



Ron Black, a former Chairperson, Bill Nye, the present Chairperson and Alan Wheatley harvesting their crop.

The History of the Nepean Allotment Gardens

From its inception in 1991 through 2002

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Location:	Nepean, Ontario
Latitude:	45° 21" North
Longitude:	75° 43" West
Elevation:	Approximately 370 feet (112 m)



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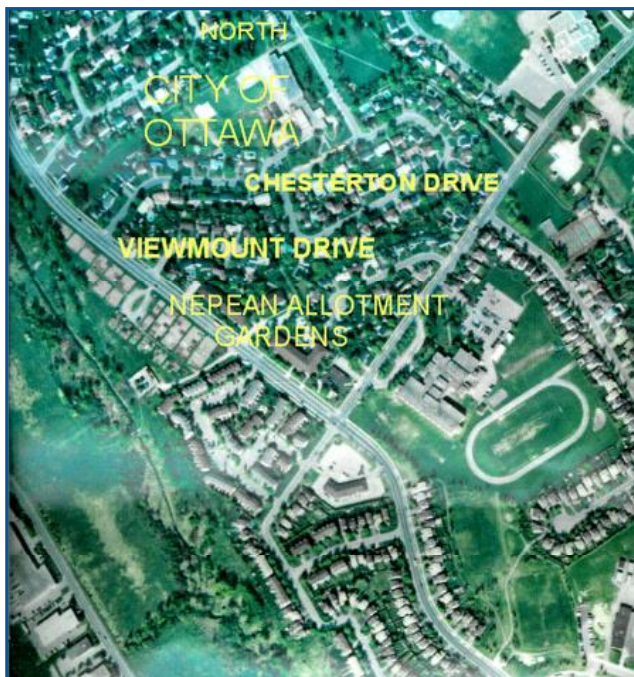


1. Background

During the 1960's and 1970's the City of Nepean (The City) opened the area for a housing development around Viewmount Park (The Park), the area where the gardens of the Nepean Allotment Garden Association are situated. The area of the Park is about 4 acres, of which 2.36 acres are under cultivation. Please refer to the Location Map. *Attachment No.1*. During the construction of the roads and streets The Park was used to dump fill, at least in the low spots, as pieces of concrete, asphalt and large rocks can be found near the surface every spring due to frost action.

I don't know when the City opened the Park for gardens. I was a gardener during the 1980's and at that time the gardens were well organized. See Plan/ Drawing (The Plan) of garden plots as they were in 2005: *Attachment No 2*. The plot dimensions, then and now, for the annual plots are: 20 feet by 30 feet, or 600 sq. ft; and for the perennial plots 20 feet by 15 feet or 300 sq.ft. There were no perennial plots when the City operated the gardens. City water is within reach of each plot by hose.

Nancy Rooyackers, a City employee, managed the issuing of garden permits, the collection of fees etc. When a problem occurred, Nancy was phoned to solve it.



Every spring and fall City employees looked after the gardens. In the spring they ploughed the gardens, planted numbered stakes to identify each plot, opened the water outlets and generally got everything ready for the gardeners by planting time, sometime around May 24. During the summer months the City mowed the grass and carried out maintenance as required. In the fall they ploughed the gardens again, turned off the water and generally cleaned up. It's necessary to turn off and drain the underground shallow pipes during the winter months to prevent them from freezing.

All this work needed City Resources. In 1990 the City charged \$48 to rent a plot. The rental fees were getting higher and higher. Due to the higher and higher fees, fewer and fewer gardeners were renting plots. Finally the subsidized cost of \$100 per plot became so high the City ceased granting budget support in 1991.

This stoppage prompted an outcry from many gardeners. The City listened to the gardeners concerns and agreed to hold a Public Meeting on March 19, 1991.

The following is a list of the exchanges of correspondence, in chronological order, amongst the principal officials leading up to the Garden Association Public Meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 1991.

1.1 Exchanges of Correspondence

I am listing the exchanges of selected correspondence to give the City Officials, and others, recognition for their leadership and insight.

1990, December 1 In a letter from the Nepean Parks and Recreation Department, Nancy Rooyackers sent notices. *Attachment No. 3* to "Dear Gardeners". "Even though it might be a little out of season for gardening it's essential that we take care of leasing the garden plots for 1991." The letter contains information on fees for plots and other details.

