



**Central Okanagan
Public Schools**

Together We Learn

STUDENTS JOIN SENIORS FOR RUTLAND GARDEN PROJECT

Rutland Senior Secondary (RSS) students are working with local seniors to plant the seeds of a brighter future. Members of the RSS Rotary Interact Club spent Friday afternoon alongside local seniors, installing, filling, and planting the raised garden beds they built to make gardening more accessible.

"This project is a perfect model of students being innovators, collaborators, and contributors," said Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO. "By planning an innovative project and collaborating with local seniors on a garden that will contribute to the community, these students demonstrated they are positive citizens who care about their community. They should be proud of their accomplishment – I know I am."

Last fall, the RSS Rotary Interact Club applied for the City of Kelowna's Strong Neighbourhoods Youth Development & Engagement Grant, which assists youth in leading, developing, and implementing projects to improve their communities. The students decided as a group that providing seniors with raised garden boxes was a project that could make a lasting difference in Rutland. Students then attended sessions with the City of Kelowna to ensure a sound proposal and budget.

Moyra Baxter, Board Chairperson, attended the opening of the seniors' garden and noted the commitment of the students and their teacher sponsor, Leah Falkingham. "I was very impressed when I saw the students interacting with the seniors - everyone was enjoying themselves, and the weather cooperated," Baxter said. "The students beautifully demonstrated how reaching out to others enriches the lives of all concerned."

The raised garden beds are installed at Fernbrae Manor and are available to the surrounding community so local seniors can easily attend to their plants. The Morningside Rotary Club and the Ogoopogo Rotary Club sponsor the RSS Rotary Interact Club.

For comments, please contact:

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