



Alyssa Smith/YYC photo

Garden of Hope manager Debbi Ross said additions to the garden will be finished by the end of August. It was started in 2003 in memory of Loraine Minish-Cooper.

Plans to grow memorial garden

Organizer says bloom-expansion project to be completed by fall

by **Alyssa Smith**
Northern News Services

Those walking around the city hall grounds lately may have wondered why no flowers are blooming in the Garden of Hope.

In fact, now mounds of up-turned earth sit where blooms were last year.

Debbi Ross, manager of the garden, said it isn't showing its usual colours because plans are in motion to make the garden bigger.

The Garden of Hope was started in 2003 in memory of Loraine Minish-Cooper. It was originally intended to symbolize hope for a cure for breast cancer, which Minish-Cooper died from in 2002.

The garden has since expanded to include more memorials, such as a plaque in memory of former Inuvik resident Cpl. Jordan Anderson — a soldier who was killed in 2007 while serving in Afghanistan. Ross said the plans to expand the garden came from Minish-Cooper's three daughters.

"They've been actively involved in the garden for the last couple of years," she said.

The city approved the expansion of the garden last year.

Paving

Plans to pave the civic plaza area in front of city hall also include paving the path through the memorial garden. Ross said this would widen the path quite a bit, and would take away from gardening space.

"Since 2003 we've been a garden, and it just seemed like a good time to expand," she said. "I think it will pretty much double in size."

She compared the garden's current long and skinny shape to a bowling alley, and said when the renovations are done it will be wider and more abstract.

"We've never been entirely happy with that shape," she said.

Ross said funding for the \$15,000 project is com-

ing completely from private sponsors.

She added that some donors have given money for specific parts of the garden; while others are helping by donating their time.

Ross said Dave Hysert is construction manager for the project, building the fence and creating the base for the new path.

"He's doing all the he-man work," she said.

Ross said Kayhan Nadji, the same architect who designed civic plaza, donated time to help the board figure out what the garden is going to look like.

"We're pretty dependent on the city's schedule," she said. "We can't do any planting until the paving is done."

Residents will see significant changes to the area starting this month, but the finished product will likely not be ready until the end of the summer.

Those wishing to donate time or funds to the project can contact Ross.