

# SPRING 2021 NWCGRS NEWSLETTER

NEW WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY GARDENING SOCIETY



## GARDEN NEWS

### Board News and 2021 NWCGRS AGM Highlights:

The New Westminster Community Gardening Society's AGM was held via Zoom on February 23rd.

The following society members are the current board of directors:

President (Temporary): Murray Ovens

Vice President: Don Toffolatto

Treasurer: Murray Ovens

Secretary: Jana Konkin

Communications Liaison (Acting): Derek Culp

Social Media Coordinator: Rachael Eedy

Garden representatives:

St. Mary's (Acting Coordinator): Derek Brass

St. Mary's (Acting Representative): Don Toffolatto

Simcoe (Acting): Stephanie Mercier

City Hall: Amanda Fentiman

The board thanks Melody Gibson for her time served as President since 2018. Melody ran a respectful administration highlighted by the inclusion of the City Hall garden under the society's stewardship. Joanna Bettocchi will assume the presidency later this year, after some special family time, and Murray Ovens has agreed to be the President until then.

### **St. Mary's Garden (Derek):**

St. Mary's Garden members are happy and proud to continue to utilize the unique gardening facilities that the City of New Westminster has provided to our urban environment. With our proximity to Qayqayt Elementary School, we continue to enjoy working with the school, and all its curious little minds, on introducing and educating children to the importance and enjoyment of gardening and agriculture in our lives. St. Mary's garden will continue to provide needed, fresh vegetables to our local New West food bank, through the use of our dedicated donation plots and our gardeners' individual plots.

### **City Hall (Amanda):**

City Hall gardeners are looking forward to entering our 5th season as a garden. All members are returning from last season and many veggies are already popping out of the soil.

We are excited about our new mason bee neighbours, located in the garden near the shed. It is great to have more pollinators around the garden to ensure a great harvest and lots of veggies this year!

### **Simcoe (Stephanie):**

It has been a busy spring already for Simcoe Garden!

We had our annual soil delivery earlier than usual last month, and were able to get lots of helping hands out to spread much needed planting mix on all the plots. Thanks for your work, gardeners!

We will probably plan for a load of compost to be delivered in the mid fall as well, stay tuned for that.

Most recently, we had a physically distanced work party working hard to replace a bunch of rotting boards that line the perimeters of many plots in the garden. Great work organizing that Christine and Kevin, and many thanks to all who pitched in to make it happen on a hot day!

We are doing a second round of plot border rebuilds in the fall, stay tuned.

The fence and gate rebuild is planned for Mid-May if all goes well.

## NEW IDEAS FOR A NEW YEAR

Spring is a time for growth and beginning afresh. Ready to try something new? Our members share their ideas here.

**Plant for colour.** Nasturtium, calendula, viola, red lettuce, and purple kale varieties add a bright touch. One of the garden children has undertaken planting for every colour of the rainbow.

**Plant to share.** Brighten someone's day with fresh pac choi or fragrant rosemary.

**Get precise.** Grow more food with a seed planting plan that covers what, where and when. Learn more in our 2018 blog at [nwcgs.ca/blog-communications/](http://nwcgs.ca/blog-communications/)

**Learn from others, share your knowledge and don't be afraid to try something new.** Caitlin notes that "Last year the garlic/onion rust was really bad in the garden. It makes me think that I would recommend that the gardeners speak to each other about what works well in the space/what doesn't."

Another member says "I guess my number one tip, and it certainly applied to me last year as it was my first time growing vegetables in Canada, is to look at what other people are growing around you. If it works for them it will work for you. Also don't be afraid to ask for advice from your gardening community, most gardeners delight in passing on their knowledge! And don't be afraid to try something new; if it doesn't work out, try something different next time!"



## YOUR NWCGS

Our theme for summer will be “garden lifestyle” — picnics in the park, fresh veggies, colourful flowers, and all that good stuff.

**Do you have a simple recipe or preparation idea for garden vegetables to share?** To contribute a recipe, photos, newsletter comments or corrections, please email Rachael at [nwcommunitygarden@gmail.com](mailto:nwcommunitygarden@gmail.com)



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