



Final Report

Food Matters! Annual Regional Food Security Forum

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Food Matters! Regional Annual Food Security Forum 2008

Agenda

2:00PM- 2:30PM	Registration & Networking Tea	
2:30PM-2:50PM	Opening Forum Remarks	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome from CRFAIR & CRD• Welcoming Remarks	Janelle Hatch David Coney Chris Clement
2:50PM- 3:20PM	Keynote Address	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supply and Demand of Local Foods	David Mincey Lyle Young
3:20PM- 3:45PM	Inspirational Examples of Progress of Food and Health in CRD	
	Panelists:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urban Agriculture & Spin Gardening• People Power & Farmland Classification• Food Access & Centralized Distribution• First Nations Feasting Project	Paula Sobie Lana Popham Elietha Bocskei Fiona Devereaux
3:45PM- 4:00PM	Brief Question Period for Keynote Speakers and Panelists	
4:00PM- 4:30PM	Mapping Project – Building the Web	Linda Geggie
4:30PM- 5:00PM	Breakout Groups on Key Themes	
5:00PM- 5:30PM	Reporting Back – Next Steps	
5:30 PM- 6:00PM	Dinner and Music	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Band• Dinner – local organic feast	'The Clover Point Drifter' 'Good for You Gourmet'
6:00PM- 7:30PM	Entertainment and Awards	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of awards	Sonya Chandler
	Closing of Conference – next steps	David Coney, Janelle Hatch

Keynote-The Challenge of Local Supply

If we could bump the spending of each CRD resident on local food and farm products by 25%, we would be a model community for food security in North America. But do we have the agricultural capacity? Will rising land prices, lack of on-farm labour and increasing regulation stand in the way of the 100 Mile Island Diet? What is our road forward? Restaurateur David Mincey and farmer Lyle Young of Island Farmhouse Poultry provided us food for thought on the supply and demand of local foods.

David Mincey

David's opening remarks were, if local food was easy we wouldn't be having this forum. To the audience he said he was preaching to the converted as it not us who are the problem. The problem lies with average everyday people who want local food but have no access to it. Food security comes down to – How can I make it easier for my neighbour to get local food?

If 10% of people changed their buying habits and bought 25% locally, there would not be food security problem – we would have food supply problem. Our big supermarkets are not designed to support local. We therefore need to encourage more farm markets. These markets need to offer enough goods, so that people can do all their shopping. If not, people will choose to shop elsewhere.

Currently, the demand is strong for local produced. For example, the local market in Bastion Square had a huge response, growing from two to fourteen tables. They could not supply enough for a one day a week market.

This is an important time. If people do not have access soon to local goods, apathy will set in and we will not have the demand any more. We have done a great job building the demand. Now we need to build access and supply to local goods.

Lyle Young

Lyle agrees, that there is a demand for local goods that we cannot meet. We are at maximum production and there is still a lack of local produce, meats, vegetables and dairy products. Why are there not more people growing and producing? Understanding this issue it is important to look at the three types of farms and the different barriers that face them. First is the 'small artisan farm', which represents the 5% of the food market. For these farms, many of the farmers do not want to take it to the next level as they are successful at their current level and/or there are many financial barriers to increasing production. The second type of farm, is the 'Medium-size farm', usually producing eggs, dairy, poultry, representing 20% of the market. The barriers these farms face are high land costs and quota licensing. Finally, there are the large commercial farms, producing dairy, poultry and eggs in large volumes. This biggest problem these farms face is the fact it is cheaper to produce elsewhere and as a result Vancouver Island is losing these farms and local production capacity. Big farms depend on small farms and vice-versa. There needs to be infrastructure that supports these farms.

We live in a supply/demand society, so the greater the demand the cheaper the product will become. Local is the new organic. If demand is not met, it may fade. Therefore, if we have customers, we need to focus their excitement among the small independent grocers that support and offer local products and encourage our neighbours to shop at these places. Local goods are unique because they are 'local' and this can give local producers the competitive advantage over large-scale producers. To focus consumers to local products, the Island Farmer Alliance developed the Rooster Booster logo. Seeing this image will clearly inform the consumer that that product was Vancouver Island produced.

Success breeds success and excitement breeds excitement. Time to build on the positive steps local producers have achieved so far.

Regional Food Security Project Presentations

Panelists

Paula Sobie

Paula Sobie practices SPIN farming at various locations throughout the city. SPIN stands for Small, Plot, Intensive, which is an organic based growing technique that adapts commercial farming techniques to smaller land areas. The standard beds are 2' by 25'. This type of farming involves little capital investment and removes the barrier of high land costs as it can be practiced in individual backyards. They distinguish between high and low value crops, practicing relay cropping, growing at least 3 high value. There are many advantages for this type of farming which include, decreased pest damage and reduced need for water.

Paula discovered that commercial agriculture was illegal in Oak Bay, so she engaged with the municipal council and proposed that there be a change to the by-laws. She was successful, an amendment was made to the Oak Bay by-laws making it legal to practice commercial agriculture for sale. Their biggest challenge became their biggest success.

SPIN and urban agriculture is redefining farming and shrinking the loop between producers and consumers.

Lana Popham

Small lot farms in Saanich are in the process of being reassessed and split into pieces for tax purposes by BC Assessment under an initiative called "the Project". One by one farms are being inspected, to determine whether they qualify for farm status and many have been split up. These farms were not inside the Agricultural Land Reserve and therefore were left without protection.

In January, at a public meeting, Lana and other concerned farmers called for a moratorium. Instead, there will be a review panel assigned to assess farm classification, starting in July and completing in 2009. However, 2009 is too late for Saanich farms.

