

NAGA

Spring Newsletter

Planting time will be here before we know it!



M. McMillan

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| April 7
1 p.m. | NAGA Annual General Meeting
Tanglewood Community Centre
30 Woodfield Dr. (just off
Merivale) ALL members are
welcome and encouraged to
attend! Payment due date. |
| April 28
9 am - noon | Annual Spring Clean-up.
Volunteers needed! Many hands
make light work! (Rain date -
April 29) |
| May 15 | Annual contracts begin |
| June 2
1 - 3 p.m. | Spring Social - Come one, come
all! There will be music, a
seedling exchange, a craft table,
gardening workshops and more! |
| Oct. 31 | Last day to remove all stakes
and non-organic material from
annual plots |

Congratulations

to Mike Chebbo, our former chair, who recently received the Nepean Canada 150th Anniversary Medal for all his tireless years of service to NAGA. Congratulations on your well earned award and thank-you for all you have done for NAGA over the years!

Spring Social

Having a garden at the Nepean Allotment Gardens is about more than just growing food - it's about growing community and friendship! It's also about sharing what we know about gardening with others who share our passion.

This year we will be hosting a Spring Social to help us all get to know one another and build those community bonds that help us all grow! Join us on Saturday June 2 (rain date June 3) from 1-3pm at the gardens for music, seed and seedling swap, crafts, info-sessions, and more! Bring the whole family! E-mail the board if you would like to volunteer to help:
nagagardens@gmail.com

<http://nepeanallotmentgarden.yolasite.com>, nagagardens@gmail.com

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

A Year in Review 2018

Dear Gardeners,

Firstly, I would like to thank all of you who volunteered your time at the gardens this past year. Thanks to everyone who came out to a clean-up event, staked the gardens, worked in the food bank garden, tended the new bushes and participated on the Board of Directors. The garden could not operate without your help. A special thank-you to Board of Directors members Ron Rogers, Abdallah Anani, and Jim Koss who are stepping down at this time.

2017 was a very exciting year at our site. We welcomed many new gardeners and had many accomplishments including:

- hosting a group of 13 young girls belonging to Barrhaven Sparks for a garden night
- being one site of a pollinator study with the University of Ottawa
- dedicating a plot to grow food for the food bank and delivering this food
- cleaning up the winter storage area

I am just as excited about 2018! We have a great spring event to look forward to and I hope to see you all there. This year my goals for NAGA are to for us to continue gardening (of course), and to improve the administration of the garden. If you have any suggestions, questions or concerns, please contact the Board of Directors at nagagardens@gmail.com

Happy Gardening,

Amanda Lancaster,
NAGA Chairperson



Make our NAGA Garden Beautiful

Let's all work together to make our garden look nice for our neighbours and ourselves. Please keep your plots tidy and weed-free.

Compost and Straw

Free compost from the City of Ottawa will be available to gardeners again this year. Bales of straw will also be delivered to the garden for purchase. We don't have the dates yet, but advance notice will be e-mailed and posted on the bulletin board at the garden.

Taking vacation?

If you are going on vacation or have other problems that prevent you from working in your garden, please have somebody help you out during your absence. Also, please notify a Board member. This way, the 'weed patrol' will be aware why there may be a problem.

We've gone digital!

By giving us your e-mail address, you can help us to save money by reducing our printing and mailing costs. The more money we save, the lower our fees need to be to cover costs. Please send us your e-mail address today (nagagardens@gmail.com)!

The NAGA Board Needs Your Help

The Board of Directors (BOD) manages the garden. We organize registration, upkeep of grounds and equipment, manage communications with members, and more.

We have several vacancies that need to be filled this year and we need your help. We are looking for 2-3 Directors at Large, and a Vice Chairperson. We also have a few additional jobs that require volunteers. For example, we need help maintaining the above ground water system and monitoring condition of plots. You do not have to be a Director at Large to help.

Responsibilities of a Director at Large:

- Participate in 2 board meetings and AGM each year (approximately 1-2 hrs each)
- Participate in discussions via email over the growing season if necessary (hardly at all)
- Help where needed

Responsibilities of Vice Chairperson:

- Participate in 2 board meetings and AGM each year (approximately 1-2 hrs each)
- Participate in discussions via email over the growing season if necessary (hardly at all)
- If the Chairperson is unavailable, perform the duties of the chairperson
- Help where needed



Responsibilities of Above Ground Water System Maintenance

M. McMillan

- Be onsite in spring to turn water system on (15 minutes)
- Check for leaks in water system when first turned on (1hr)
- Fix leaks (variable, usually not more than a couple hours)
- Shut off water in fall (1hr)

Responsibilities of Plot Monitoring

- Check for plots that violate the terms and conditions of licence (3x per year, 1hr each)
- Contact gardeners with violations and inform Chairperson (3x per year, variable, probably less than 1hr each)
- Follow up on plots with violations (3x per year, variable, probably less than 1 hr each)

Contact us at **nagagardens@gmail.com** if you have any questions and/or if you'd like to volunteer.

NAGA's 2017 Board of Directors

Chair: Amanda Lancaster

Registrars: Brian Martin & Pam Gleeson

Treasurer: Ruth Qi

Maintenance Director: Dengyi Wang

Secretary: Michele McMillan

Directors at Large:

Vincenzo Comunale

Abdullah Anani (outgoing)

Ron Rogers (outgoing)

Jim Koss (outgoing)



P. Gleeson

Food Bank at Debra Dynes House

Did you know we have a plot devoted to growing food for the food bank? We also collect and deliver other donated garden products to the food bank. Hélène Labbe will look after the garden plot, but would be grateful for help from other volunteers. If you are able to help, please contact the board at nagagardens@gmail.com and we will put you in touch. Have you grown some extra produce that you would like to donate? If so, there will be a spot in the shed to leave your donations. Bill and Elizabeth Nye will take the produce to the food bank on a weekly basis. Details about what day(s) they will take the produce will be posted on the bulletin board in the garden.

Let's all step up and help those in need!

Gardening with Children

by Pamela Gleeson

Bringing children into the garden can be a wonderful and inspiring experience for everyone involved. It can help foster a love of good healthy food and can help the children develop an appreciation of how much work and effort goes into producing the food they eat every day. Not to mention the chance to get outside and connect with nature!

Tips to help get children engaged in the growing experience:

1. Get them involved from the beginning by helping you chose your seeds and draw out the garden plan for the upcoming year - I give my kids old seed catalogues and they can fill up their garden map with pictures of what they want to grow.
2. Set aside a small part of your garden just for them - have them chose the plants and seeds, water and weed, and of course harvest and eat the good things they grow! Work at home to create a little personalized wooden sign for their garden.
3. Make it fun and silly - have a contest when you come to the garden to see who can pull the largest weed, or pick the fattest beet! Don't put too much pressure on them to do the hard work, keep it light and let them move from play to helping at their leisure.
4. Put them on pest patrol! You can use this as an opportunity to talk about organic practices and helpful bugs versus harmful bugs.

Around Town

The Canadian Organic Growers, Ottawa Chapter is hosting a series of Urban Organic Gardening Seminars again in 2018. **Where:** The Hintonburg Community Centre, 1064 Wellington St. West / **When:** Saturday March 10th, April 14th, May 12th 9:30am-1:30pm. Seed Sale to follow at 1:30pm. For more information and registration: <https://cog.ca/ottawa/our-programs/urban-organic-gardening-seminars-2018/>

Have a great 2018 season!