

LIZ STUBBS CUTTING GARDEN AGM REPORT FOR 2023

Submitted by Garden Co-ordinators Sharon Rouleau and Anne Marie Bowen

The pretty Cutting Garden on the seaside, lower lawn of Filberg Park is a favourite place for visitors to linger, take photos and chat to the volunteers. Sharing information and flowers always makes for happy interactions.

Eighteen active volunteers take part in all aspects of planting, maintaining and harvesting from the Cutting Garden throughout the growing season, collectively spending over 1000 hours on this task. We are extremely grateful to our watering volunteers who worked diligently throughout a very hot, dry summer to keep the garden lush and beautiful.

For the past two years, we have embarked on a mulching program to conserve water. We are using a mix of leaves gathered from the grounds in the fall and chopped straw. The members of the Cutting Garden are committed to using best practices in the care and maintenance of this garden space.

Flower bouquets were offered for sale from the flower cart three days per week (Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday). Bouquet sales began in late May and were available until late September.

The Summer Kitchen secured a contract to provide table flowers and a large entrance bouquet. These flowers were assembled and delivered to the Summer Kitchen every Thursday from mid-May to the end of September.

Fresh flower arrangements to enhance the Filberg Gift Shop displays in the main rooms were made up and delivered to the Lodge for special occasions.

Small arrangements were made up weekly to spruce up the washrooms closest to the Cutting Garden.

Twelve large arrangements were given to the producers of the Filberg Festival to be placed throughout the site at their discretion.

In mid-November, the Cutting Garden set up an online pre-order system for handmade Christmas table arrangements. All materials to make up the arrangements are foraged throughout the Comox Valley by the Cutting Garden volunteers. The public response to this annual sale was very positive, and we were quickly SOLD OUT.

Highlights of 2023:

*Over 980 annual flower seedlings, along with 50 dahlia tubers, were planted in the Cutting Garden in 2023.

*Total donations from the Cutting Garden to Filberg Heritage Park and Lodge Association was \$3 155.25.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our dedicated volunteers, the Board, Linda Thomas, Head Gardener Tryna McLean and our visitors.