LFI President’s Report for 2018

2018 has once again been a year of growth and change for our organization. The Revelstoke Local Food Initiative has strong educational programs, lively community gardens, and a growing network of volunteers and professionals all working towards a stronger local food system.

I would invite you all to our member meetings held in the spring and fall to learn about the details of these programs; we bring in our contractors to speak to these events and paint us a picture of our efforts. Today, I’d like to spend more time on the logistics of this great group. Funding is a constant focus; we do not recover our costs through participant fees. The point is not to make money, but to celebrate local food and educate our membership and the public to harvest, preserve and cook more at home.

Keep an eye out for a new Farm to Table fundraiser this summer; something a little more casual than our wildly successful Midsummer Night's Green event. The MSNG will return in the future, but we’d like to give our core team a break for this year.

About half of our grant applications have been submitted, and Hannah and the team are currently working on a large application for BC Gaming funding that will give us a little more freedom with our programs.

There has been some shifting in our team this year, both in our paid contractors and the volunteer board.

We’re fortunate to have Hannah stepping in as our Coordinator to steer the ship into the growing season. She’ll be with us until at least May as Jodi Kay gets settled with her new little one. Hannah was the Farm Tour contractor last year, and is excited to play this central role in our efforts.

Sarah Darval is returning to run our adorable Little Sprouts program this summer, and has some incredible plans to spruce up the Downtown Garden with new sprinklers and plant beds. This will be the second year the Little Sprouts have this amazing central space.

Jesse Johnston Hill returns to Growing Friends and our Farm to Table programs in the schools, and is taking on the successful Garden Guru program. I’m excited to see where she takes it!

We’re just finishing the hiring process for some new faces for our RVAC Community Garden, the Garden and Art Tour and Farm Tour Series. Watch for updates on these programs as we get closer to the growing season!

On our volunteer board, we are grateful for the time and energy Jenna Fraser has contributed, and wish her well with her new little one! Carlie Ball and Uri Naprstek have been instrumental in our growth this year. Carlie has been diligent in her work between her own busy seasons to support marketing efforts and chair our marketing committee. This helps take the pressure off our coordinator and this group of volunteers has been instrumental in our successful 50/50 nights at Grizzly games and the growing seed swaps in 2018 and this past month in 2019. Uri has been a gem as our treasurer; he has helped us understand the complexities of our grant funding, cleared up our budgets and financial reporting to a more understandable level, and identified funding needs.

Melissa Hemphill and Nadia Luckau have been instrumental in the growth of the LFI since the beginning and will be strong voices to continue our efforts. I have had to step down from my role as President and board member with my new duties as

Councillor, but am proud to continue to participate as a council representative to the society.

I look forward to working with the Board of Directors in 2019, and watching the growth of the Local Food movement here in Revelstoke. It takes a village, join us and get involved! Whether it’s through attending events and workshops that we host throughout the year, like the Garden Guru workshops or Farm Tours. Perhaps you have time to volunteer - like the 50/50 fundraiser this Friday night at the Grizzly Hockey Game or the work parties at our gardens throughout the season. Perhaps you’re willing to step up to the more cerebral efforts of our Marketing and Gardening Committees or Board of Directors. You don’t need to be an expert gardener or canner to play a role, indeed it’s a great opportunity to learn new skills and support our community!

Here’s to another fruitful growing season in 2019 and beyond,

Nicole Cherlet

Past President, Revelstoke Local Food Initiative

Councillor, City of Revelstoke