An crucial question that needs to be asked is how important are our rural areas to us. These areas are a source of local food, provide a greenbelt, habitat for biodiversity, carbon sinks and give us food security. One woman whose farm was reassessed asked the question, "Who is going to feed you?"

The panel formed to address this issue begins meeting in July and all concerned citizens are called to give their input. We need to write letters, make calls and let them know small lot farms matter.

Elietha Bocskei

Elietha focus has been on community food and meal programs and how to provide food for families in need. There is a need to increase access to nutritious foods. She is part of a working group that is looking towards supporting centralized access and food recovery. They have examined how Quest Outreach Society runs their food recovery program and are hoping to expand this program to Vancouver Island.

Quest Food Exchange is a non-profit organization, that reclaims food other wise would have been destined to the landfill, for reasons such as, blemished appearance, damaged packaging

or nearing expiry date. These goods are diverted to those in need within the community, through their Low cost food store (sells at 30% of their value), or directly through their hot meal program, or to partner organizations. Quest redirected over 8 million dollars worth of food last year and provided food to 70,000 people per month through their program, working closely with 244 partner agencies. What food is not edible either is composted or recycled.

This centralized food distribution system, if expanded to Victoria, would meet our city's needs and could become part of our local food productions system. The findings from surveying more than 50 agencies show support for the centralized system.

Fiona Devereaux

Fiona works in the area of diabetes management. This disease has a disproportionate effect on First nations people, who experience diabetes 3-6 times higher rate. Fifty years ago this disease was virtually unknown in their communities. In the context of so many different issues, what is the priority given to healthy lifestyle. Traditional foods, and the inherent cultural aspects is one thing that will bring communities together. The 'Feasting for Change' project is a collaboration of people working to support Aboriginal communities in South Vancouver Island to enhance their food sovereignty. These feasts reconnect people to food, land and culture. It provides the opportunity to have elders together and discuss what can be done about food, health, and culture within the community. Food is the link that brings people together.

The Feasting for Change project has been very successful and provides the opportunity to celebrate culture and traditions, transfer knowledge and build new connections.

Description of Strategy Areas

Through the Regional Food and Health Action Plan process a variety of strategies to increase food security in the region were identified. Building individual, community and regional food security relies on a complex web of relationships. Indeed there are many ways to describe what is needed and that we are engaged in from our different perspectives and capacities. The following list of key themes/strategies is but one lens to view this work, and will be used for the purposes of the mapping exercise and breakout groups:

Education and Research

Food, Agriculture, Health, Climate Change and Environment, and Anti-poverty education, training, and research are all part of challenging and shifting our food system to become more sustainable and secure. Examples of strategies and projects being employed are school garden programs, foodmiles calculators, media stories, assets mapping, farm tours, and research projects.

Food Policies & Regulation

There are a wide range of strategies, regulations, policies and planning conducted by institutions and local government that impact our food system. In order to ensure that these bodies and their decisions are working in concert with a vision for a healthy food system, people are working on Regional Food and Health Action Planning, development of a regional Food Policy Council, Municipal level food policy and planning, Advisory Committees, Agriculture Area Plans, Urban agriculture resolutions and corresponding zoning and bylaws, health and safety regulations etc.

Access to Healthy Food

All people at all times should have access to healthy foods. While this is also related to housing and income issues, there are many projects and strategies to build individual and household food security such as, emergency food distribution, food recovery projects, food self reliance

and training programs, community economic development initiatives, coop development, community kitchens, cooking classes, food vouchers, hampers, etc.

Farmlands and Farming

Food production is a cornerstone to food security. This requires that we protect and preserve our food producing land base as well as ensure that the business of farming is economically viable and environmentally sustainable. Work in the strategy area can be related to building capacity of farmers, supporting new farmers, supporting the viability of farm operations, protection of farmland, community farms, land trusts, leasing programs, farm/wildlife stewardship projects, etc.

Urban Agriculture

Most people recognize urban agriculture strategies to be the development and support of backyard, rooftop, balcony, boulevard, and school gardens, community and allotment gardens, fruit and nut trees and orchards, nurseries, flower, and herb gardens, and also as the raising of chickens, fish, rabbits and other small livestock in and around cities for personal, community or commercial purposes. Examples of work in this area are the development of community gardens, spin gardening, fruit tree projects, urban farms, permaculture demonstration sites, composting facilities, and urban forests.

Processing and Distribution

The viability of a localized agri-food sector is dependent on our ability to process and distribute food products locally. There are extreme challenges to this in a cheap food, highly competitive and concentrated global market place. Examples of strategies that help build local infrastructure are development of processing facilities, networks, and coops development, community supported agriculture programs, direct farm marketing, local food retail, markets, etc.

Local Food Purchasing Policies

Supporting local food production, farmers, food processors and distributors is key to building stronger more resilient food networks. When local institutions, government, businesses and households source local products it brings many beneficial social and economic multiplier effects to our region. Examples of initiatives are “buy local” education projects and local source listings, Local purchasing policy development, farmer-chef meetings, etc.

Neighbourhood Food Access (Markets)

Accessing local and healthy foods where we live, work and play is a key piece in household food security. Having markets in every neighborhood is a strategy that has been a focus to afford this access. Accessing food could also be in the form of introducing weekly farmers market, a retail outlet, restaurant, or a pocket market. There are also a number of emerging strategies to increase our access to healthy and in some cases local foods in our schools, recreation centers, and public buildings through changes in vending and other food policies.

Aboriginal Food Sovereignty and Health

There are a wide range of projects and initiatives that are being generated by and with First Nations in achieving healthy culturally appropriate diets. In addition to this are the concerns being raised locally and globally around traditional knowledge and intellectual property rights around food producing and gathering, as well as access to traditional food lands and seas.

