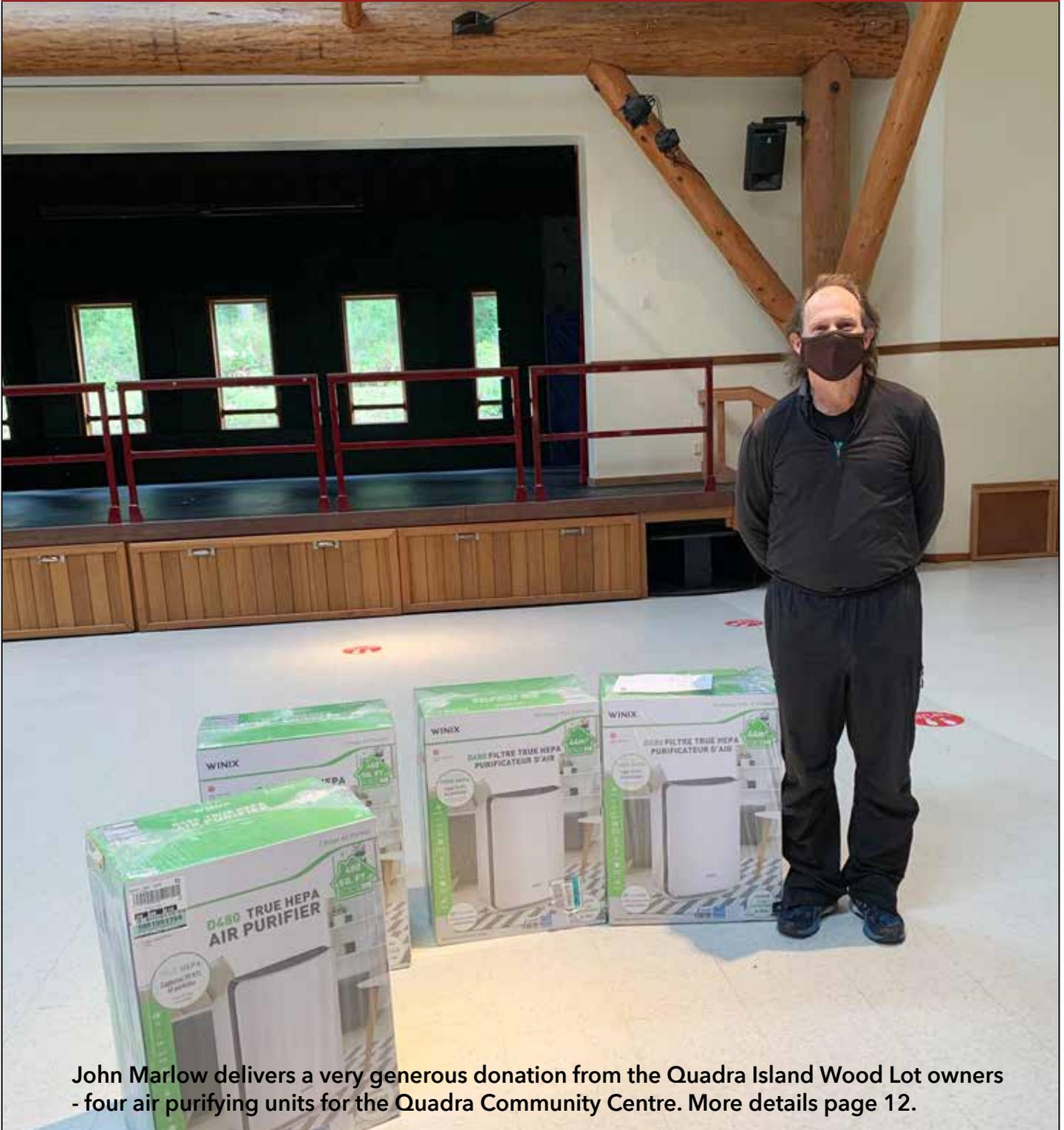


# discovery

## I S L A N D E R



John Marlow delivers a very generous donation from the Quadra Island Wood Lot owners - four air purifying units for the Quadra Community Centre. More details page 12.

## Wood Stove Exchange Program

The Strathcona Regional District (SRD) is offering its Wood Stove Exchange Program once again this year which provides an opportunity for property owners to receive a \$250 rebate, effective January 1st, 2021. The rebate is being offered on a first-come, first served basis to people that want to swap an old wood stove for a new, low emission model. If you live in the villages of Gold River, Tahsis, Sayward, Zeballos and the four electoral areas and you have been thinking about upgrading your wood stove, now is the time. There is a limited supply of rebates and offer expires December 31, 2021. "By trading in your old, inefficient stove for a new, clean burning, high efficiency model you are helping to improve air quality for everyone in the region," said SRD Chair Unger.

All new stoves which have a CSA-/EPA certification are eligible. To participate, homeowners need to provide evidence that the old stove has been decommissioned, and the new stove has been installed in compliance with building codes.

For more information regarding the program, please visit [www.srd.ca/wood-stove-exchange-program](http://www.srd.ca/wood-stove-exchange-program) or contact the SRD office at 250-830-6718 or [rebates@srd.ca](mailto:rebates@srd.ca).

The Strathcona Regional District's Wood Stove Exchange Program is made possible through funding from the provincial Ministry of Environment.

## QI Cemetery Society - AGM

Notice of 2021 Annual General Meeting for the Quadra Island Cemetery Society. QI Legion, West Road, 7:30 pm Tuesday, March 9, 2021. Everyone welcome. Covid restrictions apply. Please wear a mask.

## Quadra Island Food Guide

Have you checked out the Guide? It is a listing of the various food producers on the island and is a great resource to find local food. It is currently being updated for 2021, so check it out and expect new information and listings as we get into the growing season.

[www.qifoodguide.com](http://www.qifoodguide.com)

Are you a producer on the island who has not yet connected with the food guide? If you would like to be included, please contact Kathryn at 285-2103 or [qifoodguide@gmail.com](mailto:qifoodguide@gmail.com) for more information. We want to support our producers and promote a local food culture!

### DI Submissions

Email us at

[news@discoveryislands.ca](mailto:news@discoveryislands.ca)

Drop off your item at *Inspirations*

in Quathiaski Cove

Bring it to our office

at 701 Cape Mudge Road

## Emergency Firewood

The Emergency Firewood program is still happening every Wednesday afternoon from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at the Community Centre. If you run out of firewood and can't afford more, we have some available, however this is not going to supply your entire firewood needs for the rest of the winter. We do need volunteers to cut, split and stack wood. People with chainsaws are especially needed. Social distancing applies. For more info call or text Sandy 250-202 5928.

