



providence farm
A THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY

Annual Report
2010/11



Our Mission

Trusting in Providence, and building upon the faith-centered heritage of our founding members, we are committed to serving needs and to fostering talents of people in the Cowichan Valley, especially of those not easily accepted elsewhere, through our therapeutic community at Providence Farm.

Our focus shall be upon the renewal of body and spirit, and upon people caring for the soil, and the soil nurturing the people.



The Providence Community

In 1864, the 400 acres on which Providence Farm sits today was purchased by the Sisters of St. Ann. For the next 100 years, the Sisters operated a school on the site. In 1921, the iconic Providence House was built and classes continued until June 22, 1964, when the school's bell rang for the last time.

In the late 1970s, a group of people with varied backgrounds and interests got together to discuss building community at the old St. Ann's school site and farm in Duncan. By July 12, 1979, agreement had been reached to establish a non-profit society named the Vancouver Island Providence Community Association (VIPCA) in memory of Sister Mary Providence, the founder of the school and programs in Duncan. In 2009, the Sisters of St. Ann generously gifted VIPCA the property. The goal of VIPCA was, and remains today, to serve the needs and foster the talents of people in the Cowichan Valley, especially of those not easily accepted elsewhere.

In the pages to come, you will learn of the many therapeutic programs we operate and of the people that breathe life in to Providence Farm today.

Welcome to Providence Farm.

Sincerely,

Karen Bittner
Executive Director

Peter Bontkes
Chair, Board of Directors



Therapeutic Programs

Providence Farm is a therapeutic farm nestled at the base of Mount Tzouhalem in the Cowichan Valley on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Since 1979, the Vancouver Island Providence Community Association, a registered charity and non-profit society, has been operating creative and innovative programs at the Farm for adults in the Valley with mental health issues, brain injuries and developmental challenges:

- In the **Greenways Program**, horticultural therapy and training are available in the greenhouses, nursery and market gardens.
- **Employability skills and vocational training** are emphasized in the furniture shoppe, small engine repair shop, farm store and Sister Frieda's Free Store, while culinary skills and healthy eating are taught in the kitchen.
- The **Segues** program brings together ten men with different developmental challenges who work throughout the Farm, tending the animals, caring for the grounds and offering a welcoming presence for people coming up the driveway (of which there are over 800 each week!).
- **St. Ann's Garden Club** offers a safe and home-like environment to seniors and gives participants an opportunity to grow gardens in raised beds, prepare meals, talk, laugh and work at projects together.
- Artistic skills like sculpting, painting, knitting, weaving and spinning are fostered at the Farm's **Art Studio** and **Loom Room**.



All programs intentionally overlap, consistent with the idea that we are **taking care of the Farm together**. Friendships, skills development, improved health and a sense of well-being are made possible by the dedicated staff and volunteers of the Farm. The freedom to be and to make mistakes, and an accepting and respectful community make the Farm a place that is life-giving.

The Farm is also home to partner organizations – the Cowichan Valley Alternate School, the Cowichan Therapeutic Riding Association and the Cowichan Folk Guild – that share in our mission and contribute to our **welcoming community** environment and sustainability.

At the end of each day, the goal at Providence Farm is to meet people where they are and **to grow together**, through the relationships that are built and nurtured here.



Investing in People Growing Together

Peer Mentors & Program Assistants

The desire at Providence Farm is to meet people where they are, and to grow together, through the relationships that are built and nurtured here. Peer Mentor/ Program Assistant positions have been established, and are comprised of former program participants and individuals who have shown promise to carry a mentoring role, and who have demonstrated commitment to their work here.

These mentorship positions are supported through sales and fundraising, and these folks play key roles in the ongoing operation of our programs. As a result, people have the stability of a regular job and, in turn, support others.

"The work environment is conducive to my good mental health. I have been a peer mentor at the farm for about three years. What I like about Providence is that it is all about community – we are inclusive here. I work in the Greenhouse, Header House and the fields. And my favourite is seeding, taking cuttings, potting new plants and making hanging baskets. Providence Farm has supported me in many ways."

