



Friends of the Old Seed House Garden

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2007

Edition 13

Message from the Chair

Greetings Friends!

In reflecting back on the seasons of 2006 in The Old Seed House Garden, I think it was a spectacular year. The bulbs and early blossoms led into a summer of abundant colour and a fall that was as glorious as it was long. Throughout the seasons our volunteers did a tremendous job of keeping the weeds pulled and the mulch piled high. With the installation of the playground, more and more people came by to enjoy the delights of our Garden.

May 31st was our Recognition Event and in spite of torrential rain and lighting show, it actually turned out to be a great event. The various plaques recognizing our donors all reinforce how much of a community project this really is.

Winter was a long time getting here and for the first time we saw the bulbs coming up in the garden before the New Year. But the snow is here and it remains to be seen what sort of affect the lingering fall will have on our precious plants. Regardless, we are now in a much better position to deal with the vagaries of weather events with the acquisition of an irrigation system. Many thanks to the Town for this important upgrade of our facilities and to Dean Baker and North Halton Golf Club for contributing to the installation.

I encourage you to attend our AGM on March 1st at 1 pm at the Gellert Centre. Our theme is looking to the future and we will talk about enhancements to the garden. Continued support by many people is essential for the ongoing vitality of the Garden. Your thoughts and opinions on where we go from here are important. Please join us for coffee, cookies and chat about spring things.

Jane Fogal

janefogal@aztec-net.com

(905) 877-5806

Welcome Everyone !

to the

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, March 1st, 2007

1:00 p.m.

Gellert Centre – 8th. Line Georgetown S.

Refreshments Served

Design and Development Committee

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE GARDEN

Another year has passed in our lovely garden and we once again achieved many of our set goals. Signage in the garden has been the focus this year with the installation of our permanent donor plaque within the foundation walls, our identification markers on the adopted trees and an entrance sign by the parking area. The addition of the plaque and markers has given a new layer of interest to the garden. As you walk from tree to tree you not only learn about the diversity of the planting, but also the diversity of the tree donors themselves. And the donor plaque is a testament to the generosity of our community.

Signage will continue to be improved at the garden with the addition this year of educational signs. These will include information on three of our plant collections and the mechanics of storm water management ponds. These educational signs, along with new pamphlets on the plantings at the Garden are funded by a grant from Alcoa Foundation through Howmet Aluminum Casting.

This funding has also allowed us to produce a Learning Package for grade three students. We partnered with the Education department of Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington to develop a kit that

will enable teachers to use aspects of the Old Seed House Garden planting plans in teaching the *Growth and Changes in Plants* portion of the curriculum. We are now in the process of having this kit approved by the school boards and hope that it will be available later in the year.

On the down side, 2006 was another year in which we experienced vandalism, some of it extensive. Repairs to our beautiful gazebo were continuous and we have work still unfinished. We decided to install benches around the entire gazebo in hopes that they will deter the damage to the rails and spindles. A security/motion sensor lighting fixture was installed and we are investigating (with the Town) a security camera. It is an expensive proposal, but one that we hope will save us on repairs.

Back to good news! The gardens fared well this year with the regular rainfall and we had blooms from late March until late November. However, learning from the previous drought seasons, we met with Town officials and were able to persuade them to add an irrigation system to the grassy areas of the garden. The system was installed in the late fall and will be operational in the spring. We are so happy that the Town Council approved the expenditure and that we will no longer have to apologize for dead turf! Of course with regular water, weeding will become an even bigger issue, so consider volunteering!

The Executive also approved a **Tree Donation Replacement Policy** as follows:

- Newly planted trees have a five year replacement guarantee;
- In the event a tree dies after the five years, the Friends will either replace the tree or transfer the plaque to an existing tree that is mutually acceptable;
- The Friends reserve the right to transplant or remove a tree if it is in the interest of the tree, public safety or the development of the Old Seed House Garden or Dominion Gardens Park.
- Donors will be advised in the unlikely event of this being necessary.

As you can see, we are still busy - keeping our Garden beautiful, healthy and ON THE MAP!

Belinda Gallagher

belinda@triffids.com

(905)877-7523

Old Seed House Garden

Tree Donation Program



We have a dozen new trees available for adoption in the Old Seed House Garden.

Various prices - Includes plaque

We are a registered Canadian charity.

Call 905-873-8386 for details.

Visit the **Old Seed House Garden** at the corner of Guelph St. & Maple Ave. in Georgetown.

Fundraising Report

While fundraising is no longer a huge priority, the Garden still requires donor help for the important work of maintenance and improvements to keep the project beautifully alive and a source of pride in our community.

