

# THE QUARTERLY



FALL 2020

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS BEAUTIFUL PLACE WHERE WE HAVE CHOSEN TO LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY LIES WITHIN THE TERRITORY OF THE LEKWUNGEN-SPEAKING PEOPLE, KNOWN AS THE ESQUIMALT, SONGHEES, AND WSÁNEĆ FIRST NATIONS.



Lynn Hillaby, VENC President

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** Recently, I attended the National Newcomers AGM. Normally, I don't enjoy virtual meetings, but I have to admit that I was glad I put this one on my agenda. The enthusiasm and optimism this group demonstrated was so uplifting! It is like they have adapted and risen above COVID limitations to enable Newcomers clubs to continue. The crux of the meeting was 'moving forward' while some activities remain on hold. So I'm putting out the call to all members:

*If you have any great loves or special talents that you would like to share with the membership, please contact [VENCactivity@gmail.com](mailto:VENCactivity@gmail.com).*

**Let me kick this off...**

- ❁ Does anyone know sign language? I have always wanted to learn; we could do classes online.
- ❁ Can we gather a group who would enjoy tutoring young children online? Helping with reading and math would help kids and parents.

We want to hear about your suggestions and ideas for new or adapted activities. Here's hoping we will have enough new ideas to keep us all busy, and our club strong, through the winter.

Yours truly, Lynn



## FOCUS ON ACTIVITY GROUPS

ALTHOUGH THE PANDEMIC HAS DISCOURAGED MANY OF OUR TRADITIONAL GATHERINGS, SOME GROUPS ARE FINDING WAYS TO MEET WITHIN PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES.

- ☀ Both the Brisk and Leisurely Walk groups are meeting routinely on Saturday mornings. During the summer, the Leisurely Walk group added a sit and chat circle.
- ☀ The Potluck group has held a few virtual dinners via Evite video chat, and plan to resume soon.
- ☀ The Wine Making group did not skip a beat! Although members miss gathering to fill their bottles, the U-brew vendor is handling all the bottling work so members just have to order and pick up.



## Did you know?

VARIOUS MEDIA OUTLETS HAVE REPORTED THE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON SMALL BUSINESSES WHICH COMPRISE 40% OF CANADA'S GDP AND 70% OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT.

source: <https://www.everythingzoomer.com/money/2020/09/04/reviving-the-economy-what-the-major-players-say-about-bouncing-back-from-the-pandemic/>



All communities on Vancouver Island are feeling the pinch due to lack of American and other international tourists, pandemic rules limiting capacity for on-site services, and so many office workers staying at home instead of running errands near their place of work, attending office lunches and other social events downtown. **Consumers need to help these local businesses evolve, or our cities and towns will lose the character that attracted us to living in them.**

As you contemplate your role in the local economy, consider these two things:

- Vancouver Island is much safer than the rest of the province, with much lower incidence rates. As of 9OCT20, there were only 7 active cases in the south island out of 15 total for the whole island.
- Supporting local businesses is part of discovering your new home.

source: <https://www.islandhealth.ca/sites/default/files/covid-19/documents/public-health-covid19-daily-dasboard.pdf>

There are local sources for reusable cloth masks that you can wear on public transit and while exploring local shops downtown, in Sidney or up island. Various clothing shops have them available, e.g. Reitman's at Mayfair Mall, or you can also order some online: [thekindnessfactory.com](http://thekindnessfactory.com)

back story: <https://www.cheknews.ca/vid-eos/6180643829001/CHEK-Upside-Laid-off-due-to-COVID-19-three-Victoria-women-launch-booming-mask-business/#fbclid=IwAR1zgtGbWeN5wMNFzsDeXjYQGG-faiL5aq1f1YuEyhC-joalA4lg09z29E>

For inspiration to explore locally, the news stands in most grocery stores carry magazines which feature local businesses and restaurant reviews: Douglas, Seaside, and YAM. These resources also publish online:

**Douglas:** [douglasmagazine.com](http://douglasmagazine.com) **Seaside:** [seasidemagazine.ca](http://seasidemagazine.ca) **YAM:** [yammagazine.com](http://yammagazine.com)

IF YOU WANT TO INVITE A VENC MEMBER TO EXPLORE WITH YOU, TRY SUGGESTING YOUR TRIP IN ONE OF THE VENC FORUMS.