

Maple Community Garden Mail

Organic Urban Gardening

Kudos

To the work party team who kept us on track working in our beautiful communal areas for yet another season. There were 12 work parties this year, and rain or shine dedicated gardeners came out to help. Note that for our last work party - pictured on the right - we were thrilled to be joined by three potential gardeners as well as two lovely folks filling in for a gardener who couldn't make it due to work commitments.

A brief reminder that the work party committee is always looking for volunteers, so if you care to become more involved - while fulfilling your contractual obligation of work parties - please join this team.

Kits Bees



Cynthia - a gardener from Cypress - kindly helped clean up the berm that is the bee garden. It is so gratifying to see others reaching out to help us and exemplifies how much our efforts are appreciated by the community at large. Gratitude.



From your Executive

After the rain comes sun, after the sun comes rain, but regardless, as the happy “wet rats” pictured above attest, dedicated gardeners here on the coast press on with joy in their hearts. The last work party was somewhat bittersweet as it signalled the close of our 30th season. Thirty years of dedication to the land, to our community, to the health of the planet through organic gardening practices. We all owe the founders - most of whom have passed on - deep and sincere gratitude. The same should be said for those that have done their best to pick up where our elders left off. We can only hope that this example will inspire the next generation to step into larger roles with the understanding that we are all just passing through and the greatest achievement is certainly leaving the world a better place than we found it. Thank you to each and every gardener who has given of themselves to our greater good over the years.

Speaking of elders, our super dedicated Jean has decided that



caring for “Jeans Garden” (the communal area on the Eastside) has become too much for her. She is happy to mentor someone / a group of people take care of the garden over the next year, and will then bow out. This is an exceptional opportunity for gardeners to become more involved in our community while deepening their knowledge of tending plants and nurturing soil from one of our most experienced members. Your Exec strongly encourages people to jump on it. Let us also take a moment to shout out a huge “thank you!” to Jean for all she has given us with this garden. It is a wonderful legacy for MCG and all of Kitsilano. Jean; you are truly inspirational.

Our “I.T. guy” as well as AGM transcriber Aaron - Section 6 - has decided that due to changes in his life, he will no longer be able to maintain his plot. At the same time, he has committed to continuing in the two roles noted above. This exemplary offer underlines how even those without enough time to fulfill their contractual obligations can still have a positive role in our community. Our community is not binary - you’re in or you’re out - to the contrary, we urge anyone who struggles with maintaining their plots and / or fulfilling their larger commitment to maintaining the surrounding areas, making it to at least four work parties etc. to consider leaving their plot for someone else and taking on a volunteer role (such as Jean’s garden). You might find that doing so brings you greater pleasure without the stress of a contractual obligation.

Mothé - Section 2 & Membership chair - the “wet rat” in the green poncho with the beautiful smile in the main photo - has graciously offered his fruit picker to the community. While it is too late for this season, do keep this in mind for when the apples across the greenway, and then our figs, start to ripen. It is currently being stored at Karmina’s and with a simple 24 hour notice can be yours for the using.

Thank you one and all for a wonderful 30th season, may your autumn be filled with peace in dedication to the health of all beings, your Maple Community Garden Exec.



What to plant

Unless there was rust in your section, now is the time to get your garlic in the ground. Also, mustard greens, broad beans and fennel can be planted now. Radishes too, if under cover.

Otherwise, put that bed to bed. Layer seaweed, compost and leaves; grow worms!



Herbal Remedies

Krista - Section 7 / Children’s Garden - suggests checking out the [aromaculture podcast](#). Many healing herbs can be grown in our community garden, and some are already available in the communal sections. This podcast contains suggestions for how to use herbs, roots and medicinal mushrooms to protect yourself from colds and flus.