1990, December 20 In a letter from the Nepean Parks and Recreation Department, Nancy Rooyackers sent



1. Background

out letters to the gardeners who had already applied for their 1991 plots. The letter in part states: "At a recent City of Nepean budget deliberation, Nepean City Council was forced to make some cutbacks to the 1991 Parks and Recreation budget. One of the programs that did not receive budget support was the Allotment Garden Program; therefore the Recreation Department will no longer support this service."

[Attachment No. 4](#)

1991, January 1 In a letter to Mr. Casey, City Councillor, Al Martin makes a strong pitch to have the City of Nepean continue the garden program. My copy of this letter is so degraded, it will not scan.

[Attachment No 5](#)

1991, January 24 In a memorandum to R.J. Sulpher, Commission of Parks and Recreation from Les Casey, Councillor, Merivale Ward. The memo states, "I am in receipt of a letter from Al Martin of 22 Kilmory Crescent expressing concerns about the allotment garden program and recent budget cuts in this regard. A copy is attached for your information. I would be interested in your comments in this regard": [Attachment No 6](#). The author does not have Mr. Sulpher's reply.

1991, January 31 In a letter to Mr. A. Martin, Les Casey addresses "your concerns regarding the closing of the allotment gardens." One of the reasons quoted, "For example, there were eighty plots available at the allotment site on Viewmount Drive and there were only fifty-four plots rented last year. The net loss on the operation of these gardens was \$5,484.00 which works out to a cost subsidy of \$100. per rental." The letter continues with other reasons why the City cannot justify the continuation of the allotment gardens. [Attachment No. 7](#)

1991, March 5 Al Martin received a letter from Paul Kemp, Director of Recreation, Nepean Parks and Recreation Department. One important paragraph is quoted. "The Department has received several phone calls from people interested in allotment gardens and although the City will not be getting back into operating allotment gardens, we will host a meeting on March 19 at 7:00 pm. at Nepean Civic Square to examine the possibility of forming an Allotment Garden Association." [Attachment No. 8](#).

1991, March 19 The notice of meeting was published in the local news paper, Clarion. [Attachment No. 9](#)

I attended the meeting along with many other people. I don't have the minutes of the meeting. I remember Paul Kemp being in favor of the gardens being run by a volunteer group similar to the Garden Association in the nearby City of Gloucester, which had been successfully operating for some ten years. He also said that the City requires all recreational activities be self-sufficient. Clearly the Allotment Gardens were not



Barbara Martin and husband Alan (still on crutches from a knee replacement operation) earlier in the year prepare their plot for planting. Al has worked this plot since 1988, and played a large role in the formation of the Nepean Allotment Garden Association in 1991. We are happy to report that Al is still gardening in the same plot with his wife in 2006.



1. Background

self-sufficient and to make them self-sufficient would cost the gardeners a fee that would be prohibitively high. Mr. Kemp indicated that the City would turn over the land at the Park with the existing wooden lockers and underground water system to such an Association for \$1.00.

At the recess, Ian Reid found Al Martin and Walter Saidak at the back of the room. These three veteran gardeners had a short meeting and decided to be the nucleus for such an association. Al Martin was chosen the spokesperson. When the meeting re-convened, Al Martin thanked Paul Kemp for his presentation and his suggestion was that the City would turn over the operation of the gardens to a non-profit volunteer group. He then said that if enough people present were interested in forming a volunteer Association that they meet in an adjoining room for a short ad hoc meeting.

About 15 people attended the ad hoc meeting. The meeting was successful; the group agreed to form a non-profit, volunteer Association to operate the gardens. The City would be free of its commitment to run the gardens, and the newly formed Association would run the gardens, assuming financial and other responsibilities for its continued operation. The newly formed Association had to work fast to have the gardens up and running for the opening of the gardening season around May 20th.

1.2 Meetings that took place to form the Nepean Allotment Garden Association

1991, March 25 Nancy Rooyakkers, a City employee, sent notices, "The first meeting of the Nepean Allotment Garden Association Steering Committee will take place at 7:00 PM." *Attachment No. 10*

Nancy Rooyakkers was allowed by the City to provide liaison between the City and The Garden Association. The Association was allowed to hold meetings in City board rooms free of cost.

