

YRHS Legacy Courtyard

Project 2

The West Courtyard

April 2016 - June 2017

The View: 2009



2009 West Courtyard







Project 1: The East Courtyard

- ▶ Our successful project, which began in 2009
- ▶ Committee formed: staff, former students, present students, community members
- ▶ Spent winter of 2009 - 2010 planning: big dreams/ grant writing / spreading the word
- ▶ Co-ordinated our initial labour efforts with Earth Day 2010
- ▶ Dedicated committee members and students took on labour (moving rock, bringing in topsoil, greening with plants - all with an eye to sustainable practices and recycling/repurposing what was already there)

Earth Day 2010



Earth Day 2010 - Daunting Task



Tragic/Sudden Loss of a Staff Member: 2010

- ▶ A member of our staff died very suddenly in early July of 2010
- ▶ Our plans to revitalize and green up the East Courtyard space morphed into a plan to plant a memorial garden in memory of this well loved staff member
- ▶ Ceremony would be held in late spring of the 2010 - 2011 school year
- ▶ We used all volunteer labour, donated materials, and some school funded start up monies to complete this tribute area of the East Courtyard

Plans for Gina's Garden: East Courtyard



The Plan



Focus on East Courtyard



Additional In Memorium Donation

- ▶ The Laxdal and Loucks family approached our committee about a major donation of a cedar gazebo to be erected in the East courtyard in memory of a former student - daughter and sister - who graduated from YRHS in 1984
- ▶ We purchased and hired out the set up of the cedar gazebo not knowing that the entire area was scheduled to be regraded and revamped for drainage and air quality issues in the school.

East Courtyard - Gazebo Area: NE Corner



Aesthetics: Badly Needed Improvements



Priority 1: Gina's Garden East Courtyard/South End



From Rock to This: Gina's Garden



New and Improved, but Temporary





Gina's Garden Dedication Day





In Memory
of
Gina Wilson
July 21, 2018

The East Courtyard/North End

- ▶ Following the cleaning and greening of Gina's Garden area, the committee turned their attention to the generous in-memorium donation from the Laxdal/Loucks family
- ▶ Heather Laxdal Gazebo
- ▶ A dedication ceremony was planned and held to dedicate this structure in her name
- ▶ Again, we knew this area would be completely re-landscaped to deal with drainage and air quality issues in the school: 2yrs of flooding basement issues to this point

Gazebo: Purchased and Assembled



Dedication Day



Dedication Day



Generous Contributors to the Legacy Gardens



The Bulldozer Arrives - 2013



What? Rock and Roll Time - Again?

- ▶ Both courtyards were regraded and improved with levelling, appropriate drainage, cement pathways, and energy efficient lighting
- ▶ The Good Spirit School Division #204 contributed a significant financial dollar amount to attend to these school plant/structure issues
- ▶ All landscape greenery and furnishings needed to come from our fundraising or in-kind/in-memorium donations
- ▶ By this date, we had 3 bequests to honour
 - Seating and some greenery: in memory of 3 students (Puchala)
 - A new garden area: in memory of a teacher at YRHS (McVey)
 - A green space & bench: in memory of a student/committee member (Unrau)

We had also received a financial donation from a class reunion (Class of 72): target was student seating in the East courtyard area (bench)

Zach - car accident tragic loss



Dave's Garden - Family & Friends



In Memorium Activities: East Courtyard

Our target was to have all of our memorial requests and donations taken care of by the Autumn of 2015

We met this goal





Gina's Garden (re-planted)



Grad 2015

Project #2: The West Courtyard

- ▶ This courtyard space was priority #2 of our long term planning.
- ▶ We learned many lessons from the experience of 2009 to 2015.
- ▶ We want to address this courtyard space without relying on volunteer labour
- ▶ Our committee is changing due to retirements and staffing changes
- ▶ We would like to repeat the success of the initial project in this space but in a shorter time frame and by incorporating hired contractors/professionals
- ▶ We have a small start up budget: the remaining funds from fundraising and financial donations - some of this is earmarked for furnishings at the completion stage

The Plan

- ▶ Gr 12 Drafting & Art Student, Olivia Tomcala, has designed a virtual tour of the plan for this 2nd courtyard space
- ▶ The result will be an area that encourages student hands-on learning, as well as an inclusive space that will showcase our commitment to environmental stewardship, sustainable landscape design, repurposing, and energy efficient practice

Big Dreams/Big Plans

- ▶ Hardscape: concrete pads/steps/seating
- ▶ 24 x 30 Band Shelter: wired and lighted/wheelchair accessible
- ▶ 16 x 16 Cedar Pergola
- ▶ Landscape: Trees, shrubs, flowers, garden area
- ▶ Construction Materials and Hired Professional Labour
- ▶ Furnishings: Seating/Garbage Containers/Tables

- ▶ Timeline: April to November 2016 - Phase 1 April to June 2017 - Phase 2

Here We Are Today - January 2016

► Virtual Tour: by - Olivia Tomcala

