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**3** Islanders clean up big time!

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PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

**LOOK WHAT I FOUND!:** Olivier Alonso is excited to find two eggs at the Salt Spring Elementary School Earth Day garden work-bee and Easter egg hunt on Monday. Twenty-nine grownups and 30 children helped plant 18 large nut and fruit trees, fixed and built garden structures, made beautiful flower art, shared snacks and hunted for candy-filled eggs.

**FISHERIES**

**Restrictions catch trollers off guard**

New measures announced for Chinook stock recovery

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The federal government has announced sweeping restrictions on the commercial and recreational chinook salmon fisheries in a bid to save the species, but local members of the West Coast trolling fleet say the move rejects years of adaptive management for a politically motivated blanket approach.

Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, called the measures significant, necessary and difficult during the April 16 announcement.

"They are critical to the future of chinook stocks and to the futures of Indigenous and coastal communities who rely on them for sustenance, jobs and economic prosperity," said Wilkinson, who reported that 12 out of 13 wild Fraser River chinook salmon populations were determined to be at risk in a

recent assessment.

"The science is clear: Pacific chinook salmon are in a critical state. Without immediate action, this species could be lost forever," Wilkinson said. "As the minister responsible for the health and sustainability of our oceans, I want to ensure that we do not knowingly put these stocks on a path to extinction."

Management measures for the 2019 fishing season include immediate closure of the commercial troll fishery on the west coast of Vancouver Island until Aug. 20. Recreational fishing restrictions include non-retention of chinook in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and southern Strait of Georgia until July 31 and retention of just one fish per day through August. The total annual limit on chinook that can be retained by recreational fishers in a season changed from 30 fish to 10.

Additional restrictions related to the southern resident killer whales could produce permanent closures and vessel "no-go zones" off Pender and Saturna islands. (See related story on page 5.)

First Nations food, social and ceremonial fisheries, which have a constitutionally protected priority, will not commence until July 15, concurrent with the opening of the recreational retention fishery on the Fraser River.

Salt Spring Islander Kathy Scarfo is president of the West Coast Trollers Association, representing the commercial fishers licensed to work the west side of Vancouver Island. Scarfo said the commercial fleet was taken aback by the announcement since they have been active partners in an adaptive management strategy since the mid 1990s.

**SALMON** continued on 2

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# TIDE TABLES

at Fulford Harbour

APRIL/MAY 2019 HNP Z+8							
DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
<b>24</b>	0302	2.6	8.5	<b>28</b>	0118	3.2	10.5
	0639	2.8	9.2		0826	2.1	6.9
	WE 1420	0.7	2.3		SU 1059	2.2	7.2
	ME 2248	3.2	10.5		DI 1757	1.3	4.3
<b>25</b>	0448	2.6	8.5	<b>29</b>	0153	3.1	10.2
	0704	2.6	8.5		0846	2.0	6.6
	TH 1507	0.8	2.6		MO 1257	2.2	7.2
	JE 2345	3.2	10.5		LU 1857	1.5	4.9
<b>26</b>	1558	1.0	3.3	<b>30</b>	0223	3.1	10.2
	FR				0907	1.8	5.9
	VE				TU 1423	2.3	7.5
					MA 1951	1.6	5.2
<b>27</b>	0035	3.2	10.5	<b>1</b>	0248	3.0	9.8
	1655	1.2	3.9		0928	1.6	5.2
	SA				WE 1527	2.5	8.2
	SA				ME 2040	1.7	5.6

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## WATER SERVICES

# Cedar Lane group seeks clarity

## CRD costs queried at water commission AGM

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Members of the Cedar Lane Water Service continue to deal with groundwater supply issues and the possible effect on equipment, with higher than usual expenses for 2018 reported at the annual general meeting on April 18.

The 2018 financial statement showed the contract for services with the Capital Regional District increased from \$15,313 in 2017 to \$22,614, while the charge for CRD labour and operating costs went from \$5,263 to \$17,091. This represented a net increase of \$19,000 in those two areas out of \$94,600 in total expenses. Amounts charged in 2017 had been similar to the two previous years.

Discussion about the reason for the increases highlighted issues the volunteer commissioners and water system users have in accessing information. The CRD's 2018 annual report highlighted a few of the operational issues but did not assign costs or otherwise break down the unusually high expenditures.

"I think it would be prudent to look at where the trend is, and what portion of the money went to what," said commissioner chair Jason Griffin.

The commission voted to direct staff to provide a financial breakdown of the two items after debating the further associated cost of such a request. CRD

administrative staffperson Dan Ovington warned that asking for a report would come with a charge to the district, which has only 30 residences to share the operating costs.

Noteworthy events were corrective maintenance of one well pump, replacement of another well pump, stand-pipe water leak repair and emergency response to the Dec. 20 windstorm event. Jane Squier, a previous commissioner, said the breakdown should include staff time as the district volunteers are not clear on which meetings come with a large fee for staff participation and which do not.

Dan Robson, CRD manager for Saanich Peninsula and Gulf Islands water operations, suggested that commissioners view the monthly expenditure reports and then ask for information if they notice an unusual jump.

CRD director Gary Holman felt the district members present were questioning whether the charges were actually legitimate.

"I don't think it's acknowledged often enough that you're accessing a little bit of professionals' time, and it's allocated to the service. I can't speak to whether that amount is fair but it's completely appropriate and in fact it's an advantage of the system . . . you're accessing a little bit of staff time, and that's a good thing," Holman said.

"I don't think anyone's questioning whether these are legitimate charges," Griffin responded. "It's just a matter of understanding where the money's

going."

"And you just said 'Don't ask that, because that's going to cost you,'" Squier added. "Your point is well taken, though, because if we define where the money is going, we may find that it's more effective to hire a full-time staffperson for all the water commissions."

Being aware of what the costs actually are would help district users discuss various ideas for service, Squier said.

Griffin added that not being aware of the associated charges could create a disincentive for commissioners to go to the CRD with issues at all.

In other business at Thursday's AGM, former commission chair Ralph Dom presented a proposal to minimize stress on the district's two pumps by reducing the daily rate pumped into the reservoir during low supply months. One of the two pumps had to be replaced in 2018 despite being just two years old. Robson confirmed that grit was the most likely reason it failed.

Reducing the amount of water in the holding tank was not seen as a good plan, though, because of potential system emergencies and fire protection needs. Robson reported the system employs a different method with a similar effect by "throttling." The reservoir level is maintained, but less water is flowing through the pump than in the winter.

Robson also reported the pumps are now being installed at a higher level in the wells to avoid taking up grit or sand.

# DFO promises consultation on fishery issues

## SALMON

continued from 1

Scarfo finds the timing of the announcement suspect, given that a problem has been known for years and a federal election is coming up this fall.

The other trouble with such ministerial directives, she said, is "then you have a rigid bar that might not make sense in all circumstances."

Scarfo explained the trollers changed from an intensive July and August season to a year-round season around a decade ago as part of the conservation strategy. The commercial fishers take a much smaller catch than they used to; in return they rely on maximizing the price per fish, including by offering markets the earliest fresh chinook in May.

The fishery is usually closed from June 15 to the end of July. Having their season completely closed until Aug. 20 elimi-

nates the possibility of marketing the early catch. Scarfo said it also removes the adaptive management response to the health of individual stocks, which was done using data the fishers themselves collected and could result in short closures in specific areas to protect weaker stocks.

"We want good management because we have skin in the game," Scarfo said. "We need fish and we need them to come back year after year after year."

New restrictions put onto the recreational fishery have been decried as potentially devastating to coastal communities that rely on tourist dollars.

Mike Hamson, who is the operator of Saltwater Moon Charters on Pender Island, also feels the announcement may have been politically motivated. He said the new regulations will definitely have an

impact on the recreational fishing industry, but he agrees that something needs to be done.

"It has to happen — there's not enough fish out there," Hamson said. "I've seen a gradual decline. Even in the past five years it's gone down."

While recreational fishing has some effect on the stock, Hamson said there are many other factors that need to be addressed in addition to fishery closures.

"This is a small thing the government's doing. It's not enough to fix the problem," he said.

Hamson mentioned the huge increase in seal and sea lion populations, the impact of logging and development on spawning grounds, the herring fishery, overfishing by the commercial fishery and illegal offshore trollers among the factors on which action must be taken to improve salmon

stocks.

He also believes that if a catch and release program is implemented, proper steps must be taken to ensure released fish actually survive, through education or even an in-water release policy.

The DFO said that it will engage with First Nations, the Province of British Columbia and stakeholders over the next several weeks. They will explore establishing a process to address a broad range of issues, including land and water use, fish habitat issues, the role of hatcheries to support rebuilding and the potential for marked fisheries, and how seals and sea lions may be affecting chinook salmon.

B.C. Premier John Horgan said he is disappointed that "years of bad decisions" had brought the fishery to this point. The province has been working on its own strategy to promote salmon stocks.

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Fire trustees elected by acclamation

The election of two Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District trustees was decided by acclamation after one of the candidates — Wynona Cook — dropped out of the race last Monday. The new trustees are Jo MacDonald and Andreas Gedeon. They join current trustees Per Svendsen, Mary Lynn Hetherington, Rollie Cook, Howard Holzapfel and Ron Lindstrom.

The fire district's annual general meeting will still be held on Monday, April 29 in the training room at the Ganges Fire Hall starting at 7 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend.

### Garden club plant sale on Saturday

Salt Spring's annual plant sale will be held this Saturday, April 27 at the Farmers' Institute from 1 to 3 p.m.

The spring and fall sales are the Salt Spring Garden Club's primary fundraiser, and give club members and the public a chance to purchase plants grown in Salt Spring nurseries.

Visitors will be able to see a Salt Spring Conservancy presentation on invasive plants. The conservancy will also be selling Garry Oak seedlings as a fundraiser.

Donations of plants and garden treasures (books, tools, accessories) are welcome on Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. People should label any plant donations.

### Bus schedule changes

BC Transit has announced a seasonal service change coming into effect on Salt Spring on May 4.

The change includes adding limited service on Route 2 from Fulford Harbour along Cusheon Lake Road on Saturdays. Other changes are to routes 2, 3 (Vesuvius) and 4 (Long Harbour) to accommodate ferry time changes.

A new riders guide is available on the BC Transit website.

### Tuesday fire

A major structure fire on Blackburn Road was in progress as the Driftwood went to press on Tuesday. See [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) for the story.

## ENVIRONMENT

# Islanders embrace green campaign

Bigger goals in coming year

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

With Earth Day now behind us the Driftwood's Greening Salt Spring campaign is officially closed for another year. We would like to congratulate the many islanders who stepped up for the extra challenge, as well as those who make litter pick-up part of their usual practice.

Participation this year more than doubled from our inaugural campaign in 2018, which is inspiring us to think about how we can get bigger and better in 2020. A focus on the main arteries is one suggestion, while ongoing education around plastic reduction is something we intend to work on year-round.

Heroes of this year's efforts that deserve special mention are the team of Jérôme Dupuy, Rosamund Dupuy, Joann Grey, Caroline Hickman and Jordan Soames. They bravely took on Fulford-Ganges Road all the way from Fulford Hall to Burgoyne Bay Road and came back with 10 full garbage bags plus a lot of large things that were too big for bags. Kudos to the team for wearing safety vests for maximum visibility on a busy road.

Juliette and Rick Laing meanwhile collected a pickup load of garbage from party areas under the power lines at the end of Wilkie Way, taking away plastic, pop cans, broken TV sets and more.

Further congratulations go to Suzie Gagnon, who was the very first to sign up for the 2019 campaign and wound up covering much of Sunset Drive.

We should also mention that our elected officials aren't too high and mighty to pick up trash. Peter Grove and his wife Mary were spotted working on a very problematic stretch of North End Road on Easter Sunday.

Some of our participants elected to donate their recycling proceeds to local charities, such as the food bank and societies with environmental initiatives.

Once again, we also thank Laurie's Recycling and Waste for generously donating the cost of disposal of all the trash collected during the campaign.

In addition to those mentioned above, here is the final list of participants.

- Viv Nielsen - Vesuvius Bay Road from Chu-An Drive to the ferry terminal
- Melissa Cutshall and Family - Lower Ganges Road from Wildwood Crescent to Norton Road
- Gretta Hildebrandt - Long Harbour Road between Quebec and Eagle Ridge
- Edgar Hildebrandt and family - Eagle Ridge Drive from Long Harbour to Quebec
- Jim and Sheri Standen - Baker Beach between stairs
- Claire Sicherman family - other areas of Baker Beach
- SS Sneakers - Upper Ganges Road between Central and Robinson Road junctions
- Hanna Family - Neighbourhood of McAllister, Stark's and Acheson roads plus Dunbabin Park
- Anglican Parish - Lower Park Drive
- Fiona Wolfe-Milner - Long Harbour between Old Scott Road and the ferry terminal
- Jayne and Peter Lloyd-Jones and neighbours-Park Drive, Swanson, Desmond, Kanaka, Lakeview Crescent
- Phil Bysher - LePage and Ensilwood Roads
- Karen Hudson and Lynda Nash - Isle View Drive
- Amanda McLeod - North End Road from Fernwood to Epron
- Tangachee and Henri Goebel - Ruckle Park coastline from Yeo Point to picnic area
- Kalf Family - Dukes Rd (from Frazier Road to the cul-de-sac) and along Frazier Road
- Kim Duchak - Walker Hook Beach
- Donna Martin - Walker Hook Road
- Salt Spring Middle School - Ganges Harbour and Churchill beaches
- Doris St Germain, Alison McManus, Virginia Judd, Flavia Foggiano, Earl Rook, Jayne Armstrong, Ron Perring - Channel Ridge Drive, Mountain View



PHOTO COURTESY JAYNE LLOYD-JONES

Neighbours of the Park Drive area show off their haul after collecting litter and recycling from the streets on Friday.

