



Island Roots Market Co-operative

A brief History

After listening to Occupy Nanaimo participants in late 2011 Gordon Fuller commented that a surprisingly large number of them wanted to farm.



But how do you earn a living farming if there is no market for your product?

The result: a series of community meetings that culminated in the registration of the Island Roots Market Co-operative in July 2012.



More History...


After an exhaustive search for a building from which to operate. The Co-operative opened a weekly winter market at the Pleasant Valley Hall in October 2014.

Why We Chose Co-op

International Co-operative Principles

1. Voluntary and open membership
2. Democratic member control
3. Members' economic participation
4. Autonomy and independence
5. Education, training and information
6. Co-operation among co-operatives
7. Concern for Community



Island Roots Market Co-operative

Today

- ❑ More than 300 Members: Producers, Consumers, Employees and Supporting Organizations
- ❑ Operating a Winter Market at Pleasant Valley Hall, Wed. 3-6 p.m.
- ❑ Partnership with the BRFM to operate Summer Markets at Beban Park on Wednesdays and Saturdays.



Our Vision

Provide a building, equipment and staff needed for a year-round indoor/outdoor market at Beban Park



Our Mission

To increase our community's sustainability, food sustainability and food security. To create jobs, increase the economic viability of local agriculture and add to the general well being of citizens by creating an increased demand for local production and acting as a stimulus for farmers, food and other local production and the local food movement.



Our Goals and Objectives

The Co-op Incubator/Market is in a highly accessible building. We offer local produce and products, offices, workshops, classes, presentations, films, and social events. The Cooperative generates positive cash flow. We engage and involve people of all ages as volunteers and employees. We have an assistant to work with start up Co-ops. Future development will include a restaurant or food preparation area and a warehouse space where producers deliver product and employees assemble orders for delivery to local stores and restaurants.



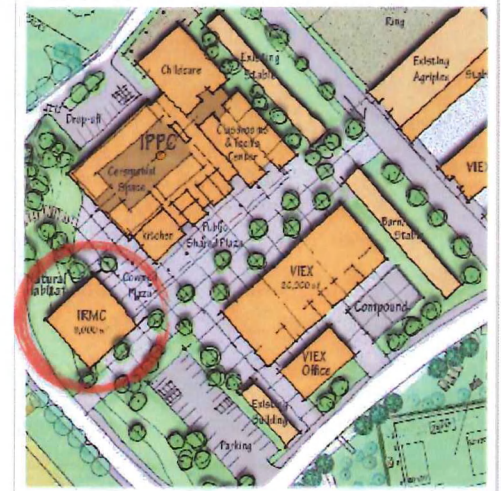
Parks and Recreation Approval

On November 25, 2015 the idea of a year-round market at Beban Park was approved by the Nanaimo Parks and Recreation Commission.



Proposed Location

Island Roots Market Co-operative (IRMC)



Today We Need

- Your motion to approve staff recommendation # 1
- Your motion to approve the Beban Park Central Facility Development Proposal in principle.
- Your motion asking staff to provide an indication of the support that the development will require from the City and include cost estimates for that support in their next report to Council.



What's Next for IRMC?

- Public Input, Consultation with SFN (staff recommendation # 1)
- Fundraising
- Working Drawings
- Final Approval
- Construction

