



The South Lanark Community Garden

Annual Report 2022

To the Membership

Approved for Release: *Cliff Neudorf*
Chair SLCG
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Contents

Letter from the Chair	3
Our Appreciation and Thank You!	5
Garden Activities	6
Seedling/Transplant Development	6
Garden Spring Prep and Planting	6
Greenhouse	7
Fungi Bioreactors	7
SLCG Youth Program	7
Fundraising	9
Direct Appeal.....	9
Spring Plant Sale.....	9
Birding Workshop	9
Bottle Drive	9
Garden Rototilling Service.....	10
Employment, Community Service.....	11
Canada Summer Jobs	11
Student Volunteer Hours.....	11
Financial Report	12
P&L 2022 Annual Financial Statement	12
Balance Sheet 2022 Annual Financial Statement.....	13

Letter from the Chair

February 2023

Hello Members

Last year, 2022, was the first year that The South Lanark Community Garden (SLCG) operated as an incorporated not for profit organization. A milestone and a turning point in the evolution of the community garden. Prior to this and since May of 2017 to Sept of 2021 we were known as the "Lanark Highlands Plan B Community Garden". What has changed? One could say "not much" and one could say "a whole lot". Both are right. Legally we transitioned from an unincorporated not for profit to an incorporated not for profit while acquiring the added disciplines of a corporate structure: a charter & letters patent, a volunteer Board of Directors, by-laws, formal board meetings and an annual general meeting of the members. While increasing workload to the volunteers, this transition is a positive move that has invigorated us in the garden and brought forward the notion of sustainability. With that has come the opening of new chapters where SLCG can raise funding of its own, compete for grants, and apply for program funding. These are all activities leading SLCG to take on projects that are both visionary in nature, and more tangible, both leading to community garden development and the greater involvement of community.

This past year saw SLCG continue its approach to developing the garden using permanent beds and aisle ways. We again increased garden production to address the ever-increasing need to deliver fresh produce. Produce that is made available to the volunteers in the garden and then distributed to those that are food vulnerable. We had some losses, particularly in the squash and pumpkin area. This year also saw us win an award from the Commonwell LEAF fund to build an off-grid solar powered greenhouse. Our greenhouse project has been delayed to retender and then due to permit approval. The good news is that the frame for the greenhouse is now up and is scheduled to be completed later this spring. The solar portion will be installed during the summer months. This year we planted out first full bed of flowers; a lot of poppies came. Also the onsite apiary expanded to four hives providing a lot more pollinators for the garden. We also received funds for one lead and three student gardener positions through Canada Summer Jobs. These students were greatly appreciated for their effort and input; they formed a formidable work force five days a week through the summer months. It was, of course, not just the students, but the efforts of all the volunteers who came out and freely provided their time in making this community garden work. Two neighbouring farmers need to be thanked as well. Bert Moore contributed his time and the use of his tractor during early spring tilling and delivery of the greenhouse. Peder Krogh provided his drone pictures of the community garden. This was a good season all in all.

In 2023, we are entering our 2nd season as a corporation and surprisingly our 7th year as a community garden with an increased sense of purpose and direction. There are lots of good ideas amongst our volunteers, we need only to select and act on them. So for those of you who have an idea or new direction that you feel deserves consideration, please speak up, pass them on. 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 goes out to all our volunteers, our summer students, 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 Lanark Civitan
 Plan B Charitable Community Organization in the Lanark Highlands
 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
 ONfungi
 Little Stream Bakery
 Commonwell L.E.A.F. - Learning and Engagement Accelerator Fund
 Commonwell SEEDit Community Garden Grant program
 MAZON Foundation

Garden Activities

Seedling/Transplant Development

This program was put in place to alleviate the high costs of purchasing transplants for the garden. It is now an annual event. It has been quite successful and been expanded to include transplants that will become part of our spring fundraising plant sale. It is operated 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 share the workload amongst 18 volunteers who started a total of 47 trays of plants. The second stage is the growing out of the seedlings under our light table. The third is a repotting stage where we move the seedlings to our small greenhouse and repot them in larger containers for growth to garden transplant size. This resulted in a minimum of 2250 plants for transplant, with many of the containers having two plants in each.



