



GLENORA GAZETTE

FALL 2023

GLENORA FARM COMMUNITY: 30 YEARS !

by Martha Muller

Dear Friends,

From near and far, old and new, thank you for your ongoing support throughout the years which gave us the courage to keep going.

When we moved to Duncan, those many years ago, we were but a handful of people. Our common intent was to start a Camphill community. We had a vision of a vibrant, thriving and diverse community. A place where people of many different abilities would live, work and celebrate together. At times this seemed a daunting task. There were many ups and downs, pains and joys, and challenges both in the practical day to day work as well as in the social realm.

Now 30 years later, as we look back, we can clearly see our journey through the years. Now we must forge our iron, while it's still hot, and create the future out of the present.

May this verse be of help as an inner guidance :

A Vision without a task is a dream.

A Task without a vision is drudgery.

A Task with a vision builds future.

We pray for people with vision to carry on the task.

Heartfelt greetings from all of us here at Glenora Farm!



SCENES
FROM
THE
FARM





The Present

with Tara Batho, Olivia Jackson & Kristine Millere

Over the last 5 years, Glenora Farm has restructured the organization and implemented changes in key positions, including defining roles and group mandates, which has made our work more efficient and has brought more structure and clarity in our daily life and decision-making processes. We navigated the Covid-19 pandemic and ensured the safety and wellbeing of everyone. At times, this has meant staying in the house bubbles, organizing our workshops differently, working a lot more outside, and becoming very familiar with holding meetings online via Zoom.

We built the Farmhouse – a project that would not have been possible without community engagement and partnerships with David Coulson Designs, Camphill Foundation, and other community partnerships. We replaced the original roof of the Big House with a brand new metal roof, strong enough to support our new solar panels. This project was made possible by way of a Community Gaming Grant and ongoing fundraising initiatives. The solar panels will save the organization over \$60,000 in Hydro in the next 30 years!

In Autumn 2021, we worked with Michael Frosh. Our leadership groups felt the need to take steps towards increasing effective communication, develop our awareness of leadership, and build trust and engagement within our Coworking teams. We also engaged with the Accreditation process that started in early 2018 – thank you to Karen Humber and Kyle Vamvakas for blazing the trail and leading us in the right direction. The process just culminated in a two-day site survey at the end of August.

For the past while we have been working on our chicken and egg production project. Thanks to funding from the Island Health Community Wellness grant, the Vancity Community Partnership Program and our amazing donors, we now have chickens who will provide lots of eggs. Many eggs will be eaten here in the houses, lots will be donated and what is remaining will be sold. Taking care of our feathered friends will be part of Glenora Farm's day program, and we will also host chicken and egg production workshops for the public and local schools.

The work that has taken place over the last 30 years is leading Glenora Farm to a bright future.





The Future with Tara Batho, Olivia Jackson & Kristine Millere

As we look toward the future, we are looking to transform Harvest Hall into a processing kitchen. We have been working with Darren Stott of GreenChain Consulting and David Coulson Design on a feasibility study to expand our program offerings and explore culinary and eco tourism opportunities.

We are also moving forward with our Herb Garden expansion project, improving accessibility, and building an outdoor education centre, which will provide Companions, Coworkers, and volunteers with a place to come together and learn with shelter from the sun and rain. It will also provide us the opportunity to host public workshops covering topics such as herbal and plant medicines, garden planning and preparation, companion planting, farmer training, and biodynamic preparations. This new structure will serve as a community hub for education about ecology, conservation, and land stewardship.

In our ongoing efforts to care for the land and all of its creatures, we are currently planning and developing an orchard that will be located in the vegetable garden. This might include some beehives for our bee friends! All of these projects will help us continue to build a strong future.

When looking back at some of the visioning and strategic planning we all did together with Karen Humber in 2016, it is evident that slowly but surely we are moving towards achieving most of our goals and wishes for this community. Already a lot of things which were future plans, are present now. And we would like to acknowledge all the hard work, energy, creativity and inspiration that Adola and Martha have spoken to, the seeds and roots are flourishing into a thriving community.





The Seed

by Adola McWilliam

A short article by Adola McWilliam on how some of the seeds for the birth of Glenora Farm were laid, and how they lay dormant and patiently waited for many years.

When I was about 12 or 13 years old, in the Netherlands, a Canadian friend of my mothers showed us a photo album of what my mother called Canada. The photos were superb and took my breath away. Only recently did it occur to me that they probably represented the beauty of the mountainous ocean scapes of British Columbia. My mother fell in love with them and it seemed to me that she was expecting me to end up there one day. I was impressed but was so busy with living my young life after the Second World War.

When I was 20 years old residing, working and studying in Camphill Scotland near Aberdeen and had decided that my future lay in Camphill, I was visiting a more senior Coworker (Susanne Muller—Wiedeman) who had worked with and was trained by Ita Wegman in La Motta (Italian speaking Switzerland.) She told me, on that memorable day that Ita Wegman had said to her Coworkers there, that in British Columbia, Vancouver (or was it Vancouver Island) one can still heal. "We should all pack our suitcases and go there." These words hit me like a bolt of lightning. I decided then and there that one day when the time was ripe and I would be ready and more mature I would start a Camphill community there.

A few words about Ita Wegman. She was of Dutch origin, born in Indonesia. Ultimately she became a physician in Switzerland and worked closely with Rudolf Steiner. She also started homes for children and even introduced Dr. K. Koenig to this community work around children with special needs.

Ita Wegmans' particular innovative medical work was what is now called Geographic medicine. She had a special understanding of the effect of how specific homeopathic medications work in different regions of the earth. She passed away towards the end of World War Two, before ever visiting B.C., but many people in Vancouver had begun to prepare for a possible future work with her. This was one of the reasons why it was so easy for us to take up our work in Curative Education and Social Therapy, first in Vancouver and then on the Island with a group of dedicated founders.

One word about my husband, Charles. When he was invited as a young engineer for a meal at the Canadian Embassy in London, England he too had a special experience and knew from then on that he would end his life in B.C.



30th Anniversary Celebration Photos!

