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Anyone recognize this very cute small Towne Centre gardener?

CAWSTON GARDEN BEFORE AND AFTER RENOVATION



GAUDI PHASE II BY COOL ARTS SOCIETY



This year brought an exciting extension of the tile art at St. Paul Community Garden. 'Cool Art' Society, their art clients and volunteers worked throughout the summer, completing the final touches to 'Gaudi in the Garden' Phase II during Kelowna's 2015 September Cultural Days.

Huge thanks go to the City of Kelowna, who provided grants for Phase I and Phase II through the City's Community Public Art grant programme. Also, our continued gratitude to Butler Tile (Kelowna) and Home Depot for helping with materials needed for the 'Gaudi in the Garden' project.

'Cool' Art' Society's Executive Director, Rena Warren organized all aspects of the 'Gaudi' tile art projects - securing the funding through the grant application, contracting artist Wanda Lock for her expert advice and direction, acquiring all materials needed, and the organization and scheduling of 'Cool Art' Society's clients, their guides and volunteers to participate. Thank you to you all for your enthusiasm you brought to St. Paul Community Garden's, 'Gaudi in the Garden'!

It has been an absolute honour and pleasure to be involved with 'Cool Art' Society and the City of Kelowna can be so proud of all their endeavors.

Roxana Adams,
'SOL' Art in the Community Gardens Volunteer Coordinator

PROJECT MANAGER REPORT

2015 has been a very busy year with the building of Ballou Garden in April, coordinating Hartman, DeHart, Gibbs and Ballou until Volunteer Coordinators could be found, the cleaning up of Hartman Garden with the WHEELS team, the organizing of GlenGrow for all 16 gardens, rebuilding of Cawston and the annual Mr. Chippy fall work.

The highlight of fall, 2015 for me has been all about working with the WHEELS group of students from SD23. In September the WHEELS group received funding to rebuild Cawston Garden. This garden was originally built in 2003 and the ten 4' x 4' boxes and three wheelchair boxes were starting to fall apart. Rona precut all the wood and I delivered it to the caregivers home so the WHEELS team could work undercover and had access to a washroom. Over a period of about four weeks the team slowly built boxes, demolished old boxes, and installed new boxes. The team put wood chips on the pathways and all the boxes received a layer of GlenGrow. We removed the ageing sign, salvaged part of it and installed it on the fence. The new COCG sunflower sign was installed on the old posts. The WHEELS team hand painted numbers and installed them on the boxes as a nice finishing touch from the team.

The WHEELS group also helped put a nice layer of GlenGrow on each box at the Parkinson Recreation Community Garden. One team member has hand painted numbers for the plots and will be installing them this week.

Willow Park Garden was the first garden to use Mr. Chippy this Fall. After doing several loads of corn stalks and elm branches he began to overheat. With the help of all the gardeners we loaded up my truck and took a full load to the landfill allowing Mr. Chippy time to cool down. The next day we went to Town Centre Garden and were pleasantly surprised to see how little material needed to be chipped compared to previous years. The same applied to Shannon Woods Garden. The following weekend we went to Lindahl Garden and Mr. Chippy had a belt failure. On the way to Barlee Garden I dropped him off at Savoy for repairs. Instead of chipping at Barlee I took two loads of junk to the landfill instead. Barlee Gardeners are making a good effort in cleaning up the garden in general to combat the current rodent issue that is being experienced throughout the City.

Sandy James
Project Manager

“We abuse the land because we regard it as a community belonging to us. When we see the land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.” Aldo Leopold



BALLOU COMMUNITY GARDEN
Ballou Rd west from Glenmore Rd.

Ballou Community Garden has just celebrated our first season!

Gardeners enjoyed a variety of produce and shared camaraderie gardening together. Ballou park is grassland at the bottom of a mountain with lots of roaming wildlife, such as deer, marmots and quail, who regularly raided the gardens. This summer, the Coordinator was kept extremely busy with frequent calls to the police

and police community liaison officer reporting vandalism, theft and destruction of garden produce by neighbourhood kids & youth who constantly stole pumpkins, squash & watermelon, and then smashed the produce on the road.

