

Royal Bay Secondary

Career Day

Presenters' Bio's

March 14th, 2018



Business and Entrepreneurship

Nathan Bird

Ecotourism Director of Operations

Nathan Bird is the Director of Operations at Eagle Wing Tours. He has been with the company since November, 2016 and oversees the day-to-day operations and manages 45 employees, including the office, boat and maintenance staff. Nathan has over 30 years in the tourism industry with 6+ years working in hotels for Fairmont, Wyndham and a smaller, privately-owned hotel. Previous to this, Nathan worked in street vending at Ship Point in Victoria's beautiful inner harbour for over 20 years. Nathan is a graduate of the Tourism Management Program at Camosun College and finished as the top student in the program in 2010. Nathan has studied at the Masters Level at Royal Roads University; also in Tourism Management.

Lorraine Burtoi

Manager, Campus Services at Royal Roads University

Lorraine graduated from the University of Victoria with a bachelor of arts in psychology. With a passion for travel, she began her career in tourism and hospitality in 1996 when she joined Signature Vacations and later Princess Cruises where her adventure took her to the Caribbean. After returning to Victoria, she joined the provincial government working in communications until launching her exciting career of 14 years with Royal Roads University where she has the privilege to showcase Hatley Castle to the world. As the Manager, Campus Services she leads a diverse team to support a broad range of services including event management, weddings, filming, food services, accommodations, public visitation, and retail.

Debbie Cooper

Soap Maker/Entrepreneur

I am the proud owner of Metchosin Soap Works. We are now located in 78 retail stores throughout Victoria and Vancouver Island. Our product can be found on Saltspring Island, in Alberta at Planet Organic and in Taiwan in a Canadian Art Gallery

Michael Davie

Business Analyst

I'm a Business Analyst for Intuit, a financial management software company located in Silicon Valley. My career journey has included roles as a tourism marketer, web developer, cartoonist, English teacher, fiction writer and now my current occupation in business analysis. My principles of career pursuit are to solve first for what lifestyle you want, then go find big problems you can fall in love with and spend your days solving them.

Raj Easwaran

Senior Project Manager

Raj joined the Ministry of Health in June 2015 as Sr. Project Manager in the Project Management Office

This is Raj's first role in Government, after having spent over 18 years in the Private Training industry with the last 10 years involved in Project Management and implementation of major transformational IT systems at colleges across North America.

Raj's career path to Project management started as an Instructor of Computer Programming, progressing to management roles in the organization, managing multiple college locations. During this period, he was an integral member of teams implementing ISO 9000 Quality management system as well as Sarbanes Oxley Compliance Monitoring which were both large projects of importance to the organization.

This experience led to Raj being chosen to lead the project to implement a major new IT system across the entire organization which would impact over 100,000 students and 15000 employees. The project was completed successfully with implementation at over 100 locations across North America.

Raj is a Certified Project Management Professional (PMP) Having satisfied the requirements of the Project Management Institute. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree and a Master's Degree in Business Administration.

Business and Entrepreneurship (Continued)

Jason Leslie **Realtor**

With a reputation for knowledge, integrity and forward-thinking, Jason Leslie is a dedicated Top Producer for Real Estate Sales in Greater Victoria. Since joining the Victoria Real Estate Board, Jason has helped hundreds upon hundreds of Homeowners achieve their Real Estate goals. It is always Jason's main focus to ensure that the entire process of selling your home is both a positive and rewarding experience from start to finish. The power of his negotiating skills, vast experience and Fiduciary Duty will prove to be invaluable for both Buyers and Sellers alike.

Jason has continuously been ranked in the Top 10% of Agents for the Victoria Real Estate Board since 2005 and in 2016 he was ranked in the top 200 of Real Estate Agents for all of Canada.

Liam McDonald **Operations and Project Manager**

Liam McDonald attended the University of Victoria where he received a Bachelor of Commerce degree specializing in Entrepreneurship. During his degree, he gained work experience through co-op programs at Rogers Mobility and Target. Upon graduation, Liam accepted an entry-level position at a local startup called Giftbit. The company enables marketing departments at large firms to incentivize user behaviour with gift cards. Liam is currently the Operations and Product Manager for Giftbit where he is responsible for the direction of the technical product and day to day business operations.

Christon Stevens **Horticulturist/Entrepreneur**

Christon was born in Yorkshire Northern England. After graduating high school at 16 I worked for 2 years at a local wholesale nursery growing trees, shrubs and conifers.

At 18 I decided to go to university in Southern England and study for a double masters, one in business management and one in Horticulture. This was a full time 4-year commitment that I was able to cram down into 3 years with the middle year back out in the industry.

I spent 6 months studying in Holland and 6 months in Northern Italy when an opportunity arose to come to Victoria for 6 months. Upon phoning my University, I was told that they had never had a student do 3 international placements so go for it and play catch up when I return. I worked in Victoria for 6 months in 1992 then returned to the UK to finish my education. I graduated University at the age of 21 with my double masters and immigrated back to Victoria in the Fall of 1993.

I worked in Victoria for 4 years before I was head hunted to go down into the States where I worked for 4 ½ years for a multimillion-dollar nursery operation based out of Bellingham. It was part of my job to fly through all 5 of their operations on the West Coast of the US to ensure that crops were on time and growing as they should. These were in Washington State, Oregon and Northern California.

In 2002 I decided to come back to Victoria and start up my own growing operation. We started with only 7 large greenhouses and now we have grown to 30 covering 8 acres. We supply bedding plants, perennials, hanging baskets, planters, herbs and veggie starts all over the island, the Gulf Islands and onto the lower mainland. We started with 4 employees and now have over 30 at peak season.

In our first year we were able to achieve \$450,000 in sales.....we now do that in 2 weeks of May!! Our main customers include Thrifty Foods, Country Grocer, Quality foods and all the independent garden centers on the Island and lower mainland. We are constantly expanding to accommodate the demand for our product, however, it's ok to say sometimes enough is enough!!

Business and Entrepreneurship (Continued)

Laurie Anne Tomin

Bistro owner Dairy processor and cheesemaker CEO and founder Manali Consulting

Laurie Anne Tomin is a passionate and committed food specialist and cheese maker based on Vancouver Island. The owner and operator of a local restaurant in Langford, “Evedar’s Bistro”, Laurie’s focus on fresh and high quality cuisine comes with a distinct culinary and cultural philosophy and years of experience working in the food processing industry.

She is a licensed dairy processor in both British Columbia and Ontario, and is a graduate from the University of Toronto with coursework and certification from the University of Guelph and BCIT. Laurie Tomin is an avid supporter of local fresh food movements, local sustainable food businesses and food security. She has consulted for BC Foodworks, Growing Forward, the Northwest Territories government as well as the Northern Farm Training Institute-Canada’s most northern farm training institute with a mandate for food security and local food empowerment. The bottom line is the growth of local food production and processing and to maximize on local fertile land using sustainable farming practices, to enhance the nutritional content of food by keeping the storage and travel times minimal, and decrease the ecological footprint of food. But most of all, it is celebrating island culture and connecting people over great food, cheese and wine. In the cheese room, she has worked alongside master cheese makers from Switzerland, Germany and Italy, as well as headed a team in Ontario as Head Cheese Maker and Quality Assurance Manager for one of Canada’s finest artisan cheese companies Tomin has extensive knowledge in all areas of dairy processing: manufacturing, culture usage, milk quality and target profiling, rennet usage, brining, washing, aging, storage, packaging as well as dairy technology and HTST and CIP systems. Most importantly, she has worked at notable companies that win international awards including World Championship Gold and Silver Medals and a World Cheese Awards Silver Medal.

Laurie Tomin has worked collaboratively with provincial inspectors in addition to the BC Milk Marketing Board, BC Centre for Disease Control, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and has developed cheese products & applications for Dairy Innovation Program through the Dairy Farmers of Ontario. She has proven experience in the implementation / development of prerequisite HACCP based program for dairy environments; cleaning and sanitation SOPs, and has been instrumental in the provincial licensing of a dairy processing plant to process raw and pasteurized cheese in BC.

Education

Paul Block

Employer:

Education:

Assistant Superintendent of Schools

School District #62, Sooke

Masters of Education (Educational Leadership and Administration)

Gonzaga University

Bachelor of Education (Elementary) - University of Victoria 1987-1992

Life Experience...making lots of mistakes!

When I was standing where you might be today honestly, I had no real idea where I wanted my career path to go... truth is, I was hoping I didn't have to work. What that really meant, but I didn't come to appreciate until much later is... I wanted to work, but it had to be satisfying work... making a difference in this world.

Finishing high school... I had some strengths to rely on and my parents were determined I was going to continue with school or get a job. I wasn't a great student; I didn't really get "good" at school until I was an adult learner! What I learned most from school wasn't from the textbooks, it was in the relationships!

I had a lot of dreams... professional athlete, professional musician, business owner; I wanted something that wasn't going to be boring and "paid the bills" or even better! It is the lessons learned from my experiences along my career path that has led me to be in the leadership role I am today. It certainly wasn't a clear path but that is what has kept it exciting and fresh as I try new things, make mistakes every day and do what it takes to learn from them!