To get the Association started, the Board of Directors was appointed by the members present for the period prior to the election of Board of Directors at an AGM. To help in the process, a steering committee was also appointed by the members present.

1991, March 25 Appointed Interim Board of Directors Meeting.



Walter and Pat Saidak harvesting produce from their garden.



1. Background

Chair: *Alan Martin*, Vice-Chair: *Walter Saidak*, Treasurer; *David Dickson*, Recording Secretary: *Nancy Rooyakkers*, Maintenance Directors: *Ian Reid and Bud Singh*, Publicity Directors: *Denis St-Jean & Jennifer Bernius*, Internal Communication: *Agne Salm*, New Site Development Director: *Wallace Clark*.

Since the first meeting on 25 March, 1991 was very important, I am including the minutes as [Attachment No. 11](#).

1991, March 27 Appointed Nepean Garden Association Steering Committee Members.

Chair: *Alan Martin*, Vice-Chair: *Walter Saidak*, Treasurer: *David Dickson*, Recording Secretary/ City of Nepean Representative: *Nancy Rooyakkers*, Maintenance Directors: *Ian Reid & Bud Singh*, Publicity Directors: *Denis St-Jean and Jennifer Bernius*, Internal Communications: *Ange Salm*, Registrar: *Rosaleen Dickson*, New Site Development Director: *Wallace Clark*.

1991, April 2 Interim Board of Directors Meeting.

Present: *Denis and Rachel St-Jean, David Dickson, Bud Singh, Rosaleen Dickson, Ian Reid, Betty Reid* (Observer), *Walter Saidak, Nancy Rooyakkers, Wallace Clarke and Jennifer Bernius*.



Gavine Eslave and his wife preparing their plot.

Walter shared the unfortunate news of Al Martin's illness to the group. Walter agreed to accept the Chair position in Al's absence. Rosaleen agreed to accept the Vice-Chair position.

Since the second Board of Directors meeting on April 2nd was very important, I am including the minutes as [Attachment No 12](#).

1991, April 8 Interim Board of Directors Meeting

Present: *Denis, Mary and Rachel St-Jean, Ange Salm, Jennifer Bernius, Ian Reid, David Dickson, Rosaleen Dickson, Betty Reid* (Observer)

Absent: *Walter Saidak, Alan Martin, Bud Singh, Wally Clarke*

In Walter's absence, Rosaleen agreed to Chair the meeting.

1991, April 11 A notice was sent to "Dear Gardeners" notifying them of an Annual General Meeting Monday May 6, 1991. [Attachment No.13](#).

1991, April 15 Interim Board of Directors Meeting.

Present: *Walter Saidak, David Dickson, Nancy Rooyakkers, Ian Reid, Denis St-Jean, Jennifer Bernius, Ange Salm, Rosaleen Dickson, Wallace Clark, Betty Reid, Mary, Denis and Rachel St-Jean*.

Absent: *Alan Martin and Bud Singh*.

Rosaleen agreed to chair the meeting since Al Martin was absent.

1991, April 25 Interim Board of Directors Meeting.

Present: *David Dickson, Walter Saidak, Rosaleen Dickson, Wally Clarke, Ange Salm, Betty Reid, Ian Reid, Denis St-Jean, Jennifer Bernius*.

Absent: *Alan Martin, Bud Singh, Rachel and Mary St-Jean*.



1. Background

Although it's not stated in minutes, I believe that Rosaleen chaired the meeting.

1991, April 26 Al Martin wrote a letter to The Recording Secretary, Nepean Garden Association saying that due to health reasons he is resigning from the Chair position and that he doesn't want his name to go forward for any executive position in 1991.

1.3 Elected Officials from 1991-92 through 2002-03 (The year I retired)

1991-92 Board of Directors elected at the May 6th, 1991 AGM.

