

glenora's saga

and other stories

christmas newsletter 2008

the
ita wegman
association

of British Columbia for Curative Education And Social Therapy



the lama's lament:

Here we are. I have to spit it out again: One newsletter is done and the other is supposed to be ready. I will munch it over, keep my thoughts trotting on about current affairs so to speak, and choose new color schemes.

It is not easy to do so with these rascal dogs that keep coming out of their run. One jumps over, the other digs under the fence. No respectable lama would

think highly of such practices.

At least some things stay the same: the rains will come, the leaves are falling, and this Christmas thing is coming soon as well, so I thought I would choose icy colors for this newsletter. The cows said that would be so-o cool. They say they know best, related to the ox and all that. I would rather ask an ass, if there was one around so I could get it from the horse's mouth. (No insult meant to any donkey that might read this).

I heard that in some Camphills the people sing to the animals. Maybe I can get them to do that to us while they're feeding hay..... hey..... hay....

Erm, sorry, something came up, that needs my full attention, merry Christmas to you all

Yours truly
saga, the lama

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the new houses

an update

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the first house

Is finally finished and the first people are moving in. It has been a long process, but it has materialized:

Post and beam frame, clay walls, clay floor, in-floor heating that gets it heat from a heat-pump that gets it's warmth from the pond. A sunroom for passive solar heat, electrics designed to reduce electromagnetic effects on the inhabitants.

Now it is up to us to fill it with life. George and Karen have moved in with their family as houseparents. Craig, Chris and Neil live there now as well. When the many last details that go with finishing the house are completed other people will move in as well.



the second house

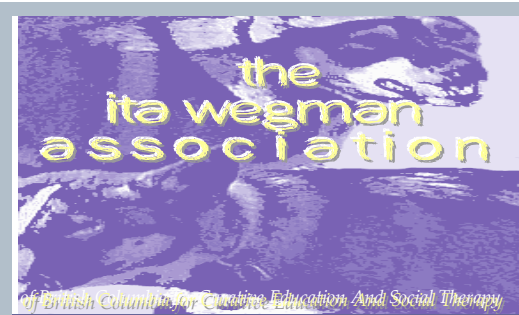
Is now in the process of being built. This time we try it without the clay walls and will add more general light in the house instead of the sunroom.

Variety in the houses will be good, and will help us to understand the pros and cons of our choices. This will help when we start designing house three and four.

Joost

maya's point of view

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hi i am maya, a lady dog

trying to do my best to be Rocky's replacement. I have never met him but he must have been a very old and nice farm dog. My human family was Danish, my mother a Norwegian elkhound and my father a yellow Lab from Glenora. My family and mother have gone back to Denmark and I only have my sister Bryn close to me. I am nine month old and have the body built of my mother just not quite as elegant as her, because I wanted to please my mistress and look a bit like Rocky. She calls me "fatty" because I am too often tempted by the compost pile where I am replacing piggies.

My sister Bryn, who lives in town looks quite different. She is smaller and much slimmer than I am. Bryn is the city slicker and I am truly a farm dog. Bryn and I are very difficult to keep in our doggy run. We love to escape together and although I am pretty good in sticking to my own turf, with my sister I am not strong enough, we run for hours around the neighborhood and explore beyond our boundaries.

As far as I understand I am to be the friendly farm dog keeping the big wild creatures away from the houses. I have smelled bears but haven't met one yet. Instead I bark at men and nobody can figure out why. I like them but maybe it's my gender that can't stop making me known to them. At least the big house knows that no man can sneak in and out of the house.

I have a number of special friends: We have lots of cats, There are four of them around the house. My special one is Sookey, Katherine's kitten. Garfield, Lahna's cat is a very friendly one, he is not the least afraid of me. Even Isis and Mitzi start to accept me.

From my puppy hood on I loved the big farm animals they were never really very impressed with me but accepted me easily. Saga, the Lord of the barnyard, trusts me now that I am not a threat to anyone of his charges. When we had pigs I bathed with them in the creek.



My three little special human friends are Sophia, Rowan and Franziska. When my mistress takes care of them I am allowed to follow to the new house and play with them in the sand.

