



Goldenrod
Community
Garden



Annual General Meeting

17 October 2023



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Pollinator Garden

Hazel Gabe



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Welcome



Agenda

Time	Item
7:00 pm	Welcome and introductions
7:00	Presentation on Pollinator Garden
7:30	Approval of minutes
7:35	Annual Report to the members
7:50	Financial update
8:00	Board election
8:15	Other business
8:30	Adjournment



GCG's Board of Directors, 2022-23

In 2022, the Board was made up of the following members:

- Dietrich Sider (President)
- Eniko Megyeri-Lawless (Secretary until April)
- Tanya Salewski (Treasurer)
- Barbara Sharp (Registrar)
- Sara Chen-Wing (Director)

During 2023, Eniko resigned. Then two more members joined the Board:

- Diane Morin (Secretary)
- Parminder Dhani (Director)



Approval of Previous Minutes

- AGM 2022
- Special Meeting of Members, 2023



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Annual Report to Members



Vision

We envision a garden community in Kitchissippi that:

1. **Supports relationships, mental health and well-being:** This garden community is supported through a physical space where people can gather, garden together and hold events.
2. **Stewards the environment, provides connection with nature, and restores relationships with the land** (birds, flowers, trees, insects): the space is beautiful, operations are sustainable (including water source).
3. **Provides opportunities to give** and receive.
4. **Is inclusive and diverse:** Indigenous people and values are included; there is diversity in income, age, ethnicity, gender, culture, religion, abilities, gardening approaches.
5. **Provides opportunity to educate and learn in community:** on gardening, food, and other related topics.



2022-2023 Highlights

- Completed the second pollinator garden
- Initiated the vermicompost pilot project
- Installed picnic tables, rain barrels, seating and second tool shed
- Held a potluck gathering
- Membership approved entering into an MOU with Richcraft to operate a temporary garden to be constructed at the corner of Parkdale and Bullman





Partnerships

Our partners remain:

- Just Food
- National Capital Commission (NCC)
- Somerset West Community Health Centre
- Parkdale Food Centre
- Ottawa Community Housing

...and now Richcraft



Committees and Teams

- Communications
- Events
- Properties
- Membership
- Pollinator Garden
- Fundraising
- Compost



Communications

- Monitored inbox
- Managed media correspondence
- Produced regular newsletter and ad hoc bulletins
- Maintained social media channels:





Events

- Organized education session on garden planning and seed starting
- Conducted a guided nature walk to understand the natural environment of the garden
- Held a potluck dinner at the garden
- Main challenge - lack of people to organize events





Membership

- Conducted membership survey
- Outreach to partner organizations (limited response)
- Managed registration process





Membership Update

- Plot-holders (120 plots)
 - Returning members: 78 (73% of 2022 plot-holders)
 - New members: 47
 - Gave up plots during year 5 (3 returning, 2 new)
- Community Partner (sliding scale) plots:
 - Returning members: 11
 - New members: 9
 - Total: 20 (17% of plots - target is 20%)
- Friends: 21



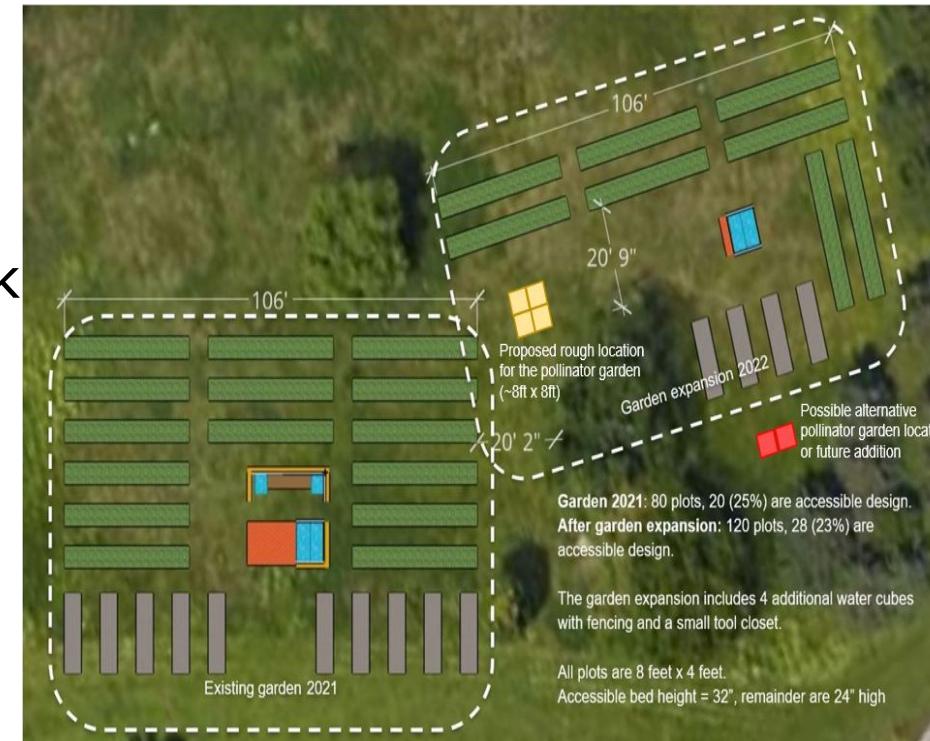
Waiting List

- Total waiting list at April 2023: 68
- Plot offers
 - Plot offer accepted: 47
 - Plot offer rejected: 6
 - Stay on list for next year: 7
 - No response: 8
- Total waiting list at October 2023: 33



