

inside:



8 Creative Expressions show opens with Artcraft



9 Wannabe sailors get opportunities to learn

Arts & Entertainment..... 8  
 Classifieds ..... 10  
 Editorial ..... 4  
 Letters ..... 5  
 Island Life ..... 9

- INSERTS:**
- Country Grocer
  - Thrifty Foods
  - Home Hardware
  - Student Painting
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Wednesday, July 8, 2020

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PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

**GEARED UP:** Salt Spring cyclists celebrate the 44th birthday of friend and family member Kipp Nash with their third annual bike ride from Fulford to Ganges on July 3, while promoting the need for a safe cycling path on Fulford-Ganges Road. See story on page 12.

COVID-19

## Locals fear American visitors

Tourists return to a quieter Salt Spring

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Visitors have started returning to Salt Spring with the restrictions on nonessential travel within British Columbia lifted, but many islanders continue to be concerned about who is coming and what they may be bringing with them.

Fears that Americans may be exploiting the "Alaska loophole" or otherwise skirting border rules continue to loom as pleasure boats flying the United States flag were seen in Ganges Harbour this past weekend.

Glad's Ice Cream Shoppe owner Frank Normile said tourism has definitely increased over the past couple of weeks, and while he glimpsed more U.S. licence plates during the previous weekend, he's still concerned about people coming in from areas of infection.

"We have such an elderly population, including myself, on the island — and if we get an outbreak here it's going to decimate our population because [so many people here] are over 65," Normile said.

The Canada-U.S. border remains closed to non-essential travel by mutual agreement until July 21. Canadian law provides for fines of up to \$750,000 for those who enter on false pretenses, and those who lie about their destination can also be banned from entering the country for five years. RCMP say no fines have been issued so far in B.C.

Normile is frustrated by the perceived lack of action. He has called the offices of MP Elizabeth May, B.C. Premier John Horgan, provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry and the Canada Border Services Agency without getting through, and was told local RCMP are not enforcing boaters.

"This is a provincial health issue. There's no jurisdiction because no one wants to step up to the plate, no authority and no enforcement," Normile said.

Horgan said Thursday he has spoken with Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland about the issue and requested she work with American officials to stop unlawful tourism.

"Outbreaks in Washington state, California,

Arizona, Texas are absolutely unacceptable. We have to maintain our border security so we can protect the progress we've made here in British Columbia," Horgan said during a press conference.

Cpl. Matthew Crist of the Salt Spring RCMP detachment confirmed local police can investigate complaints that Americans are not following CBSA orders, whether those people are travelling by car or by boat. The RCMP is also able to enforce B.C.'s 14-day quarantine requirement and investigate anyone who is reported not to be following it. Crist said the island detachment has not received any reports of either scenario in the past week or so, however.

Regarding the Alaska loophole, he noted Americans going to Alaska must declare their plans to CBSA. They are required to take the most direct route and are allowed to stop for food, fuel and rest only.

**VISITORS** continued on 2

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**D.W. Salty is looking for material for his column,**

## Streets of Salt Spring Island

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### ISLANDS TRUST

# Legal opinion sought for TUP

## Consideration of event space proposal for The Cottages delayed

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Decision on a temporary use permit application to allow an outdoor events space at The Cottages resort on Bullock Lake has been deferred while the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee seeks legal advice on what activities may already be permitted to take place there.

The LTC voted on June 30 to put the application on hold until September, although they acknowledged applicant Platform Properties might request to see it return at an earlier meeting date. In the meantime, the committee advised the resort owners to come up with a better way to address opposition to the project.

"You need to convince the neighbours your plan is solid and good for the community," said trustee Laura Patrick, adding the fact that none of those people were at the meeting to support the application "spoke volumes" to her.

The Cottages' strata owners propose to construct a covered outdoor space to hold community events that would be open to the public. They started the proposal after being approached by the PitchFork Social concert producers, and consider those events would be their "marquis concert series," but they would also like to use the outdoor venue to host cultural and artistic events such as art shows, performances, readings and public meetings. Permission to allow food trucks and outdoor tables is also being applied for.

Planner Geordie Gordon reported that

as of the June 30 LTC meeting, 233 items of correspondence had been received on the matter. Around 50 people were opposed to the application, including the signees to a petition, for reasons including the impacts of increased noise and traffic to a quiet neighbourhood. A majority of the nearly 200 supporting items of correspondence were in favour of PitchFork Social in general but not specifically about the TUP, Gordon said.

Staff have recommended issuing the permit but limiting the number of events with amplified sound to 12 per year, not to take place on any school nights and to end by 10 p.m. Noise from amplified music is not to exceed 60 dBA/dBC at the boundaries of the lot. Platform Properties has agreed to some of the provisions but not all.

"With respect to foreseeable impacts, we note that The Cottages has a vested interest in ensuring events hosted on the property are minimally disruptive, as the units at The Cottages are most directly affected. There is a mix of cottage owners and resort guests on the property and it's important to note that cottage owners are supportive of the application," Platform states in a letter to the LTC dated June 15.

The draft permit further specifies that no water for outdoor events is to be withdrawn from the water supply servicing the property or any lots within the strata plan. Members of the Cedar Lane Water Service Area are particularly opposed to any increased use of the resort property since their water source is known to share the same aquifer and to have supply issues.

Platform Properties agrees that operators of TUP events like PitchFork Social would need to bring in water and portable toilets. However, the company has

recently asserted that events hosted by the resort for its guests would not fall under permit requirements.

Their June 15 letter states in summary, "The Cottages on Salt Spring Island is currently permitted to host events such as weddings, conferences and others directly related to the operation of the resort. The fundamental purpose of the application is to facilitate the ability to host community-based events hosted either by The Cottages or private third-party operators."

Based on this claim, trustee Peter Grove said it would be important to get the legal opinion on what is actually permitted. The LTC did not go beyond that resolution to require more information from the applicants, but indicated they should be ready with answers.

Patrick suggested Platform create an event management plan that includes details on how everything will take place, from days and hours of operation to seating and parking arrangements, and to use that as a checklist. She also emphasized that more should be done to meet the concerns of the immediate neighbours.

The question of outdoor music in general is something Patrick sees as a larger community issue, though, noting it is something the official community plan does not address. She proposed a volunteer industry working group be assembled to make recommendations on how and where outdoor music events can take place.

LTC chair Peter Luckham said he was concerned by the lack of a fire plan, noting that parking on bare land is a potential risk for all rural properties. He also observed some members of the public have suggested a manager be required on site during events to make sure the permit is followed.

# Visitor centre and ferry traffic much lower

## VISITORS

continued from 1

"They should only do what's necessary and then go away," Crist said. "They shouldn't go for a hike on Mount Maxwell while they're here, and they shouldn't even shop for non-essentials."

Crist said there was no conceivable reason a vehicle on the way to Alaska would be on Salt Spring, but there are legitimate reasons someone could have an American licence plate. The vehicle owners could be dual citizens with a car registered in the U.S., or they could be Americans who have entered Canada lawfully and underwent the 14-day quarantine.

Salt Spring's Phoenix Lazare and her partner Justin Kelley drove into Canada from Nashville in January and have been on the island for the duration of the pandemic. They are worried about going into Ganges with the car since it sports Tennessee plates and will continue to do so until Kelley's immigration status changes.

"We're thinking we should put some Salt Spring bumper stickers on. Anything to get the message across," Kelley said.

Crist recommends that anyone who has concerns not jump to conclusions, but report them to RCMP to investigate. The local detachment can be reached at 250-537-5555.

COVID concerns may have contributed to a shoving incident between customers at Country Grocer over the weekend. Crist said police attended and helped de-escalate the situation, but no charges were necessary and no Americans were involved, contrary to a rumour circulating about the incident.

## Tourist season warms up

Although B.C.'s in-province tourist season has commenced, Ganges streets still remain far quieter than the average pre-COVID summer.



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Part of Salt Spring Marina and Ganges Harbour on Saturday evening, with far fewer boats seen than usual for a July weekend.

The Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce reopened its tourist information centre last week. Executive director Jessica Harkema said statistics show around two thirds of patrons were from British Columbia and one third were people from Salt Spring who tend to stop by for things like BC Ferries and BC Transit schedules. A small number were Canadians from other provinces.

Overall visits to the centre ranged from 30 to 100 people per day, approximately one-eighth of the same period in 2019, which was 10 per cent lower than the previous year.

BC Ferries was warning passengers that sailings from Tsawwassen to the Southern Gulf Islands were booked to capacity from June 24 to 27, but traffic was considerably lower over the past weekend. Vehicle traffic arriving at Long Harbour was down from 43 to 59 per cent over the previous year in the period from July 1 to July 4. Passenger traffic was down 46 to 80 per cent on those dates.

HOUSING

# Conestoga hut draws attention



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

From left, Wagon Wheel Housing Society members Kylie Coates, Cherie Geauvreau and Tim Hunt with the conestoga unit built locally and on display at the Country Grocer parking lot last week.

## Housing group floats use on Salt Spring and beyond

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Members of the Wagon Wheel Housing Society were excited to share their first conestoga micro-shelter unit with the public last week.

The structure was on display at the Country Grocer parking lot and then on the side of Lower Ganges Road near Rainbow Road for a few days.

Modelled on the covered wagons that were hauled across North America when the west was settled over 100 years ago, a 21st-century version is being used in the western United States to provide shelter to homeless people. Local society member Kylie Coates took the lead on building

Salt Spring's first unit after learning about the U.S. efforts that originated in Eugene, Ore.

"They've kind of built little communities of these in Eugene," said Coates.

Some are on city-owned property while church groups have provided space for others.

Last December Coates contacted the Eugene organization to acquire plans for the hut. COVID-19 isolation time then gave him an opportunity to concentrate on building one, with some help from other society members. The unit cost approximately \$2,000 for materials, which is much less than a tiny home. Coates used 2X6 and 2X4 spruce boards for the framing and flooring. The structure is covered in a heavy-duty tarp, a rubber roofing product and silver bubble wrap.

There's enough room inside for a bed,

table, chair and for a person's belongings to be stored, and a small covered outdoor seating area. A locking door provides security.

"It's under 100 square feet and totally portable," he said.

Coates modified the prototype by installing a metal door instead of a wood one and including a window that can be opened. Wagon Wheel Housing Society member Elaine Hunt added colour and more character with paint.

"We can make it look nice and deal with the housing crisis at the same time," said Coates.

He said the main reason he undertook the project was to start a conversation with the island about potential housing solutions.

The Wagon Wheel Housing Society has long advocated for a project that would see several individual sleeping units set up with communal cooking and hygiene facilities on site.

The society is open to feedback about the conestoga wagons and could be willing to build more for purchase. They can be contacted through their website: dosomegood.ca/organization/wagon-wheel-housing-society-3173966.

"There were a couple of people who want to donate huts but there is still no place to put them," Coates said.

He added that the society would like to run a pilot project with a few of the units on some land owned by the Capital Regional District on Salt Spring.

"We have to make sure they work in our environment," he said.

Coates urges people interested in seeing the conestoga huts used in some fashion on Salt Spring to contact the Capital Region Housing Corporation in Victoria.

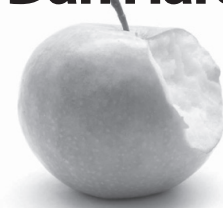
People in other Vancouver Island jurisdictions, including Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps, have also expressed interest in the concept.

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## COMMUNITY BUILDING

# Day in the Life photo shoot runs on Friday

Everyone invited to submit photos

Pandemic or no pandemic, the Driftwood is running its annual Day in the Life of Salt Spring Island project this year.

It should be a fun and easy way to create a record of this extraordinary time in history as experienced by islanders.

Here's the deal:

• Photos must be taken between the hours of 5 a.m. on Friday, July 10 and 5 a.m. on Saturday, July 11.

• Higher-resolution or larger-sized photos are always preferred for print quality purposes, but as long as a photo isn't less than about 200 kb in size it can usually work for the publication. It's always nice to have the colour option for post-publication digital projects, but photos will likely

be printed in black and white, so either black and white or colour photos can be submitted.

• People can send in one photo or up to 25, with caption information and subjects' first and last names included, as well as the exact (or close to it) time the photos were taken.

• The deadline to submit photos is Tuesday, July 21 at 4 p.m. Send them by email to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com, use an online service like Dropbox or bring in a flash drive to the Driftwood office.

As well, if people have ideas for photos that could be taken but no one to take them, they can contact Driftwood editor Gail Sjuberg at 250-537-9933 or send an email to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com and the photo could be assigned.

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# OPINION



**2019 CCNA Awards**  
 Gold - Best Editorial Page | Gold - Best Feature Series (Gail Sjuberg)  
 Bronze - Best News Story (Elizabeth Nolan) | Bronze - Community Service

**2019 BCYCNA Awards**  
 Gold - Best Arts & Culture Writing (Elizabeth Nolan) | Silver - Best Environmental Writing (Gail Sjuberg)  
 Silver - Best Multimedia Feature (Marc Kitteringham)  
 Silver - Community Service | New Journalist of the Year (Marc Kitteringham)



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### EDITORIAL

# Dirty secret

After several months in isolation, British Columbians are once again starting to move around to experience different scenery.

More faces in our wider spaces means more groceries purchased and more consumption of take-out food. It also means more people out on foot, more dogs being walked and more need to dispose of waste of all kinds, but Salt Spring can be woefully short on convenient options. Litter is the dirty secret haunting our green reputation.

Visitors may wonder why the island community has so little respect for the environment it is lucky enough to enjoy year-round. Visitors and locals alike can be left wondering what do in a sticky situation — a dog mess or a diaper that needs to be taken care of quickly. And in our post-COVID world, disposable cleaning wipes, gloves and masks may also be in the mix.

### THE ISSUE:

Waste removal

### WE SAY:

Property owners should step up

Spring Parks and Recreation Commission does a good job of providing doggie bags and bins at some of its parks and beach access points, but expansion throughout its trail system is also needed. PARC could also do more by increasing the types of recycling it collects in downtown parks and adding dedicated compost bins, as the Driftwood has previously argued.

With so much of town under private ownership and no municipal body in charge of sidewalks or streets, though, something also needs to be done for the many stretches in between our parks.

Business owners can be wary of adding too much capacity for valid reasons: just like park receptacles, these can be targeted by people dumping household garbage. But owners of large commercial developments also have skin in the game: the nicer their surroundings appear, the more likely people will be attracted to them. If the price of doing business is disposing of a little more waste than one's patrons directly produce, that seems like a worthy contribution to the community.

Personal garbage should certainly be a matter of personal responsibility, and in most cases it can be. When it can't, there needs to be an easy way to do the right thing.



# Masks are a no-brainer

BY PAUL MCELROY

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence has it about right, finally, even if he can't completely convince his moronic boss.

If the Mutt and Jeff of world politics can be persuaded that wearing a face mask makes sense even to them, then shouldn't the much-smarter folk of Salt Spring come to a similar conclusion? Some of us do, but most of us don't and I for one will be more than a little pissed if I come down with the virus because someone who is too vain, too smug, too selfish, or just too dumb to wear a mask has breathed the virus on to me.

My off-the-shelf mask doesn't afford me much protection, but it protects you. I'm not wearing it because I think I'll survive while the unmasked will deservedly meet their maker well before I do. I'm wearing the damned thing because it makes good sense if we're ever to beat this maddening bug.

You don't need a PhD in immunology to know that COVID-19 is certainly already on the island and will have been for

### VIEWPOINT

months. So far it will have been individual cases and not "clusters," which is the point at which the prospects for many islanders could become catastrophic. And to compound the problem the tourists and American boat people ("on their way to Alaska") are coming back to spend their dollars, and you can't lick an ice cream through a face mask.