Chair: *Walter Saidak*, Vice-Chair and Registrar: *Rosaleen Dickson*, Treasurer: *David Dickson*, Secretary: *Nancy Rooyackers*, Maintenance Directors: *Ian Reid and Bud Singh*, New Site Directors: *Ron Black and Wallace Clark*, Publicity Directors: *Jennifer Bernius and Denis St-Jean*, Phoning Committee: *Ange Salm, Mary St -Jean and Rachel St-Jean*.

1991, May 13 Board of Directors Meeting

Vice-Chair and Register: *Rosaleen Dickson*, Treasurer: *David Dickson*, Secretary: *Nancy Rooyackers*, Maintenance Director: *Ian Reid, Ange Salm, and Betty Reid*.

I believe, but not stated in minutes, that Rosaleen chaired the meeting.

Absent: *Denis St-Jean, Walter Saidak, Alan Martin* (resigned April 26), *Bud Singh, Mary and Rachel St-Jean*.

1991, June 10 Board of Directors Meeting

Chair: *Walter Saidak*, Vice-Chair and Register: *Rosaleen Dickson*, Treasurer: *David Dickson*, Secretary: *Nancy Rooyackers*, Maintenance Directors: *Ian Reid and Bud Singh*. New Site Director: *Ron Black*, Phoning Committee: *Ange Salm, Mary St-Jean*, Publicity Directors: *Jennifer Bernius and Denis St-Jean*. New Board Member: *Ron Black*

Absent: *Wally Clarke and Rachel St-Jean*.

Rosaleen welcomed Ron Black to the Board meeting.

1991, August 12, Board of Directors Meeting

Chair: *Walter Saidak*, Vice-Chair and Registrar: *Rosaleen Dickson*, Treasurer: *David Dickson*, Maintenance Director: *Ian Reid*, New Site Director: *Wally Clark*.

Absent: *Nancy Rooyackers, Bud Singh, Jennifer Bernius, Denis and Mary St-Jean, Ron Black*.



Bill Nye, the Chair Person since the year 2000



1. Background

1991, September 30, Board of Directors Meeting

Vice-Chair and Register: *Rosaleen Dickson*, Treasurer: *David Dickson*, Secretary: *Nancy Rooyakkers*, Maintenance Directors: *Ian Reid*: New Site Director: *Ron Black and Wally Clark*, Publicity Directors: *Jennifer Bernius*.

Absent: *Walter Saidak, Denis and Mary St-Jean, Ange Salm, Bud Singh*.

Walter Saidak was recovering from surgery and therefore was unable to chair the meeting. *Rosaleen* chaired the meeting.



Lorenzo Abalos, from the Philippines, watering his garden.

1992, February 24, Board of Directors Meeting

Vice-Chair and Registrar: *Rosaleen Dickson*, Treasurer: *David Dickson*, New Site Director: *Wally Clark* Publicity Director: *Jennifer Bernius*, Secretary: *Nancy Rooyakkers*, Phoning: *Ange Salm*.

Absent: *Ian Reid, Bud Singh, Mary, Denis and Rachel St-Jean, Ron Black*.

Rosaleen chaired the meeting and read a letter of resignation from *Walter Saidak* indicating that due to poor health and upcoming surgery he must resign from the Chair position.

1992-1993, Board of Directors Meeting

Notice: From 1992-93 through 2002-03, I'm listing officials elected to serve for the year in question. If you wish to know the names of officials that attended the meetings within the year, contact the author.

Chair: *Rosaleen Dickson*, Vice-Chair: *Ron Black*, Treasurer/Register: *David Dickson*, Secretary: *Nancy Rooyakkers*, Maintenance Director: *Ian Reid*, Directors: *Wallace Clark, Denis St-Jean, and Keith Hird*, Telephone Committee Chairperson: *Lila Hird*.

1993-94, Board of Directors Meeting

Chair: *Ron Black*, Treasurer: *Marjorie Harris*, Registrar: *Wendy Millar**, Secretary & City Liaison: *Nancy Rooyakkers*, Maintenance Director: *Ian Reid*, Directors: *Wallace Clark, Keith Hird, Roy Casorso, Lila Hird and Andrew Grainger.** Mentioned in Members' Bulletin- October 1993 "From the Chairman, *Ron Black*" "Wendy Millar as registrar" *I'm assuming that *Wendy* acted as Registrar for the year 1993-94.

