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Notable Quotes

"Some days we'll just be working in our own vegetable gardens and someone will say, 'Hey, I've got some potatoes,' and another will add, 'I've got some salad makings,' and so on, until before you know it we have a potluck dinner in the courtyard and end up talking and drinking wine late into the night." - *quoted in [Cohousing: A Contemporary Approach To Housing Ourselves](#) by Kathryn McCamant & Charles Durrett*

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July 8, 2009

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Join us at the Farmhouse at 45 Edgecomb Road this coming Sunday, July 12, from 2 - 4 pm for our regular Open House, this week featuring a Garden Party / Community Yard Sale. Smiling Cohousers, fancy hats, cut flowers, croquet, bocce, badminton, and great deals - all in one beautiful spot! Here are some other upcoming events of note:

July 8

Stone Age Economics

July 17-19

Celtic Celebration

Aug 9

Open House 1 - 5 pm - "Farming & Playing with Draft Ponies"

Aug 12

Sustainability Discussion Group

Sept 12

Open House 2 - 4 pm - "Human Chess Match: No Experience Necessary!"

Sept 18-20

Common Ground Fair (visit us at our booth)

Project Update - Steve Chiasson

The buildings on the old Keene farm (a portion of which is the site of our community) have been a work in progress for equity member Alan Gibson and his construction crew for many months. There's much to do yet, particularly with the barn, but the farmhouse itself is finished enough for us to begin using it for regular community meetings. We're also making the space available for two special events this summer.



The first, "Stone Age Economics," will take place on Wednesday, July 8th, at the farmhouse (45 Edgecomb Rd, Belfast). This presentation by the Newforest Institute is the third in a six-part series called "Permafeast!"- hands-on workshops that demonstrate the principals of permaculture and natural farming. The session will be held from 4:30-7:30 p.m. The cost is \$20 (\$100 for the entire series). Advance reservation is requested; class size will be limited to 15.

For more information or to register, call 207-722-3625 or send an e-mail to andrea@newforestinstitute.org.

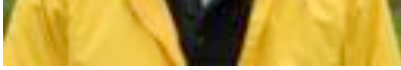
The second, "Sustainability: Fall Discussion Course Options," presented by Maine Earth Institute, will take place on August 12th from 5:30-7:30 pm. At this introduction, participants will choose one of the following for more in-depth study (4-8 weeks, depending on the course chosen): Choices for Sustainable Living, Menu for the Future, Healthy Children / Healthy Planet, Discovering a Sense of Place, Voluntary Simplicity, Global Warming: Changing CO2urse, and Exploring Deep Ecology.

For more information on the Maine Earth Institute and their course offerings, visit them at <http://www.maineearthinstitute.org/>.



On The Land - Hans Hellstrom

When I enthusiastically sat down to scribble out a couple of paragraphs about our recent campout on the cohousing land, I somehow found myself in the shoes of Andy Rooney. I was ready to write, but my laptop remained blank for some time until the word "lucky" came to mind - and it stuck. No, it didn't



stick because I spilled my morning OJ! But in reviewing last weekend's tasty camping experience, I simply could not release the word.

Above and beyond John's BBQ, the campout served all of us many courses and a savory sample of what's cooking in our futures. For starters, the seasoned (hardy) campers in our project bathed in the wet stuff from above - a before-meal drop of the pure! Then we settled into the Common House site, where some earlier clearing back of the brush had prepared a large open space and an abundance of tent sites. In the middle of it all was the toasty campfire, whose warmth brought the saucy flavor of the life we look forward to in the Common House: John's BBQ (the kitchen), boulders (the social (s)eating area), an awesome earful of Jeff's jammin' (music everywhere), a kids' play area filling in the cracks (always the kids), and all this surrounded by a gorgeous environment of fresh air, sizzling views and the sweet sound of our feathered friends (by no means denoting the smoke alarm of something left on the stove too long!).

But by far, the icing on the cake was the social time spent and the heartfelt, simply-delicious sense of what we're cooking up for our future and beyond - an incredible energy boost.

Now, is this what you'd call L-U-C-K-Y? I sure would!

Member Profile - Judy McMahon

Helping hands. Commons. Time found. Flavor added. Economy created.