**So come on, get yourself a mask and give Salt Spring a fighting chance.**

Just give a thought for a moment to the demographics of Salt Spring. We are mostly elderly, we are quite often in only moderate health and many of us, frankly, are victims waiting to happen. But we are also your grandmas and grandpas, your mums and dads, and if the coronavirus gets a foothold it will likely be an elderly Armaged-

don. But that is in no way implying that the only culprits are the feckless young; there are as many older types who for their own reasons choose not to wear a mask. God only knows why. Do they think we wear masks as a fashion statement? A little bit of Gucci that has no place in their Egalitaria? Is it a macho thing? Only wimps, girlie boys and old women worry about the worst pandemic in 120 years?

The truth is that I am not overly concerned about your life expectancy, but I am for my own and for my family and friends. I'd like to think I'm more altruistic than that, but I'm not. I simply want to see the back of COVID-19 and get on with what little there is left of my time on this planet.

So come on, get yourself a mask and give Salt Spring a fighting chance. They are only mildly uncomfortable, but you'll soon get used to it. And I promise you, no one will think any less of you for putting the health of the island ahead of your objections to masking up, whatever they might be.

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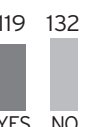
### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Will you travel elsewhere in B.C. this summer?

Yes  No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you support the Thursday-Friday market idea?



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 2 p.m.

# OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

**"They should only do what's necessary and then go away."**

SALT SPRING RCMP CPL. MATTHEW CRIST, ON U.S. BOATERS

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**WE ASKED:** *What's a song that reminds you of summertime?*

**CARONI YOUNG**



My summer album pick would be Moon Dance by Van Morrison. Road trip!

**CHARLES BAZZARD**



Song for the Mira: "Out on the Mira on warm afternoons, old men go fishing with black line and spoons. And if they catch nothin' they never complain, I wish I was with them again ...."

**MASAKO KOJIMA**



I like the lyrics of The Rose, which express pain and doubt, but also hope. "Beneath the bitter snow lies the seed . . . becomes the rose."

**PAUL MCMANUS**



I love sailing, and grew up near Georgian Bay. Gordon Lightfoot's Christian Island always evokes images of sun, sea and a sailboat hard on the wind.

**SUSAN WORRALL**



Royal Hudson. When I hear that tune, I know our Viva Chorale choir will be singing in Canada Day at the Hydro Field. My favourite concert!

## LETTERS to the editor

Letters to the editor are welcome, but writers are requested to keep their submissions to 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for brevity, legality and taste. Writers are also asked to furnish a telephone number where they may be reached during the day, and to sign their letters with their full name. Thank you letters will not normally be considered for publication. Send your letters to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

### Numbers must still be limited

Chris Sanderson's July 1 letter regarding proposed Bylaw 471 to allow widespread use of temporary use permits illustrates why Salt Spring needs a comprehensive, long-term housing strategy. Without such a plan, this island will be locked into a constant state of crisis management and divisive debates.

While it's true the proposed bylaw needs to be assessed through more than "the single lens of water use," the assertion that "water use policies should promote efficient use of water so that as many people as possible can benefit from its use" raises a question: how many people does he have in mind? Our official community plan has capped the island's population at 17,000, but intense pressure from housing groups and

others threatens to drive that number much higher.

From the Trust Policy Statement: "In 1972 an all-party special committee of the legislature was established to investigate the unique problems facing the Trust Area. The committee concluded that pressures arising from the Area's proximity to major urban centres were damaging the very features that made the Trust Area so attractive to residents and visitors. In response to these findings, the provincial government enacted the Islands Trust Act in 1974." Clearly, the pressure to develop the islands is relentless. Without strong bylaws and strict enforcement, the Trust Area will eventually become indistinguishable from the surrounding region.

TUPs could be useful in rare circumstances, such as when emergency accommodation is needed for local employees, but the proposed bylaw would allow the indiscriminate legalization of almost any kind of

non-conforming dwelling on the island. This would lead to more bylaw breaking and haphazard development. Band-aid solutions are no replacement for long-term strategic planning.

Much acrimony on the housing issue could be avoided if everyone agreed on one simple fact: we live in a protected area. Only by abandoning conventional expectations with regard to services, amenities and development will it be possible to create a long-term housing plan that serves the needs of island residents while meeting the objectives of the Islands Trust.

**FRANTS ATTORP,**  
SALT SPRING

### Violence a societal issue

Phil Vernon's letter of June 24, "Help prevent male violence," is important.

The fact that this message was delivered by a man

matters. It matters because it is a male voice insisting that men be accountable for their attitudes towards women. It also matters that women know that some men are attempting to raise the consciousness of issues surrounding gender-based violence.

This is not a women's issue. It is a societal issue. The myriad forms of violence against women need to be acknowledged on an on-going basis. The root cause needs to be more thoroughly examined.

On July 8, Salt Spring Forum speaker Angela Marie MacDougall, executive director of Battered Women's Support Services, will address the issue of a 300 per cent increase in demand for services since the pandemic. The need for increased awareness is vital and the message is timely due to recent tragic events on Salt Spring Island.

**HELANI DAVISON,**  
SALT SPRING

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 6

## When it comes to racism, we all have work to do

When it comes to racism, we all have work to do

"Hey you," the white girl shouted as the African American girl walked hesitantly toward us. It was my first day in Grade 8 in my southern California middle school and some of us were catching up on each other's summer activities. "You," the white girl continued, "Go stand over there!" pointing to a spot about 20 feet away. The Black girl did as ordered while I, silently horrified, couldn't find it in myself to go stand with her.

I grew up in a "sundown town." They were also called "sunset" communities and, yes, Canada had them, too, but I'm guessing not proportionally as many as in the States. I learned about them only a few years ago, so if you've never heard of sundown towns, it's the name applied to communities who allowed Blacks to live there as long as they were more or less invisible, especially at night. When the sun went down, the town's bullies made sure Blacks went home and stayed there, as locked down for the entire evening, year in and year out, as if they were in a permanent COVID-19 crisis.

The girl's father was a Marine drill sergeant at nearby Camp Pendleton and maybe the town fathers didn't want to be the enforcers of the invisibility rules, so they had somebody else do it instead. One of my brothers specializes in our local history and told me the rest of the story last year. One Black couple lived in our town: Perry worked as a janitor and his wife cleaned houses. Maybe they were in their 50s or 60s. The father of one of my brother's classmates gave Perry the job of letting the Black family know they should leave town; otherwise, there'd be consequences. We never saw the girl again.



**Helen Hinchliff**  
AGING WITH GRACE

That was 68 years ago and I still feel shame that I didn't walk over and stand by her! But I'm also realistic enough to know that such was the degree of racism during that era that had I done so, I would also have been ostracized.

I'd like to think we've come a long way since then, but when I attended a recent rally in Centennial Park in support of the lives of Black, Indigenous and people of colour (BIPOC), I was disheartened to hear the testimony of one young Black mother that there are children in one of our local schools who have been calling other children "ni\*\*er."

Mostly, I try to find the humour in things, especially when it comes to my own faults and frailties. "If I'd been looking," I hear myself writing, "I wouldn't have fallen, lost my wallet, lost my debit card, or sat on my glasses."

But racism isn't funny and I'm wondering how well I've been seeing it for what it really is? Little kids aren't born racist; they're taught, as the late lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II said in the musical, South Pacific:

*You've got to be taught to be afraid,  
Of people whose eyes are oddly made,  
And people whose skin is a different shade,  
You've got to be carefully taught.*

So it's a good thing School District 64 is committing itself to anti-racism work, as a Driftwood headline trumpeted on July 1. But racism is bigger than a school district problem. It's not just, as Hammerstein's words suggest, that parents are actively teaching their children to be racists.

