

# Garden Square Co-op Community Newsletter

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Summer 2018



Did you know we have a Facebook group? If you're interested in joining please login onto Facebook, search for garden square housing co-op, and request to join.

Visit the members only section of our Co-op Website for access to all rules and policies:  
[www.gardensquare.org](http://www.gardensquare.org)



**Cana's Co-ordinator  
Contact Info:**

**Lisa Berting**

Email:  
[lisab@canateam.com](mailto:lisab@canateam.com)

Phone:



## Board Update

We've finally got everything arranged to begin the education segment at our GM's that we've been planning. The next few GM's will begin with workshops we've selected and think would have a wide appeal to our membership. The first one was at our June GM and it was about handling conflict in Co-Ops. The July GM will include part 2 of this workshop, which means we will be starting a half hour early so that we don't run too late into the evening. The workshop will be first and takes about 90 minutes, after which the GM will start. Plan on a full 2 to 2 ½ hour meeting in July. All member are encouraged to attend.

We have a new coordinator at Cana. After a lot of research and discussion by the Board into different management companies, we have decided to work with Cana to rectify a number of issues we identified. There were a number of reasons that we decided to do this and if you'd like more information, we'd encourage you to contact a member of the Board or email us for more information. As a result of this decision, we have replaced our coordinator at Cana and Lisa Berting, Cana's Manager of Financial Services, will be looking after us effective immediately. We've already seen some positive changes and look forward to working closely with Lisa on a number of improvements.

We are making some great progress on reducing the amount of paper we use. Notices, agendas and minutes, etc. are being distributed by email with hard copies being printed and distributed to members that do not have internet access. Please make sure your email address is up to date so you receive all of our communication. If you are not receiving email or need to change your email address, just send an email to [admin@gardensquare.org](mailto:admin@gardensquare.org)

We had a great turnout for the draft budget meeting and it's great to see people taking an active interest in this process. As financial statements are once again being produced by Cana, please let the Treasurer know if you'd like a copy and we'll get them emailed out to you. Just send an email to [board@gardensquare.org](mailto:board@gardensquare.org)

Finally, we'd just like to remind everyone that with the beautiful warm weather that is hopefully here for the next few months, be mindful of your actions both while inside your unit/yard as well as out within our immediate community. Windows are open so be aware that conversations carry and they may not be as private as you think they are. Also, be considerate of smoke from barbecues and cigarettes to avoid having it drift into other member's units through open windows and doors. Treat others, as you'd appreciate being treated.

Ted Pennington, Board Chair

**Current 2018 Board Members:**

Alyson Thomas (Vice- Chair)

Brenda Carruthers (Treasurer)

Jennifer Mjolsness (PIPA officer)

Melanie Melendez (PIPA officer)

Vicki Gagan (Corporate Secretary)

Kelly Moon (minutes, education & newsletter)

Donna Wik (newsletter)

Board email: [board@gardensquare.org](mailto:board@gardensquare.org)



There were no farewells reported.



There were no new members.

- Membership Committee

**Upcoming Meetings & Events**

Friday, July 13      Tool return day (a notice with details will be circulated soon)

Saturday, July 14      Task sign up (a notice with details will be circulated soon)

Wednesday, July 25      General Meeting (6:30 - 8:00pm conflict resolution workshop for all members & GM from 8 - 9pm)

## Summer is here! Safety tips for kids...

1. The window screens are there to keep bugs outside not to keep your loved ones inside. If children push hard enough the screens they can fall out. Please be safe and make sure your children don't push on the screens.
2. The parking lots might seem like exciting play spaces but they can be a hazard for children. Please don't let your kids play in the parking lots.
3. Barbecue season is here! Are you propane safety aware? Here are some BBQ safety tips to keep your family happy and safe grilling this summer:  
<https://www.technicalsaftybc.ca/public-safety/grilling-safely>

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## Reminder from the Landscaper

Please keep your grass areas clear of toys, bikes & random household items. It is harder and it takes longer to care for the yards when these items are on the grass. It may result in your grass not being cut if your yard is covered in items that need to be moved.

