

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY OUT-REACH PROJECT: AN EDIBLE SCHOOLYARD GARDEN

A group of neighbourhood volunteers, teachers and parents have proposed an edible schoolyard garden initiative on the property of Williamson Rd. School. The location of interest on the school property is at the front of the building on the entire east-side lot which is currently contained inside a fence line and the pathway leading up to the school's main double door entrance.

WHY AN EDIBLE SCHOOLYARD GARDEN?

There are so many wonderful attributes to creating and maintaining an edible schoolyard garden. From designing, fundraising, digging and building, this project will inspire creative thinkers, problem-solvers, project managers and philanthropists...among other things.

We can teach and learn about the environment, diverse ecosystems, organic and whole foods, nutrition, agricultural heritage and eventually, baking, cooking, selling and donating food. In addition, teachers can transfer indoor curriculum such as math, science, languages and art to the outdoor garden.

Willie will be turning 100 years old in 2013! This garden can serve as a wonderful component of this celebration. It can honour our history while representing who we have become and how we wish to lead in the next 100 years.

The possibilities are endless, but success will require a collective involvement of the school, community, government and private businesses working together. Fortunately, we live in a great neighbourhood with many resources and expertise close at hand. We will seek any/all help and will look to past example of design, building and maintaining edible schoolyard gardens.

PARENTS, we would love to hear from you:

A: If you have interest/business or know of someone who is involved in gardening, fund-raising, marketing, P.R., landscaping, project management, carpentry, botany, arboriculture, environmental studies, science and biology, farming....the list goes on.

B: IF YOU simply have an interest in a garden a Williamson Rd. School and want to offer suggestions, help at some point or learn more about it.

C: IF you would like to join our Garden Development and Oversight Committee (GDOC). The first meeting is scheduled at Willie for March 3rd at 7PM in the library. It will serve as an information, ideas and volunteer generating session, meeting the TDSB Environmental Coordinator and formation of key committee members such as president, treasurer, secretary, etc.. The committee will hold regular meetings to serve as a platform for continuous info sharing and to ensure that the project is progressing at the appropriate pace and in the right direction. Most meetings will be brief and efficient with continuous discussions/communications via email and other off-site locations as need/desire arises.

PLEASE SEND COMMENTS/INTEREST BY EMAIL/ATTEND the next School Council meeting on FEB 24th.

Thank you,

Wanda Srdoc, Parent and Acting President of GDOC

