



## School Garden Success Story Terra Nova School Gardens, Richmond

The Terra Nova Schoolyard Society is a non-profit urban agriculture project for elementary school children located in Richmond, British Columbia. The City of Richmond generously provides 5,000 square feet of growing space. Currently, four elementary schools are involved in this garden, which has been in operation since 2006.

Children plan their garden during the winter and prepare and plant their beds during the spring. They have access to their plots until September when the new school year starts.

Spul'u'kwuks Elementary, one of the schools involved, runs on a balanced year calendar, which means that they are still in session during July. Children from this school will continue to harvest anything planted by the other schools, as well as their own plantings. Since the growing space is part of a community garden, access is open during the summer. Increasingly, students who are on vacation from the other schools are coming back to garden and to harvest some of their own plantings.



Graduates of the elementary schools involved in the Terra Nova project are starting to filter into Richmond Secondary School. By working closely with the culinary arts program at Richmond Secondary, garden produce is incorporated into the food produced by the students in this program. The garden plans to hire summer students as part of an employment program. There are many other opportunities for high school students in school gardens. Grade 12 students who need to meet Creative Action Service (CAS) hours can do

volunteer work in the garden. A fundraising idea for students who want to leave a legacy is to sell tickets to buy a picket for the picket fence.

Tours of this garden can be arranged for Pro-D days by contacting Ian Lai. Ian Lai is a consultant and Chef Instructor at the Northwest Culinary Academy of Vancouver. He is the Founder and Project Coordinator of the Terra Nova Schoolyard Society.