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PHOTO COURTESY SSI FIRE RESCUE

A Salt Spring Fire Rescue crew uses the Jaws of Life to extricate the pilot of a light amphibious plane at a private airstrip on Salt Spring on Saturday.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Fire displaces island's Beck family

Pilot extrication also required on Saturday

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A fundraising campaign has been launched to assist a Salt Spring family whose home and belongings on Upper Ganges Road suffered extensive damage from a fire on Saturday afternoon.

Warren Nuyens, Salt Spring Fire Rescue's commanding officer at the scene, said the cause was under investigation but is not considered to be suspicious. Around a dozen firefighters were on site for about two hours.

"It appeared to have started outside and crews were able to knock it down from the exterior," Nuyens reported.

Iris Beck, a former islander now living in Kamloops, said the house belonged to her

brother Matt Beck, his wife Lorena and their two children. Matt is the head of the heating, ventilating and air-conditioning/refrigeration program at Vancouver Island University. Lorena is a care aide at Heritage Place.

Beck said none of her brother's family members were at home when the incident occurred. Their neighbours noticed the fire and called 911.

The children's bedroom was the main area affected, although there is smoke and water damage throughout the house. The family is in temporary accommodation for now and may look into moving a RV onto the property while repairs are being done, to add some sense of normalcy and consistency for the kids. The repairs may

take several months, Beck said.

"Ruckle is eight and Evelyn is six. They've lost all their clothes, toys, books, stuffies and mementos. So hard for them to understand at that age," their aunt said.

The online fundraising campaign can be found at GoFundMe under "House Fire Assistance for the Beck Family."

Salt Spring Fire Rescue crews also attended an unusual matter on Saturday when they were called to a personal airstrip where a light plane suffered a hard landing. Firefighters needed to employ the Jaws of Life to extricate the pilot, who sustained some injuries in the incident. The patient was transported to hospital by BC Ambulance Service paramedics.

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CENTENNIAL PARK

Assault on bylaw officer puts focus on park

Local officials to strategize with RCMP

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Safety concerns in downtown Ganges have been highlighted once again following an incident that saw a Capital Regional District bylaw enforcement officer encounter violent opposition in Centennial Park.

Salt Spring RCMP arrested a 36-year-old man and are now investigating the incident that took place on the evening of Friday, July 31. Video footage taken on the scene shows a male shouting at CRD officer Wolfgang Brunnwieser to leave the park. The aggressor then moves in as if to hit the bylaw officer before a friend intervenes. He also reportedly attempted to throw a football at Brunnwieser, but missed.

The man allegedly resisted an RCMP officer's attempts to put him in handcuffs after police were called, but was arrested successfully after a second police officer arrived on scene. He was transported to the Salt Spring detachment and released a short time later.

The RCMP say full investigative findings will be presented to the BC Prosecution Service for consideration of appropriate charges. The accused is expected to appear in court in January of 2021.

The situation occurred on a busy long weekend just as local theatre company exit-StageLeft Productions was setting up for their evening Shakespeare performance.

"There was an element of anxiety and fear at times being in that space, not knowing what was going to happen," the play's director Christina Penhale told the Driftwood.

The attack on Brunnwieser was actually the third event the company experienced with that individual. The previous night the crew watched him violently rip down their fence and walk through the back of the play during the production. He then verbally attacked the volunteers who made sure to get between him and the cast — four young

women ranging in age from around 18 to 20.

Penhale said the incident with Brunnwieser may have seemed minor to some people watching the video, but it did not feel that way to those on the scene.

"And it was right next to the children's playground, as well. There were three-, four- and five-year-olds playing there while there was cursing and this person actively trying to hurt someone," Penhale said.

The theatre group recognizes there are vulnerable people in the community who use the downtown parks as their outdoor living space. They have worked to share the space and to consciously include these community members, in previous years at Mouat Park and more recently at Centennial Park.

This year a company member who works with the vulnerable population on a weekly basis sat with the group, providing food and companionship. For the most part everyone has always been respectful of the productions, Penhale said.

"We don't want to displace anyone, but we also want to enjoy our public places as community," Penhale said, adding the theatre company has been wondering, "How do we actually address this issue and make sure it's to the benefit of everyone involved?"

Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman likewise observed the recent incident was the action of one individual, and said people should not be quick to blame Salt Spring's homeless population. However, he also observed that problematic behaviour has been a constant issue in rotating locations around Ganges — from the Peace Park to the United Church meadow to ArtSpring's upper parking lot. The Capital Regional District has stepped in to take action at all of those places, but problems at Centennial Park consistently occur.

Salt Spring Parks and Recreation staff have previously said that having more activities at the park, such as the return of the Saturday market, could help the situation by discouraging people from gathering there to drink.

"You've got that group that's hanging out



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Children's play area at Centennial Park, which is adjacent to the site of a July 31 altercation between a Capital Regional District bylaw enforcement officer and a 36-year-old male.

there and [other] people weren't going to the park because of COVID-19," agreed Don Brown, the CRD's chief bylaw officer based in Victoria. "I think having more regular activities will help, definitely."

Brown's office is also upping the bylaw enforcement presence in Ganges parks. Salt Spring is currently served by one full-time and two part-time officers, but a third part-time person is being hired. Officers will work in pairs to increase their safety.

As well, a meeting that includes CRD bylaw enforcement, Salt Spring parks manager Dan Ovington and RCMP detachment commander Corp. Matthew Crist is planned for this week to discuss the ongoing concerns.

"CRD staff do need support in Centennial Park and part of the conversation will be about that," Holman said. "Quite honestly we are struggling with it."

He observed the RCMP is also under-resourced, however, as are initiatives to help mitigate homelessness, mental health and substance-use issues.

"The issues we're experiencing on Salt Spring are not uncommon elsewhere, particularly in southwest British Columbia. It's an indication there's a lack of resources provincially and federally to provide housing and other supports," Holman said.

With provincial and federal governments falling short, local governments "are left to step into the vacuum." Holman said that's what the local CRD office was hoping to do by establishing a community safety service, but taxpayers defeated the proposal.

Holman has increased the local budget for bylaw enforcement and will seek another increase in the upcoming budget cycle.

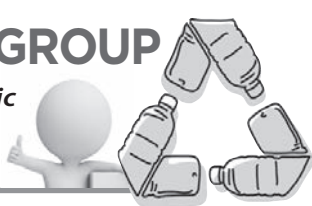
"I don't know what the next steps are, but action needs to happen to help those that need it and create a safe and respectful place for everyone to use," Penhale said.

Holman agrees that something needs to change.

"People have a right to feel safe. They, and their kids and their visitors," he said. "That assault is completely unacceptable."

SUPER GROUP

• Single Use Plastic Elimination and Recycling



SHAMPOO

Plastic shampoo and conditioner bottles are one form of plastic containers we can easily eliminate.

What you can do:

Instead of liquid shampoo, buy bar shampoo which is available on Salt Spring Island (local producers-Salt Spring soaps and Barefoot daughter bar soaps and shampoos, as well as others) in Victoria and also online, or bring a container to a store that offers refill options. Solid bar conditioners are also available or you can easily make your own. There are many recipes online which utilize readily available ingredients such as apple cider vinegar and water.

TIDE TABLES

at Fulford Harbour

AUGUST 2020 PST (UTC-8h)

When using Daylight Saving Time, one hour must be added to the predicted time in the table

DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	
12	0531	1.3	4.3	16	0016	3.0	9.8	
	1413	2.6	8.5		0834	0.6	2.0	
	WE 1610	2.6	8.5		SU 1708	3.2	10.5	
ME 2206	3.0	9.8	DI 2131	2.9	9.5			
13	0617	1.1	3.6	17	0115	3.1	10.2	
	1523	2.8	9.2		0917	0.4	1.3	
	TH 1749	2.8	9.2		MO 1736	3.2	10.5	
JE 2237	3.0	9.8	LU 2204	2.8	9.2			
14	0703	0.9	3.0	18	0214	3.1	10.2	
	1603	3.0	9.8		0959	0.4	1.3	
	FR 1937	2.8	9.2		TU 1803	3.2	10.5	
VE 2320	3.0	9.8	MA 2241	2.6	8.5			
15	0749	0.7	2.3	19	0313	3.1	10.2	
	1637	3.1	10.2		1042	0.4	1.3	
	SA 2050	2.9	9.5		WE 1829	3.2	10.5	
SA				ME 2324	2.4	7.9		

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AGRICULTURE

Farm effort yields results

Various initiatives completed

Salt Spring's Emergency Agriculture Response and Recovery working group is reporting out after four months in operation.

