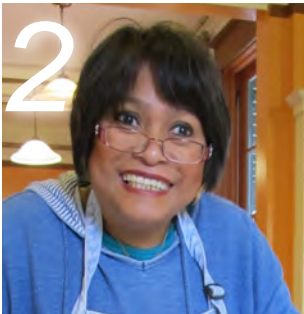


Providence Community News



Winter 2011



Farm News...



James Barber Dinner...



Events...

A Story of Hope:

He woke up with the sun, which is saying something, as it rose earlier than the birds that mid August morning. The warm light of summer only served to confirm what he already knew. This was a new day... a new season, one that lit him with hope.

Hurriedly, he splashed water on his face, combed his wet hands through his disobedient hair, and scoured his teeth to 'bubblegum' flavoured freshness. Pausing only long enough to nudge Tibby, the family cat, from her feline dreams with a quick scratch on her soft underbelly, he swung around the banister and down the stairs, taking them two at a time.

"Good morning... you're up early", his mother said sleepily through the steam of her cradled mug, as he entered the kitchen. "Morning mom", he said collecting a bowl and his favourite cereal, "It's Tuesday, and my work starts at 9 o'clock", kicking the fridge door closed, milk in hand. As he coaxed the last bowl of cereal from the box, careful to avoid the powdered crumbs that would turn to mush when he poured the milk from daring heights, he reflected on his new job.

At 19, he considered this to be his first job. It was a welcome change after the difficult transition of graduating in June and leaving the Teaching Assistant who he had walked through three tumultuous years of high school with. But now, two weeks into a new experience, he was finding fresh hope in the work he was doing and the people he was doing it with.

He had been thrilled to reconnect with Jason, an old friend from middle school, while eating lunch with everyone on his second day there. Since then he had met

so many people who had contributed to his growing optimism that this could be a place where he could contribute and belong, with people who valued him.

Through a mouthfull of milk and frosted flakes, he said, "Mom, this morning I am going to learn how to clean a carburetor... maybe I could fix our mower some day! After lunch we're harvesting tomatoes, you know... those little orange ones that taste like candy." As he chewed, he thought about how proud he was to be a part of growing fresh vegetables that could be sold at the Farmers Market and shared during the mid day community meal. Holding spoon with a last, precariously piled mouthful of cereal, he mused, "Maybe we'll have pizza today... I work in the kitchen on Thursdays... I'm going to bake cookies, how about that! "

"...finding fresh hope in the work he was doing and the people he was doing it with."

After crushing the cereal box with youthful vigour, tucking the milk back in its rightful place and recklessly setting his bowl and spoon clattering in the sink, he cried, "I'm off to catch my bus... Jason and I ride the whole way together, and we get there early enough to have a coffee with everyone before we start work".

"Love you mom", he said, stopping long enough to kiss her cheek, put on his ball cap and check the mirror before opening the door to a bright new day. Outside, on the sidewalk he met his neighbour, old Mr. Colburne, who asked, "Where are you off to with so much energy young man?" Grinning, with the morning sun on his face, he replied, "I'm off to my new job... at Providence Farm".

It was a busy year at the Farm last year and it is hard to believe that we are on the edge of another growing season already. We hope that you were able to come visit us last year but, if not, here is a bit of what we have been up to.

While the late start to the growing season presented some challenges, the crops finally went in and we were able to enjoy the rewards of fresh produce in our Kitchen Program well in to the fall.

The months of July and August were busy with farming and many folks renting out various parts of the Farm to host their events. There were several weddings, company gatherings and, of course, the Islands Folk Festival which celebrated its 27th year.

September was particularly busy. Early in the month we honoured those that make Providence Farm tick – our volunteers – at a Volunteer Appreciation Tea on September 8th. The following week (Thursday the 15th) the Island's best chefs hosted a James Barber fundraising dinner at the Farm at which they dedicated an outdoor brick-oven to the Farm – it is fabulous! Throughout that weekend, the Farm offered guided tours to the public and, on Sunday the 18th, we hosted a family day in partnership with the Cowichan Green Community. Young and old came to the Farm to enjoy music, face painting, birdhouse building, a scavenger hunt, a pie baking contest, hay rides and pizza from our outdoor brick-oven.

