



Issue Eleven

The Bloomin' News



June 2012

Congratulations Bowen!



Bowen Brunt is graduating from preschool! Here he is with his proud Mom, Kara, and his little brother Rylan peeking out from behind. Although preschool continues through June, Bowen & his classmates donned the grad costume last Monday. Bowen starts Kindergarten at Pauline Haarer elementary this September. His big brother Braeden, who starts Grade 3 in the fall, is excited to have Bowen join him at his school!"

Lost and Found

Lost keys: if anyone finds or loses keys please report them to Tim in 305. That way one person can coordinate them getting back to their rightful owner.

Found: a single lens from a pair of glasses. The lens has been placed in the lost and found basket located in the strata office.

Saturday June 9th or Sunday June 10th

1:00 to 5:00 pm

All Pacific Gardens residents are welcome to participate.

The CLC committee is organising two introductory level NVC workshops. These workshops will be facilitated by Virginia Anderson. Virginia lives in Errington on a small acreage with her family. Shortly after completing her Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science Virginia had her first child, and was introduced to Non-Violent Communication (NVC). These two events changed the course of her life forever. She has been learning and practicing NVC for over 6 years and has completed the NVC Parent Peer Leadership Program through BAY NVC in California. This 9 month program was designed to train parents from across the U.S. and Canada to share NVC in their communities, something Virginia has been doing over the last 2 years. Thanks to Virginia's generosity, these workshops will be offered at no cost to participants.

Please sign up for either June 9th or June 10th on the sheet posted on the strata office window. There is only room for 12 participants at each session so sign up early to avoid disappointment. Both workshops will be identical so there is no need to sign for more than one. If it looks like there will be less than 12 people in total, we may offer only one session instead of two so watch for updates. Parents are encouraged to swap childcare on separate days.

People who practice NVC have found greater authenticity in their communication, increased understanding, deepening connection and conflict resolution.

submitted by the CLC committee

Community Contribution System Update

Progress is being made on implementing the Community Contribution System. The CCS Team wants to thank everyone who has been signing up on the task list posted on the Strata office window! For the last several months we have noted an increase in the number of residents who have committed to complete a task.

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Comings and Goings

Welcome to four new residents this month! Stephen Rivington in 304, Taylor Eyerley in 308, and Monique Gouliquer and her son Luigi in 306. Goodbye to Carmanagh and Rebecca from 304.

Matt Stafford will be moving up to 304 with Stephen so that he can have some more space after living the smallest room in 207 for the last few months.

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John, Mia and Doug working together to get the job done.

Remember;

All residents 19 years of age or older are expected to provide an average of one hour of community service per week.

Help Keep

Pacific Gardens Secure

A great big THANK YOU to David Weston for checking all the outside doors every night.

A reminder from your Building and Maintenance team that Security is really up to each of us. Please do not prop doors open or leave them unattended.

Do you enjoy working outdoors? Speak to Chad about the numerous gardening tasks that need to be done.

Fancy yourself a carpentry apprentice? Speak to Kaj about helping build the storage shed.

Website savvy? Speak to Kathryn about helping to update and maintain the Pacific Gardens website.

Handy with a paintbrush? Speak to John about freshening up our front entrance.

Enjoy office organization. Speak to Kara or Roz about helping out in the strata office.

Not sure about how to connect your interests with a job that needs doing? Speak to Matt, Bill, Doris or Sharon who are happy to help you find your place in the CCS.

submitted by CCS Team

Folk Music Circle

David is hosting a roving folk mini circle once a month in the Pacific Gardens dining hall.

First jam on Wed 6th June at 7:30pm to 10:00pm.

Come and listen in or join in!
Admission by donation.

submitted by David

Committee Meeting Summaries

The newsletter is great place to publish committee meeting summaries. A short summary of a committee meeting or a task force meeting lets everyone know what you are working on in order to eliminate duplication of work, increase awareness of your role and accomplishments and helps build community with better communications. Please consider submitting a brief summary of any relevant meetings.

