

Report to the JBNA Board, August and September, 2023

Kathryn Pankowski

These two months have been a mix of progress on some projects, regrouping on others, and a few new problems emerging. As usual, anything that needs particular Board attention is in **bold**.

Menzies/Michigan Seed Box Garden

- The rate of vandalism has slowed, although there have been a couple of incidents.
- We are now planting the area around the tree in front of Discovery Coffee.
- We have lost two volunteers from this group (one moved away, one for health reasons), so will need to recruit more next spring.

The Wee Free Seed Box

- As you may have noticed, people (other than the volunteers) have begun announcing on James Bay Local when they put seeds in the box and posting pictures - a very welcome development!

Fisherman's Wharf Herb Garden

- Ann Smith has agreed to take on some of the management of the work parties at the herb garden and berry patch. We are setting up shared documents to manage volunteers and the work plan.
- The last open garden was very well attended and we recruited a new volunteer with gardening experience.
- We are expanding the plantings of sorrel, chives, and garlic chives and trying to get some winter edibles, such as miner's lettuce and mache, established.

The Food Trees

- The three more mature apples at the tennis courts produced a good harvest this year and people left them until (nearly) ripe. I have been told (while hanging out at the mulch pile) that one of the tennis players picked enough to make an apple cake and brought it to the courts for the players to share. (How cool is that?)

Lewis Park Commons Garden

- We built the remaining beds, so this garden is now at its full approved size.

Montreal Street Berry Patch

- **A new wrinkle! The contract that Transportation (or their contractor) made with the landscaping company that installed the irrigation, plants, and mulch, provides a one-year warranty on both irrigation and plant material as long as no changes are made.** So, if we move or add a plant, it may void the warranty on the irrigation system. Alex Harned is trying to sort this out - I'll keep you posted.

Fall Plant Swap

- A fun morning, with a steady stream of people, many of whom brought plants to trade, and we brought in about \$350 in donations, which is, if I remember correctly, the most yet for a fall swap.

Get Growing, Victoria!

- The summer seedling distribution of fall and winter crops went smoothly. Gardening materials also went well, with the leaf mulch lasting until Saturday and the other items on Sunday.

Montreal St Allotment

- I attended another meeting with the City and MSAG about the north fence, which is encroaching on JBAA property. The plan has changed: the City will move the water line this winter (at their expense) and then the garden will be responsible for moving and/or replacing the fence.
- The City is still waiting for a final report on the soil contamination, but can reveal that it is less bad than originally feared. I gather (unofficially) that it is localized and seems to have been deposited on the surface rather than percolating up from contamination below.

Garden of All Sorts

- The Licence of Occupation transfers from LifeCycles to JBNA on October 1. The agreement between the garden and JBNA has been signed and Wayne has added the garden to the JBNA insurance policy. **The last remaining step is transferring the garden's funds from LifeCycles to the JBNA, which Wayne is working on.**

Huntingdon Manor Allotments

- The Hotel has (more or less) finished the fence and upper area, except for the shed, and held a formal opening.
- We've set up the first working group of gardeners to deal with composting, garbage, recycling and waste reduction, and installed two compost bins in a temporary location.
- **There was an incident in the garden where a visitor tripped and fell and, in consequence, the Hotel suddenly closed access to the garden to everyone but plot holders. This puts us in violation of what was promised the City when we received the \$10,000 grant for constructing the garden, which was that, within the general requirements of Hotel operation, the garden would be accessible to the general public, as the Hotel grounds are.**
 - This happened while Julia Canton, the person at the Hotel responsible for the garden, was on holiday. She will be back this week, and I will talk to her asap to try to resolve this.
 - There are two issues to discuss: the closing (which in my opinion is a huge overreaction as the person tripped over something that was left during construction and is no longer there) and that the JBNA, as partner operator of the garden, was never informed of either the fall or the closure of the garden to the

public. (Again, I think this is partly due to Julia's absence, but it needs to be discussed.)

Recycling

- Irene is gradually stepping back as lead and, as a first step, has handed volunteer scheduling to Norman Hoffman (although she is still running the depot on the day). We now have a clean, up-to-date, sharable volunteer list for recycling.

Clean Up

- Thanks for pursuing the concession stand licence.