Hands In The Dirt Gang Ministry Report: May 2018

This is the first year that the work of the Hands in the Dirt Gang has been centred on the Ste Marie garden in Rayleigh.   Our goals are to create community, care for the earth, produce food for ourselves, the church programs and the Food Bank. We bring some harvest to the church in return for donations to the PWRDF.

Working with Jennifer and Ron, so far this year, have been Sue Cane, June Emery, Miriam and Barry Baskin, Tony Lozowchuck and Claire Nakalyango.   We also know of others who've said they'll participate and are open to new members who like dirty hands and fun times. We really appreciate the helping hands, both to make light work and to be there when we are away.   It's a great team.

We began working Saturday mornings from 10 to noon, but lately we have begun at 9 AM to help beat the heat.   Shortly after 11 AM we stop for a snack and visit.   We'd be open to other days of the week if anybody feels that would make an opportunity to participate.   Let us know what might work for you.

In our yard, we follow Permaculture principles to show as much love to the earth as she shows to us.   These include capture and conservation of water; low or no till soil management; no chemical inputs; companion and guild planting; use of compost, succession planting and multiple seedings.

As far as perennials go, we have plum, apple, pear, peach, cherry, crabapple, currant, gooseberry, strawberry, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, haskap, rhubarb, parsley, sorrel, asparagus, mint.

Our annuals include peas, tomatoes, mustard greens, spinach, bok choi, carrots, radishes, eggplant, scallions, onions, beans, arugula, turnips, lettuce, endive, chicory, beets, leeks, kale, potatoes, cauliflower, cabbage, broccoli, kohlrabi, squash, zucchini, green pepper, sunflower and garlic. We also plant a lot of flowers for beauty and our bees.

We look forward to continues abundant harvests to share.

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