



Sooke Region
Food CHI
SOCIETY

Sooke Region Food CHI Society “Sustaining Food Systems”

Annual General Meeting
January 19, 2015

Acknowledgements

We wish to thank our many volunteers, supporters, donors and funders who help us sustain our mission and purposes. Food CHI fosters and supports local food production and access to local foods. Through education, workshops, special events and mentorship we support our farmers, our backyard gardeners, the marketplaces and community gardens. Since 2007 we have formed a number of partnerships and facilitated a collaborative approach engaging many citizens and community organizations to enhance our food economy.

2014 Funders and Donors

CRD Juan de Fuca Electoral Area
District of Sooke
Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF) of B.C.
Parks & Recreation Foundation of Victoria
Sooke Community Arts Council
Rotary Club of Sooke
Sooke Awareness Film Night
Van City
West Coast Seeds

In Kind Support – Sooke Region

ALM Farm	Food CHI Fruit Tree gleaning volunteers
Barking Dog Studio	Glen's Gardening Services
Brendan Dueck Irrigation Services	Jack Most Photography
Butler Brothers	Jasmine Excavating
Camosun College	Jason Childs
Horticulture School	Gordon Telford
Clayton Whitney – orchardist	Marwell Enterprises
Community in Bloom Committee and volunteers – Sooke	Northern Star Plumbing
Double D Gardens	Queesto Community Forests
Edward Milne Community School – Trades Awareness class and Environmental Studies	Seedy Saturday vendors and volunteers
FoodArtAppleFest volunteers and vendors	Sooke Awareness Film Night crew
	Sooke Community Association
	Sooke Backhoe
	Sooke Harbour House
	Sooke Marine Industries
	Reber Creative
	Sooke Home Hardware
	Sooke News Mirror
	Sooke Transition Initiative
	Sooke Voice News
	Sunriver Orchard volunteers – toolshed & root cellar

Grow a Row Harvest



Food Art Apple Fest



Apple Shack



Sunriver Community Garden volunteers
Sunriver Healing Gardens – Hilary and Glyse
Three Sisters Farm
VIHA Integrated Health Network volunteers
Wittich Cherry Lane stables and Sooke Disposal

Communities in Bloom



Pia Carroll was one of the founding members of Food CHI. She continued to volunteer and mentor us and organized this year's Communities in Bloom lunch. We miss you Pia.

Sooke Region Food CHI Society

Who are we and what do we do?

Established in 2007, we are a registered society and voluntary non-profit organization, with over 300 members representing our different rural communities of the Sooke region ... from Port Renfrew to Jordan River, Shirley, Otter Point, Sooke District and East Sooke, a population of approximately 15,000.

Our activities include:

- promoting the local food movement through events and programs e.g. Seedy Saturday, Apple Fest and a presence at community events and fairs
- supporting and mentoring new farmers
- promoting the conservation of farm lands and agricultural planning
- promoting farming as a viable economic activity
- organizing farm and local food events
- sponsoring community gardens
- supporting a community orchard
- fruit tree gleanings project and food recovery
- producing food to distribute to the hungry
- participating in development of food policies with local government
- supporting slow food and our regional cuisine

Sooke Food CHI Board Highlights

Over this past year Food CHI launched the *Value Our Food* Campaign. The campaign focused on increasing our residents' preference for local food products.

Our funding enabled us to have several short term contractors responsible for components of the campaign. Their diversity of skills enabled us to have a broader reach throughout the campaign's development and implementation. Thanks to Erika, Kay, Britton, Mara, Fiona and Zach and our members who provided over 500 hours of volunteer time. The Value Our Food program will continue as funds and volunteers are available.

In November 2014, Sooke Food CHI finalized the Society's *Strategic Plan 2020* thanks to the input from its members throughout the process. This Plan will act as a road map to implement priorities, programs and projects, ensure adequate funding and sustain our Society.

I invite you to become involved in Food CHI's activities – there is something for everyone! You can view our annual plan on the website – www.sookefoodchi.ca
The following pages demonstrate our members' activities and projects.

Thank you to the many people who have donated time, energy and resources. You help to make Food CHI's activities successful and our community so livable.

Anita Wasiuta, president, Sooke Region Food CHI Society



Food CHI Board of Directors – 2013/2014

Officers

President – Anita Wasiuta
Vice President – Phoebe Dunbar
Treasurer – Mark Batten
Secretary – Keeley Nixon

Directors

Darrel McLeod
Mary Alice Johnson
Emily Moreland

Standing Committees

Sunriver Allotment Garden Council

Special Event Committees

Seedy Saturday
Farm Tour (biannual)
Thanksgiving Harvest Lunch 2013
Communities in Bloom 2014
Food Art Apple Fest 2014
Sunriver Community Garden Events

Part-time contractors supporting Food CHI initiatives and programs

Value Our Food, Farmer and Community Campaign:
• Erika Rolston – campaign research coordinator

