



Sooke Region Food CHI Society
“Sustaining Food Systems”

Sooke Region
Food CHI
SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting
February 5, 2014

Acknowledgements

Sooke Region Food CHI's efforts to strengthen our region's food security are making a difference. For nearly seven years we have formed and nurtured many partnerships that have helped us to increase food production and access to locally grown foods in our area. We wish to thank our many volunteers who help us with our mission and purposes. Without our members, volunteers, supportive local government (District of Sooke and CRD Juan de Fuca Electoral Area), and our funders and sponsors there would simply be no Food CHI. We thank you.

2013 Funders and Donors

District of Sooke
CRD Juan de Fuca Regional Area
Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF) of B.C.
EPCOR
Glen's Gardening Services
John S. Brock
Kludahk Outdoors Club, Lily Walks
Sooke Cultural Alliance
Sooke Garden Club
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

In Kind Support – Sooke Region

AK Farm
Amelia Shaw Consulting
Camosun Horticulture School
Cherry Lane Equine and Alpine Disposal
Clayton Whitney, orchardist
Community in Bloom Committee – Sooke
CRD Water Services Branch
Double D Gardens
Edward Milne Community School
Farm Tour farms and volunteers
Glen's Gardening Services
Jasmine Excavating
Journey Middle School
Numa Nursery
Reber Creative
Seedy Saturday vendors
Sooke Awareness Film Night crew
Sooke Harbour House
Sooke Marine Industries
Sooke Home Hardware
Sooke News Mirror
Sooke Voice News
Sunriver Community Gardens Apple Shack carpenters – Maywell, Mike, Lou, Glen, Bob
Sunriver Community Gardens volunteers
Sunriver Community Gardens Healing Gardens – Hilary and Glyse
Transition Sooke
Victoria Grow a Row
VIHA Integrated Health Network volunteers
Westburne Nursery



Apple Shack Learning Centre



EPCOR cheque presentation March 2013

Cover photo: Volunteers creating new plots at Sunriver Community Gardens

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 over 15,000.

Our activities include:

- promoting the local food movement through events and programs e.g. Seedy Saturday, 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 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

In November 2013, the Sooke Region Food CHI Board began developing the Society's 2014–2016 Action Plan. This Plan will act as a road map to implement priorities, programs and projects, ensure adequate funding and sustain our Society.

The initial stakeholder workshop, facilitated by Amelia Shaw, identified six priorities to be considered by the members for the next three years. Members were asked to rate the priorities and to provide comments and offer suggestions for the Plan. The Board will use our members' feedback along with our ongoing activities to finalize the three-year action plan.

I invite you to become involved in Food CHI's activities. If you like to get things done – Food CHI is for you. The following pages demonstrate our activities and projects.

To the many people who have donated time, energy and resources, thank you for helping 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 – 2012/2013

Officers

President – Anita Wasiuta

Vice President – Phoebe Dunbar

Treasurer – Mark Batten

Secretary – Keeley Nixon

Directors

Jessica Boquist

Mary Alice Johnson

Darrel McLeod

Standing Committees

Farmer Advisory Committee

Sunriver Community Gardens Site Group

Special Event Committees

Farm Tour

Seedy Saturday

Part-time contractors supporting Food CHI initiatives and programs

Erika Rolston – Buy Local Coordinator

Paula McCormick – Grow A Row Coordinator



Initial Stakeholder Workshop November 2013

Highlights

Seedy Saturday – February 23, 2013

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 4th Seedy Saturday, supported by our volunteers led by Jessica Boquist. 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 2013 event.



Seedy Saturday 2013

Outstanding in Her Field: film night with Awareness Video – March 6, 2013

This well-attended film night at EMCS, featured local farm vendors and food producers selling produce and seeds, and Sooke Food CHI promoting its programs and activities. Following the film, there was a panel discussion with Sooke area women farmers.