The group with representatives from 14 agricultural and government organizations on Salt Spring has been addressing risks and challenges posed by COVID-19 and created an emergency plan aimed to ensure continued access to safe, local food for island residents during the global pandemic.

"Actions supported farmers and food producers, helped make food available for sale, and assisted The Root in becoming operational as essential food infrastructure for processing, storage and distribution," explains a press release. "Coming to a close now, the Emergency Agriculture Response and Recovery Plan saw significant community benefit thanks to deep collaboration."

Overcoming the challenges of physical distancing and limits on numbers enabled the Tuesday mar-

ket to go ahead. Efforts resulted in six additional farmers' markets, in the early season, from April to June, as well as an online platform for sale and purchase of local produce. Partnership with the Driftwood presented farmer profiles informing the community about access to local produce. Gulf Islands schools received \$10,000 towards the purchase of local food through Victoria-based South Island Farm Hub, and vegetable box program subscriptions showed a 157 per cent increase in 2020 over 2019. Based on data collected by Island Natural Growers, 603 households participated in a weekly vegetable box subscription program, or similar, in 2020 compared to 235 households in 2019. Furthermore, a POD neighbourhood developed a community garden which presently sees participation from 17 families.

The emergency group also created a solid foundation for Area Farm Plan renewal work that will take place over the coming year to further strengthen agriculture and food security on Salt Spring Island.



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NEWS BRIEFS

Fall fair entries invited

Islanders have just under three weeks to submit their photos of exhibits for a special Salt Spring Fall Fair event.

The fall fair committee is promoting a theme of "We're Having a Fun Fair not a Fall Fair," which will see photos of exhibits that would have been entered in the September fall fair if it was taking place this year.

People of all ages can send in photos of their flowers, produce, hobby arts projects, preserves and more. They are invited to include themselves in the photo with their entry, if they want to.

Photos should be sent to ssifallfair@shaw.ca along with the entrant's first and last name. Kids can add their ages as well. Submission deadline is Tuesday, Sept. 1.

No judging is taking place, but a random draw of entrants will see six people receive a \$50 gift certificate to a local business and blue-ribbon recognition in a special Driftwood publication featuring as many photos as possible.

Limerick readers share their creations next week

A local author Pandemic Limerick Reading event is set for next Thursday, Aug. 20 via Zoom.

Sponsored by the library, with support from ArtSpring, the Salt Spring Island Foundation and Salt Spring Books, the project invited people to submit limericks on a pandemic theme for a chance to win a gift certificate to Salt Spring Books.

Visit the Salt Spring library website for the link to the Zoom meeting, which begins at 7 p.m.

Two winners will be announced on Aug. 31. Contest judges are Salt Spring writers Kathy Page, Chris Humphreys and Diana Hayes.

A book of limericks submitted to the contest will be created and available for purchase at the end of November, with proceeds going to the Salt Spring Island Foundation.

HEALTH CARE

COVID-19 impacts local hospital staff

Challenges of pandemic shared by local health official

BY DAVE TAYLOR

SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Researchers at the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control estimate that less than one per cent of this province's population was infected with COVID-19 during the pandemic's first wave.

That's good news and bad news. The bad news, of course, is that the vast majority of us are still susceptible to the virus and must remain vigilant. The good news, however, is that the steps B.C. took to combat the pandemic worked to keep exposure and transmission rates low.

Salt Springers are familiar with the very public role provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry has played in teaching British Columbians about combatting the COVID crisis. However, few have been privy to what it was like inside the hospital, learning to deal with COVID.

Lady Minto Hospital site director Sara Gogo says it was a roller coaster.