I even endure when they fill my eyes with sand and poke their little fingers into my ears and nostrils My mistress bought a sled for the girls and she wants me to pull them when it starts snowing. I am looking forward to it. (I have already my thick winter fur and can't wait to cool off in the snow, like Rocky)

Most of the companions like me and I try to be as good as I can when they hold me on the leash. In general I love to be with all the outside workers, especially the trail makers. Its fun to do bush-whacking. My mistress didn't have much time to train me, but the farm life taught me quite a bit and they call me an easy learner.

There are so many different people here with funny accents and speech and I learned to understand them somewhat. Even visitors of my own race I welcome,

just to make sure i won t forget who i am: maya, the glenora farm dog.

when you have lemons...

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andrews lemon cakes and knitting business

I started knitting 6 years ago by knitting a doll then I got inspired by my mother to make lemon cakes. People love them so much that they keep ordering more. That keeps me busy all the time. I sell them at the Christmas fair and I have customers in Vancouver.

Maya the dog and the cats also like lemon cakes. Katrin likes the batter. Last year I used the money from the cakes to buy a kayak. I had lots of fun in the summer with my dad on the water. Now I am saving up for another thing.

Andrew Martin

lemon cake hotline:

If you want a lemon cake, please
phone me:

250-701-0796*

or email me:

Andrew_businessman@hotmail.com

*this special lemon cake hotline is
occasionally also in use for other
matters, but if you ask for business
man Andrew, all will be arranged



the stuff dreams are made off

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Now that Saga the Llama and Maya the dog have had their say let me put in a word on behalf of the people. If Saga and his fellow ruminants have dreamed of greener pastures, and Maya of juicier bones perhaps, the human members of the Glenora Farm Community have harbored dreams of a somewhat more complex nature.

When Charles and Adola founded the Ita Wegman Association, and opened the Ita Wegman School for Children with special needs this was only a first step towards a Camphill Village.

they envisioned a village

with a vibrant social and cultural life with gardens, farms, with festivals, music and plays. This was their vision, or you might perhaps call it a dream, the detailed reality of which was still veiled in the future. The people who joined them over time came with similar dreams and impulses, which flowed together and formed a wave. It was fortunate that what all those people brought with them was able to flow together to give power to the wave. If you wish to know what this

dream wave

is made of, you have but to look at the events of this year. During the last three years, the wave began to gain power and this year it is beginning to crest. There were, of course, previous peaks, such as the building of the first house, and there will be future ones. But when we moved into the first house, things did not change in a big way for

seven years, then our community nearly doubled in numbers; and this year, with the completion of two new houses we shall have four dwellings including Peter's cabin, and you can see the beginning of a village. You can also see some of the visions becoming reality, which we have been carrying with us around the farm while trudging through the mud past unsightly piles of soil, stored for eventual use on rocky fields, and past piles of lumber waiting for projects to be completed, wondering how, and when it would all come together. Then, suddenly this year, with the help of generous friends and new co-workers,

the stuff our dreams were made of is taking shape before our eyes.

It began with the erecting of the long hoped for greenhouse, and continued after a summer lull with the complete re-landscaping of the barnyard, which was scraped and shaped, drained and re-surfaced. The piles of soil have gone towards those greener pastures Saga and co have been dreaming of, sprawling piles of manure now have a neat storage place, a silage clamp is in progress, and the grain hopper stands on its legs.

Also, the old truck-bed which has been sitting around for years to be used as a bridge into the hay loft, has now been placed, cemented in and decked with the lumber that has been waiting in

stacks for just such a purpose. Another project that has long been waiting for completion is the renovation of the bunk-house. The funds for renovation and extension have come together and in spring, the old "Bunkhouse" will house the candle workshop, a lapidary workshop, and a little guest apartment.

However,

progress has also showed itself in less obvious ways.

While the garden crew was planning to plant their new orchard, disaster struck, the root cellar caved in and they had to carry all the sacks of carrots and potatoes into the barn to keep them from the rain. There is of, course, a silver lining to this rain cloud: we will build a bigger root cellar, as the old one had been too small for a number of years already, and the orchard has been planted after all.

