

Glenora's Saga

And other stories

summer newsletter 2008

THE
ITA WEGMAN
ASSOCIATION

of British Columbia for Curative Education And Social Therapy



The lama's lament:

Another newsletter, another spring.
The same wet coast weather, the same hay. Anyways, I, again, will try to find some tidbits of information to lighten the mood.

It appears I have become digital and virtualized. The next thing will be that everybody will believe this is actually not me who is writing this but something virtual as well. Where is this going...

So it has proven difficult to focus.
Another batch of pigs, although I

Expect them to be less meddlesome than those pigs we had a few months back, and the sheep are fonder of these new pigs than the old. The yard has become a bit smaller. The humans were talking about mill sheds and clean farm yards again. I guess they know best.

I look forward to have some nice fresh grass in the fields.

Lots of new faces again. Why those humans leave their home and yard behind, I'll never understand.

Perhaps the grass here is greener on our side of the wet coast.

I keep hearing noises east ward. That must be those new buildings. I'm sure someone will write a long story about those in this newsletter.

Ahh they are breaking another bale of hay, better check that out... Excuse me
Munch munch munch munch

Yours truly

Saga, the lama



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Garden report

2007-2008

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Last year we experienced the bounty of the beans, they were really abundant, and produced for a long time. Also cauliflower and broccoli did well. End of July the garlic was harvested, and that gave us a lot of handwork with curing, cutting and peeling, and 4000 cloves went inn again in October.

The potatoes did well, and we had 3000 lbs, and they were all sorted in one morning with a great potato-team. Carrots did also good with well over 3000lbs.

We had a little grain harvest, and the soil seemed really to benefit, with better structure, less weeds and lot more worms.

To build up the soil we use compost-manure and cover crops, like rye, and that is worked inn in spring. Mulching is also an option and it all helps the soil keeping moisture longer into the summer.

Nitrogen is released in small amounts, which the plants use during the growing season.

We have made the biodynamic preparations; the humus-preparations was stirred and spread out on the field's end of April, mostly by the children, thank you.

The back garden is trimmed and extended and a greenhouse being build. We have prepared the soil for an orchard, We only need 1.000 \$ to buy 40 fruit trees! In another 5 years we would experience another bounty of the living and the growing. Our own apples!!!

As promised last year I have worked out a 5-year rotation-plan,

And as you would probably know, my family and I are heading back to Denmark again in July.

It was great working in your garden, and thank you for your kindness and companionship.

We became part.

Sincerely
Hans Lyngdorf Knaehus
and family, Grete,
Anna and Astrid



The three c's

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The Three C's

(co-worker/companion chronicles)



With Spring comes growth and change, this year is no exception.

Katrin is the proud mother of baby Maya, a lovely little girl with soft

brown hair and big brown eyes. She is now sleeping through the night and plays a great deal during the day, but she is still a bit shy when out in the world. To clarify, Maya is one of eight puppies born to Shasta on March 8th. They all went to good homes, including little Bryn (who doesn't look anything like her sister but is just as cute) to the Van Rijns at Feirefis house. The puppies have a beautiful, large pen in the front garden area to sleep and play in. One day Maya will become the farm dog greeting visitors just like Rocky did for so many years. Sadly Rocky passed away in February, but he lived a good, long life, was loved by many and seemed to know it was time to say goodbye.

Katrin traveled to Williams Lake to visit Anja and Kip, this was her birthday present. They went tobogganing and cross-country skiing

And just enjoyed catching up on all the news.

We welcomed Harry and Li Wong and their three children in January. Li could only stay one month, but Harry has been helping on the farm and cooking some delicious meals while the children attend the Waldorf school and enjoy

We are all sad to say farewell to Alex Witzes who joined us in July 2007. Alex embraced community life, taking Rocky and Jana under her very capable wings, as well as working with other companions and in workshops. We are grateful to her for her dependability and initiative. With the help of others, including Katherine who painted beautiful murals, Alex transformed the T.V. room downstairs, as well as leaving a legacy of a photo history of Glenora Farm.