Drive and Parminter Point bays

- Anna McColm and family - Bader's Beach
- Margaret Threlfall - Upper Ganges Road/Robinson Road/Long Harbour corner
- Ken Jackson - Baker Road from beach to High Hill
- LeeAnn Norgard - Cusheon Lake Road from Lord Mike's to Stewart Road

- Ron Hawkins - Roscommon
- Cathy Garvin - Quebec Drive, Little Mountain Road and Quebec Lane from Quebec Drive to boat launch and Ontario Place.
- Driftwood staff: North End Road between Epron and Blue Stone; Cranberry Road from Fulford-Ganges to Blackburn; and Charlesworth and Reid roads



**NORTH  
SALT SPRING  
WATERWORKS  
DISTRICT**

**NOTICE TO THE  
RATEPAYERS OF THE  
NORTH SALT SPRING  
WATERWORKS DISTRICT**

### 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Ratepayers of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 27, 2019 at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island, BC. Voting for the Election will be from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

#### NOMINEES FOR TRUSTEE ARE:

Garth Hendren  
Michael McAllister  
Bob Patterson  
Sandra Ungerson

#### AGM Voter Eligibility

Per the Election Act and the District's Letters Patent, an eligible elector for the purpose of a Trustee election is a North Salt Spring Waterworks District ratepayer who meets the following criteria:

- Is a Canadian Citizen 18 years of age or older, who has been a resident of British Columbia for at least the prior 6 months,
- Is a registered owner of land in the North Salt Spring Waterworks District area, or the authorized agent of any board or corporation that is an owner of such land, or the legal representative of any owner of such land who has died, become insolvent or insane (written proof must be provided by the representative),
- Has been a registered owner of the real property within the North Salt Spring Waterworks District area for at least 30 days,
- Has an account in good standing,
- Is entitled to be registered as a voter under the Election Act and is not disqualified from voting by the Local Government Act or any other enactment.
- Is present at the meeting.
- Spouses or partners who are not registered on title per BC Assessment are not entitled to vote.

[www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca](http://www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca) 761 Upper Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1S1 (250) 537-9902

**WATERWORKS ELECTION**

# Four candidates run for NSSWD

Election and AGM set for April 27

Four candidates are chasing two spots on the North Salt Spring Waterworks District board in this Saturday's election. The voting will be held for district ratepayers at the Community Gospel Church from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The annual general meeting of district ratepayers will also be held that day, beginning at 2 p.m. Only ratepayers in the district will be able to vote in the election.

Answers to four questions posed to candidates Garth Hendren, Michael McAllister, Bob Patterson and Sandra Unger-son by the Driftwood are published below and on page 5.

the pipes or build a new processing plant. It then applies to the federal and provisional governments seeking the necessary funds. However, it does not work that way for NSSWD, which cannot receive resources from the provincial or federal governments and therefore the ratepayers must underwrite all the associated costs.

If I am elected to the position of trustee I see my job as figuring out how to solve this problem so that our tax dollars that flow to both the provincial and federal governments can be returned to underwrite the upgrades and new projects such as a second filtration plant for Maxwell Lake.

**GARTH HENDREN**

**What are your qualifications for joining the North Salt Spring Waterworks District board?**

As a resident for over 30 years on Salt Spring Island and under the jurisdiction of the NSSWD, I have become personally involved in the consumption and management of this limited resource that is delivered by NSSWD. During my time on Salt Spring I have served in various capacities on numerous boards ranging from the library to Community Services and, incidental to these, all of the water districts that operate under the jurisdiction of the CRD. I was a founding member of the Water Council that was subsequently taken over by the Islands Trust.

**Why do you want to serve on the board?**

The fundamental concerns I have with respect to water are the limited nature of the resource and the costs. The average ratepayers' consumption on NSSWD is in excess of 300 litres per household per day. This is approximately twice the national average. Costs to deliver water to consumers continue to rise, for example, the recent commissioning of a new filtration plant on St. Mary Lake.

**What do you think are the biggest challenges facing the district?**

NSSWD faces a couple of challenges: limited supply of water and limited resources to improve and increase the supply. These challenges are fuelled by an ever-increasing population.

So the question is what to do about it. Should NSSWD further limit consumption? It already limits it by charging a sliding rate on increasing consumption. It has signalled to the Islands Trust that it will withhold hookups to new housing projects and commercial projects that come before the Islands Trust for approval. Are there other measures that could be taken? Could our local building code be amended to mandate use of water-saving devices on all new and renovated building projects? From my perspective that is my challenge.

**Do you believe that the district should fall under the governance of the Capital Regional District?**

The problem of limited resources is much more challenging. Across our country in most communities, water is viewed as a utility and is managed for that town or city. So when the time comes for local upgrades and improvement, the local government determines the amount of money needed to upgrade

**MICHAEL MCALLISTER**

**What are your qualifications for joining the North Salt Spring Waterworks District board?**

I have spent the last 31 years, as a lawyer, advising local governments (including improvement districts like the NSSWD) on virtually all matters of importance and relevance to the NSSWD. I also have extensive experience in dealing with government funded social housing projects.

I also believe that, at this stage of NSSWD's history, having a lawyer with extensive experience in dealing with local governments and the provincial government would be of significant benefit to the NSSWD and its ratepayers.

Finally, as an incumbent trustee at the NSSWD, I believe I have gained the confidence and respect of my fellow trustees and senior staff at the NSSWD.

**Why do you want to serve on the board?**

While I initially had only planned on serving one term as a trustee with the NSSWD, I have been asked by a number of people to reconsider that decision. As noted below, I believe the most important issues facing the NSSWD are infrastructure funding, governance and strategic island-wide water management. I believe I can be of real assistance to the NSSWD over the next term on all of these issues as well as many other issues.

**What do you think are the biggest challenges facing the district?**

Without question, the three most significant issues facing the NSSWD are the lack of capital infrastructure funding, governance and the development of an island-wide plan for the management of water resources.

**Do you believe that the district should fall under the governance of the Capital Regional District?**

When I was first elected to the NSSWD board in 2017, I stated very clearly that I firmly believed that decisions about SSI should be made on SSI. I remain of that view for many reasons but most importantly because local decision making provides for greater accountability of the board and of NSSWD staff to our ratepayers.

However, our provincial government has made it clear that infrastructure funding will not be made available to the NSSWD without the NSSWD first considering a change in governance that would see the winding up of the NSSWD and transfer of governance to the CRD. So while I am personally not in favour of such a transfer of governance to the CRD, as a trustee I feel that I am obligated to consider that option at least.

**BOB PATTERSON**

**What are your qualifications for joining the North Salt Spring Waterworks District board?**

I meet the requirements of the NSSWD to be a trustee and want to contribute to the wellbeing of the water system.

**Why do you want to serve on the board?**

I would like to see us with a system that provides more water for the existing and future ratepayers and believe a desalination system would be the answer. Having done some research, I think this is feasible. There seems to be little additional water available on our island and we all know there is no shortage around us!

**What do you think are the biggest challenges facing the district?**

Some of many challenges are the restrictions on usage for current rate

payers, restrictions on new hookups, and maintaining reserve levels. These restrictions seem to have forced the water system into a situation where they are restricting any development on the island. Whether we get more development or not should be the responsibility of a different level of government, not defaulting to the water board.

**Do you believe that the district should fall under the governance of the Capital Regional District?**

I am not up to speed on which level of government does what. I have listened to water board people talking about the many groups and departments that are needed to approve things. I have also heard about the lack of funding available to us under our current governance. I would suggest a great deal of streamlining with various levels of government would be a good idea.

NSSWD Q&A continued on 5

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# Trustee candidate responds

NSSWD Q&A  
continued from 4

## SANDRA UNGERSON

**What are your qualifications for joining the North Salt Spring Waterworks District board?**

I am the current chair of the SSI Conservation and Efficiency Working Group for the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance. We are in the final stages of preparing a detailed report titled Technologies and Methods of Conserving and Improving Efficiency of the Water Resources on Salt Spring Island. Part II of that report is titled Recommendations for Conservation. I see these skills and this knowledge base assisting NSSWD in advancing water conservation and efficiency practices and policies.

I am a multi-disciplinary MSc. in Sustainable Energy Development, focusing on water resources, and provide knowledge and a practical background in implementing water conservation projects on Salt Spring. These are key assets for the NSSWD mandate. I am also vice-president of the American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association Foundation and we advance the mission "to serve as the global resource for rainwater and stormwater harvesting by promoting research, education and thought leadership."

Through my international speaking engagements on rainwater harvesting for potable purposes, I bring globally recognized best practices to the table, designing and installing water conservation technologies on Salt Spring Island, including rainwater, stormwater and greywater.

**Why do you want to serve on the board?**

I see the NSSWD facing increasing challenges to do more with less. I have been approached for a number of years to run for a board position. The time has come to act on behalf of the people who have urged me to do this. I care passionately about our water resources and want them to be reliable, sustainable, safe resources that aid the people who live on and visit this island.

**What do you think are the biggest challenges facing the district?**

As the water demands increase, and the water resources are being increasingly taxed, many on the island face water restrictions and shortages that demand a new look at the issues. I pledge to look outside of the box, at what is being done successfully at scale, globally, to meet the needs of ratepayers locally.

**Do you believe that the district should fall under the governance of the Capital Regional District?**

No. Based on my experience working with ratepayers from Cusheon Lake and Cedar Lane, I fail to see how CRD involvement would provide the resources and expertise needed to make NSSWD a better utility for ratepayers. Having one vote on the Capital Regional Board in Victoria means we simply won't have the clout to move key water issues up to a priority level needed by Salt Spring Islanders.

## WILDLIFE

# Orca plan input needed

Survey and comments accepted until May 3

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Canadians have until May 3 to submit input on the federal government's updated plan to aid the recovery of southern resident killer whales.

An input period opened April 11 that allows people to participate in a survey, send direct emails or attend a session in Victoria, Sooke or Richmond. The two remaining sessions are set for tonight (Wednesday, April 24) at the Prestige Oceanfront Resort in Sooke from 6 to 9 p.m., and Thursday, April 25 at the Executive Hotel Vancouver Airport in Richmond (6 to 9 p.m.)

Feedback is being sought on management measures proposed for implementation as early as this spring. The plan addresses key threats related to contaminants, lack of prey availability and underwater noise and physical disturbance.

Establishing enhanced management areas in places previously identified as critical feeding habitat is one proposal that will be considered, and could extend fishery closures for recreational finfish and commercial salmon in those areas.


New small vessel regulations propose increasing the approach distance to all killer whales to 400 metres in fishery closure areas and a voluntary 400 m in the remaining enhanced management areas. No-go zones involving the total prohibition of vessel traffic (with some exemptions) will be considered at the key foraging areas of Swiftsure Bank, south Saturna Island and west Pender Island.

Commercial vessel noise could be addressed through an expanded slow-down area in Haro Strait/Boundary Pass.

A technical working group is working towards further 2020 measures by: identifying key contaminants affecting whales and their prey; building a database tool to help the estimation of pollutants and contaminant loads in the Fraser River and Salish Sea; and developing an evaluation framework to examine the existing controls for contaminants.

To view the updated recovery plan for southern resident killer whales, and to find the survey and email links, go to the Consultations page on the DFO website at [www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

In related news, Washington state passed four bills last week aimed at protecting the endangered killer whales' food source. House Bill 1579 hopes to boost the salmon population by allowing the state Department of Fish and Wildlife to halt hydraulic projects that could harm fish, changing the penalties for violating the hydraulic code, authorizing fishing licences for smelt, and liberalizing catch limits for other types of fish like bass and channel catfish.



**Rezoning and OCP Amendments for Secondary Suites**  
Bylaws 124 & 125

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
SATURNA ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

What are the bylaws about?

Proposed Bylaw 124 amends policies in the Saturna Island Official Community Plan (OCP), and Bylaw 125 amends regulations in the Land Use Bylaw (LUB) to allow limited sized Secondary Suites within residences for limited areas of Saturna Island.

**Thursday**  
May 9, 2019  
Public Hearing  
@ 12:30 p.m.

Saturna Island  
Community Hall  
105 East Point  
Road, Saturna  
Island

**Who should attend?**  
Anyone affected by  
the proposed  
bylaws

**Enquires?**  
Gary Richardson,  
Island Planner  
[grrichardson@  
islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:grrichardson@islandstrust.bc.ca)  
250-405-5157

How do I get more information?

A copy of the bylaw and other information is available at the Islands Trust Victoria office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays, April 26 to May 7, 2019. Or visit:

[www.islandstrust.bc.ca/saturna/secondariesuites](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/saturna/secondariesuites)

Written submissions?  
Send by 4:30 p.m., May 7, 2019 to:

- Islands Trust, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8R 1H8 or
- Email: [vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca), or
- In person at the Public Hearing

*Note: All submissions received become part of the public record*

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# OPINION



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 Gold - Best Editorial Page | Gold - Best Feature Series (Elizabeth Nolan)  
 Bronze - Best Local Editorial | Bronze - Best Front Page | Blue Ribbon - Best All-Round

2018 BCYCNA Awards  
 Gold - Best Feature Series (Elizabeth Nolan) | Silver - Best All-Round | Bronze - Best Editorial



## Driftwood

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### EDITORIAL

# Boozey cruises

Last week's news about beer and wine being sold on some major-route ferries as a pilot project was disconcerting to hear.