Farm Tour 2013

Farm Tour – August 18, 2013

This year welcomed back Farm Tour, our third event of its kind raising awareness of our productive farms in the Sooke region. This tour was offered as the "working tour" with nine farms open to the public throughout the day. This was an inspiring day with close to 200 people taking part. The day was successful once again because of our incredible volunteers, planning committee (Keeley Nixon, Jeff Bateman, Kara Middleton, Kandace Kerr) our generous farmers and eager-to-learn public.

Sooke Region "Know Your Farmer" Campaign – ongoing

This campaign strives to develop a concerted program of education, marketing and farmer support to increase the market share held by local farmers. Activities of the campaign include implementing a consumer education campaign as well as hosting multiple workshops for local farmers to assist them in business development. This two-part campaign began development in November 2013 and will deliver workshops and the awareness campaign through spring 2014.



Harvesting

Events

Community in Bloom – July 19, 2013

The provincial Community in Bloom visitation to Sooke included a garden lunch for community leaders, visiting judges and volunteers. The event was hosted by Sooke Region Food CHI and the District of Sooke at the Sunriver Community Gardens.

EPCOR cheque presentation – March 27, 2013

In recognition for EPCOR's generous funding for Sunriver Community Gardens site improvements a wonderful tea and tree planting ceremony was held. Thanks to the EMCS culinary arts students for preparing the tasty treats.



Tree Planting

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 4th 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:

- 80 allotment plots
- 10 special raised beds
- Sooke Children's Garden Club beds
- Community food growing plots and greenhouse, grow a row program
- Community Heritage Orchard and Apple Shack Learning Centre
- 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:

- creation of a new pod of 12 allotment plots
- new allotment garden council formed
- a volunteer produced monthly garden newsletter
- grow a row's food harvest and distribution (over 3000 lbs.) to Sooke's key helping agencies
- establishment of native plants and habitat in the wetland gardens
- installation of a new all-weather lane access to the orchard and building of the Apple Shack Learning Centre
- completion of a drainage system for allotment garden and orchard
- grading of the orchard for future tree planting
- creation of a new community food area for 2014
- production of excellent composts and enhanced soils
- the development of a unique medicine wheel community healing garden



Volunteers pouring foundation for Apple Shack



Harvesting for the Sooke Food Bank



Healing garden



Native wetland



Family gardening at Sunriver Community Gardens

**SOOKE REGION FOOD CHI SOCIETY
INCOME STATEMENT**

For the Period Ending August 31, 2013

	Food Chi General Fund	Projects Program Fund	Sunriver Community Garden Fund	Total
Revenues				
Sales	238.50	0.00	0.00	238.50
Grants	0.00	9,300.00	16,600.00	25,900.00
Memberships/Fees	356.00	0.00	0.00	356.00
Events	0.00	423.25	0.00	423.25
Plot Fees	0.00	0.00	3,850.00	3,850.00
Donations	3,080.65	0.00	0.00	3,080.65
Interest	9.34	0.00	0.00	9.34
Seedy Saturday	0.00	3,647.00	0.00	3,647.00
Farm Tour/Harvest	0.00	4,625.75	0.00	4,625.75
Other Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Revenues	3,684.49	17,996.00	20,450.00	42,130.49
Expenses				
Food CHI Administration	3,123.85	0.00	0.00	3,123.85
Food Systems, Coordination Grant	0.00	1,139.26	0.00	1,139.26
Food Systems, Farmer to Farmer	0.00	1,224.06	0.00	1,224.06
Food Systems, Food Guide	0.00	860.18	0.00	860.18
Food Systems, Gleaning	0.00	1,226.64	0.00	1,226.64
Events – Annual	0.00	3,354.92	0.00	3,354.92
Events – General	0.00	1,938.36	0.00	1,938.36
Events – Seedy Saturday	0.00	1,667.38	0.00	1,667.38
Sunriver Gardens	0.00	0.00	32,329.03	32,329.03
Amortization	0.00	0.00	2,545.34	2,545.34
Total Expenses	3,123.85	11,410.80	34,874.37	49,409.02
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	560.64	6,585.20	-14,424.37	-7,278.53
Fund Balances, Aug 31, 2012	6,870.98	5,757.16	44,894.07	57,522.21
Fund Balances, August 31, 2013	7,431.62	12,342.36	30,469.70	50,243.68

