

Garden Gazette

Yellowknife Community Garden Collective



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Welcome from the New Chair

Welcome to the 2005 gardening season. Over the last couple of weeks spring has definitely made it to Yellowknife. Soon enough we'll all be in the midst of choosing what to grow, tilling the soil and plating our seeds. If the powers that be put as much effort into this summer as they did into the past winter it will be long, warm and beautiful.

My name is Doug Townson and for the 2005 gardening season I will be working as your garden chair. I'm a relatively new

Community Garden member with this being my third year of gardening and my first year on the board of directors. Ultimately, it is my hope that this can be a fun and productive year for all garden members and that our efforts will benefit charitable groups throughout our community through our donations of fresh nutritious vegetables.

We have set several goals for the 2005 season: develop a five-year strategic plan, integrate an

appropriate method of composting, attract new members, communicate more efficiently with members and investigate new opportunities for fundraising.

Most importantly, we hope that all members can have a fun and productive gardening year (and that "weedy the garden pig" can lose some weight!)

If at any time during this season you have any thoughts or ideas for the garden please feel free to approach me or any of the garden board members.

Spring Social – Wednesday April 27, 2005

Come to the Spring Social and find out how to take part in this year's gardening season!

This is the first meeting of the year with all new and returning garden members. This is our chance to meet, greet, eat and socialize.

At the social you will have the chance to learn all about the new activities in store for you this summer! A gardening workshop with some green thumbed experts will be held at the end of the social. This is also the time to hand in applications, pay garden fees, and sign up for volunteer jobs.

Guaranteed to be fun for everyone!

April 27, 2005

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Bellanca Building – 1st Floor Boardroom

4914-50th Street (please use the back door)



“Oranges? Where do you think we are, Florida?”

Board of Directors

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Contests



Don't get caught with Weedy the Pig on your garden plot!

Weedy will be placed on those members plots that have been neglectful of their weeding, if he is found on your plot you know that you are the “bad weed” of the week!

Hi my name is Weedy the Pig! This summer I will be living in the Yellowknife Community Gardens. I choose to live there because I am on a diet and I am trying to stay away from weeds. My favourite is

dandelions but I love grass as well, yum! I heard that there shouldn't be any weeds in the garden so I thought this was the best place for me to go. You see, I am addicted to eating weeds and by eating so many of them I

have become quite fat. I ask that you help me stay on my diet and keep me away from weeds. Please do not be startled if you find me lingering around your garden but I shouldn't get too close if you aren't trying to feed me...

Tips from Julie

Gardening Etiquette:

The YK community garden is an organic garden and therefore follows the Canadian Organic Growers certification standards. In particular, this means no industrial fertilizers can be used in the garden. Alternative fertilizers can be purchased at local garden centers some of which are manure, compost and fish eggs.

Gardening tools and supplies are stored in the sheds and are available for people to use. Once finished please return them to the shed. Watering cans are also available (using a hose is frowned upon do to possible disruptions to others plot). When walking through the garden to get to your plot please walk down the middle path. This will avoid walking over someone seeds, when it is difficult to see the planted plots. When leaving the garden and no one else is there be sure to close up the shed and gate and relock them. Try to keep the weeds down both in your plot and in walking paths. The fewer weeds we have in the garden the less weeding we will all have to do.

Some important dates to keep in mind:

March to early May: Start indoor plants (peppers need 10-12 weeks, tomatoes/eggplant 8 weeks, broccoli, cauliflower, brussel sprouts, cabbage and head lettuce 6 weeks)

End of May: Purchase manure (2 bags are enough however some people use as much as 10) sheep manure seems to be the most popular brand and recommended by most garden members. Your plots will be 10 X 18 feet (180 square feet) over fertilizing does nothing for growth and only increases groundwater contamination. Spread manure over your plot thicker in the area you plan on planting fruits (tomatoes, peppers etc.) and thinner where you planting beans and peas.

Late May or early June: Site clean-up and plot tilling (contact Site Manager if you don't want your plot tilled). Your plot is now ready to plant but remember that the water may not be on yet so you may risk drying out. This is also a good time to plan your garden if you haven't already. If you have not planned a garden before and wish to get some tips don't hesitate to call or e-mail (wardju@inac.gc.ca). To maximize your garden space it is helpful to draw out where you want to plant; then keep this

diagram for the following year to avoid duplication of some veggies and maximizing soil nutrient potential.

June/July/August: Water lots (2 to 3 times a week) to avoid plants and soil drying out. Weed lots (once a week) to avoid unhappy neighbours. Cultivate soil (1 to 2 times a week) around plant ~2 inches deep to increase root growth and anchor plants. Plastic mulching can be used to increase soil moisture content, decrease possible harm from heavy rainfall.

