



The South Lanark Community Garden

Annual Report 2024

To the Membership

Primary Activity: 6242 – Community Food and Housing (Not for Profit)
Ontario Corporation Number (OCN): 1982091
Business Number (BN) 773918404RC0001

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Letter from the Chair

June 2025

Members

Last year, 2024, was the third year that The South Lanark Community Garden (SLCG) operated as an incorporated not for profit organization. Another milestone.

This past year saw our greenhouse receive electrical system and we raised our first crop of seedlings in it. We have the solar panels, inverter system and batteries to be installed so that we will have an off-grid electrical system.

More importantly this community garden has continued to advance its goals of maintaining itself as one big garden. We have achieved the conversion of the garden to 4 blocks of 100 ft bed lengths. These blocks are given the letters A, B, C and D. In block we have initiated wind breaks of plants at every 10th bed. SLCG had a better year than 2023, the harvested veggies weighed in at approximately 12,000 lbs.

Our fundraising activities have started to gel. In the spring during the Month of May we are now conducting multi weekend plant sales. We are also growing garlic as a cash crop selling direct to the public and at the garlic festivals and we have held our second benefit concert fundraiser in November at the Oakfield Rugby Park featuring Ali McCormick and Gentle Sparrow.

In 2024 we were successful in obtaining another Canada Summer Jobs grant which provided funding for 3 persons at 8 weeks apiece. In addition, we were successful in obtaining private funding to employ 1 person for an additional 24 weeks and another person for an additional 8 weeks, in total 56 person-weeks. This was most helpful as we are finding that most of our volunteers are in the retirement phases of their lives. With an eye to sustainability of the garden we will have increase our organization to include a volunteer coordinator to increase our volunteer numbers.

In 2024, we entered our 3rd season as a corporation and surprisingly our 8th year as a community garden with an increased sense of purpose and direction. I again say that there are lots of good ideas amongst our volunteers, we need only to select and act on them. Again thank you to everybody who has been part of this venture. It is proving right for the times.



Cliff Neudorf
Chair
The South Lanark Community Garden

Our Appreciation and Thank You!

First of all our heartfelt thanks and gratitude continues to go out to all our volunteers, our members and our followers within the gardening community, including those of our social media community and those of the community at large. Without you and your support, in all the different ways that you have shown it and provided it, the South Lanark Community Garden could not exist. You have helped us to fill a significant gap within the food vulnerable sector of our County. Thank you for a job well done.

Second, SLCG needs to express its gratitude and thanks to the following special agencies and persons who are in some cases generous supporters and in other cases great partners in working on the food security issues of our larger community. Thank you for being there for us and with us.

The Table Community Food Centre
 The Lanark Food Pantry
 The Lanark Highlands Youth Centre
 The Lanark Highlands Public Library
 The Hunger Stop Lanark County Food Bank
 Sarah Allison – Master Distributor
 Canada Summer Jobs
 Oakfield Rugby Park
 Little Stream Bakery
 Commonwell L.E.A.F. - Learning and Engagement Accelerator Fund
 Perth & District Community Foundation
 The Carrot Cache Community Resource Inc.

SLCG would like to make special mention of the Plan B Charitable Community Organization in the Lanark Highlands who have now dissolved their corporation. They were very much involved with mentoring and setting up the SLCG in its early years. They will be missed.

Garden Activities

Seedling/Transplant Development

This program has continued to alleviate the high costs of purchasing transplants for the garden. It is now a major annual event and a major supplier of plants for our annual spring fund raiser.. It continues to operate in three stages, each stage involving a volunteer workforce for whom we are quite grateful and indebted. The first stage is the planting and germination of the seed in vermiculite with hydroponic nutrients; this year we were able to start some of the plants in the small greenhouse at the upper barn and some in the new greenhouse. The second stage is the growing out of the seedlings under our light table, this occurred in both the barn facility and under sun light in the greenhouse. The third is a repotting stage where this spring we will move the seedlings to our new greenhouse and repotted them in larger containers for growth to garden transplant size or for sale.

