

**2015 Community Garden Partner Agreement
For the REAL Community Garden
on the Site of the REAL Deal, 85 William St. W, Smiths Falls**

Purpose of the Community Garden:

- Provide space for planting for individuals and groups who do not have their own suitable space.
- Encourage the production of healthy, local, organic food.
- Provide an opportunity for the participants to experience and learn more about gardening.
- Provide a healthy, sociable activity for participants, especially youth.
- Share materials, labour and knowledge.
- Demonstrate effective garden practices to the public visiting the site.
- Test the viability of community gardening in Smiths Falls.

2015 Steering Committee:

- Donna Bowes, Mills Community Support
- Susan Brandum, Environmental Projects Manager, REAL
- Terry Graydon, Horticultural Technician
- Barb Hicks, President, REAL
- Cheryl Nash, ecoPerth
- Any other Garden Partners are welcome to participate in the planning and organization of the Community Garden, please just ask

2015 Garden Plot Allocations - as of April 26, 2015

- Sue Brandum
- Michelle Dwyer
- J David Hoffman
- Steven Maddock
- Bonita Lucas
- Gerald and Kathryn Sirvent
- Amy Rensby
- Jeanne Dagley
- Don Good
- Donna McKenna for REAL
- One vacancy
- Donna McKenna will be maintaining the Stone Soup Sharing Plot

The Steering Committee will:

- ensure that the beds are ready for planting at the beginning of the season and /or that materials such as soil, compost, and mulch are available for the gardeners to top up their beds
- make the site an attractive and positive demonstration to the public
- establish arrangements for watering, composting, signage, mulching, tool storage, garbage, security, pest control, improvements, end of season cleanup or any other joint concerns that are mutually agreeable.
- allow REAL the final say on functions that may affect the operation of the REAL Deal Store and Environment Centre

Partners in the Community Garden will:

- contribute \$20 to the community garden funds to demonstrate their commitment to the project and to offset some maintenance costs
- donate volunteer time to accomplish any of the joint tasks
- share information on best practices informally, consult with advisors where necessary, and participate in information sessions that may be arranged

Each Community Garden Partner agrees:

- We will use only the plot assigned to us.
- We will have something planted in the garden by June 8, 201 and keep it planted all season long.
- If we must abandon our plot for any reason, we will notify the Steering Committee and other partners as soon as possible.
- We will keep the weeds down in our plot and immediately surrounding it.
- We will dispose of any litter or garbage we create.
- We agree to use the designated compost containers in the manner instructed.
- We will use the watering system provided respecting the need not to waste water or leave water running for any reason.
- We will not weed or water another group's plot without permission.
- We will not use chemical fertilizers, insecticides or weed repellents .
- We will not plant tall crops where they will shade other plots.
- We will not harvest any other plot's produce without permission.
- We will not otherwise interfere with anyone else's plot.
- We will not bring pets into the garden area.
- We will clean up our plot by the end of the season, October 31, 2013, so that next year's group will come to a clean plot

Managing the Community Garden

These community garden plots are in effect subsidized. They are intended as a demonstration site, so untended gardens look poorly on the group. The Steering Committee feels that no food produced should go to waste. Therefore:

- If the Steering Committee feels a plot is not being weeded, is insufficiently watered or is not being harvested, the gardener will be contacted.
- The Steering Committee reserves the right to harvest a plot if necessary.
- If the Steering Committee harvests produce on behalf of a gardener, the produce will be given to an organization such as the Food Bank or Salvation Army.
- The Steering Committee reserves the right to reassign a plot if necessary.

REAL agrees:

- to allow the Community Garden the use of a designated space on the REAL Deal site
- to provide water from the tap on the south side of the building, a hose and rain barrels, and not charge for same
- to provide composters for garden use
- to provide an unsecured storage space for tools and garden implements
- to act as banker for the community garden, accepting funding, donations or fees and disbursing payments as necessary
- to be holder of any documents
- to provide meeting space with prior arrangement
- to provide washroom access only when the REAL Deal store is open, Thursday through Saturday, 10 – 4 p.m.

Evaluation:

Each partner agrees to participate in an evaluation of the project at the end of the season so that we may improve the community garden experience. Partners may decide to rework this agreement before the next garden season.

Liability:

- We understand that the communal garden group, nor the Rideau Environmental Action League, nor the Town of Smiths Falls (owners of the building), nor Parks Canada (owners of the land) are responsible for the partners' actions.
- We therefore agree to hold harmless the community garden group, REAL, the Town of Smiths Falls or Park Canada for any liability, damage, loss or claim that occurs in connection with use of the garden.
- REAL holds insurance for its operations, and as such, garden volunteers are covered while on the 85 William St. site.

PLEASE SEE NEXT PAGE FOR SIGNATURE . Return signed portion to the Steering Committee and keep the agreement text for your records.

Community Garden Partner Agreement for 2015

I agree to the 2015 Community Garden Partner Agreement for the 2015 gardening season, May 1, 2015 to October 31, 2015.

Print name: _____ Signature: _____

For Partner Organization: _____

Date: _____

Photo Release - Optional

I agree to the use of any photos taken of myself or my group at the Community Garden or community garden activities. Possible uses could be for REAL's or other websites, social media (e.g. Facebook), a poster promoting the garden for next year, a fundraising activity, or a report or application to funders. I/we will not receive compensation for these photos.

Print name: _____ Signature: _____

For Partner Organization: _____

Date: _____