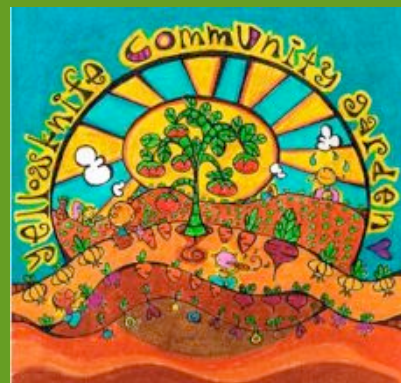


Yellowknife Community Garden Collective

Garden Gazette

Volume 15, Issue 1

October 2008



Annual General Meeting on Thursday, Oct. 30th

It's that time of the year again! Time for gardeners to gather together for the annual general meeting of the Yellowknife Community Garden Collective.

This meeting will enable us to celebrate the past gardening season, share garden news, including an update about the new garden site in Old Town, and elect a Board of Directors for the upcoming year.

All Garden Collective members are **required** to attend this meeting in order to be able to garden next year. If you can't make the AGM, you can send a 'proxy', or another person in your place to represent you. A person can only act as a proxy representative for one garden collective member (this ensures we have enough people in attendance to have a voting quorum).

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM!

When: Thursday, October 30th

Time: 7:00 - 8:30 pm

**Where: Yellowknife Public
Library Meeting Room**

In this edition of the Garden Gazette:

- Garden expansion update
- Summer garden workshop news
- How to keep your lettuce from bolting in the YK sunshine
- Garden Collective contact details



Late summer harvest extravaganza at Site 1
(Photo by Joyce Cole)

The Community Garden Expands Again!

By Dwayne Wohlgemuth

On September 9th, City Council unanimously approved a new community garden site at the location of the old Bartam Trailer Court, adjacent to School Draw Avenue and across from Lundquist Road. The garden has been 10 months in the making; the first finger was put to keyboard to write a funding proposal in December of last year.

After hiring companies to remove asphalt on the site, strip gravel, and put in fence posts, around 10 excited gardeners gathered on Sunday, Oct 5th to build a soil retaining wall around the site, and the first loads of soil were delivered that same day. All 252 cubic yards of soil has now been delivered to the site, and gardeners will gather on Sunday, October 19th to spread the soil so it is ready for the spring.



Shovelling and hammering up a storm at the Old Town garden construction bee.



Installing part of the soil retaining wall at the Old Town garden site.

expect that by next spring, a few people on the waiting list will no longer be in Yellowknife, or will no longer want plots, so your chances for being able to become part of the Old Town Garden are still good!

The garden will provide space for about 40 gardeners, as well as community organisations such as the Native Women's Association. With an area of 456 m², it is slightly smaller than the Kam Lake gardens which each have an area of 650 m². A waiting list has already been established, and it currently has 43 people on it who hope to get their spade into a garden plot. This means that the garden will be full in its first year! Volunteers who help more than 10 hours with the creation of the new garden will have priority for garden plots.

Please contact the Garden Board at yellowknife.garden@gmail.com if you are interested in an Old Town garden plot. We

Summer Gardening and Composting Workshops

This summer the YK Community Garden Collective partnered with Ecology North to hold a series of composting and local food production workshops, thanks to generous support from the Yellowknife Community Foundation. These public events were a great opportunity to learn from and socialize with fellow gardeners. Workshop topics included the following:

- Backyard composting and northern gardening
- How to build your own backyard composter
- Garden pollinators
- Building healthy garden soils
- Canning and food preservation

Through this project, a garden plot was also established at the Centre for Northern Families, which enabled residents and program participants to grow vegetables together, just a few metres away from where the veggies were prepared and enjoyed in their kitchen!

In August, the Garden Collective initiated 'Gardening Tuesdays'. The purpose of these informal events was to invite community gardeners to come work at their plots at the same time, to facilitate more interaction, learning and socializing among garden members. We look forward to more of these garden evenings next season!



Making cranberry sauce at the food preservation workshop



Children at the Centre for Northern Families harvest peas and water their garden plot that Garden Collective volunteers helped establish.

Do you have an idea for a garden workshop topic for next year, or would you be excited to help present a workshop? The Garden Board would love to hear from you!

A special thank you to all of the volunteer presenters who shared their enthusiasm and knowledge at this summer's workshops: Melanie Hopkins, Erica Janes, Katherine Mackenzie, Andrea Patenaude, Shannon Ripley, Doug Ritchie, Jennifer Skelton, Irene Soldat, Lone Sorensen, Kate Thomson, and Dwayne Wohlgenuth.

How to Stop Lettuce from Bolting in the YK Sunshine

"Oh no, my lettuce has bolted!" This is quite a common exclamation heard around Yellowknife gardens during the month of July. It is not that everyone's lettuce plants have unearthed themselves, and taken off to the beach at Long Lake ... but this cool-season plant's response to its desire for a refreshing drink in the shade!

While most gardeners and garden plants relish the long, hot, sunny July days, a few cold-season crops, such as lettuce, spinach and radishes respond to increased daylight hours, hot temperatures, and dry conditions by flowering and forming seeds, also known as bolting. When bolting occurs, lettuce leaves tend to become bitter, and the roots of radishes remain small.

This summer a few gardeners tried their hand at some innovative techniques to keep their lettuce from bolting. At Site 1, Doris Robertson seeded her lettuce between her peas, so that the peas would provide shade and nitrogen for the lettuce plants. Doris reports that this arrangement did help to prevent her lettuce from bolting as quickly as in previous years; however, she found she had to practice a few gymnastic moves to harvest the lettuce later in the season as the peas grew tall and bushy! She plans to plant the peas a bit farther apart next year.



Partial shade cloth can also be used as an alternative to help reduce the intensity of light shining on cool-season crops. Keeping cool-season veggies well-watered, particularly during the long, July days, can also slow the bolting process.

Contact us!

YK Community Garden Collective website:

<http://groups.google.com:80/group/ykgarden>

To contact Board Members or for general enquiries, please send an e-mail to: **yellowknife.garden@gmail.com**

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