

# COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM



## LIKE THE HOMES, THE

gardens are unique, blending colorful annuals with dependable perennials, shrubs and large shade trees that complement the architectural details of the homes, built at a time when mouldings, frames and even window boxes were custom built. There are tiny yards that have been transformed into scented retreats, meditation gardens and public spaces that invite strangers to become neighbors. — *Eva Weidman*

Throughout Wolseley, West Broadway and Armstrong's Point are gardens of every size and type – community, public and private. In West Broadway are Mostyn Park, adopted by community groups, the Spence Riverside Park and wildflower garden behind Riverview Mansions developed by the Urban Green Team and the city's Urban Naturalist Program, and the carefully-landscaped grounds of Great West Life. The University Women's Club seeks to restore a heritage garden at the Ralph Connor House, and homeowners on Armstrong's Point have developed imaginative and creative gardens. The Wolseley Garden Society has adopted Nellie McClung Park opposite Laura Secord School. Urban Green Teams keep the grounds of Robert A. Steen blooming. Some of our gardeners have stories to tell.

### Community Gardens

*by Alana Daley*

Living on Dundurn Place, a stay-at-home mother of a young child, I often felt isolated. My brother Dan, introduced me to Tannis Whitford, who introduced me to Earth Corps, a grass roots organization promoting environmental awareness and community-building projects. One of their initiatives was a community gardening project. They approached the owners of several vacant, decrepit lots in the area for permission to develop them as gardens. Most of the lots were on old foundations of buildings and houses, long since torn down. Cement, rebar, light standards, rock and rubble had to be hauled away before gardening could begin. Area residents interested in growing their own produce and flowers to beautify the area came to Earth Corps and to the garden sites to begin the backbreaking work of digging up the solidly packed, backfilled ground. With the assistance of provincial programs and then city councillor, Glen Murray. Earth Corps obtained the resources to transform garbage strewn, community eyesores into productive garden spaces.

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**THE WOLSELEY POST**  
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### HERITAGE TREES

A sister tree to the Wolseley Elm survives at 1175 Wolseley Avenue.

Other heritage trees:

Green Ash  
268 Aubrey

The Westgate Elm  
– 150 Westgate  
One of the original plantings around Bannatyne's Castle