New Dimensions - (for new ideas)

Have we missed a key area of work that you are doing or know about? Doesn't seem to fit in one or more of the categories? Please go and post it on the New Dimensions paper!

Food Matters Mapping Project - Building the Web

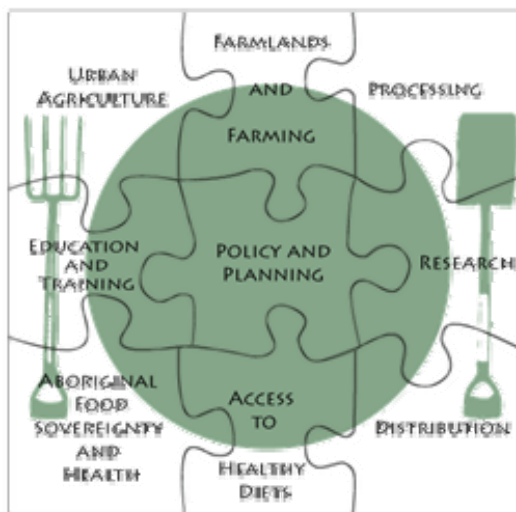
It is exciting to see the increasing amount of involvement and range of initiatives in the region around building food security. This “Building the Web” exercise is meant to provide a current snapshot of who is doing what, and demonstrate how our work is interconnected. Through the Regional Food and Health Action Plan process a variety of strategies to increase food security in the region were identified. This mapping exercise provided a chance for all of us to visually see who is working in the key strategy areas, and have an opportunity to reconnect with familiar faces, as well as meet new folks who are working on similar issues, albeit perhaps from different angles.

The results of this exercise is provided in the [“Regional Snapshot of Food Security Initiatives”](#)

Food Security Awards 2008

1. Emergency Food Provision

This award is granted to an individual or organization in the community who is doing outstanding service in the area of increasing access to healthier adequate diets by vulnerable people and families in our community. Over 50,000 people in our region live in poverty; and one in six are children who have barriers to accessing healthy diets. There are so many agencies and volunteers in the CRD working on supporting community kitchens, providing meals to seniors, emergency food provision, and a variety of other ways.



2008 Recipient: Victorian Epicure

The Epicure Foundation™, the charitable arm of Victorian Epicure and Epicure Selections®, was established to enhance the lives of Canadians through education and poverty relief, and aspires to realize its mission by improving access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food for all Canadians, allowing them to live active, healthy and abundant lives. The Epicure Foundation has put its Passion in Action with a mission to promote food security by implementing the following Employee Supported Volunteer Programs:

- Meals on Wheels – since August 2007, every Friday, Victorian Epicure has provided one meal delivery driver to cover a complete route in the Sidney, BC area, totaling over 30 routes!
- Sidney Food Bank – over the years, we have donated over three tones of food! We also encourage our Consultants to ask their tasting party attendants to bring food for their local food bank, and to facilitate the donation. If the Consultant does so, Victorian Epicure will match with a \$5 donation to the respective community’s food bank.
- Victoria Women’s Transition House – Once months, our R&D Chef together with our Registered Dietitian host a cooking workshop at the Victoria Women’s Transition House. In addition, Victorian Epicure has donated over \$7000 in cookware and food product, plus a cheque for \$8500 – the total contribution totaling over \$15,000!

Here is how Victorian Epicure has contributed on a national level:

- The Epicure Foundation Community Initiative National Grant Program – we will be awarding grants of up to \$5000 from a total allocated amount of \$35,000, to community initiatives across Canada with a mission to promote food security.

2. Urban Agriculture

Most people recognize urban agriculture as backyard, rooftop, balcony, boulevard, and school gardens, community and allotment gardens, fruit and nut trees and orchards, nurseries, flower, and herb gardens, and also as the raising of chickens, fish, rabbits and other small livestock in and around cities. Urban Agriculture is an important way to increasing our regional food production, providing access to healthier diets to urban residents, a venue for recreation and exercise, and has many environmental benefits.

2008 Recipient: Susanne (Susi) Porter-Bopp, Founding Chair; Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group (NRG) Food Security Collective

As a dedicated volunteer chairperson, Susi has guided the Fernwood NRG Food Security Collective from its beginnings in March 2007 to the active and energetic community group that it is today. Under Susi's inclusive and inspiring leadership, the Food Security Collective has over the past year spearheaded a number of imaginative food security initiatives. The group began by partnering with FoodRoots to bring a weekly Pocket Market to the Fernwood Community Market. The Tuesday evening local foods Market is now an established feature of Fernwood center. Next, the Collective designed and planted an innovative balcony food garden at the Fernwood Community Center that both inspired neighbourhood apartment dwellers to grow food and enabled young Mothers from Fernwood's Best Babies Program to learn to garden and to enjoy the harvest. Over the summer the Collective partnered with LifeCycles to map and then harvest some 2,000 lbs of fruit from fruit trees in Fernwood. In late fall the Collective hosted a popular workshop on how to raise chickens in urban back yards. Over the winter months, the Collective began an ongoing series of monthly Community Kitchens that bring neighbours together to make cooking and eating local produce fun and affordable. The Collective's recent initiatives include a project to map & share gardens in Fernwood, partnering with Lifecycles on restoring the Spring Ridge Commons food garden and an ongoing series of monthly workshops on everything from bee box building to fruit tree pruning.

