

— Campaign to Save Petersen Farm Makes Goal —

We did it! Great Peninsula Conservancy has succeeded in raising \$415,000 from the local community to help save Silverdale's Petersen Farm. A tremendous response from Great Peninsula Conservancy members and the public at large made this accomplishment possible. More than 250 people, groups, and public agencies made donations to the campaign. Contributions were received from across the Great Peninsula—from Hansville on the north to Belfair and Gig Harbor on the south. Gifts also came from around Puget Sound and even as far as Guam and Germany.

Gerald Petersen, the farm's owner, passed away in September 2009 at the age of 94. Soon after, GPC learned that Mr. Petersen's will instructed his niece, Dorothy Lind, to sell the property, while trying to ensure that it be conserved as a working farm. Dorothy sought out Great Peninsula Conservancy for help in making this happen. GPC had long been interested in conserving this Clear Creek Valley landscape and an agreement was readily reached. Great Peninsula Conservancy would purchase a conservation easement on the farm to give permanent protection to the land. The estate then would sell the land to a private individual who would farm the land under the conservation restrictions. These restrictions permanently extinguish development rights from the land and conserve its natural features—farm fields, creek, and forests.

Great Peninsula Conservancy initially focused on obtaining state and federal farm preservation grants to purchase the conservation easement. About one year ago it became apparent that significant private contributions also would be needed. Planning for a capital campaign was soon underway and, after first obtaining a few key pledges, the campaign was formally launched in mid June of this year with a November 15, 2011 deadline—only five months.

A small but dedicated campaign committee made presentations to local service clubs, garden clubs, and public agencies—many of which responded with generous donations. Private individuals also were asked to help save the farm. Again, many responded with generous contributions. In August 2010 and September 2011, the public was invited to tour the farm. Hundreds turned out for a day of family fun that included hay rides, kids' games, a farmers market, and walking tours that highlighted the legacy of this homestead farm. Along the way, frequent articles in the Kitsap Sun kept the public apprised of the campaign's progress and helped to build momentum.

While the community goal of \$415,000 has been achieved on schedule, we're not done yet. These funds are to be used

SAVE PETERSEN FARM!

Campaign Goal Met!



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as match in a grant application to USDA Farm and Ranchland Protection Program for an additional \$285,000 to achieve the total project budget of \$700,000. Application will be made early in 2012 with a decision by spring or early summer. In the meantime, Great Peninsula Conservancy extends its heartfelt thanks to the many individuals, organizations, agencies, and other partners who helped achieve this accomplishment. It has been inspiring to see such enthusiasm for saving a piece of our farm heritage and passion for building a strong farm future in our community. Thank you!



Thank you to Petersen Farm Fall Fair sponsor, Kitsap Credit Union! Thanks also to Bella Bella Cupcakes, Randy-Kan, Monica's Waterfront Bakery, Morningside Bakery, and St. Antony's for supporting the event through in-kind donations. 140 volunteers helped put on this year's fair! Special thanks to our Levin House actor, Dan Engelhard; musicians Kitsap Konnection, The Hometown Band, and Sylvie Davidson. Thanks to our tour guides and hay wagon drivers: Dorothy Lind, Scott Hall, Brian Stahl, Sandra Staples-Bortner, Alan Johanson and John Hall. Volunteers from Boy Scout Troop #1541 helped park cars, Teen Action Group volunteers staffed the games, and Washington Youth Academy volunteers came out the day before the fair to set up the hay maze, mark vendor booths, and pick apples for the cider press. Thanks to all of our volunteers.

Photo Credit: Kathy Mahan



Our second annual Petersen Farm Fall Fair

brought 950 people to Petersen Farm on a cloudy Sunday, September 18th. This event is held primarily to increase public awareness of the farm, but it also netted more than \$2,000 for our Save Petersen Farm! campaign. Hay rides, hay maze, legacy farm tour, and children's games were some of the main attractions.

Photo Credits (counter clockwise): Don Paulson, Kathy Mahan, Don Paulson & Mary Zabinski.



Our Petersen Farm Fall Fair partner, **Kitsap Community Food Co-op**, helped create a much larger market this year with 40 local farm, food and craft vendors. Kitsap Community Food Co-op connects local farmers and food producers with local consumers. The co-op recently announced a location for their co-operative grocery store at the new Youth Wellness Campus in East Bremerton. For more information, or to become a member, visit www.foodcoop.org.

Photo Credit: Mary Zabinski

