



# News from the Lodge



Spring 2025

*All the News that's fit to Point...*

...by Richard Hill

## What the Heck is the... Orchard House Project?



This was the Orchard 'Cottage' in it's final days.

In the last issue, I mentioned (*ranted*) about the regulatory and permitting issues surrounding this project. I didn't go into a lot of detail about it because I'd mentioned it in the issue before that, however, I got a lot of questions about why we were doing this, so here I'll present a little re-cap.

We are replacing what was formerly known as the 'Orchard Cottage', which was the only building on the property when my father purchased the initial parcel in 1929, with a proper, three bedroom house for our daughter Marlie, her husband Kory and their two daughters (*see photo in lobby*) to move into.

With her here, she can start learning more of the ropes and absorbing whatever knowledge Sandi and I have so we can slowly hand the reins over to her, take a bit of time off a little more often and, when the day inevitably comes, allow us to perhaps even think about retiring, but not in the very near-future, .

This, as mentioned in the article two issues ago, is the best case scenario or 'Plan A'. Other, less desirable plans could necessitate the provision of a residence for a 'full time, live-in manager' or maybe we have to let the lodge go completely, can't bear looking over here everyday from our present home, and move ourselves into the 'Orchard House' instead.

Maybe another family member takes over the operation, who can say what tomorrow will bring?

No matter what plan transpires, it is still the best plan to have a new, comfortable residence on that part of the property, as opposed to a 120 year old shell of a former shack that was caving in and presented a rather large liability.

As mentioned in the previous issue, the intricacies of our situation have confused and confounded the standard permitting process somewhat, (*ie: a whole lot!*) but the final push to the issuance of the building permit is upon us. If I passed the 'Owner/Builder' exam, scheduled for March 13th, we'll be on our way.

## Available in the Office! New Property and Neighbourhood Map for Intrepid Explorers!

Produced by longtime guest Deborah LeFrank (*Visual Life Stories*) who also produced our guest information brochure, our Solar System guide and numerous signs and notices around the property, this new work is designed to take over

where the map in the 'Guest Info' brochure leaves off. It provides the reader with not only the distances of the various walking loops around the property, but will also guide cyclists, motorists and really serious walkers and runners with the distances around various looping routes in the immediate neighbourhood.

Also included is a guide to what islands you're looking at from the front of the lodge and wonderfully rendered drawings of some of the various aquatically based creatures, birds included. that lucky visitors may encounter during their explorations.

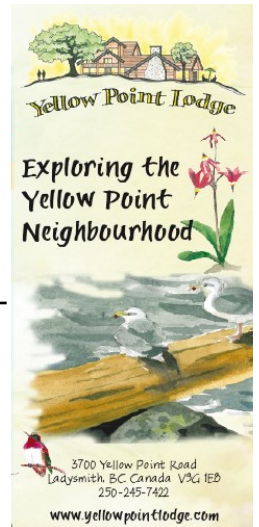
There is also a handy list of some of the local artisans and outlets for local crafts and food offerings in the Yellow Point area.

No one brochure, or even a leaflet or pamphlet could possibly cover all the wildlife, opportunities and attractions available here, but this will certainly get you off to a good start.

That is if you are one of our guests who chooses not to follow our other guideline of "Eat until you're sleepy, sleep 'till you're hungry."

### *Public Service Announcement:* Packed Lunch Requests

Since the first thing the kitchen staff does in the morning is to make the packed lunches for that day, we're afraid that we need to have your request in for a 'to-go' lunch **before the office closes** on the night before you'd like it. Otherwise, they are too busy making breakfasts and the daily lunch for the dining room.





## The 'New Cabins' are... Finally Finished!

Many of you have expressed appreciation for the fine work done on the flagstone floor in the lobby and the little bit of stone facing on that bare piece of concrete that has bugged me since we built the lodge in 1986. Well, since

the strip of raw concrete on Millie's and Lesley's cabins has also bugged me since they were finished, I asked the talented lobby floor mason, Tom Mainella to put the finishing touches on our two 'higher end' cabins to make them look, well, finished.

He scheduled the job in around some other work he had booked, didn't have a lot of time and had both of them completed in mere days!

They really look a lot better as you walk past the Boathouse to or from the beach trail and it feels very good indeed to get some of these non-essential but nice looking and 'finishing' touches actually finished.

## Our Hardworking Staff Have... A Couple of Friendly Reminders



Emma would like to remind us that although sometimes the fireplace is drawing really well, not smoking and we need all the heat we can get during the Winter, the doors can't always be left open.

We have some staff people that are asthmatic and frequently welcome guests with the same condition, C.O.P.D. or some other respiratory issue that simply can't tolerate an even mildly smoky environment.

Plus, sometimes the wind is from the wrong direction or the fire isn't drawing particularly well and it produces enough smoke to be a problem in the lounge..

When that is the case, and the doors are closed, you will find a little sign right on the door handle that asks you to 'please leave doors closed' and we would really appreciate everyone's cooperation in keeping us all healthy.

Ilse would like to remind everyone that our 'special diets' must be reserved for guests with actual, medical allergies or intolerances. We simply are not able to accommodate peoples preferences when we have a full house and lot's of serious diets.

