

Glen Alda Seniors

by Doug Field

A friendly, active and open group.

That was some storm we had last night. I was just sitting down to write this edition of the Glen Alda Seniors Report when I made the decision to turn off the computer as it was looking pretty fierce outside. I am glad now that I made that decision. The power has come back on here about half an hour ago, after being off for fifteen hours!

Unfortunately there are thousands of others in this area not slated to have power up and running again for ranging up to 48 hours or more in some areas. I am happy for us, but feel for those unfortunate others. Besides the power being out, which could be romantic if you are in that frame of mind, (think of flickering candles and the opportunity to communicate with each other without outside distractions), the lack of power makes you realize the benefits we derive everyday from having a resource like that in all of our homes. I, like the rest of you, complain about the escalating cost of providing this essential service, but I certainly do not want to live without the benefits of it's being readily available.

Bev. and I lived in a remote community in the northern province of Zambia in the very early seventies for a couple of years, and got used to sporadic electrical power for maybe a total of twenty hours per week,

(water supply was no better by the way). Neither one of us would choose to live that way again, so we are prepared for when the power goes out, but most of our family, friends, and neighbours are not so well prepared, neither mentally, nor from a practical point of view.

Our daughter-in-law claims we are like pioneers because we are ready for nature's ability to dish up unsuspected surprises. Believe me when I say we are in no way survivalists in our planning or thinking, just a family prepared for nature's sense of humour. All that it takes is to have a plan which includes food, which does not require freezing, or the necessity of cooking to eat safely. Storage of potable water is an absolute necessity, and being practical you need to be able to flush your toilets. This does not require potable water by the way. The last, which is very important in the winter months, is a reliable source of heat. So it is basically very simple. Heat, water, and food, with some stored fuel thrown in for when the gas station cannot pump it into your vehicle. I have played with building and re-building vehicles most of my life and have found that the following the KISS Rule solves most problems. (Keep It Simple Stupid!)

It must be spring finally, as Bev. is outside this morning planting the hardier things in the garden. If things go well we will have lots to eat come the cold days of winter, and our share of fresh salads and veggies this summer and fall. I am fond of produce from our own garden, and love to pull a young carrot and eat it fresh from the soil. After wiping it off on my pant leg of course. Haven't tried that yourself? You are missing a truly great right of summer if you haven't. Just think of the soft fresh smell and taste of peas straight from the pod and into your mouth.....MMMMM.. great. This is a good day for Bev. to be planting as there is some wind, and it is cold enough for the dreaded blackflies to be in hiding. She usually waits for a day when it is drizzling as they also hide on those days, but conditions today were great so out there she is.

May was an interesting month for the Glen Alda group. I was not too sure what was going on when I penned last month's column. But was put in my place with a stellar meal prepared by Laureen and Colin Slade which featured a yummy chicken casserole. I know I wanted seconds, but orders from my wife to stick to only one serving had to be followed, Besides, I needed to leave room for desert, which I do not get at home, so I had seconds of that. Shhhh, do not tell Bev. Barry Rand got himself, the two Mikes, and myself to fully assemble the picnic tables we partially assembled last fall. We are now ready for the bar-



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