



Friends of the Old Seed House Garden

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2006

Edition 11

Message from the Chair

Greetings Friends!

The first seed catalogue has arrived at my house so spring must be around the corner. The winter weather so far is dismal but we will just relax during this brief holiday from planting and weeding and just enjoy watching the winter birds in the back yard.

We have had another successful year in our beautiful garden thanks to the efforts of our volunteers and financial supporters. Our small band of gardeners guaranteed that our garden was always an enjoyable experience for all who wandered through it. I am especially excited by the late fall installation of the formal garden edging. It isn't quite finished but it already looks fabulous! Many thanks are owed to Unilock for generously donating all of the materials.

We will be holding our AGM and information meeting on Tuesday February 28 at the Gellert Community Centre at 1:30 pm. This has traditionally been an evening meeting but we are going to try an afternoon to see if this is more appealing and will attract a few more participants. If you have never been to the Gellert, it is worth the journey all by itself. We hope you will consider coming out so we can get your opinions on the year's priorities.

Jane Fogal

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We WERE going Electronic !! HOWEVER

.....It seems there are just too many Friends without e-mail, so we are not yet ready to join the modern age. There will be a hard copy delivery. A paper copy will be posted on site at the gardens in our kiosk as well. 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

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

1:30 p.m.

Gellert Centre – 8th. Line Georgetown S.

Refreshments Served

Design and Development Committee

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE GARDEN

Wow! It is hard to believe another year has passed in the garden and we are preparing for another annual update. Fortunately the number of committee meetings are down, way down. We are now doing the finishing touches and spending time in the garden.

In the late fall Don Barclay began installing the \$5000.00 dollars worth of donated Unilock 'Roman Stack' stones. These stones will outline the formal garden area and help keep the limestone screening paths and mulched flower beds from intermingling! It was a marvelous donation and I know that when completed in the spring of this year, it will be beautiful.

Don has also begun the enormous task of signage on the donated trees in the garden. We had several 'false starts' on these signs but now have them in hand. Don is placing the posts first and we will be attaching the plaques in early spring. Each plaque describes the tree and most have personal messages regarding the donation. Collectively they form a wonderful story and many thanks go to Sarah Burrows for her work on the design and data entry.

A new sign for the entrance to the garden is also under construction as well as the Donor Recognition Plaque which will be mounted inside the Foundation garden. We have tentatively set aside May 26th as the day for the unveiling. Watch for further details!

We had a spot of vandalism at the garden on Halloween's Devil night. Several rails of the gazebo were damaged or destroyed. Repairs were quickly made by Limestone Trail (the builder of the gazebo). There is no question that our daily site inspections are helping to stem more severe damage at the garden and we continue to rely on the police for nighttime surveillance.

The regular garden maintenance activities continued through the year. Sue Balogh and her team of volunteers met weekly and kept the gardens weeded, mulched and planted right up to the fall when hundreds more tulips, daffodils and allium bulbs were planted. Barb Baron recruited a new team of volunteers from the University Women's Club. This group, who helps out once a month, gave a real boost to the existing volunteers.

Very late in the season, the Town started to remove the sod which had died due to drought. It will be replaced in the spring and we are working with the Town to determine the best way to prevent this type of loss in the future. We will keep you posted.

Soon we can look forward to colourful spring flowers. Please consider joining us as we work to keep the Old Seed House garden beautiful.

Belinda Gallagher
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Fundraising Report **MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

Donations come in many forms, and our Old Seed House Garden flourishes because of the generosity of many. The results of these kind acts are apparent when you stroll along the walkways and enjoy the ever-changing plants, trees and shrubs.

Unilock, Leathertown Lumber, Limestone Trail, and Ann and Ken Harris have all contributed product to the garden, - edging for the formal beds, posts for plaques and signage, repair materials for the gazebo, and a ton of river rock.

A newly formed group has given the ultimate gift of time dedicated to the maintenance of the garden. The GARDEN ELVES, formed out of the Georgetown University Women's Club, have met monthly this fall to plant bulbs, mulch, haul river rock, rake paths, weed etc. What a huge difference they have made to the upkeep! The coffee get-together at La Vita's after each session has been a fun time to chill out afterwards too! Many thanks to Cathy Nicholls, Ann Harris, Wendy Whitwham, Susan Grant, Shirley Benshoff, Rebecca Short, Linda Walton, Diane Hesse, and Karen Allen for "digging in" with such good humour.

Our 4th annual Theatre Benefit Night on February 9th, should again be an exciting evening. It's such a great way to enjoy a special outing with fellow garden lovers. The wonderful sponsors who donate to and support this occasion deserve special mention and thanks. Without them, we could not hold this event. Please note their names carefully on your program insert. We'll see you there!

Barb Baron
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PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The following two amendments are coming forward as a result of the changing nature of the organization and to reflect existing practice. As the garden work has shifted from construction to a maintenance mode, it is time to look at our changing needs. Both amendments will be discussed at the AGM and are as follows:

That Article VI Section II Executive Meetings be amended to read
"Executive Meetings shall be held a minimum of 2 times per year, at the call of the chair."

That Article VI Section III Annual General Meeting be amended to read
"At an Annual General Meeting 20% of the membership or 15 members, whichever is less, shall constitute a Quorum."

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