



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*

Ian A. Reid

BSc (Forestry), University of New Brunswick

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



Table of Contents

1. Background.....	page 3
1.1 Exchanges of Correspondence.....	page 3
1.2 Meetings that took place to form the NAGA-.....	page 5
1.3 Elected Officials from 1991-92 through 2002-03.....	page 7
1.4 Significant events after the first meeting on March 25, 1991 to the end of 2002.....	page 9
1.5 Getting the Allotment gardens started.....	page 10
2. Allotment Garden Lay-Out.....	page 18
2.1 Staking the Allotment Gardens.....	page 19
2.2 Annual Gardens.....	page 19
2.3 Perennial gardens.....	page 21
3. Looking After the Allotment Garden.....	page 21
3.1 Ploughing and Rototilling.....	page 21
3.2 Seed Germination and Soil Temperatures.....	page 21
3.3 Compost.....	page 22
3.4 Grass Cutting	page 23
3.5 Shrubs.....	page 23
3.6 Newsletters/press release/Member's Bulletin.....	page 24
3.7 Crows, Groundhogs, Raccoons.....	page 24
3.8 What happens to all the produce?.....	page 25
3.9 A word about mulching lawn mowers.....	page 25
4. Retirement and Parting Thoughts.....	page 26
4.1 Retirement.....	page 26
4.2 Notes about myself.....	page 28
Credits.....	page 28
A. Reviews and Comments.....	page 29
B. Words from the Gardeners.....	page 30
C. By-laws Of The Nepean Allotment Garden Association.....	page 34
Attachments.....	page 34

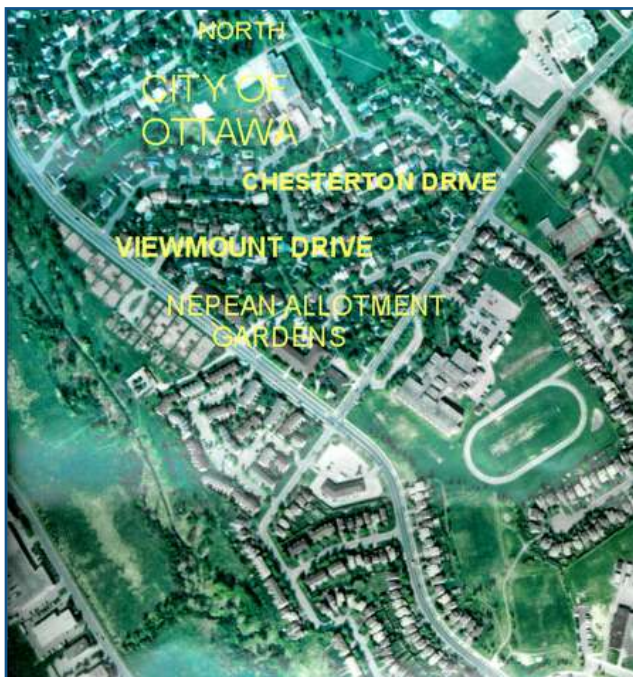


1. Background

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.



Attachment #1

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*

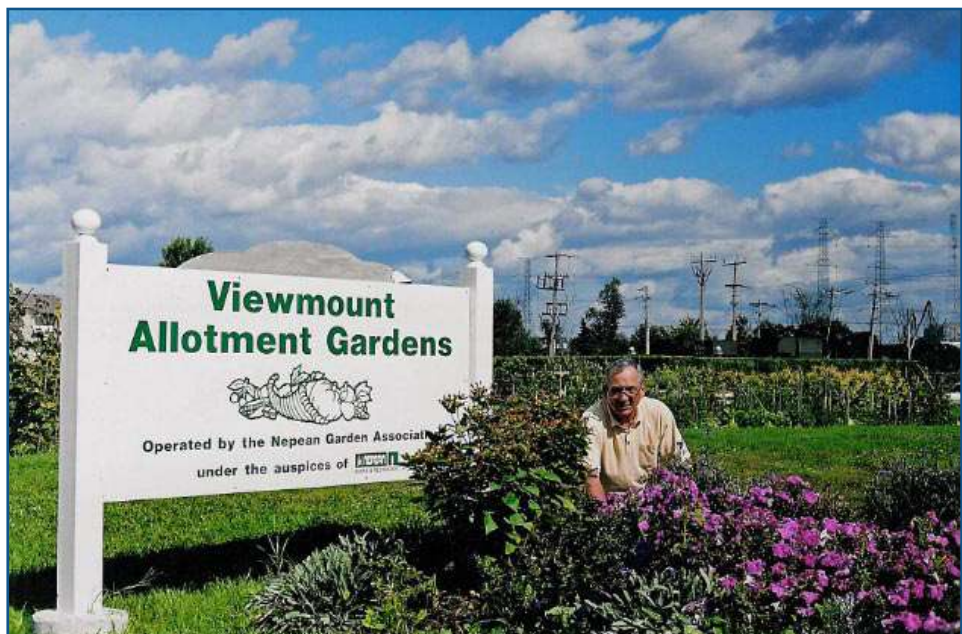
Absent: *Wally Clarke and Rachel St-Jean*.

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

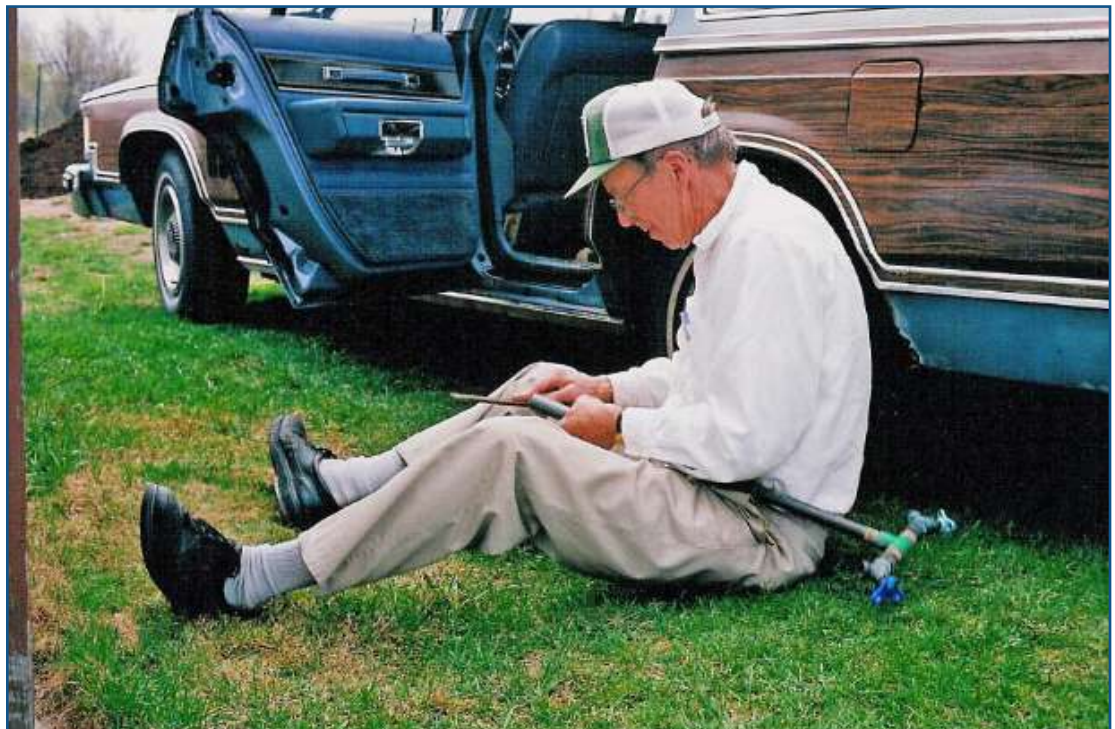
- On April 1st, 1991, Al Martin wrote a letter to Mr. Sulpher asking for a start-up grant of \$1000. I can say that the City in due course transferred \$1000 to the Nepean Garden Association and the Association

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 Rooyackers 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.



1. Background



Mary St-Jean a long time member of the Nepean allotment Garden Association and more recently the Association's Registrar.

