

# TLC Abkhazi Garden November 2024 E-News

## Abkhazi Garden Finances 2024



TLC Executive Director, Dianna Stenberg shared both Abkhazi Garden's Income and Expenses from Oct 1, 2023 to Sep 30, 2024 with the Abkhazi Advisory Board in October. The bottom line, we are in the black this year.

2024- \$34,083.89 (Estate of David Weismiller - \$20,000)

2023- **\$14,269.67**. (Oak Tree Expenses)

2022 - \$67,039.35 (Estate Joan Alston Stewart - \$40,000)

2021 - **\$6,445.27** (Fence and Oak Tree expenses)

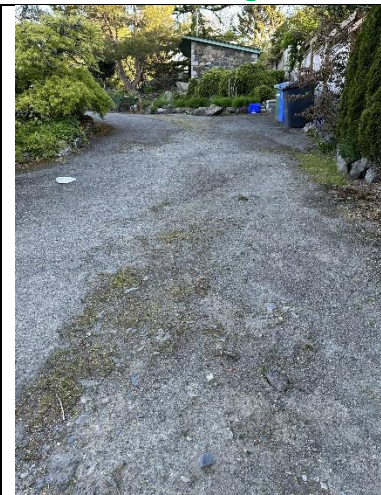
2020 - **\$17,988.59** (Covid – fewer visitors)

Please note these figures do not include TLC staff and overhead expenses.

The Income and Expense term from Oct 1, 2023 to Sep 30, 2024 will be moving to May1, 2024 to April 30,2025 to coordinate with TLC's fiscal term.

Our goal is to continue to increase gate donations, the endowment fund and fund-raising events to the point the garden becomes revenue neutral.

## TLC Fundraising for Walkway in Fall Appeal



This year TLC is aiming to raise \$39,000 to match a grant to fund the transformation of the existing uneven Abkhazi Garden driveway into a new permeable walkway that is accessible, walkable, bikeable, and drivable. The new walkway will meet environmental standards and be aesthetically pleasing.

Our project will involve re-grading the driveway to reduce and smooth out the slope. Then a grid will be installed and filled with gravel. Both sides of this permeable gravel section will have a 3-foot paver border to make walking up to the teahouse and into the garden easier and safer, especially for mobility challenged guests.

To learn more about this project and where to donate, please access the link: [Increasing Accessibility at Abkhazi Garden – The Land Conservancy of BC](#)

## TLC LANDmark Features Green Initiatives at Abkhazi



The Land Conservancy of BC puts out the LANDmark Newsletter in the Spring and the Fall of each year.

In the Fall 2024 edition, our head gardener, Jacqui, wrote about sustainability initiatives at Abkhazi Garden.

Please go to the link in blue to read this article and other interesting features in the LANDmark.

[WEB-VERSION 2024-Fall-LANDmark.pdf](#)

## Playing with Bubbles and Getting High in the Garden



Jacqui has installed bubble insulation in the greenhouse, so our plants don't freeze in the cold months of winter.

Jacqui is getting high on our new 12 ft Hasegawa ladder that is lightweight and adjustable for our uneven surfaces. With this new ladder, Jacqui will now be able to reach the taller Rhodos and some of the trees in the garden.

These high-quality ladders are expensive and we're grateful to Susanne Osmond from Gardener's Kit for offering us a discount.

## Generous Gifts to the Garden



Kote Abkhazi (1867-1923)

Zurab Ivanishvili, is from the Georgian Diaspora in Vancouver. He visited the garden in November with his sister-in-law, Abigail who resides in Victoria.

Zurab has generously donated money to the garden and he also donated a book to our Abkhazi Garden Library.

The book details the contributions that Nicolas' father, Kote Abkhazi made to the country of Georgia as he developed the railway, helped establish Tbilisi University and he died fighting for an independent Georgia.

## A Tent for All Occasions



Garden volunteer Laurie Acheson volunteers in many ways. Besides helping in the garden, she answers questions about plants at our plant sales and helps create culinary wreaths and other items for our Festive Market.

Last year it became clear that we were in need of a tent for our fundraising events so Laurie donated one to the garden and received a tax receipt for the purchase.

