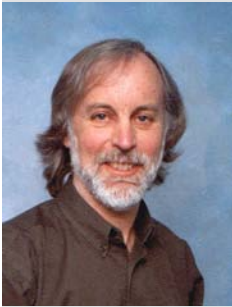




## Message from the FLT Chair and Co-chair

*Welcome to our inaugural Farmlands Trust Newsletter !*



Ed Johnson  
Chair

*On the following pages, you will find that our volunteer group has expanded its vision to include not only the Mount Newton Valley but Greater Victoria. Our updated scope still aligns with our original goal to serve as a model for the preservation of farmland in southern Vancouver Island.*

*While we have broadened our vision through our strategic planning process, we have also refined our organizational goals which include realistic priorities, goals and performance measures over the next five years.*

*It is definitely an exciting time to be actively involved in issues regarding farmland preservation and protection of local food security - as more community members and governments become aware of the scarcity and necessity of viable farmland for food production. The Farmlands Trust Society, with your support, intends on being a vibrant and active voice in this movement.*

*We invite you to become part of our expanding group of dedicated volunteers by putting your name forward as a volunteer, supporter and/or donor - **as together, we can make a difference!***



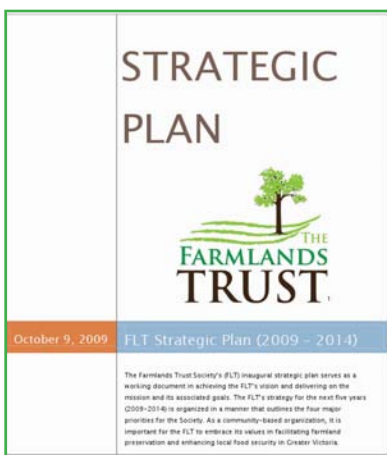
Barbara Souther  
Co-chair

## Planning for the Future:

### FLT's Strategic Plan (2009-2014)

The Farmlands Trust Society (FLT) was founded as a not-for-profit society under the *Society Act* on March 18, 2008 to facilitate the preservation of local farmland and the enhancement of food security to benefit current and future generations. The Society supports a holistic approach to sustainable farming based on ecological, economic, historical and socio-cultural values.

This summer, the FLT members engaged in a strategic planning process, facilitated by Dr. Bill Bourgeois, New Direction Resource Management Ltd., and began expanding the geographic and social scope of the organization to cover all the peoples and lands of Greater Victoria.



A copy of our FLT Strategic Plan (2009 – 2014) and this newsletter is available at: [www.farmlandtrust.ca](http://www.farmlandtrust.ca)

## The FLT Vision

The Farmlands Trust Society is a leading community-based organization for facilitating the preservation of Greater Victoria farmland and the enhancement of food security to benefit current and future generations based on ecological, economic, historical and socio-cultural values.



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<b>Priority #1. Farmland Preservation</b>	<i>Goal: Preserve Greater Victoria farmland for future generations</i>
<b>Priority #2. Farmland Management</b>	<i>Goal: Establish mechanisms to promote the sustainable management of farms that contribute to the regional economy</i>
<b>Priority #3. Community Relations and Outreach</b>	<p><i>Goal: Integrate First Nation's interests and knowledge about food security in the current and future management of Greater Victoria farmland</i></p> <p><i>Goal: Increase awareness and interest in Greater Victoria agriculture/food</i></p>
<b>Priority #4. Governance and Financial Oversight</b>	<i>Goal: Maintain a highly professional and fiscally responsible organization that ensures long-term viability of the FLT</i>



## FLT Activities

The FLT continues its work on enhancing the local farming capacity in Greater Victoria. Key activities include:

- Protecting local farmland;
- Protecting eco-sensitive and culturally special areas;
- Producing food for local consumption;
- Promoting the economic viability of farmland; and
- Providing public community access and public education programs.

## Woodwynn Farm



Thank you to our many donors who contributed to the FLT's efforts to purchase Woodwynn Farm in 2008 and 2009. Although our bid was not successful, we are continuing our efforts to work with [The Land Conservancy \(TLC\)](#) to encourage the new Woodwynn Farm owners to place a covenant on the property to protect the land in perpetuity for farming. Also, in accordance with the wishes of donors, contributions received by the FLT for Woodwynn Farm were returned to donors, transferred to TLC or retained by the FLT for future farmland acquisitions.

