

Cohousing

The Newsletter for Cohousing in Canada

Volume 19 ~ Issue 2

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eCohousing Starting in Qualicum

**By Ron Buechert
Valterra Village
Qualicum Beach, BC**

Qualicum Beach on Vancouver Island is the location of one of the newest members in the Canadian Cohousing Network. Valterra Village eCohousing has a dream, a plan, and a location.

"Now all that we need is more people to share it with," says Ruth Adler, co-owner of the 40-acre property where the cohousing development is proposed.

Although the Valterra road sign and website are new, the story actually begins about 20 years ago with a property that was, at that time, zoned for seven 5-acre parcels with two houses on each. Picturing that kind of development, with its devastation and unsustainable footprint, Adler imagined finding an alternative and began researching.

Private residences clustered amid common space, separate families and households within an intentional community, food grown at home within walking distance of shops and

schools - these features quickly led Adler to the cohousing model which was already highly successful in Europe, but only beginning to be known in North America. With WindSong leading the way in Canada, Adler attended an early meeting where she observed consensus decision making in

action.

As Adler introduced these ideas to everyone she met including citizens, politicians and planners in the community, others began to gather around the dream.

In the Town of Qualicum Beach, where the population is actively involved in

planning and municipal voter turnout is well above 50%, planners were striving to maintain the high quality of life in the face of development pressure. To control urban sprawl, they planned for a limited population build-out and an urbanized core. They adjusted the density and zoning to allow greater control and expressed support for the merits of a cohousing community within the green-belt on the western boundary of Qualicum Beach. Today, the

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Une Communauté de Voisins Dans un Village Urbain

**By Guillaume Pinson
Cohabitat Québec
Quebec, QC**

C'est en 2004, à la suite d'une tournée inspirante d'une quarantaine de cohabitats américains et canadiens, que Valérie Jamin et Michel Desgagnés décident d'en créer un dans la ville de Québec. Ils réunissent autour d'eux d'autres personnes intéressées au concept. Quelques années plus tard, des différends mettent un terme au projet initial.

Débuté alors la phase active d'information et de recrutement des futurs voisins. Et en même temps, divers comités et équipes de travail sont constitués afin de concrétiser le rêve des premiers instigateurs de ce merveilleux projet.

Les tâches à accomplir sont nombreuses, les membres sont enthousiastes et la communauté prend forme de plus en plus et s'agrandit. Le groupe se dote d'outils de communication et de gouvernance pour faciliter son

architectes de l'Atelier Pierre Thibault et les autres professionnels embauchés pour concrétiser la vision des membres s'inspirent de ces programmes.

Et à travers tout cela, le sens de la communauté se construit grâce à la tenue d'ateliers de cuisine collective et sur la vie communautaire, l'organisation de voyages à Boston et à Burlington pour visiter des communautés de cohabitat, etc. Les membres prennent de multiples décisions concrètes et pragmatiques, comme l'installation d'un ascenseur, le nom de notre communauté, le choix des fenêtres, du revêtement extérieur, etc.

Les travaux ont débuté sur le chantier et nous prévoyons emménager en juillet 2012. Le recrutement des membres va bon train, car nous évaluons qu'en décembre nous aurons atteint 90% de notre objectif fixé à 40 ménages.

Notre intention est claire : former une communauté vivante et ouverte sur le monde dans une réalité intergénérationnelle.

Vous pouvez en apprendre plus sur nous en visitant notre site Web à <http://www.cohabitat.ca/>. Nous sommes aussi présents sur Facebook ([facebook.com/CohabitatQc](https://www.facebook.com/CohabitatQc)) Nous sommes présents sur Google+ (plus.google.com/101676240332968035925/posts).

(A special thank-you to Chandra Carlson, our special editor for when it comes to articles written in French.)



L'idée n'est pas morte pour autant et un noyau d'irréductibles (les trois ménages fondateurs) se remet en action en 2009.