Two other wonderful young co-workers will be leaving soon, although there is a plot afoot to hide their passports. Lena will be traveling to Quebec for two weeks before she returns to Switzerland where she will pursue her studies in social care. Raphaela will leave mid-August but before that she too will have a holiday with her Mother and sister. Upon her

return to Germany Raphaela will be attending art school. Lena and Rafaela have been living at Feirefis where they have been reliable, fun co-workers for Tina and Kristy and will be truly missed by everyone. They have also been invaluable helping Ann in the weavery. If passports are missing Ann will be the first suspect!

Julian's father traveled from Italy and his sister from Seattle so the three could have a nice visit and see a bit of the area. The weather wasn't great but they had a good time anyway and it was nice for all of us to meet some more members of Julian's family.

In January we welcomed Christopher Wendel into the day program. Chris lives with his parents and foster brother in Cobble Hill, but will be moving here when the first new house is finished. He has found his niche working in the herb workshop, but also is part of the estate crew and the gardeners.

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The three c's (continued)

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Craig Jones, who joined us in October, was in his first play at Easter and even though he was a wee bit nervous, he enjoyed the experience very much. Craig cooks with Andrew Konig one day a week, immensely enjoys weaving and is part of the estate crew.

Aiden Fischer comes to us on a part-time basis, as he spends some of his time in North Vancouver in the Cascadia program. Aiden is a very experienced hand bell musician so it is great he can join us, even if not full time. Aiden also has a new baby brother and we congratulate his father Eric Gordon and step-mother Shauna Devlin.

Mathew is still busy building pathways from the mill sawdust, but he is grateful for the



and we are all looking forward to meeting him.

help from others when they can. These lovely paths certainly enhance the beauty of the property and we are truly grateful to everyone who lends a hand. Mathew's father will be visiting the farm for the first time in June

Lisa and Mathew have started a business propagating house plants for sale. They will soon have some ready to sell, hopefully at the new Sunday market at Glenora Corners.



Lisa also had a trip in March to visit her family, particularly enjoying time with her baby nephew.

Andrew is knitting and selling soft, woolen scarves as his latest project. They are for sale at the store. He is also working in the café on Thursdays so if you have a craving for a delicious cappuccino or espresso, Andrew is the man.

Kristy has a new nephew whom she gets to visit quite often. She spent a week with her family in their new house at Easter when she was able to hold the baby and help with his care. This was a wonderful experience for Kristy.

Recently Faith, Mathew and

Andrew attended the Special Olympics banquet at the Silver Bridge Inn. Faith received an award for swimming and Mathew won a door prize! Operation Track Shoes will be in June at UVic with Mathew and Andrew attending again this year.

By the time you read this Tara will have experienced two exciting events. Tara adores dogs and will be attending the Vancouver Island Dog Fanciers Show in Saanich, a very large and well known event. As a birthday present Tara's friend Carolyn will be taking her to see Cirque de Soleil in Victoria on May 31st. Of course she continues to weave beautifully; Tara's most recent project is shawls which are proving to be very popular.

Tina traveled to Tofino with some of the co-workers from Feirefis and even though it was a wet day she certainly enjoyed herself. She has also attended several concerts in the past few months, one of her favorite pastimes.

Linda

Letter from Harry

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Dear Friends

I would like to thank all of you in the community before we leave for China on June 4. My family came to the Glenora farm two days after Christmas. We planned to stay for one semester and tried to find out if this is a right place for us to work a live for a longer period of time in the future. It has been our wish working and living in a Camphill community since ten years ago, when I met Olaf and I promised that I would come to visit the community one day.

I went back to China from the United State to establish the first Waldorf School four years ago.

My wife and I decided to take a break from the school and bring the children to Canada for a few months. It was really a blessing that Glenora farm community offer us a place to live and work.

I have learned a great deal working with all our friends in the farm. I have never experienced any difficulty and have never had a single hard time or been upset or been angry at anything or anyone since I have been in the community entire period of time.

