

Garden Gazette

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Yellowknife Community Garden Collective



Getting to Know Our Roots:

A brief history of the Yellowknife Community Garden Collective

by Lillith Brook

Community gardening in the Northwest Territories can be traced back to the trading posts of the North West and Hudson's Bay companies, as well as at Anglican missions, as early as 1789. Experimental farms and research stations successfully grew vegetables for local consumption in the early 1900s.

The Yellowknife Community Garden's first season was in 1995, and do you know how the first seeds were planted?

Determined northern gardeners like you and I founded the Yellowknife Community Garden Collective!

The idea for a garden grew out of interest in local food security fostered during a workshop, and the founding members worked together to obtain land from the City and acquire donations for tools and building materials. They saw an opportunity to address local food security issues and promote active living by growing their own food.

The Yellowknife Community Garden Collective has approximately 100 members whose contributions to community building and local food security grow with every season.

The objectives of the Collective are to develop community-based gardens in Yellowknife that

- Provide a place to garden for people who do not own or have access to private land;
- Provide education and hands-on experience in the creation and maintenance of an environmentally-sustainable, organic garden in a northern environment;
- Provide fresh, nutritious, organic, relatively inexpensive, locally grown vegetables, herbs and flowers; and
- Assist in the food security needs of the whole community by providing food for people in need through donations to local charities.

continued on page 2

Food Security: economic and physical access to food by all people

Highlights:

Our Roots	1
Spring Social	1
Mary, Mary, Queen of Charity, How Does Your Garden Grow?	2
Calendar of Activities	3
Members' Obligations	4
Waiver Form	5
Membership Form	6
Board Contacts	7

Spring Social: Wednesday April 25, 2007

Come to the Spring Social and bring your friends! Discover how to take part in this year's gardening excitement! This is the first meeting of the year with all past and new members, and is a great chance to meet, greet, eat, and socialize.

This event will be a potluck and will be a time for new members to hand in applications and pay garden fees. All members can sign up for volunteer jobs and meet other garden members!

April 25, 2007
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Library Meeting Room

Our Roots

continued from page 1

As demand for plots increased, thoughts began to sprout about expanding the garden. In 2000 the garden size was doubled through the addition of a second site beside the original garden.

Gardening in Yellowknife can be challenging but is also very rewarding. The gardening season in

Yellowknife begins about the first week in June and is finished by the end of September. Garden collective members can use raised beds to ensure warm soil and can extend the season by sprouting plants indoors. Frosts can still happen in mid-June and anytime in September, so gardeners are prepared to protect their vegetables and flowers from frost if they want to get the best out of their gardens.

Mary, Mary, Queen of Charity, how does your garden grow?

by Jessica Vetsch

With potatoes, beets, and carrots too – all in the designated row!

This year the Yellowknife Community Garden will be trying something new in regards to charitable donation crops. As most of you are well aware, it is an obligation of membership to donate 25% of produce to a local charity. That 25% should be a root crop that stores well, such as carrots, turnips, beets, or potatoes. The donation of more perishable crops such as lettuce, beans, peas, and cabbage is encouraged but left to the discretion and generosity of members. Last year, some plots were left unattended at the end of the season and valuable crops went to waste that could have found a home with any one of our charities. To avoid this, we are asking members to clearly designate 25% of their physical plot to a specific charity. Charities and their requested crops will be posted at the garden. In this way, if any plot begins to run rampant other members will at least be able to harvest the donation crops and see that they reach the appropriate charity without fear of treading on anyone's tubers.

Charity for Posterity

Keeping a clear record of our charitable donations throughout the season is important, especially when we are discussing our land lease with the city. A sheet will be posted in each shed for members to record how much produce has gone to which charities. This also helps ensure that no organizations are overlooked.

If anyone is confused about the new donation practices, this year's Community Liaison is Jessica Vetsch who is happy to field any questions or concerns in regards to this topic. She can be contacted through the garden's email address: yellowknife.garden@gmail.com. We are all looking forward to another exciting season of gardening!



Karley Ziegler is in the garden, but she's too clean to be truly gardening.

2007 Calendar of Activities

Month	Board Activities	Members' Activities
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Meeting • Prepare winter newsletter with information about spring social in April 	
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for membership registration: update waiver & application forms, update members-in-good-standing list, send letters to lapsed members, maintain waiting list • Prepare advertising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Order seeds
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board meeting • First week: send winter newsletter, application forms, & general info to members in good standing • Advertise for new members (unless waiting list more than full) 	
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Meeting • Assignment of plots • Contact new members on the waiting list • Notify members of site cleanup and spring projects • Prepare spring newsletter (include tilling dates and info re. food security sections) • Prepare members' contact list 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 10th: deadline for last year's members to submit completed membership and waiver forms with payment to the treasurer • Spring Social: orientation of new members, sharing ideas & tips about getting started • April 30 deadline for new members' applications
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Meeting • Ask City to turn water on; sign user agreement • Distribute spring newsletter • Secure seeds/stock for food security sections • Assess equipment needs and repairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site cleaning, application of nutrients if needed • Tilling of soil • Marking of food security sections in all plots (pending board decision)
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water turned on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting • Regular site maintenance
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate work bees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular site maintenance
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refresh information re. food donations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular site maintenance • Distribute food security donations
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Meeting • Prepare year-end financial statements for board review • Prepare fall newsletter, including AGM notice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall Cleanup Event • Harvesting • Watch for first frost
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for AGM - resolutions, etc. • Submit financial statements to registrar of societies within 14 days of AGM • Distribute fall newsletter at AGM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of month: fall site cleanup • Annual General Meeting & Fall Social: elect new board, approve financial statements
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Meeting • Presentation & report to the City 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for next garden season