BC Ferries confirmed a leaked memo on the subject was no joke and that it will make beer and wine available in the Pacific Buffet area on the three vessels sailing between Swartz Bay and Tsawwassen beginning in June.

Critics of the idea are supposed to be comforted by the fact that sales won't start until 11 a.m., that no more than two drinks will be sold to one person and that food must be purchased along with the booze.

In addition to the obvious boost in revenue, BC Ferries is no doubt imagining that adding beer and wine sales to the buffet area will enhance the voyage experience for tourists, along with the corporation's TripAdvisor rating. But visitors who are unfamiliar with disembarking procedures and roadways at and beyond the Swartz Bay and Tsawwassen ferry terminals are the last people who should have more opportunities to cloud their vigilance behind the wheel.

**THE ISSUE:**  
 Beer and wine sales on ferries

**WE SAY:**  
 Boats are no place for booze

It's hard to imagine how BC Ferries will evaluate the pilot. Will the question be whether it makes enough money to justify the potential tragedy of a drunk-driver-caused accident at the other end? Or at least enough money to justify the stress on employees having to police the consumption or sobriety of buffet area patrons? Or enough money to justify the issues arising when RCMP have to pluck a suspected impaired driver from the disembarking traffic?

BC Ferries staff and RCMP officers already deal with cases where impaired drivers are suspected on vessels. And with more people likely to be driving when impaired by cannabis now that it's a legal substance, it seems foolhardy to add more fuel to the impaired driving fire.

According to Statistics Canada, impaired driving rates steadily declined between 1986 and 2016. Sustained education and policing efforts have had a positive impact. Still, an average of 65 people per year die in B.C. in car crashes caused by drug or alcohol-impaired drivers. It is still a serious social issue whose solution cannot rely solely on individuals' discretion and ability to make sound judgements on every occasion.

Making beer and wine available before sending drivers on their merry way is just plain irresponsible. Let's hope BC Ferries determines that it's not worth the risk.



# Trust lacks forestry powers

BY SUSAN YATES

I am concerned about Peter McAllister's comments in the April 3 Driftwood regarding the recent clear-cut logging on Salt Spring.

No one could be more horrified than I am about this activity taking place on any of the islands in the Trust area, and I could not agree more with Mr. McAllister's (and many others') sentiments about the logging. However, his statement that "the Islands Trust takes no responsibility and our Local Trust Committee turns a blind eye" is off-target or perhaps misguided.

At the last two Trust Council meetings (January in Nanaimo and March on Gabriola) I noted that both Laura Patrick and Peter Grove's comments for the report on their island focused on their grave concern over the logging in the Beddis Road area. They are most definitely not "turning a blind eye" to this travesty, nor are any of their colleagues on council.

The Local Trust Committee cannot just "stop the logging by simply enforcing its own bylaws and declaring that the logging operations are an

## VIEWPOINT

unauthorized use of the parcel under its present zoning," as the Allen/McMillan Law Corporation purportedly states. Cutting down trees for agricultural purposes is entirely legal, even if it means a clear-cut on an agriculturally zoned property.

**Logging is an activity regulated by the provincial Forest Act.**

Logging is an activity regulated by the provincial Forest Act. It is not a zoned "use" on any parcel of land, and it is allowed in Rural, Agricultural, Forestry and almost any other zone in the entire Trust Area, unless that parcel is protected by a development permit area with very specific and reasonable restrictions. Even in a development permit area, logging is permitted if it

meets the guidelines of the DPA, and of course DPAs are not retroactive.

Please be assured that I have watched similar horrifying logging activities taking place on my own island of Gabriola, and on other Trust Islands, for the past 38 years, and I could not be more sympathetic to the need for immediate restrictions on clear-cut logging, especially when that is happening on environmentally sensitive terrain. However, those restrictions need to come from the province, with changes to the Forestry Act, or by the granting of better regulatory tools to the Islands Trust.

The Islands Trust has an honourable and necessary mandate to "preserve and protect" our precious islands in the Salish Sea from inappropriate land use and human activities, and those of us who take that mandate seriously feel heartbreak when we see that the means to achieve that mandate are sorely lacking.

*The writer is a Gabriola Island resident and a former Islands Trust trustee.*

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### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

**Should BC Ferries sell beer and wine on its sailings?**  Yes  No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

**Do you have time for volunteering in your life?**

NO	31
YES	49

Cast your ballot online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) before Tuesday at noon or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 4:30 p.m.

# OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

**"I don't think anyone's questioning whether these are legitimate charges. It's just a matter of understanding where the money's going."**

JASON GRIFFIN, CEDAR LANE WATER SERVICE COMM. CHAIR

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**WE ASKED:**

*Why should people take part in Earth Day?*

**SANDY HARKEMA**



Because the Earth is the most important thing to all of us.

**JESSICA HARKEMA**



Because no Earth equals no life.

**YVONNE ANGUS**



This is our community. Without the governance structures to do it for us, we have to do take care of it.

**MICHELLE PARRY**



We only have one home, and we have to live here. If we get to choose where to live, we might as well live in a community that is clean.

**QUINN NICKELS**



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## LETTERS to the editor

### Shelter is sustainable

The other day I was rushing through Ganges and noticed a good number of people in the United Church meadow. It brought gladness to my heart; I'm quite sure the church was holding a community supper, followed by a sharing circle, so faith group and other community members, including people living in the rough, could connect.

I've heard of a minister being punished for feeding homeless people in the U.S., and heard local complaints, essentially that feeding homeless people just makes it more inviting for "them" to come here. One could argue about such things . . . and get nowhere. I'm so happy Reverends Chris Levan, Gyllian Davies and Chas

Belknap (authors of the April 3 op-ed, "Year-round shelter sought") have opted for using circle processes to increase understanding and work towards solutions to community problems linked to homelessness. Circle processes allow for nuance and collective wisdom to emerge.

I hope the vision for a year-round community shelter will materialize. It's part of "sustainability." Just as the earth is not "disposable," neither are people.

As one of Salt Spring's most beloved late citizens, Maggie Schubart, once said, "Eradicating poverty would cause the meltdown of the fear and anger that have built up on this planet over the years. War would unravel into peace . . . It's worth the effort!"

**JAN SLAKOV,**  
SALT SPRING

### Lower speed limit

Since moving here five years ago, I have never understood how a small two-lane road with driveways — many hidden and a road with several turns — would have a speed limit of 80 km/h and be safe, at least in several of its winding sections.

I am asking to support reducing the posted speed of 80 km/h on Fulford-Ganges Road, at least in the more curvy, winding sections such as from Cusheon Lake Road to Salt Spring Way.

We have many older people driving, many driveways coming down to and up to Fulford-Ganges Road. We have deer coming up and jumping across the road. Think of pulling out and trying to cross a road with traffic coming at you at 80 km/h.

On Friday, April 12, someone was exiting at the business at 804 Fulford-Ganges Rd. and was struck while trying to exit that business. I do not know the state of the drivers in this accident, but pulling out onto Fulford-Ganges in the area I detail is not safe.

Someone is going to die in one of those dangerous areas on Fulford-Ganges Road.

I ask everyone for your support to change the speed limit on Fulford-Ganges Road; if not the entire road, at least from the area at about 300 metres north of Salt Spring Way and until the Cusheon Lake Road area. There are too many curves that justify reducing the 80 km/h speed on that section of Fulford-Ganges Road.

**GRANT GRAYSON,**  
SALT SPRING

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 8

## BC Ferries announcements amuse and confuse

"This is an important announcement on how to be safe at sea."

Sounds familiar, right? Now where have you heard these words before? Oh, of course, this is the message you have become accustomed to hearing over the loudspeaker while you are waiting in the ferry lineup for the parking lot attendant to wave you forward onto the ferry. Or maybe while trying to relax in the passenger lounge. Or while "freshening up" in one of the public washrooms. Maybe even in the privacy of your own living room as the peaceful silence is broken by the annoying sound from the loudspeakers of the MV Coastal Celebration chugging her way across the waters.

We've come a long way since the days when ferry announcements were delivered by a mechanical monotone voice that made you ignore the message because you couldn't hear or understand the meaning it was trying to convey anyway. Today's ferry announcement is much more personable; it's like being contacted by an old high school buddy who wishes to renew your friendship and really wants to make sure that the bygone years have been treating you fairly.

Why else would it tell the travelling passengers that "Your safety is important to us"? Of course it is, and just in case any of us have been so distracted by being part of this ocean cruise, we are reminded to remember that we are on a moving vessel. Lest we may have forgotten, the Titanic was another moving vessel that just happened to plough into a floating chunk of ice while crew members were busy rearranging the deck chairs. As a result, other than spawning successful disaster movies, she has done nothing other than rust away on the Atlantic sea floor for over a century. A friendly public address announcement starting with "Your safety is important to us" could have made all the difference.

Maybe it's just me, but any time I hear an announcement begin with the phrase "In the unlikely event of an emergency," I feel anything but reassured. My blood pressure skyrockets up to infinity and the accompanying adrenalin rush makes me regret that I



**Shilo Zylbergold**

**NOBODY ASKED ME BUT**

hadn't thought of boarding the ferry with a flotation device already strapped to my body under my clothes and a complete set of scuba gear within easy reach at the slightest hint of danger.

We are informed that "There is a lot of safety knowledge behind every ferry crew member," but we don't know exactly how much is "a lot." And seriously, can enough safety knowledge be imparted to us hapless passengers to help save our sorry lives should a real maritime disaster scenario ensue?

BC Ferries does actually have a plan. First of all, we are to stop what we are doing (even if we are in the final stages of purchasing a throughfare transfer ticket from the "never-get-it-right-the-first-time" machine in Lounge #4 on the Skeena Queen and having to restart the entire process after the disaster is dealt with) and then follow the directions of the crew in an orderly fashion to the designated assembly stations.

We are assured that, if necessary, a crew member will instruct us on how to put on a life jacket so we don't end up floating upside down with only our legs sticking out of the water. We are also informed that ferry decks can be slippery and we should watch out for strong gusts of wind that can knock us off balance. Other potential hazards include the high door sills that could trip us up as we enter or exit the lounges and washrooms and end up causing serious bruises to our bodies as we try to navigate ourselves around the oversized side view mirrors protruding out into the foot-traffic passageways.

Speaking of bruises, remember hearing the announcement that drivers should park

no more than 24 inches or 60 centimetres behind the vehicle immediately in front of them so that they can squeeze as many cars and trucks onto the vessel as is humanly possible? This, of course, makes it all the more likely that you won't be able to pass between vehicles on the car deck without breaking at least one kneecap.

My favourite ferry announcement was always the one that warned passengers that the ship's horn was about to sound. That was usually broadcast about one nanosecond before the deafening horn was blasted. There was no way you could get your hands up over your ears in time to try to protect yourself. The announcement might just as well have been "Attention passengers, the ship's horn has just sounded."

Nobody asked me, but there's a BC Ferries story that made the rounds back when the Queen of Nanaimo used to ply the waters between Long Harbour on Salt Spring and the mainland terminal at Tsawwassen, making scheduled stops at Galiano, Mayne and Pender islands. It's difficult to determine if this really happened, or whether it's just another one of these urban myths that keeps getting recirculated and gets better with the passage of time.

Apparently, one of the novice deckhands was up in the wheelhouse as the ferry was being guided into its berth at one of its outer island stops. The captain pointed to the deckhand and asked her to make the announcement that the ferry was now docking and passengers disembarking at this stop should commence to make their way down to the vehicle deck. The pressure must have gotten to the deckhand, because she momentarily forgot the name of the island. Unfortunately, she also neglected to turn off her microphone as everybody on board that day heard her announce, "We are now arriving at ... um ... er... what %#\$&ing island is this anyway?"

I've experienced so many ferry trips in the past year that the auditory details of this type of travel have blazoned themselves into my brain. But best of all is: "Thank you for sailing with BC Ferries." I always wonder what the alternative is!

**MORE LETTERS**

continued from 7

**Reality forgotten**

After more than 240 years, the American political experiment continues robust and strong in spite of the fool on the hill. Undoubtedly America, Canada and the other democracies will continue their upward-tilting GDP.

However, the resurgence of 1950s-style hypocritical and self-serving morality shows modern, moral evolution has been lost.

Sadly, at 60 years of age I see the earth-shattering truths we fought for have been forgotten. It's a cliché to be old and glorify the past, and I may be wrong, but we already slew these dragons: equality, equality, equality. So why is a resurgent, blatant and arrogant entitlement puking all over the TV and the internet? Have the collective "we" forgotten the reality of the vast majority of humans living in an unfair, unsafe, inhumane world?

**ROD LAMIRAND,**  
SCOTT POINT

**Unbelievable**

I am still shocked that Donald Trump became a president. I do not understand why the public voted for him.

I voted for Justin Trudeau and also supported the NDP. I cannot understand the politics of Trump and his control of the country. I hope his country will realize that he is not a leader as he is dictated by ego and money. I would like to hear other people's thoughts and comments about this.

I also want to say that the lack of rental accommodation in Canada is shocking. The high cost of rentals is not affordable. Landlords need to be responsive with the government monitoring rental costs. Renters seem to have no rights. The shortage of rentals speaks volumes about our priorities.

I expect to leave Salt Spring as there are no rentals available. The average price is over \$1,000 per month and I am living on a \$1,300 pension.

I feel the government is not stepping up to their duties and large salaries. I am angry about this housing crisis. I am sure others feel the same. It seems to be based on greed and no monitoring by government!

Where did affordable housing go?

**KATHY DRYDEN,**  
SALT SPRING

**Lakes have natural capacity**

BY RON HAWKINS

Regarding "Don't stand in the way of housing solutions," April 3 Driftwood, Ron Cooke writes a good letter with a lot of appropriate perspective and balance on the subject. Doing what we can to address the need.