Après de multiples discussions, réunions de recrutement et l'obtention d'un soutien financier, les premiers membres se mettent à la recherche d'un terrain pour bâtir le premier cohabitat dans la province de Québec. Leurs efforts sont récompensés en 2009 quand leur offre d'achat pour un terrain de 1,09 hectare et le bâtiment de deux niveaux en béton qui s'y trouve est acceptée.

fonctionnement. Chaque nouveau membre est invité à suivre deux formations : une sur la communication non violente et l'autre sur la sociocratie.

C'est en juillet 2010 que se déroulent les ateliers qui aboutissent à trois programmes architecturaux, soit la maison commune, les unités d'habitation et l'aménagement du site. Mary Kraus, une architecte américaine vivant à Pioneer Valley Cohousing à Amherst (Massachusetts), anime ces ateliers et devient une collaboratrice de premier plan pour le projet. Les



A Community of Neighbours in an Urban Village

**By Guillaume Pinson
Cohabitat Québec
Quebec, QC**

In 2004, following an inspiring tour of about 40 American and Canadian cohousing communities, Valérie Jamin and Michel Desgagnés decide to create their own community in Québec city. They brought together other people interested in the concept but a few years later differences of opinion put an end to the original project.

However, the desire for community had not died, and the core group (the three founding households) restarted a new project in 2009. After many discussions and recruitment meetings, and after obtaining financial support, the first members started looking for a site suitable for the first cohousing community in the province of Québec. Their efforts were rewarded in 2009 when their offer to buy 1.09 hectare (2.7 acres) and an existing two-level concrete building was accepted.

The active phase of informing and recruiting prospective neighbours then began. Simultaneously, various committees and working teams were set up to give shape to the dream of this wonderful project's

first instigators.

There were many tasks to carry out. Members were enthusiastic and the community was taking form and growing. The group relied on communication and governance tools to make its operation easier. Each new member was invited to attend two training sessions: one on

holding collective kitchen workshops, community life workshops, and by organizing group trips to Boston and Burlington to visit others cohousing communities. Members are making numerous practical decisions, such as installing an elevator, choosing the name of the community, windows, exterior siding, etc.



non-violent communication and another one on sociocracy.

July 2010 saw the advent of a workshop which produced architectural plans for the common house, the dwellings, and the site plan. Mary Kraus, an American architect who lives in Pioneer Valley Cohousing in Amherst (Massachusetts), facilitated those workshops and became a key associate for the project. The architects from l'Atelier Pierre Thibault and other professionals hired to design our community rely on these plans.

And through it all, a sense of community is developing by

Construction work has started and we plan to move in by July 2012. The recruitment of members is in full swing as we are considering that by December 90% of our goal of 40 households will have been achieved.

Our intention is clear: build a vibrant community open to the world in an inter-generational reality. Our contact information can be found in the back of this newsletter. We're also on Facebook (facebook.com/CohabitatQC) and on Google+ (plus.google.com/101676240332968035925/posts).



Shared Living as an Affordable Housing Option in Cohousing

**By Marc Paradis
Prairie Sky Cohousing
Calgary, AB**

Cohousing generally costs more per square foot than standard construction. Common amenities and cohousers propensity for sustainable building and good materials and finishes help drive up costs. Typical costs for building cohousing can be as much as 10 - 20% higher than a comparable standard home. And these higher costs make it difficult for some to afford living in community.

One very effective affordability strategy is to consider the prospect of Shared Living. Shared Living transforms the typical single family home into a fully featured extended family home. It is a cohousing-inspired concept that combines shared ownership with a deliberate and supportive environment. Residents typically own their individual private bedrooms and ensuite bathrooms, and share ownership of the common areas.

Historically, it has manifested itself in the "extended family home", but inclusion of these features has been on the decline since the 1950s due to the increased availability of social safety nets and mobility in our lifestyles. However, Shared Living has been going through resurgence over the last few decades. Aging

parents are more often living with their adult children and, by 2006, nearly half of young adults aged 20 - 29 years still lived with their parents (in Newfoundland it's over half!) This "sandwich generation" is caring for their children on the one hand and aging parents on the other.

