

# Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association

## The Soil Keeper

The *Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association* is a non-profit organization that promotes sustainable agriculture and stewardship practices which conserve and enhance the long term productivity of agricultural land through education, research and demonstration projects.

### ASCA Sponsors

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### Greenhouse Gas Calculator to be Tested

*by Bruce Fatkin<sup>1</sup>, BC Taking Charge Team Leader*

The Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association will be participating in another in a series of projects around Greenhouse Gas emissions from farming. This latest is the first test of a new tool to help quantify how management changes in one area might impact emissions from other parts of an operation.

In recent years ASCA has contributed to a series of national programs aimed at helping farms identify Best Management strategies that also reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions, sometimes by storing carbon on-farm in soils, compost and plants. These projects, while useful, also pointed to the need to better identify and understand how making a change in one area of farm management might affect net Greenhouse Gas emissions in another area. For example, we need to know are the emissions from on-farm composting and eventual application less or more than surface application of raw manures in various operating styles.

With information gathered from previous on-farm work and from research at several universities, Agriculture and AgriFood Canada has taken the lead in developing a computer software program that we are hoping will help forecast the net changes in emissions from, even slight changes in farming practices. Participating farms will input information about their farm including current management. The Calculator indicates the likely Greenhouse Gas emissions from that farm. It then presents the opportunity to change facets of farm management and forecast the net changes in Greenhouse Gas emissions from the farm. Several combinations of scenarios can be explored.

Called Holos, the prototype is to be tested on just under 1,000 farms across Canada, including about 90 in B.C. Farms operators will be assisted in testing Holos by ASCA Coordinator Kristine Schlamp and other trained operators. The aim of the testing

is to confirm the Calculator’s relevance and usefulness and to identify additions and adjustments that will enhance the effectiveness of the program and help make Holos more user- friendly.

Holos will be available at the ASCA booth at the Pacific Agriculture Tradeshow and Kristine and her team will be approaching individual producers.

<sup>1</sup> Soil Conservation Council of Canada projects are overseen by provincial teams of volunteers called Taking Charge Teams. In BC, team members are producers from the Fraser Valley and the Peace River area of the province.

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# Holos

*A tool to estimate and  
reduce GHGs from farms*



Holos is a whole-farm modelling software program that estimates greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions based on information entered for individual farms. The main purpose of Holos is to envision and test possible ways of reducing GHG emissions from farms. Holos is the culmination of extensive, collaborative study of greenhouse gas emissions from Canadian farms. Much of this research was conducted by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada scientists in the Model Farm research program.

Holos has several unique features. One of these is the use of 'scenarios' – common packages of Canadian farm management practices. The user selects scenarios that best describe his/her farm and then adds detail to the extent desired. This makes Holos easy to use, while still allowing flexibility for more intensive analyses.

Using a gaming approach, Holos allows users to contemplate possible options that might reduce emissions, and to estimate how those options affect whole-farm emissions. Holos is intended to look into the future, to envision hypothetical scenarios, and look for those practices that best reduce emissions at a specific site before they are implemented. Holos, therefore, is designed primarily as an exploratory tool, rather than as an accounting or inventory tool. It is intended to look into the future and ask 'what if?', rather than looking at the past and

asking 'what were my emissions?' Holos also provides a set of possible mitigation options unique to each farm and lets users explore the impact of these options.

Algorithms used in the model are generally based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change methods, but have been modified for Canadian conditions. The approach of Holos has been to emphasize the interaction of various components on the farm, rather than use exceedingly complex sub-routines of individual facets. Holos focuses specifically on those practices and conditions that might conceivably have significant mitigative effect. The level of detail is also dictated by the amount of supportive scientific information available.

Holos estimates carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and methane emissions from enteric fermentation and manure management, cropping systems and energy use. Carbon storage and loss from lineal tree plantings and changes in land use and management are also estimated resulting in a whole-farm GHG estimate. The estimate is based on a yearly time-step and results are provided as reports or comparative charts.

