

glenora's saga

and other stories

christmas newsletter 2010

glenora farm
newsletter

Part of the
THE ITA WEGMAN ASSOCIATION
of British Columbia for Curative Education And Social Therapy



the lama's lament

Well, it is me again, Saga the Lama. I was hoping a pig would do the honors this newsletter and write the introduction, but that idea has been put into the freezer, actually, multiple freezers for that matter. Then I hoped for the new dairy cow to take over. No freezer matters there I thought, but no... sigh... She had to get pregnant and is now busy with her little tike. On top of that the humans are milking the situation so she claims her schedule is as full as her udder; however I may interpret that comment. I asked the sheep. I decided to ignore their possible insulting reaction (:’beeh’) and the cows ignored me, harrumph. Well I’ll make the best of it. Thank

goodness the young co-workers are doing most of the writing of the pieces for this newsletter. Loads of interesting things happened on that fantastic field they call “garden”. It is right next to mine: full of lovely plants, but for some reason the humans forget to put me on there, forgetful creatures.

By the way, I have decided to place the humans in the Linnaean classification category of the Animalia, Chordata, Mammalia, Artiodactyla, Bovidae, Bovinae, Bos, more commonly known as cows. Scientifically I have to restructure my proof slightly, but the behavior seen as they are in one of their many meetings makes it all clear: ruminating, regurgitating and possibility for male bovine manure production. *

Hmm I wonder if they will read this, as they might be slightly insulted as Lamas are from a slightly more complex and historically important background than the common cow, well ...ehrrr... no insult intended. Merely observation, no substantiating proof and all that....Hmmm, why not read about exciting things on the following pages ...ehrr... I’ll go chew something now: maybe I can get to that carrot on the other side of the fence, it’s in spitting distance...

Yours truly

saga, the lama

*note of the editor: none of Saga’s comments aim to reflect the opinion of or the state of Glenora farm, itawegman association or any of it’s affiliates

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horse back riding

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Before the weekend is approaching one of our companions has the chance to do something out of the usual. Chris Wendel, 30, loves to ride and takes the opportunity to do so every Friday. After there was no horseback riding all summer long due to a seasonal break, it has returned at the beginning of October and became a continuous part in his weekly schedule.

It starts already at the breakfast table that Chris gets quite excited and talkative as he knows where he is going afterward and it won't stop until Paul, another young co-worker, comes to pick him up. Once he hears his voice, he jumps up and makes his way to the door. After getting dressed they head off to Providence farm which is a place for people with special needs to do all sorts of different farm activities, including the mentioned horseback riding.



At the farm they first do some exercises on the horse as a warm-up. Once warmed up they start in the riding hall by jumping a course where he and the horse have to ride about easy obstacles. But the riding doesn't only place in the riding hall but also outside where they do a short tour on the property. This part is a lot of fun for both of them and the highlight of each week.

Around lunch time Chris and Paul return in a good mood after having a great morning already looking forward for next Friday to come.

By Henning Hess

discovering camphill.

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I became a part of Camphill quite by chance.

This April I arrived in Canada, (from Wales, land of my fathers, as they say.) Armed with a work visa, back-pack...and not a lot else! My journey began in Vancouver, where I spent a nightmarish month based in a hostel right in the heart of downtown. Trawling the streets trying to bag myself the type of job one is supposed to do on this kind of 'overseas adventure.'

Hmmm. It wasn't working. As the people who had traveled over at the same time, started work, moving into apartments or further travel. I was stuck. Wondering where and what I should be doing next. And considering that perhaps I was destined to grow old at the SameSun! I'd become part of the fabric of the place, one of those 'characters.' People that have been around so long...you just can't imagine them anywhere else. Anyway.

An epiphany moment arrived one day when I was doing a shift at Blenz coffee. The customers, mostly business people, working in that same tower block, hurried in and out. My view of

Canada, the place I had always dreamed of coming to, consisted of a busy street! At that moment I really wondered why I had flown across thousands of miles of ocean. Because I could have been anywhere in the world. I might even have been back in Cardiff city centre.

So I there and then made the decision to plot my escape.

A job presented itself in the Banff/Lake Louise region of the Rockies and I took it. With enthusiasm & relief! I was to leave the big city that was rapidly threatening to engulf me!

The job was housekeeping at a resort. Cleaning a hotel/motel, trailers and cabins. Not only did I ache from the lack of stimulation, I clearly did not fit in. In quite an alarming way. And I missed my old line of work. Which up until that point, had been social care, with adults with special needs & older people.

