

Salish Current

Independent, fact-based news for Whatcom, San Juan and Skagit counties

News from the *Salish Current* for the week ending Aug. 28, 2020:

[Local law enforcement complaint procedures under scrutiny amid new calls for accountability](#)



Accountability in handling complaints has become a front-burner concern for Bellingham's police department and other local law enforcement agencies — and members of the community.

By Stella Harvey — Three months after George Floyd, a Black man, was killed by a white police officer in Minneapolis, local Black Lives Matter protests are calling for reduction of police budgets and re-examination of how police are held accountable to the communities they are sworn to serve.

Both the Bellingham Police Department (BPD) and the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) have complaint procedures in place for the public to give feedback to officers and departments. These procedures and their administration have faced scrutiny before. But with a new call for accountability, community members are raising new questions about their fairness and effectiveness. [Read more here...](#)

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Proposed Roberts Bank terminal will add cargo capacity — but at what cost to the Salish Sea



The proposed Roberts Bank Terminal 2 as proposed by the Port of Vancouver would enlarge the port's shipping capacity but may also put the Salish Sea's endangered orcas, salmon and other wildlife at peril. (Port of Vancouver artist's rendition)

By Kimberly Cauvel — In the shadow of the contested Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion is another major Canadian infrastructure project that could bring major changes to shipping traffic in waters shared by British Columbia and Washington.

This lesser-known project, a proposal to build Roberts Bank Terminal 2, would enable Canada to move another 2.4 million shipping containers per year through its southernmost terminal about 1 mile from the Washington state border. [Read more here...](#)

*Salish Current affirms its commitment to work for truth, justice, equality and healing for all people.
#SayTheirNames #BlackLivesMatter #NoJusticeNoPeace*

News from around the region:

Health & Safety

- The Washington State Department of Ecology is giving summer notice of the hazard of asbestos exposure during dry weather along Swift Creek, which is east of Everson and Nooksack. Swift Creek and downstream Sumas River carry naturally occurring asbestos from the Sumas Mountain landslide. In dry weather, sediments containing asbestos pose a hazard. ([Lynden Tribune/paywall](#))

Elections

- The Bellingham City Club presents online a prerecorded 42nd District Representative Candidate Forum featuring candidates Alicia Rule and Luanne Van Werven (Position 1). [Click here to view.](#)

Government

- San Juan County Auditor F. Milene Henley gives a report about the county is doing in collection of revenue during the pandemic. [\(Orcas Issues\)](#)

Nature

- The Port of Anacortes, the state Department of Ecology and their partners are beginning the next phase of the cleanup of Quiet Cove, a former bulk fuel terminal and storage facility on 0.75 acres in Anacortes.
- Brent Lyles has been named the new executive director of the Friends of the San Juans. [Read more here.](#)

Business

- Riverplace Development, a mixed-use development of a 5,800-square-foot commercial building and 3 multi-family residential buildings with up to 240 units total on approximately 5 acres, is scheduled to be reviewed by the City of Ferndale Hearing Examiner on Sept. 1. [\(My Ferndale News\)](#)

Community

- The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office launched an interactive [crime dashboard](#) that organizes criminal activity in eight unincorporated areas of Whatcom County, including Birch Bay. [\(The Northern Light\)](#)

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