

Roots and Shoots

The Newsletter of the Community Garden Network
of Edmonton and Area



OF EDMONTON AND AREA

“...the voice that promotes and supports community gardening”

October
2007

Volunteer Appreciation Brunch
November 3rd, 2007

Upcoming Events

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Gardening is the art that uses flowers and plants as paint, and the soil and sky as canvas.

~ Elizabeth Murray

You are cordially invited to the 2007 Community Garden Network

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BRUNCH

Please join us **the morning of November 3 from 9:30 to 12:30** for a celebration filled with laughter, prizes, and yummy food. Back by popular demand, this year's celebration features a riotous **live auction event**. Bring a potluck item but leave your wallet at home – **auction money is provided!**

Earn extra auction dollars!! If you have pictures, photo albums or displays, please bring them to the event. We also reward stories you

email to us about your volunteer experience.

The Brunch will be held at the **Campus Saint-Jean Grand Salon** located in McMahon Pavilion 8406 - 91 Street, Edmonton. Click here for a [map to Campus Saint-Jean](#).

We will need **a record of your volunteer hours for CGN**, as of January 2007 to calculate your auction dollars (and for funder reporting). Please email your volunteer information back to us **before October 29th**. **Please RSVP about the brunch by October 29th** to Susan or Trudy at **447-9600** or info@edcommunitygardens.org

Our heartfelt thanks to you for volunteering with the CGN in 2007!

• **Volunteer appreciation** brunch and silent auction on **November 3rd**. Should you have any items to contribute to the auction please inform Trudy at info@edcommunitygardens.org

• **New website!** CGN has launched their new website. We're still available at www.edcommunitygardens.org. If you have anything you'd like to see or feedback to give don't hesitate to contact Trudy at info@edcommunitygardens.org

• We want to hear about what you are growing. Garden Surveys for the 2007 gardening survey should be filled out periodically. There's a chance to win a great prize in the fall!

Special Thanks

- To Allan Bolstad for partnering with CGN to produce a Shaw TV news item.
- To Edith Sinnema for producing potter plaques for our Garden Competition Participants.

All Gardeners this season!



The SPIN Project through SAGE

Community gardens have been active in Edmonton all summer long. Various schools, community groups, organizations and community leagues have been involved in getting gardens growing! But these citizens aren't just growing vegetables; they are building relationships with their neighbours and community members too. One such organization, SAGE (Senior's Association of Greater Edmonton) is working especially hard to get Senior Immigrants out into the garden and sharing their unique knowledge and experience.

Through their SPIN program SAGE has been helping Senior Immigrants find garden space throughout the city. Many of these new Canadians have a history of gardening but now find themselves short of land, as well as social networks. SPIN is helping to network these seniors with each other as well as with established Canadians with garden space to share. The program facilitates creating these relationships by using the borrowed land of local residents – perhaps a back yard garden or a community garden.

One particular success story is that of the Korean gardeners at the Millwoods-Wagner Community Garden. They have been able to sow their plots with seeds from their home countries and enjoy familiar vegetables. The Koreans are also having the opportunity to mingle with the other gardeners and become familiar with Canadian gardening style and vegetables.

Currently, the SPIN project is beginning preparations for next years season and searching for new land. They are particularly in need of land in the downtown area and anywhere along major bus or LRT routes. If you are able to help, please contact Maureen at melhatton@mysage.ca



Vietnamese Seniors at Millwoods Wagner

Lobbyist Act Bill 1

In March, 2007, the Alberta government introduced Bill 1, the *Lobbyists Act*, to "ensure the public sees that lobbying is done without a conflict of interest." The *Lobbyists Act* has three key proposals:

- a lobbyist registry that will give Albertans easy access to public information about who is paid to influence the government, and on what issues.
- an index of government contract information, and
- a ban on lobbying and providing advice to government on the same issue at the same time.

While well-intentioned this Bill could severely restrict the ability of nonprofit organizations to conduct business with the government. Changes must be made to the Bill to enhance its suitability.

Over **100** Alberta-based nonprofit organizations have now signed on to the Muttart Foundation's submission to the government committee studying the Lobbyists Act, a.k.a. "Bill 1".

The legislative committee on Government Services is meeting **September 27** for a public hearing on Bill 1, the *Lobbyists Act*, provincial legislation introduced earlier this year to "ensure the public sees that lobbying is done without a conflict of interest."

The **Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations**, along with the **Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations**, **Volunteer Alberta** and the **Muttart Foundation** will be making submissions to the all-party committee.

You can read up on the background, see an excellent analysis prepared by the Legal Resource Centre at the U of A, and more at our site - www.ecvo.ca/issues.htm

You can also read the final submission by the Muttart Foundation posted online and a link to the Volunteer Alberta submission at www.ecvo.ca/issues.htm.

Call for Board Members!

Community Garden Network is currently seeking candidates for its Board of Directors. It is expected that monthly meetings and additional committee responsibilities will be approximately 6-10 hours per month. Candidates are asked to consider a commitment to the Community Garden Network Board for a three year rotation. Please contact Susan Penstone or Trudy Spooner for more information, 447-9600.

Congratulations to **Lanette Singh** from the Dickinsfield Blooms Community Garden on winning our \$25 gift certificate to SunWorks Farms for handing in her Seasonal Survey by October 1st.

If you have not submitted your Seasonal Survey please do so as soon as possible. This survey helps us to compile statistics and improve our programs in coming year



Remember

Volunteer Appreciation
Brunch on
November 3rd

Community Leagues and Community Gardens...Naturally!

Make a difference in your community by starting a community garden with your Community League. It's an excellent way to encourage people to get outside and socialize, provide an excellent opportunity for exercise and fresh air, allow children to learn about the food growing process, reduce crime in the area and create a beautiful space for all community members to enjoy!

For more information please contact Trudy Spooner with the Community Garden Network at 447-9600 or info@edmcommunitygardens.org



LAUNCHING BENEFIT CARDS!!

After months of hard work the Benefit Cards are finally ready to be distributed. These cards will give our members discounts at four local businesses, which are listed on the card. Each Garden Coordinator will soon be issued the cards, to be distributed to their members. We hope to add more businesses next year. Enjoy the discounts!



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If you wish to submit articles or notices for the upcoming edition of Roots and Shoots, the next deadline is October 22, 2007. For newsletter submissions or inquiries, please contact Lindsey Mulkins at lindseymulkins@yahoo.com