

NAGA

Spring Newsletter

Spring is in the air at the
NAGA community gardens!
Welcome back to all new and
returning gardeners!



Upcoming Events

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| April 22
1 p.m. | NAGA Annual General Meeting
Tanglewood Community Centre
30 Woodfield Dr. (just off Merivale)
ALL are welcome and encouraged to attend! |
| April 29
9 a.m. | Annual Spring Clean-up. Volunteers needed! Many hands make light work! |
| May 15 | Annual contracts begin |
| June 17 | Clean up of the winter storage area. Please come help! Please ensure you have all of your belongings out by this time. |
| Oct. 31 | Last day to remove all stakes and non-organic material from annual plots |

Did you know?

We're going digital! By giving us your e-mail address, you can help us to save money by reducing our printing and mailing costs. The more money we save, the lower our fees need to be to cover costs. If you send us your e-mail address, we'll e-mail you your registration package, newsletter, and other important information right away. (We only send a few e-mails per year.)

<http://nepeanallotmentgarden.yolasite.com>
nagagardens@gmail.com

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A message from NAGA's outgoing chairperson, Mike Chebbo

THANK YOU ALL:

Over almost a decade, I have met, worked with, argued, debated, agreed, voted for and against, collaborated and stood fast with many of you, NAGA members, oldtimers and new ones. Only words of thanks can come to mind as I am stepping down as Chair of this wonderful association leaving (but not quitting) the board in very good hands of volunteers.



To members of NAGA Board:

We bravely took major improvement steps towards stumbling blocks for us for many years: Weeds, neglected plots, garbage, compost, accessibility, ploughing and tilling, sheds, water issues, soil improvement, and many more. You are a dedicated team of volunteers and I am proud to have worked with you all on resolving and implementing solutions for these issues. My one word to you: Kudos!

To the general membership of NAGA:

Every year, we call on volunteers to come out and help in all facets of our work: from staking plots to cleaning, trimming, composting, painting and planting flowers. **This is a volunteer-run association not a City-run.** All contributions of skills and time are greatly appreciated. Now, it is your chance to help. We have few positions that will be open at the Board of Directors and are looking for energetic people to join. Please make yourself known to one of the Board members or simply come and present yourself at the AGM this year. Hope to see you there.

Let's be inspired and never forget:

As we said good bye to two valued and energetic members of NAGA this last season, Kazimierz Senkowski (mostly known as Kaz) and very recently, Denis St-Jean. God bless their souls. May they both rest in peace.

NAGA, even though I am stepping down as chair, I will be at your side as always. See you at my plot.

Mike Chebbo, Outgoing

A hearty **THANK-YOU** to our three outgoing board members, Mike Chebbo (President), Benson Kwan (Treasurer), and Patricia Avendano, all of whom have been volunteer board members for many years. We very much appreciate all your **HARD WORK** and **DEDICATION** over the years!

Any other gardeners who would like to become involved in helping to run the NAGA gardens, please contact us at nagagardens@gmail.com. We are always welcoming new volunteers!

This and That

Make our NAGA Garden Beautiful

Let's all work together to make our garden look nice for our neighbours and ourselves. Please keep your plots tidy and weed-free. You may even want to consider devoting a little of your plot-space to flowers.

Garden Plot Inspections

This year four periodic plot inspections will be done. Notices of the times for the inspections will be e-mailed and posted a week in advance at the NAGA garden. Gardeners whose plots are found in violation of the terms and conditions of their license will be notified for corrective actions. Repeat violations can result in termination of their agreement. Last year (2016) a total of 42 gardeners were notified of violations but only 5 resulted in cancellation of their agreements.



Friendly Fences

Mesh fences for groundhog control are to be NO taller than 3 feet (1m) and placed 6 inches (15cm) within the border of your garden to allow for grass cutting. No plants are to be grown on these fences. Wire fencing such as chicken wire is much preferable because it does not shade your plants or your neighbour's the way the plastic snow fencing does.

Fences and trellises for climbing plants that are taller than 3 feet are to be placed 2 feet (60cm) inside the garden boundaries to prevent sun blockage, to allow for weeding and to prevent injury to your neighbours

Talk to your neighbours before putting your fences up. It may be possible for you both to share one fence on the plot line.

Taking vacation?

If you are going on vacation or have other problems that prevent you from working in your garden, please have somebody help you out during your absence. Also, please notify a Board member. This way, the 'weed patrol' will be aware why there may be a problem. To contact the Board, please email: nagagardens@gmail.com

Ron Rogers is the volunteer in charge of planting the beautiful flowerbeds at the entrance to the parking lot. **Everyone** is encouraged to weed and water these beds, but please do not remove and/or add any plants to the beds. Ron is working on a master plan.

2016 Board of Directors

Chair: Mike Chebbo (outgoing)
Vice-chair: Amanda Lancaster
Registrar: Patricia Avendano (outgoing)
Treasurer: Benson Kwan (outgoing)
Maintenance Director: Dengyi Wang

Secretary: Michele McMillan
Abdullah Anani (Director at Large)
Vincenzo Comunale (Director at Large)
Ron Rogers (Director at Large)
Contact us: nagagardens@gmail.com



Compost and Straw

Free compost from the City of Ottawa will be available to gardeners this year.

Bales of straw will be delivered to the garden and sold to interested gardeners again this year.

Advance notice will be posted on the bulletin board at the garden. Notices and details will be sent via e-mail.

Headlands

What are they and what are your responsibilities?

The Headlands include the 2-3 feet of grass extending into the grass from the edge of your plot. The lawn mower cannot get into this area. As a gardener, you are responsible to trim the long grass around the perimeter of your garden. Headlands must also be clear of obstacles, rocks, and weeds.

Rocks

Rocks must not be thrown onto the grass, on to the paths, or on to the laneways.

Compost on your own plot again in 2017

A reminder to all gardeners that all composting is to be done on each gardener's own plot. You can put up a bin (take it down at the end of the season), you can dig in your compostable materials, you can use your compostable materials as mulch, or you can take compostables home and put your them in your green bin.

No Garbage Collection at the Garden

All garbage must go home with the gardener. If you have empty bags, trays, old twine, any garbage what so ever, take it home with you. There is only one small garbage can allocated to the site by the city and it is NOT for garden waste. If you bring it, take it back with you.

Food Bank at Debra Dynes House

Last years results for giving any extra produce from NAGA gardeners to the local community food bank was not very successful, with only a few gardeners participating. This was disappointing given that it appeared that every gardener approached thought that this was a good idea. We can do better, so this year we are asking to please consider giving or growing something for this need. A recent visit was made to Dynes House and they are still supplying food to over 1,000 of the working poor families and the new refugees living in our neighborhoods.

This year scheduled pick-ups will be on Monday and Thursdays. A refrigerator to store produce is available to us so the sheds will be checked as often as five times a week for donations. If you are interested in helping with this initiative please contact Ron Rogers by email (rwrogers73@gmail.com).

Let's all step up and help those in need!

Have a great season, everyone!