

2022 Garden Review



Plant a dream and watch miracles grow

A word from our Chair

Dear Friends,

After a 2-year hiatus, the Guelph Enabling Garden returned to some sense of normalcy for the 2022 season. The scents of our flowers, trees and plants this past garden season recharged my energy and soul. There is so much I could say in this letter but my fellow Board Members remind me to be brief!

It was a joy to see the smiling faces of Wendy and her volunteers as they prepared the Garden for the 20,000+ visitors we welcomed back to the Garden. I also had the pleasure of attending some of Heidi's Horticultural Therapy sessions to meet some of the participants and to check out their creations and activities. I was so delighted to speak with everyone in person!

Many thanks to everyone who participated in our season this year, including the 1500+ attendees to our Tea 'n' Tales storytelling series and every patron of our Garden Plant Sale. A special shout out to all of our volunteers and partners - your help is invaluable.

If you haven't already, I encourage you to stop by the Garden to enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells.

Thanks again for a wonderful season,

D. Trevor Barton, Chair & Co-Founder
Guelph Enabling Garden



Board Members

D. Trevor Barton
Teghan Barton
Joanne Garnett
Valerie Chong
David Edgar
Annette Anderson



New in the Garden

Take a stroll through the Garden to see the newly installed donor and benefactor plaques! Updated and made of a stronger material, we hope these signs will stand the test of time.



Tea 'n' Tales: Back in the Garden at Last!

Following a few years off and one year of virtual storytelling, we were thrilled to welcome our beloved community of storytellers and listeners back to the Garden for the 2022 season of Tea 'n' Tales!

Over thirteen weeks, in partnership with the Guelph Guild of Storytellers, we welcomed over 1500+ guests! Listeners enjoyed a free cup of coffee and heard tales true and imagined, local and from all corners of the Earth.

Listeners enjoy Tea 'n' Tales in the Guelph Enabling Garden



This year, we also held two special sessions of Tea 'n' Tales: Family Edition, perfect for families and all people young and young at heart. Guelph's beloved children's author, storyteller, and new Patron of the Guelph Guild of Storytellers Robert Munsch joined us for his last public performance.

Thank you for another wonderful season and see you next year!



Robert Munsch tells his signature stories, *The Paper Bag Princess* and *Love You Forever*. Photo courtesy of Brian Holstein.



Tea 'n' Tales: A Poem by Jay Wilson

Once upon a time, in 2013
I was invited to tell by Brian Holstein.
I'd never heard of the Guelph Guild of Storytellers
Those talented women and outspoken fellers.

"We tell every Friday, it's part of our mission
And we've nurtured an audience of people who listen."
"That sounds terrific. Where do you tell?"
"Well that's the best part, we've a spot that's just swell.
It's a sunny location, it's never too dark.
We tell by The Speed at Riverside Park.
Give me a moment. I beg your pardon.
Then let me describe the Enabling Garden."

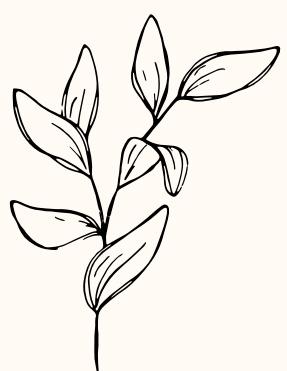
Brian took a phone call then got back to me.
"Sorry 'bout that, now here's a story
I don't exactly recall, the details are spartan
But somehow I connected with this Trevor Barton.
We met in this garden at Riverside Park,
Where I decided to mention, just on a lark
That the Enabling Garden would make a fine spot
For the telling of tales, except when it's hot."

"When it's too hot", said Trevor with glee
"I could set up a stand and serve some iced tea."
The ideas just kept coming and when all was said
They had a plan, one that was cred...

...ible, perfect in fact
"We'll sell out every time, the place will be packed.
If the stories are good and the poetry funny
And admission is free just donations of money
And we insist that the audience bring their own chairs
And make it accessible by having no stairs
With the river behind us, the great sky above
Well there you have it a labour of love."

"Hang on a second, what if there's rain?"
"The picnic shelter nearby, just use your brain.
Yes it's the perfect location, the very best I should think."
And again thanks to Trevor, there's something to drink.

So that's how it started and now here we are.
With an audience like you, this idea will go far.
For a Teller is nothing without someone to hear,
So thank you for coming, and see you next year.



Horticultural Therapy

Welcome back this year to Heidi Torreiter, our registered Horticultural Therapist (HT)! She was a busy bee, holding many HT sessions and community events in the Garden throughout both the regular season and a brand new winter season. Activities included Leaf Stamp Art, Pollinators, and Storytime and Crafts.

Many horticultural therapy sessions and programs were held in partnership with community organizations including CMHA, Community Living GW, Hospice GW, Guelph Public Library, and Guelph Wellington Senior's Association.

We served 212 Horticultural therapy clients this year!

Interested in participating in horticultural therapy at the Garden? Email ht@enablinggarden.org or visit enablinggarden.org/horticultural-therapy.

“

"Through our partnership with Guelph Enabling Garden, group participants have been able to learn more about nature, develop social skills, and explore their creative abilities in an environment that fosters inclusivity and self-fulfillment. We have been able to witness first-hand the positive impacts that horticultural therapy can have on one's mental health and overall well-being." -CMHA

Participants from Spark of Brilliance (CMHA) gathered in the Garden to create beautiful pressed flower art.



The Power of Volunteers

The Guelph Enabling Garden would not function without our volunteers. Our beloved longtime Volunteer Coordinator, Wendy Lewis, leads our volunteers in keeping our Garden beds looking beautiful, running the annual Garden Plant Sale, and so much more. Thanks Wendy & her team!

Want to volunteer? Reach out at info@enablinggarden.org.



Our volunteers contributed 960 hours to the Garden this year!



The Garden Plant Sale

Our annual fundraiser was held at the Guelph Arboretum on May 28 in partnership with Nature Guelph, Pollination Guelph and the Master Gardeners of Guelph-Wellington. It was a successful year, with many plant lovers in attendance.

As always, our gratitude to Wendy for coordinating and to all of the volunteers who assisted us in setting up the night before (in a thunderstorm!) and throughout the sale.



Help our Garden grow!

Did you know the Guelph Enabling Garden runs completely on donations, grants, and the power of volunteers? It's true! Every dollar we receive is put back into the operation, maintenance and programming of the Garden.

Help us keep our programming free by:

- Making a donation online
- Buying an engraved brick for the Garden path

**We welcomed over
20,000 visitors to the
Garden this year!**

For more information, head to enablinggarden.org/donating.

Territorial Acknowledgement

Guelph, and the Guelph Enabling Garden, are situated on treaty land that is steeped in rich Indigenous history and home to many First Nations, Inuit and Métis people today. We acknowledge the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation of the Anishinaabek Peoples on whose traditional territory we live, work, and meet.

As a part of the community of Guelph we have a responsibility for the stewardship of the land on which we live, work, and gather. At the Garden, we are committed to this stewardship, and are grateful for the opportunity to bring people closer to nature.

Find us online!



@GuelphEnablingGarden



@EnablingGarden

Want to attend an event?
Volunteer? Become a horticultural therapy client? Reach out to us:

www.enablinggarden.org
info@enablinggarden.org

