

Juan de Fuca Rural Publication Society

Vol. 4 Issue 1

March 2007

Rural/OBSERVER

Celebrating Our Rural Community Lifestyle

Serving the Communities of Port Renfrew

Jordan River

Shirley

Otter Point

East Sooke

Songhees

Malahat

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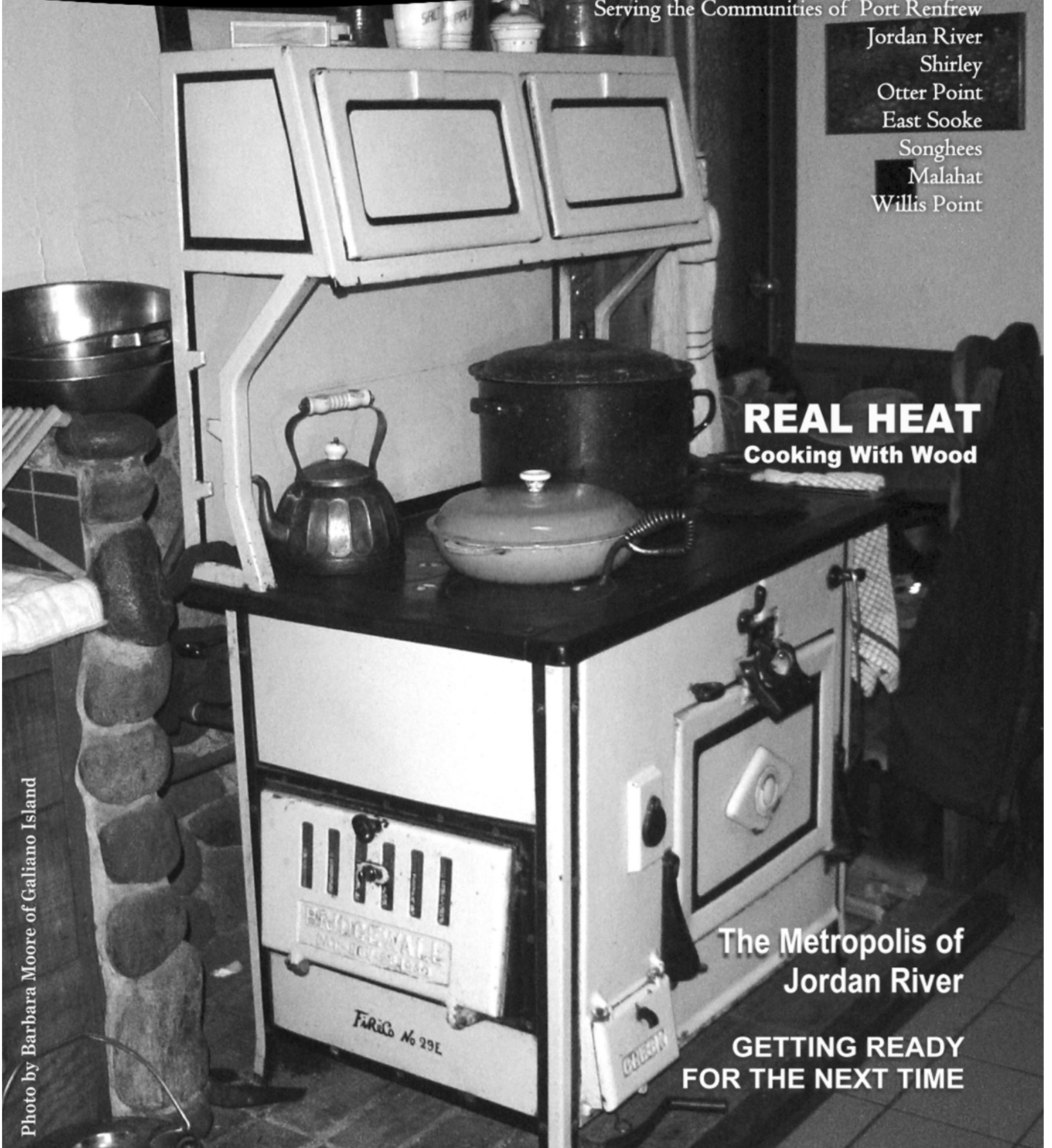
REAL HEAT
Cooking With Wood

The Metropolis of
Jordan River

**GETTING READY
FOR THE NEXT TIME**

Photo by Barbara Moore of Galiano Island

Newsstands \$1





The Juan de Fuca Rural Publication Society Mission Statement

A group of Juan de Fuca residents has formed a non-profit society to launch a news and advertising publication for the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area.

We will provide a forum for our rural communities to share news, exchange ideas and develop a sense of community. At the same time the publication will give businesses within and outside the electoral area an opportunity to promote their products and services and reach potential customers. We also hope to make current information about the region and its services available to the many tourists who visit the area each year. Our goal is to protect, preserve and enhance rural life.

The publication will rely on community members to share their interests and points of view through articles, correspondence and photographs. We welcome articles and letters reflecting the very diverse interests of our member communities and expressing all points of view. The editorial committee reserves the right to edit for brevity, accuracy, clarity and taste. Though every reasonable precaution will be made to verify the accuracy of material submitted, the editorial committee assumes no responsibility for the content of published articles. The responsibility is that of the writers. References and descriptions of products or services are provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied.

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If you wish to submit an article for an upcoming issue of the Rural Observer, please email it to:

submissions@ruralobserver.com

Or mail to: Juan de Fuca Rural Publication Society
6790 East Sooke Road, Sooke BC
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2007 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

This is your opportunity to renew (or start) your 2007 membership in the Juan de Fuca Rural Publication Society. Our fee structure is as follows - you may renew/join at the basic level of \$10, become a "Friend" of the Rural Observer for \$25, a "Supporter" for \$50, or a "Lifetime Member" for only \$100. We recommend the lifetime membership - you won't need to remember to renew each year! The Rural Observer needs your support to keep it strong, viable and independent. Please make out cheques to the Juan de Fuca Rural Publication Society and mail to: J.Schadt, Box #40, Malahat, BC, V0R 2L0

Juan de Fuca Rural Publication Society 2007 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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REAL HEAT *by Barbara Moore*

Living with a wood cook stove for twenty years has been a surprising education. Our wood range, as the homesteading book calls it, has been the whetstone of our learning about the simple life; the interconnections between human and natural cycles, of our reliance on the land on which we have chosen to live.

We bought our kitchen stove long before we built our house – one of our first leaps of faith. It had been in the family of an acquaintance, a good fellow, we thought, and seemed to come with a happy history. John sold it to us in Vancouver for \$500 and didn't mind us making payments over several months. Apart from the land itself, this was our first purchase for the envisioned house, and meant that we were really committed to following through, moving to Galiano Island and creating our homestead, our family nest.

More than once over the next few years, we cursed our new stove. It weighs a ton - literally - and even though it can be taken apart, its cast iron bulk is still a monumental task to move. It comes with its own three rollers, small round logs, and every time we move it I feel a connection to ancient peoples like the Egyptians building the pyramids.

