

## Garden Report for AGM 7 May 2023

With the raised planter boxes and garden area surrounding the newly enhanced Forbes Hall Community Centre, a garden plan needed to be created. Emily McIvor developed a plan for the garden. In early 2022, *Miscanthus sinensis* "Adagio" grasses and *Lithodora* 'Grace Ward' were purchased and planted in the front planter boxes. At the end of March TICA received funding for the rest of the garden project from the New Horizons for Seniors Program grant through the Employment and Social Development of the government of Canada. The stone beds at the back of the Centre were planted with herbs for use in the kitchen. In early spring, the garden around the library patio was weeded, topped with more soil and planted with help from Susan Unger, Carolyn Askew, Ann Barr, Celine Valestrand, and Emily McIvor. Plants purchased for this area included drought resistant *Corokia* Cotoneaster, *Arctistaphylos densiflora* and *Amsonia hubrichti* 'Blue Star'. During our workday in the spring, Carolyn Askew organized a plant sale that raised \$400 for more plant purchases. Carolyn also hand watered all the new plants in the front planter boxes and the library patio garden through the dry hot summer months.

Due to poor weather conditions in the spring and summer, the rest of the planting was left until the weather improved. In November, the rainy weather made it a good time to purchase and plant the front and side gardens. Emily purchased various trees, shrubs and perennials and helped with the placement and planting of all these purchases. The irrigation system was set up around the plants so that when the rainwater tank was moved into its place behind the hall and tank was full the system could be hooked up.

The area at the back of the hall was prepared with the help of Sven Aaberg and Ron Bannister. They created a flat area at the base of the hill for the rainwater tank and moved rocks around the base of this hill that was then planted in early 2023 with *Vaccinium Ovatum*, *Rosa Rugosa* and *Panicum virgatum* 'Shenandoah'. Garden soil was added and a weed cloth cover placed over this area and around the new plants. The irrigation system was placed around the hill plants and those off the library patio. Chipping material will be placed over the weed cloth cover in the spring of 2023. Mulch has been added to all the garden areas. We were also very fortunate to receive 5 peony plants from Arlene Kasting that were planted in the library patio garden and the front garden bed.

Hose hook ups will be in place so that those areas where the irrigation system could not be installed can be watered by hand.

The garden group is always looking for more volunteers to help with weeding and watering and to help maintain a healthy garden.

List of plants purchased for front and side gardens:

*Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Burgundy Bunny'

*Muhlenbergia capillaris* 'Pink Cloud'

*Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster'

*Salvia greggii* 'Furman's Red'

*Bouteloua gracilis*

*Bergeris thunbergia* 'Aurea Nana'

*Nandina domestica* (heavenlyBamboo) 'Firepower'

*Euphorbia characias* subsp. *walfenii*

Calluna vulgaris 'Firefly'  
Calluna vulgaris 'Neon Green'  
Gaura Lindheimeri 'Belleza Dark Pink'  
Osmanthus delavayi  
Achillea 'Song Siren Layla'  
Cistus 'Alan Fradd'  
Dierama pulcherrimum  
Echinacea 'Magnus'  
Fuchsia 'Genii'  
Magnolia ste. 'Royal Star' Multi  
Paeonia Pink  
Prostanthera cuneata  
Salix mat. 'Tortuosa'  
Veronicastrum vir. Album  
Cornus 'Cardinal'  
Loropetalum chinensis  
Teucrium chamaedrys