

# NEPEAN ALLOTMENT GARDEN ASSOCIATION

## SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER

### BOARD MEMBERS

**Chair** - L. Fernando González

**Vice Chair** - Amanda Lancaster

**Registrar** - Dinesh Katuru

**Treasurer** - Ma'suma Rustam-zade

**Publicity Director** - Madeleine Bardou-Clark

**Water Maintenance Director** - Sonja Vanek

**General Maintenance Director** - Siyafat Safarov

### BOARD VACANCY

**Secretary:** This board member takes minutes for all meetings, organizes the AGM and helps with other general board tasks.

**Are you interested in this role?**

Please email us at

[nagagardens@gmail.com](mailto:nagagardens@gmail.com)

### STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

Community involvement hours for students are available at NAGA. Email us if you or a youth you know would like to join our crew!



### CALL FOR GARDENING WORKSHOPS

**Do you have knowledge to share about fermentation and pickling?**

**A knack for composting?**

**Tips and tricks for weed control?**

Consider hosting a workshop for your fellow NAGA gardeners! The board would be happy to help you facilitate a session on the gardening topic of your choosing. Send us an email or approach one of the board members at the AGM to get the ball rolling.

A big thank you to Justin Yu for providing us with tips on succession planting and how to extend your gardening season during last year's Garden Party!

# A YEAR IN REVIEW

Hey Gardeners!

I'm Fernando, Chair of the Board of Directors at NAGA. Welcome back to a new gardening season, and a warm welcome to our new members! We're thrilled to have you on board and can't wait to meet you at our upcoming events.

Huge thanks to our board members, a group of passionate volunteer gardeners who dedicate countless hours to various essential tasks, including processing applications, handling finances, repairs and coordinating other volunteers. Also, thanks to our gardeners who assisted with cleanups, plot patrols, and food bank efforts. Your dedication keeps our garden flourishing!

Last year we had to postpone tilling the annual plots until Spring due to heavy Fall rains and early snowfalls. The ongoing debate between Fall vs Spring tilling has me intrigued, so I'm eager to see how it pans out this year!

This year the weather has been teasing us with early warm temperatures. Like many of you, both my seedlings and I are eager to get in the garden.

Here's to a fruitful and joyful gardening season ahead!

Happy gardening,

Fernando



# A YEAR IN REVIEW

Hello Gardeners!

My name is Madeleine (or Mady for short), and I am NAGA's Publicity Director. Many of the emails you receive are from me, and I also respond to questions and concerns that come through our inbox. I joined the garden in 2022 and the board in 2023.

Last season came with many hardships like high winds, flooding, and hail. Basically, all types of extreme weather you can imagine. It was a bit of a rough planting season! Let's hope that this year will bring warm days, gentle rains, and bountiful crops.

This year I want to grow some more melons! I successfully grew a single cantaloupe last year and would like to double that. Two must be achievable, right?

Come say hi to me and my partner Pieter at plot A88!



# IMPORTANT DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS

## *Annual General Meeting*

**Saturday, April 20 @ 1 PM**

Join us for the AGM at the General Burns Lodge at 86 Argue Drive. There will be a seed exchange, so please bring anything you would like to share with other members!

## *Spring Cleanup*

**Saturday, April 27 @ 1 PM**

**Rain Date: Saturday, May 4**

As is tradition, we will kick off the season with a cleaning party. Tasks include painting and numbering stakes, measuring plots, and picking up garbage and rocks. Snacks and cleanup supplies will be provided!

## *Orientation Sessions*

**Wednesday, May 1 @ 5 PM**

**Sunday, May 5 @ 12 PM**

We will be holding two orientation sessions this Spring. Whether you are new to NAGA or just looking to meet some fellow gardeners, join us for a tour of the grounds, information on best practices and a Q&A. We will meet you at the tool shed!

## *Spring Tilling (Annual Plots Only) - Approximately May 1*

We will be in touch once the tilling has been completed. Please do not start planting before tilling takes place, otherwise, your work will be for naught.

## *Water Turned On - Approximately May 3*

We will be in touch once we have a date fully confirmed. This is the official start of the planting season!

## *Garden Party*

**Sunday, July 14 @ 3 PM**

**Rain Date: Sunday, July 21**

Get to know your fellow gardeners! The garden is a great place for those young and old to gather and build community over our common interest. There will be a plant exchange table and snacks!

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

## Plot Patrol

Every month, a group of volunteers gather to conduct a plot patrol to flag maintenance issues and unused or overgrown plots. Plot patrol will be from June to October and will take place every first Monday of the month at 6 PM.

The dates for 2024 are:

- June 3
- July 1
- August 5
- September 2
- October 7

Email reminders will be sent each month. Please join us if you can!

## Food Bank Garden

Did you know NAGA grows food for the Debra Dynes Family House? We are looking for a volunteer or a small group of gardeners to plant and maintain our food bank plot for the 2024 growing season.

Email us at [nagagardens@gmail.com](mailto:nagagardens@gmail.com) if you are interested in contributing to food safety in our community!

A big thank you to Linda and Renato who took care of this plot for the past 3 years! We very much appreciate the work you put into it.

## Food Bank Deliveries

We are looking for additional people who can deliver NAGA-grown produce donations to the [Debra Dynes Family House](#) (DDFH) in July and August. You would be in charge of placing the collection boxes near the tool shed on Sundays and picking them up by 7 PM the same day.

Deliveries take place on Mondays between 12-5. DDFH is located at 955 Debra Avenue, Unit 85.

Email us at [nagagardens@gmail.com](mailto:nagagardens@gmail.com) if you think you can help!

## REMINDERS

### **Plant within the perimeter of your plot**

Please do not plant outside the perimeter of your plot and keep the pathways around your garden clear of debris.

### **Do not put rocks on the grass**

Rocks and trash can damage the lawn mower and may harm the driver. If you want to remove rocks from your plot, please take them away with you or stack them in a corner within the confines of your garden.

### **Only drive on the road**

If you drive to the garden, please keep your car on the road marked on the map and at a safe distance from the plots. Driving between plots has caused several incidents including broken water pipes. There is parking for multiple cars available near the tool shed.

### **Keep our garden beautiful!**

Let's work together to make our garden look beautiful for our neighbours and ourselves! Do your best to keep your plot tidy and weed-free, avoid using orange snow fencing, and don't forget to take your trash and compost home regularly.

## CONNECT WITH YOUR COMMUNITY!

To connect with members and to share photos, check out our Facebook group or our Instagram page! We regularly post updates there.



**Nepean Allotment  
Garden Association**

[@nepean\\_allotment\\_gardens](https://www.instagram.com/nepean_allotment_gardens)



## COMPOST & STRAW

We are planning to have compost delivered from the city and straw delivered from a farm again this year. We will send an email and post to the NAGA Facebook group once we have more details to share.

**SHED LOCK COMBO  
20 36 21**

**HAVE A  
GREAT  
GARDENING  
SEASON!**

