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Fanny Bay Community Association A Non-Profit Society & Registered Charitable Organization **MAY 2020**

WHEN I WAS GROWING UP IN FANNY BAY we had a baseball team, cubs and scouts (my dad was the scout leader) sports days sponsored by the shingle mill, school plays and concerts and a car club that held benefit dances to raise money for families in trouble. The hall committee brought in magicians and performers for entertainment once or twice a year, so things were pretty good for teens and they kept an eye on the younger ones so they didn't get a chance to do much mischief. And back then, everyone had more respect for other people's property.

The Drifters Car Club was dedicated to safe and courteous driving on and off the highway. The members who had a vehicle assisted motorists that had car trouble at no cost to the motorist. We bought an old stock car and refurbished it. There were 40 some odd members and I was the youngest at age fifteen. I worked on the stock car getting it ready to race, I took the engine apart and changed some of the internal parts to make it capable of running at 9500 rpm. We then hired a professional driver by the name of Bobby Maul to drive for us. Because we supplied the car, he didn't charge us for being able to drive it as he couldn't afford to build one for himself. We got sponsors to defray the \$1500 per year to pay for racing tires, gasoline and other parts to keep it running. Neither my parents or I had a car but I had a boat and when I had the time I commercial fished to make spending money.

When we bought the stock car it had a 1948 GMC motor in it. It had been balanced so that all parts were in proper proportions. I took out the hydraulic lifters and replaced them with solid lifters. I replaced the cam shaft which was an ACM1 with an ACM2. The ACM2 was equivalent to a 3/4 race cam shaft, but since it was sold off the shelf as a legitimate 48 Mercury part, it was legal to use in the race car. I then put in copper head gaskets because you could torque them down better than the cardboard head gaskets. I also had the valves reground to be at 30 degrees instead of 45 and had the block done the same way. This made it so that more gas could get into the cylin-



ders faster and the exhaust could escape faster. I also put washers on top of the valve springs to keep the valves from fluttering at high speed. We raced in 2nd gear so I put in a GMC truck transmission as they are more sturdy. After this was all done, I asked the driver and the truck driver that towed the stock car on its trailer, to get to the track a half hour early so we could test the car.

By this time, the car had all the interior metal except the firewall and the floor under the driver removed and a shield put over the gas tank in the rear. The driver started up the car and backed it off the trailer and the truck driver moved into the middle of the pits. I climbed into the car and stood on the frame and held onto the roll bar on the passenger side of the car. The driver pulled out onto the track and we did a few low speed cycles and then I told him to floor it. The thing took off like a jet plane. I leaned over so I could see the tach while the driver looked after keeping the car on the track. The tires were screaming on the corners and he was having a hard time of keeping the car on the track. I looked at the tach and it was registering 9500 rpm's. Just then the announcer ordered the car off the track and the passenger to get out and leave the area.

(continued on page 10)

Board Buzz

ANNE TRUSSLER, THE CURRENT PRESIDENT

of the Fanny Bay Community Association Board, will be retiring from her position at the upcoming AGM. Anne has been involved with the FBCA on and off for about 10 years. She started by helping to organize Fanny Bay Day, and soon after became a Director at Large on the Board. After taking a short break from the organization, she re-joined and became Vice President under Neville Hope. When Neville retired as President, Anne took over, and has headed the Board for the past three years. She also spent four and a half years as a Board member for the Ships Point Improvement District, where her duties included being the Board's liaison with the Ships Point Volunteer Fire Department. Not a bad record of service for someone who moved into the area just 14 years ago, in 2006.

Volunteering is just part of Anne's nature. After achieving a Bachelor of Arts in Languages (with a focus on Russian), followed by a Bachelor of Education, Anne and new husband Bill headed for Tanzania as volunteers for the Canadian University Services Overseas (CUSO). Two years later, Bill got an engineering job in Lesotho, and Anne spent the next several years as a volunteer teacher there. Upon their return to Canada, the couple lived in several communities in Ontario before moving to Calgary. Anne continued teaching and volunteering, becoming co-chair of the Calgary Birth Control Clinic.

It is no surprise to learn that Anne finds community service highly rewarding, for many reasons. First and foremost, she feels an obligation to give back to society, in part because she believes that she has been so very fortunate in her own life. In addition, "volunteering offers the chance to exercise your brain, and perhaps go in a very different direction", she says. It has also afforded her the opportunity to meet many wonderful people, most recently here in Fanny Bay and the greater Comox Valley.

