

REPORT TO HCCA MEETING: 3 MAY 2021

ENVIRONMENT

The regulation of normal activity mandated by the Province of Ontario, as implemented by the City of Ottawa, has disrupted the schedule of environmental activities previously forecast.

In many cases modifying the activity to occur within the confines of regulations, especially by rescheduling until the restriction is lifted, is possible. Others that depend on the rhythm of nature are more difficult to manage. The situation is in flux. As we have seen, regulations can be changed quickly. Project leads should be left free to make necessary adjustments, while respecting the requirements of the Stay-At-Home Order and related regulations, in consultation with project participants, as the situation evolves and will table reports on their projects as they judge appropriate.

Although not a HCCA activity a flyer on our programs was distributed at the Funk That Junk event on Saturday 24 April outside the HCRPCC. That event was again most successful.

There was also a section on HCCA environmental activities in the Councillor's April 2021 Community Bulletin — Earth Day section,

The recent federal budget announced additional funding for climate change related activities. It remains unclear how that will trickle down to municipal, community and individual levels.

Finally, a reminder that a stay-at-home order still allows you to enjoy our green environment. "Outdoor exercise or walking pets in your community" are specifically permitted by the provincial order. Outside activities are low risk when done keeping social distancing and masking where appropriate.

Attachment 1: Get Growing Hunt Club

Attachment 1a: GGHC Blueprint

Attachment 1: Get Growing Hunt Club (GGHC)
Update to the HCCA Board and Councillor Brockington
For HCCA Board meeting May 3, 2021
Plans for Safety and Success

It is a pleasure, on behalf of the GGHC team, to provide an update on the current status and progress of GGHC as of the date of this report. We will provide a wrap up/close out report when the project 2021 ends but in the meantime, here are some of the highlights/accomplishments to date:

- The team operates from project blueprint and roadmap that was built in 2021 based on a review and assessment of the 2020 Get Growing Hunt Club project.
- Project blueprint-see attachment-keep in mind this was drafted before the current orders/regulations but contains the larger components of the project.
 - Team members have accepted key roles, assumed responsibility and each person has put in considerable time to date. Team meetings check our progress against the plan, make any course corrections and, in this second year of delivery during the pandemic ensure we are updated/discuss the current restrictions and public health guidance.
 - Income-\$300 Councillor Brockington, \$300 HCCA, \$200 from private donors
 - Expenses will not exceed income and will be supported by invoices/receipts.
- High level summary of each component in the blueprint:
 - Product sourcing (Barb Shea)-complete
 - Seed kits (one seedling, one pack of seeds) with an educational sheet on growing will provided again this year.
 - Scarcity, uncertainty of supply again this year-several growers/sellers contacted. Seeds were purchased early while stock was available. Seedlings more difficult to source-only one business would guarantee availability and order had to be placed well in advance of proposed delivery date. The seedlings will be ready for a May 12th pick up from the grower (Richmond Nursery). The grower was contacted after the Stay At Home order was issued and asked about impact to seedlings of a delay in pick up or distribution. A short delay (week or so)-seedlings will grow bigger and may not be at their optimum but should not suffer particularly. If delivery is much beyond the initial window the seedlings will become leggy (tall and spindly) and their viability is at risk if left in those small pots for weeks past their originally scheduled delivery date. Once seedlings are picked up from the grower they must be tended before being packaged and distributed. A later delivery means more care and tending (adequate water, temperature control)
 - This year is one where right-sizing the project continues. Last year we were able to fill 450 seed kits due to substantial free goods. This year we will have about half the number of seed kits-252.

- Community Housing Liaison; School Liaison (Christine Johnson)-new inroads
 - Shearwater and Ashgrove community housing complexes have received door to door flyers encouraging registration.
 - Several schools-presentations to local committees where GGHC is included in the overall information about HCCA. A number of registrations for seed kits have resulted from Christine's work.
- Volunteers (Lorraine Busby)-on target
 - Places where volunteers were/are needed have been identified and volunteers have been assigned. There is lots of enthusiasm and willingness to contribute.
- Distribution (Piero Narducci)
 - Several options explored; contacts made. If public health/regulations allow, RioCan will allow use of a portion of their parking lot (and will allow in future years with appropriate insurance).
 - Contact with the city-bylaw (Tania Mushka), query re: where GGHC would fit in various circumstances.
- Communications; Graphics; Social Media (Kat Gracie/Jason Dubue)
 - Planned/hosted successful webinar on starting seedlings.
 - Emails to last year's registrants encouraging sign up (new specific sign up for residents of Ashgrove and Shearwater communities) social media posts, management of updated flyers, posters, educational pamphlets, ongoing updates to web and Facebook (e.g., currently notes restrictions).
 - GGHC has become known beyond the Hunt Club area.
- Critical Path/Blueprint-Tania Mushka
 - Blueprint for the 2021 project established.
 - Critical path established and used as a guide for all components.
- Liaison with Councillor's office-Erin McCracken
 - Provides contacts within city staff as needed.
 - Coordinates contribution to Councillor Brockington's newsletter, etc., printing of flyers and posters.

To give you one measure of the impact of what has been built but not yet delivered this year: the retail value (not the actual cost as we have achieved discounts and wholesale prices) of the kits will be slightly over \$1,700.00. An article titled "Seed sales soar as many take up gardening." from April 3, 2021 in the Globe and Mail quotes Frank Guistra (who plans to build 1M community gardens this year in Canada and the USA) "The average home garden costs \$70 (to create) but the average return in fruit and vegetables is worth about \$670 a year." Taking license from \$70-\$670, the product we will have ready to give out is worth just over \$16,000 in produce.

We know, all too well, the uncertainty of these times living in a pandemic. The GGHC team has spent many hours collectively and individually in planning and thoughtfully considering how/if/when the seedkits might be made available to eager gardeners. We intend

to continue actively exploring options of delivery that fall within the bounds of any orders, regulations and public health guidance in place at that time. Ongoing contact with officials in order to clarify understanding and ask questions may be required. If we are able to find a path that will lead to successful delivery of the seedkits we will advise the Board and Councillor Brockington of the plan and the supporting information before actions to trigger delivery are taken.

The team respects the role and responsibilities of the HCCA Board and Councillor Brockington. We understand the issues of liability, public health safety and the importance of acting responsibly and with prudence. In order to deliver this project as the ground shifts beneath our feet it's important to be nimble and able to actively explore all options. Get Growing Hunt Club appreciates the HCCA Board and Councillor Brockington's support as we work to build community and help Hunt Club residents grow their own food.

Prepared by Barb Shea

Attachment 1a: GGHC BLUEPRINT
21 March 2021

GGHC Objective:

Help Hunt Club (HC) residents grow their own food.

Beneficiaries:

Broad HC community, with deference to those of limited means.

Products:

Vegetable seeds;

Vegetable seedlings;

Educational materials/guidance.

Guiding Principles:

Distribution date prior to May 24th weekend;

COVID Safety;

Offer “fool-proof” products;

KISS.

Financial Resources:

Money from HCCA and City Councillor;

Donations (Business sponsorships; other donations).

Core Team: Success through Team- work:

Barb Shea: Lead; Product Sourcing;

Christine Johnson: Community Housing Liaison; School Liaison;

Lorraine Busby: Volunteers;

Piero Narducci: Distribution;

Kat Gracie/Jason Dubue: Communications; Graphics; Social Media;

Tania Mushka: Critical Path (Roadmap);

Kate Cathrae: RPCA Liaison;

Erin McCracken: Liaison with Councillor’s Office.