

2012 Food Connections Conference: Graphic Recordings

On October 19, 2011 representatives from across the Health Region gathered in Duncan to network and share their knowledge of and experience with community food security. Attendees broke out into groups to establish a vision for the food system in with a focus on 5 themes: Cities, Farms, Forests, Waters and Being an Island. Key discussion points were captured by a graphic facilitator named Colleen Stevenson to create a visual/textual record of the day.

Cities

Principles

- * Reconnecting people to the love & understanding of local food production
- * Everyone benefits from increased education about food production & preparation

Practice

- * Local purchasing policies
- * Changing urban poultry bylaws
- * Creating edible landscapes

Vision

- * Public lands utilized for food production, sharing & celebrating
- * Increased collaboration between public, private & non-profit



Folleen Stevenson

Actions

- * Encourage local purchasing
 - * Buy & shop locally
 - * Access local space
- * Utilizing land - public (schools, lots, parking lots) private & rooftops
- * Shifting attitudes to ^{*}spark interest & create opportunities for people at all levels & stages to get their hands dirty

Farms

Principles

- * Farming needs to be a viable choice
- * Young farmers need mentors & access to land

Practices

- * Increased education for farmers (marketing), consumers, children & everyone who wants to grow food
- * Enable mobile abattoirs
- * Increase local storage, processing & procurement policies

Vision

- * Agricultural Land Trust
- * Population skilled in food production & processing
- * Knowledgeable consumers



Actions

- * Increasing accessibility of land to young farmers
- * Develop a toolkit for new farmers
- * Promoting agriculture on the policy level
- * EDUCATE!

Lolleen Stevenson

Forests

Principles

- * We need to reconnect with the land

- * Keeping a focus on stewardship & ethics - sustainable forestry with attention to environmental impacts

Practice

- * Access to education

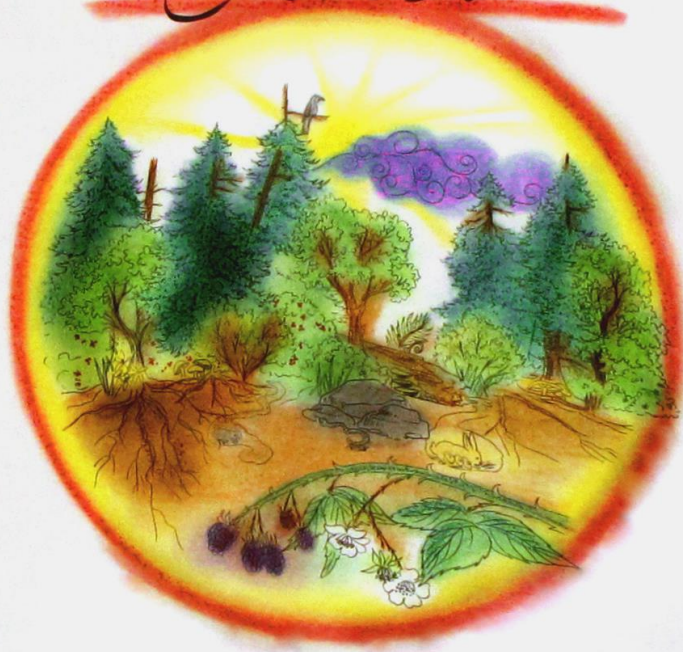
- * Creating community forests

Vision

- * Protecting all forms of traditional knowledge

- * Learning from First Nations wildcrafters

- * Build a forested Land Reserve & community-managed forests



Actions

- * EDUCATION

Not only of foods available in forests but ALSO

- Stewardship

- Species at risk

- Respect

- Appropriateness of whether or not to harvest

Lolleen Stevenson

Waters

Principles

- * Local food supplies depend on local water supplies
- * Aquifers & watersheds need protection