1994-95, Board of Directors Meeting

Chair: *Ron Black*, Vice-Chair: *Roy Casorso*, Secretary and City of Nepean Liaison: *Nancy Rooyakkers*, Treasurer: *Marjorie Harris*, Maintenance Director: *Ian Reid* Registrar: *Wendy Millar*; Directors: *Keith Hird, Lila Hird, and Wallace Clark*.

1995-96, Board of Directors Meeting

Chair: *Ron Black*, Vice-Chair: *Roy Casorso*, Registrar: *Wendy Millar*, Secretary & City of Nepean Liaison, *Nancy Rooyakkers*, Treasurer: *Janice Schroeder*, Maintenance Director: *Ian Reid*. The Chair introduced two new Board members, *Janice Schroeder and James Bird*. *Jim Bird* will be coordinating the purchase of mushroom compost.



1. Background

1996-97, Board of Directors Meeting

Chair: *Ron Black*, Vice-Chair: *Jim Bird*, Treasurer: *Janice Schroeder*, Secretary and City of Nepean Liaison: *Nancy Rooyackers*, Registrar: *Mary St-Jean*, Maintenance Director: *Ian Reid*, Directors: *Denis St- Jean, Bill Nye and Barbara Hale*.

1997-98, Board of Directors Meeting

Chair: *Ron Black*, Vice-Chair: *James Bird*, Secretary and City of Nepean Liaison: *Nancy Rooyackers*, Treasurer: *Barbara Hale*, Maintenance Director: *Ian Reid*, Registrar: *Mary St- Jean*, Directors: *Denis St-Jean and Bill Nye*.

1998-99, Board of Directors Meeting

Chair: **Ron Black**, Vice-Chair: **Jim Bird**, Secretary & City of Nepean Liaison: *Nancy Rooyackers*, Treasurer: *Barbara Hale*, Maintenance Director: *Ian Reid*, Registrar: *Mary St- Jean*, Directors: *Denis St -Jean and Bill Nye*.

1999-2000, Board of Directors Meeting

Chair: Vacant, Vice-chair: *Jim Bird*, Treasurer: *Barbara Hale*, Maintenance Director: *Ian Reid*, Registrar: *Mary St-Jean*, Secretary and City of Nepean Liaison: *Nancy Rooyackers*, Directors: *Bill Nye, Denis St- Jean*.
Bill Nye assumed the position of Acting Chair later on in the season.

2000-01, Board of Directors Meeting

Chair: *Bill Nye*, Vice-Chair: *Denis St-Jean*, Secretary/City Liaison: *Nancy Rooyackers*, Maintenance Director: *Ian Reid*, Registrar: *Mary St-Jean*, Treasurer: *Biba Torlakovic*, Directors: *David Nott and Ahmed Zarrug*.

2001-02, Board of Directors Meeting

Chair: *Bill Nye*, Vice-Chair: *Denis St-Jean*, Secretary/City Liaison: *Nancy Rooyackers*, Maintenance Director: *Ian Reid*, Registrar:

Mary St-Jean, Treasurer: *Biba Torlakovic*
Director at Large: *Terry Ingratta*.

2002-03, Board of Directors Meeting

Chair: *Bill Nye*, Vice-Chair: *Denis St-Jean*, Secretary: *Elizabeth Nye*, City Liaison Officer: *Nancy Rooyackers*, Registrar: *Mary St-Jean* Treasurer: Maintenance Director: *Ian Reid*, Directors: *Terry Ingratta and David Nott*.

Since I resigned as Maintenance Director at the end of the 2002-03 season, I will not report on any more meetings beginning in 2003, as I am now out of the loop and don't have minutes of the Board of Directors meetings.

1.4 Significant events after the first meeting on March 25, 1991 to the end of 2002

1991-92

A membership period lasts from one AGM to the next AGM. The AGMs are held each spring; hence the period 1991-92 is a membership period, 1992-93 is another and so on.



Esmie and her daughter Diane picking raspberries in Ian's patch.