## Rainwater Tanks

Good News from the ICAN Water Team! Our water tank supplier let us know they will be getting a load of water tanks in the next couple of weeks. It is not too early to start planning for your Spring water collection and water saving needs. Prices for tanks generally go up during the Spring rush, but our cost will remain \$200 each! The water tanks are food grade plastic, hold 250 gallons, are encased in a metal frame, and measure 48x40x38 inches. To reserve your tank, contact Jude (phone: 2302 or email: [dunnjudy@hotmail.com](mailto:dunnjudy@hotmail.com))

## Quadra Island Fire Department

We are two months into 2021 and QIFD has some exciting news to share with the community. As you have all seen, our little Fire hall #2 is a small cinderblock building that is starting to show it's age. This hall is built on leased land and as we grow closer to the end of that lease we have to plan for the future. We are a growing community and this fire hall is not meeting the needs of the community. As such, planning for the future replacement began when an opportunity was presented by Ellen Russell and Alex Hartford. They graciously offered a parcel of land to the fire department to purchase. This started the process of rezoning the property, fully supported at the hearing by the community, application to government to borrow monies and in January 2021 the deal was done. We can't thank Ellen and Alex enough for their patience for the process and generosity in the reduced price for the property. As the department borrowed funds to purchase the land, this location will remain vacant for the time being until we can raise the funds to build the new fire hall.

We ended 2020 with 135 calls for service, a majority of those calls being First Responders (medical). We are now 13 months since the first detected case of Covid 19 in BC. We have entered into the second wave and now have 2 new variant of the virus, more contagious than the first wave. This is not the time to let our guard down, make your travel off and on island for essentials, support your local businesses who have and continue to wage the storm. Wear your mask, wash your hands and treat each other with kindness.

Last but not least, clean your chimney regularly, burn clean and hot.

QIFD

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## Way to Go

Join us for monthly Monday Zoom meetings on the following topics, 7 to 8:30 pm.

Mar. 15, Hospice,

Apr. 19, More about psychedelics for terminal distress.

Contact Margaret [margaret.verschuur@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.verschuur@gmail.com) to receive the Zoom invitation.

## Be Kind to Those You Leave Behind

Four free Zoom workshops will be offered on Thursday afternoons from 2:00 to 3:30 pm on the following topics, to provide both information and support to achieve the tasks that will "be kind to those you leave behind." A video of the presentation is available, if you missed a session.

Feb. 25 - Completing your end of life documents.

Four other workshops are being offered on Community-led death care for potential volunteers, or other interested persons.

Feb. 18 - Life and death matters,

Mar. 4 - Care of the body.

To join any of these free sessions, email Margaret Verschuur [margaret.verschuur@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.verschuur@gmail.com) to receive the Zoom invitation in advance. This is generously offered by Cortes Death Caring.

## Learn How Better at Home Can Help!

Community Information Session and Q&A March 3, 6:30pm.

If you or someone you know could use a little help around the house or the yard, a ride to the doctor's office, or someone to pick up groceries or mail, Better at Home can help. This new program is available to all Quadra residents who are 55 or older, with up to 100% subsidy for services for low-income seniors. On Wednesday, March 3, at 6:30pm Program Coordinator Kristene Perron will host a special community information session online. You can join in on Zoom by video or by phone to learn all about the services Better at Home offers. Everyone is welcome!

To join, contact Kristene at [bahquadracircle@gmail.com](mailto:bahquadracircle@gmail.com) or at 250-895-1635 for your Zoom link or phone number, or if you have any questions before the event.

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Opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the contributors and are not the views of the publisher.

**SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

We welcome items for publication on subjects of interest to the Discovery Islands community. Here are a few guidelines:

- **300 words** is an ideal length for community announcements.
- Articles do not need to be sent as attachments. Simply **send the text in the body of your email**.
- **Canadian spelling** is preferred.
- **Please use the title** of your item in the email subject line. We get a lot of items called 'DI Article'.
- Remember to **include credits and captions** for photos & artwork.

WHILE EVERY EFFORT IS MADE TO INCLUDE ALL ITEMS SUBMITTED, ERRORS AND ACCIDENTAL OMISSIONS MAY OCCUR.

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**NEXT DEADLINE**

**7pm Monday, March 1**  
for publication on  
Friday, March 5, 2021

**Salmon Farm Closures in the Discovery Islands**

Honourable Bernadette Jordan, MP  
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans,  
and the Canadian Coast Guard

**Dear Minister Jordan:**

The Sierra Club of Quadra Island would like to congratulate you on your decision to close open net-pen salmon farms in the Discovery Islands along the east coast of Vancouver Island.

Indeed, problems began from the moment the salmon farming industry arrived in British Columbia's coastal waters. The environmental affronts began with the conflict between the safety of their salmon and the local wildlife, of which there was plenty in the locations where they placed their farms. Literally thousands of seals were killed in those early years, not to mention sea lions and uncounted other wild creatures that predated the farmed fish: otters, eagles, herons, mink. Whales also died from becoming entangled in salmon farm nets.

Then came problems with sea lice and viruses affecting wild salmon. These problems have simply escalated over the years, as the lice have become resistant to pesticides, and the viruses have become both novel and ubiquitous. The salmon farming industry has lost control of both, to the detriment of the wild species.

While the industry expresses concern, their fundamental strategy has always been to make themselves economically indispensable, regardless of the ecological damage they cause. This is a murderous trajectory for the entire West Coast marine ecology for which wild salmon are both a keystone species and a necessity for First Nations' culture. The lice emanating from the salmon farms is only one indication of the fundamental incompatibility of the open net-pen salmon farms in a rich

and diverse marine environment. Another is piscine reovirus (PRV).

The evidence is fairly conclusive that PRV was a creation of the Norwegian salmon farming industry circa 1999, the extremely rare genetic combination of a highly contagious orthoreovirus from infected chicken offal being fed to salmon infected with an aquareovirus. The new virus then arrived in British Columbia via infected salmon eggs.

It is now endemic in almost all their farmed Atlantic salmon, with widespread effects on wild salmon, some of which are known and some of which are uncertain and difficult to confirm because of premature mortality. The state of Alaska has avoided this problem by banning salmon farming outright, and Washington has belatedly taken similar measures.

While salmon farms are responsible for serious environmental problems, they have—as the industry intended—become part of the economic fabric of many West Coast communities. The solution to the conflict between the viability

of wild salmon and the security of fish farm jobs is provided by the 2020 economic study funded by the B.C. Salmon Farmers Association. It anticipates that the industry could invest up to \$1.4 billion by 2050 if it were given clearer direction by government policy. Your decision as Minister of Fisheries is now providing that clarity. Land-based, closed-containment salmon farms is an investment opportunity that will provide stability to these corporations and their employees, while removing a scientifically demonstrable threat from the wild salmon so vital to a healthy West Coast marine ecology and to First Nations' cultures.

