

# Conestoga Diggers Discovery Garden Newsletter

## *Sowing Seeds of Knowledge*

January 2012  
Volume 1, Issue 2

E-mail:conestogadiggers@gmail.com



### It's official! New Name and Logo

After a school wide vote for a garden name and logo, the results are in! The garden is now officially called the "Conestoga Diggers Discovery Garden". Our motto is "Sowing Seeds of Knowledge". Look for our new logo on all information concerning the garden.

### Founding Families Fundraiser Update

#### Contents

Name and logo	1
Founding Families Update	1
Playset Removed	2
Penn Manor TSA Club	2
Kid's Corner	3
Kid's Cookbook	3
Vegetable of the Month	3
Featured Recipe	3
Name That Pest	3
Project Needs	4

THANK YOU to all of our families who have made a contribution to our garden fund. **We have raised a total of \$2,000 and \$500 of that money comes from our Founding Families.** Every donation takes us one step closer to seeing this garden come alive. If you have not yet made a donation, please consider how you can help. No amount is too small! The deadline for being included and recognized as one of the Founding Families will be March 31. If every family contributes a small amount we will have what we need to get started. Teachers can then begin sowing those seeds of knowledge and the result will be some pretty fantastic fruit!



Have you seen this bulletin board in the lobby? Keep checking it to see our garden fund **GROW!** Thanks to Ali Neuman for creating our bulletin board.

# Playset: Now you have it, now you don't!

Thanks to the efforts of Bob Martin and crew, the playset inside our garden site was removed within a couple hours. Bob and his team arrived early one Saturday morning armed with tools. They sawed and unbolted until the structure was removed. The area is now completely open for the work in the garden to begin. Thank you, Bob and friends!!! And thank you to Bonnie Martin for initiating this project!



Above: Bob and his crew hard at work



Pictured left to right: Kevin Hostetter, Bernie Juba, Bob Martin,



## Penn Manor TSA Club Helps Out

Perhaps you have noticed some sticks protruding from the mulch in the Garden area. Any guess what they are for? On December 9<sup>th</sup> the Technology club from our high school came and staked out our garden. Why you ask? This is so that we can have a clear understanding of where each structure will be located and how much space we will have to move around when it is finished. It was so exciting to walk around the stakes and visualize the layout. We saw a few things that we need to change and gained some new ideas as well.



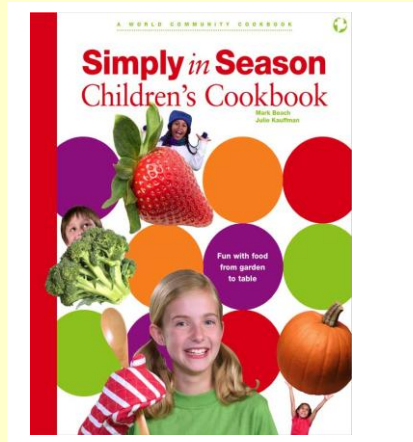
Penn Manor High School technology teacher, Sean McKnight (*far left*) and TSA leader, Joe Garrett, (*far right*) lead high school TSA students in staking out the garden. A couple little helpers, too!



## Hey kids, do you like to cook?

If the answer is yes, then you may want to check out this great cookbook called Simply in Season Children's Cookbook (pictured left). It includes simple kid-friendly recipes that are grouped according to season. The cookbook also offers interesting tidbits of information about vegetables and gardening.

Each month we will feature a recipe from the cookbook that you can try at home. Have fun cooking!



## Vegetable of the Month The Potato



Potatoes grow underground, but are actually swollen stems, not roots. They grow up under the ground beneath a bushy green plant with heart-shaped leaves and blossoms of lavender or white. They are ready to eat when the flowers drop off and the plant begins to wither. Potatoes should be firm with smooth skins and no sprouts and green spots. Potatoes are still alive when they are picked, so they should be kept in a cool area, away from the light.

Other fruits and vegetables that store well in winter: onions, rutabagas, turnips, parsnips

## Can you name this garden pest?



The Colorado potato beetle, a yellow insect with ten black stripes down its back, is probably one of the best known insects in the United States today. This insect was first discovered in the Rocky Mountains. However, as pioneers settled the area and started planting new crops, especially potatoes, the insect migrated to this new and much more available food source. By the 1870s, the beetle had literally eaten its way, via potatoes, to the eastern coast of the United States. One of the best control measures available for small potato plots is to hand pick the CPB and drop it into a container partially filled with detergent and water.

## Featured recipe

### Tater Soup

Serves 3-4

**2 tablespoons butter**

**1 small onion**

Melt butter in large saucepan.

Chop onion and add to saucepan.

Sauté until translucent.

**3 large potatoes**

**2 carrots (optional)**

**2 cups water or vegetable broth**

Peel and chop the potatoes into small cubes. Peel and chop carrots into smaller cubes or slices. Add all to saucepan and cook about 15 minutes.

**2 cup milk**

**3 tablespoons flour**

Mix together in small bowl until smooth. Add to soup and cook until thickened, stirring constantly. Serve chunky or purée for a creamy soup.

**Option:** Turn it into cheeseburger soup by adding ½ lb. browned ground meat and swirling in 1 cup shredded cheese.

# Project Needs

We are in the process of contacting businesses both in and outside of Conestoga. Here is a list of supplies that we will need for the garden. We will continue to update the supply list, so check back to see if you or someone you know would be interested in donating supplies. If so, please contact Hannah or Beth to see if the items are able to be used for the project.

- 99( 1”x8”x8”) cedar boards
- 22 (2”x4”x8”) Topchoice KD Whitewood stud
- 12 boxes 2” Deckmate screws (75 pieces per box)
- Topsoil for 11 beds
- Landscape Fabric 4’x100’ roll
- Gravel (for bottom of raised beds)
- Seeds/plants
- 8’x10’ Little Barn Tool Shed (Twin Locust Structures)
- Soil amendments
- 2 galvanized metal troughs (2’ x3’x6’)
- 1 galvanized metal trough (1’x3’x6’)
- 3 20”Wooden Barrel Tub (Lowe’s)
- Topsoil and amendments
- Gravel
- Plants /Bulbs
- 30 Ergo hand trowels
- 2 Neverkink 5/8” x 100’garden hose
- 36”Hose wand w/7ADJ patterns
- Garden utility cart
- 2 Trug tubs
- True Temper dig shovel
- Kobalt 5 tine pitch fork
- Teaching materials/resources
- Signage and Donor Recognition
- Individual or company to paint chain link fence