In her role at the helm of this energetic group of volunteers, Susi has been instrumental in inspiring, organizing and getting in there & doing. The amazing Fernwood NRG Food Security Collective would not have happened without her. Outside of Fernwood, Susi is employed as the Community Water Coordinator at the POLIS Project on Ecological Governance at UVIC. She joined the Board of LifeCycles in October, 2007 and was recently hired to lead the Community food Action Initiative with the Blanshard Community Centre in August 2007. Her passion for advancing food security and the time and effort she devotes to this cause are clearly worthy of recognition. Susi is, without question, a true Food Security Champion!

3. Neighborhood Based Food Work

Neighborhood based food work is a category that tries to honor people who are working "on the front lines" to really make a difference in the place they live and work. Neighborhood based work in the area of food security can be quite broad, from setting up food buying clubs, to creating gardens and markets, to health projects or bringing people together to learn about and celebrate food.

2008 Recipient: Kate Kittredge, Sooke Food CHI

She is a leader in increasing food security in an underserved area of the CRD.

Kate has been instrumental in the food security movement over the past year. She has been working as part of the Community Health Initiative (CHI) in the Sooke Region. This group had the insight to broaden CHI and start a sub group called Food CHI and were successful in securing funding through VIHA's CFAI funding. Food CHI is developing a Food Security Plan for the Sooke Region from East Sooke to Port Renfrew. Kate's services have also been consulted through the T'Sou-ke Nation to support the Feasting For Change Project. The purpose of the Feasting for Change: Reconnecting to Food, Land and Culture Project is to bring

Aboriginal Peoples in South Vancouver Island together around Traditional Food Feasts to dialogue about food sovereignty in their communities. The goal is to identify community-specific issues around food and inspire action to address these issues. Kate has a spirit and a belief in people that make working with her a joyful and a successful venture.

4. Farming Community Contribution

When we are looking at creating greater regional food security there is no greater leadership than can be found in our local farming community. These tireless and inspiring characters are stewarding lands, teaching us about the local harvests and seasons, supporting and teaching the next generation of farmers, and supplying us with a wide variety of homegrown foods. They also sport some of the most interesting tan lines in the CRD.

2008 Recipient: Mary Alice Johnson, ALM Farm

Mary Alice Johnson is a trooper. She has slogged through the mud (literally!) for many years as a tireless, determined and committed organic farmer in Sooke. Mary Alice has made particularly significant contributions in her work to support the development of new farmers and the growth and capacity of the organic farming community. Part of this work has been through the South Island Organic Producers, the Canadian Organic Growers -Vancouver Island, through her development of the Stewards of Irreplaceable Land, and Linking Land and Future Farmers. She was involved in the early days of Seedy Saturday, and in supporting the development of Farmer Chef relationships and events. Mary Alice has also taught a plethora of workshops, courses, and spoken about organic farming and the development of farm businesses. This award and ten more would not be enough to recognize her gargantuan efforts in this area. You always keep us on our toes and we thank you Mary Alice for the work that you have done to educate farmers and non-farmers alike as the realities and wonders of growing food.

2008 Recipient: Bob Maxwell

Max as he is known by friends, has done tremendous work on behalf of the farm community. His farm is situated in Central Saanich and he works diligently to educate not only visitors to his farm but also the residents of Central Saanich. He currently worked as a member of the Central Saanich Farm Economic Viability Review Committee. . He is the chair of the Peninsula Agriculture Commission and brings his thoughtful and dedicated leadership to the table. Max is particularly recognized for his leadership in environmental education and commitment to ensuring the viability of farming in the Capital Region.

Bob was nominated by the District of Central Saanich. He deserves to be recognized by his peers in this category because of the countless volunteer hours of volunteer work including:

- Chair of the Peninsula Agriculture Commission
- Professional expertise in soil classification including comprehensive mapping of District of Central Saanich soils
- Assistance with District planning processes, including the current Official Community Plan, residential uses on farm land for farm help, and criteria for connection of farms to municipal water supply
- Advocate/mentor for young/beginning farmers
- Management of Peninsula Country Market
- Local food producer, heavily invested in local food production.

5. Business Community Contribution

People do good in this community from so many angles and like the farmers there is a growing number who are supporting a more sustainable food system through their life work. There is a buzz these days about Corporate social responsibility. People who were nominated in this category are the pioneers in this area. Tonight we honor:

2008 Recipient: Karin Lengger, SPUD Small Potatoes Urban Delivery

This person deserves to be recognized their peers in this category because: As manager of SPUD Karin has taken an active role in the community. She has participated in CR-Fair, done public speaking for the Community Council, Sierra Club, the Values Based Business Network among others. Karin is active in increasing farming acreage and organic farming acreage. She is currently working to help establish a new farmers co-op. She is on the board at Keating Farm. Karin does a great job promoting urban agriculture and transitional farmers in the community and within the company. I am sure that I am missing a number of ways in which Karin is contributing to food sustainability. Even the choice to work for SPUD, which does much as a corporation is a responsible personal choice. Please consider Karin and ask her for more information about her contributions.

6. Education and Awareness

The cresting wave of interest and awareness around health and food systems can be attributed to the dedication and work of countless individuals and organizations working diligently behind the scenes to increase our understanding of the issues and what we can do about them. These people were talking about food before it was sexy. Education and Awareness was named as the number one priority in terms of increasing food security in the region through the Food and Health Action Plan. Tonight we honor someone who created “Growing Schools”, one of the most innovative and replicated children’s education programs, along with fast-forwarding Foodmiles as a concept and educational tool.

2008 Recipient: Kezia Cowtan, LifeCycles Project Society

In her 9 years of involvement, through various community based projects and educational material, her organization and her dedication have been instrumental in cultivating awareness and initiating action around food, health, and urban sustainability in the Greater Victoria community. Moreover, they have been a source of inspiration for many other food-related initiatives in BC as well as across Canada. Their work is simply feel-good, empowering, hands-on and their proactive role to promoting local food sustainability needs to be recognized publicly.