We now have a tent we can use for all occasions. We have used it at our Spring and Fall plant sales, at events such as Fall Fairfield and we will use it at our upcoming Festive Market.

Laurie would like to encourage other volunteers and garden supporters to donate a needed item to the garden.

## Like Mother, Like Son



Lee Acheson of Quolus Construction Services Ltd, (Laurie's son) donated 3 new wheelbarrows to the garden and received a tax receipt for the purchase.

Jacqui selected three Tuf Landscaping Wheelbarrows and these wheel barrows with orange wheels have become very popular among our gardeners.

## Wheelies and a Barrow of Laughs



Our old wheelbarrows have been repaired many times and the wheels often deflate which makes pushing a wheelbarrow full of garden waste or mulch that much harder.

Tuesday volunteer, Lani, makes sure that she gets a wheelbarrow with an orange wheel as they are much easier to navigate.

Monday gardeners Elizabeth, Sharon and Kimie share a laugh on a cold November morning as they fill a new wheelbarrow with leaves.

## Special Visitors this Fall



Joe and Linda Harvey came to the garden to check out the Bella Bella tree that Joe cultivated. They both volunteered as docents for over 10 years at the Summerhouse. Carol, a former volunteer and docent as well, gave them a ride. We were so happy to see them!

Sharon Schneider (daughter) and Colleen English (granddaughter) of Piers Atkinson who the Abkhazis contracted to do the stonework in the garden came for a visit. Sharon and Colleen were delighted to see photos of Sharon's Dad and Uncle Laverne in our photo album in the Summerhouse.

## Once a Visitor, Now a Volunteer



One of the best places to recruit volunteers is at the front gate of the garden.

Mike visited the garden in April and told the story about how he helped dig up rhododendrons from Abkhazi Garden to take to Beacon Hill Park when he worked for Victoria Parks years ago.

Our volunteer coordinator, Cherie asked Mike if he would like to volunteer in the compost area of the garden. Much to our delight, Mike signed up and he is now a fabulous addition to our volunteer team.

## More Fabulous Additions to our Volunteer Team



Bonnie signed up to volunteer at our Open House in September. Fortunately, we had an opening, so she started the next week.

Bonnie has been using our new household leaf shredder for shredding our Fall leaves that provide mulch for the garden.

Lorraine who lives in the neighbourhood started volunteering in September as well. She is seen here, winterizing the Gunnera to protect it from frost and snow.

## Festive Market Fundraiser in December



Our Festive Market will be open on the weekends, Dec 14-15 and Dec 21-22 from 11am-4pm this year.

We will be selling swags, culinary wreaths, table centres, teacup bird feeders, Hellibores, wooden bowls and trees and more!

Thank goodness we have volunteers like Sue who will be making table centerpieces again this year and volunteers like Irena who will be volunteering at the gate to sell our festive items.

## A Generous Woodturner



Our wood turner neighbour, Duncan Kemp, sells wooden bowls at the garden and donates 50% of his sales. He will be at our Festive Market with bowls and trees this year.

## Photo Contest 2024



Our photo contest for 2024 is now closed. We will be putting the winning Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn images on display in our Summerhouse.

Due to technical issues and time delays, we will be postponing our calendar until next year. So our 2025 calendar will become our 2026 Calendar. In 2026, we will be celebrating 80 years of Abkhazi Garden.

We are planning to run another photo contest in 2025. Details will be released soon.

The image shown here is Last Flower in Fall by Don Piper. Don received an honourable mention for this photo shot in November.

## Happy Holidays Everyone



The last day for our Monday garden volunteers will be on Mon, Dec 16 and the last day for our Tuesday garden volunteers will be on Tue, Dec 17. There will be no garden volunteering in the month of January.

Our weekend gate greeters and festive market volunteers will be volunteering until Sunday, December 22nd. The Teahouse and Garden will be closed from Mon Dec 30, 2024 to Tue Jan 14.

Jacqui and I will be inviting our volunteers to our New Year Luncheon on Tuesday, January 7, 2025. So, volunteers please save that date.

2024 November E-News was prepared and produced by Cherie Miltimore, Site Manager & Volunteer Coordinator