



Issue Twenty Three **The Bloomin' News**  June 2013

Pet Peeves

If you put it up, take it down.
If you use it, put it away.
If you eat or drink, wash up.
submitted by Norah

Soma's Super Easy Donuts

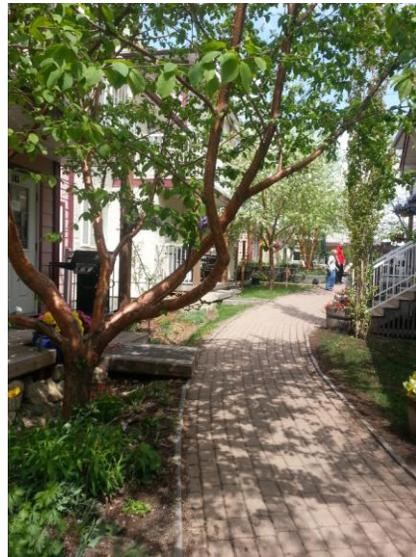
2 tablespoons white vinegar
3/8 cup milk
2 tablespoons shortening
1/2 cup sugar
1 egg
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 cups sifted spelt flour
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
Coconut oil for frying

Stir the vinegar into the milk, and let stand for a few minutes until thick.

In a medium bowl, cream together the shortening and sugar until smooth. Beat in the egg and vanilla until well blended. Sift together the flour, baking soda, and salt; stir into the sugar mixture alternating with the vinegar and milk. Roll dough out on a floured surface to 1/3 inch thickness. Cut into doughnuts using a donut cutter, or make donuts with your hands. Let stand for about 10 minutes.

Heat the oil in a large deep skillet to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Fry doughnuts in the hot oil until golden, turning over once. Drain on paper towels. Dust with confectioners' sugar while they are still warm, and serve immediately. Makes 18.

A Visit to Prairie Sky Cohousing



On our way out of Calgary from the CUC Annual Congregational Meeting, Sharon and I visited Prairie Sky Cohousing. We had been invited to visit by a number of Unitarians at the meeting who live at Prairie Sky. There are a number of features of this community that could provide useful suggestions for us, and rather than write something comprehensive we decided to divide our observations into segments, starting with the gardens, landscaping and outside grounds.



Prairie Sky is situated on the east side of Edmonton Trail, between 30th Avenue and 31st Avenue. It is an 18 unit, multi-level townhouse/apartment development surrounding a courtyard with underground parking. They just celebrated their tenth anniversary, so they have had plenty of time to develop their grounds and are fortunate that a landscape architect lives there. They have very little green space, but they have lovely ornamental gardens on the Edmonton Trail side and in the courtyard.

Cohousing Awareness

I want to ask if anyone wants to get together to explore free methods of raising awareness for cohousing in the greater Nanaimo area. Things like putting up posters, get articles written in local publications, using social media etc.

I think the need for this is greater than people think. They often just don't know what cohousing or intentional communities are and if more people knew, I am sure we would have waiting lists to get in.

Also, I want to thank Kaj for all of the grass trimming he has been doing. The place looks great!

submitted by Myriam

They have a well organized and labelled composting area near an area of raised beds on the 30th Avenue entrance. It doesn't appear they have the same problems with rodents that we have (or with deer). The raised beds are narrow and connected and are a couple of feet high, enabling access for those with mobility problems. There is an outdoor seating area adjacent to the dining room, with a number of barbecues of varying sizes, an outside children's play area (many of their children have grown up in the ten years), and a very compact rack for canoes and kayaks.



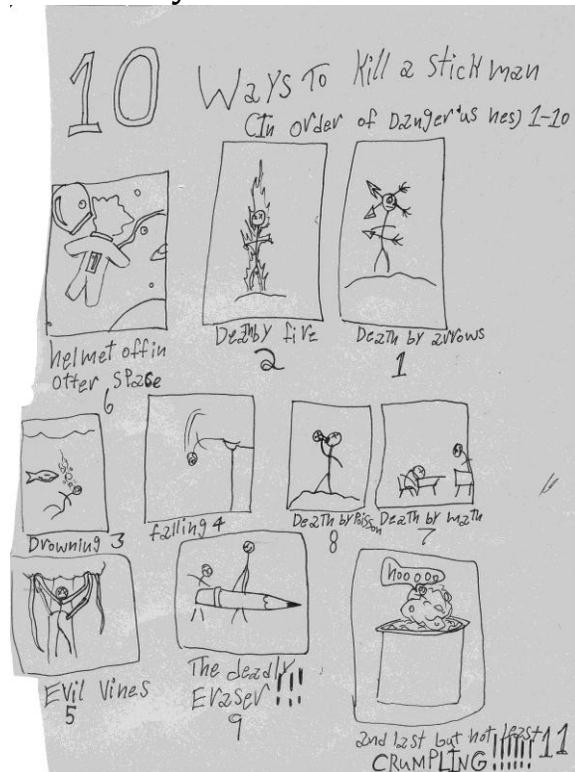
submitted by Bill

You're Invited!

