



Nepean GARDEN ASSOCIATION

MEMBERS' BULLETIN ~ FALL 1996

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

A very productive and enjoyable growing season has been enjoyed by all. From all accounts that I have had, and from talking to some of you at the plots, I am confident that this statement is accurate. Personally, I feel that this gardening season has been one of my best ever, and definitely the best since I became a Viewmount gardener in 1991. It has been a treat - not only to harvest my own abundance of vegetables (which my family and some of our friends have thoroughly enjoyed), but also to see so many of your plots laden with good things. We certainly were blessed with a wonderful growing season, with adequate rainfall, cooler temperatures early in the season, and then lots of sunshine and warmth in August when the ripening and maturing was occurring.

As the 1996 gardening season now draws rapidly to a close, I hope that you will take a few minutes to note the things in this issue of the Members' Bulletin, particularly about composting and the fall cleanup. Your Directors very much appreciate your help in keeping the

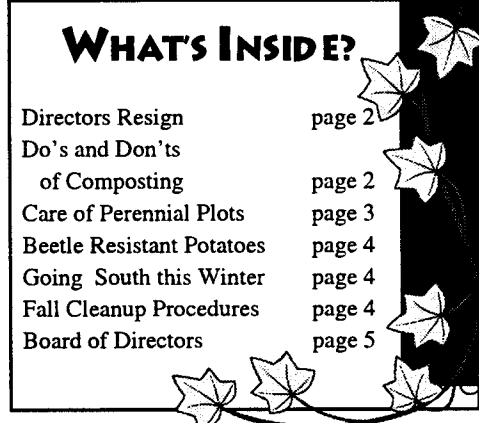
plots in good condition with weeds under control and pathways clear of debris. Now we ask your help in preparing your plot for winter by removing everything that is useful, or that cannot be or should not be composted, and by cutting down all remaining plant material for mulching into the soil. Every gardener who does these tasks saves our hard working maintenance directors from having to do it.

This time you will also find some information that we hope will be helpful to those members who rent the perennial plots. I must admit that we have probably taken those members for granted in the past. We know that those who garden in the perennial plots enjoy them very much and we look forward to your co-operation in making that experience even more enjoyable and rewarding for all.

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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On your behalf, I wish to express my appreciation to all who have helped out in the association this year. Several people have volunteered their time and effort as detailed in this Bulletin. I also wish very much to thank each and every one of your Directors who have again done yeoman service on behalf of all of us. This is indeed a very easy and rewarding organization to chair because each person carries out the tasks they have consented to undertake so willingly and professionally. Janice and Wendy handled the registrations and finances very efficiently, and Ian, Lila, Keith and Jim have done a fantastic job looking after the site maintenance. I have also appreciated Roy's support of all that the association has undertaken.

Finally, and very significantly, I wish to acknowledge the tremendous support that we have once again received from the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Nepean. There was all the assistance from, and in fact, legwork done by Rod Price and Kevin Wherry on the compost bin project. The Department provided gravel at the entrance to the parking lot when we requested it and regularly collected the garbage from the site. Last, but certainly not least, is the role played by Nancy Rooyakkers.

Nancy does so many of the little things for the association, as well as some fairly major tasks like producing and mailing out this

Bulletin, acting as our Secretary at Board and Annual meetings, and fielding many telephone inquiries that come to City Hall about the Association, to name only a few. She always does all of them so cheerfully and willingly. Thank you, Nancy!

In closing, I would wish each of you a very enjoyable winter season, and hope that we will see many of you in 1997, first at the Annual Meeting to take place on Tuesday, March 25, at 7:30 p.m. at the Nepean Sportsplex and subsequently in the plots. At the Annual Meeting, we will be asking you to approve a change in the name of our Association to the **Nepean Allotment Garden Association**. We feel this name will better identify our purpose and function in material distributed by the City of Nepean and avoid some misdirected telephone calls to some of our volunteers. See you then!

Sincerely,
Ron Black



DIRECTORS RESIGN

In the Spring '96 issue of the Bulletin, we reported that Wendy Millar had indicated that she would not be available to serve as Registrar for the 1997 gardening season. To date, we do not have a Registrar, so if anyone is interested in this task, please let Ron Black or Nancy Rooyakkers know. We certainly appreciate Wendy's work over the past three years. Letters of

resignation have also been received from Keith and Lila Hird and Roy Casorso. Keith and Lila have been Directors since 1992 and Roy since 1994, and all that they have contributed has been very much appreciated. These people will be very much missed on the Board of Directors. Good work, all of you!

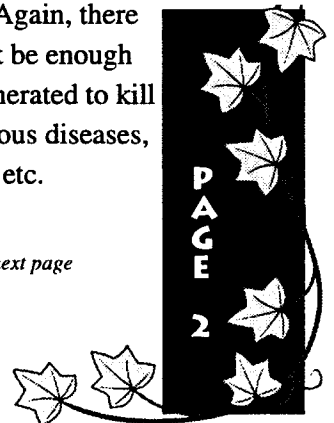
We would certainly appreciate hearing from anyone interested in serving on the Board in 1997. Try it! It is a fun and rewarding experience, I assure you.