And, finally, amongst the business of September there was a film crew on site. Senior Living Magazine is working on producing a 13 part ½ hour television series titled "Seniors Living on Location" which will be aired on CHEK TV. The film crew came to the Farm on Wednesday, September 14th, for a couple of hours to showcase some of our seniors and how they redefining aging by participating in active lifestyles.

In October, hundreds of children enjoyed hay rides at the Farm and searching through the falling leaves for pumpkins. On Saturday, October 29th, the Farm hosted its annual Masquerade Party to which attendees were treated to an evening of music by the Farm's very own Monte Nordstrom



For Thanksgiving, Bella prepared delicious fruit pies in the Kitchen.

and his band.

The year wound up with the annual Christmas Craft Fair on December 3rd and it could not have been a more beautiful day. The sun was warm, as were the people, and Santa was on hand to listen to many little ones share their hopes and dreams for Christmas morning.

Our 2012 calendars are still on sale for \$10, with all proceeds contributing towards Farm programming. The theme of this year's calendar is A Year of Unity, and it is in unity that we continue our work on the Farm, are thankful for each day and look forward to this new year. We look forward to carrying out our most important work – caring for those not easily accepted elsewhere – and we thank you for supporting us in doing so

Board of Directors

At the Farm's Annual General Meeting this summer, the following individuals returned to the Board for another year of service or were elected for their first year of service:

- Peter Bontkes, Chair
- Paul Douville, Vice Chair
- Michelle Lancaster, Treasurer
- Jim Dias, Secretary
- Reynold Hert
- Gerry Hof
- Jack Hutton
- Michelle Marinier
- Grant Mellemstrand
- Sean Napier
- Gerry Newell
- Donna Shaw
- Norm Sowden
- Brad Tomlin

The Farm sends a big thanks to retiring Board members:

- Linda Dayton
- Jim Endersbe
- Glen McNie
- Devon Mills



Lindsay, Theresa and Michael show the Halloween spirit.

Farm Faces:

Please join us in congratulating Matt Glanville, our welder, who recently received his Journeyman's ticket! Matt has faithfully been fixing our machinery, fabricating many custom metal work pieces for functional purposes and creating artistic works for sale in the store for the past number of years.

Matt is passionate about his craft and passionate about Providence Farm. While being an integral part of 'keeping us running' and applying his expertise to many development projects around the farm, he is willing, creative and capable to take on any custom project that you might have.

If you have been wondering about a custom garden art piece, need a repair done on existing metal work, or have a building project that needs something unique, Matt would be happy to discuss your project with you. Our welding program assures quality work at a reasonable rate and making use of this resource is yet another way you can support the people and programs of Providence Farm. Please call 250-746-8982 or drop by the store to inquire about existing pieces for sale or to discuss your metal work project.



"Matt Glanville, our welder, recently received his Journeyman's ticket!"

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Thank You's from the Loom Room:



knitting in a sunbeam

- Sawyers Sewing Center
- Bill Murray (All Sew)
- Barbara Dowd
- Leola Witt-McNie
- Fabric Land
- Jean Claude Levesque
- Sandra Smith
- Hope Farm
- Qualicum Bay Fiberworks
- Anna Runnings
- Jennifer
- Alberta
- Ramona Johnson
- Gen
- Andrew Konig
- Norm Worthy
- Barb Stewart & Mom
- Vicky Marster
- Carol
- Tzouhalem Spinners & Weavers
- Ladysmith Thrift Store



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Volunteers Needed:

The Loom Room is looking for volunteers for "finishing" work in the textiles program. Volunteers must be willing to work with people, embroidery thread, sewing machines. Hand sewing and knitting opportunities too! We would love to hear from you!

