

<u>Pirates Cove Trading Company. Com</u>

An off-grid company creating nourishing products using traditional techniques

Pirates Cove Trading Company has established a market for their products at Community Markets on Gabriola Island, locally on DeCourcy Island, surrounding Mudge and Ruxton islands, as well as direct sales to boaters moored in Pirates Cove. The consumer response has been remarkable. They believe in selling only healthy products that promote better well-being, and do this through using ancestral techniques like fermenting their grains, which is unique to the area. This ancestral way of baking has allowed many gluten intolerant people to be able to enjoy traditional products like bread once again. They also do ferments like Kimchi, Sauerkraut, Beet Kvass and Kombucha and use organic ingredients and source supplies locally from Gabriola Island Organic Farms as much as possible. They have established a high-demand, speciality business since 2019 that can support a low-impact lifestyle while living on DeCourcy Island. The company was even featured in the December 2020 issue of Pacific Yachting magazine (see scan below) with a business write up on page 4.

Included is:

- Established business with loyal clientele on Gabriola Island, DeCourcy and surrounding islands (Mudge, Ruxton) as well as boats moored in Pirates Cove during the summer.
- All equipment, materials and ingredient lists etc.
- Recipes for all products.
- Website, with own domain that is set up for online sales, Facebook, Instagram and a customer subscriber list.
- Bake Stand for local pick-ups (honor payment system and clientele IOU book). Demand
 has proven that it could be expanded upon to include other products like a general store
 or café style for the local community during the busy season.





DESTINATION

hand out written instructions to his disciples, "Details for point defense" and assign them four-hour shifts of sentry duty, Strange, I thought, that a prophet of enlightenment would have weapons like this on his spiritual sanctuary. Occasionally, boaters coming into the cove or too close to the shore would be fired on.

Naylor, had earlier told us about the forts and where to look for one. He mentioned this while he was showing us inside the impressive fire hall that he had helped build to house as a community hall, Outside, an expansive roof sheltered the long and meticulously rated plant clast set as a community hall, Outside, an expansive roof sheltered the long and meticulously rated plant clast set as a community hall, Outside, and except the set of a work of art. In the field was a work of art. In the field was a work of a set of the set of th

PIRATE COVE in a busy anchorage. Stituted dose to box aniin passes on the marine highway—Dodd Naerowa, providing access to Nanainus, and Gabriola Passage, providing passage from the maintained to the Goll Islands' inner waters—the park is the perfect place for skipers to wat for slack current. It also provides many pleasurable distractions while watting, such as hiking trails, beached to provide the provided provided to the provided p

Although primarily second-growth forests the find here is representative of the moist maritime coastal Doug-las-fire cosystem froud in the Goll Islands, comprised of grassy clear ings, low lying fens, rody outcrops, low growth of the growth



Caution must be taken when transiting the narrow entrano

still be seen here. Another endangered species found here, unpleasant as it is if you trundle into it, is the poison oak.

poison ask.

Park managers have quite a challenge trying to balance accessibility while keeping the impact on
the sensitive ecosystems low. In
the case of Pirates Cove, the BC
Marine Parks Management Plan
includes ensuring its health along
with protecting identified sensitive

ecosystems, archeological sites and rare and endangered coastal and marine habitats and interesting rock formations. Quite a mandatel People like Naylor, with a long hissory of living and thriving in isolated areas, work closely with the parks, university research teams and other groups to provide assistance and valuable history.

valuable history. Nearly everyone visiting De Courcy is familiar with Brother XII, his partier, Madame Zee, and the Aquarian Foundation he spearheaded on Gabriola, Vancourer Island and De Courcy. It was the fastest growing cult in North America in its time, Rumos of buried treasures still abound, as evidenced by the treasure chest that sits on the headfand under the large

We found a circle of moss-covered stones just of the Pylades Trail. Could it be the machine gun site? Brother XII and the mystery of his buried treasure, his death and his shady past will never be fully known, but in the meantime we shrugged off the macher befulps and strode on, he had been been been been been been been beach where the vater is reputed to be warmer and there are lots of to to summer and the to the stone of the post to snuggle against and cold drinks in the backpack to enjoy.

HIKING Most of the marine park is located on the peninsula, with just a strip on the other side, Cove Trail, which provides easy access to the south beach, the campsites, picnictables, the outhouse and the water pump.

pump.
The peninsula offers five kilometres of trails, and we took the lonsest—the Pylades Trail—along the channel of the same name, keeping a wary eye out for poison oak. It's amazing how long three kilometres an feel, even on a level trail, when it's 50°C and you're dying for a swim and a drink. The Darkwoods Trail, at only one kilometre, strikes through the middle, although since the '

DESTINATION

storm of December 2018, some of the sylvan glants that would have contributed to the darkness now lie up-rooted. Brother XII Trail, which parallels the other two on the eastern shore of the cove, doesn't even stretch one kilometre. The cove efficiently delineates the park from the rest of the privately owned island with only Cove Trail joining the two. A fence marks

laran leading to the sex charpears and the control of the control

but where there's a will, there's a way, and larger boats occupied both of the docks when we arrived. The ladders at each are sturdy and helpful and I'm embarrassed to say this time they were appreciated.

Delicious water is available at the south beach area near the campsites. It's potable and we've been told it does not need boiling first. One of the two outhouses is also located here. The other is near the headland close to the northeast dock.

