

**"OUR" COVID 19 PANDEMIC
EXPERIENCE - 2020**

I asked our members to send comments about how the Covid-19 pandemic of 2020 affected their lives. S.A.

Lee Koop, April 30,

1) It is indeed sad when gas is 61.9¢/litre and one can't go anywhere because one is practising self-isolation.

2) During self-isolation, Thursday is my going uptown day. I leave home with a face mask, a pair of light weight garden gloves and a bottle of hand sanitizer. I make two trips to town.

First, I am at the grocery store when it opens for seniors at 8 a.m. By 8:30 I am usually at home unpacking the groceries. I bring the groceries from the back door individually, leaving carrying bags and bins, and place them on the kitchen counter for sanitizing. I then sanitize the bags and bins preparing them for next week My second trip is later in the morning or early in the afternoon for a stop at the post office, pick up a couple of 20 litre jugs of drinking water and any other stops that may be required.

I find Thursday very stressful. I come home and usually have a 1 to 1 1/2 hour nap. I then worry for four days about becoming sick. After four days, I then worry for three days about my next shopping day on Thursday.

3) Banking is another inconvenience. Since I refuse to do online banking, I ran into a problem with Covid19, when my bank closed its doors to every day banking. I could no longer pay my three utility bills and/or obtain cash. Only by appointment could one enter, and then only if the

business was to do with safety deposit boxes or mortgages. It was recommended that I make a special appointment to have a debit card established in order to get cash. Until this time I always told the counter staff, and once even the manager, that I didn't mind standing in line to do business, as I was protecting jobs. When asked if I wanted to pay my utility bills using my debit card, I said no way, because I would still have to come to the bank and you don't want me here. I have subsequently pre-authorized all my utility bills to be paid automatically from my chequing account. No more need to go see another teller now that I can get cash with my new debit card.

4) I have spent much time reviewing my source folders for my genealogy research. I have combined several family trees into my main Legacy program. I have completed research for a brother-in-law that we had started researching using "ScotlandsPeople" over ten years ago but hadn't entered into Legacy.

A member who requested that her name be withheld. May 2,

I am well and have been self-isolating for 8 weeks now!

I live alone on a farm about 20 miles from Wetaskiwin. I am no longer able to drive and my immune system does not work so I can't afford to get sick.

I have some wonderful friends who seem to have popped through the woodwork. They call to see if I need anything while they are shopping, at work, or on their way home from doing some chores somewhere else.

My family in Edmonton has also been wonderful. I am able to chat with my grandchildren on FaceTime. Some of my family is in B.C. and I get a phone call nearly every day – how are you doing?

What have you been doing? Do you need anything? When my son asked me that, I said yes, why don't you come and visit???? Joke!

When my husband passed away recently I had considered leaving the farm and moving to Ponoka where I could walk anywhere – swimming pool, arena, grocery stores, movie theater, library, etc. Well, isn't it a good thing I didn't follow up on that idea? Here I am in my own space; can walk anywhere here; and I love my house! My husband was very good at keeping the "larder" well-stocked "just in case". Wow! JUST IN CASE!

So there you are; not sure how long this will last but I am prepared and happy!

Sharon Aney May 3,
We returned from the USA on March 16, went into a mandatory 14 day self-quarantine which has continued as, more of a "bubble" including family members.

Since March 27 our household has included our 12 year old grandson for 3 days per week. We oversee his home schooling, as his mother (a widow) is an essential worker (high school principal). We also benefit in that it gives a purpose to our day for part of the week, and reinforces our family bonds. Win-win!!

We appreciate our Catholic pastor, Father Roger Rouleau for streaming regular Sunday Masses and all Easter Services for us to attend at home.

May 14 .. Cancelled! We had planned to be flying to France on this day with our daughter & son-in-law.

June 4 – the cancelled trip was replaced by a virtual tour of La Rochelle, home of Russ' French ancestors, ("your ancestor walked through that door") which our daughter arranged as a replacement of the actual visit to the city and area. As we sat at the dining room table, a great tour guide told us

about the historical bonds between that city and North America dating back to the 1400s.

Wendy Thompson June 10 ...

I reduced my working time from a 5 day week to a 4 day week for May & June to help with \$\$ shortfall. Most days there are only 5-7 staff in the school so it is strange when the usual day is full of interaction and interruption. I miss our students and staff!

Rosella Plaquin June 10

How this historic pandemic affected my life!!