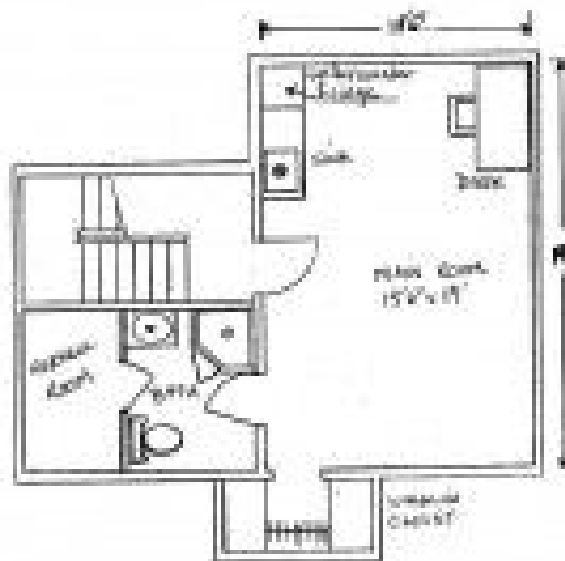
At the same time census information indicates increasing numbers of single person households and social analysts cite increasing incidence of social isolation.

Shared Living is being increasingly regarded as a lifestyle choice, not merely a short-term option until one can afford their own home. The diversity of household types engaging in Shared Living runs the gamut from extended and intergenerational families, to young people and single women (like The Golden Girls sitcom) and beyond to those around

common interests or lifestyle. Even the real-estate development industry is responding to this in a modest way by creating condominiums with two master suites or providing infill options like "granny" suites.

Our research indicates that the "ideal" Shared Living spaces include a private bedroom, bathroom, sitting area and morning bar (includes sink, bar fridge & cupboards) of about 350 sq ft. This allows for much more flexibility around computer or television use, food segregation and privacy in general, and allows for a richer more congenial social atmosphere in the shared areas. Shared space includes the kitchen, dining, den, sun room, workshops, guest rooms, laundry and other spaces. Our own home in Prairie Sky Cohousing has just such a space that was retrofitted; and it has made cohousing accessible to some wonderful friends who would not have otherwise been able to afford living here.

We are so committed to the idea of Shared Living as a dynamic lifestyle choice that responds to a broad range of societal needs and changing demographics, that we have coined the phrase **Covivenza** (Italian for co-habitation) and have created a website www.covivenzahousing.ca as a compilation of widely scattered information on Shared Living and a resource for people considering it.



Prairie Sky bed sitting room plan



Creekside Making Connections in the Comox Valley

**By Arlene Trustham
Creekside Commons
Courtnay, BC**

In 2007, 36 families moved into duplex homes at Creekside Commons and began the task of settling into being a community. We're a multi-generational community of 60 adults and 13 children at last count; a fairly large cohousing community by Canadian standards.

Over the four years we've lived together, some families have moved on while others have joined us. We've had four births, two adoptions and one death.

We had lofty ideas at the start about the community we were co-creating: "a sustainable neighbourhood of beauty and peace where we could grow as individuals while supporting each other, the land and the broader community." As in many intentional communities, learning the art of consensus in order to make these inclusive ideals a reality required patience, persistence and a lot of trial and error.

We're situated on nine acres just inside the city, close enough to downtown to consider ourselves town folk but near enough to the country to have easy access to parks, trails and open space. When planning the site, we tentatively left a path through the community and the park in hopes of building a connecting bridge with our neighbours. This path has proved to be inclusive, allowing people from our larger neighbourhood to pass through on foot and by bike, to walk

dogs and enjoy the natural beauty that is here.