For more information on Holos, email [Holos@agr.gc.ca](mailto:Holos@agr.gc.ca). The program is available for download from [www.agr.gc.ca/nlwis](http://www.agr.gc.ca/nlwis) - click on the "Tools" link on the left side menu.

## Local Producer Integrates a Variety of Farming System

by Jayna Houston

John Doppenberg of Jayendee Farms has recently partnered with the Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association (ASCA), as part of the Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative, to establish an agroforestry intercropping demonstration project. John is a great example of a local producer working toward enhanced sustainability by making important efforts to increase farm revenue, improve nutrient management and adopt better conservation practices through an integrated farming system.

Jayendee Farms is a 20 acre farm in the Fraser Valley with a small hog production facility. John's farm practices incorporate integrated farming systems that include a hybrid poplar plantation, a poplar intercropping demonstration project, an on-farm composting facility as well as vermicomposting. Each of these systems plays an important role in achieving the goals of conservation and improved economics and nutrient management.

### Hybrid Poplar Plantation

Seventeen acres of hybrid poplar were planted on the farm at a spacing of 14 feet. The trees are now going into their eighth year of growth in what is expected to be a 10-15 year rotation and they already exceed 40 feet. The poplars were planted with the intention to increase farm revenue and help utilize manure.

Hybrid poplars are known to be good at absorbing & utilizing high levels of nutrients. The poplars on John's farm are thriving in the nutrient rich environment. A significant difference in size can be seen in those trees that regularly receive manure through the growing season relative to those that receive no manure. Those that receive manure exceed 40 feet while those that don't have only reached an approximate height of 15-20 feet.

Other local examples of systems that integrate hog production with hybrid poplar production do not exist and therefore the system is still experimental and investigative. But, given the nutrient utilizing capabilities of hybrid poplar, they may be good candidates for improving manure management in intensively farmed areas such as the Fraser Valley.



## Abbotsford Soil Conservation

### *-Our Mandate is Growing-*

ASCA has had two new additions to our growing organization since the last Soil Keeper newsletter

### **ASCA would like to welcome:**

- Our new board member  
**Ted De Jong**
- Our new coordinator  
**Kristine Schlamp**

## Intercropping Demonstration Project

In addition to the poplars, John has also recently established a demonstration project to examine improving the utilization of the available land and nutrients within the poplar plantation.

The poplars are intercropped with Contorted Hazelnut, red stemmed Dogwood, Oregon Grape and Curly Willow which are plants that are expected to have a high market value and are readily marketable to the floral industry. The floriculture stock was planted between the poplars, leaving access to the alleys for spreading manure. Due to the canopy density and occasional manure application within the plantation, plants chosen for the demonstration needed to be tolerant of both shade and high nutrient levels.

Each of the floriculture plants chosen have a desirable quality for the floral industry. The red bark of the dogwood makes it especially desirable during the fall and spring with the greatest marketability at Christmastime. Oregon grape has an evergreen leaf that, like the dogwood, will be marketable during the winter and at Christmastime. Contorted hazelnut and curly willow is highly sought after throughout the entire year and has a very high market value. The harvest of the floral stock will be done by pruning the plants and leaving the root stock intact.

After almost two growing seasons the floral plants have received few inputs and yet are thriving. The producer is particularly pleased with the growth of the Contorted Hazelnut especially given the low maintenance and input requirements. The outcomes expected from this project include the development of an initial selection of floral and landscape species that are suitable for intercropping with hybrid poplars, an estimate of the effects of agroforestry practices on farm nutrient balance and, of course, the annual harvest of a high value floral crop.

## On-Farm Composting Facility

In addition to the poplar plantation John has also installed a new composting facility on the farm in partnership with Dr. John Paul of Transform Composting Systems. The composting facility utilizes the potential energy in the manure in a process known as Biodrying. The Biodrying composting process is optimized by maintaining low head space, this keeps the environment warm, which helps to maximize moisture evaporation and significantly reduces the volume of the manure. The facility is fully-enclosed, has an aerated floor and an air to heat exchanger is also used to manage the temperature during composting. An auger system is used for mixing the manure as it composts.

