



Issue Four

# The Bloomin' News



November 2011

## Unsung Heroes

Hooray for our talented facilitation team. They support our community by using their considerable skills to facilitate discussion and decision making at all our community meetings. This takes much more work than many of us see and we thank them for this gift to PGCC.

Thanks to everyone who helps clean the kitchen and dining room after our potluck dinners! Many hands make light work.

Have you heard? Shawna has stepped up to revamp the Happy Kids Committee! This is great news because now the needs of the children and families will be put front and center. Thank you Shawna!

## Halloween Event Popular with Adults and Children



All Hallows Eve 2011

I thoroughly enjoyed the bewitching hour this evening with all the little children and a few dedicated parents. I don't know who enjoyed it the most, the children or me. As I watched I knew that memories were being made that will stay with them for a lifetime. It's a little early for baby May to remember her first Halloween but she looked the part all dressed up in the little orange suit. She looked like a Bumble Bee to me. Absolutely darling! Some of the children were old pros at the trick and treating but for others it was the first experience and they were wide eyed in wonder.

A big thank you on behalf of the children and I to Shawna for planning this Halloween event for the children of Pacific Gardens. Eileen

## WANTED:

A small to medium sized porringer(doublesaucepan). Willing to buy, but would graciously receive as a gift. Also looking for a battery operated Dust Buster.  
David Weston  
250 591 8834. Apt. 301.

## Pacific Gardens Occupies Nanaimo

Many community members have been following the Occupy Wall Street and Occupy Nanaimo events closely. Some community members have been engaged in activities at Occupy Nanaimo , a few on a daily basis. What does Occupy Nanaimo mean to you?

Sharon:

I was struggling to be able to explain what the protest was accomplishing until I saw a young adult post this on Facebook. He was able to articulate what I was thinking.

"People ask what the Occupy Movement is actually accomplishing. 1) Awareness and agreement that there are many SERIOUS problems in our current way of life. 2) Empowerment

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### CLC News

John has stepped down as chair of the collaborative living committee. John has served the committee well and is going to continue helping the committee in other ways. The next time you see John in the halls, take a minute to thank him for all his past work.

Sharon has "volunteered" to take his place.

The CLC committee is working on: revising the orientation process for new residents, creating a new resource for the community called the "booking book", the idea of a rights and responsibilities document, and conflict resolution strategies.

submitted by Sharon

### Cohousing 101

From the Mary Mike and Associates Realty website: "Cohousing communities are models for sustainable living and community design. These small-scale neighborhoods generally abide by the principle of 'using less' and 'sharing more.' Values include resource conservation, energy-efficiency, increased health of residents, and a cohesive social community."

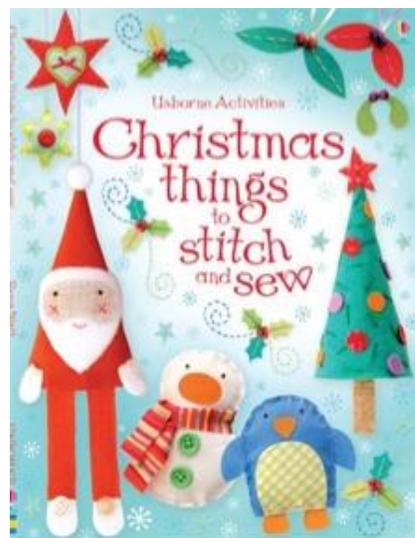
Do you, your committee or task force have information that you'd like everyone to know about? This space could be yours to spread the word next month.

of the people. Everyone involved is learning how to communicate, listen, organize, cooperate, love, respect, critically think, take initiative, take responsibility, and so much more. This movement is facilitating a collective shift in consciousness towards a far healthier population. We are waking up, becoming educated, and becoming ONE. 3) We are pressuring and threatening the current systems with a tactic they can't defend against: peaceful, non-hierarchical organization and cooperation. And those in power are displaying their insecurities to the world. 4) we are slowly realizing that the countless problems that grip our world have roots deeply embedded in the socio-economic system. 5) We are problem-solving, generating ideas, and beginning to see a vague yet universal purpose that will lead to a series of powerful collective actions to change the world."

Ben Dunsmuir

### Community Crafting Afternoon and Potluck

Adults and children alike are encouraged to attend.



I am hosting a 'stars, snowmen and penguins' craft from 2:00 - 4:00 Saturday, November 19th, and suggest an early potluck at 5:00. The craft will consist of cutting, stitching and stuffing stars, snowmen and penguins which can then be taken home or left to decorate the Commons! There will be fabric/clothes to repurpose and stuffing available for everyone, but please feel free to drop donations off at Shawna's door (suite 203) anytime before the 19th, or bring things with you on crafting day!! We need the following: fabric/clothes of Xmas colors/theme or other fabric/clothes of interest or unique patterns, textures, etc... buttons, ribbon, stuffing, embroidery floss, large needles, fabric glue, and anything else you think would be fun to create with!!! I ask that all children be accompanied by their parents or designated adults, and also encourage even those without children to attend.

There will be a potluck to follow at 5:00. I thought the early potluck time would be a nice change for the children, and might allow for a winter movie after dinner? If someone has a movie we would all enjoy and would like to coordinate that side of things, please contact Shawna.