



Right: Dog-strangling vine is extremely invasive. It needs to be pulled!

Left: Beware of the groundhog! They're munching on cauliflower and cabbages.

Below: A whimsical flower box designed by Ali D, located beside the kids' teepee.



This summer we have planned a lot of activities for you to enjoy the garden: yoga on Wednesday nights, picnic nights on Tuesday nights, African drumming and various musicians will be there to entertain you. In this issue you will find important notices about garden maintenance, a feature piece about the demonstration plot, and a section dedicated to garden volunteers. Bonne lecture!

Danielle Cantin
BPCG President



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Dear Friend,

I think it is safe to say after weeks of rain sheets and melting heat that summer has officially arrived! Kids are done school, cottage season is upon us, and life at BPCG is thriving – might I mention both welcome and unwelcome species. But what I absolutely enjoy most about summer is the time I get to spend with friends – whether it is on a run, in my garden, or grabbing patio drinks. This season allows you to revel in its long sunny days, to enjoy the company of old friends, and to make the acquaintance of new ones. So dear friend, put that shovel down, toss that cell-phone aside, stay up a little past your bedtime and embrace summer's gift.

Isabel Tang
Editor

Garden Happenings



Above: The volunteer meet and greets were a success. Thank you to everyone who came out with great ideas and a willingness to help!

Garden safety issues & prevention methods

1. Please **remove containers from alleys** to prevent people from tipping on them.
2. Ensure that addition to your plot **does not shade** a neighbouring plot.
3. Water your plants at their base, near the soil, especially for large leaved plants, to prevent **mildew**. If you notice mildew on leaves of your plants, cut them off and throw them out in the garbage, not the compost cage.
4. Sticks by the school and netting in the wooden boxes (combination 2724) can be used to **protect your plot against the groundhog!**



Keep an eye out for these exciting events in the month of July:

Tuesday evening activities

Workshops, picnics, children's activities, music, dancing, and more! Check out the [BPCG Events calendar](#) to keep updated with all the events planned for Tuesday evenings!

Wednesday night yoga classes

When: 7pm-8pm
Elizabeth Whissell is offering relaxing, fun, and challenging yoga classes for all levels starting from the second week of July to the end of August. Drop-in starts at \$14/class. However, if 20 people pre-register classes are reduced to \$7.25 a session! You can register by emailing brewergarden@gmail.com with "Yoga" in the subject heading.

Sunday July 28 Special Event

Just Food is holding a special event for kids ages 6+ from 1pm-2:30pm. Come join us in the afternoon and learn about the extraordinary role of bugs, the busy life of bees in the garden and the goodness of growing your own food!

Recipe and Photo Sharing

Show off your talented photography skills and share your creative garden recipes by posting them our facebook page [@www.facebook.com/BrewerParkCommunityGarden](http://www.facebook.com/BrewerParkCommunityGarden).

Secrets to maintaining garden aesthetics

As plants begin growing wild there are a couple things we can do to maintain the aesthetics of our garden:

1. Pull out those **invading weeds!** It'll free up space for your veggies to grow and it'll keep our garden from looking too crowded.
2. To keep our garden Mother Earth friendly, only **use plain wood or bamboo to hold plant material** (e.g. no hockey sticks or plastic laundry racks).
3. **Harvest, harvest, harvest!** With the warm weather last week many vegetables are ready to harvest. If they're left to rot, not only will they look visually out of place, but we'll also be wasting good food!
4. Remembering to put your healthy composting plant material in the **compost cage** will also keep the garden looking clean! Note: the composting cage is different than the compost bins.



Water-wise, natural gardening techniques on display in Plot 18

By Lori Waller and Inga Darcy

Those who've strolled through the northwest corner of the garden of late may have wondered, "What's with that plot full of dried leaves and plants that don't look like any veggie crop I've ever seen?"

The answer is that Plot 18 is being used as a demonstration plot to showcase gardening methods that make use of ecological principles to grow a thriving variety of plants while conserving water and preserving soil health.

Waste not water... mulch it!

One of the few drawbacks of raised growing boxes is that water evaporates from the soil far more quickly than it does from in-ground beds. A great way to counteract this and minimize water consumption

is to use mulch.

Mulch is any material used to cover bare soil; it prevents weeds from sprouting and slows the evaporation of moisture. Organic mulches — like wood chips, straw, or the dry leaves used in our demo plot — add nutrients to the soil and improve its structure as they slowly rot.

Another water-saving feature of the plot is a buried soaker hose, which has tiny holes all along the length of it. We've buried it a few inches below the soil surface, under the thirstier plants. When water flows through, it's delivered straight to the roots rather than hitting the top of the soil, where much of it would evaporate.

Plants that like each other

Companion planting is a strategy often used in organic gardening, and more extensively in permaculture. It involves using a dense variety of plants that enhance each others' growth. "Contrary to popular belief, such an environment can lead to higher yields," says Inga Darcy, a garden

member who helped plan the demo plot.

In our demo plot, chives, marigolds, and catmint help repel insect pests from the strawberries, nettles, and squash. The stinging nettles (don't touch them!) and clover will benefit all plants by boosting soil nitrogen and mineral levels. The clover, borage, coriander, and nettle will attract bees, which the squash plants need for pollination.

Pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds will also be lured by the native wildflowers: foxglove beard-tongue, fireweed, wild bergamot, and phlox.

Dig deeper

Keep an eye out at the garden for explanatory signage we will add to the demo plot, and on the event calendar for workshops on the gardening methods used in the plot.

Page of Gratitude

Dedicated to our hardworking volunteers and members who have committed time, energy, and care to our garden.



Alison Kemp
Communications
Team & Garden
Secretary



“I am here because I like the concept of a community garden and what I like about this community garden is that it’s not just about the individuals, but how there are donation plots, community plots, and there’s going to be some demonstration people to learn from and so I think it’s got a role broader than just the individual plots.”

- Johanne Ranger



Greg and Alice
Father and Daughter
Garden Members



Brewer Park Community Garden

Executive committee:

President: Danielle Cantin
Vice-President: Marcel Bélanger
Secretary: Alison Kemp
Treasurer: Ed Kucerak
Member liaison: Al Holtz

Coordinating committee:

Building coordinators: Guy Soulière and Michael Oster
Children's coordinators: Alison Duncan and Danielle Cantin
Communication's coordinators: Alison Kemp and Ed Kucerak
Donation plot coordinator: Marcel Bélanger
Demonstration plot coordinator: Lori Waller
Fundraising coordinator: Edmond Marc du Rogoff
Maintenance coordinator: Catherine Montgomery
Membership coordinator: Paula Claudino
Volunteer coordinator: Johanne Ranger

Keep in touch!

<http://brewerparkcommunitygarden.weebly.com>
www.facebook.com/BrewerParkCommunityGarden
<https://twitter.com/BrewerGarden>
brewergarden@gmail.com

If you would like to get involved with BPCG newsletter please get in touch with Isabel Tang @ isabeltang92@gmail.com or Alison D @ alisonbduncan@gmail.com.

Brewer Park Community Garden is a non-profit community-based organization that operates a community garden open to all who live, work or study in Old Ottawa South and in neighbouring areas.

