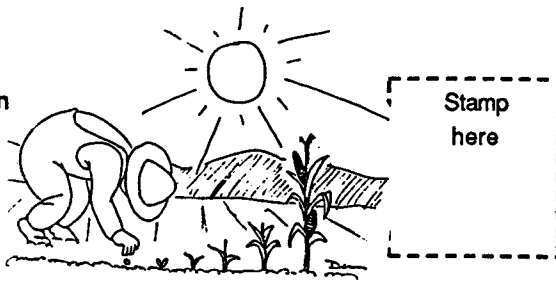


Nepean Garden Association  
5 Forsyth Lane, Nepean, Ont  
K2H 9H1



Address here:

The

## Allotment Gardener

Editors: Jennifer Bernius, Denis St Jean

Volume One, No. 1, May 1991

### Welcome

#### *from the Chair*

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

Welcome to the inaugural year of allotment gardening under the direction of the new Nepean Garden Association (NGA) which was organized in March to ensure that allotment gardening could remain a viable recreational activity in our city. We have received permission to use the Viewmount site this year and hope to obtain approval from Nepean Council for a long term commitment for gardening at Viewmount.

We are trying to obtain a site in the western part of Nepean as well.

### Nepean grants thousand dollars to Garden Association

A grant of \$1,000 was received by NGA on May 27, from the City of Nepean, following an earlier application by Al Martin, our first chairman.

Sincere appreciation to the Nepean Parks and Recreation Department for their full support in our start-up year.

Please accept my best wishes for every possible success with your gardening this year and let me know if I can further assist you.

Walter J. Saidak

**Nepean Garden**  
**Association 1991**  
**Board of Directors**

**Chairman**

Walter Saidak 224-8474

**Vice-chair, registrar**

Rosaleen Dickson 829-2955

**Treasurer**

David Dickson 829-2955

**Recording secretary**

Nancy Rooyackers 727-6640

**Maintenance directors**

Ian Reid 225-4510

Bud Singh 226-6462

**New site directors**

Wallace Clark 828-8627

Ron Black 820-3689

**Publicity directors**

Jennifer Bernius 225-5992

Denis St Jean 224-9169

**Phoning committee**

Ange Salm 224-2839

Mary St Jean 224-9169

Rachel St Jean 224-9169

**Our thanks to  
the Nepean Parks  
and Recreation Dept.**

The Nepean Garden Association is grateful to the Nepean Parks and Recreation Department and particularly to its General Superintendent, John Garvin, for the prompt and efficient preparation of the Viewmount site. The NGA contracted Parks and Recreation to disc the soil in preparation for spring planting. As well, the City agreed to plant marker stakes, turn on the water, and provide a gargabe bin.

Parks and Recreation, with the help of NGA maintenance directors Ian Reid and Bud Singh, completed this work in time for the Victoria Day weekend planting. Now we would like to encourage gardeners to fulfil our part of the agreement with the City by keeping plots tidy and free of weeds, and by regularly cutting the grass on the pathways. We also urge gardeners to keep rocks (and there are lots of them!) off the paths to facilitate grass cutting.

**RECIPE FOR A  
HEALTHY GARDEN**

For every 100 square feet of garden use:

2 bags compost

1 bale peat moss

2 pounds 6-12-12 fertilizer

Spread compost and peat moss evenly over area.

Mix with garden soil.

Rake.

Fill a 1-liter fruit juice can with fertilizer.

Sprinkle over area

Rake in.

## Tips on watering

Seeds are imported from around the world: South America, Europe, Asia and elsewhere. The seedlings naturally do best in the environment in which they evolved. We plant these seeds in the hope that they will do as well here. Some elements in the seeds' environment can be provided by us. One of these is moisture.

As a general rule, plants need one inch of water a week. Over-watering prevents the roots from getting enough oxygen for growth and can be almost as harmful as under-watering.

An easy way to keep track of rainfall is by setting out a rain gauge.

Place a coffee can or similar container in a part of the garden where rain can fall without obstruction. Let the water accumulate for a week.

Read the depth of the water as follows: Dip a plastic straw into the can (you can mark it off in half-inches with a felt marker), then place a finger over the top of the straw and carefully bring it to eye level. Dump the can and start over.

## Search for western site

Gardeners living in the western part of Nepean will be pleased that the Nepean Garden Association is seeking an additional allotment site in the western half of the City.

New Site Development director Wallace Clark and NGA chairman Walter Saidak have been busy searching for sites in the western and south-western areas of Nepean. They have asked the Nepean Parks and Recreation department for assistance in finding and making available a suitable long-term western site in addition to the one at Viewmount.

