Dear Customers and Friends of the Old Farm Market

We are doing everything we can to keep our Customers and Staff safe within our store and will continue to monitor updates from the BC ministry of health with updates. Here are some of the steps we are currently taking;

- Installed plexiglass cashier shields as a safeguard to protect our teammates and customers.
- Limited the capacity of customers in the store to 15 people at a time.
- Sanitization of shopping carts and baskets after every use as well as all touchable surfaces and pin pads.
- Sanitization stations set up for the use of our customers as well as offering gloves for our customers and staff.
- Have created a cue system that keeps each customer 2 meters apart while in the line up.
- Encouraging all staff to stay home with any illness or symptoms of illness.

Join us in thanking our wonderful staff for being on the front lines



Gorge Canada **Day Picnic** cancelled

Community event running since 1999

Add the Gorge Canada Day Picnic to the growing list of events being cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The picnic has been running since 1999

"We will miss welcoming the 10,000-plus people that come our for the day in our beautiful neighbourhood along the closeddown Gorge Road, with a fantastic backdrop of the Gorge Waterway," said Chris Kask, chairman of the organizing committee.

This year's event was to include a pancake breakfast, canoe rides, food trucks, a classic car show and four stages for entertainment.

"The Gorge Tillicum Community Association would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported this event for the past 21 years," Kask said.

"We look forward to showing off our neighbourhood in 2021. Times Colonist



See hand-nainted portraits of

acknowledge women who are of a certain age who have been out there doing things for the community' 'she said

"As we cope with the effects of the coronavirus on our lives and the lives of our neighbours, it's so vital that we celebrate all that continues to make our community so special," said Grant McKenzie, communications director for Our Place.

would regard me in this light." People can visit the online gallery to view each portrait and read a short biography of each individual featured. Visitors are encouraged to make a tax-deductible donation in a particular person's name, with proceeds going to Our Place Society. Each portrait has a goal of \$1,000, with an overall campaign goal of \$40,000.



Elfrida Schragen with four of the portraits, clockwise from top left: Renu Bawa, Lorna Crozier, Ida Chong and Shelly Green.

after robbery

A suspected drug dealer called West Shore RCMP to report he had been bear-sprayed and robbed by two males who took cash and the Xanax pills he was allegedly selling.

The 18-year-old victim said he was near the bus loop at the Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre when he was jumped.

Police located 15- and 19-yearold suspects a short time later after they were alleged to have used the stolen money to buy liquor. Xanax, bear spray and liquor were seized.

- Times Colonist

> On Instagram >> @timescolonist

40 local women at Admired — Portraits of Women Leaders in our Community, an online gallery and fundraising campaign for Our Place.

The portraits, which each took an average of three weeks to create, were painted by local artist Elfrida Schragen and donated to Our Place Society as a way to raise money and create awareness for the non-profit during the COVID-19 crisis.

"I painted these portraits to honour women in my community whom I, and others, find admirable and effective in whatever they do in life," said Schragen.

This is not Schragen's first effort to help raise funds for Our Place. She painted portraits of some of Victoria's most vulnerable citizens in 2007, and they now hang in the inner-city community centre's dining hall on Pandora Avenue.

"This time, I wanted to

"Although some weren't shy, many others were of women not used to tooting their own horn."

Painted with the support and co-operation of her subjects, the portraits include women who have served the community in a variety of areas, from dance to business, art, politics and education.

Lynda Raino, often called the mother of modern dance in Victoria, says it was a "huge honour" to be chosen to have her portrait done by Schragen.

"I have had thousands of photographs taken throughout my career, but this is my first portrait. It is wonderful when you are acknowledged."

Funds raised will be earmarked to support the Women in Progress project, part of the Next Steps to Employment program at Our Place. Funds will also be allocated to emergency programs and services fighting the effects of the COVID-19 epidemic.

"We honour those who struggle and have struggled to make life better for us, our family and our society.'

Verna Barker, another subject chosen to be included in the gallery, uses her traditional Aboriginal upbringing and teachings to help adults further their education and employment prospects.

"It's about giving back to the community," she said. "It's about sharing tools with others while we learn from them at the same time."

A person who typically does not try to bring attention to herself, she was surprised to hear that Arifin Graham, who she considers a friend and supporter, had nominated her for inclusion in the gallery.

"I see it as an honour that he

The online gallery runs until June 30.

"Our hope is that we can invite everybody to an art show of all the completed portraits at the Bay Centre once the health crisis is over," said McKenzie.

Subjects in the gallery include Carolyne Taylor, Lisa Helps, Lina De Guevera, Shana Lynngood, Catherine Holt, Leslie Campbell, Dawn Smith, Carol Sabiston and Florence Dick.

The gallery is free to view now until June 30 at hibid.ca/events/admired. parrais@timescolonist.com

• For more information on Our Place, go to ourplacesociety.com.

