



Our Mission:

Cultivate environmental stewardship through hands-on garden and food education for urban children & their communities.

greenthumbsto.org

From our Board Chair(s)

As board chair since 2020, it has been a rewarding experience to be with GTGK as we adapted in response to the pandemic. Our mission, to promote garden-based learning where children are able to engage in a hands-on way, has guided our programming and offerings, even digitally, so that kids can build a greater appreciation for the natural world and their role in it.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the ongoing work being done throughout GTGK. Our staff, funders, and volunteers play a crucial role in making this happen and without your support this would not be possible. As my term comes to an end, I wish the organization continued success in carrying out this important work and I am confident that the torch carried by GTGK will continue to shine brightly.

- Kary Atkinson,
Chair Emeritus



I knew I had to take action when my friend's children did not know how strawberries are grown. We started some

vegetables from seeds, cared for the seedlings, and watched the vegetables grow into ready-to-harvest vegetables. We earned such an immense appreciation for the diligence it takes to be able to grow and harvest your own fruit and vegetables.

I joined the board because I was looking for ways to help raise awareness about for-impact food and nature literacy programs, and GTGK is an important advocate for hands-on food-growing kids programs.

As Kary's term has come to an end, with confidence, I carry the torch for continued success in this important work.

- Charlene Lord, Board Chair



Placement student Stefani and students making cold rolls during a culinary program



Colouring book released in 2022 - a board project!



Tristan and Rebecca composting at Winchester

From our Executive Director

2022 was a dream. Returning to garden programs in person, on our elementary school sites, gave us a new appreciation for our role in the urban ecosystem. Having a dedicated Urban Agriculture Specialist manage the garden planning/planting in spring anchored the programs. Our friends at Allan Gardens Children's Conservatory helped grow out our seedlings, as we still couldn't operate our walking field trip program with students due to COVID protocols. However, it was clearer than ever to everyone that school gardens are safe, effective and fun ways to meet curriculum goals. We went from one to two full time positions reserved for Indigenous staff, and hired an Indigenous Mentor to strengthen our commitment to decolonizing.

We continued to develop our healthy-soil-healthy-climate programs, including composting (with the help of neighbours), and even held a microscopy session for staff. Summer was a breeze with talented youth staff, and our Urban Roots Youth program (after school for high-school age youth) was restarted after the COVID hiatus.

Overall, staff took the reins on program operation, our market stall, and our wonderful Green Roof Garden at Daniels Spectrum. As Executive Director I couldn't ask for a more creative, enthusiastic and collaborative team that gave me great pleasure to work alongside.

In the office, the Administrative Co-ordinator kept a smooth and efficient handle on the books. At the board level, I had and have wonderful support from past chair Kary Atkinson and current chair Charlene Lord, as well as each and every board member who contributed in so many ways to the organization. (I have the best job ever. I even got to snap this shot of a cicada emerging on a Maple tree in Winchester school garden.)

- Sunday Harrison, Executive Director



2022 Numbers:

- We had **3,462** participant opportunities for elementary students, **115** participant opportunities for youth and **692** for adults, with over **225** program hours
- We planted **614** native trees through **55** trees from seed programs
- We had **29** placement students deliver **186** program hours, developing their own lessons on topics including composting, seed dispersal, native plants and more.



A rooftop harvest heading to the Cabbagetown Farmers Market



Placement students Julia, Lianna and Erin during a Trees From Seed planting program



Prepping our rooftop garden for the growing season



Feeding the worms for our vermicomposting program



Humber nursing students delivering a composting workshop

2022 Kid-Quotes:

Picking and eating fresh currants and raspberries:
"These are better than the ones at the store!"

Learning all about the importance of trees:
"Trees make our world much more beautiful", "Trees make art!"

Learning about worms and vermicomposting:
"Worms help the earth breathe!"

Making salads with greens planted and grown in our programs:
"I can't believe we planted these and now we are eating them!"

Teacher Testimonial

Dear Green Thumbs,

I cannot thank you enough, once again for providing such an enriching experience for my grade 7/8 students, right in our schoolyard! Some of my students' words about the connections they made while in the garden:

"That was like working on my family farm back in Sri Lanka."
"Thank you for the prayers and time to thank the land, it was like we do in my home in Uganda" (This was after the opening and closing Smudge ceremony that we partook in while in the garden). "In our culture we thank the land before we eat." "This is the thing we were talking about in class about the Indigenous people in Canada who know so much about the land, right?"

Thank you for taking the time to bring together such knowledgeable staff, creating engaging programming and allowing the students to get their hands dirty!

- Annette Carling
Grade 7/8 Homeroom Teacher, Winchester JSPS

Thanks to our community and supporters!

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\$1,500+

June Komisar

Anonymous

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Up to \$1,500

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Tara Pearson

Sara Qureshi

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Lana Rebic

Teneo Results

Jason Rodier

Kais Saleh

Christy Sebastian

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Ahamed Sheriff

Maureen Shewchuck

Douglas Shrigley

Kiran Singhachaudhuri

Freyja Spence

Jacqueline Storey

Tonya Surman

Jacqueline Tan

Tsering Tashi

Jelena Tomesu

Pierre Valcarcel

Martha Harrison-Vickars

Cristi Villecourt

Dave Wakabayashi

Rachel West

Joan White

Timothy Wiber

Heather Wilberforce

Suzanne Wilcox

Rebecca Yeo

Rochelle Zorzi

Board Members

Kary Atkinson

Evelyne Au-Navioz

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Kayleigh Fisher

Abbey Huggan

Robin Irwin

Iris (Ike) Karuna

Charlene Lord

Megan McGinnis-Dunphy

Lara Mrosovsky

Tara Pearson

Christy Sebastian

Heather Wilberforce

Lily Ka-Lei Yee

Sanaulhaq Sunny Zarawar

Placement Students

Angelyne Agaton

Tiesam Ahmed

Grace Alexander

Tristan Andrews

Rebika Baniya

Julia Barbe

Trisha Barretto

Sorse Bedada

Cydney Carrow

Marissa Chinn

Rivers D'Amore

Petrona Evans

Stefani Fabian

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Katelyn Grasman

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Danielle Marti

Falhad Mohamoud

Mikeala Moore

Nura Mohammed

Justin Obusan

Fatihah Odunaiya

Lianna Pham

Nishtha Sharma

Chloe Simms

Aleksandra Sus

Tobias Vanvack

Erin Webb

Wai Sze Wong

Staff

Tristan Andrews, Summer Staff and Urban Roots
Youth Co-ordinator

Trisha Barretto, Summer Staff

Lara Carlson, Indigenous Program Leader

Avalon Carthew, Indigenous Program Co-ordinator

Rebecca Davis, Urban Agriculture Specialist

Sunday Harrison, Executive Director

Sophie Mihevc, Summer Staff and Urban Roots

Youth Co-ordinator

Avery Sandy, Indigenous Program Leader

Tsering Tashi, Administrative Co-ordinator

Heide Zelmer, Garden Worker

Foundations, Grants, Sponsorships & Partners

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City of Toronto Investing in Neighbourhoods

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Gerry Egan Children's Charity

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Green Thumbs Growing Kids

Charitable Number:
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Cover images clockwise from left: sunflowers on our Green Roof, corn grown on our Green Roof, Urban Roots Youth participants planting PawPaw trees, Gr 7 composting program, monarch butterfly in a school garden, holding worms for a vermicomposting program, bouquet-making program with K-Club