

Garden News

Vol: 1 Autumn 2009

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the hydro box switch



14 July 2009

BC Hydro came into my yard and removed a twelve foot long electrical box and replaced it with a much smaller box. I applaud the switch, especially as the existing box was described by Hydro as 'at the end of it's service life'.

Moving the box

It began with a notification from BC Hydro. Then the strata council, the property manager and I had two meetings with the Hydro representative, Darryl.

At first, we thought that the box could be moved closer to the street but due to where the lot line was, this wasn't possible. In the end, our only option was to replace the

large old existing transformer and box with a new smaller one in the same location. As well, new regulations required that a permanent opening in the hedge be made to allow the transformer to be visible from the street.

The opening is to enable hydro crews to drive by and find the transformer at night

or in bad weather. Admittedly, the old box was huge but couldn't be seen as it was extremely well hidden by a twelve foot tall cedar hedge.

Now, the story of the day of the box replacement. It was quite a day, involving many hydro workers and a crane!



Arrival of BC Hydro crane truck.

first they block off the road

The work meant they needed a crane due to the size and location of the box. Transformer boxes carry electricity from the pole, stepped down into apartment buildings and townhouse developments like ours. In newer places, the boxes are inside, often in an underground garage, as developers have decided not to waste land on them. Ours was outside behind 12 feet of glorious old cedar hedge. So the condo gardener and his crew spent the day before removing the hedge. Once the final landscaping is done, I'm hoping it will once again be private!



Crane lifts old box shell off.

a crane removes the shell

The transformer installed is a 300 Kilo Volt Ampere (kVA) size. So we ended up with a larger transformer inside a smaller container. Our little condo complex will have more power available for our computers and other appliances. Frankly, as there are only 19 units here, and a 300 kVA transformer is good for up to 100 units, I think we are fine. The raccoon family puts the numbers up slightly but they don't use electricity. My big worry was that the old transformer would go in a winter storm!



Under the shell, more boxes.

old transformers visible

Surprising how much empty space there was under the old green box. That box was a sizable chunk of my little townhouse garden. It was twelve feet long by six feet wide and was five feet high. The new one is much more compact. It's only four feet high and one and a half feet wide. They placed it sideways and tucked it behind the tree, so I only see the narrow side. The downside of this is that the twelve feet of hedge they took out so that they could do all of this is still gone as of September 27th, 2009. I'm hoping the strata council will get this done before winter. I can only pray!



New modern box with hydro worker.

new transformer and box

It was an adventure for a day. BC Hydro was very fast. The power to the whole complex was out from 8:30 am to about 6:30 pm. They had to block off the road for a while, too. Workers came and went all day. All were polite and friendly. No one objected to being photographed although they did warn us back from the electricity. Subsequently, we got an email from their project leader, Darryl, who saw the website coverage of the move and was impressed!

Best Summer Plants

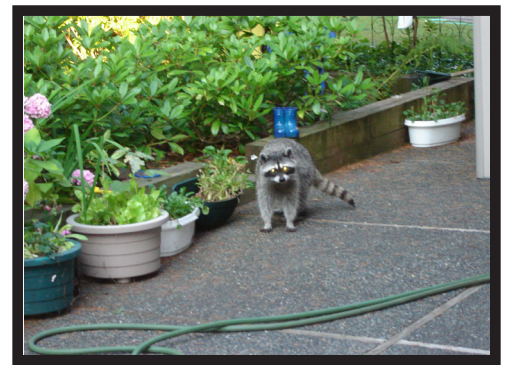
Summer favourites in my house include hydrangeas, roses, lilies, pansies, sweet williams, and daisies. Lavender, mint, coriander and parsley are some of the herbs we grow.



The best summer plants this year were the lilies, roses and daisies.



We also have a resident Lady Raccoon who lives in our complex. She sleeps in the large cypress tree.



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Ideas for Next Year

Gardens are truly made in the mind of the gardener. What shall I plant next year?

When I analyse my seasonal photos, I see that the garden has great colour for spring and summer seasons. Autumn is lacking in excitement.

There's great spring colour. The bulbs that I've planted over the past two years are phenomenal. I've learned to add in new ones each year, due to winter frost-kill of bulbs. Last spring I had a wonderful bloom of over one hundred different spring bulbs: tulips, daffodils, frittaria, snowdrops, crocuses and irises. I am looking forward to filling in some bare spots and making next spring really extravagantly beautiful. The azaleas and rhododendrons, especially my favorite orange azaleas, were just amazing.

In summer, there are wonderful roses, daylilies, daisies, hydrangeas, and many perennials. The budlea tree is a long bloomer. I also garden in pots, and have had loads of herbs, lettuce, carrots and beans this summer. The grape survived last winter and is flourishing.

Autumn is the least showy season. In the photos, the best thing is the smoke tree as it turns bright red. Otherwise, Autumn's all about cleaning up.



Spring 2007

Autumn Maintenance Work ~

There's always one more leaf falling from the Japanese maple tree onto the patio ~



Fall 2008

Ideas for New Autumn Colours

I want to get more chrysanthemums, especially the hardier varieties that can survive here. I want yellow rudbeckias with chocolate hearts. Also, there are great varieties of fall blooming purple asters. The roses do have late blooms and I should encourage them more. I adore my smoke tree and am tempted to get a small smoke bush for the other segment of the garden, but they are such fast growers that I am afraid it will overshadow everything else! There are many varieties of perennial bush that go very showy and colourful in Autumn and I need to research these further to find one that doesn't grow too large or too fast.

Mary Catherine Girczyc Assignment 5 Notes

Part 2

bold blue

Resolution of the pictures:

All photos are JPEGs which are raster.

Header 3 semibold 14 pt italic

The colour bars are vector graphics.

Title 92 pt bold clear

File size in inches and kb - 1,5553kb
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Program used to design and how delivered:

PDF file is:

Designed in InDesign 4 with text initially
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Colours Used were

Darker photos worked on in Photoshop
to add auto levels, auto contrast and auto
colour.

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Delivered in Adobe pdf.

CMYK for the ad and the blue pieces.

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Font size and type used throughout
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Adobe Pro Caslon used regular, bold,
italic, semibold, and semibold italic.

Sizes used:

Regular 10 point for most of body.

*Page 3 centre used italic-
ic 14 pt (centered)*

Page 3 Top used italic 14 pt

Page 4 text used regular 10 pt

Headers used bold 14 pt

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