Come check it out... promise to keep it real, fun and informative.

Previous Jobs/Occupations:

- Principal
- Teacher
- Consultant (Leadership & Management)
- Consultant (Swimming)
- Business Owner (Landscaping company & Power-washing company)
- Landscaping Labourer
- Construction Labourer
- Pizza Delivery Driver
- Vice-Principal
- Teaching Assistant
- Professional Coach (Swimming)
- Athlete
- Sound Tech / Musician
- Gas station attendant
- Delivery Driver – Industrial Supplier
- Vacuum Systems – Home sales

Jim Cambridge

Superintendent of Schools

Jim has worked in Sooke schools for thirty-seven years. He has served as a teacher, Vice-Principal, Principal, district administrator, Assistant Superintendent and, most recently, as Superintendent. His area of special interests includes student and staff engagement, an expanding view of success in schools and the role of the arts in public schools. Jim has a Master of Education degree in Curriculum Studies from the University of Victoria.

Jim's experience with public education is varied; early in his career he worked with the Teachers' Union executive affording him the opportunity to see issues from alternate viewpoints. As a parent of a son with cerebral palsy, he has a perspective of special education services from a parent's point of view as well as a district administrator. Jim is an active runner and triathlete who supports a strong work-life balance with both staff and students.

Education (*continued*)

Stephanie Hedley-Smith Assistant Superintendent

How did I get here? What was my personal journey? What was my professional journey?

If you come to this presentation be prepared to participate (at least a tiny bit)

- 1) I went to high school in Ontario when they still had grade 13! I played on the basketball team and scored a point in the wrong basket. Yes, I put the ball in our team's basket.
- 2) My best friend from high school is a comedian in LA. We talked a lot in high school, University and still today. Yes, we have been friends since we were 14. (a forty-year friendship- Imagine- you 40 years from now!)
- 3) My two favourite high school jobs were; leader of a canoe trip for diabetic children (we had a Doctor on every trip); swim teacher for adults that were TERRIFIED of water (yes they learned how to swim!)
- 4) Yes, I worked at McDonalds.
- 5) I participate in Canada World Youth, I went and worked in the pueblo juevnos in Lima Peru.
- 6) I went to McGill in Montreal for University (oui, oui)
- 7) I became a teacher in 1990 and started teaching in Chibougamau Quebec (try to say that 8 x really fast)
- 8) I taught in Quebec, Haida Gwaii and am presently working for Sooke school district. My friend who is a comedian thinks I should keep my day job! So it won't be a stand-up routine- sorry. Although I do know a few jokes; "How do you make Lady GAGA cry?" I may tell the answer at my presentation!

My advice: Stay healthy- your body can last a long time and you want to be able to move when you are 80!

Sheri Onushko Director of International Education

Sheri Onushko has been active in the field of international education for the past 20 years. She got her first taste of international travel by taking an ESL teaching position in Korea after graduating from UVIC with a Bachelor of Arts, Major in Psychology. It was during this year in Korea that she developed both a love of Kim-Chee and for travel! She then went on to live and work in Australia and secured a position with an international engineering company. This position involved flying in to the "outback" of Western Australia and coordinating a Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program for the employees. Upon her return to Canada, she was able to sign on with this same company and work in the field of engineering for three years in Fort McMurray and Calgary, Alberta.

Although this was a great learning experience, an opportunity to travel with her husband to the Middle East came up that was too good to resist. She took an ESL teaching and Counselling position at an international school in Bahrain. From there, she also went to Taiwan and was involved in curriculum design and teaching at the middle school level.

Having become very interested in intercultural communication and learning, Sheri has continued on this path by working locally for a private ESL college, developing homestay family programs and short-term group visits. All of these experiences have led her to her current position as Director of International Education at Island Catholic Schools where she works to create a culture of internationalism and global engagement within the schools. After moving from Grande Prairie, Alberta where she was born and raised, she now lives in Victoria, BC with her husband, two sons and two dogs. Her family enjoys the outdoors and play all kinds of sports, especially soccer, basketball and skiing.

Education (*continued*)

Ravi Parmar

School Board Trustee

Born and raised in Victoria B.C. Ravi Parmar is an elected School Trustee and serves as the Board Chair for the Sooke School District #62. Ravi is currently completing his Bachelors of Arts, with a Major in Political Science and a minor in Public Administration. Before becoming a University of Victoria student, Ravi completed his K-12 education in the Sooke School District #62, where he graduated from Belmont Secondary School in 2012. Ravi was elected as a School Trustee in 2014. This past June 2017, he was elected as the Board Chair making him the youngest to serve in this position in British Columbia.

Leah Pearse

Librarian

Current Employer:

Greater Victoria Public Library, Juan de Fuca Branch

Credentials:

Master of Archival Studies and Master of Library & Information Studies from the University of British Columbia, School of Library, Archival & Information Studies

Bachelor of Arts, Double major in Linguistics and English from University of Victoria

Previous Jobs/Career/Work Experience

- Children's and Family Literacy Librarian, Teen Services Librarian, Teen Reading Club Coordinator, and Auxiliary Librarian at the Greater Victoria Public Library
- Customer Services Librarian at the Vancouver Island Regional Library
- Archivist at the University of Victoria Archives
- Various graduate study and co-op student positions at UBC, UVic, and the BC government
- Summer Student Librarian, Teck Cominco Corporate Library
Assistant Manager / Sales Representative at Russell Books
- Various volunteer positions with archival and library associations, including the Royal BC Museum and Archives

David Strange

Assistant Superintendent of Schools

David completed his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education (1995) at Memorial University in Newfoundland and followed with completion of his Master of Arts In Leadership and Training (2007) at Royal Roads. His teaching career began in Newfoundland, and continued in the Cowichan Valley from 1998 – 2005. In 2005 he moved to the SD62 (Sooke) to begin a career in administration. He has worked as Vice-Principal and Principal at Pacific Secondary (2005-2009), District Principal Student Advocacy (2008-09), Principal of Journey Middle School (2009 -2012), District Principal Student Support Services (20012-2016) and currently works as Assistant Superintendent in the district. Current responsibilities include oversight of the EMCS Family of Schools, Student Support Services, Alternative Education, Comprehensive School Health, SOGI, Children in Care, District Calendar and CUPE Labor Relations. Outside of work David enjoys spending time with family, fitness and outdoor activities and volunteers with the local chapter of Cystic Fibrosis Canada.

Education (*continued*)

Ivanka Vaudry **Educational Assistant**

My experiences as an educator have comprised of various volunteer and employment opportunities. Prior to my 25+ year career as an Education Assistant, I earned a B.A. degree with a major in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. I passionately pursued this discipline as it fulfilled my interests in the combined educational and para-medical fields. As a child I was a fairly fluent tri-lingual speaker with emergent reading/writing skills in Croatian, Italian and English. Perhaps as a result of my linguistic experiences, I was a keen observer of peoples' communicative abilities. I became increasingly interested in wanting to help remediate inarticulate speech, and deficits in receptive and expressive language. During my clinical and public school practicums and subsequent position as a school Speech-Lang. Pathologist, I was privileged to assist children and young adults. These clients/students presented with a range of communication disorders: developmental, acquired, organic and functional. I admired their determination, in spite of their struggles, in striving to achieve their therapy goals by painstakingly practicing the strategies which were embedded in creative, fun activities. These clients reinforced my sense of empathy and understanding. I became a strong advocate for their inclusiveness, dignity and accessibility to educational opportunities, social activities and services. As an E.A., I practice these core values, along with positivity and humour, in my daily interactions with students and staff. I encourage students to realize and pursue what they are passionate about and to strive for their personal best.

Employment

- School District #62 Education Assistant - Sept. 1992 to present
- Extra-Curricular Tutoring - Secondary School ESL students
- School District #22, Vernon, BC - Speech and Language Pathologist (1984)
- Capital Families Association, Victoria, BC - managed creative pre-school play program

Emergency Services

Sean French **RCMP Officer**

Although to get hired by the RCMP only requires a grade 12 and a valid driver's licence as well as good character, I entered the Force with a BA in History and post graduate work in Criminology. There is quite a bit of training that occurs in-house depending on your career stream. On a daily basis I liaise with schools and Social Services in relation to issues young people are having in the community. As well I am responsible for volunteers like the Aux Program. I like meeting people and helping to resolve issues. Investigating crimes and helping to bring justice and closure to people affected by crime. My least favourite part of the job is paper-work, negative interactions with the public and court. In High School my favourite classes were English, History and Gym. The best skill to be successful in policing is the ability to communicate with people in a non-judgmental fashion. Empathy and a true desire to want to help people are essential assets; power trippers and bullies need not apply. The base salary of a RCMP constable is around 80,000 and if you promote into management its above 100,000. The RCMP has a good pension upon retirement.

Tim Hamblin **Fire Lieutenant and Heating Mechanic**

In 1990 I joined as a volunteer at Colwood Fire Rescue and continue to serve as a volunteer fire officer there to this day. I have a Fire Officer 1 NFPA 1021 Certification, along with Fire Fighter NFPA1002, first responder, first aid, confined space rescue, etc. I am presently serving as a Lieutenant. I also have awards for exemplary and long service from Canada and B.C.