1. Background

Perennial gardens

Ian proposed an area of the garden that could be opened for perennial gardening. Perennial gardens are gardens where plants last for two years or more. Generally a renter keeps a perennial plot for extended periods. The renter is responsible for the care and upkeep of the rented plot in a husbandry manner. At present there are 68 perennial plots under cultivation. Perennial plots are in high demand, even though they are half the size and half the price of an annual plot.

Annual Gardens

An annual plot is classified as a plot where the plants have a life cycle of one year or one season. In the spring the annual plots are rototilled and in the fall they are ploughed. At the moment the Association has 121 annual plots under cultivation. The renter signs a license to maintain the plot (annual and/or perennial) in a husbandry manner. If the renter doesn't comply with this and other rules, the renter will be denied a plot the next year.

1.5 Getting the Allotment Gardens Started

- On April 1st, 1991, Al Martin wrote a letter to Mr. Sulpher asking for a start-up grant of \$1000.

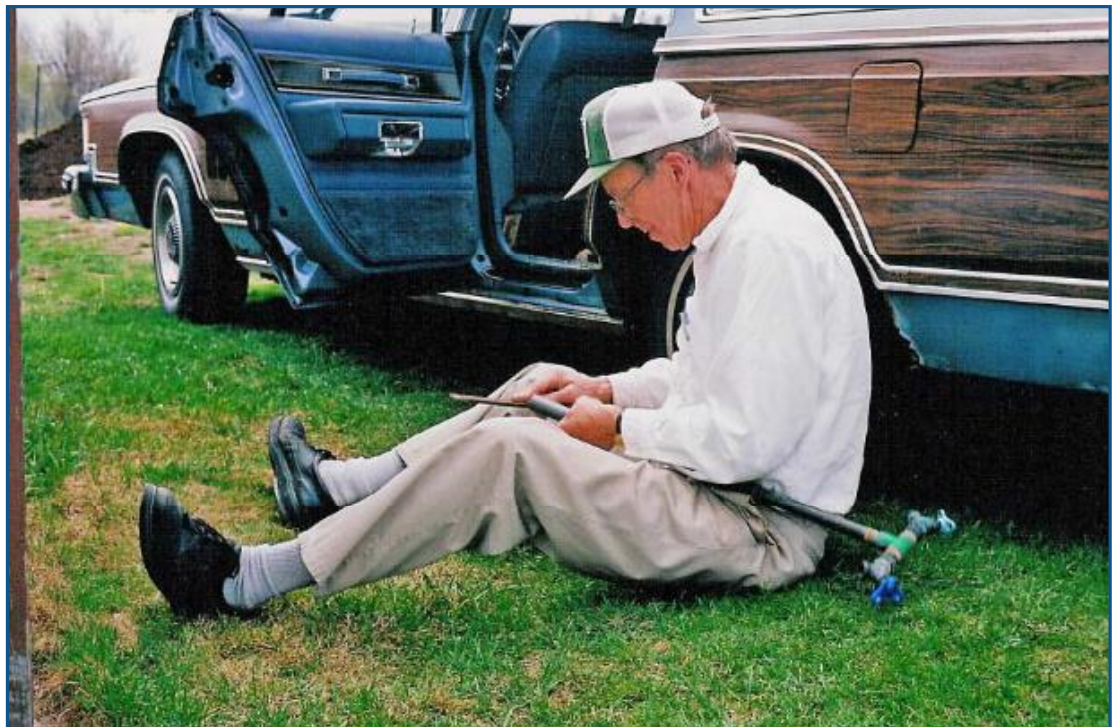
I can say that the City in due course transferred \$1000 to the Nepean Garden Association and the Association

transferred it back, with thanks, in 1993.

- Nancy congratulated the committee on their excellent newsletter prepared by Jennifer Bernius and Denis St-Jean.
- Rosaleen welcomed Ron Black to the Board meeting. Ron will be working with Wally Clark on the 'New Site Development Committee'.

I won't spend a lot of space on this subject, as a New Site was never developed. Today the land in question remains vacant growing in weeds. In addition, the underground watering system is deteriorating year by year.

Ron Black and Wallace Clark tried their best to convince the people in power to grant permission to open up what is known as the Knoxdale/Cedarview Site and the National Capital Equestrian Park. They wrote letters, met with high ranking officials, all to no avail. For one reason or another, permission was never



Carl Vuylsteke whose roots can be traced to Belgium is seen repairing a water pipe. Carl does a great job as do many of the other volunteers.



