



Nepean Allotment GARDEN ASSOCIATION

MEMBERS' BULLETIN ~ FALL 1997

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

A beautiful fall season is well upon us and the 1997 gardening season is swiftly drawing to a close. I hope that all of the members have had a good year and that your planting, watering, and weeding has been well rewarded with an abundance of produce.

Your Board of Directors met recently and concluded that we had a very good season and that the Association had again functioned very smoothly. As usual, there have been a few reports of theft and vandalism, but these are to be expected, given the location, and hopefully no one member has been excessively affected. We are pleased to report that there were no extraordinary expenditures incurred again this year, so we should end the year in an excellent financial position.

Regarding maintenance, I was pleased to hear that the plan adopted this year whereby there were volunteers in charge of grass cutting, composting, and the water system worked extremely well as reported by Maintenance Director Ian Reid. I certainly wish to thank Ian, Bill Nye, Gus Wegelin, and Carl Vuylsteke, as well as all those who offered their time and effort to assist these men in any way. This Association is what it is today because of the healthy volunteer spirit that exists within it. On behalf of all members, a heartfelt thank you to all who helped out in any way.

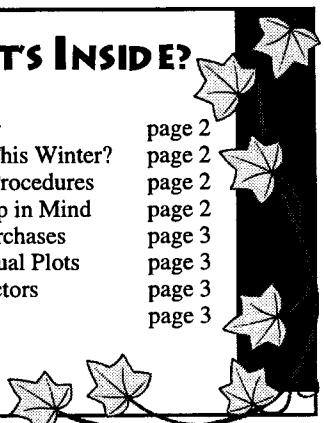
I also wish to express my appreciation to all of the Directors who again carried out their roles within the Association with extraordinary willingness, cheerfulness, and talent. Jim Bird again coordinated the mushroom compost ordering and sales at the beginning of the year. Mary St. Jean very capably stepped into the role of Registrar, and Barbara Hale took over as Treasurer partway through the season, and both were topnotch. The support of Denis St. Jean as a Director is also appreciated. Lastly, I again must offer a big vote of thanks to Nancy Rooyackers, our Secretary, who is so helpful and supportive. The support of the City of Nepean Parks and Recreation Department is also much appreciated.

Elsewhere in this Bulletin, you will find advance notice of our 1998 Annual General Meeting. I hope that you will all reserve that date, and that we will see many of you there. In the meantime, may each of you have an enjoyable winter season, wherever you may spend it, and we look forward to seeing all of you back in the gardens in '98.

*Sincerely,
Ron Black, Chairman*

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NEW TREASURER

Just as the gardening season was getting well under way, our Treasurer Janice Schroeder had to resign her position, as her husband, Jeff, had found new employment in Edmonton, so in mid-June, the Schroeder family was on its way west. Janice handled the deposit and accounting for much of the registration fees before she left, at which time the duties were turned over to Barbara Hale. We extend our appreciation to Barbara for volunteering to fill this position, and to Janice for her service over the past couple of years. Nancy Rooyackers recently had a call from Janice, who indicated that all are doing well in their new surroundings.



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 year's Annual Meeting and plot renewal application. Please forward this information to Mary St. Jean, Registrar, 8 Assiniboine Drive, Nepean, Ontario, K2E 5R7, or phone her at 224-9169. If you wish, you may also pre-pay your 1998 fees, especially if not returning to Ottawa until after the Annual Meeting in late March. Please forward your cheque, payable to Nepean Allotment Garden Association, to Mary. 1998 fees will be the same as 1997 as follows:

Nepean residents: Annual plots \$25, Seniors \$20, Perennial plots \$12.50, Seniors \$10.

Non-Nepean residents: Annual plots \$30, Seniors \$25, Perennial plots, \$15, Seniors \$12.50.

