

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Construction Begins on Ottawa's First Biodome Garden



Garden members spread gravel over insulation panels. PHOTOS BY ED KUCERAK



Project leaders Michael Oster and Guy Souliere (L to R).

By Ed Kucerak

If you have been wondering what is going on in Brewer Park across from the Brewer Arena during past few weeks, wonder no more. Work has begun on the first phase of the construction of Brewer Park Community Garden's biodome garden, the first of its kind in Ottawa, and possibly in Eastern Canada.

Under the guidance of project leaders Michael Oster and Guy Souliere, with lots of help from garden members and with special thanks to local contractor Brian Burton, initial work has so far involved excavation of the site, placement of insulation panels, installation of tubing to allow for radiant floor heating and delivery and levelling of gravel for the base floor. The overall objective is to extend

the growing season, with a stretch goal of year-round operations using solar energy only, based on a design by our energy lead Paula Claudino.

Next steps will involve the building of the base wall segment and the installation of the actual dome structure which will house the grow beds and an aquaponics system, which safely uses fish wastewater to nourish plants and increase yields.

The Garden is very grateful to City of Ottawa (Facilities Manager Joe Chisholm, also Jeff, Brent, Mike and Scott) for giving us storage space and other support at Brewer Arena.

You can follow progress on the biodome garden construction at www.facebook.com/BrewerPark-CommunityGarden



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