Garden Spring Prep and Planting

Kudos to our spring garden cleanup crew. These volunteers started and finished the cleanup, then moved straight into planting the garden. They were helped when 8 volunteers from the Providence Point – Baha'is of Lanark County came out for a day. Many hands make light work as they say. Our volunteers prepared the beds, transplanted the greenhouse plants into the garden, and direct seeded rows. They installed the irrigation system as well. Thankfully, the work went more smoothly than in 2021. It is notable that we are starting to see the benefits of growing in beds with permanent aisle ways. This includes less bed maintenance for rock picking and removal, a slightly reduced weed pressure in the older beds, and the white clover is starting to takeover in the older aisle ways with a notable reduction of weed pressure in them. This year the aisle ways were maintained with the use of a narrow ride-on mower purchased for that purpose. We will need to come up with an aisle way edger/trimmer to keep aisle way plants from creeping into the beds.



Greenhouse

We applied to the Commonwell L.E.A.F. Learning and Engagement Accelerator Fund and secured funding for a 30ft by 48ft high tunnel greenhouse, including an off-grid solar power source and an internal water system. At this point the greenhouse frame is erected and we are scheduled to complete the installation of the covering and gable ends this spring. The greenhouse is expected to be operational from late spring. In the summer the solar system and water system are scheduled to be installed. The greenhouse will enable new directions and capabilities for the garden. SLCG welcomes input from persons within our community who have a vision and personal knowledge of operating a greenhouse of this size. We need your ideas.



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. This program will continue as a regular part of the SLCG program in 2023 and thereafter.

SLCG Youth Program

This being our first report, it is useful to note the developmental history of our Youth Program. It was initiated by Melanie Mills of the Lanark Highlands Plan B group who, in 2020, had funding for the youth group. This was a time when we were operating as a non-incorporated not for profit under Plan B's general mentorship. In 2021 funding for the program was unavailable but the program continued and was successfully delivered within a partnership consisting of Community Garden volunteer Cara Bouleau and Coral Sproule from the Table Community Food Centre. In 2022 the youth program was repeated and delivered as an ad-hoc partnership between SLCG and the Table. This has resulted in a realization that we need to formalize the concepts and processes under which this successful partnership may continue.

One highlight of the 2022 youth program was for the youth to grow out plants inoculated with the fungi dominant compost from the fungi reactors and record how the plants grew as compared to control plants. The youth inoculated and planted 3 varieties of bush beans. The inoculated beans germinated and emerged earlier than the non-inoculated beans, however the performance after that appeared to be about equal.

Other activities included:

- 1) building two watering stations for the bees
- 2) starting a nutrient generator digesting stinging nettles and comfrey
- 3) a special presentation on bees by Jonny Mathos of the Mathos Apiary
- 4) an introduction to native plants and their uses by Jo Phipps Thomas from MacDonalds Corners and the Golden Lake Algonquin First Nation



The Harvest Report

The 2022 garden results are presented below. We grew 16,400 lbs of produce that went to homes in our community. This is slightly more than the 2021 season (16,200 lbs), but we could have done better. Looking at the squash and pumpkin harvest, outputs are 4000 lbs below 2021 levels. It is a similar situation for the zucchini. This was due mainly to a germination problem. In addition, in June and July we see no produce being harvested. This is partially due to a decision to transplant late in May/early June to avoid unpredictable late frosts in our area. For this coming year, we will try transplanting one half of the plants for an earlier harvest and then transplant the rest of the plants for a later harvest. Many thanks go out to the volunteers who took of their time to come out to the garden and keep it on course, and to our four summer students who worked so diligently in the garden.