July/August: harvest early plants (spinach, lettuce, carrots etc.) when you can't wait any longer for them to grow. Consider sowing seeds later in the summer to have a constant flow of produce for these quick growers.

September: Harvest time, cleanup site and prepare for next year.



"The YK Community Garden is an organic garden and therefore follows the Canadian Organic Growers certification standards"

A word from our Site Manager

Just a quick note to help kick off the pre-gardening follies from the site managers desk.

Plot Allocations

To be determined following the Spring Social, upon receipt of membership forms, waivers and fees.

Plot Staking/Tilling

Tentatively scheduled for May 28 – 29th – depending on weather and ground conditions. All plots will be tilled and staked unless members arrange for their sites **NOT** to be, ahead of time (list will be posted at the social). Anyone who has a tiller and is willing to lend it to the Garden

Cooperative for tilling at this time, it would be most appreciated.

A list for volunteers will be posted at the spring social to solicit help in the back breaking chores of this endeavour. Please do not hesitate to lend a hand, the more the merrier!!

Weeding Nights

We are scheduling the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month as weed whacking nights in order to better accommodate peoples schedules and abilities to take on this vital task of site maintenance.

Adopt a Street will be accommodated on one of the above mentioned dates each month.

Site Inventory

Lock combinations for the storage sheds will be decided at the social.

Inventory of the sheds will be completed prior to tilling, with equipment and supplies required on hand prior to planting.

Painting and repair of shingles to site #1 shed to happen ASAP!

Investigation of options and cost of acquiring “**new**” soil for site #1

“Plot allocations will be determined at the Spring Social.”



Five Year Strategic Planning Workgroup

As discussed at the 2004 AGM it is important that the community garden develop a five year plan. The intent of this plan is to allow all members, potential funding partners, and other interested and influential parties to understand our future operation and maintenance needs, planning goals and priorities and future financial requirements. It is our goal that the five-year plan be researched and assembled by the end of the 2005 season and

be available for discussion at the AGM.

Recently the board of directors decided that the best method for completing this project is to assemble a Strategic Planning Workgroup. This group of volunteers will be responsible for researching, developing and writing a five-year plan that is representative of the community garden’s trajectory.

To make this initiative a reality we need 5 – 7 members with varying levels of experience within the community garden. These individuals will work collaboratively to develop the Yellowknife Community Garden Five Year Plan and report progress to the board of directors. If you are interested in working to make this project a reality please contact either Doug Townson or Shannon Ward.

“The intent of the plan is (...) to understand our future operation and maintenance needs, planning goals and future financial requirements.”

News from the Annual General Meeting, 2004

The Yellowknife Garden Collective 2004 Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on October 4th at the Yellowknife Public Library. The Collective's Board gave reports to members on the season's finances/administration, membership coordination, site management, education activities and public relations.

Issues discussed at the AGM included management of the Collective's mail, potential changes to plot and membership fees for 2005, strategic planning and guidelines for members who abandon plots prior to planting and during the growth season.

Three action items were developed for the newly elected Board.

Research would be done into acquiring a post office box closer to the garden plots and that keys will be shared between the membership coordinator and treasurer in the future.

Over the winter, research would be done on Shepherd's Purse and that a pre-season newsletter on seeding and planting would be sent to members in advance of the 2005 season.

The new Board would explore other means of advertising for AGM and for Spring Socials for 2005 season. Two motions

were made at the AGM:

Membership fees would be increased from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per person for 2005 season. Plot fees remain at the same level.

Members who abandon their plots during planting/growing season will be ineligible for membership/plot fees. If the member withdraws before or during planting season, then their fees will be refunded. Plots abandoned during the growing season may be re-allocated to another member, or maintained by the Collective as a whole and provided for security. The distinction between planting/growing seasons will be at the discretion of the Site Manager.



Three action items were developed for the newly elected Board of Directors

Learn to Compost!

Want to learn how to turn your kitchen scraps into compost using your backyard or friendly worms?

Then this workshop is for you!

Backyard and Worm Composting Workshop

Saturday April 23, 2005

Multiplex PSAV Room

1:00-3:00 pm

Admission is FREE

To register please call 920-5676 or see our website at

<http://econnect.city.yellowknife.nt.ca>

Recipe of the Month:



CAMPFIRE POTATOES

Submitted by Laurie Morton

Ingredients:
 4 - 5 home-grown garden potatoes, thinly sliced
 1 home-grown onion, sliced
 3 - 4 tbsp butter
 1/3 cup shredded cheese
 1 tbsp Worcestershire
 salt and pepper

Place potatoes and onions in heavy duty foil. Add butter, Worcestershire sauce, salt and pepper and cover with cheese. Fold up foil around potatoes and seal the edges. Place over grill or BBQ for 30 - 40 minutes or until potatoes are tender.