Garden Spring Prep and Planting

Again kudos to our spring garden cleanup crew. These volunteers started and finished the garden cleanup, then moved straight into planting the garden. Many hands make light work as they say. Our volunteers prepared the beds, transplanted the greenhouse plants into the garden, and direct seeded rows. The installation of irrigation equipment went very well as evidenced by the retuning volunteers. SLCG was greatly helped by a grant from Canada Summer Jobs for the hiring of one person for 8 weeks work in the garden during the months of May and June. Ella McCormick was hired for this position and did a remarkable job, enough that we found suitable funding to keep her on through the months of July through November. For the 2024 season we again purchased local, specially milled garden stakes and they worked very well. It remains notable that we are seeing the benefits of growing in beds with permanent aisle ways. There is less pressure in bed maintenance for rock picking and removal, and the white clover continues to work its magic and takeover in the older aisle ways with a notable reduction of weed pressure in them. We have continued to use the narrow ride-on mower and are now purposely shaping our beds to accept this use. In 2024 SLCG purchased an aisle way edger/trimmer to keep aisle way plants from creeping into the beds but SLCG remains challenged to successfully incorporate it in our work flow. We as yet have not found a source of Ramial wood chips for the aisle ways. Both to conserve the amount of volunteer labour required to manage these areas.

Garden Layout and Design

During 2023, we implemented plans to convert the garden space into 4 blocks. Each block will be labeled A through D and be 100 ft in length with a vehicle access between each block. Block A with its 100 foot beds was created for the 2023 growing season. Blocks B was created for the 2024 growing season. And Blocks C and D will be created for the 2025 growing season. In addition, the will migrate to a 30 inch wide bed and the beds will be placed on 5 foot centres. The 30 inch bed width is based on the working width of the BCS walk behind tractor that we have purchased. This will enable the bed preparation for planting to take place without having to take place with a suitably qualified volunteer operating the BCS.. This will also enable SLCG to continue using its more conventional tractors and equipment in the maintenance of the beds throughout the growing season. Also included in the bed layout will be a windbreak bed after every 10th growing bed. It is intended that these windbreak bed consist of wild flowers, and perennials with fruit bushes and shrubs not over 10 ft in height. In 2024 they were planted with sunflowers. SLCG will need to rely on and is seeking input and advice from its volunteers for the types of plants that we would want to establish long term in these wind break beds.

Garden Management and Conversion to Minimum Till Beds

In 2023 with the help of the Perth & District Community Foundation SLCG was able to purchase a BCS 739 walk behind rototiller. With this machine will be able to till the garden beds using volunteer help. This will reduce SLCG reliance on larger 4 wheel tractors in the garden and reduce the environmental impact of our presence. It will also enable the pathway to maintaining microbe life in the soil. In addition to this the Carrot Cache Community Resource fund provided 50% of the funding to purchase a power harrow that will attach to the BCS. In 2024 we were able to raise the remaining 50% to purchase the power harrow. Its use in the community garden in 2024 has minimal as we learn to work with it. We expect in 2025 it to contribute to the maintenance of a healthy living soil in the garden. The value of the power harrow is in its ability to stir and prepare the surface of a seed bed for seeding without having to till into the soil and disturb the microorganism's resident there. SLCG was not able to start 3 minimum-till beds in 2024 so this will be done in 2025. Such a process will reduce the amount of sweat equity invested by volunteers in the weeding and maintenance of the beds while produce is being grown. This combination of tools will also provide an opportunity for knowledge transfer from the garden to the volunteers that are in the garden.



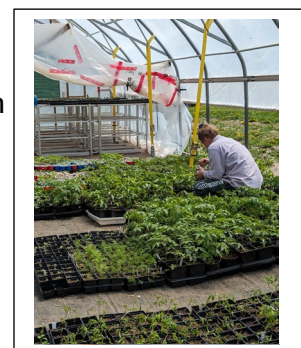
Greenhouse

With the Commonwell L.E.A.F. Learning and Engagement Accelerator Fund SLCG purchased a 30ft by 48ft high tunnel greenhouse in 2022 including with funding for an off-grid solar power source and an internal water system. In 2023 a greenhouse anchoring system was installed, the greenhouse was covered, the gable ends installed and two beautiful pine hinged doors handmade by Larry Gower were installed. The water tank donated by Little Stream Bakery has been installed and filled and can be used in a gravity watering system. An electrical system with lights, plugs and fans was installed in 2024. The greenhouse was operational from late spring of 2024. We were potting up plants in it by the end of April 2024.



The off-grid solar system remains to be installed and should be completed in the summer of 2025.

The greenhouse has already enabled new directions and capabilities for the garden. SLCG continues to welcome input from persons within our community who have vision and personal knowledge in the operation of a greenhouse of this size. SLCG has established a committee for the operation of the greenhouse, please reach out to Greg Stevenson, Board Member and committee lead if you would like to be involved or have ideas concerning the operational direction of this greenhouse.