7. Literary and Media

This award category is designed to recognize the creative people who are “Turning up the volume” on food issues. This work is happening through mainstream and alternative media, be that print, or web, tv or radio. We have seen an incredible increase in coverage, and many people could be recognized this year. We have chosen

2008 Recipient: Mark Forsythe, host of BC Almanac on CBC Radio

BC Almanac connects British Columbians as they share stories and ideas about what they have in common and what makes them different. A phone-in show with interviews on news stories and controversial issues, Mark Forsythe and the Almanac team at CBC Radio have focused attention on food security issues throughout the past year – from the impact of meat inspection regulations to the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands’ recent Agriculture Plan. The regular focus on food security issues and challenges brings voices from across the province together in an informative and constructive dialogue. Additionally the BC Almanac Food Panel (Pete Malowney, Herb Barbolet and Eileen Mosca) has been on the air for better than ten years. They tackle a new food issue each month. The show also airs Don Genova's Food for Thought column once a week.

8. Government Initiative Health

In doing work around increasing food security in the region we are continually reminded of the benefits of working in partnership. There is increasing interest and willingness from community, industry and government to work on solutions together. In this arena we see people working in their capacity within government, be that at the municipal, regional, or provincial level who show

a real passion and commitment to this work. This year we honor someone who has advocated for, and supported the work of so many of tonight's guests at this event.

2008 recipient: Caryl Harper, VIHA

Caryl Harper is the Regional Coordinator for Vancouver Island Health Authority's Food Security Program and is nominated as a leader in increasing community food security on the islands and in the CRD, from within government. As a health promotion consultant she has provided strategic leadership to move the food security planning process forward and has worked collaboratively with over 50 community organizations throughout the region, other VIHA program areas and Provincial government to mobilize and increase community food security.

Caryl has been recognized in particular due to her tireless effort to really find out what is happening on the ground and support innovation, take risks and make connections. Her arena of work can be challenging and she is constantly striving to educate and push the boundaries of the possible. Those of you working in government know that this takes gumption and determination, both qualities that Caryl has in abundance.

9. Government Initiative Agriculture

2007 was a bumpy ride for many folks in the agriculture industry and government. Many challenging issues continue to put health and safety concerns and producing food at loggerheads. There were two outstanding nominees identified as champions in this category:

2008 Recipient: Kathleen Gibson

Kathleen has shown thoughtful leadership in working on the Meat Industry Enhancement Strategy and Meat Transition Assistance Program with the BC Food Processors Association. This initiative

Through partnerships with many organizations, ministries, community groups, abattoir owners, and livestock producers, is working towards sustainable local food in the future through healthy community-based supply chains.

Kathleen has been working on sustainable food systems for 20+ years, working with and for farmers, food security groups, marketing boards, processors and others. She has been a founding member of the BC Food Systems Network, an early member of CR-FAIR and a founding member of Food Secure Canada. As a self proclaimed "amateur policy wonk" she is particularly interested in policy reform for sustainable food systems, and told us "she has had the opportunity to work on some interesting pieces such as the specialty review of supply managed marketing, and development of slaughter waste Code of Practice". We really need people like Kathleen!

Kathleen believes, "The challenge is to re-form how we think, direct and plan our food systems so that they can deliver integrated ecological, economic and social benefits. The importance of the "meat file," as we call it, is that the decline of oil (on which industrial agriculture is based) requires us to shorten supply chains and retain / rebuild local infrastructure. Without infrastructure - the unglamorous, hidden links in the chain between producer and consumer - there is no food system. We should be asking what ends we are really pursuing and evaluating our policies by asking whether they deliver results (in this case optimizing safe food and mitigating public health risks) in appropriate and affordable ways.

These days Kathleen, also writes an op-ed column for Country Life in BC.

10. Special Recognition

This category is reserved for someone who does outstanding work, and deserves to be singled out for their incredible commitment and work around food security in the CRD. This years

recipient was actually nominated a number of times in a number of categories!! This is testament to her value and unrelenting efforts. The person chosen for Special Recognition this year is not a person who is usually in the limelight, she is working quietly and diligently behind the scenes to make it all happen. Most of you know here here because she is an incredible, practical networker. This year the award goes to:

2008 Recipient: Lee Fuge, Food Roots

Lee works tirelessly to promote food security in so many ways. Since coming to Victoria she has contributed both on an individual and collaborative level and has made a profound impact in this region. Her approach is always practical and although she is committed to dialogue and planning efforts she is in her element “getting things done”.

Those of you who know Lee, know that she is quiet, and a behind the scenes kind of person. She is a woman of few yet significant words, who is not afraid to speak her mind. She brings great depth and experience to this community and she is a master connector and an incredibly hard worker.

Lee has done such amazing work with FoodRoots to bring Pocket Markets to Victoria. She envisioned the concept and worked on its successful development and expansion. Food Roots is a small-scale community market network bringing local food to local consumers. Beyond this it is a co-op that is able to support local farmers, and encourage them to expand their production. FoodRoots and the markets have been a visible beacon to local food efforts in government offices and neighborhoods across the CRD.

Lee has shown leadership in many significant roles beyond the development of the FoodRoots pocket markets; as a Moss Street Market board member; Sustainable Feasts facilitator; supporter of local organic farmers; coordinator of the LifeCycles youth community entrepreneurship program, she is a CRFAIR member and current chair, a co-op developer and member of International Women’s Catering Co-op. She is a virtual fountain for this community - sharing information, resources and support

We are all the better, literally and figuratively for her involvement in food issues. She’s a food security hero and truly deserves to be recognized with this honor.