We moved it five times before ensconcing it in the house, and devised ways of transporting it with just two or three people. On its last journey, it traveled up a ramp of two heavy planks. We pulled it with ropes and it teetered precariously before squeezing through the door. It may not have been too impressed with its new home – grubby plywood floors, walls of pink insulation and no furniture. But we were thrilled. The arrival of the wood stove signified that we had moved in! Even without the plumbing and hot water jacket hooked up, we could cook and be warm.

My cousin Ian arrived from Ottawa, our first guest, and we celebrated by firing up the oven and baking pizza. What a victory!

Now the stove, a Bridgewall Fire Co No 29E, patented in 1940, is aging nicely and looks quite elegant. It is always a conversation piece. Inevitably visitors find themselves gathered round it admiringly. It is a warm creamy colour with black trim and turned out black legs. Two warming ovens above store pots and pot holders, a rack for dish towels and teapots at the side and an oven, complete with an almost accurate thermometer, make it beautiful and multipurpose. It not only provides heat, hot water and an oven for baking, but also the top has a wide range of temperatures. You can boil a kettle or fry onions when it is really hot or simmer a pot of soup or jam for hours on the side, filling the entire house with wafts of inviting smells. It is ideal for rising bread, making yogurt or brewing herbal tinctures or oils. Like a weighty grounded mother, it embraces the fold of the family, caring for it and drawing it to her.

Mind you, it takes considerable skill to really cook well with it. It is a team effort at best to produce a meal, with someone to fill the wood box, make sure there is a variety of dry wood and to keep an eye on the temperature while the cook prepares the delicacies. It can be infuriating and



*The Bridgewall Fire Co No 29E Wood Stove
Photo by Barbara Moore of Galiano Island*

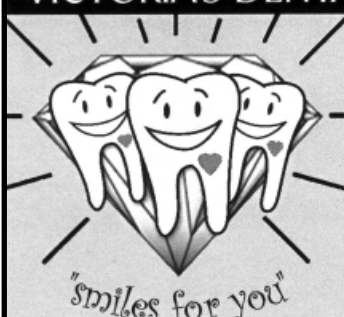


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is always time-consuming. There has been more than one disaster. When our newly acquired German relatives came for a summer dinner, and we were hoping to impress them with our rural skills, the stove would not perform. We ended up eating the chocolate cake first because the quiche remained runny and soggy after hours in the sluggish oven.

Living with such a stove is like living with another member of the family. It isn't just an appliance, but is alive, has moods and needs, is finicky and slow at times, responsive and frisky at others. You can't just turn it on. There is a whole ceremony to wake it up, get it going and working. It needs constant tending, and so makes us mindful of more than we could have imagined.

It has also been the hearth, the heart and the gathering place. Over the years, most of our discussions, plans, dreams, arguments and decisions have centered round the warmth of that stove, perhaps made easier by its comfort. It offers a meditative distraction, provides useful pauses when it needs stoking or cleaning.

The morning ceremony is comfortingly familiar. Usually my husband, Gary, gets up first and lights it while I snuggle in bed for a while awaiting my first cup of coffee. I can judge his mood by the clatter of the grates and stoking of the wood. We need newspaper (reading as we crumple and at times rescuing good articles), some cedar kindling and some nice dry wood. I hear him blowing on the kindling, breathing life into the flames and picture him bent over stretching his back at the same time. He'll be keeping his coffee warm. Maybe he is dreaming of some baked delicacy or a hot bath later in the day to ease his aching muscles after cutting firewood. These simple comforts or treats are treasured, not taken for granted. All our hot water is heated by the kitchen stove and stored in a water tank, but it takes several hours of tending the fire to prepare a bath. Precious hot water is seldom squandered, so we share baths.

Firewood has always been a crucial element in our chosen lifestyle. As they say, a full woodshed is money in the bank. To have good wood, especially for the kitchen stove, we have to plan ahead. Each variety of trees has special qualities. We value cedar for its easy splitting, quick kindling. Alder is what is known as 'biscuit wood', burning hot and fast. Fir produces long lasting coals and constant heat and arbutus is like coal, only rescued and cut when we have a windfall. Over the years, we've realized that our two acres, if thoughtfully used, can provide continuous firewood. We've become mindful of the impact we're making, realizing our interdependence with the trees in a very intimate way.



Felix A. Irwin, B.A.Sc., C.A.
Practitioner

Felix Irwin Inc.
Chartered Accountant

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**The Rural Observer
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Is there something interesting happening in your neighbourhood, or to yourselves or someone you know in the JdF electoral area? Who are you? Tell us why you live here, or what brought you here or why you stay. What's 'rural' to you? What have you done in your life? And /or what are you doing now? Email your letters to submissions@ruralobserver.com. We would love to hear from you!

Cooking with wood is, in a way, a luxury in the 21st century, perhaps a rather perverse choice of luxuries, but a choice that we have come to value. I love being in touch with all the elements every day. Our stove has taught us to notice and experience the nuances of interconnections of the natural cycles.

Balancing our immediate need for firewood with the future landscape is an ongoing challenge. Can we justify the CO2 we're pumping out in the smoke by knowing that the surrounding trees are slurping it up?

We know this stove is not state of the art in efficiency, not necessarily our best choice. It is slow, dirty, and uses a lot of wood. It is hard work. But we have grown to love it and can't imagine what we would do with it if we modernized.

So here we are living an apparent contradiction, just an hour from a throbbing metropolis, with access to the 21st century and the World Wide Web upstairs and downstairs an almost archaic stove as the centre that embodies our lives.

Barbara and Gary Moore have homesteaded at Therah Community on Galiano Island since 1984, and lived off the grid with a solar, wind and generator system until hooking up to Hydro in 2006.

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Preparing For My Big Day

(Not The Tsunami) by Gillian Griese (Soon to be Polard)

I wouldn't say that we rushed into the idea of marriage. However, once the decision was made we saw no point in waiting a long time for the special day to take place. Lucky for me, I had always envisioned a winter wedding. Snow would have been preferable to rain though! Well, that's winter in Port Renfrew, I suppose.