Thank you again for your difficult but considered decision. We trust that this is the first of many similar ones that will benefit British Columbia's environmental health and give the salmon farming industry the clear and unequivocal guidance it desires.

Yours sincerely,  
Ray Grigg  
for the Sierra Club,  
Quadra Island

**The Market is Still Red Hot!**

We are seeing homes sell very quickly normally with multiple offers and for over asking price. There are only 13 active listings, 5 of which are homes and almost all of those have accepted offers!

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**Quadra Beach Cleanup 2021?**

**Remember a certain Sunday nearly two years ago?**

The posters said "Bring your kids, family and pals to Rebecca Spit on Sunday April 28. We've got tons of garbage bags to be filled with all that #&@! stuff nobody wants on our beaches. Gloves are a great idea..."



The Annual Beach Clean-Up is one of this island's greatest ideas. More than an idea, the BCU represents 22 years of an annual spring ritual at Rebecca Spit, on the Sunday closest to Earth Day, in which our whole community comes together to rid our beaches of the accumulated marine garbage brought in on winter tides.

This time last year the Beach Clean-Up was front and central on Sierra Quadra's to-do list. The usual suspects were all lined up: island

contractors had promised their trucks for the day, BC Ferries had provided waivers, the Campbell River Waste Management Centre had suspended their tipping fees. The food tent was set to go, with local venues on board for hot meals, and Sierra's flotilla of bakers signed up for everything else. Music makers were ready for the day.

Which of course never came, as Covid-19 took the stage instead. Quadra's 23rd Annual Beach Cleanup was declared a no-show.

The same could not be said for the tons of plastic, styrofoam, rope, tires, and aquaculture trays which continued their tide-borne accretion on island shores. The year 2020 was unique for Quadra in that seven trucks carrying over 100 cubic yards of marine waste could not be taken off-island to give our beaches a clean(er) start for another year.

But Quadra being Quadra, the virus wasn't enough to keep certain islanders from quietly mounting their own socially-distanced beach cleanup endeavours, official or not. All year these good people – and no, they refuse to be named! – have been walking the beaches and taking piles of marine garbage to the Campbell River landfill, one pickup truck at a time. Recently a tipping fee waiver has been made available, so that the cost of marine garbage disposal has been covered. Ferry

trips, however, are still on the beach-cleaners' nickel.

This month would typically see Sierra Quadra rolling out last year's notes and getting this year's Beach Clean-Up underway. Alas, our traditional Earth Day event at the Spit will again be pre-empted by Covid. But Quadra being Quadra, it seems that more islanders are interested in taking on a favourite section of beach and keeping it garbage-free. To those for whom this sounds like a great way to spend a day or two, big thanks in advance. Here's how to obtain a waiver for the tipping fees:

Contact Stephanie Valdal at the Comox Valley Regional District ([svaldal@comoxvalleyrd.ca](mailto:svaldal@comoxvalleyrd.ca); 250 792 0026) for the waiver application. You'll have to provide photos, a GPS or civic address, and an estimated volume of the material collected to complete your application, and have it approved prior to arriving at the landfill. Once your application is approved, you'll receive your own waiver to provide to the scale staff. Keep in mind that the material you collect should be sorted so that any scrap metal can be properly recycled.

(In the good-to-know department, these waivers aren't just for beach debris: they can also be applied to any materials illegally dumped on public lands or along public roads.)

Meanwhile, back to the beaches! Sincere thanks to everyone in this amazing community for all you do in keeping our shorelines and our island healthy and beautiful.

– Robyn Budd  
for Sierra Quadra

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## Real Estate During Covid

I can't believe how our world has changed in just over a year. Almost exactly a year ago I was sitting in the hot springs in Iceland and now it is dangerous to go visit my parents in another part of BC.

Unlike some other people that have lost their income and jobs during these difficult times I feel fortunate and grateful that my service is deemed as an essential service and I can continue to work. Real estate markets during these times have been unprecedented. Last year and so far, the beginning of 2021 has been a very strong Sellers market all over BC and across the country.

Despite of record low interest rates, buyers are experiencing difficulties in finding good listings and actually being able to purchase. We've been plagued by multiple offers which very much reminds me of 2016-17 madness. A colleague of mine has recently received 32 offers on a condo listing in Vancouver. The demand vs supply dilemma is forcing the prices up and it leaves a lot of buyers in the dust.

When Covid hit the economy hard last year the unemployment doubled within a very short period of time. Historically, when the unemployment increases, house prices go down. However, this is not what has been happening during the last several months. Various government programs have made another artificial "positive outlook" on the future. Businesses have received interest free loans and are artificially propped up to stay in business. Based on government statistics the average family have more money saved up now than before the pandemic hit. On the surface things appear to be just fine.

What's driving this market? FOMO (fear of

missing out), YOLO (you live only once), artificially suppressed low interest rates, very low inventory and fear of the deadly virus.

In the age of "always being positive" I keep seeing headlines like "the roaring 20's are just around the corner", just like a hundred years ago. I don't necessarily disagree with that, however let's not forget that before the roaring 20's came, the economy was completely destroyed by the Spanish flu, hyper inflation and huge unemployment numbers. History books have it all recorded, and history tends to echo the past.

Some of the more fortunate people that have equity in their homes today can afford to re-evaluate their lives' priorities and use this crisis as an opportunity to start a "new life".

If you are thinking of selling, now might be the best time to consider it. The future is uncertain and the spring market will most likely be very busy with the possibility of more inventory on the market. One way to beat the market is to list ahead of the spring rush. Although we haven't seen a normal market for over a year now, it's hard to predict if the market will slow down at all. It seems to be running on all cylinders already.

If you are a buyer and you don't have to buy now, maybe this is not the best time to consider buying. However, if you are in a position where you MUST buy, you have to be prepared to act swiftly and be prepared to do your due diligence very quickly. You should have your financing pre-approved, have an inspector on standby and be ready to be aggressive with your offer. Your real estate agent will guide you through the process.

Public open houses are presently not allowed due to Covid and the way to show your home

is to book appointments on specific days. We rely more on internet advertising with good videos, zoom calls and virtual open houses. We keep track of who enters your home for contact tracing, just in case.

We also have to let the potential buyers know ahead of time how the offers will be accepted. Some people choose to take offers as they come, others will take all offers on a certain day and decide then.

Our industry is being very careful and mindful of our clients, and we take public safety seriously.

What will the future hold?