As a new Coordinator, there's been a huge amount to learn and thankfully Shannon Woods Coordinator, Nathalie Begin, has mentored me and kindly shared her knowledge & experience! On October 3rd, Ballou Garden had a clean-up day featuring guest speaker retired organic farmer, Bob McCoubrey, who spoke about the value of green manure and demonstrated how to plant fall rye seed as a valuable winter crop. Nathalie Begin also attended as a special guest who graciously answered gardeners' questions on a one to one basis and provided lots of gardening tips. We are very grateful for their knowledge, wisdom and time! Gardeners now have fall rye growing and are looking forward to planting next year!



One third of Ballou gardeners have not renewed; several didn't renew specifically because of the vandalism.



The Ballou and Sutton Glen Coordinators are working together to address the waitlists of folks wanting a community garden plot in North Glenmore.



Louise Hutchinson
Volunteer garden Coordinator



SUTTON GLEN COMMUNITY GARDEN
464 Sutton Crescent, North Glenmore

Sutton Glen had a fairly smooth year with many successes. We had many gardeners trying new techniques and different kinds of plants. The community surrounding Sutton Glen, for the most part, respected the gardens and there were only a few reported incidents of theft. Towards the end of the growing season, we had some deer helping themselves to the remaining plants, such as the hardy kale but, they were here first, so hopefully people don't mind. The people walking by or through the garden always had a positive comment to make about the beauty of the gardens. This, I feel, increases the importance of community gardens not only in a food production aspect but also in community beautification. There is an additional sense of pride with the gardeners knowing that their hard work is not only providing food for their tables but also the visual enjoyment of others.

The delivery of GlenGrow was greatly appreciated by all of the gardeners and most people took advantage of this and topped their gardens up. Thank you to Sandy for arranging this and the City of Kelowna for the generous donation. It has been a huge help, especially to those who do not have access to a vehicle or any other method of transport of soil.

This year we experimented with the small plots to allow the children of Sutton Glen to learn about food production. Parents or Grandparents could request a child plot and these seemed to be successful. One tiny gardener grew cucumbers and made his own pickles!

Sutton Glen has had a very minimal turn over for next year. The waitlist continues to be extensive despite the temporary relief brought on by the addition of the Ballou Garden in Glenmore. With some Stratas now amending their rules to allow for small vegetable gardens, hopefully some of the people waiting for a plot will no longer require one. This is a positive change being made by a few proactive strata groups that hopefully will be recognized and imitated by others.

I hope everyone has a wonderful winter. I look forward to seeing everyone in the spring!

Ashlee Robinson
Volunteer Garden Coordinator

Gardens Grow Great Communities!
COCG MISSION
To help neighbourhoods and communities create sustainable green spaces for gardening, food production, gathering, and education.



LINDAHL COMMUNITY GARDEN
corner of Lindahl & Wilkinson St.

Lindahl community garden has had a most successful year with all of our members thoroughly enjoying their gardens.

All members came to the garden clean up on October 25th and chipped in to make the garden ready for fall. As seen in the picture provided we have gardeners of all ages here in our community! Brad, Dorothy and Odin all work together to make our garden an oasis for all visitors.



We are looking forward to the 2015/16 season with the addition of some mason bees to the garden! These super pollinators will help us to yield much more produce! Thanks to all for such a wonderful season!

Anne-Marie Fillery
Volunteer Garden Coordinator



WHY DO COCG GUIDELINES STATE PEAT MOSS IS NOT TO BE USED IN PLOTS?

Retired organic farmer and COCG Consultant, Bob McCoubrey, advises that he checked the organic standards' permitted substances list and found that peat moss is permitted, likely because it is a naturally occurring substance. The arguments against its' use are more to do with CO2 release, differing positions on how quickly it can be replenished after harvesting, and the fact that other types of mulch are more beneficial to gardening than peat. If the re-growth rate of 0.5 - 1 mm per year is correct, then similar to petroleum deposits, we are consuming peat moss faster than nature can produce it. That is not sustainable.

