

The Mallard mini

Inmate Newsletter, Mission Institution Medium, c/o Programs Department, P.O. Box 60, 8751 Stave Lake Street, Mission, BC, V2V 4L8 wardke@csc-ccc.gc.ca
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Editor

IF YOU'RE WONDERING

about the change in format, it isn't due to a run on copy paper or anything, unlike what's going on with the toilet variety out there. Not yet, at least. Yep, the world is going through some big changes alright, and our little pocket of it is no exception. So for the time-being, instead of the usual monthly booklet, I'm going to try and put things out with a leaner focus when and where I can. That said, without access to the usual resources and filler, consider your personal touches of creative expression, opinion, reflection and humour extra-appreciated. They always mean the most to me, anyway. Staff input continues to be welcome, too. When you stop and think about it, we're in this together, in many ways more than ever. Keep well.

~Jason

Groups

IWC-ish

HELLO, BONJOUR, OR WHICHEVER VERSION of "hi" you prefer. Back at the end of February, the Warden met with the unit reps to discuss the lack of an IWC here at Mission Medium. A week later, he tasked the 14 elected reps to come up with a 2-man Inmate Committee for some stability through this period of shut-downs and a serious lack of consistent employment.

Through open discussion, I was chosen along with Walter McCormick to step in and represent the population for a 4-month term, with the intention of encouraging others to run in a normal election to follow. Had I known that a seemingly obscure sickness in another part of the world would become a global pandemic, I may have passed; but we're all in the same boat now so second-guessing or whining about getting wet won't do any good.

In March, we wanted to put in orders for immediate unit needs and some ITF's were submitted, but the Covid-19 situation has

limited purchase items to only the bare minimum and most essential. Hopefully Unit 4 can get their fridge soon, but even Band-Aid fixes are difficult right now. The office has ordered more highlighters, some bulk paper and 30 LED standard light bulbs. I have some other ideas to go with in the near future if we still have a process to work with.

When it comes to visiting, the physical contact restriction remains in effect for now. Hopefully that will shift back before too long when things are safe and National gives the green light to resume access for volunteers and visitors at the institutions. The warden says we absolutely will have a social, but not until the pandemic has run its course. In the meantime, the expansion of Video Visitation has been appreciated.

In this time of crisis, there are other efforts at pro-social cooperation as well. The SPO department wants to work with IWC to set up a contest for creative expression such as artwork, short stories and poetry. And even in this post-tournament era, fitness and exercise challenges are being considered; we just have to work out the physical distancing thing. Management says they want to see this kind of stuff happen, so float your ideas to your unit reps, IWC and the SPO's.

As we all navigate this new reality, I ask that everyone please keep in mind that there is more going on in people's lives than might be obvious right now. This virus is crazy. I've had one death in my immediate circle already; a cousin is in hospital; and a friend in the community is on self-isolation. It's a shitty situation for everyone and it can affect our day-to-day tolerance for one another. Please remember that and try to allow for a little bit of extra space. More than social distancing, it's about perspective and respect for what others are going through. We're going to make it and life will go on, hopefully before we actually start to miss all the usual prison crap.

While we continue to work (or not, depending on your employment situation) our way through the next 4-months, Walter and I will make ourselves available in the office. Don't forget that your unit reps are there to help, too. Thanks for the support, guys. Let's keep it together through the rough spots by looking after ourselves and each other.

~Dean



Creative

Kissed By Omniscience in Exile

As I walk the shores of life's oceans,
her ghosts reveal to me,
in words of song, from men who long gone,
helm ships at the bottom of the sea.

The song's the same – speaking to my shame,
as it rings in the heavens above.
its unity there is quick to declare,
As a man I walk without love.

In answer to a call from the heavens,
the oceans respond with a tide.
In the harmony here, unveilingly made clear,
is the truth from which I run and hide.

That I'm hurt, I am lost and I'm lonely.
Flicked open to me like a fan,
is I don't know love as revealed from above,
because I'm a bitter man.

Some would confide they'd really tried,
to love me in a deeper way,
but I'd treat them like dirt, leaving them hurt,
not knowing the cards I must play.

But like an old man who will tire,
at the tasks for the strength of the youth,
I've grown tired of cards, life's vacant shipyards.
It's time to bend knee to the truth.

In order to love with that love from above,
"change" must be the top of my list,
or I'm doomed all alone, with hell as my home,
walking shores alone in the mist

~Jordan Gallant



~Lufty

Missionmash



~Tangent

COVID-19

OFFENDER INFORMATION

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by the **coronavirus**. The public health risk associated with COVID-19 is considered **low for Canada**.

LIMIT THE RISK



Wash your hands often with with soap and water for at least 20 seconds



Cough or sneeze into your arm



Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands



Avoid close contact with people who are sick

Talk to Health Services immediately if you have flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, difficulty breathing).



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