



Farm News from May

Let the sun shine! This month saw the completion of our 100 foot long, 23.7 kW solar array. Unlike most farm projects, this one didn't involve any labour on my part.



Instead everything was left to the very capable hands of a local company -

Empower Energy. The system is guaranteed to produce electricity for 25 years and will take 10 - 12 to pay for the \$67 K bill (financed at 3.25%). Aside from the money part is the good feeling of reducing the ties to the coal fired generators and developing a stronger relationship to our closest star.

So many of our farm meals have nothing to do with the grocery store but this one was a first - poutine. Homegrown potatoes from The

Homestead, our closest neighbours and mozzarella cheese made in our kitchen from the milk of Zorka our milk cow. The gravy was a



bacon/mushroom gravy. The bacon of course from our own pigs and the morel mushrooms were picked fresh from the forest by our house. Ketchup? Sorry.

My present and future fishing partners are standing by our dugout but what could be in the bags floating behind them? Maybe 200 rainbow trout? Hopefully fresh fish will be making it to our menu soon.



The WWOOF program keeps us connected to all kinds of interesting people and supplies so much of our labour needs. So far this year has been an unusual one. Back in March we had so many applicants, I refused 40 people who wanted to come out but how things have changed. Now there is no one. Our four freezers of food are going to last me a long, long time!

Mothers Day has come and gone but on the farm we appreciate mothers all year round, especially animal mothers! The Galloway cows now have little calves, the bison cows are new moms again. Chicken, turkey and duck hens are laying eggs like crazy hoping no one will steal them this time. Out at the pig pasture the sows are not limited to one birthing season. They can have babies any time of the year. Here is their family portrait. A salute to all the pig moms!



Jerry