DO'S AND DON'TS OF COMPOSTING

Before you throw everything from your garden into the compost bins, there are a few things that should not be included. These include:

- Weeds with mature seeds. Our type of compost bins do not generate enough heat to ensure that such seeds are killed. Throw the seed heads into the garbage and compost the rest of the plant.
- Purslane is that rubbery stemmed, crawling weed found in our plots. It decomposes slowly and if any part of the plant, even in a semi-decomposed state touches the soil, it will take root. The garbage is the place for this pest.
- Diseased fruits, vegetables, and plants. Again, there may not be enough heat generated to kill the various diseases, blights, etc.

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DO'S AND DON'TS OF COMPOSTING CONTINUED

- Woody material. Raspberry growers are especially asked to take note that woody raspberry canes decompose very slowly, and thus do not belong in our bins. Furthermore, many of the raspberry canes in some of the plots are showing evidence of disease, and again, this will not be destroyed in the composting process. These canes are to be placed in the garbage receptacles (*not over the fence onto the creek property*).

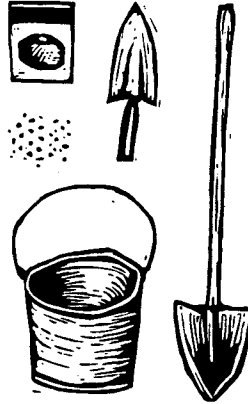
Everyone is encouraged to compost, but please take time to consider what you are putting in the compost bins. What you put in now could come back to haunt you and many other gardeners, so avoid the problem now so that there is good compost available for everyone.

CARE OF PERENNIAL PLOTS

This season, a few problems have been noted with regard to the perennial plots. Gardeners who rent these plots must realize they have an extra responsibility to exercise good husbandry in these plots since they are not worked up each year to destroy weeds, etc. You have a responsibility to continually destroy weeds and diseased plants in these plots. The plots are close together and your problems can soon spread to other people's plots if you do not fulfill your responsibilities.

Weed inspections were carried out in the perennial plots, as well as in the annual plots this summer. Problem cases will be dealt with individually.

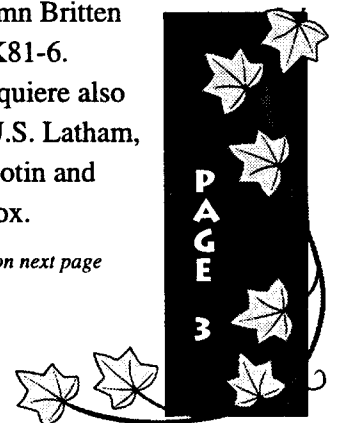
One problem that does appear to be quite serious is the amount of disease in the raspberry bushes in some of the perennial plots. In order to control disease and insect problems in raspberries, the following is recommended by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA):



- Space rows at least 2.5 metres apart with row widths limited to 30 to 45 centimetres, and thin plants to 12 to 15 plants per metre of row. This will allow for good air circulation, which cuts down on the spread of disease.
- Immediately after harvest, remove old canes plus diseased and broken canes. (*If this wasn't done this summer, it should be done before leaving the plots this fall.*) Burn removed canes or place in garbage. **DO NOT PLACE IN COMPOST.**
- In spring, prune out canes showing swelling, scars and cracks. Burn canes or place in garbage.
- At any time that disease is detected, the affected canes should be removed and destroyed promptly. If whole patches are affected, the roots should also be removed and destroyed.

- Insects, such as Cane Borer, Raspberry Crown Borer and Sap Beetles will also cause damage to canes. These canes must be removed and destroyed, away from the plots, as soon as the problem is detected.
- If you are not sure that you recognize all the signs of disease in your raspberries, Ian Reid, our Maintenance Director and a veteran raspberry grower, will be happy to assist you. He has some printed materials available that give more detail on the various problems.
- One of the ways to assist in combating plant disease and insect damage is to plant varieties, or cultivators, that are certified to be disease free, and to obtain them from a reliable source. For those interested in new raspberry plantings, OMAFRA recommended varieties are available from Paul Watson, R.R. 2 Bowmanville, Ontario L1C 3K3 (905) 623-4934, or from Harry Ghesquiere Farms Inc. R R 2, Simcoe Ontario N3Y 4K1 Phone (519) 428-1087. Both growers have the following varieties: Boyne, Comet, Heritage, Killamey, Festival, Algonquin, Haida, Nova, Regency, Autumn Bliss, Autumn Britten and K81-6. Ghesquiere also has U.S. Latham, Chilcotin and Comox.

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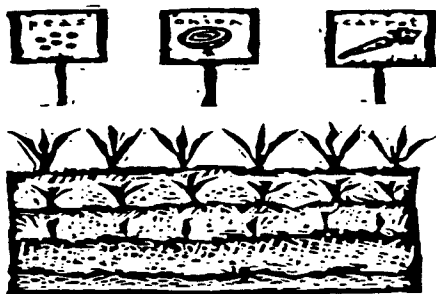


CARE OF PERENNIAL PLOTS CONTINUED

Strawberries can also be affected by disease and must be checked carefully for signs of such, with appropriate action being taken. If you are wanting to plant new strawberry plants next spring, the above named sources also have a large number of disease-resistant strawberry varieties available. You are advised to make direct contact to further determine the merits of each variety.

