

1204 Port Washington Road

Our Story

This house has been my happy place. It represents pure joy in every corner and every inch of the field. The light in the morning welcomes the day in the bedrooms, and by evening it gently filters through from the ocean side, sweeping past the fir cupboards and across the original floor. This is a gentle and welcoming house, easy to manage and so easy to love.

It was built in 1941 for Dr. McKay's widow, who had lived next door at 1214 Bridges Road, while the doctor was practicing. When the doctor died, his widow and her sister moved into this smaller house next door. The property remained in their family for many, many years.

Originally, we rented the property from the previous owner, who had inherited it, intending to keep it in the family. Sadly, although it was kept in their family, it was not maintained and the love that it once held was buried under debris. We jumped at the chance to care for it.

We spent several months cleaning it up and preparing it for my home business as a childcare center. We raised our own family next door, in the doctor's house, and it seemed perfectly fitting to have the opportunity to have the side-by-side properties become one for our family and many others. As we worked on it, and the children and I enjoyed it, we could feel the love return. The trees and gardens responded beautifully, and the house was once again infused with joy and laughter.

The orchard is a mix of baldwin, bitten Heimer, early transparent, yellow delicious and pippin apples (all heritage varieties), as well as winter pears, walnut, and ortega grapes. There are several climbing rose varieties on the fence lines, winter jasmine, honeysuckle, rhododendrons and azaleas, lilies, ceanothus, and varieties of creeping groundcover. The wooden swing on the big arbutus was made by our children's grandfather when our daughter was just born and has sparked many a fantastical ride overlooking the fields and beyond.

The New Zealand Oak in the front yard was planted by Beatrice McKay in the early 40's, given to her from Stu Corbett's aunt, who brought three acorns with her on her long voyage. Another was planted near the corner of Bridges Road and Paisley Road.

Over our 20-year ownership, we have gradually upgraded the house and property. Love, friendships, community, and many, many children have felt supported, nurtured, and encouraged in this house and on this beautiful property. Looking ahead we will always treasure the warm reception this plot in paradise has offered us. I will continue my work with children in the community in a new capacity, which I am very excited about. My heart is with the children everywhere I go.

We have done our best to steward the land and feel ready to pass it on. We hope that whoever has the privilege of owning this parcel will enjoy it and love it as much as we have.

Anne and Rod