



Spring thoughts in 2022...time to enjoy Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands!



In change lies opportunity.



- Sunset viewing at Vesuvius Beach.
- Hiking Mt Erskine trail.
- Picnic at Ruckle Park.
- Kayaking to Chocolate Beach.
- Sailing to other Gulf Islands.
- Saturday & Tuesday Markets.
- Studio tour. ArtCraft.
- Wine & cider tastings.

Spring, whether early or late, is always welcome in the great Pacific Northwest Coast. Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands are often a little ahead in the invitation to Spring. *The micro-climate here, known as "cool Mediterranean", allows for orchards, vineyards, olive groves, and a delectable growing season for fruits and berries and produce. The 30K diet is possible on amazing Salt Spring Island. Check out the Farmers Markets (Saturday and Tuesday) and all the farmgate stands around the Island. It's the "honour system" for purchasing these delicious offerings. The agrarian lifestyle is here for you to savour. Enjoy!*

2022 appears to be a time of flux...changes that perhaps began in 2016 are now being fully integrated into our lives. The pandemic pushed everyone into the digital era and since 2020 almost all connections between people, whether business, non-profit groups, education, medical, or personal connectivity between friends and family, are done via zoom or its competitors. In-person meet-ups are still rare. Along with this move into the digital world of communication, we are seeing tech creating more ways to experience realities: "real" reality, augmented reality, virtual reality...and what about the alternate experiences in the metaverse? Maybe we need to be focusing on the study of philosophy, to make sure we are keeping up on the definition of being human.

So, what to make of the continuing low inventory of properties? *This classic sellers market (definition: lots of buyers and not many listings) can lead to price escalation over time. What is behind this flight from urban to rural? The first whispers of people moving from the city to the country regions began around March, 2016. Almost all buyers were from Vancouver. When the provincial governments brought in a 15% offshore purchase tax (August 2016) and then bumped it up to 20% (Fall, 2017), there was a pause in real estate sales. By late Fall, 2019, sales increased and the move to rural began again. The ten week closures (starting on March 12, 2020), as a result of covid-19's arrival, simply increased this desire to live in smaller communities, and to leave urban life. The ability of tech changes to truly allow the option to successfully work from home also arrived at the same time. A desire to live more simply and to be in control of one's outcomes...a powerful signal of change. As long as covid lingers, the allure of the apart, the rural, the personal will likely remain.*

