



Issue Fifteen

The Bloomin' News



October 2012



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Pacific Gardens 3rd Annual 'Occupancy' Celebration



Our annual celebration for the permit to occupy at Pacific Gardens occurred September 21 as the summer turned into fall on the Equinox.

We hoped the weather would hold so we could all gather around our newly built fire pit to cook hotdogs and marshmallows and the skies blessed us with no rain on this auspicious day.

This was a great party with many people from our cohousing showing up to partake including our newly arrived family from Alberta, so we all had a chance to eat, drink and be merry with shared food, good conversation, games and a cake with all the candles blown out by the kids as we sang our Happy Anniversary Song.

Comments made by Communitarians

Maria, "The party really felt like it was a family party where parents were really engaging with their kids, cooking food with them, talking with them and I got a real sense of parent/child togetherness"

Ron, "It was a great place to have conversations and exchanges of ideas about ways to support the 'green' movement to make a better world community"

Mia, "Those kids had so much fun playing 'throw the flag'...we are all puffed out including the parents who played and I of all people couldn't even find my flag, and I taught the game"

Tara, "My new roommate was completely 'blissed out' by the multigenerational game playing. He thought it was fantastic to see adults and kids alike playing together"

Guest Room Contest

Everybody is welcome to submit their best idea for a name for 'name the guest rooms' contest. Sheets are posted on the office window....

If you think of a good name write it on the sheet for the North and South Guest Rooms, and once finished we will hang a voting sheet in the dining room for everybody to cast a vote for the best names for our rooms!

The winner gets to stay for a free night in the room, and has breakfast served to them!

The contest ends on October 15 and the winners will be announced on Halloween night hopefully!

submitted by Roz

Welcome

Please welcome four new residents this month:

Charles Andrews in 201

Tyler Walker in 308

Ehsan Arjmand in 207

Liu Xiho Su (Andre) in 304

Recycling Celebration

Recycling Week is October 15 to 21 here in BC. We need to celebrate. It is wonderful to have such an earth friendly week.

We will have a movie night here at Pacific Gardens, Friday October 19th in the dining room. Recycle movies (for all ages) and more. Home baked goodies, popcorn, and drinks will be served with joy.

Come join us.

submitted by Gloria



Roz, "I am so glad Myriam helped me decorate our anniversary cake and Michael and I served it and Mia got the plates out to serve it on cause we shared it at the fire pit. This cake was a four man operation. Community eh!"

And last but not least, our gratitude theme this year is about being grateful that we live in this country without war, and particularly, living on our piece of the rock called Pacific Gardens Cohousing, and we are thankful for the bountiful harvest to share from our greater neighbourhood.

It really felt like all people around the fire were happy to be there sharing their stories and getting to know each other better. It was a really lovely way to have an anniversary celebration, and we send greetings and well wishes to all of the folks who have lived and celebrated with us in years gone by...you are in our hearts.

Thanks everybody and Happy Anniversary to us at Pacific Gardens!

submitted by Roz

Community Circle Oct 23

The CLC committee will host a community circle on Tuesday Oct 23, at 7:00 pm in the dining room. A community circle is a place to share what is in our hearts and listen with increased compassion.

Here is what one group uses as its circle guidelines:

"We value our time together and respect each of us here. We share and we are silent to allow the sharing of others. We speak from our hearts and for ourselves only, without needing to respond or give advice. Sharing is an opportunity rather than an obligation, and a gift to the group. We hold our sharings in confidence within our circle."

Everyone is welcome.

submitted by Sharon

Show Your Talent

Come have fun and show your talent, Tuesday Oct 2
5:30 - 7:00 in the dining hall
Signup sheet on Strata office window - there is still a space for you!

Questions? see Soma

Harvest Time



Kaj, Maria, Osha and Rylan spent a day under the pear trees.

Maria reports: The boys ran around and collected the ones that fell, they ate what they could and threw their cores over the fence for the deer. Kaj and I worked together to collect as many as we could. As both of us are a little scared of heights we decided to leave the higher up ones for Pacific Garden's more nimble little squirrels. It was a fun morning of harvesting in the beautiful warm Fall sun.

We have all been enjoying an abundance of pears, apples, blackberries and tomatoes.

Recycling Contest Question Comments

Thank you for all your thoughtful comments and replies.

What gets in your way to recycle?

- the recycling adds clutter to the house
- short of time and so I just put everything into the garbage
- there are already too many books on the book exchange shelves so there is no room for some that I might want to put there

What could the recycle team do to help you recycle more?

- do home pickup
- more guidelines about what should go in the free cycle or recycle or garbage
- post phone numbers of organizations that will take items away

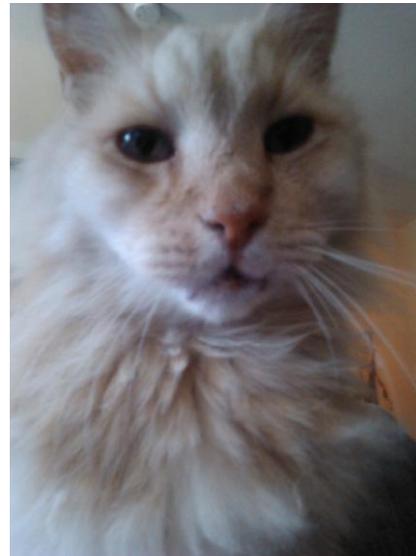
Other comments:

- the "free shelves" should have standards posted eg: tennis rackets with broken strings or handles, clothes that are stained or torn need to go in the garbage.
- a big item left on/at the free shelves should be labelled with the name of the person who has left it. If the item is not taken within two weeks then the owner is responsible for the disposal of that item.
- items such as toasters, vacuums, tents etc need to be labelled with whether they are in good working order or not.

Your Team has decided:

- when people are moving in or out, we will give them clear plastic bags to put all their recycling in. We will do all the sorting for them, as this can be an overwhelming period in one's life.
 - if someone is unable to take their recycling away they can phone us and we will do it for them (home pickup).
- submitted by Gloria

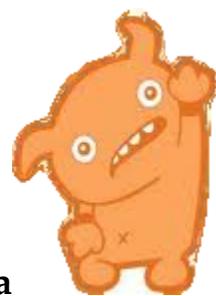
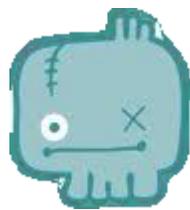
Farewell Capi



Here's to Capi, the coolest cat in the hood...or is that on the hood!

Here is a story 'bout a cat we have all grown to love,
Who'd sit on our cars for warmth and purr like turtle doves.
He had deep green eyes that penetrated right into your soul
With orange and scruffy fur that kept him warm on his patrol
He had been feelin' kinda poorly, so on a Sunday afternoon
His Mamma Shawna took him in her arms, a welcome warm cocoon,
She took him pickin' blackberries on that warm and sunny day
When she whispered something to him..... and this she did say,
I love you Darlin' Capi and I know you need to go,
I send you with my blessings and I know you'll soon be home
I give you my permission on this warm and sunny day,
I love you darlin' Capi, and my lovin' heart will play
The sweetest tunes we sang together with you in my life,
May angels greet you now and sing to us good night.....

Love and god speed Capi boy!
submitted by Roz



It's going to be a Monster Mash

Joel turns six on October 6th. Join us for an afternoon of games, monster crafts and snacks.

We will be partying in the Dining Hall at one o'clock.

There is no need to bring a gift. You can bring empty egg cartons or just your scary self!

Just RSVP when you see me so I can have an idea for snacks and cake. Or you can call/email.

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