

A joint project of



# Seed Library 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



## 2023 - WHERE WE STARTED



**\$444** Donations from community members and fundraising in 2022  
**\$404** spent - Seeds & Supplies



**Purchased:**  
**430** seed packs from bulk purchases



**Donated:**  
**100** seed packs from Seed Companies +

**375** Local Donations



### SEEDY SATURDAY (SEED EXCHANGE)

**100** Participants

**170** packs from Seed Library +  
Seed/Seedling Exchange

### SEEDS DISTRIBUTED

**TOTAL: 820** seed packs  
650 Library + 170 Seedy Saturday  
**+30%** from 2022



### SEED LIBRARY USERS

**TOTAL: 130** users  
+ Food Bank clients & Seedy Saturday



### SEEDS

Remaining: **540** Packs  
Donated (Fall 2023):  
from Local Growers  
**200** Packs  
+ **250** Packs (Sunflowers & Marigolds)



### MONEY

Seedy Saturday: **\$285** (fundraising)  
Donations 2023: **\$157**  
**TOTAL: \$442**

## HEADING INTO 2024

## Seed Library Keeps Growing!

The Seed Library was even more popular in 2023, with a substantial increase in the number of seeds shared (see infographic) and the variety available.

**NEW! - Mackenzie Seeds and Habitat Seeds** were our corporate sponsors in 2023, generously donating a selection of seeds from their inventory. There was also a wide assortment of seeds donated by Seed Library users and local growers. These donations are essential for the long-term sustainability of the Seed Library.

Organizers continue to purchase popular but hard to harvest seeds (such as carrots). In 2023, we were able to stretch our funds by buying selected seeds in bulk.

The Seed Library opened for its third year in late February and continued through September. Use was heaviest from March–May. There was more interest in seeds that must be started early, like tomatoes and peppers, this year. Flower and herb seeds were also in demand.

Users continue to be impressed with the variety of seeds—and the fact that they’re free! Our “Seedy Saturday” seed and seedling exchange day again drew crowds; and we were excited to introduce educational seed workshops during the fall.



# “Seedy Saturday”

- Seedy Saturday is a one-day event where the public can bring seeds or seedlings to exchange, give away and take home.
- Approximately 100 people participated in Seedy Saturday and 170 packs (double last year’s total) went out from the Seed Library, in addition to those brought in for the exchange.
- Held outside the Library on the morning of Saturday, April 22—taking advantage of the better spring weather and the Sustainability Fair on April 16 (to publicize).
- Included information and Q&A sessions by local gardening experts, including Harry Tanner from Habitat Seeds, the MaD (Merrickville and District) Gardeners, and our special guest speaker, internationally renowned environmentalist and gardener, Diana Beresford-Kroeger. Seeds of Diversity and Canadian Organic Growers also had information tables.
- Fundraising: Themed seed kits & tipsheets (re: beginner gardeners, succession planting and pickle-making) were on sale to benefit next year’s Seed Library. Combined with a donation jar, we collected close to \$300 to purchase seeds and supplies in 2024.



Top Left: the Seed Library on its mobile cart.

Middle: Kids make seed balls  
Bottom: Diana Beresford-Kroeger was a popular speaker

Above Right: Carol & Leela from the Steering Committee



## New in 2023

The Seed Library began offering educational hands-on workshops in the Fall, starting with one on Seed Saving led by Lex Tryndale.

## Helping the Food Bank

The Seed Library contributed vegetable and herb seeds to the Merrickville & District Health Centre’s Food Cupboard to be distributed to their clients. Over 50 seed packs were given out.

## Popular in 2023

- **Tomatoes & Cherry Tomatoes**
- **Beans**
- **Peas**
- **Squash**
- **Carrots**
- **Swiss Chard**
- **Herbs**
  - Basil, Dill, Cilantro
- **Flowers!**
  - Sunflowers, Nasturtiums, Cosmos, Marigolds, Hollyhocks, Poppies

## Looking Ahead to 2024

- The Seed Library was successful in soliciting corporate seed donations for 2023 and for 2024. This was a priority in for 2023. We will continue working to make the Seed Library sustainable.
- Planning for next year’s Seedy Saturday will build on the experience of 2023
  - continue speakers, displays and demos
  - encourage more participation in the seed/seedling exchange
- Our planned Gardening Workshops were successfully launched, however, a planned Microgreens workshop had to be cancelled when the presenter became unavailable. This should be addressed in 2024.
- Make more information sources and tips available for the public
- Encourage seed diversity, add native and heirloom seeds.
- Continue to raise public awareness about the Seed Library!

The Seed Library is a joint project of Sustainable Merrickville-Wolford and Merrickville Library. We are delighted that the Seed Library has become a valued community service.