



# ESCG NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025 - ISSUE #1



## Happy New Year Gardeners!

We hope the festive season has been truly wonderful for each and every one of you!

As our community garden itself rests, we, your Board and a few stalwart members, continue to put down roots and move ahead with all the big and small items that need to be addressed.

Your reminder letter for plot renewal will come out soon, but we thought an update was in order.

First, we want to thank Maureen Pridgeon & Ruby Brown for their wonderful work on the Steering Committee in the first half of 2024. They both helped hugely, especially with paperwork. As well, we are excited to welcome Ana Olteanu and PJ as new Board Members this year, and Ruth Ann Gal as a Director. They bring a great new skill set and expertise along with new perspectives which helps us move forward.

This has been an amazing first year for the garden community.

## Upcoming Events



GARDEN SOCIAL  
JANUARY 18, 5:30PM  
6040 EAST SOOKE RD.

Please bring an appetizer.

# Recap of 2024

We took an idea that ALR land should grow food for our East Sooke community and **made it a reality.**

We created a nice working relationship with Sooke Food Chi, signed a lease agreement, forged a great working relationship with Royal Canadian Marine Search & Rescue (RCMSAR), and created the East Sooke Community Garden Society (ESCGS). This took months and masses of meetings.

We worked **460 volunteer hours to remove invasive species** on RCMSAR property. As you may know, this is part of our promise to RCMSAR and our goal to enhance the ecosystem. We collected leaves/grass clippings, newspaper, cardboard, and organic goat, llama & alpaca manure to **turn to compost** (supplied often by wonderful neighbours and worked by volunteers).

We **cleared the land** (well, Les did most of this), dug ditches and laid irrigation pipe and sandbags.



We got a **small well and pump** working (Sean was our lead indubitably) to feed into a cistern beside the garden which the nuns (the Sisters of Saint Ann's) had operated years ago.

We developed a good partnership with the Sooke Food Bank and **picked and delivered masses of apples** in the fall to them. We have two large beds in our garden dedicated solely to growing food for the food bank - under Josie's guidance.

We purchased a water holding tank, got it delivered to the garden and another donated.

We created **a website** (linked here) - yeah, Loretta!

We made some temporary fixes to our garden shed . We **built a first-class fence** with Les and the Herrings leading this one. We got **signage** in place. We had soil amendment & bark mulch delivered, and garden beds developed.

We signed a 10 year lease with RCMSAR for this 5 acres of land on January 1, 2025.

On January 2, we sent \$1,308 to the BC Community Gardens to link our ESCGS to them and ensure all members are insured.

No doubt, we are forgetting some accomplishments.

**This has been thousands of hours of work by a great team of people with lots of community support.**

**Our members / you are truly inspirational.**

You show up - many of you, time and time again, for work parties with enthusiasm, determination and heart.



## THANK YOU!

It seems that what makes a community garden, a **COMMUNITY** garden is the positive, helping of others.

You guys do this in spades!  
A dream team, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Yours in community gardening  
and community building,



Charlotte Senay *President*

Ana Olteanu *Vice-President*

PJ *Secretary*

Sharon Johnson *Treasurer*

Ryan Roberts *Director-at-large*

Ruth Ann Gal *Director-at-large*