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CLARK KIM | Sep 14, 2011 - 8:01 AM | @ 0 | Report a Typo or Correction

# Harvest festival crops up at community orchard

Last year's inaugural harvest festival saw about 400 people come to a small community orchard run by volunteers located in a public park across from Eglinton West subway station.

Organizers are hoping for similar success at the second annual event taking place Thursday, Sept. 22 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Ben Nobleman Park Community Orchard.

"We're very, very excited about it this year," said Suzanne Hartmann of Growing for Green, a volunteer ecogardening group that founded the orchard in 2009. "We want to bring people together so we know who are neighbours are."

The festival last year had special guests including Garden Jane to entertain the kids and groups like Not Far From The Tree demonstrating how to press cider.

They are both back this year along with members of Classical Martial Arts performing a martial arts demo as well as the Toronto Beekeepers Cooperative bringing its demo hive filled with real bees.

Free fruit and snacks will also be provided with fun children's activities planned and a chance to win prizes donated by members of the local Upper Village Business Improvement Area.

"The loonie raffle is new this year," Hartmann added.

Proceeds raised will go to supporting the volunteer-run orchard, which currently has 14 trees growing such organic fruit as pears, apricots, plums and cherries.

Growing for Green also uses the funds raised to offer educational programming and fruit tree care workshops throughout the year.

Orchard tours will again be offered at the festival where people can learn how to care for fruit trees organically, said Susan Poizner, co-ordinator for Ben Nobleman Park Community Orchard.

"During these tours we show people where our young fruit trees are, but we also introduce them to some of the basic concepts in fruit tree care, including how to choose a fruit tree, what type of care is involved in the first few years, and when they will be able to expect a harvest," said Poizner. "It was a wonderful day and we hope it will be even better this year."

For more information about the orchard or the upcoming festival, visit www.communityorchard.ca

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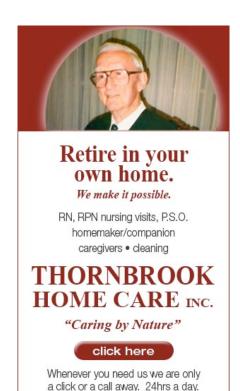
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