

Article for the February '08 edition of the Pender Post from the Farmers' Institute.

Pender Islands Farmers' Institute

The Pender Islands Farmers' Institute held its Annual General Meeting November 6, 2007. The potluck dinner proved to be a magnificent spread of good food and friendship. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the five newly elected Directors for 2008 by sharing a bit of information they've provided:

Nori Pope – “My wife and I bought our property on North Pender, about 6 years ago and have been developing its farming potential during this time. In 1986 we had the opportunity to develop and maintain a 5 acre walled garden and specialty nursery in Somerset, England. During this time we co-authored a book on our colour design theories "Colour by Design". We retired from the business in 2006. We support and encourage the continuance of sustainable agriculture particularly through the development and sponsorship of local small-scale farming.”

Marlene Cookshaw - “I grew up in southern Alberta and have spent the last half of my life on the west coast. In 1990, rather than dig up my Victoria driveway to plant potatoes, I moved to Corbett Road, where I have been feeling my way toward a balance of subsistence growing, land preservation and the reflective life. Most of my work has been in book and magazine publishing as editor and writer. I am also a poet, and work part time at Southridge Farms Country Store. I would like to see the development of a community rich in kitchen gardens and wise about food origins.”

Julia Reilingh - “I grew up in Ontario where my family had a farm in Essex County. I moved to Langley, B.C. in my early 20's and managed an Equine Veterinary Practice – and started my first garden. My three sons were born in Langley and moved with me to East Vancouver where I created another garden that blended vegetables, herbs, flowers and shrubs, and which Mark Cullen featured on his Show. I have worked as a classroom teacher, special ed teacher and school counselor before moving to Pender Island a year ago. I enjoy the sumptuous feasts that grow and simmer at Gregarious garden located in the Port Washington area where I currently live.”

Diane Allison - “My daughter and I moved to Pender in 1981. We lived on 3 acres and raised rabbits, chickens, ducks, pigs, goats and a ram at various times. We boarded horses too. I have always loved the country and farming. I spent many wonderful days on my grandparent's farm in Alberta when I was younger. I thoroughly enjoy spending time in my garden and canning my winter veggies.”

Margaret Alpen - “I've had a variety of careers and interests in my life. Currently, I am managing Pender Island Community Hall events as well as thoroughly enjoying my garden and creating my art.”

Important Notice: Farmers interested in supporting District A Farmers' Institute by completing surveys regarding local food initiatives and meat regulations can contact Jenny MacLeod, Secretary, at [HYPERLINK "mailto:hughjenny@shaw.ca" hughjenny@shaw.ca](mailto:hughjenny@shaw.ca) .

The next General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 27th at the Community Hall, 7:00 pm. with Guest Speakers Shanti McDougall and Brian Crumblehulme from Mayne Island, speaking on the philosophy and practicality of growing and processing food to supply a local market. See advertisement on page ... in this Pender Post.

Sue Bailey, Secretary