



# Friends of the Old Seed House Garden

## NEWSLETTER

Fall 2004

Edition 9

### Message from the Chair

#### *Greetings Friends!*

One of my dreams came true the end of September with the staging of the Garden Harmony event hosted by the Literacy Guild in our beautiful gazebo. It was a beautiful day, and the garden made a fabulous backdrop to the concert performances. My niggling concern that the traffic would be irritating was put to rest. The sound was great and so were the performances.

Throughout the summer our volunteers have pulled weeds and hauled woodchips every Tuesday morning. It is a social time that I look forward to. We would certainly like to attract a few more helpers to make the garden look even better. Just coming out once makes a difference. Maintenance of a public garden this size is virtually unheard of so we have a lot to be proud of.

Bit by bit we are making further enhancements so be sure to drop by often for a stroll and see what's new.

#### **Jane Fogal**

[janefogal@aztec-net.com](mailto:jenefogal@aztec-net.com)

(905) 877-5806



### Design and Development Committee

#### **THE GARDEN NEARS COMPLETION**

The gardening season in 2004 witnessed the completion of many projects. We now have our final compliment of beautiful benches to enjoy the views; flower beds are in place and housing blooms from spring to fall including several sponsored plant collections; the gazebo floor was installed; all of the electrical work is now complete; the pathways were reconfigured and interlock stone has been installed in two key areas of the garden; and most importantly, we have only three more trees to plant (early 2005).

Of course, as with any garden, there are a few tasks remaining. Principle among these tasks is the signage (tree plaques, bench plaques, bridge plaque, donor recognition and a proper entrance sign for the garden.) We were well on our way to finalizing the plaques but at the last moment had a setback with the material that we had selected. We hope to have the issue solved shortly and plan to place a sample number of signs this fall to test for winter weather damage.

We have a very nice sign designed for the entrance for the garden and are doing price quotations for its construction. The Town has helped with the design of a "garden rules" sign and will be assisting us with directional signage to the garden on many surrounding streets.

Thanks again to the Design and Development committee, Sarah Burrows, Jane Fogal and Rakesh Mistry for attending the many meetings. It has been a long journey but I wouldn't have missed a moment.

*A very special thanks to Don Barclay, Grade Control Ltd. He is the best contractor a group could work with and it is due to the quality of his work that the bones of our garden are so special.*

#### **Belinda Gallagher**

[belinda@triffids.com](mailto:belinda@triffids.com)

(905)877-7523

Playbill this season. The performance is Jake's Women by Neil Simon ~ one of the most popular playwrights around.

Details about ticket sales etc. will be provided well in advance of the show. As usual your ticket will include a fabulous wine, cheese and goodies reception. So call your friends now and plan to bring along a group to have a fun-filled evening in support of your Old Seed House Garden.

See you all there! Barb Baron

rbaron@aztec-net.com

(905) 877-3345

## Fundraising Report

In early spring, hundreds of new flowering bulbs brightened all the beds and visitors' hearts, thanks to the thoughtful contribution of Christopher Cizmar. This Georgetown Friend has solicited bulbs from various Big Box garden centers, (RONA & Wal Mart), as each planting season ends.

The Di Girolamo family of DG Greenhouses provided 25 flats of hardy annuals to beautify the formal beds this summer.

We are especially thrilled to announce that "perennial" supporters of the Garden, Lois and Al Fraser, have now moved into the MAPLE category in our donor recognition program. (\$10,000-\$24,999)

Steve Ransome, site manager for BASF, procured a bench on behalf of his company. This is the third contribution from this caring corporate citizen, which has resulted in their moving into the PINE category of recognition (\$5000- \$9999.).

Other benches have also been purchased and gratefully acknowledged from the following donors: Georgetown Terminal Warehouses, Olaon Industries, Kathy Gastle, Johnson Associates, Marg & Fred Helson, Friends of Warren Smith, Gail Dawson-Williamson, Islay McClure-Keane, Brenda Sisnett & Family.

Trees continue to be a popular gift to the garden also, especially those purchased "in memoriam".

Gillett Haulage helped us keep everything healthy, moist and looking beautiful with his continuing donations of mulch.

## **A GREAT BIG THANKS TO ALL !**

An application for a grant from Alcoa Aluminum has been submitted by our chairperson, Jane. This was at the invitation of Sue Raine, Human Resource Manager of Howmet Georgetown Casting, whose employees already made a generous contribution at our 2003 AGM.

