



## SHAWNIGAN COBBLE HILL FARMERS INSTITUTE AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

2025/26 Annual Report to the CVRD

Submitted by: Roger Painter, 2024-5 President  
Date: January 2, 2026

The Shawnigan Cobble Hill Farmers Institute and Agricultural Society (Farmers Institute) wishes to express its gratitude to the people of Cobble Hill for the annual grant provided to it.

This grant originates from approval given in a November 1985 referendum held during the Cobble Hill civic elections where taxpayers were asked to provide an annual grant to the Farmers Institute. In that referendum, Cobble Hill residents voted 'yes' by over 70 per cent and thereby gave permission for an annual grant to provide support for maintenance and operation of the Cobble Hill Hall, which is owned and operated by the Farmers Institute.

Every year the funds provided by Cobble Hill taxpayers have been and continue to be used to cover annual insurance costs with any remaining funds going toward the maintenance and operation of the facility.

In 2025 insurance costs were \$23,679.00 and in 2026 these costs are expected to increase to approximately \$25,000. As always, any funds remaining from the grant help our volunteer organization to maintain and operate the Cobble Hill Hall, the Youth Hall and the Stu Armour Hall along with the various outbuildings situated on the approximate 6 acres of land that comprise the Farmers Institute's holdings located in the heart of the Cobble Hill Village.

In addition to making the halls available for rent to the community for a variety of activities, the Farmers Institute supports 4-H by providing free meeting space to this youth-oriented group and to the South Cowichan Seniors group to hold their twice monthly luncheons in the Cobble Hill Hall. The Farmers Institute also provides reduced rental rates to health and wellness-oriented groups that benefit citizens in the community.

The annual funding also enables our volunteer members to plan and carry out annual activities that enrich the lives of many people in the South Cowichan area.

1. **South Cowichan Seniors** - Over the past twelve years, more than 100 Seniors from across the valley gather in the Cobble Hill Hall on the second and fourth Mondays of each month to enjoy the Seniors luncheons held there. This program continues to this day and is run totally by food safe volunteers who make and serve a nutritious lunch including dessert to those in attendance. Many studies have shown that social isolation amongst seniors leads to serious mental and physical health problems. Therefore, keeping senior engaged in their community by providing programs where they can socially interact with their peer group, which the seniors lunch program does, is essential to their mental and physical health. The importance of this is underlined by the continued strong support of volunteers who give freely of their time to this program.
2. **Seedy Saturday** - Our annual seed and garden show along with its seed exchange component brings people together to buy, sell and exchange seeds. The focus is on heirloom varieties and promotes the maintenance of the

historical genetic quality of our crops. This event also provides an opportunity to learn about many aspects of gardening from the experts in attendance. In 2024 well over 2,500 people attend our expanded Seedy Saturday event now held in both the Cobble Hill and the Stu Armour halls. March 21st, 2026, is the date of this year's Seedy Saturday which features free admission and plenty of parking.

3. **Easter Egg Hunt** - The first 'hunt' was held in 2011, and it has grown in popularity ever since then. The hunt focuses on providing younger children with a well protected venue for their event while also creating a more challenging environment for older ones. Over 120 children attended our 2025 event, which is without question the best Easter Egg Hunt in the Valley thanks to our sponsors Bill and Dee Motherwell.
4. **The Annual Cobble Hill Show & Shine** – This features antique, classic and vintage cars, hot rods, fancy motor bikes, antique farm equipment, and our near "world famous Pancake Breakfast." This still relatively new event is already very popular. It is held in July and draws approximately 100 cars, trucks, bikes and over 2000 spectators. This coming year's Show & Shine, now in its 6<sup>th</sup> year, will be held on Saturday, July 18th, 2026, so mark your calendar for this great event.
5. **Cobble Hill Fair** - The traditional 116<sup>th</sup> Cobble Hill Fair was held in 2025 with over just over 4,500 guests attending this one-day old fashioned country Fair. The Fair is the major fundraiser for the Farmers Institute's operating budget. Planning for this event takes 7 to 8 months and involves hundreds of volunteer hours. 2026 will mark the 117<sup>th</sup> year Cobble Hill Fair.

Ours is an Old-fashioned Country Fair. It embraces everything from farm animals to scarecrow building, to wine-making, to vegetable and flower exhibits as well as a KIDS-ZONE created especially for younger children. There are multiple exhibitors and competitors representing many aspects of community life in South Cowichan including bee keeping, animal husbandry, history, poetry competition, quilting and the best cake baked by any gender.

Our Fair brings people from all walks of life together to celebrate the importance of agriculture and the community. Our 2026 Fair will be held on Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> and we hope to see you there!

