

Newsletter

Spring 2024



Mission:

A space for residents of Wellington North to grow food, learn and connect through gardening

Does the sight of seed packets in the stores these days make your green-thumb itchy?

Green thumb or not, it's likely that Mount Forest Community gardeners are looking forward to this year's growing season.

Here's what you need to know as the 2024 growing season in the MFCG fast approaches:

- We are thrilled to inform you that all of the Garden Plots have been filled this year.
- Plot assignments will be sent out and posted in the garden later in April.
- Garden fees are due by May 24th. You can drop your money off at the CMHA office in MF, Mon-Fri 9:00-noon, 1:00-5:00. If you need to make other arrangements, email mountforestgarden@gmail.com.
- Planting weekend is planned for May 25/26.

Our new Garden Shed is coming soon! Being built by Shawn Aitken, it is expected to be in place at the MFCG tentatively the end of April.

Seed starter kits have been provided to local school students to start in the classrooms and share with the MFCG. We also anticipate that local nurseries, producers and private gardeners will also be donating seedlings in time for planting weekend.

Calling all Volunteers!

With just a few short weeks to go until we "dig-in" to the MFCG for the 2024 season, it's time to update our CG volunteers on what they need to know and do:

Please take some time to review the following documents & sign-off on the Volunteer Agreement.

- **Garden Agreement** ([link](#))
- **Volunteer Agreement** ([link](#))

You can follow the links provided for each one, or you can pick up a paper copy at CMHA office (MF)

We hope that you were able to join the *Township of Wellington North's Volunteer Celebration & Newcomer Welcome*, on Thursday, April 18th at the Arthur & Area Community Centre. Watch for the next event in the fall!



CHECK OUT THE NEW MFCG WEBSITE

www.mountforestgarden.com

(Click to follow the link)

"Every Moment Matters" highlights the importance of every volunteer and the contributions they make at a moment when we need support more than ever. The sharing of time, skills, empathy, and creativity is vital to the inclusivity, strength, and well-being of our communities.

National Volunteer Week - April 14 - 20.

The Mount Forest Community Garden has been honoured by the **Ontario Horticulture Association**

with its **Community Improvement Award**

for outstanding contribution in the advancement of horticulture.

Who's Who in the Garden - Volunteers:

Robin Sharpe



"I read in an article about community gardens," my father-in-law, Allan, said to me before Thanksgiving dinner 2022.

The conversation continued and he expressed a desire to turn some vacant land he owns into a space to grow food for the community. Being a lifelong gardener and advocate for my community, I was excited about the idea but also felt overwhelmed in the magnitude of what would have to be done to this parcel of land. I did what I know best, and I reached out to my community. I eventually connected with the Mount Forest Family Health Team. They informed me they had a plan and passionate volunteers who wanted to start a community garden but didn't have land. "How serendipitous," I thought.

Very quickly the connections were formed and what started as a family conversation in October 2022 became an entire committee of volunteers and community members in November 2022.

Watching the community come together to build this garden and successfully grow food in its first season of 2023 has been inspiring. I look forward to growing, connecting and learning with you in 2024!

"May there be room for you to take the time to do things that heal your heart and help you grow, because in the same way you would nurture a plant that is worthy of care, it also matters to be gentle with yourself while you wait for something new to bloom." – Morgan Harper Nichols

Robin's daughters often join-in too



Robin has been a member of MFCG committees from the outset and is very active on the Community Engagement and Down to Earth Committees. She is a regular when it comes to rolling up her sleeves, grabbing a shovel and taking part in the hands-on Garden construction and community growing spaces. Her greatest inspiration - she reports are her daughters.



Thank you to **Mount Forest Lions** for being the **2023 Great Pumpkin sponsor**

Coming in our Next Newsletter

The 2024 Great Pumpkin sponsor will be revealed!

The Mount Forest Firefighters' Association generously built and donated a beautiful planter-bench to the MFCG.

We can't wait to see what will be growing in it this year and many more.

Mount Forest Community Garden Contacts:

Community Garden Leadership
mountforestgarden@gmail.com

Financial Planters Committee
MountForestFinancialPlanters@gmail.com

Community Engagement Committee
MountForestCommunityEngagement@gmail.com

Down to Earth Committee
MountForestDownToEarth@gmail.com