

NATURE'S WAY

December 2008

This year we have seen some changes in COG-NB. Our old National Rep., Av Singh, has moved on to other projects; as has the old chairperson, Andrea Berry. In their stead is Shannon Herbert from Speckled Hen Heritage Farm as National Rep. and Katherine McCord from Bantry Bay Farm as Chairperson. We invite ideas of all sorts for what the chapter can do in the coming year!

COG-NB IN 2008

COG-NB got up to a few activities this year. A few of our members attended the Young Farmers Forum which was the beginning of a New Brunswick alliance of young farmers. See Andrea's article below.

Serge LaRochelle has been working on a project to foster relationships between schools and local farms in the Moncton area.

In June Beryl de Beaupre, Katherine McCord, Mike Hadfield and Brad Aune joined Debby Lord at the St. Andrew's Community Youth Action Centre to build a community garden beside their building. They were accompanied by children and parents who frequent the centre. Beryl set up a draw for a couple of treats including a cloth bag and travel mug which Jacob Gibson won and showed off with pride. The kids planted it later and are still pulling the last of the harvest just now. Katherine made a squash soup and zucchini muffins. Debbie canned beets and relish and they have plans to make potato wedges and plant Jerusalem Artichokes.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Here's what's cooking for 2009!

As another growing season beginnings the Seedy Saturdays will be upon us all around the province! Look out for dates and destinations in the new year.

Movie nights in Knowlesville and St. Andrew's to facilitate discussions on food issues such as terminator/GMO seeds, food sovereignty, government roles in agriculture and what really is in our food. If anyone would like to host a movie night in their neck of the woods please let us know!

COG-NB hopes to start hosting winter potlucks in various regions of the province to get growers together to talk about their challenges and successes, pick each others brains and hopefully eat some hearty meals! So please keep an eye out for the dates nearest you and join us in the merry making.



We wish you all a Happy Holiday and look forward to another year of growing organically!

COG-NB SUPPORTS YOUNG FARMERS

We all know that the future of farming lies in the hands of our youth. With an ageing farming population a reality across North America, there is almost a sense of desperation to engage young people interested in working on the land. COG-NB recognizes the importance of making sure organic agriculture is at the table of choice for future farmers, and that organic farmers have a voice as the elder generation develops policy that sets the stage for the coming decades of food production.

In early April, the federal and provincial agriculture departments gathered at the first ever NB Agriculture Summit titled “Transforming Agriculture Together”. The intention was to create a collaborative discussion forum to help guide the next set of federal agricultural policies to meet the needs of NB’s agriculture sector. As an attempt to include the voice of young farmers, a pre-consultation/dialogue in March was arranged by the Agriculture Alliance of New Brunswick (AANB) with the Provincial Ag Minister Ronald Ouellette with an open invitation to any young farmer. COG-NB sponsored the travel costs of 4 young members to attend. Andrea Berry (Hope Seeds), Shannon Herbert (Speckled Hen Heritage Farm), Luke McLean and Katherine McCord (Bantry Bay Farm) represented the organic sector at the round-table meeting.

The most important outcome of that meeting, however, was not necessarily the dialogue between the minister (actually, the deputy minister made the appearance) and the participants, but the

post-meeting dialogue between the young farmers themselves. A network

of young farmer groups established across Canada in 1997 under the umbrella of the Canadian Young Farmers Forum (CYFF) www.cyff.ca. New Brunswick had been out of the loop for many years, but this March meeting changed that. Participants agreed that it was time to set up a NB chapter and officially formed the NB Young Farmers (NBYF) group.

The NBYF is open to anyone between the ages of 18-40 involved in farming. The objectives are to develop a network of young farmers, facilitate information exchange, and give a voice to NB young farmers in identifying the challenges that new and beginning farmers face. On November 12th, the NBYF held its first annual general meeting in New Maryland. The event included presentations on farm business planning, farm succession, and the PEI young farmers group. It also included generous time for socializing between sessions, a great way to build the farmer network.

To find out more about the NBYF, consider joining the Facebook group to learn more about upcoming events or projects. A website for the NBYF will soon be up and running.

We would love to hear any ideas you have for COG-NB so please contact us at kathmccord@gmail.com or 506 529 4576

