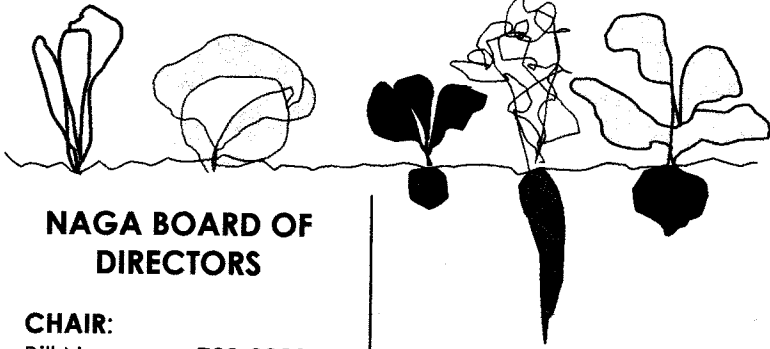


# NAGANEWS

## Nepean Allotment Garden Association Bulletin

Spring 2005



### **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

The Annual General Meeting of the Nepean Allotment Garden Association will take place on Monday, April 11, 2005 at 7:00

Ben Franklin Place, Room 1B  
101 Centrepointe Drive

Dear Gardeners,

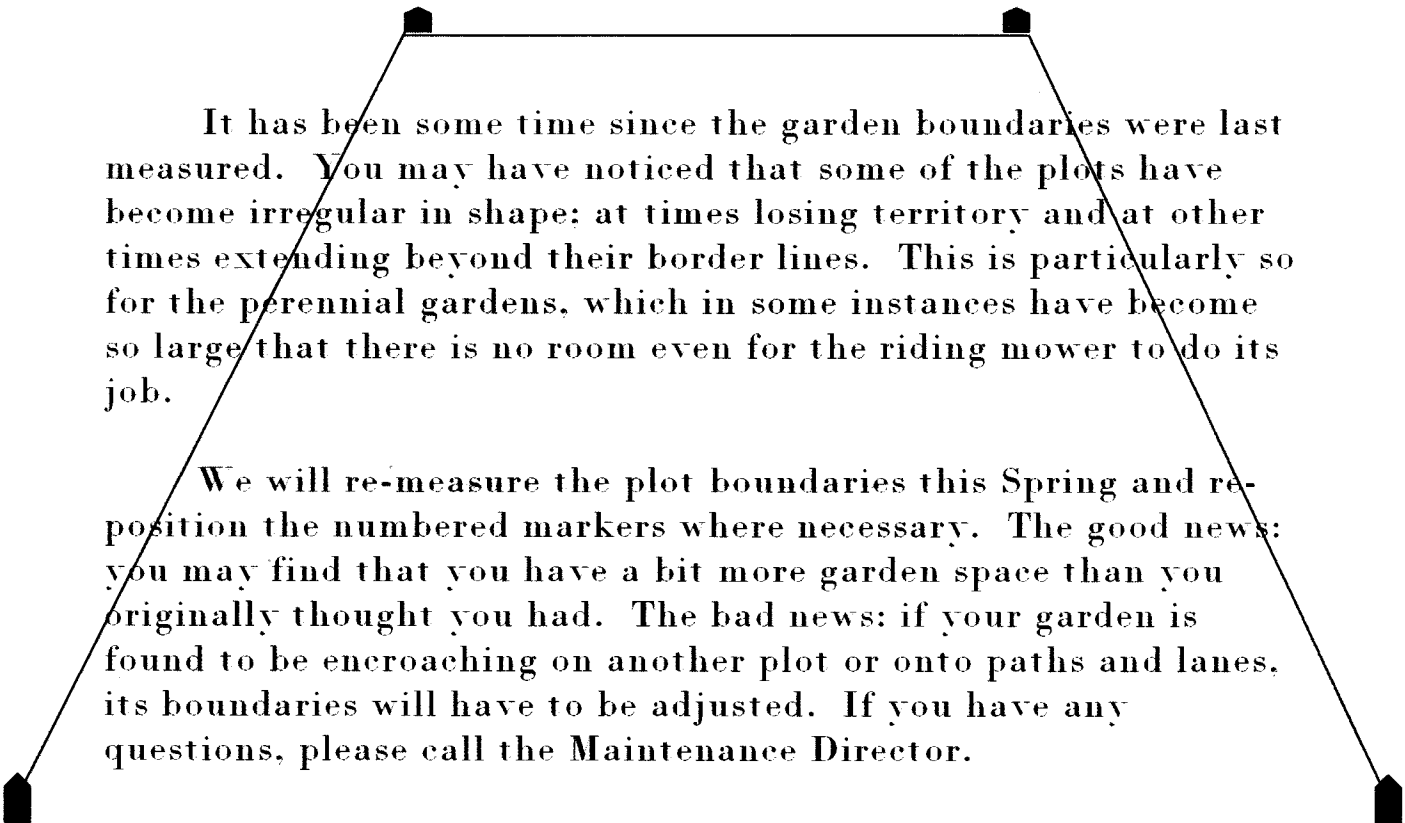
Good news! We have finally resolved a dispute with the city over a bill owing for the year 2000. Nepean billed us \$3057.65 for water, plumbing parts, and plowing. The charges were not correct in any manner and after four years of on again off again negotiations with the City of Ottawa, the bill was settled for an amount of \$1623.39. The next obstacle was the City demanding \$360.26 in interest for the same bill!

