

22 June 2022 Acknowledgements, A special iris, About Not Watering, Effects of tree removal, Group picture

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to the help from the wonderful people in Beach United office, we've got something new – a presence on the Church's Website.

So, as well as thanking office staff for their help, it is also an opportunity to acknowledge the work of the people past and present who have contributed to making this bright, colourful garden around the church building and the parking lot.

Start with those who got it going over 5 years ago : Following the extensive renovations to the church, including pulling down the old auditorium building, Geoffrey and Sally were the two deserve that credit. They provided the skill, and a huge amount of work and direction to other church volunteers.

Many members of the congregation provided plants and their time, to help get the garden going. In future blogs I hope to go through some old records and given them recognition too.

The colourful garden invites amateurs like me. Geoffrey and Sally have mostly stepped back now. The new crew, ably guided by Matt, meets most Saturday mornings spring through fall to keep the garden going.

A SPECIAL PLANT



This is a picture of a lovely yellow iris. It is presently on its own, just to the left of the main entrance doors.

But, being native to Ontario, we can expect it to spread.

Sally has explained that this is special in that it was developed from a native Ontario iris, and named after the locality where it was first grown . . Scarborough.

MORE ABOUT LOCAL PLANTS . . . AND WATER

A key advantage from concentrating on local plants is that they are of course, adapted to our climate. They do not expect or need regular watering.

So, we don't water this garden, apart from some special cases for example when planting, and the raised vegetable beds need regular watering.

This no-watering practice is aided by the composition of the parking lot, which passes all rain water into the ground, instead of running off into the street drains.

MORE IRIS

The next picture is of a more common iris, one of several clumps growing strongly in different corners of the garden. This particular clump is in the newest portion of the garden, between the parking lot and Wineva Ave. It is city property so the young tree in the background was chosen in keeping with the city policy of increasing shade coverage all over the city.



The success of this and other clumps of iris offers the opportunity to divide them, and so start another clump. This will add to what is already a colourful space between the parking lot and Wineva Ave : pictures of that area below show red and white roses (left) and red



geraniums (right).



And, earlier in the season the area was covered with purple adjuca.



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NOT ALL A BED OF ROSES . .!

Last year, two large shade trees were removed from neighbouring properties to the south of the parking lot. This has dramatically changed the growing environment along that side of the parking lot.



And not, at this time, for the better!

A massive quantity of weeds have rapidly taken root. The picture above shows Lynne, Hastings and Sally getting started removing the weeds. Doing so revealed two Yucca (right), planted last year by Dayna. Both were in danger of being smothered by the fast growing weeds.



Of course, we need more than just the Yucca to replace the weeds.



One candidate for next week is shown on the left – we plan to dig up some of the yellow primroses from the main garden area on the south side of the church wall, and move it to the replace the weeds.

BREAK TIME

We don't do this every week, but it was a sunny day, and we were ready for a break.

The final picture provides an opportunity to welcome Britta, (far right) who has recently joined the group and has undertaken to water the raised vegetable beds during the week.



The picture also shows Hastings, Lyn, Shah with daughter Caspian along with Britta, enjoying coffee, juice and cookies.