While some may be doing precisely that, the notion of white supremacy is more subtle, as Robin DiAngelo tells us in her current best-seller, White Fragility. Actually, it's as if we're playing a game called Who Gets to Be in Charge. DiAngelo helps us understand the game by using the analogy of women's suffrage. Up to about 100 years ago, men had been happily playing and its rules were simple: Vote, but only men were allowed. And, of course, we know that meant in most cases only white men. And before that, it was only white men who owned property. So if they were the only ones who got to play, they were the only ones who could win. And they could make all the rules such as who gets to own property, who can be educated, and so forth.

More than we may realize, we're still playing by these rules, DiAngelo tells us, as she cites overwhelmingly lopsided statistics in wealth creation, politicians and those who get to shape our cultural story in television, news, music, films and education. She's talking about the United States, so our work can begin by exploring for ourselves exactly how much more diverse Canadians really are in the race and gender of those who are in charge of the rules.

Let's get started.

author@helenhinchliff.com

# CRD services among those reopening in Phase 3

## COVID-19 Recovery

The leadership of Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry, along with senior governments and engaged citizens, has "flattened the curve," enabling the reopening of our economy. Accordingly, CRD has reopened its offices and facilities such as tennis courts, Centennial playground, and the pool. Societies have also reopened CRD-funded services such as the library and recycling depot.

The Tuesday Farmers' Market has operated successfully for over a month and the Parks and Recreation Commission has now recommended reopening the market for non-food items at Centennial Park, later in July. Traditionally, this has been a Saturday market, but due to concerns about attracting and ensuring physical distancing for larger crowds, the commission has recommended starting this market on Thursday and Friday. I strongly support this recommendation and thank the commission for considering the broader public interest on this issue. We all understand the economic impact of COVID, but the health risks of the pandemic still exist. A cautious approach is prudent to test management protocols at the relatively confined Centennial Park space.

## Other Parks and Recreation Activities

The new modular unit at the pool is now installed, with landscaping and servicing to be completed, including an electric vehicle charger. Requests for proposals for a permanent addition to the pool have also been issued. These projects were made possible by \$1-million in funding from the province's daycare program. The spaces will be available for recreation activities when not used for daycare.



**Gary Holman**  
CRD DIRECTOR'S  
**REPORT**

Public concerns about falling a number of dead trees at Duck Creek Park have resulted in a PARC decision to develop a formal tree-cutting policy, ensuring appropriate technical and public consultation in future. PARC and CRD bylaw enforcement have worked with the RCMP and local residents to address concerns about public disorder at Grace Point, on Seaview Avenue and the United Church meadow (now managed by PARC). CRD will work with nearby merchants to help address continuing problems at Centennial Park.

## Transportation Commission

Construction of North Ganges Transportation Plan Phase Two is underway. PARC staff are also now building a section of the Booth Canal to Central pathway. A \$490,000 grant from Bike BC will ultimately complete this pathway, connecting Portlock Park to downtown Ganges. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has informed the CRD that Ganges Hill will be repaved in 2021, allowing time to design adequate shoulder bike lanes and an uphill pedestrian pathway, and apply for additional Bike BC funding.

The summer transit schedule is now in effect, including trips to Ruckle Park. Occupancy on local buses is still limited and BC Transit recommends use of face masks if physical distancing is not possible. BC Transit has indicated it will provide some financial

assistance for local services. Further provincial and federal support is anticipated.

## Affordable Housing

The development and construction of almost 80 units of affordable housing at Croftonbrook and Salt Spring Commons (funded by BC Housing and CRD Housing) continues, with occupancy beginning by year end. A BC Housing project on CRD's Drake Road property has been delayed by COVID, but an announcement is anticipated this summer. BC Housing has funded Salt Spring Island Community Services for temporary rentals at the Seabreeze Inne. CRD continues to work with SSICS on funding for their shelter expansion.

BC Housing, and now the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation, have announced \$10-million contributions to the CRD's Regional Housing First program. CRD borrowing for its one-third share of the additional \$30-million funding was approved unanimously by local governments in the region. The three electoral areas received voter consent by alternative approval processes ("counter-petitions"). Only 36 petitioners opposed the housing requisition on Salt Spring Island, indicating that AAPs are still a valid means of securing voter approval for modest tax increases. CRD's Regional Housing First and BC Housing's Community Housing programs for affordable rentals are open for proposals. I urge proponents on Salt Spring Island to take advantage of these programs.

## Fire District Collaboration

I'm participating on advisory committees established by the Salt Spring

Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD) regarding the proposed new fire hall and existing Ganges hall. I continue advocating for collaboration between SSIFPD and CRD (e.g., co-locating an Emergency Operations Centre) and keeping the Ganges fire hall property in public hands. Congratulations to SSIFPD for their successful chipping program funded through CRD and Union of BC Municipalities, as well their annual invasive collection program with the Transition Salt Spring Society. I'll continue working with SSIFPD and stewardship groups on sustainable funding for these programs that reduce fire risk, offer an alternative to burning and provide feedstock for composting.

## Water

The Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA) is coordinating studies of the sustainability of Weston Lake (supplying Fulford Water District), and the aquifer supplying the Cedar Lane Water District. SSIWPA, which has re-constituted itself to include NGOs and North Salt Spring Waterworks District, is also coordinating a pilot water storage

## Community Economic Development Commission

Congratulations to CEDC for securing funding for, and now piloting their proposed Shared Business Services model under contract with the Rural Island Economic Development Society. This society is also implementing CEDC's new online gift card program. The CEDC may have a role in supporting implementation of our newly updated Area Farm and Climate Action Plans, both of which represent significant economic opportunities for Salt Spring.

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

## He gets it

Thanks to Dennis Lucarelli (July 1 "Popularity contest" letter) for having empathy for customers of

Cedar Lane Water Service.

We are not NIMBYs nor are we Chicken Littles. Every hydrogeology report since 2006 has stated that the water quality and quantity in this area is problematic. The aquifer which serves The Cottages and many private neighbouring wells,

including CLWS, is "fractured." Without stringent conservation measures, this aquifer will fail.

To increase human activity at The Cottages is our worst nightmare as CLWS customers have already reduced our permitted water usage (1,600 litres) to a

mere 351 litres per day per household.

To park 200 or more cars at The Cottages poses a very real health concern. Spillage from vehicle air conditioners, gas tanks and other auto leakages would enter the ground, leaching not only into our

drinking water aquifer but threatening to add toxic chemicals into Bullock Lake's protected water and shoreline habitats.

Again, thank you, Mr. Lucarelli — you get it!

**MARIANNE HOBBS,**  
CEDAR LANE

# expert ADVICE

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TO BE A PART OF THIS POPULAR FEATURE!

## Financial Advice

**I'm worried about my savings, especially with all of the negative headlines. Can you help?**



SCOTT HOWE

If you're looking for some reassurance when it comes to your investments, I always recommend going back to the original objectives you set for the money you invested. Have those objectives changed? Do you need the money sooner than you expected? No? Do you have a plan in place? Short-term market fluctuation is normal and corrections do occur, producing all manner of headlines including some negative ones. However, if you have a solid plan in place, you can usually remain confident about the long term outcome. That's not to say you can't also make adjustments to your investment strategy along the way, of course. But if you've done the groundwork in the beginning, it's often just a matter of doing regular reviews and updates as your life changes. If you haven't yet built a solid plan, or if you feel it's time to review your original plan, a professional financial advisor can help. Then when you're tempted to panic, remind yourself: this too shall pass.

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## Real Estate

**Buyers: How to compare prices and value?**

Comparing homes with similar attributes can provide valuable insights. Consider the age of the: roof, decks, septic field, appliances and "deferred maintenance". How dated are the bathrooms and kitchen and flooring? Would you want to replace them? The cost of replacing each of these items could be considerable. Make up a comparison chart accounting for these differences.

When planning a second viewing, ASK FOR AN INFO PACKAGE & PERMISSION TO TAKE PHOTOS. Take notes. Identify chattels that you may wish to have included such as: window coverings, appliances and their brand name, built in vacuum and/or hot tub accessories, shelving, firewood on hand, riding lawn mower, water filters, garden sheds, building plans, etc. Note what items are excluded on the feature sheet to assist you in making plans for replacing. Then you will likely conclude that...