After seeking the help of our Councillor, Gord Hunter, the City withdrew all demands for interest. Our thanks go to Mr. Hunter and your treasurer who fought tenaciously on your behalf. The financial statement for 2004 is complete and shown on page 6. Please keep in mind we had a large, one-time only, expenditure for a new riding mower.

Composting remains a concern. We want to try something a bit different this year. Doug and his crew will continue to maintain the large compost bins, but each small bin will be handled by a group of gardeners in the area of each bin. Their responsibilities will be ensuring garbage and rocks will not be thrown in the bins as well as emptying them into the large bin when required—unusually twice during the season. This will be co-ordinated by Doug and the Maintenance Director. They will be calling!

Bill Nye, Chairman

# Realignment of Gardens



It has been some time since the garden boundaries were last measured. You may have noticed that some of the plots have become irregular in shape; at times losing territory and at other times extending beyond their border lines. This is particularly so for the perennial gardens, which in some instances have become so large that there is no room even for the riding mower to do its job.

We will re-measure the plot boundaries this Spring and re-position the numbered markers where necessary. The good news: you may find that you have a bit more garden space than you originally thought you had. The bad news: if your garden is found to be encroaching on another plot or onto paths and lanes, its boundaries will have to be adjusted. If you have any questions, please call the Maintenance Director.

# Locating your Garden

Can't find your garden? It's easy! Locate the white wooden marker (blue in the diagram above) that bears your plot number. It indicates the lower left corner of your garden. If you have a 20'x30' plot, it extends approximately 20 feet (6 m) to your right, and 30 feet (9 m) straight ahead. If you are confused, ask a Board member – before you start planting!

*Have you taken a stroll down by the Nepean Creek storm water facility, yet? It's located just beyond the south side of our gardens with a path that extends all the way from Merivale Road to Prince of Wales Drive. It is quiet and peaceful and especially attractive in the Spring when the water level is at its highest. It's nicely landscaped and attracts scores of ducks and other birds. Take a look; there's something new to see each day. The easiest way to get to it is along the paved path leading from Viewmount Drive at the far western end of the gardens.*

## Be a Good Neighbour

Several times a year, it is necessary for the Board of Directors to survey the gardens looking for plots that are excessively weedy, or in some cases, abandoned.

We are asking gardeners to phone the Chair, or a member of the Board, if neighbouring gardens are causing problems and are not being cared for in a proper manner. Early notification will help in not letting the gardens get out of control.

## NAGA Nostalgia

The following were your Board of Directors when the first newsletter was published in May 1991. Remember them?

**Chair: Walter Saidak**

**Vice Chair and Registrar: Rosaleen Dickson**

**Treasurer: David Dickson**

**Recording Secretary: Nancy Rooyackers**

**Maintenance Directors: Ian Reid and Bud Singh**

**New Site\* Directors: Wally Clark and Ron Black**

**Publicity/Newsletter: Denis St-Jean and Jennifer Bernuis**

**Phones: Ange Salm, Mary St-Jean and Rachel St-Jean**

*\*When the National Capital Commission closed its allotment gardens near the baseline and Richmond Roads intersection, Wally and Ron were given the task of trying to find suitable land for our gardeners living in the western end of Nepean. Unfortunately, no land became available.*

## New gardens in Ottawa

The City plans to develop two new gardens a year. If you live in an area that has a need for a community garden and know of a possible site, the Community Garden Network is looking for volunteers and expertise.

