

Email: nagagardens@gmail.com

Website: <http://nepeanallotmentgarden.webs.com>

Spring 2011

NAGA Newsletter

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Vacant

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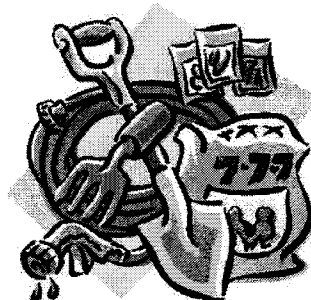
Abdalla Anani
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Director at Large:

Meghann Darroch
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Itchy fingers...

Green ones that is.

It usually start in March and by April the 'itchiness' has blossomed into a rash covering fingers, hands and arms, right up to the elbow. Once it starts, the only thing for it is to get your hands on a packet of seeds and those fingers into soil for some serious gardening! It's the only cure, so remember to renew your membership with NAGA.

This year, we are asking all members to pay their yearly fee by **cheque** and to **post it** to the following address:

P.O. Box 65073 Merivale P.O. Ottawa, On. K2G 5Y3

**Deadline for renewing your garden plot is
Wednesday, April 13, 2011**

After that date, your garden will be allocated to another gardener. No exceptions.

Did you know that we at NAGA:

Managed 142 annual plots, 91 perennial plots and 4 raised gardens this last season of 2010, and dealt with 150 gardeners like you and me.

From over 1,000 community gardening plots in the whole city of Ottawa, our site represents about 20 % of this total. Our gardens' site is the 3rd largest site in the City of Ottawa, after Kilborn and Gloucester.

Although the majority of the fellow gardeners reside within a few kilometres away from Viewmount Drive,

we have members who travel a long distance to get to their plots, by bus, car and or bicycles.

On June 15, 2010, we counted on outside volunteers from the United Way, Starbucks and the First Baptist Church and did a major clean up of the whole site. Thanks to Meghann Darroch and her organizational skills.

On Sep 11, 2010, we gathered around and had a barbecue of burgers and a "pot luck" picnic, our first in many years. A small turnout but we are hoping that the word goes around to grow it bigger year after year. Thanks to Amanda Lancaster (and baby Cora) in putting it together and to Mr. and Mrs. Coates in serving the hungry crowd.

Although our survey from last spring showed that the majority of you supported contracting out some services to private companies, we did not act on it this last season, thankfully, due to the continued volunteering work of many like Ron Elmer, Ian Reid and Kaz Senkowski. We are calling for quotations from private companies this coming season.

We acted on the initiative of Amanda Lancaster and rented a portable toilet for a few months. It was an excellent idea and had a lot of praises. We will repeat it this coming season for sure.

Now, it is your chance to help. We have a position still open at the Board and are looking for energetic people to join. Please make yourself known to one of us or come and present yourself at the AGM this year. Hope to see you there.

Mike Chebbo

September Picnic

Last season it was a whirlwind affair but towards the end of summer, Amanda Lancaster got a bee in her bonnet and within a few short weeks the picnic was on!

Emails were flying and the word got out to let us know that on Saturday September 11, from 2-4pm the burgers would be grilling thanks to Fran and Lee Coates. They brought along their barbecue and graciously supplied their cooking skills for all who were craving a hot burger.

Although the 'potluck' picnic was attended by just a few gardeners, it was enjoyed by all who were lucky enough to partake in the fun.

The short notice and the start of the school year may have kept people away last year. Be sure to mark your calendar for a repeat performance this year on **September 10, 2011 2-4pm** at the Gardens, under the tree by the winter storage area.

Bring a chair or a blanket to sit on, a dish to share, a smile and a 'Howdy!' Plates and cutlery will be supplied but feel free to bring your own.

Bring your largest tomato for a weigh in!



The usual suspects



AGMmeeting

Wednesday April 13, 2011 7:00pm
General Burns Park Lodge
Argue Drive

Have a coffee and renew old friendships.

This is the time to speak your mind!