Peer Mentor, Providence Farm"



Benefits of Our Work

Like the tangible results of a thriving garden, the success of Providence Farm is obvious. Friendships, skills development, improved health, and a sense of well-being are made possible at the Farm. An improved quality of life, freedom to be and to make mistakes, and an accepting and respectful community make the Farm a place that is life-giving.

In 2010/11:

- Over 75 people participated in various therapeutic and vocational training programs at the Farm each week.
- 10 Peer Mentors and Program Assistants were employed to support programs and participants.
- 25 full and part-time staff ran programs and provided “behind the scenes” administration.
- Over 100 volunteers contributed to the ongoing success and vibrant culture of the Farm.
- Dozens of Community Support Worker , Licensed Practical Nurse and Nursing Practicum Students and Horticultural Therapy Interns spent time working and learning in the Farm's program areas.



- 52 local gardeners grew their crops at the Farm, in 97 allotment gardens.
- Our annual Harvest Fair brought 29 school groups, with over 1,100 kids, for hay wagon rides and pumpkin harvest.
- Over 33 community partner organizations were based at the Farm, or regularly come here for meetings and functions.
- We partnered with Canada World Youth and Vancouver Island University and hosted an exchange program with educators from Thailand.
- Our main “on-site” partners – the Cowichan Therapeutic Riding Association and Cowichan Valley Alternate School combined, also bring over 120 children, youth and adult staff and volunteers to the Farm each week, to carry out their great work.
- Over 2,000 healthy and nutritious lunches were served to participants, staff and volunteers from our Kitchen Program.
- In total, an average of more than 800 people come up the driveway each week!

“It would be impossible for me to overstate the value and substantial difference that Providence Farm’s therapeutic work programs offer my patients with severe and persistent mental illness.”

Robin Routledge, Psychiatrist



Our Staff

Executive Director - Karen Bittner

Programs Manager - Kevin Corbett

Finance Manager - Anne Brunet

Bookkeepers - Lindsay Burton, Rocky

Volunteer Coordinator - Barbara Houston

Event & Community Relations Coordinator - Leah Boisvert

Receptionist - Maria Hiles

Kitchen Coordinator - Kori Kelloway

Furniture Shoppe Coordinator - Moe Copiak

Art Program Coordinator - Michael Cousineau

Small Engines Shop Coordinator - Mark Mason

Textiles Program Coordinator - Betty Worthy

Farm Store Coordinator - Sharon Rumley

Market Garden Coordinator - Craig Evans

Greenhouse & Nursery Coordinator - Wendy Weir

Therapeutic Greenhouse Assistants - Samantha Caissie, Gordon MacKay

Support Care Workers - Muriel Brakefield, Mark McConkey

Seques Coordinator - Monte Nordstrom

Seques Support Care Workers - Devin Francis, Theresa Dupont

St. Ann's Garden Club Coordinator - Gloria Bond

St. Ann's Garden Club Support Care Worker - Peggy Hickling

Site Maintenance - Peter Clement

Lead Summer Student - Foster Richardson



Our Board of Directors

Board Chair, Peter Bontkes
Vice Chair, Paul Douville
Treasurer, Michelle Lancaster
Secretary, Linda Dayton

Jim Dias
Jim Endersbe
Reynold Hert
Michelle Marinier
Glen McNie
Grant Mellemstrand
Devon Mills
Gerry Newell
Donna Roxburgh
Norm Sowden
Brad Tomlin



Our Volunteers

Our volunteers, young and old, early members and those new and eager to contribute to our therapeutic community have volunteered not only their time - but also their hearts, their spirits and their professional prosperity.

We depend on an army of modern-day “volunteers” who dedicate thousands of hours each year to planting, growing, cooking, cleaning, painting, building, repairing, gardening, governing, sharing and, most of all, believing in giving back and that the work is done better together. Each program and activity at the Farm benefits greatly from the strength and dedication of our volunteers and the Farm.

Our volunteers nourish and enrich the lives of others while creating a common good, this profoundly human vision radically changes our communities, our relationships and ourselves.



