

# ***A Note from the Owners***

## ***4214 Clam Bay Road***

*We bought Rugosa Cottage in February 2001, a time of cool rain and dormancy in the gardens. We returned in May to a property bursting with colour and life, moving into the small house, on a small island with few amenities, to be closer to west coast family.*

*The property revealed its secrets in a slow unfolding: the house sitting in its own pool of light, early morning sun streaming through the big windows, a sudden surprise view of Mt. Baker, the magic of following the periwinkle path down the hill, through the gate, down the steps and over the logs to explore Bricky Bay, or to sit quietly watching and listening to the sea life.*

*The cottage was originally built in 1922 by a woman from California and included properties on either side of the current lot. It was carefully sited for best view and with awareness of the movement of the sun and direction of the wind. A horse lived in what is now the shop. Evidence can be seen in the east facing horse window and the cement trough at the side of the shop. While researching the trees and many plantings I noted the attention paid to the choice and placement of fruit trees and plants to give a continuous series of bloom times. Two huge California Redwoods and remnants of a Christmas Tree farm provide protection from westerly winds.*

*We have installed deer fence, rebuilt the front entrance, simplified and cleared some flower beds, rescued the vegetable beds, added Rhodos, Hydrangeas and the gorgeous Japanese maple, but the old plantings, like the overgrown and mossy Rugosa rose, survive, go on and on anchoring and providing endless visual pleasure. The ancient fruit trees, now sculptural features, still produce fruit and plenty of harvesting activity.*

*As the property unfolded, so did the community. The Driftwood Centre grew. The Community Hall was built with its wonderful Mother Poles. The grandchildren grew and flourished from early years at Port Washington Montessori and Pender Elementary, then on to Gulf Islands Secondary, and beyond. We attended soccer games, music events, high school dramas and graduations. I participated in the growth of the island's active Taoist Tai Chi group. We hiked the island's many trails and explored its many beaches. We waited in line for many ferries. We met and admired the work of the artists and artisans who thrive on the island and have made dear and lasting friends over these twenty-four years.*

*It is sad, hard to say goodbye to this special island property, to this simple charming house, but it is time. We leave Rugosa to the care and stewardship of its next owners. We wish them joy and peace.*