

Vaughan today

August 14,
2009
40,000 copies weekly
ccab verified

www.VaughanToday.ca

Meeting the man in Maple

Our intrepid
daytrippers come
face-to-face with
village's past
Page 8



COURTESY EMILY ROSE ANTFLICK

EYE SPY: Children help look for ladybugs and other beneficial insects at the Kavanah Garden Community Festival Sunday. About 100 people turned out to celebrate the teaching garden's first growing season.

Reaping the rewards

Teaching garden,
planted according to
Mishnah teachings,
bears first fruits

COREY LEWIS
News

A downpour and gloomy clouds threatened to wash away the Kavanah Garden Community Festival on Sunday.

But minutes before the festival

was to begin, the sun decided to smile brightly on Thornhill's Lebovic Jewish Community Campus.

"It was amazing," said garden program director Risa Alyson Strauss. "It poured all morning long and at 12 o'clock, the skies started to clear."

About 100 members of the com-

munity turned out to celebrate both the Kavanah Organic Community Teaching Garden's first growing season and its successful start. Visitors enjoyed garden tours, watched solar oven cooking demonstrations, shopped at an organic farmers' mar-

PRODUCE Page 2

Produce to help needy

Cont. from Page 1

ket and took guided nature tours. There was also music and programs for kids.

"People had a lot of fun," Strauss said. "They were really grateful and they seemed really amazed at how much growth had taken place in such a short period of time."

The garden, which was created in April, was planted and tended according to teachings in the *Mishnah*, the oral Torah. The aim is not only to grow healthy

food but also a healthy community. Produce will be donated to social service organizations to help those in need.

The garden has already yielded a few crops.

"It was really great to be able to show the community," Strauss said. "A lot of them had been out in the early spring to help us dig the garden.

"For them to come and see that we're harvesting squash everyday, . . . it feels really good."

The idea to start the garden



COURTESY EMILY ROSE ANTFLICK

COMMUNITY members learn about herbs growing at the Kavanah Garden and harvest some for making fresh tea Sunday.

blossomed in Connecticut a few years ago, Strauss said. A group of her colleagues had taken

residence at an outdoor education centre. After discovering a number of them hailed from the Toronto area, they discussed their decision to leave the GTA.

"We felt we hadn't found the projects we all wanted to be working on in our home communities," she said. "We started brainstorming what a project would look like that we would all want to move home to contribute our time, energy and skill set.

"That's when we came up with a Jewish educational garden."

Strauss invites anyone interested in learning more about the garden to contact her at 416-805-8382 or risa@torathateva.org.

Bistro96
Wine Bar & Grill

WELCOME TO Bistro96

"Toronto's Best Kept Secret"

LIVE Entertainment Every Thursday Evening For The Summer

416 749 8896 • bistro96.ca • 5025 Steeles Avenue West