We are all waiting for the vaccine and hope this is going to be the solution. In my opinion the damage to the economy is going to be devastating and it is still too early to speculate on the extend of consequences yet. Let's wait and see what happens with the virus. I'm afraid that there will be a huge wave of sellers hitting the market (people that can't afford to keep their houses/ condos) and this will have a reverse effect on the market creating a strong buyer's market and effectively causing prices to fall. I'm praying that the virus will be contained and we can go back to a semi normal life, however based on what we see in the media, it doesn't seem like this will be the case anytime soon.

Given all the uncertainty and negativity of these unprecedented times let's just remember that we are in this together, let's be compassionate and kind to each other. If you have any questions about the market or just want to talk politics I'm here for you at 285-2141

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## Gabbing About Gardening with Lu

### Gabbing About Gardening Marches Into Spring with Special Guest Brian Minter

As we head into Spring, Gabbing About Gardening continues to present a weekly zoom gathering for gardeners from around the world. Our mission is to inform, inspire and connect gardeners to each other-locally and globally. We hope to motivate people to grow gardens wherever they are.

All of our Gabbing About Gardening zoom sessions are FREE to everyone, operating on the principles of the "gift economy" whereby folks contribute according to their willingness to support the project. Half of all donations go to our weekly guest and the other half goes towards supporting free garden education programs for all ages and abilities.

Here's a complete list of upcoming Gabbing About Gardening zoom sessions scheduled for March. For the zoom links for each session, go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/QuadraIslandandCortesIslandGardens>

You can also reach Lu by phone at 285-2213 or by email: [lucetia.schanfarber@gmail.com](mailto:lucetia.schanfarber@gmail.com)

#### Monday, March 1 at 4:30 pm

Gabbing About Gardening presents "Our Changing Climate & Our Changing Gardens" with Brian Minter. Brian will present a slide show. There will be plenty of time for questions and comments. We will learn:

- How the climate is affecting the way we garden
- What we can do to better adapt our gardens to the changing climate
- Which plants are most ideal for our regions
- What we can do to protect and support specific garden plants
- Tips on pruning



Brian Minter

#### Monday, March 8 at 3:30

Gabbing About Soil Health with soil health ambassadors Whitney Vanderleest (professional gardener & permaculturist on Cortes Island) & Marc Doll (food forest gardener, permaculturist & compost junkie on Quadra Island). Nothing is more important to the success of our gardens than the health and fertility of our soil. Due to ongoing popular demand, Gabbing About Soil Health is now a monthly session. We will continue to learn:

- How to encourage beneficial microbes to inhabit your compost & your soil
- How to optimize the worm population in your compost
- Correct commonly made mistakes when it comes to soil health
- How can we improve soil texture
- The common signs that our soil is deficient and what we can do about it

#### Monday, March 15 at 3:30 pm

Gabbing About Growing Apples with Harry Burton

No one knows more about growing apples on the BC coast than Harry Burton.

His certified organic apple orchard on Salt Spring Island is called Apple Luscious Organic Orchard and he grows and sells over 200 connoisseur varieties of apples. Harry also hosts the annual, world-renowned Salt Spring Apple festival. Harry will share his wealth of knowledge and experience with us.

To learn more about Harry visit his website: [www.appleluscious.com](http://www.appleluscious.com)

#### Monday, March 22 at 3:30 pm

Gabbing About Growing Lavender with Judy Kemchand.

Nothing compares to the beauty and fragrance of lavender growing in the garden. And no one grows it better than Certified Horticulturist and Landscape Designer Judy Kemchand, a professional gardener on Cortes Island. Judy will teach us about:

#### Monday, March 29 at 3:30 pm

Gabbing About Gardening presents veteran garden-teacher Connie Kuramoto. Connie will be "Gabbing About Growing Herbs: Culinary & Medicinal". Connie grows a prolific herb garden from oregano to cannabis. She uses her homegrown herbs in cooking, making salves & medicinal teas.

And here's a sneak peak of two experts who will be Gabbing About Gardening in April... Carolyn Herriot, author of several best-selling gardening books and Mike Gall, the DIY Pond Guy!

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## At Your HBI

Thank you to all of you that joined us this weekend for our 3-course dinner and purchased some beautiful heart art in support of the "Dine With Children's Centre" campaign. Happy family and love day weekend everyone! At the Heriot Bay Inn our staff is family.



HBI Pub is cooking Thursday - Monday 1pm - 7pm, Tuesday & Wednesday 4pm - 7pm

Hérons Dining Room is serving Fridays 4pm - 7pm

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Ferry Schedule	
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6:15 am	6:40 am
†7:05 am	†7:30 am
8:00 am	8:30 am
†9:00 am	9:30 am
10:00 am	**10:30 am
11:00 am	11:30 am
12:00 pm	12:30 pm
1:00 pm	1:30 pm
2:00 pm	2:30 pm
3:05 pm	3:30 pm
**4:00 pm	4:30 pm
5:00 pm	†5:25 pm
5:50 pm	†6:15 pm
7:00 pm	7:30 pm
8:00 pm	8:30 pm
9:00 pm	9:30 pm
10:00 pm	10:30 pm
*11:00 pm	*11:30 pm

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## Blaney Calls for Sustainable & Equitable Future

North Island-Powell River MP Rachel Blaney wants to make sure that as the federal government continues to roll out funding and resources for COVID-19 relief and economic recovery, Canada's rural, remote and resource-based communities get their fair share, and that it targets sustainable economic development in those regions.

Last fall, Blaney began drafting a motion in consultation with stakeholders in several parts of her riding. "There's great, innovative work being done in our small communities. Often it's not to the scale of big projects in Canada's major centres, but it's even more important in these communities that the federal government comes to the table."

The motion calls on the House to recognize and honour that Canada has "a rich history of resource-dependant rural communities providing the economic prosperity many Canadians have benefited from," that "this prosperity has often been at the expense of or specifically excluded local Indigenous peoples and communities," and that "the future of these resource-dependent communities is at risk due to climate change..." It then sets out a set of principles for COVID relief and recovery funding: be aligned with the UN Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples; be distributed equitably to all regions of the country; and prioritize projects that have clear environmental benefits and that can be managed and built locally with long-term local economic benefits.

This week Blaney sat down for an in-depth conversation about the motion with Powell River City Councillor CaroleAnn Leishman which is available as a podcast here: [www.spreaker.com/user/caroleannleishman/episode-13-principles-for-a-sustainable-blaney](http://www.spreaker.com/user/caroleannleishman/episode-13-principles-for-a-sustainable-blaney) Blaney has set up a page on her website for the public to find and share information about the motion, and add their name endorsing it: <https://rachelblaney.ndp.ca/equitable-future> "Tabling this motion opens the door for conversations," said Blaney. "I hope to see constituents in my riding and also across Canada engage with these ideas, and push their MPs and the government to incorporate them into our recovery plans going forward."