Thank you to our funding partners

**District of Sooke, EPCOR, TD Friends of the Environment, CRD Juan de Fuca Electoral Area,
Tree Canada, Kludahk, VanCity**

**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
BALANCE SHEET
as at August 31, 2013

	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	5,371.62	12,402.35	8,595.34	26,369.31
Coast Capital Shares	5.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
Vancity Chequing	0.00	0.00	4.30	4.30
Vancity Shares	0.00	0.00	20.00	20.00
Grants Receivable	0.00	0.00	2,600.00	2,600.00
Mountain Equipment Co-op Shares	5.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
GST Recoverable (prior years)	613.38	97.06	1,561.02	2,271.46
	5,995.00	12,499.41	12,780.66	31,275.07
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			2,500.00	2,500.00
Apple Shack			2,467.69	2,467.69
Accumulated Amortization			-9,426.17	-9,426.17
	0.00	0.00	26,506.91	26,506.91
Total Assets	5,995.00	12,499.41	39,287.57	57,781.98
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	0.00	0.00	3,337.65	3,337.65
			3,337.65	3,337.65
Deferred Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fund Balances				
Externally Restricted Funds				0.00
Invested in Capital Assets			26,506.91	26,506.91
Unrestricted Funds	5,995.00	12,499.41	9,443.01	27,937.42
	5,995.00	12,499.41	35,949.92	54,444.33
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	5,995.00	12,499.41	39,287.57	57,781.98

SOOKAPALOOZA
Music and beach
dodgeball at the 17
Mile on July 27.
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SOOKE SILVER
The Sooke Manx
icks came horn
with silver.
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Agreement
#40110841

Wednesday, JULY 24, 2013

Black Press
COMMUNITY NEWS MEDIA

Sooke is a community in



SOOKE NEWS MIRROR - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2013

Food giving and food growing are at the core of our exist



Helping to fill the boxes for the Christmas Bureau this year are Kim Sylvester, front, Maggie Vause, back left, for the Sooke Harbourside Lions and Acting Chair for the Christmas Bureau Sharon Johnson. The Christmas Bureau is looking to raise \$25,000 for the less fortunate in the Sooke community. Kim Sylvester said local residents have been very generous in past years.

Erin Rolston, coordinator for Sooke Region F promotes the Get to Know Your Farmer camp November 22 in front of Western Foods. The minute survey is still available at sookero through a text link at the bottom left hand of the page. Or, you can go directly to the s: fuidisurveys.com/sooke-grow-local/

Community

2013 Sooke Farm Tour: Barefoot and loving it

By Raika

Ammy Rubidge is carrying on a legacy left by her father, the pioneer farmer, who founded the community of Sooke. Rubidge and her partner Matt Sweeney are running Barefoot Farm on Kempt Lake Road. The couple is one of a growing number of young farmers who are seeing a different way of life for their family. Farm is part of the small Pioneer provided the house they in now is built on foundation of the use which was built 800 to the village of Sooke and later began now to the farm on Kempt Lake Road. Six were raised in that use where Pioneer So a living raising up and growing alone. Now a new generation of farmers like it here.