On the agenda:

- Results of last year's survey.
- Cost of hiring a company to maintain the grounds at the gardens. Quotes will be made known.
- **Proposed increase in fees for plot rental.** Vote required.
- Soil rejuvenation project. Any takers this year?
- Fall barbecue planning.

Parking off Chesterton and Argue drives.
Refreshments served.

Need to get in touch?

Email: nagagardens@gmail.com

Our website:

<http://nepeanallotmentgarden.webs.com>

We'd love to hear from you!



Compost / **S**traw

A charitable organization will again be on-site to sell bagged compost at the beginning of the season. The date for this event will be posted on the bulletin board on the shed. Notice will also be sent via e-mail.

Bales of straw will be sold, on-site, to interested gardeners again this year. Date to be determined.

Be garden proud!

Encourage your friends and neighbours to join us for our yearly appraisal of the land. Bring the kids. Little hands can help too!

Spring clean up of the allotment gardens will take place on the following dates:

Saturday April 23, 9:00am to 12noon
Sunday April 24, 1:00pm to 3:00pm
Coffee anyone?

Please **R**emember

Not to leave rocks/stones in the grassy laneways as it damages the lawn-mowing equipment. Violation of this regulation will lead to loss of gardening privileges.

The trimming of the edges of the garden plots remains the responsibility of each and every member. Hand sheers can be found in the shed for this purpose.

Fall clean up of the annual plots in preparation for ploughing is sorely lacking from members. This is your responsibility. Please clean up your mess when the gardening season is at an end.

Volunteer Round-up

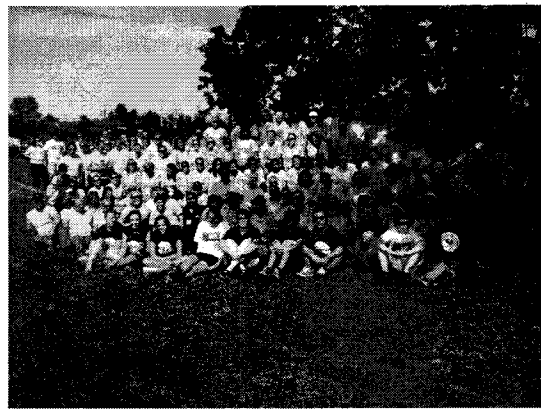
On June 15th, 2010 Starbucks, United Way, Nepean Rideau & Osgoode Community Resource Centre (NROCRC), NAGA and Baptists from Ottawa and Shelby North Carolina came together for an afternoon of volunteering to help spruce up the Nepean Allotment Gardens.

This event started with a call out from United Way Ottawa to local non-profits, asking if any agencies had a use for approximately 120 Starbuck District Managers visiting from across Canada who were interested in spending some time volunteering within local communities. At that time, NROCRC had been working closely with NAGA and had heard there was a need for volunteer support to help clean out the storage area, move compost, repaint tools and benches and build a retaining wall among many other small outstanding tasks. The United Way were contacted and asked if the volunteers would be interested in helping the Nepean Allotment Gardens with these maintenance requests. Starbucks very enthusiastically agreed. NAGA exec came together with the other agencies to help coordinate the logistics of the event and by June 15th we had well over 150 volunteers show up at the garden! A visiting group of youth Baptist missionaries from Shelby, North Carolina had caught wind of this event through a local chapter and both groups expressed an interest to get involved. The staff and board of NROCRC also offered their time and effort to make the day a success. United Way provided media coordination, free t-shirts and other gifts to volunteers and their staff also helped out in the gardens.



On the day of the event we watched 3 buses full of Starbucks employees arrive at the gardens followed by another large bus filled with youth. After a quick introduction, overview of the day and dividing into teams to complete the various tasks, the groups divided and conquered all tasks requested of them. Some of the volunteers even worked with Lee to get a huge bolder out of the ground in one of our back plots!

A sincere thank you to all agencies and individuals who participated in this event. It was a wonderful day and so much was accomplished! A video of the event can be found by visiting: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-xEzZyAbiE>



Have a great summer!