What a beautiful day! Blinding sun and glaring snow ( half of what we had this morning) and the temperature is rising.... So maybe we will get lucky and be able to watch it disappear. So I'd best get started as there is a lot to report.

### Recycling issues

So, it was the talk of the day before my last report but seems to have quieted down. I have been doing my homework behind the scenes with the Comox Valley RD (CVRD) since they are the authority that manages Solid Waste, including recycling. We are still in "study" mode at their end and I am hoping to have a Zoom meeting with them soon to figure out where we go from here. Curb side pickup has been mentioned by a few, to be added to taxation, and they are looking into that. But be aware that would only be possible in the densely populated areas of the Cove and H. Bay, if it were possible at all.

### Hydro truck for Quadra

This will tie into the item above (possibly), if it should happen.

As many of you may remember, I met with top Managers of Hydro at the Union of BC Municipalities two years ago. We had what looked like a hand-shake deal to put a truck on Quadra due to the number of outages and the number of houses and the difficulty in getting over on the ferry at times. My assignment was to come up with a building to house it. The criteria for that changed almost daily, from a lean to shelter, to an enclosed building to one that was heated and powered and secure. The Fire Department entered into discussions with me and it looked like a "go" but good ol' money brought that discussion to a close. It was just too expensive and Hydro's grant program ran out of money.

Well, new managers came on scene with new attitudes and we had a top dog discussion about two weeks ago. We are still talking and that is good!... once again the location is the issue. I approached the Fire Department again and they have their own financial issues at the moment, having just purchased a new site for the # 2 Firehall. So they had to respectfully decline. Anyone out there have a building that fits the criteria, or comes close???

Here is where we intertwine with the recycling depot! I talked with all of their brass and placed some ideas in their heads. What if we were to follow the new guidelines

for Recycle BC and have a secure (fenced) site, only open a full day's number of hours per day, a number of days per week (pretty much what we have, but locked at night), with a greater variety of recyclable items and still Mike Windrim in charge. It would have a covered shed big enough to keep it all under cover and would allow for the storage needs of BC Hydro in the same bldg.??? Would this be possible? .... they were interested in the idea and are going to be running the numbers to see if it will work. This would also hopefully end the practice of unwanted garbage at the site. Hopefully!.

Back to the Hydro truck... We would get a full size bucket truck that would be capable of taking care of the reconnaissance need during bad storms so that the other crews that would follow when possible would have all the right equipment. They could insure that the lines on the road were dead so that other crews (Mainroad?) could remove the trees that might be blocking the road. This would also make it safe for all of our emergency crews to get where they needed to.

The crews could be brought over to the truck at Q. Cove by water taxi and have a pick-up truck to get them to the Hydro truck. So if all these parts will come together we will have shorter outages and a safer island. We'll see.

### Connected Coast Initiative

Well, after all of the work put into this issue by everyone, including you (with your speed tests, etc.) we have submitted our proposal to show how the funding agencies are being misled and deceived. We are supposed to hear back in the next couple of weeks. Ministers, Ministries, bureaucrats, other RD's have been met with and the "full court press" is on. Our partners in Prince Rupert, City West, are also right there with us.

The newest twist is to convince them that rather than just the most remote areas needing service, we need to convince them that what they say are the best served areas, are not being served! I am talking about Heriot Bay and Q. Cove. So, on and on it goes! We know who is holding it up and we are now going for their Ministers. (Darn this pandemic.. we could be sitting on their desks in person!)

We are not going to let this one go. It is going to be a fight to the end... a successful end! I would like to thank all of you who took part in the "exercises" for your time and effort. I would like to thank our dedicated Chief

Administrative Officer, Dave Leitch, for his dogged determination in weaving his way through the myriad of convoluted avenues necessary to get us to where we are. He has spent way more time on this issue than all others combined and deserves or thanks!

### Transition Team for DFO

I was also called by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of DFO to advise on her Transition Team that is going to be dealing with how to help mitigate impacts to the aquaculture industry resulting from the decision to close the farms in the Discovery Islands. I have been working daily on this consulting with various sectors of all fisheries to insure that any possible impact will be dealt with. I know there has been a lot of media on this topic but my role will be to try and work with a decision that has already been made, including the inclusion of a transition plan, and make it work. The plan was announced as part of the decision. I'm not sure the media has accurately reported that part.

Below is the invitation I received and the website for you to visit for the complete information. I will meet on Feb. 22nd as one of the first presenters.

"Dear Mr. Abram,

As you may be aware, on November 12, 2020, the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, the Honourable Bernadette Jordan, announced that I would be engaging with First Nations in British Columbia, the aquaculture industry, and environmental stakeholders to advance work on her mandate commitment to transition from open-net pen salmon farming in coastal BC waters. The announcement can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/y8qs7hty>.

### Integrated Community Sustainability Plan update. (From last report)

We received a \$70,000 grant about three years ago to produce an overall plan for Area C and it would guide a re-write of our OCP and outdated zoning bylaw and create a new OCP and zoning bylaw for the antiquated one in the outer islands. ONE public meeting was held on Quadra and ONE public meeting was held at Surge Narrows to gather public input. That was it! I stayed in contact with our staff to tell me what was going on and when we would move on with this. They had no answers from the consultants. After much inquiry we were

told we would have it by June 2020 (about 6 months late and into COVID). The grant had a deadline of Dec. 2020 for completion. We don't have a plan nor do we have new OCP's and bylaws. So it was brought up at our Board meeting to request a one year extension. That passed and will be forwarded. I am extremely upset with the consulting firm that was contracted. So now we wait. The frustration in the outer islands is so thick, it can be cut with a knife and I feel the same for Quadra. More to follow.

**Granite Bay Park issues (in case you didn't see this one... revised)**

It never seems to end. We (about 2 dozen of us), as volunteers built the park, wharf, ramp, float and boat ramp a number of years ago. It then became an SRD asset and they hired a local resident to keep an eye on it. In the past weeks the SRD had a huge flood lamp installed on the wharf to light up the parking lot, the wharf and the float. It is absolutely opposed by the residents that have it shining in their windows all along the shoreline and lights up the far shoreline, it is so bright. I was never brought into the conversation as the Director (me) if this was needed or desired. All we need, if anything, is to get a more appropriate pathway, motion activated amber light(s) to replace it. It goes against all of our Dark Sky Policies and destroys the night sky experience for the residents and visitors. I am

**Shellinck proposal (revised, not repetition)**

Staff were directed to work with the applicants to try and come back with a more suitable proposal for our island. They brought back a report to our last committee that was impossible to understand due to all of the cross referencing, etc., and the committee referred it back to staff for another report for the meeting this past week. The hope by staff was to go to public hearing by March. I cannot see that happening and I will be suggesting due to the magnitude of this proposal that it not come to a public hearing until we are free to hold an in person hearing so that everyone can be heard, rather than a virtual hearing that will severely limit access. I will be continuing to insist on a full public hearing where people can express their feelings. None of our virtual hearings have allowed for public input to the degree needed. This is the BIGGEST development ever on Quadra and deserves a full airing.

