



The Whole Villager

Whole Village is a Sustainable Farm Community

We are a group of people from a variety of backgrounds, singles and families, who have come together to build an ecovillage and support an ecologically sensitive farming program (CSA) based on organic and permaculture practices.

The Whole Villager is our periodical newsletter, designed to keep our associates and friends up to date about our project and to help them develop stronger ties with our farm community. We plan to share information regarding community living, sustainable agriculture and land stewardship to promote our mission, vision and guiding principles.

Winter 2010/2011



Katyna & Lee

8 Years & Celebrating

By Mairy Beam

In our eight years of living together, we have grown to appreciate the importance of celebrating together. Our common dinners and weekly check-ins are fundamental for us but we've found that additional fun events are needed too. We now have a monthly games night that is open to anyone who enjoys games of any kind. We host Home Routes concerts six times a year, bringing great music to our home, and supporting musicians in the process. Check our website for the dates and artists coming next.

New this year are the full moon gatherings hosted by Craig and Bree who have more than a hundred drums. Several former residents attended our Winter Solstice, Full Moon, Lunar Eclipse gathering on December 22, drumming and dancing the night away.

One of the biggest celebrations in 2010 was the marriage of Hari and Lorna Viswanathan. Hari is the son of Shantha, a member who is one of our most avid gardeners. The wedding was multi-cultural, multi-faith and beautiful! A highlight was Hari riding a white horse festooned with garlands in a procession around Greenhaven accompanied by drums and a trumpet.

If you would like to be notified of our special events, join Whole Village on Facebook.

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Whole Village
20725 Shaws Creek Road
Caledon, ON
L7K 1L7
(519) 941-1099

www.wholevillage.org
info@wholevillage.org

2010 in Review

By Brenda Dolling



Bree, Shora, Gabriel, Maggie & Liam

Besides a very productive CSA garden this year, members and volunteers tended to herbs, perennial asparagus, various fruits and nuts. A new half acre “sun trap” was planted with strawberries, fruit bushes, grapes and some fruit trees. Additional trees were planted in the edible forest garden and replacement trees among the windbreaks. Friends donated to the tree planting project as a carbon tax on their air miles. Over 12,000 trees have been planted and are reaching higher every year to create diverse shelterbelts and wildlife corridors as nature fills in the gaps with wild bushes and flowers.

With the help of a very skilled volunteer, Michael, and new property managers, Craig and Bree, progress was made in repairing and creating infrastructure. We now have in ground and above ground cisterns to catch the rain water from the vast barn roof. Repairs to machinery and buildings improved efficiency. The CSA shed was expanded helping provide protected work space. Our century farmhouse required lots of upgrades as well this year.

Many tour groups and students learned about sustainability, often pitching in to help with various farm chores. Volunteers and interns supported us with their generous labour, friendship and encouragement. Monthly work bees helped us mulch, weed, harvest and collect wood through teamwork that had the added bonus of fun and fellowship. A favourite activity was using the antique cider press to turn the record crop of heritage apples into juice. Members also preserved produce in many ways, including solar drying. Jamie continued to be a loyal beekeeper, harvesting delicious honey for the community and for sale.

Knowing that we could benefit from a review of how we deal with conflict, and how we present ourselves to others, we invited Laird Schaub to spend a few days with us. Laird co-founded an eco-village when he was twenty-four and has been living there for thirty-five years. He now makes his living advising and counselling eco-villages and other communities drawing on this experience. He was a very good facilitator and offered us practical advice and suggestions that we are working to implement.

Shane, Natasha and Kathleen left Whole Village to work together at Chicory Common, a health food store and cafe in Durham. We welcomed Lee and Katyna to Greenhaven in September and look forward to their new baby in March.

There are memberships available and suites in Greenhaven for purchase or rent. We welcome all who are interested to our monthly information sessions and work bees. Check our website for dates and times and consider joining our community to create a more sustainable lifestyle.