To find out more about peat moss, take a look at these links:

<http://learningandyearning.com/peat-moss-and-the-sustainable-garden>

<http://www.davidsuzuki.org/what-you-can-do/queen-of-green/faqs/composting/is-peat-moss-an-eco-friendly-option-for-my-yard-and-garden/>



BARLEE ROAD COMMUNITY GARDEN
1898 Barlee Road, Kelowna

It was a good season. The fall clean-up is ongoing but a lot was accomplished on Saturday, October 24. Unfortunately the chipper was broken, but a lot of wood chips and GlenGrow were spread, and the flower beds trimmed. Milena had already disconnected the hoses and hose reels and stored them. Sandy took two loads to the yard waste of old furniture, and waste wood. There are still some ongoing water issues that we probably have to live with. There are four plots available to go to people on our 30 person wait list.

Sadly, a long-time Barlee gardener passed away recently. Up until the past summer, John was at the garden on a daily basis, cutting the grass, putting out the yard waste bins and in general helping out. He will be missed!

Ruth Mellor
Volunteer Garden Coordinator





HARTMAN ROAD COMMUNITY GARDEN

375 Hartman Road, Rutland

This was our first year as coordinators for the Hartman Garden, and we want to thank all of our gardeners for their hard work and commitment to our little community! Thanks to Sandy and the hard work of the Wheels team, we added a new plot, and have two sturdy raised beds. They also started laying down some cardboard and wood chips to control grass along the park fenceline. We added more cardboard and wood chips this fall, and this work will continue next year. They also put up some untreated wood pallets along the fenceline we share with the dog park, in order to keep some of the 'spray' off of our vegetables. This work will also continue next spring.

Our fall clean up was well-attended. Workers (and junior workers!) put down wood chips along all of the trails, weeded in the front area near the raised beds, and topped up the raised beds with the donated GlenGrow. Garden plots are being put to bed for the winter, though some still have root vegetables and sturdy greens growing.

We were able to accommodate everyone on our waitlist this year, but already have six people on the list for next year. Some interesting and giant plants were grown this year, including some vibrant red spinach-like greens, mini-watermelon, dense tomato bushes and beautiful dahlias.

Natasha Neuman & Leanne Nowell
Volunteer Garden Coordinators

RDCO GRANT IN AID

COCG is very grateful to the ***Regional District of Central Okanagan***, supported by Kelowna, West Kelowna, Peachland, and Lake Country for funds that make it possible for us to have Sandy James, as our Project Manager. This year Sandy has organized the building of the new Ballou Community Garden.

The generous Grant in Aid by RDCO enables COCG to move forward with creating new gardens that would not be possible without a paid employee to support the board and other volunteers.



TOWN CENTRE COMMUNITY GARDEN

At the end of May Street off Hebert Road, West Kelowna

Town Centre had a very successful season with many gardeners working together to keep the garden and surrounding area in great shape. A highlight for us was the opportunity to be part of the Communities in Bloom tour in West Kelowna. It was an honour to showcase our garden and to hear the judges comment on how wonderful the garden looked. It was a testament to all the hard work we continually do through out the season.

We had two successful clean up days and potlucks, one in the spring and the other just recently as we cleaned up for the end of the season. The gardeners were very excited about the generous delivery of GlenGrow. After distributing to each plot, the remaining amount was tirelessly moved to the back of garden so we are able to access to it again in the spring. As we are trying to promote chop and drop composting in individual plots, the compost bins at the back of the garden were dismantled. While chipping our compost in the front bins, we came across an amazing discovery. One of the bins was quite damp and full of thousands of worms. It was amazing to see. Some of us transported some of the creatures to our plots. We left that bin alone and will see how it looks in the spring. It will be a great learning tool for the students.



Christina Elliot
Volunteer Garden Coordinator





GIBBS ROAD COMMUNITY GARDEN
250 Gibbs Road West, Rutland

Gibbs Garden has had a very successful year. Bountiful produce and a beautiful garden area, thanks to some very eager gardeners that do a great deal extra with all the flowers etc to make our garden a very pleasurable place to be.

We did not have an organized clean up as it was not warranted this year. Each gardener did an amazing job with the clean up of their individual plots as well as the common areas. We did have comments by some of our community neighbours on how beautiful the garden was this year as well as how much they enjoyed talking and visiting with the gardeners.