1. Background

granted to operate the 22 acre Knoxdale/Cedarview Site in the west end.

- Denis indicated that the press release had been distributed and the Clarion (local paper) had published the article. The CBC would be doing a report on their *"In Town and Out Show"*.
- Ian Reid investigated the cost of lawn mowers.
- Mr. John Garvin of the Parks and Recreation Department met with Ian Reid and Bud Singh, on site, to discuss the 1991 Gardening program at the Viewmount Park. The minutes are written as a Memorandum to all. The document sets out the duties and responsibilities of the Parks & Rec. Dept. and the Nepean Garden Association for the year 1991. Also, the line of communication with the Parks & Rec. Dept. with respect to garden maintenance will be through the Directors of Maintenance only. This meeting set a precedent, and the lines of communication were followed for the next 12 years. Ian called the Parks & Rec. Dept. to have the plots rototilled/ploughed each spring prior to the plots being opened, and again in the fall to have the plots rototilled/ploughed after the

garden season closed. It should be noted that the Parks & Rec Dept. charged the Association their regular fees for the ploughing and rototilling.

- Washroom Facilities: The Association still feels the cost of rental is still too high.
- Jennifer reported that Compost will be delivered to the site on Saturday for those gardeners who requested it at a cost of \$17 per gardener.
- The City gave the Association a building on the garden site which contained 10 small lockers. The Association is charging gardeners a \$5 rental fee per locker for the season.
- A discussion took place regarding the incorporation process for the Association. The incorporation is a lengthy one; David Dickson moved that the Association proceed with the incorporation at a later date (end of year).
- Ian explained the upcoming close-down procedures for the garden site.
- David mentions the potential of incorporation. It involves lengthy reporting to the province, but would protect liability as individual members of an organization.

1992-93

- On July 5th 1992, David Dickson passed away. A month or two earlier I met David at the gardens and he said "I'm going to beat this." He didn't beat the cancer and died suddenly of a brain hemorrhage while fighting the cancer. David was a great person and he contributed greatly to the Association, especially with the incorporation and By-Laws.



Nancy Rooyakkers and Al Bach admiring Al's garden.



1. Background

- Special thanks were extended to Keith and Lila Hird who cut the grass throughout the summer.

- I believe that the first Nepean Garden Association Member's Bulletin was produced in May, 1992. The headings are as follows: Greetings, Rocks, Water, Nepean Garden Association Regulations and Membership Fees- 1991, and a one page article, *Suggestions for a Weed Free Garden* by Ian Reid.

- In the October Member's Bulletin mention is made on the following: Fall Clean-up, Development of Viewmount Park, Beautiful Garden Contest, Roy Casorso and Don Fraser. Members of our Association won honourable mention in the vegetable garden category.

1993-94

- 131 plots rented.
- Keith repaired and repainted all the stakes.
- The plots will open on May 15 1993, on schedule.
- Ron Black published a news letter "Member's Bulletin October 1993". Ron covers topics on: Fall clean up procedures, Surplus Produce, Going south for the winter.
- Special thanks to Keith Hird, Ian Reid, Wendy Millar, Marjorie Harris and Nancy Rooyakkers.
- Roy Casorso has established a compost pile at the site for the gardeners.
- The Association ended the year with money in the bank. It's difficult to give an exact figure of how much money is in the bank because some outstanding bills may not have been paid.



Frank and Elizabeth Ernhofner, originally from Hungary, preparing their newly acquired perennial plot. Frank has been active over the years cutting grass with the push power.

- After much discussion Wendy Millar moved to formally approve the decision made by the board at the June 10th meeting to purchase a shed from Rooftops Company at a cost of \$1926.00. The size of the shed is 10 feet by 12 feet. The motion wasn't passed. Ian moved to approve the expenditure of \$1886.00 (which is \$1926.00 minus cost of lock, which the Association provided; not the contractor). Motion passed.
- Plots were rented as follows: 86 to Nepean Residents, 21 of which were seniors, 19 to Ottawa Residents and 26 perennial plots for a grand total of 131.
- Gardening season extended to October 31st of each year.
- In the proposed 1994 budget Ian requested that the Association purchase a riding lawn mower at a cost of \$2000.
- Roy Casorso started a perennial herb garden for use by all the gardeners. This effort wasn't too successful and the herb garden gradually petered out.