How is it to live in this community four years later? It is very much where I want to be. I look out the back window at the common garden behind us that's now settled for winter, yielding just a few late greens, leeks and parsnips. At this level, it really is a sustainable neighbourhood of both beauty and peace. Wind

beautiful in its way too. This compost site gets me thinking about what it takes to maintain a community. The composters are a fine example of the many active teams that make Creekside Commons a cohesive whole. Out in the back 40 are the addresses 501 and 502, the giant worm bins that hold a phenomenal amount of rich compost. Every Monday morning the team gathers with the



The Saltwater School / Creekside Commons Connection

blows the last leaves off trees and bushes that are now surprisingly mature. The landscaped area near the house, barren when we first moved in, is alive with small birds entertaining us all year at the feeders. The wetlands and wild zone grasses have matured and regularly host deer, ducks and ducklings, herons, eagles, a muskrat family and all manner of small creatures, not to mention a chorus of frogs most spring and summer evenings.

Out beyond the garden is the compost site, very alive and

worms, rain, shine ... and sometimes even in the snow, to help them process material from rolling green compost bins stationed around the property. Young and old, there's a lot of laughter accompanying the sounds of chopping and shovelling. Afterwards the participants gather at the coffee shop across the back of the park to discuss life and maybe some politics, too. This fall there's been a new twist: the grade 1-2 class from the nearby Saltwater School comes with their kitchen scraps every week to learn

(Continued on page 6)

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Town's Official Community Plan includes this vision for the area.

The setting for this story is nothing less than stunning. The property is surrounded on two sides by Crown-owned forests and wetlands covering 250 acres. There is a municipal park reserve full of giant maple trees along Grandon Creek on the east side, and on the western edge of the property there is a new road with a water main and paved bicycle paths reminiscent of Whistler. Where the 100-year-old forests allow a view, the Salish Sea (Strait of Georgia) can be seen to the north and Mount Arrowsmith to the southwest.

The property itself was selectively logged circa 1980 and the rich black soil at the eastern end was a commercial organic farm around 1990. Now that the services are in place, the next step is for more people to come forward to add their own ideas to the group and make the vision real.

Consult the back of this newsletter for our website and contact information.



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about the cycle of growth and has a lot of fun learning the secret compost handshake and making compost along with the adults.

In September, this new Waldorf-inspired Saltwater School opened its doors over on the other side of the park. While the school isn't a part of Creekside Commons, it is part of our extended community. The purchase of the building was made possible through the generosity of a Creekside couple wanting their grandkids (who also live at Creekside) to have this quality education. Several others of us serve on the board and many more volunteer to help make it a dynamic presence in the wider community. It's really fun to hear those young voices as they learn about sustainability in such a practical way!

There are lots of other connections between Creekside and the wider community of the Comox Valley. Volunteers from Creekside help bag coffee and tea for World Community. The Farmer's Market attracts carpools and bikes downtown every Saturday to support local

agriculture. There is strong support for the new Transition Town Comox Valley movement. Creekside artists and volunteers with deep roots in the wider community populate boards and actively participates in theatre, art galleries, musical festivals and a host of not for profit societies serving people in need. Various kinds of yoga, meditation, drumming, and personal development classes bring people into our commonhouse along with regular house concerts open to Friends of Creekside.

I look back now at the ideals we set when we were forming our community and I acknowledge the learning that has happened for us as a community in just four short years. We're growing relationships that lead to trust and acceptance of both delightful and sometimes challenging differences. There is a deepening maturity as individuals and as a community that allows us to give back so generously outside our borders.

Even in a cohousing community as large as ours it really is possible to "grow as individuals while supporting each other, the land on which we live and the wider community." Cohousing offers this wonderful means to begin addressing the larger issues of connection we face in a complex and changing world and I'm very glad to be a part of it.



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Become a member of the Canadian Cohousing Network

The Canadian Cohousing Network (CCN) is a registered non-profit organization that promotes the creation of cohousing communities as a model for sustainable development by raising public awareness about cohousing and by bringing people together to form communities.

The most valuable function of the CCN is making connections with people who are interested in living in a cohousing community. The CCN links individuals and cohousing groups together to share resources and make the process of creating a community easier and more economical.

