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Notable Quotes

"Our future and our fate lie in our wills more than in our hands, for our hands are but the instruments of our wills"
- B. C. Forbes

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December 2, 2009

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Annie Russell Reminder...

On Friday, December 4, from 7-8 pm, at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Belfast, Annie Russell, a nationally renowned authority on cohousing, will present a slide show about cohousing communities around the country. The event is sponsored by Belfast Cohousing & Ecovillage and is free and open to the public.

Russell is a founder and member of Silver Sage Village, in Boulder, Colorado, one of the nation's first senior cohousing communities. She has worked for more than a decade as an organizational consultant to Fortune 500 companies and non-profits; currently she is responsible for community building at Wonderland Hill Development Company, the largest developer of cohousing in the United States.

Before Bricks & Mortar - Steve Chiasson

The finish line is in sight. One by one the hurdles are



cleared, and each day brings us closer to realizing our collective vision - this "new old-fashioned neighborhood," as cohousers in the know like to call it. Decisions are being made, policies shaped, plans drawn and permits acquired. G•O Logic's prototype home is rising before our eyes, and finalizing plans for the Common House - temporarily put on hold while we sorted out more pressing issues - will be back on the agenda in the next few months. Thoughts of barns, root cellars, orchards and gardens are moving out of the realm of abstract ideas toward becoming concrete proposals and clearly defined plans. There's an unbelievable amount of work to do, but many hands help make that work lighter, and many minds help keep the thinking clear.



Except for the land itself, the physical community - the structures and landscapes - still exists largely in the mind's eye. And yet we all feel it growing, this community, much like the prototype home. It manifests itself in social ways - in potluck dinners, in workshops, in play dates, in parades, in boating excursions, in voices raised in song, in cider-pressing and bulb-planting, in yard sales and croquet games, in cross-country ski treks and sledding parties. We feel the ties between us growing and strengthening, and know in our hearts that this is really going to work. The finish line is in sight.



**Witches of November -
Mike Shannon**

*In the dusky, somber woodland, thwarting vistas dull
and cold, thrown in vivid constellation, gleam the hazel
stars of gold, gracious gifts of wealth untold.*

*Hazel blossoms brightly glowing through the forest
dark and drear, work sweet miracles, bestowing
gladness in the dying year, joy of life in woods grown
sere. - Anonymous*

Witch-hazel is one of my favorite woody shrubs of the New England landscape. It lives in the understory, has egg-shaped leaves with scalloped edges, yellow flowers in autumn and woody seed-capsules that persist on the plant throughout the year.

In my sojourns around the cohousing land, I have yet to encounter a witch-hazel shrub, although I have seen it locally. It begins blooming in October when most everything else in the woods seems to have shut down for the winter. Indian Summer days will bring out just enough late season bees and gnats to pollinate the yellow strap-like flowers. The flowers can also self-pollinate... a good strategy to have in reserve. It takes a full year for the seeds to fully mature. When ripe, the seed pods will explode and catapult two rice-sized shiny black seeds a distance of twenty to thirty feet. The tiny seeds will lie on the ground for two winters before germinating.

In the early days of America, witch-hazel was used in local 'witchery' to find water. You took a forked branch of witch-hazel (one whose points grew north and south so that they had felt the influence of the sun and its rising and setting) and you carried it with a point in each hand, the stem pointing forward. Any downward tug of the stem was carried by the flow of hidden water or the gleam of buried gold. Today we call this dowsing or water witching.



**Member Profile -
Margie Shannon**

My life has been closely connected to the land. I was born and grew up in several small towns in central New York State where my dad was a farm and soil conservation planner for farmers. Sometimes when I cleaned out his lunch pail there would be plants or fruits or nuts from old trees he'd found on a farm. As a family, we took long walks nearly every weekend or worked in his honeybee hobby "business."

Following my parents' lead, I grew up to be a teacher, taught elementary grades for a few years (before children) and then taught again after moving to Maine in 1990. In between, Mike and I raised two children, Heather and Ian. I took them to violin lessons, volunteered in their scout and 4-H activities and volunteered at the nature centers (and children's farm) where we lived.

I've gardened since my earliest memories, later building lovely vegetable gardens at each nature center. We currently have a 40' x 60' garden here on Frye Mountain in Knox, which produces about 1,000 pounds of vegetables and peaches annually.

Learning to knit at age 7, I worked on the same ball of yarn off and on for years

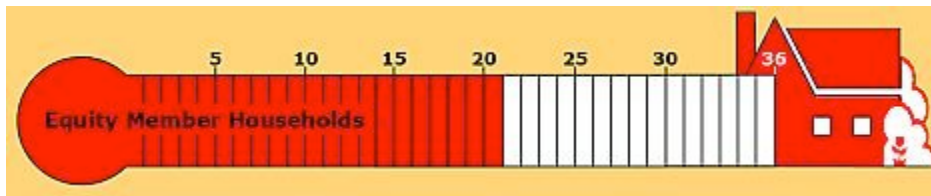
before actually completing something in high school. In 1975 I acquired my first spinning wheel from New Zealand, bought carders and have spun my way through many fleeces since then. My goal is to learn to spin flax and weave a couple of linen pillowcases!

I've been married to Mike Shannon, the love of my life, for 50 years! We were "matched" by a friend in college.

Having lived in small communities at nature centers, becoming part of the Belfast Cohousing community was a natural step. I am anxiously awaiting the day when our place is ready for moving-in!

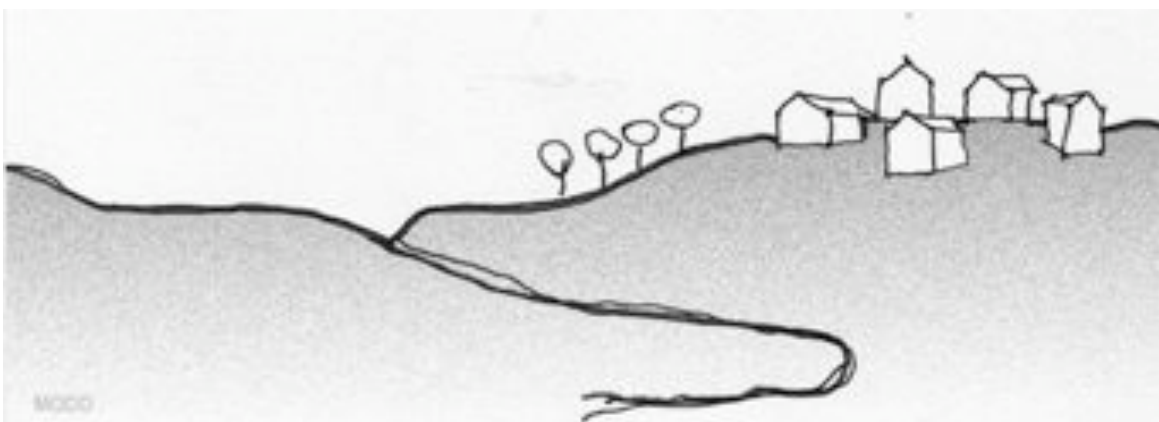
Membership Information

Equity Members are those households who have already committed to purchasing a home in the community. There are currently twenty-one 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. Friends are those who have an interest 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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