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### Notable Quotes

"We never worry about finding a baby sitter because we know we can depend on one of the neighbors - and the kids are very comfortable staying with them."  
- Frede Dybljaer, resident of Mejdal, from [Cohousing: A Contemporary Approach To Housing Ourselves](#) by Charles Durette & Kathryn McCamant

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## October 14, 2009

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### Membership Update - we're halfway there!

Three former Exploring Member households - Dyan Wiley & Tor Smith, Rob & Arielle Bywater, and Lindsey & Allison Piper - became full Equity Members this week, bringing our total Equity Membership to eighteen. Yes, folks we are officially halfway there!

We'd also like to welcome new Exploring Member Marion Brown. Marion was raised in Connecticut and Colorado and spent many happy summers in Maine as a child. She graduated from the Univ. of Colorado with a degree in nursing, specializing in pediatrics. In addition to nursing she has had both a career as a massage therapist and acupuncturist. Currently she lives in Brunswick and is immersed in her love for fiber art and teaching rug hooking. She enjoys hiking, birding, gardening, creating wool hooked rugs, handicrafts, eating healthy organic food, cooking, reading, photography, cribbage and playing with children.

### **Cohousing on the High Seas - Sanna McKim**

Okay, so I decided after years of drownable, small, crawling-everywhere, totally precious children, that we were finally ready to put our old (old) sailboat, our catboat Tigger, in the water again. Actually, it wasn't so much because the kids are now swimmers as it was practically an entire cohousing community pushing, pulling, hinting, emailing, urging, enabling (yes, in a good way), cajoling and just plain DOING the ton of work involved in making what seems like a pleasant little hobby, actually possible. Here's how our one sail this summer happened for Alan and the kids and me, as captured by the email I hastily sent to our Steering Committee on Friday night (instead of the agenda I owed them for Tuesday's meeting):



*"Okay, this is not the agenda you need, but it IS a great omen foreshadowing the future fun of our cohousing group instead. Joanne, Morten, Paul, Coleen, Denise, John, Lora and Ned, and many patient smiling kids are waiting for me down by the harbor, bow and stern lines in hand. I would like to sit here all night typing up agendas and answering 800 emails from this past week. Yes, 800. However, without these guys, I never would have: 1. Put the boat in the water in the first place (it IS Labor Day after all-I knew I'd never get it together to actually sail). 2. Had new rigging in place and checklists of safety things fixed (don't even ask-I don't know). 3. Fixed the problem preventing the sail from going up - sort of important! 4. Gotten all this scrumptious food purchased for the weekend and stowed away with fresh ice. 5. Had four escort boats ready to lead us across Penobscot Bay (our 'required-by-law' running lights don't work) in full moonlight. 6. Hatched plans for the kids to be asleep (ha!) by the time we reach our anchorage off Holbrook Island. 7. Enjoyed wine, cheese and dinner waiting on the other side (rafting together - no fussing with our questionable anchor). 8. Savored time to just hang out with friends...*

*...and talk about cohousing no doubt!"*



### **Member Profile - Denise Pendleton**

I grew up in Belfast, where the Pendletons have lived for generations, but moved away for college, swearing I'd never return to a town that felt way too small for a teenager outside of the mainstream. After picking up a few degrees and getting a taste of big city life, I began to miss Maine and made my return, starting with twenty years in the Portland

area. My studies and professional life came together there, with my focus on literature, writing and the arts. Just three years ago, I made the full move back, not only to Belfast, but to the farmhouse I grew up in, wanting my husband John, and our two children, Audrey and Luke to experience the beauty and joy of country life. Of course, one can't truly go home again; the 75 acres I grew up on with my four brothers and sisters, building forts and snake-hunting in, has now shrunk to 30 acres, and the dirt road we used to build mud dams on is now a busy tarred cross road. Oddly too, the house that fit a family of seven now feels too small, reminding me daily of how dramatically lifestyles have changed even for those of us who resist much of consumer culture.

So, I am drawn to this cohousing venture for many reasons. John and I started our life together raising children on a South Portland one-way street full of kids of a similar age and we shared many outside toys, lawn-movers and tools with neighbors. We yearn to have that feeling of community back, absent the cars driving past ten feet from our front door and absent the greater urban surroundings. Now we have our woods, field, garden and chickens, but find it impossibly difficult to raise children, animals, and vegetables while meeting the demands of our jobs. Cohousing offers a solution that seems eminently sensible to me, where my whole family can have better chances of getting what they want and need from neighborhood, community and country life - where we can move beyond the old nuclear family model to enjoy other mentors for our children and the opportunity to offer support to other families as well, working, playing and growing together, all to strengthen intentional community and a sustainable way of life.



