



Photo by Rhonda Malyuk.
Arrangement by Gerri Wilms, BC
Floral Art Society.

Arrangement by Mary Openshaw,
North Surrey Garden Club.



OKANAGAN NATIVE PLANTS EMBRACE PANTONE 'CLOUD DANCER' FOR 2026

SHARON SPRING, PRESIDENT, OKANAGAN XERISCAPE ASSOCIATION

OXA is happy to highlight Okanagan native plants with white blossoms to celebrate Cloud Dancer as the 2026 Pantone colour of the year.

Some local native plants are stars in our home landscapes as well, such as mock orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*) and saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*). Other native Okanagan shrubs include ocean spray (*Holodiscus discolor*), twinflower (*Linnaea borealis*), white-flowered rhododendron (*Rhododendron albiflorum*), and bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*), but these ones are usually only found in the wild.

Okanagan homeowners are starting to use flowering native perennials such as: native yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Western white clematis (*Clematis ligusticifolia*), and Western pasqueflower (*Anenome* or *Pulsatilla occidentalis*).

More Okanagan native plants in the white spectrum that are not normally found in cultivated landscapes include: spring beauty (*Claytonia lanceolata*), queen's cup (*Clintonia*

uniflora), fameflower (*Talinum sediforme*), bitterroot (*Lewisia rediviva*), meadow death camas (*Zigadenus venenosum*), and small-flowered woodland star (*Lithophragma parviflorum*). However, they can be propagated by seeding them in our gardens or by passing birds.

Interestingly many of these wildflowers have cultivated cousins, such as the yarrow, bitterroot, rhododendron, and anemone.

The Central Okanagan Westbank First Nation acknowledges four Food Chiefs that include the saskatoon, which represents community, innovation, strength, and growth; and the bitterroot, which represents the land, stewardship, relationships, and protection.

Western pasqueflower.



OKANAGAN NATIVE PLANTS EMBRACE PANTONE 'CLOUD DANCER' FOR 2026, CONT'D



Native yarrow.



Bitterroot.



Western white clematis

All photos by Judie Steeves,
OXA.

Hello **BC Council of Garden Clubs** team,

We hope this email finds you very well.

For the past year, the Ontario Horticultural Association and Climate Legacy have been working together to bring accessible climate information to OHA's members across the province. We'd found that as a nature-focused organization, OHA's members are concerned about the climate and how our planet is being harmed, but don't necessarily have the knowledge or resources to take action.

Working with Climate Legacy has helped us bridge that gap, and after a year, we realized that we now have some shared resources we thought might be of interest to other horticultural and nature groups across the country – which is why we're reaching out to you!

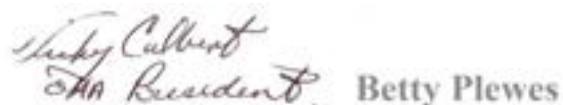
Most notably, we've created a deck of **20 nature-focused trivia** cards that groups can use for different activities or events. A number of OHA groups have incorporated these cards into their meetings or other events, and anyone can [download the card files at this link](#) (the folder also comes with printing instructions).

A few other quick things we thought we'd share:

- Each Month Climate Legacy releases an informative climate newsletter – this is also where we announce upcoming webinars – you can [find that here](#)
- The OHA shares a [quarterly Trillium newsletter](#), which we partner with Climate Legacy to include a climate and nature story in each issue – last issue we focused on gardening and tick prevention!
- If you'd like to learn more about either group, here is the [OHA website](#) and [CL website](#), and feel free to email anytime at climatelegacycanada@gmail.com.

Thank you, and best of luck for any fall gardening you may have left this season!

Ontario Horticultural Association + Climate Legacy



Betty Plewes

ClimateLegacyCanada@gmail.com

For more information:

Links:

Garden Ontario — gardenontario.org

Climate Legacy — climatelegacy.ca



Announcing the 2026 Communities in Bloom Theme... Therapeutic Gardening

This year, CiB is recognizing the restorative power of green spaces — gardens that nurture the mind, body, and spirit.

Dr. Melissa Lem is a co-founder of PaRx — Canada's first national, evidence-based nature prescription program. Through this program health-care providers can actually prescribe nature to their patients and connect them with tools, resources, and even free access to Parks Canada sites.

It is a simple but powerful idea that shows that being out in nature is not just "nice," but is healing and measurably improves mental and physical health.

Most of us feel happier out in nature. Just sitting in a forest for 15 minutes has shown that stress levels drop significantly. Other benefits of being outside in nature include:

- ▲ Increasing time in nature reduces risk of developing heart disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes.
- ▲ Spending time in nature helps improve memory, creativity, and a happier work-life balance.
- ▲ Sitting in a forest reduces inflammation and stress in adults with COPD.
- ▲ Nature therapy improves psychological wellbeing of cancer patients and activates tumour-killing cells.
- ▲ Seniors who live close to walkable green spaces live longer.

Adapted from PaRx website — www.parkprescriptions.ca.

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND MUCH SUCCESS IN YOUR GARDENS IN 2026!