I agree, small is beautiful, efficient if wise, local is primary, conservation is a practised, automatic habit, based on awareness and purpose. So who could possibly argue with that?

Nature could. Which is what the North Salt Spring Waterworks District's moratorium on new connections is all about: living within the capacity of drinking water lakes to annually refill, thereby sustaining known current freshwater capacity under emergent climate conditions. Human beings don't seem capable of acknowledging that, which is the exercise of wrong choice.

I agree that people working on island who need housing which they cannot find or afford is an essential and legitimate concern. But to my knowledge the majority of affordable housing proposals to date also consider retired seniors and others living here who are not necessarily

**IN RESPONSE**

employed but cannot afford housing. Cooke does not address this point. In his critique rather, he says: "Yes, we need to look after our resources, but not to the detriment of those who live and work in the community."

**It becomes a guessing game, stretched thin, where any error or assumption becomes painfully consequential and unsustainable for all.**

Cooke's view implies that through more stringent water conservation measures, increased new connections can be made available. Presumably this means more expensive consumption-tiered rates above Level-I consumption, and perhaps a larger span of increments, each with more expensive rates. It is essen-


tially taxing heavier consumers to allow new consumers who cannot afford to consume much. This is an easy concept to grasp, with some merit, and some challenge.

For example, at what point does a water improvement district curb any new additional ratepayers, premised on the assumption that low consumers will always consume less, a predicted assumption? And with minimal margin of error, no tolerance for unexpected behaviour from climate change? It becomes a guessing game, stretched thin, where any error or assumption becomes painfully consequential and unsustainable for all.

This is the recognition of natural capacity, which is based on the best scientific evidence and assumptions currently available (although assumptions are not scientifically assured facts), which leads to a moratorium on the limits of demand.

Human beings have the gift of free choice. Nature adds to it: responsibility and consequence for choices made.

*The writer is a Ganges resident with a longtime interest in water and environmental matters.*



**ISLANDS TRUST  
SATURNA ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE  
NOTICE OF WAIVER OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**NOTICE** is hereby given that the Saturna Island Local Trust Committee is waiving the public hearing for:

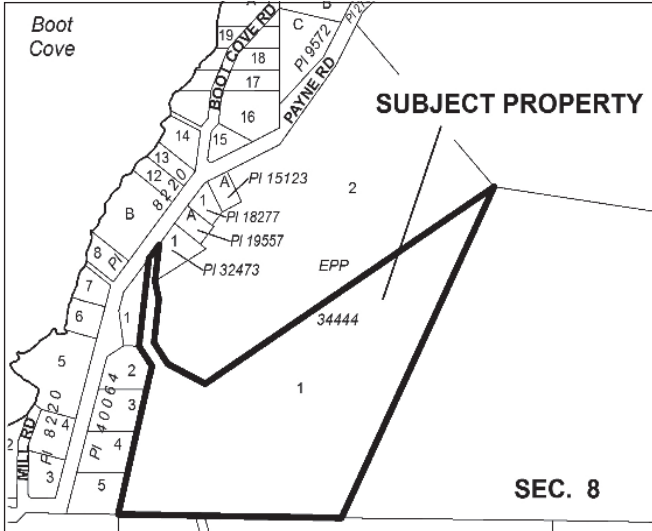
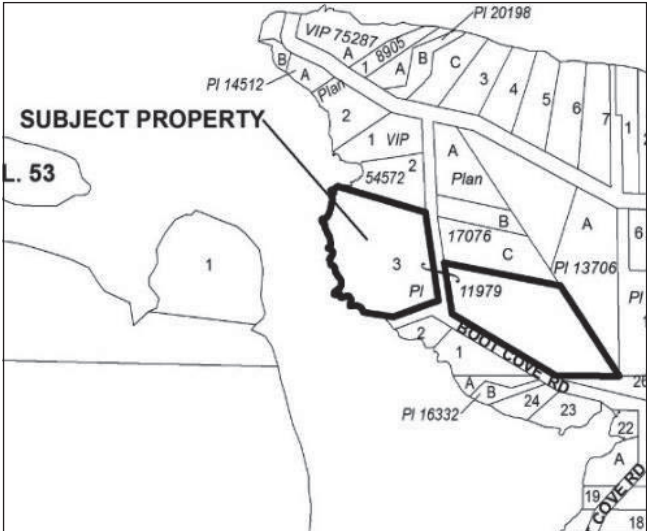
- Proposed Bylaw No. 126 – cited as "Saturna Island Land Use Bylaw No. 119, 2018, Amendment No.1, 2019"

The Saturna Island Local Trust Committee will consider further readings to the bylaw at its business meeting scheduled at 12:30 p.m., Thursday, May 9, 2019, at Saturna Island Community Hall, 105 East Point Road, Saturna Island, BC.

**Proposed Bylaw No. 126** – In general terms, the purpose of Proposed Bylaw No. 126, is to amend the Saturna Island Land Use bylaw in order to transfer density from one Lot (donor) to another Lot (receiver). This amendment has been prepared to re-enact an amendment that was made to the previous Saturna Island Land Use Bylaw No. 78, 2002.

The donor lot (Lot 1, Plan EPP 34444) is to be rezoned to increase the minimum average lot area for subdivision to 3.3 hectares. The receiver lot (Lot 3, Plan 11979) is to be rezoned to decrease the minimum average lot area for subdivision to 1.1 hectares and the minimum lot area for subdivision to 0.6 hectares.

The location of the subject properties is shown on the following sketch maps.





A copy of the proposed bylaw may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, #200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, **commencing April 26, 2019 and up to and including May 7, 2019.**

The proposed bylaw can be viewed at <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/saturna/bylaws/>

Inquiries regarding the proposed bylaw may be directed to the Islands Trust Office, Gary Richardson, Planner, at (250) 405-5157 or, for Toll Free access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867.

Sharon Lloyd deRosario,  
Deputy Secretary



---

*Send your submissions to  
[newsgulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://newsgulfislandsdriftwood.com).*

---

**Roses**

A colossal caravan of camellias for R. White, who found my purse with everything in it. Thank you for your honesty! Whew! What a relief! And to the RCMP, Country Grocer, BMO, Seafirst, and friends and family. Maureen

Thank you to everyone who supported our Spring Break Crafternoon programs at Salt Spring Library. We couldn't have done it without you. Thank you to Salt Spring Island Foundation for providing funding, Country Grocer for donating refreshments, local schools for helping to promote the program, Charlotte Hoskins for all of her hard work supervising the program, and all of the incredible artists and artisans who took the time to share their skills with us: Stitch Dimension Quilt Guild, Johanna Hoskins and Nora Layard, Salt Spring Island Basketry Guild, Jennifer Laflamme, Rebecca Zynomirski, Tracy Harrison, Marilyn Carson and Cindy Jacobsen. Thank you also to all of our youth participants, who came to the program with a great attitude and a desire to learn. Nikky McCarvill, Salt Spring Public Library

Bravo to Country Grocer for their sponsorship of \$5 youth tickets to all ArtSpring Presents performances. Kudos to ArtSpring for initiating this opportunity to expose our children and youth to high-calibre arts. These enriching and formative experiences would otherwise be significantly inaccessible to many island families. Thank you for thinking about our future generations.



**ACREAGE DEVELOPMENT**

# Intuitive intelligence informs eco-friendly land

Design looks at give and take between human and natural needs

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

All Bastien Simoneau wants to do is leave his daughter with land that is functional, beautiful and sustainable.

He is in the process of transforming his land in the Burgoyne Valley from a monoculture farm to a functional ecosystem for both humans and wildlife. Over the better part of a decade, he has created six functioning ecosystems on the property, with eight different ponds, wetlands, a food forest, a prairie ecosystem and a natural west-coast forest. His philosophy is what he calls "intuitive intelligence," which is doing things that just make sense. To him, something that makes sense is working with the land so that it can provide for him, his family and the natural world around them.

"Eventually it's a system that is going to be self-sufficient," he said. "When I'll be done doing the structural aspects of it and all my systems are in place it'll be a bit more natural. I'll be able to focus on food, so canning, jerky, my trout and everything."

Through Simoneau's approximately 20 acres, the evidence of mingling human and natural needs is evident. Near the house, what initially looks like a pond is revealed to be, under closer inspection, a swimming



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Bastien Simoneau's gardens are one of the more traditional aspects of his property in the Burgoyne Valley that borders Fulford-Ganges Road and Furness Road.

pool surrounded by natural wetland plants. Simoneau explained that the pool has given people a place to swim in the summer, and has also provided a habitat for frogs, salamanders and newts. To add to the balance between human and nature, he also built a wood-fired oven next to the pool/pond.

"It's food for us and an ecosystem for newts and frogs. I think there are red-legged frog, that's a blue-listed species, and we've got an over-abundance of them.

We've got tons of newts. When I vacuum the pond I can see all of the creatures," he said.

The swimming area is just one of Simoneau's ponds and water features on his land. Every year, as a birthday present to himself, he builds a new pond somewhere on the property. His ponds are all used for different purposes. He lets his dogs play and swim in one pond, while another is turning the former farmland back into a wetland. He has also stocked one pond with rainbow

trout. Eight water features dot the premises, with more coming in the near future.

"Water is so so beautiful. It brings so much life. As soon as we built the ponds, swallows came. They're eating all the bugs on the surface. Then the frogs, salamanders . . . when I see things like this it's kind of epic."

Beyond the human-meets-nature aspect of his swimming pond, Simoneau has also expanded that idea to food. A traditional garden with raised beds

sits in the sun near the house, but further into the property is the beginning of a food forest. Food forests are a complex and ultimately self-propagating way of growing food. With multiple kinds of food-bearing plants in the same area, food forests simulate natural habitat for animals, while providing organic and healthy food for people.

"If you don't bring diversity to a system, then you deplete it," Simoneau said. "If there's not a rich community, it's doomed to fail. It just seems logical to me . . . We've got blackberries, raspberries, golden raspberries, honeyberries, tayberries, Saskatoon berries . . . I've got so many things. It's all food."

When the neighbouring property came up for sale, Simoneau purchased it, which expanded his acreage and gave him the chance to produce more food for himself and his family. After he purchased the neighbouring property, he used some fill from one of his ponds to build a berm along the property's edge. It keeps out the noise from the traffic and keeps his view clear of cars rushing past on the road. He also saved the property from being logged, as he said other interested parties would have cut down the forested half of the property. He now rents the land to a young farmer and is working with him to grow food sustainably.

"We have a lot invested here, that's why we purchased that property," he explained. "Having a hops farm or something monocultural is an eyesore."

SIMONEAU continued on 10

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# SPRING + SUMMER FIXUP

## Water features crucial for habitat

**SIMONEAU**

continued from 9

Though Simoneau has put in a considerable amount of work on his property, one section will remain almost entirely untouched. Around half of the property is a natural forest, and he intends to keep it that way.

"The forest has been untouched for many years. The last owner never came for 25 years, and didn't let anybody do anything. I cut a pathway around, just to make it nice. I'm trying to entice my daughter to discover the woods like I did when I was a child," he said. "For me it's whimsical when I look at the moss, now that we're in the season of the beautiful green. It's fresh, young, vibrant."

Walking through the forested part of his property, Simoneau acknowledged that he is not "perfect." Hidden in a corner

of his property is a sawmill for cutting trees into boards, an area for storing gasoline and some worn-out equipment.

"I'm learning, we all [are]," he said. "I've got a tarp, and a can of oil for machines, everybody has to consume. If you need to create then there's the other side. You've got pipes laying around and an old tumbler that doesn't work anymore. You get things, shit happens, it's normal. Just keep it on your land. Eventually take it to the proper area, don't leave it on the corner or try to drop it anywhere. Recycling is free."

"At the end, it's all a question of will: what do you want to do in your free time?" he added. "We have been taking for so long from Mother Nature . . . You don't have to be perfect. You just have to balance it, especially when you can afford it."



PHOTOS BY MARC KITTINGHAM

Clockwise from above: Simoneau explains how his wetland has brought species of birds, amphibians and insects to the property, with Mount Maxwell in the background; the outdoor shower is fed by rainwater catchment; an art installation sits on top of one of Simoneau's hills overlooking the entire property; and one of the family's dogs tests out the swimming pond.





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# SPRING + SUMMER FIXUP

## GARDENING

# Gardening choices help native species thrive

Expert advice on how to give pollinators a chance

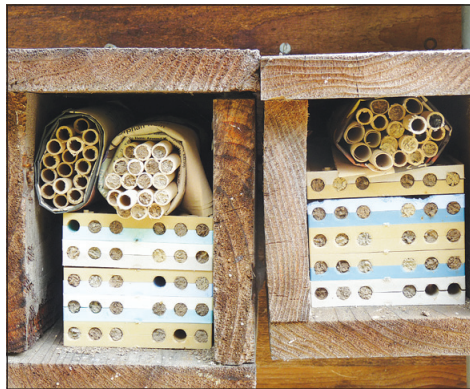
BY MARC KITTERINGHAM  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Mason bees can help a garden thrive by increasing pollination, but local native pollinator expert Linda Gilkeson recommends giving all native pollinators a welcoming habitat rather than focusing on one type of insect.

"People can do lots of things for bees: providing forage, planting extra flowers, making sure clover grows on the roads. There's lots of good things that are really useful for bees. Putting up nests that you don't clean is really detrimental," she said. "Mason bees are great, it's just that they come with this requirement that's quite a hassle. It's great to see them working, but it isn't easy."

