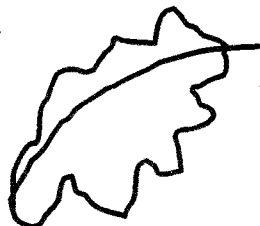
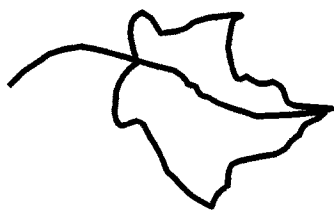


# NAGANEWS

Nepean Allotment Garden Association Bulletin

Fall 2004



## **NAGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **CHAIR:**

Bill Nye 723-0320

### **VICE-CHAIR:**

Denis St-Jean  
224-9169

### **CITY LIAISON:**

Sue Bramley  
724-4122 ext.24261

### **TREASURER**

Elizabeth Nye  
723-0320

### **REGISTRAR:**

Mary St-Jean  
224-9169

### **SECRETARY:**

Elizabeth Nye  
723-0320

### **MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR/VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR:**

Terry Ingratta  
225-8082

### **DIRECTOR:**

David Nott  
224-8867

### **DIRECTOR:**

Vacant position

### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR:**

Denis St-Jean

### **LAYOUT:**

Elizabeth Nye

## RAISED GARDENS PLANNED

Some of our members find it difficult to continually bend and kneel while tending their garden. With this in mind, your Board of Directors is looking into constructing raised garden beds next summer.

Although still in the planning stage, the new beds will allow users to grow crops while standing. As visualized, each plot will be approximately two feet (0.6m) high with a gardening area of four by eight feet (1.2x2.4m). Users will be able to easily reach the centre of their garden from either side.

Construction and maintenance costs of these gardens will no doubt be higher than for our regular ones. For those reasons, rental of the plots will be \$12.50 (\$10 for seniors) a season, the same price as a standard half-size garden.

We would like to hear from you. Would you find such a garden useful? Gardeners' feedback will help us determine how many plots may eventually be built. Keep in mind that tilling, upkeep, etc., will be entirely up to you. Only a small number would be built next season, with more added in coming years if needed. Call Denis St-Jean at 224-9169 with your thoughts, or write to him at

[denis.st-jean2@sympatico.ca](mailto:denis.st-jean2@sympatico.ca)

## 2004 GARDEN COMPETITION WINNERS!

Our popular annual garden competition yielded a whole new crop of winners this year. After visiting the gardens a number of times, our favorite judge, Mary Reid, who owns the Green Thumb Garden Centre, was able to narrow her list down to the names that appear below. Mary reports that it was particularly difficult for her to pick the winners, since there were so many outstanding gardens. But "she done her duty", as usual. Many thanks, Mary!

### The Winners -

**Best Maintained Garden:** Heather Park-Wheeler, #54. "A neat and tidy garden, with an abundance of veggies - hilled up plantings. The garden is brightened by clumps of nasturtiums - not the easiest to keep in check!"

**Most Unique Gardens:** Yuqiu Guo, # 182 and #183. "The most creative use of staking - every possible kind ... using other veggies as stakes - and even sunflowers as the corner marking posts."

**Best Planned Garden:** Than Fernando, #157. "What a great use of space - every last inch/centimeter! Still no skimping on the selections with carrots, beets, squash family, beans, tomatoes, cauliflower, sunflowers - the list goes on!"

**Best Crop Variety:** Genzao Zhang & Ling Wa Luo, #106. "Obviously neatly planned and maintained with the array of crops in this plot - cabbage and kohlrabi are just two, then add on enough root veggies to last the winter for all."

**Judge's Choice:** Sylvia Stanghetta, #180. "What a mixture in this plot - from veggies to herbs to flowers and back again. Bright and colourful yet functional and useful."