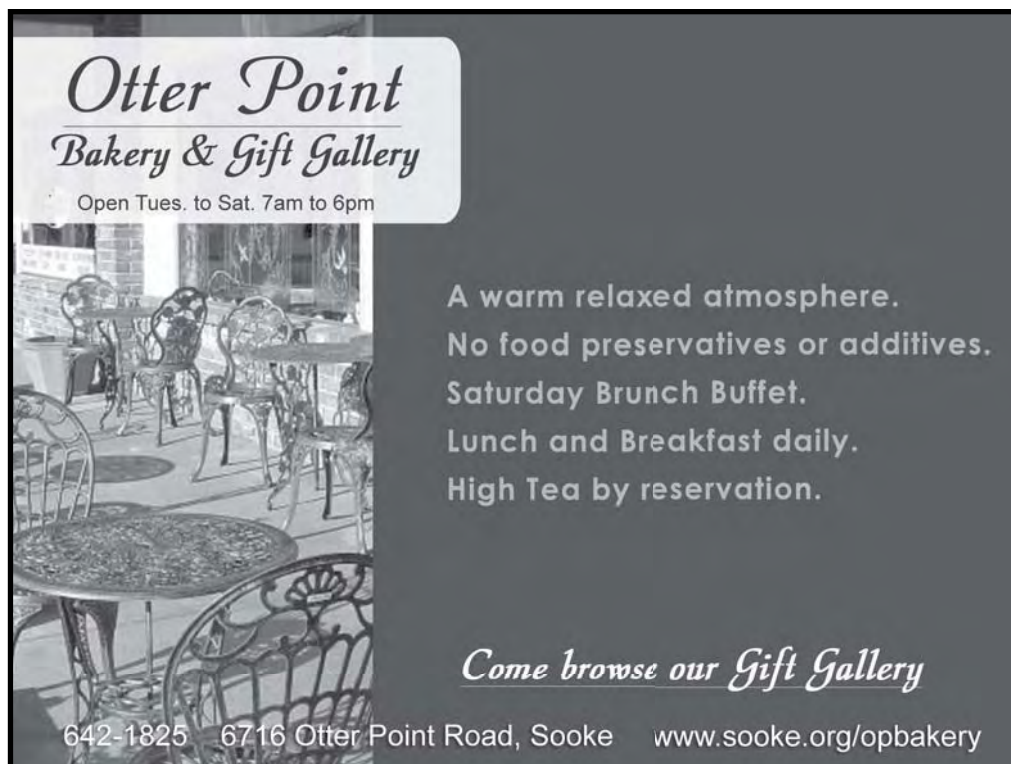
We planned our wedding in 5 ½ weeks. Phew! It wasn't as scary as some wedding magazine articles will have you believe...we kept it as simple as possible and stayed true to ourselves and our idea of a good time. Once we made the choice to hold the ceremony and reception in Port Renfrew, everything else fell into place. St. Mary Ecumenical Church is a non-denominational chapel, and for a very reasonable fee it will be all ours that day. The groups of volunteers who look after the antiquated building were very patient with me and have promised to allow me to decorate to my heart's content. It is a rarely used building that requires only a small amount of love and some space heaters the day before the event. The guest book inside dates back to the early 1970s and many names are recognizable to anyone who has spent time with the locals in Port Renfrew.

We wanted the ceremony and dinner to be very intimate with only family and very close friends. Even though it will take place the same day, the party is another event altogether. We thought it should reflect our feelings for such a beautiful,

unique community that has always been so welcoming and comfortable for both Jay and me. We wanted to show our friends and neighbours a rockin' good time! After all, folks in P.R. like to dance and have fun!

I couldn't be so confident that it would be a perfect Port Renfrew evening if it weren't for Clint Margetish. Clint is the head chef at the Port Renfrew Hotel, the site of our dinner and the larger reception. He patiently endured panicked phone calls (both at work and at his home), multiple visits and sudden menu changes. He helped me to create the perfect dinner party environment that, while unorthodox for a wedding, is much more suited to us. I wanted one big table. He found it and dragged it upstairs from the basement. I wanted to rearrange his dining room, and he allowed it. He assured me that the roast beef and Yorkshire pudding dinner would be fantastic and would incorporate all our favourite veggies and leave out the less popular green beans (that's for you, Mom!). Without Clint we would be relying on a shaky satellite radio system instead of the band (The Other Guys from the Cowichan Valley area) that he found and contacted on our behalf. He even got us a discount!

I don't feel like a typical bride as I am not nervous, stressed, or in any way attempting to tear my hair out. I feel serene and happy, excited for the future, thankful that we have a town full of good friends to share our special day. I would recommend a wedding in Port Renfrew to anyone wanting the perfect matrimonial experience! I know we'll have it. Only 3 days to go!



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PREPARING FOR THE WORST

by Alan Strickland, Emergency Coordinator, Juan de Fuca

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Mark Twain once wrote: "Everybody talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it."

If the horrendous storms of November and December taught us any lesson at all, it is that while our weather is unpredictable, we CAN do something. And that something is **emergency preparedness**.

In the aftermath of our ferocious weather and its impact on our communities, I developed the following "Top Ten" list of steps residents can take to prepare for future severe weather events:

1. Ensure you have a wind-up radio or battery powered radio with plenty of spare batteries.
2. Have an adequate supply of propane on hand to fuel your barbecue (outside only) and any propane fireplaces on your premises.
3. Make sure your cell phone has a fully charged battery and fully charged spare battery at all times.
4. Get a home generator with sufficient output to power the basics, i.e. some lights, TV, radio, and computer. Keep a fresh supply of fuel on hand to run it.
5. Keep your larder stocked with an ample family supply of tinned goods and dehydrated food; and don't forget food for your pets.
6. Always have on hand at least a couple of flashlights with fresh batteries as well as spare batteries.
7. Lay in a good supply of seasoned wood for your woodstove or fireplace.
8. Have on hand a chainsaw in good operating condition with fresh fuel.
9. Have at least one snow shovel in your storage shed or garage.
10. And last, but not least, purchase a good basic first aid kit.

Let me emphasize that I consider my Top Ten list to be the basic requirements to assist you in coping with the kind of events we all experienced these past few months. To learn more about how to prepare for and recover from the kinds of emergencies likely to occur in our communities, as well as information about the Juan de Fuca Emergency Program, you should attend one of the Emergency Awareness Town Hall meetings we are planning for area communities through the spring. Watch your post box for meeting dates and more details.

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to join the emergency response team in your community, contact Alan Strickland, Emergency Coordinator, telephone: 642-6888; email: alstrick@shaw.ca.