Stories of Providence

Thank you for all for the opportunities and friendship you have shown me in the past few years. Truly, my involvement at Providence Farm has saved my life. I fear to think where I would be if I'd not found you people! My routine keeps me healthy and prevents me from falling in my black hole of depression. Thank you ever so much.

Providence Farm Employee

I am proud and happy to have the opportunity to work at Providence Farm. It is a beautiful place to be for the handicapped. And it is great to be employed.

Providence Farm Program Assistant

As someone who has visited this stunning 400 acre property repeatedly over the last eight years, often with visiting tourists or journalists, I have been impressed at the resourcefulness the Providence Community Association has shown to build more self-sufficient programs in the face of Government and Social Agency cutbacks, while steadily improving and expanding their services to their clients and their presence in the community. Always performing with humility, dedication first and foremost to clients, and, indeed with providence, it became clear to me that this was a special place worthy of support.

Farm Folk/City Folk Society



Keep up your amazing work at Providence Farm ... we so need places like this in our world.

Pat and Murray Owen

I enjoyed working at the Farm for a variety of reasons. The first reason was I met so many friendly, accepting people. I enjoyed recognition I received for a job well done. Finally, I felt a sense of delight with the nice scenery around the Farm.

Providence Farm Employee

I was introduced to Providence Farm starting with the Open Door Friday program. My mental health improved with help from the staff and participants. Over the past 14 years I have made lots of friends which has helped me with good mental health. I am now working 22 hours per week and my pay cheque helps. As a Peer Mentor, I am able to help other participants at the farm. Which, in turn, helps my self esteem.

Providence Farm Peer Mentor

The Mecca of horticultural therapy in B.C. is Providence Farm, outside Duncan on Vancouver Island, where it is used to enable people to overcome barriers to education and employment.

Steve Whysall, Vancouver Sun, 09-25-10



Friends and Partners of Providence

The Sisters of St. Ann are the primary partner of Providence Farm. They homesteaded the Farm nearly 150 years ago and generously gifted the property to the Vancouver Island Providence Community Association in 2009.

In addition, the following organizations and groups have partnered this year to make Providence Farm the valuable shared resource that it is.

BC Ministry of Housing and Social
Development
Brentwood College School
Canada World Youth
Coast Capital Savings Credit Union
Community Living BC
Cowichan Family Life
Cowichan Folk Guild
Cowichan Green Community
Cowichan Lions
Cowichan Therapeutic Riding Association
Cowichan Valley Alternate School
Cowichan Valley Rotary
Cowichan Valley Shriners
Cowichan Valley Youth Choir
Discovery Community College
Duncan Kiwanis
Enabling Accessibility
Esther's Dream Fund

Growing Opportunities
Hospice Society
Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC)
Island Chefs Alliance
Island Savings Credit Union
Nanaimo Food Share - Homegrown
Program
New Horizons for Seniors
Power to Be
Providence Village Housing Society
Quakers - Society of Friends
Service Canada
Shawnigan Lake School
Starbucks
Thailand Vocational School
Vancouver Island Health Authority
Vancouver Island University
YMCA Student Exchange Program

Stewarding the Farm's Resources

Statement of Income & Expenditures: April 1, 2010 - March 31, 2011

(unaudited)

REVENUES

Contracts	\$743,241	49%
Donations	188,711	13%
Fundraising	119,141	8%
Gaming	130,000	9%
Grants	25,000	2%
Interest	1,444	0%
Memberships	4,560	0%
Miscellaneous	200	0%
Rental	118,044	8%
Sales	162,867	11%
User fees	15,619	1%
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	1,508,827	100%

EXPENSES

Advertising	8,990	1%
Amortization	136,161	10%
Automotive	15,027	1%
Bad debts	113	0%
Bank charges	2,762	0%
Equipment and tools	16,983	1%
Fundraising	57,559	4%
Harmonized sales tax	7,189	1%
Insurance	47,991	3%
Office	27,553	2%
Professional fees	50,703	4%
Program materials and development	111,293	8%
Repairs and maintenance	43,646	3%
Security	9,593	1%
Telephone	13,479	1%
Training allowance	28,396	2%
Travel	3,519	0%
Utilities	42,069	3%
Wages and benefits	807,439	56%
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	1,430,465	100%

EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS

78,362

Other Income

Gain on disposal of property and equipment 500

EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR

78,862



Friends and Supporters of Providence

The family of donors and supporters of Providence Farm is a very generous and special group of individuals, businesses, corporations and foundations, helping to impact the lives of Providence participants in 2010/11.

