

BLG Newsletter for Week of June 29, 2026

Thank You - to volunteers who are taking the time to clean the tools and equipment they use and return them to where they should be :)

July 18 Event Volunteers Needed – on the day for these jobs:

- “Worm Station” – **Julia and Albert to assist Claire**
- Gazebo Talks - need timekeeper. Make ahead and Hold up cards with 10 minutes, 5 minutes left. And Wrap it UP! Or: Time for Question session! **Christine U.**
- “Herb Exploration Station” - **Melanie and Herb Team**
- “Winter Covers Station”- _____ to assist **Sandra and Beth W.**
- Welcoming & door prize tickets - _____, _____, _____, **LIT/Quest kids**
- Cash/Entrance station – **Kelly to work at square/cash desk (10 to 12:30), 12-1**

- Plant sale setup (and re-stock) - 8:30-10:30 **Lisa, Joan B.**
- Helping customers at plant sale, carry cash fanny pack and make change, do check outs (and help with other events as needed)

, **Chris S.** - 10-1. **Lisa** 9:30-1:30

- 9:30 to 11 - _____, _____
- - 10:30 to 12 - _____, _____
- - 11:30 to 1:30 - _____, _____
- refreshment station – **Becky, Judy** , _____
- setting up/taking down pop-up tents and chairs - _____, **LIT/Quest kids**
- Event Photography - **Ranj**
- First Aid (on call) – **Claire**, _____
- MC(s) – make upcoming announcements and door prize winners on megaphone
_____, _____

Floater - Ready to be assigned to whatever jobs need doing! -

- Teri, Christine U.

July 18 Event Volunteers Needed Beforehand jobs:

- Stock floats in fanny packs+ station, charge square + tablet. _____
- Make one or two big map posters? And 2 or 3? talk schedule posters in various parts of garden? _____, _____
- Plan art display where? What needed? And set up. Steph, Ranj, (Beth W?), (Loring?) _____
- Source/Construct/Bring and set up a variety of winter covers on North Boxes _____, _____ Lisa, Sandra (plus earlier work parties).
- Signage for winter covers. Sandra, Beth W. _____, _____, if you give Joan B. some text she might do some?
- Organize plant sales flats, signs ahead of sale Lisa, Joan B. _____
- pick up beer flats Becky, Diane C.
- Curate/Compile a board with best ideas for using your harvest all year with maybe some recipes Sandra, Shelagh, _____
- Door prizes - Dorothee
- Arrange Door prize slips and draw box Shelagh
- compile a list of cold Weather Plant Descriptions- Pat
- bake good-sized cookies - bring ingredient list! (Bring wrapped in 2s and sold 2/ \$1) Georgina, Judy, Claire, Pat, Steph, Ranj, Becky
- Check in w Master Garden Clinic folks tent etc _____
- book megaphone at Long and Mcquade, pick up, return - Pat
- make herbal teas (ahead? and freeze?)- Becky (agastache), Judy (lemonbalm) , Pat, _____
- Dry herbs ahead for herb station Shelagh, Marilyn, Lisa _____, _____
- Book and pick up (25) chairs, cold drink dispenser Stef/ranj (triple T cold drink dispenser already taken - Lisa can bring one.
- Distribute Posters/flyers. Stef, Ranj, Melanie
- Inquire about Take 5 mag free ad? Melanie
- Check if Lee booked coop tent and how many? Lisa

- Pick up coop tent (maybe) [Mike or Dorothee](#)
- Media - [Dorothee](#) CBC NBNW and Nanaimo Bulletin; [Lisa](#) Coffee News, instagram and facebook; [Lee](#) NCGS website,
- _____contact Skye Ryan, CHEK News sryan@cheknews.ca

Please contact Lisa or Pat to have your name put on some of these empty slots or sign up on the copy in clubhouse.

Harvesting through the Week – As more and more produce begins to ripen, regular volunteers should know that they are welcome to come to BLG out of workparty hours to pick a reasonable share of what they may need for their table. Especially in the warm weather, ripe berries can be had daily. For example, I went Thursday afternoon to check the rabbit trap (Yay! There was one in there.) So after releasing him into the blackberry patch, I helped myself to some blueberries, currants, and a few raspberries. If you can do a few little jobs while you are there and be seen by passersby, so much the better!

Another Gardening Opportunity – As you may already know, BLG has the use of two rows (#22 & #23) at Craig Evans Community Garden this year. Last year, we had one row and under the guidance of Lisa and occasional workparties, mostly involving the “Monday crew”, we grew assorted varieties of drying beans which were shared out among all volunteers last fall. So far this year, Lisa, with the help of Randi, Joan B., and Eric, has been prepping and has seeded sorghum, upland rice, blue Hopi corn, carrots, and 5 varieties of drying beans. Food Share staff holds a workparty there every Friday from 10am to 2pm. Anyone is welcome to go and take part in jobs involving all parts of the garden under their direction or work specifically on “our” two rows. Lisa usually gets there by 11am. Tools are available there or you can take your own. I believe children are welcome as long as they are under supervision.

News from the Native Plant Hedgerow – Thanks to Christine U. for the following:

The Black Cap Raspberries (*Rubus leucodermis*) are fruiting. These berries are ripe when they are a dark burgundy colour (middle bottom of photo) and although smaller than their cultivated cousins, they are quite yummy. They are located on the west end of the hedgerow behind the compost bins – stop by and have a taste!

There is evidence of Leaf Cutter Bee (*Megachilidae* spp.) activity on the Saskatoon and Osoberry bushes. These solitary native bees cut small half circles to line their nests, which are typically in the ground or hollow stems. They prefer soft, flexible, smooth-edged leaves or flower petals. The damage is rarely threatening to the plant – and if they are munching on the native plant leaves then they hopefully won't bother the things we are growing to eat ourselves. ;)

I am also working on upgrading the signage in the area to match the pollinator and herb beds.





Dates to Remember -

Wed., July 1 – **Canada Day** – Wed. workparty cancelled – **Thanks to Kelly who will be doing all required watering on this day.**

Sat., July 4 – teens from Quest/LIT programs will start attending Saturday workparties and continue throughout the summer

Sat., July 18 – 10am - 1pm “Grow All-Season Veggie Fest” event featuring plants appropriate to fall and winter growing. **We need volunteers to commit to signing on to help with this event in order to make it a success.**