1. Background

1994-95

- Thanks to Carl Vuylsteke who contributed 24 hours of time cutting grass during the month of May.
- Two breaks in the waters system were repaired.
- Ian presented quotes for the purchase of a riding lawn mower.
- James Bird has volunteered to serve on the Board next year and to assist with maintenance.

1995-96

- The riding lawn mower was purchased for \$2660.
- Problems are arising with gardeners walking on plots rented by others. This is a 'no-no'. A few gardeners were asked to keep off rented plots, and not to take short cuts through plots rented by others.
- All the plots were rented and five people were on the waiting list. There were 113 Annual, 45 Perennial and 10 Lockers rented.
- The Association was on sound financial footing.
- Weeds were a problem. Late in the season an inspection of plots was made. If there was an excessive amount of weeds the renter was put on probation for a year. If the renter continued to have an excessive amount of weeds in the second year the renter was denied a license to garden. This system of weed inspection was carried out for a number of years, but gradually petered out. When a plot looked abandoned and was growing up in weeds, and not much else, Ian Reid usually cut the weeds with his own scythe.
- Ron expressed thanks to James Bird for painting the trim on the shed.



Biba Torlakovic, our Treasurer (2000), hails from Bosnia.

- The TV program that the Association was featured in, *Digging In*, was well done. The gardeners involved with the program were: Ian Reid, C.A. Wheatley, Barbara Hale and Cirino Martines.
- Ron read a letter from Rod Price, Naturalization Field Worker of the City's "Greening our Parks Program". After much discussion, Ian moved, Janice seconded, that the Association pursue obtaining the Three-Bin Composting System. Six Three- Bin Composting Systems were strategically located, and erected by Rod Price with volunteer help. I don't know the actual price, as Janice Schroeder was trying to obtain grants from companies interested in environmental programs.
- Ian moved, Janice seconded, that the Association pursue obtaining the Three-Bin Composting system.

1996-97

- Janice was successful in receiving a grant of \$700 from Canada Trust towards the purchase of the compost bins. A \$50 grant was also received from The Canadian Association. I have a note that each of the bins cost \$660.90, of which the Regional Municipality



1. Background

of Ottawa Carleton paid \$439.19 (66 2/3 % of cost). The net cost before factoring in the grants was \$1350. The net cost after factoring in the grants was around \$570.

- Orders for 40 cubic yards of mushroom compost have been received from gardeners. Jim Bird has volunteered to co-ordinate the mushroom compost program.

- Keith and Lila Hird resigned from the Board of Directors due to other personal demands.

- Groundhogs are living under the new shed. Gus Wegelin got rid of them by constructing a heavy wire barrier around the perimeter of the shed. The groundhogs ate through the first wire barrier.

- Diseases are appearing in the raspberry, and other annual and perennial plants. The gardeners have been asked to remove spent canes and other diseased plants, and to deposit the diseased plants in the garbage bins, not the compost bins. Because the plots are so small, gardeners tend to plant plants too close together, inhibiting the circulation of air and the penetration of the sun; both sun and air at soil level are crucial to prevent the growth of fungus and diseases.

- Janice Schroeder agreed to have her name listed as the contact person for the Association in the Spring/Summer Brochure.

- Barbara Hale coordinated the on-site plant exchange.

- New plot renters are limited to two plots (1200 sq. ft.)

- Letters were sent to negligent plot renters regarding the poor condition of their plot.

- Bill Nye has volunteered to organize the grass cutting for the 1997 season.

- The Chair at the AGM meeting proposed that the Association's name be changed to Nepean Allotment Garden Association. With the name change, it was thought that fewer telephone calls would be made to the Association by the public asking for information. This change should relieve Ron's wife by not getting so many phone call from the public.

- Jim Bird offered to co-ordinate the sale of mushroom compost in 1997.



Barbara Hale tending her perennial garden. Barbara is an enthusiastic gardener, being on the Board of Directors and looking after the plant swap.