1997-98

- Bill has recruited five or six persons to help cut the grass.
 - Janice and her husband are moving to Edmonton, June 19.
 - Barbara Hale has volunteered to be the new Treasurer.
 - A gas powered grass trimmer was purchased.
 - Ian recommended that some of the annual plots be divided in half, so that smaller size annual plots are available. A few half-size annual plots became available to satisfy the demand.
 - Vandalism and the stealing of produce is an ongoing problem. Sometimes the culprits are
- Denis St-Jean moved that the name of the Association be changed to Nepean Allotment Garden Association to reflect the true nature of the Association.
 - Mary St-Jean volunteered to be the new Register. Denis has volunteered to be a Director.
 - Keith Hird passed away while on vacation. Keith contributed his talents in many ways to the Association.
 - Gus Wegelin spent many hours constructing the chain link fence around the central compost bin. The bins have three compartments to be operated on a three year cycle. The compost from the 6 smaller bins is periodically stowed in the central bin. The trick is to get the proper air/water mixture to raise the temperature of the compost to kill all the diseases. In some cases this probably doesn't happen, and some of the diseases find their way back to the soil.
 - Bill Nye has been busy with the utility trailer, hauling corn stalks to the central composting bin and also adding layers of earth to help the composting go faster.



Denis St-Jean, an active Board member since the formation of the association in 1991.



1. Background

caught; other times, not. One person said, "These are community gardens, I am part of the community, so I'm allowed produce from the gardens." When I took his picture stealing produce, he got the message and disappeared. I usually walk around with a camera and cell phone in case things turn nasty. I was only threatened once and that was by a person who pointed a hunting knife at me from a distance in a threatening manner. He and his friend soon took off on their bicycles.

- Compost: Next year we could drop the price by \$2 a yard and still break even.
- The concept of Maintenance Committee worked extremely well. The committee consisted of: Gus Wegelin -Compost Bins, Bill Nye -Grass cutting, Carl Vuylsteke - Maintenance of Water System.
- Bill Nye suggested that the purchase of a rototiller be placed on the agenda for the 1998 AGM meeting Ron requested that Nancy forward a copy of the Association's By-Laws to all the Directors.



Charles Martines, originally from Italy, carefully preparing his plot for planting. Charles is noted for his good tomato crop.

1998-99

- Plant Swap! Barbara Hale, our Treasurer is again organizing this popular event.
- Ron Black informed the Board of Directors that he will not let his name stand for re-election at the 1999 AGM. Ron spent 6 1/2 years as the Chair and I think most people will agree that he and all the former Chairs did a wonderful job.

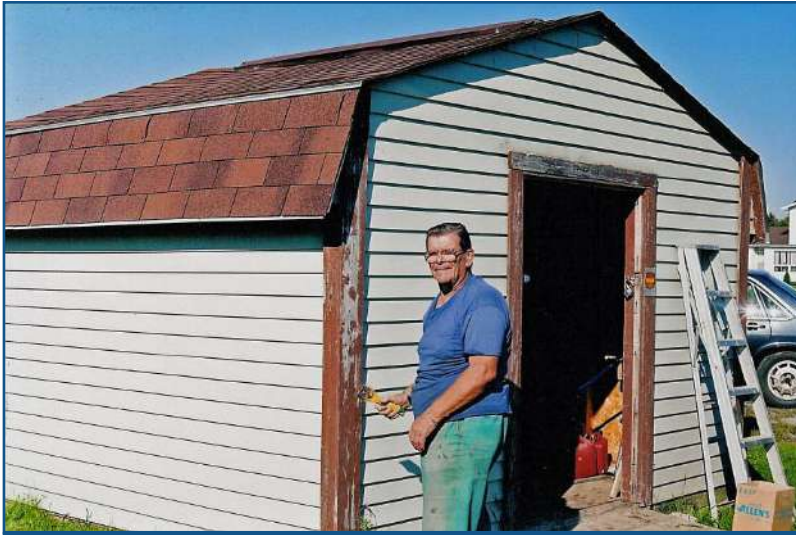


Mila Ganieve, from Russia, lovingly tending her garden.

- Al Martin moved that the Association be empowered to purchase a rototiller and be responsible for the maintenance and safe use of this equipment.
- Concerns were expressed about the age of the Association's lawn mower.
- Commercial gardeners are a problem! No one has seen Mr. Jimmy Yu. It is possible that he rented it on behalf of Mr. Ho. It was paid for by Lynn Lavoie. It is suspected that plots are rented for commercial purposes, even though it's strictly against the rules. One family is limited to 1200 sq. feet of land to be used by the family. It is difficult to monitor the



1. Background



Harold Nicholls getting ready to paint the shed.

number of plots certain gardeners are really renting, as it's suspected some gardener gets a friend to rent a garden who seldom, if ever, show up. One gets suspicious when certain gardeners are seen working gardens they didn't rent. Language is sometimes a problem. You can ask a question and receive a blank stare, as some gardeners don't understand English, or at least they pretend not to understand English when it's convenient for them to do so.

- A rototiller was purchased and rented to gardeners on a long term cost recovery basis.
- Jim Bird remarked that the delivery price of compost went up from \$57 to \$75 per cubic yard.
- Gus has done a lot of work with the central compost bin. The Association rented a chipper to grind up mostly corn stalks. Bill and Ian helped. Gus Wegelin masterminded the job.
- Bill Nye, Ian Reid and Denis St-Jean shared the grass cutting responsibilities.
- Carl Vuylsteke was responsible for the upkeep of the water system. One piece of pipe broke, and water ran for a whole day before being fixed.
- Jim Bird, on behalf of the Association, purchased

twenty-four, 6 feet long metal stakes to mark the corners of plots in the western section of gardens.

- The compost bins are increasing the spread of seeds/weeds. I think what is meant is that the compost taken from the bins contain seeds/weeds and they are mixed with the soil in the plots increasing the spread of seeds/weeds.
- The push mower is in poor condition and needs replacing.

1999-00

• Ian Reid, when out walking early in the morning, noticed that the shed door was unlocked. Upon further investigation it was determined that the Association's new rototiller and lawn mower had been stolen, a loss of some \$1500. Ian reported the loss to the police; unfortunately the stolen items were never recovered.

- Bill Nye and his wife Elizabeth started two flower beds, one at each side of entrance. Most of the flowers were donated by the Nye's.

2000-01

- At the Oct. 25th meeting David Nott moved that the Board of Directors meeting of May 24th be approved. Mary St-Jean seconded the motion.
- The City of Nepean repaired some damaged water posts. The others will be repaired later.
- The bills for the insurance, water and tilling are not in yet.
- Jim Koss was unable to maintain the compost site. Bill Nye took over the task.
- Harold Nichols and David Nott painted the garden shed.



2. Allotment Garden Lay-Out

- Ian and Denis cut the grass.

- Denis will review the By-Laws and make changes to be voted on at the next AGM.

2001-02

- The City of Nepean amalgamated with the City of Ottawa. Changes were made to the Association's By-Laws and other forms to reflect the changes.

2002-03

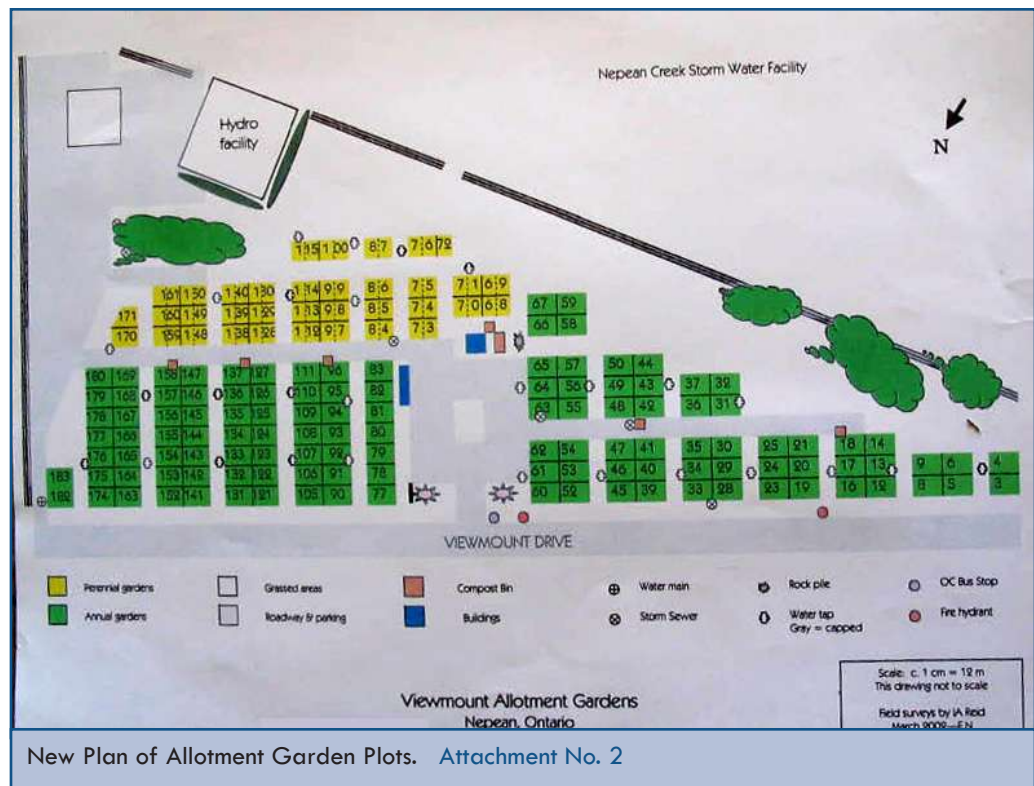
- At the AGM, the Chair, Bill Nye, reported that the City of Ottawa had generously taken financial responsibility for the cost of third party liability insurance for the Association; a saving of \$378.