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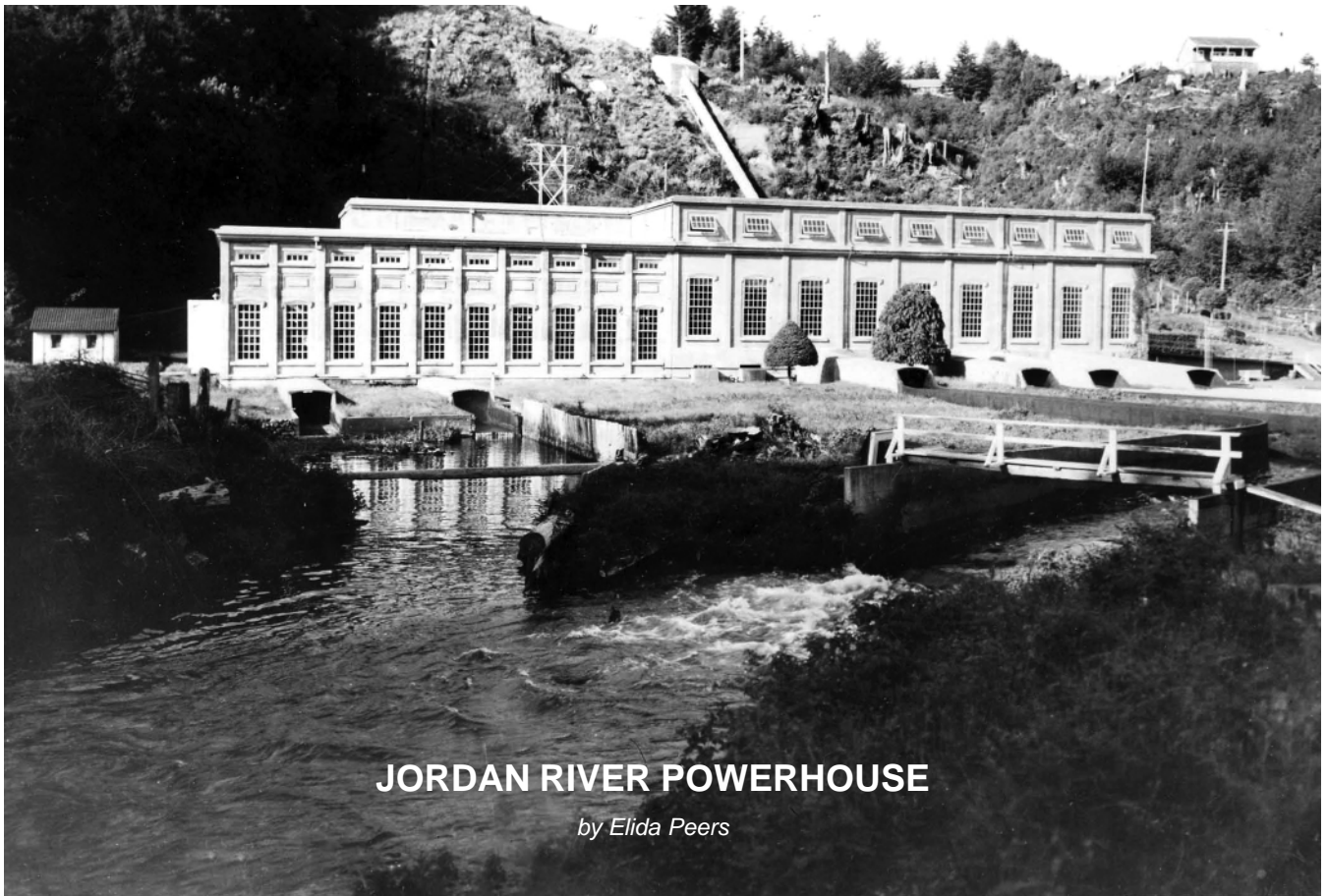
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JORDAN RIVER POWERHOUSE

by Elida Peers

Motorists who drive the West Coast Road at Jordan River nowadays view the pounding surf, glimpse black clad figures riding the crests, and admire the “quiet little seaside community,” generally have no knowledge of the bustling industrial metropolis that once dominated this site.

More than one thousand men were employed, housed and fed here when the development of the hydro-electric system was at its height around 1910-20, to say nothing of the additional hundreds on the payroll of timber companies, who began railway logging in 1907. Transport was mainly by water up until 1912, when the Old Otter Point Road was put through to Jordan River. While the shell of the old powerhouse still stands on its concrete foundation today, back of the WFP repair shops, gone are the glory days when it produced the power that ran the City of Victoria. (See photo, 1930's.) During those years Jordan River boasted a nine-piece orchestra, a social setting with manicured lawns and tennis courts, and hosted Canada's Governor General, Lord Willingdon.

Helping to fuel the economy of our province has been a traditional role of the great watershed of the Jordan Meadow and Jordan River Valley. While its water resources produced electricity, its fertile hillside resources have offered an abundance of forest harvest.

It was 1908 when D.I. Walker arrived on the scene, travelling by coastal steamer. He had charge of a massive undertaking – the construction of a hydro-electric system to supply the power needs of the City of Victoria. While a hydro system at Goldstream had begun producing electricity a few years earlier, it was becoming apparent that the city would need much more power.

While exploring for possibilities, Vancouver Island Power Company's engineer G.M. Tripp traveled through Jordan Meadows, recognized its enormous potential, and surveying for construction began. Flowing from Jordan Meadows and Bear Creek Valley to the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the water was channeled into two large reservoirs, Bear Creek and Diversion Dams, and released into a flume that would carry it to a lower level.

The flume that carried the water to the forebay reservoir was a long, open trough, built initially of red cedar, and later replaced by Douglas-fir. It was eight feet wide, six feet deep, and wound for five and a quarter miles along the precipitous hillsides of the Jordan River Valley from Diversion Dam to reach the forebay. From there it was conveyed through penstocks to the 26,400 kilowatt powerhouse built on the east bank of the Jordan at sea level.

continued on page 15

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IRON MINE BAY

by Sid Jorna, Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society

Pike Road to Iron Mine Bay

Description and Trail Access

This is an easy but beautiful trail in East Sooke Park. From the parking lot at the end of Pike Road, proceed about 1.25 Km to the lookout/shelter above Iron Mine Bay. About 50 meters further on is a plaque on the rock, just past this is a sign to Mt. Maguire Trail. The trail turns left between the plaque and the sign. The climb here is a steep, mossy slope, but is short. This is the most difficult part of the trail. At the top follow the trail in a NNE direction through open forest. About 1 km in you will reach a point where ambiguous directions. Here look to the right for a small bridge over a creek. Cross this bridge and follow the main trail towards the right. Eventually you will reach a sharp bend to the left and downhill into Pike Creek valley. Follow this to the bridge crossing the creek. The trail soon intersects with a major trail leading left, back to the Iron Mine Trail, and right to Mount Maguire.

Terrain and difficulty:

The trail from the Pike Road parking lot to Iron Mine Bay is wide, scenic and suitable for everyone. This is a difficulty level 1 trail and it would be quite feasible to take a wheelchair or child's stroller to Iron Mine Bay. This part of the Mt. Maguire trail is rated as a difficulty level 2. In winter, the start of the Mt. Maguire trail could be considered difficulty level 3 owing to slippery rock faces and a relatively steep climb, although for a short distance. People using these trails should be reasonably fit and expect a hike of about 1.5 hours duration.

We did this walk Dec 2 after the snow storms. The major trail to Iron Mine Bay had several trees down but was easily passable, to our surprise the inland route was free of snow and just one tree down.

