

Maudlin Matilda McEwan Community Garden

End of 2021 Gardening Season Report to HCCA

November 1, 2021 (Respectfully submitted by Christine Johnson)

1. We had 11 gardeners this year + three boys from families living in the adjacent Huntridge Private condo complex who expressed enthusiasm to learn various gardening tasks. The plan for next year will be to find a way to involve them (with their parents supervision) in a more direct way.
2. Six of the gardeners added a wooden frame to their plots.
3. We installed our first rain barrel, which was used throughout this gardening season, making wise use of the rain provided to us for free!
4. We are grateful to the veggie plants received from 'Get Growing Hunt Club' again this year, a partner project that is helping build and nurture food security in our community.
5. We had a good crop of lettuce, spinach, green and yellow beans, beets, cucumbers, squash, Swiss chard, snow peas, tomatoes, zucchini, corn, radishes, onions, garlic, green and red peppers, carrots, kale and herbs (dill, basil, lemon thyme, oregano, sage, tarragon) and lovely marigolds, moon flowers, nasturtiums and one other flower whose name I can't recall right now.
6. We planted a Pollinator Patch of flowers at the north end of our veggie plots, which will yield many more beautiful flowers in our next season. Butterflies and bees were abundant all season long, ensuring good pollination of our many plants.
7. We purchased worms for a vermiculture compost, which we lovingly tended this year. We will be moving them into a trench that we will dig this weekend (along the West side of our garden fence) for them to winterize in. This compost will be added to our gardens in the spring.
8. We maintained three compost bins of organic waste, creating rich compost to add to our garden plots, some this weekend, some early next spring.
9. We acquired a fourth organic composting bin, which was donated to us and will be ready to use at our next gardening season. Special thanks to 8 year old Gus for assembling this bin! We are slowly collectively learning about the principles of

composting, which will result in all gardeners acquiring competency and confidence to create rich, healthy compost with which to feed our veggies.

10. The pastor at Emmanuel Apostolic Church has offered to sponsor two additional garden plots for the 2022 growing season.
11. We held a beautiful dedication ceremony event on October 2nd for the namesake of our garden, Maudlin Matilda McEwan – mother of the pastor’s wife, Paulette (McEwan) Williams. It was attended by all of the Williams immediate family and Bishop Bryan Williams, blessed our garden. All of our gardeners, family and friends and Councilor Brockington also attended, with refreshments donated by our gardeners. Tent tops were lent to us by S. Mc and K. and J. Dubue, without which this event would not have been the great success that it was, given the downpour of rain on that day. A video clip of this event has been posted by J.D. on our HCCA website.
12. One of our gardeners, Alexis Doyle, who is also an artist, created a beautiful mural, for our garden’s sign - ‘Maudlin Matilda McEwan Community Garden’ – which was unveiled at our October 2nd event. It will be safely stored over the winter months in the shed on site, and put up again in the spring, to kick off the 2022 gardening season. This mural, for which hours of creativity and work were invested voluntarily, was hung at the South-East side of the onsite shed, thanks to the design and selfless hours of work by one of our main garden builders, Joshua Bailey, with C.J. and D.N. assisting, along with immediate neighbour M.G.
13. We maintained a healthy financial account, starting with an opening balance of \$1,049.84 and ending the season with a closing balance of \$1,008.79. This puts us in a good position to be able to fund potential additional fencing for new plots to be added to our garden. Accounting records are attached.
14. Because of the pandemic, we had fewer whole group encounters, and yet, we maintained joy and fun with this project! Impromptu and chance encounters were welcomed by all!
15. Our end of season Zoom will allow us to identify next steps for making our project even more of a COMMUNITY garden! We appreciate the HCCA’s and the community’s interest and support in our MMMCG. Thank you! We are already looking forward to the 2022 gardening season and will be adding a second rain barrel (donated) to make wise use of water for our veggies.
16. With this project, we are helping to build bridges and strengthen the social fabric of, and the food security in our COMMUNITY.