

# WarmStone

Created and Distributed by Ron Pihl  
Cornerstone Masonry Distributing, Inc.



**Welcome to the first** Cornerstone/ Warmstone Newsletter. I am publishing this newsletter to keep in touch with past clients and to inform those who have a new interest in our products. The newsletter will be published twice a year in the spring and fall. I hope to cover a variety of subjects relating to masonry heaters, cookstoves, bakeovens and soapstone products.

I first began building masonry heaters out of stone and brick in 1982. The enthusiasm shown by my clients regarding their fireplaces kept me intrigued with the concept of heating and cooking in the efficient manner of my Scandinavian ancestors. Over the years I became aware of high quality soapstone from Finland and of the fireplaces being reintroduced into both the European and American markets by Tulikivi. In 1991 I became a dealer for Tulikivi in Montana and in 1995 I began distributing Tulikivi products throughout the Rocky Mountain region.

During the last decade my business has expanded. Employees have become partners. Friends and associates with an interest in the Tulikivi product line have become dealers. I have met hundreds of great people who have put their trust in me and in the products I represent. I hope you find this publication interesting and will find the time to stay in touch. **RON PIHL**

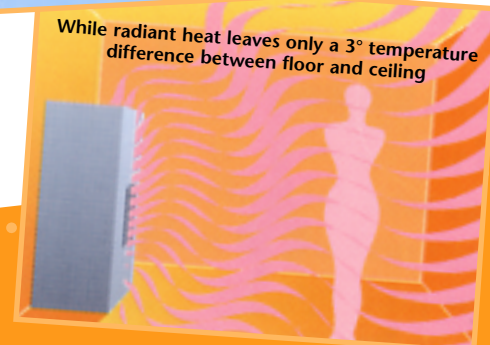
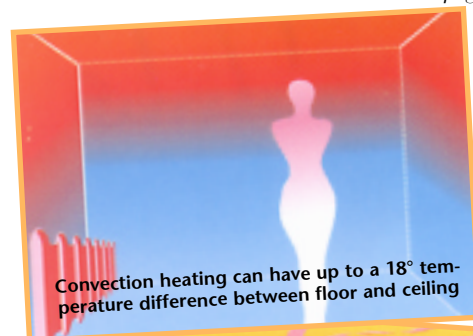
Ron Pihl, Cornerstone Masonry, 406-333-4383  
PO Box 83, Pray, MT 59065, ronpihl@warmstone.com  
www.warmstone.com

## Radiant Heat for Your Health

There are numerous benefits to using a Tulikivi masonry fireplace. They range from the functional to the aesthetic. But perhaps the most important benefit of all is the possibility of increased health. We often forget to put our health and well being first, but purchasing a Tulikivi for your home or workplace may be one of the best decisions you can make for yourself and your family.

First let us examine the differences between convection heat and radiant heat. Examples of convection systems include wood stoves, forced air heat, electric baseboard, open fireplaces and steam radiators. As the surface temperature of a metal wood stove increases for example, so does the air temperature in the immediate vicinity. The warm air rises and cooler air rushes in to replace it. This creates air currents or a convection system, which then indirectly warms our bodies. The uncomfortable phenomenon of 'cold feet and hot head' prevails. Convection heat creates condensation on cold walls that ultimately dries out the air that we breathe.

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# Customer's Corner



Andrew relaxes by his Tulikivi TU1000/6

## From Wood Stove to Tulikivi

For most of us, home is a feeling encircled by log, stone, lumber and glass. It is a special place where one can relax and just 'be'. I enjoy invitations to a home and the chance to observe how a family creates the feeling of home. Recently, I had the privilege of sitting awhile in the beautiful home of Andrew and Janet Shirey near Pray, Montana. Touted to be one of the oldest homes in Paradise Valley (1882), much of its historic grace and beauty has been preserved even though it has been modernized and increased in size over the years to meet the Shirey's needs.