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discovering camphill

continued

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Lasting a mere two weeks at the resort, I moved on again. With nothing to move on to! This left me plenty of time to think...and pretend just to be tourist for a while. Countless emotional phone calls home & another unhappy job later..... (This time at an old-fashioned sweet shop.) And I was ready to call it a day.

Then, as a last bid attempt to stay in Canada, I started looking at farm work. Lots of fruit picking positions had popped up & I guess I had a notion I might be inspired by the great outdoors. This is when Glenora farm came to my attention. I couldn't quite believe it when I saw the opportunity to use my passion for working with people & to live on beautiful Vancouver Island. I knew I had to check out this remarkable place, so I came as a visitor. And ended up staying! Synchronicity seemed to be on my side when a co-worker vacancy came up right away due to somebody dropping out last minute.

It seems amazing now, but I hadn't even heard of the worldwide movement that is Camphill before I came to Canada. Especially since it was born in the UK & many communities are concentrated there! However, I am glad to have discovered it & to call this community my home! The work is immensely valuable & it is truly a nurturing place to live and be. The warmth & acceptance is to be found here is very unique & being a member of a crazy, extended family a source of much joy!

For anybody thinking of getting involved, I'd urge you to go for it.

An extra pair of hands and fresh ideas always welcome!

*(See opportunities on page 6)

Bridie Solman



This newsletter is produced by:
the people of the Glenora farm

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

published by Linda Phelps
editor: Joost van Rijn,

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Will the open house be fun? Have a look
at pictures of our summer fair:



wish list

material donation requests

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If you are thinking about getting rid of stuff, please consider making a material donation to GLENORA FARM. We would very much appreciate donations of the following items for our Bio-dynamic farm:

a 150' greenhouse
heating system for the greenhouse
tables for the greenhouse
a Tractor for the Farm & garden
tractor attachment
hand tools for the farm
fences
drainages
irrigation system
butchery equipment
set-up for milking
haying equipment & combine
winch mount
lumber arch
lawns mowers
tools & equipment for maintenance crew
small garden shed,
building materials,
lumber,
shovels,
rakes,
trowels,
sprinklers,
hoses,
wheel barrels,

power tools,
rototiller,
welder,
woodworking tools,
clean oil drums,
guitars,
Lamps
dressers,
big stainless steel cooking pots,
computers,
dishes, cutlery, glasses (for workshops
hammocks,
pick-nick tables
a pick-up truck diesel 4x4 for the farm
a pick up truck for the maintenance crew
a closed-trailer for maintenance crew
vacuum cleaners

and an apple strudel with that please.
You name it, we probably need it... and will
come pick it up too!

Thanks so much to those who have already
donated items,
we deeply appreciate your support.

contribute in other ways:

Volunteering:

Ask for our current Volunteer opportunities list .

Your presence at 'Work Parties', to assist with ongoing projects , could be a great way to get help us. Please ask us about future Work Party dates.

Contributor:

Cash and in-kind donations.
Ask for our Donation Form

volunteering

opportunities:

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Here is a list of opportunities to volunteer at Glenora farm. (these positions do not include room and board):

position: cleaning person

Description: Responsible to do the cleaning for 4 of our houses, one house per week, one morning, going through out of ordinary chores such as cleaning tubs, windows, cooking stoves, cupboards, railings, anything that requires irregular cleaning.

position: cook / kitchen helper

Description: Meals & organic food preparation, cooking, baking , set-up tables, working along with people with special needs, alternating between our 3 houses, good sense of humour and a positive attitude

position: handy people / jack & jill -of-all-trades

Description: Under the supervision of the estate manager, you'll be doing some buildings maintenance & repairs, construction, plumbing, electricity.

position: farm worker

Description: some work on the farm, such as tractor and trailer usage, feeding animals, fencing, all kind of works around a barn. Some work at the saw mill may be needed.

position: organic bio-dynamic gardener

Description: To work in our gardens (sometimes with individuals with developmental disabilities) on multiple gardening projects such as: seeding, planting, watering, feeding, weeding, digging, raking, harvesting ,wheel-barrowing, manual labor and equipment handling, learning and implementing bio-dynamic gardening principles.

position: workshops / day program assistant

Description: Under the supervision of workshop masters, you'll assist and support a variety of meaningful programs such as our weaving shop, felting shop, candle workshop, herb workshop, woodworking workshop, lapidary workshop (silversmith), start a new concrete workshop. Being able to work along with people with special needs.

