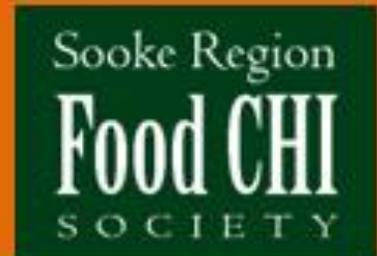




**Sooke Region Food CHI Society
“Sustaining Food Security”**

**Annual General Meeting
May 26, 2021**



Acknowledgements

This past year, 2020—our 14th year of Sooke Food CHI's voluntary organization programs—was both rewarding and challenging due to the pandemic. We want to thank our many volunteers, supporters, members, donors, and funders who helped us sustain our mission and purposes.

Food CHI fosters and supports local food production and access to local foods. We support our farmers, backyard gardeners, the marketplaces and community gardens. We do this through education, workshops, special events and mentorship. Since 2007 we have formed a number of partnerships and facilitated a collaborative approach, engaging many citizens and community organizations to enhance our regional food shed and local economy.

2020 Funders and Donors

- District of Sooke
- Food Eco District
- Jill Marchand
- Judy Fries
- Lori & Gary Kirk
- Mark Ziegler
- Patricia Morgan
- Peter Hendricks
- Reber Creative
- Rosie Sole
- Rotary Club of Sooke
- Sooke Garden Club
- Sooke Soil Landscaping
- Transition Sooke

In Kind Support – Sooke Region

- ALM Farm
- Brendan Dueck Irrigation Services
- Camosun College, Horticulture School
- Cast Iron Farm
- Cherry Lane Equine
- District of Sooke
- Food CHI Fruit Tree gleaning volunteers
- Glen's Gardening Services
- Herbal Tea Station
- Reber Creative
- Seedy Saturday vendors and volunteers
- Sooke Backhoe Services Ltd.
- Sooke Community Association
- Sooke Disposal
- Sooke Fall Fair Association
- Sooke Food Bank
- Sooke Home Hardware
- Sooke News Mirror
- Sooke Pocket News
- Sooke Region Museum
- Sunriver Community Garden volunteers
- Sunriver Community Orchard volunteers
- Transition Sooke
- Village Food Market
- Western Foods

Front Cover: Sooke Backyard Gardens Volunteers and Donors L-R

Anita Wasiuta, Sooke Food CHI; Sam Purdy, Rotary Club of Sooke; Robin Zabloski, Sooke Garden Club; Mark Ziegler, Rotary Club of Sooke; Stephen Hendricks, Transition Sooke



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 16,000.

Our activities include:

- Promoting the local food movement through events and programs
- Supporting and mentoring new farmers
- Promoting the conservation of farm lands and agricultural planning
- Promoting farming as a viable economic activity
- Organizing local food events
- Sponsoring community gardens
- Supporting a community orchard
- Participating in development of food policies with local governments

Sooke Region Food CHI Board Highlights

This year was both rewarding and challenging due to the pandemic. Our annual Seedy Saturday was successful with over 1200 attendees and vendors attending. Two weeks later the province was in lock-down.

Food CHI's 13th Annual Farm & Film Gala and the September Apple Festival were canceled. The fall Fruit Tree Gleaning Program received a number of interested volunteers to pick, but few tree owners participated. We were able to keep the Sunriver Community Garden and Orchard open to plot holders and vital volunteers for growing food during the pandemic restrictions.

On the rewarding side in March, Sooke Food CHI, Transition Sooke and Sooke Garden Club partnered with [My Fed Farm](#) to provide garden kits to Sooke residents facing barriers to healthy, affordable food due to the pandemic. Thanks to our donors, the Sooke team was able to provide 39 households with the garden kits including grow bags, soil, seeds and seedlings. Special thanks to our volunteers who grew seedlings, delivered the kits and mentored the recipients in how to grow food. This program was rewarding for all.

The SCG Allotment Council applied for society status in the fall of 2020 and received the approval in December 2020. Beginning in 2021, the new [Sunriver Community Gardens Society](#) will manage the southern part of the gardens, including the allotment gardens, community space and the parking lot. Food CHI will continue to sponsor the Community Orchard and the wildlife corridors beyond the perimeter fencing.

Food CHI welcomes the new society and we look forward to working together to demonstrate food security.

Thank you to the many people who have donated time, energy and resources to support food security in 2020.