For more information contact:

Western Canada

Canadian Cohousing Network
#27 - 20543 96 Avenue,
Langley, BC, V1M 3W3

Eastern Canada

Canadian Cohousing Network
186 Ridgewood Crescent,
Bolton, ON, L7E 4V6
Tel: 905-857-8738

www.cohousing.ca

Homes for Sale or Rent

By Patrick Meyer
Editor, Cohousing Newsletter
Canadian Cohousing Network

Advertising homes for sale or rent is a free service provided to members of the Canadian Cohousing Network. Detailed listings can be found on the CCN website www.cohousing.ca

The information provided in this section has been uploaded by subscribed members of the Canadian Cohousing Network. The CCN does not take responsibility for the accuracy or reliability of any of the information contained in this section.

4 Sale

Metro Vancouver

**Quayside Village
North Vancouver**
sites.google.com/site/quaysidevillage/home
Apartment, 1 bdrm
Price: \$309,000

**WindSong
Langley, BC**
www.windsong.bc.ca
Townhouse, 4 bdrm
Price: \$375,000

**Yarrow Ecovillage
Chilliwack, BC**
www.yarrowecovillage.ca
18 homes being built over the next 1 or 2 years. Many floor plans available.

BC Sunshine Coast

**Roberts Creek
Roberts Creek, BC**
www.robertscreekcohousing.ca
House, 3 bdrm + den
Price: \$398,000

Vancouver Island

**Creekside Commons
Courtenay, BC**
www.creeksidecommons.ca

Duplex, 4 bdrm + den,
Price: \$375,000


Duplex, 3 bdrm + den
Price: \$324,000

Duplex, 4 bdrm + den
Price: \$369,000

4 Rent

BC Interior

**The Middle Road
Nelson, BC**
House, 3 bdrm
\$1,500/mo plus utilities

No listings presently for other areas of Canada. 

Belterra Rezoning Almost There

**By Roger McGillivray
Belterra Cohousing
Bowen Island, BC**

In April and May of this year, in response to Bowen's Municipal Council's requests, all of the referral agencies and advisory bodies responded positively regarding the Belterra rezoning application. Over the summer months, our planners and engineers worked creatively together with municipal staff to solve the various servicing questions (water, sewer, access) and prepare the application to go back before Council.

On September 12, Council gave the Belterra Cohousing proposal first reading, and a date was set for a public hearing. Unfortunately, election season had begun and the Municipal CAO ruled that the public hearing could not be held until after the election on November 19.

Belterra's planner Andy Beard, along with Ronaye Matthew of CDC Cohousing Development Consulting attended a meeting with the Municipality's planning department, the CAO, and the Mayor. As a result of that meeting it was decided that Council would be willing to consider a second reading of the Belterra proposal before the election.

On November 14, Council voted unanimously to give the Belterra rezoning proposal second reading, and Council agreed that Belterra should be noted as a priority for the new Council.

At the date of this writing, we are in the midst of election frenzy on

Bowen. Islanders are a very passionate and informed bunch when it comes to discussing local politics and there are some pretty heated conversations with opinions going off in all directions. In the middle of all the turmoil, Belterra is like a rock. The majority of the population believes that Belterra Cohousing is perfect for the Island and the candidates for Council and Mayor have all expressed their support. We feel optimistic that the necessary rezoning will be forthcoming early in the new year and we can continue our planning with confidence.



In the meantime, the membership has been building with monthly information meetings held on Bowen Island. We plan to begin information meetings on the mainland in January.

The members have been meeting every month to talk about our community. We discuss subjects such as sustainability, unit rentals, pet policy, smoking, view quality, home pricing, trees, gardens, mailboxes, green building, garbage, parking, etc. These meetings are interesting, often

beginning with as many opinions as there are people in the room and yet miraculously ending with consensus.

The members and architects have come together for several all day workshops to discuss unit, common house, building, and site design and we have come a long way towards creating the exciting and wonderful community we are all dreaming of.