- Due to City of Nepean staffing cuts, Nancy Rooyackers has been put under considerable strain to provide assistance to our group. Bill announced that a new Secretary, Elizabeth Nye, will take over the Secretarial duties. Nancy will continue as our valued City Liaison Officer.

- Denis St-Jean proposed that three picnic tables be purchased and be strategically placed for the enjoyment of the gardeners.

- Denis reported that the Association will not organize the sale of mushroom compost this year, as the cost is too high and fewer gardeners are purchasing the compost.

- Ian carried out field surveys to produce a new Plan/Drawing for Viewmount Park. Elizabeth Nye produced the Plan/Drawing on her computer. *Attachment No.2.*



- Mary St-Jean reported that there were 55 people on the waiting list for plots.

When the Association took over the gardens in 1991, the Association took over the City's plan of the plots as well. As time went by changes were made, especially in the perennial gardens, and the City's plan of plots became out of date and obsolete.

I surveyed the Viewmount Park area with rudimentary survey equipment in 2001. The idea was to produce a plan for mostly pictorial purposes, not necessarily to scale.

Ian prepared the sketch of area with the help of an aerial photograph the Association purchased from the Government. Elizabeth Nye took the information and produced this wonderful colored Plan/Drawing on her computer. E.N stands for Elizabeth Nye. All the pertinent features are noted in their correct location relative to one another. Since the gardens cannot be expanded more, this Plan should be current for years to come.



2. Allotment Garden Lay-Out



Alan Wheatley preparing his land for planting. Alan, for the most part, only waters to assist in the germination of seeds.

The day before, I carefully measured and planted a small stake every 20 feet distance from the NW corner of plot No. 77 to the SW corner of plot No.83. Then at the eastern boundary, I carefully measured and planted a small stake every 20 feet distance from the NE corner of plot No. 174 to corner of plot No. 180. By the way, most corners are identified with permanent 6 feet high metal stakes established by the City when they operated the gardens.

Now, we have stakes spaced 20 feet apart between the corner posts at plots 174 and 180, and the corner posts at plot 77 and 83.

2.1 Staking the Allotment Gardens Every Spring

This system evolved over time. I'll outline the system used at present:

Every spring pointed wooden stakes (1.5 inch x 1.5 Inch x 18 inches) were planted (From Late Latin: Plantare to plant, fix in place) at the left corner of each plot with its unique number. To find the plot in question, say plot No.145, face the plot and point your left hand at the stake 145. Your plot is 20 feet to the right of the stake, and extends to the next stake No. 146. And in depth, extends 30 feet to a stake. A plot has 4 stakes to define its four corners. Usually, the renter defined the plots boundary/perimeter by string, strung between corner stakes.

So, we have 121 stakes to identify the plots, and another 84 unmarked stakes of various sizes to mark the depth (30 feet) of plots. Please refer to plan of gardens.

2.2 Annual Gardens

I usually organize the staking of the annual plots to identify the exact location of each of the 205 stakes.

I have a big spool (1800 feet) of binder twine that Nick Raina donated. I simply walk in a straight line from the stake located 20 feet north of metal stake 83 to the stake 20 feet north of metal stake 180. I continue to lay down string at each 20 foot intervals, so that all the eastern portion of the gardens are covered. With the Plan in hand, the appropriate numbered stake is planted to identify the plots in a north- south direction, but not in an east- west direction (depth of 30 feet).

Now, we have stakes planted identifying plots in a north/south direction, but not in an east-west direction i.e. the depth (30 feet). The following procedure evolved to locate the position of stakes to identify plots in an east-west direction.

I mentioned that there were metal stakes at most corners: e.g. NW corner plot 163, NE corner plot 174, SE corner plot 180, SW corner plot 169, and so on. A string is looped over, say metal stake 174, then it's taken to metal stake at 163, and the string is marked and then back to the marked point on the string at metal stake 174. The loop halfway between the metal stakes divides the plots in half, and that's where the stake separating plots 174 and 163 is planted. The mid- point should be 30 feet exactly from metal stakes marking the corners of plots 163 and 174. It's usually not exactly 30 feet, but it doesn't matter, as the plots



2. Allotment Garden Lay-Out

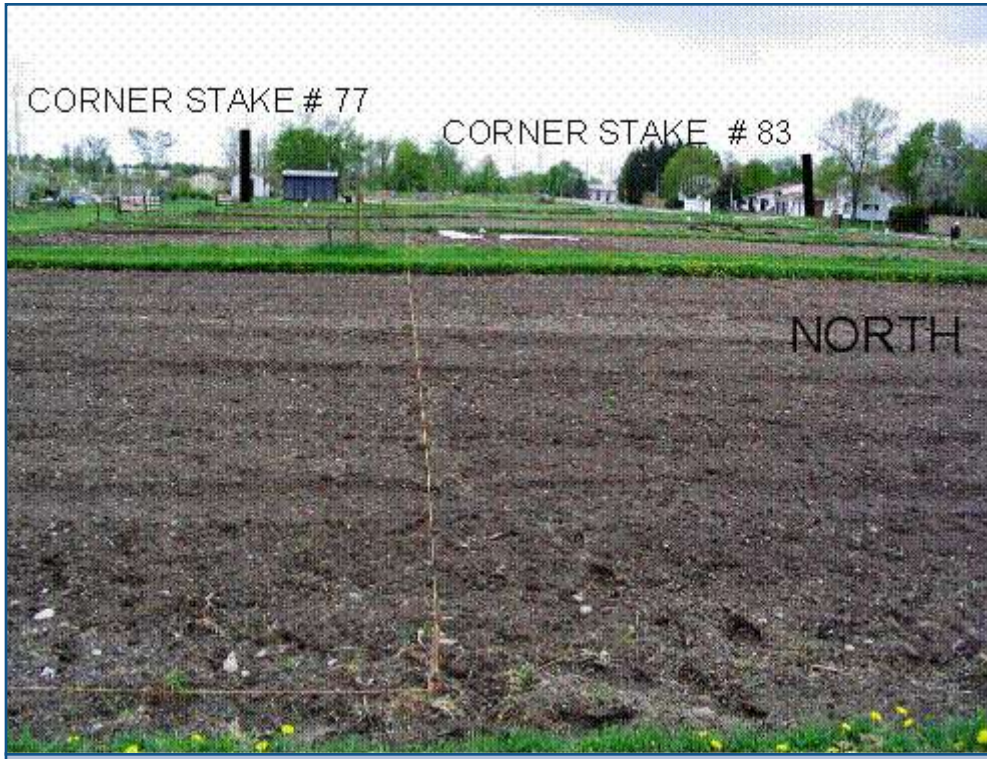


Figure 1 String is strung to mark plot boundaries in a north-south direction.

Note: The stakes shown in the image are computer generated.

The white material visible in the distance is clear plastic to heat soil prior to planting sweetpotatoes. The line is not straight as shown. It was straightened prior to planting marker stakes.

To fill the increasing demand for annual plots, the Association opened an area of land in circa-2000 for four plots where there were no corner stakes to use as a guide in setting the stakes to define the plot boundaries. In an open field it is almost impossible to establish plots with square corners by the naked eye. In

174 and 163 are divided in half, so the gardeners have nothing to complain about.

The same procedure is carried out between metal stakes 180 and 169. Then one volunteer stands behind the stake between 174 and 163, and by eye, looking at the planted stake between 174 and 163, directs another volunteer to plant the stakes to mark the east-west boundaries for plots backing onto one another. This procedure is repeated until all the plots are identified with marked stakes. Usually, with some experienced gardeners on hand, the staking takes the better part of a day.

At the end of the gardening season on October 31, all the stakes have to be removed, cleaned, repaired and stored for next year. I usually removed all the stakes on a nice sunny day, just prior to the official closing date, and dump them, in batches, into a wheelbarrow full of water and clean them, one by one, with a steel wire brush.

order to establish the plots with square corners without the use of Transits, I used the formula: $\text{hypotenuse}^2 = \text{base}^2 + \text{perpendicular}^2$. The hypotenuse therefore equals the square root of $(\text{base}^2 + \text{perpendicular}^2)$. Consider the following example. The base equals 60 feet and the perpendicular equals 40 feet. Using the formula above for right angle triangles, we have $(40^2$



Containers of water warming in the sun.