YCGC MEMBERS' OBLIGATIONS

As stated in the YCGC By-Laws,

All Members shall:

- agree to participate in person or by proxy in the Annual General Meeting and other society activities;
- agree to and sign a liability waiver;
- use 'organic' gardening methods in the community and personal garden plots as outlined in the resource materials developed by YCGC;
- maintain their allocated personal and community garden plots;
- use water conservation methods as determined by the membership;
- use water for garden purposes only; and
- follow garden etiquette as determined by the membership

YCGC SITE USE REQUIREMENTS**ETIQUETTE**

All members shall:

- assist in the maintenance of the garden site, the perimeter of the site under the 'Adopt-a-Street' program, and other community garden plots as required;
- organise, with their partners, the planting, tending, harvesting and distribution of produce from the shared community garden plot; and
- ensure children and guests are supervised at all times

SECURITY

All members shall:

- LOCK the garden site and shed when leaving the site unattended;
- not share the lock combination with non-members; and
- report any problems to the Site Manager as soon as possible.

GARDENING PRACTICE

All members shall:

- use only organic fertilizers and pest controls;
- dispose of weeds and diseased or infested plants off-site, not through on-site composting;
- keep paths clear of equipment and other materials such as weeds and rocks; and
- water the garden plots using watering cans only and not use hoses or sprinklers.

EQUIPMENT

All members shall:

- maintain all communal equipment in good repair;
- ensure that tools and equipment are secured in the shed when leaving the garden site; and
- ensure that the water tap is turned completely OFF before leaving the garden site.

GARBAGE

All members shall:

- remove their own garbage from the site. The garbage bin in the shed is for non-biodegradable garbage only.

2007 Member Waiver Form

As a member of the Yellowknife Community Garden Collective, I do hereby agree to the following:

- I shall abide by the terms and conditions of membership as described in the Yellowknife Community Garden Collective by-laws and regulations;
- I shall retain all rights and obligations of membership as described in the Yellowknife Community Garden Collective by-laws and regulations so long as my membership is in good standing;
- I hereby release from all liability and save harmless the Yellowknife Community Garden Collective; all past, present and future Board Directors; and the City of Yellowknife for any loss, injury or damage (including death) to members, their families, their guests or other property resulting from or relating to activities of the Yellowknife Community Garden Collective;
- I confirm that I shall keep current personal liability insurance in an amount sufficient to indemnify the Yellowknife Community Garden Collective; all past, present, and future Board Directors; and the City of Yellowknife against any loss, injury, or damage (including death) resulting from or related to the carrying out of activities of the Yellowknife Community Garden Collective.

Each member is required to sign a waiver form.

Member (signature) Date

Witness (signature) Date

Member (name)

Witness (name)

Your waiver form must be included with your membership application form.

2007 Membership Application Form

(due by April 10th)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Date: _____
 Yellowknife, NT X1A _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____
 (communications are by email unless otherwise requested)

1. Would you like a garden plot? Yes No
2. Do you have a partner to garden with? Please print name(s) clearly. A minimum of two people are required per plot to allow more people a gardening opportunity. Gardeners without partners will be matched to share plots.

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3. Did you have a garden plot last year? Yes, Plot # __ No
4. If so, do you wish to have the same plot? Yes No

Note: If you do not wish to have the same garden plot, a new plot will be assigned by means of a lottery for all vacant lots. Please contact the treasurer if you have special needs.

5. I have read, understood, and will follow the Members' Obligations. Yes No
6. Please include your payment to confirm membership.

Membership Fee:	\$10 per person x ___ people	= \$ _____
Plot Fee:	\$20 per plot	= \$ _____
	TOTAL:	= \$ _____

Note: Please make your cheque payable to the **Yellowknife Community Garden Collective**. Do not send cash by mail. If you wish to pay in cash please contact the Treasurer in person. Make sure to include the following three items and mail to the address below before the 10th of April:

- Payment
- Signed Waiver Form
- Completed Membership Application Form

Yellowknife Community Garden Collective
 P.O. Box 21, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N1

2007 Board of Directors

The board of directors can be contacted by email at yellowknife.garden@gmail.com.

Name

Keri Barringer
 Julie Jackson
 Vera Raschke
 Karley Ziegler
 Lillith Brook
 Dwayne Wohlgemuth
 Jennifer Skelton
 Jessica Vetsch
 Patricia Gall
 Tasha Stephenson
 Lisette Self

Position

Chair
 Co-Chair
 Secretary
 Treasurer
 Publicity/PR
 Publicity/PR, Education
 Education
 Liaison
 Membership Coordinator
 Strategic Planner
 Board Advisor

Site 1:

Ruby Trudel
 Mark Simmons
 Murray Wick
 Joyce Gilchrist
 Laurin Trudel

Site Manager
 Assistant Site Manager
 Assistant Site Manger
 Compost
 Equipment Manager

Site 2:

Louise & Lionel Marcinkoski
 Joel Gowman
 Craig Scott
 Martin Rourke

Site Managers
 Assistant Site Manger
 Compost
 Equipment Manager