

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SUBGROUP

ANNUAL REPORT

OCTOBER 1 2018 TO SEPTEMBER 30 2019

October 2018 to September 2019 has been a fruitful time for members of the Fruit and Vegetable Group, often referred to lovingly as The Veggie Group". Although we sometimes tackle serious learning experiences such as the May meeting of "How to control rodents and other pests", we enjoyed our November and July potluck dinners when we can sample each other's garden produce and sometimes pick up a new recipe or idea for how to use what we grow.

Our January seed exchange was a highlight of the year as those who collected and saved their seeds brought their offerings. Even those who have not saved seeds to share can take home free seeds of new varieties. We also had a seedling exchange at two spring meetings. It was fun to go home with plants we were not intending to grow, but one more new variety of tomato, strawberry or lettuce was very enticing.

Some of us enjoyed a short ocean cruise to attend our August meeting and garden tour at a members' summer home on Thetis Island. A greenhouse, hotbed and several cement raised garden beds were all built by John on a south facing slope. With Paula's help, they were all producing an abundance of berries and vegetables. In fact, we were invited to pick all the blackberries we could carry home and they were delicious. They also have a small fruit orchard and are planning to plant more fruit trees in the coming year or two.

September was our second annual tomato tasting meeting and one member brought relatives who contributed samples of tomatoes grown in their prairie garden. We also had a presentation on planting and growing garlic that night with a surprisingly enthusiastic discussion on the topic. This meeting had five new members as well as the two out of town guests. So we are still a growing group.

We remain a group with no money, no budget and no treasurer, so there is no financial report.