



## *April 2008 Newsletter*

### *Members & Residents*

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On Monday April 21<sup>st</sup>, Whole Village added a new member when Gabriel Integrity Kulikauskas was born to mother Maggie and first-time grandparents, Vic and Jayne. The community is thrilled to have the calming influence of a newborn around, later celebrating the new arrival with a dessert party. Welcome to the world baby Gabriel!

The community happily welcomed members Tom and Shantha back into our midst after a long time away, each of them traveling to India.

It was an especially important month for Natalie, whose provisional membership status was confirmed by WV. She also transitioned into a new full-time job and began preparations for two personal farm projects. She is preparing to raise Muscovy ducks in the red shed and has recently purchased inoculated logs for shitake mushroom production.

Julie and Jean Marc announced their intentions to move out of their suite in May (which is now for sale), as Jean Marc has acquired a job near Terrace Bay. Their presence will be missed and we wish them the best of luck.

Whole Village cannot seem to get rid of the Greenhaven construction workers! Just when Mark is moving out of the farmhouse, Shane has moved in. April was Mark's last month here on the farm and we send best wishes for his future plans.

Ted and Sarah (and Smith) have announced that they are planning an extensive summertime trip out west to investigate other Canadian ecovillage projects as part of Ted's continuing doctoral research. They will be back in August.

## *Community & Outreach*

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Jeff put out the call in April for those interested in providing feedback for the recently completed Whole Village website (<http://www.wholevillage.org/>). Take a look at the on-line transformation, if you haven't done so already.

Natalie, as a farewell party to her former co-workers at Harmony Market, organized a fun night on April 12<sup>th</sup> at Greenhaven. Many people participated in a wonderful potluck meal followed by music (a drumming circle) and dance.

Shane continued to work toward the future WV Sustainable Communities presentation, and received word from the Ontario Environment Network that our requested collaboration with them looked good and that the final confirmation of an official agreement should occur in the next few weeks.

## *Visitors & Volunteers*

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The first volunteer of the spring season arrived on the first weekend in April. Hal joined us for a few days (from Toronto) and WV benefited greatly from his carpentry skills as he helped Shane repair the south greenhouse.

It was truly a pleasure to once again have Natasha (a previous CSA garden manager) at Whole Village, as she kindly offered to help out when our CSA program got off to a challenging start. She stayed for four days and was an incredible source of energy and information for the new CSA garden management team.

Special mention is needed this month for another former CSA leader at WV. Although Lucy did not visit the farm in person, the CSA management was very appreciative of her long distance guidance. She also offered experienced opinions in those first critical days.

Lisa Large (from the Windsor area) arrived mid-month and is our first long-term volunteer this year. For a few weeks now, she has been immersed in our community life and working all over the property on a variety of spring tasks. We have greatly appreciated her daily efforts and engaging personality.

Thanks to Ted, Brenda and others who helped host a contingent of Guelph Students for Environmental Change on the third weekend of the month. These enthusiastic young people helped on the farm and stayed overnight.

In yet another example of construction crew personnel who can't stay away, on a couple of occasions WV members have noticed Mikey lurking about, with

his electrician's belt on. His assistance in helping Roger with the installation of the electronic metering systems in the Greenhaven mechanical room was greatly appreciated.

## *Greenhaven*

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We would like to acknowledge all of the research and co-ordination that Roger has invested in the new metering systems going into Greenhaven. These gadgets will tell us where our energy is being used and will help illuminate a path forward for future reductions in usage.

Greenhaven provided the members with lots of challenges this month. Brenda and Shane continued to investigate possible solutions to the water drainage issues on the roof, the heat pumps seemed to take a late 'March Break', and we dealt with some septic system adventures!

The community is happy to enjoy the spin-off benefits of Shane's meticulous obsession with order. During the first part of the month, Shane finished off the process of totally reorganizing the Greenhaven library book collection.

## *The Farm*

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The biggest news item on the farm for April was maple syrup! We cannot express enough gratitude for all the willing hands, difficult walking, and hard labour in the sugar bush. We had 167 spiles dripping into 125 buckets, with a few very good days! Our friend Jay Mowat boiled the sap for us again, and we ended up with 50 liters.

Summertime temperatures arrived abruptly, changing the snowy landscape to green in just days. After a long and hard winter it was exciting to see the ground again! The strawberry patch received attention, gardeners became active all over the property, and the wetland peepers began singing loudly.

Brenda worked with our resident volunteers this month to transplant 250 trees from our maple bush to the windbreaks on the farm. Her constant dedication to the farm plan is an inspiration. Unsurprisingly, it did not take long for her new set of wheels to be thoroughly baptized with the anointing soils of WV.

On the 13<sup>th</sup>, the monthly Workbee was very well attended and the property became abuzz with activity. This time of year provides no shortage of jobs on the land. We want to thank all the participants for their contributions!

Carl Martin, our ever-faithful neighborhood farmer-friend, has been commissioned to help prepare the fields. He showed up late in the month when things dried out to cultivate a 10-acre plot for feed grains. Another plot will be prepared for a forest garden and edible perennials.

## *The CSA Program*

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What an eventful month for the CSA! First we learned that Amanda was transitioning her life path and would be moving on from WV to pursue her studies. With both her and Aerron leaving, it seemed that the program was going to have to be cancelled this year. Enter our superheroes, Graham and Adrienne, who traded in their internships for an opportunity to co-manage! Their courage and energy sparked us all to move forward, and now Aerron has elected to stay on to join them in forming a mighty CSA trio for this season.

Thanks to Natasha, Lucy, and Brenda for the umpteen phone dialogues, Martha for her early plantings, all the members who pitched in, and the late night planning sessions of the new management team, it wasn't long before both CSA greenhouses were totally full, sprouting with new life.

The first CSA newsletter hit cyberspace late in the month, with the first sales of shares already confirmed. The management team was delighted to renew a highly beneficial relationship with the Millcroft Inn, located nearby in Alton.

The WV community would like to extend words of appreciation to Shane, who moved back to Whole Village in mid-March and has been very active throughout April helping the CSA program get off to a good start. He has helped repair the greenhouses, initiated the building of a new masonry heater in the north greenhouse, and is now updating infrastructure for tool storage.