Retirement as an FBCA Board member does not mean the end of volunteering! This busy lady recently joined the

Comox Valley Senior Support Society as a peer counsellor, and has volunteered to act as liaison between the FBCA Board and the new playground committee. She will also continue as a member of the Courtenay Rotary Club where she sorts books one day a week in support of the club's book sale fundraisers, and works once a month at the Cumberland Lodge. Anne has been a Rotarian for about seven years now, and as her lifetime of community service demonstrates, is fully committed to the club's motto, "Service Before Self".

Thank you, Anne, for your service to our community!

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If you are impacted by COVID 19 with wage loss due to layoffs or closures the Lions Club can help get you through until Government help arrives.

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SHIPS POINT LAUNCH A WIRED INVENTOR

We bought this house on Vivian Way four years ago. It was a very ordinary and frankly boring house, but it came with a small orchard and a huge garden. Sold!

The house inspector gave it a clean bill of health and other than a few recommendations he said it was a solid, well-built house and good value. As we walked around with him he pointed out various lines of wiring.

In most cases he had no idea what they were for or what kind of wire they were. They didn't look like regulation electrical wire. As he got into his car he said "Folks, don't cut any wire".

Initially, moving into a house is all-consuming so we didn't actually look into the wiring issue for almost a year, but when we did - Pandora's Box! Wires of all colors and sizes cross-cross the open ceiling in the basement.

Apparently the previous owner's occupation was to build the electrical supply to early big block computer systems. There is proof everywhere that his creative genius extended to the home he built, his way.

Where to start? There are three doorbells, one at the front and one at the back and one under a set of outside steps. Peculiar. Intercoms run from the top 3rd floor to the bottom of the house and out to the greenhouse. The greenhouse and garden shed are both supplied with wire from the basement. The wire, bundled with many other colored wires were hung with white strips of cloth. They swooped from one



Greenhouse before and after

pole to another to make the connection. On a breezy day I had images of the Flying Nun flapping from pole to pole. The greenhouse was a masterpiece! This is the recipe. Add one inside thermometer, a kitchen ceiling fan, a crank mechanism and this happens. The temperature in the greenhouse rises, which triggers the thermometer to the point where it's just a wee bit too hot for nursery plants. That activates the ceiling fan to circulate the air. This also triggers a gizmo attached to a small window which slowly opens and creates a vent. When the temperature in the greenhouse gets cool enough the door closes. At the same time a buzzer and little red light goes off simultaneously. Kludged yes, but highly functional!

The whole property has an in-ground irrigation system and it feeds just about every single blinkin' square meter of the property. The wiring maze fed into a control box in the basement. There was a light on it that flashed intermittently and we were terrified to unplug or cut anything. We are gardeners with big plans, but the system controlled us. We had images of accidentally turning the thing on and arming some unknown wire contraption on the place and getting electrocuted. And wet. Eventually Roland just took an ax to the control box and slayed the dragon.

One more wire mystery eluded us for almost a year. All around the perimeter of the property we found a continuous line of fine green wire. It was buried about 4" down. This could be bad, so we left that one alone and worked around the holy green line. There was also another black and yellow

(continued on page 4)

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Financial support measures

At the time of writing, we're waiving business account fees for businesses that have closed due to the pandemic. Plus, we're offering mortgage payment deferrals of up to six months. Our lenders are working on refinance options and emergency overdrafts for those who need it. We're also helping to facilitate access to government lending and relief programs.

UBCU has got your back. We can do this – together.



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EVERYTHING CHANGES

That's the one constant in life. But much of the change comes in repeating patterns and we find comfort in that. The trilliums along the Cowie Creek trail are blooming now, as they have done every spring since the glaciers receded. The fawn lilies in the middle of the path, which I nearly stepped on, are blooming as well. My wife's sharp eye for plants saved them from my careless boot. She doesn't normally join me on these sampling expeditions, but things have changed.

Since the outbreak of the Covid pandemic lots of things have changed for all of us. Grocery shopping is a different experience. More things are purchased online while local businesses try to find ways to hold on. Meetings are virtual, including our monthly Beaufort Watershed Stewards meetings. And we have decided that our sampling teams will only include members of the same household; a different household each week. The upside to this is that I get to have a nice walk in the woods with my sweetie. The downside is that all of our new volunteers will have to wait to get the training we had hoped to provide this spring.

