

Maple Community Garden Mail

Organic Urban Gardening

Kudos

To one of our newest gardeners, Dawn in Section 6. She took it upon herself to water the communal gardens multiple times this last month just because they needed it. She spent multiple hours doing so, without asking for any credit; though she did suggest that we need to modify our system in order to motivate others (your exec is always open to suggestions).

To Eric in Section 3 who has taken it upon himself to cut the blackberry bushes back from the Greenway so bikers don't get hurt.

These initiatives show an all too rare sense of communal responsibility and are worthy of recognition. Thank you both so very much.

Godzilla: The Sequel

Like last year, the threat of invasion by the Japanese Beetle is high, this year, it is even higher. The CBC has reported that the False Creek area has been quarantined to plant and soil removal. We have verified that we are outside of the quarantine zone, but only by two blocks. Please do NOT bring any plants or soil nor tools used in the quarantined area to the garden.



From your Executive

Happy Summer Solstice dear community gardeners. Summer is full on now, and many of us are busy with travel and other vacations like activities. If you are going away, make sure that you let your section mates or someone else know so that your plots can continue to be watered and maintained - including the exterior of course - as well as to insure that no food rots.

Our big news is that Suzanne - already Section 5 Lead - took our plea to heart and has volunteered to be our Secretary. Carol and Joyce - of course - are graciously helping her transition into the role. We are so very thankful to Suzanne for taking on yet more duties in spite of her extremely active life, as well as to Carol and Joyce for whom retirement has been all too elusive.

Some of you might remember that issues back we wrote that a grad student out at UBC was interested in testing our soil for



lead. He took five samples from our garden, Cedar Cottage Garden, the garden at 2595 Pender St, Ladybug Garden, Cambie Park Garden, as well as Kerrisdale and Cypress gardens. While we won't get into the details here, lead was indeed detected in the samples from all seven. While his test was not precise enough to give quantitative results, he writes "positive results do not mean there is any danger. It is difficult for food and vegetables to absorb lead from soil, at adequate soil conditions such as neutral pH levels, high organic content such as lawn clippings or leaves prevent lead from getting absorbed. As long as those conditions are met, the food should be safe." This drives home the point that proper soil management is not just important for the health of the garden, but for ourselves as well. Your exec suggests conversing with your fellow gardeners about how they care for the soil in their plots as a way of learning more while reinforcing our common bond.

At the work party on June 8th - run by Alice - your Chair mentioned that much of your Exec will be on and off vacation over the next couple months. This underlines the importance of pulling together as sections to insure that the garden as a whole looks beautiful and runs smoothly. Your Chair also gave a shout out to all of our Section Leads - your first go to for any issue regarding issues in a section - they are a key component of our structure and doing a fantastic job; we owe them all much gratitude for their efforts on our part.

Like last year, you may soon see notices about upcoming knotweed treatment along the Greenway. Your Exec has verified with the city that once again it will be via a low pressure treatment directly to the offending plants, none of which have been identified on the South side of the Greenway in our area, therefore risk of contamination to our plots should be extremely low.

Finally, our upcoming work parties are both midweek. They are Monday June 24th - potluck @ 6:00 (bring your own beverages, plates, napkins and cutlery) and Thursday July 11th. Work will start @ 7:00 PM. Hope to see many of you there.

Much peace to all from your Maple Community Garden Exec



Drought is here...

As noted in Kudos, we are still having trouble getting people on board to water the Communal Gardens. Even if you cannot commit to a week, we ask each and everyone of you to do your part. Please check the communal gardens to see if they are dry, and if so, take a moment to at least water part of them. We cannot stress how important this is for all of us.



Belated Dedication

On June 2nd, Marg's bench was dedicated. Words of praise, memories shared and music by WillyBlizard were enjoyed by all present. Thank you to all who came out, to Kate and Andrew for building the beautiful bench with lovingly sourced materials and to Liz and Kate for organizing the ceremony; Marg would have most certainly loved it!