3. Looking After the Allotment Garden

$+60^2$) equals $(1600+3600)$ equals 5200. The hypotenuse, therefore, equals 72.1 feet, the square root of 5200..

I then form a right angle triangle on the ground using the above numbers using string and screwdrivers to hold the ends of the string in place. With the appropriate lengths of string for the three sides, I lay out the string measuring 40 feet, 60 feet and 72.1 feet respectively, I know that a right angle triangle is formed. I repeat the same procedure for the adjacent triangle and we have a rectangular plot measuring 40 feet by 60 feet with square (90°) corners. Please note that the hypotenuse is common to each triangle. This area is further subdivided into four plots each measuring 20 feet by 30 feet. Stakes are then planted at the corners to define the four plots.

I didn't keep track of the volunteers who helped with the staking over the years, but the following volunteers come to mind: Jim Bird, Frank and Elizabeth Ernhofer, Merv Brown, Al Bach and Kazimierz Senkowski.

2.3 Perennial Gardens

Staking the perennial gardens was a different matter, as there were no metal corner stakes to use as a guide. Please refer to Plan, [Attachment No. 2](#), for reference.

In staking the Perennial gardens, I strung a string from plot 170 to 73, which I used as a base line. The plots were located by a combination of accurate measurements by a tape and lining in the plots by eye. Nothing fancy, some string and a couple of screwdrivers to anchor ends of string. Some of the plots were made square by the formula Hypotenuse = Square root of $base^2 + perpendicular^2$.



City Tractor Rototilling gardens –spring 1996.

3.1 Ploughing and Rototilling

The City ploughs the garden in the fall after the garden season ends on Oct.31st for a fee. Prior to the gardening season opening around May 15th, the City rototills the gardens for a fee.

3.2 Seed Germination and Soil Temperatures

Normally, like most gardeners, I moisten the seeds and transplants with the conveniently located cold city water from taps. I don't know the temperature of the water around May 24th when most of the planting is done. I periodically test the water by hand and find it very cold to the touch, probably around 50° F.

This spring, 2006, I warmed several containers full of water in the sun and used this warm water around 3 PM, rather than the cold tap water, to moisten the seeds and transplants after planting. I noticed a real difference in the shorter time it took the seeds to germinate, and the higher percentage of seeds that germinated.



3. Looking After the Allotment Garden



Jim Bird overseeing the distribution of Mushroom Compost; usually 4 wheelbarrows per annual plot (600 sq. feet)

not allowed to wash their cars from garden taps.

The volunteers who looked after the water systems were: Keith Hird, Carl Vuylsteke, Ian Reid and Bill Nye. In later years, Carl did most of the work involved with the water system. This included: repairing broken and leaking pipes, repairing damaged washers, and replacing broken taps and tap handles.

This exercise clearly shows that it's best to use sun warmed water from containers to moisten newly sown seeds to obtain optimum germination in the shortest period of time.

Many gardeners also use cold city tap water when transplanting garden vegetables. I believe that transplants will do much better when sun-warmed water is used on the transplants, rather than cold city tap water.

Water

As mentioned, the Association inherited the water system that the City had before 1991 when the Nepean Garden Association was formed. Each garden is within reach by hose of a water outlet.

The Association is responsible for turning the water on in the spring, and off in the fall. All the pipes in the system are near the surface and are subject to freezing. The City charged the Association for the amount of water used (metered). Rules were made to use the water judiciously. For instance, the hose must be hand held; no sprinklers or soakers, and people were

3.3 Compost

Mushroom Compost

Mushroom compost was purchased for the gardens until the cost of transportation became prohibitively high.

The concept of adding mushroom compost in the beginning was very popular, but gradually its popularity petered out, as it was hard to measure its cost effectiveness. The names associated with the handling of mushroom compost were Jennifer Bernius, Jim Bird and Denis St-Jean.

Many weeds end up in the compost bin. Under optimum conditions the temperature, according to articles in Google, reaches near 160° F (70° C). At these temperatures most weed seeds are killed. The temperatures probably don't reach 160° (70° C) in the Association's compost bin, so it's possible that some weed seeds survive to be spread in the garden plots along with the compost. I can say that the compost is very popular and disappears quickly after the compost gate is opened.



3. Looking After the Allotment Garden

Garden Compost

The words “garden compost” have come up several times previously. I’m listing the names that come up most often in connection with organizing the garden compost: Roy Casorso, Gus Wegelin, Bill Nye and Ian Reid.

3.4 Grass Cutting

Grass cutting is a big job. Every spring the new growth grows fast and has to be cut once or twice a week. As the summer progresses the grass doesn’t grow so fast, so it doesn’t need to be cut so often. To cut the whole garden area takes four to five hours with the riding mower. I figure that it takes at least 100 hours a summer to keep the grass cut. Prior to getting the riding lawn mower in 1995, the grass was only cut around the garden plots. Post the purchase of the riding mower, the Association cut the grass for the whole park area. Many people from the neighboring area walk in the park, enjoying the scenery and park benches provided by the Association. The names mostly associated with grass cutting are: Keith and Lila Hird, Ian Reid, Bill Nye, Harold Nicholls, Carl Vuylsteke, Denis St-Jean, Lorenzo Abalos, Sonny Fernandez and Frank Ernhofer. In recent years Frank has cut a lot of grass by cutting one swath close to the plots with the push mower, and I come along cutting between the swaths with the riding lawn mower.

3.5 Shrubs

I’m making just a short note about the shrubs planted in 1991. A lengthy account can be found in the Clarion dated Friday June, 2002. The gardens border on the Nepean Creek Storm Water Facility. During the summer of 2001, the National Capital Commission planted many trees and shrubs to beatify the area. The summer of 2001 was very dry, and the watering truck was kept busy night and day watering the recently planted trees/shrubs.

There were a bunch of 50 or more shrubs stored in pots in a shady area along a paved path one to two km. distance from the gardens. These shrubs were dying for lack of water. I started to water the live ones from a pail that I carried on my bicycle. Soon after, I asked a person in charge if I could plant the abandoned shrubs



Jim Koss grows Hardneck Garlic in his perennial plot. Here, he has about 100 bulbs. One bulb, on the average, contains about six cloves. For next year’s crop, Jim will keep about 16 bulbs, leaving 84 bulbs or about 500 cloves for consumption over winter. Not a bad rate of return!

in the gardens. He said “yes”, so I carried the 25 or so live shrubs to the gardens and planted them in the green area by the Hydro facility. They are doing very well. The robins are eating the Saskatoon berries from the six Saskatoon shrubs before I can get them. If I want them, I’ll have to cover the berries with nets. The



3. Looking After the Allotment Garden

birds seem to know better than me when the berries are ripe.

Just in case the shrubs die in the next 20 to 30 years, I planted two Rock Maple trees at either end of the shrub patch to provide some shade and beauty, and later on some sap, for some entrepreneurial individual to make maple syrup.

3.6 Newsletters

Denis St-Jean for the most part was responsible for preparing and editing the newsletter, sometimes called Member's Bulletin or Press Release. Usually within each Newsletter there were articles on topical subjects by other gardeners including the Chairperson. The newsletters always contained a wealth of information useful to the gardeners. I'm making the suggestion that all the newsletters be bound together and distributed, especially to new gardeners, at the beginning of each gardening season.

3.7 Crows, Groundhogs, Raccoons

All these animals are looking for their share of the produce. The gardeners for the most part go to great lengths to keep these animals out of their plots.

Some gardeners trap the animals and transport them far away to, hopefully, greener pastures; others erect barricades so they can't enter their garden, hoping that they will give up trying, and find better and easier pickings further away.

In the case of crows, they love corn kernels. When the corn stalk gets two or three inches high, they grab the stem near the ground pulling the kernel out for a tasty morsel. They don't seem to take all the kernels, just enough for a few good feeds.

I've outsmarted the crows so far by constructing a string grid two feet above the ground, and with the string strung two feet apart between stakes. I believe

that the crows, if they land between the strings, know that they can't lift off without hitting the string with their wide wingspan. They haven't learnt yet how to land beside the string and walk in and out under the string for a tasty meal. When the corn is three or so feet high, I simply remove the string to let the corn grow unhindered.

After the corn matures, it's the raccoons and



Lee Coates in his perennial garden.



