



THE CAPITAL AND VANCOUVER ISLAND

Editor: Stephanie Coombs > Telephone: 250-380-5314 > E-mail: localnews@tc.canwest.com

This is the way a school garden grows



DARREN STONE, TIMES COLONIST

Reynolds Secondary School students have revamped courtyard at their school to accommodate green projects.

Reynolds green effort nets prize

JEFF BELL
Times Colonist

Reynolds Secondary's environmental moxie has helped the school land a solar-power system worth an estimated \$65,000.

After being named one of 23 B.C. schools to earn a B.C. Green Games monetary award, Reynolds won the power system in a random draw of winners. Nanaimo's Dover Bay Secondary and Vancouver's Admiral Seymour Elementary will also receive one of the systems from SolarBC.

Reynolds's good fortune came after it gained the distinction of being the only school to win a pair of

\$2,000 prizes from the Green Games, a program run by Science World B.C. and the Ministry of Education.

Reynolds won awards for its recycling efforts and for a project that has brought gardens, compost bins and other environmentally friendly uses to a school courtyard area.

Kelset Elementary and Royal Oak Middle School also came away with awards on the local front. Kelset received \$2,000 for waste-reduction efforts that included paring the school's garbage output to a single bag over a one-week period, while Royal Oak eared \$2,000 for a video about the

school's recycling and composting programs.

Reynolds principal Alana Charlton said the solar-power system — a series of solar panels — will be an exciting addition to the school. No installation dates have been set.

Also new on the environmental front at Reynolds is a \$16,435 Trees for Tomorrow grant from the Ministry of Community Development.

The grant is for trees and other plants to add to an ongoing "greenspaces" initiative that takes in the courtyard area and a stand of Garry oaks at the front of the school.

"It's just great to see the

recognition and the support coming in," Charlton said.

Environmental efforts at the school are led by students in the Reynolds Green Group, co-ordinated by teacher Heather Coey.

Coey also teaches a course on environmental sustainability.

Like many other schools, Reynolds has a number of activities planned around Earth Day on April 22. One major focus at Reynolds will be moving toward "zero waste," Charlton said.

"During Earth Week and on Earth Day the whole school is going to try to move to all recyclables and no garbage cans."

jwbell@tc.canwest.com