**Best Small Garden (tie):** Colleen Simms, #87E. "What a beautiful array of flowers, well planned and well planted - asters, marigolds, poppies, iris, violets, day lilies - a great combination of perennials and annuals - and what a source as a 'picking' garden."

**Best Small Garden (tie):** Georgina Galway, #114W. "Leveled and textured is this garden, with half a barrel for planting too. Veggies and flowers live together in this 'red' garden - beets, swiss chard, bee-balm and what's a red garden without a red picket fence!"

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

## MORE HEADACHES

Like weeds, some problems pop up each summer. Our compost bins, skillfully maintained by the Galway Gang, have once more had uncompostable material thrown into them. Please remember: plastic, metal, glass, dirty diapers (believe it or not) and rocks play havoc with the bins. There is a special rock pile for your discarded stones, and a couple of large metal drums next to the lockers are awaiting your other stuff.

Things seemed to be looking up in 2003 when only a few gardens became weed-bound. Alas, there was a substantial increase in the number of weedy gardens this past summer. Owners of the plots were notified and a few licenses will not be renewed next season. Don't become part of this statistic. Keep your weeds under control, and if you have a legitimate reason for neglecting your garden, please notify any Director.

Maintenance Director Terry Ingratta has organized a team of volunteers to make and paint new markers for the gardens. Over the years, some stakes have been moved around with the result that a number of boundaries have gone wayward, so to speak. Next spring, all plots will be properly aligned and marked. Hooray!

## RESPECTING GARDEN BOUNDARIES

An annual source of frustration for some gardeners is the habit of a few others to trespass onto their neighbours' plots. NAGA Directors have witnessed damage caused by thoughtless persons who have tromped outside the boundaries of their own gardens, killing plants and compacting the soil of other gardens.

This must stop. Rules apply to all of us equally. Everyone, including each NAGA Director, pays for the use of his or her garden and has the right to use the entire space. Those who encroached upon their neighbours' plots last season have been notified and risk losing their gardening privileges.

On a related matter, a few gardeners let their vine crops spill a considerable distance outside the limits of their plots this summer, causing lawn mowing problems and violating the conditions of their membership agreement. In the future, any such crops will be cut back and the offending gardeners notified.



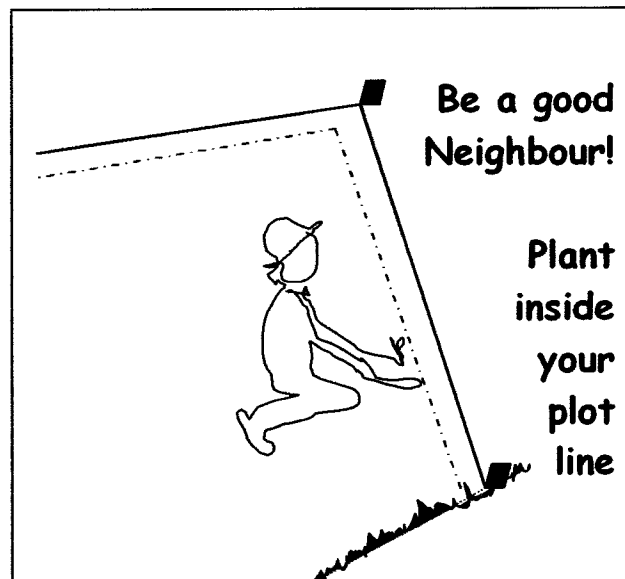
*A tractor plows the allotment garden fields in preparation for the winter ahead. Twice a year, in the fall and in the spring, the soil in all our annual plots is turned over, guaranteeing the best possible growing conditions. Now all you have to do is plan your garden.*

# AILING TOMATOES

Quite a few gardeners experienced tomato crop failure this summer. Leaves suddenly turned black and the plants died, leaving unripened fruit and causing much frustration. We asked Mary Reid what the likeliest cause could be, and this is what she answered:

The chief reason was excessive humidity and watering from the top. You will recall that we experienced a very rainy season. In fact, there were many days when it was practically impossible to get to our gardens. The muggy air barely moved and overcast skies hid the life-giving sun.

