

Nepean Garden Association

Member's Bulletin - Spring 1995



From the Chairman

As I write this in early April, the sun has been shining much of the time lately, and we have experienced some very warm temperatures, which have, I am sure, stirred the urge to get going at the gardening in many of us. Although we will still have some cold and wet days, and maybe even a bit more snow, we know the new season is close at hand. To all returning members of the Association, I say "Welcome back", and to all new members, I wish to extend an especially warm welcome. We are glad that you have joined us.

Our annual meeting held at Nepean Sportsplex on March 28th was a great success. I was happy to see such a large and enthusiastic group of members out for that meeting. Details of some of the happenings at that meeting appear elsewhere in this bulletin.

I would at this time urge all members to read the Association rules which appear on the permit form and to take note of them. Again this year, weed control will be closely monitored, and those who do not keep the weeds in their plots under reasonable control will be denied the privilege of renewing their plots next year.

If you have any questions throughout the gardening season, please do not hesitate to contact any of the directors of the association, whose names and phone numbers appear elsewhere in this bulletin. I wish to thank all of the directors who have volunteered their time this year, and on their behalf:

HAPPY GARDENING IN 1995!

Sincerely, Ron Black

Start of Gardening Season

The official target date for having the plots rototilled and staked is May 15th. As soon as weather permits, however, we will proceed to have the tilling work done. Once it has been done, gardeners are free to begin their work.

It is important to realize, however, that the soil in our plots is predominantly clay, which if worked when too wet in spring, has a tendency to cake and become very hard later on in the season.

Once again this year, the season will extend until October 31st, as that worked very well last year.

HELP WANTED

1. Help will be needed to stake out the plots once they have been tilled. If you can assist in this chore, please call Ian Reid at 225-4510 or Keith Hird at 225-1863 to volunteer. They will then call you when the job is ready to be done.
2. Roy Casorso, who oversees the herb garden would appreciate some help to cultivate and weed the herb garden as required. Please call Roy at 722-7113.
3. Keeping rocks and other debris off the pathways is necessary simplify the task of cutting the grass. This job belongs to all the members, and your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

COMPOST and MANURE

These can be obtained from the following sources:

MUSHROOM COMPOST:

Greeley Sand and Gravel Inc.

They will deliver. Phone 821-3003 for prices.

HORSE MANURE:

National Capital Equestrian Park, Corkstown Road (adjacent to the Moodie Drive exit from the Queensway). Manure available free of charge in various stages of decomposition. Please check at the Equestrian Park office first. The best stuff is quite a ways back into the fields, but there is a good roadway.

OUR OWN COMPOST PILE:

There will be usable compost from our own pile this year, although you may have to dig a bit to get it. The pile has been covered in plastic all winter to aid in the composting process.

COMPOST AND ROCK PILES

A new compost pile will be started this year in the same general area near the new storage shed. Gardeners are encouraged to put plant refuse on this pile rather than in the garbage barrel; HOWEVER, diseased plants or weeds that have gone completely to seed should not be placed on it. Again, your co-operation is earnestly requested.

The rock pile continues near the compost pile. Rocks retrieved from plots should be placed there, and not on the pathways. Anyone is free to take rocks from the pile if you have use for them.



NEW TREASURER and DIRECTOR

At the Annual Meeting, Janice Schroeder was elected as our new treasurer succeeding Marjorie Harris, who had asked to relinquish her duties. Marjorie has been faithfully doing the job of maintaining the Association's Treasury since the summer of 1992, and is continuing to help out with this year's registration. We thank Marjorie for her work, and are looking forward to having Janice's input into the Association.

Also, James Bird was elected as a new Director of the Association for 1995, and we extend a welcome to him to the board as well.

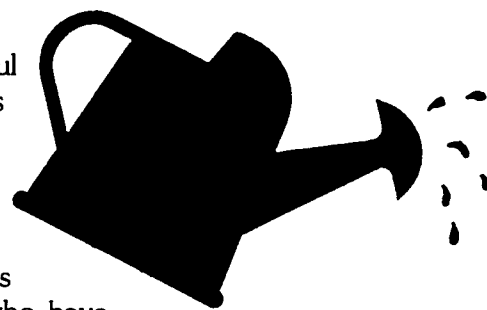
ASSOCIATION PURCHASES LAWN MOWER

At the Annual Meeting on March 28, the members present approved a motion to authorize the Board to purchase a Bolens Riding Lawn mower for the NGA at the total cost of \$2,666.75, including delivery and all taxes. Special thanks go to Keith Hird in particular, and also to Ian Reid, who thoroughly researched what was available to meet our requirements and brought in a well-presented recommendation. \$1,000 had been banked from last year's income towards the cost, with the remaining funds coming from this year's budget. The healthy bank balance remaining from last year due to lower than expected expenses makes this purchase possible, and leaves some funds for unforeseen expenses, while not having to raise plot rental fees.

