

GetGrowing Hunt Club  
By Barb Shea  
May 22, 2026

The seventh annual GetGrowing Hunt Club (GGHC) seeds and seedlings giveaway was held Saturday May 16th 12:30-2:30pm at the Hunt Club Riverside Park Community Centre. The event was successful due to the work of dedicated volunteers, primary funding and support from HCCA and Councillor Brockington and the increasing engagement of the community at large. For the second year Sascha Allard has planned and hosted a Children's Festival at the same time as GGHC. We hope this co-host/location will continue long into the future.

Highlights:

- 242 seedlings (144 large purchased along with 98 small packs donated)
- 200+ seeds (all donated)
- 5 bags of soil (donated)
- 42 patio size salad bowls (lettuce and kale seedlings) recycled bowls donated and planted by volunteers
- Pilot seed exchange table
- 30% of the above delivered directly to Ashgrove community housing
- Generous sponsorship/donations total value over \$900 (Lee Valley tools -200 pks seeds, Metro-soil, seedlings, lunch for volunteers at the community centre, Ashgrove and RPCA garden day, Nick Taylor of Nick of Time Realty)
- Five community partner display tables
- Co-located children's festival

Financial:

- Final budget numbers forthcoming (original total budget available-\$880) preliminary-spending will align with original budget (with funds remaining). Up to \$100 of remaining funds can be allocated to volunteer (produces vegetables to donate to food insecurity individuals and programs) Fire Station garden in 2026. The use of funds for this purpose previously agreed to by HCCA Board.
- Not included in revenue above:
  - Merry Dairy fundraiser (thank you to HCCA Board/Melissa/Dong)-\$84
  - Onsite cash donations-\$40

Value for money:

- Based on the value of seeds/seedlings/soil/pre-planted salad bowls given out-the resulting 2026 crops are valued at \$8,600 if purchased in a retail store.
- Volunteer hours: 130. Using City of Ottawa in kind value of \$20/hour- \$2,600 contribution

A sincere thank you to all the volunteers (with hopes no one has been missed on this list): Jason Dubue, Cathy Bourguignon, Piero Narducci, Christine Johnson, Lamis Wehbe, Emily Corber, Noëlla Bussieres-Butler, Sascha Allard, Shakir Moalim Ishak and neighbourhood friends who helped plant the salad bowls.