South Lanark Community Garden Produce Breakdown 2022 Season

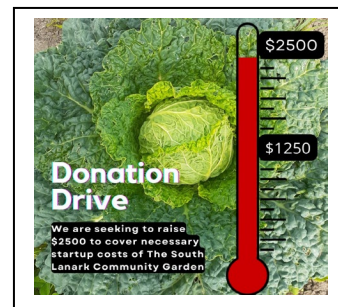
Type	Jun (kgs)	Jul (kgs)	Aug (kgs)	Sep (kgs)	Oct (kgs)	Total per Type (kgs)	Total per Type (lbs)
Mixed Vegetables	0.0		63.5	916.0	43.0	1,022.5	2,249.5
basil			6.0			6.0	13.2
beans			6.1			6.1	13.4
beets			82.0	104.5	37.5	224.0	492.8
cabbage			193.0	730.0		923.0	2,030.6
carrots				86.6	257.0	343.6	755.9
Daikon Radish			10.0	36.0		46.0	101.2
dill			1.9			1.9	4.2
fennel						0.0	0.0
cucumbers			213.1	73.5		286.6	630.5
eggplant						0.0	0.0
garlic bulbs		300.0				300.0	660.0
garlic scapes	80.0					80.0	176.0
kale			13.4			13.4	29.5
melons				186.5		186.5	410.3
onions			92.5	149.0		241.5	531.3
peppers			7.0	34.0		41.0	90.2
pumpkin & squash				918.5	1,086.0	2,004.5	4,409.9
zucchini			83.6			83.6	183.9
sunchokes						0.0	0.0
tomatoes			1,217.9	430.8		1,648.7	3,627.1
Total per Month (kgs)	80.0	300.0	1,990.0	3,665.4	1,423.5	7,458.9	16,409.6
Total per Month (lbs)	176.0	660.0	4,378.0	8,063.9	3,131.7	16,409.6	

Fundraising

Direct Appeal

As the South Lanark Community Garden was a newly-created, volunteer-run not for profit that launched on September 20th 2021, we had immediate start up and operating costs for which we made a straight forward appeal for assistance. To the right is a copy of the barber pole that we used to measure the donation drive. During this time we had successfully received a significant grant from Commonwell for our new greenhouse project, however, the grant did not cover any costs for starting or operating SLCG.

We were looking to raise \$2,500 to cover the costs of insurance and a website. Having these two foundational pieces in place enabled us to apply for additional funds, and it demonstrated community support for the garden. We successfully reached the target, with the Civitan of Lanark making a significant donation to take us over the \$2,500 mark. We wish to thank each and every donor who supported us in this initiative and especially the Civitan for being so sensitive to our needs at the time.



Spring Plant Sale

We partnered with the Lanark Highlands Youth Centre and on very short notice put together our first annual plant sale as a fundraiser for the Community Garden. The Lanark Highlands Youth Centre sold hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks. 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 a lot of energy. In total we raised \$1,064.95 for the community garden. It is planned to repeat this year.



Birding Workshop

Ramsey, one of our Board Members led the birding workshop, in his words "Thanks to everyone who joined us for the birding workshop on Sunday, June 27. We had a good time walking the area around the garden listening to and looking at the birds then enjoyed some social time over coffee and muffins. Thanks to your donations we raised over \$200 for the garden. We will definitely do this again."



Bottle Drive

Tawyna, a volunteer in the garden, jumped in and took on the job of collecting bottles to be turned into cash and donated to SLCG. This was early in January of 2022, a time when we really needed funds to operate. Tawyna, thank you so much for the individual effort, which was well-timed and brought in \$155 from bottle returns.

Garden Rototilling Service

The South Lanark Community Garden received a donation of a used Troy Built rototiller that had seal problems and had been in a disassembled state for quite a number of years. Bill Salter, a volunteer, succeeded in putting it back together, replacing the carburetor, worn and rotting fuel tubing, gaskets, filters, and so forth. He completed this ambitious job in time for spring planting of 2022.

Out of this repair process came a plan to offer a spring garden rototilling service for a small suggested donation of \$50.00, or whatever amount a person could comfortably afford. Bill the operator of the tiller has requested that for longer distances we ask that the donation cover the added mileage. It was also suggested that we try to organize tilling requests into groups of gardens within local areas to reduce travel.

In offering this program, the SLCG recognizes the immense benefits of tending to a garden at the personal level and at the community level. This service is one way in which SLCG can deliver a service that is directly helpful at this time of year. The response received has proven that there is a high demand for the service, as it booked up quickly. Unfortunately, the rototiller failed halfway through the season and we had to cancel the unfilled subscriptions for which we could not deliver the service. The revenue generated before the failure was \$340. Since then, the rototiller has been repaired and we will once again be making the service available this spring (2023).