3. Looking After the Allotment Garden



Betty Reid picking Saskatoon Berries.

crows turn again to have a few meals. Raccoons seem to go after mature cobs. The crows also like mature cobs, but only if they have enough room to land on top of a cob. To out-fox them, I pick all the corn for my table, and my friends' tables, a little before maturity, and if there are still a few left, they are frozen and enjoyed when it's cold and snowy outside.

The groundhogs love broccoli. When the young ones are looking for a new den, they often find a new home in an unmolested sheltered area in a perennial or annual plot. It's not long after they establish their home when we notice the tender broccoli tops, and other nearby greens, eaten. When the well-hidden entrance is found, it's time to flush out the groundhog with water. When the animal is escaping, it usually receives a good whack on its rear end with a shovel, as a reminder not to return.

3.8 What happens to all the produce?

For the most part, family units consume the vegetable and fruit grown during the growing season. When there is a surplus, it is given to a charitable organization, canned, pickled, preserved, dehydrated, frozen or put

in a root storage room. One entrepreneurial gardener transplants his leek, after the garden closes, in his home garden covering it with a mound of deciduous leaves for use later on in the season.

A few gardeners transplant sweetpotato vines and grow them for food all winter. In the spring, the slips are ready to plant again.

Some gardeners eat the tender leaves of the Pig Weed, a member of the Amaranth Family (Amaranthaceae). Pig Weeds, if not controlled, are a great nuisance. There are several native varieties of Pig Weed: Redroot pigweed, (*Amaranthus retroflexus* L.), Green pigweed (*Amaranthus powellii* S.) and others. Now Chinese and Jamaican varieties are appearing. The Jamaican

variety, called spinach by some, is highly prized by the people from the Caribbean, as the leaves are large, possibly genetically modified.

During the growing season there is a fair amount of plant trading. You give a sample of something and generally receive another sample in return.

3.9 A word about mulching mowers and mowers with discharge chutes

Mulching lawn mowers, according to the White Outdoor Owners manual OGRM-003, are equipped with blades that reticulate the cut grass beneath the cutting deck. The clippings are then forced back into the ground, where they act as natural fertilizer.

This is an excellent concept but in order for it to work properly, according to the Manual, there are conditions that must be followed:

1. Never mulch a lawn when it is wet, as the wet grass tends to stick to the underside of the cutting deck.
2. Do NOT attempt to mulch more than 1/3 the total height of the grass. E.g. If the grass is three inches high, set the cutting blades at two inches.



4. Retirement and Parting Thoughts

3. Maintain a slow ground speed by using a low forward gear setting and set the throttle in the fast (rabbit) position so the cutting blades travel at maximum RPM.

Volunteers cut the grass. If the volunteers are asked to abide by the above restrictions, I'm afraid that the grass would NOT be cut at all. I strongly recommend using lawn mowers with side chutes.

In early 1993 a volunteer gardener was cutting very long grass in the early morning with the mulching riding lawn mower. Grass got stuck in the blades, stopping them, but not the motor and belts. The belts kept spinning until finally they burnt out, and then the motor was eventually stopped. It took a long time to repair the riding lawn mower, so I started mowing the grass again with the push mower until the riding lawn mower was repaired.

Later on in the season, I hit a rock hidden under a squash leaf at full throttle and cracked the housing of the riding lawn mower, rendering it unserviceable.

In early 2003 this damaged mower was traded in on a new riding lawn mower. I've mowed the grass exclusively with it without problems to the middle of the 2006 season.

4.1 Retirement

I retired at the end of the 2002 gardening season, after 12 years on the job as Maintenance Director. Early in 2003 I received a call from a local Nursery saying that the Vice-Chair of the Nepean Allotment Garden Association has paid for a shrub as a retirement gift. Would I like to select it? I went over to the Nursery, and not only selected the Japanese Lilac, but took it to the gardens and planted it amongst the other shrubs.

I will say that my background, experience, personality and talents made me an ideal candidate for the position of Maintenance Manager. I never aspired for another position. Wear and tear has taken its toll on my 79 year old Board of Director's body, so now it's time to take it easy, but not to the point that atrophy sets in.

How many hours did I volunteer at the gardens? It's hard to estimate, but I think its well over a thousand hours. Did I make money? No, I'm out-of-pocket. I used to run errands sometimes as far away as Carp (40km) buying gas, oil, and parts for equipment etc.

Taking everything into consideration, the NAGA provided me with many enjoyable times. I met a lot of nice people and produced many vegetables for my table, and for the tables of my friends.



Weeds, when a garden is left unattended weed grow like crazy. Here Ian Reid is using his own brush scythe to get rid of them.



4. Retirement and Parting Thoughts

Thanks largely to David Dickson, and the other Board of Directors at the time, the Association has a Constitution that covers all foreseeable eventualities. With the Constitution and the rules and regulations passed at various AGMs over the years, the present Board of Directors have the tools to effectually manage the Nepean Allotment Garden Association in a business-like manner.

I want to thank the then City of Nepean officials on behalf of the Association for their vision and leadership, especially Paul Kemp, for having trust in the initial three persons; Al Martin, Walter Saidak, and myself, Ian Reid, who took on the task and responsibility of forming the Nepean Allotment Garden Association at the Tuesday, March 19, 1991 meeting. Fifteen years later the gardens are doing fine, with a healthy balance sheet, and a waiting list for plots. It has turned out to be a wise move for both the City and the Association. I feel confident that the gardens are in good hands and will flourish for years to come.

I first prepared the first rough draft of the History in 2000. Since some of data was missing from my files, I borrowed Ron Black's and Al Martin's files with the idea of returning them when a History was published. Nancy Rooyakkers was to be the co-author. I took everything to Nancy for her to work on in her time, but because of her heavy work load and other commitments, Nancy wasn't able to come up with a finished product.

As events unfolded it is probably best that the History of the Nepean Allotment Gardens under joint authorship hasn't been published, as I was able to include in this, my version, items only possible from on-the-job, on-site experience. The joint version, when published, should fill in the gaps I've left out.

Thank you and happy gardening!

Ian A. Reid



Ian on his way to cut grass. It takes about 5 hours to cut the grass, the push mower is used to cut the grass where the riding mower can't go. The gas grass trimmer is used to cut the grass where neither the riding mower nor the push mower can go.



4. Retirement and Parting Thoughts

4.2 A Few Notes About Myself

- Ian A. Reid is Author or Co-author of 58 work-related reports in the National Library of Canada.
- Ian A. Reid is the Author or Co-author of numerous work related papers and articles presented nationally and internationally on the subject of Satellite Telemetry and Glaciers in Canada.
- Author of *My Story*, a Memoir, self- published in full color and in PDF format.
- Author of *My Experience Growing Sweetpotatoes Summer 2005*, in booklet and PDF format in full color.
- Author of *My Second Year Growing Organic Sweetpotatoes 2006*, in booklet and PDF format.
- Co-author of article entitled *Waterfalls*, Published in The Canadian Encyclopedia, Second Edition, Volume IV, page 2282.
- I am proud of the fact that the name “Reid” (my name) appears 17 times in the following publication: *Glaciers of North America- GLACIERS OF CANADA- --- History of Glacier Investigations in Canada* by C. Simon L. Ommanney.
- Satellite Image Atlas of *Glaciers of the World*. Edited by Richard S. Williams, Jr., and Jane G. Ferrigno.
- U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 1386-J-1.
- Web address:
<http://pubs.usgs.gov/prof/p1386j/history/history-lores.pdf>



Ian A. Reid

Credits

I wish to thank Betty, my wife, for her diligent work and proofreading.

Thanks to my sisters: Nancy Waters and Muriel Tucker and niece Fiona Waters for their editing and proofreading.

Thanks to my nieces: Susan (Sue) and Claire Waters for their professionalism in producing this valuable document.

Image (Photo) Credits: Ian A. Reid

Thanks to Jennifer Bernius for compiling *Words from the Gardeners*.

Also, I want to recognize Walter Saidak and Al Martin for their input surrounding the Garden Association Public Meeting on March 19, 1991. I haven't seen a written account of the meeting; the account given is from our combined memory.

Layout: Seven of Nine Design
Susan Waters, Owner



Note: This is a sweetpotato blossom.



A. Reviews and Comments

June 25, 2006

"Ian, I have read the first draft manuscript and believe the information and sequence of events described relevant to the creation of Nepean Allotment Garden Association are correct. It's a good story and I congratulate you for the work you have put into it."

Signed by Al Martin.



Dear Ian

July 18, 2006

I have now read your history through. It is all factually correct as I remember things from my time on the Board.

Thank you for taking the time to put this information together.

Your account reveals just how many people have been involved over the years to ensure that the activity we all love and enjoy can be carried out year by year. I am glad I was involved and could help out, but equally glad that others took up the torch when I decided to step back.