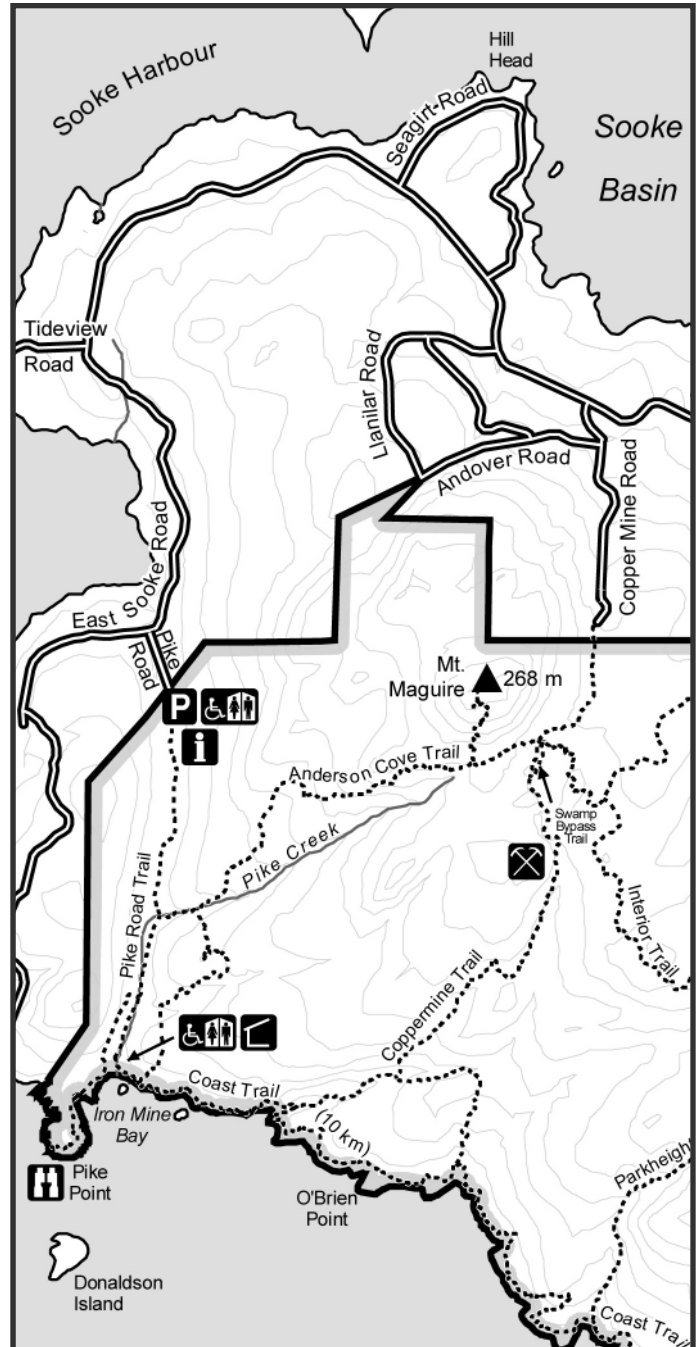
This hike is perfect for taking visitors to the area because of its accessibility to massive West Coast forest, rugged Coast line and iridescent mosses (In the rainy season).

Features and Vegetation

From the trail head you proceed through mature second growth Western Red Cedar [*Thuja plicata*] and Western Hemlock [*Tsuga heterophylla*] rain forest. Ferns of all types are found dominated by Sword fern [*Polystichum munitum*]. This is signature West Coast Rain Forest that has not been disturbed for about 100 years. Visible are stumps of the original growth that were harvested by traditional means. One can see some of the "culturally modified stumps" where spring board notches were cut to allow the loggers to cut higher up the tree. These stumps do not now detract from the forest which has healed itself.

At Iron Mine Bay, the coast is encountered. Rugged cliffs and sea scapes are on display. Across the Strait of Juan de Fuca one can see the majestic Olympic Mountains. Clambering down the hill to the beach there are all sorts of marine animals such as starfish and sea anemones. Parents can have a picnic while children are kept totally engrossed with the tidal sea life. If you are lucky you will see seals and other sea mammals basking off Secretary Island.

Climbing on the Mt Maguire inland trail the forest changes character as the lower wetland cedar forests yields to Douglas fir [*Psuedotsuga menziesii*] as the drainage becomes better. Here a variety of mosses adorn the trees and the rock faces.



This map may be obtained from the CRD web site:
www.crd.bc.ca/parks

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Were YOU Prepared?

by Dave Tomalty, Malahat Emergency Coordinator

Well, how are you enjoying winter so far? Did you find the snow or the ice too much? What about the power outages? Did any of the trees near you give you a scare? Did you think that the Malahat Drive was tough, or even scary, with the snow and ice?

If your answers are not okay, fine or good, YOU WERE UNPREPARED! If you are new to the Malahat, I'll say this: GET USED TO IT AND GET PREPARED!

Have you had any of your trees professionally assessed yet? Trees on your property are your responsibility. They can pose a hazard by falling down and causing damage to power lines, telephone lines or your home, or they can be a fire hazard. Trees should be kept away from homes and buildings. Did you know that where we live on the Malahat is one of the toughest places in BC to fight a fire? That's a fact!

Did you find the Malahat drive difficult? Were you a white knuckle driver? Well, personally I thought the contractor did a good job during the snow and ice. Maybe the answer is that your vehicle is not properly prepared for Malahat conditions.

Is your home all electric with little or no backup? If so you may have suffered needlessly! For the price of a home these days, everyone should really consider purchasing a generator, from 5500 watts to 16 K depending on your home's needs.

I know I am giving YOU, and YOU know who YOU are, a hard time, but hey that's part of my job: to help you identify deficiencies in your emergency preparedness, and to help you do something about it.

Was your phone out? If you had taken our last communication (radio) course you wouldn't have cared. Find out why! Ask me!

Well enough yak. We are offering all sorts of courses RIGHT NOW to prepare YOU and YOUR family for many types of events. Make your life better and safer. Be an asset to your community, and make my job easier.

Contact Dave Tomalty at dtomalty@telus.net or 250-746-1011, or 250-213-1020.

By the way, if you are a white knuckle driver in the rain, snow or ice, STAY HOME!

JUAN DE FUCA ELECTORAL AREA PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

"The Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks Commission is responsible for the acquisition, development, operation, preservation and maintenance of parks in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area for our present and future residents."

The Commission meets on the first Thursday of every month at 5:00 p.m. at the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Office, #2 - 6868 West Coast Road.

Public Welcome to Attend. For meeting agendas and minutes, visit [www.http://www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/parks](http://www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/parks).

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From Juan de Fuca CRD Director Erik Lund

This winter was quite a test for our emergency preparedness program. It certainly was also a wake-up call to all of us who live in the rural areas.

Trees were down, telephone lines cut, cell service knocked out, roads were icy and impassable, and rains were heavy.

It is quite amazing that many people were not injured. After such events we certainly recognize the need for local planning and communications.

Prior to this winter the emergency program had invited interested community members to volunteer to be community coordinators. Many communities now have coordinators who are full members of the Emergency Preparedness Program. Unfortunately the events of this winter were a little ahead of our preparedness.

It was a pretty obvious flaw that there was no ability to communicate the state of affairs from individual neighbourhoods for several days. Nature gave us a smack in the head. We all need to wake up immediately to the possibilities of natural disasters.

In the communities of the Electoral Area each Fire Chief has a satellite phone, but this is not enough. With the possibility of roads being impassable, Fire Chiefs simply cannot know the state of emergencies in all corners of each community.

Your government, through the Emergency Preparedness Program, will be holding public meetings coordinated by local representatives from each community. The objective is to get feedback on the events that occurred and to formulate plans for the future. At a minimum, it is envisioned that each street should have a Captain who would have the ability to communicate with the community coordinator, who in turn will be able to communicate with an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the local Fire Chief.

After an emergency, the street Captains could organize searches of homes for people, confirm damage or injuries and keep lists of assets and people who would be able to help in the immediate area. Because Captains would be in touch with the EOC and Fire Chief they would be able to communicate to Hydro, Telus, Shaw and so on, and just as importantly, they would be able to communicate back to the public.

