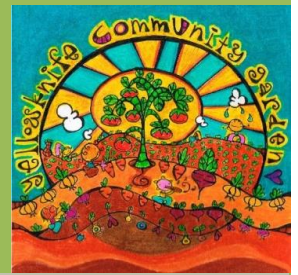


Fall 2011

Volume 17, Issue 2

Yellowknife Community Garden Collective

GARDEN GAZETTE



www.ykgardencollective.org / E: info@ykgardencollective.org

Box 21

Yellowknife
NT X1A 2N1

2011 AGM

When:

Thursday,
November 10, 2011

Time:

7:00 to 9:00 pm

Where:

Northern United Place
(5403 Franklin Ave.)

Bring a finger friendly food and come to have fun and elect your new garden board!

Please let a board member know if you are interested in a board position or in nominating someone for a board position.

Changes to the By-Laws are happening. This will be a quick process and we will not be reading the new bylaws in detail, so please, if you are concerned with our by-laws please read the revised by-laws in advance. The proposed bylaws and a summary document of the changes made are available on the home page of our website.

www.ykgardencollective.org

YCGC 2010/11 Board of Directors, and volunteer positions

Chair	Shannon Ripley
Co-Chair	Dwayne Wohlgemuth
Treasurer	Gerald Enns
Secretary	Vera Raschke
Membership	Amanda Johnson
Education	Caroline Lafontaine
Liaison Coordinator	Christina Vernon
Publicity	Rosella Stoesz

Site 1 Manager	David Taylor, Assistant, Darin Woodbury
Site 2 Manager	Ester Rowe Assistant, Jeroen Slagter
Site 3 Co-Managers	Jennifer Potten and Kris Brekke
Site 4 Manager	Eve Petersen, School Liaison (Elizabeth Monroe)
Site 1 Membership	Catherine Pigott
Site 2 Membership	Caihla MacCuish
Site 3 Membership	Michelle Swallow
Site 4 Membership	Claire Marchildon

Chair and Co-Chair Report – Shannon Ripley, Dwayne Wohlgemuth



It has been a very busy and exciting year and garden season for the Yellowknife Community Garden Collective! As we come to the end of another growing season, in addition to being thankful for the delicious and beautiful veggies and fruits we were able to grow for our families, friends and our broader community this season, there are many other exciting accomplishments to be grateful for:

- Thank you to the many people who shared their support for the community garden to help us attain a tax exemption from the City. Although the process required a great deal of volunteer effort, it also provided a wonderful opportunity for us to reflect upon the vital role that community gardens play in our community's social fabric, and a reminder of the importance of food donation and educational outreach programs.
- The issue of property taxes was a significant challenge, and gardeners came out in force by attending meetings and emailing councillors to support tax-exempt community gardens. Council was supportive in the end, and community gardens now enjoy tax exemption in the Tax Administration By-Law.

- City sewer upgrades near Site 2 meant many changes and a readjustment of gardening plots at Sites 1 and 2 this season. Big thanks to the following people for their roles in making this transition year as smooth as possible: Dave Taylor and other garden board members for coordinating the changes, Site 1 and 2 gardeners for their patience and help, all gardeners who came out to help at work bees, the City of Yellowknife for their support and help.
- Finalizing construction of the Weledeh Garden: obtaining funding for the water connection, installing water pipes, and organizing final construction workbees in the spring.

- Weledeh school - community garden celebrated its first growing season!
- A website was created for YCGC that allows easier distribution of information to gardeners and is an important marketing tool for the Collective. A few members of the board now regularly update the website.
- A system of electronic gardener registration was developed that has significantly reduced the work of data entry.

Community Donations Report – Christina Vernon

Site	Plots	Lbs/Site	Lbs/plot	Bags/Site	Bags/plot
Site 1: Kam Lake	32	734.7	23.0	130.0	4.1
Site 2: Kam Lake	11	107.0	9.7	7.0	0.6
Site 3: Old Town	19	824.3	43.4	87.0	4.6
Total	62	1666.0	26.9	224.0	3.6

Organizations	Bags	Pounds
Salvation Army	124	508.6
Aven Manor	47	363.2
Allison McAteer House (Women's Shelter)	17	328.5
Centre for Northern Families	18	237.2
YWCA Transitional Housing	1	136.5
Abe Miller Centre for Community Living	10	43
Yellowknife Food Bank	0	21
Side Door	1	7
Baker Centre	0	4
Kaw Tay Whee School	0	0
Kitikmeot Boarding House	0	0
Weledeh School Food Program	1	17
Other	1	17



What a fabulous year of gardening for 2011!

As you all know, a requirement of gardening with the YKGC is that you donate a quarter of your plot to growing vegetables for community donation. The good news is that our numbers for donating were up over 2010. So, let's give ourselves a collective pat on the back for offering our community nutritious, organic vegetables this summer and fall!

Education Report – *Caroline Lafontaine, Lone Sorensen, Andrea Patenaude, Dwayne Wohlgemuth, Dave Taylor, Sandra Mann*



This year our workshop series including some new as well as the tried and true subjects. Late June, July and August educational activities were preceded by pot-lucks at alternate gardens. Participation varied (8-30 people) but was appreciated all. The workshops presented this year are listed below.

Seed Selection, Ordering & Swap: February 8.

- experienced and newer gardeners to look at seed catalogues together, learn about what veggies grow best here, and choose seeds for the coming season.

