



## The Place with Great Tastes



## Celebrate Fall

Fall 2011

Volume 4 Issue 3

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## Renovation ..

At our last Board Meeting we looked at each other with a deep sense of satisfaction and realized that all of our dreams, preparation, meetings and planning had come to fruition.

We appreciate the awe of a dream now in reality. We understand the future is here. We are now thinking outside of the box. Quite a transition!

The dream was to create a hometown co-operative base for local and homegrown foods, crafts and products to be produced, sold and enjoyed by our local population. Looking at our new site we can easily envisage the outcome as a reality. We can walk out the spaces on the floor plan and see the future as it moves on

into the space that has been so generously and joyfully prepared for us.

Del Johnson of Custom Fine Homes of Port Angeles and his many teams of professional and centered workers have put together a building to be proud of. Aaron, Nathan, Steve and Andy, are just some of the names that I have been introduced to; they all work with love in their hearts and success as their goal. So this wonderful gift moves us forward into the manifestation of the dream that we started with four years ago. I find myself saying it has been four long years in the making and others, more grounded tell me it is only four years and look what has been accomplished.

We are both right of course.

I am proud to call the Clallam Bay Business Center home for the Co-op, for Unique Junque and Thu's Salon. It is good to 'travel with the Dolphin' keeping like minded people together working for the greater good and wellbeing of all.

The building program will be finished on schedule at this time, that is mid November. We will take forward the store and stock we have and let it grow from there.

### Special points of interest:

- Thank you to the farmers who have supported the growing season and shared with the Co-op.
- The Co-op gardeners
- Gus Michelena
- Al Pelletier
- Sekiu Chimney Sweeps will be installing a wood stove in the new Co-op. In time to snuggle up for Winter.

## Combined Communities of the Northwest Coast

Our goal has always been to combine the communities of the northwest coast into one working group.

This month we feel happy that this is happening. Our Board is representative of Sappho, Neah Bay, Clallam Bay, and Sekiu, and this makes me happy. We are also happy to announce the opening of the Wellness Journeys in Neah Bay

and wish this initiative all of the success it deserves as it serves the community with love and gentleness. They have their opening on a Wednesday in November. We work closely with this group as they lead the population into healthier choices for healthier choices. Our Co-op is preparing to serve healthy food at reasonable prices with a priority on

fresh and local ingredients, thus promoting the choices involved in our own wellness journey.

## The Board & Management



Remember where we started?

The Board meets every month on the third Tuesday at the Library Community Meeting Room in Clallam Bay from 6 to 8pm. All who have made membership are welcome to attend all 118 of you won't fit so it is good to form a roster for attendance! This is a joke, but we do meet regularly.

Records are kept of all meetings and the Board are working to ensure your best interests are supported.

We are ready to take on Mem-

ber Investment in the Co-op; this is something you may choose to look at, it is not a requirement.

Our Treasurer will have all the details worked out and ready for the Annual Member Meeting probably in December this year.

Member Loans and investments are the usual way that community Co-ops make their way into the business world. The idea is to keep bank involvement at a minimum, keep

members engaged in the Co-op's growth and choices available within the Co-op, and keep money working locally.

We are planning a celebration to open the new building and an annual member meeting as well; it would be fun to organize the two together. We are waiting on times and dates as to how we manage this, but everyone is invited to come along .. this is a community celebration of renewal.

Thank you to everyone who has had a hand in the growth, those who have shopped, those who have talked to others and those who encouraged us along the way.

## Your Board of Directors

Your Board is:

President Matthew Whitacre

Vice President

Treasurer Al Pelletier

Secretary Wendy Erickson

Board Member Diana Goplen

General Manager Jane Hielman (appointed by the Board, not an elected position).

There are vacancies on the Board, we would welcome folk from the combined communities which we serve to be-

come involved.

The Board's job is to oversee the operations of the Co-op, whilst representing the interests of the members.

If you have any enquiries they are to be put to the Board members and they will bring it to the Monthly Board meeting.

The Board undergoes training by the Northwest Co-op Development Center at regular intervals according to what

questions come up through our business dealings with members, their questions or situations that occur. The training is to assist us to interpret the By-laws and the Articles of Incorporation which you will find in your membership folders.

Co-ops have particular rules and governing regulations which are in place to serve the members and the business of the Co-op.

We are working to enhance your shopping and living experience.

## Members & Membership

You are kept informed through the web site and notice board in the Co-op, of meetings and events that are of interest to your membership .

You are welcome to ask for items to be represented in stock.

You have the Buyer's Club at your service for great value on

great food items, bulk or individual units.

You are welcome at meetings. You have access to the Board of Directors to answer your questions.

Remember that as a member/owner you walk in like you own the store, because you do own your equal share of the whole project.

**Membership is easy...**

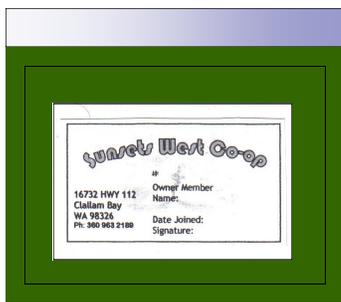
Just \$40 makes an individual membership, one card one vote. \$20 per year after that retains your member number and rights.

You will be offered investment opportunity Have your say, become a member today.

*Jane*



Your Co-op is here for you.



Your membership card is waiting for you.

## Co-op Summer Garden ..

The Summer Garden and Green House has had a bumper crop this year.

Supplies came in on Tuesdays and mostly locals met the produce to get it fresh, so by the end of each week there was very little available.

I am delighted by this response, and pleased that you have taken advantage of the service and its availability.