Now here's the BIG NEWS! You can plan to fight those February Blahs by attending our third Theatre Benefit Night on February 10, 2005. We have made arrangements to be the opening night gala for the Georgetown Little Theatre's second series on their

**Georgetown Little Theatre**  
Benefit Performance of  
**Jake's Women**  
by Neil Simon  
**Thursday February 10, 2005**  
in support of  
**THE FRIENDS OF THE  
OLD SEED HOUSE GARDEN**

## Tree and Bench Donation Program

Twenty-one trees were planted this summer and there are more to come in the spring. Some of these were replacements for the trees that didn't survive the "Winter of 2004" and some are new to the garden. Five new benches were also installed throughout the Garden. We still have 6 trees (Kentucky Coffee Tree, Weeping Purple Beech, 4 Colorado Blue Spruce) and 3 benches available for adoption. If you are interested in donating any of these, please give me a call at the number below.

Thanks to all of our tree and bench donors for returning their plaque inscription forms. Unfortunately, just as we were about to go to "press", we were informed by our supplier that the plaque material we chose has been discontinued due to concerns about it's long-term suitability for outdoor use. This means a delay while they research a better alternative for us. In the meantime, if any of you have not yet put pen to paper, you now have a

second chance to get your forms included in our first run. If you can't find your form, please let me know and I will get you a new one.

Sarah Burrows  
sburrows@stn.net

905-873-8386

## Thank you, 2004 Donors

Ann Lawlor	BASF
Brenda Sisnett	Cathy Martin
Christopher Cizmar	DG Greenhouses
Dufferin Aggregates	Jane Hanna
Dufferin Custom Concrete	
Georgetown Horticultural Society	
Gillett Haulage and Excavation	
Islay McClure-Keane	
J.C.Duff Limited Sand and Gravel	
Kiwanis Club Georgetown	
McDonald's Restaurant, Dave and Lucy Beatty	
The Burrows Family	
Triffids Plants, Belinda Gallagher	

## Thanks to all our volunteers!

Early on in the summer we decided to simplify our garden maintenance schedule making it every Tuesday morning. While I know this left out the volunteers who work full time (and those Tuesday golfers), we did manage to have about 5 volunteers come at various times to help along side the executive "regulars". While we can always do with more helping hands, each week the gardens were beautified with our efforts. I was encouraged to see quite a few people out in the evenings pulling weeds and others have told me they came out on other days that were convenient for them. Thus, we have many "anonymous" helpers who have made a great difference to the gardens. I would like to thank all those who managed to visit the gardens and lend a hand. Your efforts and dedication are very much appreciated.

As Jane stated, besides the grunt work, Tuesday morning maintenance sessions were a social time to catch up with each other and share a mutual pride in the gardens. Due to this regular effort, the gardens did look handsome for the Garden Harmony event this past weekend. There's still much to do before putting the gardens "to bed" for the winter so I

encourage all volunteers to make a special effort to help out in the Tuesdays to come.

## Thanks to our Site Inspectors!

The "passing of the binder" from one site inspector to the next has been completed without a hitch and all entries are well done. We also have the luxury of three "stand-by" volunteers for the regulars who cannot, for any reason, complete their weekly duty. I really believe that this effort has made a difference in the safety and amount of vandalism to the garden. All notifications of trouble that I received were timely and dealt with by the executive. The level of vandalism has decreased as the summer wore on. There are some etchings (carvings) on the gazebo rails and some rocks from the pond (in the walled garden) thrown into the water. These have been fished out and have not been vandalized since. As a result, we plan to cement all the rocks on the pond wall so they are not mobile. The neighbourhood boys will continue to ride along the pathways but at least they are not riding through the gardens. More elaborate signage pertaining to "Do's and Don'ts in the Garden" are in the making. I encourage all those who go for a stroll in the gardens to be a good samaritan and respectfully remind others of the rules when you see them being ignored. Beyond that, do not intervene if you don't get a positive reaction. Thanks again for a job well done!

Sue Balogh  
sbalogh@cogeco.ca

(905) 702-0180

## DONOR RECOGNITION CHART

We're preparing to make our PERMANENT donor recognition plaque for the garden. Please, look at the donor list on the next page and let us know if there are any changes you would like to make in your name or category.

## Newsletter Editors:

**Mattie & Gord Spencer**  
mspencer31@cogeco.ca

(905) 877-4409