Soil composition and preparation: (Lone Sorensen and Shannon Ripley, Dave Taylor) May 12th.

- presentation about soil composition.
- how to prepare your soil for a successful garden..
- demonstration of how weeds are spread by roots
- importance of weeding as a daily or at least weekly practice.
- a laughter yoga weeding exercise lightened the mood significantly.

Take care of your garden, take care of your back: (Sandra Mann) May 31

- basics of preventing back injuries during the gardening season
- warm up activities, proper body mechanics, and modifying activities through the use of tools and good garden design, mostly through minimizing lifting, reaching and bending.

Maintaining a successful garden: (Lone Sorensen) June 28

- discussed the importance of weeding, thinning and feeding your plants at this workshop

Priceless Pollinators: (Andrea Patenaude) July 11th,

- Introduction to the basics of pollination, why it is important and who the pollinators are.
- how to enhance our gardens to attract pollinators and took a closer look at a few pollination “professionals” such as bees!

Learning to save your own seeds: (Dwayne Wohlgemuth) August 9

- Fourteen gardeners attended to learn the various reasons for saving seeds and which are the easiest to save. They also learned more about the life cycle of plants and completed a hand-on activity to save tomato seeds. The workshop covered self and cross-pollinated annuals and perennials.

Canning workshop: (Dave Taylor) August 20.

- “We canned 2 batches of beans and one of beets. Everyone took home at least one batch of beans. We had about 12 participants which is a good number for the NUP kitchen. ... The highlight for me was when two reporters from Canadian Living showed up....You never know what you are going to get in Yellowknife!”

“...there were a few people who at sometime during the summer mentioned learning something about weeds at Lone’s weed event. So I would say that was a success.”
Dave Taylor



“We had the most incredible evening at the garden. The weather was sunny, warm and a little windy, and it was perfect for being outside enjoying the beginnings of spring. Many new gardeners showed up, almost 30. We started by simply having fun with some Laughter Yoga, which also gave people a chance to meet other happy gardeners in an upbeat and joyful way..”
Lone Sorensen (on the success of the soil composition workshop)

Recruitment of Facilitators
If you have experience or knowledge on a subject area related to gardening season, please contact the education coordinator.

Site Reports – Growing Together at Weledeh!



"I LOVE carrots!" "Can we grow potatoes in our garden?"
"Let's spread manure around the garden plot with our bare feet!"

This May and June, Weledeh School-Community garden rang out with the exuberant and enthusiastic voices of 70 Weledeh students in grades 3 to 6 who came out to the garden once per week to prepare, plant and tend a garden in the donation quarters of the Weledeh garden plots. Activities the students embarked upon included starting seedlings indoors, spreading manure, playing interactive games about soil fertility and composting, singing songs about gardening, and recording their on-going discoveries in a garden journal.

A giant thank you to the volunteer garden mentors, who made time in their daytime schedules to share in the excitement of gardening with the students! Big thanks also to all Weledeh gardeners who supported their student garden buddies through the summer by meeting them at

the garden to water, weed and harvest together and for tending students' plots when they were unable to visit. Your support and efforts made this program possible!

Although soil fertility challenges at Weledeh garden this inaugural growing season meant that yields from the garden were not huge, the personal growth, learning, excitement and exuberance of the students was enormous and so marvelous to observe! This is a very special garden, brimming with wonderful opportunities for continued inter-generational learning and community connections!

As partners who organized "Growing Together at Weledeh", YCGC and Ecology North are grateful to the GNWT - Health Promotion Fund for financial support that helped to make this school program possible.

Do you have ideas, suggestions or feedback on Growing Together at Weledeh?

We would love to hear your thoughts! Please contact Shannon at shannon@ecologynorth.ca or 873-8857.

Site Reports – Kam Lake, Site 1 & 2

It was a busy year at site 1&2.

- Coordinated the move of soil from site 2 to site 1a; moved composters; directed soil placement; determined plots; installed numbers; arranged fence; moved Saskatoon berry plants; itemized remaining work required.
- Installed additional water lines for site 1a; repaired a wheelbarrow; installed shelves at site 1 shed; replaced whipper snipper; collected wood (Thanks Luna) repaired composters; cut grass; replaced locks at site 2 (I have new locks to install at site 1 after the fall cleanup); installed buckets under the watering station hoses to catch the drips. This seemed to work well, but some the buckets have disappeared since I moved them into the shed for the winter.
- Sent messages related to work parties; weeds; donations. Collected donation sheets; arranged and installed landscaping fabric for the exposed areas of site 1. Dealt with complaints about too many weeds and the requirement to weed. Received some compliments from new gardeners regarding tips and assistance.

Overall it was a great year at the garden, much produced and many happy gardeners.

The City was very helpful in assisting us deal with the sewer pipe replacement. They moved the soil from Site 2 to 1a, provided the temporary fence and temporary waterline. They saved the topsoil from the excavations and may be able to provide that back to us as garden soil. It costs about \$600/plot for soil so that would be helpful.

The work is not done yet (Oct 2011). Still to do are the following:

City tasks

- Grade and cover the excavated area.
- Replace the fence around site 2.
- Install the permanent 2 inch waterline. The temporary this year was just 1 inch

Our Tasks

- Replace the soil at site 2.
- Add soil to the remaining areas of site 1a.
- Install a fence around site 1a.