

## **The Next Step toward Food Security for the Comox Valley**

Submitted by LUSH Valley

LUSH Valley Food Action Society has, over the last three years, been given a leadership role in the food security movement in the Comox Valley. They have successfully operated the Fruit Tree Project (gleaning and distributing unused and otherwise wasted fruits and nuts) and other projects for seven years and most recently, administered and coordinated the community consultation processes known as Planning for Plenty I & II. With Vancouver Island Health Authority support, LUSH Valley is implementing the recommendations from that consultation – a group purchasing, warehousing and distribution program for the non-profit food providers in the Valley; a commercial community kitchen and processing centre; and researching the creation of a Comox Valley Food Charter, among other initiatives. They have contracted Sue Moen, a long-time food activist in Vancouver to lead the Agency through these exciting changes.

LUSH Valley is preparing to operate a commercial kitchen and processing centre that will complement other Valley food services by adding value and shelf-life to donated and gleaned perishables, as well as providing skills-building and training for food service recipients. This program will continue to enhance emergency food provision in the Valley by assisting in the rescue, collection, warehousing and distribution of food to individuals and agencies.

A location in Courtenay was recently secured and immediately, several professionals donated their services for design and project management. Trades people and community groups and individuals are lining up to assist with procurement and labour.

LUSH Valley serves the entire Comox Valley by holistically focussing on using local resources to meet local food system needs by way of education, facilitation and coordination of participants in the food system.

Click below to return to the Making Food Matter newsletter:

[http://www.communitycouncil.ca/crfair\\_nl/crfair\\_nl\\_issue3\\_index.html](http://www.communitycouncil.ca/crfair_nl/crfair_nl_issue3_index.html)

