

Dear FLT Society Supporters:

We are writing all of our supporters to let you know that during the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, [The Farmlands Trust \(Greater Victoria\) Society](#) continued to move forward to achieve our organizational mandate. Our mission is to enhance farming capacity in the Greater Victoria region by protecting local farmland, protecting eco-sensitive and culturally special areas, producing food for those in need, providing relevant educational opportunities, promoting the economic viability of farmland, and providing community access and public awareness programs.

In 2021, we focused our initiatives on producing food for those in need and protecting eco-sensitive areas. The FLT Society's Newman Farm Program aligns with the Government of British Columbia's pandemic essential services; as a provider of food for vulnerable populations – as part of the Greater Victoria food supply chain for food insecure populations. This is part of our long-term commitment to provide agricultural stewardship (2015 – 2025) on a three-acre+ portion of the historic 100+ year old Newman Farm in Central Saanich, BC. With our mission in mind, and the reality of safely operating during a pandemic, the following are notable highlights of the FLT Society's agricultural stewardship in 2021:

- We continued to focus our efforts on our “field to plate” initiative (producing apples, assorted herbs, assorted squash, beans, beets, cabbage, carrots, cucumbers, cauliflower, garlic, kale, leeks, lettuce, onions, parsnips, pears, and turnips). This year, we grew, harvested, and shared 17,381 lbs., worth over \$62,000 of fresh, local produce. **From 2014 – 2021, our cumulative “field to plate” initiative total is nearly 90,000 lbs. of produce grown, harvested, and shared with food insecure populations in the Greater Victoria region, worth over \$240,000.00**

Newman Farm field with assorted produce for the FLT Society “field-to-plate” initiative (June 2021) and a weekly “field to plate” initiative summer 2021 harvest.



- The primary recipient of the “field to plate” initiative is [Our Place Society](#) – *linking food production with a local homeless shelter and soup kitchen to aid in relieving poverty and mitigating food insecurity for marginalized populations in society.* Since 2014, the FLT Society is the largest single supplier of produce to Our Place Society throughout the summer and fall – estimated 1,200+ daily meals and snacks.
- We installed additional raised-beds and now have over 25 raised garden beds. This allows us to grow an additional crop which extends our “field to plate” initiative into the fall. We are currently securing further funding to continue the raised garden bed initiative to grow more produce - thereby expanding the variety of food grown and lengthening our farming season.
- We upgraded the irrigation system for the Newman Farm field and installed a new irrigation system for the raised garden beds. This irrigation system will result in a more efficient use of irrigation water for growing crops and maintaining our national award winning certified bee-friendly meadow, and raised garden bed program. In 2019, the FLT Society received certification from the Canadian Agricultural Partnership for completing an environmental farm plan assessment at Newman Farm to advance best management practices. This certification allowed

us to receive funding for the irrigation system upgrade, in part, with a grant from ARDCorp, and from our wide range of supporting organizations and individual donors.

- In recognition of the important role that trees play in aesthetics, air quality, soil and water conservation and protection of the environment, a 30+ fruit tree orchard at Newman Farm continues to flourish with in-kind support from Bartlett Tree Experts who maintain the health of the orchard. The orchard provides another food source to share with vulnerable populations in the Greater Victoria region.
- Every year at the Newman Farm, we plant a portion of our lands into a bee-friendly meadow; including sunflowers, wildflowers, buckwheat, and clover. This beautiful display of flowers is an attractant for birds and bees from the local agricultural lands to support pollination activity. A series of lavender beds and assorted pollinator-friendly flowers and crops are also thriving as part of our national award winning certified bee-friendly farming program.
- As we needed to limit access to and from Newman Farm due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we conducted our farm operations under COVID-19 protocols to coordinate a small group of dedicated volunteers to support the FLT Society Newman Farm Manager and Farm Assistant with spring planting, summer garden maintenance, fall harvesting, and winterizing of Newman Farm. This included assisting us with the irrigation line set up and take down in 2021.

FLT Society raised garden beds utilized for growing produce and pollinator-friendly flowers at the historic Newman Farm.



We extend our appreciation to FLT Society funders, partners, and donors (individuals and families) for your timely contributions to the FLT Society's agricultural stewardship at Newman Farm.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, engaging in the regional food supply chain and food redistribution has become increasingly important and urgent. We continue to diversify crops and extend the farm season for our "field to plate" initiative – based on the growing needs by Our Place Society to aid vulnerable populations in Greater Victoria having access to fresh, local produce.

The FLT Society is a charitable not-for-profit organization (Charitable Number: 80839 3359 RR0001). **This is why we write you today to ask for your donation.** Your donations ensure that all of these important FLT Society charitable activities continue. Please take a moment to donate to ensure that we can sustain our charitable food production and redistribution endeavours alongside our national award winning certified bee-friendly farming programs at the Newman Farm through the coming year. If you would like to donate to the FLT Society, visit <http://farmlandstrust.org/donate>. **Annual amounts over \$25.00 are eligible for a charitable tax receipt.**

Thanks for your support,
FLT Society Board of Directors

Volunteering at Newman Farm

If you would like to volunteer with us at Newman Farm in 2022, please contact us at farmlandstrust@gmail.com.

During spring and summer 2022, key volunteer activities at the Farm include planting starters and seeds; and maintaining vegetable garden plots and raised garden beds – i.e., managing weeds, and tidying up the garden plots and raised garden beds to support optimal growth.

All levels of experience in gardening are most welcome!