The liquid hog manure is composted by blending with straw or other bulking agents and the design allows for additional liquid application during mixing. This is a compost mixing system that is low cost, has minimal electrical requirements, operates with minimal headspace, and will allow further addition of liquid manure during the process. John expects to obtain a high quality fertilizer after composting.

Research shows that because biodrying is a composting process there is no methane produced. Additionally, because the facility is fully enclosed there is also an opportunity to reduce nitrous oxide emissions by capturing them before they are vented to the outside.

In addition to the composting facility John also has a vermiculture operation on the farm in which they prepare worm boxes destined to Vancouverites interested in kitchen composting.

## Summary

In summary, this little hog farm is using multiple methods to increase sustainability and improve and integrate nutrient management in conjunction with improving farm productivity and profitability. The hog operation is integrated with a hybrid poplar plantation and floral intercropping project as well as an on-farm composting facility and vermiculture operation.

John has partnered with many organizations to bring about so many innovative practices and integrate his farming operations. For more information on these projects please contact Kristine Schlamp, coordinator at the Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association at [info@AbbotsfordSoilConservation.com](mailto:info@AbbotsfordSoilConservation.com).

# Trees Planted for Riparian Environments

by Kristine Schlamp

During the months of August and September of 2008 a very exciting event was taking place along various watercourses within Abbotsford, BC. The City of Abbotsford Dyking, Drainage and Irrigation department planted 339 trees and shrubs in an Environment Enhancement Planting Project that coincided with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans fisheries window. This window is considered to be a time where work along the streams would be least disruptive to the fish population.

The City of Abbotsford's natural area expert, Mr. Shawn Gurney, Fish and Wildlife Tech & Certified Arborist, prepared plans for each planting site based on the site conditions, such as soil type, and soil moisture. The plant material chosen was ecologically suited to each site and had to be a minimum of two metres in height in order to maximize survival. Tree species such as Red alder, Black hawthorn, Paper birch, and Douglas fir were planted a minimum of 10 metres apart and Pacific willow and Red osier dogwood because of their growth habits could be planted as close together as two metres. Any invasive plant species were removed from the area prior to installing the trees and shrubs. Some of the tree species with similar growth habits were clustered in groups of five and space was left between clusters to allow future machine access. Beaver fences were also installed in a majority of the planting sites.

Streambank erosion is a common problem throughout the Abbotsford area. In the natural course of a stream, bank material is lost and redeposited elsewhere. However, sediment carried by the stream can decrease water quality especially for the aquatic population by covering substrate and increasing turbidity. Once begun, streambank erosion can be a persistent problem, causing continual loss of soil from adjacent agricultural lands.

The planting of trees and shrubs is an effective way of stopping streambank erosion and preserving soil conservation. As the trees, and especially the woody shrubs grow, their roots spread out and give the bank stabilization as well as providing excellent habitat for fish and wildlife species. The combination of shading and leaf drop by the plants protect the fish populations from high water temperatures and the senescent leaves are one of the first links in the food chain providing insects and microorganisms for young fish to feed on. In addition the added vegetation causes sediment deposition, reducing the stream sediment load and helps to restore the streambank. After a time as the trees start to lose branches, this woody debris will help to direct flow rate of the water away from the streambank and act as a buffer reducing the abrasiveness of other material being transported down the stream.

The City of Abbotsford will continue to monitor the planted locales in the following years and make annual assessments of the planted vegetation in the riparian enhancement areas. Factors such as survival rate and re-occurrence of invasive species will be examined but the

outcome expected is that the habitat enhancement work will be self-sustaining.

Funding for this project was a cooperative venture in conjunction with the City of Abbotsford, the Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association and Agriculture Environment Partnership Initiative made possible through the Abbotsford – Matsqui Prairie Agriculture and Riparian Stewardship Initiative.



