



PQB FRUIT TREE PROJECT AGM

2024





March 31, 2023



Sept 1, 2024



HIGHLIGHTS

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- 2500 pounds of fruit and 1000 units of produce grown and gleaned and distributed
- Greenhouse finished in July, Grand Opening Event July 21
- Public piano painted by Kat Cuell and installed for summer months.
- The Muse sculpture by Sheena Mccorquodale
- Workshops - Pollinators, Fruit Tree Pruning, Hydroponics, Advanced Composting
- Fundraising - Springford Family Grant - RDN Grant - Parksville Qualicum Foundation Prosperity Grant - September Raffle
- Creative Kids summer camps, PRO D Day kids camps, Youth Art Therapy classes
- Arrowsmith Lodge Orchard ongoing partnership - workshops, pruning and gleaning
- Apple Festival / Live Raffle Event Sept 21
- Lighted hydroponics in the greenhouse

2500 POUNDS OF FRUIT PICKED AND DISTRIBUTED AND 1000 UNITS OF PRODUCE FROM THE GARDEN

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People came in literally every day to take free fresh produce home with them. Average of 10 people came in and left with food from mid-spring to late fall. Local gardeners also added their excess produce to our sharing supply. The people who came in represented a wide demographic; recent immigrants, seniors, people with disabilities, young families, apartment dwellers, people who like fresh local food. We grew and distributed about 1500 seedlings.





THE GREENHOUSE FINALLY FINISHED

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- It was a bigger ‘challenge’ than expected, but with perseverance and the help and support of Dwayne our contractor, Garry Bentham, Jennifer Bate and the board of the MAC, it was finally completed and signed off on by the city in July. As of today we have our peach trees, strawberries and lighted hydroponics inside. We expect to plant 2000-3000 seedlings beginning in late December
- “We didn’t do this because it’s easy, we did it because we thought it would be easy”.



An Artful Space

From left, public piano by Kat Cuell, The Muse By Sheena McCorquodale, Mosaic Art collaborative piece



Workshops - Fruit Tree Pruning w/ Connie Kuramoto, Pollinators w/ Howie Abel, Soil building and advanced composting w/ Al Chomica

GRANTS

- Awarded - Springford Family Grant - \$2000 specifically for the table
- RDN Recreation Grant - February \$2500
- RDN Community Grant August \$4000
- Oceanside Prosperity Fund - \$14,000 dedicated for operations, intended to build sustainability
- Denied
- CSRF - Community Service Recovery Fund, through United Way - Twice!
- VIHA Grant - didn't even get a reply
- In Progress
- United Way Critical Food Infrastructure
- Rotary Club

JOIN US IN OUR



FUNDRAISING RAFFLE

SUPPORT OUR
COMMUNITY GARDEN

GRAND PRIZE

\$2500

ONLY 100
TICKETS

\$100
each

SEPT 21
2024
7:00 PM

WWW.PQBFruit.ORG

133 MCMILLAN ST. PARKSVILLE BC

RAFFLE 2024

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- We held a raffle with a \$2500 grand prize, 100 total tickets at \$100 each. We sold 55 tickets (thank you Danelle, ticket selling phenom) for a profit of about \$2700. Our grand prize winner, Robin Curry donated half of that prize (\$1250) back to the group, and our second prize winner, who, did the same. We did the draw at the garden on Sept 21st in conjunction with the Apple Festival and it was pretty fun and worthwhile. 8 of our 10 would recommend again.



Events - Greenhouse Grand Opening, Musical guests at our Raffle / Apple Festival, more happy guests at the Raffle



Other work completed - Springford Family harvest table, new shed, mounted vertical hydro units

PARTNERSHIPS AND ALLIES

- Great support from Mary Beil, the COP, and Adam Walker.
- EcoChef Academy and Bradley Centre
- Arrowsmith Lodge and Cokely Manor
- Jennifer and The MAC have been incredible advocates and supporters
- Erica Williamson from VIHA did a few youth art therapy sessions
- Springford Family
- Farmer Brown from Springwood Middle School
- ROAMS Program SD69
- Wesco Foods in Port Alberni
- Oceanside Queers plan to hold art events
- United Way - Naut'sa mawt Oceanside Wellness (NOW) Network
- QB Master Gardeners
- Connie Kuramoto, Al Chomica, Wayne Coulbourn
- West Coast Seeds just approved us for the seed donation program

BASIC TIMELINE 2025

- Start planting seedlings late December early January
- Start booking and attracting more 3rd party workshops and events, including meditation classes, yoga classes, plein air painting, side door concerts
- Spring fundraising raffle - 1/4 side of beef and a freezer
- Feb 1 2025 Seedy Saturday
- Pruning workshops late February at Arrowsmith Lodge
- Family Day event with Creative Kids Feb 17
- Plant fruit trees early March
- Seedling swap in March 2025 / April 2025
- Chicken coop 'educational module' early March
- Piano outdoors May / June
- Apple Festival Sept 21, 2025
- Pergola / irrigation / wayfinding signage / community pantry onsite w/ fridge / seed library / sink

NOW WHAT? – WHAT DO WE DO NOW THAT WE HAVE THIS SPACE AND MOMENTUM

- Farmer's Market on grounds
- Rename? Literally nobody can wrap their head around "PQB Fruit Tree Project"
- Mobile community pantry / grocery truck
- Local Produce Buyers Club
- Good Food Box
- Retail Location
- Gardening Social Enterprise
- Mobile Kitchen
- Collecting Farmers Market B-Grades
- Truck for the gleaning program? (The Mazda 3 doesn't quite cut it)
- ??

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

- Volunteer coordinator
- Webmaster
- Fundraising committee
- Community pantry
- Community outreach - food recovery, food app promotion
- Tree pruners / gleaners

KEITH'S DISCUSSION TOPICS

What need in the community is being met, that is not met by other groups, individuals, or agencies?

What plan is in place to allow the group to be self sustaining from a financial and volunteer base perspective?

What problem is the group solving in the community? What are the barriers to qualify for entry by end users, and how are these barriers verified?

How can the project be scaled for exponential growth?

How is the project engaging the larger community of Oceanside?

What local expertise is being utilized to the advantage of the project?

How are the limitations of space/time/resources being allocated, maximized and prioritized?

What is the goal of the project, now and in the future?

Discussion topics:

- Funding models for operational costs
- Volunteer coordinator
- Acting as a hub for larger agricultural grower operations in the area
- Teaching, mentoring, workshops
- Work for credits toward food or seedlings by volunteers
- Heirloom seed depository, cataloging and storage
- Art installations in the garden
- Demonstration space for small space gardening
- Community gardens allocation