The site will need good soil, water and ease of access, with ample space for expansion and parking.

Another important consideration is distance from Barrhaven to the south and communities along the Ottawa River.

It is interesting to note the Gloucester Allotment Garden Association, which has a population distribution and density similar to Nepean's, maintains two garden sites.

The NGA is considering several potential sites and will keep you posted.

## Regulations & Guidelines

Produce, crops, implements and personal belongings must be removed from your plot when the gardening season is over.

Each plot is for the exclusive use of a member or family group and may not be assigned or transferred. Keep your permit with you at all times while gardening.

Paths and laneways must always be kept free of obstacles. Carry stones and rocks to the ravine behind the chain link fence at the south end of the site.

Members must control weeds and keep their plots neat and tidy. Trim long grass and weeds which may grow on the perimeter of your plot. Place trash in the receptacle provided.

No automatic sprinklers are premitted. Water by hand only.

Environmentally safe organic herbicide, fungicides and insecticides only are permitted. Both organic and chemical fertilizers are permitted.

Please park your car so as not to interfere with the movement of other vehicles.

Other regulations are printed on your permit.

## SHARE YOUR BOUNTY

Every gardener knows that the best vegetables, fruit and berries are those we grow ourselves.

If you maintain your garden properly, you will reap abundant crops. In fact, you're likely to have too much of a good thing.

Wouldn't you like to share your bounty with those less fortunate?

Two local organizations which provide food for the needy and would be grateful for donations are:

- The Shepherds of Good Hope, 233 Murray Street, at King Edward. They prepare and serve hearty meals to thousands of persons every week. They accept donations 24 hours every day. There is convenient parking off Murray. Just drop in.

- The Ottawa Food Bank, 7 Bayview Road, collects and distributes food to many service agencies in the area. They are open Mondays to Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please call Dave McCaffrey, at 724-3663, before you go.

- In addition, many local churches distribute food to the poor. Give your local one a call.

- Don't let your surplus go to waste

# Pest and disease control

*Thanks to Gloucester Allotment Garden Association*

Gardeners often feel that they must wage a never-ending battle against insects and disease. But take heart, it only seems that way sometimes. With a little knowledge and planning, plus an acceptance of some inevitable loss, the problems can be easily overcome.

Because of the concentrated nature of our garden plots, we cannot spray or use toxic insecticides or fungicides. It would be highly inconsiderate to spray your tomatoes in the morning, knowing that you weren't going to eat any until after the prescribed seven to twelve day waiting period, when your neighbour plans to pick and eat his or her lettuce later that afternoon. Sprays drift imperceptibly over great distances.

Nevertheless we can do something to counter insects and fungal disease. We can use derris and rotenone dusts which are highly effective against most insects, worms and grubs. These root derivatives from South American plants are purported to be non-toxic to humans and animals.

Granular diazinon can also be used in the soil to control root maggots, if you wish, as there is very little chance of affecting a neighbour's plot.

Diatomaceous earth can also be used to control soft-bodied insects both above and below the ground. It is made by pulverizing fossilized sea-shells that puncture soft skin and shell, causing the insect to dehydrate.

However, one of the most effective methods of insect control is still the old way hand-picking. If you are a little squeamish about handling the little wiggles, use a pair of rubber gloves. Colorado potato beetles and cabbage worms can be completely controlled this way, as can most other insects.

Blights and other disease can be more difficult to control without the use of toxic sprays but there are some things we can do.

The most important is to ensure that your plants are strong, growing vigourously.

A healthy plant can resist most diseases and stress caused by disease.

So read your gardening books about what nutrients and growing conditions are best for each type of vegetable you grow. Blights can be a particular problem some years, particularly in August if the weather is damp and relatively cool. The spores that cause this fungus disease remain in the soil and infect the lower leaves first, as rain and overhead watering splash from the soil onto the bottom leaves. The next rain or watering causes the spores to be splashed onto a higher level of leaves, and so on, causing in some years, your tomato plants to lose their leaves gradually in a bottom to top sequence.

Consequently, you will find tomato blight can be significantly lessened by removing the lower leaves and by not using overhead watering.

# How To Do Your Part

In previous years, the allotment garden program was run entirely by the City of Nepean.

This season, with the city's support and encouragement, the Nepean Garden Association was organized to take on these responsibilities.

Each of us can do his or her part in making this endeavour a success. The following are some of the things you can do to help:

**Water** is by far our most costly item. Last year, the bill came to about two thousand dollars! Although most gardeners were conscientious about the use of water, two practices added unnecessarily to the expense and can, with your help, be avoided this year.