In 2006 I accepted a position as heating mechanic at Sooke School District 62. I am the sole full time heating mechanic for the district and hold both the Gas contractor's license and the Boiler contractor's license for the district. In 2007 I gained my private pilot license and have been flying recreationally for ten years.

Greg Holmes **Sergeant-Victoria Police Department**

My name is Greg Holmes and I am the recruiting and diversity Sergeant for the Victoria Police Department. The Victoria Police Department is a very active and engaged employer in the greater Victoria region. I am responsible for all of the hiring of recruit constables, experienced officers and jailers. Over the past 4 years, I have been very active in the community mentoring and coaching professionals and students at local colleges and high schools on new career opportunities. I have provided many workshops and individual coaching sessions, helping to create or update resumes and prepare for tough interview questions.

I have been a police officer for 21 years. I have held positions in the Focused Enforcement Team assigned to the mountain bike team and beat team, Greater Victoria Emergency Response Team as a sniper/tactical operator, undercover operator/cover team. In 2007 I was assigned to the Integrated Mobile Crisis Response Team which was a unique team in Canada that paired police officers with a team of mental health professionals that responded to calls in the community for people who were suffering from a mental health crisis. In 2009 I was certified as a crisis negotiator and shortly after I was assigned as the 2 i/c of the GVERT negotiator team. In 2010 I re-joined the Crowd Management Unit as an instructor/lethal over-watch operator. I am a senior departmental instructor and teach the following, firearms, patrol rifle, crisis intervention and de-escalation and community mental health.

Prior to policing I have worked as a loss prevention officer, internal investigator and manager for London Drugs, the Bay and Woodward's.

Growing up, my passion was music. My entire life revolved around the music industry. I was extremely fortunate to have been accepted to the UVIC School of music after a very challenging audition and interview. I spent the next 4 years learning, practicing and honing my craft as a musician. I specifically played percussion but I learned how to play a little of every instrument.

After successfully graduating from UVIC with a Bachelor's of Music I travelled to Cuba where I immersed myself in the culture and music. I lived in Havana and attended the Conjunto Folklórico Nacional de Cuba during the day and played music with local musicians at night. It was an amazing opportunity.

Heath Care

Molly Atkin

Previous jobs:

Athletic Therapist

Head Athletic Therapist for CJFL Westshore Rebels
Athletic Therapist at The Athlete Centre - Private Practice
Movement Coach for National Football Academies
Yoga Instructor for WHL Victoria Royals

Major Event Contracts as An Athletic Therapist:

2016 World Junior Tae Kwon Do Championship
2015 Canadian National Karate Championship
2014 BC Summer Games
2014, 2015, 2016 BC Rugby

Credentials

Bachelor of Athletic and Exercise Therapy
Certified Athletic Therapist
Diploma in Exercise and Wellness
Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist
Experienced Registered Yoga Instructor
Certified First Responder

Fran Bitonti

Occupational Therapist

My name is Fran Bitonti and I am an Occupational Therapist. My employer is VIHA or as it now known, Island Health. I am contracted to the Sooke School District and have been working here since 1990. Previously, I worked in community health in North Bay, Ontario and in the area of mental health in Sydney, Australia. I studied at McMaster University and received a Bachelor's of Health Science in Occupational Therapy. I love my job and my profession. It is such an exciting profession and one where you won't get bored as there are many areas, ages and environments in which you can work, for example babies in the NICU, brain injury rehabilitation, acute care in hospitals or private practice, to name a few. I am looking forward to presenting more about Occupational Therapy to interested students and bringing in some of the sensory equipment and tools that I use in my practice when working with students with special needs.

Hayley Clarke

Shiatsu Massage Therapist and Reiki Practitioner

I opened my practice, Full Circle Bodyworks in 2005 and have been practicing bodywork for over 15 years!

Over the years I have learned a lot about running a practice and owning a business. A lot of people don't realize that when you are self-employed you actually have 2 jobs. You don't just go to work and leave at the end of the day. It's been a learning curve and I wouldn't change a thing, I love it!

I have rented office space in 4 locations, worked with a variety of practitioners and other tenants. I have built my business almost entirely on referrals. I still have clients that I met in my student clinic at Canadian Acupressure College in 2005! I am certified in several modalities including but not limited to Cellular Regeneration, Reiki Master, Access Bars, Shiatsu Therapy, Foot Reflexology and Relaxation Massage. I am passionate about continuing education and have attended several small classes and workshops for my own therapy and personal growth and for more experience and knowledge to share with my clients.

I have developed a unique treatment style that infuses bodywork and energy work. I utilize my education and experience guided by my "intuitive gifts" to naturally tailor each treatment.

I also teach Reiki Level One, Two and Advanced/Master Classes. I currently run 5 classes a year and my intention is to continue to grow this part of my practice. Prior to living my dream, I worked in several customer service positions including Shaw Cable where I learned my computer, multi-tasking and people calming skills! Our early work experience really is important!

Health Care (continued)

Hans Crljenkovic **VIHA Respiratory Therapy Services Manager**

How do you say your last name anyway.....?

Lycra wearing, road cycling wannabe with a knack for being an average hockey/soccer player. I graduated with a Science Degree in Kinesiology from the University of Victoria....Go Vikes! After completing my undergrad, I was surprised to find the big kinesiology companies weren't knocking down my door, so I tried a variety of entry level jobs, culminating in an interview with Paul Reinhart and the hyperbaric chamber folks of Oxymed systems. Unfortunately, or fortunately they were looking for someone with a "professional" designation and I didn't get the job. All was not lost however. I picked myself up and refocused my interests which lead me down the path of Respiratory Therapy. Here I am 19 years into a career as a Respiratory Therapist, fortunate enough to be working for Island Health, as the manager of South Island Respiratory Therapy Services.

Jim Halvorson **Emergency Room Doctor**

I have been working as an ER physician for many years now, most recently in Duncan. I have been a GP surgeon, a remote and rural family physician, worked overseas in Yemen, Leningrad, Saipan and Prague, and visited the military prisons in Kashmir on behalf of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Mine has not been a straight or particularly planned trajectory. In high school, I once visited my mother in hospital and found it made me profoundly nauseated and a bit panicky. Medicine did not seem in my cards.

At UBC I enjoyed sciences, played rugby, discovered a girlfriend, and quit UBC after 3rd year to start a commercial diving venture with 2 friends. I returned to complete my degree a year later, and then went to Belize on a Canadian foreign aid project studying conch. I returned to start Medicine at McGill, graduating in 1985. Following an internship and year of surgery in Edmonton, I started to practice. Keep hoping I'll finally master it, but medicine is nothing if not humbling.

We came to Langford when my partner bought a local bistro, where with my spare time, I now apply my skills in the dish pit.

Melissa Hawboldt **Registered Doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Acupuncturist and Herbalist**

Melissa Hawboldt is a Registered Doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Acupuncturist and Herbalist. She practices as an independent contractor out of Copper Mountain Centre for Chinese Medicine in James Bay. Melissa treats a wide range of health issues with a focus on Women's health, mental health, and digestion - employing acupuncture, cupping, gua sha, moxibustion, herbal medicine and food therapy. Previously, she worked at other integrative health clinics – Mandala Center for Health and Wellness in Colwood, Absolute Therapy in Oak Bay and Somata Therapy in Nova Scotia. Melissa graduated from the five-year Doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) program from Pacific Rim College in Victoria. Prior to studying Chinese Medicine, Melissa completed a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in Psychology and a minor in Religious Studies from Saint Mary's University in Halifax, NS. Melissa also provides customer service and education at Nezza Naturals - a natural, eco-friendly, bath, body and home care product store. Her past work experience includes time as a reading tutor, camp counsellor, camp program director, leadership training program director and waitress/ barista.

Health Care (continued)

Katie Keleher

Emergency Room Nurse

My name is Katie Keleher and I am a Registered Emergency Room Nurse. I currently work at Victoria General Hospital in the Emergency Room, which is the main trauma centre for Vancouver Island. I have also worked at the Royal Jubilee Hospital Emergency Room where we focused on cardiac and respiratory emergencies. After completing my 4-year nursing degree from UVic, I went on to do my 2-year Emergency specialty from BCIT. Being a registered nurse gives me the opportunity to work in a variety of settings. I can spend a morning working on the pediatrics floor and the afternoon in the trauma room. It also has allowed me the opportunity to travel and work. I have spent time living and working in Whitehorse. As the family doctor shortage continues to grow on Vancouver Island, Registered Nurses are continuing their education and becoming Nurse Practitioners. A nurse practitioner can act as a family doctor in a clinic or the hospital setting.

