

PQB FRUIT TREE PROJECT

Annual General Meeting

Join us for our annual reports, board elections, and some brainstorming for next year

Wednesday Nov 11, 6:30 pm at the MAC

www.pqbfruit.org

pqbfruit@gmail.com



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2025/26 By The Numbers

12,100 pounds of fruit, picked and shared
50+ individual volunteers
6000 seedlings planted and distributed
Garden gates open 355 days
18 weeks of Sunday Farmers Markets
1500 cobs of corn given away
1000s of new visitors to the Garden
$56707.48 revenue, $52967.13 expenses



Workshops and Events

Workshops and Events - We ran fewer workshops this year than last year, due mostly to the work and time spent on the Farmers Market. Still…

Events - Strawberry Festival, Apple Festival, 10 weekly Farmers Market Corn Roasts, Front Liners Picnic, Spooky Stories, MAC Creative Kids Camps, Arrowsmith Lodge Visit, Rise-Up Visits, Boys and Girls Club Visit, Farm Folk City Folk Seed Cleaning, Seedy Saturday Booth, Compost Fundraiser X2

Farm Lab Workshops - Food Foresting V.2 and V.3, Perennial Vegetables, Soil Building, Fruit Tree Grafting, Fruit Tree Pruning X2, Eco-Chef Food Literacy series

A hope for next year is to produce more workshops, and to archive them on our website / YouTube channel.







From top, Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop, Front Liners Picnic, Soil Building Workshop

Events and Workshops

From left, Chicken Bingo, Spooky Stories, Seed Cleaning Event, Perennial Vegetables Workshop , Permaculture Workshop, Rise Up Participants, Board And Supporters Share A Meal Together















Quite a year for the Fruit Tree Project (a division of the Community Harvest Collective)

It was a huge year for the Fruit Tree Project. We collected 12010 pounds of fruit from 54 different properties and 34 individual volunteers, including 1200 pounds that was dropped off at the gate. There's still tons of room for growth, and I believe we could pick 20,000 pounds next year and still not get it all.

For context, in 2025 we picked 7644 pounds, and in 2024, we picked 2205 pounds

One big challenge was in servicing properties in north Qualicum and Dashwood, also Whiskey Creek / Coombs. It would also be preferable to pre-plan picks and volunteers, instead of reacting to "Help! My fruit is falling and I need you here asap!" Another goal for the future would be year-round stewardship of the trees, ie., pruning, thinning, maintaining. And finally, processing the fruit we pick is a big hole and goal, though we did get a solid start this year thanks to Erin and Lane and Sarah, and a few other volunteers who took on this challenge.





Born to Glean

Some of our crews and our bounty













A Stellar Year for Volunteers

We’re very grateful to have reached so many new and energetic volunteers. We had over 50 individuals volunteer with us this year, which is a substantial growth from last year’s total of 28. It’s still a challenge to offer everyone a role they can enjoy and feel useful in, but there are many ways to make an impact in a group like ours, including in the trees and in the garden, but also at our events, in the kitchen, at the beach, making posters, producing workshops, at the market, filling the pantry, and just by showing up to our events.

Off the trees - Danelle, Diana, Guy, Erin, Thalia, Sarah, Ewan, Sherry, Jeet, Carly, Chantel, Jasmine, Shelley, Will, Danny, Susan, Ralph, Kukutzi ,Vancouver Island Master Gardeners

On the trees - Franklin, Bimala, Chris, Norm, Gloria, Riley, Dave, Diane, Jacob, Jon, Rob, Ahmaad, Joyce, Lonnie, Reina, Jordan, Don, Jo, Leo, Lane, Leah, Colleen, Spencer, Irwin, Tammy, Forest, Michelle L., Michelle and Girl Guides, Linda and kids, Karen.

Apologies to anyone I missed.







Beachfest Ambassadors



This was not technically a grant, but it was a great opportunity for us to act as ambassadors for our town and for our group at this important community event. Lots of organizations applied, only 24 were chosen.

We earned $3209.17, thanks to 16 individual volunteers who all had a great time.

Thank you to the Parksville Beachfest committee for the opportunity, and for producing such a great local event.

Parksville Downtown Sunday Farmers Market



This was a new initiative for this year. It took a ton of effort, planning and execution from a large crew of volunteers, so thank you for the buy-in.

It was objectively a successful first year. Balancing the number of vendors and shoppers was the biggest challenge, and finding enough vendors at all was impacted by our late start. We topped out at 11 vendors, and averaged 8.27 vendors per week, including us.

We opened for 18 weeks from May 31 to Sept 27. It cost ~$5000 in set up fees and returned $3000 in market fees, but raised the profile of the space and the group by a huge amount. Donations over those 18 weeks were about $3500.

It’s estimated that we averaged 1000 visitors per week, based on 5 shoppers per minute for 210 minutes.

