

PRESIDENTS REPORT for 2017

From its inception in 2015 through until the present day, the LFI continues to deliver outstanding educational programming, memorable events and fertile ground for growing within our community. It would be an extensive document if I were to capture every facet of our incredibly vital and ever-expanding organization, and so, I will offer some highlights in this report.

The backbone of this organization is our membership, our volunteers and especially our highly-valued coordinator. We are grateful to Jenna Fraser for her time and dedication to the Local Food Initiative Society. Jenna did an outstanding job at delivering upon our programming, maintaining contact and managing our contractors and attaining funding through various granting authorities.

Jenna has spearheaded the BEE See program, which had its official opening last June with a tour of the beehive and a potluck at the apiary. Jenna has been sitting as an appointed Board member since late last year and will be officially welcomed today. Jenna plans to continue delivering on the Bee See program and sit as the chair of the beekeeping committee.

Jenna's work at Community Connections, the Food Bank and Food Connect is impactful and vital in our world. Her private endeavors seek to minimize our waste impact on the planet. Jenna truly walks the walk of what it means to live in harmony with our environment. Thank you, Jenna, for your incredible service to our community and our planet and for the demonstrative example that you give to us all.

Jodi Kay now holds the reigns to deliver on our myriad of programming. As an LFI volunteer and contractor in previous seasons, Jodi Kay is a celebration of all things food. We are lucky to have her invested foodie eye at our table and we are very excited about her artistic and smooth style curating the website and producing our monthly newsletter, The Dirt. Jodi brings joy and celebration to all things local food. She is an excellent ambassador for the Local Food Initiative. We are so excited to see her shine through this growing season.

Our contractors are wonderful, dedicated and creative, and without them we would not grow. Thank you: Jesse Johnston-Hill, Sarah Darval, Rosie Denton, Kirsten Lamotte, Keri Martin, Kristina Metzloff, Jenn Avery, Bryce Borlick, Christina Delaney and Kate Borucz. Most recently, we welcome Maggie Davis as our bookkeeper.

To highlight a few of our events:

Midsummer's Night Green – our fundraising flagship was back in 2017 and very successful. We look forward to presenting this event again this summer.

Farm Tours – was a very successful new event that brought our membership closely in contact with where our food comes from.

LFI Market - was born and continues this year, run by a dedicated contractor, who is advised by the LFI Market Steering Committee. This committee is a combination of Board members, Retailers, Farmers and Citizens. The LFI Market fulfills our vision to increase accessibility to local foods.

At the end of the 2017 season, after much discussion, we decided to discontinue our partnership with the Bear Aware Gleaning and Canning Program.

Our education programs continue to engage and inspire:

Farm to Table

Garden Guru

Little Sprouts

Growing Friends

Bee See

Our garden spaces continue to evolve:

Downtown Community Garden

Revelstoke Visual Arts Centre Community Garden

Our resources continue to expand and evolve:

Equipment Rentals – BMK hosts this for us—Thank you, Nicole Cherlet.

Seed Swap/Library

And so, it has been another very big year of evolution for the Revelstoke Local food Initiative Society. It has been my pleasure to serve as President for this year of big changes. I am stepping away from the Society at the Board level but will continue to serve as a lifetime member in good standing, as a participant in the Garden Guru series, a participant on the Beekeeping Committee, as a host for the LFI fundraising opportunity at the Revelstoke Garlic Festival and in any other small way that I can get my hands dirty.

Happy Growing for 2018!

Sarah Harper
President