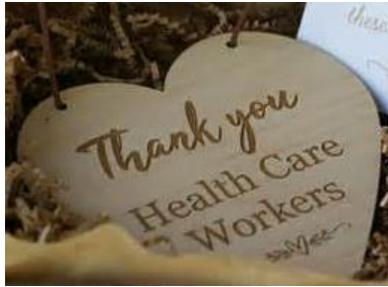




## Alberta Adventure Divers April 26, 2020

Deep thoughts on diving  
These are unprecedented times.  
The entire world, which we love to explore,  
is affected.



We are so very lucky – we are healthy! David and Connie's families are healthy, including all four of our parents who are in their eighties and living in senior homes/facilities. We hope you and your families are healthy as well. Our prayers are especially with the health care workers on the front lines. I know their strength and patience is being tested. And of course, our thoughts and prayers are with those affected, directly or indirectly, by this disease that's so rapidly changing our lives.

As you can imagine, COVID-19 is impacting the dive community greatly. As a non-essential service, we have temporarily closed the dive store. The current Alberta public health order states:

- Businesses that offer only non-essential goods or services are prohibited from allowing public access into their businesses. These businesses may choose to offer curbside pick-up.
- All individuals within a business, including owners, workers, volunteers and patrons, found to be in violation of public health orders are subject to a \$1,000 penalty.

We understand this is for the greater good. For those that have been asking, Dan is doing well – his ear surgery went well, and he is ready to return, when the store can re-open. The projects and repairs he was working on are looking forward to his return. We miss seeing everyone! We miss the Discover pool sessions with the high school kids; we miss the weekend pool sessions with dive students and certified divers. We miss being able to plan out the summer dive activities with confidence. We miss our amazing pro staff!



We miss our annual dive trip in May to Key West to search for shipwreck treasure. We miss the Key Lime pie from Blue Heaven at Key West. We now have thousands of miles of travel credits waiting to be used, as we had to cancel this trip.



This is Clear Lake this morning:  
I estimate it will be May before the ice is off.  
Then, there is typically a month of very poor  
visibility while the lake 'turns around'.  
So, we have a little time on our side before  
getting excited about local diving



Please be assured that I am monitoring many aspects which will affect the dive industry going forward. There are no solid answers as yet, however all affected partners are working on methods to mitigate health risks safely. Here are some updates:

- Diving is a social activity. How can we maintain physical/social distancing at dive events? We must adhere to the provincially allowed number of people and still distance by 2 metres. Underwater, I am not worried about close contact – we bring our own air and are very self-contained! Consider the dive set-up and surface activities.
- Rental/shared equipment. We are researching additional protocols for disinfecting regulators, with Divers Alert Network, etc.
- Instruction/teaching activities. I am in communication with PADI in terms of re-evaluating how to handle teaching activities such as buddy checks, shared-air drills, etc. Considerable thought and effort is being put into training implications in consideration of covid-19.

- Pool availability for confined water training. Municipal pools are unlikely to open this summer, due to the maximum number of people making it uneconomical. I am unaware of any suitable private pools in the area that we could make an arrangement with. The ones I am aware of have plastic liners, not suitable for scuba activities. Research in this is ongoing.



- ‘Confined open water’. PADI and other training agencies do allow using open water sites for confined training, as long as criteria for ‘acceptable visibility for the planned dive, a calm surface, an absence of strong current, and easy entry and exit points’. We have opened discussions with PADI on this at Clear Lake, when conditions are suitable. PADI is speaking with insurance providers, as they are exploring this for Canadian dive facilities.
- E-learning. PADI is now offering a 25% discount on all e-learning courses. I am proud of the students who have asked about this, and are committed to learning dive theory now. If you have inquired, I will follow up next week and forward the discounted codes. There is no expiry for training after you complete the dive theory, as long as you stay with the dive center you affiliated with.
- Dive buddy. I am comfortable with and used to diving with anyone looking for a dive buddy. I presume they are of good health to be diving. Now, as people may be unaware that they are a silent carrier of Covid as they are not showing any signs, we have to be more aware of shaking hands/hugging. Some people may only be comfortable diving with a known dive buddy/family member, and that is OK. Don’t be shy to speak up if you only want to dive with a selected dive buddy.



- Dive travel. Our passion. We know we will travel again! I do have the spots held on the Guadalupe shark cage diving trip: Sep 9-15, 2020, six days on the Nautilus Belle Amie. With luck, we will be able to fly to San Diego for this. The worst that will happen is that the trip is postponed to 2021. The Nautilus is a reputable organization and will work with us on this. I’ve been taking expressions of interest for now. Let me know if you are interested.

- I have so many travel plans for later in the year, and onward. A consideration is the locations our trips operate in, the vendors and locals, depend on tourism. None are big corporations with deep pockets.
- Equipment sales and service. I am now able to provide quotes – I’ll get back to a few patient customers next week! If you have equipment to service, we will be happy to do this as soon as we can have a quite re-opening of the dive store. There will be great celebrations when we can have a full re-opening!
- Health after having Covid-19: if you are a diver who has had Covid, please research lung health concerns. You may be fine, but it would be prudent to have a full medical prior to returning to diving.
- Will there be local diving this summer? This is the question we are struggling with. Right now the answer is a firm no, as per public health orders. These orders will be updated and changed over the next few weeks, let’s see what is allowed. Stay posted.



Honestly I was only having fun wanting to teach the ‘Zombie Apocalypse’ dive course. Now it looks like the Apocalypse is here!!!!!! The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on recreational and professional diving activities, with an almost complete cessation of this activity around the world for many weeks/months. These measures were a logical consequence to limit unnecessary commuting but also due

to the challenges to observe the regulations of “social distancing”. Additionally, there is a real possibility that emergency first aid and response teams may be overwhelmed by the logistics of PPE and decontamination procedures, and not be able to respond in a timely and efficient manner to an emergency.

When the precautionary measures to combat the pandemic will be relaxed, we will resume normal recreational and professional diving activities as soon as reasonably possible.

Your safety and wellbeing is of high importance to us. Take care.

**Store hours:** The store is temporarily closed.  
Connie and David are running the store remotely!

Connie & David Faas  
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WHEN YOU GO OUT AND SEE THE EMPTY STREETS, THE EMPTY STADIUMS, THE EMPTY TRAIN PLATFORMS, DON'T SAY TO YOURSELF, "IT LOOKS LIKE THE END OF THE WORLD." WHAT YOU'RE SEEING IS LOVE IN ACTION. WHAT YOU'RE SEEING, IN THAT NEGATIVE SPACE, IS HOW MUCH WE DO CARE FOR EACH OTHER, FOR OUR GRAND PARENTS, FOR OUR IMMUNE-COMPROMISED BROTHERS AND SISTERS, FOR PEOPLE WE WILL NEVER MEET.

PEOPLE WILL LOSE JOBS OVER THIS. SOME WILL LOSE THEIR BUSINESSES. AND SOME WILL LOSE THEIR LIVES. ALL THE MORE REASON TO TAKE A MOMENT, WHEN YOU'RE OUT ON YOUR WALK, OR ON YOUR WAY TO THE STORE, OR JUST WATCHING THE NEWS, TO LOOK INTO THE EMPTINESS AND MARVEL AT ALL OF THE LOVE.

LET IT FILL AND SUSTAIN YOU.

IT ISN'T THE END OF THE WORLD. IT IS THE MOST REMARKABLE ACT OF GLOBAL SOLIDARITY WE MAY EVER WITNESS.

CHNGE

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