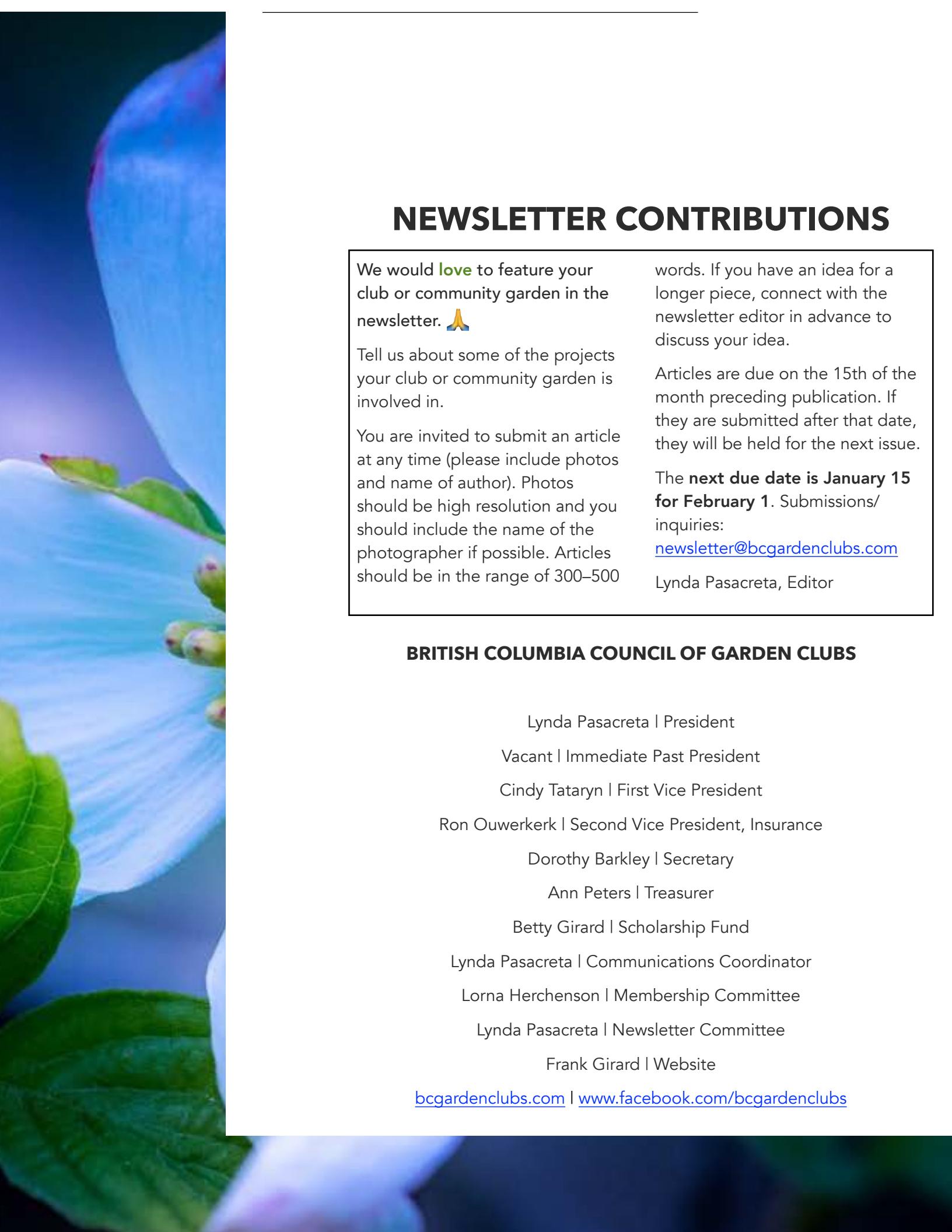
Thank you to everyone who contributed photos of their interpretation of 'Cloud Dancer'. We received so many photos that we have created a presentation of all the photos that is available for your viewing pleasure on our website: www.bcgardenclubs.com.

It is now that time of year to renew your membership and insurance (if applicable) for 2026. We really appreciate hearing your voices. Please do keep contributing articles about what is happening in your region of the province too.

As we welcome the New Year, we wish you warmth, growth, and good things ahead!



Canadian Wildlife Association Photo Contest
Winner 2025. Photo by Visnja Gasparic Vojvodic,
Richmond Garden Club. Category: Finding Flora.



NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

We would **love** to feature your club or community garden in the newsletter. 

Tell us about some of the projects your club or community garden is involved in.

You are invited to submit an article at any time (please include photos and name of author). Photos should be high resolution and you should include the name of the photographer if possible. Articles should be in the range of 300–500

words. If you have an idea for a longer piece, connect with the newsletter editor in advance to discuss your idea.

Articles are due on the 15th of the month preceding publication. If they are submitted after that date, they will be held for the next issue.

The **next due date is January 15 for February 1**. Submissions/inquiries:

newsletter@bcgardenclubs.com

Lynda Pasacreta, Editor

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS

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