

CSA Timeline

Those attending the **Great Lakes Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) Conference 2008** (Nov 21 to 23, 2008) were asked to write down significant points in the history of CSAs in Canada. This collaborative timeline is presented below. Please note that this timeline presents what those in attendance wrote down – it has not been vetted in any way.

1909 – Rudolf Steiner develops fundamental social law.

1915 – Rudolf Steiner develops 3-fold social order.

1922 – Rudolf Steiner presents economic lectures ☐ CSAs.

1924 – Rudolf Steiner presents biodynamic lectures ☐ organics.

1960s – A conversation between Hartmund VonJeetze and Carlos Piesner took place as a precursor to the first CSAs in the 1980s. Thus the links to background thoughts of CSAs having source in the spirit of biodynamic farming (e.g., Trauger Groh's farm in New Hampshire on of the first in North America).

1970s – Tiesi Farmers, which Canadian CSAs are modelled after, begin in Japan.

1981 – Politics of Food Conference held at the University of Toronto.

1985 – First CSA in North America, Indian Line Farm, started by Robyn Van En in Indian Line, Massachusetts.

1988(?) – Huron Community CSA near Goderich, Ontario, started by gardner David Parsons. A first consumer-driven CSA.

1990 – Helen Blackburn starts CSA-style garden in Nottawa, Ontario.

1992 – Wiens Shared Farm first season. Core group coins the phrase “Community Shared Agriculture.”

1993 – “National” CSA conference in Winnipeg in March.

1995 – Meeting Place Organic Farm CSA, Ontario, begins. Runs until 2007.

1996 – Quebec CSA Network is created.

1996 – CSA Workshop is held at the ACGA Conference in Montreal, Quebec.

1996 – *Our Field* CSA handbook published.

1996 – Ignatius Jesuit Centre, Guelph, Ontario, begins farm project.

1997 – First season for Plan B Organic CSA (Hamilton, Ontario), Saugeen River CSA (Durham, Ontario) and Elm Tree Farm CSA (Arden, Ontario).

1999 – Equiterre (Montreal, Quebec), publishes French-language book on CSAs.

1999 – Equiterre hosts CSA Conference in November.

2001 – Diversity Gardens Demonstration Farm CSA, sponsored by Canadian Organic Growers (St. Agatha, Ontario), Teamwork CSA (Almonte, Ontario) and Ignatius Farm CSA (Guelph, Ontario) begin.

2001-- Good Food Club farms in conjunction with Wiens Shared Farm.

2001 – CSA conference held in the Catskills-area in November.

2002 – CRAFT (Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training, Ontario) begins first season.

2002 – Ironwood Gardens (Gananoque, Ontario), Riverglen Biodynamic Farm (Ottawa, Ontario) and Whole Circle Community Garden (Orangeville, Ontario) begin.

2003 – SunRoot Organics CSA (Peterborough, Ontario) begins.

2004 – Blackbird Gardens (Petoskey, Michigan) and Covenant Farm (Clarence Creek, Ontario) begins. Covenant Farm kicks off with 5 shares.

2004 – CSA conference held in Michigan in November.

2005 – Juniper Farm CSA (Wakefield, Quebec), Whole Circle Farm CSA (Rockwood, Ontario) and Willowind Farm Market Garden (Durham Region, Ontario) begin.

2006 – Buy the Bushel-Smart Food Box (Ontario, 6 customers), Vegetables Unplugged CSA (Kingston, Ontario), De La Rive Farm CSA (Quebec, 12 members), Edencrest Farms CSA (Minesing, Ontario) all begin. Jen and Derek's Farm Fresh Veggies gets started PEI. Covenant Farm (Clarence Creek, Ontario) increases to 12 shares.

2006—CSA conference held in Michigan in November.

2007 – Rainbow Heritage Garden CSA and Market Garden (Coben, Ontario), BeetStreet CSA (Toronto, Ontario) and Fertile Ground CSA (Waterloo, Ontario) begin. Riverglen Biodynamic Farm transfers management and International Eaters CSA begins (Ottawa, Ontario). Ironwood Gardens (Gananoque, Ontario) has first grain harvest.

2008 – My Farmer CSA (Troy, Ontario), Heartwood Farm CSA (Ospringle, Ontario – 32 members) and Windsor-Essex CSA (Windsor, Ontario) begin. Jen and Derek's Farm Fresh Veggies (PEI) and Willowind Farm (Durham Region, Ontario, 22 members) add CSAs as part of their operation.

2008 – Great Lakes CSA Conference held in Orillia, Ontario, in November. Two hundred in attendance. As part of the conference, 65 attend CSA mini-school to learn about the basics of CSA farming. The *Ontario CSA Primer* is published.

In the future...

2009 – Lunar Rhythm Gardens CSA starting. Donbar Farms (Ayr, Ontario) starting a small CSA.

Beyond 2009 – Willowind Farm (Durham Region, Ontario) increase to 80-100 shares. Covenant Farm (Clarence Creek, Ontario) increases to 90 shares and extends season, generating enough income for 2 families to earn a living. Rainbow Heritage Garden (Coben, Ontario) forms a cooperative. A meat CSA starts in Ontario.