



## Western Canada Development Plan

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### Vedic Eco Village

Restoring Three Vedic Values

Cows \* Land \* Knowledge

## Name of project

Vedic Eco Village Western Canada

## Summary

We need more people to expand the eco village. New cottages & facilities will attract workers for infrastructure building & farming.

Eco Village plots to develop this year are Go Shala foundation (for future cows), gardens, kitchen, Patha Shala (Learning Center), Yoga Shala and Yajna Shala

## Introduction

Construction of the Eco Village began in 2017 and continues daily. The eco village imbibes principles of permaculture, natural farming and cob building promoting a simple and sustainable lifestyle centered on farming, cow care and Lord Krishna. We grow seasonal crops, as well as nut & fruit orchards and flower gardens. Our root cellar can store 3,000 pounds of crops and more.

## Vision

Vedic culture focused on cows, land, agriculture and knowledge.



## **Mission**

Our mission is to manifest the vision of Varnasrama villages, as proposed by our Acharyas by providing a social system that fulfills the material and spiritual needs of our community and future generations.

*Srila Prabhupada predicted that, "One day millions of people would be coming to our Hare Krishna farms because they are unemployed. And we must accept them. We must feed them. We must let them live there and they will gradually become spiritualized. We will put them to work, they will get their food and there will be prasadam. They will hear something about Krishna and they will gradually by the millions become devotees."*

## **Participants**

Vedic Eco Village was created, mapped and is guided by His Holiness R.P. Bhakti Raghava Swami

Permanent villagers Laura and Ramanath manage the eco village grounds, hosting students who help with farm & building projects.

We provide support for local farms and producers. We offer opportunities to students to receive a meaningful education based on traditional technologies in keeping with Vedic science and principles".

## **Target audience**

Those seeking varnasrama education and a vedic way of living.

Those attracted to krishna consciousness, cows, ox power, ahimsa vegetarianism, sadhana, regulative lifestyle, agriculture, back to the land, pioneering, collective integrity and self sufficiency

Some of our recent visitors: permaculture enthusiasts, travelling musicians, students of nutrition, vedic knowledge seekers, and kids from local schools



## Activities

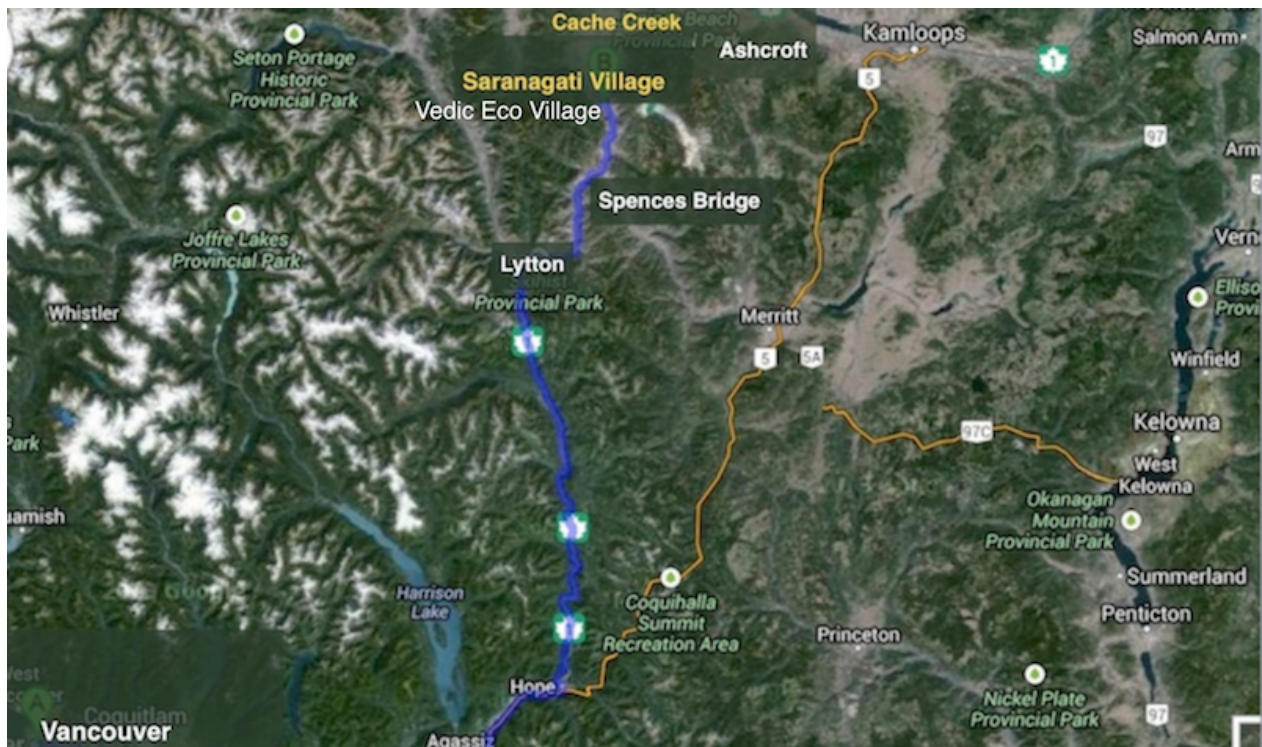
On-going activities are harvesting, preparing and serving prasad, building living infrastructure, cob building, clearing forests, milling trees, planting fruit trees & expanding gardens.

