



Issue Twenty Two

# The Bloomin' News



May 2013

## Compost Change

Two new grey containers for the collection of kitchen scraps have been added to the garbage shed. For people that are able, we ask that you bring kitchen scraps to the preferred drop off location adjacent the wooden composter. If however the garbage shed is what works for you, the new bins are there for your convenience.

When one bin is full, any community member is invited to take it down to the composter where it will be taken care of.

submitted by Chad and Gloria



photo by Myriam

## Community Thanks

I would like to thank everyone for their help and support during my recent emergency. Kari for the support while the paramedics were here, thank you for being here especially for Larry. David for taking him around to where he needed to get to including bringing me some much needed supplies to the hospital. Sharon for the moral support and Bill for making sure I had my butt covered to come home from Victoria! Thank you for the lovely get well card signed by so many of you . And a thank you for anyone who offered to pick this up for Larry or myself, we are very grateful to all of you !

submitted by Lynn

A big "THANK YOU!!" to all the PG kids who have made Iris's transition into toddlerdom so much fun. I appreciate so much how inclusive you have all been of our newest walker. Why just last week I got my first "back off mum, I'm playing with my friends" look.....\*sigh\* such a milestone. Thanks Soma, Osha, Trey, Luigi, Anna, Joel and Maisie!

submitted by Maria

## Welcome

Our community continues to grow in diversity. Four new VIU students have moved into unit 209. Mark Adrian from Bahrain, Carlos Navea from Dubai, Bardia Hosair from Iran, and Dave Jinks from Errington.

## Mac User Group??

If you would be interested in forming a Mac User Group please contact Doris.

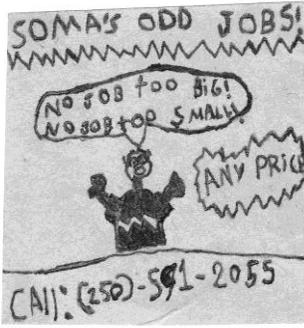
## Laundry

I discovered that quite a bit of laundry has fallen behind the washer and drier. I pulled it out, a small laundry basket's worth!

If you are wondering how the machines can "eat your socks", you may just find a few of them there! Spread out on the countertop. I even found something of mine. :)

submitted by Chad

FYI - The umbrella laundry line by the south door is intended for community use.



## Rock-Polisher IV - How a Broken Hot Water Tank Changed My Life

I've been thinking again about the rock-polisher effect in cohousing, and how our lives can be changed by something totally ordinary.

Some weeks ago our three-year-old hot water tank fractured, flooding our recycle room and leaving us with only one tank for the entire building.

So the word went out that we should use hot water sparingly until it was replaced, which, since it was custom-made and had to be re-built, took several weeks.

This caused me a certain amount of anxiety. I am a big fan of hot water - long, hot showers, bedding washed on the longest cycle, dishwasher on power scrub - yes!!

Sparingly and hot water were not words I would use together. But, I experimented. I rinsed the dishes in cold water, then put them through the dishwasher's quick cycle. They were fine.

I did the same for the laundry - my clothes and bedding came out of washing-machine clean as clean, and it took me a lot less time, as did shorter showers. This was good.

And when we had our new hot water tank at last, I didn't go back to my old ways. This made me realize how many new lifestyle habits I have acquired since I moved here.

I don't just read my daily newspaper and then throw it into the recycle bin. I deliver it to David, who, after he reads it, passes it on to Ron, who then gives it to Larry.

If I have left-overs, I give them to somebody else. I lend my car out to anyone who needs it. I'm willing to try unfamiliar foods at our potlucks - nettle soup, gluten-free bread.

I don't buy as many clothes, and I give more to thrift shops or put them in our freecycle cupboard. I feel comfortable not wearing makeup, and what makeup I do wear is organic.

I don't buy as much stuff. I considered getting a new car (my little Echo is 10 years old this summer) but didn't. I've kept my old printer and computer - ditto with my seldom-used cellphone.

So how did this all happen? It wasn't because someone gave me a lecture, or passed a bylaw. It was all slow and incremental, little changes made by following the example of other people here.

And that's how the rock-polisher effect works, living in this Pacific Gardens river where we all tumble up against each other and smooth out our rough edges.

Kathryn

**meet your green CANDIDATES**  
 Sunday **May 5<sup>th</sup>**, 6:30 – 9:45 p.m.  
 at Pacific Gardens Cohousing  
 347 Seventh St., Nanaimo, (more parking at 353 7<sup>th</sup> St.)  
**Refreshments and home-made desserts!**  
[www.facebook.com/Nanaimo.Greens/events](http://www.facebook.com/Nanaimo.Greens/events)  
**Bring your friends! All ages welcome.**

**Paul and Jess Acoustic Rock Duo**  
 Playing acoustic guitars, Paul and Jess entertain with classic rock music. Bring your comfortable shoes as this music is very danceable! Check out Paul and Jess on youtube at <http://www.youtube.com/user/rainshoweroverme>

**Ian Gartshore**, Candidate for Nanaimo  
**Mayo McDonough**, Candidate for Nanaimo—North Cowichan

Authorized by Kurt Fisher, Financial Agent, 250-713-9800 and R. Ferguson, Financial Agent 250-524-6991

### Getting to Know You

Here is a fun way to get to know one another a little better. During the month of May, let's post a picture of ourselves as babies or children on the strata office window. At the end of the month, the person who can identify who the most people are wins.

submitted by Sharon



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