

## **Campus Community Connections for Vibrant and Sustainable Food Systems on Vancouver Island**

### **Report from the Food Researcher and Academic Roundtable- February 3, 2010**

Recently a Researcher Roundtable was held at UVic that brought together approximately 30 of the leading academics, both Professors and students, whose work is associated with food, health, culture and sustainability. The meeting brought people together to meet, share, and learn about a range of food related research, education and work being conducted on-campus and allowed for discussion of community university based partnership and funding opportunities for research, student projects, and student service learning in this area. We were made aware that a wide range of work and substantial expertise is seated at UVic and the other academic intuitions and we looked to exploring better ways of connecting and coordinating this work to respond to the needs and opportunities of the Island Communities. A listing of the academics and their areas of work is available from the Office of Community Based Research, contact Charlotte at [ocbr@uvic.ca](mailto:ocbr@uvic.ca).

Coming up on March 23, the Sharing Food and Knowledge event is planned that brings these academics together with community counterparts, government representatives and our local coop and business community. The Tentative program at press time features the following panel:

- **Living in a place, issues surrounding the relationship of human beings to their food:** Jennifer Horne, , Center for Continuing Studies, VIU and Island Farm Alliance, a recap of the learnings of the Biosphere Conversation Series on Food and Ecology
- **Food Production Capacity** Pat Reichert-Salt Spring Island Livestock Production Capacity Study
- **"Peak Oil and the Future of Food Production on Vancouver Island"** Steven Earle, Department of Geology, VIU
- **Vibrant Indigenous Food Systems**-Elders Youth Story Telling Project and Salmon, Toxins and the future of Indigenous Food Systems.

The panelists will be asked to answer the question: "What in your opinion are the most important opportunities to focus our efforts on for ensuring a more vibrant and sustainable food system on Vancouver Island in the future?"

Afterwards participants will self-select into dialogue circles focused on:

- #1 Research:** Key research and community-based research priorities, opportunities for student service learning and internships
- #2 Practice:** Building and sustaining a localized food supply, and sustainable food gathering and growing practices –how is/can the University community support and collaborate
- #3 Policy:** Supporting municipal, provincial and national policy with examples of food policy innovation
- #4 Partnerships:** Creating multi-sector funding and research partnerships

It is hoped that this will afford us the ability to make connections, and move forward partnership in key areas of opportunity.

The OCBR will also be hosting three island workshops on specific skills building topics related to community research as well as host a summer institute on Gabriola that will move forward

planning and action of the Vancouver Island Community Research Alliance. For more see the CRFAIR event calendar and to register please contact Charlotte at [ocbr@uvic.ca](mailto:ocbr@uvic.ca)