

Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust
Annual General Meeting, February 2018

The Root

In 2017 the board organised a community-wide naming contest for the property at 189 Beddis Road. “The Root” was the winner selected by a community committee from more than 40 entries. The name was quickly adopted by the community at large, and the next phase of development of the property took flight. Milestones include:

- Successful drilling of the well
- Completion of the septic plan, storm water plan, structural plan, and HVAC plan.
- Approval of the building permit.
- Negotiated agreement with Beddis Development to meet the conditions of their approval to remove their property from the Agriculture Land Reserve.
- Building of the Community Seed Bank inside the barn, in collaboration with the SSI Seed Sanctuary Society.
- Termination of the rental agreement with long-term renter on the site.
- Removal of the shacks and related debris from the site.
- Review and submission of proposed changes to the Local Trust Committee regarding the new industrial zoning category for the property. Acceptance of the changes by the Local Trust to ensure that agricultural uses are retained.
- Reassessment by BC Assessment to acknowledge charitable purpose.
- Working Group planning.
- Information booths and presentations at Seedy Saturday, Earth Day, and the Fall Fair.
- Award of \$100,000 grant from the SSI Foundation, the largest grant they had awarded to date. Naming of the processing kitchen the Shaw Family Kitchen in the pending new facility.
- Issuance of a Request for Proposals for constructing the new facility. Assessment of the responses and awarding of the contract to SR Designs. Negotiation of the contract.
- Design of the permaculture food garden at the site by Michael Nickels and his apprentices, including support from Island Natural Growers.
- Public engagement events in October including Graham Kerr at the Forum, Graham Kerr Dinner at the Sailing Club, Community Open House at The Root.
- Award of \$100,000 grant from the provincial Rural Dividend program.
- Award of \$35,000 grant from the Victoria Foundation.

The Farmland Trust thanks the members of the Working Group, including the SSI Agriculture Alliance for their assistance with development of the site. We also thank the community at large for its strong support of The Root.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Reichert