Later in the season, Ian and Keith will be looking for volunteers to cut grass, but in the early going, Keith will be breaking in the new machine.

WATER, BUT WATER WISELY

Providing plants with enough water is certainly one of the keys to a successful garden. In peak growing season, about one inch of water per week is required for best results. Giving the soil a good soaking every few days is preferable to a light sprinkling more frequently, especially once plants get established and have started to develop roots. If the soil surface is always wet, the root system will not develop downward into the soil in search of moisture, and then if for some reason, the surface does dry out, the plants with their shallow root systems wilt and do not perform as well as those who have developed deeper root systems. Water is one of the major expenses for the Association, and therefore, all members are reminded that watering is to be done with a hand-held hose only. Automatic sprinklers, soaker hoses, etc., are not allowed. In short, use the water you need for your garden, but use it wisely and productively.



PLANT EXCHANGE

Announcing the first NGA Plant Exchange

When: Saturday, May 27, 1995, 9 a.m.

Where: Beside new storage shed.

What: Bring and swap extra plants with other gardeners. This exchange is not only for plants you would put in your plots, but

other plants as well that you might have too many of in your home garden.

Who: All gardeners. For further information, contact Barbara Hale at 225-7585
See you there!

P.S. If you have any other herbs to donate to the herb garden, Roy Casorso would be happy to hear from you.

GLEANED FROM PAST NGA BULLETINS



- The little creek to the south of the gardens, behind the fence, is interesting to visit. You may even spot a beaver.
- Only environmentally safe ORGANIC pesticides are permitted for use in the gardens.
- Surplus Produce? Here are some ideas:
 - Swap it with other gardeners.
 - Donate it to a soup kitchen or food bank, such as Shepherds of Good Hope, Ottawa Food Bank, or others you know of at some of the local churches.
 - Share it with friends, local seniors, or others who seldom enjoy the taste of fresh vegetables.

NEPEAN GARDEN ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors
1995 - 1996

Chairperson

Ron Black
7B Hadley Circle
Nepean, Ontario K2H 6P1
820-3689

Vice Chairperson

Roy Cosorso
255 Compton Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario K2B 5A1
722-7113

Secretary & City of Nepean Liaison

Nancy Rooyackers
101 Centrepointhe Drive
Nepean, Ontario K2E 5S1
727-6640

Treasurer

Janice Schroeder
32 Brockington Crescent
Nepean, Ontario K2E 5S1
225-1863

Director

Keith and Lila Hird
66D Chesterton Drive
Nepean, Ontario K2E 5S1
225-1863

James Bird
4 Charkay Street
Nepean, Ontario
K2E 5N2

Maintenance Director

Ian Reid
919-20 Chesterton Drive
Nepean, Ontario K2E 6Z7
225-4510

Registrar

Wendy Millar
91 Benlea Drive
Nepean, Ontario K2G 4A3
225-6760

1995 Budget

NEPEAN GARDEN ASSOCIATION

Revenue	1994 Budget	1994 Actual	1995 Budget
* Rentals			
Annual Plots	\$2,800.00	\$3,083.00	\$2,800.00
Perennial Plots	\$385.00		\$425.00
Lockers	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Interest	\$10.00	\$4.41	\$25.00
Totals	\$3,245.00	\$3,137.41	\$3,300.00

EXPENSES			
Insurance	\$275.00	\$297.00	\$300.00
Tilling	\$1,200.00	\$292.17	\$500.00
Water	\$800.00	\$759.31	\$800.00
Gas for Mower	\$50.00	\$38.26	\$100.00
Purchase of Riding Mower *1,000.00 budgeted last year - banked	\$1,000.00	0	\$1,200.00

MISCELLANEOUS			
Stationary/Postage	\$75.00	\$21.79	\$75.00
Bank Charges	\$25.00	\$0.50	
Maintenance supplies	\$200.00	\$147.74	\$200.00 herbs & supplies
TOTALS	\$3,625.00	\$1,556.77	\$3,175.00

* Based on

68 annual plots at \$25.00 =	\$1,700.00
25 annual plots at \$20.00 =	\$500.00
20 annual plots at \$30.00 =	\$600.00
15 perennial plots at \$10.00 =	\$150.00
22 perennial plots at \$12.50 =	\$275.00
10 locker rentals at \$5.00 =	\$50.00

