



### **\*\*\*SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT\*\*\***

## **Long term stewardship of the historic Newman Farm: FLT Society signs 10-year license agreement with the District of Central Saanich**

The Farmlands Trust (Greater Victoria) Society, a charitable not-for-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of local farmland for the benefit of the community, is pleased to announce the recent signing of a 10 year license agreement (October 2015 – October 2025) with the District of Central Saanich to continue the Society's agricultural stewardship of the historic Newman Farm in Saanichton, BC.

From May 2012 to present, the FLT Society has been gradually returning the 100 year old heritage site to active agricultural uses. During this time, the FLT Society Patron, Board of Directors, Advisors and its volunteers have installed an irrigation line and deer fencing, pruned, ploughed, planted and harvested organically cultivated produce at the historic farm as part of the FLT Society's "field to plate" initiative – whereby produce grown and harvested at Newman Farm is donated to Our Place Society. This year, the FLT Society donated \$4,900.00 worth of produce to Our Place Society for this initiative (which equates to approximately 2,400 lbs. of produce). In 2014, the FLT Society donated over \$7,000.00 worth of produce to Our Place Society.

Grants from the United Way of Greater Victoria and the Saanich Peninsula Community Foundation have greatly assisted the FLT Society in its stewardship efforts at Newman Farm.

Future plans at the Farm include planting hedgerow and fruit trees this fall to coincide with the District of Central Saanich's Tree Appreciation Day (November 1<sup>st</sup>) and expanding the existing "field to plate" vegetable garden plot in 2016.

*"As we continue our charitable work at Newman Farm, we are delighted by the growing interest in this historic property as it pertains to preserving farmland and protecting local food security on the Saanich Peninsula and in the broader Greater Victoria region"* stated David Clark and Bryan Waller, FLT Society Co-Chairs.

Mayor Ryan Windsor on behalf of District of Central Saanich Council said *"the Farmlands Trust (Greater Victoria) Society is a strong community organization, we are pleased to be able to partner with this organization to enhance food security in the region through the 10 year agreement which has the effect of providing certainty to both the District and the FLT Society"* and he continued *"with the increase in cost of farmland, the District is pleased that this agreement is a potential framework to allow farming to occur into future generations without the price of the land being a substantial barrier—this is a very positive outcome. It is my belief that the Newman family members who made the generous gift to the District would be proud to see us entering into this agreement."*

The agreement was signed in October 2015 by Mr. David Clark and Mr. Bryan Waller (FLT Society Co-Chairs), and District of Central Saanich Mayor Ryan Windsor.

For more information about the FLT Society, visit [www.farmlandstrust.org](http://www.farmlandstrust.org)

For more information about the Newman Farm, visit the District of Central Saanich's website at [http://www.centralsaanich.ca/hall/Departments/planning/community\\_services/Parks/Parks\\_Inventory/Newman\\_Farm.htm](http://www.centralsaanich.ca/hall/Departments/planning/community_services/Parks/Parks_Inventory/Newman_Farm.htm)



**Signing of the 10 year Newman Farm license agreement**

(From left to right: FLT Society Co-Chair David Clark, FLT Society Co-Chair Bryan Waller and District of Central Saanich Mayor Ryan Windsor)

Photo credit: Natasha Caverley, FLT Society