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Join in on garden hop tour

BY KIM ZARZOUR

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Seeds for Change, a grassroots community organization supporting the conversion of suburban land into gardens, is planning its first "garden hop" tour of three York Region community gardens.

The tour, which founder Lynne Koss hopes will be the first of many, will provide a chance for gardeners to showcase their crops, exchange ideas and share resources.

"We hope to become a hub and act as a resource for people who are interested in gardening," she said.

As they wander through the three very different gardens — the "Growing to Give" located at Vaughan firehall 7 in Thornhill, the more farmlike Carrville Community Garden at the Waldorf School, and the educational Kavanah Garden at the Lebovic Jewish Community Campus — visitors can see which veggies are peaking, share watering and conservation tips and learn how to find volunteers.

The tour will end with a light dinner.

In partnership with the York Region Environmental Alliance, Seeds for Change is working to create community gardens in condominium complexes, schools and senior residences, along with interfaith gardens.

"We think all arable land in York Region, even the smallest plot, can be used," Ms Koss said.

Gardening can address many problems facing Canadians in the 21st century, she said, including obesity, diabetes, reduced physical outdoor activity, natural deficit disorder, hunger, food security and disappearing agricultural land.

The event takes place July 26 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Donations of \$15 are requested.

A bus will be available to pick up garden visitors at the Promenade Mall, by lot #10 (Bathurst Street entrance).

RSVP to Shauna at shaunak33@gmail.com or 416-833-3361.

If you'd like your garden included on an upcoming tour, contact lynne@seedsforchange.org.