

## **Report to the JBNA Board, June and July, 2023**

### **Kathryn Pankowski**

As usual, anything that needs particular Board attention is in bold. The gardening has been fairly routine, building the new gardens and tending the others, but there have been significant changes to the recycling team.

#### Menzies/Michigan Seed Box Garden

- We have been plagued by strange occurrences: someone pulled out all the strawberries and thyme and replaced them with store bought annuals, the mints were mostly pulled up and stacked neatly on the edge of the box; someone added a 'fairy house' to the side of the seed box, pulling up a plant in the process, someone threw half a shopping cart into the Discovery box, and one of the volunteers found a gun (possibly only an air pistol) in a bag when she went to water. Other than that, things are normal!

#### The Wee Free Seed Box

- We have packed 2000 packs of seed this year so far.
- We received a huge donation of commercial seed packets (the box is so heavy I can barely lift it) from the food hub via Carolyn Zyha.

#### Fisherman's Wharf Herb Garden

- We continue to hold the once-a-month drop-ins, which have been well attended; otherwise it's just been routine gardening.
- We could use a few more volunteers here, especially ones with some experience.

#### The Food Trees

- The apple trees at the tennis courts are bearing very well this year; they've finally 'come of age'
- One of the hazels at Charles Redfern Green has died back (after the City sprayed a wasps' nest in it last year) but is coming up again from the base.
- **The City is planning to relax its current '5 trees per park' rule, so I would like to add two more apples at the tennis court this winter, in the big gap between tree 4 and tree 5.**

#### Huntingdon Manor Allotments

- The plots are all occupied and are producing (with a few exceptions) bountiful crops.
- As of the end of July, the hotel had not completed any of its part of the work (fence, gravel base, shed), but they are planning an opening party for mid-August so should have most of the work done by then.
- The plot holders agreement has been revised and the pay-what-you-can fee seems to be working - we are averaging the \$20 per plot hoped for.
- The next big job will be to set up working groups of gardeners to do various communal tasks and move the garden more towards a culture of doing for themselves.

### Lewis Park Commons Garden

- The cut flower and herb sections we made in the spring are flourishing; we will develop the main food section in the fall.

### Montreal Street Berry Patch

- Work on this stalled due to a contretemps when the transport department's contractor dug trenches through the Parks Dept's tree roots. However, the irrigation is now in, I attended a site/progress meeting with the City, and we are now looking at a possible September planting and handover. We are trying to coordinate the handover so that the planting is kept in good condition throughout.

### Montreal St Allotment

- I attended a meeting with the City and garden management committee at the site to discuss **the need to move the fence adjoining the JBAA, which is encroaching on JBAA property. The City will survey to confirm the property line and the fence will be moved or replaced during the winter months.**

### Garden of All Sorts

- **LifeCycles, under whose auspices this garden has operated, wishes to transfer the garden to a new not-for-profit partner, and the JBNA is willing to take this on. I have met twice with the garden coordinator and attended the garden AGM to present to the gardeners, who voted unanimously to pursue an agreement with the JBNA.**
- **The City requires: a letter from LifeCycles confirming their departure, a letter from the JBNA expressing their willingness to become the new partner, and an agreement between the garden and the JBNA. We hope to get all this finalized in August.**

### Recycling

- Some major changes at recycling. First, Tracey Hamm, one of the team of three that runs it, moved out of James Bay and resigned. She has been replaced by Norman Hoffman, who has been a regular recycling volunteer. Then, Irene, who is the lead of the group, announced that she will need to gradually step back from that role due to health reasons. We will need to identify and recruit another recycling volunteer to join the managing trio, and also identify a new 'lead', although Irene has agreed to stay on as an informal advisory member of the planning group for now.
- Two of us attended the City's textile waste-reduction talk and it looks like there are some real opportunities to work collaboratively with the waste-reduction program to grow the neighbourhood recycling.

### Graffiti Removal and Clean Up

- I think it's now time to launch a new, improved clean-up project..However, a major obstacle is not yet having a storage unit, as we will need a place to store paint, etc. I followed up with an email to Jason asking about progress and got no answer.

- **Can the Board please push on getting the Licence of Occupation for the storage area with regular follow-up emails and possibly a word with Jeremy?**

Possible New Projects

- **I participated in the Downtown Residents' pilot run of the Cool Kit, to see what was involved and what it might or might not offer James Bay, in case the JBNA wishes to implement the program here.**

And, just for fun: The new pickable flower patch in Lewis Park, started at the end of Apri.