Ron Black

Ian,

As I indicated, my latest editing contract is taking up much of my time, so I won't be able to review your story. As you requested, though, here is my contribution to your "comments" section:

Oscar Wilde wrote, "The Book of Life begins with a man and a woman in a garden." The quiet pleasure of planting seeds and watching them grow and thrive is as intrinsic to us as the wonder of witnessing the ocean's tides. Both satisfy the soul. As long as there is a garden there will be refuge from strife and want.

Denis St-Jean, founding member

Dear Ian,

Thank you for letting me have an advance glance at your meticulous account of the gardening project. David Dickson, my husband, was deeply involved in the entire process. He was the gardener, also engaging other members of our family, and I also took a keen interest because it was so important to David.

My contribution to the organization was to maintain a register of members on the Internet, which had just been introduced to Ottawa early in the 1900s, and also by chairing many of the meetings. David accepted the role of treasurer. As a Chartered Accountant, this task fell to him in various groups to which we belonged.

His sudden death, caused by a brain hemorrhage while fighting cancer, ended our gardening forever. I greatly appreciate the work you have done to revive the memories.

*Thank you,
Rosaleen*



B. Words from the Gardeners...

The following commentaries were compiled by Jennifer Bernius, I think in 1998.

Thank you Jennifer for letting me include this.

When I plant something, I get what I like. I like to eat what I plant. It means a lot to grow my own vegetables. I've been in the garden association for three years now.

I like gardening; it helps me relax. I don't mind the hard work—I enjoy it! I have both an annual and a perennial plot. I especially love chard and spinach, which I freeze along with tomatoes, eggplant and everything else except cabbages.

Even now in February, I'm still eating my vegetables. The only ones I buy are cabbage and lettuce. I have a big freezer for my vegetables. So the garden means a lot to me because I don't have a lot of money.

Another favorite of mine is black-eyed beans, which I grow as I used to in Uganda. I like the leaves from them, as I use them as Spinach.

Ester Okwir



In some spots a gas grass trimmer is useful. Otmir Okwir, a native of Uganda, hard at work. Lots of material flies around when using the trimmer, hence the safety glasses.

I enjoy gardening, especially the perennial plots. I have two of them and one annual plot. I've planted garlic and leeks, and pick broccoli until freeze-up. I've got josta-- a cross between a gooseberry and blackcurrant. It's spineless!

I feel relaxed in the garden, even when I'm weeding. The plots are convenient to me. I've gardened there for seven years. I also enjoy other gardeners.

Last year. I had mostly squash and sunflowers in my annual plot. I put dry grass clippings on the seeds after I plant them, and that helps keep the birds away. Also it's good mulch.

Eve Cadeau

My favorite thing is flower gardening, but I love vegetables. I love gardening! It's my hobby. My husband and I were born in Poland, and we both grew up on a farm. We share the garden plot. We go to the garden to relax. We work to get healthy organic food. We have two teenage kids and have shown them how to garden. They help us.

Wieslawa Moskal



B. Words from the Gardeners...

Well, I was born and raised on a farm, and the earth is very important to me. Since I was about 5 years old, I always had a garden either growing flowers or vegetables. At school, kids had to work on a collective farm in the Ukraine during harvest, picking potatoes or beets. And in summer, we had to pick potato beetles. They paid us 1 kopek, about 10 cents for a can of beetles!

Gardening is a form of relaxation and a way to give back to nature what I've taken for so many years. I'm making the earth better, tending it naturally. It's like my little piece of paradise! I don't really need the vegetables --- I could buy them---- but I grow them anyway. They're natural, no pesticides on them. I tend my garden and it gives me back 10 - fold what I give it. It makes me relax and helps my mental state.

María Lachowich



My husband Luigi, loves to garden. He feels that planting and digging is a man's job. But when the plants come up, I help with the watering. No have to do what she says. She decides what to grow, e.g. the beans and tomatoes. I help her. She is very smart in the garden---How, what and when. Both of us were born in Italy and have lived in Canada about 40 years.

Rosa Petruzzi

Regretfully, owing to my changing circumstances, I have had to leave my garden plot which I nurtured for many years. Now the garden will be in the hands of others, who, I hope, will nurture it as I have.

I have enjoyed my association with other gardeners, whom I found very friendly and always willing to share their expertise.

What a relief it was to work in the garden, with the birds all around and the open sky above! On hot days, I didn't have to stay at home but could be in the garden where there was always a breeze. And I could chat with my friend in the plot next to mine.

Every year, I was amazed at the abundance of vegetables I got from my garden. Although I used no pesticides, I had very little trouble with bugs. And I always had the added satisfaction that my produce was organic and much tastier than store-bought vegetables.

Altogether, it was a blessing to be part of the garden association which I joined right from its beginning.

Ange Salm

It is OK. No problem. A garden is a garden, a piece of land and that's it. You can plant anything you want. I like it because it is close to my house, only a block away. I put in lots of chicory, tomatoes and cucumbers. I have had garden plots since the beginning of the garden association.

Salvatore Imperiale



B. Words from the Gardeners...

My wife, Sonia, and I started gardening since the association began. Although we missed about three or four years, we've gardened for the past six or seven years. I'm half Italian and half Hungarian, and my wife has a Ukrainian background. We were both in Canada and have a farming background.

I find gardening there was enjoyable. We have a yard at home but it has too much shade. My wife tends to grow flowers in her perennial plot. One advantage of the plots is there is no shade. Also the availability of water. We have been fortunate in not having much vandalism. Less than you'd expect.

We get to meet all sorts of people through the garden. The general atmosphere is very friendly. There is a wide diversity of ethnic backgrounds and different ways of gardening.

Dominic Raina

I started gardening in an NCC plot on Prince of Wales Drive, over 25 years ago and have been with the garden association for the past four years. The service is excellent! It is great having the soil tilled in the spring, and the price of plots is good.

I have grown more than 200 varieties over the years; every year I plant something different. I write a column on gardening for a Chinese newspaper in Ottawa. Some of the varieties I have grown are Chinese spinach, quite a common vegetable; bitter melons and winter melons --- very popular with the Chinese; Chinese celery, which is strong smelling; and "bird's nest", a melon that is planted as ornamental, but is very sweet and tasty.

Kam Shui Ng

It's so wonderful to grow your own vegetables. There's nothing like the taste of sun-warmed tomatoes off the vine! And the wonderful people you meet----- It's a pleasure to be there!

Remember the killdeer and how the people used to plant their gardens around them? And whenever you got too near one, it would pull the wounded wing routine.

A few years back, I was in the garden, late as usual. It was about 10 PM, still some light in the sky. For some reason, I stood up and looked towards Viewmount Ave. Then I saw a fountain of water shooting about 15 feet in the air from one of the gardens near the road. I didn't know what to do. I saw a lady in her yard behind one of the townhouses, so I ran over to her.

I probably scared her! I don't know if she understood English well because she didn't want me to use her phone. So I had to call my house and tried to explain to her to tell the man who answered the phone (my husband) to call Ian Reid and tell him a water pipe was broken. A short while later, Ian, Denis and some others went down to the gardens. The water was pouring all over the road.....The funniest thing was to see Ian in his shorts and soaking wet, down in the hole trying to turn off the water. He got it turned off in about half an hour.*

**Note the hole is about 12 feet deep and 4 feet in diameter at the top.*

Mary St-Jean



B. Words from the Gardeners...

I'm relatively new to gardening. We began renting a plot to years ago to introduce our pre-schoolers, aged two and four, to gardening. They love it! They help us water, till and weed, and when they see the seeds sprouting, they get so excited!

For me, it's a great way to learn from other gardeners. They're so friendly, and give you tips on what to plant and what not to do.

Marie Mackenzie

I remember the first year I joined the garden association. It started raining as I began setting out my plants. My shoes were so heavily caked with the clay-like soil that I could barely move. A fellow walking a bicycle dropped by and offered to help; that was my introduction to Ian Reid. What a morning we had! We moved like machines, planting row after row. The rain never stopped, and when at last we were done. Ian was off in a flash. As I peeled the mud off my feet, which were now bare, I thought to myself, "I am going to like it here."

I have particularly loved the early mornings when a mist hangs over the garden. When the air is soft and balmy and all is quiet, I feel like Alice in Wonderland as I walk about the property. In our culturally diverse association, it is a treat to see the various trellises and mulches. It seems even vegetables have a story to tell! Sometimes on those misty mornings, my reverence comes close to prayer.

Barb Hale

My garden plot has been near and dear to me for many years. I began gardening in Viewmount Ave. a few years before we formed the garden association, and have rented a plot ever since. A summer without gardening was unthinkable!