*The most affordable home is rarely the lowest priced home!*

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JAN  
MACPHERSON

## Mechanic

**We will be continuing with shop safety precautions to keep you and our staff safe, indefinitely.**



GYLE  
KEATING

As safety recommendations ease, we are all beginning to breathe a bit easier after the last months of tension. Dreams of travel and holidays are returning. However, staying close to home and enjoying one of the nicest places on the planet doesn't seem like much of a sacrifice when it is also one of the safest places.

Here's a big shout out to all the health care workers, first responders, and essential workers for helping us get through this!

*Stay close, stay safe, Gyle*

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PHOTO ABOVE BY KEN JACKSON; PHOTO BELOW BY DAVID JARDINE

Above, Austin Steffich-Rosling drives his late father Matt Steffich's 1963 Corvette convertible, with Ritchie Bragg in the passenger seat, as part of the Salt Spring Cruisers' rod run held on Canada Day, while below, Bandemonium community band plays in distanced fashion in the Hydro Field, the usual site of Canada Day festivities.



PHOTOS BY GAIL SJUBERG

Above: Salt Spring Pipes & Drums members give an impromptu show on the boardwalk by Centennial Park on Canada Day. From left are Janice Shields, Fiona Foster, Dave Kerman, Chris Levan, Lorraine Lowry and Rod Macdonald. Below: Some of the other estimated 50 vehicles come down McPhillips Avenue near the beginning of the rod run route.



# Market relaunch concept should consider changes

BY JOAN MITCHELL

The concerns over COVID-19 issues for the successful and continuing management of the Salt Spring market are indeed important as the market is of traditional, economic and social importance to the island community.

To consider another day(s) or not opening some category of booths will have dire consequences for a community that is dependent on the resources. The visitors and the community expect it to be on a Saturday, although a possible night market could be on Friday night.

Some of the following suggestions I thought of before the virus threats so I thought I would pass them on now for your consideration process. All of the suggestions I have focus around "congestion," which is the main reason I sometimes avoid the market, but I would enjoy the opportunity to not battle the Saturday crowd if changes were made.

With the COVID-19 problem, I would not consider visiting the market right now even with social distancing, face mask and sanitizer until some changes were addressed. Our vulnerable community is too small to be cavalier about its safety. Already I have seen an increase of visitors on the ferry and the island. U.S. boaters and residents also present a threat coming from Washington en route to Alaska, two states with increasing cases of

## INDEPTH

COVID-19, even though they should be in quarantine while in Canada, travelling through on a quick and direct route, and have entry to Canada for essential travel only. This doesn't appear to be happening as they have found a loophole.

**The market has long needed a new look with wide open spaces. Maybe COVID-19 is the push needed to make some changes.**

Suggestions:

1. Look at Sidney (for their night market on an entire three to four-block closing) and Duncan (for their Saturday market). Both have wide open passages which are a delight to visit. Ganges market could extend into the street for the one block if it were closed off between Mouat's stop sign and the fire hall. The entire park perimeter could also be used for booths so the centre area could be opened up with seating for coffee, drinks and

takeout meal seating and a safe children's play area. This is a community park. Why can't it all be used?

2. Separate the serious food from the crafts. Maybe a morning market in the Centennial Park for food? And a night market for crafts? Or do all at the same time, but in different areas around the town. Spread the craft booths around the town to ArtSpring, school grounds, park on Hereford.

3. Consider a night market, maybe from 5 to 9 p.m. for July and August. Bring some safe and positive entertainment and activity into the town at night.

4. Help congestion by getting rid of the children's tables of rice crispy treats and beads in the middle of the aisles and dedicate a special children's market in the centre of the park by a play area. Children's food, toys, treats, balloons, music and entertainment could all add a safe and fun area for children. Add a policeman, fireman, ambulance, coast guard member, nurse (different one each week) for education, curiosity and positive interaction. A COVID-19 info booth might work.

The market has long needed a new look with wide open spaces. Maybe COVID-19 is the push needed to make some changes. Social distancing works, especially right now, but why not always?



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## MUSIC

# Community choir adapts to pandemic reality

Viva Chorale adds fresh air to rehearsal options

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
 DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

People strolling through Mouat Park on Saturday afternoon would have heard and seen something a little out of the ordinary: a spread-out circle of women and men singing in harmony, with their animated director leading them from the centre.

"I want to see your cheeks!" urged Viva Chorale choir director Caroni Young to her small cluster of tenor and bass singers as she pointed to both sides of her face and grinned broadly.

The men had just sung "Red her cheeks as rowans are, Bright her eyes as any star, Fairest of them all by far, Is our darling Mairi" from the song Mairi's Wedding, but Young wanted them to smile and "lift their cheeks" more when they tried that verse again.

Saturday's rehearsal in the meadow area of Mouat Park off Seaview Avenue was the second one held outdoors by Viva Chorale after three months of weekly get-togethers via Zoom. The Mouat Park group was animated, clearly having fun together and filling the air with some sweet sounds at the



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Viva Chorale director Caroni Young, second from left, leads choir members in a physical and vocal warm-up during their outdoor rehearsal in the Mouat Park meadow on Saturday.

same time.

"Via Zoom we did the best we could to sing through our repertoire," said Young.

Since the technology's limitations made it difficult for them to actually sing together, she said, "It was more like a guided practice." Instead, she would mute the singers as they sang, trying to anticipate the tricky spots and giving them tips to help them

practise their parts individually. Singers could ask her questions, and they watched other choirs sing songs on YouTube and then analyzed the performances in a group discussion.

"Socially it was fabulous — a chance for our singers to catch up a bit online," she said, but it was definitely not the best way to experience choral singing.

Choir members made the most of their meetings by having theme nights where they dressed in certain clothing — Nova Scotia/Maritime garb one night, Hawaiian shirts on another — or brought out their Teddy bears (since one of the songs they are practising is the Teddy Bear's Picnic), or celebrated certain foods.

"Online rehearsals have been great for keeping us going, but our outdoor rehearsals have really allowed us to connect with each other, and be uplifted by everyone's happy energy," said choir member and society president Alison McManus. "And they are a big step towards getting things back to normal."

Viva Chorale had been working on repertoire for a concert with a "food of love" theme for end-of-May performance dates.

Choir members have discussed the possibility of having some kind of performance, but Young notes it is difficult to plan ahead without knowing what the guidelines for public gatherings will be in a few months' time.

Viva Chorale will start meeting again in September, and more tenor and bass singers are always welcome to join the choir. Anyone interested can find contact information on the website at vivachoralesaltspring.com. If the weather is warm in September they may start the season outdoors.

## VISUAL ART

# Artcraft opens with special annex exhibition

Art by people with disabilities featured

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Artcraft, the juried show and sale featuring Gulf Islands artists and artisans, opens with a new look for the 2020 season this Friday, July 10 and a special art exhibit called Creative Expressions taking place in the side annex gallery.

The Salt Spring Arts Council reports Artcraft manager Sarah Hyams has been leading a team of volunteers over the past month to get the hall ready for the opening. Since more space is needed between displays to support physical distancing, the main exhibition will extend from the hall onto the stage. Gallery space is still available in the side room, however, and the first show of the season will showcase artworks created by people in the community with developmental disabilities.

Stefanie Denz has been working with individuals from GIFTS, Choices and friends under the arts council's Accessible Art Therapy Project, through grant funding by the Disability Alliance of British Columbia. The resulting exhibit, arranged with help from artist Talia Peckel, features 12 participants. It will show individual responses to therapeutic art exercises, and also a collection of works by each participant.

"Adults who are developmentally delayed are very much a minority, and they live in a very particular place in society," Denz said. "Part of the grant is to help these people be more in the community and doing activities others get to participate in. It's to give people with disabilities a sense of belonging and pride."

Denz did a range of different exercises with the program's participants, all of whom had different needs, challenges and abilities. Denz used many different materials and prompts for the imagination. For example, she had one person work with play dough to help get through problems with things that are sticky or gooey.

