**Richmond Garden Club**

Welcome guests and new members. The purpose of our club is to promote gardening in our community, to educate ourselves and the public about gardening and most of all to have fun. Here is some information about our club:

# **Meetings:** Our club is a non-profit organization and was established in 1957. We meet the 4th Wednesday of every month except for July/August/December. Currently, our meetings are held in the auditorium of the Richmond Cultural Centre which the city donates in return for our club volunteering in maintaining their rooftop garden. Meetings include a message from the president, a guest speaker or demonstration related to gardening, door prizes, and a refreshment break. Following the break is often a Parlour Show or Photography contest where prizes are also awarded. Lastly, the executive members update the club on new information.

**Visitor’s Book**: If you are a guest please sign the “Sign In” book. The membership desk will provide you with a nametag. If you are a new member sign the nametag sheet. If you wear a nametag at the meeting, you become eligible for the nametag draw.

**Monthly Door Prizes**: Every meeting we have door prizes. Prizes are provided by the club and by member donation. Members donate items in their birthday month. Enter often as this is one of our club fundraisers.

**Speakers:** Most meetings there is a speaker who presents various topics including growing vegetables, new garden trends, reducing water usage and other relevant topics. Occasionally, we have a celebrity speaker, garden author or television personality. Members may also contribute ideas for topics they would like to learn about and we attempt to find speakers to meet the club’s needs, so bring your ideas.

**Refreshments:** Members take turns to donate ‘goodies’ for the refreshment table. Members also bring goodies in their birthday month.

**Parlour Shows**: Four times/year we have a Parlour Show where members can bring flowers, fruits or vegetables they have grown. One month each year we have a professional judge who will determine the best entry in four divisions. Contributions will be admired and discussed, educating both the participant and fellow members. You can win a prize for “best in show”.

The remaining three months will be an opportunity for members to bring in prized plants to show fellow members. All entries will have a chance to win theatre tickets for two, so enter often.

**Member’s Garden Tour**: Have a garden to show? Well, we have a garden tour every year. Members volunteer to show their gardens to other club members and if you do, you get your membership free the next year. We usually visit about five gardens with the final destination a potluck garden party open to all members. Don’t miss the garden party.

**Plant Sale:** On the Saturday of the Mother’s Day Weekend in May we have our major fund raising Plant Sale in the parking lot of the South Arm United Church at #3 Road and Steveston Hwy. We need lots of volunteers and lots of plant donations from our members. In the fall or early spring divide your plants, pot them up and bring them to the sale. We also encourage vegetable plants as well, as they are big sellers.

**Paulik Park:**  In June 2008 the Garden Club adopted Paulik Park, located at 7620 Heather St, Richmond. We have maintained the park with the help of members, friends and neighbours. The park is a jewel to have in the City and the volunteers feel privileged to care for such a gem. Please contact Jill Wright at paulikpark@gmail.com if you would like to get involved.

**Christmas Party:** Early in December we cap off the year with our annual Christmas Party where we celebrate our gardening year and enjoy the friendships we have made in the Garden Club. It is held in a local restaurant so please come for great food, games, prizes and fun.

**Membership Fees**: A single membership is $12 and a family membership is $15 per year due annually at the first meeting of each year. The volunteers at the Membership table will register you, give you a nametag and be pleased to answer any questions you have. We reuse our membership cards and stamp them yearly to indicate you have renewed your membership. Your membership card is good for discounts at several garden centres, just show them your card to see if they will offer a discount.

**Volunteering:**  One way to get to know members quickly is to step forward and volunteer. We have several executive positions in the club which are all volunteer positions. These executive volunteers and their volunteer assistants help make this club great. This means there are plenty of opportunities to become involved and lots of people to “show you the ropes”. Please let us know what interests you most and we will help get you involved. Our club would not run without the fun-loving, dedicated volunteers we have. Approach someone at the meetings or contact Lynda Pasacreta at richmondgardenclub@gmail.com

Visit our Website often for current information at www.richmondgardenclub.ca