**Contact: Coordinator, CGN-RJC**

**221 Nelson St., Ottawa, ON K1N 1C7**

**613-244-2804 fax: 613-789-4086**

**[www.flora.org/cgn-rjc](http://www.flora.org/cgn-rjc)**

# Keep in Mind for 2005

- ☼ **Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Garden Competition – Categories will include: Best Maintained; Most Unique; Best Crop Variety; Best Small Garden; and Judge’s Choice. Start exercising your green thumb!**
- ☼ **Sunflowers! Because they take many years to compost and are difficult to dispose of, sunflowers are no longer permitted to be grown in the gardens. Should you see any sprouting this year, please pull them and put small sprouts in the compost bins.**
- ☼ **Vines - If allowed to grow outside of your plot boundary, they will be cut down. Repeat offenders will lose their gardening privileges.**
- ☼ **Cornstalks – Before 31 October, cut cornstalks into six-inch pieces and leave on your plot to be plowed under.**
- ☼ **Plot boundary - Please leave at least six inches of walking space inside the perimeter of your plot to avoid stepping on your neighbours’ gardens.**
- ☼ **Rocks and stones - Must be placed in the rock pile, not at the edge of your property or in the walkway. They pose a danger to our volunteer lawn maintenance crew, and in addition, cause damage to equipment.**
- ☼ **Weeds - Keep your weeds in check. Some permit renewals have been denied to gardeners who allowed weeds to grow unchecked. Do not let this happen to you.**
- ☼ **Volunteers - Your association is run entirely by volunteers. Please give a little of your time to keep it thriving. You will find a list of volunteer activities on your license renewal form, or call Terry Ingratta (225-8082).**
- ☼ **Hoses –Hoses are not provided by NAGA. Often a gardener will bring an old one from home and leave it for the season for other gardeners to use.**

**Life is too short to stuff a mushroom.**

**Roses are nice, but you can't eat 'em.**

***Part of the success in life is to eat what you like and let the food fight it out inside.***

**CAULIFLOWER IS NOTHING BUT CABBAGE WITH A COLLEGE EDUCATION.**

# Raised Gardens Update

In our last issue we outlined a proposal to build four raised gardens for members who find it difficult to stoop or crouch while tending their plots. We have looked into the costs and usefulness of such gardens and can now give you more details.

There are two types: one makes use of pre-cast concrete patio slabs for the walls of each garden, and the other uses cedar lumber for the same purpose.

The first consists of special channeled connectors that hold the slabs vertically at each corner and along the sides. The slabs, each measuring 2'x2½' (61x76cm) are inserted so that the completed plot is four by eight feet and thirty inches high.

A set of connectors, enough for one garden, costs \$64. Each garden will use 12 slabs costing about \$7.50 each. Altogether, it would cost about \$700 to build four gardens, including taxes. Soil would cost an additional \$200, bringing the total to \$900.

The hardware for 4'x8' beds made of lumber costs about \$42.00 per garden, the lumber itself is about \$120.00 bringing the total for four gardens to approximately \$648.00 plus the cost of the soil for a total of \$848.00.

Very few persons responded to our request for comments last Fall about the feasibility of this project. There is no point in spending that sort of money if no one will use the gardens. If you would like one of those plots, please let us know as soon as possible or come to the annual meeting where a final decision will be made. Call Denis, at 224-9169.

## 2004 Financial Statement

### Income

Garden plots & lockers, bank interest, other	<b>\$3767.82</b>
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### Expenses

Insurance 2004	250.00
Compost	382.90
Tilling	669.89
Gas and oil	146.70
Equipment	493.24
Riding mower	1953.85
Administrative: newsletters, postage, printing	319.66
Maintenance	184.72
Miscellaneous	157.94

**\$4558.90**

### Balance

**-\$791.08**

Expenses paid in 2004 that budgeted for in previous years: \$1000.00 to City of Ottawa

Bank balance at time of publishing (12 March 2005):

\$4071.27

Party Cash

265.24

Other assets: 2 year term deposit of \$4000 plus interest

\$4000.00+

# You say "tow-mah-tow"

No matter how you say it, 2004 was not a very good year for tomato growers.

Tomato blight seemed to be a problem, especially in our west-end plots. The culprit may be a fungus disease brought on by unusually damp, rainy weather last July and August. Unfortunately, the spores could remain in the soil and cause some crop loss this year as well. Blights can be difficult to control without using toxic (and banned) chemicals. Here are a few suggestions that may help control this headache. Some of the information is gleaned from our first newsletter, published in 1991.

Some plants are resistant to fungus diseases. Consider growing those next season.

The spores infect the lower leaves first, as rain and overhead watering splash on the plants. The next rain or watering bounces onto the next level of leaves and so on, causing in some cases gradual loss of most of your leaves.

Blight can be significantly lessened by removing and destroying the infected leaves as soon as possible, and by avoiding splashes when watering.

Look into applying a plastic weed barrier or mulch. This will keep most of the spores from rising off the ground, and warm the soil as well. Fungus spores like cool conditions. Punch small holes in the plastic to allow water to penetrate. A word of caution: if you decide to buy biodegradable plastic, make sure it is also 100% compostable. Many so-called "biodegradable" films simply break down into tiny pieces that remain in the soil for centuries.

Finally, healthy plants are more disease- and stress-resistant. Follow planting and nutrient instructions carefully—and don't overwater.