



**Sooke Region Food CHI Society**  
***“BUILDING COMMUNITY”***

**Annual General Meeting**  
**January 30, 2012**

# Acknowledgements

Recognition and appreciation to our community partners, funders, supporters, and many, many volunteers. Our food partners include a number of our local farms, T'Sou-ke Nation, local government, and small business.

## In 2011 we received generous financial support from:

BC Hydro Community Grants  
CRD Juan de Fuca Economic Development Commission (EDC)  
District of Sooke Community Grants  
EPCOR Utilities Inc. – Community Essential Grants  
Mountain Equipment Coop (MEC) Environment Funds  
TD Friends of the Environment  
The Victoria Foundation

## Thank you to Sooke's local businesses who continue to support us:

Butler Brothers  
Cherry Lane Riding Stables  
Clayton Whitney Horticulture  
Communities in Bloom  
Demxx Recycling  
Dockside Underground Services and Dirt Taxi  
Double D Gardens  
EPCOR Utilities Inc.  
Glen's Gardening  
Reber Creative  
Sooke BackHoe Services Ltd.  
Sooke Disposal  
Sooke Harbour House  
Sooke Home Hardware  
Sooke Marine Industries Ltd.  
Sooke News Mirror  
Westburn Garden Centre and Landscape Supplies  
West Coast Seeds  
William Head Correctional Institute Work Release Program



*Sooke Food CHI, with many partners,  
and support from its members,  
is making a difference;  
good, local, affordable food for all.*

# Sooke Region Food CHI Society

## Who are we and what do we do?

We are a registered society and voluntary non profit organization, with approximately 200 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 close to 12,000.



## 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 food garden tours
- sponsoring community gardens
- supporting a community orchard
- fruit tree gleaning 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.

## FOOD CHI BOARD of DIRECTORS – 2010 and 2011

### *Officers*

President – Phoebe Dunbar  
Vice President – Mary Alice Johnson  
Treasurer – Lynn Saur  
Secretary – Jessica Boquist

### *Directors*

Bonnie Jones  
Mary Holland  
Don Moloney  
Sandy Reber



## Part time contractors supporting Food CHI initiatives and programs

Emily Moreland – Sunriver Garden mentorship program  
Erika Rolston – Farmer2Farmer Network coordinator  
Keeley Nixon – Farm Mentorship and board support



# Highlights

In keeping with our mission to support local food production and increase numbers of citizens and farmers in growing and distributing food we offer you the following highlights for 2010 and 2011.

## Farm Mentorship Program - November 2010 – April 2011

Our second year! Seven protégées mentored with six regional farms and farmers to learn the basics of how to set up a farm. Throughout the winter months the protégées spent many weekends at our local farms. Mentoring is a most effective way to learn hands on. From this program the popular manual *So You Want to Farm in Sooke?* has been printed a second time. The program is on hold for 2011/12. For more information contact [sooke.farm.mentorship@gmail.com](mailto:sooke.farm.mentorship@gmail.com).



## Seedy Saturday - February 26, 2011

Sooke's second Seedy Saturday, organized by Jessica Boquist, and supported by a number of Food CHI's volunteers. Hundreds of folks came out and purchased and traded seeds, early spring "starts" and supported Food CHI and our local farms. Most importantly, those who came out attended workshops, purchased and supported local seeds and were encouraged to start their own seed saving this summer. We look forward to our third annual Seedy Saturday, February 25, 2012!



## Circle of Sharing: Stories of Sooke's Farming Past – March 13, 2011

Co-sponsored with the Sooke Region Museum, this was an excellent afternoon filled with stories and recollections of Sooke's farming past from members and descendents of Sooke's pioneer families.



## The Greenhorns: film night with Awareness Video – April 13, 2011

Well-attended film night at EMCS, with farm vendors present selling produce and seeds, and Sooke Food CHI promoting its programs and activities. Following the film there was a panel discussion with four Sooke and Victoria area young farmers discussing the rewards and pitfalls of establishing a farm in our area and answering questions from the audience. Food CHI's share of the proceeds from the film night went to the Sooke Region Fruit Tree Project.



## Farm and Food Garden Tour – August 14, 2011

Food CHI, with very generous support by the District of Sooke, planned and produced our second annual tour to raise awareness of our productive farms and gardens in Sooke's west coast climate. This farm and garden tour was offered as the "working garden farm tour" – a tour of 11 unique farm gardens in the area of Sooke and Otter Point. It was an inspiring day with close to 300 people taking part. The day was successful once again because of our volunteers, our generous farmers and eager-to-learn public.



