



ABBOTSFORD COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

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Media - For Immediate Release

\$105,000 in Grants Provided to Local Farm Projects.

Abbotsford, BC, June 7, 2018 – ACF provides Agriculture Enhancement Grants to five local farm projects.

Lead: The Abbotsford Community Foundation (ACF) is pleased to confirm the recipients of the 2018 Agricultural Enhancement Grants. A total of \$105,000 was granted to five local farming initiatives that met the criteria of revitalization of unused or underutilized land in the Abbotsford ALR, with the objective of creating more usable and productive farmland.

“We are proud to partner with the City of Abbotsford to provide grants annually to our farming community,” said, Lorna Hart, ACF Board Chair. “ACF has provided more than \$650,000 through our Agriculture Enhancement grants over the past five years to support one of Abbotsford’s key economic drivers.” added Hart.

ACF Agricultural Enhancement Grants Committee Chair, Marcus Janzen, noted “the focus of revitalization of unused or underutilized farm land in Abbotsford has been identified in the Ag Refresh plan at the City as an area that should be expanded on.” He went on to further state that “each of the grant recipients have specific projects targeted to reclaiming unused agriculture land.” The ACF committee is comprised of local farmers and individuals with a passion for serving the Abbotsford farming community.

Wendy Neufeld, Executive Director, remarked that there were a large number of worthy applications. “Our Agriculture Grants Committee chose five excellent projects whose outcomes will have a positive impact in agriculture production in our community. A presentation of the grants was held on May 28th at Brambles Bistro. Each of the recipients was given the opportunity to provide an overview of their project and the expected outcomes.

For more information on how to support Abbotsford Community Foundation’s programs please visit our website at www.abbotsfordcf.org or phone 604-850-3755. Please follow our social media campaign on Twitter at #weareAbbotsford and on Instagram @abbyfdn

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2018 Abbotsford Community Foundation Agricultural Enhancement Grants recipients:

Dockum Farms Ltd. – McDermott Road Land Reclaim

The objective and outcome of this project is to get 18 acres of recently purchased property, a previous greenhouse operation that had been neglected for years, cleaned up and planted back into grass land and corn crops.

Field House Brewing Co. – Field House Farms Project

This project aims to collaborate with farming partners to revitalize underutilized ALR property which will contribute to both the agriculture community and local food culture. Specifically, Field House Farm will partner with Bakerview Eco Dairy to lease 2 acres to grow grain and barley. They will also partner with Maple Lane Farm to lease .5 acre to bring into production for their kitchen program. This project will integrate local Valley farms into our local businesses, in order to show the process is viable and sustainable.

Goat’s Pride Dairy at McLennan Creek

This project proposes to address the need for a sustainable food source for livestock which can be grown on marginal ALR land, specifically in the Tagasaste Tree as a potential fodder crop for goats, but also to explore other sustainable plants. This would provide a way of utilizing feral hillsides in our ALR for sustainable fodder crops.

Green Flora Greenhouses Ltd.

They currently have approximately 2 acres of available wooded land, which was substantially damaged during the ice storms last winter. The project would reclaim this land and make agricultural use of it by setting up a half acre hop yard and the balance used for a hazelnut orchard. As this land is not being utilized for any agricultural productions this would be the ideal local to begin testing and focusing on research for new and upcoming varieties of both species.

MEI Agriculture Program

MEI currently owns approximately 19 acres, currently in the ALR and is going to start an environmentally sound, sustainable organic agriculture program as part of their K-12 education. There is significant potential to bring this land back into production with this project funding and the produce grown will be supplied to local markets.

Vital Signs reports are available at www.abbotsfordcf.org. The publications on our site are used year-round by the foundation to build local knowledge, set strategic priorities, inform granting and engage in community leadership activities.

Abbotsford Community Foundation is one of 191 community foundations across Canada. For more information about *Community Foundations of Canada* visit www.communityfoundations.ca.



About *Abbotsford Community Foundation*

Vision

Together we build a stronger, more caring community.

Mission

Inspire philanthropy and develop partnerships by investing in people, projects, and programs to strengthen our community.

Definition of Success

Abbotsford Community Foundation is an outstanding community leader and capacity builder in the not-for-profit sector. Abbotsford Community Foundation has 20 million dollars in endowment funds by 2020.

Strategic Priorities

- Grow our Endowment Funds
- Deepen our impact through granting
- Raise our Foundation profile

Values

Caring, engaged, responsible, trustworthy, accountable

Our History

The Abbotsford Community Foundation was conceived by a series of initiating events that started with a substantial donation by the Trethewey Family to the Matsqui Parks and Recreation Commission in 1978.

The Directors of the Commission at that time felt that the sizable donation could have a much longer effect on the community if it was invested in perpetuity and revenues from the investment spent annually.

Funds

18 – Non-Profit Agency Funds

25 - Donor Advised or Donor Designated Funds

81 - Student Award Funds

Click [here](#) for ways to give.