Breakout Group Discussions and Contact Lists

ABORIGINAL FOOD SOVERIEGNTY AND HEALTH

1. Who are you and what are you doing under this initiative?

- Alix Link
 - Community groups, i.e. LifeCycles, Agriculture and Lands, Aboriginal Relations
 - Interest in learning
- Bob Maxwell
 - Central Saanich, Chair of agro initiative
 - Interests: Aboriginal, Gary Oak, Raising Camas, here biggest starch producers, competition of farmers
- Richard Behn
 - Fisheries Department
 - Advocate use of traditional areas to foods, shellfish harvesting, cold storage, look at what they are eating and where
- Fiona Devereaux
 - Feasting for Change Working Group
 - Control over the resources, bridge gaps promote collaboration

- Dawn Foxcroft
 - Works and lives in her community
 - N. Tribal council, Fisheries Dept. – policy gov't, crab reform, capacity building
 - 'Hishukis Ts'awalk' - 'Everything is one' - Connect
 - 'Redfish, Bluefish' – 5 people working together towards Food Sovereignty
- Jody
 - Friendship Center

Aboriginal Group Contact List

Dawn Foxcroft	dawn@redfishbluefish.ca
Richard Behn	whoisbushed@hotmail.com
Fiona Devereaux	fiona.devereaux@viha.ca
Kate Kittredge	kkittredge@telus.cnet
Alix Link	alexandra.link@gov.bc.ca
Monty Crisp	mp_crisp@hotmail.com

2. What are the ways to combine your efforts & strengthen your work in this area?

- Land held in trust (reserves) the land is not as developed
- Suggest C. Saanich & N. Saanich keep forest intact
- Airport- utilize land monoculture activities are not good for the land - Pollution.
- Peninsula streams
- Listening & learning: connections. Communities.
- Rights to harvest and gather – food security for economic sustainability & health
- Integrated approach – community input into policy development
- Things to report:
- Not enough time to get to know each other
- Relationships – it takes people
- There is a lot to learn from First Nations communities
- Redfish Bluefish – April 8/08 – Community Development Workshop

3. What tools/resources would best support you to achieve your goals under this initiative?

- No Response

LOCAL FOOD PURCHASING POLICIES

1. Who are you and what are you doing under this initiative?

- Joe Melton
 - Common Energy group UVIC
 - Get local food purchase at UVIC
 - In meantime want local food used at food services on campus
 - Coordinating local food fest at UVIC in Fall
 - Integrate local food action in the campus culture
- Dorothea Hoffman
 - Promoting the rooster booster program in local shops
 - Hopes to increase
- Jack Mar
 - Local food producer
 - Sits on BC veg. marketing commission
- Cliff Stainsby

- BC government employee union, also 2 acre hobby farm
- Union has cool community campaign focusing on food security

Local Food Purchasing Policies

Joe Melton	jrmelton@uvic.ca food@uvic.commonenergy.ca
Dorothia Hoffman	polkadottie44@shaw.ca

- 2. What are the ways to combine your efforts & strengthen your work in this area?**
 - UVIC program – want to get all groups working on this topic to attend UVIC Forum to increase public knowledge
 - Want to produce a local food directory that centralizes the info and makes it easier
 - Jack Mar – produces farm guide – up to 90 producers listed (UVIC calendar has link to)
 - Problem – not enough of a push on local retailers to carry local products & also not enough local produce
 - Local retailers need to provide incentives to increase local production
 - Local retailers need to have an adequate source to purchase
 - Pitch the expansion of agriculture land to help with the BC carbon neutral plan
 - Need to invest in infrastructure and making land accessible (cost & space) to farmers or will not have a viable farming community that produces the product.
 - Need to ID the investor – who is the responsible for this?
- 3. What tools/resources would best support you to achieve your goals under this initiative?**
 - No responses

URBAN AGRICULTURE

- 1. Who are you and what are you doing under this initiative?**
 - Martin Scaia
 - Runs City Harvest
 - Pat McGuire
 - James Bay Community Market Project (community gardens)
 - Carolyn Herriot
 - Seed-saving education, “New Victory Garden”
 - Janet Smith
 - Rockland Neighbourhood Association – greenspace and garden advocacy
 - Mary & Steve Holland
 - Sooke, intensive gardening, home canning for sale
 - Shannon
 - Fernwood Food Security Collective – urban agriculture Victoria by laws
 - Personal producer
 - Fran
 - Seed saving, grow own produce, share with Women’s organizations in Saanich
 - Leah Tocher
 - Saanich, urban agriculture on land in neighbourhood
 - Janet Carrol
 - Personal gardener/producer for condo building
 - Lawn conversion promoter (to garden)
 - Patty
 - Vic West, co-chair of Vic West Food Security Collective; community garden coordinator; commons garden

- Lands Use – Advocacy for urban agriculture inclusion in development

Urban Agriculture Group Contact List

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Cami Polland	camipis@shaw.ca
Monty Crisp	mb_crisp@hotmail.com
Carolyn Harriot	www.earthfuture.com/gardenpath thegardenpath@shaw.ca
Martin Scaia	info@cityharvest.ca
Fran Grady	gradfra@islandnet.com
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Analisa Blake	analysablake@gmail.com
Amy Crook	trailhead@telus.net
Richard Bickel	hbickel@shaw.ca
Steve & Mary Holland	mholland@softwaves.net

2. What are the ways to combine your efforts & strengthen your work in this area?

- Collaboration between producers and teachers
- More local markets – create venues for local/urban producers
- Share mentors and resource people
- Communication tools (e-forums, email lists, blogs, websites)
- Coordinating lobbying efforts