We all look forward to the Spring and another productive growing year in 2016.

Jeanie Walker
Volunteer Garden Coordinator



MICHAELBROOK COMMUNITY GARDEN
Near Michaelbrook Marsh, off Lexington Avenue, Mission

My first couple of months have been quite busy. I am getting to know the gardeners and hopefully will remember some of their names after the winter.

We had a good turnout at the potluck on Sunday, and thanks to Anne-Marie for her support. Everyone was very happy and grateful for the GlenGrow, there is still a large amount for top-up next spring. There are some greens still growing until the frost takes care of them.

We have one gardener with a truck and he has taken numerous loads of weeds etc. to the dump. The gardeners have been diligent in weeding the pathways and everything is neat and clean for the winter.

I have registered two new gardeners so far, there are three more that have not renewed.

Jill Nevlud
Volunteer Garden Coordinator



OYAMA COMMUNITY GARDEN

Oyama Community Club
15710 Oyama Rd

The Oyama garden had a great year. All plots were rented with one plot grown for the Lake Country food bank.

We had two large work party days with one in April and one October 24th. On both days we laid a large load of wood chips in all the common areas. As we just built the garden last year the wood chips have finished off our pathways which should help next year with weed and grass control.

Our gardeners ranged from young/older families to young/older singles. Many were new to gardening so we really appreciated the help given by some experienced gardeners.



We ended off the year with a barbecue pot luck luncheon the day of the clean up. All plots are winterized with GlenGrow and we have some left to spread in the spring.



We have a few plots open for next year as some gardeners are having babies, and some are moving away.

Marj Dickie
Volunteer Garden Coordinator





SHANNON WOODS COMMUNITY GARDEN
Shannon Woods Drive off Shannon Lake Road,
West Kelowna

We have much to be thankful as we are finishing our 5th year at Shannon Woods! The gardeners are doing an amazing job at keeping our community garden in fabulous shape. Thank you all for your efforts!

This year most gardeners have adopted the Chop N' Drop practices and have not had to make much use of the compost bins! There has also been more vertical gardening and more use of row cover to protect some plant material. Unlike last year, we had less vole activity and NO marmots visiting us, which made our gardening efforts much more enjoyable!

This fall, Bob McCoubrey gave us an inspiring workshop on helping us gain a better understanding as to why it is so important to protect and maintain healthy soil by properly winterizing our garden plots. It was one of our best attended Clean-Up/Potluck events!

We have some very enthusiastic gardeners, eager to share their knowledge, their experimental triumphs, disappointments, and passion. We look forward to resuming in this bountiful space again next spring.



Nathalie Begin
Volunteer Garden Coordinator





DEHART COMMUNITY GARDEN Corner of DeHart and Gordon Rd

At DeHart an early start and slow finish to the growing season was enjoyed by all. We even had strawberries ripening in late October that were absolutely delicious! A few of our plots are still producing and we've made good use of the GlenGrow that was dropped at our site in October.

DeHart managed to have several work parties this year that were enthusiastically attended. We made great strides to improve the garden for everyone. Whether it was weeding, spreading bark mulch, or simply cleaning out the shed, we had wonderful participation and great fun. 2015 saw a new fence surround our garden as our area grew to include an on-leash dog park.

We managed to pull a few people off our long wait list and primarily, the additions to our group were new to vegetable gardening. The existing and experienced gardeners at DeHart were very helpful to provide tips and assistance. From our young school students to our retirees, we simply have a terrific group of people at our garden!

We're looking forward to attending various garden seminars and events throughout the winter months. We continue to improve our gardens, prepare plant selections for the upcoming season, and make the tough decisions on what to omit due to limits in our plot size. Our enthusiasm for growing more, and many different plants can outstrip our territory in quick order but we have several gardeners that truly embrace square foot gardening and manage to maximize their harvest while having healthy, lush, and attractive plots for the rest of us to learn from and envy. There are always new varieties to try, old varieties that continue to be staples in our gardens and an experiment or two to push the gardening envelope are always underway.

