

Hadwen Garden Report 2024

For the second time we had a large group of 10 provisionals working in the gardens on Monday mornings at 8:00am from June 24th -August 19th. Merrilou Symmes was the provisional chair who joined us each week as well.

In the past I have encouraged all members of the garden club to join us on any given Monday morning to not only help with the gardening but to get to know the new prospective members of the club. With such a large group of provisionals I did not pursue this the past two years. However, I would now recommend to the chairs to encourage and insist that the prospectives have their sponsors (both first and second sponsors) come to the gardens and work along side of them at least once through the summer. It would increase the amount of workers but more importantly reinforce their commitment to the candidate they sponsored.

Last year the NHA moved the center urn off to the left side of the lower garden and opened the center of the garden to a bigger green space. They planted 6 Arbor Vitae behind the urn this summer to create a green wall from the yard behind it. I recommended they move a garden feature given by a class years ago (and since relegated to an odd corner) to the opposite side of the urn (on the right side of the garden) to balance to two structures. I also asked for the NHA landscaping team to consider power washing the 4 benches (they were covered in lichen and mold) and no one would sit on them. But once it was done and they looked brand new, they may consider doing it every year.

The past few years the provisionals have given a check or gift card to the Kathrina Marques of the NHA to buy plant material. These funds have helped increase certain ground cover plants and also bought garden markers. This year the class asked the funds be used to purchase a paniculata type hydrangea tree to be planted across from another one in the garden for symmetry.

Once again, the women in this group of provisionals proved to be not only be hard working gardeners, eager to learn about the plant material and the Hadwen Garden history, they also used this time to learn about each other and bonded together as we hope. They will be a great additions to the NGC.

Respectfully submitted,

Peg Condon

Hadwen Garden Chair