For more information please contact:

Pierre Goulet

Development Director

Glenora Farm & Ita Wegman Assoc. of BC

250-715-1664

Volunteer applications to live in and work with our people with special needs, should be sent to Lucinde: itaweg@shaw.ca

the dust is gone

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In the end of October and the beginning of November Corwyn house had the honor to get a new floor in the living room and two other room on the first floor. Finally the dusty clay is replaced by concrete with a lovely and waterproof sealer in an orange color.

Of course, it was hard work to get rid of the clay and it resulted a whole Thursday of physical work. In this evening every single surface was covered by a thick layer of dust. It just looked like dirty snow. The following Wednesday the concrete was filled in and one day later Corwyn house got the first layer of the sealer. On Friday it followed another layer.

Everyone was very happy, when they were allowed to step carefully on the floor a day later. One week later everything was back in routine, just without the dust! All the furniture was carried back on the new floor.

Written by Paul



halloween

pictures

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Our Halloween bash was great. The young co-workers worked hard to get everything organized and decorated. The result was dangerously fun. Enjoy the small sample of the crazy costumes in the pictures.



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garden report

article

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With the beginning of the raining period another year of gardening and harvesting drew to a close. Now that it rains cats and dogs all day long and it snows from time to time, the watering system which we use during the summer months is not needed anymore. To prevent the hose pipes from sinking in the mud, it had to be disassembled. For the first time, the hose pipes have not just been piled up, which often led to immense unsolvable knots in the past years. No, they have now their own suspending gear on the new fence and we are confident that the assembly for the next summer will be much less challenging than it was in the years before.

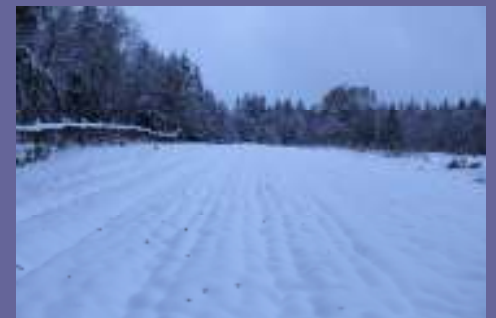
The garden work in 2010 was not easy. The spring was very wet and the raining period lasted very long until mid June. Because of that, the potatoes were planted very late, so that we harvested fewer potatoes than we wished to. And also in fall the rain made the gardening difficult, because we couldn't get the carrots out early enough, so that a big part of the carrots need drying and many of them cracked in the wet soil and will be fed to the cows. In fall, cows managed a few times to break down the fence that divides the cow field and the back garden. Fortunately, the damage was small.

The fence has been fixed and barbed wire keeps the cows now on their own territory. Besides that, Oliver and Christina, our former gardeners, left our community and Martha and Olaf had to take over their responsibility.

But with many helping hands and the overview and work of Martha and Olaf we still managed a fairly good harvest. For example, we had a very good garlic harvest - for the first time we even sold a part of it as seeds. And the summer cabbage went very well too, so that we are making about 400 lb of sauerkraut. The rich zucchini harvest brought us a few weeks of zucchini in almost every meal, which was a pleasure.

Thank you, Martha and Olaf and everybody else who helped in the garden and put all the energy and effort into it, which made this harvest happen!

Robin



"The garlic is already in. Warmly covered by leaves and snow:"



The drip lines (with a total length of more than 3 km!) are now on the new fence.

the Weavery reports

a typical wednesday

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After our morning meeting, we leave the farm to go off to the weavery. You might think that it will be a relaxing & quiet morning when you see our small group of Lisa, Andrew and I leaving the farm. But appearances can be deceiving! When we arrive, we meet Tara, Adnan and Ann. The first part of a typical morning is quite productive. Lisa finished a placemat order and is now continuing with nice and soft baby blankets with a special pattern. Adnan and Tara are busy making tea towels, while Andrew just started his new project: beautiful blue placemats. Prior to that, he wove a woolen carpet and finished tea towel material. I often have to concentrate on tiny little knots to put a new warp on a loom. For this kind of work I really exercise all my patience. Our woman for all kinds of problems is Ann. She helps everyone who has trouble with broken threads, new spools, warps going funny or other stuff. Apart from that she is fixing and checking patterns, making new warps and teaching me things about weaving.

While Adnan is preparing tea break, Lisi and Jonelle are arriving. Lisi is weaving every Wednesday in our weavery, supported by her Coworker Jonelle, who is also sowing beautiful bags out of our woven material. She often brings them in, so we can marvel at the finished product.

The bell rings and our tea break can start. Although we are already eight people there is still someone missing. Jennifer usually comes at the end of our break time. She has been volunteering with us for a few weeks now. Because of her interest in weaving she brought a lot of new energy into the weavery. I think since Jennifer has joined us it is twice as lively as it was before, but still a very good atmosphere to work.

