

glenora's saga

and other stories

easter newsletter 2008

the
ita wegman
association

of British Columbia for Curative Education And Social Therapy



the llama's lament:

An Easter newsletter. Well also that needs to happen and as nobody else is doing it, this Llama will take it on while chewing a nice mouthful of hay. So here is some news about Glenora farm:

Not so many new people have arrived since the last newsletter, but in Feirefis there is this Dutch girl named Tamar, in

The new house is a girl named Michaela, and in the main house lives the girl Denise Not that I have seen them, they haven't really come around to the farm yard and fed me a carrot (llama poo on them too). There are also a few new lambs, and lambs mean spring! And that is probably why this newsletter is this awful shade of green. Even I am depicted in that putrid color.

This will be one of the last newsletters about the new houses. They are almost finished, even though there is a month or two of work. Soon there will be an open house, so keep your ears pointed forward for more news about that. Now some nice plants around the houses and some grass and it will look nice, grass yeah, hm. Now I am afraid I have to get back to other urgent business.

Yours truly

saga, the llama

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new houses being finished

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It is hard to believe that two years have passed since we broke ground at the new building site. In just a few weeks the second house will be ready for Kara and Joost's household to move into. No more commuting from town!! The children can run from house to house, companions can easily visit in each other's homes and our dream of creating a village on the farm has finally materialized.

A great deal of hard work has gone into this project and we are truly thankful for such an enthusiastic contractor in Brant Wenninger. Every challenge has been met with patience, understanding and support for our wish for green homes for our coworkers and companions. In fact, this has been Brant's dream building project because he has longed to be able to put his commitment to alternative building practices into a project such as this.

So just what have we accomplished? We wanted houses that would be quiet, and free of toxic substances. We used wood milled here at the farm and anything we bought was free of any type of glue or treatment. The first house is insulated with clay infill, the second with insulation made of lava rock. The paint is non-toxic; the cabinets are all natural wood. The flooring is either clay or wood and finished with water based stain. The washers, dryers and deep freezes are contained in a separate building as is the pump for the geo thermal heating. The main electrical is in an outbuilding as well with the houses specially wired for minimal electrical magnetic impact. All the services are underground.

Building in such a manner has been costly and we are very thankful for the generous donations we have received to help make this dream of ours possible. If you are so inclined to support this project with a donation, there is still much to be done such as landscaping and a basketball court between the new houses. There is a pledge form to send in with your donation if you so choose.

lynda Phelps



we will be celebrating the completion of
the new houses
saturday may 16th from 11 am to 3 pm.

This will be an informal open house and people will have an opportunity to view the building, talk to the builder and coworkers involved in the project and enjoy some refreshments.
please join us.

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workshops

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the "caring daringly" workshop.

This workshop has been developing creams and ointments for a few years, using herbs from the farm, and recently started developing various types of soap.

The ointments we are now producing are: Hand Cream, notorious for healing cracks, both in hands AND feet; Foot Balm with Rosemary; Chest Ointment with Plantain and Thyme from the herb garden, and, most recently, Arnica Ointment, made with our own Arnica Oil. All of the creams are made with a base of local beeswax and Calendula and/or St. John's Worth Oil from the farm, which gives them the strong healing effect.

As for soaps, at the moment Lavender, Rosemary and Rose Geranium soaps are available.

You will find these at our store in Glenora, and at our stand at the local Farmers Market in Duncan every Saturday.



annette

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glenora gold

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This year despite all intentions of being prepared for the maple syrup season, once again, we were scrambling to get ready. It seems the whole winter long we were plagued by mild conditions and uncommon amounts of snow. But when the cold weather hit us suddenly, it was with a vengeance in the middle of January; we had a cold snap with temperatures down to -15c. Before I had a chance to winterize the barn the water pipes froze solid, and split, breaking all the pipes wide open. By the time the thaw actually come on we had things back in place, and were ready to start boiling.

The season turned out to be quite late, and much more like the eastern syrup season than previous years. By the first weekend in February we had hoped to have a substantial amount of syrup to sell at the Annual Big Leaf Maple Syrup Fest, at the Forest Discovery Center in Duncan, and Plenty of sap to run the evaporator for the demonstrations. As the day of the festival

drew near the nervous e-mails came in daily on the "Sap-sucker hot line" wondering who could come up with enough sap. We had our first good flows just in the nick of time!