Your Program now has Emergency Containers in each community. While all the supplies necessary for an emergency have not been stocked yet, each container does hold a generator and other related goods. Through public input and consultation these containers will be stocked with supplies for use by the public in the event of natural disaster. At upcoming community meetings, the location of these containers will be explained to those who do not know where they are. Please watch for the community meetings and participate. The effectiveness of your Emergency Program is measured by the level of public participation.

If anyone would like to discuss this topic or any other, contact the Regional Director at 642-1500 local 207, or by email at directorjdf@crd.bc.ca. Mondays are normally set aside for meetings with the public at 6868 West Coast Road in Sooke.

		
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Muir Creek Weathered The Storm

by Chris Muscat

As I write these words, I walk along the threaded trail that hugs Muir Creek. Here I take in the thousands of shades of green on green and the stillness that resides in each life within this forest. I try desperately to comprehend why we destroy life, why we have such a lack of appreciation for the things that mean the most to us now and our children in the future. I couldn't imagine a giant price tag hanging from one of these trees, with a salesman over my shoulder pressing me to buy, buy, buy. As silly an image as that is, it's even sillier to think that forests are forever and that our green spaces are replaceable. I can't seem to understand our need for segregation, from one another, from our earth and ultimately our selves. When in our evolution did we step out of the sacred hoop and forget that we are an integral part of all things?

I marvel at how strong and hardy this forest is. With concern turning to oncoming changes in weather and climate, Muir Creek has certainly stood the test. When confronted by extreme rains and hurricane force winds, the forest of Muir Creek weathered the storm with minimal damage, acting as a shield to the residences of Anderson Road. The forest plays a vital role, from blocking winds to holding the ground in place, to minimizing the drainage and flooding of creeks and rivers. Forests are here to help us.

Now that my walk is coming to an end I contemplate the question, what can we do as a community? As a community

I believe we can insure the protection of our green spaces by creating awareness. It's vital that people know these spaces exist and that they are threatened by destruction. It is also important to educate ourselves about the place we live in. Become involved. The only way we're going to make a difference is to start at the grass roots, setting models for sustainable choice and a deep ecological approach to the earth. Let's find a way to mend our place in the sacredness of life.

Recently the Muir Creek Protection Society met for a well-attended annual general meeting. Fresh with success from the last year's activities, a prospectus has been put together with the help of many members. The prospectus outlines the ecology and history of the area, and describes the great potential Muir Creek has to become a park. We are hoping that this prospectus will draw more attention to Muir Creek from outside parties. The Society would particularly like to thank MLA John Horgan, Regional Director Erik Lund and MP Keith Martin for efforts made on the Society's behalf during our first year of operation.

We are always looking for people to join the Muir Creek Protection Society. If you are interested in joining, or are just looking for information please email us.

President Alanda Carver, muircreek@hotmail.com
Vice President Chris Muscat, ourbelovedearth@gmail.com

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Passing the Baton

by Arnie Campbell, President OPSRRA


[Transition of the Otter Point & Shirley/Jordan River Governance Study from the Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association (OPSRRA) to the Juan de Fuca Governance Committee]

In a relationship they call it moving on; in sports it would be passing the baton; in music it is referred to as a bridge; in business ...well you get the idea. On December 4th 2006, the Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association (OPSRRA) chaired the last meeting of the Otter Point/Shirley Governance Study Committee and turned-over responsibility for pursuing a governance study to a newly created Juan de Fuca Governance Committee.

OPSRRA's involvement in trying to get a governance study for Otter Point and Shirley dated back to February 2005 when the OPSRRA membership backed this initiative at their Annual General Meeting. From the outset, OPSRRA knew that before seeking provincial support to fund such a study, they would need broad community support. The Shirley Community Association, Shirley Volunteer Fire Protection Society, Sheringham Estates Water Users, Shirley Education and Action Society, Kemp Lake Waterworks District, and the Otter Point Fire Trustees were approached. All supported the need for a governance study and agreed to pool their interests. OPSRRA asked John Horgan – our MLA, to approach the province for funding for a governance study. Governance study meetings were organized by OPSRRA and chaired by then OPSRRA president Ken Pungente. The provincial Ministry of Community Services asked for an indication that the community really wanted a governance study (they seemed to think we didn't); so separate governance study petitions were undertaken for Shirley/Jordan River and Otter Point. These petitions (163 from Shirley/Jordan River and 290 from Otter Point) were submitted to our MLA and Regional Director in February 2006. The province initially agreed to provide \$10,000 for a governance study and, with pressure from the MLA, increased the funding to \$30,000.

Throughout this time, regular meetings of the Governance Study group continued. The consensus was to ask for incorporation (either as our own municipality or as part of Metchosin), to be included in the governance options to be studied. We knew that incorporation had been turned-down by the Capital Regional District in 2001 and was not supported by the Ministry of Community Services; however it was viewed by the Governance Study group as the only option that would stop further annexation of the JdF Electoral Area by the District of Sooke. Other issues that the governance group wanted to see addressed by a governance study were: decisions on land use and density being made within the community; removal of the View Royal Native Lands (which holds 1/3 of the eligible voters) from the Electoral Area and a change to the present governance model that limits us to one elected representative.

At a July 2006 meeting, both the province and the CRD indicated that they would not fund a study that included incorporation as an option; however they were willing to fund a study looking at a range of other governance options including management committees, elected community commissions and planning committees.



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The Otter Point & Shirley/Jordan River Governance Study group met in August 2006 and decided that they couldn't support the limited alternative governance options that the CRD and province wanted us to study. Further efforts by the MLA, Regional Director and others were unsuccessful in getting the province to change its mind. On December 4th 2006 the original Otter Point & Shirley Governance Study group (which had now expanded to include representatives from East Sooke, Malahat and Port Renfrew), voted to disband itself. It will be replaced by a larger entity called the JdF Governance Committee with representation from Otter Point, Shirley/Jordan River, Port Renfrew, East Sooke, Willis Point and the Malahat.

At the moment, the new committee is in a developmental phase. Director Lund assumed the role of interim chair at a January 3rd 2007 meeting while the committee pursues the appointment of three representatives from each community. The range of governance options to be studied is still to be finalized. The initial meeting of the JdF Governance Committee is scheduled for February 20th 2007 – almost two years to the day from when OPSRRA began the work to seek a governance study for Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River. OPSRRA's time at the helm is over: the watch has been passed.



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What Do You Cook When The Power Goes Out?

by Terri Alcock



Terri's wood stove and cappuccino maker stand at the ready

The first thing I do when the power goes out is light our little two burner wood stove. Then, I drag a chair over to the fridge and climb up to bring down the emergency supplies from the otherwise inaccessible cupboard above it: the old telephone that operates sans electricity, a kettle that sits on the stove and whistles, candles, lanterns and extra flashlights. Oh, and don't forget the little non-electric cappuccino maker – no point in needless suffering!

