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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Albert Public Library launches Seed Library

ST. ALBERT — Do you harvest flower and vegetable seeds every fall from your garden? Do you have more than you need? St. Albert Public Library is starting a free Seed Library, and we're kicking off this community-focused green-thumb initiative with two activities aimed at growing the seed collection and growing community interest. Starting March 11, Library staff will be collecting seed donations from community gardeners to fill out our current stock, and on Thursday, April 2, the Seed Library will officially kick off with a special "On Seed to Seed" program hosted by Master Gardener Dale Ford.

The Library's seed collection has been started by generous donations from Canadian seed companies, but more are needed, and we want to collect them from St. Albert and area gardeners. Seed donors are invited to bring their seeds to the second floor Information Desk at the Downtown Library during open hours; staff will divide and package the seeds for sharing through the Seed Library. Those wishing to pick up free seeds can do so starting March 11 at the downtown second floor Information Desk. Seeds will be given out throughout the spring and summer, while stocks last.

"Seed libraries are grassroots movements to take back our native seeds, and local gardeners are crucial to their success," says Michelle Steinhusen, Adult Programming Librarian at St. Albert Public Library. "We are asking for donations of open-pollinated native flower and vegetable seeds – whether it's a dozen, or a bagful. The library will give the seeds out for free, and then in the fall the Library will host seed harvesting programs, and replenish stocks for the following spring."

The Seed Library will officially kick off at the "On Seed to Seed" program scheduled for Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the Downtown Library. Master Gardener Dale Ford will share the best ways to start plants from seeds, and which plants to choose that are optimum for seed harvesting. Library staff will be on hand to share information about the Seed Library, and Dale will be back at the end of summer to delve deeper into harvesting seeds for the next planting season.

All seed donations and pick-ups must be done in person at the second floor Information Desk at the Downtown Library. A library card is not required to use the Seed Library, and limits for the first year of the Seed Library program will be three packets per person per growing season. For more information, call the Library Information Desk at 780-459-1682.

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