Susana Michaelis and Lynn Lowden are both celebrating their 60th birthday just days apart in early June! Lynn is celebrating by going on a cruise and Susana is on a two week road trip. The community is invited to Susana's 60th Birthday Party on the evening of June 5th. Finger food, snacks and LIVE music will be supplied, so come on out and have some fun with us!

submitted by Chad

10 Ways to Kill a Stickman



submitted by Soma

The People who are dear to our Pacific Gardens Cohousing hearts.

I got to thinking the other day how very wonderful it has been to have met and really enjoyed the company of so many people from all over the world who have rented from us at Pacific Gardens since our occupancy in September 2009.

We have just had two sets of folks move out and move onto situations that are better for them in their lives and it has created a certain sense of sadness in me for their leaving, and at the same time a sense of gratitude that we have shared a part of their lives for as long as they have made Pacific Gardens Cohousing Community part of their journey.

We have not sold all our suites yet, so we have been renting them to new folks who have been attracted to our cohousing life style, and our proximity to VIU, and among the many families and students whom we have encountered, all have enriched our lives in one way or another and most positively.

I would like to mention those folks who have made living here a wonderful experience, and extend heartfelt thanks for their participation in our lives.

So, in order of last to depart, I would like introduce you to ~

Morgan, our first teenager to live here, and is now grown up and gone to work...congrats to momma Tara and Pacific Gardens generally...it was a bit of a tough go at times!!!!

Richard Burnett, our great grounds weeder among other wonderful traits and previously his son Ryan, daughter-in-law Mallorie, and granddaughters Marley and Lielani, all of whom have moved to Campbell River where Mallorie's dad lives.

Art who came and went in a very short time, a teacher from the Yukon is traveling by motorcycle to Argentina, and then over to Australia then on to the rest of the world.

Jonathan and Jason Barnum, our wonderful young movie buffs who have moved down the street with friends Sheila and her sweet sons Andrew and Isaiah who also lived here and moved a year and a bit ago.

Kara and Matt and the others of the 5 Brunts...Braeden, Bowen and Rylan. Kara was our best facilitator ever at community meetings...she had a head start because she was a teacher! Matt had the sense of humor to get us all laughing and the boys were just that, wonderful boys.

The family Troy, a first nations family, who lived here for a very short while, three months, had some pretty wonderful teenagers who had fun romping around playing hide and seek all over the complex.

Shawna and her children, Teagan, Seamus, Leeland and Jessica 'Green', our name sake here at PG, who helped to organize our Happy Kids committee and contributed to our lives by the baking of wonderful cookies, and muffins and all manner of yummy organic sweeties, just like them.

Willow and Nina, with Nina being our first little girl to live at Pacific Gardens. Willow our fabulous gardener met Mat and fell in love and is now expecting another wee one in August, and she wants to move back to Pacific Gardens...hallelujah.

Nistar who came as a student from Tamil Nadu, who stayed with us for two years and who is now married to a gal from India, is living in Toronto and is soon to be a dad...all this after graduating from the Business Admin program at VIU, and of course living with us here at Pacific Gardens.

Bob, Zoey, Lulu and Jesse, our first students to move here, who have graduated and moved closer to their jobs or back home to China. Then Alex moved in and had a visit by his uncle David, and aunt Jiang, who liked it here and decided to buy a suite... to our great surprise and joy.

Sheila moved in with two bright and playful sons Andrew and Isaiah, who were as different as chalk and cheese. They eventually moved into a bigger space, with our Jonathan and Jason living in a suite below them after having made good friends with each other's families...small world!!!.

Khaled and Aziza, Mohammed, Omar, and Nour [our first baby born while living at Pacific Gardens] from Libya, who were here and safe away from the recent Libyan rebellion and who moved to Vancouver so Khaled could take his PhD in Business Admin, and is now back in Libya. We miss your sweet family.

Mark and Ting whose baby May was our second newborn, and born 'in situ' at their home in Pacific Gardens, who have bought a wee house of their own in Nanaimo. Mark, an architect, and Ting, involved with green planning, helped us to organize our building and maintenance designing a play area for kids....which will be implemented soon...famous last words!!

Heather and Ella, who moved out about a year ago, keep coming back to visit so they are not really too far away.

Krissy our music student who played such beautiful music that we thought we were in heaven every time we heard her play and who lived with Gary a chef student who cooked some great turkeys during that season,

And last but not least, Kendrick , Tyler, Dave, Cathryn, Stephen, I may not have had much to do with some of you but none the less, you were greatly appreciated, and I am sure the residents that know you along with me wish you well in your new lives, and I sing Auld Lang Syne should old acquaintances be forgot!

submitted by Rosalind McKenzie



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