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Haliburton Farm is Growing....

This has been a year of exciting changes for the Haliburton Community Organic Farm, with three new farmers coming to work on the land. Elmarie Roberts and Martha Snow teamed up to farm a one-acre plot, naming their new venture Sun Bird Farm. They overcame a late start, due to the wet spring, and soon transformed their plot into a thriving garden full of ornamental flowers, herbs, and vegetables. Elmarie and Marty quickly became recognized for their exquisite floral bouquets, herbal nosegays, culinary-grade lavender, and salad mixes sprinkled with edible flowers. These products have become favorites at local markets, including the Moss St. Market and the Chef's Collaborative Market in Bastion Square.

Ray Robinson, assisted by his wife Heather, also farmed for the first time at Haliburton, developing a one-acre plot which soon yielded an abundance of market produce, including multi-colored bunches of carrots, foot-long cucumbers, beets, fennel, tomatoes, and gourmet potatoes, along with a colorful selection of summer and winter squashes and gourds. Ray's helpers, a flock of over 20 ducks, can often be seen waddling off together in search of slugs, and nibbling on succulent pea pods when Farmer Ray's back is turned.

There are now three acres under agricultural production at the farm, increasing the availability of local, organic produce in the Cordova Bay area. The farm continues to promote and demonstrate the importance of sustainable agriculture, organic growing methods, and local food security. Over 300 Environmental Studies students from UVic have visited the farm for tours and work parties under the direction of their professor, Karen Hurley, and our Farm Manager, Tina Fraser Baynes. As well, Dr. Purnima Govindarajulu and her UVic students continue to work on the Wetlands Restoration Project at the farm, and recently installed nesting boxes around the perimeter of the wetlands to attract birds to the area. Haliburton Farm was honored to receive a 2007 Environmental Award from Saanich for its positive contribution to land conservation and the natural environment.

The farm benefits from the support of the many residents of Cordova Bay who have stopped by our Wednesday and Saturday markets to buy produce, as well as those who have contributed equipment, funds, skills, and labor. The farm welcomes visitors any time the market signs are out on Haliburton Rd., or by appointment (phone 658-0758). Please visit the Farm's website, www.haliburtonfarm.org for further information.