Dr. Sarah Macoun

Psychologist

Dr. Macoun is a Ph.D. level psychologist with a faculty appointment at the University of Victoria in the Psychology Department (Assistant Professor, Clinical Psychology/Psychology Department, University of Victoria). Dr. Macoun has been a Registered Psychologist in the province of B.C. since 2003 and is trained in Clinical Psychology, with a specialty in Pediatric Neuropsychology. She has extensive experience working with children with neurodevelopmental disorders, particularly those with attention and self-regulation problems, including children with ADHD, ASD, FASD, and Learning Disorders. She has particularly clinical and research expertise with ADHD and Autism Spectrum Disorders and with rehabilitation of attention, executive function, and regulation difficulties. Prior to her appointment at the University of Victoria, Dr. Macoun worked as a neuropsychologist in hospitals, private practice psychologist, and a practicing psychologist within schools. She has over 15 years of practical experience working with children and their families, school teams, and community teams/agencies. She continues to engage in consultation with families, schools and community agencies/professionals, and is heavily involved in training and supervision of new psychologists. She works out of the Child Development Lab at the University of Victoria, where her team conducts applied research with children ranging in ages from preschool to late adolescence. Her research and research teams are focused on better understanding children and their development, including children who do and who do not have developmental difficulties, using a collaborative and community-based approach. She actively partners with children, families, and community to conduct research that is practical and relevant. In addition, Dr. Macoun is a member of the College of Psychologist of B.C. Registration Committee and does Inquiry work for the College, so is part of the regulation of the practice of Psychology a health professions level with in B.C.

Dr. Kyle Morrison

Naturopathic Physician and Acupuncturist

Dr. Kyle Morrison is a primary care Naturopathic Physician and Acupuncturist with a general practice in Colwood (Victoria), BC. Dr. Morrison was born and raised in Sault Ste Marie, ON where he was active in sports and athletics. Specific interests in health and nutrition led him to study kinesiology at McMaster University and ultimately to the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine. Dr. Morrison's practice focuses on but is not limited to:

- Digestive Health
- Food Sensitivities
- Weight Management
- Environmental Allergies
- Clinical Nutrition
- Pain Management
- Stress
- Anxiety and Depression
- Hormonal Health and Endocrine Disorders (Hypothyroidism, Diabetes, etc.)

Education - Dr. Kyle Morrison began his studies at McMaster University where he completed his Bachelors of Science degree in Kinesiology with a minor in Biochemistry. Upon graduation, he attended the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine in Toronto, successfully earning his diploma in Naturopathic Medicine in 2006.

Dr. Morrison has completed further training in Biopuncture (for the management of pain and inflammation), Wilson Temperature Syndrome (for thyroid and adrenal conditions) and is board certified in Pharmacology with prescriptive authority.

Health Care (continued)

Camille Ottenhof

Athletic Therapist

CAT(C) is a Certified Athletic Therapist at Colwood Back to Back in Victoria, British Columbia. Camille grew up in Kingston, Ontario playing every sport she could find. Camille graduated with an Honours Bachelor of Science in Human Kinetics (cum laude) from the University of Ottawa in 2005. During University, Camille worked as a Personal Trainer and at an orthopaedic bracing company. Camille competed and won a spot with Young Professionals International where she was sponsored to coordinate a rec centre at a college in New Zealand. Upon returning to Canada, Camille attended Mount Royal University in Calgary where she graduated in 2007 with a certificate in Athletic Therapy. She completed her national exam and certified as an Athletic Therapist in 2008. Camille has been involved with numerous national and provincial sports teams such as Rugby Canada, BC Rugby, Rugby Alberta and Softball Canada. Camille has strong ties with Camosun College's Athletic Therapy program and has mentored students since 2009. Additionally, Camille has sat on the Board of Directors for Athletic Therapists Association of British Columbia, and is currently a member of a strategic task force. She has a special interest in sports injuries, motor vehicle accident rehabilitation, exercise prescription for new or elderly exercisers, pre and post-surgical rehab and spinal rehabilitation. Camille is constantly updating her manual therapy skills and uses soft-tissue release, Mulligan Technique, muscle energy technique, massage and Kinesiotaping amongst others. Camille has lived on Vancouver Island since 2008 and appreciates all the outdoor activities available. She has run two full marathons and three half marathons. When Camille is not working, she loves to travel and walk her giant Newfoundland dog

Tara Parks

Registered Dental Hygienist

There are many different areas you can work in as a RDH; I currently work in a private Dental Practice that is owned by one dentist. I have also worked for a very large dental practice, an independent Dental Hygiene practice and volunteered at nursing homes and community shelters. I have a diploma in Dental Hygiene, a three-year program at Camosun College. You have entry to practice after three years and successful completion of the National Board Exam. You may choose to complete your fourth year for your Degree in Dental Hygiene online through UBC.

Lyanne Quirt

Registered Midwife

As a midwife, she catches babies at Victoria General Hospital and in families' homes, and she sees pregnant people and babies up to six weeks old at her clinic. As a midwife, she also teaches emergency skills courses for midwives, nurses, and doctors who deliver babies. She completed a Bachelor of Midwifery at the University of British Columbia. Before training to be a midwife, Lyanne worked at UVic on a research project that was piloting programs to improve Indigenous student retention and graduation rates at UVic. Lyanne also completed an MA in Indigenous Governance at UVic, and a Bachelor of Arts and Science at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario.

Dr. David A. Schaafsma

Optometrist

Job Title: Optometrist/Business owner

Current Employer: Self Employed 1996 to present.

Previous Jobs: Worked as an associate at an Optometry office in Gordon Head 1993 to 1996.

Credentials: Bachelor of Science 1988, Doctor of Optometry 1992, Residency Program in Pediatric Optometry 1993

Dr. Sara Waters

Anesthesiologist

BSc., M.D., FRCPC (Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada)

Clinical Instructor UBC Faculty of Medicine

After graduating from Belmont Secondary I completed my B.Sc. in biology at UVic. I attended 4 years of medical school through UBC in their distributed Island Medical Program. In between my years of study I travelled extensively. Following my M.D. graduation I spent 5 years specializing in Anesthesiology in Vancouver. I have worked as a Clinical Associate in the Intensive Care Unit at Vancouver General and Richmond General Hospitals. During my training I spent a year working as Chief Resident. I now have my dream job as a consultant anesthesiologist at the Royal Jubilee and Victoria General Hospitals in Victoria. I am also a Clinical Instructor with UBC's Faculty of Medicine. I work with an amazing team to keep patients safe and comfortable before, during and after their surgeries.

Human Services

Brandon Cheng

Human Resources Recruiter / Coordinator

Brandon is an industry expert with more than 20 years of successful experience in full cycle recruiting. He has a proven ability to hire people, not resumes. Companies are not just looking for a set of qualifications that match a job description. To ensure a complete match, Brandon extensively interviews candidates to find out who they are and if they are the right fit for the organization. Brandon is most fulfilled when he helps people grow professionally. His vision and ability to nurture relationships lead to long-term solutions and success.

Brandon has recruited for major retailers and developed teams to become successful.

Areas of Expertise include:

- Recruitment and selection
- Health and Safety
- Administration
- Coaching and Developing people
- Performance Management

Lilja Chong

Colwood City Councilor

Current employer: The City of Colwood (I also work for UVic as an information desk clerk and Regalia coordinator)

Previous jobs: manager at McDonald's, Server Supervisor at Royal Oak Golf Club

Credentials: Belmont Secondary - high school diploma, UVic - double major in Political Science and Hispanic Studies, Continuing Studies UVic - Certificate in Business Administration, Gustavson School of Business UVic - Masters of Global Business (will start in 2019)

Heather McKenzie

Youth Outreach Educator

Hello, I am the Youth Outreach Educator at AIDS Vancouver Island! I offer workshops to youth throughout the South Island communities, discussing topics like sexual health, harm reduction, overdose and naloxone, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, safer tattooing and piercing, and more! I am a cis, queer, white settler who was born on the traditional territory of the Songhees First Nation, in Langford BC. Some of my previous jobs have been with the University of Victoria Students' Society, the Love Den adult shop, the Royal and McPherson Theatre Society, and the Victoria Cool Aid Society. I currently hold a Bachelor's Degree in Gender Studies and use a combination of my academic experience, previous job experience, and lived experience to inform my work in health promotion and education.

Trish Patterson

School-based Social Worker

Present occupation:

School-Based Social Worker - SD 622016- present

Past occupations:

Child-Protection Social Worker 2013-2016

Youth Probation Officer 1999-2012

Youth Worker - group home staff 1992 - 1998

Education: Bachelor of Social Work - University of Victoria

Community Corrections, Certification in Youth Justice - Justice Institute of British Columbia

Human Services (continued)

Magda Rajkowski

Human Resources Recruiter

Magda Rajkowski is Kano's head of People Operations (Ops), in charge of recruitment, performance, and team culture. She is the Tinder of job searching; looking to match the perfect person to the perfect role. Her BSc. in Psychology has enabled Magda to better understand what motivates her team to excel and define a culture that is positive and forward thinking. Prior to working in tech, Magda spent a decade doing youth work in between stints in the commercial diving industry. After some dedicated traveling, the tech industry's flat management structure, room for growth, and progressive values made the perfect landing spot for this surf-obsessed (wo)manchild.