**Going Home -  
Coleen O'Connell**

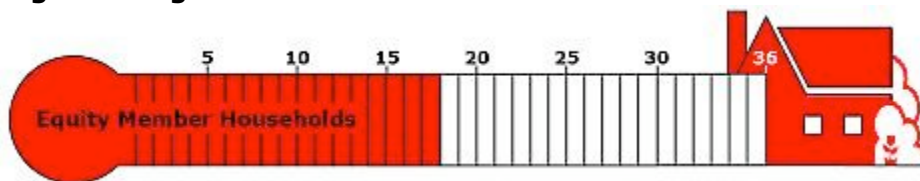
"We are all longing to go home to some place we have never been before, a place half remembered and half envisioned we can only catch glimpses of from time to time. Community. Somewhere there are people to whom we can speak with passion without having the words catch in our throats. Somewhere a

circle of friends with hands open to receive us, eyes will light as we enter, voices will celebrate with us whenever we come into our own power. Community means strength that joins strength to do the work that needs to be done." *Starhawk*

The growing community of Belfast Cohousing and Ecovillage is a place where eyes are lighting up, where the strengths of each person is being celebrated, and the connections to each other is deepening. We are creating a home in the Farmhouse

on Edgcomb Road, our Common House before the real Common House we have designed and will watch emerge on our land. Eyes are lighting up as we enter for a gathering or meeting. We are applauding our strengths and successes as we travel this development path together. There is incredible depth of spirit and character in our expanding family. We are adopting each other - literally choosing to become neighbors and friends for years to come. We aren't tip-toeing around each other and wondering whether this is a match, we are diving in, being ourselves, making mistakes, sharing who we are, adding our wisdoms to the dialogue and making some great decisions. The longing for this kind of community is palpable - you can feel it in the air, you can hear it in our voices, you can see it in our faces. The vision is becoming clearer with each passing month and there will be a moment when it is no longer half envisioned... it will be a complete and a real dream come true. I can't tell you how excited I will be to move in.

### Charting Our Progress



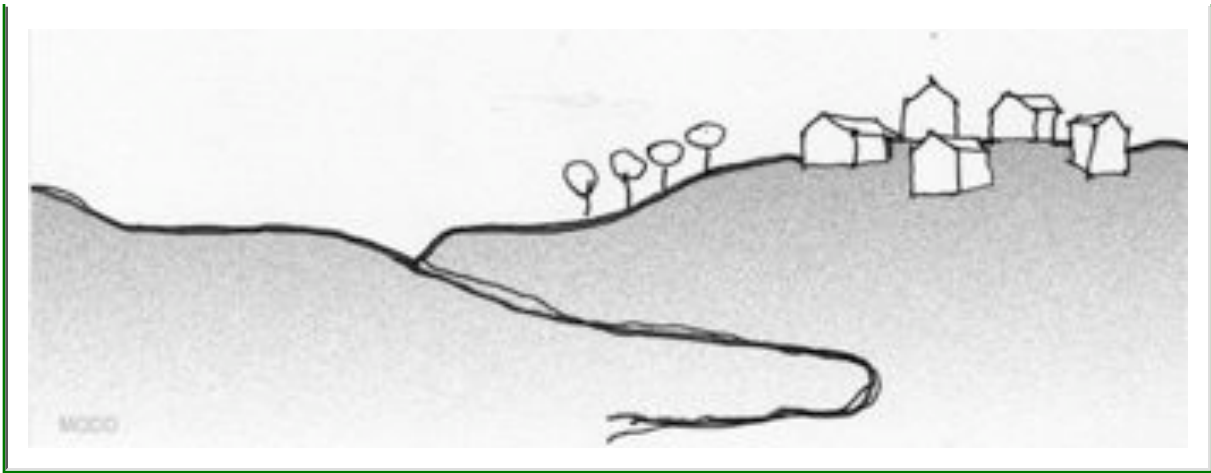
As the project gains momentum, we're adding new members at a rapid clip. If you've been thinking about joining but have been holding back, waiting to see if this village is really going to happen, the time is now! If you wait too much longer, you may find yourself on the waiting list, wishing you'd jumped in when you had the chance...

### Membership Information

Equity Members are those households who have already committed to purchasing a home in the community. There are currently eighteen 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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