Back to work, Lisa is updating Ann, Jonelle and Jennifer on our farm news, while Adnan often takes care of our plants or tidying up the shelf with all the different yarns. A steady beat is coming from Tara's corner.

She is weaving without any breaks until its time to leave. Andrews's background noise is not so easy to describe. Sometimes there is a really loud bang, sometimes he is talking, sometimes you only hear his beating, and sometimes he is singing or laughing. From another corner you can probably hear someone quietly repeating the weaving steps, whilst supporting Lisa.

At noon it is time to leave and head back to the farm, where a lovely lunch is waiting for us.

With this in mind, see you next Wednesday,

Selina

the europe trip

in the summertime

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In the month of July, went to Europe. (Andrew, Matthew, Katrin and Lisa, to Germany and Denmark.)

On July 6th, Pierre drove us to the Victoria Ferry Terminal. The weather was sunny, as a "good luck" sign; on the ferry we saw a pod of Killer Whales. We took a taxi to the airport and flew with British Airways. We flew from Vancouver to Heathrow (London England), and then on to Hamburg Germany. When we arrived in Hamburg we took a taxi to Martina's home. We watched the Soccer Championships.

On the 7th of July we woke up at different times to a bright warm sunny hot day: Around 35 C during the day. We walked to Hamburg's biggest mall where during the holiday we spent a good deal indoors to avoid the heat.

We got our daily exercise in Hamburg by walking along the Alster River Walk. We stayed roughly a week in Hamburg, and during the time we met some old friends, that were co workers at Glenora Farm at one point.

To get to Denmark we had to rent a car that had a annoying navigation system, it was so irritating at times that we told it to be quiet, we couldn't figure out how to turn it off. It brought us to Denmark but made us take a detour, (with all the stops included it took about 6 hours to drive from Hamburg to Denmark. The one disappointment on the way to Denmark is that there's no border control, it was a disappointment as Matthew wanted a Danish stamp in his passport. Matthew was so excited about visiting Denmark as he wanted to see where his ancestors came from. And of course we were all excited about seeing our Danish friends, Hans, Grete, Anna and Astrid and their dog Shasta.

We would like to say thank you to our friends who met us in Europe, and worked out their schedule so that they could meet us. And we would to thank Hans and Grete and family for letting us stay within your house, and for showing us around Denmark and making us feel welcome. And a big thank you to Martina for letting us stay in your home and for showing us with Katrin's help Hamburg. This article was written by Andrew, Matthew, Katrin and Lisa.



16th ANNUAL PLEDGE CAMPAIGN- 2010 DONATION FORM

YES: I WANT TO SUPPORT GLENORA FARM COMMUNITY'S MISSION: "A PLACE WHERE SPECIAL NEEDS ARE MET..."

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY! HERE ARE SOME OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

In the last two years we built two new houses and have just about finished our Trilium centre and a bunk-house for visitors. The new Candle workshop is well under way and ready to produce. There were many improvements in the barnyard and around the houses. We welcomed a Development Director to work on a 5-year Strategic growth plan. Some of our goals for the next two to five years are to strengthen our workshops and Day programs, complete the bunkhouse, have a business plan to strengthen our existing social enterprise Glenora Store & Café, do special fundraising for targeted projects, to acquire adequate equipment and tools to increase our biodynamic farm and garden productivity, have more residences, and much more...

So you see, your contribution goes a long way to enhancing the lives of our companions. Visit our web site for more info: www.glenorafarm.com

We would like you to consider joining us in supporting our efforts by investing in these important projects and in our flexible mission and core funding needs with a special gift of:

Enclosed is **my cheque** payable to: ITA WEGMAN ASSOCIATION OF BC
 \$20 \$50 \$100 \$500 other amount \$ _____

PLEASE FILL IN AND MAIL TO: ITA WEGMAN ASSOCIATION OF BC , 4766 WATERS ROAD, DUNCAN, BC, V9L-6S9

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(please check card type) _____ Visa _____ MasterCard

Card # _____ Expire date _____

Name on Card _____

Signature: _____

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1 year 3 years On the 15th of each month on-going

I would like to give \$ _____

I have enclosed cheque marked VOID

please charge this amount to the credit card

Please note that you may cancel or change your monthly donation at any time by calling us at **250-715-1559** , Fax **250-715-1971** or email itaweg@shaw.ca

*For monthly donations, a single tax receipt for the full annual total will be sent at the end of the calendar year. Charitable tax number 88827-5849 RR0001

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thank you

the end of:

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We hope you enjoyed this little update

END

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