Anita Wasiuta, president, Sooke Region Food CHI Society

Food CHI Board of Directors – 2020

Officers

President – Anita Wasiuta
Vice-President – Ellen Lewers*
Treasurer – Jessica Prieto*
Secretary – Bradley Hedberg

Directors

Martin Bissig
Gerard LeBlanc
Steven Hendricks
Ashley Currie
Robin Zabloski
Ex Officio: Jill Hickson

Part-time contractors supporting Food CHI initiatives and programs

- Marika Nagasaka – 2020 Seedy Saturday Vendor Coordinator
- Mike McEwan – lawn maintenance for Sunriver Community Gardens and Community Orchard

Standing Committees

Sunriver Allotment Garden Council

Special Event Committees

Sooke Seedy Saturday

* position started Jan 2021

Highlights 2020



Sooke Seedy Saturday – February 29, 2020

Every February, on the last Saturday of the month, Sooke Food CHI puts on Sooke's very own Seedy Saturday in the historic 1937-built, wooden Sooke Community Hall. This event was our 11th Seedy Saturday, thanks to our many volunteers including the EMCS students and the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets Corps. This family-friendly event brings many folks, farmers, gardeners, vendors and 'wannabe' gardeners together. It's our kick off to the temperate west coast growing season, and is enjoyed by all ages. We had a cool day with over 1200 people and over 30 vendors. Thanks to [Sooke Fall Fair](#) volunteers who offered a tasty lunch.



"Sooke Backyard Gardening" – March-June 2020

In March 2020, a local program was launched to ease the related food security concerns for households in the Sooke Region related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Three community organizations' volunteers (the Sooke Region Food CHI Society, Transition Sooke, and the Sooke Garden Club) partnered with the [Food ECO District](#) (FED) of Greater Victoria to create the Sooke Region Backyard Garden Project. The project supported individuals, families and laid-off workers during the pandemic by providing fresh produce through home-based, start-up gardens.

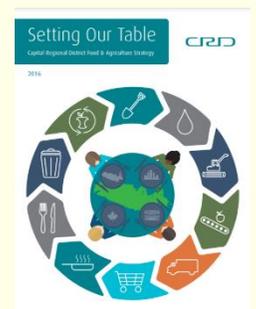


The project involved the delivery of 120 durable planter grow bags to participating households. These bags were filled with donated premium soil, together with free seeds and starter plants. Advice and encouragement from local volunteer experts helped new gardeners get started.

Donations from local businesses, individual residents, the Rotary Club of Sooke, Transition Sooke, and Sooke Soil & Landscape Ltd., contributed to the success of this initiative. The number of households benefiting from the program was 39, exceeding the original goal of 20 households.

CRD Regional Food & Agriculture Task Force – 2020

Gerard LeBlanc is the Sooke Region Food CHI representative on the CRD Regional Food & Agriculture Task Force (RFATF). The Task Force identified and ranked over 40 priority items to focus on initiating a *Food and Farmland Trust* and preparing a related business case; water conversation; advocate for a CRD agricultural extension officer; and wildlife management. This Task Force was established subsequent to the CRD document *Setting the Table: Capital Regional District Food & Agricultural Strategy*.



Recent initiatives include:

- Kwantlen Polytechnical University was contracted to complete the Foodland Trust business case. Gerard sits on the Working Committee to see the business case to its completion.
- The Task Force is participating in the Vancouver Island Agricultural Climate Adaptation Strategy and will include consideration of actions to mitigate climate change on Vancouver Island agriculture.
- The RFATF helped prepare an Agricultural Land Use Inventory/Water Demand Model.
- The RFATF provided the CRD Board with a Problem Wildlife Update – Geese/Deer: A focus on the deer crop-foraging issue was presented but no action has been taken on the issue. A report on crop-predating geese, coordinated by CRD Environmental Services, will be coming forward to the CRD Board at a future date.

Sunriver Community Gardens – 2380 Phillips Road, Sooke

In 2009 the District of Sooke asked Food CHI to develop the Sunriver Allotment garden, a 2.5 acres site, part of the old Phillips Farm. Starting in February 2010, work began to install roadways, drainage ditches, paths, irrigation, deer fencing, gates, tool shed, a parking lot and eventually turn the sod under and till the field. By early May close to 65 plots had been assigned and summer gardens were planted.

Thanks to the community support, keen volunteers and volunteer leaders, we continue to sustain and care for this special 2.5-acre garden with main features:

- Over 90 allotment plots, including 12 special raised beds
- Community food growing plots and greenhouse, Grow A Row program, harvest shed facility
- Social gathering picnic areas: all-weather gazebo, cob oven, kids play areas
- Sooke Children's Garden Club beds and clubhouse

The Sunriver Community Orchard

The Community Orchard managed by Glen Thelin with a strong group of volunteers includes:

- Various fruit trees, including many heritage types
- Apple shack learning centre
- Orchard tool shed
- Garden & root cellar
- Native wetlands garden and pond