To make matters even more tense, the first batch of syrup of the year burnt to a crisp. What a mess! From then on however everything has gone very well. The custom evaporating has kept us quite busy this season, with several new clients, and has made up the shortfall in our own production. We ended up with several cases of beautiful syrup, bottled labeled which is offered for sale at our little shop, the Glenora store. The syrup fest was a huge success with record attendance.

Joost and his trusty crew of helpers looked after the bulk of the evaporating, and handling of firewood this year. A task that in the past has not happened during program hours in the past, and more often than not turned into very long nights. This season the syrup production became a part of the program, and as such was really a pleasurable activity for all involved. We also manage to streamline the collection, by the acquisition of a trailer to pull behind the ATV, we bought a bulk tank which straps into the trailer to carry up to one hundred and eighty liters of sap, and with future growth in mind we also acquired a rectangular tank which will fit into the trailer with a capacity of four hundred liters. These acquisitions were funded with money made by syrup sales over the last two years.

Spring has finally arrived with the first chorus of frogs, the buds are swelling the birds are singing and once again, it is time to wash and put all the equipment away for another year.

lawrence

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the felting workshop

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It's probably high time that someone took the time to write about this fun/creative workshop. It started when Anja was still one of our co-workers and living here at the farm. The Workshop was inspired by Jackie (Adola's daughter in law) Jackie brought some felted items and taught/showed people how to "Wet Felt".

In the beginning Tina, Matthew and myself were the companions of this fine workshop. Our first products were making juggling balls, finger puppets and witches. We also learned to create pictures (wall hangings) and bags. After Anja left Kara, Raphaela and Katherine took on the workshop, Tara joined it as one of the companions. We created more wall hangings, and I created a Tea Cosy, Matthew produced some slippers. Now today if you go into the Weavery and look on a shelf by the sink you'll see the Tea Cosy that I made.

Raphaela later took on the workshop and we learned to create "Flower People", Christina



joined the workshop, Katherine started making Mermaids, and Matthew creating Hot Mats.

After Raphaela left (to go back to Germany) Karin took on this workshop. This is one workshop that has gone through many Workshop Masters, and its one that has seen people coming and going.

Trine joined the Workshop for a while. After a while when Karin took it over the workshop moved from the Pool Room to the Laundry House.

Currently on Tuesday and Thursday mornings Gary, Matthew and I walk after our Morning Meetings to Karin and George's House (right now we work inside their house as it's too cold and damp to work in the Laundry House) but hopefully when it gets warmer we can return to the Laundry House. Right now the Felting Group is Gary, Karin, Matthew, Michela and I.



Now I am having fun creating different felting pictures from Fairy Tales for example I have created "Star Penny", Rapunzel, and The Ugly Duckling.

What I love to do is create a scene from the Fairy Tale, (in the case of the Ugly Duckling as a example, I created the part where the Duckling became the Beautiful White Swan, he's swimming on a pond, the Swan now lives in the Weavery so that it is available for the public to see.

The Rapunzel picture became a TV cover for our house so that when the TV is not on you won't stare at a blank screen, you will be looking at a Fairy Tale instead.

The way the Felting Team works is I lay out the picture, Matthew uses his strength and



does the Wet Felting part. Gary is right now with the help of Karin and Michela and I. we are getting into the Easter theme, producing unbreakable eggs, chickens and Hens.

written by lisa whitehead with the help of the felting group

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thanks

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finally we have new chairs for our gatherings and Christian community services. Thanks to Owen and Marilyn Lange who donated the money. Owen even organized the ordering. So they just arrived at our doorstep

A big thank you to Owen and Marilyn



thanks lucinde for starting working in the office and help with the recruiting. Now there is more time for Linda to focus on all the other things that need to happen including her fantastic hampers with Glenora farm products!!

No picture here of our fantastic office women, you can admire them together in real life in the office on Mondays and Thursdays.

and thanks to the snow for letting us appreciate the thaw. Enough is enough, see you next year



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thanks to our workers in our workshops. We had our workshop presentations and



the wealth that they produced is amazing. So have a look at the creams, dried vegetables, soaps, rugs, weaving, felting, pillows, jewellery, syrup, etc. etc. etc.



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donation pledge form

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## the ita wegman association spring 2009 donation pledge form

This is a special donation drive for the completion of the first phase of the 5 house building project at Glenora Farm. All donations are tax deductible.

Thank you for your generosity.

Name of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address to send receipt if different from above: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to: The Ita Wegman Assoc. Building Fund

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end