

*I have a young family and I want to live at Belterra because...*

I cannot afford a single family house on Bowen Island and yet I want to raise my family here and enjoy the stability and security of owning my home.

Bowen Island is a safe place to raise children, and cohousing is the safest kind of neighbourhood there is.

The common house will have play areas for my youngest, and lots of shared activities for the teenagers.

I imagine the youngsters of all different ages getting to know each other very well like a big family with little kids trying to hang out with the bigger kids and the big kids needing their own space sometimes but still watching out for the little ones.

My children don't get to be with their real grandparents very often, but there are surrogate grandparents here that they can see every day.

I need to make a run to the store which would normally involve bundling up three little ones. Maybe Jamie's mom can look after them for an hour. Oh wait! Jamie's mom needs to go out and says she can pick up my stuff, and Jamie is coming over to our place. Hey Jamie, how's it going - like a sandwich?

I like the idea that my kids can walk to the community school in ten minutes and not have to go along a main road to get there. When they get a little older, I'm thinking of enrolling them at Island Pacific School which is right next door to Belterra.

I want my children to spend as much time as possible playing outdoors. Belterra has lots of beautiful outside areas for kids to play in and the parent built playground is great.

I love to "work" in the vegetable garden, and we all take turns keeping an eye on the young ones playing nearby.

When we need a break a Tuscany pizza and carafe of wine would do the trick nicely. No problem as Belterra is full of babysitters.

Lily Joe's birthday is coming up and the Belterra common kitchen and living room will be so great for a party. Half the kids will be Belterrans anyway.

My teenagers will be able to walk to the ferry in 15 minutes, and the teen centre is only 5 minutes walk away.

The Bowen Children's Centre (daycare) is even closer than the teen centre.

I love to have my parents over to visit, but the kids wear them out after a while. The guest rooms in the common house are a perfect place for mom and dad to take a break while they are staying with us.

I like the idea of becoming one of the early members of Belterra so I can have input to the building design, the site design and the common amenities that I think we will need.

I look forward to using the community workshop where I can build a set of shelves for my daughter's bedroom. One of the other Belterra members used to be a builder and keeps his tools in the workshop ready to share with anyone who promises to respect them.

One of the retired ladies living in Belterra is teaching the kids how to paint, but better still, in the evenings she will be teaching us how to paint.

The common house library has tons of kids books so I can trade in some of our old ones and try out some new ones. Maybe I won't need to read "The Cow That Laid an Egg" another twenty times.

I know that my children can only benefit from having other children around all the time as well as other moms and dads and older adults and teenagers.

I look forward to setting up a parent run childcare and parent run children's activities with other moms and dads.

The park with the year round creek, right next door will be a peaceful place I can go with my family to enjoy tranquility and beauty and the coolness on a hot summer day.

*To raise a family, Belterra Cohousing on Bowen Island is the most wonderful place in the most wonderful place.*