3. What tools/resources would best support you to achieve your goals under this initiative?

- Web-based communication tools (e.g. Central website)
- Education programs, public education campaign
- Coordination at municipal level
- Coordinating organization
- Access supportive community members (e.g. local politicians) to create supportive policies and implement them
- Media access
- Information and materials, access through garden centers/nurseries

FARMLAND & FARMING

1. Who are you and what are you doing under this initiative?

- Faye
 - Central Saanich – Future Farming Family Link
- Natalie Chambers
 - Madrona Farm – Political action supporting Farmland and education
- Sharon

- Environmentalist – Food Roots / Community Groups
 - List Serve around Food and Agriculture
 - Protect Eco system and ALR
- David Stott
 - Capital Families – Food Security Coordinator
 - Community Gardens/Farmer Market/Farmer Support
- Herman Richard
 - TLC Volunteer
 - Gardener / Craigflower Manor / Family looking for land
- Ian King
 - Langford Farmer
 - TLC Community Farm Project
- Diana Chown
 - Landowner, Organic Farm
 - Leased land to organic farmer
 - Networking organization Ragged Raven initiative
- Wanda
 - Biologist
 - TLC Legislation/By laws, Possibility?
- Lana Popham
 - Saanich Farmer – Barking Dog Vineyard
 - Assessment spokesperson
- Ruby
 - Saanich Farmer – blueberries'
 - Direct Retail Sales / Distribution Coordinator
- David Chambers
 - Saanich Farmer – 120,000 lbs of food produced Madrona Farm Trust??
- David
 - Lifecycles – Policies

Farmland and Farming Group Contact List

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Bob Maxell	fieldstonegarlic@shaw.ca
Lana Popham	barkingdog@shaw.ca
<hr/>	
David & Natahalie Chambers	madrama@telus.net
Paula Hesje	phesje@conservancy.bc.ca
David Coney	david.coney@gov.bc.ca

2. What are the ways to combine your efforts & strengthen your work in this area?

- Resource guide for lobbying to protect farmland (who, what, where)
- Strengthen food distribution for local suppliers
- Publicize farming (headlines news), consistent representation
- Plant legislature lawn with vegetables
- Integrate government branches to address farming
- Structures for providing supports to people who are asking question
- Assess how much can we grow, how many people can we feed
- Local food security, knowledge resources

- Who is going to grow it?
- Future impact of climate change on agricultural and supply of food

3. What tools/resources would best support you to achieve your goals under this initiative?

- No Response

NEIGHBOURHOOD FOOD ACCESS (MARKETS)

1. Who are you and what are you doing under this initiative?

- Paula Sobie
 - Market for Oak Bay
- Sandra Masai
 - Market for Saanich, Brentwood Bay, Pioneer Park, Craigflower Manor (attempting to start one), View Royal Town Hall (happening)
- Katherine Kusyszya
 - Market in Sooke
- Ivan Mishchenko
 - Organic Blueberry Farmers North Saanich
- LeeFuge
 - Food Roots

Neighborhood Food Group Contact List:

Lee Fuge	leefuge@pacificcoast.net
Sandra Masai	sandramasai@shaw.ca
Ivan Mishchenko & Ruby Commandeur	ivan@rubyredfarms.com
Jennifer Freeman	goodfoodbox@fernwoodneighbourhood.ca
Paula Sobie	info@cityharvest.ca
Herman Bickel	hbickel@shaw.ca

2. What are the ways to combine your efforts & strengthen your work in this area?

- Identifying human resources and knowledge base in communities
- Sharing info and creating strategies...not re-inventing the wheel, relying on others experiences
- Using momentum to push these efforts to the forefront – when success is achieved in one municipality, use that to leverage change elsewhere
- Find strategic allies...perhaps even outside your municipality who can grease the wheel where you live with your politicians

3. What tools/resources would best support you to achieve your goals under this initiative?

- Review of Municipal bylaws re: land use to facilitate markets

FOOD POLICIES & REGULATION

1. Who are you and what are you doing under this initiative?

- Alastair Bryson
 - Availability of affordable farmland
- Karen

- Urban agriculture works as a community development planner and wants to see how food security fits with her work
- Why would food security be a priority
- Katia
 - Urban agriculture
 - Working on a school project to promote urban agriculture
- Dave
 - Tax assessment policies on Saanich Peninsula
- Shauna
 - Urban agriculture and residential by laws
- Melanie
 - Marketing issues
- David Coney
 - CRD Growth that supports agriculture
- Jack
 - Democratic process
- Trish Stovel
 - Toronto Food Policy Council
 - Experience and Interested in how that can happen here
 - Worker/supplier co-ops
- Jarrod
 - Past experience working with communities around developing food policies

Policy Group Contact List

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Trish Stovel	stovel@telus.net
Alastair Bryson	alastair_bryson@telus.net
Shana Janz	sljanz@uvic.ca
Melanie Sommerville	
Jack Mar	
David Reid	dreid@uvic.ca
Linda Geggie	lindageggie@telus.net
David Coney	David.Coney@gov.bc.ca

2. What are the ways to combine your efforts & strengthen your work in this area?

- Alastair – capital costs to farmers is far too high. We buy parkland and watershed. What about our food shed?
- Karen – possible mater’s opportunity to evaluate how by-laws could be amended to encourage food-friendly development and planning
-

3. What tools/resources would best support you to achieve your goals under this initiative?

- Having a Regional Council that pulls together multiple interests – Food Policy Council