Assuming the rezoning goes as expected, and assuming that enough of the Associate Members take the step to become Equity Members, and assuming the financing goes as well as we hope, Belterra will begin construction by the summer of 2012.

We are only a 15 minute walk from the Village of Snug Cove and the Ferry, and 10 minutes from Bowen Island Community School with its grass fields, lighted artificial turf field, basketball and tennis courts. Artisan Square with its shops, restaurants and gym is an easy 10 minute walk away, and there are miles of good walking trails nearby. Terminal Creek Park with its year round stream is right next door as is Island Pacific School and Cates Hill Chapel. Belterra is the perfect location surrounded by rural lands yet a very short walk to all the amenities Bowen Island has to offer.

We are still welcoming new members and are especially hopeful that more young families will recognize that Belterra will be a wonderful place for children to grow up.



Smart Cohousers Rejected Wireless “Smart Meters”

**By Valerie McIntyre
WindSong Cohousing
Langley, BC**

When BC Hydro announced in the spring of 2011 that it would install wireless "smart meters" throughout the province despite the World Health Organization's classification of electromagnetic frequencies (EMFs) as a *possible carcinogen*, many residents of the 15-year-old WindSong Cohousing Community were annoyed that they were given no choice in the matter.

Not everyone has the time or interest to study and take action on every public issue that comes along, but folks who have intentionally created a saner, safer and friendlier community are often highly motivated to protect their investment.

The success of cohousing communities is based on consensus decision-making, and experience using this respectful collaborative process leads people to recognize it as a hallmark of good governance.

When the “smart meter” issue arose, we sought information from a local advocacy organization called *Citizens For Safe Technology*. A few

WindSong members already suffer health effects from EMFs and worry about adding yet another source of polluting radiation, especially one that transmits 24/7.

We learned that people with pacemakers must avoid wireless technologies, and that there's a fast-growing movement among



parents across Canada to rid schools of wi-fi and other wireless devices. We wanted to safeguard our members' health into the future.

We all wanted to conserve electricity but not everyone shared the concerns about the new meters' apparent effects on health privacy, and billing. After discussions over potluck

dinners, dozens of emails, and several meetings, it was finally clear that none of us really wanted the wireless meters. We had reached consensus.

In late October, an official letter of refusal was sent to BC Hydro and signs were placed on our doors declaring the community's unanimous decision to refuse to accept “smart meters”.

Despite many municipal government and citizen requests for a moratorium on installations until safety can be proven, BC Hydro and our provincial government maintain that only a few people are concerned about the new meters being forced upon us without consent. But more than 16,000 petition signatures tell a different story and WindSong has taken a courageous stand against BC Hydro.

Many cohousers are thrilled that consensus decision-making is being used at the worldwide Occupy events. We know we're part of the shifting world paradigm. We're learning and teaching our children to have a voice.

Cohousers are changing the world, one community at a time!



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For more information contact:



Andrea Welling
andrea@momcoach.ca

Canadian Cohousing Communities at a glance

LOCATION GROUP NAME ADDRESS	HOUSEHOLD TOTAL (CURRENT)	CONTACT NAME	WEBSITE PHONE EMAIL	DESCRIPTION
BRITISH COLUMBIA				
COMPLETED COMMUNITIES				
BURNABY Cranberry Commons 4272 Albert Street, Burnaby, BC V5C 2E8	22 (22)	Ruth Walmsley	www.cranberrycommons.ca 604-298-9220 ruth@cranberrycommons.ca	Mixed townhouse & apartments. 20 min drive to downtown Van. Parks, schools, rec centre, restaurants, shops & other amenities all in walking distance. Spectacular mountain views!
COURTENAY Creekside Commons 2202 Lambert Drive, Courtenay, BC V9N 1Z8	36 (36)	Pam or Don Munroe	www.creeksidecommons.ca 250-338-0187 dpmunroe@telus.net	36 duplex-style homes clustered on 9.8 acres within walking distance of downtown Courtenay. Adjacent to a park with salmon stream. 3500 sq ft common house. Many sustainable features incorporated into the design.
LANGLEY WindSong 20543 96th Avenue, Langley, BC V1M 3W3	34 (34)	Valerie McIntyre	www.windsong.bc.ca valerie333@ windsong.bc.ca	Environmental award-winning townhome development with glass-enclosed pedestrian streets. Nestled on a 6 acre site, with 4 acres of natural salmon creek reserve, organic community gardens and 5000 sq ft Common House. Visitors & tours welcome.
NANAIMO Pacific Gardens 312, 347 Seventh St, Nanaimo, BC V9R 1E3	25 (25)	Pacific Gardens	www.pacificgardens.ca 250-754-3060 joinus@pacificgardens.ca	4.37 acres with tranquil river setting; 25 condo-style apartment homes; glass-covered atrium, 8000 sq ft central common house, gardens, green building design.
NELSON The Middle Road 3140 The Middle Road, Nelson, BC V1L 6M3	11 (11)	Stuart McKinnon	www.cohousing.ca 250-825-0012 buffalo.sage@shaw.ca	Single-family, owner-built homes on 50 acres overlooking Kootenay Lake. Households own their lots plus share in 25 commonly held acres, two acres garden land. Common House is a beautifully renovated barn.
NORTH VANCOUVER Quayside Village 510 Chesterfield Ave, North Vancouver, BC V7M 2L9	19 (19)	Quayside Village	www.quaysidevillage. googlepages.com quaysidevillage@gmail.com	Mixed townhouse and apartments. Incredible views of ocean, mountains, and city. Walk to the public market, shops, restaurants, cinemas, parks, and gardens.
ROBERTS CREEK Roberts Creek Cohousing 1131 Emery Road, Roberts Creek, BC V0N 2W0	31 (31)	Gary Kent	www.robertscreek cohousing.ca 604-885-2971 garykent@telus.net	Located in the heart of Roberts Creek. A mix of single homes & duplexes clustered on 8 acres, with 12 acres preserved as natural habitat. 2840 sq ft common house plus two converted portables, workshop and multi-purpose room. Mature coniferous trees throughout and salmon creek adjacent to the development.

LOCATION GROUP NAME ADDRESS	HOUSEHOLD TOTAL (CURRENT)	CONTACT NAME	WEBSITE PHONE EMAIL	DESCRIPTION
BRITISH COLUMBIA				
PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT				
BOWEN ISLAND Belterra Cohousing Carter Road Bowen Island, BC	30 (10)	Roger McGillivray or Stephanie Legg	www.belterracohousing.ca 604-947-9486 info@belterracohousing.ca	Belterra is a beautiful 10 acre property within a 15 minute walk of the village of Snug Cove on Bowen Island (a 20 minute ferry ride from West Vancouver). The site has sloping open meadows, forested areas, steeper rocky bluffs with exceptional ocean and mountain views and a year round creek. Our goal is to create an affordable eco-village while preserving the natural features of the land.
YARROW Groundswell Cohousing 42312 Yarrow Central Road, Yarrow, BC V2R 5E2	31	Yonas Jongkind	www.yarrowecovillage.ca yonas.jongkind@gmail.com	Groundswell consists of 31 homes on 2.5 acres of the greater 25 acre Yarrow Ecovillage. We strive for harmony with nature as we live, work, play, grow, farm, shop and operate businesses in a sustaining community including organic farms. Of the 31 homes, 6 are presently occupied, 7 are under construction, 6 more are already spoken for. We have room for 12 more households
FORMING GROUPS				
NELSON Nelson Land Group Within 15 minutes of Nelson	12 - 15	Bessie Wapp	www.nelsonlandgroup.com 250-354-0288 bessiewapp@yahoo.com	We are an enthusiastic group of Nelson area residents embarking on creating community with a strong agricultural focus and an environmental ethic of sustainable land use. We embrace diversity and welcome all ages. We have a consensus-based model for decision making and use mindful, non-violent communication.
QUALICUM BEACH Valterra Village eCohousing	32 - 40	Ruth Adler	www.valterravillage.ca 250-752-0833 aerie1@telus.net	We intend to build an ecovillage on the west boundary of Qualicum Beach. This area is comprised of a 250 acre greenbelt where less than 30 acres are slated for future development. We are looking at clustering the homes within 5 1/2 acres. Fundamental principles of the community will emphasize sustainability and low-environmental impact of physical structures and lifestyle.
VICTORIA Fernwood Urban Village Corner of Chambers & North Park Street	31	Bill McKechnie	www.fernwoodurbanvillage.ca 250-888-9167 info@fernwoodurbanvillage.ca	Land has been assembled, floor plans are based on best principles and practices of urban cohousing communities. Some units will be available as rentals. Located on the rim of Victoria's urban core in the Fernwood district. It's an easy walk to town. Proximity to services and downtown encourages the use of bicycles and car-share. Sheds for kayaks and bikes are part of the common infrastructure. Permaculture intensive vegetable, and flower gardens. Sustainable lifestyle encouraged.