As I sat down to write this I was thinking of rainfall, and of an unusually dry spring, and that we should have started monitoring flow rates in local streams five, ten, twenty years



ago. But before I began writing I stole a quick glance at my email (this is a common tactic of the procrastinating writer). A friend had sent a link to rainfall data for the Chrome Island weather station. I had heard that we were in for another Spring drought, so I expected lower rainfall this year than previous years. Yet rainfall for the

first three months of this year was 607.8mm, the second highest total for the first three months since 2015. Only 2016 was higher with 725mm in January, February and March. How does that jibe with the signs of Spring drought? The answer is that most of our rain, in the last three years, came in the FIRST month as opposed to being spread out over the first THREE months. What effect might this more concentrated rainfall have on our water supply if it becomes an on-going trend? We don't know, of course, but some good baseline data would be helpful in answering that question. And baseline data was on the agenda for this year. We had hoped to have a stream flow measurement program in place by fall and to have expanded our well monitoring program significantly.

But like so much else this spring, our plans have had to change.

by Mike Mesford

(Wired Inventor cont'd from previous page)

line that only ran along the front of the property. It was thicker and lay just beneath the level of the ground. This combination of wire and electricity was causing some stress and often caused some apprehension. We talked about it a lot.

Apparently the green wire was some kind of pet control device but maybe it could deter wildlife as well. We decided to test it and so one evening Roland took a chance and flipped on the switch in the fuse box in the basement. There was only one with a green wire, so that had to be

it. The black and yellow wire was missing but there were so many pig-tailed wires around the place we just shut our eyes and prayed.

The following morning a neighbor said she heard some noise coming from our place and came over with a flashlight to investigate. What she saw was two stunned racoons. They had Mohawks and glazed eyes. They never came back.

That was the end of the wire mystery as we know it today. The house seems safe, lights go on and off as they should and out of this there was a bonus.

We have found many uses for the lengths of green and black and yellow wire we keep pulling from the ground.

We can tie up plants, fix holes in netting and find other neat stuff. We have boxes of mixed and colored wire we took out of the house. Guys just seem to like this kind of thing and now Roland is infected. He got inspired by the creativity and is now redesigning the wheelbarrow to run on a battery instead of actual manual labour.

Sigh.

by Dianne Volrich



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WHEN THE BIG LOCK DOWN HIT

Fanny Bay Salmonid Enhancement Society was in the middle of incubation season, the time our salmon spend developing from fertilized eggs in stacks of trays under constant water flow to their alevin stage, where they are newborn fish. Because FBSES is on a Department of Fisheries and Oceans site, their rules about distancing apply; only three persons maximum on the premises. Success with incubation is vital to FBSES and the work has fallen to our volunteers who have made this their specialty. They, Jens Johansen of Bowser, Lorie Williamson of Bowser, and Lesley Jones of Fanny Bay, have taken on the load usually shared by all of us and they have excelled at it.



Social distancing at work at FBSES.

From left, Jens Johansen, Lorie Williamson, Lesley Jones.

How has it been for them? "Intense" is Lorie's one word answer to that question with full agreement from Lesley and Jens. "But meaningful," she adds. Since they began, they have worked four five-hour days a week, and done everything themselves. For Lesley, whose new skills include running the Honda pump and vacuuming rig that cleans the concrete G raceway that holds 20,000 Coho, what she's doing is "essential but rewarding at the same time." Jens points out that they will be happy to see us all back when the time comes; "we miss the social part and we don't want to lose



FBSES REPORT

volunteers." Lorie is doing her part; she says she wears a mask on the job; "to protect people from me." Thanks to their efforts, our 60,000 Coho, now fry, are ensconced in their tanks for the next year, the 53,000 Chum for only weeks until release. Feeding all these

hungry mouths is shared by other FBSES volunteers, teamed in pairs for safety on each day of the week, all of us maintaining the social distance that comes so naturally to people who have worked together for years. The Coho will go out next May, as the 2019's are going now, shepherded by the trio into Rosewall Creek in the evenings. FBSES' smaller Wilfred Creek Hatchery gets regular, motivated visits because as crew lead hand Keith Thibault of Fanny Bay says, "Usually one of our members and their significant other goes up to check the smolt trap and feed the fish; it's a great reason to get out of the house." Wilfreds' 500,000 Pink eggs have grown and gone, and the Chum and Coho will have left by the time you read this, rearing themselves in the creek. Other hatchery activity in spring, viruses or not, includes our smolt traps, the annual census of just about everything that flows, floats, swims or sneaks down Cook, Mud Bay and Wilfred Creeks. The traps hold the selection for a daily count and then release, and the numbers and varieties tell us how well the wild stock is doing.

