

# Farmers on 57th at Pearson



Spring has most certainly sprung, and plenty is growing with the Farmers on 57th project at George Pearson. There are many groups coming together to garden in the brand new project, and this bi-monthly bulletin is a 'meeting place' to share a bit about what each group is up to. Please forward this bulletin along, print & post it, or contact us at [jkrashleigh@gmail.com](mailto:jkrashleigh@gmail.com) to get your name on our regular mailing list. And if you would like to contribute something to this bulletin, let us know!

## THE COMMUNITY GARDENS

The sawdust is still settling at the brand new community gardens, located between Ward 1 and Ward 3. These gardens will be tended by various people and groups: Pearson residents & their families, Pearson staff, CARMA, DIGA, Sir Wilfred Laurier Annex school kids, and brand new gardeners from the neighbourhood. Last week saw our wheelchair accessible table-top beds built and filled with compost! Many, many thanks go to John, Ron and Sharon (Recreation), Claudia (Care Aid), Barb (Volunteer Coordinator), Jo-Ann (Switchboard), the Fraser Group (volunteers from the Developmental Disabilities Association), Morgan, Rhylo and Ted (volunteers) for the help in getting this work done. If we've left anyone off this list, we thank you too!

There've been lots of interested gardeners, and all of the plots have now been assigned for 2009. If you don't have a bed, and would like to garden, email Jen at [jkrashleigh@gmail.com](mailto:jkrashleigh@gmail.com) or leave a message with Sarah Wenman (CARMA) at 604-322-8353, and we'll see what we can arrange.



Garden Club, Tuesdays 2-4 pm



Jen shovels in gravel for pathways



better than aerobics....



## THE FARM SITE: WHAT IS IT?

The Farm site is on the east side of Pearson, in the big field close to Dogwood. It's being tended by six young women, each with backgrounds in organic agriculture. Their names are Karen, Katherine, Alisha, Tess, Jess and Jen. This market garden gives them the opportunity to grow fresh local organic food. Part of their harvest goes to Pearson residents, another part they sell at local farmer's markets through summer (starting June 10). They are very happy to be part of the Pearson growing community. You can often find someone working at the market gardens, and Fridays 11am-3pm are our shared work party day. Feel free to come out and lend a hand, or come to say hello.



The Farm site



Tessa plants her first crop of peas



Karen wrestles a boulder. I think the boulder won this round.



Community work party. The compost is still steaming!

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING OUT THERE?

A lot of hard work! The market growers have been busy getting the soil ready for planting crops. Just last month, we began by cutting the sod and machine tilling the soil. After that came hand tilling with shovels, which turned up some amazing boulders and mountains of rocks! We figure that this area must have once been pushed over by a glacier, carrying the rocks along in its icy sweep...

We got beautiful compost and mulch kindly donated by the City (thank you!), and the piles are slowly being used up as we nourish the garden beds. We are installing irrigation this week, and continuing to plant seeds over the next few weeks.

Thanks to everyone for tolerating our growing pains as we go through the first stages of rolling sod and getting our beds ready. Bounty to come!