Please try to work around our regular meals if your request does not have health consequences for you.



## For Some Reason, here is... A Picture of a Tree on the Ground.



As moving as it is, why is it here? Well, actually it is a picture of the South end of the beach trail where it used to head into the forest to continue the popular 'lap walk' around the main part of the property.

The big storm last November didn't do a whole lot of damage, but we did lose a few trees, like these ones. We cut an alternate route around the wreckage, since the big roots and trunk would be too difficult to remove, then when we had the rains in December, the new trail was a foot underwater.

We are looking at several options that won't involve losing too much of the beach portion of the walk and will want to engage the people that monitor the protective covenant on that part of the property for their input.

In the meantime, there is another route, further along the trail that takes you down a bit of a steep pitch but seems to be reasonable for most guests until we come up with a properly thought through new route for this trail. The rain and snow slowed us down a bit too, so please understand that we will have this resolved in the near future.



## What the Heck are... Disappearing 'Yellow' Weeks'?

Judy and Sandi are holding up one of our vintage reservation boards that has a portion of it highlighted in yellow because those dates are 'disappearing' and won't be available forever.

Why the heck is that? Well, due to the peculiarities of the Julian Calendar, this year March 1st is a Saturday and in 2026 March 1st is a Sunday and it will proceed like that, sequentially every year, advancing a date, annually.

We book reservations by the day of the week, not the date, in order to keep weekdays and weekends straight, (some guests don't have weekends off, etc.) So after six years, your Saturday, March 1st arrival is now on March the 6th, almost a week later, if we didn't make an adjustment, with all the long term guests we have, you'd soon be arriving in April.

Therefore, we have to keep a 'Yellow Week' on the board that slowly disappears, one day per year, until we approach the seven year point when we then 're-set' the calendar, move everybody back to their original arrival date and keep your reservation on the same day of the week without you advancing a 'date' per year until our May long weekend people are arriving on Labour day.

If this sounds complicated, it actually is. However I wanted to explain this 'behind the scenes' situation that we handle in order to make your stay more enjoyable.



## How About Some News on... What the Heck Else is Going On Around Here?



This photo might be a bit tricky to figure out but it is of the 50 metal brackets down on the pool patio that will be used to provide a much needed upgrade to our dock.

At present, the 'tie up' rail for boats at the dock is bolted into a big timber that is itself fastened to the outside face of the dock by large bolts (*studs, actually*) that protrude from the concrete face of the dock.

If that 'big timber' gets rotten, two very bad things can happen. 1) any boat tied up to the 'tie up' rail could pull the rotten 'big timber' off the dock and float away to be smashed on the rocks, leaving 2) big metal studs sticking out of the side of the dock waiting poke holes in your nice boat or seaplane pontoons. Both bad, very bad.

However, it is really difficult to mount a new, very heavy, soon to be rotten timber back on the studs now that the dock is low in the water.

So, (*and it may be done by now*) we had our fabricator buddy, Dwight, make up a bunch of metal brackets to bolt to the studs instead, then Island Marine Construction, who built the ramp to the dock, will come up and remove the old wood, mount the brackets and bolt a new, skookum tie-up / fender rail to the top of the brackets.

It'll be a big improvement over all, will make boarding the Cutter safer and any of the components can be changed easily whenever needed.

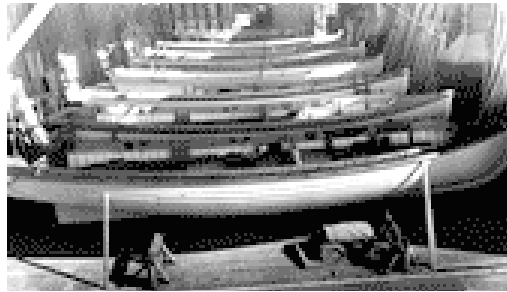
## Hey, You Folks are Smart... We'd Like Your Thoughts...

...on two topics. 1) Bottled water produces untold tons of plastic waste that is minimally recycled each year. We'd like to move to either alternate packaging or re-fillable (*buy here or bring your own*) containers. Our water is tested and treated.

2) As part of our tennis / pickleball court maintenance and upgrade, we are considering moving away from asphalt and paint to a slightly more cushioned surface. It'll be better for your joints, but will it negatively affect the 'ball bounce' and therefore your enjoyment of either game?

Please share any thoughts you may have on these topics with me, in person or on a little note.

## Hey, Let's Feature 'The Cutter' in our... 'Old Timey' Photographs.



Many of you know that we have an old Canadian Navy life boat called 'The Cutter' that has been here since the late 1940's and is used to take guests on little tours during July and

August. Dad got her from the Victoria Machinery Depot when he was down in Victoria buying furniture from the old C.P. 'Empress' Liners that were being decommissioned at the time.

The top photo is of the 32' Cutters coming off the line of Falconer Marine, in Victoria around 1945, when she was built, mostly by women. The next picture is literally a



'standing room only' picnic with guests in the late '40s or early '50's which was Dad's intent for the lovely vessel, many trips were enjoyed.