In Montana, many people choose wood stove heat to keep out Old Man Winter. It fits the idea of self-reliance and some folks even look forward to fall's chore of wood gathering, splitting and stacking. When the Shirey's moved to their Paradise Valley home in 1982, they soon replaced the two existing and ailing wood stoves with a new conventional wood stove. But after about 15 years, the catalytic converter had warped and needed to be replaced. Intrigued by the

Tulikivi masonry fireplaces that Ron Pihl and Cornerstone Masonry offer as an alternative to wood stoves, the Shireys had Ron and his crew install a Tulikivi Model TU1000/6.

Aesthetically, the gray soapstone hearth adds to the visual appeal of the Shirey's Montana home. Its smooth, artful hand-crafted soapstone blocks and slabs draw the eye. On a practical level, my body was drawn to the comfort of its radiant warm mass. Many Tulikivi owners find their family and guests drawn to the gently heated giant and in particular, to the warm soapstone bench. The heat of the masonry fireplace is guided through side channels built into the soapstone structure, including the bench. Lounging on the warm bench with a favorite beverage is a luxury one could get accustomed to!

Some folks might think if they have an existing wood stove that retrofitting a masonry fireplace would be a chore. Though every situation differs, Ron's partner Jerry Jessen and associate Phil

Bullard, both certified Tulikivi installers, can assess and build any additional support that might be needed in a day or two. In the Shirey home, after a hole was cut through the sub-floor, a concrete pad was poured with an 8" block wall at its perimeter, matching the size of the 2400-pound fireplace. (However, when drawing up house plans, it would be more efficient to consider a Tulikivi fireplace's supportive needs before the construction phase.)

The Shireys have been satisfied with their choice of purchasing a masonry fireplace over a traditional wood stove. During my visit, Janet recalled the ease at which she learned how to use their new Tulikivi fireplace. In fact, she commented that "it was much easier than learning how to deal with the conventional wood stove's catalytic converter."





Typically, Janet starts a fire in the morning with dry, seasoned wood of small diameter, with the damper open. During a typical Montana winter day, she usually does a 'double-firing' after about 45 minutes or when the fire begins to die down. Janet occasionally loads the small firebox a third time, if it is very cold outdoors. After the coals have blinked out from the last fire of the morning, Janet closes the damper. For an investment of two-three hours of casual fire attending, the reward is sweet: gentle, radiant heat for 12-24 hours. Gone are the days of laboriously loading the wood stove with cumbersome hunks of wood throughout the day and evening. Gone are the nights of getting out of bed to 'put another log on the fire.'

Both Janet and Andrew are happy with their Tulikivi fireplace. Firing up the Tulikivi is easy for Janet, she likes the feeling of independence that the Tulikivi affords her. The tidy-sized wood (1-4") used for the fireplace is easy to haul, stack and heft. Andrew thinks their Tulikivi is "incredible and beautiful,

cleaner, simpler and more efficient than a wood stove." The masonry fireplace burns very hot so there is very little ash to dump. Because of that, the Shirey home is easier to keep clean; the nemesis of daily wood stove 'dust' is absent from their furniture. Andrew estimated that their wood usage is down about 50% since the Tulikivi was installed in their home last fall.

I commenced my visit with the Shireys at 8:30 one March morning. Janet had started a fire in the Tulikivi the evening before, around 7:00. Over twelve hours later, the soapstone heater was still very warm to the touch—I had to pull my hand from its smooth, gray exterior after about 20 seconds. Since it was a sunny, warm day, Janet thought she wouldn't start a fire again until evening. She told me, if she got chilly during the day, she might fetch a cup of tea and lean against the soap stone fireplace to warm up

*Karen Reinhart of Paradise Valley Montana is a Yellowstone Park ranger, willow basket weaver and freelance writer.*



## Spring Cleaning

For Tulikivi owners, spring is the time to ready your stove for next fall. Wash the cast-iron parts—doors, range top, cooking rings—with a mild solution of water and dishwashing detergent. If necessary, gently scour with a fine steel brush or green non-abrasive scouring pad. Rinse and dry thoroughly with soft clean cloth. These techniques can also be employed for keeping your smooth or rough-cut soapstone clean any season of the year.