Olaf Lampson.

new life

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aaron:

We want to introduce Aaron, the youngest member of the community. When we arrived at Glenora Farm Community last year, we came with open hearts and minds. One year later a lot has changed for us. We married in April, and on August 15th our son Aaron Elias was born in Duncan. We have found roots here now, a nest, a warming home and are looking forward with bright prospects to the future.

christina & oliver



to see a world in a grain of sand
and a heaven in a wild flower,
hold infinity in the palm of your hand
and eternity in an hour.

of British Columbia for Curative Education And Social Therapy

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the harvest

a garden update

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Our garden year has had its ups and downs this year.

First the bad news, our root cellar collapsed due to the combination of a wooden roof structure and west coast climate, just after completing the harvest season. Right now we are still recovering as many vegetables as possible and we have started already planning improved and bigger storage facilities but still have to find the financial means for it. This can be your contribution.

Last year's donations were used for buying trees to set up our new orchard here on the farm property. Another precious donation has been our new green house with which we will be able to extend our growing season. This all was made possible with donations, thank you all very much.



the disaster area of the former rootcellar

With the increasing number of people and households we have been looking into extending our quantities of garden produce. We have had trials with grains, pseudocereals, grain legumes and the Mexican Milpa-growing system to look into food sovereignty and biodiversity issues.

At work peaks, especially during the harvests, we have had a good number of helping hands as we were included as work partners with Canada World Youth, Monarch School/Idaho as well as local schools. Unfortunately, Hans, our former gardener returned to Denmark this summer but we will continue his good work here. Our focus for the new year will be to consolidate and to boost our new achievements, the green house, the orchard, and to rebuild the root cellar to which we hope we can attach a new indoor working area, with wood burning stove and tea-break facilities.

Oliver

glenora's life

and other pictures

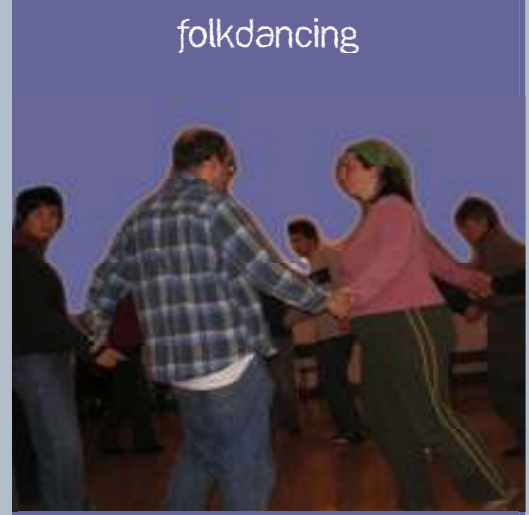
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bell ringing



folkdancing



halloween



halloween



another cat in the main house

the camphill association of north america at glenora farm

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On October 19th and 20th, we hosted the Camphill Association of North America with about twenty participants from all the different Camphill places from all over the continent. On Monday morning, when Coleman Lyles, the president of the association, welcomed everybody, our little meeting room upstairs was full. The mood for the meeting was set by a talk by Peter Selg, a doctor from Arlesheim, Switzerland, about Karl Koenig, the founder of the worldwide Camphill Movement. The talk was based on Karl Koenig's diaries, revealing some of his inner struggles, doubts and sufferings.

After a tea break, our sister-community in North Vancouver, Cascadia, gave a great report about their work and life as a community, which was followed by the play "The Hour Glass" by Thornton Wilder, produced by Katrin Batje, with all our companions and Neal Masur from Germany. The morning ended with a performance by our Companion Bell choir of a beautiful Mozart piece, lead by Annette Olgaard-Lampson.

The afternoon was given to work on the theme, "The Spirit of Camphill – How does it live in our places?" This has been a burning question for a number of years for many people all over the world. The answer is not to be found in simply looking at how much of the Camphill traditions are still being followed, but we may have to look at, and understand how they have arisen, and reclaim the essence of them for the present.

camphill north america will be celebrating
its 50th anniversary

in 2011. There will be regional and local celebrations from East to West during the period between 2009 and 2012. For example in 2009, there will be a concert in Carnegie hall, New York, Then there will be "Green Conferences" in Kimberton Hills, Minnesota, Santa Cruz, Copake and Glenora Farm in 2009/10, a "Next Generation Gathering" in 2009, a Youth Conference in 2010 in Beaver Run, a "Companion Conference" at Cascadia in 2011 and an other concert in New York in 2012.

