

# Parksville Cohousing



## Media Release

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PARKSVILLE — A cohousing project launches in Parksville on September 22 when Charles Durrett, North America's foremost cohousing author and architect, makes a public presentation on cohousing and community building. This is an opportunity for everyone to hear more about the cohousing approach to living, and also discuss changing the way real estate projects are planned and designed. Cohousers refer to it as social sustainability – placing community at the centre of the planning and design process.

Held at the Parksville Community & Conference Centre, 132 Jensen Avenue East (beside City Hall), at 4 p.m., Sunday Sept. 22, the Parksville cohousing event will showcase this unique form of affordable, sustainable housing that combines privately owned homes with extensive "club house" amenity areas and resources.

Featured speaker Mr. Durrett will make a multimedia presentation about "Cohousing: Building Sustainable Communities." Sponsors of the new Parksville cohousing project, LiveWell Cohousing, will provide details on the new community plans. The project itself will be located on part of the vacant land just east of the Parksville Community & Conference Centre on Jensen Avenue.

Mr. Durrett and his wife and architectural partner Kathryn McCamant created the term cohousing after studying communities in Denmark. McCamant and Durrett Architects, based in Nevada City, Calif., have designed or co-designed more than 50 cohousing communities in the U.S., Canada and New Zealand. Most recently he designed the Cedar Cottage cohousing community in Vancouver.

"We design intergenerational cohousing communities that create and promote environmentally and socially vibrant sustainable neighborhoods," he said.

Mr. Durrett said residents participate in the planning and design process from the very beginning, ensuring that their community meets their needs, both individual and collective. Each household owns a private residence – complete with kitchen – but also shares extensive common facilities with the larger group, such as a dining room, children's play rooms, workshops and vegetable gardens. These common facilities, and particularly common dinners, are an important aspect of community life both for social and practical reasons.

Admission is \$10 for adults/couples and free for children 11 and under. Tickets available at the door.

For more information, please visit [www.facebook.com/ParksvilleCohousing](http://www.facebook.com/ParksvilleCohousing)