The 'Royal' Chicken Inn:

During the rainy days in March and April, building of a new chicken coop on the Farm began. Royal LePage Duncan Realty generously donated the materials and Blair Herbert, owner of Royal LePage Duncan Realty, donated hundreds of hours of his own labour to build it. Modern Windows and Nugget Glass made donations of some great character windows for the front and a clear side window, and the Cowichan Valley Alternate School built the nesting boxes that have been hung in the coop's nesting room. Today, approximately 100 chickens enjoy their new 400 square foot home, which

we have dubbed the "Royal" Chicken Inn in recognition of Royal LePage. Each week day participants at the Farm tend and care for the chickens and gather and clean dozens of free range eggs which are available for purchase at the Farm's General Store for \$4.00 per dozen.

A big Farm thanks to the Cowichan Valley Alternate School, Modern Glass, Nugget Glass and especially Royal LePage Duncan Realty and Blair Herbert!



First things first ...the floor



...the walls



... the roof



and finally ...the chickens.

James Barber Fundraising Dinner... A Big Thanks!

On Thursday, September 15th, Providence House was host to a wine and culinary extravaganza. To honour the late James Barber, some of BC's finest chefs put their culinary expertise on display for residents and visitors of the Cowichan Valley to enjoy. During the evening, the James Barber outdoor brick oven was officially dedicated to Providence Farm with members of his family and good friends on hand to mark the special occasion. We are proud to host the outdoor brick oven and are thankful for the support of James' family.

Thanks to the following for making this event happen:

- Bill Jones, Deerholme Farm
- Pat Barber, Applejack Farm
- Allan Aikman and student chefs, VIU
- Brad Boisvert, Amuse Bistro
- Robert Clark, C Restaurant
- Matt Horn, Cowichan Pasta Company
- Sean O'Connell, Equinox Catering
- Garrett Schack, Chateau Victoria
- Fatima da Silva, Bistro 161
- Paul Stewart, Harbour House Hotel
- Brock Windsor, Stone Soup Inn
- Ryan Zuvich, Markt Artisan Deli



Local wines, beers and ciders accompanied the delicious food and so we also extend a big Farm thanks to Averill Creek, Blue Grouse Vineyards, Merridale Estate Cider, Rocky Creek Winery and Vancouver Island Brewery.

The proceeds of the fundraising dinner went to replacing the non-working stoves in the Farm's Kitchen Program, which arrived at the Farm on November 1st.

Thanks to all who came out and supported the Farm for this event!

Community Support:

Providence Farm is blessed with generous support from organizations and individuals in our community that allow us to continue to better the lives of those at the Farm and within the greater community. Thank you.