Future activities:

- Landscaping and road making
- Fencing for future cow grazing
- Guest facilities with outdoor kitchen
- Outdoor showers solar powered hot water
- Completing the walipini (underground greenhouse)
- Expanding food production and fruit tree orchard

## Location

We are located south of Saranagati Village in Western Canada, approximately 4 hours from Vancouver and 8 hours from Calgary





## Acreage

The Eco Village covers 70 acres (30 Hectares) of land including farm fields, a lake, forest hills and mountains in a remote valley in the interior of British Columbia.

Half of the land is arable with good soil for crops and fruit trees. Half of the land is pine and fir tree forest. The forest is overgrown and needs thinning for fire safety (lots of lumber available)



# Budget

Expenditures (Canadian Dollars)									
2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
\$29,506	16,452	6,979	15,034	6,845	5,400	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000

Project	Status	Description	Funding
Underground Greenhouse	In process	Hole dug by excavator. South wall of glass and north wall of logs/cob next. Entrance and support beams under construction.	2300
Learning Center	not started	Facility for workshops, classes, seminars	10,000
Goshala Cow Sanctuary	not started	Landscaping NE facing dug-out cave for cowshed, wood stove, worker house, storage shed, warm water	20,000
Nature Cure Clinic	not started	Health center is one of the plots in the colony near the goshala.	5,000
Fencing	in progress	There are 2 fences,; the Colony fence and the Eco Village fence. 1 of 4 borders of Colony is complete	1,688
Orchard	in progress	South Orchard has 4 trees planted & drip lines. Main orchard has berries, apple, pear, plum and apricot trees and berries, plus hazelnut and walnut trees.	792
Kitchen	not started	Prasadam for the workers, teachers and residents. Current hydrant will be branched out	5,000
Farm Worker Colony	not started	Land, communal cabin, kitchen and bathing facility for workers and WWOOFers.	7,000
Guest Facilities	not started	3 season tent and shala boxes will host visitors and eco village workers + bath hut and outdoor kitchen .	15,000
Main Cabin upgrade	in progress	Deck expansion and enclosure bath hut complete. Future projects: composting toilet, greenhouse, doorway to bath hut, kitchen accessories and a rocket mass heater for hot water and cooking.	1,232
Wood Mill	complete	Bandsaw mill cuts 2 feet wide trees, upto 10 feet Good for making 4by4 pillars, beams and boards.	0
Water pipeline	complete	Waterline covers 3500 feet, seven hydrants. Future extension to Retirement land	0
<b>Funding for Materials</b> (Canadian Dollars)			<b>\$68,012</b>