\$10,000 Plus

Cowichan Seniors Community Foundation
Esther's Dream Fund
Human Resources & Social Development Canada
- Enabling Accessibility Program
Salesforce.com
Service Canada/Canada Summer Jobs
Service Canada/New Horizons for Seniors Program
Sisters of St. Ann
Van Isle Chefs' Congress

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Discovery Community College
Duncan Dabber Bingo Society
Victoria Foundation
Ye Olde Dogwood Lumber (Murray Logan)

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Al & Anne Brunet
Royal LePage Duncan Realty (Blair Herbert & Karen Bittner)
Cowichan Chefs
Devon Mills
Hayes Stewart Little & Company
IBM Canada
Joyce Gourline
Maurice Copiak
Queenswood Victoria
Rich Rags
Roland Taylor
YM/YWCA Summer Student Exchange Program

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Aqueduct Foundation (Hull Family)
Carmen Timmermans
Cowichan Lodge Auxiliary
Dr. Eric Weiner
Drillwell

Edie Wragg Denturist
Farm Folk/City Folk
Island Savings Credit Union
Jack Pearce
John & Margaret Berikoff
John Scull & Linda Hill
Ken Evans Ford
Kiwanis Club of Duncan
Level Ground Trading
Magnetic North Cuisine/Bill Jones
Maria Redfern
Nonuttin' Foods Inc.
Pat Barber
Pat Moore & Associates
Patrica Coldren
RBC Royal Bank Volunteer Grants Program
Roland Holland
Samara Walbohm & Joe Shlesinger
Sandra Rutherford
Silvifor Resource Consultants/Peter Bontkes

TD Canada Trust (Duncan Branch)
Thomas O'Flaherty
Top Drawer

\$500 - \$999

Anton & Janet Turner
Aquafun Family Pools & Spas
Betty James
Bistro 161
Bow Mel Chrysler
Buckerfields
C & C Lath Mill Ltd.
Canadian Tire
Christina Burrige
Coast Roofing
Craig Evans
Dinter Nursery
Don Hutton
Eclectic Avenue
Gail Fordyce
Georgette LeBlanc
Grant Clement Real Estate
Indigo Kids
Jared Ames
Kathryn Dale
Kevin & Dana Corbett
Leighton & Lora Mellemstrand
Lesley Newall
Live Edge Design
Livia Hiles
Mary & Ted Mills
Michael Shaw
Microsoft
Nexen Inc.
Patricia & Murray Owen
Peter & Moira Nash
Richard Matthews
Rona
Ross Rooney
Ruth & Richard Chaster
Theresa Dupont
True Grain Bread
Violaine Mitchell & Tom Henry

\$250 - \$499

Alex & Juanita Haddad
Aly & Lorern Stubbs
Arlea Lafleur
Bear Mountain Resort
Bernie & Cyndy Dinter
Chances Cowichan
Chris Groenendijk

Cowichan Petroleum Sales
Cowichan Sound & Cellular
Derrick & Phillipa Woodcock
Don Skerik Electric
Duncan United Church - AOTS Club
End of the Roll
Frederick Brown
Grant Wyles
Heritage Quilters
Jamie Lowes
Jim's Pools & Spas
Joann & Colin Champoux
Johns, Southward, Glazier & Margetts
Judy Miller
Ken & Michelle LaCroix
Knights of Columbus
Linda Travers
Mastercraft Flooring
Matrix Marble & Stone
Mickey King & Hal MacNaughton
Pacific Group
Pam Clement
Peggy Mudge
Pete's RV
PWR Auto
RBC Sechelt Branch - Employee donations
Rick & Jacquie Martinson
Robin Clarke
Ronald & Marie-Luise Clare
Shane Williams
Sharon Rumley
Sprigs & Twigs
The Olde Gold Shoppe
Valley Seniors of Duncan
Walmart - Duncan
West Coast Authentics

