

Vancouver Island Beyond Victoria

April 3, 2013 by Shirley

Teeny, tiny Just Like Mom's bakery cottage near Union Bay a local hidden treasure



Just Like Mom's bakery cottage probably holds the record for the smallest bake shop on the Island

Who wouldn't love a bakery that sports a sign proclaiming that a balanced diet is a cookie in each hand? And who wouldn't love the opportunity to purchase baked-from-scratch goodies and breads from one of the smallest, most delightful bakery stores on the Island?



It may be small, but the rustic bakery cottage is crammed full of scrumptious home baking

For years we have whizzed by the roadside sign for Just Like Mom's Bakery Cottage, located just up the hill from the Old Island Highway

(Highway 19A) a little south of Union Bay. We had the same old problem that afflicts many – we were always in too big a hurry to get somewhere else. But a recent tip from one of our readers prompted us to stop by and, rather than smell the roses (which weren't in season anyhow), smell the baking. No regrets there – this little treasure will be sure to become a regular stop for us in future.

The evolution of Just Like Mom's has been a long, slow process. Owner Bev O'Hara grew up in a farm family in Saskatchewan where, at her mother's side, she learned the basics of good old down home cooking. After many years of bouncing around in a variety of careers – most of them food-oriented – Bev opened her own small home-based bakery in the autumn of 2010. With the thought that in today's harried world genuine from-scratch baking would be a marketable commodity, she set about

creating a huge variety of breads, cakes, muffins, scones, tarts and pies. Happily for Bev, her partner Franc Charpentier – and anyone who loves real food – that hunch was right. Bev is kept busy baking six, sometimes seven, days a week to keep the bakers racks, shelves and freezer in her rustic bakery cottage filled. The menu on her website changes frequently as she creates new, seasonal additions to her standard offerings. Clearly, Just Like Mom's has become one of those secret local treasures that is much-loved and well-patronized.



How could you not love a bakery that features a sign like this?

Bev and Franc have recently expanded their line of wares beyond the baking, offering home-made jams and jellies as well. The couple picks all the berries that end up in the jars, and they use other local fruits that promise the peak of freshness and flavour. There are fresh local eggs available, and a self-serve cup of coffee can be had for a reasonable price. All of the financial transactions are operated on the honour system. If you feel so inclined you can take a breather at the picnic table located just outside the bakery cottage and enjoy some of your purchases while taking in the spectacular water views of Baynes Sound. It's a great way to indulge in a little of what is famously known as Island Time – a winning combination, for sure.

Further information on Just Like Mom's can be found at the website: www.justlikemoms.ca

Just Like Mom's is located at 265 Muschamp Road, just south of Union Bay.

GPS co-ordinates are: 49° 38' 8" N 124° 52' 13" W.