## Sooke Region Fruit Tree Project – September 2011

This project kicked into action in the late summer when fruit trees in our area are laden with fruit that often goes unpicked and unused except by wasps, raccoons and bears. Funds and labour were obtained for coordination and picking equipment. Fruit was picked and shared amongst owners, participants and the food bank, crisis centre and families in need.



## Sooke Region Farmer2Farmer – November 2011

Our newest project with the goal of cultivating a strong network of farmers in the area by strengthening communication. In this inaugural year our aim is to firmly establish the network and develop it as a thriving, sustainable collective in the area for generations to come. Erika Rolston has been brought on part time to coordinate and is working to organize workshops, connect growers and more.

## Sunriver Community Gardens (SRG) – Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Year!

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



During 2011 the SRG saw three new user groups become active at the Phillips Road community garden site, in addition to our keen “allotment” gardeners. These user groups have added much to the “community” at the 2.5 acres site.

- T’Sou-ke Nation native gardens
- Food CHI food production for the community
- Community orchard

Our five biggest accomplishments were a successful Victoria Foundation funded “best practices” program, with mentor Emily Moreland; development of Food CHI community food growing plots, a sitting garden, and raised beds funded by BC Hydro; clearing of more land to make way for future growing; engaging volunteers to

build a cob oven; and creating a new governance model for all of SRG users.

All our users benefitted from the financial and volunteer support we received to:

- continue the soil amendment program
- mentor best practices
- build raised beds for the mobility challenged
- improve the compost system
- construct a storage and wood shed
- install an all-weather driveway into the garden tool shed area
- remove shade and danger trees
- remove stumps for future growing areas
- improve drainage of the gardens
- install access lane off circle driveway
- create additional garden plots
- build with many hands a cob oven
- recruit more volunteers
- engage more community partners
- feed the hungry through the “Grow a Row” project
- landscape Food CHI growing area – user friendly, benches, trees, shrubs, rose arbour.



**SOOKE REGION FOOD CHI SOCIETY  
INCOME STATEMENT  
For the Period Ending August 31, 2011**

	Food Chi General Fund	Farm Support Program Fund	Sunriver Allotment Garden Fund	Total
<b>Revenues</b>				
Sales	\$ 280.50	\$ 808.85	\$ 225.00	\$ 1,314.35
Grants	4,200.00	2,000.00	17,667.50	23,867.50
Memberships/Fees	583.73	1,245.00	0.00	1,828.73
Events	3,791.25	2,615.00	0.00	6,406.25
Plot Fees	0.00	0.00	3,190.00	3,190.00
Donations	850.38	0.00	0.00	850.38
Interest	17.40	0.00	0.00	17.40
Total Revenues	\$ 9,723.26	\$ 6,668.85	\$ 21,082.50	\$ 37,474.61
<b>Expenses</b>				
Food CHI Administration	\$ 1,015.01	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,015.01
Food CHI Events	2,657.04	1,057.84	104.95	3,819.83
Vic Foundation - Contract Fees	0.00	0.00	4,884.96	4,884.96
VIHA - Programs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Farm Support	0.00	3,802.84	0.00	3,802.84
Farm Tour Event	0.00	35.00	0.00	35.00
Sunriver Development	0.00	0.00	7,656.03	7,656.03
Sunriver Events	0.00	0.00	56.86	56.86
Sunriver Operations	0.00	0.00	2,049.91	2,049.91
Amortization				
Total Expenses	\$ 3,672.05	\$ 4,895.68	\$ 14,752.71	\$ 23,320.44
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	\$ 6,051.21	\$ 1,773.17	\$ 6,329.79	\$ 14,154.17
Fund Balances, Aug 31, 2010	3,037.43	4,395.75	29,075.60	36,508.78
Fund Balances, August 31, 2011	\$ 9,088.64	\$ 6,168.92	\$ 35,405.39	\$ 50,662.95