The next shot is why that cabin by the hot tub is called 'The Boathouse', because it used to house the boat. The old railroad tracks that Dad used to launch and retrieve her can still be seen near the shore in front of the cabin.

This picture is of Dad enjoying himself with his friend and partner, Ian Sherwin. The original 'Navy Spec' benches and engine house may be noted. The Cutter is still powered by the original, 1944 Hercules 'DIX - D' 30 hp, two cylinder diesel engine. We have done some work on the cylinder head, but everything from there down, (*piston rings, crank, rod and main bearings*) is still factory installed equipment from 81 years ago!!



This picture *could* have been taken last August, except for the number of people permitted on board, as we load up and head out for a tour of the neighbourhood or Danger Reef (*real name!*) to see the Harbour Seals. Bon Voyage!

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## New Guest Information:

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### ...on reserving and re-booking.

**Re-Booking Your Room:** In order to support as many of you, who wish to be regular guests, as possible, our reservation system only works for a period of **one year** in advance of today's date. So if you want to come at the same time, year to year (*for whatever reason, and we hope you do*) you can, because nobody can book **your** room 14 months ahead, and take **your** spot.

**Getting Your Own Reservation:** We have tried, and it is nearly impossible to maintain a regular 'Waiting List' because there are too many different dates, accommodation types and combinations of the two.

If you're in someone else's spot (ie: *holding a friend's reservation for them*) we will be re-booking the spot for them, but you can ask them to put a '**would like another reservation**' request on their reservation, so if we get a cancellation we call *them* and can get *you* in.

If you call the office and we don't have the room you'd like, it's suggested that you book whatever we have and ask that a '**would like upgrade**' be noted. If a better room comes available, you'll have a chance at it, depending on who requested an upgrade first.

Try calling us two weeks ahead of your preferred date, that is when lots of people cancel because they can still get their deposits refunded if they give us that much notice.

Don't forget to check the website for our 'post it note' vacancy page, at [yellowpointlodge.com](http://yellowpointlodge.com) and keep your eye on our Facebook posts, as well.

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### ...and on more general policies.

**Cellphones and Laptops:** are fine anywhere *except*, at the request of a lot of guests, in **the main lounge and dining room**. The lobby is fine, and the downstairs lounge is encouraged. However 'E-readers' and 'tablets' are okay in the big, main room (*they're more discrete*). We also don't have wi-fi, (*by request*) and probably never will.

**Drinking in the Hot Tub:** is a big health and safety risk, and, I'm afraid has to be on our 'strictly prohibited' list. This is for everyone's well being. Please enjoy beverages before or after, but not *during* your visit to the hot tub.

**Really general policies:** are probably defined as 'The Golden Rule'. We don't have a ton of specific rules around here, (*exception: above*) and since we seem to attract a fairly well behaved, top quality group of guests, rules and regulations are seldom an issue. We like people to have all the fun they want (*hence the sprung dance floor*) but not at the expense of the other guests ability to relax and enjoy themselves.

## F.A.Q.

### ...frequently avoided questions

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#### How come I can't bring my own wine into the lounge or dining room?

Basically, it's because we have a liquor licence. We are permitted to sell alcoholic beverages to our guests for their enjoyment in our public areas, but if you wish to furnish your own drinks, they'll have to be enjoyed in the comfort, or Spartan surroundings, of your room or cabin. We are not participating in the 'corkage' program, due to the difficulty of monitoring and the fact that our liquor pricing 'mark-up' policy is very modest.

#### Why are you so particular about what my special diet is?

Firstly, if you have a serious allergy or medical condition, we want to make absolutely certain that we get it right. Secondly, one way that we maintain our fairly reasonable rates is by serving our meals 'banquet' or 'boy scout camp' style. If you have a serious dietary condition or are a committed vegetarian, for example, our staff will do everything possible to accommodate you. On the other hand, if your diet is optional, or a preference it makes it a lot harder on the kitchen. The bottom line is: if you've told us you don't eat pork, then order bacon, we will gently ask you to reconsider your dietary request.

#### What's the deal with live music here?

The owner of the lodge, Richard Hill (*me*) played a lot of music earlier in life and has some talented neighbourhood friends. On most Friday nights there is an informal 'acoustic jam' in the Rumpus Room and, on Saturdays at 9:00 a swinging, vintage styled, rock 'n' roll dance party (*complete with trophy*) in the main lounge (*always done by 11:00*). However, sometimes my friends have an 'off site' gig with their Beatles tribute band, so I try to book Jo Deslippe for 'Jazz Monkey' but there is no guarantee. On any day of the week, any guest who entertains the other guests with any form of musical talent, will receive at least one complimentary beverage. I always said "*If I ever get to be the boss, I'm going to give the band free drinks!*"

#### Do you mind if I feed the dogs?

Since two out of the three dogs are not large, and the big one is a muffin hound, we kindly request that, no matter how 'persuasive' (*ie: mooch-happy little bums*) they are, please don't ever feed the dogs even the tiniest little bite. They really add up (*one little bite X 95 guests = puppy cardiac*) and most of the snacks that they would mooch off of you are not healthy for them, at all. They get fed plenty at home, no matter what they tell you.

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