- **Jean Claude Levesque** - 45" loom and spool rack, to the Textiles Program
- **Evo Marcom** - sewing machine, to the Textiles Program
- **Phil's Farm** - free juicing of 400 bottles of apple juice
- **Sean Napier & Brentwood College** - donation of food to Farm event
- **Cowichan Valley Shrine Club** - creation of new drainage ditch and road
- **Bob Gordon** - for building new wooden garbage and recycling bins
- **Return It Depot** - received recyclables on behalf of the Farm, September 25th
- **Safeway** - donation of turkeys for Farm's Thanksgiving lunch
- **BC Ministry of Housing & Social Development** - \$71,000 Job Creation Grant
- **Esther's Dream Foundation** - \$50,000/year for past 3 years for Peer Mentors
- **Service Canada** - \$5,300 support of two summer students
- **Victoria Foundation** - \$7,350 to support meaningful work at Providence Farm
- **BC Ministry of Agriculture** - Agri-Food Development Program - \$3,000
- **Ecole Mill Bay** - proceeds from Ecostravaganza
- **Farm Folk/City Folk** - \$2,000 to build/set up outdoor oven
- **Royal LePage Duncan Realty** - Construction costs of new chicken coop
- **Blair Herbert & Karen Bittner** - Design and construction of new chicken coop
- **BC Hydro Employees' Community Services Fund** - \$1,000
- **Tom O'Flaherty** - Lawn tractor, rototiller, fruit press, pressure washer
- **Vancouver Island Real Estate Board** - Cost of a defibrillator for the Farm
- **Don Rolston & Shawnigan Lake School** - clay recycling machine
- **Jane Glosser** - Electric golf cart
- **Gerry Newell** - Power Drill for St. Ann's Garden Club
- **Winners (in Duncan)** - Hangers for Sr. Frieda's Free Store
- **Island Savings Credit Union** - Use of their tents for several Farm events
- **John Hunter** - Printer
- **Anne Sedola** - Loom for Textiles Program
- **Isabelle Davis** - Table Saw for Furniture Shoppe Program
- **P. Ryan** - Hay
- **Victoria Bellefeville** - Numerous outdoor plants
- **Mary Staniforth** - Band saw, to St. Ann's Garden Club
- **Brad Lincoln** - Hardwood flooring
- **RBC Employee Volunteer Grant and Judy Miller** - Paper shredder
- **Sisters of St. Ann**
- **Citta Slow, Cowichan Bay**
- **True Grain Bread**
- **Rona**
- **Dinter Nursery**
- **BFI Canada**
- **Ye-Old Dogwood Lumber**
- **Shoppers Drug Mart (Duncan)**
- **Twin Fir Tractor & Implement Ltd.**
- **Ceevacs Roadrunners Club**
- **Salesforce.com**
- **Hayes Stewart Little & Co.**
- Hayride drivers: **Roger Lamont, Barbara Houston, Peter Bontkes, Gerry Hof, and Jack Hutton**
- **Thrifty Foods**, and Store Manager **Al Watson** - for a Smile Card for the Farm's Christmas Lunch
- **Jack Pearce** - for his hand-crafted wooden bowls for sale in the General Store

Providence Farm is honoured to be the recipient of donations in memory of:

Thelma Freed
Gayse Shewchuk
Joseph Charles Romeo Lariviere
Oscar Kretchman
Ed Malones
Jean MacLeod
Ronnie Phipps
Kathleen Cyr

To remember your loved one with a special gift, or to plant an Oak tree in their memory, please contact the main office for details.

Wish List:

- The loom room is in need of a strip cutter (this is a hand turned cutter for wool material used for cutting strips of material for rug hooking)
- Teresa and the amazing decorating crew are in need of your old Christmas decorations to turn into fabulous holiday arrangements.

Events:

Providence Farm 2012 Calendars



These full colour wall calendars celebrate a year at the Farm in photographs, and with inspirational quotes. All proceeds go towards our continued growth for next year.



Calendars are available for \$10 each in the office and General Store.

Sweet Christmas Celebration



This year Providence Farm was the lucky recipient of a gingerbread replica of Providence House. This master piece was the creation of Pastry Chef Zoe Jordan who volunteered over 40 hours for its creation. The gingerbread Providence House was unveiled at our annual Christmas Craft Fair where it drew crowds and also made it into local newspapers. The entirely edible gingerbread sculpture was on display in Providence House until Christmas Break.



Many Cowichan families enjoyed the Farm's Christmas Fair this year - and many children whispered wishes to Santa. Thanks to all those that helped make this a wonderful seasonal event!

Thank you!

A Dollar Donated ... A Dollar Invested Locally:

With our Annual Giving Campaign drive in full swing, we wanted to remind Farm supporters that every dollar donated to Providence Farm is invested in the people of Cowichan Valley. We do not engage the services of companies to organize our fundraising drives. All of our fundraising activities at Providence Farm are carried out with the generous support of volunteers and staff and all of the money raised stays right here.

Please watch for our **Annual Giving Campaign** brochure in your mailbox.

Volunteer Week: April 15th - 21st 2012

Providence Farm could not do what it does everyday, without the generous volunteers who give us so much of their time and talents!

We will be celebrating our volunteers during Volunteer Week in April - mark the date and watch for posters and evites.



providence farm
A THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY

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Polster Environmental Services
JP Construction
Island Tractor
Ken & Elizabeth Newcomb

*"Every moment and every event
of every man's life on earth
plants something in his soul."*

Thomas Merton

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