

## **Report from Kathryn Pankowski, James Bay Garden Advocate December, 2020 and January, 2021**

### **Projects**

#### The Michigan/Menzies Seed Box Garden

- Continues to be maintained on a “one gardener per week” rotation.
- We have had our first ‘drive through’ of this winter, which is in the process of being repaired. (Have been much less frequent than last year.)

#### The Seed Box

- All seed collected last fall is cleaned and almost all of the small seed has been packed in glassine envelopes (over 700 of them done), ready to go into envelopes.
- We have been delayed with the last stage of seed packing, as we couldn’t get our brown envelopes due to supply chain problems. (Have them now.)
- We started putting out small quantities of early seed (broad beans, peas) in mid-January.
- Three more cardboard inserts have been ripped out of the box - this seems to be an ongoing problem, but at least they are easy and cheap to replace.
- We have applied for and received special COVID relief funding to help us grow both the seed box and the plant swap/distribution, so the costs of running the seed box at increased capacity are now covered for this year.

#### The Food Trees

- All good news here: I checked the trees in January and they look healthy and undamaged. The new bulbs are coming up. And Chris Adams has agreed to do the pruning again this spring.

#### Allotments at Huntingdon Manor

- The agreement between Huntingdon and JBNA has been renewed for another year, with the plan to keep the garden operating ‘as is’ for 2021.
- Huntingdon has confirmed that they wish to turn the allotment into a permanent fixture, and we will use 2021 to plan the transition to a ‘proper’ in-ground allotment garden.

#### Fisherman’s Wharf Herb Garden

- The proposal to take over operation of the herb garden has been approved by Parks and is going before City Council (as part of a package of garden proposals) on February 11.
- We have applied for and received (pending approval of the project) a \$5000 My Great Neighbourhood Grant to do the initial improvements to the garden identified in the proposal.

#### Tree Planting on Private Land

- I was unable, in the end, to assemble a large enough group of people to apply for a tree-planting grant.

### Berry Patch and Lewis St

- Still on hold due to other projects, but hope to get back to the berry patch soon.

### Other Items

- Grant applications: as mentioned, we applied for and have received two 2020 My Great Neighbourhood Grants. One, through the COVID-relief program, is to increase our ability to run the seed box and plant swap/sale and the other, through the placemaking category, is to carry out improvements in the Fisherman's Wharf herb garden, if that project is approved. We have also applied for the usual microgrant and the Community Garden Volunteer Coordinator Grant.
- The City has confirmed that they will be doing both leaf mulch (and possibly also compost) and plant start deliveries in the neighbourhoods upon request. The JBNA has expressed interest in being the neighbourhood partner for James Bay, as long as we are not responsible for determining need (i.e. the distributions are open to all) and are not required to incur any expenses.

### **Ongoing Activities**

- I wrote one column for the Beacon
- I have participated in two online Urban Food Table meetings.