

June 20, 2018 Garden Club Tour Report

First, I would suggest that the committee which is in charge of the next tour adhere to the KISS concept – Keep It Simple Smartie!

We netted a similar profit to the last tour with, I believe, much less work. When the Garden Tour Committee started to plan the tour we realized how much work and expense went into hiring a bus, a driver and also trying to organize a luncheon for the riders.....not to mention the higher cost of Liability Insurance.

Bill Boila was very much my right-hand man and I am ever so grateful for his participation.

Lorraine Pigeon had done the groundwork in selecting the gardens for the tour and I must say that her choices gave a great diversity to the tour. I received many glowing reports on the selection and handling of the tour and I thank those who assisted me for that. I sat back in many cases and admired my committee's industry.

Jean Wilson attended early meetings to provide us with background and Lorraine drove Bill and I around to meet the gardeners. Doreen Rieger and Ted Olson attended many of the meetings and their input was very helpful.

Each gardener received a lovely plaque fired and glazed by Andrea Revoy commemorating their participation as well as a free membership for 2019.

We realized quite early that we were on our own as the Creston Garden Club doesn't have an executive. I will address this later in this report.

I think the added excitement of musicians, artists and craftspeople was a good thing. Wendy Berge ran with that feature with great success. Rhonda Kehler arranged for volunteers to man the gardens. You all pitched in with good spirit to make the 2018 Garden Tour a great success. Thank you.

We advertised in *I Love Creston*, *Creston Living* (free) and *Fun Pape*. Somehow we missed advertising in *The Advance* and I am not sure if we had radio coverage on *Juice*, although they offered us air time. The last time I chatted with *Juice* they still offered to air a report about all our meetings – we just need a volunteer to give them the information.

An important issue I would like to address is insurance. I will read an email I received from Doug Vance of Western Financial (copy attached).

I feel it would be a good step towards enlarging and enhancing our club for us to become members under the B.C. Societies Act and for us to have a proper executive. First, we would be able to buy an annual liability insurance policy to cover all events such as club outings automatically. It certainly would have been nice for the Garden Tour Committee to know who to go to for information and to help us make decisions.

The social organizer for Swan Valley called me to tell me that although they have a bus, their driver was on holiday. She requested a visit by someone in our club to come in and do a slide presentation. I made a couple of calls but had no success and didn't pursue it further. I still think it would be a nice thing for us to do, perhaps at Christmas.

I really love being part of the Club and hope you view this report as a suggestion for positive change.

Sheila Barling.