- Kay Lovett – videographer
- Britt Jacobs-Schram – workshops and vignettes coordinator
- Zach Ogilvie – webpage rebuild
- Mara Morrison – public engagement
- Fiona Morgan – advertising

Paula McCormick – Grow A Row Coordinator

Erin Newell – Harvest Coordinator – Sunriver Community Gardens, Grow A Row

Highlights

Value Our Food-Farmer-Community Campaign – ongoing

This campaign successfully developed a concerted program of education, marketing and farmer support to increase local food awareness. Erika was instrumental in securing additional funding and building the campaign. Highlights include:

Telling the Story

Kay created 16 vignettes to tell the story of individual food producers and their work. The vignettes feature a collection of food producers, established farmers, seaweed harvester, novice farmers and a cooperative group who has just purchased land to farm. Zach developed a new web section that provides a full page of information on each of our 33 local food producers. Fiona assisted with print advertising.

Engaging the Public

Armed with a pop-up banner and a friendly grassroots booth, Mara attended over 20 events between April and September 2014 and spoke to over 1000 people. She offered a fun carrot 'taste challenge' and distributed promotional magnets and the Food and Farm Guide.

Food Producer Education

From our food producers' feedback, Britton staggered three workshops from February to April that focused on improving farmers' business skills. Attendance saw 120 people over the three workshops.

Finding Your Niche Workshop – February 12, 2014

A great workshop on crop planning and the changing demand for local food products from one of the country's most inspiring organic farmers, Dan Brisebois.

Strengthening Local Farms Workshop – March 15, 2014

Cowichan Green Community's Executive Director Judy Stafford and Food Security Coordinator Vanessa Goodall explored what collective actions Sooke can take to strengthen its farms and increase food security.

Value Your Farmer Forum – April 22, 2014

Agrologist, organic farmer and food security activist Arzeena Hamir (Amara Farm) and organic farmer Moss Dance (Ripple Farm) discussed how a community can support regional farmers and what farmers can do as a group to support one another.

Seedy Saturday – February 22, 2014

Every February, on the last Saturday of the month, Sooke Food CHI puts on Sooke's very own Seedy Saturday in the historical funky, wooden community hall, downtown Sooke. This event was our 5th Seedy Saturday, supported by our volunteers. This is an event that brings many folks, farmers, gardeners, vendors and foodie "wannabees" together. It's our kick off to the temperate west coast growing season, enjoyed by all ages. Over 50 vendors participated in the 2014 event.



Strengthening Local Farms Workshop



Sooke Fall Fair event



Value Your Farm Forum



Sooke Fine Arts Show Taste of Sooke



Seedy Saturday 2014



Preserving Farmland: Farming & Film Gala Evening March 6, 2014

Co-sponsored with Awareness Film Night, this well-attended film night at EMCS, featured three short films; "Hands Off the ALR Townhall Meeting" "Growing Farmers" and "Hands in the Dirt." Post screening discussion with Kimi and Kareno, featured in "Hands in the Dirt," Nathalie Chambers of the Farmland Protection Coalition and members of the newly formed Sooke Region Farmland Trust. Gala also included local farm vendors and food producers selling produce and seeds, and Sooke Food CHI promoting its programs and activities.

Food Art Apple Fest – September 28, 2014

Our first annual food art exhibition and sale. Beautiful art, food vendors, delicious products and a pie auction. Local art exhibitors presented art inspired by Sooke's food bounty, displayed at the SRG Apple Shack Learning Centre. Well over 500 participated in this festive event.

Sunriver Community Gardens – Phillips Road

Sponsored by Sooke Food CHI in partnership with the District of Sooke

In partnership with many and support from hundreds we enjoyed our 5th year at this 2.5 acre site that produces such bountiful harvests, and engages families and volunteers of all ages.

The community garden has 10 main features:

- 90 allotment plots
- 10 special raised beds
- Sooke Children's Garden Club beds and NEW clubhouse
- Community food growing plots and greenhouse, grow a row program, harvest shed facility
- Community Heritage Orchard, Apple Shack learning centre, new root cellar, new tool shed
- Native wetlands garden and pond
- Healing Garden
- Social gathering picnic areas – all weather gazebo, cob oven, fire pits, kids play areas
- Common spaces for all user groups – tool, wood and storage sheds
- Soil building and compost areas

This past year saw many successes at the gardens:

- Involvement and participation of over 100 students, spring 2014, from Edward Milne Community School
- Visitation and work parties by Camosun's Horticulture class to assist in the native and food producing gardens
- new allotment garden council formed
- a volunteer-produced garden newsletter
- grow a row's food harvest and distribution (over 3000 lbs.) to Sooke's key helping agencies, March to November
- completion of the medicine wheel healing garden
- installation of a most innovative designed above-ground orchard root cellar
- construction of a hand-split cedar siding orchard tool shed by EMCS students
- hosting of the Community in Bloom garden lunch, over 80 guests & volunteers, July
- creation of a new kids sand box, 20' x 20', over 10 yards of sand with a centrepiece stump from the Jordan River forest lands.