Shazia Suleman Rashid

Youth Director of the BC Muslim Association

Shazia was born in Kenya and spent her primary life there before moving to the Caribbean. She graduated from high school with top grades in the country. As a result, she obtained a full university Diplomatic Scholarship through the government of Taiwan. Shazia moved to Taiwan, learned Mandarin in her first year, and then pursued a BSc. in Chemical Engineering at the National Tsing Hua University having a keen interest in Project Development and Analysis.

After graduating, Shazia chose to immigrate to Victoria Canada just 5 years ago. She was open minded to different career options in Victoria, and started off by immediately getting involved with her local community. Her volunteer experience made her realize her passion of working with Youth in community development.

Shazia is growing in her career path with an open mind and a bag of diverse experiences. She now serves as the Youth Director of the BC Muslim Association. She has worked as a youth settlement worker and now as an intake coordinator and instructor for a youth employment program at VIRCS. Shazia continues to be the link and spokeswoman between her Islamic community and other organizations. She is also a busy mum raising 2 lil ones!

Nadia Sangster

Youth Programs Coordinator at VIRCS

Nadia Sangster is the Youth Programs Coordinator at Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS). Prior to joining VIRCS in October 2017, Nadia worked as a Parenting Program Facilitator with Boys and Girls Club of Greater Victoria. Nadia comes from an academic background, holding a PhD in Developmental Psychology from Temple University, and a B.A. with a concentration in Psychology from Harvard University. After graduate school, Nadia spent four years as an Assistant Professor of Human Development at Wheelock College, followed by one year at Pennsylvania State University as an Adjunct Instructor in Psychology, before moving to Victoria in 2003, where she worked for five years as a Sessional Instructor in the Department of Psychology at University of Victoria. After 10 years of postsecondary-level teaching, Nadia made the decision to leave academia and join the non-profit sector in order to fulfill a long-held desire to put her knowledge and education to practical use.

Emma Taylor

Registered Professional Planner

Emma Taylor is a Registered Professional Planner (RPP) and is employed as a Planner at the Capital Regional District. Her work focuses on community planning, development, public engagement, and a broad range of issues related to sustainability, climate change, urban design, transportation, parks and environmental protection. Emma graduated from the University of Victoria with a Bachelor of Arts (Geography) in 2004 and a Master of Arts (Geography) in 2008; she holds a Certificate in Public Participation from the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) and has training from Outward Bound and the Canadian Outdoor Leadership Training. Her past experiences include international development work for Youth Challenge International and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), conducting recycling research for Human Resources & Skills Development Canada (HRSDC), doing environmental monitoring for the Township of Muskoka Lakes and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and working various positions in the horticulture industry around Victoria. Emma lives in Sooke and enjoys playing outside with her family.

Human Services (*continued*)

Daintry Van Cleave Human Resources Leader

Daintry is a service oriented human resource leader that is passionate about creating a dynamic, engaged and effective work place culture. A dynamic communicator and strategic thinker with more than 20 years of progressive experience in the human resource field. Daintry has held senior management roles at a number of organizations in both unionized and non-unionized sectors. She has worked in a variety of industries which include hospitality, manufacturing, retail, food and beverage, health care, marketing and marine repair. When not working Daintry volunteers with youth and parent education in the community.

Areas of Expertise include:

- Recruitment and selection
- Health and Safety and wellness initiatives
- Organizational Development
- Coaching and Mentoring people
- Performance Management
- Training and Development
- Strategic Planning
- Career planning and succession

Legal Services

Aharon Y. Ittah Lawyer

Aharon (pronounced the same as Aaron) was born and raised in Victoria, B.C. He grew up in Oak Bay, attended Sundance Elementary School, Willows and Oak Bay High School. Aharon was involved with Oak Bay's senior rugby team, the Barbarians, and toured with the team to Ireland and Scotland in 1998. Aharon graduated from high school in 1999, following which he moved to Ireland where he spent the next 7 years working and attending university. Aharon eventually achieved a Bachelor of Arts degree (legal and business studies), followed by a degree of laws, both from Irish institutions. He was employed by a law firm and practiced in the areas of refugee law and criminal law. In 2007, Aharon returned to Victoria, B.C. and attended the University of Victoria where he was awarded a Master's Degree of Business Administration (MBA) specializing in professional services management.

Aharon was called to the bar of British Columbia in 2012 and practices in his own law firm in the areas of residential and commercial real estate, lender financing, wills, estates, corporate and commercial law. Aharon has previously worked with other firms and has practiced employment law, insurance defence law and estate litigation. Aharon is a single father of a lovely three-year old named Lily. He lives in Rockland in Victoria and has no hobbies (he's looking for some).

Volunteerism plays a major role in Aharon's life (maybe that's his hobby). He is the president of Congregation Emanu-el, Victoria's largest Jewish community and is a director at Restorative Justice Victoria. He also performs random acts of legal kindness to worthy recipients who need a bit of guidance.

Summary of Employment and Education

Education	Bachelor of Arts, Legal and Business Studies Waterford Institute of Technology, Waterford, Ireland 2005 Bachelor of Laws Griffith Law School, Dublin, Ireland 2007 Master of Business Administration University of Victoria 2008
Employment	Crease Harman LLP, Lawyers, Victoria, BC 2010 Carfra Lawton LLP, Lawyers, Victoria, BC 2013 Herald Street Law, Lawyers, Victoria, BC, 2017

Michael Davis Lawyer

I attended the Allard School of Law at UBC, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, Mount Royal University, and the University of Calgary.

I currently work at Hemminger Law Group Westshore, and as a new team member, I am still developing my practice. At this time, I am focusing on personal injury law, family law, and I am interested in working on general litigation matters.

Prior to entering the legal profession, I worked in the Royal Canadian Air Force, for companies involved in supply chain management, and started and owned many small businesses.

I was a co-founder of GROW, a Non-Government Organization that worked on a variety of humanitarian issues in conflict areas. While at law school I was the President of the Indigenous Law Students Association, and Director with the Law Students Society, and I have volunteered with community groups, and volunteered in politics.

Legal Services (*continued*)

Sarah Miller **Lawyer**

Associate Lawyer at Hemminger Law Group Westshore

Previous jobs: English teacher (Fei Fan English School, Dalian, China), video editor, TV producer (Chandran Media)

Credentials:

2006 – diploma in photojournalism (SAIT, Calgary)

2010 – degree in Communications (U of C, Calgary)

2014 – juris doctor (U of S, Saskatoon, UCT, Cape Town, SA)

Michael Sandhu **Lawyer**

My name is Michael Sandhu. I am a lawyer at Hemminger Law Group Westshore. My main areas of practice are personal injury and wills and estates. I am a graduate of the UVic Faculty of Law. Prior to becoming a lawyer, I earned a Bachelor of Commerce degree with a focus on business management, also at UVic, and worked as an operations manager at a family business in the Fraser Valley.

Media & Fine Arts

Mary P. Brooke

Editor & Publisher

Mary P Brooke is Editor and Publisher of the print/online *West Shore Voice News* weekly newspaper that serves an attentive issues-oriented readership throughout the west shore including Langford, Colwood and Sooke. Ms. Brooke is a creative entrepreneur with a background in journalism, printing and publishing, corporate communications, editing, creative writing, marketing, photojournalism, graphic design, health science, business and real estate. Ms. Brooke is an active member of the media on south Vancouver Island, covering municipal councils and CRD, school boards, and the BC Legislature as well as many election campaigns. She has also freelanced for city newspapers and magazines in Ontario, Saskatchewan and BC. Mary has worked in electric utility communications, created an extensive curriculum in journalism and business writing, taught nutrition, wrote government health materials, delivered online training, and managed a web-hosting service. Mary has edited and published books, organizational newsletters, and websites. She's done radio and TV.

While at university, Mary was elected to lead the student union where as CEO and board chair she focused on bringing student loans into Canada's education support system, as well as promoting women's issues and achieving recreational improvements for the local campus.

Mary Brooke holds a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition (second major Sociology) from the University of Saskatchewan, where she also won the English Department's McGeachy Prize in Journalism. Mary also earned her Certificate in Public Relations from the University of Regina. She was a co-founder of the Professional Editors Association of Vancouver Island.

Mary raised her family of four in Victoria; her daughters and son have gone on to post-secondary and are building successful careers. Mary has been active in community service throughout her career.

Robin Farrell

Radio Personality

Robin Farrell is an award-winning broadcaster with 16 years of morning show experience - 11 of which have been spent here in Victoria. She previously worked as a morning show host for 107.3 KOOL FM in Victoria, and Q103.1 in Kelowna. Robin started her broadcasting career as an intern on the morning show at 104.9 XFM and worked evenings and weekends at 96.9 JACK FM in Vancouver. She was a recipient of the "Morning Show of the Year" award at the Canadian Music and Broadcast Industry Awards in 2013, and was a nominee for the Vancouver Island Top 20 Under 40 Business and Community Achievement Awards in 2013. Robin rode the 2010 Canadian Cancer Society Cops for Cancer Tour de Rock as a media rider raising money for pediatric cancer research, and was a nominee for the 2016 National Philanthropy Awards in Victoria for Co-Founding and Co-Chairing the Cycle of Hope Society - a 5 year fundraising project that raised awareness and inspired hope in families living with ALS.

