

Greetings from Puyallup! Our storm was pretty ferocious. We had winds all around Washington 60 to 90 mph. The power at my home in Puyallup went out at midnight on Thursday and was restored 2 days later. There are still thousands of people without power.

I kept checking the Herron Island website for any indication of what the conditions were on the island. When there was nothing posted, I figured I should take a drive out there myself. So, my German Shepherd and my son (who is home from WSU) and I, packed a lunch and hopped into my truck for a Herron Island adventure! I had read in the paper on Saturday morning that Herron Road was closed, but I figured that by today it would have to be open.

The trip from Puyallup to the ferry dock was pretty uneventful. The roads were all cleared of fallen trees, although it was easy to see there were quite a few that had fallen across the roads and power lines during the storm. Power lines were dangling all along the highway. Herron Road narrowed to one lane as it neared the ferry dock, because there were so many branches strewn around. It seemed to me that Herron Road had the worst power line mess of the entire trip.

It was clear that there was no power on or anywhere near the island. The ferry ramps were generator powered today. I didn't know what to expect as we drove on to the island. We first drove to our cabin and found nothing more than a few branches down. No damage at all. In fact, we drove around most of the main roads, and only saw trees that fell without damaging any structures. (I did not travel all of the roads, so I may have missed some damage. And, I am sure some of the damage may have been repaired by now! ) The power lines looked good on the island. But, getting power to the island is another matter! I am sure that it took lots of work to clear the roads on the island to make them passable.

My cabin was 38 degrees inside. We started a fire in the woodstove, but it didn't even make a dent in the temperature before we had to catch a ferry home. I am sure it is difficult for everyone who lives out there. I don't think the power is going to be restored any time soon. We emptied out our refrigerator (which still had ice in the freezer after 4 days.) It has been very cold out there!

I was surprised to see that both of the Shell stations on the highway were open and pumping gas. The stores in Key Center were open, and the store across from the Post Office in Home was also open. Starbucks in Gig Harbor was busy! People waiting in line for the ferry at 4pm looked pretty cheery. I think surviving out there takes a lot of teamwork! And a lot of coolers and ice! And generators and firewood!

Lynne Klug