Properties

- Completion of phase 2 build
 - Toolshed + fencing around new water tanks
- University of Ottawa grant money supported
 - Garden seating (picnic benches + Adirondack chairs)
 - New cascading water butts on shed
- Maintained the grounds (i.e: Lawn mowing)
- Kept the water flowing!



Thank you to everyone who contributed



Pollinator Garden

- Researched and developed plant lists for 2 pollinator gardens - focus on native plants, local to Ottawa region
- Identified local sources of native plants
- Planned, constructed and planted PG #1 in May 2022
- Engaged volunteers in maintenance of PG throughout summer
- Coordinated with student volunteers from UofO on pollinator projects

Goldenrod Community Garden





Fundraising

- not active as we had no need for money.

If you have an idea for something at the garden that you want to lead, prepare a proposal for the board to consider.





Compost

Goal: Reduce waste and build our own soil.

Our compost:

- Was too airy, so...we walled in Bin 1;
- Had too many "browns", so...we invited members to bring their kitchen scrap contributions;
- Was too dry...so we added a tarp system

We now have a compost sifter!

We met:

- to develop the compost system and sift soil
- for a vermicomposting workshop

We started a pilot project:

- vermicomposting with "Box of Life"





GCG Needs You!



- Huge thank you to all of the volunteers who helped the garden community this year.
- GCG would not be where it is today without your help.
- **We have an ongoing need for committed volunteers**
 - Keep the garden and activities running
 - Avoid exhausting a small group of regular volunteers
 - Shape the garden for the short and long-term

Offer your help if you're in the garden, reach out to inbox with your interest, talk to a board member about what you can do, and continue to volunteer...on a Committee, a project, the Board, or work events.

Opportunities are available for any level of time commitment



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Financial update

Report from the Treasurer

Tanya Salewski



Key Activities of 2023

- Established a reserve fund to save for anticipated major maintenance of the Garden in years to come
- Developed an annual budget and work plan
- Made payments, maintained the general ledger and tracked all funds in and out
- Produced regular financial reports to the Board

Treasurer's Report to the Membership

For the period of 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023



Category	Budget	Actual	Variance
<i>Carry-forward balance</i>		\$ 17,924.98	
Reserve Fund	\$ -	\$ 5,413.61	\$ (5,413.61)
<i>Reserve allocation</i>	\$ -	\$ 5,413.54	\$ 5,413.54
<i>Interest</i>	\$ -	\$ 0.07	\$ 0.07
Revenue	\$ 12,200.00	\$ 14,431.65	\$ 2,231.65
<i>From grant - JF</i>	\$ -	\$ (407.31)	\$ (407.31)
<i>From grant - UOtt</i>	\$ 6,200.00	\$ 7,701.96	\$ 1,501.96
<i>From donations</i>	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
<i>From plot fees</i>	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 7,037.00	\$ 1,037.00
Expenses	\$ 17,130.00	\$ 13,784.60	\$ 3,345.40
<i>Special Projects (self-funded)</i>	\$ 4,950.00	\$ 377.02	\$ (4,572.98)
<i>Special Projects (Just Food)</i>	\$ -	\$ 1,881.86	\$ 1,881.86
<i>Special Projects (Uott-funded)</i>	\$ 6,200.00	\$ 7,578.91	\$ 1,378.91
<i>Maintenance & operations</i>	\$ 4,050.00	\$ 3,169.43	\$ (880.57)
<i>Capital costs</i>	\$ 450.00	\$ 299.44	\$ (150.56)
<i>Administration</i>	\$ 1,480.00	\$ 477.94	\$ (1,002.06)
Balance (Fiscal Year)	\$ (4,930.00)	\$ 647.05	\$ 5,577.05
Balance (Chequing Account)		\$ 13,158.49	
Balance (All Accounts)		\$ 18,572.10	



Takeaways from Financial Report

- Overall, GCG in excellent financial position
- In 2023, had more revenue and fewer expenses than budgeted:
 - Expenditures from 2022 on the UOtt/TD grant reimbursed in 2023
 - Few self-funded special projects / build activities undertaken
 - Fewer events held than planned -> lower administration costs
- Significant surplus means GCG in good position for future years
 - Reserve fund created to cover eventual & significant maintenance costs (e.g. to repair beds & shed, replace water tanks, etc.)
 - Funds are available to improve garden infrastructure (e.g., rainwater harvesting, seating) and hold more events
 - Review annual fees for 2024



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Board election

Bryn Lander



Candidates for the New Board

- Term of 12 months, until the next AGM (October 2024)
- Board has a maximum of 9 members, and a minimum of 4
 - Roles (i.e., President, Registrar, Secretary, Treasurer, etc.) can be decided by the Board members at the first meeting, and can be shared