6. **Remembrance Day Ceremonies** - On this day, the hall is filled to capacity for the 'Passing of the Torch' ceremony while another 2,000 people wait outside for the Cenotaph ceremony. In recent years there has been a fly by of older model war planes at or very close to 11 a.m. This uniquely rural ceremony embodies a wonderful way for our whole community to participate.
7. **Christmas & Spring Variety Shows** - These concerts are held in the winter and spring. They are open to the community in exchange for a donation of food

or cash for the CMS Food Bank. Over the years these events, featuring local talent, and have proven to be wonderful community gatherings while providing much needed cash and food for our local food bank and the people who depend on it.

8. Other events sponsored by the Institute include our outdoor **Halloween** event where children and their parents can come after trick or treating to gather and share the evening around the fire. The very popular **Music in the Park** summer program put on by the Cobble Hill Event Society is also supported as is our continued connection with the **Cobble Hill Women's Institute**.

The above events highlight just a few of the activities of our organization.

All Farmers Institute sponsored events are organized and staffed by very committed volunteers who generously give their time and energy to our community. We are fortunate to live in an area where volunteerism plays such a huge role in our daily lives.

Funds granted to Farmers Institute by Cobble Hill (Area 'C') taxpayers are gratefully acknowledged as being crucial to the repair, maintenance and continued operation of the Shawnigan Cobble Hill Farmers Institute and Agricultural Society's facilities.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact the undersigned at <mailto:schfias.secretary@gmail.com>

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger A. Painter", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Roger A. Painter, 2024-5 President

# Shawnigan Cobble Hill Farmers Institute

## Financial Statements

For the year ended October 31, 2024

*(Unaudited)*

**Shawnigan Cobble Hill Farmers Institute**

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**Year Ended October 31, 2024**

*(Unaudited - See Notice To Reader)*

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We have compiled the balance sheet of Shawnigan Cobble Hill Farmers Institute as at October 31, 2024 and the statement of revenues and expenses for the year then ended from information provided by the management. We have not audited the records, but have reviewed to the extent that we are satisfied that the bank account has been reconciled and we see nothing to indicate that there are shortcomings in the record keeping.

Gay Wise

Shawnigan Lake, BC

Dated this 25 day of November 2024

Shawnigan Cobble Hill Farmers Institute  
Statement of Financial Position  
at October 31, 2024  
(Unaudited)

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Current Assets:</b>			
Cash & banks	123,432	\$123,631	-\$199
Centennial Fund Bank			\$0
Accounts Receivable	1,796	0	\$1,796
Prepaid Insurance	23,679	22,955	\$724
GST Receivable	10,015	8,879	\$1,136
Deposits to Suppliers	50	0	\$50
Total current assets	\$158,972	\$155,465	\$3,507
<b>Fixed Assets (Note 4)</b>			0
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$158,972</b>	<b>\$155,465</b>	<b>\$3,507</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable & Accrued	246	43	\$203
Customer Rent Deposits	3,309		
Total current liabilities	\$3,555	\$43	\$203
Opening accumulated surplus	155,421	\$121,412	\$34,009
Current Year Surplus (Deficit)	-4	34,009	-34,013
Closing accumulated surplus	\$155,417	\$155,421	-\$4
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$158,972</b>	<b>\$155,464</b>	<b>\$199</b>

# Shawnigan Cobble Hill Farmers Institute

## Statement of Income & Deficit For the Year Ended October 31, 2024 (Unaudited)

	2024	2023	Change
Revenues			
Hall & Ground Income	\$30,951	\$29,701	\$1,250
Main Hall Addition - Grants	\$0	\$104,197	-104,197
Institute Income	41,033	37,953	3,080
Fair Income	68,112	60,810	7,302
Events	7,840	9,360	-1,520
Catering	8,472	12,822	-4,351
Sale of Meat Pies	31,773	28,523	3,250
Donations & Grants			0
Total revenues	<u>\$188,180</u>	<u>\$283,366</u>	<u>-\$94,086</u>
Expenses:			
Hall & Ground Expenses	\$70,665	\$53,947	\$16,718
Main Hall Addition Expenses	\$0	\$110,358	-\$110,358
Institute Expenses	29,903	30,181	-278
Fair Expenses	43,101	32,627	10,474
Event & Misc Expenses	22,971	2,207	20,764
Catering	5,588	6,390	-802
Meat Pie Expense	15,957	13,646	2,311
Contractors & Sub trades			0
Total expenses	<u>\$188,185</u>	<u>\$249,356</u>	<u>(\$63,482)</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>(\$5)</u>	<u>\$34,010</u>	<u>(\$30,604)</u>

# Shawnigan Cobble Hill Farmers Institute

Budget 11/1/2025 to 10/31/2026

Budget for 2025 - 2026

<b>REVENUE</b>	
<b>Hall Income</b>	
Rental Income	30,000.00
Sign Rental Income	1100.00
Other Rental income	100.00
<b>Institute Income</b>	
Donations	1,000.00
Grants - CVRD	32000.00
Membership Fees	225.00
Interest Earned	1025.00
<b>Fair Income</b>	
Vendors	5000.00
Entry Fees	750.00
Food Income	4000.00
Gate Receipts	30000.00
Kidzone	120.00
Prize Money Received	200.00
Sponsorship	25000.00
<b>Seedy Saturday Income</b>	
Vendors	1500.00
Seed Sales	0.00
<b>Show &amp; Shine Car Show Income</b>	
Entry Fees	750.00
Food Sales	1000.00
Vendors	100.00
<b>Meat Pies and Catering</b>	
Sales - Meat Pies & Catering	10000.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>143870.00</b>