As salmon move through their life cycle at our hatchery they need a lot of attention. One of the volunteers who makes FBSES work so well is also one of the most constant fish wranglers in the place. Finn Keim and Leona retired to Fanny Bay in 2001 and in 2004 he was introduced to FBSES by a neighbor. When we are all in the middle of it, Finn is here with us, doing the job. It is a waste of time trying to talk him out of brailing fish out of raceways for brood egg take, stripping eggs out of Coho females



Finn Keim

or milt out of males, all heavy lifting jobs that aren't pretty but need to be done right, so there he is. For his part, he finds us good company; FBSES has "lots of nice people" which we will take as a compliment from one of the nicest guys we know.

Besides worrying about the water levels in our creeks, always a spring concern, and the timing of releases of our fish into them, we will miss our River Never Sleeps Festival this May 3 for the first time in 13 years, but... pictures from previous years and other articles are all to be found at fbSES.ca

by Dave Sands

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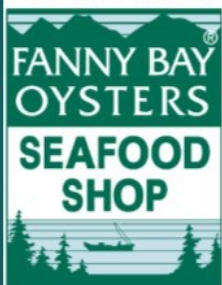
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THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BAYNES SOUND GARDEN CLUB

have been cancelled until further notice, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and unfortunately that includes the club's 14th annual plant sale on the Mother's Day weekend.

Some club members had already started seeds and divided perennials for the sale before the decision to cancel was made. Consequently, several members have offered to sell plants at the roadside starting **May 9th** and continuing as long as it's still feasible to do so. The locations will be on *Bates Drive, Walker Road, and Cougar Smith Road* - watch for signs.

The stands will be open from **10 am to 3 pm** daily and are limited to one shopper at a time to comply with distancing regulations.

Please bring your own box to take your plants away in. Payment for all sales will be in exact change only so bring small bills, loonies, and toonies. All proceeds will be donated to the Baynes Sound Garden Club.

Watch the Fanny Bay Community Bulletin Board Facebook page for more information and details of what's on offer at each location.

PROJECT WATERSHED RESTORING SALTMARSH IN FANNY BAY

The Comox Valley Project Watershed Society has started a saltmarsh restoration project in the Little Bay Estuary area (near Ship's Point). Project Watershed's Coastal Restoration Plan identified this area as having historical loss of saltmarsh habitat due to coastal erosion. Saltmarsh habitat is important habitat for fish and wildlife, including Pacific salmon. You may have noticed heavy equipment working on the lower shoreline back in late March. The machinery was used to build two headland structures on the foreshore and add beach nourishment behind them to stabilize the shoreline and stop the on-going loss of saltmarsh. Later this spring, the area will be planted with thousands of native saltmarsh plants. Project Watershed



has Provincial and Federal authorizations to undertake this work, the aim of which is to restore habitat and increase the resilience of the shoreline. If you have any questions about this work, please e-mail

estuary.projectwatershed@gmail.com

A DEDICATED GROUP OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS

got together after a two year effort of grant writing and built a lovely dog park for the community and surrounding areas to meet and exercise their pets. We want to keep it clean and inviting for people to bring their animals. Both for their own and their dogs' safety and enjoyment.

Many dog owners who are using the park responsibly are dismayed at the volume of piles of feces left by some users for others to deal with.

If bags weren't provided for free or the only waste container was far away, this unneighbourly behaviour could be understood. We ask that all dog guardians make an effort to watch their dog while at the park and **PICK UP THE POOP** immediately.

Just imagine the condition of this park if no one picked up. I expect it would be ankle deep by now.



WATER CONSERVATION STAGE 2 BEGINS MAY 15

Under SPID's Drought Response Guidelines, SPID will move to Water Conservation **Stage 2** as of Friday, May 15th. Residents may sprinkle lawns and trees between the hours of 10:00 **pm** through 10:00 **am** only. During warm or windy weather, the majority of water from a sprinkler will evaporate before it has a chance to reach your plants' roots, which wastes water and does the garden no good. To get the most from every drop, please plan to get lawn and tree sprinkling done before 10:00 **am**. Hand watering, drip and micro irrigation may be done at any time. Also permitted during **Stage 2**: washing vehicles and boats; pressure washing of walkways, driveways and siding; and filling pools, hot tubs, ponds and fountains. Hoses should always be equipped with a shut-off device when watering or cleaning.



Please see spid.ca for full details on the Drought Response Plan and Water Conservation Stage guidelines, and monitor the Ships Point entrance board for changes to the Water Conservation stage, as conditions may change.