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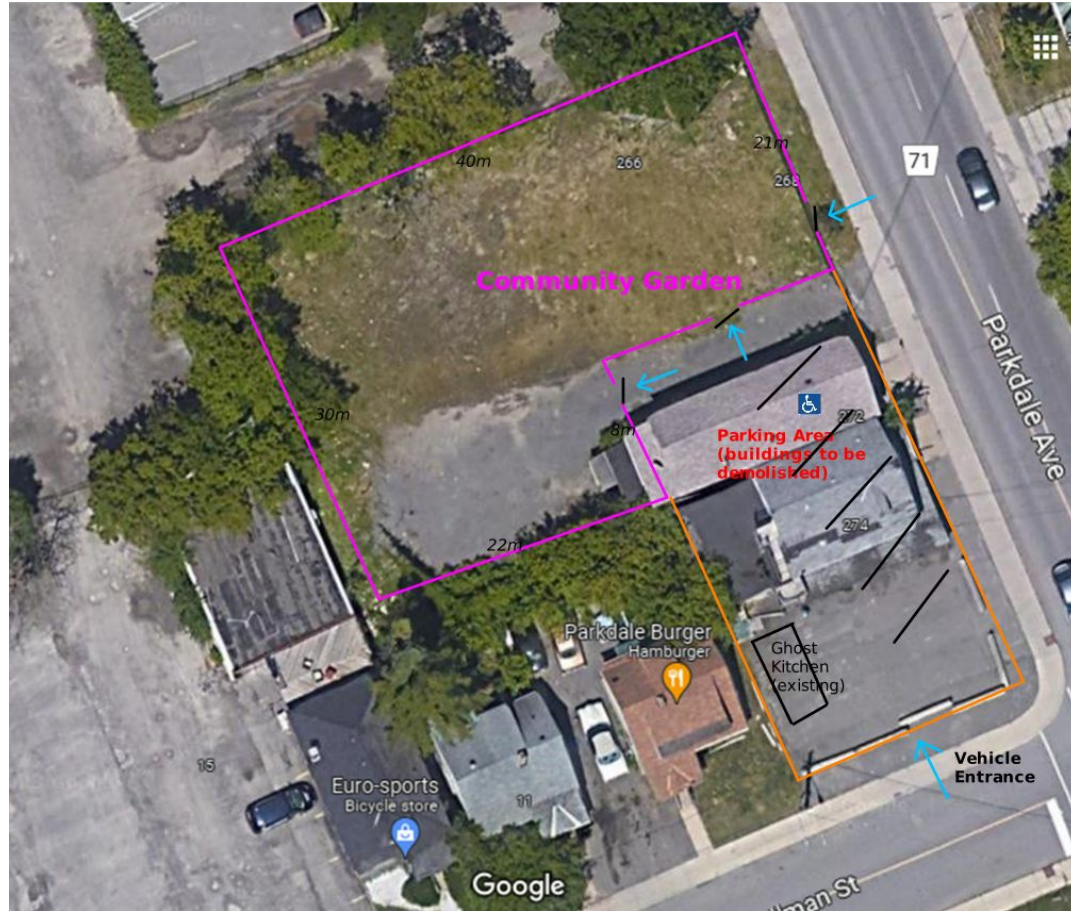
Other Business

Parkdale-Bullman Temporary Garden

- Special General Meeting in August approved GCG entering into an agreement with Richcraft
- MOU signed with Richcraft
 - Richcraft will build the garden ready for Spring 2024
 - GCG will operate the garden
- Garden is temporary - until Richcraft are ready to build on the site
- Opening date, number of plots still to be determined



Location of the garden



272 and 274 Parkdale Ave



Plans for operation

- Single membership body for both sites
 - Limit of 1 plot / household extends across both sites
 - If plots are still available in mid-June, will be offered as temporary plots (for 1 year) to existing plot-holders
 - Board should include at least 1 plot-holder representative from each site
- Treat sites as similarly as possible
 - Similar size plots
 - Same membership fee
 - Aim to allocate 20% of combined plots to low income gardeners
- Waiting list
 - Waiting list now has an option to specify which site(s) are of interest
 - Existing plot-holders may elect to switch to the new site - but would have to give up their existing plot
 - When Parkdale-Bullman site closes, plot-holders will be put at the top of the waiting list for a plot at Goldenrod, but we won't be able to guarantee that everyone will get a plot in the year after closure



Plot sign-up

If you are an existing plot-holder you can express a preference to switch to a plot at Parkdale-Bullman when you renew your plot in March - no need to sign up on the waiting list

Friends and non-members who would like to go on the waiting list for a plot, should sign up through the general waiting list on our website and can identify which site(s) they are interested in

- <https://forms.gle/an64UEpw5FSHSCu39>



Closing Weekend

Saturday 28 October (rain date 29 October)

- Please come out and help:
 - Clean up your plot
 - Prepare garden for the winter
 - Chop up the compost

Look out for more information soon....