Photo of Trees on Ditch 2 - Looking East from Bates Rd.



Photo of Trees on Stewart Creek - Looking North-East from No. 5 Rd.



Photo of Trees on Sumas Canal - Looking South from Campbell Rd.



## Land Management Guide for Horse Owners and Small-Lot Farmers

The Langley Environmental Partners Society recently published a booklet that will be of interest to B C farmers, particularly those with horse operations , but also including tips that could be of value to all farm operators.

While the main thrust of the informations targets those who operate small operations on limited acreage ,in particular those in Fraser Valley, there are sections in the booklet devoted to providing management guidance for operators in the Peace River, Okanagan, Cariboo, Kootenay, and elsewhere in the Province of BC.

The publication is divided into four sections:

- (1) Waste Management
- (2) Pasture Management
- (3) Water Management
- (4) Regional Concerns

As well as providing a great deal of detail on manure management and on pasture management the booklet provides a broad selection of references that can be accessed on the internet.

It is of interest to note that in the 2001 census, Statistics Canada reported that there were over 50,000 horses in B.C. on nearly 7000 farms. Managing manure, and maintaining pastures and dealing with water concerns are all part of good land management and this guide helps the farmer find solutions to some of these difficult problems.

In the Fraser Valley the local equine industry was estimated some years ago to generate over fifty million dollars annually, and there are apparently nearly 1500 horse operations. Most of these are relatively small, and owners are often part-time or hobby farmers, and are not familiar with the sources of technical information available to commercial farm operators. This booklet can be a valuable resource in providing such information.

Anyone interested can obtain a copy of the guide by visiting the Horse Council of B.C. online at <http://store.hcbc.ca/catalog/> The phone 604 856 4304. The cost is \$3.95 plus shipping.



**Vancouver Island  
Twine/Agricultural Plastics Recycling Pilot Project**

**Contact Jill Ackerman  
250-703-0048 Courtenay, B.C.**

Email  
[acker944@shaw.ca](mailto:acker944@shaw.ca)



**Info Sheets**

[5 Easy Steps  
Recycling Plastic Baler Twine](#)

[5 Easy Steps  
Recycling Round Bale Hay Plastics](#)

[Twine Delivery Sites  
Vancouver Island and Mainland  
Twine Delivery Sites](#)

[Project Survey](#)



**Please Recycle All Used Plastic Baler Twine, Haylage, and Silage Bags  
Complimentary collections for round bale and silage bags: dry and bagged**

- \* Twine must be hay and debris FREE before delivery
  - \* Separate black from orange, blue, green, yellow, clear & deliver
- Please keep dry, remove hay & debris before delivery - no sisal twine**

**Articles**

[Twine Recycling Project](#) Adapted from: Country Life in BC, April 2007  
[Recycling project keeps 4-H members "green"](#)

**How do you suggest this project should succeed?  
User pay? Donations? Drop me a note...**



## Silent Invasion of Invasive Plants Prompts Action in BC

**February 6, 2009** - Invasive plants are silently invading British Columbia at an alarming rate, negatively impacting the economy, environment, and human health. Even without the effects of global warming, invasive plants are costing millions of dollars each year in rising management costs and lost productivity to industry.

To address this growing issue, more than 125 experts as well as a diversity of high caliber speakers in the field of invasive plant management attended the Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia's (IPCBC) Annual Public Forum and AGM, "Stop the Spread," held at the Delta Airport Hotel in Richmond, January 20 to 21, 2009.

This two-day forum focused on the informed choices and practical solutions that industry and individuals can adopt to reduce the introduction and establishment of unwanted invasive plants to regions across BC and beyond. Engaging First Nations and gardeners was a key message delivered during the forum.

International speaker, Robert Chin, of the Nursery and Garden Industry, Australia, presented on a successful, "Grow Me Instead" program in Australia that is a national outreach program directed to gardeners. Publication materials inform gardeners of each State's invasive species, along with suggested alternative plants for industry.