Camphill California is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, and has printed an inspiring new brochure.

All the places represented at the conference gave an update about their achievements and struggles, and new projects. In the Eastern communities there are new elder care projects, adult education initiatives a new training center for youths with disabilities.

For the western communities which are still in the pioneering phase new buildings are still big news, board retreats and a training course for young co-workers is still a big deal.

The meeting was short and packed full with conversations begun, and the promise to continue next time. So we all look forward to meeting again.

Martha Muller

welcome to the blue

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My name is Neil Masur; I am nineteen years old, from Germany and since August for eleven month on the Farm.

I mainly work with Chris who is 27, autistic and epileptic. For the very first time in his life he moved away from his mother who took care of him ever since he was a kid.

Every day you see him in different moods. If somebody hears the words "Lights on", "Hey Buddy" or "Good job" it is clear who it is. But the parallel universe of Chris exists behind these words. He surprises me every day and mostly in moments when I feel comfortable. Unpredictable is the right word.

I try my best to read this incredibly deep and lovely character which often seems to me like a "million-page Chinese cook-book". His agitation shows the struggle with his handicap and the new living situation. But Chris speaks! He communicates in his own way though his technical speech is quite limited. Chris keeps me on my toes but in someway the work with him can be very motivating and impressing though it takes so much energy because of his intensive needs. He opens doors for me that I didn't even think of and before I can get used to it I see Chris walking towards another direction. And there I am.

Welcome to the Blue.

cheers,

neil masur

views of cowichan bay



Thank you for the picture Mathew

woodworking wishes

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Dear friends ,

in recent months two co-workers have joined the community who have a passion for woodcrafts – Clifford Paterson , a long term Camphill Community Member recently arrived from Northern Ireland whose experience lies with lyre and guitar building - he also has a passion for woodturning! and George Brown, from birth a Maritimes man, but lately of Vermont – who studied sculpture/design at Emerson College in England and has been a Waldorf Craft teacher for many years.

Strangely, as destiny has it -the two guys found their way to Glenora Farm completely independently and each had no idea that the other had applied to come – but they had lived and worked together some 9 years earlier in Mourne Grange Camphill Community, Northern Ireland!

It is both their wishes that a woodcrafts initiative can start to grow roots in the community and that in the future some type of workshops can initiate meaningful work for the companions as well as perhaps generate income for the community.



Clifford and George hope to collaborate on some projects as well as develop an artistic base for their own particular fields of interest.

They have been searching for a good used
educational/professional wood turning lathe

– but so far have had no success –
so if you have any information on where we might find (and finance!) this initiative please give us a call.....

by Clifford Patterson

growing business!!

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we were asked to write something about our new product:

It's a business, a small one, our business takes place here at the farm and it's only a year old.... What is it you might ask? The answer is simple; our business is to sell house plants... See we have a gift to care for various house plants.... Our main ones are the Spider Plants, we have both the plain green and the variegated kind, we either buy these plants and get them producing plantlets or else they come to us not wanted as they produce too many young plants, or lack of care, or something along those lines..... We personally have had plants that looked as though they were on death's door, and well after care of them, we can now proudly say we have some healthy plants for sale.... We are slowly introducing Ivies to our stock of plants that are for sale, right now two different kinds of Ivies both the English Ivy.... One Variegated Form and the other a plain green one.....

Unfortunately we don't have that many spiders right now as we've given them away to friends and family members..... But if you are interested in one there should be some available in spring.....

the plants sell from \$2 up to \$5 depending on the size of plant, an adult can sell for \$5.

the money that we make goes to the plants themselves it goes to buying each individual plant, a ceramic pot, buying watering cans, spray bottles, and it goes to also buying different plants: Different kind of Ivy's, Fern's, some Prayer Plants, etc. The money also goes to different kinds of plant books. If it's a plantlet before selling it we will make sure that the plant is over its shock of living in soil. If it's an adult we make sure also that it's as healthy as can be. We won't sell any sick looking ones. The ones that don't sell either are kept for another time for selling or else they are given away to friends, or family members.....

written by lisa whitehead and matthew carr



observations

of a new co-worker

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Observations of a New Co-worker!