When bees nest in artificial nests like those found in garden stores, they can suffer from living too closely with each other. Keeping mason bees in artificial nests is possible, but the nests and bee cocoons must be cleaned every year to prevent the proliferation of diseases like mites.

"People should not put up nests unless they are very very good about cleaning them, otherwise they'll do more harm than good. They make it look like all



PHOTOS COURTESY LINDA GILKESON

Above, healthy mason bee homes; at right is a yellow-faced bumblee (*Bombus vosnesenskii*) in an apple blossom.



you have to do is drill holes in a block of wood and stick it up. That is how to eventually end up killing that colony," Gilkeson explained. "I tell people if they're going to be a slum landlord and not clean up that apartment, those bees will be sick."

Mason bees are a variety of bee that are native to B.C. They naturally choose to nest in the spring in small holes, typically in trees and other natural features. The nests are filled with eggs, and adult bees bring pollen to the nests to feed the next year's young. In the spring, females emerge and begin foraging for pollen and nectar. The food is packed in to the

holes and once enough is collected to feed a bee larva the female will lay an egg and seal up the cell. This process is repeated until the hole is filled.

"Mason bees are like any kind of bee. They like certain things, and don't like other things," Gilkeson said. "One of the things they really really like is apple blossoms. They'll help. One of the things that people are doing is trying to increase the number of pollinators that will go for their fruit trees."

Mason bees, however, are not the only

kind of pollinator that assist with the various flowering plants in a garden. Insects like butterflies, wasps, flies, mosquitoes, ants and beetles all have a role in pollination, as do some non-insect creatures like bats and hummingbirds. Having a variety of pollinators around helps build resilience and will help save the various species that we depend on to help grow our food. While spring flowers are good for pollinators, people often forget that these beneficial insects still need food in the later part of the year.

"In our environment, our gardens are about the only places that a lot of insects can get nectar later in the summer when all of the native plants burn out . . . Do or don't do mason bees, but plant goldenrods and asters. That'll be just fabulous in the fall. You'll see huge amounts of bees, butterflies and other insects coming to them. That will do more to keep a healthy population of pollinators."

Pollinators and other insects also need a water source, particularly during the hottest part of the summer. Gilkeson recommends having a birdbath with a stone or rock in it to allow the insects a way to get out of the water.

"Making a habitat is really key. That's more important. Of course it's really pleasant to live with because of the flowers and things. Once you've done it, you're done and you don't have the chores of washing bee nests and stuff."

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# SPRING + SUMMER FIXUP



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

**IN THE SUNSHINE:** Hellebores from Fraser's Thimble Farms on display at the Home & Garden Show held at the Farmers' Institute last month inspire a new season of gardening.



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## HOME UPGRADES

# Time to replace wiring?

Safety issues abound in older homes

Old homes can be charming and contain architectural elements not often seen in many modern housing developments. But what older homes may have in design appeal, they may lack in updated features.

While cosmetic changes are not necessarily difficult, one area of concern in historic homes — and sometimes even in houses built 40 or 50 years ago — is archaic wiring. Wiring provides power to every room of the home. In today's electronics-driven society, electricity that works is an essential component of daily life. Over time, wiring can be compromised through simple aging, pest infiltration, weather, or other conditions. Deteriorated wiring can present a shock hazard and also a serious fire hazard.

Furthermore, the home improvement site This Old House advises that the amperage of old wiring may not be able to meet the needs of the devices used in homes — overpowering the circuits. This can cause breaker blowouts and other problems, such as overheated wires that may spark and cause fires from within the wall.

Wiring often falls into the “out of sight, out of mind” category. Homeowners may make allowances for inadequate

electrical systems, such as running extension cords or using multi-plug connectors to increase their wiring capacity. However, they may not be diligently keeping on top of upgrades needed to stay safe. Confirming that a home's electrical system is safe is a necessary part of home maintenance.

For those who haven't already done so, schedule an inspection with a licensed electrician to go over the home's wiring. He or she can determine if any areas pose a safety risk and/or do not conform to code requirements. Failure to meet code can lead to difficulty obtaining permits to make other home renovations, or difficulty selling a home later on.

The electrician can also go over improvements that can improve safety and function. Additional outlets, including GFCI outlets in kitchens and bathrooms, may be part of the plan, as well as rewiring a fuse box or circuit panel to allow for better flow of power around the house. Frayed wiring or underinsulated wiring also may need to be replaced.

Owners of old homes should recognize possible electrical system dangers that require attention. Plus, considering electrical codes change quite frequently, it is always in a homeowner's best interest to work with a qualified electrician to keep wiring inspected and up to date.

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# ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

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### ART REVIEWS

## Gallery 8 celebrates 10th anniversary

West coast themes  
centre local space

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gallery 8's 10th anniversary was celebrated in style over the weekend with the opening of a group exhibition featuring all gallery artists.

Owner Razali May is justifiably proud of his success and his contribution to the island's art scene, which is vitally important to many in the community. From taking on a huge stable of island artists after the previous J Mitchell Gallery closed its doors, to his growing confidence as a curator and transformation of the space, May has proved to be a solid but flexible presence in an unstable business environment.

May says he owes his success to his philosophy of positivity and love.

"That's what this gallery was built for," May said last week. "When people come in they feel the love and joy instead of being afraid to go into a gallery."

"Let's do another 10 years or more," he added.

While May has moved away from being strictly devoted to Gulf Islands artists, the majority of the people he represents still meet that criteria. Key figures who have been cornerstones from the start include JD Evans, Bill Boyd and Jade Boyd, Carol Evans, Donna Hall, Karen Reiss, Bob Leatherbarrow and Janis Woode.

At the same time as expanding the



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Gallery 8 owner Razali May in front of a Kathryn Amisson painting.

range of artists, May has also grown his offerings in terms of media. He did not show photographs for his first three or four years in business, for example, because he wasn't sure how they fit into the world of fine art. Since then he has become acquainted with artists whose originality in technique and expression convinced him otherwise. Photo artists like Avril Kirby, Gillean Proctor and Gary Brettnacher have leant depth to the gallery's collection.

The 10th anniversary show, which runs to May 11, perfectly demonstrates the gallery's wide range of offerings, from quirky to deeply serious. Many of the works showcase the west coast contemporary vibe or capitalize on the seasonal burst of spring colours. David Ellingsen, whose Anthropocene skull photos

were so impressive at a previous show, contributes two larger works from his Absent Presence series with a mystical west coast narrative bent. At the Terminus of Magical Thought portrays a naked man on all fours on a forest path, his head crowned and obscured by a jumble of antlers. His body is bathed in a pale luminous glow, setting the figure off against dark, closely set trees and understory.

Next door to Ellingsen's work is a new watercolour by Carol Evans, which picks up on the darker theme. Her characteristic crystal clear waters are replaced by a stormy scene and a solitary crow perched on an uprooted driftwood tree lying crosswise along a dark beach. Nicola Prinsen's gorgeous crow sculptures in dark patina bronze, found further along

the same end of the gallery, make ideal companions for the theme.

Taryn Brown takes an abstract approach to the local environment with her Ohh Garry! series, which pays tribute to the Garry oak. Her mixed-media paintings ripple with layers of imagery, some of which suggests richly textured tree bark, light beams or the rocky, mossy terrain where the trees thrive. Another thrilling abstract work that beams with spring energy comes from photographer Gillean Proctor, who leaves behind his glossy realism for an impressionist blur of fractured movement in Speed of Light.

Some artists pay homage to Canada's longtime residents while respecting their modern context. David Goatley's Raincoast Reverie is a lovely head and shoulders portrait of a young Coast Salish woman in traditional cedar hat. It's respectful to culture without falling prey to romanticizing or othering.

Gallery 8's landscape artists are in fine form at the anniversary show, with new works that embody a sense of place. Pieter Molenaar does well to apply his traditional oil paint style to the working side of the coast, with his expressive water scenes including tankers at wait and a herring boat heading out to fish. Painters Deborah Tilby and Peggy Bagshaw both apply their excellent and sensitive hands to the outside world, with Tilby evoking the hush of winter landscapes and Bagshaw capturing the more robust energy of forest life.

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### CONCERTS

## Viva Chorale sings with joy in multiple ways

Weekend concert at  
Fulford Hall

BY GAIL SJUBERG

DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Viva Chorale community choir is ready to thrill audiences this weekend in its With Joy concert.

"The whole idea is to have a joyous concert," said group director Caroni Young.

As if uplifting musical choices weren't enough to create that joy, Viva Chorale has asked the Jubilate Vocal Ensemble from Vancouver to join them.

"It's a pun because we are singing songs about joy but also 'with a choir called joy.'"

The two choirs with approximately 45 members each perform at Fulford Hall this Saturday night, April 27 at 7:30 p.m., and on Sunday afternoon, April 28 at 2 p.m. Young said some songs are designed to make audience members laugh, like a folk song called Flunky Jim that's about a guy trying to buy a new outfit by saving the government bounty paid for gopher tails. A dance-like Irish

tune about a fellow marrying an older woman for her money also aims to be fun.

A couple of the pieces express joy in a different way.

"Tabula Rasa talks about having a child and holding them in your arms for the first time and imagining the whole world opening up in front of them," said Young.

That piece is by Nelson, B.C. composer Don MacDonald, who is one of Young's favourites and whose work the choir has performed in the past.

"There's a real mix of songs to make you laugh and songs to make you reflect about life and songs to celebrate special moments in your life too . . . and what it means to appreciate the way you live your life."

The collaboration with Jubilate came about because Young was a former member of the choir.

"They are my Vancouver choir family, so they are all very good friends and we have stayed in touch and it is nice to invite them over to Salt Spring."

Jubilate also performed with Viva Chorale four years ago.

Jubilate's director is now Eldon McBride, who is a very accomplished musician and was Ben Heppner's personal rehearsal accompanist.

"It's a pleasure to work with him and the choir," said Young.

The two groups plan to do three songs as a mass choir, so that will mean the sound of 90 voices will fill Fulford Hall.

Young says the hall is a great venue for singing and has a lovely community feeling when you walk into it.

The concert will close with the ultra-joyous gospel tune I Sing Because I'm Happy.


Tickets for the show are at Apple Photo or the door.

### Bill Coon & Caroni Young

After the Sunday rendition of the Viva Chorale concert is over, director Young will get ready for another performance that night.

Young will sing jazz standards with renowned guitarist Bill Coon at All Saints at 7:30 p.m.

"Singing with Bill is such a real treat. He is such a great musician," said Young.

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**Paula Ann Van (Smith)** shows an electric mix of past and present works, along with a glimpse into the future.

Her **Tides of Time** exhibit at the **Salt Spring Gallery** begins on **Friday April 26th** with a reception from 5 - 7 pm. The show runs until May 8th.

# what's on this week



## Wed. Apr. 24

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

#### For the Birds: Tribute in Word + Song.

Music, poetry and more in a bird-themed evening of entertainment. Mahon Hall. 7 p.m. Part of Salt Spring Arts Council Easter Art Show activities.

### ACTIVITIES

#### Bittancourt House Museum.

Open Wednesdays through Fridays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., until June 28.

#### Life Drawing With the Salt Spring Painters' Guild.

Join the Salt Spring Painters Guild for a morning of life drawing at Mahon Hall with a live model. Easel, drawing board and drawing materials provided. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Part of Salt Spring Arts Council Easter Art Show activities.

#### Salt Spring Island Seniors Services Society AGM.

Seniors Centre group holds AGM at the centre. 2 p.m. Members will vote for a new board and whether to change the location of the Seniors Centre when ready.

#### Fulford OAP Birthday Celebration.

Fulford seniors group celebrates its 37th birthday. Guest speaker is George Laundry on island stories from Musgrave Road in the 1930s. Fulford Hall seniors annex. 2 p.m.

#### Book Launch: Eve Lazarus.

Eve Lazarus launches Murder by Milkshake, the story of Esther Castellani's death in 1965 by her husband Rene, a CKNW personality. Salt Spring Public Library. 7 p.m.

#### Music Bingo. Wednesdays with Taylor at Moby's Pub.

7:30 to 10 p.m.

## Thu. Apr. 25

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

#### Open Mic at Moby's.

Thursdays at Moby's Pub. 8:30 to 11:45 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

#### Early Morning Birding.

Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club hosts Burgoyne Bay outings with expert birder and naturalist Peter McAllister, who will lead people through the meadows, forests and out onto the shore of the bay every Thursday into May. Meet at 6 a.m. in Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park, parking on the road, near the barns. Boots are a must for the wet meadows, and warm clothes too. All levels of ability are welcome!

#### Artist's Talk: Bob Leatherbarrow.

Artist Bob Leatherbarrow talks about his Easter Art Show installation piece titled Brunch. Mahon Hall. 12 to 1 p.m. Part of Easter Art Show activities.

#### Artist Demo: Noelle Hamlyn.

Artist in Residence Noelle Hamlyn investigates the art of free motion machine embroidery. She will demonstrate machine embroidery, drawing with thread and surface design techniques being applied to various fibres including fine papers and fabrics. She will also sample contemporary lace effects through the use of water soluble plastic. Mahon Hall. 1 to 5 p.m. Part of Salt Spring Arts Council Easter Art Show activities.

#### EV Group Celebration + Green Drinks.

Join the Salt Spring electric vehicles group to mark the owners of EV #200 at Penny's Pantry on the Green. 4:30 p.m. Green Drinks follows.

## Thu. Apr. 25

### ACTIVITIES

**Yogassage.** Yin Yoga + Massage = Yogassage with yin yoga teacher Sarah Jane Smith and RMT Mardon Dary at the Nest hot yoga. 7:30 p.m. Pre-registration required at thenesthotyoga@gmail.com.

