

Library Reopens in Phase 3

The Salt Spring Island Public Library has moved to Phase 3 of reopening following the British Columbia Phase 3 COVID-19 restart plan. The highly successful Library Take-out Service continues with the Library now open featuring access to the Library for new and popular materials selection. For closed collections, staff material retrieval is available as is self-check out. There is no study or lounge space during this time, but the Library is providing 6 computers for 45-min. sessions, personal computer or device use, or device charging in the Library Community Program Room during Library open hours: Monday-Saturday, 10am-3pm. Early access from 10-11am is for vulnerable populations including seniors. To support patrons, the Library has waived fines and extended loan periods on items from March 19-June 19. In addition, children and teen materials no longer incur fines and patrons are no longer blocked from borrowing due to fines less than \$100.

The Library has undertaken enhanced cleaning protocols, invested in personal protective equipment (PPE) for volunteers and staff, installed plexiglass safety barriers (thanks to Windsor Plywood), defined waiting areas in the lobby and outside, 2m social distance inside, quarantined returned materials for 48 hours, and upgraded Library equipment with touchless payment and checkout operations. To protect the health and safety of the public, staff and volunteers, please stay home if you are sick.

In addition to access to new materials, the Library has new Book Bundles available for check out, Summer Camp at the Library, adult poetry and literary events by Zoom, free book bags in the lobby, and is considering requests for rental of the Community Program Room for groups of 12 or less. You can find more information at the Library website and Facebook page. Currently the Province has not restarted Interlibrary Loan, but we hope this service will begin later in July.