I arrived into Glenora Farm on the 1st July – a great leap into the unknown! Having lived and worked in 4 other Camphill Communities in the UK and Ireland, it was a lifelong wish to spend some time living in B.C. - and without researching much about how the community works, how many people live there, what are the visions, the ideals (I did not even look at the website!) -I jumped in with both feet and applied to come!!!

Funnily enough I still have copy of a letter of interest written to Charles McWilliams way back in 1991; which was my first contact with the community; then I had a very brief visit in 2004 on one of my vacation cycling trips through the Island.

Glenora Farm certainly has many different concepts and visions that are fairly far removed from the Camphill “norm” - However living “out of the box” is

nothing new to Camphill Communities – or indeed to West Coast living ; and there is ALWAYS endless possibilities when one uses this “out of the box” free creative thinking.

Glenora Farm Community certainly has more than its share of this vital energy! The community certainly at 15 years of age seems to in this real time of Puberty – a time of great discovery, pushing the boundaries and of course many new thresholds to cross.

There has been tremendous growth in a short time -both materially with two new houses and the farm being developed – and also with increasing numbers of co-workers needed to care for all aspects of work that this growth will bring.

I feel like a big melting pot, a big pot of soup full of wonderful ingredients – with the potential to be not only a starter -but an excellent main course! However, the soup will need a little more stirring and cooking time before it can be presented to the table!

So for me joining the community will certainly bring the many new challenges that I was looking for and one feels supported in these challenges by the wonderful group of Companions, co-workers, board members and many friends who weave their way through the fabric of Glenora Farm .

Clifford Patterson

14th Annual Pledge Campaign – 2008 Donation Form

Charitable Number: 88827 5849 RR0001

For several years we have been fundraising for a number of projects and with your help many things have come to fruition. Last year one of our goals was to top up the hand bell fund to be able to start a hand bell choir. Well, thanks to many kind donations we were successful and our hand bell choir will be performing at the Christmas Open house! Now we can start on adding more octaves to the choir.

This year we are still in need of donations towards the building project. One house is now complete and occupied; the other is well on the way to being finished. These are lovely homes and we want to enhance them further with beautiful landscaping. So if you are so inclined we would appreciate donations towards the grounds of the new houses or feel free to give toward something else you may have in mind.

If you need some ideas, here are a few. With funds from the donation account we started a long held dream, an orchard. 25 trees have been planted so far, with plans for expansion. The farm also needs funds to purchase a power washer to use in conjunction with the saw mill. This saves a great deal of time in removing bark from the logs. We will be moving the candle work shop from the basement of the house to an exterior building and will need funds to facilitate a new and improved candle workshop. We also have a new coworker who is a master craftsman, specializing in wooden bowls, cups, candle holders etc. Of course the main piece of equipment required to set this up is a good quality lathe.

We ask you to give some thought as to how you can help out. Any amount is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support with these important projects.

- Landscaping Orchard Power Washer Lathe
 Candle Workshop Hand Bells
 Other _____

Pledge Amount \$ _____
Number of payments: One _____ Twelve _____ Other _____

Make cheques payable to *The Ita Wegman Association of B.C.*

Please indicate the address where tax receipts for your donations should be sent:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Please indicate below if you would like to receive our seasonal newsletter:

- Yes please mail to the address above
Yes please send to my e-mail address: _____

Please mail the completed form to:

The Ita Wegman Association of B.C.
4766 Waters Rd.
Duncan, B.C. V9L 6S9

Our best wishes for a joyful and peaceful Christmas
The Ita Wegman Association and Glenora Farm Community

the end of:

glenora's christmas newsletter 2008

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We hope you enjoyed this little update

END

for comments, stories,
for questions and other matters:
email to: itaweg@shaw.ca