



Hill Street Community Garden

fall 2010 newsletter

You Are Invited to our Inaugural Harvest Party

Where: Hill Street Community Garden

When: Saturday, October 2nd, beginning at 6:00pm

Who: All gardeners, friends, supporters, neighbours

What to bring: A harvest-inspired dish to share, and your own plate, cutlery, and mug. Tables, chairs, and beverages will be provided.

Please RSVP info@hillstreetgarden.org if you are able to come.



Ruth Krauss' 1945 children's book *The Carrot Seed* is a fitting analogy for this year's success of the Hill Street Community Garden. Despite the skepticism and apparent setbacks that marked its beginning, her little boy's carrot was bigger than his wildest dreams could have imagined. So too, we have witnessed a verdant garden grow from a vacant plot. And as we recall this past season, we are thankful for so much. When Emma, Crystle, Graham, and I met last fall to discuss the idea of this garden, we knew there was broad local interest in issues around local food, environmental stewardship, and community engagement. But getting from the idea to the reality has stretched our imaginations and proven that it takes many people working together to make great things possible.



Auspicious Start The garden was raised on a cold and drizzly Saturday in mid-April. City staff had helped arrange the site and stipulated designs. But the estimated \$10,000 it would take to build those designs was a tremendous hurdle. Thank you to all of our generous donors for your contributions; you came alongside us in those early days to ensure that we could start this year.



The Garden brings together a diverse network of groups committed to our community's well-being. Pastors from three of our partnering churches opened our season with words of blessing on the food and relationships that would grow this season. With that encouragement, upwards of 100 volunteers set to work building the garden. Literally thousands of hours and many tonnes of soil later, we leaned on our shovels and admired the beautiful plots that would become our gardens.

Learning Together I know the excitement I felt as I sectioned out my plot and planted my seeds; after all, this was my first garden of my very own. Indeed, many gardeners were new to growing food, and this became an opportunity to learn from each other. There was such diversity in the plants chosen, layouts, and techniques but no one was left wondering whether they could succeed. Many gardeners commented that they have never enjoyed gardening as much as they did this year thanks to the conversations they had while tending their plots. This is a true testament to the spirit of cooperation that has grown



Beautiful Spaces One of our goals for the garden was to create a beautiful space where people could experience peace. We intentionally did not install security fences or gates, despite the risks of vandalism and theft. Our prayers have been answered, and we are so thankful that these activities have not transpired. Instead, the garden has become a place of reflection and inspiration, with many non-gardeners spending some time each day amidst the growing plants. It has been especially gratifying to see many children being introduced to where food comes from through being in or part of the community garden.



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& gifts from generous individuals & organizations.



Growing Community Throughout the year, various events have grown the relationships which interconnect us. Whether it was our neighbours sharing their rhubarb or water line, John Terpstra's poetry reading, Art-in-the-Garden, kids playing hide-and-seek, or a salad party, friendships have been built that continue to grow outside of the garden.



Celebration We have enjoyed an abundant harvest this year. And being blessed with so much bounty, we hope to celebrate abundance with a Harvest Party on October 2nd. As you are part of our supporting network, please come and join us...bring a friend, share your favourite harvest dish, and celebrate this year of growing together!
- Article by Katrina Vandenberg



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