A.J. Cruze

Radio Personality

A.J. has been co-hosting the morning show at Ocean 98.5 for two years. For the past three months, he's been lucky to work with the very talented Robin Farrell every weekday morning from 6-10am.

Prior to joining Ocean 98.5, A.J. also worked at KOOL-FM, Jack FM and HOT 103 here in Victoria, as well as other radio stations across Canada.

In his spare time, AJ enjoys hiking, spending time with his two young sons and writing bios about himself in the third person.

Jenni Dodsley

Interior designer (Muse and Merchant Furnishings)

Media & Fne Arts (continued)

Desiree Fernando Radio Personality

I am an 'On-Air Host' or 'Radio Announcer' for Ocean 98.5, KiSS 103.1 Victoria, and KiSS Radio in Vancouver! I do the evening show on Ocean 98.5, Weekends on KiSS 103.1 Victoria as well as a pre-recorded show on Sundays for KiSS Radio in Vancouver. We are owned by "Rogers Media."

I never actually went to broadcasting school, I kind of fell into this industry by fluke. I went to school for makeup artistry for TV/Film and got a job at a radio station in Vancouver in promotions for "93.7 JRFM" while I was in school. That was my first radio job and introduction to the industry and once I graduated I fell in love with radio and just wanted to be on air so bad!

I worked my way up in promotions, started out on the street team, then moved up to the "JRFM FunFinder" (ran the street team) and moved back to Victoria a couple years after that and was hired at Ocean 98.5 & 103.1 Jack FM as the Community Cruiser. After a couple years of being community cruiser and working in the promotions department here, we changed Jack FM to KiSS and I was given the Weekend Show (my first On-Air gig) and I loved it!

I did that for 2 years and just last year I was honoured to be given the "2017 BCAB Broadcast Performer of Tomorrow" award which was surreal and still is!

As of the new year, I was given the opportunity to do the weekday evening show on Ocean 98.5 and I'm loving it!

Alyssa Reynolds Author

Alyssa Reynolds writes primarily speculative fiction, travel memoirs and poetry. She has published stories in the Vernon Morning Star, been shortlisted for various magazines and won an essay contest with Interior Savings. She wrote for a digital lifestyle magazine, Indigo Memoirs and worked as a copywriter for a London street fashion company, Urban Species.

Alyssa has a BA in English and Classics from the University of Victoria. She keeps her writing craft sharp by attending workshops at the Surrey International Writing Conference, The Spoke Literary Festival and more. Currently she is querying her first novel. Visit Alyssa at: arreynolds.com.

Chuck Simms Musician / Teacher

Have you considered a career in music? There are people that will tell you need to be practical, that you can't make a living pursuing your dreams. They'll point out that the few who are even moderately successful are one in a million, and most end up broke, alone, and has-beens... at best. Those sensible people will tell you DON'T chase your dreams. You know the routine: stay in school, get an education, and be realistic.

Those people are right. You should take their advice. But if you're too stubborn to heed their sagacious counsel and STILL insist on playing music, you may yet possibly squeeze a few bucks out of your passion if you do it right. And Mr. Simms will show you how.

Education: Began listening to The Beatles when he was 14 and didn't stop.

Training: None. Wait, does 'self-taught' count as training?

Experience: Has been a songwriter and performer for over 30 years. Has recorded, toured, and performed all over

Canada, in the US, and Britain. As a vocalist, guitarist, and bassist has played well over a thousand gigs, and currently averages five to ten paying performances a month.

Media & Fne Arts (continued)

Paul Wainwright Professional Musician

Paul Wainwright is a musician born in Victoria BC. Recording and performing has taken him across Canada the US and Europe. He has played countless concerts and festivals and his recordings have received worldwide airplay. Michael Bublé, Stevie Nicks and Kenny Loggins are among the artists he has performed with. An original cast member of the Radio City Music Hall production the Spectacular Days of Radio, Wainwright and his group the Big Band Trio performed for months at Atlantic City's Trump Plaza.

A founding member of both the Timebenders and The Midnights, he provided mentorship to the Vic High music program. He also served as president of the Victoria Musicians' Association Local 247 Canadian Federation of Musicians.

Paul performs regularly at venues in Victoria. Visit paulwainwright.com for more details

To be determined Theatre Careers

If you would like to explore all the different career paths available in the world of professional theatre, then you will want to sign up for this session. Topics will include set design, sound, music, costume design, and theatre management.

Sarah Scheunhage Aerialist and Acrobat; Owner and Director of The Rising- Victoria Centre for Circus Arts

Credentials:

Professional circus artist since 2001
Bachelor of Fine Arts, SFU, Dance Major, School for the Contemporary Arts
Dance Diploma, Grant MacEwan Fine Arts College
Artist in Residency Program, MainDance
Former Competitive Gymnast

The Rising was founded by Sarah Scheunhage (The Silk Starlet), a professional aerialist and acrobat, who grew up in Victoria as a competitive gymnast and in 2001 embarked on her professional performing career which has taken her all over the globe.

Sarah Scheunhage, founder of The Rising, started her professional circus career in 2001 as an aerialist and acrobat in Vancouver.

She has performed across Canada from coast to coast, and in Turkey, China, and the USA for various cruise ships, theme parks, TV/Movies/Commercials, resorts, circus companies, theatre shows, and special events.

After 2 decades of the performing life Sarah returned to her hometown of Victoria to begin her circus school and share her knowledge and passion for the circus arts through instruction and performance.

The Rising aims to be a welcoming place to all ages and abilities where people can discover their physical and creative potential through the circus arts.

Sample of Previous Employers: Sea World San Antonio
Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines
Confederation Centre for The Arts
The Underground Circus
Toronto School of Circus Arts
Cirque Sublime
Pendulum Aerial Arts

Sciences

David Andersen **Astronomer**

David Andersen is an astronomer working for the National Research Council Herzberg Astronomy & Astrophysics Institute (at the site of the observatory and old Centre of the Universe visitors centre). He works on designing and building astronomical instrumentation for Canadian national observatories located in Hawaii and Chile. Currently, Dave is serving as the project manager and project scientist for the facility adaptive optics instrument for the Thirty Meter Telescope. He attended the University of Wisconsin - Madison and majored in Physics, Math and Astronomy. Dave received his PhD in Astronomy & Astrophysics from Penn State University in 2001 and then spent 3 years as a research assistant at the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy in Heidelberg, Germany before moving to his current job in Victoria.

Nolan Beise **Biochemist**

Dr. Nolan Beise is a PhD biochemist who is the CEO of SUVA, an innovative neuroscience technology company. Nolan's path to his current position was long and meandering. At 15, Nolan embarked on a series of hard-working, physically-intensive jobs. He began as a lumberjack, and then, over the next 6 years, also worked stints as a milk shipper, engineering aide, salesman, diamond driller, faller, and a firefighter. Nolan did not take quickly to academic life. He failed his first attempt at North Island College, but then successfully started at Camosun College and never looked back. He spent his summer semesters working in Norway as a breakfast cook, a groundskeeper, and a room cleaner. After transferring to the University of Victoria, Nolan did a research work study in Dr. Edward Ishiguro's lab, and went on to design and optimize new laboratory procedures for undergraduate teaching labs. Upon graduating from UVic with a BSc in Biochemistry (with distinction), Nolan was accepted into the PhD program at the University of Toronto. During Nolan's PhD, he tutored students in math and science, was a resident academic mentor at Trinity College, and taught an advanced biochemistry lab course. Even with all that academic work, Nolan found the time to live a diverse life. He was a brand ambassador for the famous cognac company Remy Martin. He also played in the beach volleyball nationals, a feat his academic supervisor may still not know about. After finishing his PhD, Nolan moved back to Victoria to become a Business Development Specialist with Mitacs, and eventually earned a promotion to Director. In 2017, Nolan came together with his Victoria-area partners to found SUVA Technologies. This innovative new company is pushing forward the frontiers of how we can use EEG (electroencephalography) technology to better understand how our brains work. We work with a range of clients and partners, all the way from professional sports teams to NASA.

Sydney McCabe **Marine Biologist**

Sydney McCabe is the Senior Marine Biologist working with Eagle Wing Tours. She has been working there from 2012-present. Her job includes educating all age groups on marine wildlife of the Pacific Northwest! She goes to classrooms to present information on the wildlife and goes out on the boats as a naturalist. When out on the water with guests, Sydney is a crew member making sure all passengers on the vessel are safe and comfortable. She is certified in Marine First Aid Course and Marine Emergency Duties A2. Sydney also does office work for Eagle Wing Tours with customer service skills such as answering phones and emails, checking in and suiting guests for their trips also. Sydney graduated from the University of Victoria with a Bachelor's of Science, majoring in Marine Biology in June of 2015. Previous to the University of Victoria, Sydney attended Camosun College where she received her associates degree in science. Previous to Eagle Wing, Sydney worked at different jobs to support herself through her education. These jobs included the service and retail industry.