The proposal came back to our committee on the 10th and had very little changed. The most contentious parts being the retention of a sizeable Commercial area with a campground and cabins and a Marina right on April Point Rd.

I will keep you briefed on the next steps as they happen.

**Open Bay Development Variance Permit (DVP)**

This was a really difficult issue to deal with. What the owners are doing is exactly what I have been promoting for years on Quadra: for people to have the ability to divide their rural properties where appropriate so as to bring their kids back to the island to live and work here. That is what this proposal was hoping to do. The problem arose when it came to the attention of the SRD that the DVP applied for was for a considerable amount more area than the secondary dwelling is allowed to have under the bylaws. And in addition to that the applicant had not applied for a siting permit, which was unfortunate since all of these details would have been pointed out at the time.

The neighbourhood was referred on the proposal and the numbers that came back did not support it. The Planning Department came up with a recommendation to deny the permit which would effectively stop the proposal.. I was trying to find a way to

not deny it but the only thing I could come up with was to refer it back to staff and the proponent to try and come up with a solution that would make everyone happy. I made that motion and it passed so I assume the owners and staff will come up with a solution and the kids will be living and working here in the very near future. This position is very difficult when we have bylaws that say one thing but others and myself feel that some sort of compromise needs to be reached. As your Director, I must obey the law. But I can facilitate compromise when appropriate and that is what I am trying to do in this case.

**Conclusion.... finally!**

I guess writing this report is what "Family Day" was intended for.... I have a family and we didn't go out and play in the snow! Oh well, probably not wise with a broken back! But I did write this report for my "extended family" (that would be you!) to help keep them informed. I hope you read it and feel free to comment on any of it!

There are dozens of other issues but they will need to wait.

I hope that my back will be further healed in the next six months. I really want to get back outside doing some "real" work! For the time being, while I am recovering from my injury, please email me rather than the other choices. After that, feel free to contact me between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday (please, not on weekends or holidays, folks!) at 285-3355, or you can fax me at 285-3533 or you can email me anytime at jimabram@xplornet.ca or by mail at Box 278 in the Cove, V0P 1N0... You can read occasional updates on issues that I will post on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/JimAbram>, but please do not use this medium as a way to communicate regarding SRD business. Lots of choices.

Please do not use my residential phone number for SRD calls. All business calls should be on 285-3355. Many thanks!

Emails and phone messages received over the weekend or on holidays will (hopefully!) be returned promptly on the next regular work day.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Abram, Director, Discovery Islands- Mainland inlets, Area C

**Covid Vaccinations - an Update**

To be honest, whatever positive spin is put on this by politicians, Canada has performed badly. At the time of writing, we are ranked 38th in the world with 3.3 doses given per 100 people. The USA is at 15.8 and the UK 22.6. Only 0.8% of Canadians have had both shots.

Currently, the limiting factor is vaccine supply. The vaccine rollout is planned in phases. The expectation was that by March all medical and nursing staff, those involved in community and nursing home care, seniors over 80 and indigenous/native elders over 65 should be vaccinated. The next phase from April until June would offer immunisation for all those between the ages of 60-79 in 5 yearly increments. The final phase by the fall would see the vaccine offered to everyone else.

Quadra Island Medical Clinic has offered to administer the vaccines on Quadra rather than have people travel to Campbell River. However, the final decision rests with VIHA public health. We are probably as frustrated with the lack of definite information as you are!

**A useful resource**

Medical records are often patchy when moving from different doctors sometimes they even get lost altogether. I would encourage all BC residents to register with this useful on-line service

Health Gateway ([gov.bc.ca](http://gov.bc.ca))

This allows you to conveniently access your health care data on a computer, tablet, or smartphone. For instance: Dispensed Medications from community pharmacies, COVID-19 Test Results and Public health Immunizations. The eventual aim is to allow you direct access to your laboratory results and health care visits as well.

There is also another service you can use to access blood results called my ehealth but in the long term the health gateway may be a more comprehensive service. You can register for my e health at the time you have your blood taken.

**Is long term regular cannabis use harmful?**

We finally have an excellent long-term study relating to this question. Regardless of your personal views, this should be of interest. A research project followed 1792 Australian high school students aged 15 in 1992, investigating patterns of cannabis use across 20 years. It compared adulthood life outcomes at age 35, including alcohol use, tobacco smoking, illicit drug use, relationship status, financial hardship, depression, anxiety, and employment status.

Regular cannabis use has harmful effects regardless of the age a person starts using, a University of Queensland-led study has found. The study examined people who began regular cannabis use in high school or in their early 20s and compared both with non-users. Regular cannabis users were more likely to engage in high-risk alcohol consumption, smoke tobacco, use other illicit drugs and not be in a relationship at age 35. They were also at higher risk of depression and less likely to have a paid job.

Overall, regular use of cannabis – more than weekly and especially daily use – was found to have harmful consequences, regardless of the age people began using it. Two thirds of people who use cannabis regularly started use in their early 20s. Public health agencies and policy makers need to deliver a clear message to the public that regular cannabis use is harmful. Advice for those under 30 - avoid a relationship with a daily cannabis user!

Dr Steve Hughes

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## Report: Temperature Battles are Heating Up B.C. Bedrooms

VANCOUVER: A new BC Hydro report finds B.C. couples cannot agree on a bedroom temperature at night, resulting in arguments and sometimes even separate bedrooms. The report titled 'Bedroom battleground: B.C. couples are butting heads over bedroom temperature,' finds while more than 80 per cent of British Columbian couples complain to their partner about the temperature in their home, one-third said complaints lead to full-blown arguments and a quarter of these arguments are happening over the bedroom temperature.

A survey[1] commissioned on behalf of BC Hydro found arguments in some homes have escalated to the point where almost 30 per cent have slept in another room, or at least considered it, because it is too hot or too cold in the bedroom. This might be because about three-quarters of B.C. couples are going to bed with the heat on higher than the recommended 16 degrees Celsius in the winter months – despite 8 in 10 preferring a cooler bedroom.

While most prefer a cooler bedroom, those who like it a bit warmer have the window to contend with – almost 40 per cent said they often keep a window in the bedroom open at night no matter how cold it is outside, and 14 per cent have fought with their partner over the window being open.

While the bedroom thermostat is a contentious issue, it is not the only thing B.C. couples cannot agree on in the bedroom. An overwhelming 78% said their partner does something during the night that they do not like – and snoring is at the top of the list (54%) followed by taking up too much space (26%), and fidgeting/moving too much (26%).

