

THE BUMBLEBEE

Bringing You The Latest Buzz from Skookum Food Provisioners' Co-op



Apricot blossoms, Brooke Oxley, Townsite

UP! HOPE! REGENERATION! THE ENTRANCE OF SPRING

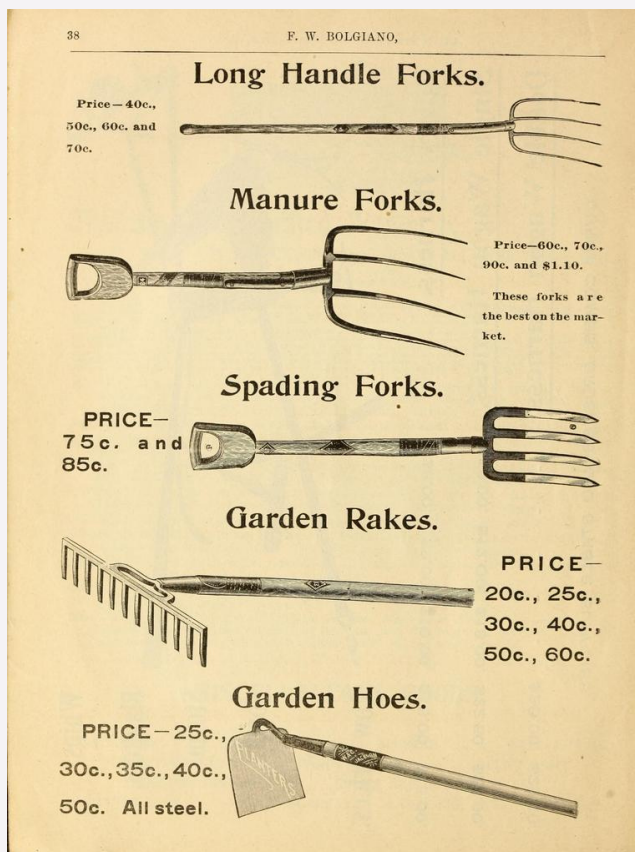
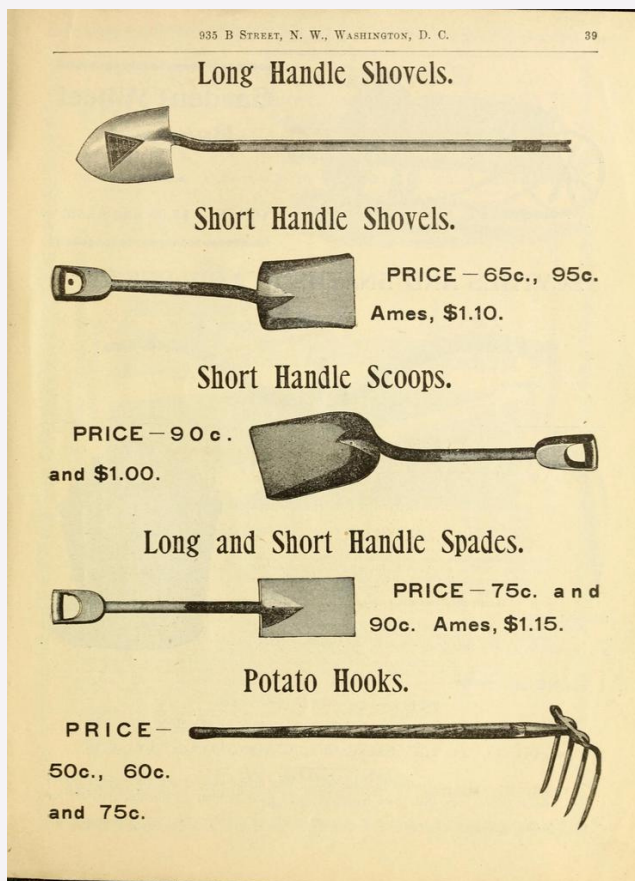
Your Skookum board (Adriana Virtue, Barb Trottier, Brooke Oxley, Kevin Wilson, Mike Gormley and Samantha Gambling) has met twice since the AGM in January, with overflowing ideas for member engagement, possible new projects, transitioning older projects, and income ideas for the year ahead!

There is still one seat on the board available and we are hoping to fill it soon!

If you feel passionate about Skookum's mission, "Working together to build and maintain a healthy regional food system," are interested in - or have experience with - the co-operative movement, and have a couple hours available a month, we would love to hear from you. The board meets over Skype on the third Wednesday of the month, 4-5:30pm.

Please email us at board@skookumfood.ca to express your interest.

WHAT'S THE BEST DIGGING TOOL – SHOVEL, FORK OR SPADE?



The right tool makes any job a lot easier. Shovels, forks and spades do different tasks and picking the right one for the job you're trying to do will help you do the job right.