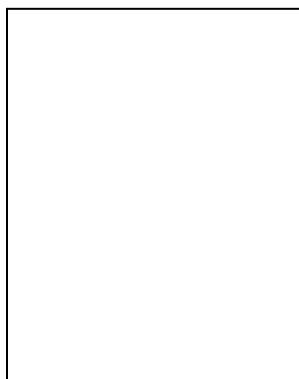


Standard Composting

SLCG is now operating two composting systems, one is the standard composting system described here. The other is Fungi dominant composting bioreactor described below in the next section. SLCG now envisions a standard composting system somewhat larger than a normal garden composter. The compost will not be turned. 75 pallets for this purpose were donated by 3M of Perth and delivered free of charge by Willis Transport of Perth. In 2025 these pallets were assembled as compost pens and the composting season started.



Fungi Bioreactors



The SLCG partnered with [ONfungi](#) representatives Scott Hortop and Kelvin Hodges to install 4 of their bioreactors in the community garden and develop fungi dominant inoculant compost for the garden. We are using shredded maple and oak leaves from the 21/22 winter in the reactors. In October of 2022 we harvested a small amount of very well composted fungi dominant compost. This fungi dominant compost will be added to our regular compost as a fungi inoculant. In 2024, this program was altered to take into consideration the Johnson-Su bio-reactor design. It is constructed on pallets allowing it to be brought into warmer areas over the winter thus promoting a more robust development cycle for the fungi. This newer process will enable the development of spayable fungi dominant teas that can be used directly on our plants.

The Harvest Report

The 2024 harvest was much better than the 2023 season. We raised approximately 12,000 lbs of produce. In analyzing the 2024 year, SLCG still had a very low production level with the Squash, Melons and Pumpkins. Seeds did not germinate. SLCG also had a failure with the cucumbers. We were again hit with blight. We had a good year with the garlic production.

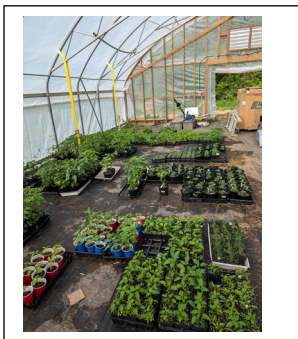


Fundraising

During the 2024 year SLCG was successful in raising \$10,044 in income. The following activities contributed to this income.

Spring Plant Sale

Again we partnered with the Lanark Highlands Youth Centre and put together our third annual plant sale as a fundraiser for the Community Garden. The Lanark Highlands Youth Centre sold hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks. This year we opened the plant sale for 3 consecutive weekend Saturdays. Sales were very good considering that we experienced a lot of inclement weather. We were able to set up the plant sales in the greenhouse for the last Saturday. There was a good turnout, great fun and a great learning experience for the garden. It was nice to have the Youth Centre present and it generated good energy.

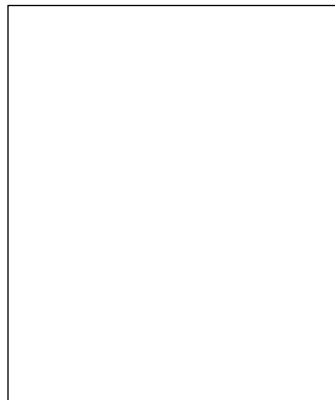


Garlic Sales and Perth Garlic Festival

This was second year on the SLCG path to self-sustainability in terms of income needs. This was our second year of selling some of our garlic crop as a cash crop through the Perth Garlic Festival as well as direct sale at the garden.

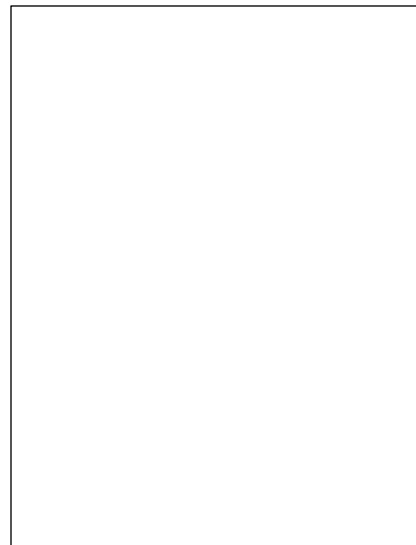
The garlic festival was successful we increased our sales over 2023. There was some evidence that some customers were repeat customers from 2023. Again we did attract attention from many of the festival attendees because we were very local and we are a community non-profit organization. The SLCG has been notified that the Perth Garlic Festival will not continue in 2025. The SLCG has also been informed that the Carp Farmers Market will re-initiate its Garlic Festival in 2025.

