

Inuvik Community Greenhouse

79 Gwich'in Rd, Inuvik, NT

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Executive Director's Message

Welcome to the 2017 season at the Inuvik Community Greenhouse!

This is our 19th season gardening under the Midnight Sun, and we are excited for all this season is about to bring! We have a number of projects, seminars, workshops and events planned for this summer, and we are so glad you have decided to join us and try your hand at gardening here in Inuvik. Whether this is your 19th season, or our first, you are a valuable member of our garden society. Our community only grows if we fill our space with not only plants, but with positivity. Negativity can grow like a weed... so if you have any issues or concerns, don't let those take root. Come talk to me, Emily or a member of the board to make sure we can find good solutions to any issues.



This year, we have an army of staff! We will be making some changes, so that some of your suggestions from last year will be realized. While there is a staff member working in the garden, the door will be wide open to allow interested people the chance to come in and have a peak. Regular tours will start soon, and we will invite them to join us. If the door is supposed to be open, we will leave a note on the door frame. Otherwise, please close it behind you as usual.

We have also created some new planter boxes in the main greenhouse. This means that there is to be no more storage on the inside aisle – this may be hard for some people to get used to, but there is ample storage along the outer edge! If you had something stored there, please let us know, and we can show you where



Upcoming Events at the Greenhouse

May 23

AGM starting at 6pm.
Compost 101 to follow.

May 23 to May 26

Member Only Plant Sale
(Tues.-Thurs. 5 – 6pm; Fri. 5-8pm)

May 27 & 28, June 3 & 4

Starter Plant Sale Sat & Sun
from 12-4. Open to all!

June 6

Yoga begins!

June 19

Arctic Institute of Community Based Research Webinar on Northern Food Network, featuring ICGH and NFTI (email for a link)

Important Announcement

All plots must be worked by **June 1st**. Please contact Emily

everything was put. Small plots are still available if you want more growing space. They are \$20 each, and require 3 hours of volunteer time. Each plot was built by local carpenter, Chris Gilliard.

This year, we are looking forward to increasing the amount of food we produce – and we want to make sure part of that goes back to the community. We are partnered with “Plant a Row Grow a Row (growarow.ca) this year. This is a program in which we provide you with seeds, and you then just have to allow us to harvest from one row for the food bank each week. That row will be marked by a ribbon on a stick – nice and easy! Let me know if you would like to take part, and more information (and seeds) will be available at the AGM.

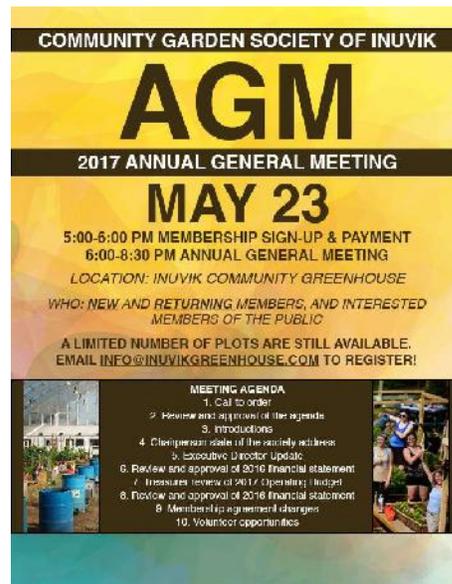
We are very excited for the increased “Veggie Box Program” interest this year! We will be selling them on Tuesday nights, starting June 27th. While our presales are over, you can get on the list to get your veggie box each week for just \$35 – picked fresh THAT DAY in Inuvik!

We are also branching out into more events and BIRTHDAY PARTIES! Contact me for more info.

Stay tuned for a great season! ~ Ray

Ray can be reached at info@inuvikgreenhouse.com. She is the main contact for tours, events, and handles all the boring (yet vital) operational stuff. Don't ask her if your plants are weeds... she is likely to answer by just trying to eat them.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL



COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY OF INUVIK

AGM

2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MAY 23

5:00-6:00 PM MEMBERSHIP SIGN-UP & PAYMENT
6:00-8:30 PM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

LOCATION: INUVIK COMMUNITY GREENHOUSE

WHO: NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS, AND INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A LIMITED NUMBER OF PLOTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE.
EMAIL INFO@INUVIKGREENHOUSE.COM TO REGISTER!

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Review and approval of the agenda
3. Introductions
4. Chairperson's state of the society address
5. Executive Director update
6. Review and approval of 2016 financial statement
7. Treasurer's review of 2017 Operating Budget
8. Review and approval of 2018 financial statement
9. Membership agreement changes
10. Volunteer opportunities

GENERAL MEETING

May 23, 2017

Board Report – from acting Board Chair, Cassandra Elliot

Our Annual General Meeting is happening on Tuesday, May 23rd starting at 6pm.. This will be an opportunity for members to meet the board members; see the financial summary from this past year; learn more about the winter programs the Executive Director was running in partnership with ITI and to hear about upcoming events. Also, we are looking for additional board members if you are interested is working with a great team of people! Happy planting!