#### Bittancourt House Museum.

See Wednesday's listing.

## Fri. Apr. 26

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

#### Ruwadzano Marimba Band Dance.

Dance it up to the magical rhythms of Zimbabwe. Kid-friendly show at Lions Hall. Doors 6:30 p.m., show starts at 7 p.m.

#### Stagecoach Theatre Presents Eldritch Manor.

Youth musical theatre school production of adaptation of book by islander Kim Thompson. ArtSpring. 7 p.m.

#### Morien Jones Trio.

Live music at Moby's. 9 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Artist's Talk: Kenna Barradell.** Kenna Barradell speaks about the artist Miro at a noon-hour talk at Mahon Hall. 12 to 1 p.m. Part of Salt Spring Arts Council Easter Art Show activities.

#### Panel Talk: Inspired, Borrowed or Stolen?

Art + Appropriation. What are the differences and why does it matter?

Moderated by Patrick McCallum with guest panelists Helga Pakasaar, Ingrid Mary Percy and Adrian Wright. Mahon Hall. 7 to 9 p.m.

## Fri. Apr. 26

### ACTIVITIES

#### Art Show Opening: Paula Ann Van (Smith).

Tides of Time exhibit opens at Salt Spring Gallery with reception from 5 to 7 p.m.

#### Bittancourt House Museum

See Wednesday's listing.

## Sat. Apr. 27

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

#### Stagecoach Theatre Presents Eldritch Manor.

See Friday's listing.

#### Homage to the Music of Newfoundland and Ireland.

Concert features Edgar Hann, Em Walker, Adam Huber, Michael Aronoff and Diana Cary. Mahon Hall. 7 p.m.

#### Viva Chorale! Concert: With Joy.

Choir directed by Caroni Young with guests Jubilate Vocal Ensemble from Vancouver. Fulford Hall. 7:30 p.m.

#### The Sunny Siders.

A night of jazz at the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

#### Revel with the Wild: Dance Ritual and Dancefest with DJ Beatfarmer.

Join in an evening of dance, ritual and revelry in honor of Beltane, an ancient fire festival that celebrates the halfway point between spring and summer. Cedar Mathias and Karen Clark join forces with internally-known music producer and DJ, Beatfarmer. Beaver Point Hall. 8 p.m. to midnight.

#### Everyday People.

Live music at Moby's. 9 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Salt Spring Saturday Market.** Famous market of arts and crafts vendors, food and farmers in Centennial Park every Saturday through October. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Sat. Apr. 27

### ACTIVITIES

#### North Salt Spring Waterworks District Trustees Election and AGM.

NSSWD ratepayers can vote in the trustee election for two seats. Community Gospel Chapel. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The annual general meeting also takes place at the chapel beginning at 2 p.m.

#### Salt Spring United Soccer Showcase.

Year-end soccer program wrap-up at Portlock Park. Boys U10/11 and girls U10-12 play from 9:30 to 11 a.m.; U7 boys and girls at 10 a.m.; U10 and under boys and girls from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.; U12-13 boys at 11 a.m.; Walking soccer exhibition game at 11:45 a.m.; Fitness exhibition with Tanja Akerman for youths aged 11-14 from 12:15 to 12:30 p.m.; All-ages skills contest from 1 to 2 p.m.; Girls U13-14 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.; Adult teams showcased from 3 to 4 p.m. Prize draws and Muddy Cleats Cafe open all day.

#### Rainbow Road Aquatic Centre Free Swim & Open House.

Community showcase, free swim with the inflatable obstacle course and 11th birthday party for the pool. 12:30 to 3 p.m.

#### Artist Demo: Mel Williamson.

Mel Williamson demonstrates oil painting at Mahon Hall. 1 to 3 p.m. Part Salt Spring Arts Council Easter Art Show activities.

#### Salt Spring Garden Club Spring Plant Sale.

Garden club's famous sale at the Farmers' Institute. 1 to 3 p.m.

#### Salt Spring United AGM.

Annual general meeting in Portlock Park portable at 4:30 p.m.

## Sun. Apr. 28

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

#### Viva Chorale! Concert: With Joy.

See Saturday's listing, except the start time is 2 p.m.

#### Stagecoach Theatre Presents Eldritch Manor.

See Friday's listing, except the start time is 2 p.m.

#### Bill Coon & Caroni Young.

Jazz standards concert at All Saints. 7:30 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

#### Spring: A Day of Yoga, Ayurvedic Food and Writing.

Join yoga teacher Sarah Jane Smith, ayurvedic chef Kari Mathieson and writer Claire Sicherman for a day of seasonally inspired yoga, food and writing at beautiful Golden Tree Farm. 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pre-registration required. Visit thenesthotyoga.com to sign up.

#### Sundays on the Nature Reserve.

Drop-in activities for kids on Sundays through May. Today's session is The Songsters - Songbirds and Us featuring beak / hands-on activity, Madlib scavenger hunt and nest game. For kids ages 6 to 12 with their parents. Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve. 1 to 4 p.m.

## Mon. Apr. 29

### ACTIVITIES

#### SSI Transportation Commission.

Regular business meeting at the library. 4 to 6 p.m.

#### Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District AGM.

Annual general meeting of fire district. Ganges Fire Hall training room. 7 p.m.

## Mon. Apr. 29

### ACTIVITIES

#### Salt Spring Community Alliance Meeting.

Creative and Sustainable Solutions for Affordable Housing on Salt Spring is the topic of this month's Community Alliance meeting at Lions Hall. 7 to 9 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Light refreshments available.

## Tue. Apr. 30

### ACTIVITIES

#### SSI Local Trust Committee.

Regular business meeting gets started at Harbour House Hotel at 9:30 a.m., with trustee reports and town hall session starting at 12 noon.

#### Artist Reception: Susan Gordon.

Opening reception for May exhibit of paintings called The Horses That Were My Teachers by Susan Gordon. Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 3 to 5 p.m.

#### Trivia Tuesday.

Every Tuesday at Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

## Wed. May 1

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

#### Tea a Tempo: Aki and Pierre.

Classical and South American guitar by duo of Aki Otsu and Pierre Boies, plus Akiko Otsu on koto, or Japanese harp. All Saints By-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

#### Bittancourt House Museum.

See last Wednesday's listing.

#### Music Bingo.

See last Wednesday's listing.

### THE FRITZ CINEMA

- **Us** shows Friday, April 26 to Sunday, April 28 at 7 p.m. and with an additional 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. Rated 14A. 117 minutes.
- **Free Solo** shows Monday, April 29 to Thursday, May 2 at 7 p.m. Rated PG. 101 minutes.

### EXHIBITIONS

- **Paula Ann Van (Smith)** exhibits **Tides of Time** at **Salt Spring Gallery** beginning on Friday, April 26 from 5 to 7 p.m., with the show running until May 8.
- **The Horses That Were My Teachers**, an exhibit of work by **Susan Gordon**, opens with a reception on Tuesday, April 30 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the **Salt Spring Public Library Program Room**. The show continues through May.
- **Gallery 8's Symbolically 8** exhibition and 10th anniversary celebration continues in the Grace Point Square gallery until May 11.

### EXHIBITIONS

- **13th annual Easter Art Show — Homage** — runs at **Mahon Hall** through April 28. Plus a number of special arts events will be held on various days.
- **Cheryl Long** shows **WaterBodies**, landscapes that resulted from being inspired by her travels, at the **Salt Spring Gallery** until April 24.
- **Nikki Menard** shows work in her **Beyond Edges** exhibit at **Fernwood Road Cafe** until May 11.
- The first exhibit of the 2019 season at **Kizmit Galeria & Cafe** features acrylic paintings by **Mikaela Morgan** and assemblage pieces by **Marianne Campbell**.
- **Timothy Gibbon** holds a photography exhibit in the **library's program room** through April.
- **Jeremy Witmer** shows **Inspired Landscapes** in the **ArtSpring** lobby until April 29.
- **Rea Zogia** shows **Nova Luna** in the **Jankura Lounge** at **ArtSpring** until April 29.

see horoscope on page 16

### StageCoach Theatre Presents Eldritch Manor

ArtSpring

Fri.-Sat., April 26-27 at 7 p.m.

Sun., April 28 at 2 p.m.

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## LIVE THEATRE

## Eldritch Manor on ArtSpring stage

Stagecoach marks 20th anniversary

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Stagecoach Theatre School marks a milestone with its annual year-end production at ArtSpring this week, celebrating 20 years performing on Salt Spring with their completely original play, Eldritch Manor.

After 20 years the nonprofit children's theatre group has seen countless islanders pass through its programs, offered from pre-school age through middle school. An entire generation of confident, creative and socially literate individuals can be accredited to the school, not to mention a reliably well-crafted final show each spring.

Stagecoach artistic director Adina Hildebrandt said that it's exciting to see the ongoing growth of the school that Simon Henson founded, which is attracting an even more diverse cross-section of island youth.

"What's really exciting about this year is we're doing an original play with original music, so we're starting to include the community more and more," Hildebrandt said. "There are people who are adding music or adding costuming, and now we've got playwrights here that wrote the play just for us, and we've got the musicians that have written the music just for us."

"It's expanding into different kinds of children coming to us, too. All kinds of kids, not just the kind of kid you would think of as a theatre kid, are taking our classes, and I think they're gaining so much personally."

Eldritch Manor was adapted from the 2012 novel by its author, Kim Thompson, who also became a Stagecoach instructor this year.

"I'm really glad to be associated with the 20th anniversary because it's such a great program and they do a lot for the kids," said Thompson. "I'm really happy to be involved."

Making Eldritch Manor into a play has long been a dream for Hildebrandt, who also happens to be co-owner of Salt Spring Books.

"Adina had the idea right from when the book came out. I thought she was just being polite and said things like that to all her authors," Thompson said. "The years went by and she kept saying it."

As the synopsis goes, 12-year-old Willa Fuller is convinced that the old folks in the shabby boarding house down the street are prisoners of their sinister landlord. After being hired on as a housekeeper, she discovers Eldritch Manor is actually a retirement home for ancient mythological creatures, most of whom just want to stay hidden and under the radar in their old age. They will have to marshall old talents under Willa's leadership, however, when the forces of darkness threaten to attack.

When Thompson started writing Eldritch Manor her daughter was around three or four years old. The book has since expanded into a series and El is now part of Stagecoach's senior class, which takes the lead in the annual end-of-year play.

As an experienced script writer and longtime writer for animated TV series, adapting the story itself wasn't difficult for Thompson. She thought there might be some problems recreating the supernatural creatures and events — so easy to imagine in a novel — for the amateur stage. Great costumes, props and set designs led by Stagecoach producer Cindy Jacobsen have ensured a truly fantastic visual environment for the drama.

Eldritch Manor's cast of characters may be challenging in that they include a centaur, a mermaid and other fantastical creatures, but the story



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Stagecoach Theatre's Eldritch Manor cast.

provides a good range of parts for an ensemble play. The senior group has 14 members, at least half of whom have a major role. Two of the main characters will also be shared between actors.

"As Adina and I were working on it we were very conscious to give everyone a nice scene or a funny bit," said Thompson, adding each character also gets to express themselves in a song, whether solo or in a small group.

Writing the songs presented an entirely different challenge for Thompson, who wrote the lyrics and then sent most of them to Keith Ollerenshaw and Caroni Young to compose the music. (She and her daughter cowrote both words and music for one song that her daughter performs.)

"It's very hard to write lyrics that aren't just easy and cliches, and still have them rhyme and everything," Thompson reported.

The high-level professional involvement and commitment of the senior theatre class predicts the 20th anniversary show will be one to remember. Audiences have three opportunities to catch the event at ArtSpring, which runs at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, April 26 and 27, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 28.

Eldritch Manor is preceded by a short program featuring Stagecoach's improv and intermediate classes. The weekend also includes a silent auction with many items donated by the local community. Proceeds go to scholarships that make tuition possible for families.

## TEA À TEMPO

## Pierre and Aki team up

May 1 concert

SUBMITTED BY MUSIC MAKERS

One of the many charms of Salt Spring Island is the creative energy that emerges in sometimes surprising ways. This is true of the classical guitar duo, Aki and Pierre, featured at Tea à Tempo on May 1.

Akihisa Otsu and Pierre Boies first met at the Saturday market 10 years ago, where they found themselves as neighbouring vendors, Aki with his tasty traditional Japanese Roly Poly Rice Balls, and Pierre with delicious home-made pies.

Side by side at the market, the two musicians soon discovered their shared interest in classical guitar, and mused on playing together for a long time, until eventually, despite their very busy lives, they made a point of practising together as much as possible. Over time they acquired a repertoire that holds appeal in venues such as restaurants and small fairs. This will be their third appearance at Tea à Tempo, with a delightful program of classical and South American music.

Sharing the concert stage with Aki and Pierre will be Akiko Otsu on the koto, the Japanese harp. This beautiful stringed instrument is the national instrument of Japan, made of kiri wood, about 180 centimetres in length and with 13 strings, strung over 13 moveable bridges. The strings are plucked using three finger picks.

Music begins at 2:10 p.m. in All Saints By-the-Sea.

Admission is by donation. The concert is followed by optional tea and treats.

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## Financial Advice

## Financial advice for your 2018 tax return

It's everyone's favourite time of year— tax season! Depending on your tax situation, you may be getting a refund. Before you splurge on a hot tub or a vacation with your refund, it's important to consider your entire financial picture. Tax planning actually plays a big role in your financial plan. Your advisor will look at strategies that you can implement to reduce the amount of tax you pay with the hopes of using that money to help get you closer to your financial goals. There are a number of ways you can use your tax refund including paying down debt, investing your return in RRSPs, TFSA's or in the stock market, or building your emergency fund.