The SLCG will attend that festival. In 2024 the SLCG was very successful in direct selling the remaining garlic that it had available for sale. This venture seems to be a method of generating income for SLCG however it can try for the field workers/volunteers. The SLCG a more mechanical approach to raising the garlic.



Oakfield Rugby Park Fundraiser

In 2025 the Volunteers of SLCG organized and delivered a solid night of entertainment at the Oakfield Rugby Park hall. This was our second fundraiser concert for SLCG and it was well attended. The hall and bar services were provided at a reduced cost by the SLCG. The stars of the show were Ali McCormick pictured to the right and Gentle Sparrow pictured. Many thanks to both of you for a job well done, There was a lot of good feeling in room. Enough that we would like to repeat this fundraiser in the fall of 2025. Many thanks go out to the volunteers who helped organize the concert, Steve Tenant, to the Humm and Lake 88.



Employment, Community Service

Canada Summer Jobs

In 2024, the SLCG was fortunate to receive funding for one youth lead gardener for 8 weeks at 35 hrs per week, and 2 youth gardener positions for 8 weeks at 35 hrs per week.

Public Donation Funded Jobs

In 2024 the SLCG received \$15000 in private donations which enabled SLCG to employ the lead gardener position for an additional 16 weeks and an additional worker for 8 weeks.

Student Volunteer Hours

Over the past several years the SLCG has been putting forward the message to high schoolers that the community garden is a great place to perform your community service hours. We were able to a couple of students in 2024. In 2025 we had been looking to attract more.

Financial Report

P&L 2024 Annual Financial Statement

	<u>General</u>	<u>Greenhouse</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Garlic, Honey, Plant Sales	8,394.99	0.00	8,394.99
Fundraising Events & Activities	1,654.00	0.00	1,654.00
Donations	15,075.00	0.00	15,075.00
Grants			
Perth & Dist Comm Fndtn	8,959.77	0.00	8,959.77
Carrot Cache	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
Canada Summer Jobs	15,284.00	0.00	15,284.00
L.E.A.F. - Off Grid Greenhous	<u>0.00</u>	<u>10,278.94</u>	<u>10,278.94</u>
Total Grants	<u>26,743.77</u>	<u>10,278.94</u>	<u>37,022.71</u>
Interest	<u>546.30</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>546.30</u>
Total Income	<u>52,414.06</u>	<u>10,278.94</u>	<u>62,693.00</u>
Expense			
Non-Profit Management			
Total Non-Profit Management	1,712.68	10.00	1,722.68
Garden Inputs			
Total Garden Inputs	2,621.70	0.00	2,621.70
Garden Tools & Other Assets			
Total Garden Tools & Other Assets	14,856.72	0.00	14,856.72
Greenhouse			
Total Greenhouse	0.00	10,268.94	10,268.94
Office Supplies	127.67	0.00	127.67
Professional Fees			
Accounting	<u>762.75</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>762.75</u>
Total Professional Fees	<u>762.75</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>762.75</u>
Support Staff			
Total Support Staff	35,393.14	0.00	35,393.14
Events, Fundraising & Other			
Total Events, Fundraising & Other	<u>394.50</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>394.50</u>
Total Expense	<u>55,869.16</u>	<u>10,278.94</u>	<u>66,148.10</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-3,455.10</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>-3,455.10</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-3,455.10</u></u>	<u><u>0.00</u></u>	<u><u>-3,455.10</u></u>

Balance Sheet 2024 Annual Financial Statement

	<u>31 Dec</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
Alterna	<u>32,385.84</u>
Total Chequing/Savings	<u>32,385.84</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>32,385.84</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>32,385.</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
CPP Payable	179.20
Deferred Revenue	
Greenhouse Grant	<u>32,399.29</u>
Total Deferred Revenue	32,399.
EI Payable	75.71
Income Tax Payable	<u>164.46</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>32,818.</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>32,818.</u>
Total Liabilities	32,818.
Equity	
Retained Earnings	3,022.2
Net Income	<u>-3,455.1</u>
Total Equity	<u>-432.82</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>32,385.</u>