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

1. Who are you and what are you doing under this initiative?

- Renate
 - FTP - Education
- Katie Zaybel
 - Writer at EAT magazine
 - local/artisan food nation wide
- Karen Olive
 - Red Fish Blue Fish
 - Education public on sustainability
- Josie Osborn
 - Red Fish Blue Fish
 - Tofino Botanical Garden
 - Do children education
 - Fact finding – fishing & agriculture
 - Trilogy Fish Co.
- Carol Pearson
 - Writing
 - Raising public awareness re: food security
- Mara Jernigan
 - Fairburn farm
 - Teach culinary program advisor
 - Feast of Fields and writer
- Anna Russo
 - CR FAIR does newsletter
 - Building rain garden at Vic West
- Marria Gauley
 - Field Stone Community farm
 - Steward farms with mental handicap people, want to recruit volunteers to work on farm
- Bill Scott
 - Teacher – Environmental Issues Course
 - Now doing adult education
 - Working National Film Board material
 - Urban agriculture needs to happen in schools also – victory gardens
- Barb Lund
 - Biologist – Saanich District
 - Parent Association – trying to get healthy food into schools & education with kids for green movement
- Analisa Blake
 - Compost Education Center workshops re composting and gardening
 - UVIC – research ass Alec Ostrey in geopgraphy – reviewing food security and health (#’s = \$s)
 - Communication graphic design for food and environment issues
- Carla Funk
 - Land Conservancy of BC
 - Trying to find ways to transfer farms from aging farmers to younger farmers, review laws, life estates, farm succession planning and land use planning and how we are planning for climate change
- Matthew Kershaw
 - LifeCycles Growing School Project
- Kezia Cowtan
 - LifeCycles

Education Group Contact List

Caron Olive	caron@redfishblue.ca
Carla Funk	cfunk@coservancy.bc.ca
Marria Gauley	marria_gauley@yahoo.ca
Trish Stovel	tstovel@telus.net
Kezia Cowtan	kcowan@lifecycles.ca
Anna Russo	anna@communitycouncil.ca
Kathryn Kusyszyn	present@telusplanet.net
Monty Crisp	mb_crisp@hotmail.com
Herman Bickel	hbickel@shaw.ca
Jennifer Freeman	goodfoodbox@fernwoodneighbourhood.ca
Carolyn Herriot	www.earthfuture.com/gardenpath thegardenpath@shaw.ca

2. What are the ways to combine your efforts & strengthen your work in this area?

- No responses

3. What tools/resources would best support you to achieve your goals under this initiative?

- Support research endeavors for more support (lack of knowledge)
- Need government to support to take effect
- Ministry of Agriculture making funds available for food security – no resources from Ministry of Health and Education
- Would like money for real hands on experience for school garden or food education programs real experience versus glossy papers
- Protect what we have right now. Has to be an economical viable solution need to deal with urban land/food security issues possible thru tax incentives
- In tourist place like Tofino we get donations and the tourists are subsidizing us
- Need a centralized info website that details all food security education available

ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD

1. Who are you and what are you doing under this initiative?

- Geneva Hagen
 - Status of women action group
 - Income and food access
- Carrie Potter
 - Lifecycles Project HEAL worker
 - Aboriginal and healthier lifestyle
 - Gardening, building community thru Friendship Centre food access
- Fern Wagner
 - Blanshard CC, Hillside Quadra Garden Group
- Jennifer Hanes
 - Coldstar Freight
 - Food Recovery – Community Food Project
- Bunny Shannon
 - Comox Valley LUSH
 - Fruit Tree Project – find warehouse space
 - Bulk buying for needy
 - Community kitchen program – cook add veg.

Food Access Contact List

Jennifer Freeman	goodfoodbox@fernwoodneighbourhood.ca
Elietha Bocskei	elietha@hotmail.com
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Renate Nahser-Ringo	rringer@shaw.ca
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Carrie Polland	carriepis@shaw.ca
Jarrod Gunn-McQuillan	
Denis F. Oliver	denis_f_oliver@shaw.ca

Analisa Blake	analisablake@gmail.com
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2. What are the ways to combine your efforts & strengthen your work in this area?

- Information sharing – what's available?
- Resource Inventory
- Online – blog, list-serve (more directed) – harvest season p/u of trucks
- Problem – competition/politics – raise higher
- Money - food and sustainable community – access to local/buy local/costs/skills resources/not just provide food but education/income and food vouchers

3. What tools/resources would best support you to achieve your goals under this initiative?

- Online communication

PROCESSING & DISTRIBUTION

1. Who are you and what are you doing under this initiative?

- Christie Eng
 - Works with SPUD (Small Potatoes Urban Delivery)
- Jennifer Freeman
 - Good Food Box Program – bulk buying fresh produce group
- Kelly Hawes
 - Coldstar Freight Systems – only CFIA food safe carrier in BC
- Lyle Young
 - Poultry processor and distributor

Processing and Distribution Group Contact List

Jennifer Freeman	goodfoodbox@fernwoodneighbourhood.ca
Christie Eng	sunlady@shaw.ca
Ivan Mishchenko	ivan@rubyredfarms.com
& Ruby Commandeur	
Kelly Hawes	kelly@coldstarfreight.com www.coldstarfreight.com
Carolyn Herriot	www.gardenwise.ca

2. What are the ways to combine your efforts & strengthen your work in this area?

- Marketing support

- Brand recognition and sharing i.e. Rooster Booster
 - Example: SPUD working with Good Food Box Program
 - Networking...farmer to contact
- 3. What tools/resources would best support you to achieve your goals under this initiative?**
- Educating the end consumer on food safety/ cross contamination/ quality control
 - Programs to label product that has been shipped in a food safe way

List of Food Matters Forum Attendees 2008

Name	Organization	contact	
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		Good Food Box Program Coordinator/City Farm urban farmer	
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Committee SD#63

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Melanie	Somerville	Farm Policy Review Board	

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