One thing that is commonly forgotten is that a tax refund is basically the government returning money to you without any interest. If you are getting big refunds every year, I would speak with your tax professional about why this is happening as this money could be better used elsewhere with an investment opportunity versus waiting until tax time each year. However, tax time shouldn't be the only time you think about your finances and tax planning. It's important to talk to your advisor about ways that you use tax planning strategies to better your financial picture year-round.



TANYA STEEVES

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Hot brake smell may or may not indicate problems. Braking continuously down a long hill will heat your brakes enough to give off a noticeable odour.

The cost of repairs can only be determined after a diagnosis has been completed.

If you notice a change in your vehicle's feel, noise or smell, a test drive and in-shop inspection should be performed before a small, easily repaired problem turns into a major repair. *Drive Safe, Gyle*



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**Find A Realtor To Represent You** - Most buyers just "happen" to connect with a realtor who has a house listed that they are inquiring about. Savvy buyers will seek the opinion of their lawyer, mortgage broker or others and determine whom they would like to represent them in obtaining what is likely the largest asset in their lives. Experience and strategic negotiation skills are great attributes. This is the person who will provide *guidance as to offer price and subject conditions to protect ...*

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# ISLAND LIFE

- Star of the Week
- Remember When
- Streets of SSI

**D.W. Salty** is looking for material for his column, **Streets of Salt Spring Island**

If you have information on any of our streets, please contact us at: 250-537-9933 or [dwsalty@driftwoodgimedia.com](mailto:dwsalty@driftwoodgimedia.com)



## THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

by Michael O'Connor

[www.sunstarastronomy.com](http://www.sunstarastronomy.com) | [sunstarastronomy@gmail.com](mailto:sunstarastronomy@gmail.com)

TIP OF THE WEEK: READ MORE IN MY NEWSLETTER. SIGN-UP IS FREE ON MY WEBSITE.

The Sun conjunct Uranus in Taurus has been shaking us all somehow over the past week. Positively, it has served to bring awakening and realization where previously shadows and blind spots obscured clarity. Mercury, Venus and Chiron all closely aligned in Aries served to amplify this focus. Like a reflexologist pressing on a pressure point to release the block, the metaphor applies to whatever area of your life that it is applying to. As is true with blocked points, they can be experienced as somewhat painful, as with a knotted muscle. So, the pressure release reveals that a fine mixture of pleasure and pain and ultimately serves to release the issue. Now, that process is largely complete and it is time to get on with more practical affairs. The question is: are you clear with your destiny, dreams, visions, goals, and objectives? This is a good time to know. I can help.

### Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

You are on fire now. Hopefully, you prepared the fireplace adequately. After all, Uranus there represents another kind of combustible fuel and if it is not contained you may be finding yourself putting out unwanted fires. . . . On the high side, you are excited. The focus is probably on you, home and family more than worldly pursuits, but this can prove challenging too.

### Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

You are well out of the gate by now and are probably snorting; scratching the ground and waving your horns and whatever else you need to win. Some of the work is inward or behind the scenes and may involve some measure of healing, fixing or improving. Big dreams are brewing and you want to do it right and are wise to address possible snags early on.

### Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Balancing a period of retreat during which time you can rest and make a plan with social interests and activities are highlighted now. Amidst a deeper process of veritable metamorphic change, you are also experiencing a widening of your social circle. This can apply professionally too but doing so includes facing possible fear of failure and maybe even of success.

### Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

You are in the mood to break through walls. These may be those of your own mindset or emotions. Deciphering who you are and perhaps where you belong in the world at this stage is featured. If this is not evident now, it could be soon. In the short term, circumstances are pushing you to confront fears and overcome old habits that simply no longer serve.

### Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

Rather big shifts and changes are underway in your public and/or professional life. Inspirations to make improvements and heal your overall status are motivating you. In some respects, you feel rebellious and a bit punchy. Positively, this is igniting your energy levels. On the other hand, you are excited at the prospect of adventure, or is it a vision quest?

### Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

A steady stream of new realizations is entering your conscious mind. Where before you were digging deep to examine who you are now you are focused on what you can achieve. To this end, a research project is underway. Among other things you may be discovering where you need to change and/or heal. Is it your attitude, approach. . . . both?

### Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

Probing deeply to decipher what you truly want and need and what constitutes your order of priorities at this stage of your journey finds you in a rather deep and reflective mood. Yet, you are hardly passive. In fact, you feel determined to push through opposition coming from both within you and from others. Not a peaceful time, but it is powerful.

### Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

Endings and new beginnings, death and rebirth are signature themes for you and are up front and center now. You may be feeling critical about certain people and feel the need or desire to cut them out of your life. With your ambitions on the rise, you need to break free of anything and anyone who you deem to be slowing you down because you are determined to accelerate.

### Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

Changes in your lifestyle are underway and are moving fast. Positively, you feel liberated somehow and this is a source of inspiration. You may still be contending with some lingering snags especially associated with certain people. But you realize that these will not last very long so it is not enough to dampen your spirits. You have earned some playtime.

### Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

You are in the mood to kick some butt, maybe your own. The time has come to redefine yourself. This could involve a process of self-discovery and or re-invention. At least the preliminary thoughts regarding such action are beginning to stir. It may take several months or even into next year, but you are already feeling the urge to explore your options.

### Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

As if suddenly, you are seeing yourself and the world, and in the world in new ways. Fresh perspectives are igniting your pioneering spirit. It could be work related and could involve the prospects of some big moves. At least you feel excited to play with the idea and the prospects. This could also inspire an urge to travel.

### Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

Your priorities are changing rather quickly now. Inspired by the prospect of new earning potential, you are motivated to really dig deep. This can include brainstorming to generate ideas and or marketing campaigns to increase your exposure. This is more than just a seasonal theme. You are determined to break through once and for all.



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM  
**GORSE-SLAYING GANG:** From left, Sandy Harkema, Jessica Harkema, Yvonne Angus and Michelle Parry take in a load of gorse at the Ganges village clean-up work bee on Earth Day. The second annual event was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

## COMMUNITY GATHERING

# Spring ritual celebrates wildness

Beltane evening at Beaver Point Hall

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A dance ritual and festival held in the honour of Beltane, a traditional Gaelic spring festival, is being held at Beaver Point Hall on Saturday night.

Salt Springers are invited to join an evening of dance, ritual and revelry to help celebrate the coming of spring. Beltane is an ancient fire festival that celebrates the halfway point between spring and summer. It is believed that the energies of

the Earth are at their strongest at this time of year, and that it is a reminder that people are made to be wild.

"It's time to bask in the light and beauty of new growth and possibilities, and to open to the wildness within and all around you," the organizers write in a press release.

The evening begins with a dance ritual set up by organizers Cedar Mathias and Karen Clark. Mathias is a Dance Temple DJ who is known for her fresh trance-based tracks that ignite the dance floor. Clark is an author and priestess who is said to "help translate the mysteries of the Goddess into our modern search for

meaning and personal growth."

The evening will continue with a dancefest led by DJ Beatfarmer. Beatfarmer will bring his tribal soundscapes to the hall, mixing organic world music with powerful electronic beats.

The doors open at 8 p.m., with the ritual beginning at 8:30. Participants are encouraged to come in costume, dressed as their "wild, animal, earthy selves." Treats will be available for purchase from Amblewood Ambrosia. Advance tickets are at Salt Spring Books or by email transfer to [resonant.touch@gmail.com](mailto:resonant.touch@gmail.com). They will also be available at the door.

## ADOPT A PET TODAY!



Caspian and Jadis are a bonded pair who are looking for that special home who understands the need to take time with timid cats. They are seeking a quiet home that will be patient with them.

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## SALT SPRING Star of the WEEK

Julian Paquette



Julian Paquette has lived on Salt Spring Island for seven years and been the manager of the not-for-profit Salt Spring Forum for six years. Julian has been seen and heard all over the island promoting the forum's activities.

Julian has also been active with Diverse and Inclusive Salt Spring Island, helping educate people on gender identity issues.

Julian is leaving the island to take a communications position at Royal Roads University in Victoria. We will miss you, Julian!



# BUSINESS BITS

Send your business news to Amber Ogilvie: [aogilvie@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:aogilvie@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

## Business activity heats up

Ownership, location changes and more

BY AMBER OGILVIE  
DRIFTWOOD PUBLISHER

Salt Springers are finally partaking in spring activities. I often now see the neighbours out in their yards gardening, and many still cleaning up after our awful winter windstorm. Many people are working on their homes and yards, so if you need supplies or contractors be sure to check out this week's Spring and Summer Fixup section in the paper.

With the Saturday market now open we are seeing more tourists and locals in the downtown core and things are starting to speed up. Along with the reappearance of spring we have seen some changes in our business sector on the island.

- Did you notice the business name change from **Café Talia** to **Switchboard Café**? The new owner chose this name to give reference to the business that was originally housed in the building. According to the Archives, the switchboard belonged to the BC Telephone Company. There is a picture of the switchboard in this location taken back in 1949.

- **Black Sheep Books** has new owners. Cat Cooper and her daughter in-law Mishka Campbell took over the business from Barnaby Fell on April 1st. They are both looking forward to meeting everyone on the island. Mishka tells us you can expect a great selection of books and quality customer service.

- Congratulations to **Gallery 8** on celebrating its 10th anniversary this April. Razali May purchased J. Mitchell Gallery in 2009. May change the name to Gallery 8 after the purchase.

- Adam Cappuccino opens the doors to his new business **KoKoroCare**, a natural health clinic providing acupuncture and herbal medicine in Grace Point Square on April 1st. KoKoroCare offers community acupuncture, TCM acupuncture and traditional fire cupping, herbal medicine and registered massage therapy. Cappuccino has been practising on Salt Spring Island for over five years.

- **Uptown Pizza** has relocated to 348 Lower Ganges Rd. The property looks fantastic and you can still expect the same delicious food and excellent customer service. Congratulations to Barry, Kelly and staff.

- David Karr, a cofounder of the internationally successful **Guayaki** company, has partnered with Tessa Ruttan to open the **Mateada Nitro Lounge**. Ruttan, who holds the

main management position, invites everyone to check out their interesting menu. "Yerba mate is the core inspiration and fuel for this dream project, a symbol of friendship and sharing, vitality and health." Look for the feature story on this business in our May/June Aqua lifestyles magazine.

- **Duthie Gallery** is now serving us more than just art . . . you will now find **Francis Bread** on location. It's a bakery owned by Peter Hunt and his partner Meghan Carr. Peter is the son of gallery owners Nick Hunt and Celia Duthie. Peter and Meghan offer naturally leavened breads cooked in a wood-fired oven. You might have sampled some at the market. The bakery opens at 9 a.m., and they are also now serving light lunches on the patio on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and on Sunday starting in May.

- **Forsyth Farms**, owned by Grant and Michele Forsyth, has 47 acres at the top of Jones Road in the Fulford Valley. In addition to farming they also have a "Gravelmart" offering topsoil, sand, drain rock, pea and crushed gravel that

is available to be picked up or they will deliver. Forsyth Farms also includes a recent addition of two beautiful and giggly 10-month-old identical twin daughters! Grant grew up on Salt Spring and is now realizing his dream of raising his family and running a farm here on the island.

- Winemakers Mira Tusz and Daniel Dragert purchased **Mistaken Identity Vineyards** in April of 2018. They are looking forward to opening their doors on the May long weekend. They have named their new business **Kutatás** (pronounced Koo-Tah-Tash), a Hungarian term for research, inquisition, exploration or quest. Mira and Daniel, who share Hungarian heritage, found this name a fitting description of their approach to winemaking. A native of Vancouver Island, Daniel brings more than 10 years of winemaking experience to the business. Both Mira and Daniel are looking forward to their new adventure on Salt Spring Island and they will personally hand tend the vineyard to ensure they achieve the highest possible quality.

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO [news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

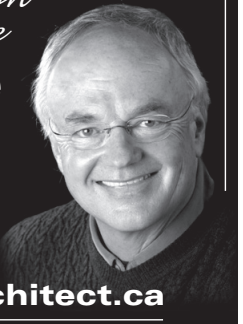
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## Salt Spring Island Transit Seasonal Service Change



Effective May 4, 2019

- ▶ Adding limited service on route **2 Fulford Harbour** along Cusheon Lake Road on Saturdays
- ▶ Seasonal changes to routes **2 Fulford Harbour**, **3 Vesuvius**, and **4 Long Harbour** due to ferry time changes

Visit [bctransit.com](http://bctransit.com) or pick up a new Rider's Guide on board.



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# GET INVOLVED

## The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) seeks applications for its Advisory Planning Commissions and Board of Variance.

### ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION

The Advisory Planning Commission (APC) consists of up to 11 members. It advises the LTC on community planning and development matters including Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw changes, development applications, and LTC projects. Appointments are for a 2-year term.

### AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION

The Agricultural Advisory Planning Commission (AAPC) consists of up to 7 members. It advises the LTC on community planning and development related to farming and agriculture such as Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) applications and current projects. Applicants should have a background in farming or agriculture. Appointments are for a 2-year term.

### BOARD OF VARIANCE

The Board of Variance consists of 3 members. The Board reviews and makes decisions on Board of Variance applications. Individuals with previous local government experience and a background in land use planning and development are especially encouraged to apply. Appointments are for a 3-year term and meetings are infrequent.

If you are interested in an appointment, please submit a completed application and CV or resume by **Friday, April 26, 2019.**

[www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ssiapc](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ssiapc)

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**Obituaries    Obituaries**

**Edith Diane Hales**  
 March 25, 2019

Edith Diane Hales passed peacefully from us on March 25th, 2019.