**SOOKE REGION FOOD CHI SOCIETY  
BALANCE SHEET  
as at August 31, 2011**

	Food CHI General Fund	Farm Mentorship Program Fund	Sunriver Allotment Garden Fund	Total
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Cash	\$ 7,852.30	\$ 6,435.74	\$ 6,102.56	\$ 20,390.60
Coast Capital Shares	5.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
Accounts Receivable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grants Receivable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donations in kind				
HST (current year)	253.30	96.49	856.94	1,206.73
GST Recoverable (prior years)	360.08	0.57	704.08	1,064.73
Mountain Equipment Co-op Shares	5.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
	<u>\$ 8,475.68</u>	<u>\$ 6,532.80</u>	<u>\$ 7,663.58</u>	<u>\$ 22,672.06</u>
<b>Investments</b>				
Inventory (Brochures, etc.)	\$ 150.00		\$ 0.00	\$ 150.00
Gazebo			11,458.41	11,458.41
Equipment			306.00	306.00
Outhouse			1,120.25	1,120.25
Shed			1,981.21	1,981.21
Shed			2,375.00	2,375.00
Irrigation			3,384.89	3,384.89
Fence/Gates/Signs			6,032.03	6,032.03
Accumulated Amortization			-4,203.61	-4,203.61
	<u>150.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>22,454.18</u>	<u>22,604.18</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u><b>\$ 8,625.68</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 6,532.80</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 30,117.76</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 45,276.24</b></u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Accounts Payable	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,347.16	\$ 3,347.16
<b>Deferred Revenue</b>				<u>\$ 0.00</u>
<b>Fund Balances</b>				
Externally Restricted Funds	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Invested in Capital Assets			22,454.18	22,454.18
Unrestricted Funds	8,625.68	6,532.80	4,316.42	19,474.90
	<u>\$ 8,625.68</u>	<u>\$ 6,532.80</u>	<u>\$ 26,770.60</u>	<u>\$ 41,929.08</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>	<u><b>\$ 8,625.68</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 6,532.80</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 30,117.76</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 45,276.24</b></u>

# Share is a growing movement



**Jill Winstanley and Sylvia Hancock share the farm and the chores.** Photo: Robin photos

from a 1974. They are testing how the business is doing. "All there to a nation," you can't not in a "there's a lot out there." Dunbar Sooke are approximately 100 farms. Of these who too mentorship through Sooke CHI, nine of them now producing. "It's nothing it was," she said few years ago that not many. The self-guided tour is a great spend a day, said Dunbar. "You could cycle it."

Fresh produce for sale and the no charge. Kids 15-years-of-age free while the at pay. Advance tickets can be purchased at Shoppers Drug Mart Double D Garden Westburn Garden Centre and the Sooke Community Market. In Victoria tickets are at the year. The new for 2010-11.

Many folks are moving to the region to live more rural lifestyle and with that comes a large garden and perhaps raise a few animals. We live the mild climate at is the envy of our western neighbours and putting seeds into the ground is a natural. The Sooke Food Community Health Initiative (FH) Society has been instrumental in getting people growing. At one time people would get together over a cup of coffee around the kitchen table and share information on crops, pests and times for seeding and a planting calendar for those ready to garden. Along with that comes a list of market on Vancouver Island suppliers, food safety nurseries, where to go for advice, to sell, etc. The booklet contains pages where you can record your purchases and planting information.

## GETTING JUICED!



**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2011** Photo: Dunbar photos

ing will be buzzing with activity. Following the film there will be a panel discussion with four Sooke and Victoria area young farmers: Marika Nagasaka from ALM Farm, Teresa Williams of Silver Cloud Farm, Ian King of Lobrunner Farm and Adam Saab of Sea Bluff Farm. They will discuss the rewards and pitfalls of establishing a farm in our area and will answer questions from the audience. The intermission between the screening and the panel will feature Sooke's First

with nettle recipes and maybe even a poem or two. There will also be a raffle for dinner for four at Marcus' Restaurant. There will be booths with local farming information as well as local products for sale and a plant/seeding exchange table. Tea and goodies will be available by donation, created especially for the gala by Culinary Arts. This will be a kid-friendly evening; teens are especially encouraged to attend. Proceeds will go to purchasing pick-

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### Greenhorns gather for awareness

On Wednesday April 13, Awareness Film Night and Sooke Food CHI will present their annual Gardening and Farming Gala. The featured film will be the Canadian premiere of *The Greenhorns*, a film that explores the lives of young farmers, their spirit, hopes, practices and needs. The

## Greenhorns gather for awareness

ing will be buzzing with activity. Following the film there will be a panel discussion with four Sooke and Victoria area young farmers: Marika Nagasaka from ALM Farm, Teresa Williams of Silver Cloud Farm, Ian King of Lobrunner Farm and Adam Saab of Sea Bluff Farm. They will discuss the rewards and pitfalls of establishing a farm in our area and will answer questions from the audience. The intermission between the screening and the panel will feature Sooke's First

# Sooke allotment garden keeps growing



**region a pioneer With of urban**

pers and spoke of local foods and ideas since 2007. With money from the Vancouver Island

potluck suppers are held under the gazebo. The garden now boasts an irrigation system.

On Sunday, August 14, the Bella Terra Farm and growing gardens in the second annual Farm & Food Garden Tour sponsored by the Sooke Food CHI (Committee) and the District of Sooke. This year the farms are all in the western end of Sooke, says Phoebe Dunbar.

