



Friends of the Old Seed House Garden

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2005

Edition 10

Message from the Chair

Greetings Friends!

Now that the dark days of December and January are behind us, thoughts of spring are dancing through my head. Kind of a nice feeling and a time of great anticipation! Our third Theatre Night with the Georgetown Little Theatre was a great success thanks to our many supporters who made donations or bought tickets.

This is the time of year when we pause to reflect on what we did last year and put together a plan for 2005. I would like to invite all of you to come to our annual general meeting and information night on March 2nd. This is our fourth AGM and we have gradually made it more casual and interactive. Although we will elect the executive committee and approve the budget, the main event will be discussion about 2005 and beyond.

I would like to emphasize that not only is everyone welcome but we do need your participation. So please come out for a cup of coffee and a chat about our beautiful garden.

Jane Fogal

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We're going Electronic!!

This will be the last printed paper edition of the Friends of the Old Seed House Garden Newsletter. We've joined the modern age and future editions of this publication will be distributed via Email over the Internet. A paper copy will be posted on site at the gardens in our bulletin board kiosk. Please check that we have your correct Email address to be notified of Garden updates, upcoming activities and events.

Editor: mspencer31@cogeco.ca

Welcome Everyone !

to the

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday March 2, 2005

7:00 pm

Civic Center - Council Chambers

Refreshments Served

Design and Development Committee

**OLD SEED HOUSE GARDEN BECOMES
'DESTINATION'**

Just about 10 years ago, Ann Lawlor had a vision of a garden on the site of the Dominion Seed House. This garden would commemorate the business, recreate the beauty of the rows and rows of peonies, iris and daylilies, be a destination for visitors, and be a location for wedding photo. From that spark of an idea, and ten years of hard work, a destination was created.

This garden is like most gardens, a work in progress. There are details to finish this year - mostly signage - that will make a visit just that much better. And of course there will be the constant care of the plants - **volunteers always accepted.**

But even with the continuing work, we can now truly call the Old Seed House Garden a destination. The year 2004 saw the first official bus tour visit the garden when the Volunteer Auxillary of the Royal Botanical Gardens made a stop on their tour of gardens in the area. And the Literacy North Halton Garden Harmony Concert was held on a beautiful summer day and attracted many new visitors to the garden. These events signaled a new role for our garden.



June 19th, 2004 – Town and Country Showcase

In 2005 we will move from 'build' to 'enjoy' and we need your help in expanding the use of the garden in the future. We know that we would like to develop an educational component....but will it be seminars, brochures, guided walks? And what other types of events would best suit the garden?

Come out to the AGM on March 2nd and help us plan the future and celebrate the Old Seed House Garden being 'on the map'!

Belinda Gallagher

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Fundraising Report

FRIENDS INDEED!

Highlighting fundraising since your Fall newsletter are two major sources of funds.

Our application for a grant, sponsored by Howmet Aluminum Castings, was approved, and we are the grateful recipients of \$6005.00 from the Alcoa Foundation. This terrific contribution moves Howmet Aluminum Castings/Alcoa Aluminum into our growing MAPLE Category of donors. Respecting the terms of the grant, these funds will be put into educational initiatives at the garden. You will hear more details at our Annual General Meeting on March 2nd.

Our major fundraising event, the theatre benefit night held Feb. 10th, was a very successful and celebratory evening. The Old Seed House Garden will net just over \$3000. from the proceeds of ticket sales. Special thanks once again to the Georgetown Little Theatre Group for their support. They are also now new members of the MAPLE category of recognition (\$10,000-\$24,999).

I would like to acknowledge the essential contribution of the other sponsors of our theatre night, who are responsible for the wonderful wine and goodies reception in the cultural centre gallery.

Thanks to:

Joseph's Estate Wines, Kentners' Social Catering, McMaster's Meats & Deli, The Ultimate Bean Coffee, MacMillan's Flash Frozen, Loblaw's, J.S. Jones & Son Funeral Home, BASF- Georgetown, Office Magic, Triffid's Plants, C.W. Horticulture, and The Town of Halton Hills.

Everyone who purchased tickets for the performance that night also showed your support for the garden. Many thanks to all, especially those who have attended each of the past three years.

Lois and Al Fraser again donated a portion of the proceeds from the Fraser Direct charity sale in November to the garden. It is a pleasure to have them in our Maple Category also.

As our financial needs turn more to maintenance, we hope that you will all continue to contribute to the garden with a few hours of fun in the sun during the growing season. What a beautiful environment, created through the efforts of all the "Friends", to spend with others, working to maintain and enhance its unique attraction. See you there on **Wednesday mornings!**

Barb Baron

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By-law Change

It is proposed that we eliminate Article III Section II which stipulates that the Treasurer shall be limited to 2 consecutive terms as treasurer.

It is proposed that we allow up to 2 members to be elected to the Executive Committee without portfolio. (Article II Section I) This is to encourage more members to become involved on the executive without necessarily taking on a chairing role.

The Executive will recommend that the fee for a membership in the Friends be eliminated. The funds were used to pay for the newsletter but these costs are going to be reduced as we move to a 95+% electronic distribution.

Changes will be voted on at our AGM.

Gardening with Belinda

Walks, talks and gardening advice in the Old Seed House Garden

Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m on the following dates:

April 24th - Spring cleanup, bulbs and early perennials

May 15th - perennials, shrubs and trees for all season interest

June 12th - drought resistant plants for the suburban garden

September 18th - ornamental grasses and planning for next year



Calling all volunteers!

The Annual General Meeting will be your first opportunity to sign up as a volunteer for the Old Seed House Garden. Following the meeting, I will be doing a phone blitz to enlist previous volunteers, and those who, in the past, have shown an interest in the gardens.

The three main areas where volunteers are urgently needed include garden inspectors, Garden maintenance workers and newsletter deliverers. Garden inspectors typically sign-up for one or two times during the blooming season where they visit the gardens daily (your choice of time) for a 1-week period and record their findings in a small inspection manual. This practice lets the executive know that the gardens are neat, all building locks secured, and free of vandalism, litter, and illegally parked vehicles etc. The schedule for garden maintenance, including planting, weeding and mulching worked well last summer when held at the same time each week. We will likely pick a similar regular schedule so that all interested volunteers know when they can show up to work under the supervision of a volunteer coordinator.

A final and very important need is for volunteers to be on the executive committee for the upcoming year. The executive is a fun and rewarding group to work with. You will become familiar with all aspects of managing the Old Seed House Garden.

If you are unable to attend the A.G.M. but are interested in volunteering, please call me. We have a job for everyone, including students!

Sue Balogh

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Garden Tools Plant Sale and Clean Up Day

Saturday April 23, 2005

9:00am to 11:00am

at the Old Seed House Garden

Enjoy great deals on gently used top quality gardening tools from Lee Valley including shovels, rakes, hoes, pond pumps etc Assorted garden boots. Also a good variety of potted perennials, for sale including some specimens from the Royal Botanical Gardens.

Don't miss out!



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