

'Organic farming is not about being bigger or the domination of nature.'

as well to pick up orders.

Another development that has extended their growing season to almost 10 months is the creation of two unheated greenhouses with one more in the planning stages.

When asked about collaboration with other area organic farms, Maggie was quick to add that the folks at Everdale Farm near Hillsburgh had come to Whole Circle to lend their help after a bad storm demolished a greenhouse in May 2009. They also share equipment for their operations.

"Our goal," adds Johann, "is to have a year-round CSA program to serve customers."

Whole Circle even supplies an area restaurant with produce, another sign of the organic times we live in. It's a little like the '60s 'back to the land' ideal— only more organized.

The Kleinsassers have a team of seven people. There is one regular employee and six apprentices to learn the trade. In fact, you can visit their website to learn more about CRAFT— Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training. These apprentices hope to someday start their own organic operation (many have in the past— apprentices typically stay 1-2 years). Resident apprentices receive room and board, a stipend and, more importantly, the experience they are seeking. Candidates are usually from their mid 20s up to their 50s. You have to be dedicated to the land and be in reasonable

physical shape.

As anyone at Whole Circle will tell you, farming is not easy work but it is very rewarding.

A typical day means working in all kinds of weather from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.—



Maggie Kleinsasser displays some of the carrots grown on the farm which (below) come in all colours and varieties.



Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong (left) presented Johann and Maggie Kleinsasser with the Waterloo-Wellington County's Sustainable Farmer of the Year Award earlier this year.

Submitted photo

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