## Timeline

- 2017 Project begins, land acquired, waterlines built
- 2022 Expansion of garden and mass heater for worker facilities
- 2023 Ox facilities, expansion of gardens, goshala construction begins  
Plot building: Goshala, kitchen, Patha Shala, Yoga Shala & Yajna Shala
- 2024 Goshala completed and Cows acquired, Construction of Mandir
- 2025 Remaining Colony plot construction begins
- 2026 Completion of colony plots

### Seasonal Timeline

- Forest thinning and milling: October to February
- Seed starts indoors February/March
- Greenhouse planting begins April
- Building construction begin in April
- Outdoor planting in May and June
- Cob work begins in July
- Harvest until October

## Challenges

Our biggest challenge is attracting pioneer workers to build the eco village. Farming challenges in recent times include: extreme and unpredictable natural events, such as heat waves, smoke, wildfires, disrupted wildlife (bears), drought and extreme cold.

Social challenges include building infrastructure compliant with local government and ALR (Agriculture Land Reserve) and Saranagati Village Holdings Inc. bylaws and standards. The solution is building moveable and biodegradable structures that provide heat, shelter and basic cooking and cleaning for our pioneers & future workers.

## Contact

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# Key Projects

## **Varnasrama College** *hosted @ Village Exchange & Library*

An opportunity for students to learn aspects of our Vedic culture often forgotten or neglected. Students learn hands-on about Permaculture Farming, Building shelters, Cows and Ox care, Natural Fibers for Clothing and more.

We train and educate students in the traditional Vedic lifestyle and sacred values known as Varnasrama Dharma.

Everyday we will have a Krishi workshop:

- Cow Care & Protection
- Training Ox
- Permaculture
- Tree Planting, Grafting and Care
- Traditional Crops growing, harvesting and storage
- Irrigation and Fertilization
- Wildcrafting, native plants and flower

We analyze different types of Varnasrama like Asuric, samanya, and Daiva. We also discuss the duties of different varnas and asramas.

See this webpage for more information:

<https://vedicecovillage.ca/varnasrama-college-canada/overview>



## **Traditional Craft Center**

A center for locally produced crafts. Some crafts include weaving cloth and natural decors. Technology in bygone ages meant maneuvering natural resources only for essential higher purposes in life without disturbing the equilibrium in the ecology.

## Farming @ Vedic Eco Village

1/2 acre of garden is cultivated and 1/2 acre berry and tree nursery with 200+ fruit and nut trees. Expanding seasonal crops, grains, flowers and forest foods.

Current Farm goals:

- Expand production in fields
- Transition existing greenhouses to underground
- Build more moveable greenhouses
- Build sunroom @ Maharaj's cabin porch for spring starts
- Finish Underground Greenhouse (Walipini)
- Build 3-season cottages & living infrastructure for workers
- Expand irrigation in colony

Current production:

- root crops: potatoe, beet, carrot, parsnip, celery
- market greens, brassicas, asparagus
- fruit, nuts and berries
- flowers, ornamentals and herbs
- beans, grains
- millet and buckwheat seeds for future plantings.
- hemp for food, cloth, medicine and building materials

Top Producers: Carrots, Potatoes, Peas, Beets, Cucumber, Broccoli, Kale, Chard, Lettuce, Spinach, Strawberry, Cabbage, Green Beans, Zucchini, Tomato, Cherry Tomato, Corn, Peppers, Melon, Radish, Squash, Asparagus, Parsnips.....

Planted trees are Apple, Pear, Cherry and Apricot and Hazelnut and Walnut trees. Raspberries, strawberries, currants, gooseberries, honeyberries (hascaps) and saskatoon berries are growing.

Assorted flowers, herbs, and spices are grown. Our value added items are Jams, Pickled Good, Juice, Teas and Baked Goods.

We harvest alfalfa, hay and other crops for Ahisa Goshalla and our future cows. Southern fruit orchard has 1 fruit tree planted with drip potential.

