



Forgiveness Will Bring Me Closer

Why is it hard to forgive others? Usually because we believe that they are 90% to blame for the problem, that I am not as bad as they are. So I start to carry the load of other people's actions. If my ego is too hurt, I will have the sense of correction, of justice: 'I know I am right', 'That is not fair'. But if I start to forgive from the heart, sincerely, then this kind of feeling and attitude begins to dissolve. I remain humble and this forgiveness will bring me closer to others. Then I do not carry regrets or anger, I just let go and remain light.

submitted by Carla

My Visit to Creekside Commons

As a dedicated cohouser, I'm always curious to see what other cohousing communities are doing, so about a week ago I went to visit our sister cohousing community on Vancouver Island, Creekside Commons in Courtenay.

It was interesting to see what we shared in common, and also, how we are different. Creekside was developed and built much more quickly than we were, taking less than three years. It was completed in 2007, and now has had six years to settle in and bond as a community.

What struck me first was that the design was much more like a conventional subdivision, with separate houses and fenced yards. But the green roofs on the sheds and workshop and lawn chairs arranged in a circle on the communal front lawns showed that this was something different!

Like Pacific Gardens, they have lush organic gardens and colourful flowers everywhere, made abundant by the island's wet June and sunny July. They, too, have deer-fencing, but only around the garden plot area, rather than the entire perimeter of the property.

Their common house was smaller, and separated from the individual houses. Although more compact, it had everything they needed for their activities – a comfy lounge area with a fireplace, an activity centre with drop-down screen and sound system, a communal laundry room which only costs \$30 a year to use, and a small but well-designed kitchen.

There were two big bulletin boards, one for community information, with copies of minutes, community contribution lists, and sign-up sheets for the communal meals prepared by a team of residents. Everything looked tidy and well-organized, which as you know, would have great appeal for me!

When talking to my tour guide, though, I found that at Creekside, just as we have here, it has been a struggle for people to learn how to think of the larger good rather than their own individual wants and needs when making decisions.

Pictures by Kari



Reservation Books for use of space at PGCC

If you wish to use common space at PGCC for guest rooms or dining hall/or any of the meeting rooms you will find the information for use in one of two binders in the strata office.

Look for two green binders marked "reservation for guest room" and "reservation for use of common space".

Each binder contains:

1. information for use of the book - "procedure"
2. guidelines for use of the area you wish to reserve
3. forms you are requested to use are included in the back section of each book

If you have any questions or comments you may contact Rosalind, Doris or Norah.

New Community Website

Thanks to Susana and Chad's networking and the generous actions of a fellow cohouser in Oregon, Pacific Gardens now has a useful community building and communications tool.

Have you logged on to pacificgardens.zenlunatics.org yet? Did you check out the community calendar, up to date contact list, slide show or any of the community guidelines that are posted there?

If you would like help logging in for the first time, I'd be happy to help. If you see things that need changing, or have ideas for using this tool to help make our community even better, I'd be happy to discuss them with you.

Special thanks to Roz, who volunteered to keep the online calendars up to date.

submitted by Sharon

They've also had the same difficulty with people bringing proposals to community meetings, only to have them shot down. After a session with cohousing facilitator Tree Bressen they realized that the solution was to do the groundwork first, and talk to residents to get their comments *before* presenting their proposals.

So, although the housing design may be different, the same principles guide our everyday actions in cohousing. Creekside Commons is making it work, but it has taken a great deal of effort, energy, and dedication. There's a lesson here for us.

After coming home to Pacific Gardens, I have to say I do feel we are especially blessed to live in a cohousing community that has such a beautiful physical setting. When I look out my patio window at the flowers and gardens and the children playing on the swings, I think I must be one of the luckiest people ever to be able to live here!

Kathryn Hazel

Community Circle Aug 5



There will be a community circle Monday Aug 5 at 7:00 P.M. in the dining room. All community members are welcome to participate. The topic of the circle will be decision making.

When Native people speak
they are not talking from the head,
relating some theory, mentioning what they read
in a book, or what someone else has told them.

Rather, they speak from the heart,
from the traditions of their people,
and from the knowledge of their land:
they speak of what they have seen
and heard and touched,
and what has been passed on to them
by the traditions of their people.

It is their inner silence that allows them to
listen to the prompting of their hearts
and to the subtle resonances that lie within
each word of a language and which,
when uttered, reverberate throughout the world.

– David F Peat –

We love and appreciate all the gardeners who are working hard to keep the grounds looking so fabulous.
Thank you from a grateful community.