Sciences (continued)

Thor Tandy

Current Employer

Structural/Civil Engineer

President UNISOL ENGINEERING LTD. Victoria BC

Education

Bachelor of Engineering (Civil/Structural Auckland, NZ 1972)
Master of Science in Engineering (Civil, Kobe, Japan 1978)
Certificate of Proficiency Geomechanics (Auckland, NZ 1972)
Certificate of Proficiency Japanese (Osaka, Japan 1974)

Previous jobs:

Bridge Design Checking Engineer, Project Engineer, Structural Engineer
Vancouver and Victoria Canada, Tokyo Japan and Auckland New Zealand

Dr. Chris Collis

Veterinarian

Dr. Christopher Collis is a Graduate from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1989 and a B.Sc.(Agr) in 1984 from the University of Guelph, Ontario. Although Dr. Collis was raised in Southern Ontario, upon graduation, he traveled west with his wife to settle in the Southern tip of Vancouver Island. After working as an associate veterinarian in variety of practice environments, Dr. Collis opened Glenview Animal Hospital in August, 1995 and later opened Eagle Rise Animal Hospital in July 2009. Over his lengthy career as a veterinarian, he's assumed the role of practicing and designate veterinarian for the practices as well as providing mentorship to the younger associate veterinarians. Currently the practices have grown to employ 3 full time and 3 part-time veterinarians with the intent to expand to 5 FTE positions in the near future. With a support staff of approximately 25 passionate and talented people, Dr. Collis now shares many of the administrative tasks with the practice manager. He continues to develop and exchange veterinary managerial and business experiences with colleagues near and far through various electronic forums, personal contacts and being a contributor for veterinary related publications over the years. His focus is studying ways to make practices more efficient, through improved management, staff development and practice adaptations to maximize practice performance while maintaining highly ethical standards, professionalism, optimism and creating an enjoyable and rewarding workplace for all staff, clients and the animals we care for. His priority of practice has always been to constantly improve the most important aspect of what we do, caring for our patients and their people.

Professionally, he holds several memberships such as:

- College of Veterinarians of British Columbia 1989 – Present
- Canadian Veterinary Medical Association 1989 – Present
- Canadian Veterinary Reserve (for CFIA) 2007 – Present
- Veterinarian on-call for University of Victoria's Animal Care Units
- Academic proposal reviewer for research involving animals for University of Victoria
- PADI Scuba Association 1985 – Present
- Focus Wildlife – Oiled Wildlife Recovery– Consulting Veterinarian 2007- present
- Volunteer for Jaltemba Bay Animal Rescue, Mexi-Can Vet Project and various veterinary spay/neuter programs in developing countries

When not engaged in working for the practices, Dr. Collis enjoys a very full life of playing with his dog, scuba diving, traveling to far corners of the globe with his wife, beekeeping, woodworking and after a 37 year hiatus from music lessons, has taken up playing the violin (very poorly I may add) as well as being a junior luthier apprentice (making stringed instruments – specifically for Chris, it's violins).

Sciences (continued)

Mike Waters

Employer:

Environment Officer/Biologist

Department of National Defense

Previous jobs/careers/work experiences and employers:

- Species at Risk Biologist - Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Species at Risk Planner – Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Consulting Biologist – Castor Consultants Ltd.
- Disposal at Sea Technician – Environment Canada
- P1 Paramedic – BC Ambulance Service
- Forest Fire Fighter/Faller/Head First Aid Attendant – BC Ministry of Forests and FORED
- CASI Level 2 Snowboard Instructor/Level 1 Evaluator – Mount Seymour BC

Current Credentials:

Registered Professional Biologist (RPBio)

Skilled Trades

Keith Brooks **Carpenter**

My name is Keith Brooks I am 52 years young, currently employed by the Sooke School District 62 where I am a maintenance carpenter. I obtained my red seal in carpentry in 1994, growing up in Sooke I learned at a young age to work from my dad. I was a mill sawyer, machine operator, commercial fisherman, logger, stay at home dad, residential home builder and now work for the school district.

Ben Haber **Carpenter / Olympic Athlete**

My mind was made up in the 10th grade. I knew what I wanted to be when I grew up, a Chiropractor! The goals were simple. Graduate high school, graduate university with a science degree, and graduate Chiropractic school. My parents loved the idea. Everyone loved the idea! Good money, helping people and promoting a healthy lifestyle. The day came when I received that letter of acceptance to Chiropractic College but I just couldn't do it. From that moment on life took off like a rocket! Dreams of becoming a Chiropractor led me into so much more! I "lived the dream" and trained for the Olympic Games as a decathlete. I became a teacher, a business owner and now as I am becoming a Red Seal Carpenter, I support high school students taking post-secondary courses as the SIP transitions coordinator for Camosun College. Dream BIG and never be afraid of change!

Dave Haydar **Carpenter and General Superintendent**

My current position is General Superintendent for Farmer Construction. Having graduated from Rutland Senior Secondary in 1988 (Kelowna, BC) I started my carpentry apprenticeship in 1989. I began working for Farmer in 1990, as a 2nd year carpenter apprentice. Farmer was building a hotel in Kelowna and I was hired. I worked building the hotel for several months and once completed the site superintendent asked me to move to Farmer's home town which was Victoria. I took the opportunity and left home at age 20. In 1992 I completed my apprenticeship and received my red seal. I continued to work with Farmer and worked my way through as a carpenter, into a carpenter foreman and then became a site superintendent. Every level of management came with more responsibilities and challenges. I have had the ability to experience and build many different types of buildings from commercial, institutional and residential. In 2015 I became the general superintendent for Farmer and currently in charge of 18 site superintendents and over 200 field employees.

Mike Huck **Certified Coastal Faller / Vice Principal**

Education: 3 years' carpentry certification from Quebec.
 BA, B.Ed, M. Ed
 Certified Coastal Faller

Before (and during) becoming a teacher I worked roughly 10 years commercially in the forestry sectors of BC and Alberta. I moved to BC and quickly realized the forest offered a good wage and lifestyle. I have worked in many different positions in the forest - both in land based and helicopter situations. These include: commercial faller, hook tender, chaser, boom boat operator, and buckerman. I have also been employed as a hill boss and bull bucker on various contracts.

My time in the forests have taken me as far South as Costa Rica and north to many places in Alaska.

Skilled Trades (continued)

Todd Peterson

Mechanic /Fleet Maintenance Manager

Current Employer: BC Transit

Previous Employer: PW Transit Canada, Diversified Transportation both with the Pacific Western Group of Companies

Credentials: Licensed Journeyman Commercial Transport Mechanic, Intra Provincial Red Seal ticket, Blue Seal Certified by the Gov. of Alberta, Maintenance Management Professional (MMP) designation through Plant Engineering Maintenance Association of Canada (PEMAC)

Graduated from Belmont in 2002 with an extreme interest in general mechanics. After two years at Camosun College and completing the Pre Apprenticeship Training program I choose to head to Fort McMurray Alberta to start my apprenticeship and give my career an overall kick-start. After four years on the floor, completing my apprenticeship and becoming a Lead Hand I had the opportunity to become a Maintenance Manager. The fleet I was responsible for consisted of 110 buses, Engine rebuild, \$1,000,000 in inventory with twenty-four mechanics. I took on this challenge at the age of 23. Not long after I took over responsibility of a larger shop of 235 buses. Being a Westcoast boy at heart I was always transparent about coming back to the Westcoast. In 2011 I had the opportunity to oversee the Hydrogen Fuel Cell fleet in Whistler BC on behalf on BCTransit.

This fleet was cutting edge technology and was the only Hydrogen dependent fleet in the world. I then became the Director of Maintenance for PWTransit Canada overseeing all maintenance and asset reliability across the country. Throughout my career I have faced challenges out of the ordinary and overcome a lot of those challenges through leadership and teamwork of all people around me. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with your students to discuss these challenges, what to expect in the real world of maintenance, how to situate yourself for personal success and to learn from the many mistakes I have made throughout my career.

Chris Williams

Electrician, Estimator, Project Manager

Chris has been in the electrical field for 20 years, starting his electrical apprenticeship for Houle Electric in 1998, 1 year after graduation high school. Chris graduated high school in Victoria and spent 1 year doing marine construction before being offered an electrical apprenticeship by Norm Houle of Houle Electric. Chris completed his 4 year apprenticeship at Camosun College and received his Certificate of Qualification in 2001. During his career in the electrical field Chris has worked in all aspects of the trade from high voltage installations, building automation, security and access control to audio video, data and communication and fiber optic installations. In 2012 Chris accepted an offer to move from the field into the office and begin a new path in estimating and project management. In Chris's current position he is responsible for estimating and project managing electrical installations from a few hundred dollars to multi-million dollar projects

Sports and Leisure

Carly Bryson

Recreation Programmer

Carly works for West Shore Parks & Recreation as the Recreation Programmer for School Age and Youth. Her career in recreation began with many summers working at a summer camp developing her passion for working with children and youth. In order to further this career, Carly received a Bachelor of Recreation & Leisure Studies degree from Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario.