I remember the first plot I shared with my friend, Ange Salm. How stony and clay-ey it was! Later I rented my own annual plot next to hers, and every year built up the soil from maple leaves, mushroom compost and kitchen peelings. Each year the earth became richer and less compacted. I love growing the soil almost as much as my vegetables!

But what vegetables! I savored their taste and beauty; and in the early years when I was really avid, I knew almost every plant as a friend. I mourned when the cutworms, flea beetles and groundhogs seemed to take more than their share of my broccoli and lettuce. Yet, looking back over the years, I always ended up with far more produce than I could ever eat.

I learned so much from gardening, especially from watching other gardeners and listening to their advice. But my best teachers were the plants themselves. Tomatoes and potatoes, I discovered, make poor neighbors. Carrots should really be seeded more thinly in the spring. And while Jerusalem artichokes are wonderfully hardy, I certainly don't want them invading my entire garden.

For all the years of planting, cultivating, harvesting.....and hoping, I am most grateful. And to everyone in the garden association, I say a big thank you!

Jennifer Bernius



C. By-Laws & Attachments

By-Laws of The Nepean Allotment Garden Association

Definitions; (1) in this by-law, and in all other By-Laws of the corporation,

- a) "Act" means the Corporation Act of Ontario;
- b) "Corporation" means the Nepean Allotment Garden Association;
- c) "Letters Patent" means the letters of the Corporation;
- d) "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Corporation;
- e) "Financial Year" means the period from March 1 to February 28 in each year;
- f) "Objects" means the objects for which the Corporation is incorporated.

Please note that there have been changes to the above By-Laws to reflect changes over the years. For instance the City of Nepean has been amalgamated with the City of Ottawa.

The By-Law is a legal document that sets down strict rules and regulations for the operation of the Corporation.

The following headings appear in this document; Seal, Membership, Fees, General Meetings, Board of Directors, Duties of Directors, Committees, Execution of Cheques, etc.

The By-Laws even covers what is to happen to its assets in the event the Corporation is dissolved.

Each gardener has a recent copy of the By-laws.

David Dickson, when in office, stressed the importance of By-Laws. He said the By-Laws should be carefully



Shrubs planted in 2001

written, and the Nepean Garden Association should be incorporated. It involves lengthy reporting to the province, which would protect the liability of the individual members of the Association.

David Dickson spearheaded the incorporation process, and The Board of Directors had the City of Gloucester By-Laws to use as a guide. The Association had a member of the City of Gloucester Garden Association give a talk to the Nepean Garden Association about their By-Laws. In due course of time, the then Nepean Garden Association was incorporated. This means that the Nepean Garden Association/Nepean Allotment Garden Association is governed by law under the rules and regulations of the Corporation Act of Ontario.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Attachment No. 3

December 1, 1990.

Dear Gardener:

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.

As a plot holder in 1990, you have the first option of renewing your lease for 1991 with Nepean Parks and Recreation. The fee to lease an allotment garden for



Attachments

the upcoming season is \$40.00 for Nepean residents. \$47.00 for Non-Nepean residents and \$30.50 for Nepean seniors.

If you wish to renew your lease, please fill out the left hand portion of the enclosed License of Occupation fo1m and return it with your cheque (payable to the City of Nepean) to:

Allotment Gardens Nepean Parks and Recreation
Nepean Civic Square 101 Centrepointe Drive Nepean,
Ontario K2G 5K7

We must receive your response prior to February 1, 1991. Otherwise we will assume you are not intending to renew your plot. If you are renewing your plot we will return to you; and conditions of the license, a copy of the license, along with the terms.

If you have any questions about the Allotment Garden program, please do not hesitate to call me at 727-6640, extension 231.

Yours truly,

Nancy Rooyaakers.

Attachment No.4

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

December 20, 1990

Alan Martin
22 Kilmory Crescent Nepean, Ontario K2E 6N1

Dear Mr. Martin:

At the recent City of Nepean budget deliberations, Nepean City Council was forced to make some cutbacks to the 1991 Parks and Recreation Budget. One of the programs that did not receive support was the Allotment Garden program; therefore the Recreation Department will no longer offer this service.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest and support of the allotment gardens over the past few years and I hope that you will continue to participate in other recreational pursuits with the City of Nepean.

Sincerely,
Nancy Rooyackers
Recreation Programmer



A family are pleased with their produce.

Attachment No.5

My copy of Al Martins letter to Mr. Casey is not clear enough for me to make a readable copy, so I did NOT scan it.

Attachment No.6

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 24 January 1991

TO: R.J. Sulpher
Commissioner of Parks and
Recreation



Attachments

FROM: Councillor Les Casey
Allotment Garden Program

I am in receipt of a letter from A. 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.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Encl.

C.c. A. Martin, 22 Kilmory Crescent K2E 6N1

Attachment No.7

CITY COUNCIL

31 January 1991

Mr. A. Martin
22 Kilmory Crescent Nepean, Ontario K2E 6N1

Dear Mr. Martin:

Thank you for your letter of January 9, 1991 addressing your concerns regarding the closing of the allotment gardens.

Further to my memo to Mr. R.J. Sulpher, Commissioner of Parks and Recreation on January 24, 1991, I have now been advised that the leased allotment gardens on Baseline Road were closed because the land was sold by the National Capital Commission and the site was, therefore, no longer available for this programme.

In any event, the Parks and Recreation Department had been reviewing the allotment garden operation and at no time, over the last three years, have the allotment gardens at Baseline or Viewmount been fully rented. The Department was very much concerned with the cost of these allotment gardens, because the cost for provision of water was significantly high and elevated the operating costs. For example, there were

eighty plots available at the allotment garden 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 \$100.00 per rental.

The Parks and Recreation Department and the City are attempting to maintain the quality of service and the programmers; however, this type of subsidy is almost ten times greater than any other subsidy for a programme operated by the City. The Department, therefore, cannot justify the continuation of the allotment gardens.

The Parks and Recreation Department has also advised me that the Viewmount site has the worst soil conditions of any of the sites. For instance, it would be very difficult for individuals to hand till, or rototill in almost eighty percent of the plots.

Even the Baseline Road allotment plots were never fully rented. In fact, the average rental was seventy percent of the plots available. The net loss on this site was close to \$8,400.00

The City of Nepean currently maintains approximately 1,750 acres of green space and many areas of trees, shrubbery and flowering plants throughout the City. I certainly wish that we could do something for you but, unfortunately, we cannot justify this operation any longer.

Sincerely,

Les Casey, COUNCILLOR MERIVALE WARD

Attachment No. 8

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

March 5, 1991

Alan Martin
22 Kilmory Crescent Nepean. Ontario K2E 6N1



Attachments

Dear Mr. Martin:

As you are aware, the Richmond/Baseline garden plot area has been taken over by the Province of Ontario for a 416 Interchange, and the funding for the Viewmount Garden was not renewed in the 1991 City budget.

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 the possibility of forming an Allotment Garden Association.

In the city of Gloucester they have an allotment garden association who lease land from the City and have been operating successfully for 10 years. We will plan to discuss their operation and its possible application in Nepean.

If you are interested in attending the meeting and possibly forming a similar association, please call Marion Pritchard at 727-6640 to confirm your attendance.

Yours truly
Paul Kemp
Director of Recreation

CC: Mayor Ben Franklin
Members of Council
Members of Council

Attachment No. 9

Garden Association Public Meeting
Tuesday, March 19, 1991 7p.m. The Chamber, Nepean
Civic Square Centrepointe Drive.

Residents of Nepean are invited to attend a meeting to discuss the formation of a Garden Association to maintain and operate garden plots in the City of Nepean.

Attachment No. 10

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

NOTICE

The first meeting of the Nepean Allotment Garden Association Steering Committee will take place at 7:00 P.M. on Monday March 25, 1991 in Room 2B at Nepean CIV1C Square (2nd Floor). Attached is an agenda for the meeting as well as the documentation requested regarding the Gloucester Allotment Garden Association.

I look forward to meeting with you. If you any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at 727-6640.

Nancy Rooyakkers Recreation
Programmer

Attachment No. 11

Nepean Garden Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday March 25, 1991

PRESENT: Nancy Rooyakkers,
Denis St-Jean, Rachel St-Jean.
Mary St-Jean, Bud Singh, Ange
Salm, Jennifer Bernius, AL
Martin, David Dickson, Ian Reid,
Eddy(Betty)Reid, Wallace Clarke,



Lorenzo and Sonny rototilling their garden.



Attachments

Walter Saidak, Rosaleen Dickson.

AL Martin thanked the members of the group for their support and interest.

