

Proposal to Niagara-on-the-Lake
Town Council
regarding
providing space and start-up capital
for a community garden

Background

2 types of community gardens

- a) Community gardens as established by a group that works the entire garden together
- b) Allotment gardens where an individual rents a specific garden plot

Currently there is a community garden at the Community Centre benefitting Newark Neighbours and a community garden at BY's Honey Farms on Concession 6.

Why in Niagara-on-the-Lake?

Smaller and well treed lots in the area make vegetable gardens difficult to grow

Benefits

Healthier eating

Improved mental and physical wellness

Community engagement

Education for young and old

Repurposing of green space

Town reputation

Can help address food insecurity

Commitments from the Town

1. A suitable plot of land
2. Water supply and cost
3. Long term Town commitment
4. Establish a program – who is responsible for what
5. Establish the rules
6. Timing
7. Fencing
8. Liability Insurance
9. Ongoing

Mechanics

1. Annual fee
2. Composting
3. Common areas
4. End of season
5. Use a co-op approach for decision making, communication and managing the site

Newark Neighbours

Summary personal recommendation

If the Town endorses the idea; select a suitable site, including water source; sort out any insurance issues and allow a garden group to be formed within a reasonable timeline. The garden group determines number of interested participants, creates site plan, enrollment form and garden rules and manages enrollment. A decision is made on fencing (yes/no, cost and funding) as well as cost of water and rental rates. Garden group manages moving forward.