I have been to a few Camphill communities when I was in New York but I think that Glenora farm community has the perfect balance of the community life and individual life, balance of breathe in and breathe out in many areas. The incredible openness to the change one can easily find the powerful spirit in working life, social life and cultural life in the community.

Our children feel very much home and have settled on the farm. They also enjoy the school very. We all have felt that it is a great treat and a healing for all of us being in the farm for the past months.

Now, I have to say goodbye to friends and go back to work in the school after the terrible earthquake struck in our hometown. The school is still closed and the school is waiting for the government agent to check out the building and the after shock becomes more stable. There are three kindergarten rooms have been damage and need to be rebuild. The office building can't be used anymore. Now, now the office is in one of the classroom. There heaps of work are waiting for me to do, however,

I will carry your good heart and good though with me and hope that we will come back to live and work in the community.

Harry Wong



One of the play structures on the farm devised by Harry

Notes from a backroom –with a view

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June, and the golden valley now wears a silken mantle of green, adorned with bright daisies and the yellow broom, and laced with the delicate purple of grasses in seed. This I see as I walk the back lanes to work, and sitting here at my desk I can now appreciate the world outside, thanks to my new window! It certainly keeps book-keeping more bearable.

Not that there is much concern there! With the (albeit tardy) arrival of summer we are busier than ever. Ice creams are selling like.. er.. hot cakes and Kara in the café can barely keep up with the demand for our signature Glenora stack “fully loaded” sandwiches, cookies, pizza and cheese cake (which, by the way, is about as close to heaven as it is possible to get without living an exemplary life and then dying).

Certainly we have had a couple of set-backs, most notably the simultaneous death and near-death of 3 cooling appliances, and the necessity to replace a fridge. But in spite of these we are expanding and improving all the time. It seems there is always something!

new that comes along, and I really like that feeling of growing. For example, we now have a Sunday market every week. It is still at its first stages, but every other week a group of children set up fundraising stalls at our market. Adola’s initiative of a “children’s house” was in response to the growing group of children that now attend the service at Glenora farm, and whose spiritual welfare she has taken on. The enthusiasm she has ignited in the kids is wonderful indeed, as is their energy about the store on Sundays, what with lemonade, popcorn, drumming, portraiture and cookies. Keep up the good work! And in the mean time I’ll continue to provide the coffee and breakfast sandwiches



Letter from Alex

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Alex has been with us as a co-worker at Glenora for a year. In this letter she looks back at how this year has changed her

When I decided to spend a year in Canada on Glenora Farm I desperately needed a year off from my everyday life in Germany and a clear cut between myself and living in a big city. I wanted a year to start breathing again without the pressure of earning money, to experience new things which would influence my new start back in Germany in a positive way.

I knew already before I came that it wouldn't always be easy for me because a lot of fast changes and different opinions confuse me and I knew that these things happen while living with a lot of people. This community has a lot of people that are very talented in all sorts of things and so I struggled sometimes with a feeling of uselessness. But this community gave me something I never experienced anywhere else and that was the time and freedom to try things out. Without the feeling of pressure I was much more motivated to work and able to relax after a



while. Everything that one does is appreciated and one's borders and dislikes are accepted. That gave me an incredible feeling of freedom! Another amazing "discovery" was the great support of community members to make things possible.

In general it's just unbelievable how every individual is a part of the Community with all talents and weaknesses fully accepted. After a couple of months I've found my "working place" but was still insecure about my place as an individual. So far that had always been a separate thing. But Camphill integrates these two parts and that was another new experience.

Somebody told me that it's not necessarily what one DOES in a community but what you ARE and I had to admit that this is true.

Letter from Alex (cont.)

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After a while I decided to do something about my wishes and planned the things I wanted to do here. Part of that were the re-organization of the T.V. room – my Beaver Run trip and the Photo story of the History of Glenora Farm which I wanted to give as a farewell present.

Jana was of course always part of my self-discovery too. When I experienced Beaver Run I came back with the feeling of coming home. With everything I did here I made the farm and Canada more my home and I started to feel as a part of the community with his own place.