In Praise of Solar Hot Water

By Mairy Beam

If you peek around the corner to the east side of Greenhaven, you will notice a new structure. This post and beam structure supports the solar collectors that are positioned to face due south. As of July 2010, this system has been supplying all of the hot water needs of the eleven suites in Greenhaven, and the water has never been hotter!

The project manager was Roger Wapniarski, a long time resident of Whole Village. He was a major participant in creating the design for the structure. He sourced the collectors, and other components, found reliable contractors, and did a significant amount of the work himself. Thanks, Roger!

From July to November our daily average kilowatt hour usage for all of Greenhaven has decreased from 176 to 140 -- more than 20%!

Any day now we should be receiving a cheque for over nine thousand dollars for the grant from Ontario Solar Thermal Heating Incentive program. A cheque was issued in November for an equivalent grant from the ecoENERGY for Renewable Heat Program of Natural Resources Canada. Unfortunately, this cheque never arrived, but we expect a replacement cheque soon (after completing many forms and affidavits).

The heating of Greenhaven is still done by the ground source geo-thermal system using an in-floor system. During the day we can take advantage of the sunshine. During the chilly night we can pump up the heat stored in the earth with the geo-thermal system. Significant electricity is needed for the heat pumps but since this activity occurs primarily during the evening and night, we can avoid adding to peak usage in the grid and take advantage of the lower rates.

Thanks to all who worked on this project and for the government support. Thanks, most of all, for the sunshine.



ECOVILLAGE SUITES FOR SALE

Suites for sale or rent

Beautiful. Affordable. Healthy. Sustainable

Whole Village is a unique place where you can live sustainably in the country, without being isolated. Have your own condo-style suite, plus shared facilities on 191 acres of beautiful, rolling property.

Whole Village is a community for all ages. Live in an eco-friendly home, super-insulated against the elements. Radiant in-floor heating, lots of natural light, surrounded by nature. Enjoy incredibly fresh organic food, grown year-round on the property. Make the most of the common areas: library, games room, children's play area, huge kitchen, laundry room, office space. Share delicious meals regularly... then retreat to your fully private suite.

Outdoor recreational opportunities abound: walking, swimming, gardening, cross-country skiing, tobogganing, Bruce Trail nearby. An amazing place to raise kids, surrounded by nature.

Whole Village is situated 15 minutes from Orangeville, 35 from Brampton. Hospitals, schools and all amenities nearby. Convenient access to Toronto including GO Bus from Orangeville six times daily.

Commuting distance to Toronto, Brampton, Mississauga, Oakville, Guelph, Waterloo.

Map: <http://maps.google.ca/maps?q=20725%20Shaws%20Creek%20Road,%20Caledon,%20...>

Suites start at \$190,000. Rental or rent-to-own can be negotiated. Options range from bachelor to four bedroom.

Discover the Whole Village! Come for an information meeting and tour, spend a night at our Bed & Breakfast... or come to a volunteer work-bee, held monthly. Call (519) 941-1099 or email info@wholevillage.org.

ECO - ENTREPRENEURS WELCOME

Eco-Entrepreneurs Welcome

Have you always wanted to work and live in one beautiful location ? Opportunities abound at Whole Village. Consider growing organic cut flowers, shiitake mushrooms, strawberries, winter greens or hemp, for example. Consider using our out buildings for a business such as recumbent bikes like Mike, who was on the construction team, did.

One new resident is planning yoga classes and other healing classes. Tours of the ecovillage and educational activities have been operating here since 2002. A two week permaculture design course will be offered in July. Other such educational initiatives are welcome.

The most recent example of a successful business is the CSA project. Graham and Amy have registered their own farm business and leased farmland, buildings and machinery from Whole Village in order to provide fresh, organic produce to members on site and local buyers who pick up at the farm. They have grown enough produce to sell at a local market as well.

Among other possibilities are value added food, like dried herbs, jams, or even honey or maple syrup. The latter two have been produced here, but mostly for the community. Homemade crafts, renewable energy businesses and natural therapies would also tie in with our ecovillage vision.

Whole Village welcomes entrepreneurs. Come to us with a business plan to open discussions !