PROVINCE EXTENDS BACKYARD OPEN BURNING BAN UNTIL JUNE 15

The BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, in collaboration with provincial health partners, has extended open burning restrictions for all High Smoke Sensitivity Zones across the province until Monday, June 15, 2020. This zone includes the Comox Valley and Ships Point.

The new rules came into effect as cases of COVID-19 increased, to help reduce air pollution in populated areas across the province. There is strong evidence that exposure to air pollution increases the susceptibility to respiratory viral infections by decreasing immune function. Deterioration in air quality may lead to more COVID-19 infections overall, and increase the severity of some cases.

While campfires are exempt from the restrictions, SPID bylaws state that a backyard campfire must be in a rated commercial fire pit or approved propane appliance. Non-commercial fire pits, such as a rock ring placed

on a bare spot of ground, are considered open burning and not allowed. More information can be found in the Fire Chief's Burning Cheat Sheet at spid.ca.

Please note that even an approved appliance that produces too much smoke may be ticketed due to the smoke sensitivity restriction in place.

In light of this, we encourage residents to consider the intent of the province's open burning ban, to reduce air pollution that may make us more vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19. Just because we are allowed to have a backyard campfire, doesn't necessarily mean we should. We are all making sacrifices right now to try to protect the health of the most vulnerable, and to keep the health care system from being overwhelmed so help is available when we need it. Think of elderly neighbours or family members with underlying health conditions who may be at risk. Putting off that backyard campfire until the situation improves may help them, and all of us in the Fanny Bay community, weather this storm.



FBCA MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN DRIVE FOR 2020

Why Buy a Membership?

The Fanny Bay Hall is our community centre for events such as flu clinics, concerts and movie nights. Programs such as Aerobics, Yoga, Pickleball, Parents & Tots and Friday Night Youth Group.

Your fee supports maintenance of the Hall, the many board-run programs and the Fanny Bay Flyer.

The Hall is a designated Emergency Shelter for our area. Your \$10 single or \$20 family membership entitles you to vote at the A G M .

Generally, memberships can be bought at FBCA sponsored events. If you wish to purchase an FBCA membership please e-mail Debby at

memberships@fannybaycommunity.com

Your Comox Valley Regional District Director

Daniel Arbour

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LIVING WILD

As spring explodes and most of us are spending more time in our gardens, it's the perfect time to talk about pollinators. Many of us have basic knowledge that we need bees to survive, and that pesticides are killing them.

In Canada, recent awareness has been made about the need to protect our honey bees, but unfortunately our natural pollinators don't get much attention despite their importance.

Some of our large bumblebees for example, have extra fuzzy bodies that allow them to carry more than twice the pollen as that of a honey bee, and its lack of grace leaves behind more pollen, making it much more efficient than a honey bee by pollinating in half the time.

Fortunately, the public has an easy time seeing the benefits of the honey bee, such as honey and beeswax, and the efforts made to protect our honey bee populations, also benefit our natural pollinators.

Over one third of our global food supply is pollinated by bees, and aside from honey bees, which originate from South America and Europe, the world has over 20,000 species of wild bees (4000 in North America alone) that also need our

help. All pollinators struggle with the lack of biodiversity, lack of food, insecticide and/or herbicide exposure and the decrease in habitat due to fencepost-to-fencepost farming and urban sprawl. They suffer from the lack of four season food sources; early spring is one of the leanest times for pollinators, and again in late fall.

One of the biggest concerns is Neonicotinoids - although Europe has banned them in ALL outdoor applications, Canada still has three Neonicotinoids currently approved for agriculture use: imidacloprid, clothianidin and thiamethoxam. Some scientists believe Neonics are up to 8000 times more lethal to bees than DDT, and in "2014, an independent review of more than 1,100 peer reviewed scientific articles concluded neonics pose an unacceptable risk to biodiversity." (Sonia Hrynchyshyn, Martlet, University of Victoria) "Neonic insecticides are either found as a coating on the seeds of crops, or sprayed into the soil just before seed planting, or sprayed on young plants. The insecticide is taken up by the plant and distributed through its tissue as it grows." - Liam Casey, *The Canadian Press*, Aug 2019.

In fact, according to a recent University of Guelph study in Ontario, Clothianidin was detected in 96% of soil samples and Thiamethoxam another major Neonics, was found in 81% of soil samples tested.

So what can we do to help?