\$1 - \$249

Accent Inns
Adel Meyer
All Sew/Bill Murray
Ann & John Miller
Ann McClung
Anthony Phipps
Arlene & Leighton Davis
Averill Creek Vineyard
Baker Plumbing
Barb West
Barbara & Kenneth Shann
Barbara & Walter Dowd

BC Forest Discovery Centre
Bernice Kachuk
Betsy's Boutique
Beverly Corners Liquor Store
Boston Pizza - Duncan
Burry & Young Chiropractic Clinic
Butchart Gardens
Carrie White
Casa Gina Hair Salon
Catherine & Arthur Collins
Catherine Fraser
Catherine McKenzie
Chemainus Theatre
Chris Benson
Christian Science
Claire Sandford
Clarence Ross
Clarke Signs
Colin & Rosanna Perkins
Colleen Cadwallader
Coop Save On Gas
Cowichan Bay Kayak
Cowichan Valley FAS Action Team
Cowichan Valley Garden Club
Craig Street Brew Pub
Currie Ellis
Deanne & Gordon Wallace
Debbie Loewen
Debbie Rutzebeck
Debra Reid
Delta McDonnell
Dodd's Lumber & Building Supplies
Dorothy Osborne
Douglas Greene
Downtown Duncan Farmers' Market
Dr. Anna Wang
Dr. Bryan Bass
Dr. Gordon Levin
Dr. L. Vanzella
Dr. Rosemarie Alvaro
Dryco Systems
Ducks Unlimited
Duncan Auto Parts
Duncan Business Improvement Society
Duncan Christian School
Duncan McBarleys
Duncan Vacuum House
DV Cuisine
Ed Malones
Edith Goss Dicarlo
Eileen Courchene

Eileen Fudge	Jeannie Rogers	Mary Owens
Eleanor Morrison	Jennifer & Nicholas Demedash	Ma's Gifts & Things
Electric Outlet	Jerry's Bobcat & Excavation	Maureen Tait
Elsie Kerr	Services	Maurice & Eileen Dupont
Emma Rooney	Jim & Maureen Dias	Meridale Cider Works
Erickson's Furniture	Jim Gair	Michael Patterson
Erika Krolman	Joan Hayden Luck	Michelle Lancaster
Experience Cycling	Joan Navitka	Mill Bay Vineyard
First Chiropractic Clinic	Joanne Ridgeway & Bruce Atwell	Moira & John Wightman
First Choice Haircutters	Joe's Tire Hospital	Monte Nordstrom
Frances Montgomery	John & Ellen Newman	Mount Brenton Golf Course
Frank & Reeny Timmermans	John & Glynis Ballard	Municipality of North Cowichan
Garry & Celine Nordhoj	John & Helen McKenzie	Myrna & George Billsten
Garth & Patti Doege	John & Nora Dirom	Nancy McCulloch
Geekshop	John & Sara Houghton	Nancy Wigen
General Paint	John Ireland	Nicole Stewart
George Seymour	Joy Ellan	Nora Maxwell
Georgina MacDougall	Joy Gonske	Norma Barkley
Gerald & Annette Newell	JP & ME Blackie	On Site Systems
Glen Ridgeway	JP Construction Supplies	Pacific Northwest Raptors
Gloria Bond & Michael Cousineau	Judy Hill Gallery	Pam Bonnell
GM Pace Enterprises Inc.	Jutta & Freimuth Ibis	Pamela & Steve Jackson
Gordon & Edna Mill	Karen & John Davis	Pamela Beaugrand
Granneke Management Consulting	Karen Chaster	Pamela Sayer
Grant & Beverly Smalley	Karen McAskill	Pat Fleming
Grant & Naomi Mellemstrand	Ken & Robbin Olive	Paul & Filomena Wiltse
Greg & Jane McKenzie	Kidz Co	Paul Douville
GT Collision	Kinderbeez	Paula Dickie
Harmony Health Care	Laura Redl	Peacock Photo
Heather Davie	Leola's Studio	Peggy Hickling
Helen Lambert	Leslie Bundon	Peggy Smith
Helen Taylor	Lifetimer Boats Inc.	Peter & Joan Wilson
Henry & Janet Meadows	Lindsay Burton	Peter & Sheila Gallagher
Henry Van Boven	Liquidation World	Peter Lord
Henry Wlodarczyk	Lois Fenna	Phil's Farm
Highway Rentals	Lora Naherniak	Probus Club
Hockey Canada	Luella Buchanan	Ray's Furniture & Antiques
Horst & Oda Nowrath	Lulu & Gigi's	RBC Royal Bank - Duncan branch
Iam Talbot	Lynn's Vitamins	Real Canadian Superstore - Duncan
Island Fire Protection	Mabel Brockway	Red Balloon Toy Shop
Island Hose & Hydraulic Ltd.	Maida Evans	Reflexions Dental
Island Saw & Turf	Margaret & Phillip Bass	Reflexology & Reiki by Terri
Island Tractor & Supply	Margaret Adam	Rene's Hair Design
Izzy & Ollie's	Margot Wood	Reta & John Flanagan
Jack & Claudette Hutton	Margrit Brauer	Reynold & Donna Hert
Jack & Ida Wickham	Maria & Livio Michieli	Ro Debree
Jack Abercrombie	Maria Blote	Robert & Cathy Cyr
Jack Vanderbasch	Maria Schmidt-Weinmar	Robert Giles
Jackson Grills	Marigold Nurseries	Rock Cod Café
Jacoba Dikkentman & Stuart	Marina Smith	Rod Garbutt
Simmons	Mark's Work Warehouse	Roland Brown
James & Jean Moore	Marvin Thorgeirson	Roman Kierzek