You are asked to remember that the word perennial does not mean "carefree". The perennial plots require constant care throughout the gardening season, and your cooperation is anticipated and appreciated.

BEETLE RESISTANT POTATOES



A big problem for potato growers each year is the fight against the Colorado Potato Beetle. NGA members who grow potatoes will be interested, therefore, in a process patented in the U. S. whereby common varieties of potatoes, particularly the Superior and the Russet Burbank, have been modified with a protein gene called Btt that provides natural protection against the Colorado Potato Beetle. Ritchie Feed and Seed have indicated that they hope to have these potatoes, being marketed as NewLeaf potatoes, available next spring.

GOING SOUTH THIS WINTER?



As usual, if you are holidaying in sunnier climes for an extended period, we would appreciate being kept informed of any change of address or phone number, or your southern address, so that you will receive your notice of next years Annual Meeting and plot renewal application. Please forward this information to Nancy Rooyackers at the Nepean Parks and Recreation Department, Nepean Civic Square, 101 Centrepointe Dr., Nepean, Ontario K2G 5K7.

If you wish, you may also pre-pay your 1997 fees, especially if you are not returning to Ottawa until after the Annual Meeting in late March. Please forward your cheque, payable to the Nepean Garden Association, to Nancy and she will pass it on to the new Registrar. 1997 fees will be the same as in 1996 as follows:

Nepean Residents:

Annual plots \$25.00
Seniors \$20.00
Perennial plots \$12.50,
Seniors \$10.00.

Non-Nepean Residents

Annual Plots \$30.00
Seniors \$25.00
Perennial plots \$15.00
Seniors \$12.50.

FALL CLEANUP PROCEDURES

The leases on the garden plots expire for the year on Thursday, October 31st. After that date, your maintenance committee will proceed to clean up the garden area and ready the plots to be tilled for winter.

All gardeners are requested to remove all remaining produce, tools, tomato cages, stakes and any other non-compostable materials from all plots no later than Oct. 31st. Any diseased plants and vegetables should be removed and placed in the garbage receptacles at the site or taken home to be placed in the garbage. Do not put such material in the compost bins. (See additional notes about composting in this Bulletin.) Weeds with seeds should also be pulled and placed in the garbage. Gardeners are encouraged to leave all other plants in the gardens for mulching, as it will help to increase the organic matter in the soil next year. Your co-operation is requested, however, to cut down remaining plants, such as corn, broccoli, etc. in your plot so that this task will not have to be done by others before the plots are tilled.

The Directors have arranged to have the plots mulched and then **rough-tilled** by personnel and equipment from the City of Nepean.

This work will be performed as soon as possible after October 31st. The water will also be

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**FALL CLEANUP PROCEDURES
CONTINUED**

turned off as of that date unless cold weather has made it necessary to do so earlier.

Before October 31st, the marker stakes must also be pulled, cleaned and put in storage. If you can assist with this job, please call Ian Reid, at 225-4510 or Keith Hird at 225-1863 to volunteer. Remember! Many hands make light work.

Now, to Say THANK YOU!

Each year, the Nepean Garden Association is well served by volunteers who put forth hours of effort to do the many jobs that keep our garden site looking good and everything running smoothly. This year, several people have helped out, and our gratitude and appreciation is expressed to each one.

Firstly, a number of people assisted with installation of the compost bins on Friday May 3, 1996. A letter received from Rod Price of the Nepean Parks and Recreation Department stated in part: "I would like to commend those gentlemen who volunteered their time to construct the compost boxes. It is volunteer efforts such as your group's which make projects like this a success. Your group has shown a commitment towards improving our environment for the benefit of the people who live there...!"

Secondly, several people helped clean up the existing compost pile in the spring. Many of us gardeners used some of the compost from that pile on our plots. For what was left, Gus Wegelin, Scotty Smith and Ian Reid constructed a chain link fence. The remaining material was then shoveled into the fenced enclosure. Most of the work was done by

Kazimierz Senkowski, who was paid a small sum to do so, while several volunteers also helped out. Cyril Johnson then brought his rototiller and worked up the area around the fenced compost pile, and Ian Reid planted grass seed.

Thirdly, Bill Nye provided the material and Jim Bird constructed a wire barrier underneath the storage shed to keep out the ground hogs. Further work had to be done later in the season.

Fourthly, once again Keith Hird maintained both the water system and the lawn mowers in top condition, and he and Lila, his wife, again co-ordinated the grass cutting. Thank you to all others who lent a helping hand to cut grass.

Volunteers are the backbone of many an organization, and we are indeed fortunate to have so many willing hands. Nice going, everyone!

NEPEAN GARDEN ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1996 - '97

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Vice Chairperson

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Keith Hird

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