John, Carolyn, Ava and Jason have worked it alone this year, and would love more help into the future.

The Co-op has received a total of 324.65 pounds of fresh produce. There has been a great variety, and the surplus of what we could not use went to the Food Bank. So it served many of us and our guests in town as well.

Our gardeners grew:  
16.045 lbs Kale,  
35.025 lbs Turnips  
5.6 lbs Spinach  
21.285 lbs Lettuce  
22.567 lb Beets  
2.4 lb Strawberries  
4.0 lb Lettuce  
6.565 lb Broccoli

3.855 lb Chard  
85.34 lb Potatoes  
1.355 lb Parsley  
21.095 lb Zucchini  
33.57 lb Peas  
19.405 Cabbage  
14.615 Tomatoes  
.11 lb Basil  
2.435 Kale  
3.93 Beans  
1.705 Cucumbers  
1.61 Celery

Ava and Jason are leaving the area and we wish them well. Thank you all, this has been a most rewarding and nutritious program.

*Jane*



Growing in the green house 24" across.

## Emerging Co-ops: Port Angeles & Forks

Our Co-op is sharing its information with the group who are interested in a Food Co-op in Port Angeles. They are developing a store at The Landing in Railway Street and leading set up meetings there.

A Co-op for Forks is also in the wind; we will supply technical know-how to initiate set up of their paperwork and any

local support we can give.

The Port Angeles Group have called their effort

Port Angeles Food Co-op.

They hope to be open by January 1st 2112.

I am initiating contact now with anyone who is willing to be involved in the formation of a group that will form the foun-

datations for a Co-op in Forks; let me know if you are interested. It is never too late to start a new dream.

Interested people will have several meetings to get a feel for the process, and begin to outline the dream, a board will be chosen by the group and the process will begin, a Manager will be selected and a style of business will be decided upon.



## Our New Store ..

The changes are taking shape.

The comments are very positive.

There are many men swarming over the building. The framers are still there, the electrician has started, the plumbers are in and the siding is going ahead.

The work should be done by the end of October, and then we can consider our move.

Unique Junque can move back in to their refreshed premises and Thu will be able to clean up and settle back into hers. We are planning a community party to celebrate the changes, A potluck, BBQ, spit or salmon bake is to be

decided upon.

New is good!.

When we have a definite date for moving the store, we will be grateful for any and all assistance that people are willing to provide.

We'll keep you informed.



It is taking shape.

## The Place with Great Tastes

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*Members walk in like they own the place!*

We are on the web:

[www.sunsetswestcoop.com](http://www.sunsetswestcoop.com)

**Shop local so you can shop local.  
Become a Co-operator!**



### *Thank you Jeff ..*

To Jeff our patron, we say a heart felt thank you.

Our whole community and our combined communities are benefiting from your faith in us and our project.

Knowing that you care about the values that our Co-op has established as important and of value, helps us to hold our dream and encourages us to grow in the way that is most powerful and immediate for us.

Working together as the team has demonstrated has been yet another example to the community of the power of cooperation.

We hope you have survived the heat of summer in the south of the country and that you look for-



ward to the opening events as much as we are.

A HUGE THANK YOU for investing in the happiness and vision of a group of happy people. We look forward to serving you in the future as you enjoy the fruits of your laborers!

The quality of people that have been busy transforming the old into the new in our communities for the last several months has been wonderful.

We look forward to seeing you and Brenda when next you are up here.

It is hard to keep quiet and not shout to the ethers about the newness and freshness of the combined assets that are being formed and the liaisons that will ensue from here.

### Mission Statement

Our Co-op aims to inspire and encourage creative energy within the community.

We aim to engage people in living their dreams.

Sunsets West Co-op is organized to produce, purchase and distribute goods and services for the mutual benefit of its members and patrons, offering a variety of healthy goods for patrons' choice.

#### FUNDS RAISED ARE RE-INVESTED IN THE CO-OP FOR GROWTH

We aim to encourage community members to co-operate with one another and nourish their community and its improvement; we aim to involve members in community garden and cottage industries.

A Co-op is a member (worker and customer owned) retail business that provides high quality grocery and retail items at the lowest prices to their customers.

Co-operatives strive to enrich their communities through consumer education, member/owner rebate programs, member ownership, and the creation of livable wage jobs.

Co-operatives integrate their communities by selling locally grown and produced goods from small family farms and businesses as much as possible.

#### THE CO-OPERATIVE IDENTITY

Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self responsibility, democracy, equality, and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, co-operative members are best to believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for and about others.

So—Happy people for a happy venture ... Working together for the greater good of their own COMBINED COMMUNITIES.

**YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO SHOP**

A message from:

#### Sunsets West Co-op Board of Directors

We are excited about moving into our new location! At this time we are not sure when the work and inspections will be completed. We are hoping to move in by the end of this year.

It is the Board's duty to raise capital for buying or leasing equipment, such as shelving, coolers, etc. We need approved equipment and adequate inventory, to qualify to accept Food Stamps, as well as to provide quality products and services to all members.

We are seeking loans from members at 4%APR, for a minimum of 3 years. Interested lenders are asked to contact Board Treasurer Al Pelletier.

(360) 963 2864. Members who have store equipment to donate, lease or sell, are asked to contact Jane . All members are asked to consider making advance deposits toward future purchases to help finance our opening inventory. Please contact Jane to make an advance deposit.

We expect to hold a silent auction at our December General Membership Meeting and Board Member election. If you have something to donate to the auction, please hold onto it until we find a place to store things. The annual \$20 member renewal fees are also due at or before the meeting.

Finally, we will need a few pickups, and people to carry boxes when we move. Helping hands will sure be appreciated!

**Al Pelletier Treasurer**