Let your weeds bloom, keeping in mind natural pollinators, not just honeybees. Be mindful of the time of day when mowing lawns - bees are most active in the afternoon.

Buy seedlings/plants from a reputable nursery - ask if they use neonicotinoids.

Read the labels of seeds/plants or buy untreated seeds and grow your own.

Plant flowering plants, whether it be flowers, fruit trees or vegetables.

Farmers can emphasize biodi-

versity - have a wide variety, not just a focus on one mono-crop.

Plant early blooming plants like Jacob's ladder, crocuses, hyacinth and ground covers.

Plant late fall blooming plants such as sedum hyssop, heather and snake root.

Do not deadhead your hostas until they have finished blooming, and deadhead your daisies and catnip for rebloom.

Reduce / stop the use of chemicals.

Replace lawns or portions of lawns with gardens full of native flowering plants.

Plant ground covers such as clover, sweet alyssum, sheep fescue - you will only need to mow and water ¼ of the time of traditional lawns.

Provide undisturbed, open space - don't just plow and pave all areas.

Do not rake your fallen leaves until late spring, to provide habitats for pollinators over winter.

And last but not least, just get out into that garden and make some flowering things grow!!!

by Angela Hicke -Van Isle Wild



BZZZZZZ!! IT'S SWARM SEASON!

Swarming is the honey bee's natural process of reproduction, where a colony splits in two or more distinct colonies; one of which will appear as thousands of bees grouping together in a tree, on a branch, or in an unusual area.

If you see a swarm, please contact one of our experienced Beekeepers in Fanny Bay who are available to assist:

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Harrison Walker - 250-218-6438

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FANNY BAY NATURALLY

Knock, knock. Who's there? Well, I can't think of a clever answer to that, so I'll just tell you - it's a male American goldfinch tapping his beak on my window, as happens every year at about this time. I try to shoo him away but he ignores me, so intent is he on the rival he sees in the glass, his own reflection, of course.



Thankfully, the likelihood of a goldfinch injuring himself as a result of this behaviour is small; injury is only likely to occur if he flies into the glass at full speed. But waging war with oneself takes time away from more productive activities, such as finding a mate, and eating. A very persistent window warrior can sometimes be discouraged by closing the curtains or pulling down the shades for a few days. If this doesn't help, putting newspaper or other non-reflective material on the outside of the windows will conceal the rival from view, but it's a lot of work and makes the indoors a little gloomy. Special stickers intended to keep birds from flying into windows might also put an end to the futile battle. Pulling shades down usually works for me; the goldfinch soon realizes there's more to life than fighting reflections, and leaves to show off his good looks to prospective mates. What this little fellow appears to lack in brains, he certainly makes up for in beauty, with his bright yellow plumage and striking black accents!

American goldfinches are monogamous for the most part, and produce one brood a year. Once paired, the female goldfinch builds the nest - a solid cup of plant fibre, spiderwebs, and plant down (thistle down is a favourite). After laying up to seven pale bluish eggs, she then settles down to incubation duties for about two weeks, during which time the male brings her food. This continues even after the eggs hatch - the male brings food and the female feeds it to the nestlings. After a few days, both parents feed the nestlings, and then

the role of female declines, and the male again provides the bulk of the food until the young leave the nest 11 to 17 days after hatching.

The American goldfinch is a granivore, meaning it eats seeds and grains. Its breeding season is tied to the peak of seed production, usually in mid summer, when the food supply must meet the needs of a growing family. Strict vegetarians, American goldfinches only ever ingest insects by accident. If a bird of an insect-eating species lays an egg in a goldfinch nest, the nestling won't live past a few days because it can't survive on the exclusive diet of seeds.

Some people have said they see this beautiful bird for only a few weeks and then it disappears. In actuality, goldfinches may still be around, but they are not so easily recognizable as goldfinches as summer wears on. The reason for this is that, unlike other species of finch and indeed most songbirds, American goldfinches molt their body feathers twice a year.

During the late summer molt, they lose their bright yellow body feathers, trading them for a dull olive-yellow set. With the dull colouring, goldfinches may be mistaken for pine siskins, females of other finch species, or other dully feathered birds of similar size. At winter's end, American goldfinches molt again and, in the case of the males, grow back their trademark bright yellow feathers in order to attract mates. Meanwhile, the female is a dull yellow-brown shade which brightens only slightly for the summer months.



Knock, knock.

Who's there? Juno. Juno who?