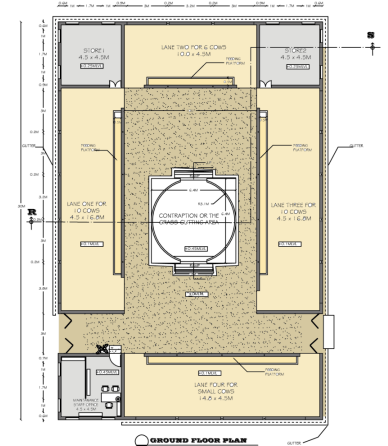
## Cow Sanctuary/Goshala

The future Goshala will be the home for a few cows, ideally Gir cows, depending on their availability. As in the original Vrindavan, cows play a central role in the lives of the Brajavasis, similarly, we plan to focus all the activities within our Vedic Eco Village around cows and agriculture.

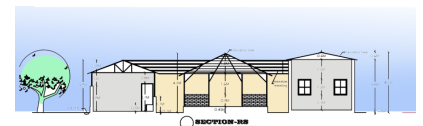


For the maintenance and good health of the cows we will have designated grazing areas and when the weather permits, will arrange for the cows to be out grazing most of the day. In connection with cows, we plan to introduce Panchagavya products such as body soaps, incense, washing soap, tooth powder, phenol and other products.

The cow shed will be a structure of wood and cob built into a NE facing dug-out cave. It will have an adjacent worker house with dung/wood stove, milk storage area, water storage tanks, stalls and feeding area.



Srila Prabhupada wanted us to protect cows and he wanted that we take products from protected cows.



A cow from the beginning till the end of life is extremely useful, especially because of its cow urine and dung. It is more useful than milk. Of course milk is very important, but milk is not the only utility from cows.



## Learning Center (Patha Shala)

Needs and activities of students include:

- Nutrition and Health
- Organic Farming & Water Management
- Building using local materials
- Forest Preservation (Food Forest)
- Soil Fertility (the science of grazing)
- Animal Power (ox and horses)
- Character Formation

A future Gurukula will provide primarily brahmana and ksatriya training. Daily morning practicals of cleaning the asrama, cow care and agriculture.



## Eco Village Colony



The Colony is divided into plots where different activities will take place.

The area selected for the campus is in the most southwest section leaving ample space for other activities

## Workers Colony

Workers, interns and volunteers will stay in the main cabin and in trailers during the warm seasons. Eventually, a colony will be built.

## Nature Cure Clinic and Yoga Shala Health Center

A small "Nature Cure" clinic for Eco Village residents and guests. We grow and create our own medicines.

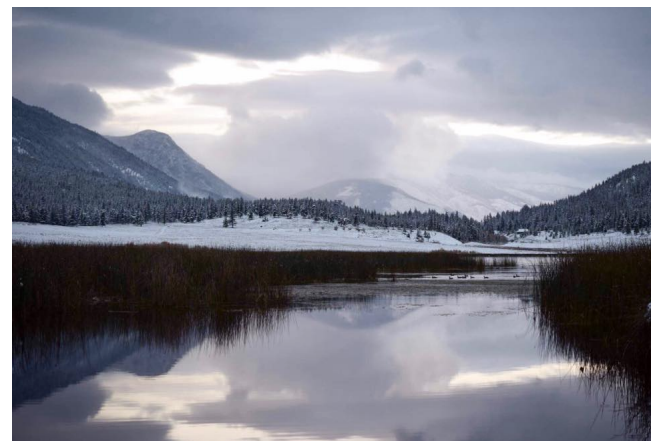


- Natural, locally grown and harvested medicines
- Cow medicines
- Holistic health care
- Patients stay in small cabins during summer time.
- Yoga Therapy

A Varnasrama College can host seminars and hands-on workshops at the Vedic Eco Village. Topics include [Vedic Knowledge](#), [Daiva Varnasrama](#) and [Krishi \(Vedic Farming\)](#).

## Guest Facilities

The guest facilities will host visitors and future residents of the Vedic Eco Village. Structures will have a bed, stove, table and chair. Facilities include outhouses, solar shower and kitchen.



## Vedic Eco Village Links

- [News reports](https://vedicecovillage.ca/reports) <https://vedicecovillage.ca/reports>
- [Project updates](https://vedicecovillage.ca/projects) <https://vedicecovillage.ca/projects>
- [Development Plan video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZrciR6B4XBM) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZrciR6B4XBM>



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