NAVIGATION Many boaters like to arrive early in order to watch the antics of the less fortunate or less informed as they attempt to enter the cove. There's a reason for the white cross on a tree and white arrow on the cliff

the treasure chest sitting on the peninsuls's headland and instead line up the marks on shore before turning to port and entering between the port hand day mark and the starboard-hand buoy. The reef extends a long way nor

the cove.

The private marina, which has definitely expanded since our last visit to the island a decade ago, lies on the

weetern shore.

AHCHORING While Waggoner recommends stern tying, the only time we have ever dragged anchor were when we were stern tied, so we try t avoid at at all costs. Instead we had for the shook there where the holding ground is better. We share it on good to be a shook there where the holding ground is better. We have it or good the shook there were the holding store the shook services operator. Dick Downing, that the mud is just at at thick and stickier here. There are 24 ster tie chains set into the sandstone clift hat encircle the bay making it exhaust many control of the shook services on the sandstone clift hat encircle the bay making it exhaust many control of the sandstone clift hat encircle the bay making it exhaust many control of the sandstone clift hat encircle the bay making it exhaust many control of the sandstone clift hat encircle the bay making it exhaust many control of the sandstone clift hat encircle the bay making it is the bay making it is exhaust many control of the sandstone clift hat encircle the bay making it is exhaust many control of the sandstone clift hat encircle the bay making it is exhaust many control of the sandstone clift hat encircle the bay making it is exhaust many control of the sandstone clift had not been sandstone clift hat encircle the bay making it is exhaust many control of the sandstone clift had not been sandstoned to the sandstoned the sandstoned to the sands



ply putting lines through the various links in the chain. Dowling reminds skippers to be sure to set their anchors before stern tying as, over the years, he has seen considerable mayhem when that is overlooked. He also points out that stern lines should be flagged or have a fender tied to them as some of the lines can extend a long way out and can inadvertently be run over by boaters.

d

e.

iff

ial m

by

on nd

cks

to

en

ind

loy.

vav

n of

ait-

y to

e to

lefi-

it to

the

rec-

imes

were

ry to

head

and

hold-

it on

ie K2

Dowl-

nicker

stern-

cliffs

it ex-

v sim-

The snug anchorage is protected from all seas but one can't say the same about winds. The northwesterly wind can wreak havoc in here and we've frequently seen boats drag anchor. Not all holding ground is created equal, which is why we pay particular attention to local knowledge and head for the stickier mud.

HAVING COOLED OFF in the south beach's warmish waters, and then warmed up in the sun, we headed back via the road. (A fence separates the private headland from the park.) Soon, we came to the Pirates Cove Trading Company on our left; it's a small farm stand advertising that it's an off-grid company creating nourshing products using traditional archniques. Did that include cin-

The Pirates Cove Trading Company sells baked goods and other locally made products.

namon buns, I wanted to know, and grabbed one of the business cards I found there. The stand was deserted that day but the couple who run it, Sabrina and Dane Clark, confirmed that yes, cinnamon buns and many other goodies are on offer, including their own sauerkraut, kombucha, cookies, banana bread and more. "We believe in only eating healthy nutrient-dense ancestral foods and one way we do this is through sprouting and fermenting. This traditional way to prepare grains is used in all our baking.

We can deliver to boats too but many like the excuse to get off their boats and go for a walk." Order in advance from their website at piratescovetradingcompany.com.

To while away the time as we waited for our cinnamon buns and kombucha to be delivered, I walked a bit farther along the road to check out both of the book swap stalls. One is at the bulleth board near the marina and the other is at the farm stall. Unfortunately, there were no eggs, fruit or veggies on

DIFFER THE PROPERTY.

REMEMBER

- Do NOT tie stern lines to trees.
- Do NOT discharge holding tanks or grey water.
- Do NOT trespass or go past the gate to the farm. Stay on the road and respect private property.
- Do NOT build campfires at any time

ADDITIONAL ANCHORING

If Pirates Cove is full, mooring is available at the south beach anchorage near the campsite. Watch for a drying rock. It offers good protection from the northwest in depths of three to eight metres (10 to 30 feet) in good holding in sand and mud. Another overflow anchorage is also nearby, just north of Pirates Cove off Link Island.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Formerly known as Gospel Cove or The Haven, Pirates Cove also was named after Brother XII, who had a home built beside the cove, according to Andrew Scott (The Encyclopedia of Raincoast Place Names). De Courcy was named after Captain Michael de Courcy, who served on the Pacific Station from 1859 to 1860 as commander of the HMS Pylades.

PARK HOST

The dock located near the southwest dinghy dock is solely for the Maple Bay Yacht Club park hosts. Kudos as well to the K2 Park Services staff who do a stellar job of keeping the park and campsite maintained.

WHERE'S THAT MACHINE GUN SITE?

Well, Naylor told us it was about 30 metres (100 feet) east of the composting toilet and was marked by a circle of stones. We think we found it, but who knows?

offer, but it's worth keeping an eye out on the local farm offerings in season.

Books swapped, food order placed, legs exercised, bodies refreshed, souls nourished, we made our way back to the dinghy dock down the narrow trail along the cove.

Oh no! We started to laugh. We forgot our dinghy was at the other side of the cove. Oh well, if we hurried, we could still make happy hour.