

Linda Gourlay
General Manager



Chris Lamothe
Sales Manager

Locals Helping Locals

Article by:
Linda Gourlay
Van Isle Windows Ltd.
General Manager

I remember the day vividly. It was March 17, 2020 and life as we knew it changed significantly.

There was little information surrounding the Global Pandemic, so on this day, Van Isle Windows temporarily ceased operations. I knew in my heart, it was the right decision, but a very difficult one too. I didn't have that crystal ball and did not know what the future held, but it was necessary in order to protect our customers, our employees, their families and our communities.

The uncertainty and fear were a concern, but after meeting with the management team, we were confident that if we created a safe work environment for both our staff and customers, we could return to work. After 4 weeks of lock down, on April 20, 2020, we were able to re-open up our manufacturing facility, safely and effectively.

It took another month to establish safe working processes for our installation teams, but it was critical that our customers were safe and comfortable with our Covid-19 protocols, and accepting of us in their homes. By the end of May 2020, our installers were back in full force as well.

Unlike other businesses adversely affected by Covid-19, we have been extremely fortunate. We are aware of various businesses who have either had to reduce their operations, or worst yet, even close shop permanently, due to the pandemic. A dire and sad situation for these business owners, their employees and families.

By the start of June 2020, we were extremely busy, as the building and home renovation business sector was booming. Since people could not travel, home improvements and construction were top of mind. Our customers trusted our safe approach to Covid-19, and wanted to support the local economy.



TV SCREENING INSIDE

How could we help?

After our return to work, and hitting the ground running, we quickly realized that so many other people in our communities across Vancouver Island were far less fortunate than us. So many people lost their jobs and incomes, yet rent and mortgage payments, bills and buying groceries were still a reality.

We knew we needed to give back to our communities, and it became clear to me while listening to a CBC Victoria radio broadcast on my drive into work one morning. The radio announcer was talking about how much the food banks are needed, and even more so, due to so many people losing their jobs as a result of the pandemic. The food banks could not keep up with the demand. That is when it struck me, and I realized this is where we could help, so we launched a sales promotion and agreed to donate a portion of window and patio door sales revenues to local food banks.

When we did our final tally and calculations of all the proceeds in July 2020, Van Isle Windows Ltd. had raised **\$45,225**, which was then distributed in various quantities, to food banks across Vancouver Island. Our sales consultants assisted the company in this selection and for this time period we supported:

- Saint Vincent de Paul
- Living Edge Community
- Loaves and Fishes Community Food Bank
- CMS Food Bank Society
- The Mustard Seed Street Church
- Comox Valley Food Bank
- Sooke Food Bank



There's always more that can be done!

Recognizing the ongoing and continued need, we have decided that supporting local Food Banks and similar food related initiatives on our Island and Gulf Island communities is our calling. Since August to October of 2021, we had a similar promotion, and raised another **\$27,225** which were distributed to the following not-for-profits:

- Saint Vincent de Paul
- Living Edge Community
- Loaves and Fishes Community Food Bank
- The Mustard Seed Street Church
- Comox Valley Food Bank
- Sooke Food Bank
- Campbell River District Food Bank
- Nourish Cowichan
- Salt Spring Island Harvest Food Bank

\$72,450 RAISED

Since the launch of our first Food Bank promotions to Oct. 2021 and thanks to our customers support, Van Isle Windows Ltd. has proudly raised and donated **\$72,450** to local not-for-profits in our various regions.



We're proud to team up with these great foundations



Campbell River & District Food Bank



Living Edge Markets

511 Constance Ave., Esquimalt
www.livingedge.ngo

April - May 2020 Donation:\$1,913
June - July 2020 Donation:\$5,112
June - July 2021 Donation:\$3,500

Nourish Cowichan Society - Duncan

www.nourishcowichan.ca

June - July 2021 Donation:\$2,525

Sooke Food Bank

2037 Shields Rd., Sooke
www.foodbanksooke.org

April - July 2020 Donation:\$3,075
June - July 2021 Donation:\$3,000

Campbell River & District Food Bank

1393 Marwalk Cres., Campbell River
www.campbellriverfoodbank.com

June - July 2021 Donation:\$2,500

Salt Spring Island Harvest Food Bank

268 Fulford-Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island
www.saltspringcommunityservices.ca

June - July 2021 Donation:\$2,000

CMS Food Bank Society

2740 Lashburn Rd., Mill Bay
www.cmsfoodbank.ca

April - July 2020 Donation:\$7,024

Society of St. Vincent De Paul

4353 W Saanich Rd., Victoria
www.ssvpvancouverisland.ca

April - May 2020 Donation:\$1,912
June - July 2020 Donation:\$5,112
June - July 2021 Donation:\$3,500

Loaves and Fishes Food Bank

210 Fry St., Nanaimo
www.nanaimoloavesandfishes.org

June - July 2020 Donation:\$5,112
April - May 2021 Donation:\$1,912
June - July 2021 Donation:\$3,100

The Mustard Seed Church and Food Bank

625 Queens Ave., Victoria
www.mustardseed.ca

April - May 2020 Donation:\$1,913
June - July 2020 Donation:\$5,112
June - July 2021 Donation:\$4,000

Comox Valley Food Bank

1491 McPhee Ave., Courtenay, BC
www.comoxvalleyfoodbank.ca

April - July 2020 Donation:\$7,024
June - July 2021 Donation:\$3,100

1 Up Foundation

602 Gorge Rd., East, Victoria
www.singleparentvictoria.ca

Dec 2020 Donation:\$1,030



Van Isle Windows Ltd. is OPEN with added safety equipment and working protocols

We realize we are not untouchable and that as long as Covid-19 is part of our lives, we need to maintain our Covid-19 safe working protocols. As we move out of winter into spring, we are ensuring we have all the PPE in place to get us over the Omicron wave, and look forward to brighter days ahead for everyone. We are in this together, and encourage everyone to support and shop local.

Our showrooms are open, but we will continue to limit the number of people in them at one time, and request all customers and visitors to wear a mask (and will provide one as needed). Our factory workers will continue to wear all their mandated PPE, social distance etc. and our installation crews will work with homeowners, adhering to our safety protocols when in their homes.

*“Manufacturing and installing windows on
Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands since 1978”*



Contact us to arrange your free
and convenient in-house consultation.

VICTORIA FACTORY AND SHOWROOM

404 Hillside Ave.
Mon - Fri: 8:00 - 5:00
250.383.7128

NANAIMO SHOWROOM

690A Comox Rd.
Mon - Fri: 8:30 - 4:30
250.754.0824

COURTENAY SHOWROOM

#8 - 241 Puntledge Rd.
Mon - Fri: 8:30 - 4:30
250.897.3347

1.800.361.2221 vanislewindows.com