INCORPORATION:

There was a consensus that the group should incorporate. Incorporation is available in a period of 3-4 weeks. By-Laws of the organization will be required to become incorporated. It was agreed that the City of Gloucester Allotment Garden Association be modified and used by the committee. The group went through the by laws and made appropriate changes as listed in the attached document. David Dickson will look into the actual incorporation process. Rachel St-Jean will look into a title search for the corporation.

Walter and Alan and David agreed to be officers of the organization as listed by the incorporation requests.

CHAIR:

David Dickson moved that Alan Martin be the Chair of the meeting and Nancy Rooyackers be appointed Recording Secretary. Seconded by Ange Salm. All in favour. Motion carried.

David Dickson moved that Alan Martin be the Chair. Walter Saidak seconded. All in favour. Motion Carried.

CORPORATION NAME:

The following names were suggested for the official name of the Corporation.

- A) Nepean Allotment Garden Association Nepean Gardening Club
- B) Nepean Garden Association
- C) Allotment Garden Association in Nepean (AGAIN)

A vote was held to determine the title with the results as follows:

- A) Nepean Garden Association (5)
- B) Nepean Allotment Garden Association (3)
- C) Allotment Garden Association in Nepean (3)
- D) Nepean Gardening Club (2)

MAILING ADDRESS

It was felt that the corporation should have a mailing address that would remain constant. Denis will look into obtaining a post office box for the corporation.



A gardener preparing her garden for planting.

ALLOCATION OF TASKS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Tasks & Responsibilities for the Board of Directors will be as follows

- Chair: AL Martin
- Vice-Chair:
Walter Saidak
- Treasurer:
David Dickson
- Maintenance:
Ian Reid & Bud Singh
- Publicity Directors:
Dennis St-Jean & Jennifer Bernius
- Internal Communications:
Ange Salm



Attachments



Ian's sweetpotatoes

Registrar: Rosaleen Dickson
New Site Development Director: Wallace Clark

Alan expressed concern that too much focus would be placed on a new site and the group wouldn't do a competent job on the Viewmount site.

Walter expressed concern that this political year, pressure should be placed on Council to give commitment longer than one year,

Wally suggested that the Viewmount site potential is limited; therefore focus should be on obtaining a new plot of land.

Wally Clark was appointed as Director at Large with the responsibility of looking at an additional site.

Rachel and Mary St-Jean agreed to assist with the telephone committee.

** Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. Next meeting to take place at 7 p.m. on Tuesday April 2nd at the Nepean Senior's Centre.

ATTACHMENT NO. 12 NEPEAN GARDEN ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting April 2, 1991

PRESENT: Denis St-Jean, David Dickson, Bud Singh, Rosaleen Dickson, Ian Reid, Betty Reid (observer), Walter Saidak, Nancy Rooyackers, Rachel St-Jean, Wallace Clarke & Jennifer Bernius

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 will accept the Vice-Chair. Rosaleen moved that the agenda be accepted as stated. Motion. All in favour.

REVIEW OF ACTIONS/ ACTIVITIES TO DATE.

Walter read attached letter written by Al Martin to Bob Sulpher, Commissioner of Parks and Recreation requesting a grant for start up funds.

ASSOCIATION OPERATING PRINCIPLES

Discussion took place on types of memberships the Garden Association would offer. Motion by Denis- "That the Nepean Garden Association has two types of memberships: participating and non-participating members." Jennifer seconded the motion. All in favour.

Ian Reid proposed the idea of developing perennial plots at the Viewmount site. Walter expressed concerns that having perennial plots would make it difficult for the plowing process, forcing the contractor to maneuver around the plots. There were also concerns expressed around the availability of land. Priority should be given to renting out as many "annual" plots as possible.

Rosaleen moved that the Maintenance Committee be responsible for presenting a proposal at the April 8th meeting to examine the possibility of developing perennial plots. Amendment was added to note that



Attachments

the perennial plots be located outside the current plot sites. Denis seconded the amended motion. All in favour.

* Ian moved that The Three Types of Memberships in the Nepean Garden Association be as follows:

- Nepean Residents
- Nepean seniors
- Non Nepean Residents

Rachel seconded the motion. All in favour.

OPERATIONS

Ian presented material collected regarding costs for preparing the plots in the spring.

A) Ritchie Feed &Seed

Rental of equipment: \$ 35.00 per day.

B) Henry Benoit

Rental of equipment & labor: \$ 70.00 per hour.

C) Rentalex

Rental of equipment: \$ 85.00 per day

D) City of Nepean

Tractors: \$ 10.00 per hour

Labor: \$ 22.00 per hour X 8 hours or \$265 per day.

Suggestion would be that we do not purchase equipment this year, due to the uncertain future of the gardens that we would rent, or perhaps borrow equipment from the gardeners.

Garden ssociation will use the existing plots, maps and stakes. Maintenance Committee will paint stakes for site.

Denis moved that the City of Nepean be contracted to disc and prepare the soil this spring. Seconded by Jennifer, 7 in favour, 2 opposed. Motion Carried.

The Committee expressed concerns about the water usage at the Gardens. Denis moved that the allotment garden rules state: "Water judiciously. Hand held sprinklers only are permitted". Seconded by Ian. All in favour.

Ian will solicit information on Garbage Bins and rental of Washroom Facilities.

TREASURERS REPORT

Approx. costs of Operations Predicted at this Date.

Water:	\$ 2,000.00
Spring Ploughing	\$ 250.00
Fall Ploughing	\$ 250.00
Incorporation Fees	\$ 210.00
Corporation Seal	\$ 60.00

TREASURERS REPORT

Other costs could include: Equipment. Stationary, Printing, Mailing Costs, Rental of Equipment.

David Dickson moved that the following rates be adopted by the association for the 1991 Gardening Season:

Nepean Residents	= \$40.00 + \$2.80 G.S.T. = \$42.80
Nepean seniors	= \$35.00 + \$2.45 G.S.T. = \$37.45
Non Nepean Residents	= \$47.00 + \$3.29 G.S.T. = \$50.29

Participating Members would receive \$5.00 off cost. Plots rented after June 15, 1991 could be rented out for \$20.00. Seconded by Denis. All in favour.

PUBLICITY

Denis reviewed the attached publicity plan for promoting the gardens. The News Release would be distributed to all media sources, Seniors Advisory Council etc. The letter could be distributed to residents



Attachments

of the neighborhood surrounding the plot etc.

REGISTRAR

Report was delayed until the April 8th meeting.

David Dickson moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:15 p.m. Denis seconded. All in favour.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 8, 1991
7:00 p.m. Room D
1st Floor, Parks and Recreation Office
Nepean Civic Square

PUBLICITY

Denis reviewed the attached publicity plan for promoting the gardens. The News Release would be distributed to all media sources, Seniors Advisory Council etc. The letter could be distributed to residents of the neighborhood surrounding the plot, etc.

REGISTRAR

Report was delayed until the April 8th meeting.

David Dickson moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:15 p.m. Denis seconded. All in favour.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 8, 1991
7:00 p.m. Room D
1st Floor, Parks and Recreation
Office, Nepean Civic Square

[Attachment No. 13](#)
1991-04-11

Dear Gardeners:

As you may or may not be aware, the Viewmount allotment garden plots are now being operated by a group of gardeners known as "The Nepean Garden Association" and are no longer being managed by the City of Nepean Parks

If you are interested in renewing your lease Garden Association the fees are as follows:

Nepean residents:	\$40.00
Nepean seniors:	\$35.00
Non Nepean residents:	\$47.00

If you are interested in renewing your plot, we must receive a response before the Annual General Meeting of the Garden Association which is to take place on Monday, May 6, 1991 at 7:00 p.m. in Hall C of the Nepean Sportsplex. In order to respond please contact the Nepean Garden Association Registrar: Rosaleen Dickson at 829-2955. After you have reserved your plot, you must come to the Annual General Meeting to pay your fees and pick up your membership cards. You must reserve your plot before coming to pick up your cards. We would also encourage you to stay and attend the meeting as we will be presenting a great deal of useful information on the Viewmount Allotment Program.

Happy Gardening,

The Nepean Garden Association



John Murphy is from Jamaica. Notice his machete. This is probably his only gardening tool. John grows calalu with large leaves. Calalu is modified, I think, from the pigweed family.



Attachments

Nepean This Week, June 29, 2005:

An article about the Viewmount Allotment Gardens
written by Derek Dunn:

"...More than 300 annual and perennial gardens are here, probably the largest and best run spot of its kind in Eastern Ontario. There are at least 14 nationalities represented. And you can really tell the differences. The Japanese garden is heavy on the vertical side, with vines growing up a few rows of poles. Many others are spread out with wide rows..."



David Nott standing on planks to water his garden.