**Cassandra stepped up as board chair this year when our previous chair moved on to pursue new endeavors and the fine art of motherhood, in Smithers, BC. Thank you, Cassandra for all your hard work! The garden society is looking for a new board chair for the 2017 and 2018 seasons. If you are interested in helping out, either as chair or in another capacity, contact boardofdirectors@inuvikgreenhouse.com*

Coordinator Corner

Hi folks! I've really enjoyed my first several weeks at the greenhouse and have loved getting to meet a lot of you as you prepare your plots and volunteer at the greenhouse. It's really warming up in the greenhouse, so it's time to start thinking about planting. Brassicas (broccoli, cabbage, etc.) can be planted soon, and lettuce, mesclun mix, arugula and spinach can be planted now. So far we've hosted seed starting and soil preparation workshops, and we'll continue to hold workshops as the season progresses. I want to remind you about the seed swap table, tips for planting your seeds, information about preparing your soil, and our upcoming workshops. Please be in touch with me if you have any ideas for workshops, volunteer activities, or other feedback. I can be reached at coordinator@inuvikgreenhouse.com

Seed swap table

We have a seed swap table in the indoor portion of the greenhouse, near the gift shop. Before donating seeds, please label the seeds by name and year. Most seeds last only 2-3 years, so if you use seeds older than that, the seeds may never germinate/sprout.

Tips for starting seedlings & seeds

-) Plants to sow into garden from seed: carrots, beets, potatoes, bush beans, radish, spinach, mesclun mix, leafy lettuce, arugula, onion sets
-) Plants to start indoors (start between 3-8 weeks before planting date, depending on seed package instructions): kale, broccoli, cabbage, squash, pumpkin, cucumber, tomato, onion seed, leeks

Tips for preparing your soil

Notes prepared by Janet Boxwell, our soil preparation workshop leader:

-) first dig - dig deep and turn over soil for aeration. You don't have to go to bottom (unless you're really ambitious!)
-) water and leave for about a day
-) second dig - shallow (about 1 foot), apply organic fertilizer in root zone, mix
-) water
 - o to allow fertilizer to start to dissolve and distribute and to activate natural soil microbes
 - o can use a clear plastic sheet or tarp over the plot after watering to reduce evaporation, increase heat, to promote germination

Compost:



This year's gardener extraordinaire is Emily Mann! Welcome Emily!

Emily has worked and volunteered on several organic farms in Canada and beyond, volunteers with various not-for-profit food security groups across the country, and just completed her Master's degree in agriculture and food security. She loves to preserve food, play board games, wrangle chickens, canoe, save seeds, and eat the reindeer chili from Alestine's.

*Emily is your main contact for workshops, gardening questions and membership/volunteering. She is awesome, and we are so glad she is a part of the team!

-) provides nutrients in natural proportions through a slow release
-) adds structure to the soil
-) humus (organic matter) allows greater water retention and slow release
-) may have weeds in it. Weed often! Lots of plants look alike when they're first starting. Ask if you don't know what's a weed and what's not.
-) Natural (organic) fertilizer vs. synthetic (chemical) fertilizer
-) slow release of nutrients including important trace minerals
-) promotes soil health, won't 'burn' roots or damage soil microbes

Note: synthetic fertilizer promotes rapid plant growth in short term. But it may weaken plants and damage soil in the long term.

Upcoming workshops

Composting: Tuesday, May 23rd, after the AGM

Dealing with pests and disease: Thursday, June 15th

Seed ball workshop for kids: Saturday, June 17th

Dealing with weeds: Tuesday, June 20th

Plant maintenance: Trellising and pruning: Tuesday, June 27th

Reminders

-) West Coast Seeds are available for purchase at the gift shop
-) Refer to the member's manual for some growing tips and other useful information
-) Please return all tools after use to their storage location at the back of the greenhouse
-) Please fill up the blue buckets with water as you use it and dump your compost out back!

Welcome to our Summer Staff!

Aside from Emily, we will also be welcoming 4 new interns this year. YES! 4!! This is what happens when Caroline Kaufman decides to leave your employment, you need to replace her with 4 people! :D



First, we have Callista Ryan, a Loran Scholar, volunteering her time at the greenhouse for the summer. Callista hails from Squamish, British Columbia and is excited to be up north for this summer to work at the greenhouse. She enjoys adventuring outside when it comes to sports and travel and loves meeting new people! When she is not out and about, she enjoys drinking tea and reading books. Make sure to

come say hi to here at the greenhouse! Jenna Foster, sponsored by GNWT's ECE Summer Student program joined us this week; Paul Elias will be joining us on June 1st, and Jeremy Cadence will be rounding out the team on July 1st, as part of the Gov't of Canada Summer Student programme. We will include their bios in next month's newsletter. Say hello to staff when you see them – they will be wearing greenhouse shirts when on shift!