

BEACH UNITED GARDEN - - LOTS OF SPRINGTIME ACTIVITY

Every Saturday morning 9:30 – 11:00 am

My word processor has automatically labeled this picture “A garden of colourful flowers”.

That once again this lovely display re-appears in our church garden is a tribute to the past gardeners at Beach United, particularly Sally Evans and Geoff Vernon, who got it all going several years ago.

Sally and Geoff have passed that task on to a new team of gardeners.

The pictures below show some of the people and what’s involved, when we meet up each Saturday morning.



Starting with the people – or at least some of us.

The picture on left shows Shah, Matt and Andy at the vegetable beds. Last year flourishing with tasty tomatoes, this year the raised vegetable beds are planted with Okra, Sweet Peas and an herb “Green Shiso”

Shah’s two children, Boston and Caspian, are shown in the picture below, helping me, Hastings, plant more Hosta along the south side of the parking lot.



Others in the gardening team this year are Lynne, Shah’s husband Alan, Agnes and Dayna. No pictures of them at the moment, but we do have pictures of their contribution to the garden.

The “Bus Stop Garden” in the south-east corner of the parking lot. This was extensively planted last year by Dayna following Sally’s directions. Right now, it too shows early spring colourful Ajuga, with the promise of red geraniums to follow soon.



An Invasive Species to be dug up! Al and his son Boston got to work on an extensive crop of Garlic Mustard. This is a plant brought by early settlers as it was easy, fast growing and edible. Too easy! Al and Boston filled a garden waste bag with it. It had been growing all along the western side of the parking lot. Its white flowers make it highly visible at this time of year.

Digging it up now reduces the number of seeds it will spread, and so over a couple of years we may eradicate it from the church garden.

Getting rid of the Garlic Mustard is important. Ontario’s trilliums are one of the local species most threatened by its spread. Removing it the church wall revealed an unexpected find: A Golden Euonymus (right), growing in the gap between the church parking lot fence and a neighbour’s fence.



Pruning and Planting : At this time of year, the more experienced gardeners give advice and direction to the rest of us –



particularly regarding pruning and planting. The photo on the left shows one of the three Rose of Sharon outside the south wall of the church.

It has been extensively pruned! Nevertheless, it is coming back vigorously, and we can expect another year of beautiful flowers later in the summer.

Close by, Matt has planted rhubarb (right) and asparagus.





And of course, there's always weeding! This giant dandelion on the left is no more, thanks to the children, Boston and Caspian, who were given the challenge to find it and dig it up!

Keeping a garden in order sometimes requires some ingenuity. The picture right shows the Mahonia Oregon Grape which needed a stake to help it keep its shape. A native of the west coast rain forest, this lovely evergreen with shiny leaves seems to be getting along in the hot dry church garden. Thanks to Andy for devising a stake to support it as it grows.



And what it all adds up to . . . below is a gallery of the garden in the past few days:

- daffodils,
- lilac
- Pink Spirea
- against the background of other plants such as the ferns along the east wall of the church by the office.



Two Saturdays ago, after doing a good amount of tidying up / weeding, we brought out table and chairs and got caught up with coffee/juice and oatmeal cookies. In the pictures are the two-star dandelion diggers & weed finders, Boston and Caspian, Hastings, Alan and Andy.



Hastings Withers
Gardening Group Coordinator

