

Victoria, British Columbia



SUZANNE BRADBURY

OWNER, FORT REALTY

Suzanne Bradbury, with her sister, co-owns and runs Fort Realty, a business focused on property ownership, management, and development. She is passionate about community building and sustainable urban planning and design. Under their leadership, Fort Properties recently won Douglas Magazine's Community Award, for the revitalization of the BeLove and La Taquiza building on Blanshard Street, as well as the 2014 Business Examiner Award for Green Company of the Year. Suzanne is the co-chair of the Fabulous Fort Business District and is the incoming Chair of the Downtown Victoria Business Association. As an advocate for local business, she actively pursues and supports business tenants whose vision and leadership enriches our community culture and urban experience.



BEN CLARK

SENIOR ANALYST, BC CLIMATE ACTION SECRETARIAT

Ben Clark has a background in resource management, urban planning, and environmental policy. For the past four years he was the secretary and president of Oaklands Community Association in Victoria. He is a Senior Analyst with the BC Climate Action Secretariat. Ben is also pursuing an MA from Royal Roads University focusing on the role of restaurants in building a sustainable food system in Victoria, which ties in closely with his role on the board of the Food Eco District. When not spending time volunteering or working Ben likes to brew beer, play music, and escape the city.



TARA CAMPBELL

HORTICULTURALIST & URBAN FOOD DESIGNER, FED

Tara is a writer, dancer, gardener and urban food growing advocate. After completing a BA in History and Environmental studies at the University of Victoria she went on to study plant life at Pacific Horticulture College earning her landscaping technician certificate and master gardener diploma. She went on to work on several farms and urban food growing operatives to get her hands dirty and continue her vegucation. Tara is a lover of nutrition, health and general wellness/awesomeness. Her passion is to help as many people possible to live fulfilled, happy, passionate lives through a connection to art, nature, and one another. What better way than to grow and eat good food?!



HEIDI GRANTNER **team lead**

PROJECT COORDINATOR, FED

Heidi joined FED after spending a summer working on an organic farm in Hawaii. She is very excited to be part of a project that brings together her passion for food, community and the environment. Heidi has a background in applied economics, and when she is not working with FED, she works with Synergy Enterprises helping businesses become leaders in sustainability.



JESSE MARGOLUS

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, LIFECYCLES PROJECT SOCIETY

As past Coordinator of the Fruit Tree Project at LifeCycles and present member of the Food Eco District team, Jesse is a strong advocate of local, sustainable food on Vancouver Island. With a hands-on approach working for and volunteering with LifeCycles, Jesse eagerly jumped on the opportunity to become Board Chairperson in 2012 to provide the support and oversight to LifeCycles' great staff who are the backbone of the non-profit organization. During the day Jesse is in charge of reducing the environmental footprint and increasing the social marketing presence of a busy restaurant. Jesse believes in the potential of Vancouver Island to grow more food and divert more waste; a great opportunity to achieving greater food security is connecting locally owned restaurants to their farmers.



RENATE NAHSER-RINGER

MEMBER RECRUITMENT & ENGAGEMENT, FED

Ms. Nahser-Ringer's background is in nursing as well as running a non-profit urban agricultural project for many years, which also included a social enterprise arm. This culmination of coordination skills and a community health vision through a sustainable and local food focused lens are some aspects of project building that she brings to the FED initiative. She is passionate about local food and community connections and believes that a healthy, vibrant community is built by investing in social capital through such ventures as social enterprise, education, community engagement and eco-friendly business practices.

Food Eco District



Located in the heart of downtown Victoria, the Food Eco District (FED) encompasses a neighbourhood recognized for its vibrant small businesses and outstanding local food options. Led by local restaurateurs, FED currently has 7 business members in the 4 by 3-block area, and one "satellite member" located nearby in Cook St. Village. This eco-district hopes to drive tourist traffic up from the typical Victoria strip to a more progressive and sustainable part of the city and engage people who live and work in the area by expanding public green spaces and facilitating urban agriculture projects. As the first food-focused eco-district in North America, FED's vision is to create a downtown hub that celebrates food and sustainability. FED was founded two years ago by a group of local restaurateurs, and in the last year has grown to include 8 business members that have shown exemplary leadership in restaurant sustainability. FED membership requires a commitment from restaurants to use green practices, which is then verified using the Vancouver Island Green Business Certification program.

The FED project team works with FED restaurants to create urban agriculture projects that beautify the neighbourhood and raise awareness about locally sourced food. Last summer saw the installation of FED's first garden project in Fort Common, a small courtyard located behind some of the FED restaurants. Planters made from reclaimed materials were built to grow herbs and greens for the surrounding restaurants. This year, FED is focusing on expanding its membership base, increasing the number of urban agriculture projects in the district, and marketing the area to locals and tourists alike. FED has ambitious long-term goals, including installing bike kitchens and increasing bike-ability, facilitating district energy and district composting, rooftop gardens, a food truck/bio-fuel initiative, and of course growing a bounty of delicious fresh food.

Why this Neighborhood?

FED has a distinctive and attractive brand, and has been featured in local papers, magazines and TV programs. The FED concept resonates with locals and tourists alike, and it has the capacity to change the way people think about Victoria, turning it into an attractive and progressive tourist destination. Food gardening is becoming hip again and FED is leading the charge in Victoria, showing the public that growing food in an urban core is not only possible, but desirable. FED also has an opportunity to make a significant impact in the reduction of green house gases by encouraging and supporting restaurants in their efforts to reduce their emissions. By working with business owners, FED is helping to create industry change that starts at a local level but has a broader impact across the sector. Another one of FED's strengths is the successful partnerships it has made with various influential stakeholders in the district. The support of a local credit union, Vancity, has also provided FED with \$8,000 in funding for garden projects this year.

top 3 Neighborhood PRIORITIES:

1. Raising awareness about food security and urban agriculture
2. Encouraging sustainability in the food industry
3. Create a visually recognizable district with a strong sense of community

top 3 Neighborhood CHALLENGES:

1. Lack of guaranteed funding
2. Limited resources (volunteers, time)
3. High volume of food capacity that must be met with small urban garden projects