## **EXPENSE**

### **Hall Expenses**

<b>Cleaning Contract</b>	<b>5600.00</b>
<b>Cleaning &amp; Paper Supplies</b>	<b>2500.00</b>
<b>Licences &amp; Permits</b>	<b>150.00</b>

### **Repair & Maintenance General**

**30790.00**

<b>Repair &amp; Maintenance - Equipment</b>	
<b>Repairs &amp; Maint. - New Barn</b>	
<b>Repairs &amp; Maint. - Hall Renovations</b>	
<b>Repair &amp; Maint - Field</b>	
<b>Repairs &amp; Maint. - Out Buildings</b>	
<b>Repairs &amp; Maint. - Roadside &amp; Parking Lot</b>	
<b>Repairs &amp; Maint. - Youth Hall</b>	
<b>Telephone, Security &amp; Internet</b>	<b>6700.00</b>
<b>Hydro - Main Hall 9387 4026 701</b>	<b>4500.00</b>
<b>Hydro - Youth Hall/Barn 6794 874</b>	<b>2000.00</b>
<b>Heating &amp; Cooking Fuel</b>	<b>650.00</b>
<b>Water</b>	<b>1800.00</b>
<b>Garbage Disposal</b>	<b>1800.00</b>
<b>Workers Compensation Expense</b>	<b>50.00</b>

### **Institute Expenses**

<b>Accounting &amp; Legal</b>	<b>300.00</b>
<b>Bank Charges</b>	<b>950.00</b>
<b>Insurance</b>	<b>25000.00</b>
<b>Licences, Fees &amp; Permits</b>	<b>150.00</b>
<b>Office Supplies &amp; Postage</b>	<b>1000.00</b>
<b>Professional Fees</b>	<b>500.00</b>
<b>Volunteer Appreciation</b>	<b>1250.00</b>
<b>Website/Social Media Expense</b>	<b>4000.00</b>

### **Fair Expenses**

<b>Advertising</b>	<b>6100.00</b>
<b>Catalogue Design &amp; Printing</b>	<b>4000.00</b>
<b>Displays &amp; Demonstrations</b>	<b>3800.00</b>
<b>Entertainment</b>	<b>7000.00</b>
<b>First Aid</b>	<b>500.00</b>
<b>Food Expenses</b>	<b>2000.00</b>
<b>Site Preparation</b>	<b>750.00</b>
<b>Hall Preparation</b>	<b>250.00</b>

<b>Judges</b>	<b>1000.00</b>
<b>Licences, Fees &amp; Permits</b>	<b>50.00</b>
<b>Memberships - BC Fairs Associaton</b>	<b>275.00</b>
<b>Office Supplies - printing, entry tags, printer cartridges, paper</b>	<b>200.00</b>
<b>Rentals - Fence</b>	<b>4400.00</b>
<b>Rentals - Toilets</b>	<b>2600.00</b>
<b>Security</b>	<b>1100.00</b>
<b>Kid Zone</b>	<b>1200.00</b>
<b>Transportation &amp; Parking</b>	<b>3250.00</b>
<b>Volunteer Appreciation</b>	<b>1500.00</b>
<b>Prize Payouts - Hall</b>	<b>1300.00</b>
<b>Prize Payouts - Livestock</b>	<b>900.00</b>
<b>Prize Payouts - Misc Games</b>	<b>200.00</b>
<b>Ribbons &amp; Rosettes</b>	<b>750.00</b>
<b>Medallions</b>	<b>2000.00</b>
<b>Halloween Expenses</b>	
<b>Consumables</b>	<b>400.00</b>
<b>Seedy Saturday Expenses</b>	
<b>Advertising</b>	<b>1000.00</b>
<b>Consumables</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Office Supplies</b>	<b>10.00</b>
<b>Prizes - 1 in each bldg to vendors</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Table Supplies</b>	<b>75.00</b>
<b>Celebrations, Concerts, Meetings</b>	
<b>Advertising</b>	<b>200.00</b>
<b>Meals &amp; Food Expenses</b>	<b>220.00</b>
<b>Show &amp; Shine Car Show</b>	
<b>Advertising</b>	<b>300.00</b>
<b>Food Expenses</b>	<b>400.00</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>	<b>250.00</b>
<b>Meat Pies and Catering</b>	
<b>Food &amp; other Supplies - Meat Pies &amp; Catering</b>	<b>6000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>143870.00</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>0.00</b>