Diane lived in Campbell River for 24 years, working as a Pharmacist at the Hospital, before retiring to Saltspring Island.

She was very active in the Community, on the ski hills, and on the ocean. She made many friends and kept in touch with them all.

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*"What the caterpillar perceives as the end, to the butterfly is just the beginning."*



**SEE WEEKLY HOROSCOPE ON PAGE 16**

**Coming Events**

**artcraft CALL FOR REGISTRATION AND NEW APPLICATIONS**

Artcraft is BC's longest running, juried arts and crafts show, proudly presenting the best of the Southern Gulf Islands. In 2019 Artcraft runs from June 7th to September 15th.

The registration deadline for returning exhibitors is May 10th. This year all jewellers and new applicants will be juried. The deadline for the jury is May 13th.

Registration and information forms are available on the "Artcraft" page at [www.ssartscouncil.com/artcraft/](http://www.ssartscouncil.com/artcraft/) or please contact the Artcraft manager at 250 537-0899 or [artcraft@ssartscouncil.com](mailto:artcraft@ssartscouncil.com) for more information.

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**PHILIP R. WARD**

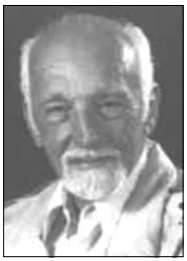
Born August 13, 1926 at Barnet, England, died peacefully, March 31, 2019, Salt Spring Island, BC.

Survived by his beloved wife, Denise of 54 years & his daughters: Carol Kelly (Phil Kelly) & Nancy Ward (Lawrence Warriner) and Grandchildren: Greg, Michelle, Alyssa, Doug & Avery Kelly.

Philip's passion for the arts framed his career as the foremost museum conservator in Canada. After military service in WWII, Phil trained as an art teacher and began his career at the British Museum in London in the Oriental Antiquities department. He moved to Canada in 1966 with his Canadian wife, Denise. There he founded the Conservation Program at the British Columbia Provincial Museum, (Royal British Columbia Museum) overseeing some of the early work preserving First Nation's totem poles. Philip also developed & taught the first university Conservation course in Canada at the University of Victoria. Phil then took the position of Director of Conservation Services at the Canadian Conservation Institute in Ottawa. He wrote nationally & internationally on topics related to artifact and cultural preservation and their importance to the world at large. In his own words "miraculous experiences when the ancient past almost literally speaks to us. ... Magic!"

In retirement, Phil returned to British Columbia to enjoy time with family, his extensive garden, beloved pets as well as painting. He will be remembered as a warm & generous man; always with a story to tell and a pipe in hand.

Thank you to Greenwoods Complex Care Facility & Lady Minto Hospital.



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# Remember WHEN

## Five years ago

Public urination, excessive drinking and drug use in Centennial Park encouraged the CRD Parks and Recreation Commission to develop a new strategy to curb a springtime rush of public safety concerns. "We are having quite a few issues with alcohol and drug activity in the park," said Lorraine Brewster, general manager of the Parks and Recreation Commission. PARC received complaints about park users feeling threatened and intimidated by a growing number of people described during the April PARC meeting as transient park users. The RCMP detachment declared the park a priority area and hoped to address problems before the summer began.

## Ten years ago

A longboarding race down Juniper Place was set to become a yearly tradition on the island, or so hoped the race organizer. An estimated 45 racers from ages nine to 45 competed in various categories that saw the racers reach up to 80 km/h along the course. Roughly 300 people stopped by to watch the event. Participants said that Salt Spring rivalled anything else offered in the longboarding world cup circuit.

## Twenty years ago

Salt Spring firefighters were unsure what to expect when they got a call from Gulf Islands Secondary School at 6 p.m. on a Saturday. When they arrived, they found 80 students so intent on eating after a 30-hour World Vision fast that the cooks forgot to turn on the exhaust fans in the kitchen. The 80 burgers on the grill had produced enough smoke to trip the building's smoke alarms.

## Thirty years ago

A Ganges man was not injured but experienced a few harrowing moments when the brakes on his pick-up truck failed and he crashed through the barrier at the Long Harbour ferry terminal. The driver, Robert Owen, approached the terminal and was unable to stop. Owen's vehicle sustained around \$1,000 in damages. The terminal barrier was also heavily damaged.

## Forty years ago

Motorists on Lower Ganges Road were forced to make a detour to make room for an oncoming building. The building, which at one time housed at the Valcourt shopping centre, was purchased by the island's Masonic Lodge. It took the movers a couple of hours to move the structure to its current location just north of the B.C. Hydro transmission lines on Lower Ganges Road. One of the most difficult points was at the Atkins Road junction, where power poles made for a tight squeeze. The building was inched along between the poles, with workers on the roof prying the lines over the roof's peak.

## Fifty years ago

Dangers of traffic on the hill leading to Gulf Islands Secondary School were detailed at a trustee meeting. Betty Ross said that she had been watching the road, and had seen cars streaking up past Mahon Hall and over the hill. She had also seen the hill crowded with youngsters, all reluctant to move out of the way. "There will be a serious accident there one day," she forecast. The road past Mahon Hall was where everything converged: buses, children, cars, parents and dogs all rushed to the hall. There was also a danger noted with buses backing into the bays on Kanaka Road. It was agreed that measures must be taken to improve traffic conditions at the schools.

## STREET NAMES

# Crofton history has deep roots

The Crofton family was descended from John Crofton, who was exchequer general of Ireland for Queen Elizabeth I. Around 300 years later some of his descendants — three brothers who were nephews to a baron — emigrated to Salt Spring beginning in the late 1890s.



**D.W. Salty**  
STREETS OF  
**SALT SPRING**

Crofton Road is named for the family of Fred Crofton, who arrived on the island in 1899 at age 16 or 17 in place of joining the navy. He became apprentice to his father's old friend Jack Scovell, who owned a 100-acre seafront farm at the head of Ganges Harbour.

Fred and his young wife Nona married in 1903 and then purchased the farm, where they raised livestock, fruit and vegetables. They also started a family that would amount to seven children, all of whose first names started with the letter D.

After Fred enlisted and left to fight in the Great War in 1916, Nona began taking in overnight travellers to help support the growing family. With help from her family (Nona's father was the famous Salt Spring Reverend E.F. Wilson), she renovated their farmhouse into a guesthouse, named after Fred's Irish country home. She and her brother started the hotel by adding a dining room with around half a dozen bedrooms above it, plus space for tenting outside.

Transformed over time into a full hotel, the Harbour House attracted visitors from far and wide for its saltwater swimming pool, clay tennis courts, picnics, fishing trips, scavenger hunts and high tea served on the veranda. Nona continued to be the main operator after the war, as Fred had returned in rough shape from his experience. A third story was added around 1929.

The Crofton family ran the hotel to 1965. Some of the large farm property had been subdivided by then and most of the rest was divided up between the children.

The very last Crofton to live on Salt Spring was Fred and Nona's daughter Denise, who reached age 96 before her death in 2009 at Lady Minto Hospital's extended care wing. Denise spent her final years on the same land where she grew up, as the hospital on Crofton Road is located on the site of the former 100-acre farm.

## What is this? Where is it?



Can you identify this spot on Salt Spring where the writing is on the wall? Send your answer to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or send a note to us on Facebook. The first person to submit the right answer gets their name published in this space.



LAST WEEK: Rachel Hughes was the first of several people to recognize this spot as the entrance to the library steps in Ganges.

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April 26 Noon Hour Talk: Kenna Barradell  
April 26 Curator Panel: Inspired, Borrowed or Stolen, 7pm  
April 27 Demo: Portrait in Oil - Mel Williamson, 1pm  
April 27 Homage - Music of Newfoundland & Ireland, 7pm

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# SPORTS + RECREATION

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If you have information on any of our streets, please contact us at: 250-537-9933 or [dwsalty@driftwoodgimedia.com](mailto:dwsalty@driftwoodgimedia.com)



## RUNNING

# Bazan Bay Sneakers finish in top 10 of age groups



PHOTO COURTESY SS SNEAKERS

Salt Spring Sneakers member Duncan Elsey crosses the finish line in the Bazan Bay 5K race on April 14.

Final series awards also handed out

### SUBMITTED BY SS SNEAKERS

The Salt Spring Sneakers ended the Island Series winter race series on April 14 with a bang after limping into the final event with injury and illness.

The Island Race Series finale is the Bazan Bay 5K in Sidney, traditionally run in rainy and windy conditions, which also threatened in this year's forecast. At only five kilometres, this event is essentially a sprint event, with competitors running nearly flat-out from beginning to end. To everybody's surprise, 14 Sneakers registered for the event, it was sunny and only slightly windy for the start of the race. Every Sneaker who entered finished in the top 10 of their respective age groups.

Leading the Sneakers to the finish line was our coach, Susan Gordon, in a time of 20:53 for a first place of 20 in her 55-59 age group and 113th of 472 over-

all. Pat Peron was the second Sneaker to finish and one of only two Sneakers to complete all eight races. His time of 21:14 earned him an eighth place among 22 in his ultra-competitive 60-64 age group and 122nd overall.

Lise Fraser was the third Sneaker to cross the finish line in a personal best time of 21:22 for a first place of 24 in her 60-64 age group and 126th overall. By the end of the race, four Sneaker women finished in the top 10 of this age group.

The fourth Sneaker to cross the finish line was Donna de Roo, this being her first island race series competition. Donna is the 11-year-old daughter of triathlete Marcia Jansen. De Roo's time of 21:37 earned her a third place of 16 runners in the under-15 age-group competition, 36th place of 221 women, 142nd (top third) overall and the moniker of "Rocket."

Donna's mother, Marcia Jansen, was the fifth Sneaker to finish, 25 seconds after her daughter, in a time of 22:02 for a fifth place of 22 in her 45-49 age group and 152nd place overall.

Duncan Elsey, finishing his first Island Race Series, was the sixth Sneaker to cross the finish line. His time of 22:46 earned him an eighth place of 16 in his age group and 175th overall.

Eric Ellis, still struggling with the aftermath of the flu, was the seventh Sneaker to finish in a personal worst time of 23:57,

earning him a third place among the 14 in his 70-74 age group and 215th (top 50 per cent) overall.

Taking another break from her triathlon training, Marion Young was the eighth Sneaker to cross the finish line and second of four Sneakers in her 60-64 age group. Her time of 24:12 placed her fourth in her age group and 220th overall (top 50 per cent).

Anna Ford was the ninth Sneaker to finish and the third Sneaker in the women's 60-64 age group where she earned seventh place. Her time of 25:33 was one minute and nine seconds better than her last year's time on this course and recommends her for the informal competition for the most improved Sneaker of the year.

Nina de Roo was the 10th Sneaker to finish, her time of 26:03 earning her an eighth place in the under 15 age group and 280th place overall.

Thirteen seconds later, Peter Freeman in his first running competition since the devastating bike versus car accident that required the entire reconstruction of his hip, crossed the finish line, his time of 26:16 earning him a 10th place of 19 in his 65-69 age group, and 283rd overall.

Doreen Peron was the 12th Sneaker to finish and only the second Sneaker to finish all eight races, earning her the title of Sneaker stalwart. Her time of 27:02

was a personal best for her at this distance and a 46-second improvement over her previous best time. She was the fourth Sneaker and top 10 in her 60-64 age group and 307th overall.

Mary Freeman was the 13th Sneaker to finish, her time of 27:22 earning her seventh of 11 in her 65-69 age group and 313th overall.

Karen Clark was the 14th Sneaker to cross the finish line, her time of 31:46 earning her an eighth of 11 in the 65-69 age group and 398th overall.

The massive 211 points the Sneakers earned from these 14 persons in the top 10 of their respective age groups vaulted the team over the second-place team in the small team competition, but while it was more points than the first-place team earned in this event, it was not enough to return the Sneakers to first place.

As this was the final race of the series, the Vancouver Island Runners Association also awarded the series awards to those who completed five or more races based on converting finish times to an international scoring standard. In this competition, Fraser and Ellis won first places in their respective age groups for the series. Young won a fifth place in her age group, while Pat Peron won sixth place in his age group, Elsey eighth place in his age group, Ford 11th place, and Doreen Peron 13th place in their shared age group.

## SWIMMING

# Stingrays season opens soon

Spaces available for swimmers to join club

About 10 spots are open on the Salt Spring Stingrays competitive summer swim team.

For children aged six to 18, the team trains from May until August at the Rainbow Road Pool.

Benefits to belonging to the club range from a chance to pursue both team and individual goals; learning to swim all four strokes more efficiently; and developing a high level of fitness through both in-pool and dry-land training. Swimmers also make new friends and enjoy being part of a supportive, multi-aged team. The older swimmers have the opportunity to develop leadership skills while they mentor the younger members of the team.

"The reward for me is seeing the happy

looks on the kids' faces," says parent Dave Phillips. "I know that they have entered an activity that can carry them into their seventh decade as it has for me. Increased self-esteem, good buddies, ability to cope under stress; all these factors work towards a delightful bundle for these kids. Being on the Stingrays team has worked wonders for my kid."

For swimmers aged four to six, the Little Stingrays program is also available.

The focus of the Little Stingrays program is on having fun, although the club says parents will be amazed to see the progress that their child/children can make throughout the few months of the swim season. Swimmers must be able to swim at least 10 metres in the water unassisted, in any form.

See the [saltspringstingrays.com](http://saltspringstingrays.com) website for registration information, or contact Shelly Johnson at [shellyjohnson@telus.net](mailto:shellyjohnson@telus.net).

## RAINBOW ROAD AQUATIC CENTRE

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AND

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday

April 27th

12:30-3pm

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