To date, the FLT and an anonymous FLT donor pledged \$300,000.00 to Madrona Farm in the Blenkinsop Valley as an example of its commitment to local farmland preservation (in perpetuity) for Greater Victoria citizens which TLC has agreed to purchase. Approximately \$836,000.00 is required on or before January 14, 2010 to protect the Madrona Farm forever. View video here: <http://www.farmlandstrust.ca/Madrona.html>

To donate, please visit:  
[www.conservancy.bc.ca/donatetomadrona](http://www.conservancy.bc.ca/donatetomadrona)  
For more information about Madrona Farm, visit:  
[www.madronafarm.com](http://www.madronafarm.com)

## Madrona Farm



## Newman Farm Park



In September 2009, the Central Saanich Mayor and Council agreed to support the Administrator's recommendation that, in principle, the District will consider a Partnership Arrangement with the FLT regarding the preservation and sustainable management of Newman Farm Park. Newman Farm Park is a 17 acre working farm owned by the Municipality of Central Saanich, by and for residents of Greater Victoria.

## FLT Strategic Communications

The FLT designed and began implementing strategic communication activities which established a set of common communication tools (i.e., a revised website and this inaugural newsletter) that will be used to actively engage and communicate with: the Greater Victoria farming community; citizens at large; First Nations; Government (municipal, provincial, federal); charitable organizations; non-governmental organizations (NGOs) specializing in stewardship, heritage, agriculture and nature conservancy; and academia.



## FLT Board of Directors

The FLT is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of Greater Victoria community members who have a diverse array of experience, knowledge, skills and abilities that enrich the planning and implementing of farmland preservation and local food security activities. At present, the FLT has nine Board Members and approximately 1,000 supporters.



### Current 2009/2010 FLT Board of Directors

Ed Johnson (Chair)

Barbara Souther (Co-Chair)

Natasha Caverley (Secretary)

Glenn Davidson (Treasurer)

David Clark (Board Member)

Alicia Cormier (Board Member)

Remi Paul (Board Member)

Heather Stretch (Board Member)

Anne Waterhouse (Board Member)

In early 2010, the FLT Board of Directors will be working to establish volunteer committees that can assist the Board in collectively advancing the FLT vision, values, mission and goals. For more information about each board member, please visit: [www.farmlandstrust.ca/board.html](http://www.farmlandstrust.ca/board.html). Board meetings are held monthly at the St. Stephen's Community Church Hall Boardroom.

We would also like to extend a big thank you to the following who dedicated many hours in advancing the protection of local farmland and enhancing food security:

- Jolene Clark (Past Staff Member)
- Ashley Hamilton-MacQuarrie (Past Staff Member)
- Jenny Hyndman (Past Board Secretary)
- Hal Irwin (Past Treasurer)
- Michael Mazurek (Past Board Member)
- Dianne McGuire (Past Board Member)
- Michael M'Gonigle (Past Co-Chair)
- Gerri Schelini (Past Board Secretary)



Many people attended past meetings in Barbara Souther's living room.

### *Michael Mazurek (1949 – 2009)*

The FLT is passing on the sad news that Michael Mazurek died suddenly in North Saanich, BC in late October 2009. He had just celebrated his 60th birthday and was looking forward to making a move up Island. Michael served on the Board of The Farmlands Trust Society throughout most of 2008 and some of 2009. He was a great help at Woodwynn Farm in the summer of 2008 where he coordinated the moving of irrigation pipe and cheerfully moved many, many 15-foot sections of pipe himself. Michael will be remembered for his caring nature, his soft-spoken competence, his peaceful presence and his love of working the land.



## Lending Your Support to the Farmlands Trust Society

The FLT considers the highest and best uses for Greater Victoria land and society while improving the community in a charitable fashion. With pressing global concerns such as climate change, the FLT's mandate and associated activities benefit the public as a whole to think, plan and act locally to protect biodiversity and agricultural capabilities. The engagement of First Nations as part of the FLT's purpose reflects the need to integrate both western and indigenous ways in protecting local food security.

Foods that are produced by FLT volunteers and strategic partners are intended to respect the humane treatment of animals, biodiversity of the soil and produce organic food that ultimately, promotes good health for Greater Victoria citizens. On a project by project basis, a percentage of foods grown through FLT activities will be freely distributed to local First Nations and socially disadvantaged community members (i.e., food banks).

Make your choice today to join our team !



[www.farmlandstrust.ca/Volunteer.html](http://www.farmlandstrust.ca/Volunteer.html)



[www.farmlandstrust.ca/PleaseDonate.html](http://www.farmlandstrust.ca/PleaseDonate.html)



[www.farmlandstrust.ca](http://www.farmlandstrust.ca)

*Thank you for joining our FLT network!*

**The Farmlands Trust Society**  
**P.O. Box 9, Saanichton, British Columbia, V8M-2C3**

**Tel: 250.483.1468 or 250.652.2906**

**Email: [staff@farmlandstrust.ca](mailto:staff@farmlandstrust.ca)**

**Website: [www.farmlandstrust.ca](http://www.farmlandstrust.ca)**



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