



## School Garden Success Story Queen Mary Elementary, North Vancouver

The Queen Mary Community Garden officially opened spring 2010, with 58 allotment plots in addition to an Edible Garden Project Demonstration Garden, and 4 large plots for Queen Mary Elementary students. The garden was funded, designed and built by the City of North Vancouver. Volunteer gardeners built the shed with a grant from Home Depot and wood donated from Keith Panel Systems. Gardeners pay an annual fee that is used for ongoing maintenance.



The garden is managed by the North Shore Community Garden Society, while the demonstration garden and school plots are coordinated by the Edible Garden Project (EGP). The EGP runs a program for Queen Mary students called 'Fed Up' in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Flatbread Education Society (a local restaurant). This program connects gardening and

eating healthy. The EGP works with 2 classes at Queen Mary and offer bi-weekly sessions. The EGP can also coordinate volunteers to maintain the school garden plots through the summer season as there are people in the garden year round because it is both a community and school garden.

Challenges: There has been some vandalism to the garden

shed. Patience is required to go through the process of getting a community garden funded and planned through the municipality but the benefits definitely outweigh the costs. The sustainability of the garden is strengthened by getting political and community support.