I am happy to report that during this past year, many have shown their continued interest and support of the Old Seed House Garden.

Jones & Son Funeral Home once again purchased a large number of cards, and in addition made a generous extra donation. Their enthusiastic support has been evident from the very beginning, when the garden was merely an ambitious dream!

Canadian Tire made a repeat donation of LED lights to circle the gazebo during the holiday season ~ a very cheerful touch in the cold evenings.

Mr. Paul Bennett has kindly sent in a generous memorial donation each year.

The *Town of Halton Hills*, our partner, has installed the irrigation system and continues the maintenance of the grassed areas and garbage pick-up.

Silverwoods Womens Institute has sent a generous donation to the garden.

Several donors have purchased and dedicated trees, since Aug. 18th. 2006.

Mattie & Gord Spencer; Don & Lynne Barclay
Christopher & Gloria Dallison; Rebekah Club
John Campbell; Elaine & Chris Jones;
Janet Gorman; Betsy Cornwell; Roy Hylkema

The Garden Elves spent a morning each week during growing season volunteering their time in a spirited team effort of whatever work was needed to keep the garden environment vibrant.

A huge warm thanks to everyone!

Our beautiful cards, with artwork donated by Gretchen Day and Bob Law, are still available at Foodstuffs or by calling me. They are wonderfully useful as hostess gifts, teacher gifts, or for use as thank you, sympathy, Easter cards etc.

As we enter another year, we hope that you will all take time to remember the garden and enjoy its attractions often. See you there!

Barb Baron

rjbaron@sympatico.ca

(905) 877-3455

Trees, Trees, Trees

Last year the Friends branched out and planted another twenty new trees in the Garden. (This brings our inventory to over one hundred and growing!) Since then, several of the new trees became Christmas presents, tributes and memorials of one sort or another. The remaining eleven trees are still looking for donors. We have white pine, Serbian spruce, Bur oak, a wonderful cork tree, two ginkgos, two Juneberrys and three Hackberry's that also have corky bark. They range in price from \$325 to \$450, which includes a personalized plaque, maintenance and a limited replacement policy. Available trees are tagged, but if you would like a personal tour of the

Garden to choose a tree for yourself or someone you care about, call me. In the meantime, think spring!

Sarah Burrows

sburrows@stn.net

(905) 873-8386

SPRING CLEAN UP IN THE GARDEN AND DOMINION GARDENS PARK

The Town of Halton Hills will be holding its annual community litter clean up on Saturday April 21st 2007. Since the Garden was built, the Friends have been leading the troops both in our Garden and the rest of the park including the storm pond. Friends and neighbours will once again be asked to take a little time on Saturday morning to help us scour the park for the stuff that detracts from the beauty and enjoyment of our Garden. We will meet at 9am. Bags and gloves will be provided. Please mark this event on your calendar and look for more information in the local papers in April.

P.S. Yes, students can use this time towards their volunteer hours requirement.



P.P.S. Yes, there is a Rain Date this year. It is the next Saturday, same time same place

Georgetown Homecoming 2007

Plans are well underway for the Georgetown Homecoming 2007. In the coming months you will learn more about this event through the newspaper. This is not merely a GDHS reunion. It is a homecoming/reunion for people who may have lived in Georgetown for 10 , 30 or more years or lived here temporarily for 20. It is also a reunion for many organizations and clubs. It is a time, more than anything, for people to get reacquainted with people they have lost track of over the years.

The Friends of the Old Seed House Garden recognize that we have a venue that didn't exist until a few short years ago. It is an asset to show off to those who have been away for many years. We also think that the development of the Garden has been a common touchstone for many organizations and individuals.

Our plan is to participate in the Reunion by hosting a morning get-together on Saturday July 28th, and to make a special invitation to past and present members of the Canadian Federation of University Women, the Georgetown Horticultural Society, former employees of Dominion Seed House and of course all Friends of the Garden, to gather and



reminisce. We will provide some refreshments, tours of the garden and facilitate people finding their old friends and acquaintances.

Nothing can beat the joy of seeing an old friend after many years apart. Please join us on July 28th and know that there is comfort in name-tags with big lettering on them.



Help Save the Planet one page at a time.



You can receive your newsletter via Email and cut down on the snail mail. Just contact the Newsletter Editors noted below with your current Email address to reduce paper usage and leave the trees in the forests.

Please keep us advised of any changes to your Email information.

Newsletter Editors:

Mattie & Gord Spencer
mspencer31@cogeco.ca

(905) 877-4409