The report that follows this is an example of a brief meeting summary.

CLC Digest

This month the collaborative living committee is working on:

- The booking book, a binder being created to make it easier for community residents to book spaces here at PGCC.
- The new orientation process, gathering input and editing a new process of orientation to our community aimed at providing vital information every new resident needs to know.
- Organizing a monthly Community Circle Night, we see practising our heart communications in circles as an important part of avoiding and working through conflict.
- The NVC Workshop June 9th and 10th.
- Supporting the Community Contribution Team to implement the new Community Contribution System.

submitted by Sharon

If you'd like a **tour** of

**Pacific Gardens
Cohousing
Community**

CONTACT us at
250-754-3060

Marimba Music

Parting is such sweet sorrow,

David Weston and I, Rosalind McKenzie, went to Errington War Memorial Hall in Parksville to participate in the kick off concert for a new CD release by a marimba band called Kumbana Marimba. We loved the band and enjoyed dancing and chatting with various friends there and of course purchased a copy of the CD which we will donate to the Pacific Gardens 'Library of Music and Film' for all to enjoy.

Sadly we say goodbye to Carmanagh Carson, one of the main band members, who has been living at Pacific Gardens Cohousing attending VIU, and is now moving back home to Errington...We wish you the best Carmanagh, and will play the CD for all to hear, so when you have left for home we will not miss you too much because we can hear you still through your beautiful happy music of Marimba...Thanks for your participation while living at Pacific Gardens Cohousing Community.

submitted by Roz and David

Humans United Because...

Some community members are hearing talk of a new organization being planned in the halls and homes of Pacific Gardens. What is this new organization? It's called **Humans United Because ...** because what, you ask? All you activists out there could supply many reasons I'm sure, as could anyone who follows current events. Any member of a group working for change can probably see the need as well, when so many groups these days are dealing with similar or overlapping issues. Those of us who are planning H.U.B. might put it this way:

Humans United Because... (HUB)

A locally based organization bringing together diverse groups and individuals into a united community. By coming together as HUB we will find a wider base of support for the work that is already being done, and ensure synchronization rather than duplication of efforts. Discussing the issues that affect us we will find common ground, leading to creative shared solutions and direct non-violent action. HUB is also a non-partisan alternative model for participating in our own governance. HUB values inclusiveness, and will use consensus process to ensure that every voice is equal and discussion is rich and varied. Building community includes sharing food, music and art so these will be an essential part of every HUB Assembly. The mission, actions and evolution of HUB will be defined by those who are a part of it ... Together we multiply our voices!

Action issues may include, but are not limited to: Electoral Reform, Social & Economic Justice, Environmental Protection, Food & Water Security, Racial & Gender Equality, & Energy Issues

The first HUB Assembly is planned for Saturday, June 23 at 1:30pm, so save the date! Kara & Mat will be looking to Pacific Gardens for support of this initiative. Expect to hear more about it as we begin to invite members from groups all over Nanaimo!
submitted by Kara

Wow What A Success!!

We had 24 entries in the "Recycle Room Changes" contest.

All participants under 13 years of age - Nina, Seamus, and Brayden - will receive a prize. The children's enthusiasm (and the fun they had) noting the changes that had been made, was inspiring to us. The adult winner is Tara, who will receive a poetry book - "Wild Illustrations" by Deborah Goodman.

Here are the top four "improvements" that were most often mentioned on the ballots:

- 1) the four new blue recycle bins (no more cardboard box for the newspaper);
- 2) our signage with instruction on what needs to go in the garbage and not into recycling. (We now rarely find a soup tetra-packs in the recyclables.) We will continue to post new signage tips;
- 3) the new knife - for helping you to cut cardboard boxes, thereby making it easier for you to flatten them;
- 4) the yogurt container bin.

Pacific Gardens Communitarians can be pleased with their continuous efforts to Reduce, Reuse, Refuse and Recycle.

Our "recycle pick-up man" Leroy also thinks we are amazing!

submitted by Gloria