A digging fork is great to loosen soil in existing beds, and to dig over a weedy bed. Don't confuse a digging fork with a pitchfork. A pitchfork is intended, as its name suggests, for pitching or throwing light, fluffy materials like hay. A pitchfork has narrow sharp pointed tines, which slide into the materials very easily and allow you to pick up a fork full and throw it. Those narrow tines, if used for digging, will simply bend. The digging fork, also called a spading fork or garden fork, has tines with a triangular section that are much stronger, but don't slide into loose materials as easily.

If you're going to be moving loose materials like soil, gravel, sand or fine compost, a shovel is the best tool.

To dig a fence post hole, the best tool is a shovel or a post hole digger. If you have many post holes to dig, you may be better off with a mechanical auger or post hole digger.

Photos from: <https://snappygoat.com>

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(continued previous page) To dig straight or square edged holes, trenches or lines the best tool is a spade. It's also useful for mixing materials in something like a wheel barrow, where the flat blade of the spade lifts cleanly off the flat base of the wheel barrow. A spade is also the best tool for double digging so that your trenches have nice neat straight sides.

To move materials with lots of stalks in them like hay, straw, compost, or some manure, the best tool is a pitchfork, compost fork or manure fork.

Many of these tools are available with short or long handles. These can make digging easier or harder, depending on your size, strength, and style of use of the tool. It can be very helpful to try out tools with different styles and sizes of handles to see which works best for you.

Feel free to write to skookum@skookumfood.ca and tell us your opinions on the best tool for the job!

POWELL RIVER COOKS!

Choosing plant-based meals more often decreases the carbon footprint of our community and increases our health and the biodiversity in our environment.

Join CAPR's community climate action by sending them your favourite plant-based recipe to climateactionpr@gmail.com and it will get published in

the community cookbook "Powell River Cooks - climate friendly recipes" You are welcome to share a personal note and/or picture with your recipe (optional).

Please submit your recipe with link/citation, if required, until the end of March, CAPR is planning to publish the community cookbook by the end of Earth Month.



Powell River COOKS!
CLIMATE FRIENDLY, PLANT-BASED RECIPES

Create with us this community cookbook by submitting your favourite plant-based recipe to climateactionpr@gmail.com
(Please include link/citation if needed)

Climate Action Powell River is challenging you to

Eat More Plants

Take the Challenge and reduce your meat consumption!



Actinidia arguta (Hardy Kiwi) - Diana Wood, Boxwood Cottage

LOCAL SPRING GARDEN VIDEO SERIES

Since we're still plodding our way through the COVID-19 pandemic, The Urban Homesteading School of Powell River (UHSPR) classes are now online! The sessions are "semi-live" - they are pre-recorded, and you are invited to a live "Watch Party" on Facebook where you'll watch the video together with others and you can ask Kevin questions and get answers right away.

If you register beforehand ([click here](#)), you'll be sent a reminder email shortly before the session, or you can also just show up at the UHSPR Facebook page at the scheduled time.

Check out the videos already shared:

[Planning your Vegetable Garden](#)

[Seed Starting: lights, soil, trays and covers](#)

[Seed Starting in Recycled Containers](#)

[Seed Starting using Soil Blocks](#)

**Upcoming Watch
Party!**

Sat March 27

**Growing peas and
other hardy legumes**

UHSPR operates many of its workshops in co-operation with the Sycamore Commons permaculture project and the Skookum Food Provisioners' Cooperative.



Max Ferrier, garden from 2019, Random Road



Kevin Wilson, March 2021, Fiddlers Farm

KEEP THE GARDEN PICS (AND OTHER NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS) COMING!

The Bumblebee Newsletter has been going for a year now, a dogged effort to keep Skookum members connected, share info with each other, and share the things that make us smile. We want to put more time towards member engagement, project support and community collaborations and so we will scale back to a quarterly newsletter moving forwards. Please keep those articles, resources, recipes, photos, poetry coming!

SKOOKUM UPDATES

Cider Press

The new (to us) press will be available to members this year. The old press will go up for sale to Skookum members soon. Keep an eye out in your email inbox for more info!

Gleaners

The Gleaners project rescues food that would otherwise go to waste (or attract the bears!) and makes sure that this food reaches those who need it.

If you would like to sign up as a picker, please [fill out the form here](#).

If you have fruit or nut trees or berries or grapes (or other plants) that you would like to have us come and pick, [please fill out the form here](#).



We are looking for someone to fulfil the role of Treasurer for Skookum!

The responsibilities of the Treasurer are: to oversee the fiscal affairs of Skookum; to develop the annual budget and present it to the board for approval; to monitor the budget; to ensure that accurate financial reports are produced on a monthly basis and to present them to the board for approval; to ensure that all relevant tax filings are current; to review all major financial endeavours for fiscal soundness. *If interested, email: board@skookumfood.ca*