Juno all about goldfinches now, right?

by Jackie Dunham

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A WEE DIP IN LITTLE BAY

Thought I'd take a wee dip in the gentle waters off Little Bay. Got in up to there, slowly sank into the water and then dog paddled around for a bit. Quietly. No one was around and I was moved to sing a little. Shyly at first, but since there was no one around I got braver and louder. I floated on my back and belted out 'Auld Lang Syne'. With my ears dulled with water I didn't hear someone yell. "Hey!!! Are you Ok? Hey!!!" Or the catastrophic words "Go get her boy!!!"

From somewhere around and underneath me a mammoth beast grabbed me in its' bristly bearded mouth. Terrified, I did what I'd been told to do if I was ever cornered by a wild beast. I went limp and played dead. The beast dragged me to shore, no doubt to finish me off. When it let go I struggled to get up but it planted one huge paw on my chest. I was efficiently pinned down. I risked opening one eye and the first thing I saw was her face.

Someone very familiar to everyone on Ship's Point looked down at me and said. "It's ok, boy you can let her go." And to me, "You Ok? You look like you needed rescuing and no one could stand your singing so I sent out the trooper. You look fine. Are you fine? Well since that's settled how would you like to come up to the house for a hot cup of tea?" I grunted and struggled along behind her, clutching the towel she'd brought to the shore.

I was a sticky, smelly mess so she tactfully brought tea out to the porch. Earl Grey tea, a gingersnap for me and a butcher bone for the Irish Wolf Hound. It was tactfully suggested that I only sing Auld Lang Syne once a year and only in a crowd. And perhaps wear a bathing suit next time.

by Dianne Volrich

(Drifter's Car Club continued from cover page)

We pulled into our pit area and I climbed out behind the truck that had towed the trailer. Then the truck driver, who watched the races from the stands with the rest of the members, walked out from behind the truck and went up into the stands apologizing to the flag man saying he didn't know that he couldn't be in the car to watch the tach. The flag man said "Well now you know, and don't let it happen again". That's how we knew for sure how many rpm's the motor could do under full throttle. From that point on we won a lot of races and ended up with a new speed record and with the second highest number of wins. We would have been in first place if we had had the car ready from the beginning of the season, but it took a few weeks to get everything done.

As an avid book reader, I knew quite a lot about car engines. I tore our engine down every couple of weeks at first until I had it running perfectly. After the changes I made to it we set a track speed record. I never told anyone what I had done to it to get it to run that fast. We were the only team that did not blow an engine during the time I was with the club, which would be from 1956 to 1960. I worked as a pit crew member quite a bit. Once when I was in the pit crew we blew a transmission in the race car. We took out the broken one and dropped a new one in twenty minutes and never missed a race that night.

We ran the car at the race track in Nanaimo on Friday nights and at the race track in Victoria on Saturday nights from late April or the beginning of May until the early part of September, providing that it wasn't raining. With no tread on the tires, the cars couldn't run on a wet track. I only went to Victoria once and it was so late when I got home that my parents wouldn't let me go there any more. So, when school was on I did homework on Sunday and when it wasn't, I fished on Sunday.

by Bert Griffiths

Editor's Note:

This story is a compilation of emails which I exchanged with Bert Griffiths in the later half of 2017. He had travelled home to Fanny Bay for a memorial service for his mother, Margaret. We had started conversing because he was putting a memorial notice in The Flyer.

In one of my emails I mentioned that the Port-A-Potty at the Hall had been set on fire in the wee hours of the morning. It was only due to luck that the RCMP were passing by at 2 a.m. and sounded the alarm. We were in the middle of a very dry hot summer; we shuddered to think of what could have been. At that time the OAP Hall was also vandalized.

I had written to Bert that it is likely quite boring for teenagers who have to live 'way out here' and this prompted him to share his memories with me about his youth in Fanny Bay.

Community Contacts

Aerobics (FB Hall)

Suzanne Murray 335-2533

Baynes Sound Lions Club (OAP Hall)

Cliff Helps 335-1112

Baynes Sound Garden Club (OAP Hall)