LOCATION GROUP NAME ADDRESS	HOUSEHOLD TOTAL (CURRENT)	CONTACT NAME	WEBSITE PHONE EMAIL	DESCRIPTION
ALBERTA, SASKATCHEWAN, MANITOBA				
COMPLETED COMMUNITIES				
CALGARY Prairie Sky Cohousing 402 - 30 Avenue N.E. Calgary, AB	18 (18)	Prairie Sky	www.prairiesky.ab.ca info@prairiesky.ab.ca	Located in the inner city community of Winston Heights. 2 & 3 bedroom townhouses & apartments, 3200 sq ft common house central courtyard with community gardens and children's play area.
PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT				
CENTRAL CALGARY Dragonfly Cohousing	20-25	Jana Vander Kloet	www.dragonflycohousing.ca 403-945-2725 Info@dragonflycohousing.ca	With a strong focus on community-building, inclusiveness, and sustainable building options. Well-designed common spaces will complement private homes (townhouse and apartment style) to create the right balance for a higher-density urban environment. Members and committees are meeting twice monthly to move this project forward!
DOWNTOWN SASKATOON Wolf Willow Cohousing	21 (18)	Eliza Meggs	www.wolfwillowcohousing.ca 306-242-4765 ea.meggs@gmail.com	We are building a community for older adults near Saskatoon's revitalized cultural core. This meets our goal of being within walking/biking distance of most of our needs. Construction is well under way and we expect to move in to our new homes in June/July of 2012. Individuals or couples interested in our project are invited to contact us.
ONTARIO				
COMPLETED COMMUNITIES				
OTTAWA Terra Firma Cohousing 166 Drummond Street Ottawa, ON K1S 1K4	7(6)	Signy Fridriksson and Steve Fick	613-233-8438	Located in the center of the city and close to the Rideau Canal. Consisting of 2 3-unit townhouses and a recently built 7th unit and common house. Includes solar hot water, play structures, treehouse, gardens, bicycle storage, composting bins.
FORMING GROUPS				
TORONTO GreenSong	25 - 30	Laurie Mace	www.greensong.ca info@greensong.ca	GreenSong is building an environmentally sensitive cohousing development near Toronto, Ontario, where individuality can flourish within a vibrant, diverse neighbourhood. We plan to create an inclusive, multi-generational community where the arts thrive and newness is encouraged.
QUEBEC				
FORMING GROUPS				
QUEBEC CITY Cohabitat Québec	35 (20)	Hélène Langlois	www.cohabitat.ca relationspubliques@cohabitat.ca 418-527-4205	Our challenge is to create a living environment that will promote harmony between the individual, the community and the environment, a healthy space where the generations enrich one another and simply feel good. Our only limit is our imagination.
Canadian Cohousing Network			12	Autumn / Winter 2011