With Valentine's Day around the corner, BC Hydro recommends the following tips to help keep the peace in the bedroom:

- Consider compromise: Once you figure out a thermostat compromise, get a programmable thermostat to keep the temperature at the agreed upon number and save up to 15% over the winter.
- Settle for suggested temperatures: From an energy efficiency perspective, BC Hydro does recommend an ideal temperature to set the thermostat at depending on what individuals are doing in the home, for example:
  - 16° Celsius when away from home or sleeping;

- 21° Celsius when relaxing or watching T.V., and
  - 18° Celsius when cooking or doing housework.
  - Agree to disagree: Using separate duvet covers or wearing warmer or cooler pajamas to bed can help ease temperature tensions.
- For more ways to save energy and money this winter, visit [powersmart.ca](http://powersmart.ca).

## Thanks Woodloties!

There was a smile under that mask and huge smiles on our faces here at the Quadra Community Centre, as we accepted a very generous donation from the Quadra Island Wood Lot owners. John Marlow (pictured on the cover) dropped off four air purifying units for the facility to utilize as another layer of protection to help keep the community safe.

With new amendments to the public health guidelines, we are able to resume some smaller type usage here at the Community Centre as well as continued essential service programs. Thus, it's wonderful and very timely to have Quadra's Wood lot owners step in to help provide this extra community support during the pandemic.

We send a huge heartfelt thanks out to the following folks who contributed: John and Collen Marlow, Dick Whittington, Jerry Benner, Alex and Ellen Hartford, Nigel, Bill and John Ross, Markus Kellerhals, Cape Mudge First Nation, Ken Dodd and Chantel Blumel, Mark and Karen Nighswander and Dave Younger.

We are so very lucky to have caring local business owners in this community. Thank you Quadra's Wood Lot owners!

P.S. Dear Community, we miss you all SO much and can't wait until the day we can all gather once again, here at your Community Centre.

Until then, sending out much love and wellness to our beloved community,

Rebecca Young  
Executive Director

Quadra Community Centre  
[info@quadrarec.bc.ca](mailto:info@quadrarec.bc.ca)  
250-285-3243

"Building community through recreation"

It's no secret that our neighbours across on Cortes Island have been watching the tenure of their Regional Director unravel for some time. Matters seem to have come to a head with the SRD issuing a 'Statement of Expectation' as described in the official news release (opposite). In support the SRD list a pair of laws: the SRD's **Director Code of Conduct** and the **Community Charter**. Being curious I took a read at the aforementioned Code of Conduct which raised my eyebrows enough I thought I would share.

First, I find it curious that a 'code' is in fact a bylaw, meaning presumably that it is enforceable. What kind of code is a law? Isn't a 'code' more of a guideline? Then we get into the details, a few clauses stand out I've abbreviated the extracts for space considerations but I encourage you to follow the link opposite to read the complete bylaw:

### Interaction with Staff

21. directors must not:

(a) direct or influence, or attempt to direct, influence or issue instructions to any member of staff in the exercise of their duties or functions;

On face value one would think this is reasonable to avoid conflicts but on the other hand, if our Regional Director isn't able to communicate with the staff, whose salaries we taxpayers pay, then who exactly is?

And indeed scrolling further down is this clause seemingly supporting the engagement of the Directors.

### Roles and Responsibilities

22. (2) ...staff implements those decisions with appropriate advice, information and analysis.

Fans of micro-management will especially appreciate this little nugget:

### Respecting Corporate Priorities

24. (3) Staff will seek the advice and approval of their manager prior to responding to direct requests from directors unless the request is minor or of a day-to-day operational nature.

Just how does a staff member determine what's 'day-to-day'? Are they running to the CAO at every twist and turn?

No where else in a BC regional district could I find a Code of Conduct that is a Bylaw. The CVRD have a *policy* and that's about it.

Obviously our elected officials are held to a high standard and in the case of Director Anderson can and have been found wanting. But this 'code' seems overtly onerous. It appears that whomever wrote and passed this code into law forgot who pays their way.

- Philip Stone

## Statement of Expectations Provided to Electoral Area B Director Anderson

Campbell River, BC - The Strathcona Regional District (SRD) Board decided at the meeting of February 10th to provide notice to Electoral Area B (Cortes Island) Director Noba Anderson regarding expectations of director conduct with Regional District staff members and other members of the Board. That decision followed discussion at the January 27 Board meeting at which time it was alleged that Director Anderson had used her office in an attempt to influence staff decisions regarding the subdivision of land that she owns on Cortes Island.

In response to the allegation, legal counsel for Director Anderson argued that she had used her personal email account to communicate with staff and was therefore acting in a personal capacity and not as a director. After considering further legal advice on the matter of insider influence, legal council advised the Board that there is no ability for elected officials to immunize against insider influence by simply saying they are acting in a personal capacity rather than as a public official or by using a personal email account to communicate with staff. Elected officials are required to follow rules of behaviour as outlined in the Community Charter, the Local Government Act and the SRD Code of Conduct and are subject to removal from office for violations of insider influence rules.

As a consequence, the Board decided to provide notice to Director Anderson regarding her conduct and to increase her awareness regarding the separation of a director's personal affairs from their role as elected officials in daily practice and in all communications.

For more information, please view:

- SRD's Statement of Expectation provided to Director Anderson - [www.srd.ca/210212\\_srdstatementofexpectation.pdf](http://www.srd.ca/210212_srdstatementofexpectation.pdf)
- SRD's Director Code of Conduct - [https://srd.ca/Directors\\_Code\\_of\\_Conduct.pdf](https://srd.ca/Directors_Code_of_Conduct.pdf)
- Community Charter Section 102 - [www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/03026\\_04#section102](http://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/03026_04#section102)



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 We all pray for a shot before it's too late.  
 The global pandemic is rapidly spreading  
 We wonder, where is humanity heading.  
 Technology and travel have diminished our world  
 Covid destroys us, as it's mutants unfurl.  
 Will our divided nations form a pandemic alliance  
 Every country sharing their knowledge and science.  
 This plague, is a world war we never expected,  
 Every global village has been infected.  
 Can we change our ways and unite for survival  
 Other nations are not our foes or our rivals.  
 We are humankind, one species, one race  
 Can we salvage our future, our planet, our place.  
 As this pestilence purges our populations  
 We must renew our hope and rebuild our relations.  
 Perhaps corona's challenge is mankind's rebirth  
 Where we come together as caretakers of earth.  
 We can design vaccines and weapons of destruction,  
 But we never did heed our makers instruction.  
 In spiritual isolation, if we dig down deeper  
 We may learn, we are truly our brothers keeper.  
 - Ann McLean

Virtual Seedy Saturday

Save the dates for our first ever virtual Seedy Saturday conference. This February 19 to 21, 2021 FarmFolk CityFolk and Seedy event organizers from across the province will join us in delivering a pandemic-friendly collaborative opportunity to connect with BC community organizations, seed businesses, non-profit organizations, and learn about seed saving.