"It's a way of communicating and sharing. A lot of it is just about getting a response," said Denz, adding all of the artwork produced is "fabulous."

One participant really loved a few specific colours. Her careful use of brushstroke and application were all about choice



PHOTO COURTESY STEFANIE DENZ

Artwork creation in process during Stefanie Denz's class.

and ownership, Denz said. For another person, each exercise provided the launching pad for an amazing story, which he conveyed through his caregiver.

Working with people who are developmentally delayed may in turn have influenced Denz's own process as an artist. She said she may be splashing around with colour more now, while a deeper impact could surface later on in future work.

"They're inspiring for sure, and I'm always astounded at how much one gets out of that interaction," she said.

Denz said she hopes to have an opening celebration sometime later in the month if pandemic restrictions continue to ease. For now, knowing their art is being seen by the community is an exciting event for all involved.

"The visual explorations you might do in art therapy are not the same for the developmentally disabled, but a big part of what we do is recognize who they are," Denz said. "The artwork reflects back who you are and when other people see it they recognize you as well."

Artcraft will be open daily at Mahon Hall from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. beginning on Friday. Creative Expressions can be seen during those hours through to Aug. 3.

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# ISLAND LIFE *stay & safe*

## WATER SPORTS

# Club moves with changing tides

Youth and adults keen to get on the water with Salt Spring Sailing Club programs

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The realities of living through a pandemic mean many summer activities are looking different this year, including the specialty day camps that kids and parents look forward to.

That's the case at the Salt Spring Sailing Club, where changes have been made to accommodate a revised version of the annual sailing school for kids and teens. The program kicked off with a soft launch under especially windy conditions last week. A waiting list is now open for future sessions, recognizing the provincial and national COVID-19 situation could change at any time.

April Faget, the volunteer who is coordinating the program this year, said the school has reduced capacity since most of the two-person teaching dinghies will have to be used by just one student, unless siblings or people in the same bubble register together. That's unfortunate since more people than ever seem to be interested in sailing.

"For kids it's a way of building confidence," Faget said. "And when a kid can sail their own boat they're outdoors and they're disconnected from devices."

"After sailing a dinghy you can sail anything," she added. "They are really tippy and really sensitive, but you learn fast. The bigger boats have a wider margin of error — you don't fall into the water when you make a mistake, usually."

Faget observed sailing is becoming more popular as a women's sport as well.

"It's something girls can do as well as or better than boys. Sometimes they can put more attention on the task ahead of them," she said.

Changes to the sailing school program in response to COVID health and safety guidelines mean all instruction and activities will take place outdoors, instead of some things being in the clubhouse. The usual camp games on land cannot take place.

The school also won't be able to



PHOTO COURTESY SS SAILING CLUB

Sailing lesson takes place in waters near the Salt Spring Sailing Club.

accommodate any kids under the age of 10 this year, while a more cautious approach to lessons on the water is being implemented.

"One of our protocols is we're trying not to rescue people. So we're being more reserved about going onto the water in the big winds," Faget said.

**"We hope to learn on a Laser and work our way up — one day."**

ELLE WILD  
*Sailing school participant*

The sailing camp usually attracts up to 40 per cent of its students from other communities. This summer the club is making an effort to serve only residents of British Columbia, but they are particularly focused on getting local youth involved. Offering one-week courses instead of two-week programs is part of that effort.

"We have a lot of intro classes this year because we're looking to do more for Salt Spring, and for people who have never sailed before, maybe this is your first opportunity," Faget said.

With B.C. boat dealers reporting

record sales to local customers this spring, perhaps it's not surprising the sailing club has also seen increased requests for adult lessons. Faget said many adults seem to be realizing that learning to sail is a goal and they want to learn now that they have more time, or they want to do the things they've been putting on the back burner.

Award-winning B.C. novelist Elle Wild signed her entire family up for lessons this summer.

"My husband and I have always wanted to sail and dream of one day owning our own boat. Since we are here all summer due to COVID, this seemed like the perfect time to start learning," Wild said. "I'm a bit of a travel junkie, and I'm not entirely comfortable with camping because of the shared facilities, but a boat allows you to stay in your bubble and still satisfy your wanderlust: it's a perfect solution. We hope to learn on a Laser and work our way up — one day."

Faget noted the sailing club puts on its junior school program at a loss each year. The club is fortunate to have continued support since many other sailing schools are not able to operate in 2020.

"The boats are expensive and we have to pay for instructors, but we feel strongly our mandate in the community is to get people out sailing, and to get people as youth is a good way to go," she said.

For more information, see [www.saltspringsailing.ca](http://www.saltspringsailing.ca).

## AGRICULTURE

# Hogan poultry equipment up for auction

Wednesday through Friday event sees proceeds go to Ag Alliance

Michael Hogan's family has donated all of his poultry equipment to be auctioned for the benefit of the local farming community.

An online auction begins on the Farmers on Salt Spring Facebook page Wednesday, July 8 at noon and closes on Sunday, July 12 at noon.

Money raised will be given to the Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance, which is the umbrella group for local farming, set up in 2008 to oversee the Area Farm Plan.

"Hogan was a longtime supporter of agriculture on Salt Spring as well as an enthusiastic poultry keeper," explains fellow poultry farmer Margaret Thomson. "He served on the board of the Farmers' Institute and the Farmland Trust and was a leading member and source of inspiration to the Salt Spring Poultry Club."

Thomson said the chicken races and the chick hatching at the Salt Spring Fall Fair were Hogan's projects. His Ganges store — Eat, Drink, Ferment — had become an important sales outlet for local meat, she said, but was forced to close when his wife Donna Martin became terminally ill. Shortly afterwards Hogan's health deteriorated and he died in February of this year.

## Practise Your Physical Distancing

Leave 2 metres (6 feet) of space between yourself and other people!

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JULY 2020 PST (UTC-8h)

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8	0143	2.7	8.9	12	0525	1.8	5.9
	0503	2.9	9.5		0958	2.1	6.9
	WE 1243	0.5	1.6		SU 1511	1.7	5.6
ME 2055	3.4	11.2	DI 2238	3.1	10.2		
9	0243	2.5	8.2	13	0606	1.6	5.2
	0550	2.7	8.9		1214	2.2	7.2
	TH 1321	0.7	2.3		MO 1553	2.0	6.6
JE 2125	3.3	10.8	LU 2300	3.1	10.2		
10	0343	2.3	7.5	14	0644	1.4	4.6
	0648	2.5	8.2		1430	2.4	7.9
	FR 1357	1.0	3.3		TU 1651	2.3	7.5
VE 2151	3.3	10.8	MA 2324	3.0	9.8		
11	0438	2.1	6.9	15	0719	1.1	3.6
	0806	2.3	7.5		1548	2.6	8.5
	SA 1434	1.3	4.3		WE 1811	2.6	8.5
SA 2215	3.2	10.5	ME 2350	3.0	9.8		

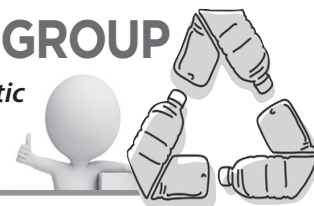
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Word ad deadline: **Wednesday 4pm**  
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**Obituaries**

**Obituaries**

**Obituaries**

**Obituaries**

**Obituaries**

**Obituaries**

**In Memoriam**



**LINDA LEONE PETRINOV**

July 28, 1951 -  
June 26, 2020

Linda Petrinov of Duncan, beloved wife of 50 years to Ante "Tony", passed away at the Cowichan District Hospital on Friday, June 26, 2020 at the age of 69 years.

She will be lovingly remembered by her husband Tony as well as by her brother, Mike Hodgkinson and loving dog, Ivory.

A private Funeral Mass will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, July 11, 2020 at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, 135 Drake Road, Salt Spring Island. Interment to follow at Ganges Community Cemetery. A live stream and recording of the service will be provided. For those who wish to view the live streaming of the service, please visit [distantlink.com/dlm59.html](http://distantlink.com/dlm59.html); password: ARBOR20.