**One:** Don't use automatic sprinklers at any time. It is against the rules and is wasteful. Only hand-held sprinklers are permitted. A plastic, fan-shaped attachment on the end of your hose does an excellent job, and costs pennies to buy.

If you see an automatic sprinkler in use, please turn it off, note the garden plot number and report it to one of the directors. Use of such sprinklers could result in withdrawal of privileges.

**Two:** Some members have reported seeing commercial lawn maintenance firms filling their tanks with water at the site in previous years. This is illegal. If you see it happening, take down

the company name, licence plate, time and date of occurrence, and report it immediately to a director.

**Rocks** are a hazard when cutting the grass. Bring a pail or other container with you when working on your garden. Place the rocks in the container and dump them over the fence on the south end of the plots. We have permission to do this. Please don't throw the rocks onto the grass. Our lawnmower has already sustained damage from this source.

**Vandalism** and theft are not a big problem at the Viewmount site but they occur nonetheless. If you see someone you don't recognize, or who is acting suspiciously, ask them to show their membership card. A member won't object to showing it. Just the act of asking for credentials can deter would-be intruders. Remember to carry your own membership card when at the gardens.

**Dogs.** If you must bring your dog with you, keep it on a leash, and bring along a poop-scooper. Remember, some gardeners like to walk around bare-foot.

**Keep** your garden and its perimeter neat and tidy. Instead of leaving dead vegetation along the edge of your garden, please deposit it in the receptacle provided near the sheds, or compost it.

**Help** and suggestions are always welcome. If you would like to lend a hand now or later, especially with upkeep and maintenance, please tell a maintenance director.

Al Martin

## NGA chairman resigns

One of the driving forces behind the organization of the NGA, Al Martin has found it necessary to resign as Chair because of illness. contact with the City of Nepean. We all hope that he will recover completely, and soon.

Al has devoted a great part of his time to bringing this Association together and in establishing The former vice-chair, Walter Saidak, is now the chair and the association's registrar, Rosaleen Dickson, takes on the additional responsibilities of vice-chair.

---

## Budget for the 9 months ending December 31, 1991

### Revenue:

Memberships	\$3200
Nepean grant	\$1000

<b>Total Revenues</b>		<b><u>\$4200</u></b>
-----------------------	--	----------------------

### Expenses:

#### Non-recurring:

Cost of incorp.	\$250
Mower	\$400
Weed eater	\$200

<b>Total non-recurring</b>	<b><u>\$850</u></b>
----------------------------	---------------------

#### Office expenses:

Post office box	\$50
Stationery/forms	\$200
Postage	\$150
Insurance	

<b>Total Office Exp</b>	<b><u>\$600</u></b>
-------------------------	---------------------

#### Garden expenses:

Water	\$2000
Tilling & ploughing	\$600
Posts,paint,stencils	\$100
Gas & repairs	\$50

<b>Total garden exp.</b>	<b><u>\$2750</u></b>
--------------------------	----------------------

<b>Total expenses:</b>		<b><u>\$4200</u></b>
------------------------	--	----------------------

## Odds and Ends . .

⇒ It appears that unauthorized persons have assumed possession of some of the wooden tool sheds and have affixed padlocks to the doors. The sheds are available only to those who pay a \$5.00 fee. Please call David Dickson, treasurer, at 829-2955.

⇒ Many different crops will be grown in our gardens this summer. If your fellow gardeners have too many cantaloupes or beans and you aren't growing any, why not do some crop-swapping? It's a handy way, too, of sampling vegetables you have never tasted before.

⇒ Unless your garden hose is expensive, you don't have to take it home with you every time you leave. Just coil it out of the way. That way, two or more gardeners can use the same hose.

⇒ A handy way to keep birds away from your seeds and crops is to place a few inexpensive children's "windmills" strategically around your garden. The shiny, meta-

lic ones are the most effective.

⇒ The little creek on the south end of the gardens, behind the fence, is interesting to visit. You may spot a beaver!

---

### Special Date

Saturday June 15th

## Meet a Master Gardener

Ange Salm, the Nepean Garden Association's internal communications director, has made arrangements with the Ottawa-Carleton Master Gardeners to give us pointers on how to improve our gardening techniques. Fern Braidwood of the OCMG will be in Hall E at the Sportsplex for this purpose on Saturday, June 15, from 10 to 11 am.

Nancy Rooyakkers has booked Hall E for the members of the Nepean Garden Association from 10 a.m. until noon, so gardeners will be able to remain for a general discussion following the talk.