



the blooming news  
summer solstice 2023



Life is good

but its better in  
cohousing



special thanks to the  
contributors: Alicia, Dan,  
Frances. Glen, Karen, Jim,  
Julia, Mia, Sinjin, Yuki, Little Bobby, and to veiwers like you.

I've been exploring "Communities Magazine" again. Issue 197, Winter 2022, was particularly interesting. It was coming out of COVID 19 pandemic after a year of lock down, when many of the articles were written. The Issue was called the Long Haul, and it celebrated the Fiftieth Anniversary of Communities Magazine.

Personals Human beings concerned about planet. How to be human together in small enough groupings. to mean anything to each other large enough to survive. Women and Men respecting personhood sharing insights urban, rural touching of the universe prepared to build political, social, economic, ethical models toward spiritual growth. Please, make contact

Will it happen to us? This article explores the process of many communities over 20 years to see how they change and evolve. They have noticed a trend away from idealistic consensus decision-making where you share resources and decisions as a community towards an 'every individual for themselves approach'. And as that happens, what is special seeps away and they don't want to live there anymore. It happened in many countries, probably starting with the Kibbutz movement in Israel. Israel has one experiment with a community that is deliberately planning to eventually die when everyone gets too old. This assumes they will not pass the community on to their kids because they probably wouldn't stay anyway. They have their own lives to live.

Colin Doyle described the characteristics he found in a particular community that held him there for 11 years (that was a long time.). He had done his research and knew what he was joining. He had a good background for success. He found his greatest strength was his equanimity and cool head under pressure. An attitude that understands that disagreement, even conflict, is not the end of the world. Stay steady and dependable and solutions will be found. Find a good project that interests you, people you respect, and a place you love to be. It helped to be employed on the property. That way he stayed immersed in the all day. He noticed people who went to work in town didn't have the same commitment and attachment as he did. Community is a marathon, not a sprint. It is important to choose how to commit your time. Overworking

is deadly. He found it important to stay out of resentment after working too hard. Healthy communication with self and others and a healthy self/group balance will make all the difference.

Daniel Brown reflects on fifty years of community. He puts the beginnings in context: hippies; the baby boom coming of age; Woodstock love and peace; The Chicago police riot of 1968 and the Kent State Massacre: “By the summer of 1970 I was convinced that the United States was about to implode into several civil wars: Black against white; young vs old; pro-war and pro-peace, the mainstream set against the counterculture.” [Does it remind anyone of today?] Brown joined a community making a lifetime commitment to contribute personal belongings and “save the world by demonstrating an example of pure loving brotherhood.” Brown reported that, upon reflection, all the things they were working against were all alive and well in their community. The challenge was always to inspire leadership (top down or shared) without creating a hierarchy. Will we make every voice equal, or will we slide back into patriarchal decision patterns? Then he pointed out that a successful community had to learn to deal with dysfunctional behaviour. What kind of community they were made an impression – positive or negative -- on the nearby town where they wanted to do business.

Zegg (developed by Dieter Duhm,) dreamed of a space where people could shed social, familial, and personal patterns, enabling themselves to have new experiences and possibly heal. They tried to align themselves with a life of peace and connectedness. Today they have the challenge of transitioning from a person-led community to a democracy. Shared leadership. They battle community entropy, falling back into patterns of the main society toward privatization and separation.

I am reminded of Yogi Berra’s famous saying “It’s déjà vu all over again.”

from Frances



every age is precious





Elke Wind, a well-known local habitat biologist will be giving a presentation on wildlife habitat restoration and preservation for us, probably in the late summer. It will be interesting for sure and we're hoping that most of the community will be able to attend.

Elke reviewed our natural wildlife area (Zone 3) to assess how we're doing with respect to providing a healthy ecosystem for wildlife. Her comments were generally positive but she also had some constructive suggestions which we will follow up on.

from Jim





This season set aside two days to ponder and celebrate our parents, the folks we were raised by, and many others who filled part of that role in our lives. It really does take more than two adults to bring a child to adulthood, and I am ever grateful for the many who have been part of my growth, my learning, and of course, my testing. There truly was a village that raised me, which does not diminish the love and work my parents put into a long haul but added new vistas to the journey.

As a parent now, I am more grateful for those who are in my children's lives as guides, mentors, sounding boards, cheerleaders, and supporters. I am deeply grateful for those who continue to navigate their relationship with our ever-changing youth. Here's to more celebrations and joy in deepening relationships.

from Julia



I would like to introduce my new sustainable toothbrush [Nada](#). I have been using it for about 4 months.

It has an aluminum handle with "plug-in" plastic extensions with soft bristles that my teeth just love! The best thing about my new toothbrush is that the handle lasts forever (almost) and the rest is completely recyclable. It comes with four brushes that you exchange every 3 months (you can even request an email reminder) and return in a postage paid envelope at the end of the year.

If you are interested in a new study on the most environmentally sustainable toothbrush, check this out [here](#).

If you consider that billions of toothbrushes end up in our landfills and oceans each year, finding an alternative to disposable toothbrushes seems like a good idea.

from Glen



every moment is precious





I strive to make my aging journey as colorful, as natural, and as elegant as possible. One possible way is to live the magic of the family like atmosphere of PG Cohousing, of course. Another way is to welcome the interconnected bonds of family ties. My twin daughters, Vanya and Britta, will soon move closer to "Mother Hen Mia." Vanya, the eldest by 8 minutes, will settle on Gabriola with her family. Britta and family will settle in Cedar.