Condolences may be offered online at [www.sandsduncan.ca](http://www.sandsduncan.ca).  
250-746-5212

**DENNIS BENGEMAN OWEN**

September 2, 1933 - June 23, 2020



Dennis passed away peacefully at Lady Minto Hospital. Dennis moved to Salt Spring Island in 1975 with his wife Betty and family. He embraced his new community working in multiple roles during his tenure with BC Ferries until his retirement. He could be found always working quietly in the background within many community organizations such as the Farmer's Institute, the local Boy Scouts, the Lions Club, the Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 92, and the Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Store.

Dennis was predeceased by: his loving wife of 52 years Betty Owen, Sister Nancy Lloyd of Prince George, and Daughter-in-law Sharon Owen.

He is survived by: Brothers, Glen Owen of Prince George, Sid (Judy) Owen of Port Coquitlam; Sons and Daughter: Terry, Beth (Lewis) Cornwall, Mark (Maureen) of Victoria, Robert of Victoria, David (Wendy) of Lawrencetown NS, his grandchildren and great grandchildren; and companion Ernestine Crawford.

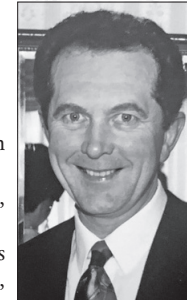
Special thank you to Matthew Marshall and the staff of the Intensive Care Unit at Royal Jubilee Hospital, the staff of Lady Minto Hospital, and all those in the community who supported our family during these difficult times.

Dennis was laid to rest with Betty at Central Cemetery in a private family ceremony on Tuesday Jun. 30, 2020. A memorial / celebration of life service open to all of his extended family and friends will be arranged at a later date.

If you wish to make a charitable donation in his name, please consider the Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary.

*Geoffrey Allen*

June 8, 1942 - June 15, 2020



Geoff passed away at home on June 15, surrounded by his family.

He was pre-deceased by his son, Jeremy Allen (2011).

He will be dearly missed by his wife of 56 years, Margaret Allen, his daughter Sarah Allen and her partner Tristan Haenep, his grandchildren Forest and Fern Junker-Allen and their father Ron Junker.

Born in Doncaster, England 1942. Geoff was a Pipefitter by trade which enabled him to work in several countries. He had an adventurous spirit and traveled extensively, as a young man with his wife Margaret and later with their children.

Geoff was a sharp dresser with a playful sense of humour. He had a huge heart and was full of kindness and always ready to help out where needed.

He moved to Salt Spring permanently in 2000 and became a very devoted and involved granddad during his last 24 years. He was also a keen gardener and created a beautiful garden.

Celebration of life to be held at a later date.

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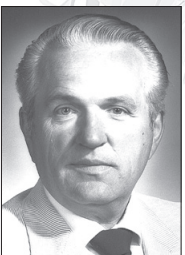
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*Beautiful memories  
silently kept  
Of one that we loved  
and will never forget*

**WALTER JOHN GRUZAS**

1930 - 2020



Walter was born on April 9 1930, in Marijampole Lithuania. He passed away from cancer at home in the early morning hours of June 6 2020.

Walter leaves behind his wife of 68 years Lucija, who he loved with all his heart and soul. Sons Wally (Kristi), Rick (Diana) and Mike (Laurianne). Daughter Sylvia (Guy). Grandchildren Cody, Samantha, Michelle (Lucas) Chris, Andrea & Jenna. Great Grandchildren McKenzie and Harrison. He was a loving and caring son, brother, husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather.

A firm handshake and a warm smile. He would gladly tell stories to anyone fortunate enough to listen. Anecdotes of his childhood memories of family and friends. The good times and the bad. Losing everything to the second world war (as did Mom) and of his coming to Canada as a young man to start a new life.

He enjoyed his early days in Canada working as a miner in Northern Quebec, then as a cowboy in the Alberta Badlands. Later returning to Montreal, where he met and married Lucija (Mom). While raising a family with his wife he put himself through university to become a technical illustrating supervisor. A diligent hard worker who constantly strived for knowledge.

After a long hard life of work and supporting his family, Mom and Dad retired to Victoria and finally settled on Salt Spring Island.

He loved family, life, people, music, art, wildflowers and birds. Going for long drives on clear, crisp autumn days.

Miss you Dad.

Thank you to all that made Dads life more comfortable towards the end and to his many friends and your kind words.

Please consider donation to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Lady Minto Hospital.

**SHIRLEY BARNES**

December 30, 1945 - June 26, 2020



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved mother and grandmother who passed suddenly on Friday, June 26th, 2020, at the age of 74. Shirley will be fondly remembered by her common-law spouse Pat Shouldice, daughter Sherry Ladd (Karl), granddaughter Jessica Barnes (Brad), great-grandson Easton Golbeck and her best friend of 35 years Jamie Armstrong (Ed).

Shirley was born in New Westminster and moved to Salt Spring Island with her family in 1973 where she had a 58-year career as a hairdresser. She bought the Dutch Beauty Salon which she owned for a number of years where she was very well known for her hair styling and was held in high regard by her clients. She even had a few famous people sit in her chair. She sold her business and went to work at Island Magic Touch Salon before her father built her a salon on their property on Swanson Road.

Shirley caught the travel bug which took her on some unforgettable trips around the world. These would include a trip to Jamaica, a couple to Hawaii, a few extended trips to England and many trips around the U.S. with her best friend Jamie.

Shirley was well known for her jewelry, you could not miss her with her collection of necklaces, bracelets and rings. She had long glamorous, well manicured nails that she kept in pristine shape. And, let's not forget about her signature beehive hair! She had a love for flowers and plants. She had beautiful flower beds, with trinkets of fairies, hummingbirds, angels and wind chimes.

Shirley was the one to keep in touch with extended family, still writing letters and cards at Christmas each year. She was very fond of her family. She spoiled everyone close to her, even the fur babies. Shirley was an amazing mother and grandmother. She was our confidant; we could tell her absolutely anything without receiving any judgement from her. She would support us through thick and thin, she made sure we were taken care of. Her bond with her grand-daughter was like no other. Even though she was not able to spend the time she deserved with her new great-grandson, she was so proud of him.

Shirley was a special woman who was also kind and classy. She always saw the good in people and rarely had an unpleasant word to say about anyone. She truly was one of a kind and her infectious laugh will be missed by many.

We love and miss you more than words can express. You were a beautiful soul, now fly free, sweet angel.

Cremation has taken place. As per Shirley's request, there will be no service.

*Margaret Clare Niven (nee Arnold)*

1939 - 2020



Margaret thought of herself as a true "off-the-wall" islander, who fit right in on Salt Spring when she settled here in 1972. She spent the next 25 years working as a nurse and in other support positions at Lady Minto Hospital. That is where, in 1973, she met Steve Millen, the love of her life. Five years later, they built a log house together on Mobrae Avenue. Margaret's father came to live with them between 1997 and 2007, after which they moved into Ganges. In 2017, Steve's spirit went to soar with the eagles.

Margaret went to school at Queen Margaret's in Duncan and graduated from Cowichan High School. She studied nursing at Royal Island Hospital in Kamloops and at Nanaimo Vocational School, then went on to practice in Vancouver, North Van and Victoria before settling on Salt Spring.

After she retired, Margaret sang in the choir at All Saints by the Sea for almost 20 years, until Steve's health required her full attention at home. She was also involved with the Soup's On program at the church for the 10 years that it ran, developing recipes and helping feed lunch to upwards of 100 people every Thursday. She spent a lot of time at the hospital's Thrift Shop, finding treasures for both herself and her family. She also supported local artists, purchasing work, mainly of animals, from many of them.

Margaret's life-long love of horse-riding began in high school. She loved to knit, especially socks, for family as well as for those in need. Her favorite opera was The Magic Flute and her favorite piece of music was Bach's Double Violin Concerto. She was a prolific reader, enjoying a variety of works from Laurence Gardner to Daphne du Maurier.