Jointly funded by government and industry, "Grow Me Instead" educational publications and industry accreditation strategies can be adopted in Canada, said Chin. Results of this program are showing that the garden industry can make a real difference to reduce the impacts of invasive plants.

"Selling weeds is in nobody's best interest," he said, adding that, "the more we can work together in this battle of invasive plants, the more likely we are to stop their spread."

Keynote speaker, Brian Minter, of Minter Gardens in Chilliwack, also emphasized the importance of approaching youth as a consumer to engage and educate in the area of horticulture and invasive plants.

Making the horticulture industry relevant to youth is the first step, said Minter, along with education that links gardening to the health of the environment, especially surrounding the issue of invasive plants. Youth, he said, are a powerful audience who should be encouraged to garden. "Unless it's relevant to them somehow, they won't be concerned," said Minter.

A clear call to action was expressed across all attendees. Working across governments, First Nations will work together to ensure that practical actions are undertaken to stop invasive plants that reduce traditional benefits from the land base. Provinces across the country linked together to stop the spread of new plants across our borders. All agreed to work together to stop the spread of invasive plants that threaten the natural ecosystems, that are negatively impacting land values and impacting recreation sites and parks. By 'spreading the word, not the weed', BC can reduce the negative and escalating impacts of invasive plants... get involved!

Membership is free and open to anyone willing to work collaboratively. Find out more at [www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca](http://www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca)!

The IPCBC is a grassroots, non-profit society working collaboratively to build cooperation and coordination of invasive plant management in BC. Workshops, activities, and events, such as the IPCBC's Stop the Spread forum, educate the public and professionals about invasive plants and their potential risks. Events like this forum will continue to assist the IPCBC in "spreading the word, not the weed" through outreach and education; thus minimizing the establishment of invasive plants.

The IPCBC has experienced phenomenal growth since its inception in 2004. Initiated and mentored under the vision of the Fraser Basin Council, the Invasive Plant Council of BC is recognized across the country for its leadership in building collaboration to the challenging and exploding problem of invasive plants.

For more information, contact the Invasive Plant Council of BC (IPCBC):  
[www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca](http://www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca) • (250) 392-1400 • [info@invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca](mailto:info@invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca)

**The Abbotsford Groundwater Forum**  
**Local Groundwater Sustainability and Governance**  
**February 25, 2009**  
**MCA Auditorium at Abbotsford City Hall**  
**8:30 am - 1:00 pm**

In April 2007, more than one hundred participants with a technical interest in local groundwater met in Abbotsford to talk about nitrate pollution in the Abbotsford-Sumas Aquifer. Those scientists unanimously concluded that a second/follow-up forum was needed to discuss what to do about the continued pollution.

Now, you're invited to join us on February 25, 2009, to add your voice on what needs to be done. This forum is meant for all who use and have an impact on the groundwater resource. As stakeholders we want to ensure that there will be enough clean groundwater in the future for everyone's needs. We will also need to ask who will ultimately be responsible for ensuring a sustainable supply of groundwater.

In this forum, we aim to increase awareness of Aquifer issues in the community, and communicate key findings and outcomes from the 2007 Science Forum on nitrate contamination. In addition, we want to engage stakeholders in a dialogue on their key interests in the Abbotsford-Sumas aquifer. For example, what are the current and upcoming groundwater regulations? What will be the impact of Living Water Smart, British Columbia's Water Plan?

**Here are some highlights:**

- **What's the Problem with the Abbotsford-Sumas Aquifer?** A presentation on local groundwater, land use and the nitrate contamination issue.
- **Update on Key Science Issues.** Results from 2007 Abbotsford-Sumas Aquifer Science Forum.
- **Recent Groundwater Research in our Aquifer.** A presentation.
- **Health Issues and the Drinking Water Guideline for Nitrate.** A presentation.
- **Successes and Challenges in Effecting Changes in Beneficial Management Practices.** Stakeholder Panel Session #1.
- **BC's Living Water Smart Initiative and the Provincial Role in Water Governance: Implications for Groundwater.** A presentation.
- **What are the Roles, Responsibilities and Perspectives of the Agencies Governing Our Groundwater Resource?** Stakeholder Panel Session #2.