We joined the Parksville Chamber of Commerce, the BCAFM, the Nutrition Coupon Program, got Market Safe certification, special liability insurance, approval from our neighbours, VIHA approvals, and a Parksville business licence.

Should we do it again next year? Thoughts and plans….

Parksville Downtown Farmers Market

We saw a big appetite for a Parksville Farmers Market, and see potential for next year.















Community Pantry

Last fall, the Moilliet Street Community Pantry moved into the Community Garden after being maintained by Gaylene on Moilliet St. since 2020. It has seen many daily users, and multiple regular donors, pointing to the amount of need, and also the amount of generosity in our community.

Just recently the pantry received a huge upgrade thanks to Dave and Riley. Now bigger and weather proof, it is inspiring even more donors.

As a group we spent over $3000 on food and groceries for the pantry in 2026, including $500 in market fees that we traded for fresh farm vegetables

Do people abuse it? Topic for discussion















Other Independent Initiatives

From the top, Ralph installs the updated Seed Library station which Susan has kept stocked and maintained all summer. It's been well used and appreciated.
Next is Lane's new skookum roof over the chicken run, which will keep them warm and dry all winter.
Next is Reina, apple pie champion, whose Roots of Resilience Indigenous plants garden is starting to take shape.
And finally Carly, who made flower bouquets for the market, and has taken on the role of worm bin whisperer.

Grants and Fundraising



Grants

BC Gaming $10,000, for wages and operations
PQ Foundation Grant - Denied
RDN Community Grant - Denied
RDN Rec Grant - $1057 - Kids Garden Club
PQ Foundation Neighbourhood Grant - $500 Frontliners Picnic
Island Coastal Economic Trust - $19500 for Farmers Market, Food Service Cart, Pergola, Website, Retaining Wall
Rotary Grant - Denied (Infrastructure)
Farm Credit Capital - Denied (Farm Lab workshops)

4 for 8 for $31057 (last year was 6 for 6 and $40,569)

Raffles were not well promoted and had lacklustre results

Compost sales were great - cost $1898.25, earned $4027 in 2 days

Donations were up considerably from $2024 to $5909

Workshops were a wash; $2400 in, $2408 out, and that’s ok

Earned revenue didn’t have a line item last year, this year it was $15268. That includes MAC garden rentals, compost sales, apple cider sales, Beachfest program, market fees, Rise Up honorariums

Righteous Dogs!

We were awarded a $19,500 grant from Island Coastal Economic Trust to pay for half of a few things: a permanent pergola, the Farmers Market launch, some retaining wall work, and a hot dog cart!

The cart is intended to do three things. To provide employment to marginalized folk. To generate some revenue for the group and help get us off the grant cycle treadmill. And to help us do mobile food outreach.

The cart will allow us to serve pre-cooked food (ie., hot dogs, baked potatoes, possibly Bradley Centre soups?) at the Farmers Market, and out in community at events and festivals, and also for soup kitchen style outreach.

Better name suggestions?





Last Year’s Goals

This is a panel from last year’s AGM presentation. We had some pretty lofty goals for the year, but we managed to cross quite a few of them off the list. To be fair, some of the tasks are only halfway done, but it’s still pretty solid evidence that we’re on the right track.

We have big ideas for the coming year and growing season.

- Tool Library ✓
- Youth Garden Club ✗
- Seed Library ✓
- Outdoor Kitchen ✓
- Irrigation ✓
- Pergolas and archway ✓
- Educational and wayfinding signage ✓
- Gravel and wood chips ✓
- Raspberry trellis ✓
- Music Series ✗
- Farmers Market ✓
- School Garden Involvement ✗
- More locations? ✓
- Name Change? ✓







MAC Community Garden

Where would we be without the Community Garden? It is the hub from where all of our work begins. It's inviting and friendly and brings people together without expectation or judgement. It allows us to efficiently distribute all the food we gather and produce. It is an urban art and garden oasis.

It's becoming very full and we're running out of space for new projects, though a grape trellis in the front is in the plans. Over the winter I would like to more intentionally plan out what to plant and where, and improve the accessibility. Finally clearing out some of the accumulated debris would also be nice.

A special thanks to Jennifer at the MAC for always saying yes and encouraging us to follow any plan we dream up.

More Thoughts For Next Year

Committees - Garden Committee, Fundraising Committee, etc
New spaces to grow more food - small scale sharecropping and possible Young Agrarians-style leases
Buyers' Food Co-op - will require space and funding
Healthy local food vending machines in public places
Bird and bat house installation on the side of the MAC, once their siding and roof reno is completed

Waiting on new BC Gaming Grant ($100,000 comprehensive fruit tree stewardship) and Federal ESDC Grant, ($50,000 for seniors volunteer encouragement)

What do you want to achieve? We have the organizational infrastructure to support your ideas