FALL CLEANUP PROCEDURES

The leases on the garden plots expire for the year on Friday October 31st. After that date, your maintenance committee will proceed to clean up the garden area and ready the plots to be tilled for the 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 October 31st. Any diseased plants and vegetables should be removed and placed in the garbage. Do not put such material in the compost bins. Weeds with seeds should also be pulled and placed in the garbage. All 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 cooperation 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 tilled or ploughed 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 turned off as of that day, unless cold weather has made it necessary to do so earlier.

Perennial plots are not tilled, and members are responsible for digging these plots themselves. Renters of these plots are asked to remove and dispose of weeds and diseased plants this fall so that they do not spread in the early spring. Also, you will have better soil conditions next year, if you rough dig those areas of the plot that do not contain perennial plants, digging in some of this year's plant refuse where it is suitable to do so.

A DATE TO KEEP IN MIND

Just a short advance notice that the 1998 Annual General Meeting of the Nepean Allotment Garden Association will be held on Tuesday March 24, 1998, at the Nepean Sportsplex. At that time we will receive the reports of the Association's officers for 1997, elect the officers and directors for 1998, and receive registration forms and fees for 1998. This meeting is your chance to voice your opinions and/or concerns about YOUR Association, so I do hope you will plan to attend. More details will follow in early March.



EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

This year the Association acquired two new pieces of equipment to assist in maintaining the garden site. A gasoline-powered weed eater and a trailer that can be pulled by the riding lawn mower were purchased and have been put to good use. Besides these two pieces of equipment, the Association owns a riding lawn mower, a push lawn mower, and two wheelbarrows.

Your Directors have from time to time considered purchasing a rototiller that could then be rented, for a small fee, by members to till their own plots. It is planned that this purchase will be discussed at the Annual Meeting in March to determine the amount of interest and potential usage. If a rototiller were purchased, it would require the services of a volunteer to maintain the machine and schedule its usage by the members.

HALF SIZE ANNUAL PLOTS

Occasionally, members have mentioned to the Directors that it would be nice if there were half-size annual plots available, as some gardeners find a full plot to be too large for their needs, and therefore, too difficult to look after. The Directors have decided to make some half-plots available if there is a desire for them. These will have to be located in plots that have two sides bordered by a pathway so that there will be access to both halves from a path. The price will be half that of a full-size plot; that is: \$12.50 for Nepean residents, \$10.00 for Nepean seniors, \$15.00 for non-residents, and \$12.50 for non-resident seniors.

If you would be interested in a half size plot in 1998, please phone Registrar Mary St. Jean, 224-9169, and let her know.

APOLOGY

On October 29th, the gardens were ploughed by the City of Nepean staff, even though this had not yet been requested by the Association. It appears that there was a breakdown in communication within the Parks and Recreation Department, and the Nepean Allotment Garden Association has been assured that steps will be taken to avoid this error in the future.

We sincerely apologize to any members who had not yet finished gathering in all their produce for any loss that you have experienced due to this unfortunate error.

Sincerely,
Ron Black and Ian Reid

NEPEAN GARDEN ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1997 - '98

Chairperson

Ron Black
7B Hadley Circle
Nepean, ON K2H 6P1
(H) 820-3689

Treasurer

Barbara Hale
20 Aurora Crescent
Nepean, ON K2G 0Z7 (225-7585)

Directors:

Denis St. Jean
8 Assiniboine Drive
Nepean, ON K2E 5R7 (224-9169)

Bill Nye
4 Assiniboine Drive
Nepean, ON K2E 5R7
723-0320

Vice Chairperson

James Bird
4 Charkay Street
Nepean, ON K2E 5N2 (225-4699)

Maintenance Director

Ian Reid
919-20 Chesterton Drive
Nepean, ON K2E 6Z7 (225-4510)

Secretary & City of Nepean Liaison

Nancy Rooyackers
101 Centrepointe Drive
Nepean, ON K2G 5K7 (727-6640)

Registrar

Mary St. Jean
8 Assiniboine Drive
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