We hope to see you at the MCA Auditorium (beside Abbotsford City Hall). There's no charge and a coffee break will be provided.

To help our planning, please RSVP to Edith.Camm@ufv.ca by **February 17, 2009**.

**Sponsoring/Organizing Agencies**

Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association  
Fraser Basin Council  
Canadian Water Network  
City of Abbotsford  
Environment Canada  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands  
BC Ministry of Environment  
Fraser Health  
Sustainable Poultry Farming Group  
University of Calgary  
University of the Fraser Valley

## Soil Erosion is Like Letting Your Money Wash Away

### Did You Know ... ?

The Resource Management Branch of the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands provides a very useful resource for conserving your valuable soil resource and keeping money in your pocket. They offer a variety of publications and fact-sheets with valuable information on many soil and conservation topics that are available online.

It is simple to access these publications. Just visit their website at [www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/publist/Publ\\_List\\_Home.htm](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/publist/Publ_List_Home.htm) and follow the links to publications on such topics as Soil Conservation, Drainage, Riparian Management, Farm Practices Protection and many more. They also have Conceptual Plans for a variety of farm related structures

You can access the Soil resources online directly at: [www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/publist/Soil.htm](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/publist/Soil.htm)

And the drainage related publications at: [www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/publist/Water.htm](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/publist/Water.htm)



## How to avoid digging up trouble

*For more information,  
call your local Land  
Resource Agent:*

Fraser Valley:  
604.860.7663

Kamloops:  
250.373.7042

Prince George:  
250.960.2051

Fort St John:  
250.262.3459

Fort Nelson:  
250.262.3457

Pipelines are a safe and efficient way to transport natural gas. They are vital to our lives and economy. But a pipeline can be vulnerable. If the pipe or its coating are damaged, this could contribute to a leak now or in the future.

Informed landowners are essential to pipeline safety. Together, we can minimize the risk of damage to the pipeline, for your safety, the safety of your community and the environment.

Work safely, call BC One Call before you dig:  
**1-800-474-6886.**

**Duke Energy<sup>®</sup>**  
**Gas Transmission**

The Agriculture Environment Partnership Initiative and the Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative are components of the Agri-Food Futures Fund, funding for which is provided through the Canada-British Columbia Framework Agreement on Agricultural Risk Management and the National Agriculture Environmental Sustainability Initiative and the Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Initiative of the federal Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Fund.



# FRESH. LOCAL. TASTY. EAT BC! CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF

VANCOUVER – The Province is providing \$282,000 over two years to the Eat BC! campaign to encourage British Columbians to consume B.C. agri-food products, announced Agriculture and Lands Minister Pat Bell today.

“Last year’s Eat BC! campaign was a huge success, and I’m excited to see the expansion of the program this year. I encourage everyone to take part in this innovative program,” said Bell. “One of the best ways to ensure a secure local food supply is by making the conscious effort to purchase B.C.-grown food. Our farming community produces over 225 agricultural products, so there is a lot of choice when creating dishes from local foods.”

The Eat BC! campaign is designed to promote B.C. agri-food products (locally grown and processed food and beverages, including, wine, beer, fruit juices, and milk) in over 130 B.C. restaurants and IGA stores, at farmers’ markets, the University of British Columbia, the University of Victoria and Simon Fraser University, and in Fraser Health Authority’s hospital cafeterias.

Eat BC! received \$267,000 from the Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. (IAF) through provincial funding and an additional \$15,000 from the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.

“The Investment Agriculture Foundation is excited to support Eat BC!,” said IAF chair Bert Miles. “We decided to throw our support behind this program because it is helping to create new partnerships between local growers, food processors, chefs, distributors and retailers.”

