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By Kris Scheuer

Gardens make good neighbours



BLOOMIN' GOOD: Garden Green founder Susan Poizner's group teaches people how to garden in an ecologically friendly manner.

shovel in the ground," Poizner said.

She started her own front yard garden just three years ago and has already found it's a natural incentive to talk to residents on her street, near Ava Rd. and Winnett Ave.

"If I have a question about my vegetable garden, I go to my neighbour up the road," she said. "I just think it breaks down barriers."

The group's focus is finding ecological ways to garden, such as using native plants, less water and solar-powered or LED lights.

Susan Poizner's home overlooks Cedarvale Park, so it's not surprising the local resident was inspired to create a group devoted to gardening.

The not-for-profit, dubbed Garden Green, is all about connecting neighbours whether they have a green thumb or not.

"We welcome people who have never touched dirt or never put a

Some of the upcoming initiatives include establishing a local garden tour, plant swap and garden share.

“I will be doing interviews with people about their gardens,” said Poizner, a journalist who’s worked around the world. “We’ll have a photographer take photos of the gardens.”

Poizner is also planning a formal event inviting residents to visit each other’s lawns this summer, and an online virtual garden tour.

The garden sharing idea is in the early stages but would involve matching up apartment dwellers with someone willing to provide a small patch of land for plantings.

Garden Green meets monthly and is holding workshops to educate people on a series of topics.

The next session on April 13 is on Edible Gardening featuring a president by Chris MacLuckie, president of Toronto-based The Greener Side, a partnership of organic growers and landscapers.

A Low-Water Gardening workshop with Jeff McCormick from the city’s water department is planned for May 18.

On June 14, Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests is holding a tree tour in Cedarvale Park that will coincide with the Green Neighbours 21 Strawberry and Asparagus festival.

To find out more go to www.gardengreen.ca.

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