There will be opportunities to swap seeds within and between communities and network with seed enthusiasts from all corners of the province. Speakers and sessions will include seed saving and gardening education, movie screening, Master Gardeners Q & A, local community discussions, an exciting keynote speaker, poetry readings, an auction, and more. Join us in strengthening BC's Seed Security.

Registration and event schedule to be announced at bcseeds.org. Some free sessions will be available. Find FarmFolk CityFolk on social media for regular updates.

February at CR Art Gallery

Gift shop Artist Feature

New in the giftshop are some items from James Pottery! Martha and Gordon James operate James Pottery Studio and Gallery, established in 1976, on Quadra Island and make a wide variety of beautiful pieces. If you can't come in person to see them we would like to remind you that we have an online giftshop as well, shop from home and pick up your purchase on the next business day.

Last Chance - Members Show



The 39th Annual Members Exhibition is closing this Saturday, February 20th. A reminder that our hours are Thursday - Saturday from 10AM - 5PM. Don't worry, we're keeping the digital version of the exhibition live on our website if you miss out. If you do visit in person before the show closes be sure to vote for your favourite piece! The winning artist gets a prize sponsored by Patrons of the Arts.

Extra Take Home Art Kits

Sometimes we have leftover Super Saturday At Home take-home art kits and they are now available by donation in our Gift Shop! We will post when we have them leftover as well as we run out on our social media, so be sure to follow us on Facebook as well as Instagram to stay updated. Assuming we don't run out, leftover kits will remain in the Gift Shop until the next Super Saturday.

Artist Trading Cards

Artists of all ages are invited to create and trade miniature works of art. Normally Artist Trading Cards (ATCs) are traded in person, but due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Campbell River Art Gallery will collect and distribute cards randomly between artists. To participate, drop off between one and ten ATCs at the gallery with a stamped and self-addressed envelope.

Please refer to the guidelines when creating your ATCs: www.artist-trading-cards.ch/  
 Deadline for drop-off: 5pm February 27, 2021.

Scene on the Island



Linda Lessard

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- DO** wash your hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after touching the mask or face covering.
- DO** use the ear loops or ties to put on and remove the mask.
- DO** ensure your nose and mouth are fully covered.
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- DO** wash your mask with hot, soapy water and let it dry completely before wearing it again.
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 AND:  
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DEFENDANTS

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TAKE NOTICE THAT on January 15, 2021 an Order was made for service on you of a Notice of Civil Claim issued from the Vancouver Registry of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in proceeding number M-1911526 by way of this advertisement.

In the proceeding, the Plaintiff claims the following relief against you: An award for non-pecuniary damages, special damages, loss of past and future income and earning capacity, loss of housekeeping capacity, future care costs, interest pursuant to the Court Order Interest Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 79 and the costs in this action and such further and other relief as to this Honorable Court may seem just.

You must file a Response to Civil Claim within the period required under the Supreme Court Civil Rules failing which further proceedings, including judgement, may be taken against you without notice to you.

You may obtain, from the Vancouver Registry at 800 Smithe Street, Vancouver, BC V6Z 2E1, a copy of the Notice of Civil Claim and the order providing for service by way of this advertisement.

This advertisement is placed by the solicitors for the Plaintiff, Randhawa Minhas LLP, Barristers and Solicitors, whose address for service is 205-7134 King George Boulevard, Surrey, BC, V3W 5A3, Facsimile- 604-449-7501.

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## Heriot Bay Tides

DATE	TIME PDT	M.	FT.
<b>19</b> Friday	04:13	3.3	10.8
	10:15	4.3	14.1
	17:50	2.0	6.6
<b>20</b> Saturday	01:26	3.9	12.8
	05:15	3.6	11.8
	10:46	4.2	13.8
<b>21</b> Sunday	18:46	1.8	5.9
	02:52	4.1	13.5
	07:03	3.8	12.5
<b>22</b> Monday	11:30	4.1	13.5
	19:42	1.6	5.2
	03:49	4.3	14.1
<b>23</b> Tuesday	08:52	3.8	12.5
	12:32	4.1	13.5
	20:34	1.5	4.9
<b>24</b> Wed.	04:31	4.5	14.8
	09:51	3.8	12.5
	13:37	4.1	13.5
<b>25</b> Thursday	21:20	1.3	4.3
	05:05	4.6	15.1
	10:31	3.7	12.1
<b>26</b> Friday	14:35	4.2	13.8
	22:02	1.2	3.9
	05:36	4.7	15.4
<b>27</b> Saturday	11:04	3.5	11.5
	15:32	4.3	14.1
	22:43	1.1	3.6
<b>28</b> Sunday	06:04	4.8	15.7
	11:38	3.3	10.8
	16:27	4.4	14.4
<b>01</b> Monday	23:23	1.1	3.6
	06:32	4.9	16.1
	12:13	3.0	9.8
<b>02</b> Tuesday	17:23	4.4	14.4
	00:02	1.2	3.9
	07:00	5.0	16.4
<b>03</b> Wed.	12:52	2.7	8.9
	18:19	4.5	14.8
	00:43	1.4	4.6
<b>04</b> Thursday	07:28	5.0	16.4
	13:34	2.4	7.9
	19:16	4.4	14.4
<b>05</b> Friday	01:25	1.8	5.9
	07:57	4.9	16.1
	14:18	2.0	6.6
<b>06</b> Saturday	20:17	4.4	14.4
	02:09	2.2	7.2
	08:26	4.8	15.7
<b>07</b> Sunday	15:06	1.7	5.6
	21:27	4.3	14.1
	02:57	2.7	8.9
<b>08</b> Monday	08:57	4.7	15.4
	15:57	1.4	4.6
	22:48	4.2	13.8
<b>09</b> Tuesday	03:53	3.2	10.5
	09:32	4.6	15.1
	16:53	1.3	4.3
<b>10</b> Wednesday	00:23	4.3	14.1
	05:07	3.6	11.8
	10:15	4.4	14.4

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#### WAYPOINT SIGNS

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### Home & Garden

#### WINTER PRUNING AND GARDEN IMPROVEMENTS

Experienced horticulturist Ryan Nassichuk is available for winter pruning, soil testing/analysis, and informative and thought-provoking garden consultations. Call or email today to learn about bold garden improvements that can be made during the cool season: 250-202-2326 and [nassichuk@gmail.com](mailto:nassichuk@gmail.com)

**NEXT DEADLINE**  
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