The IAF is a not-for-profit organization that manages and distributes federal and provincial funds in support of innovative projects to benefit the agriculture and food industries in British Columbia.

“The Eat BC! campaign is a great way to promote products that are grown and produced in B.C. and the health benefits of eating locally,” said Gordon Hogg, Minister of State for ActNow BC. “Our School Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program is supported by B.C. producers who supply fantastic fruit and vegetables to over 57,000 students in B.C.”

Eat BC! runs from Sept. 14 to 30, and consumers have a chance to win a grand prize of dining out every week for one year and \$1,000 free gas. In addition, B.C. Automobile Association members will receive a complimentary B.C. appetizer or dessert when they purchase a signature Eat BC! dish from

participating restaurants during the campaign.

The B.C. Agriculture Council and B.C. Restaurant and Foodservices Association joined forces to create and host the campaign.

“We wanted to highlight B.C.’s abundance of delicious agri-food products, the farmers who grow them, and the chefs who create locally infused dishes,” said Robin Smith, on behalf of the B.C. Agriculture Council. “Eat BC! raises awareness of the agri-food products that are available to us right in our own province, our agriculture industry, and the hardworking people who bring local food to our plates.”

“Eat BC! was developed as a promotion to get British Columbians embracing the high quality agricultural products from our own backyard and to get us ready to showcase this to the world in 2010,” said Ian Tostenson, president and CEO of the British Columbia Restaurant and Foodservices Association. “Eat BC! showcases the many fantastic restaurants, chefs and food suppliers located throughout the province.”

For more information, go to [www.eatbc.com](http://www.eatbc.com)

Steve Thomson  
Executive Director-BCAC  
102-1482 Springfield Rd.  
Kelowna, BC V1Y 5V3  
ph. 250.763.9790 fax 250.762.2997

## EatBC Program Underway Why Should We Eat BC?

Enjoy the fresh, local and tasty food and beverages of British Columbia. By supporting local growers and suppliers you help the environment, reducing your carbon footprint by limiting the amount of shipping and fuel consumption needed to get the seasonal foods to you. The more local food we consume, the higher the demand = the more farmers are needed to supply the products and voila! a healthier local economy, more local jobs within agriculture and a stronger, more vibrant local food system. BC food and beverages – Fresher, Faster!

For more information visit <http://www.eatbc.com/>



**The Soil Keeper** is a regular publication of the Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association, a non-profit society registered in the Province of BC.

**Key issues ASCA will be addressing are:**

- Soil conservation and related practices
- Water Quality and Nutrient Management
- Increased public awareness and education

*The ASCA takes a cooperative approach to solutions regarding these issues, focusing on sustainable land stewardship strategies that are economical and effective.*

## Directed by Farmers for Farmers & the Community

**President:** Peter Reus, Van Eekelen Ent.

**Vice President:** Dick Bunbury

**Secretary:** Rose Schroeder, Jacobs Farms

**Treasurer:** Len Smit, Kato's Nursery

**Directors:**

Bruce Wisbey, Wisbey Veggies

Kim Ross, Farm Credit Canada

Jim van Dongen

Ted de Jong

**Technical Advisors:**

Geoff Hughes-Games, PAG, BCMAL

Mark Robbins, PAG, BCMAL

Frank Wright, City of Abbotsford

**Fill in the form below and send it to ASCA at the address above to become a SOIL KEEPER!**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_


Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Corporate (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_

**Congratulations**  
to the  
**Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association**  
on completing your 7th year working with local area farmers  
*Best of Luck in the future*  
from **Wisbey Veggies**



**"OUR OWN HOME GROWN"**

*Look for the Orange Bldg.  
1 km east of Hwy #1 at No.3 Rd  
Yarrow/Cultus Lake Exit #104*

**Coordinator:**  
**Kristine Schlamp**  
**778-378-3946**  
email:  
info@AbbotsfordSoilConservation.com