

Perhaps the largest scale article Jane tackled in 2021 was “Police missteps leave Greater Victoria sexual assault survivor without justice.” The woman at the heart of the article reached out to Jane by email after reading her coverage of sexual assault and rape culture in the community in previous months. Jane worked with her for several months, interviewing the woman multiple times, corroborating her story with police files and recordings, reaching out to each of the involved parties, and gathering context from legal and sexual assault experts. The ensuing story was a powerful example of the barriers survivors still face and the deep-rooted flaws of our justice system. It resulted in a public apology from the police department and mayor and the firing of the accused assailant.

Jane again covered an extremely sensitive story with thoughtfulness and care several months later when our Greater Victoria newspapers ran a special issue for the first National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. Jane interviews the survivor of an Indian hospital who had never shared his story before. It was one of the few stories at the time that delved into trauma Indigenous children faced even if they weren’t subjected to residential schools. Jane checked in with the man numerous times throughout the process and when “‘It has to be heard’: Greater Victoria survivor recounts torture he endured at Indian Hospital” was published he thanked her for doing his experiences justice.

Jane added some original commentary to the community with “Why many Victoria residents may perceive an increase in crime,” which debunked the myth that crime was spiking and explained what factors were leading people to believe it. She took a hard look at crime statistics in the region compared to police rhetoric, and discovered a tripling of police department news releases coincided with people’s fear that crime had increased. She also spoke to a communications expert about the echo chamber of social media and a sociology professor about the impact of the visibility of homelessness during the pandemic on people’s perceptions. The piece received significant traction and furthered an important conversation in Greater Victoria on policing.

To write “Giving begets giving: Saanich family devotes time, money to helping those in need,” Jane spent the day riding along with a family that uses all its spare time to help others. She found the story buried in a list of news release emails and decided it deserved more attention than a simple phone call and rewrite. The time she spent with the family quickly turned into a colourful community news story that every other outlet in Greater Victoria copied afterward.