There's not a lot of downtime, we're busy in the summer. It's really a lifestyle choice and I appreciate the community around farmers. Small things become special and you appreciate rather than consume," said Rubidge. She said her kids are learning math and science through gardening as well as knowing where their food comes from and what it takes to get it on the plate. A healthy lifestyle and caring for yourself is an important factor at Barefoot Farm, which is the name of the fact that Rubidge's daughter loves to run around barefoot. The supportive community of farmers in the Kempt Lake area is very much appreciated and they network and teach each other what they know. The local farmers have banded together to hold a farmers market at the Kempt Lake Store on the last Saturday of the month from May to September. "There's a real team spirit in the community," she said. Barefoot Farm will be just one of the stops on the annual Sooke Food OIR Farm Tour scheduled for Sunday, August 18 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Stops on the tour in 2013 stretch east from Happy Valley Lavender and it's a lifestyle she is familiar with. "I feel it's a really great way to bring up

Pirjo Raika

Sooke News Mirror

After a hiatus year, Sooke once came through great showing competition, nesses and in spruced up their issues and put Heather Edw Catherine J The judges w outred with a at the Sunriver Garden of The CIB were impress the commun den and the ments made i This was th time judging i although the here for the C euce two year "It's differer Heather E "There is lots o ompet going o "Developmen been done an impressed by th ty incorporated said Catherine edy. In reference to they were sho Sooke, Edwa

Students lend a hand at comm

On Wednesday, May 29, students from the Environment Studies class at Edward Milne community school, with their teachers Megan Boardman and Dave Clarke, walked over to Sunriver Community Gardens in the rain. When they arrived the rain stopped. This was a good thing. At school at 9 a.m. no one was that keen to work in the garden this morning in the rain. The teachers told them it's the least they could do, to work in the rain for the community when considering how much the community supports them and EMCS. Well, we were told they logged right to it and got over. The students helped plant a lot of summer vegetables, winter vegetable beds were prepared and those signature sunflowers from last summer that needed themselves were planted too. Lunch was cooked up over wood fire. When it was time to go the rain began to spit again.



Above and right, Students from Edward Milne community school, pictured in the greenhouse and in the garden, were at the Sunriver community garden to help plant vegetables.

Left, Phoebe Dunbar sent along a photo of the window for the new apple shack. The Sunriver garden is a community garden with garden beds, heritage fruit trees and native wetlands garden.

Community

Sunriver Community Garden is flourish

By Raika

Paula McCormick, the Coordinator and Mentor at Sunriver Garden, dropped by the Sooke News Mirror with a garden update: In the past few weeks, the garden's harvest has been weighing in at approximately 200 pounds. The freshly harvested produce goes to a variety of places, including Sooke's food bank and transition house, Vital Vitals, and Meals on Wheels. "We've been donating since May," said McCormick. "Where the produce goes depends on what the produce is. Last week, for instance, a single 37-pound cabbage was donated to the food bank."



Local foods, events, local foods, Culinary Arts students from EMCS and others have all begun to plant and gather the plants for this fun event, including fishing for salmon. There will also be crabs for the delicious dinner. For more info go to www.sookefoodchi.ca. Any spare vegetables in your garden? Sooke's Food Bank is most appreciative of the fresh vegetables donated by backyard gardeners and SRG. If any

A fine day at the community garden

What is special at this community garden is how the volunteers and supporters (let's call them "food") it's not just vegetables and greens grown on this unique Phillips Road site, it's also berries, fruit, hops, grapes, kiwi and globe artichokes to name a few. Food includes nutriment of the plants, materials for the mind and many other edibles, plants and herbs. Since the native pond garden was constructed this time last fall, many people have visited the wetlands pond and seen different native plants growing nestled in the wetland habitat, designed to support the ecology of the entire garden.



Camosun horticulture students work on healing garden at Sunriver.

Started one of the Camosun horticulture instructors, Lisa Greig, who lives up Phillips Road came by to volunteer and suggested we

land, planting more native berries the orchard side using true native four element circle, an the transp many pl by Hillar sun coll dents an native p Royal (and Sun) one of the At th day, th of the is con pond new b and m install welcom visit t... and become involve should one wish. Though the gener funding this past

EPCOR Food Chi has sustainably sustained

Healing gard

A circular healing garden was installed Community Garden by students from College horticulture class. Check it out gardening volunteers Doug Dalquist, I and Greg Thein. Healing plants will be