Margaret chose to spend her last days at the hospital where she had cared for so many. Very fittingly, she received the best of care and her family received the most gracious welcome. There are no words to convey our thanks.


Margaret is on her way to her next adventure, where she will be with Steve and enjoy the hummingbirds.



# DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

250-537-9933

**Coming Events**



**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
Salt Spring Island Golf and Country Club  
**6pm Wednesday July 29, 2020**  
**This AGM will be conducted via ZOOM.**  
Details and Meeting Agenda will be emailed to all members.  
Please contact [president@saltspringgolf.com](mailto:president@saltspringgolf.com) if you do not receive anything.

**Coming Events**

**THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CENTRAL COMMUNITY HALL SOCIETY**  
on Wednesday 15th July, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the lower hall at 901 North End Road.  
*PUBLIC WELCOME.*

**Coming Events**

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

With the influence of the two epic eclipses, the first solar and the second lunar on June 21 and July 4/5, respectively, the outer synchronicities they were destined to activate are now underway. As usual, the expression of destiny is ever and invariably a subjective experience, as is true of life, despite the apparent objectivity of events. This subjective or personal factor includes our individual and personal responsibilities.

Who are you, why are you here, what constitutes the many facets of the purpose of your life, and where are you now in terms of the cycles of your destiny? These are real and important questions that refer to you as a soul incarnate evolving through the 3-D school of life. Embracing this truth is not only important; it is powerful and is what lends to life having meaning and purpose. I can help you explore this reality such as to awaken, inform, inspire, and empower you. P.S. Mercury turns direct after 3-weeks of retrograde motion on July 12.

- Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)**  
These are powerful times and this is probably very apparent in your life. Dealing with waves of emotional complexity is part of this plot. Yet interestingly, you may actually be enjoying the kaleidoscope of emotions flowing through your body and mind. Taking direct and deliberate action feels right and important yet doing so without empathy or consideration could prove costly.
- Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)**  
Your mind is racing with thoughts and feelings linked to outer events and scenarios of possibility for the future. All the while, deep drums are beating in the back of your mind as you decipher what to do and how. Positively, you are seeing a bigger picture and getting a clear perspective on things than you have in a long time. At worst, you have gone to battle with yourself. Aim for the sweet spot!
- Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)**  
Major activations linked to the recent eclipses have activated your focus regarding money and security. Getting clear on what your responsibilities are in this regard is featured. Altogether, these are contributing to a completion-process of deep changes that have been underway for the past 2-3 years. This process will continue for the rest of the year.
- Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)**  
Some rather large moves and measures have been activated. These may be leaving you feeling determined, yet perhaps also edgy and combative. Both home and family and career and your public life are being influenced. You may be feeling very strongly that it is time to take new initiatives. In any case, something significant is shifting and you feel compelled to act upon it.
- Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)**  
Balancing the urge to retreat and engage in creative activities behind the scenes with outer social events continues. The ratio is probably 3 to 1 to lay low so work with that. Meanwhile, you have re-entered a time of learning and study. This could prove to be a great time to take a course. Yet, it could also manifest as realizing creative ambitions that have long-awaited their time.
- Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)**  
Who are your friends and who are not? In the ever-changing landscape of fickle emotions combined with the realities of change, little is certain or absolute in this regard. Perhaps most importantly, you are learning to be a better friend to yourself. Yet, the challenge also includes becoming more aware of how you can perhaps be critical, expectant, and judgmental of others. Self-reflective awareness reveals wisdom.
- Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)**  
A busy time in your outer public and professional life continues. Yet, rumbblings and tremors are leaving you feeling uncertain. It may not solely be your career, but could also be linked to family and some of your most intimate relationships. Either way, it is hardly a smooth process. Rather, it appears to include conflict and even strife. Your challenge is to be diplomatically assertive.
- Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)**  
You may notice that you are in a philosophical mood. However, this is not to say you feel clear about what you think or believe to be true. In fact, there is a reason to say that you are quite undecided at this point. Altogether, it probably amounts to an important juncture in your personal evolution towards an awakening to new perceptions and interpretations.
- Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)**  
You are in the mood to escape, to get away from it all for a while. Even a qualitative bout or two of something different and perhaps nothing, in particular, might suffice. All the while, more sober considerations, and responsibilities are there, but you are happy to leave them alone for now. Productivity is great and so too is fun in the sun.
- Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)**  
Your perspectives are undergoing a steady process of change. Given the current state of the world and all the outer changes that have and continue to rather suddenly jolt us all out of the old norm, you may feel adrift between then and tomorrow more than ever. Positively, it is producing a refreshing break from all patterns that had become restrictive.
- Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)**  
In the background of your life, something has been steadily dissolving. According to your astrology, it could be described as tendencies to control outer people and circumstances. It is likely, that the flow of events has produced a need to surrender, and to allow, trust and to cooperate. As you do, you may feel more liberated than you might have thought possible.
- Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)**  
You are in a creative cycle. Yet, it can also be described as a moody one. While diving in deep to fulfill this impulse feels great, you may notice your focus is getting directed to many smaller projects. This will change as the month progresses so tend to the smaller tasks and projects now to clear the way. In other news, returns for past actions are coming in and these may amount to sobering responsibilities.

**PUBLIC LIBRARY**

# Library's list of services expands

Phase 3 kicks in; literary reading offered via Zoom



PHOTO COURTESY SALT SPRING PUBLIC LIBRARY

Librarian Julia Wagner points to new plexiglass barriers installed on Salt Spring Public Library counters to help protect staff and volunteers. The public will have more, if still limited, access to library services beginning on July 11.

Beginning this Saturday, July 11, the Salt Spring Island Public Library is moving to Phase 3 of reopening following the British Columbia Phase-3 COVID-19 restart plan.

The library's take-out service will continue, but will now feature limited access to the library for the public for new materials selection using a closed-collection framework. That will mean staff will retrieve the material and patrons will use the self check-out system.

There will be no use of study or lounge spaces during this time, but the library will provide six computers for 45-minute sessions in the library's community program room during library open hours: Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Early access to the library from 10 to 11 a.m. will be for vulnerable populations, including seniors.

To support patrons, the library has waived fines and extended loan periods on items from March 19 to June 19. In addition, children and teen materials no longer incur fines and patrons are no longer blocked from borrowing due to fines of less than \$100.

The library has undertaken enhanced cleaning protocols, invested in personal protective equipment for volunteers and staff, installed plexiglass safety barriers (thanks to Windsor Plywood), defined waiting areas in the lobby and outside, established two-metre social distance marks inside, quarantined returned materials for 48 hours, and upgraded library equipment with touchless payment and checkout operations. To protect the health and safe-

ty of the public, staff and volunteers, people are asked to stay home if they are sick.

In addition to access to new materials, the library has new book bundles available for check-out, its youth summer camp program, adult poetry and literary events by Zoom, free book bags in the lobby, and is considering requests for rental of the Community Program Room for groups of 12 people or less.

More information is available on the library website and Facebook page. The provincial government has not yet restarted the interlibrary loan service, but it will hopefully begin later in July.

**Library literary event**

People are welcome to take in an online book reading with Amanda Hale and Salt Spring Islander Julian Wake.

Hosted by the library, the event will run via Zoom on Thursday, July 16 at 7 p.m.

Hale's book titled Mad Hatter is a fictionalized memoir of her family's wartime experience as a result of her father's internment in England during WWII.

Hale is an award-winning writer who has published four novels, two poetry chapbooks and two collections of linked fictions. She is also the librettist on Pomegranate, an original opera set in ancient Pompeii, which premiered in Toronto in 2019.

Wake joins Hale to speak about Agent Jack, alias Eric Roberts, a WWII British spy who lived on Salt Spring Island for 15 years prior to his death in 1972. Roberts' role as a spy only came to light in 2014.

See the Upcoming Events list on the Salt Spring library's website for the required Zoom link.

Library personnel can provide assistant for people who need help setting up Zoom at home in order to access literary events.