Thanks to the City for supporting the Community Garden movement, the volunteers that make it happen and thanks especially to our gardeners that make the gardens look so very beautiful.

Brenda Sleeper
Volunteer Garden Coordinator



***Thank you Choices Markets for the use of your meeting room
for COCG's monthly meetings!***



CAWSTON AVENUE & ST PAUL COMMUNITY GARDENS

adjacent to the Unitarian Church on
Cawston Avenue &
1311 St Paul Street,
Downtown Kelowna



While it was a prolific year, many St Paul Gardeners were hard hit by unwanted harvesting this year. Most were philosophical and appreciated that the produce seemed to be used, not vandalized!

As reported elsewhere in this issue, Cawston received a much needed renovation with new plot surrounds, signs, wood chips, and GlenGrow. It looks like a brand new garden, thanks to Sandy and her Wheels team!



St Paul gardener, Keltie, heads home with a basket of produce

Georgiann Kasdorf
Volunteer Garden Coordinator



Parkinson Recreation Centre Garden **Parkinson Recreation Centre on Harvey off Spall**

It was a good season at Parkinson—with produce and flowers abundantly filling all the plots.

Georgiann Kasdorf
**Volunteer Garden
Coordinator**



WILLOW PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN
Off Hwy 33 Behind Willow Park Church

Willow Park Gardeners had good season overall. Lots of produce was harvested and enjoyed. There was only one report of theft and no reports of vandalism. The perennial gardens have filled in nicely putting on a colorful display all season.

Many Gardeners volunteered to share the watering duties of our shared garden spaces including the perennial gardens, herb gardens, cut-flower garden and wild roses. Support and help was also extended to gardeners who were ill during this year's growing season.

Bob McCoubrey presented a very informative workshop on "putting the garden to bed". Unfortunately only a few of the gardeners attended, though most of the garden plots have been covered with either GlenGrow or leaves.

Our Fall Garden Work Party was well attended again this year. The annual chores including weeding, topping up the wood chips in the pathways, cleaning up the compost bins with "Mr. Chippy" and Sandy on hand to help. GlenGrow was also spread on perennial flower beds, herb garden, cutting garden plots and around the fruit trees. It was all completed in less than three hours. A pot-luck lunch was enjoyed by many on a beautiful sunny day. We will see only a few new gardeners this year replacing those that gave up their plots for various reasons. The waitlist will be left with two people for next year.

Darla Wiebe
Volunteer Garden Coordinator



WINFIELD COMMUNITY GARDEN
11187 Bottom Woodlake Road, Winfield

No report available

Kate Clements
Volunteer Garden Coordinator

THE LAST WORD

Debbie Macmillan (left), Flower Power Garden Tour Coordinator presents \$2,000 from the proceeds of the 2015 tour to Ruth Mellor, COCG Chair (right). Funds will be used to build or enhance Community Gardens in our community.



A FEW MORE PHOTOS FROM SHANNON WOODS

Habaneros, anyone?



Mel & Martha with Sorghum



Times are changing! The first COCG newsletter was produced in 2006 by Barbara Bowmar, and I have been editing since fall 2007. This will be my final issue. Instead, we will be utilizing our website and other social media. Thank you all for your contributions and your loyal readership! Watch for new developments!

Georgiann

COCG website has a brand new look! Check it out at:

<http://www.centralokanagancommunitygardens.com/>

Central Okanagan Community Gardens (COCG) Membership Form

Yes! I'd like to support the Central Okanagan Community Gardens Society by becoming a member. I have enclosed a cheque for **\$10.00** payable to COCG as a SUPPORTING MEMBER. I will receive newsletters updating me on current and future community gardens in the area, and opportunities to volunteer or garden.

(None of the information you give us will be used outside our organization.)

Name: _____

Agency/Committee: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

- I would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail
- I would like to have a garden plot, please contact me when a garden is started in my area.
Name of your area: _____
- I would like to volunteer from time to time, I could help out with:
 - General volunteer
 - Carpentry or ? _____
 - Board Member
 - Fund Raising
 - Other: _____

Mail cheque and form to: **COCG**
 PO Box 24113
 Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 9H2

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