Then I start thinking about food. My fallback meal for those silent evenings when life slows down and we get back to basics is always Irish stew. Chop up some excellent Shirley beef from Cross Point Farm, dredge in flour, salt and pepper and brown in oil in a large pot. Add water and veggies like onions, carrots, celery, turnip and potatoes. Throw in a couple of bay leaves and a little 'Herbes de Provence', in deference to the French influence in the household, checking the seasonings once it has cooked some. Let it bubble and simmer for as long as it takes. Easy to prepare with or without lights, it lends itself well to the wood stove. Once I've got it simmering on the back burner, I fill up the old kettle and wait for it to boil. Absolutely

everything goes better with -----tea! Now stew is great for a day or two, but once, 'so this is how our ancestors lived', begins to feel old - as do we all without a hot shower - we tire of it and look for more interesting possibilities. This is where you, the readers, come in. We want your recipes. What do you cook when the power goes out? Do you switch to raw veggies, seeds and nuts, or do you know of a special comfort food that cooks easily and well on top of a wood stove, barbecue or Coleman stove?

Just to give you an idea of what I'm talking about here are a couple of recipes to get us started. The first, Ute's Bannock, has something of a reputation in East Sooke, and was shared not by Ute, but by one of her converts. The second is one I discovered while going through mum's old recipes recently. It's a pudding that can, in fact must, be cooked on top of the stove in a double boiler. I haven't actually tried it yet, but intend to at the first opportunity, which I hope is not until next winter. Enough already!

Try them and let us know what you think – and send us yours.

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Ute's Bannock

3 cups flour, 1 tsp. salt, 2 Tbsp. baking powder, ¼ cup melted butter, 1 ½ cups water or milk

Mix dry ingredients, add melted butter and water. Stir with fork until mixture forms into a ball. Knead dough on floured surface. Pat into flat circle 2-3 cm [1 inch] thick. Cook on a greased or non-stick frying pan over medium heat, about 15 minutes per side. [Try adding berries or raisins to dough. If cooking over a fire, try rolling dough into strips and winding on a clean stick. Hold over fire, turning slowly until done.]



Dorothy's Double Boiler Cottage Pudding

1 cup flour, 1 tsp. baking soda, 1/8 tsp. salt, 3 Tbsp. soft shortening [oil or butter would likely work just as well], ½ tsp vanilla, 1/3 c. sugar, 1 egg well beaten, ½ cup milk, ½ cup jam or 1 cup sweetened fresh fruit [try chopped apple with brown sugar and cinnamon].

Grease the top of double boiler. Put fruit or jam in bottom and cover with the batter you have made with the other ingredients. Cover and place over boiling water for about 1 ½ hours. Serve with cream. [Or that melting ice cream that you have to use before you lose it!]

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Jordan River Powerhouse - continued from page 8

Speaking of the powerhouse brings to mind well-known names in the region's history. First the family of D.I. Walker, the first power company superintendent who went on to build the Jordan River Hotel in 1935, the Jack Elliott family, the Ted Banner family, the Lewis Fatt and George Oliver families.

Cliff Banner recalled "The old streetcars were still running in Victoria when I started work there in the forties, and you could tell the drain on the generators in the plant when the streetcars started up..." Jack Elliott added "the old meter, you could see it running up and down, up and down, according to the increase added or the drop in the load - another thing that drained the generators was the motor operating the pumps at Victoria dry-dock..."

V.I. Power Company was a subsidiary of B.C. Electric, and when they were taken over by the provincial government in 1962, the system came under the B.C. Hydro and Power Authority. Today a new powerhouse and new system, developed in 1971,

continue the tradition of sending electricity to power southern Vancouver Island. The new plant, with a capacity six times greater than the old one, stands tucked out of sight on the west side of the river.

While for some time in retirement the old powerhouse structure stood almost derelict, windows broken, gutted of its machinery, in recent years it has taken on new life. Under lease, it now shelters a value-added forest products production plant, operated by Dwayne Busetto.

Old records show that the first power reached Victoria on September 10, 1911. While the building has changed dramatically from the days when the roar of its turbines drowned out conversation, though it is surrounded by encroaching alders, there is an aura still, a haunting reminder of the days when it helped light up southern Vancouver Island.

For more regional history, please visit the Sooke Region Museum.

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Emergency Preparedness for Your Vehicle

by Dominique Bernardet, Emergency Coordinator for Shirley

Emergency preparedness is important not only in your home, but also in your vehicle. In an emergency, you may find that you are unable to get home due to blocked routes, and may have to rely on supplies in your vehicle keep you comfortable and safe until clean-up crews arrive. An autopack will help turn your vehicle into a comfortable temporary shelter, and its contents could be invaluable on your trek home by other means.

Contents include:

- Carrying case/light backpack
- Cash
- Cell phone
- Drinking cups
- Dust masks
- First aid kit
- Flashlight and batteries
- Food packets – what you would normally treat yourself to at home; e.g. gum, granola bars, peanuts, dried fruit
- Garbage bags
- Waterproof matches
- Pencil, felt pen, notebook
- Toilet paper and toilet bag
- Prescription medications
- Eye glasses
- Moist towelettes
- Playing cards, children's games, books
- AM radio with batteries
- Survival blankets
- Utility knife
- Walking shoes
- Whistle
- Work gloves
- 6 litres of water or juices [bottled or boxed]

In addition, attempt to keep your gas tank at least half full at all times. It may take you four times as long to get home and gas pumps may not be operational.

If you would like to volunteer for the Shirley Emergency Team, please call Dominique at 646-2528 or email: djlb@xplornet.com.

Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise indicated, all events at the Shirley Community Hall

Shirley Community Association Annual General Meeting

March 14, 2007, 7:30 p.m.

Contact: Chuck Minten – 646-2077

Spring Craft Fair

Sunday March 25, 2007

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Contact: Chuck

Shirley Volunteer Fire Protection Society General Meeting

Sunday, April 15, 2007, 2:00 p.m.

Contact: Eric Ellis – ehellis@mts.net

NOTE: changed from first Sunday due to Easter

Shirley Volunteer Fire Dept Practices

Thursdays, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Contact: Carl - 646-2107

Yoga Group, Tuesday evenings

Contact: Christine Winsby - 646-2625

Shirley Quilters and Crafters

Contact: Thelma - 646-2008

Thanks Go Out

To Rob and Karen Van Veen and an, as yet, unnamed gentleman from West Coast Road in Shirley, who were the first to open the road and communication lines in the aftermath of the storm of December 2006, so that fire fighters could reach the fire hall. To Fire Chief Carl Nelson and fire fighters who then cleared roads throughout the community so that emergency vehicles could access all roads in the area. To Emergency Coordinator Dominique Bernardet who went door to door to check on residents. To those who helped their neighbours by loaning generators, clearing trees, working to restore water, relaying messages, providing hot meals or showers. To Hydro and Telus crews who went above and beyond. To everyone who helped - THANK YOU!!!

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NOTICE

The April General Meeting of the Shirley Volunteer Fire Protection Society will be held on April 15, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. in the Shirley Community Hall.

Everyone is welcome. Note: the date has been changed from the usual 2nd Sunday (April 8) due to the 8th being Easter.



From the desk of John Horgan, MLA Malahat -Juan de Fuca

The early days of February often leave us with the sense that spring has arrived and warmer, milder days are ahead. Never has a seasonal change been more welcome than this year.

The dramatic weather events of November and December have reminded us of the awesome power of nature and our dependence on modern technology. Power outages and telephone disruptions were particularly acute in the rural areas of Malahat Juan de Fuca. In Shawnigan Lake, Cowichan Bay and other communities above the Malahat, the November snow meant significant stretches of time without the energy we have come to depend on.