When fired properly, the Tulikivi produces minimal soot. However, poor draft caused by not emptying the ash pan, under-heating or using uncured or damp firewood, can cause a soot buildup in the exchange channels leading to the chimney. To ensure that they are clean, run a vacuum nozzle through the soot channels. After the last fire of the season, remove the ash pan and open the damper for air circulation. This helps prevent condensation and the dampers from sticking.

## Baking in your Tulikivi

I use my Tulikivi bakeoven often—baking hearth breads for friends on a Friday evening, cooking holiday meals or wintry Sunday family dinners, and for roasting my son James's wild game. Through experimentation and an investment in time, I have become proficient using my bakeoven. And of course, the reward is inherent in the sampling!

I usually fire my Tulikivi early in the day if the stove is cold and then do a double or triple firing directly in the bakeoven. If a fire was built the night before, I simply build the fires directly in the bakeoven. It takes two to three hours to get the bakeoven to the ideal temperature. When the final firing has burned down, push the remaining ashed and coals down the ash chute with the coal rake. Let the oven "soak" for 30-45 minutes before proceeding. You may use an oven thermometer if desired or test the oven floor with a sprinkle of cornmeal. If it blackens quickly, the oven is too hot and needs to soak longer. The bakeoven is then ready for baking or roasting and will retain proper baking temperatures for hours. Bakeoven temperature is not always critical for baking or cooking in your Tulikivi, because of the even heat.

Any of your favorite recipes can be used with success in the Tulikivi bakeoven. I personally enjoy baking rye bread, focaccia (Italian bread), roast chicken, and roast venison. (In fact, even if you don't have a bakeoven, you may use your firebox to roast, bake or grill with the "Bratrost", a special cooking insert.) I include the following recipe for your enjoyment!

### Prime Rib Roast

**Prime Rib Roast**—5 pound roast (I use bone-in)

Make a thick paste using Olive oil, Red wine vinegar, Lemon juice, Oregano, Crushed garlic, Freshly crushed pepper and Salt. Rub all over roast and let marinate for 2 hours to several hours.

Place roast on a rack in a glass pan (Pyrex type), fat side up. Insert meat thermometer into the side of the roast (otherwise it may not fit in the oven). If the oven is above 430 degrees F, I put a piece of aluminum foil over the top of the roast for the first fifteen or twenty minutes of baking so it will not blacken too much. For medium rare doneness remove the roast from the bakeoven at 125-130 degrees internal temperature (this takes my oven about 1 hour forty five minutes to two hours). Let stand for about 15 minutes before serving.

Friend and associate Dale Hisler removes cookies from the oven



# Radiant Heat for Your Health continued

Examples of radiant heating systems include the sun, radiant floor heat and the Tulikivi masonry fireplace. With the brisk firing of a Tulikivi, heat is stored in the dense, massive soapstone and is gently released into the room. The warmth is distributed horizontally so less heat is lost to the ceiling overhead. The air remains calm and comfortably even in temperature. Your body is warmed by radiant heat transferred directly from the masonry heater. The Tulikivi and radiant heating help keep the humidity levels in your home stable, because wall and air temperatures are similar. Convection air currents move constantly throughout your home and are carriers of dust and germs. They also dry the air, a real consideration for inhabitants of the arid west. Doctors caution that dry air can lead to respiratory and sinus problems, increased frequency of colds and flu symptoms and can aggravate

existing health problems such as asthma. With the even radiant heat of a Tulikivi, possible health benefits include less muscle and joint pain, stable blood pressure, improved immune system response and healthier skin.\*


Tulikivi masonry fireplaces are kind to the touch. While the fire burns red hot inside the Tulikivi, the surface temperature of a soapstone surface rarely exceeds 212 degrees Fahrenheit. Even a child would have adequate time to remove her hand before being burned. (Of course, the glass and metal door are very hot during the burning period.) Wood stove surfaces can reach 500 to 800 degrees Fahrenheit—a guaranteed burn for little fingers.

