



SUMMER
SOLSTICE
2017

The Bloomin' News

PACIFIC GARDENS
COHOUSING COMMUNITY
NEWSLETTER

It's truly bloomin' at the Bloomin' News! Thanks to Carolyn F., Claire, and Catherine for all of their beautiful flowers photos.

The Gardens of "Pacific Gardens"

Things are livening up all over the gardens and grounds! After the frigid winter and slow spring, there appears to be life stirring in all beings, creatures and plants.

The dogwood blossoms were magnificent, the yellow iris along the lower slope are welcoming and on the far side south, the compost transforms into sweet soil.

Work on the slope entails pulling tufts of grass to uncover lupine and euonymous, and catching the choking morning glory in the act. Four lilacs were newly planted, two on each end of the slope. Mia is vigilant with watering and her plantings of feather reed grass brighten up that portion of the garden. Kari and Susana are very helpful with plant identification. And we may have new gardening recruits for the grounds as well! All are welcome!

The back garden area is alive with children jumping, riding, running and for a few, experimenting with compost! The buzzing of insects is no competition for the sound of wild weed whacking and mowing machines. There have already been a few evening bonfires.

I am optimistic that with a half dozen or so other weeders out there, maybe in pairs to lighten the load and get to know each other, that the gardens and grounds greenspace can be even lovelier!

Submitted by Carolyn F.



Our Larger Neighbourhood

We've created a wonderful community here at Pacific Gardens, but we are also part of a larger community, and what happens there affects us and the quality of life in our neighbourhood.

Pacific Gardens is in the area covered by the Harewood Community Association, and close to the boundary of the South End Community Association, just below the railway tracks on Seventh Street.

I've been on the executive of SECA for three years, and with other exec members, have worked on such issues as better transit, more sidewalks, development of the downtown waterfront, and the effects of homelessness and drug addiction on our neighbourhood.

As a SECA member, I've gone to council and committee meetings, read reports and plans, attended Open Houses, participated in planning consultations, and in the process, learned a great deal about how our city works - or doesn't.

In recent months, it mostly doesn't. And that's why I've joined OurNanaimo, a group of Nanaimo citizens that wants to raise the bar when it comes to the quality of candidates for city council.

We believe we can – and must - do better. We want to educate the public about what's involved in being a city councillor, what skills are required to be effective, and provide information to help voters decide who will be the best candidates for council in 2018.

One of our first actions has been to give a list of questions to the 13 candidates running for council in the by-election July 8th, focusing on planning, finances, governance, economic development and tourism, social issues, and their community contributions.

We've posted the answers of the 10 candidates who responded, plus their photos and bios, on our website, OurNanaimo.com. I would urge you to take a look, and then go vote in the advance polls June 28th and July 5th, or on election day, July 8th.

You can make a difference!

Submitted by Kathryn Hazel, #210

Call for Newsletter Submissions

A big thank you to everyone who contributed stories, photos, and ideas to this season's newsletter! The fall edition is due out in September, so remember to save your photos and stories about life at Pacific Gardens between now and then. You can email them to Stephanie at sjyeker@gmail.com anytime before September 18.

A Poem by Gary Snyder, submitted by Carolyn F.

The rising hills, the slopes,
of statistics
lie before us.
The steep climb
of everything, going up,
up, as we all
go down.

In the next century
or the one beyond that,
they say,
are valley, pastures,
we can meet there in peace
if we make it.

To climb these coming crests
one word to you,
to you and your children:
stay together
learn the flowers
go light.



Welcome to Pacific Gardens!

Introducing the de Souza's!

Bruce - a handsome young lad of almost 2, enjoys long walks anywhere and scratches under the chin anytime. (For a picture of Bruce, see the last page!)

Fred - you would have to be hard pressed to not have met Fred yet as he's out in the garden often or doing some puttering of one sort or another. A (temporarily) retired social worker, he is learning to garden on the West Coast, having spent the last few decades on the prairies. He loves being around people and is involved with Hospice and Habitat for Humanity.

Shari - is a little harder to run into as she prefers to be playing with her various crafting mediums, anything from paper to wool to soap making. Formerly a shoemaker, bookkeeper and catering chef/baker she's looking forward to trying to implement community meals for all her cohousing neighbours soon.

A fond farewell...

We want to thank everyone for making our time here so special. It has been a really great year for our family in so many ways and we will miss our friends and living in the wonderful community here. We wish you the very best for your continued journey together.

- Claire, Andrew, and Thomas

Please join Andrew, Claire and Thomas for a farewell potluck tea party at 3 pm on Monday, July 3!



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Every Tuesday

Tea, North Atrium 4 pm

Every Thursday

Potluck 6 pm

Every Saturday

Coffee, Centre Atrium 11 am

Monday, July 10

Community Meeting 630-830 pm

Monday, August 14

Community Meeting 630-830 pm

Monday, September 11

Community Meeting 630-830 pm

Name That Flower

by Carolyn F.



Above: *Centaurea triumfettii*
AKA Squarrose Knapweed



Above: Yellow Iris
Below: White Rose of Rugosa



Left and below:
Two mystery plants for readers to identify!





Carolyn and Bill empty some beautiful, rich compost out of our new composter.

Just don't forget to cut your food scraps up into small pieces - more surface area means faster decomposition!

Sunny helping out in Vero and Joni's garden last summer.

If anyone is interested in helping in their garden this year, Vero would love to share the work and share the abundant produce with you!



Even on hot summer days, the Chase River offers a cool walk any time of the day!



Neighbouring



Left: Congratulations to Bruce on his second place ribbon for the best pride costume at the Nanaimo Pride Pet Parade! **Right:** Big thanks to everyone who made Elohw's sixth birthday party such a fun time, complete with treasure hunt and lots of food!

Below left: Hannah's Art Wall garnered much praise, and all her paintings were sold to local art collectors. **Below right:** Zoe and Willa enjoy a sunny afternoon in the backyard.

