

# GARDEN NEWSLETTER

November 2022

## Hello Green & Gold Community Garden Supporters

Here is our annual newsletter and report for the 2022 season. As always, many thanks to our wonderful volunteers and customers for supporting the Garden and the women of [Tubahumurize](#).

## Just One World handicraft sale

We'll be selling the Rwandan handicrafts from [Tubahumurize](#) (jewelry, housewares, bags and toys) at the **Just One World** sale this year. Please come by on November 19<sup>th</sup> to do some early holiday shopping.



## Funds raised

This year, from November 1, 2021 to October 31, 2022, the Garden raised \$30,000 in produce sales, \$2,066 in handicraft sales, and \$610 from the Edmonton Urban Sketchers art auction. All of these funds will be transferred to the Tubahumurize Association, in Rwanda, in regular installments throughout the year (thus far \$10,000 US\$ has been transferred).



In addition, we raised \$475 for discretionary funds from Garden t-shirt sales to volunteers.

## The Garden update

Agriculture is such a challenging pursuit, the ever shifting variables make precise planning impossible. Will we get rain? Do we need to water? Are those weeds about to go to seed? Will those squash seeds still germinate or have the cutworms yet again satisfied their hunger with the tender cotyledons? Is it going to freeze tonight? Do we need to cover the tender plants? Despite these challenges, year after year this group of people, the community of kind souls that make up the Green & Gold Community Garden gather their gloves and their resolve and head out to the empty field to set about creating the conditions for life.



Aerial photo of the Garden

The garden is home to an active and intricate web of life, soil microbes, plants, insects, animals, us, and the women of Tubahumurize. Truly a local garden with a global impact. We should be proud of what we accomplish each season, and proud of how we've pulled together in the absence of our dear Shirley, I know it would make her smile.

The 2022 season was one of big changes in the way that we arrange the field. The main garden has been divided into 27 plots separated by permanent walkways, and we've opened three new plots on higher ground for a total of 30 plots. 20 plots for annual vegetables and annual cover crops (enough space to facilitate a 5-year crop rotation), 2 for succession planting fresh pick greens, 1 for annual flowers, 1 for raised beds and perennial flowers, 3 plots have perennial fruit and herbs, the 4 lowest plots have been seeded to perennial cover. We've been working to grow more cover crops, and mulch as much soil as possible to help foster a robust microbial community that will feed our plants and our community for years to come. It was an intense amount of work to build, but we did it and can now look forward to easier days ahead.

Thanks to a Campus Sustainability grant from the University of Alberta we now have an automated drip irrigation system for the flower patch, an efficient portable overhead sprinkler system, 1200 feet of underground water lines, and underground hydrants in the corner of most plots.

A few new trees were planted, a few old ones were cut down, the cycle of life continues in the orchard. We hosted some very much appreciated workshops —many thanks to Gabe Botar for sharing his orchard expertise! This is something that always brings new interest to the orchard and the garden in general. We pruned in the winter and grafted a few things this spring.

The flower team did a wonderful job again this year, planting, weeding, watering, and of course making beautiful bouquets for the market. It's amazing how one plot can bring so much joy to the garden.

This was the first year we were fully up and running in the hoophouse. Aided by a fully automated, solar powered irrigation system, the hoophouse team produced an absolute abundance of cucumbers for the market.

We also hosted several fun school class tours for elementary school science students to teach them about growing food.

Looking forward to winter planning and a successful 2023 season.



***Gabe Botar presents a workshop on fruit tree grafting***

## Year of the Garden events

2022 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Canadian Horticultural Society. To celebrate this milestone, they declared this the “Year of the Garden.” At the Green & Gold Community Garden we decided to mark the occasion with a number of special events, at our Saturday markets, throughout the summer. Volunteers and customers were treated to a variety of guest experts—on everything from compost to fruit tree grafting, gardening, and food and wine. We also hosted the Urban Sketchers group at the garden and a number of the artists kindly donated their sketches for a silent auction fundraiser for [Tubahumurize](#). Our knowledgeable volunteers provided workshops and demos on food drying, elderberries, and bouquet making. There was also musical entertainment provided by a saxophone quartet and a ukulele band!

There were two reoccurring events every Saturday—a light, fun yoga warmup—and a tour of the entire garden—including our veggie/flowers/herbs area, our fruit orchard, hoop house, and berry patch. Again, our incredible volunteers pitched in to run these ongoing events every Saturday-- from early July, through August and until the end of September.