My main reason for leaving a lovely rural community was practical. I wanted easier access to my families living in Vancouver. The last 14 years, since my move to Nanaimo, I have taken the ferry and crossed the Salish sea 180 times there and 180 times back again. Lots of ferry stories to share. For hours and hours I traveled by bus all over Vancouver.

Happiness I know and agree is an inside job. That said, falling in love, pregnancy, giving birth five times, hours of breastfeeding, motherhood, and raising my brood opened my heart with incredible happiness and delight.

Even now, as a Dutch Canadian matriarch with 5 bright and loving-kindness inlaws, I marvel how the families navigate their busy lives as teams working together. The parents create the gentlest atmosphere for their children, known as the modern gentle parent movement. I grow and blossom around this stimulating hustle and bustle energy of the next generation and the numerous grandchildren.

In the back of my "worry about old age creeping up" mind was an unease as to how long I could go on, tripping across ferryboats. Now with this new family arrival, I can relax a bit as two more families will live nearby. They will enrich my life and the lives of the other Jongkinds here as sisters, sister in-laws, and as aunties. To close this note I would like to say I feel so grateful to have them put out roots here. I can do quick little visits without all the planning and traveling. I am such a lucky duck. My golden years are so very full, so very rich. My cherished families feed my mama heart, aging and all.

from Mia

Triangle of Sadness 2022

Rating out of 5 stars: ★★★★★

Watched May 31, 2023

The great reversal.

What started out as a rather mundane series of vignettes on social awkwardness soon picked up momentum on a yacht filled with the rich and famous. As if the pain suffered from social embarrassment is the worst kind of suffering. Such is life for the "privileged" among us. Obviously, this story needed a sturdy kick in the ass wake up call to introduce a serious dose of reality.

The captain's dinner and its wild aftermath was exactly what was needed.

Accolades deserved all around for this highly creative way of challenging the social and economic inequality that plagues our planet.

From one of the most provocative and talented Swedish filmmakers of the last decade.

Available for viewing on Amazon Prime Video, free for subscribers.

from Glen



and flowers take many forms

The Rathe Trevor  
beach log that  
taught me a few  
lessons about  
vulnerabilty this  
year

from Mia





The end of Spring is also the end of the school year and there are many events to show off the exceptional growth our youth have done. This results in a plethora of concerts, showcases, recitals, and performances. It is always a bit tricky to see them all and bask in the talent. We are blessed to have many dancers, musicians, and dramatic actors in our community, pursuing the arts and sharing their skills. I hope you managed to take in a play, a concert, or a show! I have enjoyed every single one I managed to attend. (I heard that even our adults continue to build shows and concerts and performances. What a delight!)

from Julia



What I learned during my spring vacation

by Little Bobby Vat der Hecke, Bay view Elementary School,  
3rd Grade

I learned a lot during my spring vacation because I got to go all the way to Japan with my special somebody, Yuki, who happens to be from there. Japan is its own country, just like Italy or Quebec. It is made up of islands. The main island is called Honshu and we also got to go to Hokkaido, which is where you see those monkeys with snow on them just sitting there in the steaming water only we didn't get to see any. Honshu is about as big as Utah which isn't even a island but does have a lot of Mormons and Hokkaido is just a little bit bigger than New Brunswick, information that's probably only interesting to Susie Jenkins' dad who keeps score of our little league soccer team or Sister Doloretta who teaches geography to the middle schoolers and is really mean and drinks beers sometimes. But anyway, we ate all sorts of different things that my special somebody, Yuki, really likes and me too. A lot of it I'd never seen before but I was good and just shut my eyes and hoped for the best. It usually went really good though except for that time that my mom said not to mention so I won't other than to say that it's not easy having food poisoning in a moving train with those tiny washrooms and I mean tiny when you're kinda for your size. It was really cool though because in Japan it seems like everyone speaks Japanese really good. My special somebody Yuki does too so she could talk with them and get directions and stuff and buy our train tickets while I just sat there like a big dumb nut. Even so, my special somebody, Yuki, never got mad at me for being kind of a bone head other than those times where she

wanted to push me in front of a moving train. The trains are super cool and go really fast and everywhere and probably would have squished me like a bug but that's okay because my special somebody Yuki never pushed me and we both felt that was a good thing, me especially. We met a lot of really nice people and I got to say cool things to them like 'thank you' and 'that was delicious' and 'you're welcome' which kinda sounds like 'don't touch my moustache' only it was in their language. But I never would say ka-why or ko-why (I'm not sure about the spelling but that's how it sounds) because one time I called a woman's baby ko-why when I should have said ka-why. That's when my special friend, Yuki, told me that ka-why means cute but kowhy means scary, or is it the other way around. It was also one of the times I didn't get pushed in front of a moving train but probably should have. Anyway, we went all over the place and saw pretty mountains and rivers and pretty pictures and cool stuff in the streets and really old places too like you only hear about but never get to see with your own eyes and we got to soak like those monkeys only without any snow. And we walked and we talked and we laughed and my special somebody Yuki, me too, had a really good time which made both of us really happy. And you know what? People over there kinda act like people over here only they eat with little sticks when they eat and they never seem to sneeze. That might be the coolest thing I learned during my spring vacation, other than it's pretty cool to go to places and see all sorts of things but it's nice to come back home to be with so many really nice people right here where I live which is called cohousing and eat hot dogs that don't taste weird. And I also got to see what a special somebody Yuki is even though I always knew it but didn't know it as much as I do now.