Lynn Miller, Small Farmer's Journal, Spring, 2009

I live on beautiful land in a house that I helped build. Out back there is a large garden, pasture for several horses, a studio where I work, a river. My two daughters have grown up here and know most of the people around them-children and adults. It has given them a special sense of place and security. I moved constantly as a child, living in New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Virginia and Hawaii. I learned about different people and environments and I yearned to stay put. Why would I choose to leave my home to live in a cohousing community?

Helping each other, rather than living the fiercely independent life of many Americans (myself sometimes included), gives us something in common-it can be the glue of community. It can foster compassion. By sharing work and resources we can find more time for ourselves and each other, life becomes more flavorful, more spontaneous, and we can begin to create local human-scale economies.

There are some other reasons nudging me along as well... a group of people that I like and admire, a sense that it is time to shift towards a new paradigm of living,



and the pure adventure of this undertaking.

I have degrees in music and forestry and have only recently settled on a "career" as a Suzuki violin teacher. Teaching music to children and adults is as inspiring and challenging as anything I have done. I have an unabashed passion for music. All types of music intrigue me. I also like being near the ocean and have sailed on both sides of the Atlantic. It used to be that music was my avocation and farming and forestry were vocations. Now it is the reverse. The cohousing site lends itself to small scale agriculture and I look forward to farming and gardening with other families and sharing the work and the responsibilities of living close to the land.

There are many other things to be shared-music, cups of tea, taking care of children, celebrations, mending a fence, shoveling snow, tools, holding up a ladder, trips to town, a library, feeding the chickens, a walk, lifting something heavy, harvesting, planting... the commons of being human and living in community.



We're Now on Facebook!

To help increase our visibility on the web and provide a means for interested folks to engage us more actively, we now have a Facebook page. To become a Fan and help spread the word, visit us at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Belfast-Area-Cohousing-Ecovillage/116517236969>

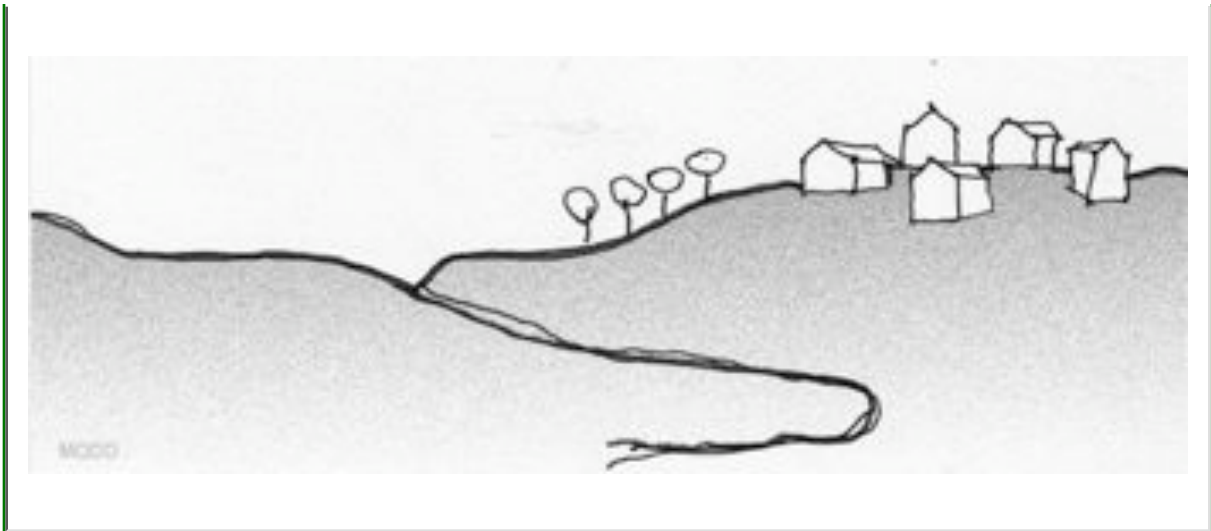
Twitter and YouTube accounts aren't far off. Stay tuned!

Membership Information

Equity Members are those households who have already committed to purchasing a home in the community. There are currently fourteen of a projected thirty-six Equity members. Exploring Members are those households who have an interest in becoming Equity Members, but are not yet ready to fully commit. There are currently sixteen Exploring members. Friends are those who are interested in our project, but are not members. See the [Membership](#) section of our website for further details.

Our Mission

To be a model environmentally sustainable, affordable, multi-generational cohousing community that is easily accessible to Belfast, includes land for agricultural use and open space, and is an innovative housing development option for rural Maine.



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