Sunriver Community Garden and Community Orchard

Apple Festival 2015

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2020

Sooke Region Food CHI Society - Balance Sheet

BALANCE SHEET as at December 31, 2020

	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 100	23,236.20			23,236.20
Coast Capital Shares	5.00			5.00
Allotment Chequing Coast Capital 102	0.00			0.00
Orchard Chequing Coast Capital 103	0.00			0.00
Sk Food Chi Savings Coast Capital 101	0.00			0.00
Vancity Chequing		0.00		0.00
Vancity Shares			26.30	26.30
Mountain Equipment Co-op Shares	5.00			5.00
	<u>23,246.20</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>26.30</u>	<u>23,272.50</u>
Grants Receivable				0.00
Accounts Receivable				<u>0.00</u>
	<u>23,246.20</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>26.30</u>	<u>23,272.50</u>
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
Green house			2,604.00	2,604.00
Shed			3,031.09	3,031.09
Apple Shack			2,467.69	2,467.69
Harvest Shed			750.38	750.38
KW Off-grid Solar PV			1,960.18	1,960.18
Amer Harvester Cider Press			1,802.51	1,802.51
Accumulated Amortization			-24,242.50	-24,242.50
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>16,734.74</u>	<u>16,734.74</u>
Total Assets	<u>23,246.20</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>16,761.04</u>	<u>40,007.24</u>
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable			0.00	0.00
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Deferred Revenue	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Fund Balances				
Externally Restricted Funds				0.00
Invested in Capital Assets			16,734.74	16,734.74
Unrestricted Funds	23,246.20	0.00	26.30	23,272.50
	<u>23,246.20</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>16,761.04</u>	<u>40,007.24</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>23,246.20</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>16,761.04</u>	<u>40,007.24</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2020

Sooke Region Food CHI Society – Income Statement

INCOME STATEMENT
For the Period Ending
December 31, 2020

	Food Chi General Fund	Projects Program Fund	Sunriver Community Garden Fund	Total
Revenues				
Miscellaneous		89.25	70.00	159.25
Grow a Row/Orchard				0.00
Memberships/Fees				0.00
FED Sooke, backyard garden			3,348.50	3,348.50
Allotment Gardens Plot Fees				0.00
Donations				0.00
Interest	22.68			22.68
Seedy Saturday		3,340.51		3,340.51
Orchard				0.00
Farm Tour/Harvest				0.00
Farmer 2 Farmer Grant				0.00
Apple Fest				0.00
Total Revenues	<u>22.68</u>	<u>3,429.76</u>	<u>3,418.50</u>	<u>6,870.94</u>
Expenses				
Food CHI Administration	1,111.32			1,111.32
Food Systems, Farmer to Farmer				0.00
Food Systems, Food Guide				0.00
FED Sooke, backyard garden			1,410.06	1,410.06
Events - Annual - Apple Fest				0.00
Events - Farm Tour				0.00
Events - General				0.00
Events - Seedy Saturday		771.54		771.54
Sunriver Gardens			3,829.72	3,829.72
Grow A Row				0.00
Orchard			1,371.92	1,371.92
Other SRCG				0.00
Amortization Expense				0.00
Total Expenses	<u>1,111.32</u>	<u>771.54</u>	<u>6,611.70</u>	<u>8,494.56</u>
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	<u>-1,088.64</u>	<u>2,658.22</u>	<u>-3,193.20</u>	<u>-1,623.62</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2020

Sooke Region Food CHI Society – Investment in Capital Assets

Investments in Capital Assets	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	2020 Net Book Value
Irrigation System	3877.31	2143.17	1734.14
Equipment	400.00	337.93	62.07
Fence/Gates/Signs	7055.00	4458.26	2596.74
Shed	2317.20	1464.37	852.83
Gazebo	13401.65	8469.51	4932.14
Outhouse	1310.23	827.88	482.35
Green house	2604.00	1354.79	1249.21
Shed	3031.09	1443.36	1587.73
Apple Shack	2467.69	1221.83	1245.86
Harvest Shed	750.38	329.65	420.73
KW Off-grid Solar PV	1960.18	1776.40	183.78
Amer Harvester Cider Press	1802.51	415.38	1387.13
	<u>40977.24</u>	<u>23827.15</u>	<u>16734.71</u>

Sooke Region Food CHI Board Comments For Calendar Year: January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

Sooke Region Food CHI Society board Comments:

1. Sooke Region Food CHI Society functions on a calendar year from January 1 to December 31. The reporting was changed from a fiscal year in 2018 to a calendar year.
2. The Balance Sheet shows "Unrestricted." The majority of our funds are targeted project/program funds (example, Community Orchard, events).
3. The Sunriver Community Garden Fund shown on the Income Statement as expenses includes expenses for the Allotment Gardens, Community Orchard, along with minor expenses for the Sunriver Community Garden proper.
4. At the end of the 2020 year there was a stale dated cheque there the recipient could not be located, as well as an outstanding cheque of \$80.00. Food CHI did not receive an invoice for the rental of the community hall for the 2020 Seedy Saturday and Food CHI anticipates the transaction to be completed in 2021, approximately \$500.00.

These statements were prepared for Sooke Region Food CHI by Nel Burger, Sooke Fax & Copy Centre and reviewed by Board members.