Juanita Purin..... juanitamo@shaw.ca

Beachcombers Academy Little Oysters Preschool

Principal - Roy Sakata 778-427-4007

Beaufort Watershed Stewards

Mike Mesford 250-702-5900

CVRD Area A Director reachme@danielarbour.ca

Daniel Arbour 250-650-8480

Fanny Bay Hall RENTAL

Judy Starr 335-0241

Facebook Page fannybayhall

FBCA Website fannybaycommunity.com

Fanny Bay Parents & Tots, Evelyn Bally...335-9022

Fanny Bay Quilt Group

Noreen Sterling 335-3010

Joan Johnsen 335-2333

Fanny Bay Salmonid Enhancement Society

Judy Ackinclose 335-0010

Fanny Bay Volunteer Fire Department

Chief - Mike Smith 250-702-3346

Fanny Bay Waterworks District Office

Patricia McLean 250-927-2770

Men's Caregiver Support Group

Wayne Wheeler 250-927-1474

Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program

Keith Thibault ktibo911@gmail.com

OAP #127 Hall 418 Ships Point Road

Bruce Mills Hall RENTAL 335-1337

Pickleball (FB Hall) Cher Kuss 778-427-4137

Ships Point Volunteer Fire Department

Chief - Terry Hoffart 335-0680

Ships Point Improvement District

Office - Nina LeBlanc 335-0551

Yoga (FB Hall) Josey Slater 250-650-4535

Youth Group Evelyn Bally 335-9022

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The **FBCA Board of Directors** will promote activities that enhance the quality of life for Fanny Bay residents.

The Board seeks community input, invites participation, encourages the use of the Fanny Bay Hall as a place to gather, share, foster and deepen the sense of community while maintaining the existing structure in good condition.

The FBCA gratefully acknowledges the support of the Province of BC through a Community Gaming Grant which enables the delivery of low cost programs & activities.

FLYER DEADLINE IS THE 20th OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH

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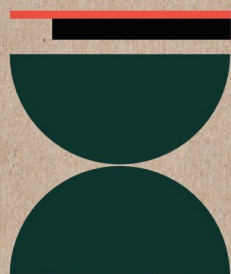
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Classes, Clubs & Meetings

Aerobics, Low Impact Suzanne FB Hall	Monday & Thursday	9 am - 10 am
Baynes Sound Garden Club - OAP Hall	Thursday	7 pm first week
Baynes Sound Lions - OAP Hall	Monday	7 pm third week
FBCA Board Meeting - Fanny Bay Hall	Thursday	7 pm fourth week
FBSSES - Rosewall Ck Hatchery Berray Rd	Wednesday & Saturday ..	9 - 12 noon
FBWW - Fire Hall, Cougar Smith Rd	Meetings as required	fannybaywaterworks@gmail.com
OAP General Meeting	Tuesday	4th second week
Parents & Tots - Fanny Bay Hall	Thursday	10:30 am - Noon
Pickleball - Fanny Bay Hall	Monday	11 am - 1 pm, 3 pm - 8 pm
Pickleball - Fanny Bay Hall	Wednesday	12:30 - 5 pm
Pickleball - Fanny Bay Hall	Thursday	5 - 8 pm
Pickleball - Fanny Bay Hall	Friday	10 - 4 pm
Pickleball - Fanny Bay Hall	Saturdaywhen hall....	10 - 12 noon
Pickleball - Fanny Bay Hall	Sundayavailable.....	10 - 1 pm
Ships Point Improvement Dist.	Wednesday.....	time varies, second week
Youth Group - Fanny Bay Hall	Friday.....	7 - 8 pm when hall available
Yoga, Instructor: Josey - Fanny Bay Hall	Tuesday	7 - 8:45 pm
Yoga, Gentle - Fanny Bay Hall	Thursday	2 - 3:30 pm Contact Josey, see pg 10

ALL ACTIVITIES POSTPONED TIL FURTHER NOTICE

CENTRAL ISLAND ARTS GUIDE



The online portal of artists,
galleries, venues & more for
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CENTRALISLANDARTSGUIDE.COM

8th Annual Central Island Studio Tour goes virtual

More than 100 artists have been gearing up for the 2020 Central Island Studio Tour... but it seems COVID-19 has other plans.

In a quick pivot, Comox Valley Arts, the Community Arts Council and organizer of the tour, has regrouped to bring audiences into artist studios virtually, for anytime, year-round viewing.

The guide was already digitally accessible through a robust website full of photos of the artists work. Now it's going further with upcoming livestreams, recorded tours, artist interviews, and panel discussions. The first few are already up and more are on the way.

It's easy to explore. Visit centralislandartsguide.ca and click on an artist! Search for a fave, or search a genre, location, or medium of work. You can save your favourites. You can connect directly with each artist to learn more. Or start on the Virtual Tours page, and go from there.

Order a hard copy of the beautiful 2020 Arts Guide, free by mail... as they can't currently be distributed to usual pickup locations. Artists within the region are also able to join in if they hadn't already chosen to participate. See website for details.