The new garden for 2010-11.

## Partnership without expectations

from there and we've added pieces as we go along. I provided the edge - it's a symbiotic relationship and we are learning by leaps and bounds. Farming, as everyone knows, is a lot of hard work and dedication and if the load can be shared, it is easier on the way around. We help pay all of the bills, but their cost is shared.

## Greenhorns gather for awareness

On Wednesday April 13, Awareness Film Night and Sooke Food CHI will present their annual Gardening and Farming Gala. The featured film will be the Canadian premiere of *The Greenhorns*, a film that explores the lives of young farmers, their spirit, hopes, practices and needs. The

## Greenhorns gather for awareness

ing will be buzzing with activity. Following the film there will be a panel discussion with four Sooke and Victoria area young farmers: Marika Nagasaka from ALM Farm, Teresa Williams of Silver Cloud Farm, Ian King of Lobrunner Farm and Adam Saab of Sea Bluff Farm. They will discuss the rewards and pitfalls of establishing a farm in our area and will answer questions from the audience. The intermission between the screening and the panel will feature Sooke's First

## Greenhorns gather for awareness

ing will be buzzing with activity. Following the film there will be a panel discussion with four Sooke and Victoria area young farmers: Marika Nagasaka from ALM Farm, Teresa Williams of Silver Cloud Farm, Ian King of Lobrunner Farm and Adam Saab of Sea Bluff Farm. They will discuss the rewards and pitfalls of establishing a farm in our area and will answer questions from the audience. The intermission between the screening and the panel will feature Sooke's First

## Greenhorns gather for awareness

ing will be buzzing with activity. Following the film there will be a panel discussion with four Sooke and Victoria area young farmers: Marika Nagasaka from ALM Farm, Teresa Williams of Silver Cloud Farm, Ian King of Lobrunner Farm and Adam Saab of Sea Bluff Farm. They will discuss the rewards and pitfalls of establishing a farm in our area and will answer questions from the audience. The intermission between the screening and the panel will feature Sooke's First

## Greenhorns gather for awareness

ing will be buzzing with activity. Following the film there will be a panel discussion with four Sooke and Victoria area young farmers: Marika Nagasaka from ALM Farm, Teresa Williams of Silver Cloud Farm, Ian King of Lobrunner Farm and Adam Saab of Sea Bluff Farm. They will discuss the rewards and pitfalls of establishing a farm in our area and will answer questions from the audience. The intermission between the screening and the panel will feature Sooke's First

# Raising the accessibility of community gardens



**Left, Karla Louwers, from BC Hydro, and Doug Dalquist. Phoebe Dunbar shows a drawing of the present and future.**

Spring is officially here this weekend and although the weather hasn't been the greatest, there are still many things that can be done in the garden. At the Sunriver Allotment Garden volunteers have been busy putting in a lot of work to raise the number of raised beds to enable those with difficulty bending to have an opportunity to garden. Recognizing that gardening is problematic for many, Sooke Food Community Health Initiative applied for and received a \$2,000 grant from BC Hydro to raise bed projects.

Karla Louwers, BC Hydro's community relations representative for Vancouver Island, was in Sooke on Wednesday to see the progress of the garden. "If anybody finds it hard to garden on the ground, we have 12 special growing spots for container gardening," said Dunbar.

started a garden planted with native plants like salmonberries, nettles, strawberries, Labrador Tea and other plants used by people of the Tsou-ke First Nation.

## Sunriver garden gets foundation

The foundation was built two months ago, but the idea for the garden started two years ago by a few of the gardeners. The idea was in response to the slow food movement of taking time to appreciate local food and gathering together as a community, said Moreland. Volunteer Phoebe Dunbar said a bonus is that a lot of the ingredients for whatever people are baking can come right from the garden. There are also plans to build a roof over the open so it can be enjoyed 12 months of the year. Only more.

## Sunriver garden gets foundation

The foundation was built two months ago, but the idea for the garden started two years ago by a few of the gardeners. The idea was in response to the slow food movement of taking time to appreciate local food and gathering together as a community, said Moreland. Volunteer Phoebe Dunbar said a bonus is that a lot of the ingredients for whatever people are baking can come right from the garden. There are also plans to build a roof over the open so it can be enjoyed 12 months of the year. Only more.

## Sunriver garden gets foundation

The foundation was built two months ago, but the idea for the garden started two years ago by a few of the gardeners. The idea was in response to the slow food movement of taking time to appreciate local food and gathering together as a community, said Moreland. Volunteer Phoebe Dunbar said a bonus is that a lot of the ingredients for whatever people are baking can come right from the garden. There are also plans to build a roof over the open so it can be enjoyed 12 months of the year. Only more.