I'm very, very sad to leave but I feel I have to, because there are still a lot of things I want to work out for myself which I don't feel I can right now living in a community. Nevertheless was this year with all it's ups and downs one of my most important steps. Every single individual here is part of my life now and influenced who I am and who I will become.



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I especially have to thank Jana. I learned a great deal from her – for example being patient and receiving kindness and love. I really hope I've given a little bit back to the community of what I have received.

This past year was perfect exactly as it was.....

Much love,

Alex May 18, 2008

Thank you

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A Simple Thank You to.....

Everyone who has made very generous donations this year. We have many projects which have benefited from your gifts. Some of these funds have been used for the following projects:

1. Purchase cedar fencing for the fields
2. Extensive repairs and upgrades to the septic system on the farm
3. Repairs and upgrading of the well at "The Corners"
4. Travel expenses for Marsha Johnson from Camphill Soltane to consult with us about fundraising and development.
5. Ongoing maintenance in the house such as painting, bookshelves and new curtains.
6. A new staircase from the balcony to allow quicker access to the front garden.

We hope to soon purchase new chairs for the attic meeting room, continue with painting and hopefully refinishing the hardwood floors where needed.



We are continuing to collect more funds to add to the hand bells and finally tackle renovating the bunkhouse. Of course we will need to landscape the grounds of the new houses, some have a dream of an outdoor kitchen, a sheep dairy, new workshop buildings.....it is never ending and over time we will reach our goals, so again thank you for your generosity.

This section of the newsletter is about gratitude, not just for monetary help but gifts of time and talent. One person who has been working away steadily on our behalf in his carpentry shop and about the house is Andrew Konig. Thank you Andrew for building our new staircase, beautiful shelving and many other projects throughout the year. You are truly appreciated by us all

Thank you

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Thank you also to Peter Nunn who helps in the gardens, on the estate, staining beams for the new houses and helping with the clay infill in the first house. We are fortunate to have Peter living here and willing to give of his time for the many projects that always need a helping hand. There are many others who come by from time to time to help in the garden, or wherever needed so we thank all of you as well.

Also thanks to Jerry who gave his beautiful painting of Glenora farm



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We would also like to express our thanks to the manager of the local Wall Mart Store. Katrin had the brilliant idea to inquire as to what was going to be the fate of the large greenhouses at their old store site. Lynda called, explained who we are and that we were "desperate" for a greenhouse so would they consider a donation. They did and said yes. So now we have a large greenhouse on the edge of the back garden ready for use this year.

Raise high the roofbeam carpenters

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Sometimes throughout the process of building our new houses the experience has felt like a story by J.D. Salinger. So much care and detail has gone into this project, sometimes stepping into unknown territory, meeting interesting characters along the way, only to emerge near the end with more knowledge and insight.

Those of us directly involved, including the contractor and crew are now seeing the true beauty of the houses emerge. Yes this is an expensive project and we have broken new ground, not with technology, but applying it to a care home. We wanted the houses to be

quiet, clear of toxic glues and paints, energy efficient and beautiful. Now we can see that we will have accomplished what we set out to do. Some of the features incorporated into the first house are cob floors, soundproof rooms, solar heat, clay infill in the exterior walls, geo-thermal heat, special electrical to minimize electric/magnetic energy and of course lots of natural wood floors and ceilings. The laundry facilities and freezers are in a separate building.

We have built a pond for fire protection and the geo-thermal and the services are underground. Over the next couple of months the finishing will take place while the beams are being readied for the second house. Some changes will be made from what we learned with the first house



, but we will maintain the same integrity in our building practices. We plan to have some work parties help with the finishing, such as oiling beams, doors and woodwork.

Students from the Monarch school Montana will be here in July and they will be eager to help out wherever it is needed. From now on we can take over the general clean up at the building site and start thinking of landscaping.

There is much volunteers can do to help out so if you are interested please call the farm office and talk to Lynda or Lawrence 250-715-1559.

The end of:

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We hope you enjoyed this little update

END

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