Romance Shop
Ron & Sadie Hudspith
Roses & More
Ross McCauley
Rugby Canada
Ruth Holman
Ruth Stempfle
S/B Windows & Doors
Sheer Essentials
Sheila & James Johnson
Shirley Hepburn
Sieg & Maxine Buskas
Silverfern Medical Clinic
Sleep Country
Smart Books by Ali
South Central Cleaning &
Maintenance
South V.I. Assessment & Resource
Service
Sr. Frieda Raab
Stone Pacific Contracting
Studio One Hair
Sue & Dave Simpson
Susan Eastwood
Susan Yates
Ten Old Books

The Charros Foundation
Theresa Burke-Gaffney
Theresa Vogel
Therese Samson
Thomas Fox
Tim Horton's
Tim Magiffin
Tim Trousdell
Toad Hall Emporium
Trevor & Cheryl Miranda
Twin Fir Tractors Ltd.
Udder Guys Ice Cream
Ultimac Technologies
Valerie Townsend
Valley Floors Carpet One
Vancouver Canucks
Verna & Brian Payne
Viva Medical
Volume One Bookstore
Wally Boyle
Waste Services Inc.
Wayne Grant
Wendy Sehn
Woodland Flooring
YTT Productions

During the year, Providence
Farm was honoured to receive
donations in memory of:
Emile Courchene
Gayle Shewchuk
Grace Solly
Grant McKenzie
Helmut Klein
Herbert, Rosanna Hammond
James Barber
John Birch
M. Beaugrand
Margaret Billsten
Neil Morrison
Otti Brauer
Ronnie Phipps
Tony deBree
Vivian Gage & Wyden Gould



Thank You
Friends

Join Us



- Shop in our Farm Store and Greenhouse for your fresh vegetables, herbs, fruit, eggs, bedding plants, shrubs and many other hand made products.
- Watch for us at the Duncan Farmer's Market.
- Come for a visit, pick up your free farm map to tour the Farm and stroll in St. Ann's public garden.
- Stay for an organic coffee, a souvenir and the fresh farm air.
- Become a member to support us and receive our newsletter.
- Make a tax deductible donation to our programs or Endowment Fund.
- Contact us to learn more.



Providence Farm

1843 Tzouhalem Road Duncan BC V9L 5L6

Tel: 250-746-4204 Fax: 250-746-8616

www.providence.bc.ca

provfarm@providence.bc.ca

Charitable Registration #11928 1780 RR0001