Mary advises getting rid of diseased leaves as soon as they fall off. Leaving them on the plants will promote the spread of disease. In their latest seed catalogue, Stokes also attributes many of the diseases to a) unsterilized foam trays; b) unsterilized potting soil; c) unsanitary greenhouse conditions; and d) neighboring plants such as goldenrod, wild turnip and asparagus that can harbor disease. There are some other possible causes, most of which boil down to unhygienic growing conditions. The moral: buy plants only from reputable dealers. If you grow your own from seed, make sure your tools, soil and containers are sterilized.



## So Long, Sunflowers!!

Sunflowers are hardy plants. As everyone knows, they can grow to enormous heights and withstand high winds on sturdy, woody stems. But they are also a problem. The very stems that support them are extremely difficult to compost, taking many years to break down and delaying the usefulness of compost heaps.

After much consideration, it has been decided that the culture of sunflowers in our gardens will no longer be permitted. All gardeners will be asked to remove them while the plants are still young.

Your cooperation will be appreciated.

### New Look

In the spring, your application form will have a new look. The **terms and conditions** of renting a garden plot will be included with the application and must be signed before your application to renew is considered.

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

*Ever since NAGA was formed, Nancy Rooyackers has been our link to City Hall. With boundless enthusiasm and loyalty, she has done her best to help us solve problems ranging from waste pick-up to finances. It hasn't been easy, especially since amalgamation left us in a kind of limbo, not knowing just who was responsible for what over there.*

*Nancy has been assigned new duties and can no longer be our city liaison person. We will miss her, but welcome her replacement, Sue Bramley.*

*Good luck in the future, Nancy. Please keep in touch.*

Bill Nye  
Chairman, NAGA



# OUTSTANDING GARDENERS

When Sylvia Stanghetta, franchisee of The Body Shop, was asked to find a way for her shop to make a contribution to our community, she and her staff at Bayshore Shopping Centre sat down and brainstormed. How could they come up with a unique idea that was also useful and fun?

Someone in the group mentioned that she liked to garden. From that germ of an idea grew a venture that for the past two years has given scores of victims of abuse in the Ottawa area a spare-time activity that provides both pleasure and satisfaction. Through the Community Resource Centre's Program Against Abuse, Bayshore Body Shop staff members donate an average of four hours of paid work time per week to planning, planting and reaping the benefits of their Viewmount garden plot. Shelter residents and workers are also invited take part in the activities.

This summer, this group of dedicated growers decided to plant a "salsa garden". All the plants could be used to make the tangy, yet spicy, Mexican delicacy and the results were distributed to a local shelter. Sylvia and her husband, Patrick, made the salsa and packaged it using containers kindly donated by Brown's Independent Grocers in Stittsville. Their home must have smelled heavenly for a few days.

It is selfless persons like the women and gentlemen at The Body Shop in Bayshore who make us all proud of our Association. Thanks and congratulations, gals and guys!

## Community Gardens in Ottawa

Good news! On 27 October 2004, City Council approved the Community Gardening Program Action Plan put forward by the Community Garden Network in consultation with the Gloucester Allotment Garden Association and the Nepean Allotment Garden Association. In general, it commits the city to endorsing and promoting community gardens.

NAGA retained all of the city support it now enjoys:

- access to and maintenance of our underground water system
- access to the city group liability coverage (NAGA pays)
- garbage pick up; spring and fall tilling and plowing (NAGA pays for tilling & plowing)
- city staff liaison (Sue Bramley who replaces Nancy Rooyakkers)

If you wish to see the complete plan, contact Bill Nye (723-0320) or email: [thenyes@rogers.com](mailto:thenyes@rogers.com).

You may be interested finding out more about the Community Garden Network by viewing their website: [www.flora.org](http://www.flora.org)