## Sunriver garden gets foundation

The foundation was built two months ago, but the idea for the garden started two years ago by a few of the gardeners. The idea was in response to the slow food movement of taking time to appreciate local food and gathering together as a community, said Moreland. Volunteer Phoebe Dunbar said a bonus is that a lot of the ingredients for whatever people are baking can come right from the garden. There are also plans to build a roof over the open so it can be enjoyed 12 months of the year. Only more.

## Sunriver garden gets foundation

The foundation was built two months ago, but the idea for the garden started two years ago by a few of the gardeners. The idea was in response to the slow food movement of taking time to appreciate local food and gathering together as a community, said Moreland. Volunteer Phoebe Dunbar said a bonus is that a lot of the ingredients for whatever people are baking can come right from the garden. There are also plans to build a roof over the open so it can be enjoyed 12 months of the year. Only more.

## Sunriver garden gets foundation

The foundation was built two months ago, but the idea for the garden started two years ago by a few of the gardeners. The idea was in response to the slow food movement of taking time to appreciate local food and gathering together as a community, said Moreland. Volunteer Phoebe Dunbar said a bonus is that a lot of the ingredients for whatever people are baking can come right from the garden. There are also plans to build a roof over the open so it can be enjoyed 12 months of the year. Only more.

# Hard hat on Sunriver allotment garden



**Benjamin Young photo**

In another significant step toward local agricultural education and food sustainability, the Sooke Region Food CHI Society has begun to develop the next phase of the vibrant Sunriver Allotment Garden located on Philips Road. On March 26, plant-

## Hard hat on Sunriver allotment garden

In another significant step toward local agricultural education and food sustainability, the Sooke Region Food CHI Society has begun to develop the next phase of the vibrant Sunriver Allotment Garden located on Philips Road. On March 26, plant-

## Hard hat on Sunriver allotment garden

In another significant step toward local agricultural education and food sustainability, the Sooke Region Food CHI Society has begun to develop the next phase of the vibrant Sunriver Allotment Garden located on Philips Road. On March 26, plant-

## Hard hat on Sunriver allotment garden

In another significant step toward local agricultural education and food sustainability, the Sooke Region Food CHI Society has begun to develop the next phase of the vibrant Sunriver Allotment Garden located on Philips Road. On March 26, plant-

## Hard hat on Sunriver allotment garden

In another significant step toward local agricultural education and food sustainability, the Sooke Region Food CHI Society has begun to develop the next phase of the vibrant Sunriver Allotment Garden located on Philips Road. On March 26, plant-

## Hard hat on Sunriver allotment garden

In another significant step toward local agricultural education and food sustainability, the Sooke Region Food CHI Society has begun to develop the next phase of the vibrant Sunriver Allotment Garden located on Philips Road. On March 26, plant-

## Hard hat on Sunriver allotment garden

In another significant step toward local agricultural education and food sustainability, the Sooke Region Food CHI Society has begun to develop the next phase of the vibrant Sunriver Allotment Garden located on Philips Road. On March 26, plant-

# Pride of Place



**The Sunriver**

gardeners and Sooke Region gather around the finished construction took about four hours. Votour and baby Aki, Mary Holland, Fletcher, Phoebe Dunbar, Emily M. Patrick Wass explains the process.

## Pride of Place

gardeners and Sooke Region gather around the finished construction took about four hours. Votour and baby Aki, Mary Holland, Fletcher, Phoebe Dunbar, Emily M. Patrick Wass explains the process.

## Pride of Place

gardeners and Sooke Region gather around the finished construction took about four hours. Votour and baby Aki, Mary Holland, Fletcher, Phoebe Dunbar, Emily M. Patrick Wass explains the process.

## Pride of Place

gardeners and Sooke Region gather around the finished construction took about four hours. Votour and baby Aki, Mary Holland, Fletcher, Phoebe Dunbar, Emily M. Patrick Wass explains the process.

## Pride of Place

gardeners and Sooke Region gather around the finished construction took about four hours. Votour and baby Aki, Mary Holland, Fletcher, Phoebe Dunbar, Emily M. Patrick Wass explains the process.

## Pride of Place

gardeners and Sooke Region gather around the finished construction took about four hours. Votour and baby Aki, Mary Holland, Fletcher, Phoebe Dunbar, Emily M. Patrick Wass explains the process.

## Pride of Place

gardeners and Sooke Region gather around the finished construction took about four hours. Votour and baby Aki, Mary Holland, Fletcher, Phoebe Dunbar, Emily M. Patrick Wass explains the process.