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Stacey Owens - She Loves to Cook *by Charity Winters*



When Stacy Owens first moved up here in 1988, she told her parents she would be back home in Washington state in 6 months. Now, almost 20 years later, she has raised her family and built herself a home here in the community of Seldovia. She has been an active part of our school for several years now and, as a cook, provides our town with something else we don't have much of – delicious meals you pay someone else to make for you!

Stacy was raised in Washington as her parents worked for Boeings Aircraft and eventually began their own business. During their busy summers, Stacy would spend most of those months with her grandparents in North Dakota. It was living on their 180-acre farm, miles away from even a small town that instilled a love of small, tight knit communities into Stacy. They would also spend a lot of time traveling around visiting cousins and relatives. Stacy developed a desire to try new places.

After high school, Stacy got her chance. Working until the end of the season at the cannery in Everett, WA, Stacy was asked if she wanted to continue on in the canneries in Alaska. She jumped at the offer and wound up being sent straight to the cannery in

Stacy married a local man, Fred Hecks (born in the Seldovia Hospital!) and the couple had two children together – Kaitlyn, now 10, and Tyler, 8. Once the canneries closed and Stacy needed work, she took her cooking skills to other parts of the community. For several years she worked at the Kachemak Café until it closed in 1997. Then it was onto the Buzz for 4 years. She now works at the Tide Pool Café - off and on in the winters and 7 days a week in the summer. Now a single mom, it's important to her that she is able to keep some time free for her two kids. The lack of dinner hours at the Tide Pool gives her the chance to be home in the afternoon and evening with them.

Once her children began school, Stacy began putting her time in at Head Start as a sub and a cook. Eventually, as her children got older, she shifted up to Susan B. English. There she worked for a few years as the cook and off and on as the night custodian. This year she is happy to be on staff as the full time night custodian, giving up her cooking position to Monty Hingely.

Now a recent homeowner, (since May 2006) Stacy is happy to have a place to call her own. Here she has a place to practice her

Seldovia in 1988. She packed all her things and told her parents she would be back in 6 months. 5 years later, her mother finally sent her a plane ticket telling her to come home for a visit! Stacy had fallen for Seldovia, hook, line, and sinker.

talents in drawing (she plans on painting several murals) and to work on her hobby of beading. Stacy has never had any desire to live anywhere else and plans to stay “quite a while”. She loves the quietness of the small town, the lack of the “scary city”, and she rarely leaves town if she can help it.



