Year Report 2020 – 2021

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General

Again this year, the gardening season started under the shadow of the pandemic. The initial spring meeting was held virtually on April 25 via Zoom. Community League membership renewals, execution of garden agreements and payment of garden fees were again done electronically.

A total of 70 gardeners signed an agreement:

- *7 from the 2020 season did not return;*
- *7 new ones joined the garden;*
- *4 upgraded from a ½ plot to a full one;*
- *1 upgraded from a raised bed to a ½ plot;*
- *A full wait list was maintained all summer*

Operations

A Covid-19 Policy to establish operational procedures to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 was reviewed before the beginning of the season. Key points of the policy are:

- *procedures to limit the number of people in the garden at any given time;*
- *the need to sanitize frequently touched surfaces; and,*
- *the requirement for gardeners to bring their own tools and equipment (the sharing of communal tools was not allowed).*

Strathcona Spirits donated hand sanitizer again this year.

In mid-summer, the city removed the need for special procedures at the garden which allowed gardeners to use the communal tools stored in the shed. This was a welcome change to the procedures.

The Steering Committee developed Good Neighbour Guidelines that are now incorporated in the garden agreement. The new guidelines describe how people should use fencing material around their plot.

One of the two large compost bins was expanded to meet demand. The area for compostable kitchen scrap was also expanded based on last winter's experience.

The garden steering committee met monthly to manage the operation of the garden.

The lack of rain this summer caused a significant increase in water consumption. Water totes were filled 15 time this year compared to 3 in 2019.

The Ronald McDonald house donated three garden carts to the garden.