Our Year of the Garden events culminated with the Garden being featured in a segment on CBC’s [“My Edmonton.”](#) In addition to this coverage, host Adrienne Lamb spent several hours filming all the introductions for the other segments of the show — with the garden as the backdrop. It was wonderful publicity for Garden — giving us tremendous exposure, city wide and beyond.

It was a fun and lively summer for the year of the garden at our gorgeous Green & Gold Community Garden! Huge thank yous to our guests and volunteers, who gave so generously of their time and expertise!

## Grants

Many thanks to the University of Alberta for awarding us a Campus Sustainability grant of \$2,000 that allowed us to install a drip irrigation system for some of the new garden plots.

The Garden also received a TD Friends of the Environment grant of \$6,600, which covers many of the operating costs over the season.



*One of the many beautiful flower bouquets from the Garden*

## Volunteers

Our volunteers put in an incredible number of hours this year. Most weeks we had two Tuesday shifts (morning and evening), a Thursday daytime shift, and the busy Saturday shift. Over 50 new volunteers signed up to help at the Garden this year, but we always need more help.

If you signed up to volunteer and weren’t able to come out, don’t be shy – please do come out next year. Everyone is welcome.



## News from Tubahumurize

The Garden's financial support to the [Tubahumurize Association](#) allows the association to continue to support marginalized Rwandan women and their families.

Tubahumurize's latest report details the counselling services provided to women in Kigali and throughout rural areas of Rwanda. Counselling is offered to women who experienced trauma during the genocide of the civil war, victims of domestic violence, and women with HIV. The association's sewing and embroidery school and cooperative store provide young women with vocational training and an outlet for selling their handicrafts. Tubahumurize also offers health education and small business training, and provides micro credit loans to women seeking to start small businesses.

During the COVID-19 pandemic many Rwandans faced extreme economic hardship. Tubahumurize helped 148 families with small donations of food, household essentials, and money.

### Charitable donations to Tubahumurize

The Green & Gold Community Garden can now accept donations to Tubahumurize. Please make cheques payable to the Green & Gold Community Garden. (While we will provide a receipt for your donation, we cannot give tax receipts.) If you would like to make a donation please email us at: [gggarden@ualberta.ca](mailto:gggarden@ualberta.ca).



*Garden sketches by Dr. Karen Wall*

## Research at the Garden

Dr. Cynthia Zutter, Anthropology Professor at MacEwan University (and long-time Garden volunteer), and her student, Ashley Stoltz, recently published an article on their research at the garden. Their study, [The Green and Gold Garden: Growing Gratitude](#), examines the relationship between human health and the environment, and the importance of urban agriculture and connections to the land and to the community.



## Garden Seeds Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who supported the Garden by ordering seeds and to [West Coast Seeds](#) for their generous ongoing support to the Garden. This year the fundraiser brought in \$1,630, which allowed us to buy garden supplies, seeds, and tools for the season.

West Coast Seeds has been a wonderful supporter of the Garden for many years through their community seeds donation program and seed sales fundraiser.

**Stay tuned for information on the 2023 fundraiser.**

## Special thanks to our 2022 donors

Many thanks to the donors who gave us seeds, plants, gardening supplies, graphic design help, grant funding, and other support this year. And, thank you to our generous customers who often top up their produce purchases with extra donations to Tubahumurize.

We particularly want to thank the greenhouses who gave us growing space this spring:

- Salisbury at Enjoy
- Fort Edmonton
- University of Alberta, Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences

Other donors this year include:

- AWN Kitchen Cafe
- BMR Greenhouses
- Edmonton Potato Growers
- Edmonton Urban Sketchers
- Ian Fischer
- Home Depot
- Barry & Judy Irving
- Mr. Fothergill's Seeds
- Mojo Jojo Pickles
- TD Bank Friends of the Environment
- 20/20 Seed Labs Inc.
- Carol Sherwood
- Strathcona MicroGreens
- University of Alberta, Facilities & Operations
- University of Alberta Farm (Jay Willis & staff for their constant support)
- West Coast Seeds
- Cynthia Zutter

## Want to volunteer with us?

We always need more help at the Garden and with non-gardening tasks (such as communications and handicraft sales). No gardening experience is needed. If you would like to volunteer next season please e-mail us.

**Garden email:** [gsgarden@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsgarden@ualberta.ca)

**Website:** [www.greengoldgarden.com](http://www.greengoldgarden.com)