



## New calendar available from Brewer Park community group, Photos showcase highlights from garden's inaugural year

Posted Jan 24, 2013 By [Michelle Nash](#)

EMC news - To help mark the first year of the Old Ottawa South community garden, one green thumb went beyond tilling the soil to produce a commemorative calendar.

The Brewer Park community garden calendar is available for free on the association website at [oldottawasouth.ca](http://oldottawasouth.ca). It was created by community gardener Patrick Nantel and showcases the project's inaugural year.

"I had printed a few as presents for our supporters and one for my wife, who was the garden coordinator," Nantel said. "It was my wife's idea to offer them out to all the members and community."

Important moments in the garden's first year, including the building of the raised wooden garden boxes, the beginning of the planting season and the constant watering that occurred during the dry summer months are all marked out on the pages of the calendar.

Nantel is an avid photographer and he visited the garden nearly everyday, capturing images of it's evolution.

Located between the Brewer Swimming Pool and Westboro School, the garden features 13 plots for members, five donation plots, as well as space for a children's garden.

Plans to build the community garden at the park were announced in January 2012 and Nantel said funding came late, meaning volunteers worked many hours to make sure they didn't miss out on the season.

"It was a lot of work, but we are very pleased, and there are plans to expand it," he said.

Both Nantel and his wife love to garden, but it was while living in Montreal, where they participated in a community garden, that he said they found true value in working alongside neighbours.

"A community garden brings people together: you can share tips and there are a lot of people who don't have the right place to grow so having a public space is optimal," Nantel said.

"It was also a great use of parkland that was being under-used."

The Brewer Park community garden currently has a waiting list for garden boxes, something Nantel said the group plans to address this coming season with the addition of a few more boxes.

The goal is to one day have a total of 55 boxes.

Free copies of the calendar are available at [www.oldottawasouth.ca](http://www.oldottawasouth.ca) or individuals can order a printed copy for \$25.

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*Patrick Nantel*

Photographer Patrick Nantel brought his camera to the Brewer Park community garden nearly every day during the summer. At the end of the season, Nantel decided to create a calendar to commemorate the community garden's first season.

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