

Burgoyne Valley Community Farm

About 21 acres are rented to four farmers and Community Services. The rented land is mostly used for hay, but also to produce fruits, vegetables and medicinal herbs and to raise pasture based farm animals. Most of the farm activities are not profit driven but centred around the need to improve the soil and protect the local ecology, some of the work is experimental in nature. Produce grown by Community Services is used for the social agencies' own charitable mission.

The communities need to compost food and abattoir waste on island was acknowledged. The compost would greatly contribute to soil regeneration on island. A composting system was studied but ultimately the implementation failed due to the extensive permit process required.

The lease on the garlic acreage was not renewed. It was determined after the review that a new proposal would have to be submitted due to a requested change of the tenants and size of the acreage. This 5 acre parcel has now been set aside for a seed saving project.

The Farm includes an extensive area of wetland below the pond. Thomas R. Biebighauser, a wildlife biologist and wetland ecologist visited the site with the assistance of the Salt Spring Land Conservancy and a grant from Environment Canada. He recommended the wetland area that should be delineated.

The twelve bee hives adjacent to the pond continue to be healthy have all made it through the winter so far.

Lora Morandin of Pollinator Partnership Canada submitted a report concerning areas most suitable for habitat enhancement or preservation for pollinators. Future possibilities may include options for pollinator monitoring, timelines for monitoring, role of SSIFT and suggestions for other agencies that could be involved.