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**From:** ( )  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2009 1:44 PM  
**To:** MayorandCouncil  
**Subject:** Invitation to Slow Food Vancouver Summer Cycle Tours of the Fraser Valley (August 22 & 23)  
**Attachments:** Securing the Food Future of the Lower Mainland.webarchive

Dear Mayor Goldsmith-Jones and Councillors Evison, Lewis, Panz, Simth, Soprovich, and Walker:

On behalf of Slow Food Vancouver, you are respectfully invited to participate in our Slow Food Summer Cycle Tours taking place in Agassiz and Chilliwack on August 22 and 23, 2009.

Slow Food is a non-profit, member-supported organization that was founded in 1989 to counteract fast-food, fast-life, and the disappearance of local food traditions.

The Slow Food Cycle Tours contribute to a culinary culture, helping to raise awareness about food production and providing a link between farmers and food consumers in a unique and fun-filled way. The tours are specifically designed by Slow Food Vancouver and are aligned with the Slow Food manifestos (visit [www.slowfood.com](http://www.slowfood.com) for more info on the manifestos).

The tours have proven to be a very popular way for the public to explore our wonderful agricultural zones. In the past five years, over 12,000 people have participated in Slow Food Cycle Tours in the Pemberton Valley, the City of Vancouver, and regions in the Lower Mainland.

This summers' tours of Agassiz and Chilliwack provide an educational and culinary experience exploring many farms; several that are only open for this event. The leisurely, self-guided tours give a rare chance to meet the farmers and learn about agriculture in the scenic Fraser Valley. The routes are about 25-kilometers long following flat, quiet country roads that are perfect for the whole family.

Farms on the tour include commercial cranberry, goat, and dairy operations along with farms producing specialty niche foods, including an artisan cheese-maker and a variety of produce farms. In addition, we are pleased to have the Sto:lo First Nation offer a traditional salmon BBQ lunch and cultural dance at the Blue Heron Nature Reserve on Sunday.

The events run from 9am to 4pm on both days. The net proceeds from the cycle tours, along with donations from our Adopt-A-Farmer campaign, will be used to sponsor two youth farmers to attend Terra Madre- an international food conference in Italy in 2010.

Attending this event will give you an opportunity to meet your constituents and to demonstrate your support for BC agriculture. This year, we anticipate that 2,000 cyclists will participate in the two Slow Food Cycle Tours, coming from all over Metro Vancouver and the Lower Mainland region.

Agriculture in the Fraser Valley and the Slow Food movement have never been more important; global issues such as climate change make supporting local food producers essential (please see the attached article on the effects of climate change and food security in the Fraser Valley).

Slow Food Vancouver invites you to be our guest for one or both of the tours. Please RSVP to Joanne MacKinnon, the Slow Food Vancouver coordinator at 778.998.3471 or

joanne@slowfoodvancouver.com. For further information visit [www.slowfoodvancouver.com](http://www.slowfoodvancouver.com). We thank you and look forward to having you take part in Slow Food Vancouver's

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