

Closure of Pot Luck Ceramics @ Woodwynn Farm Market

In June 2017 Pot Luck Ceramics opened a second location in the farm market of Woodwynn Farms. We were pleased to take our products South Island, and soon our terracotta ware became popular in the greater Victoria area. The farm market has been a popular and fabulous place to visit for Island locals and visitors to Vancouver Island. The selection of farm products was plenty, most from the farms itself, and Pot Luck Ceramics products were the perfect fit to compliment the variety of farm products. The farm market was operated by volunteers, staff and participant of the therapeutic community on the farm.

In the past 9 years Woodwynn Farms has actively operated as a farm with the participation of homeless people with mental health and addiction problems seeking rehabilitation. For many years Richard LeBlanc, founder of the homeless program, has been trying to build housing on the property of the farm, to accommodate participants of the therapeutic farm community, which was shaped after a rehabilitation program with a 73% success rate in Italy. By the end of 2017 it was clear that both Central Saanich council and the Agriculture Land Commission were not ever going to allow developing 1% of the farm land for housing for the homeless people living and working on the farm. In January the board of directors of the Homefulness Society, owner of Woodwynn Farms, was forced to throw in the towel and sell the farm, to be able to pay back the mortgage. By the end of this month (March 2018) Woodwynn Farms will end the therapeutic community program, which includes closing the doors of its beautiful and well-established farm market, which Pot Luck Ceramics is part of. However, there is a chance the homeless program can be saved, and it might continue in a different format at possibly the same or similar location. It will take several months to work out a new plan for the program itself, while the new owner of Woodwynn Farms takes possession of the farm mid April.

Pot Luck Ceramics will move its inventory out of the farm market by the end of March 2018. Both volunteers of the homeless program and of Pot Luck Ceramics have made the promise to stay in touch and look for possibilities to continue their successful collaboration as soon as the future of the program is secured. Both organizations describe their team work of staff, volunteers and participants of the homeless program as an excellent experience, and both parties like to work together in the future if the opportunity arises. Pot Luck Ceramics will most certainly try to keep its merchandise available in the greater Victoria area where it has become very popular. Subscribe to our newsletter here on our website if you like to receive any updates on this matter.

March 19, 2018