Employment, Community Service

Canada Summer Jobs

In 2022, the SLCG was fortunate to receive funding for one youth lead gardener for 16 weeks at 35 hrs per week, and 3 youth gardener positions for 8 weeks each at 35 hrs per week. When we were fully staffed this arrangement proved very beneficial. The lead gardener was capable of taking on lead hand duties and keeping the 3 youth gardeners on track with their assignments each day. This greatly alleviated the workload for the Garden Director. The youth gardeners took on the bulk of the weeding, pruning and tying up of plants such as tomatoes, succession planting of veggies, and laying and rerouting of irrigation pipes. The youth gardeners proved especially helpful in the garden showing the volunteers in the garden where to work, and what to do, along with assisting older volunteers to find fresh produce to pick and take home, and helping them weigh the produce and get it to vehicles.

The experience of 2022 was similar to 2021 where we had two students for the summer months, but the addition of the lead gardener made the garden experience so much better. We will work at increasing the training regime as we gain further experience in managing this program. The youth gardeners acquired the standard garden skill sets, including weeding, planting, transplanting, hoeing, harvesting and weighing of produce. They experienced installing our solid set irrigation system, modifying it as needed and became aware of the safety procedures when working around pressurized pipes. They helped greatly with the preassembly of the trussed and non-trussed hoops of the greenhouse, performing the work with minimal supervision.

We have applied again this year for the same number of youth workers in the same program. So, if any of the volunteers know youth who may be interested in such a job for the summer, please advise them to monitor our Facebook group. That is one area where we will post the hiring notice if we are fortunate enough to again receive funding through Canada Summer Jobs.



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 usually get a couple of students coming the garden in this manner, but it looks as if there are ways we can grow these numbers. That will be an exercise for the 2023 season.

Financial Report

P&L 2022 Annual Financial Statement

	General	Greenhouse	TOTAL
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Fundraising Events & Activities	1,264.95	0.00	1,264.95
Donations	6,066.95	0.00	6,066.95
Grants			
Commonwell Seed Grant	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Canada Summer Jobs	18,708.00	0.00	18,708.00
L.E.A.F. - Off Grid Greenhous	0.00	11,763.49	11,763.49
Total Grants	19,708.00	11,763.49	31,471.49
Interest	384.26	0.00	384.26
Total Income	27,424.16	11,763.49	39,187.65
Expense			
Non-Profit Management			
Garden Mgmt, People Supplies			
Total Garden Mgmt, People Supplies	1,360.42	0.00	1,360.42
Total Bank Fees	41.25	5.00	46.25
Total Insurance - Liability/Directors	1,534.50	0.00	1,534.50
Total Vendor/Conference Fees	20.00	0.00	20.00
Total Non-Profit Management	2,956.17	5.00	2,961.17
Total Garden Inputs	222.83	0.00	222.83
Total Garden Tools & Other Assets	543.36	0.00	543.36
Total Greenhouse	0.00	11,758.49	11,758.49
Support Staff			
Total Garden Workers - Gross Pay	18,669.56	0.00	18,669.56
Total CPP Employer Portion	963.94	0.00	963.94
Total EI Employer Portion	412.98	0.00	412.98
Total WSIB Premiums - Employees	382.32	0.00	382.32
Total Support Staff	20,428.80	0.00	20,428.80
Total Training	269.81	0.00	269.81
Total Expense	24,420.97	11,763.49	36,184.46
Net Ordinary Income	3,003.19	0.00	3,003.19
Net Income	3,003.19	0.00	3,003.19

Balance Sheet 2022 Annual Financial Statement

	<u>31 Dec 22</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
Alterna	<u>59,211.28</u>
Total Chequing/Savings	<u>59,211.28</u>
Total Current Assets	59,211.28
Other Assets	
PPD Insurance	<u>139.50</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>139.50</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>59,350.78</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Deferred Revenue	
Greenhouse Grant	<u>56,236.51</u>
Total Deferred Revenue	<u>56,236.51</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>56,236.51</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>56,236.51</u>
Total Liabilities	56,236.51
Equity	
Retained Earnings	111.08
Net Income	<u>3,003.19</u>
Total Equity	<u>3,114.27</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>59,350.78</u>