

Make Mission more livable

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The Junction's landscaping was chosen as Garden of the Month.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Let's get colourful and natural is the message from two community members who continue to do much to make Mission a more livable community: Marion Robinson, manager of the Fraser Basin Council and Jim Taylor of the Stave Valley Salmonid Enhancement Society. Marion is also the chair of the 100 Mile Diet organizing committee and Jim is playing a huge role in the development of the Silverdale Creek Estuary Wetlands.

Mission is undertaking the 100 Mile Diet with Paperney Films, starting June 2008. Mission residents will appear in six episodes on Food Television Network in February 2009. Marion comments, "It's about how folks explore and take part in our local food production. Not only can Mission be an amazing Community in Bloom, but it can also integrate sustainability in its plantings."

Marion goes on to suggest, "Why not include edible plants along with flowering ornamentals? From companion planting to edible ornamentals there are many ways to explore this opportunity. Roses love garlic and we can eat the daylilies, nasturtiums, and borage flowers. Rhubarb leaves are gorgeous as they form the backdrop to smaller borders in front. Potatoes are excellent in newly broken soil and cucumbers can be trained up a slanting trellis. Scarlet runners, purple green beans, and many herbs are a delight. Let's see how creative Mission can get and how much of our blooming community we can eat!"

Jim's report focuses on the wetlands, planted with both sword fern and deer fern last year.

Always outstanding for colour is the Junction Shopping Centre. Congratulations to the centre's management for their Garden of the Month, selected by the Communities in Bloom Committee. Green, gold and red foliage along with well-groomed landscaping are outstanding. Watch for other winners, business or residential, in future columns. Next week, I will be talking about another new beautification initiative: Ten by 2010. Tickets are still available at Lanka Jewels and Magnolias on Main for the C in B Garden Party on June 12.

Keep blooming, Mission.

Heather Stewart volunteers with the Mission Communities in Bloom committee.