



The Napanee Beaver Local News

INDEPENDENT AND LOCALLY OWNED SINCE 1870

Community garden sprouts

*Bumper crop in plot's
third year*

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BEAVER STAFF WRITER

It was nearly two years ago that the Napanee Community Garden was born, and this year the project has grown in size.

Located along County Road 8, just across the train tracks from Old Hamburg road, all of the food grown at the site benefits the local Salvation Army Food Bank.

According to Susan Withers, who alongside local volunteers tends to the growing garden, recent rumours about the garden have left those involved perplexed.

She said all of the food goes to benefit the food bank, and admits the project would not be possible without in-kind donations from the community.

"Every carrot from this garden is going to the food bank," Withers said last week, while harvesting alongside volunteers from Lennox and Addington Addiction and Community Mental Health Services. "This year I think the garden is beautiful and when you drive by everything looks neat."

A new sign created by volunteer Juanita Everett will be proudly displayed soon.

Withers pointed out that the property has been donated by Greater Napanee Mayor Gord Schermerhorn and his wife, Karen.

In an interview with the mayor, he told the Beaver that some of the rumours going around are that it is his garden.

"We're more than happy to donate (the land) and are glad it is being put to a good use," he said. "The food goes to the food bank and we're just pleased at the way they take care of it and the produce they are producing."

Schermerhorn said he hopes to see it get bigger and better.

Withers also recognized Ron Vankoughnet for ploughing, discing and tilling the garden; Lennox Brothers for providing more discing, tilling and fertilizer; and the Greater Napanee Fire Department for generously filling their on-site water tanks.

"It has been very dry. If it hadn't been for the fire department filling our big tanks, what would we have done?" Withers added.

Steve Pitt, a volunteer who has been involved from the early stages of the project, said the need for more volunteers is ever present.

"We will do it again next year if we can get the land and we've got lots of support," he said. "I think this is the most people we've had out all year."

Pitt said the garden had a late start this year due to a wet spring.

"The funny thing about this year compared to last year is that we started a full month later," he added. "After we got it in it came on real good."

Last week volunteers harvested several loads of potatoes, cabbage, carrots, tomatoes, peppers and beans.



Dominik Wisniewski - Staff

Volunteers at the Napanee Community Garden have been busy harvesting vegetables to benefit the local food bank. From left are Carolyn Reynolds, Ralph Hudgins, Steve Pitt, Shirley Rayar, Andy Graham and Susan Withers.