

## The Land Conservancy of BC has a new farm committed to be a [Conservation Partner!](#)

*Submitted by Paula Hesje, TLC*

The Conservation Partners Program (CPP), a province-wide initiative of The Land Conservancy, unites ecological conservation with sustainable agriculture values and practices. The program supports and promotes our partners – exemplary farmers, ranchers, orchardists and vineyard owners who use their land not only to produce food, but also to protect natural habitat and biodiversity. Our partners are distinguished by our butterfly label, a logo to spark public interest in this community of agriculturalists and their contribution to the long-term viability of food production and ecosystem health in B.C.

### **Our latest story:**

Norma Lohbrunner has lived on the same 40-acre farm in Langford municipality since marrying her husband, Joseph, in 1945. A long driveway leads you to a white farmhouse with fields to your right and the forest rising up to your left, providing a picturesque green backdrop. It is these two features – the agricultural fields and the forest – that Norma is passionate about.

Over the years, Norma and Joseph grew a wide variety of produce on the land, from beef cattle to hay to vegetables. Joseph had a great passion for birds and Norma recalls how he would bring towhee birds into the kitchen to feed them. He whistled and called like the birds and even took care of one that had a broken leg. Both Joseph and Norma lived with the land and what it offered them.

After Joseph passed away in 1968, Norma wanted to uphold his wish that “this land never be developed”. Norma’s vision was also to protect this land from the rampant development she has seen in the region over the past 10 years. She saw the forest as a calm sanctuary for her beloved bird community and the farmland as a valuable food-producing resource, despite the fact that it has only been used for hay production in the past 12 years. This minimal farming activity all changed when Norma began the process to see her hopes for the farm realized.

In 2007, Norma donated the farm to The Land Conservancy using a legal agreement called a ‘life estate’. A ‘life estate’ means that Norma will live in her home for the rest of her life; it means that she has given title to The Land Conservancy who assume responsibility for protecting the land in perpetuity as per Norma’s wishes.

The Land Conservancy has now leased a section of the farm to Ian King who is growing mixed vegetables and grains organically. "The land is starting to

come alive," says Norma. Watch for Ian selling his local produce at the Moss Street and Luxton Markets.