

# BPCG



First workbee of 2016

## July update to Brewer Park Community Garden Members

### New Board Members Needed in September

We hope you are enjoying your time in the garden. Some of you may already be harvesting a few things! First we would like to thank everyone who attended the spring meeting in May. It was great turnout. It was especially nice to see so many new members!

Your executive committee members are:

**Marcel Belanger** – President  
**Marilyn Muleski** – Vice-president  
**Alison Duncan** – Treasurer  
**Johanne Ranger** – Coordinating Committee Liaison  
**Lindsay Vyvey / Catherine Montgomery** – Secretary

Reminder, many of the executive are due to step down in the Fall at the AGM. We will be looking for new executive members. This is a great opportunity to give back to the garden and its community. For more information on joining the executive you can contact the head of the nomination committee, Guy Souliere at [guy@ecoace.ca](mailto:guy@ecoace.ca)

### Grand Opening Day

# 2016

The great participation at the Garden Opening day on May 7<sup>th</sup>, meant that many of the tasks were completed in just a few hours! Everything is in place now for a great growing season, but if you notice anything, please don't hesitate to contact Becca at [brewergarden@gmail.com](mailto:brewergarden@gmail.com) She will make sure the right person gets the information and either contacts you back or deal with whatever needs dealing with!

## BPCG Members Pot-Lucks for 2016

The votes are in! You chose Wednesday, July 13 at 6 pm and Saturday, August 20 at 11:30 am. This will be a great opportunity to get to know each other and learn a bit more about the garden initiatives. Watch for more details coming soon!

# News From the Biodome!

This is our second full season of growing vegetables in the Biodome. Things are going very well.

We started planting in the biodome this year on March 1. Since temperatures were still quite chilly at that time, we planted a variety of cool season crops like arugula, lettuce, kale, and peas. As the temperatures warmed up in the spring, we added some more warm season crops including beets, squash, okra, cucumber, tomatoes, peppers, and many more! The heat-loving crops like the tomatoes, peppers, and okra are especially loving the warm temperatures in the biodome right now! There are already small peppers, okra, and tomato fruit forming and we'll be able to start harvesting in the next couple of weeks!

Last year, we encountered some significant pest problems in the biodome. Since the dome is a contained environment, and it gets very warm and humid, it is a perfect environment for some plant pests. Our biggest challenge last year were thrips, tiny microscopic insects that eat away at plant surfaces, creating lesions on leaves, fruits, and flowers. Since they were such a big problem last year, this year we decided to be proactive and introduced some biocontrol agents into the biodome. The biocontrol agents we chose are tiny predatory mites that feed on various life stages of thrips, thus reducing their population in the biodome. So far, they are doing an excellent job and the thrips population is much, much lower

than last year! This is a great example of natural pest control, and a neat example of how working with nature can yield wonderful results!

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## Aquaponics

We are also very lucky this year to have Todd Macarthur, a Carleton University Student, working on the aquaponics system as a thesis project for B.Sc, Honors Environmental Science.

For the duration of the summer, Todd will be maintaining the aquaponics system inside the biodome. This includes feeding the fish, monitoring water quality, measuring plant and fish growth and assessing the health of the fish. The goal of this research is to develop an aquaponics design that functions efficiently and consistently within the bio-dome under solar power.

Todd is at the Biodome almost everyday around 3h30 pm. Please don't hesitate to drop by and ask him about his research.

As part of the get-together on July 13<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a tour of the Biodome. You will be able to see the progress of the plants and the aquaponics. We will be looking for your ideas on how the biodome can benefit the members and the community. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the Biodome or the aquaponic system, please do not hesitate to contact Becca at [brewergarden@gmail.com](mailto:brewergarden@gmail.com) or Johanne Ranger at [Johanne.ranger3@gmail.com](mailto:Johanne.ranger3@gmail.com)

## Projects in the Garden

You have probably noticed that the Maintenance Volunteers are busy this summer. The two main projects approved by the Executive are the rebuilding of the finish compost (behind the shed) and a water station that will include some storage space. These two projects will be completed before the end of the summer. If you have any questions about them or want to find out more, please don't hesitate to contact our Maintenance Coordinator, Guy Souliere at [guy@ecoace.ca](mailto:guy@ecoace.ca).

## We're Online

Check out our website to see photos from the past 5 years, get ideas from our resources section and other garden news.

[www.brewerparkcommunitygarden.com](http://www.brewerparkcommunitygarden.com)

You can also follow us on Twitter

@BrewerGarden

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