

September 24, 2024

West Elgin Municipality
Terri Towstiuc, Clerk
22413 Hoskins Line
Rodney, ON N0L 2C0

Dear Terri,

I am writing on behalf of the West Elgin Community Health Centre (WEHC) to request the renewal of the lease agreement for the property of 259 Ridout Street, Rodney. In partnership with West Elgin Municipality and a few grant suppliers the WECHC has been running a Community Garden on the site since 2021. The lease agreement ends Dec. 2024. I have attached the previous agreement for your review. Please let me know the next steps for the lease renewal and ensuring the garden can continue. Below is information related to the health benefits of gardening.

The Rodney Community Garden has been established to be an Allotment Gardens where there are separate, individual plots (allotments) for each gardener. The garden currently has a combination of Community/Allotment style gardens as we have not filled the garden to capacity with gardeners to date.

The benefits of gardening, especially community gardening, send ripples through the individual, family, and community such as physical exercise, stress relief and mental relaxation, provides a sense of community belonging, and increased self-confidence. Gardening results in more affordable produce, increased consumption of fruit and vegetables and greater control over food quality. Gardening provides opportunities for social exchange, time with kids and family, connecting with nature, a chance to protect the environment, acquaintance with different foods and cultures, improved gardening skills, a chance to share surplus produce and a chance to learn marketable skills.

Here are additional ways that communities benefit from encouraging community gardens: greener towns, increased food security, diversion of kitchen waste from landfills, through composting, chemical-free food consumption, improved population health, reduced transportation-related food costs, community beautification, sense of community empowerment, participation in local decision-making processes, greater self-sufficiency, and flower pollination.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Skelding, RN Health Promoter