

Attention: Chair of the OCP Steering Committee  
Sue Ellen Fast

Dear OCP Steering Committee;

I am writing this letter because I feel passionately about the idea of creating intentional, co-operative communities. Cohousing offers enormous benefits, and not just for the members – it also creates a wonderful enhancement to the larger community, setting a unique example in harmonious living and sustainability. In a world focused on ‘every man for himself’, what a refreshing notion to encourage a respectful and caring community, which thinks of the whole as well as the individual.

Many ‘empty nesters’ are looking to re-connect with community, rather than live in isolation, or same age housing. Concurrently, young families, singles and couples who are often away from extended family, are looking to connect to the idea of living in a village. Co-housing allows for intergenerational living, and that kind of interaction and engagement can extend into the larger community with positive results.

One of the great things about the Belterra Cohousing proposal is the dedication to sustainability. All the participants are interested in creating environmentally responsible design and ongoing awareness of the eco footprint.

The higher density format is specifically focused on making it a green, livable space for families, and encouraging transportation alternatives. Gardens (with organic gardening highlighted) can also add to the supply at farmers markets and local food sourcing. The Cohousing participants will be included in every aspect of designing sustainability, including (but not limited to); native species landscaping, preserving natural habitat, effective waste management, recycled materials and long term energy efficiency/conservation. This kind of co-operative participation can percolate and lead to future community engagement in a broader sense.

This project is also going to provide affordability, which makes it more inclusive than developments which do not have the cohousing component. Because the homes will be built at cost, they become within the reach of ordinary families and senior citizens – people who sincerely want to live, work, help and participate in their surroundings and with their extended neighbours.

I sincerely hope the Belterra Cohousing project will get full community support, because I believe Bowen Island would benefit greatly from the nucleus of this dedicated group. It would be wonderful to see the concepts of environmental sustainability, intergenerational living, alternative transportation, affordable housing, recycling, organic gardening, shared resources and tools, educational opportunities – blossom and enhance the larger community as a whole.

Sincerely,

Margot Pinvidic

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