From her early days of running camp games, Carly was able to build the skills she needed to turn her love of camp into a full time position at YMCA Camp Elphinstone in Gibsons where she was the Outdoor Education and Summer Camp Supervisor. Her next adventure was as the Youth Development Supervisor for the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Victoria. Though her roles have changed and she has moved indoors, she still finds ways to develop new outdoor programs and stay connected to the world of summer camps. In her role with West Shore Parks & Recreation, she is able to design programs with the help of youth and the community to continue to grow youth programming, and even still finds herself dressed up in costumes playing her favourite camp games from time to time.

While her roles have always had a common thread of working with children or youth, Carly has found herself working in a variety of settings from summer camps and drop-in centres to back country trails. Working in a variety of program areas has meant acquiring different certifications and trainings to allow her to safely teach and facilitate in these areas. Some of the training and certifications include: Wilderness First Aid, Applied Suicide Intervention training, Intermediate Tandem Canoe, Cultural Awareness Training, National Lifeguard certification, Challenge Course Facilitator Level 2, and Occupational First Aid III.

Matthew Carlson

Community Recreation Coordinator, Personnel Support Programs - Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services

Previous Jobs/careers/work experiences

- a. Fitness Coordinator
- b. Fitness and Sports Instructor
- c. Personal Trainer
- d. Group Fitness Business Owner
- e. Childcare Site Manager
- f. Community Liaison Officer with YMCA Australia
- g. Program Facilitator – University of Ballarat, Australia
- h. Limousine Driver/Cab Driver
- i. Waiter/Bartender
- j. Childcare Site Manager
- k. Landscaper
- l. Summer Camp Supervisor/Youth Leader

3. Credentials

- a. Master of Education in Leadership Studies and Educational Psychology - University of Victoria
- b. BA in Recreation and Health Education – University of Victoria
- c. Canadian Society of Exercise Physiology – Certified Personal Trainer
- d. Personal Trainer – British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association
- e. Soccer Coach
- f. Top 50 finisher of the Times Colonist 10K
- g. Father
- h. Island Fitness Conference Presenter and Committee Member
- i. Wounded Warriors Run BC Runners Coordinator

Sports and Leisure (continued)

Brett Finlayson

Golf Course Superintendent

My name is Brett Finlayson, I am currently the Golf Course Superintendent at Olympic View Golf Club as well as the Director of Grounds for GolfBC, our parent company. I have been serving at the Superintendent at Olympic View for the past 4 years and just recently been promoted to a joint title of Superintendent and Director of Grounds for GolfBC. Prior to Olympic View, I served as the Superintendent at another GolfBC property, Arbutus Ridge Golf Club in Cobble Hill for 3 years. I have been in the golf industry for a total of 17 years, gaining experience at Quilchena G&CC, Point Grey G&CC and Capilano G&CC as well as volunteering at multiple professional events throughout North America prior to moving to the island. I took 2 years of a Bachelor's Degree in Petroleum Engineering at University of Calgary prior to attending the Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Horticultural program specializing in Turf Management. The two-year diploma program gave me the ground-work to start my career in golf management. Since then, I have attending many conferences, seminars and recently attended the Ivey Business School at Western University for 2-week Business Foundations program.

Nicole McLellan

Yoga Instructor/Founder, Om Work Project

Nicole McLellan is a #1 bestselling author on Amazon, a speaker, yoga instructor, secondary teacher and the founder of the non-profit scholarship fund The Om Work Project.

Nicole grew up in a small town in Nova Scotia and always enjoyed school, socializing has always been an inherit part of her nature. Nicole speaks to teenagers now, about the windy path that led her to her current state of bliss. Nicole viewed various avenues throughout high school of opportunities she could pursue: acting, being an orthodontist, a meteorologist but being a teacher never really crossed her mind. She attended University because "it's what all the cool kids were doing" and graduated with a bachelor of arts. Her desire to see more, learn more and explore were left unfulfilled after the completion of her degree. So she began exploring. She was led to the Rocky Mountains on a snowboard, and back packing through Hawaii, she went to Guatemala to volunteer her time and spent a couple of months in a van going from the West Coast of Canada to the East Coast. It was during this time that she began to know who she truly was and what she wanted- that she pondered the idea of teaching- she knew she loved helping people and youth seemed to be especially on her radar. After completing her two-year Bachelor of Education Nicole moved to Northern Canada to teach in a high school for three years. This was a pivotal learning experience for her- as she knew her heart and soul were meant to help youth but she felt confined by the rules and politics of the public school system. She wanted to help youth explore their creativity and their passion, she knew there had to be a way to combine her love of yoga and youth and she set off on an adventure to Australia to listen to her heart. While in Australia a publishing company picked her up where she wrote her first book "I did something different, and it worked" which is all about her experience teaching teenagers. Nicole decided with the funds from the book she would create a nonprofit scholarship fund that would allow teen girls the opportunity to explore travel and yoga teacher training as an alternate route to the traditional route of college and university. This fund is in its first year and is aiming to choose its applicant this June for the adventure of her lifetime. Nicole believes that travel and immersing yourself in culture is truly the best education you can get. She also whole heartedly believes that there is more to education than tests, exams and sitting still for hours upon hours a day. She has created her own curriculum titled the Zen Curriculum which focuses on vision and goal setting, the 5 love languages, your personality types, yoga and breathing techniques and so much more. Nicole has created a video series titled Teen Talks where she continues to be a voice for youth and advocate for their needs are.

Nicole has settled down in Victoria B.C where she is the yoga instructor for the UVIC women's basketball team, and also teaching for various schools and corporate events. She can be found working for Lululemon Victoria when she's not yoga-ing all over the city and spending her time creating big goals and dreams for young girls.

Sports and Leisure (continued)

Kelly Twordik

Olympian

At the age of 8 I became very talented as an upcoming competitive swimmer on the island and went on to provincial championships and becoming a leading swimmer for my age in the country. The media and newspaper articles were bi-weekly as my career improved and I was travelling the country on my own at 12 years of age. I was chosen for provincial duo teams and National duo teams vs the USA. I travelled to California and performed well enough the team wanted me to stay and train in the USA. My father built a 25-meter pool in our backyard the size of the Juan de Fuca pool in hopes for my Olympic career. I went to Olympic Trials but had already burned out as an athlete and did not make the 1984 Olympic Team. Some of my colleagues made the 1984 games, like our athletic director Wayne Kelly, who won a bronze medal. My swimming career was 10 years and I trained approximately 4 hours/day and did farm chores. As a national athlete we trained very hard in the water and out of the water including weight training and surgical tubing, stretching, relaxation and running exercises. My first coach was Howard Firby whom was an artist, had polio, and in the Swimming Hall of Fame in Canada, Russia and the USA. He coached out of Juan de Fuca; never swam a stroke in his life and produce 12 world record holders. He was an amazing coach and teacher. I am grateful for my swimming career and all my opportunities and travels.

Technology Sector

Paul Cormie

High-Tech Consultant

My Job: Owner of a high-tech consulting company (CORB consulting Inc.)

Brief Bio: Grew up in the Westshore (Graduated from Belmont), went on to Camosun College then the University of Victoria. Travelled Europe, started my career, met my wife, bought a house, travelled Asia, USA and Europe with her, had a daughter and am teaming to raise her right now. It's been a fun ride so far!

Hobbies: Automotive restoration and exercise.

Eric Jordan

Video Game Designer

Eric Jordan is the CEO of Codename Entertainment, Chair of the Video Game Industry Round Table with VIATEC and a DigiBC board member. As the CEO of Codename Entertainment, Eric has been the producer for a variety of games including Idle Champions of the Forgotten Realms, Crusaders of the Lost Idols and Shards of Titan. Idle Champions of the Forgotten Realms is an official free-to-play Dungeons & Dragons-based clicker game. Both Idle Champions and Crusaders have been large successes for Codename. Both games are one of the Top 1% most played games on Steam.

Previously, he was the CEO and co-founder of PureEdge Solutions. PureEdge had 5 million users when it was acquired by IBM. Eric was an Executive-In-Residence at UVic and the President of the Premier's Technology Council. Eric has served on boards including Archipelago Marine Research (Chair), VIATeC (Chair), and the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness (co-chair with Mayor Fortin).

Dr. Eric (Arek) Saczuk

Aerial (Drone) Photographer & GIS Consultant

Born in Poland, Arek presently resides in Vancouver, BC, Canada. He is a full-time instructor at BCIT, specializing in aerial photography and part-time photographer and GIS consultant. Outside the classroom, Arek's images brighten the rooms of dozens of hotels, resorts and commercial spaces all over the world as the lead photographer for Hambleton Custom Art Services. Through his company, Space Hog Graphics, Arek has found a means of using his artistic talents to help underprivileged children in Nepal gain access to healthcare and education through SMD School in Kathmandu. With a deep passion for adventure travel to off-the-beaten path destinations, his photographs feature prominently in the short documentaries "Beyond the Gates of Phu" and "Colours of Edziza". He is now gearing up to fly drones in Antarctica!