Awareness Film Night



Apple Fest



New Harvest Shed



Skookum Kids' Sand Box



Communities in Bloom Lunch



**SOOKE REGION FOOD CHI SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET**

as at August 31, 2014

	Food CHI General Fund	Projects Program Fund	Sunriver Community Garden Fund	Total
Current Assets				
Petty Cash	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Coast Capital Chequing	4,072.20	1,113.94	6,285.43	11,471.57
Coast Capital Shares	5.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
Vancity Chequing	0.00	0.00	4.32	4.32
Vancity Shares	0.00	0.00	21.43	21.43
Grants Receivable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mountain Equipment Co-op Shares	5.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
GST Recoverable (prior years)	253.30	96.49	796.29	1,146.08
	4,335.50	1,210.43	7,107.47	12,653.40
Investments				
Irrigation System			3,877.31	3,877.31
Equipment			400.00	400.00
Fence/Gates/Signs			7,055.00	7,055.00
Shed			2,317.20	2,317.20
Gazebo			13,401.65	13,401.65
Outhouse			1,310.23	1,310.23
Greenhouse			2,604.00	2,604.00
Shed			3,300.00	3,300.00
Apple Shack			2,467.69	2,467.69
Harvest Shed			750.38	750.38
Accumulated Amortization			-12,044.57	-12,044.57
	0.00	0.00	25,438.89	25,438.89
Total Assets	4,335.50	1,210.43	32,546.36	38,092.29
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	0.00	0.00	644.88	644.88
			644.88	644.88
Deferred Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fund Balances				
Externally Restricted Funds				0.00
Invested in Capital Assets			25,438.89	25,438.89
Unrestricted Funds	4,335.50	1,210.43	6,462.59	12,008.52
	4,335.50	1,210.43	31,901.48	37,447.41
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	4,335.50	1,210.43	32,546.36	38,092.29

Thank you to our 2014 funding partners

District of Sooke, CRD Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, Parks & Recreation Foundation of Victoria, Rotary Club of Sooke, Van City, Sooke Community Arts Council, Sooke Awareness Film Night and funding support provided, in part, by the BC Government's Buy Local Program; delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC with funding from the BC Ministry of Agriculture.

**SOOKE REGION FOOD CHI SOCIETY
INCOME STATEMENT**

For the Period Ending August 31, 2014

	Food Chi General Fund	Projects Program Fund	Sunriver Community Garden Fund	Total
Revenues				
Sales	110.00	0.00	0.00	110.00
Grants	0.00	700.00	13,100.00	13,800.00
Memberships/Fees	480.48	0.00	0.00	480.48
Events	0.00	425.00	231.40	656.40
Plot Fees	0.00	0.00	4,080.00	4,080.00
Donations	0.00	1,231.83	521.77	1,753.60
Interest	9.78	0.00	0.00	9.78
Seedy Saturday	0.00	3,859.22	0.00	3,859.22
Farm Tour/Harvest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Farmer 2 Farmer	0.00	693.10	0.00	693.10
Total Revenues	600.26	6,909.15	17,933.17	25,442.58
Expenses				
Food CHI Administration	1,899.68	0.00	0.00	1,899.68
Food Systems, Coordination Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Food Systems, Farmer to Farmer	0.00	15,188.30	0.00	15,188.30
Food Systems, Food Guide	0.00	698.98	0.00	698.98
Food Systems, Gleaning	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Events – Annual	0.00	725.26	0.00	725.26
Events – General	0.00	463.01	0.00	463.01
Events – Seedy Saturday	0.00	1,122.01	0.00	1,122.01
Sunriver Gardens	0.00	0.00	20,243.08	20,243.08
Amortization	0.00	0.00	2,618.40	2,618.40
Total Expenses	1,899.68	18,197.56	22,861.48	42,958.72
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	-1,299.42	-11,288.41	-4,928.31	-17,516.14
Fund Balances, August 31, 2013	7,431.62	12,342.36	30,469.70	50,243.68
Fund Balances, August 31, 2014	6,132.20	1,053.95	25,541.39	32,727.54

Investments in Capital Assets

	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	2013 Net Book Value
Irrigation System	3,877.31	1,300.05	2,577.26
Equipment	400.00	176.93	223.07
Fence/Gates/Signs	7,055.00	2,657.65	4,397.35
Shed	3,117.20	872.90	2,244.30
Gazebo	13,401.65	5,048.47	8,353.18
Outhouse	1,310.23	493.56	816.67
Greenhouse	2,604.00	488.90	2,115.10
Shed	2,245.66	356.56	1,889.10
Apple Shack	2,467.69	357.69	2,110.00
Harvest Shed	750.38	37.51	712.87
	37,229.12	11,790.22	25,438.90

