

September 2020

Hunt Club: My Community



Maudlin Matilda McEwan Community Garden

Christine Johnson

I've had a vision of community gardens dotting our Hunt Club community since 2013, not long after transitioning out of my career in education. I shared this vision with the Hunt Club Community Association, and this summer we took the first steps to making it become a reality.

Thanks to the generosity of Bishop Bryan Williams and the board of directors at his church, we were able to secure a site for our community garden at the Emmanuel Apostolic Church property at 3347 McCarthy Rd. With the financial support of our Hunt Club Community Association and the Community Gardening Development Fund of 'Just Food Ottawa', we had the soil tested and once given the green light, we started digging. Since early June, a dedicated group of twenty local volunteers turned an 18 foot by 32 foot piece of lawn into a community garden. We were happy to name our garden in honour of the mother of Bishop Williams' wife, who passed away five years ago: Maudlin Matilda McEwan. She too, loved to garden!

Through the sweat of our brows and the power of our muscles, we dug up the sod, piece by piece, preparing it to go into one of the three compost bins after releasing its soil. Discarded lumber from neighbouring driveways was scavenged on garbage days and hauled to the garden site, screened, released of any screws and nails, then repurposed to create a border frame for our garden. As one team continued to work on the sod pieces, line the pathways with locally donated mulch, enrich the earth with three cubic yards of organic top-dressing soil, another team built a chicken wire fence with a gate to enclose the garden, safeguarding it from ravenous critters. And there it was: a garden with ten separate plots ready to be planted, each gardener responsible for one of nine plots, the tenth being a 'common plot' this year, but designed specifically to welcome a person confined to a wheelchair to join our gardening team next spring.

Councilor Brockington attended the soft opening of our community garden on July 20th, helping the volunteer team celebrate its first late planting season by sharing a Frozen Raspberry Torte made by one of the volunteers. Stoked with sufficient calories, we planted our seeds and young plants and the growing began. Or should we say 'continued', as most of the volunteers participating in this adventure, some living on the same street nearby, hadn't

"If you want to be happy for a lifetime, plant a garden."



See Garden Page 2

Community Garden

Continued From Page 1

previously known each other. However, through the many collective work bees to get this garden 'in the ground', friendships grew and along with these a sense of JOY, of shared purpose and of belonging.

Although addressing Food Security issues in our community is what first propelled this initiative, what became clear as it unfolded, was that a sense of belonging and connectedness within our community was as big a need being fulfilled. Caring about things that grow has parallels with raising children. You need to be consistently present, attentive, caring and reliable for your product to grow strong and healthy. That takes responsibility. Assuming it produces competencies and a sense of confidence. Sharing this responsibility with others nurtures community. We all know the saying *"It takes a village to raise a child."* Indeed, it is this very community engagement that sparks vibrant communities everywhere.

As passersby on the sidewalk observed this project develop, some engaged in friendly conversation; some wanted to know how they could contribute; one couple offered us a nearly full bag of peat moss; we got to know many of their (and their dogs') names; others wrote letters of support to help us secure funding for the cost of building the garden; still others just wanted to know what we had planted and if there would be a harvest before this winter.

So, to satisfy everyone's curiosity, young regular and cherry tomatoes transplanted from home-started plants are already yielding their fruit; as are the radishes, lettuce and sisho. Before the end of October, we expect to be harvesting yellow and green beans, cucumbers, carrots, beets, Asian spinach, peas, pumpkin, squash, and peppers. Not bad, for a late planting season.

There are open spaces all over our Hunt Club community with full sun exposure for six hours or more each day. These would all be perfect for community gardens. Community gardens are such a great way to increase our food security, our sense of community and safety within it as we get to know more of our neighbours. So, if you have a space in mind where you can imagine a community garden, let us know; we know how to make it happen and would be happy to help you get it started. Contact us at info@hunt-club.ca.

How's Your Garden Growing?



Send us pictures of your vegetable or flower gardens and we'll post them on our website.



Get Growing
HUNT CLUB

Gardeners: Looking to share your garden bounty?

