

Civic Planting Report 2020

The year 2020 was like no other with the Covid-19 pandemic spreading around the world and bringing Ontario to a standstill in mid-March. Due to the virus' unpredictable consequences, almost everything became off-limits for the next couple of months. The Township, exercising the County's protocol, was very cautious about allowing anyone in public gardens. The restrictions were eased on May 25th and on June 1st we were finally able to tackle the spring clean-up in the enabling garden and at the library.

While the gardens had looked shabby all May, they looked amazingly good once the dead vegetation was removed and some pruning and weeding was done in the first week of June. Luckily garden centres were open, so we were able to get herbs and sow vegetable seeds in the planters. That put us under the umbrella of community gardens, which were considered essential. Later we added a few annuals, more hostas to the variety previously planted at the bases of the posts and a few native perennials to the meadow.

Watering, weeding dead-heading, fertilizing the trees, and shuffling of perennials at the entrance to the enabling garden, to add more pizzazz, kept us busy for rest of the season. The burbling rock had a rest for the summer because the Township staff didn't install the pump but it will be running in 2021.

To make the shade structure live up to its name, we decided that more slats should be added to the top. We bought the materials and the Township staff installed them for us. The work was done in some fine early November weather at a cost of \$654.00. It looks great! (see below) We are excited to test it out in some hot, sunny weather.

Interestingly, we garnered many more compliments on the garden this year. We wondered if passersby were just more appreciative of the beauty around them because of the limitations posed by the pandemic. As an added bonus, two new volunteers stepped forward, after stopping by to enjoy the garden. Susan Olyryd and Jennifer Breen are both planning help out and take a planter to look after for the 2021 season.

I would like to thank my committee, Brenda Doherty, Nancy Dickieson, Linda van Norman, Susan Oldryd and Jennifer Breen, for adding so much enjoyment to a most unusual season. Working together in the gardens was one of the few activities that resembled normalcy in the year 2020.