Practice

* Build local markets

* Differentiating fish licences for food v. sport

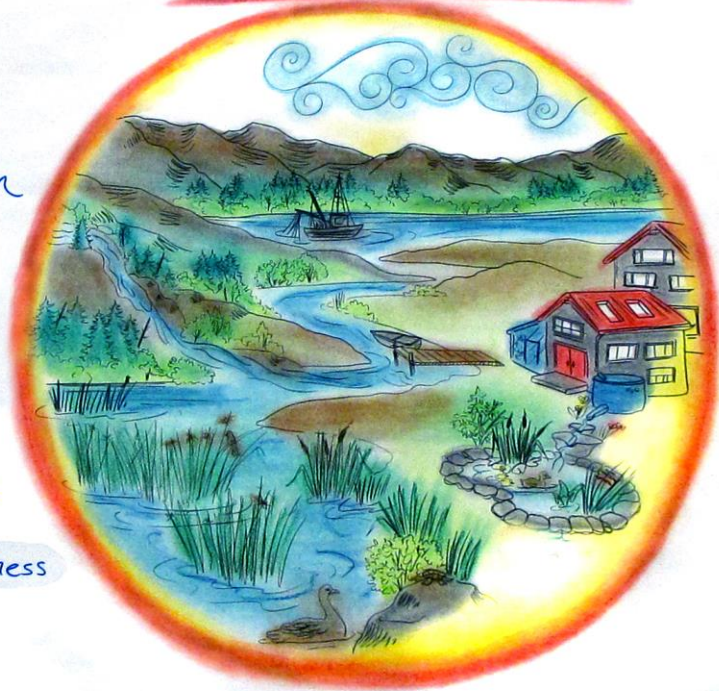
* Local fish in local restaurants

* FISH TO SCHOOL

* Climate change impacts on water cycle → increase awareness

Vision

- * Reconnection with local seafoods
- * Protected, revitalized waters



Colleen Stevenson

Actions

- * Creating fisher markets possibly linked to farmers' markets
- * Direct marketing
- * Self-sufficient processing
- * Education for consumers
 - Support fishers so they can continue doing what they love
- * Education for future fishers
 - passing on traditional knowledge
 - understanding the economics

Principles

- * We need to protect indigenous foods, species & traditional knowledge

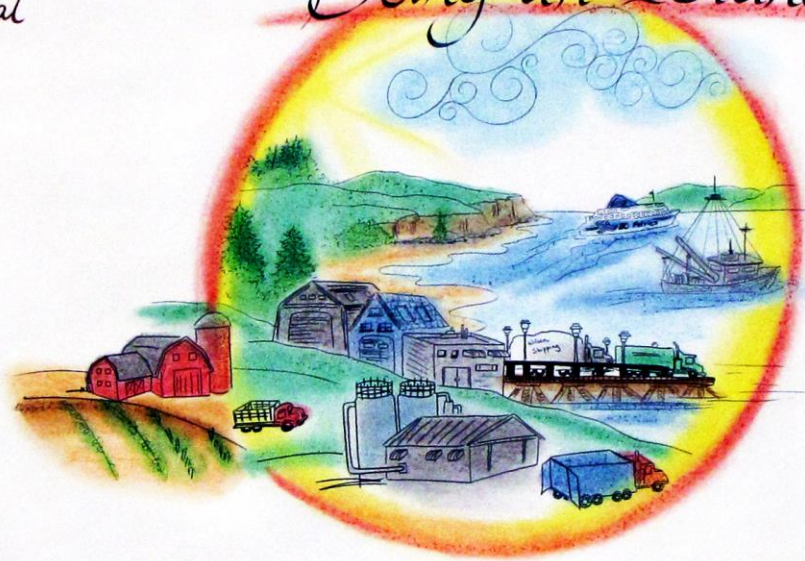
Practice

- * Valuing local foods
- * Building island wide infrastructure

Vision

- * A land trust for the island
- * Local food programs at local institutions
- * The water supplies are sustainable per population & watersheds are protected

The Uniqueness of Being an Island



Actions

- * Mapping of seasonally available foods across the island with health authorities & post-secondary institutions collaborating
- * Building a food charter
- * Raising awareness of island food systems

Colleen Stevenson