



Fenn Martin (foreground) has been at McNeill's farm for about four years. Local farmer Henry Joosten (right) used to be a commercial dairy farmer and is now passing on to Martin the farming knowledge he has accrued over the years. Barra McNeill came to the Ohio Valley in 2002 and purchased a 90-acre property next to Humphreys' farm.

Ohio Valley sojourn

You must go and tell the people that this is the hour and that there are things to be considered.

Where are you living?

What are you doing?

What are your relationships?

Are you in right relation?

Where is your water?

Know your garden. It is time to speak your truth. Create your own community. Be good to each other. And do not look outside yourself for the leader.

-Excerpt of an Hopi prophecy

by Steven Wendland

We live in trying times, methinks. It has become apparent in recent history that the industrial model we have been following for the past few centuries is leading us down the wrong road. The globe is warming, our natural re-



Laura Stinson and Barra McNeill readying to move the pigs to another pen on the farm outside Antigonish, N.S. (Steven Wendland photos)

sources are depleted or fast depleting, and many of us are poor and hungry. As a species we need to reconsider our approach to living on this planet.

In December of 2008 I ventured to the Ohio Valley, a handful of kilometers outside of Antigonish, Nova Scotia, to visit my friend Sandy Forbes. At the time Forbes was helping manage the affairs of his friend Janey Humphreys' property – milking the cow, plowing the driveway, feeding the chickens and horses – while she was away. Over the few days I visited I was introduced to a number of people, including Humphreys' daughters, Julie and Laura Stinson, and their neighbor, Barra McNeill. I also had the pleasure of being introduced to a conscientious style of shared living that allowed these people to grow and raise much of their own food and still pursue careers and interests beyond the homestead.

In November 2009, I went to the Ohio Valley for a second visit. I spent a few replenishing days stacking wood, roto-tilling, planting garlic, eating delicious home-cooked meals made of items produced on site, and getting better acquainted with individuals who share a common vision of living in harmony with the land and in a society that promotes mutually beneficial relationships and



Fenn Martin is also a ceramist. Above is a sample of his work titled, "The Winter Dreamer."



Fenn Martin, Henry Joosten, and Barra McNeill plant garlic in a market garden. They sell their yield at the Antigonish Farmers' Market and garlic is their primary cash crop.

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