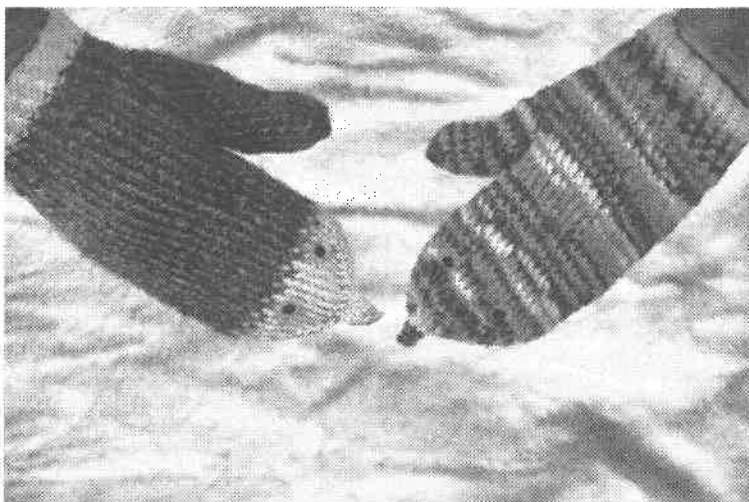


## BIRDATHON FROM PAGE 7



Finally, we will update the Birdathon art on the graffiti fence, and you are invited to add your favourite bird to the menagerie. Because of the COVID thing, bring your own acrylic paints and brushes.

These "Adult and Immature Bald Eagle" mittens will be one of the prizes for the Birdathon art contest.

### **Denman Island COVID-19 Response Network (aka DIRCON) Launches**

*Submitted by Laura Busheikin (Islands Trust Trustee) and Bill Engleson (Chair, Hornby & Denman Health Care Society (DCHCS))*

As you may be aware, many communities have formed COVID-19 response groups. For example, Hornby and Gabriola established groups in March to provide a forum/possible means of community coordination of Island wide services. With that in mind, we had a telephone discussion a few weeks ago and agreed that Denman Island might also benefit by regular discussion of current services as well as gaps in service. We were extremely mindful that the length of the pandemic was unknown and that events and concerns arising would likely be very fluid.

We determined a list of organizations/individuals whom we thought should be involved in the initial first Zoom meeting. They were Islands Trust, Comox Valley Regional District, HDHCS, Community Ambulance Service/Paramedics, The Zella Clark Medical Clinic/Denman Health Network, The Denman Island General Store, DICES (Community School Programs), The Denman Island Fire Department, The DI Growers Association/Two Roads Farm, DenmanWORKS, and the Denman Island Residents Association.

With a few phone calls and the following note, the group was formed:

Why form a Coordination Network? This group is springing up because both of us (Laura and Bill) saw potential gaps in communication and response on Denman. We were learning of similar groups forming on other islands, and hearing that people were finding these groups very helpful.

The main goal is to provide a forum for information-sharing and potential co-operation among the different organizations and sectors engaged in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The group can evolve and refocus as it wants. We have at this writing (April 16th) held two Zoom meetings, courtesy of Danial Arbour, our CVRD Director. At the moment we intend to hold weekly meetings as long as they are productive/informative, on Monday mornings which at the moment seems to be the most propitious time.

Most of the groups within this network are also meeting regularly on-line. While most of the groups attending DIRCON should be fairly familiar to Denman Islanders, the Denman Health Network may not be as well known. It has been meeting monthly for a number of years on Denman. Hornby has a similar health network. Both are composed of Island social/health providers and for this time of COVID-19, both have compressed the numbers of participants and have been meeting weekly.

If you have any thoughts on gaps in services on Denman Island, please do not hesitate to contact Laura Busheikin at [lbusheikin@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:lbusheikin@islandstrust.bc.ca)