



PACIFIC GARDENS
COHOUSING COMMUNITY
NEWSLETTER

The Bloomin' News

FALL MINI EDITION
SUMMER SOLSTICE TO
FALL EQUINOX 2016

Happy Seven Years!

This September is the 7th anniversary of our Pacific Gardens Cohousing Community. To celebrate this auspicious event, community members gathered for a pancake breakfast on Saturday September 17. Mia and Susana showed us how seven is actually quite a significant number for us - our address is 347 Seventh (which is 3 sevens if you add the 3+4) and we are on 4.37 acres (which also adds up to 2 more sevens). Here's to a lucky seventh year!



To add to this year's 7th anniversary celebration, we will be laying to rest, in love and honor, our main cofounder, David Weston. Community members who knew David will be having a memorial tree planting on our property, with some of his ashes, on Saturday September 24th at 1230. Susana will then be hanging a plaque he gave us, in memory. For more about David, see page 4.

Submitted by Roz and Susana, Photos by Kari



Apple Pickin' Party



A sunny Sunday afternoon in September was the perfect day to pick apples from PGCC's trees. John and Lauren, Steph and Chris, Bill and Sharon, Joni and Vero and Elohw and Sunny, and Claire and Thomas all came out to pick fruit for cider making. Methods included picking from standing, from ladders, and lastly, holding a tarp to catch apples loosened by shaking the trees. (Next time, perhaps we should have bike helmets for those holding the tarp!)



John and Lauren brought the apples to a press in Coombs, and all those apples were turned into 152 litres of cider. An added benefit: picking the fallen fruit from the ground for the compost helps reduce food supplies for neighbourhood rodents (see below). Many thanks to John and Lauren for organizing, and to everyone who helped pick. Now time for some cider!

Photos submitted by Lauren



Unwanted Neighbours: Rodents

As discussed at last week's community meeting, rat populations run in cycles, and this has been a particularly bad year for many people in the area, including PGCC. We have been setting traps as well as cleaning up fruit and other food sources that are attracting them to the gardens. Talk to Mia, Bill, or Kari if you find a dead rat. However, the most important thing to do is NOT LET THEM INSIDE! With fall weather on its way, they will be looking for shelter...so please keep exterior doors shut, and be mindful of rat entry points. Thanks to everyone for their patience and determination in this issue, and for those people doing the work of setting and emptying traps. The province has a helpful page on handling a rat problem:

<http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthfiles/hfile37.stm>

Welcome to Pacific Gardens!

Claire and Andrew are excited to be moving into this community with their son **Thomas**. They are interested in lots of different areas, Andrew likes anything to do with boats and enjoys hiking, gardening and tea. Claire has been enjoying growing fruits and vegetables, drawing, and hiking. She also has a keen interest in chocolate. They look forward to getting to know everyone and making new friends.

Yvonne and James

We are a pair of nomads - driven by globalisation - that have lived and worked in almost every continent of the world - excluding South America. We are both refugees from the IT and Telecommunications industry.

Having lived in major cities for all our lives, we are looking to find a community which is not driven by a constant need to purchase the next branded good / follow the next meaningless trend (pokemon anyone?)

We look forward to learning & experiencing your intentional community - as well as adding our contribution and skills to the pool.

And more newcomers of the last three months...

Welcome to **Lisa and Jeff, Conor and Reid**

Welcome **Bill and Carolyn**

Welcome **Stasia and Drew, Taeya, and Zoe**

And welcome back to **Judy!**

WE ARE SO GLAD TO HAVE YOU HERE!



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Every Thursday

Potluck 6 pm

First Monday of the month

Circle Dance 7-9 pm

Saturday September 24

Work Party + Pancakes 9 am

Memorial Tree-Planting 1230 pm

Sunday September 25

BBQ 530 pm

Games Night afterwards

Monday September 26

Community Circle 7 pm

Monday October 3

Community Meeting 630 pm

Monday October 10

Thanksgiving Dinner Details

TBA

Remembering David J. Weston

April 15, 1935–August 10, 2014

*Excerpts from an article by Kim Goldberg
published August 22, 2014*

Longtime social activist and political philosopher David J. Weston passed away earlier this month, on August 10, 2014, at the age of 79. David's involvement in worthy causes for social justice, community building, and economic reform will be missed by many, along with his unmistakable laughter.



David was also a poet, a musician, an educator, and an active Unitarian since the early 1960s. [He] held a Masters of Philosophy in Urban Design (from Oxon). And he was working toward his PhD with his thesis on the feasibility of cohousing in a modern consumer society.

In 1996, David began proposing the idea of a cohousing project for Nanaimo, modeled after similar projects in Denmark, which he had visited in the 1980s. He floated this idea repeatedly to a group of like-minded people gathering at his home for potlucks. After many years of hard work, that dream and vision that was initially advanced by David blossomed into Pacific Gardens Cohousing on Seventh Street. David lived there from 2008 until shortly before his death.

Call for Newsletter Submissions

A community newsletter is only as good as its contributions from the community...so we are looking for your input! **Share something with us anytime before December 10** in time for our Winter edition. Photos, stories, ideas, and miscellany can be sent to sjyeker@gmail.com

Retro to Electro

VINTAGE SWING RETRO REVUE AND DANCE PARTY

A FUNDRAISER FOR THE CRIMSON COAST DANCE SOCIETY AND TWILIGHT RADIO THEATRE

Susana, Roz, Mia, and Chad got all 'dolloed up' in the costumes of the day, [the 40's] and went to hear the radio talk show and hang around the dance hall for the swing bands. We met up with Kathryn who also attended from Pacific Gardens. It was a swell evening for sure!

Mia and I tended the concession and Susana, Chad, and Kathryn attended the show. Anne, also dolled up, was our 'pit boss'. She was kind enough to let us have loads of free time during our shifts to get out on the floor and enjoy the shows too, so Mia and I got to view what was taking place at all events in that evening.

There was a place where you could pay 5 bucks and get your picture taken in a gangster car so several times during the night I attempted to round up the girls cause I thought it would be a good idea to have our picture taken ...3 dames in a car...and sure enough we got a moment in time when we were all in the same place at the same time and it worked...like magic... and Chad took our pictures...Oh what a night!!!...and here we are in the car...the three stooges, lol! Oops I mean gangster goils!

Submitted by Roz



COMMUNITY THEME DINNERS

Is anyone interested in having a community theme dinner this fall? Talk to Kari!

COMPOST REMINDERS

Please **take from the right-hand pile** now to sprinkle on the kitchen scraps you bring to dump in the barrels. The centre pile is now resting...zzzzz.

Avoid putting meats, fats, and bones in the compost - those things attract rodents.

Chop up whole fruits and veggies, and corn cobs too - they break down faster.

Plastic doesn't break down, even stuff labeled "compostable"
Paper makes a good kitchen bucket liner, or bags made from plant cellulose, available at the Green Store and elsewhere.

And lastly, **a big thanks to all of you** for your contributions to the pile.