

## HORSE LAKE COMMUNITY FARM CO-OP BUSINESS PLAN

2017 - 2020

The purpose of the HORSE LAKE COMMUNITY FARM Co-Op ('the farm') is multi-faceted. The foundation of the Co-Op is to preserve and use the land (formerly known as the Betty Place) based on the following guiding principles:

- Ecology
- Affordability
- Sustainability
- Organic farming
- Shared ownership

Key elements are:

- Maintenance and improvement of the farm
- Production of sustainable organic food
- Sharing of the products
- Ecology and sustainable farming Education
- Stewardship

The Co-Op will continue to rent the farm to OC Developments and/or CEEDS, as determined by the agreed upon 5 year lease.

Other sources of income for the Co-Op will be determined by the Board of Directors as it meets from time to time or by email consensus as opportunities and situations arise.

- Such sources of income may include Seedy Saturday events, Feasts to celebrate the food and the Co-Op, 'Bird and Botany' walks, Summer Solstice Celebrations, Festivals [on the land], Camping, Auctions, Sale or resale of commodities, etc.
- Food growing parcels / garden space is also available for rent to members at a cost of \$1.00 per Square Metre per year. The Co-Op will develop a statement to advertise this to the membership.

The Co-Op continues to support CEEDS/OC Development in their efforts to sell the products of the farm.

Buying and Selling of farm produced goods by members, to members and non-members alike, directly or indirectly, is also encouraged by the Co-Op. Members have first opportunity to purchase farm produced goods.

The various sources of income will be used to sustain and improve the farm and its operations as well as to reduce the debt load which still stands at \$105,000 as of 2017.

Emphasis and goals for the next 3 years will be:

1. Improve the cabin so it can be used effectively by workers at the farm.
2. Analyze water consumption and supply at the garden site. Dual emphasis on irrigation and vegetable washing systems. This includes applying for financial assistance

for aspects of those through OC Development and the Environmental Farm Plan workbook.

3. Reduce weed encroachment, particularly thistle.
4. Improve and replace or add fencing to protect riparian areas and the water quality of Longbow Creek and Horse Lake.
5. Improve the consumer members' access to the food produced at the farm.
6. Continue to pay down the [\$105,000] debt.
7. Identify and recruit new members.
8. Improve the campsite area.
9. Clean up the old trailer site.
10. Look into developing a policy for volunteer and in-kind work on the farm.
11. Develop wording to recognize the relationship with local First Nations and present to the 2018 AGM.
12. Present and report on the progress made on those goals at the Co-Op AGM on a yearly basis.