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## Task Report

Please read your Task package carefully as there are a lot of new changes to the maps & descriptions. We are holding a tool inventory day this is so we can get a better count on all of our tools in the co-op.

Task is wanting to start collecting emails so we reduce paper if you wish to receive emails please let us now by emailing [task@gardensquare.org](mailto:task@gardensquare.org)

Donna, Task Co-chair

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## Summertime in our Pool

Summer Pool hours: 9am. -9pm. Adult swim: 9-10pm.

Just a friendly reminder to please remove all your belongings before leaving the pool area. Do not leave anything in the water.

Yefim, Pool Chair

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## Membership

Membership committee would like to inform all members that we currently have unused subsidy allocations that must be used as per our operating agreement. Current members can take advantage of this if the combined family income is lower than the annual incomes per unit listed below.

1 bedroom 41,200  
2 bedroom 42,720  
3 bedroom 46,920.

To confirm your eligibility for subsidy please contact our Cana representative Lisa at [lisab@canateam.com](mailto:lisab@canateam.com).

The membership committee will be rolling out a **member satisfaction survey** this summer. We hope to have all members complete this survey and return the surveys to us as information will be compiled in September and distributed to all committees in the fall. The outcomes could then be shared at our annual meeting in November.

We are asking that responses be honest but constructive. If you believe something in our community can be changed or improved on, also include how you would like to implement those changes.

Melanie, Membership Chair

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## Maintenance - How to Submit a Work Request

Send all work orders to [maintenance@gardensquare.org](mailto:maintenance@gardensquare.org)

Include the following:

- Full name
- Full address: including unit number and street name
- Phone number where we can reach you
- Nature of the problem: including photos if you can more the better
- Can we enter if no one is home? Yes? No?
- Keep requests short. Please don't make a big list – instead, please submit multiple requests if needed.
- Permission to enter

We need ALL this information as we often forward the work requests to various trades people that may or may not be familiar with the co-op.

Gabe, Maintenance Chair

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## **Tool Room**

Maintenance has been working towards a workshop & space that members can use for their projects currently the space has an assortment of power tools drills, clamps, routers, saws, hand tools, etc. Members can use these items in the shop or ask to sign them out for use in their own home. You can email: [gardensquareworkshop@gmail.com](mailto:gardensquareworkshop@gmail.com)  
24 hr. notice required.

## **Gardening tools**

There is now a small electric lawnmower + weed eater that members can borrow to cut their grass. A long extension cord is supplied if needed. We ask that all equipment be cleaned well after every person uses them. This will ensure a long life + reliability.

Gabe, Maintenance Chair

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## **All Committee emails**

Board of Directors – [–board@gardensquare.org](mailto:–board@gardensquare.org)  
Maintenance – [maintenance@gardensquare.org](mailto:maintenance@gardensquare.org)  
Membership – [gardensquare@hotmail.com](mailto:gardensquare@hotmail.com)  
Pool – [pool@gardensquare.org](mailto:pool@gardensquare.org)  
Recreation – [recreation@gardensquare.org](mailto:recreation@gardensquare.org)  
Task – [task@gardensquare.org](mailto:task@gardensquare.org)

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## **Our newsletter**

The newsletter was created to help keep members informed of Co-op news and issues in a positive manner, by providing education, information and entertainment. What would you like to see in the newsletter? A recipe corner, kids corner, joke/riddles, pet corner? Give us your thoughts and ideas. There wasn't a lot of feedback from the last newsletter. Please let us know what you think.

**The next deadline for content submissions is August 15 and anyone can submit content.**

Are you celebrating an important anniversary or birthday? The newsletter is a great way to share important life passages. We would love to receive tips about great local business and services for our local gems column. If you would like to put something in the newsletter, please let Donna know either by e-mail [craftymum02@gmail.com](mailto:craftymum02@gmail.com) or drop off at 3871 Burke St. The newsletter will go out every few months.

If you would like to help with the newsletter please let Donna know.

## **How would you like to receive your newsletter?**

Please choose one of the options below:

Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Or

Paper Copy: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Your thoughts or ideas:

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