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Notable Quotes

"Economy, prudence, and a simple life are the sure masters of need, and will often accomplish that which, their opposites, with a fortune at hand, will fail to do."
- Clara Barton

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May 20, 2010

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Project Update...

Our work with the good folks at [Pica Design](#) in Belfast has helped us simultaneously focus and broaden our outreach (note the social networking links in the sidebar). We're at 270+ "likes" on our Facebook page, and this eNewsletter now goes out to over 700 recipients. The project continues to generate considerable interest in the media, and people from all parts of the state are saying, "Oh, I've heard of that!" We still have slots available, and would love to welcome you and *your* family into *our* family.

Our next Open House, featuring a Scavenger Hunt on the land and the creation of a Children's Garden, will be held on Sunday, June 13, from 2-4 pm at the Farmhouse at [45 Edgecomb Road in Belfast](#). You'll also find members of our community at our booth at the Maine Fiber Frolic at the Windsor Fairgrounds on Saturday, June 12 from 9 - 4. Hope to see you soon!



Waldo County Green - Arielle Bywater

Part of the reason my family is currently living in Belfast, Maine (on sabbatical from my job as a professor in Chicago) is because the Belfast Cohousing & Ecovillage is just one example of the way this region is committed to green living. We are so in love with the many ways in which Waldo County is green, in fact, that we're writing a book about it!



Many people may not know that Waldo County (of which Belfast is the seat) has been a hotbed of back-to-the-land activity for at least two generations. Counterculture folks flocked here in the late 60s and 70s in search of inexpensive, fertile land--and found it! Many of these hippies and homesteaders stayed and helped create some of the wonderful eco-friendly infrastructure Belfast now enjoys: Belfast is the home to Maine's longest-running health food co-op, a general "Green Store" in the heart of downtown, a robust farmer's market, and more. Waldo County is also home to a major solar energy company and the Maine Organic Farmers & Growers Association, which is itself the longest-running such organization in the country, and puts on the wildly popular, nationally-known Common Ground Fair (a must-attend event and the highlight of Waldo County's social calendar) every year.

[Click here to read the full text of this piece on our blog...](#)



The Costa Rican Connection - Jeffrey Mabee

Our recent trip to Costa Rica brought up numbers of issues for me and I could write a separate article on each - the issue of going out of country for dental care, the ethical issue of fossil fuel usage for the flight, and the issue I plan to write about here - why are the Costa Ricans so darn happy? So happy, in fact, that they are numero uno on the Global Happiness Index (GHI) while the USA ranks 113th?

I saw lots of parallels between Costa Rica and Belfast Cohousing & Ecovillage (BC&E). The first thing you might notice upon entering the country and getting underway is the roads. Asphalt roads are, for the most part, two-lane and the

speed limit is under 50 mph. And there are not a lot of people on the road. So why should this make people happy? People use public transportation and don't have the hassle of buying and owning a car... let alone two or three. And going slowly feels so much better (read, "happier"). How does this relate to cohousing? We'll be carpooling, walking, bicycling, maybe even a bus-cycling to get us slowly and efficiently to town.

[Click here to read the full text of this piece on our blog...](#)

Member Profile - Barbara Crowley

I am playing with a "Full Deck" this year as a friend pointed out when I turned 52 in October. I was born in Tonawanda, NY, and have lived in Connecticut, California, Alaska, North Carolina and for the past nine years Maine. I have always been drawn to the "wilder" places and it is in nature I feel most at home and nourished. I love to observe what is happening in nature and share this experience with others. A self taught gardener, I started my first home garden at nine years old planting pumpkins, beans and tomatoes in our suburban backyard. Almost every year since then I have had a vegetable, herb or flower garden growing.



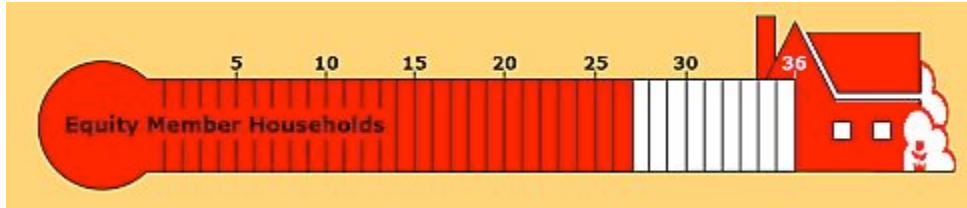
I live with my husband, Tom Robinson, in an old Maine farmhouse in Newburgh. We have spent the last eight years renovating it. I am also a recent (2005) nursing school graduate from Eastern Maine Community College. After a year on the pediatric floor at Eastern Maine Medical Center, I took a position with Community Wellness. Two years ago a position with the Healthy Maine Partnerships at Waldo County General Hospital opened and I was offered a job with Healthy Waldo County.

Poetry, music, story telling and children all make my heart sing as does good food and good company. I enjoy a balance of community involvement and quiet meditation. I was born on United Nations Day and have felt a strong pull towards creating a peaceful world.

Membership Information

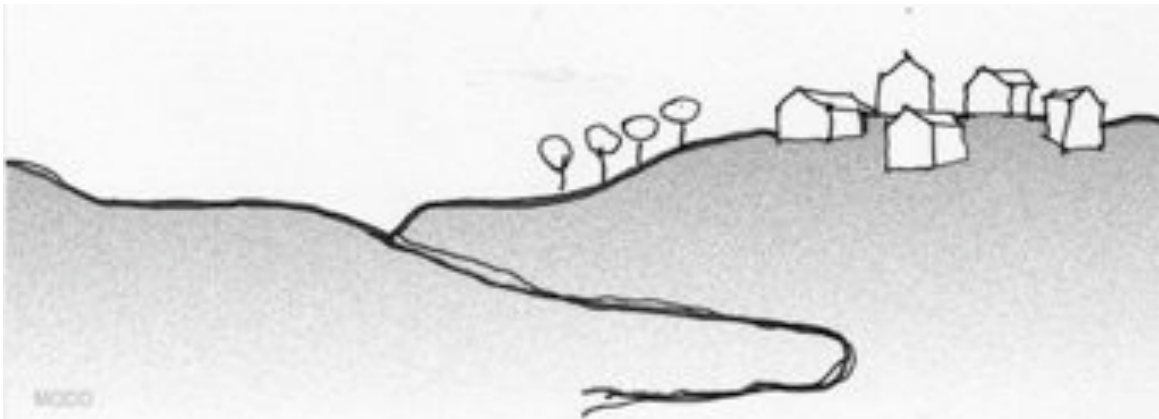
Equity Members are those households who have already committed to purchasing a home in the community. There are currently twenty-seven of a projected thirty-six Equity members. Exploring Members are those households who have an interest in becoming Equity Members, but are not yet ready to fully commit. Friends are those

who 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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