We gardeners plant vegetables in our pots or gardens in the spring with dreams of biting into that home grown tomato, enjoying garden beans or peas or making a salad of the greens and peppers. If it's a good growing season there may come a time when you are staring at a huge bucket of tomatoes, you've eaten so many beans you don't know if you can eat another and you've started anonymously leaving your extra zucchini on neighbours' doorsteps in the middle of the night.

If you have more fresh produce than you can use and would like to share with those who are in need, there are options to donate your garden produce. In our area of the city you can donate extra garden produce to the [Heron Emergency Food Centre](#) at 1580 Heron Rd. The Centre is a member agency of the Ottawa Food. The doors to the centre are on the front left side of the building. At the time of writing this article those doors are locked due to the pandemic but signs/arrows direct you around the side of the building where you can donate your fresh produce.

The centre is open:

- Tuesday 1:30 - 3:30 pm
- Wednesday 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- Thursday 1:30 - 3:30 pm
- Friday 9:30 - 11:30 am

Your garden bounty will find its way to someone who might not otherwise have access to nutritious food.

Happy continued gardening.

Barb Shea
Hunt Club Get Growing Project

Riley Ottawa Brockington

City Councillor (River Ward)
Conseiller Municipal (Quartier Rivière)



Dear Friends and Neighbours,

As summer continues to shine, I hope you had time to rejuvenate and enjoy the warm weather. We certainly have had our share!

BACK TO SCHOOL

During these uncertain times, the health and safety of your children and family is at the top of your decision making (and mine) when it comes to back to school.

For those electing to return to the classroom, City Council endorsed my active transportation plan to hire ten new crossing guards, prioritize line painting in school zones, initiate a back to school public service campaign, and maintain the Ottawa Bylaw presence in school zones for enforcement and education opportunities. I must remind everyone to be extra diligent when driving in residential communities, particularly in school zones. Our most vulnerable road users need all of us to remain vigilant.

If you or your children are struggling with fear and anxiety with the return to school, or even feeling angry or out of sorts, please note this is normal. You may find a list of resources at <https://www.ottawapublichealth.ca/en/public-health-topics/mental-health-and-covid-19.aspx>.

Please note, that all schools, regardless of school board, do not permit dogs on their property at any time. Local residents are kindly asked not to be on school property during school hours. These regulations are in place to keep children safe. A number of local principals have asked me to share this message with residents.

TEMPORARY MASK BYLAW

To help limit the spread of COVID-19 as schools and businesses reopen, City Council on Wednesday, August 26 extended the temporary mandatory mask bylaw to October 31. Masks are also now mandatory in the common areas of condominium and apartment buildings. As well, City Council has delegated to the General Manager of Emergency and Protective Services the authority to temporarily designate an outdoor area as 'mask-required' should physical distancing be an issue (such as the Byward Market.)

LRT STAGE 2 SOUTH KEYS STATION WORK

I have been working with OC Transpo LRT officials to minimize disruptions caused by piling activities at South Keys Station during the construction of the new station for LRT – Phase 2. This work is anticipated to begin shortly and last into late September. I pushed back on a request to authorize 30 days of nighttime piling work. As a result, City officials are working with TNext to minimize the pile driving that would be conducted in the overnight hours as much as possible.

E-WASTE DAY – SEPTEMBER 26

On Saturday September 26, I will host an electronic waste depot, with partner, Junk That Funk. This is an outdoor event and you may drive, cycle or walk to with your unwanted electronic items for environmentally safe disposal.

The depot will be held in the parking lot of the Hunt Club Riverside Park Community Centre from 10am-4pm.



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Going nuts over nuts!

Katherine Schaefer

While I fully expected to share my yard with the neighborhood squirrels when my fiancé and I moved in last October, I wasn't ready for the destructive and bothersome habits we've come to dread. I've recently discovered a massive hoard of empty peanut shells buried in our yard, as well as decaying flowers, missing bulbs and a multitude of holes in our newly planted garden. While squirrels are known for digging their caches just about anywhere with soft soil, these behaviours are amplified when people deliberately feed peanuts to squirrels. To our dismay, we see squirrels with shelled peanuts in their mouths hopping along the squirrel highway (aka our backyard fence) multiple times a day. Yes, this is a nuisance, but after doing some research, I've learned feeding nuts to squirrels does more harm than good.

