

NAGANEWS

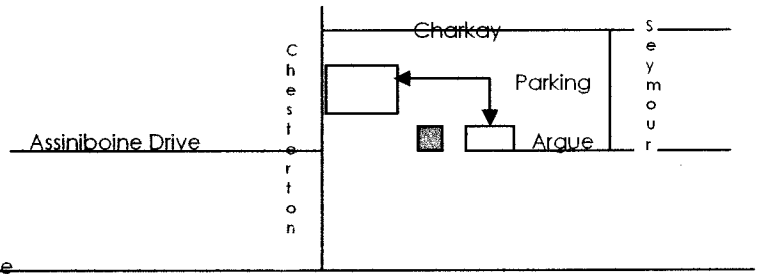
Nepean Allotment Garden Association Bulletin

Spring 2006

The Annual General Meeting of the
Nepean Allotment Garden Association
will take place on Wednesday, April 12, 2006
at 7:00

Place: General Burns Lodge

Parking: General Burns Park off Chesterton Drive across
from Frank Ryan School



NAGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Denis St-Jean

Gardens

Chairman's message

The thing that impressed me most last year was the development of community at our gardens. I have been at the gardens since 1992 and I have never seen so many people getting involved with projects and with their neighbours. Let's keep the good gardening spirit alive this year.

It is impossible to name everyone who helped with the various chores and garden projects, but I do want to mention a couple of names on the Chairman's Honour List: Dave & Pat. Rooney and Frank & Elizabeth Ernhofer. And, our Galway Garden Gang were superb, as always. Thank you to everyone who helped out.

OUR 2005 GARDEN CONTEST WINNERS

Once again, our dependable judge, Mary Reid (owner of Green Thumb Garden Centre), visited the Gardens a number of times last summer to choose the winners of this year's Garden Contest. Congratulations to all our master gardeners!

• **BEST MAINTAINED GARDEN: Ping Wang and Zhengyu Liu, # 168.**

"A neat and tidy garden, with not only an abundance of veggies ready to be harvested, but a host of new plantings, to be at the ready in the not too distant future - fresh produce from beginning to end!"

• **MOST UNIQUE GARDEN: Ron and Catherine Rogers, # 143.**

"Why not include a host of plants for dried flowers in order to enjoy the fruits of your labour throughout the winter months - straw flowers, stachys and gomphrena - all so bright and cheery and still crisp looking as the summer draws to a close."

• **BEST PLANNED GARDEN: Akiko and Norio Takemura, # 44.**

"An orderly array of beans, eggplants, tomatoes and so on - caged and fenced and staked! No shortage of variety in this planned plot of plots."

• **BEST CROP VARIETY: Joyce Bremner, # 36.**

"Mix 'n' match - basil and mint, herbs and winter veggies, carrots and beans, beets, cabbage, and squash and ..."

• **BEST SMALL GARDEN: Maria Lachowich, # 74**

"What a huge array of fruits and veggies, mainly perennial, with asparagus, rhubarb, raspberries and horseradish - throw in some winter fare like Brussels sprouts - a well planned and well planted garden for all season tasting enjoyment."

JUDGE'S CHOICE: Liqun Wang and Hongwei Zhang, # 25.

"A campground of greenery - all sorts of tents, triangles and teepees supporting a feast of beans, eggplants and tomatoes galore."

Please note: some of you may not realize that Mary Reid has been volunteering her time and knowledge each year to judge our gardens. Mark your calendar: Green Thumb Garden Centre is moving this spring to 17 Tristan Court. To find its new home, turn east off Merivale Road onto Bongard Street, south of Hunt Club, then south on Tristan.

Sweet Potatoes

Ian Reid had considerable success growing sweet potatoes last year, and he has written an extensive article on his experience. If you are interested in receiving a copy of his article: *My Experience Growing Sweet Potatoes*, please contact Elizabeth (723-0320). It will be forwarded to you my email, or in hard copy.

New! New! New! New! New! New! New! New! New! New!

STORAGE SHED

On one of the hottest and most humid days of summer, a gang of Home Depot employees erected a new shed south of our existing one to give us more room for equipment and tools. There will be space available for gardeners to store their tools. If you would like free space to store your tools, please call Mary 224-9169. The shed project was organized by our Maintenance Director, Terry Ingratta.



RAISED GARDENS

Thanks, also, to a crew of volunteer gardeners, we finally have four raised gardens for those who find it difficult to stoop or kneel when tending their plots. One of the gardens is incomplete, due to a broken concrete slab. We will address the problem next season. Two of the gardens were rented last summer. Call Mary St-Jean, our Registrar, for availability next year. 224-9169

It might work! To keep gophers away from your garden, break off or cut out the bottom of a plastic bottle and push that end into the gopher hole. The wind blowing over the exposed bottleneck will create a sound that the animals hate.

No sunflowers, please! It is no longer permitted to plant sunflowers in the gardens. The stems are too woody and take years to compost properly. If you find some in your garden this summer, please remove them while they are still small and place them in the trash bins next to the lockers.

Registration 2006—a reminder from the registrar

The deadline to renew your gardens this year is **15 April, 2006**. Once again, we have a long waiting list for gardens, and some people have been waiting for two years for an annual garden, longer for perennial gardens. If we do not receive your application by 15 April, your garden will be reissued.

Don't forget to fill out the volunteer section of the form; we need your help to keep the gardens operating.

The Best Bargain in Town

One would be hard-pressed to find a better bargain than renting one of our gardens. Just look at these statistics:

- ⊗ A large garden costs \$25 a year. On average, the gardening season lasts 170 days. That works out to less than 15 cents a day. For this you also get:
- ⊗ Your garden tilled twice a year
- ⊗ Free water, compost, and new this year: tool storage
- ⊗ Fun, friendship and fresh produce
- ⊗ Your association newsletter!

None of this would be possible if it weren't for our volunteers (this includes our Board members), who every year not only pay the full rental fee, but maintain the compost bins, mow the grass, plant and weed flowers at the main entrance, keep our equipment running, fix water leaks, place and remove the plot markers, assign plots to almost 125 gardeners, manage the day-to-day and month-to-month affairs of the Association, co-ordinate fall and spring plowing, pick up litter, and perform many other tasks that keep things running.

A big "thank you" to those of you who are always there when needed and contribute a great deal of your time each summer. If you have never volunteered before, we need your help. An hour a year will make a difference if everyone takes part.