Other health and safety concerns when burning wood are chimney fires and carbon monoxide poisoning. Because your Tulikivi burns for only 1-3 hours

per day and the burning process is hot and complete, the risk of these is much lower than when using wood stoves or open fireplaces. Of course, it is critical to use dry, seasoned wood for your Tulikivi for optimal performance and for safe burning.



Radiant heat penetrates deep into the body

Tulikivi masonry fireplaces simply make you feel good; this gentle giant of heat warms your whole being much like the sun does. Remember the satisfying comfort and warmth that a mid-winter sunny day brings you and your spirit. Some claim that enjoying radiant heat throughout the short days and long nights of winter help compensate for the lack of sunshine. And that's an important health benefit too! 

*Karen Reinhart of Paradise Valley Montana is a Yellowstone Park ranger, willow basket weaver and freelance writer.*

\*Health quote from Peter Marchland of Belgium—researcher.



**RON PIHL**—Tulikivi Distributor, Rocky Mountain Region  
Ron, his wife Desiree, teenage children James and Caroline, two dogs, cat Jester, two horses and often prize winning 4-H pigs, live in their home nestled at the foot of the Absaroka Mountain Range in Montana, just 35 miles north of Yellowstone National Park. Ron is the president of Cornerstone Masonry Distributing, Inc. and Cornerstone Masonry Constructions, Inc. His business has evolved from custom built stone and brick fireplaces and houses to what is now the beginning of his second decade in the sales and installation of Tulikivi soapstone fireplaces, bakeovens and cookstoves. His newest venture is marketing and installing the same Finnish soapstone for countertops and sinks. Ron's commitment to Tulikivi Fireplaces is in earnest. He knows that it is the highest quality clean burning masonry heater and he wants to share his product with anyone desiring the best. Ron was trained in Finland by master masons.

## Introducing the Crew

### **MELANIE MORONEY**—Office Assistant

When calling the Cornerstone Masonry Office the voice that you will most often hear is that of Ron's office assistant Melanie. She will gladly send you information on Tulikivi Soapstone Products and if she cannot answer your specific questions she will make certain that they are passed along to Ron for a quick response. Melanie lives in Pray, MT with her husband Fred. Having been on the same maintenance crew for the National Park Service 25 years ago in Yellowstone Park, Melanie and Ron are not strangers at working together.

**JERRY JESSEN**—Vice President, Cornerstone Masonry Construction  
Jerry and Ron have been working together for over nine years. When considering a partner for the construction phase of Tulikivi Fireplaces Ron had to look no further than Jerry Jessen. Jerry is a certified Tulikivi installer and is actually a jack of all trades. Very much involved in the soapstone sink and countertop end of the business, Jerry does all of the installations on these projects. When not installing fireplaces or countertop Jerry can be found hunting and fishing or restoring his Victorian era home in Clyde Park, MT with his wife Kim. Last year they became proud parents to their son Bo!

### **PHIL BULLARD**—Certified Tulikivi Installer

More often than not, when your Tulikivi is going to be installed you will see Phil Bullard pulling onto your jobsite with your Tulikivi unit and the tools of the trade. He has worked with Ron for over seven years. Phil travels all over the Rockies, Dakotas and eastern Washington installing what he believes to be the most efficient way to heat your home and the best quality masonry heater. When not on the road Phil makes his home north of Livingston, MT on the banks of the Yellowstone River, with his partner Wendy and their daughter Finley, the light of his life.