



**AGM - Executive Directors Report - April 2017- March 2018
Submitted by Kym Chi**

2017 and 2018 found us in a time of great change. We started with Kym Chi in the role of Food System Network Coordinator until the end of June. She gave her notice to the organization in April and During that time, she mainly focussed on funding reports, the food charter with Meghan Molnar from Vancouver Coastal Health, Bi monthly dinners at the Youth Centre in Gibsons and getting things in order for the new Food Systems Network Coordinator Rupert Adams, who she spent the last month in her position training.

Kym Chi left the organization on good terms and Rupert stayed on only for a short time before moving on. One Straw Society was lucky to have a summer student on board - Rosi Hunter, the daughter of one of our long time members Maria Hunter. Over the summer she tabled at the Farm Gate Market, ran the Edible Garden Tour and was a great support to the Ocean Vegetables Community Garden.

Laura Walker remained as the Coordinator of Ocean Vegetables Community Garden and partnered with many organizations to offer programming including the Open Door Group, Sunshine Coast Seed Collective, Chatelech High School, the Sunshine Coast Alternative School and more. There were 2 work parties held, workshops and weekly volunteer evenings held to maintain and run the gardens. Laura was and is a valued resource to One Straw Society and gave her notice as the Coordinator of the gardens to end at the end of the 2017 season. We are now without an official coordinator for the gardens.

Emily Cook coordinator the Fruit Tree Project and was able to get a lot of information put into order for future coordinators of the project. There were approximately 20 picks in the 2017 season and $\frac{1}{3}$ of the fruit was given to the pickers, $\frac{1}{3}$ to the home owners and $\frac{1}{3}$ was sold at markets or given to Jeans Organics. Emily also decided to move on due to new ventures in her life and the Fruit Tree Project no longer has a coordinator.

After the Summer, when Rosi Hunter went back to School and One Straw Society was without a Food Systems Network Coordinator or other program coordinators, the Organization was left a fork in the road. It could continue going forward with little capacity or make a change. The Board of Directors made a bold decision and got special permission from the main funder Vancouver Coastal Health to push pause on programming so that the organization could make a long term, sustainable plan for the organization.

During our pause Tawha Barboza, a local farmer with help from Denise Legasse from the Seed Collective and other volunteers helped us to organize both the Fall Faire and Seedy Saturday, both successful annual events typically hosted by One Straw Society.



In November, Casandra Fletcher was hired as an external consultant and Kym Chi was brought on as a contractor to act as a board Liaison and together over a 6 month period they worked together with input from our membership, partners, The Board of Directors, funder and other stakeholders to create a new mission, Vision, Ends Policies and strategic plan, which is now completed and available for public viewing on our website - www.onestraw.ca

Some big decisions were made for the plan including for this year including the creation of new policies and procedures, roles and responsibilities and an online networking hub, making a long term plan for the Ocean Vegetables Community Garden, completion of the Food Charter and letting go of the Fruit Tree Project - a long time project of One Straw Society We encourage you to please review the Strategic Plan which shares our process and information on how we made our decisions in relation to our Mission, Vision and Ends Policies.

After doing a lot of visioning, planning and re - evaluating, I am very happy and inspired for the future of One Straw Society. Though there is still a lot of work to do, I feel that a strong foundation is being laid for a long and bright future for the organization to continue the co creation of a thriving local food system on the Sunshine Coast.

There are many ways to get involved and to help steer the organization forward and towards great successes including new volunteer and staff positions to support us in creating a funding and marketing strategy, building out the online networking hub, coordinating volunteers, helping with the Ocean Vegetables Garden and helping coordinate our Annual and Special Events. Please talk to me to find out more. It is a very exciting time.

One Straw Society very much appreciates all of your support and your patience with us as we continue to grow and evolve the organization, hopefully for the benefit of all.

I would like to end with some words of deep gratitude for Robin Wheeler, the founder of One Straw Society. She single handedly started this organization in March of 1995 and was a pillar in the food community. I feel very grateful for who she was. truly believe that the direction the organization is moving in will honour her contributions to the Society and the Community as well as honour her memory by creating a legacy of her teachings, wisdom and way of being.

In heart thanks and gratitude,
Kym Chi
Executive Director
One Straw Society