First of all I was very upset because my husband was scheduled for surgery and it got cancelled. After reflecting on that I decided maybe it was a good thing because he would have been high risk. Fortunately he was one of the first to be called when surgeries resumed. The worst part was I wasn't allowed in the hospital. It was hard just dropping him off at the door and waiting for a call 3 days later to pick him up at the door.

One good thing about the stay home stay safe part was that our children took good care of us – getting groceries, mowing the lawn, etc.

Another good thing was that I was able to catch up on my scrapbooking. I completed 6 albums.

A disappointing part is that my one and only Grandson is to graduate this year, so no pomp and ceremony. Having a virtual grad just isn't the same.

And of course not being able to cut or color my hair didn't make me feel good either!!

Alice Hoyle June 10,

I've tried to view the isolation because of Covid 19 as a 'positive'. I've used the time

to catch up on things I always wanted to create and/or finish creating. I've also done research on 'shirt tail' relatives and found some interesting information on them.

Finding a 'knit-along' online from a yarn store in Edmonton got me working on 2 shawl knitting projects. I finished knitting a wool pullover sweater for my husband that I started last year but set aside when outside chores took precedence.

I was excited to find out that the Heritage Museum had an online shopping presence: I ordered some knitting yarn from them and was able to go to the door of the museum and pick up my parcel. They have beautiful knitting yarn, if there are any knitters out there who don't know about this source.

I've been working on embroidery projects as well and I've been sewing masks for family members and mailing them off to those who aren't living nearby.

Personally, I haven't felt anxious, depressed, or like I'm in solitary confinement: being on a farm, I've been outside every day. I'm not a 'shopper' so my regular routine would not have been driving to town just for the 'fun' of it.

I've limited my trips for essentials; kept in touch with kids and grandkids via video conferencing and phone calls, and kept track of our daughter who lives and works in Germany through 'WhatsApp' on our cell phones and text messages.

We have missed personal contact with our grandkids but we did have an "end of the driveway" visit in May. Looking forward to some form of normality in the future!

Lorraine McKay June 11

Dealing with the Covid-19

Negative feelings-

- the most frustrating was the isolation, not

being able to visit with family and friends and the hugs

- missing having the Easter egg hunts with grandchildren and great-grandchild

- Mother's Day spent talking with family re phone calls

- only outing was to buy groceries

- getting limited information on the cause and effects of the virus

On the positive -

- saved on car gas

- used a lot of food from the freezer and canning

-the house got a thorough cleaning

-did more computer work, read books, played board games etc

Daily walks on the quiet country road, enjoying the wonders of nature, was a good way to relieve the frustrations of the isolation.

Carole Koop June 30

Family History Research During Covid-19
Genealogy is a nice diversion from the stresses of Covid-19. Four mini projects kept me occupied:

1) I tried researching the owners of the farm where I grew up in southern Manitoba prior to it becoming Dad's. I also looked for the owners of the farm immediately to the north where my grandparents lived when they first came to the area in 1918. I think I need to go to the Provincial Archives of Manitoba to finish the search.

2) I was emailed a request from my cousin on behalf of her granddaughter (KH) for "Who, When, Why, Where, How" about our immigrant ancestors. This was easy because my own grandson participated in the Immigrant Ancestor Canada 150 Project that AGS instigated and all the information on my Norwegian grandfather was close at hand. I had also submitted my Swedish

grandmother's story to "*Women Pioneers of Saskatchewan Volume 2*" published in 2014 by the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society so that information was close at hand too. I just learned that KH received 100% on this Grade XI assignment.

3) I see on Ancestry that my Norwegian great grandparents are on a Public Member Tree. Sadly, there are mistakes. I have contacted the owner and maybe she'll correct the B,M,D errors. It's a case of American vs. Canadian dates...is 7-6-1851 the 7th of June or is it July 6th? Also, my grandfather's name is at the end of the list of 8 children but he was the second child. Patronymics was fading out and those 8 children ended up with a variety of chosen surnames. However, the good news is that this new found relative wants to come up from the Seattle area for our next family reunion which because of the pandemic has been postponed until July 2021.

4) My efforts to find information on my dad's Swedish uncle's mysterious death have been unsuccessful. Erik Naslund was a bachelor who worked as a guide in the Sioux Narrows area of Ontario. He had a cabin in the woods but boarded in Kenora, ON for the winters as his cabin was not winterized. His landlady painted a lovely fall scene of Erik's cabin and after his death about 1961 she gave it to family. I remember some uncles being summoned to Kenora when Erik's body was found in the woods but no details were told to us kids. I'd like to know more. Maybe a subscription to Newspapers.com would help.