For starters, peanuts lack proper nutritional value. Northwest Seed and Pet warn against feeding raw peanuts to squirrels as they contain a substance which limits protein absorption, leading to malnutrition. The Canadian Wildlife Federation also discourages feeding squirrels deliberately, as this can cause squirrels to become dependent on handouts and limits them foraging for natural food sources. Furthermore, feeding squirrels may cause too many squirrels to move into an area which cannot sustain its population naturally. This can lead to aggressive and territorial behaviour with each other.

Another negative and long-term effect according to the Wildlife X Team pest control company, feeding squirrels prompts infestation because they begin to associate humans with food. It can also bring about increased aggression if they are hungry and desperate enough. An environmentally friendly alternative to feeding the squirrels directly would be to consider planting trees that provide nuts, buds and fruits, such as Beech, Hickory, Spruce, Oak and Maple.



Your Hunt Club Community Association (HCCA) Website has a new look!

Susan McCarthy

If you log on to hunt-club.ca you'll be dazzled by the bright colours and graphics. And everything is laid out in a simple and easy to read manner. It is menu driven allowing you to drill down for more information. The new HCCA website is modern looking and mobile friendly.

Some features include:

- My Community Newsletter moving to an online format:
 - Real-time posting of news
 - Subscribe for periodic news and events updates right to your email
 - Ability to submit news articles online for consideration
- Events calendar highlighting HCCA meetings and other events
- Current issues affecting the community with provision to submit comments
- Online purchase of membership

The website is gradually moving from its current HTML format to a more dynamic platform in the coming weeks which will allow for more interaction and enhanced advertising options for local business. Take a look and let us know what you think!

We wish to thank Jason Dubue as well as Kat Gracie supported by President Brian Wade for their tireless work in developing our new HCCA Website on a volunteer basis. We also wish to thank Past President John Sankey for his work over the past many years in developing and maintaining the former HCCA website. We have incorporated his extensive work on the history of Hunt Club in our new website.



Hunt Club in the 21st Century: Join the Conversation!

We need to talk! ... about our community!

The original Hunt Club neighbourhood is almost 50 years old and has grown and evolved considerably since its first houses were built in the mid-seventies. When I first moved here, Hunt Club Road was a two-way street and there was a drive-in where the Park'n Ride is now. It's a whole different place now, in the second decade of the 21st century.

Some of the original residents are still living here; many others have moved away. Their children (and others from their generation) are now choosing to raise their own families here. With easy access to public schools, parks with play equipment, shopping amenities, the airport and downtown, Hunt Club is ideally situated to attract newcomers from all walks of life. It's a great place to live and we believe it could be even better! As the world and our city continue to change around us, adapting to so many new realities, so too must our community. And THAT'S what we are inviting you to come talk about.

What do YOU like about living in Hunt Club? What are some things that you feel are missing and would add value to our community? Your Hunt Club Community Association wants to hear your voices! This will help us set our priorities and directions for the upcoming years.

We are inviting all of you to participate in the online Zoom event 'Let's Talk About Our Hunt Club Community' on **Monday, September 21 at 7 pm** to converse with other residents about Hunt Club matters.

- Register here to participate: bit.ly/3h4Lq62

A second repeat session will also be offered on **Saturday, September 26 at 11 am**.

- Register here: bit.ly/334FJA0

Please tell your neighbours and Hunt Club friends about this event. Once registered, you will receive a link to join the event on the date and time you chose.



Join Today!

As a non-profit community association, we want to ensure our vision and mission are in line with the needs of the community. We rely on membership as one way to do so.

Members receive a membership card that can be used to get a 20% discount on the cost of the all-inclusive fitness programs at any of the City of Ottawa 23 Recreation Programs.

Hunt-Club.ca/Membership

Thank You to our Sponsors

Hunt Club Community Association's 'Hunt Club: My Community' newsletter is completely online and available on our newly renovated website at hunt-club.ca. The new website will allow for more interaction and more advertising options. If you would like to become a sponsor of 'Hunt Club: My Community', please send an email to info@hunt-club.ca

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