Along the Strait of Juan de Fuca – in East Sooke and points west to Port Renfrew – the outages, road closures and the absence of telephone service through November and December, remind us all that we need to be prepared as individuals and families to “make do” without modern conveniences.

The Winter of 2006 was also a warning to communities to ensure that our collective preparedness is as ready as it can be. I was pleased to be invited by the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Emergency Preparedness Committee to participate in a half day review session to determine what went wrong and what went right from an emergency preparedness perspective.

The session included representatives from the three fire halls, the RCMP, CRD staff, community volunteers and emergency communications. The meeting was in early December, before the big storm hit. Since then much work has been done and more remains to do, but the way our communities came together to support those that were in need and repair the damage to our utility infrastructure was incredible. Helping each other through adversity is the foundation of community, and we all demonstrated the value of collective action in the face of extraordinary events

Lessons from this past winter remain to be learned and solutions to obvious shortcomings need to be found. For example, the absence of telephone service made the 911 system ineffective and forced first responders to guess where trouble might be. In Port Renfrew, the loss of phone service meant severe stress and health challenges for some residents and economic hardship for business operators dependent on phone lines for electronic transfers.

The regulatory framework for telecommunications in our country is managed by the CRTC, a federal agency. As a member of the provincial legislature I have little or no influence in this area, but as citizens we all have a right and responsibility to let the federal regulator know that the service disruptions in our communities were not just an inconvenience. Communications in emergency situations is critical and in the future may mean the difference between

life and death. I urge you to contact your Member of Parliament and the CRTC and let them know that rural communities deserve the same level of maintenance and service as other communities and towns in our country.

Everyone acknowledges the incredible work done by Hydro crews during the extended power failures in November and December. The long hours, the dangerous work environment and the wind, cold and rain made the work the crews did all the more impressive. As Energy Critic for the Official Opposition, I had the opportunity to question the CEO of BC Hydro in a committee meeting late last year. I applauded the work of the crews and thanked them for working to keep the lights on. However, despite the best efforts of all concerned, questions remain unanswered about staffing levels, maintenance schedules and brush removal plans.

I asked the CEO to come to our communities to participate in public meetings and discuss the effects of the storms on hydro operations, what actions were taken to respond to the multiple outages, and what steps Hydro will take to ensure rights of way are properly maintained to minimize the risk of future disruptions.

Hydro is collecting data on the magnitude of the damage to the distribution system and will be ready to meet the public in March. Look for ads in the local paper and posters at the fire halls in Shirley, East Sooke and Otter Point.

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The Squeaky Wheel

by Jeri Grant

Have you ever heard the expression 'it's the squeaky wheel that gets oiled'? Well I was squeaking about how ill prepared we were in East Sooke for any emergency or disaster, and that's how I ended up on the JDF Emergency Preparedness Committee. This winter has been quite a wake-up call for everyone, motivating us to get involved. Though both the Federal and Provincial Governments stress that people should be prepared to survive for 72 hrs without assistance, November's snow and December's wind storms showed us that we need to be prepared for at least one week.

Every household needs to have an emergency plan. To create your plan you need to think about the following:

- Where are the exits from your home and neighbourhood?
- Do you have a designated meeting

place to reunite with family or roommates?

- Is there a person designated to pick up children from school should you be unavailable?
 - Have you got an out of town contact person?
 - Do you know the location of your fire extinguisher, water valve, electrical box, gas valve and floor drain?
 - Do you have your health information written out so that you can take it with you if you must leave your home?
- You can download an emergency plan from http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/index_e.asp and while you're at that site download your copy of the emergency preparedness guide. Once you've finished your plan, get out and meet your neighbours if you don't already know them. Find out if they have a plan, and if not, help them get one.

Any one wishing to volunteer in East Sooke can contact Jeri Grant at 642-3664

EAST SOOKE RURAL RESIDENTS AND
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Business Meeting followed by a presentation:
"Agricultural Land Reserve" Ray Zimmerman

Refreshments will be served

What's Happening In East Sooke

If you have an event that you would like published in an upcoming issue, please e-mail: submissions@ruralobserver.com.

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teaching virtues like responsibility, honesty, caring, and so on through stories, games and crafts, for children ages 6 to 10. Sunday mornings, 11:15 a.m. -12:15 p.m. East Sooke Community Hall For information: Sandy/Bob Rempel, 642-1837

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East Sooke Community Hall
Contact: Drew Mackinnon 642-0113

Spanish at the Centre for Earth and Spirit in March.

Call: 642-3546

East Sooke Go Ju Ryu Karate Club

East Sooke Community Hall
Contact: Sensei Armin Seilopp
642-3926

New to East Sooke, or having a baby? Your welcome wagon representative would be pleased to give you a wonderful basket of gifts.

Contact: Sonia Lambert 642-2120

East Sooke Volunteer Fire Department Important Notice

On January 1st, 2007 the East Sooke Fire Improvement was dissolved. This was done at the request of the Board of Trustees of the East Sooke Fire department. It has been replaced by the "East Sooke Fire Protection & Emergency Response Service".

Although that is quite an impressive name, not much has changed. The Fire Department will still be run by the people elected by the ratepayers of East Sooke to look after our Fire Dept. One of the main advantages in becoming a CRD service is cost. With the resources of the CRD available to us, many of our costs have been drastically reduced. In insurance alone we are saving about \$20,000 per year!

In February, we look forward to taking delivery of a brand-new Tanker-Pumper truck. Its price is in the neighbourhood of

\$250,000. It comes with all the bells and whistles. Thanks to the responsible financial practices of the present and previous Boards we have the money in the bank. One thing, however, we do not have enough of: FIRE FIGHTERS.

Please consider joining our group of dedicated men and women who are ready and willing to work for our community! Meet new friends, acquire new skills and feel good to be a contributing member of our community.

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Malahat Mountain Inn

The Malahat Mountain Inn invites you to come & enjoy our new menu.
Look for your Malahat favourites!

Lunch Features

Sweet Potato & Poached Pear Soup

A Malahat Classic
Topped with walnuts & stilton

Malahat Mountain Salad

Baby greens, stilton cheese,
maple roasted Pecans & balsamic vinaigrette

Seafood Trio

Salmon, prawns & halibut

Calamari

Marinated in buttermilk & fried golden
Lemon & tarragon aioli

Coconut Prawns

Lightly dusted with coconut
Mango curry aioli

Chicken & Brie Burger

Grilled pesto tomatoes

The Ultimate Steak Sandwich

Open faced, mushrooms, sautéed onions
Aged cheddar, pesto mayo

Dinner Features

Stuffed Chicken

Sun dried tomatoes,
prosciutto and Boccocini cheese

Stuffed Coho Salmon

Herbed boursin & ricotta cheese

Beef Wellington

AAA Tenderloin
Peppercorn pate & mushroom duxelle
Wrapped in puff pastry
with sautéed wild Mushrooms

Pan Roasted Lamb Sirloin

A la Provencale

Red wine mint jus

Marinated Sterling Silver

Pork Tenderloin

Fresh mango chutney

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