"With the information changing so quickly, we'd tell the staff one thing, and then, sometimes that would change minutes later. We were really excited about some of the changes that were taking place because it felt like we were addressing the concern in a really meaningful, thoughtful way. And yet there was this constant anxiety in the community and therefore in the hospital, which made it a difficult place to navigate for a lot of us, for a long period of time."

And then, she says, it started to get better.

"I can't really name a date, but it was probably only really within the last few weeks, when I noted laughter, hearing the nurses laughing, and hadn't actually realized that was something I had not been hearing. This is a hospital where our staff relationships are very strong and tight, and it was just really good to walk onto the unit and see that happening, and then make the realization that 'Wow! This has been a long time since the mood has been this light.' Everyone got worn down, so we are counting on this reprieve as a time for all of us to get rested and rebuild our resiliency banks."

Trained as a registered nurse, Gogo notes that while nursing school teaches about epidemics and pandemics, they are infrequent enough that when one actually occurs, one is never trained for this exactly — unless you're Dr. Bonnie Henry.

"A lot of us were able to pull on a lot of skills that we've developed about planning, to pull things together and, I think, do it in a way that was pretty effective overall. I can't say enough about Bonnie Henry and her leadership and her experience, because she has been through — and led through — incredible situations. So having her in British Columbia — she's just been amazing, and has brought such a sense of assurance that we're doing the right thing."

Gogo believes the pandemic and the health-care system's response to it has changed medicine irrevocably.

"In terms of what we've been able to achieve regarding virtual visits, for instance, I can't believe that we'll ever go back to the way it once was. I think we've made some great and really exciting advances, not only with virtual care, but also in just rethinking what people need, how we deliver care, and how we



PHOTO COURTESY LMH FOUNDATION

Sara Gogo, Lady Minto Hospital site director.

do it in a timely fashion. In my own experience, I can 'see' my doctor now faster than I ever could before, and for me, most of the time, a conversation on the phone is absolutely adequate. And I think that's true for a lot of people."

The pandemic has also changed the physical layout of Lady Minto Hospital with the creation of a "COVID pod," an ingenious quick fix to a sudden problem.

"Early on, we identified that we needed to have a different stream for patients to present to the hospital if they were potentially COVID-positive," Gogo explains. "So we built a wall in our acute care unit that took a number of patient rooms, our physio office, our sunroom and multipurpose room and could be accessed separately from the main entrance. We were able to set up a tent in front of the hospital, assess individuals, and if they had any potential COVID symptoms, direct them right into the COVID pod."

"It's important to express the gratitude we have as medical professionals going through this.

We're so appreciative!"

SARA GOGO

Lady Minto Hospital site director

The pod allows for a fuller patient assessment by nurses and physicians in an area that can then be fully cleaned after each visit. It allows the hospital to maintain its inventory of personal protective equipment more efficiently. The hospital also acquired a trauma stretcher, so that a patient can be x-rayed while lying on the stretcher.

"While we didn't necessarily have to deal with them in the first wave, we realized we would need that ability in order to care for very sick patients," Gogo says.

The COVID pod also contains the hospital's negative pressure room.

"'Negative pressure' is a very specific system that minimizes the ability for droplets to move around in a room," Gogo explains. "It takes them from the room and cleans them out. This one specialized room, used in other times for things like an active TB case or any number of infectious illnesses where there are droplets concerns, allows us to care for someone safely in a room that doesn't flow into other patient rooms. So it was a key part of the pod area and worked out really nicely."

The first wave of the pandemic might have an impact on Lady Minto Hospital's Emergency Department Redevelopment

Project, which is now in the design phase. Gogo notes that it may be necessary, for example, to rethink the entrance to the new emergency department. Perhaps there should be more than one entrance in the event of another outbreak like COVID.

"We cannot have someone come into the emergency department unconscious and just assume that they're not COVID-positive," she says.

Maintaining a state of perpetual readiness is crucial as the pandemic continues to be in our midst.

"On a practical level, it's relatively easy. We're still being very, very cautious," Gogo reports. "The way we're assessing patients with symptoms remains the same. We continue to have the pod going. It certainly slows down our community members when they enter the hospital, but people are still accessing care in a timely way."

But there's also the issue of maintaining the emotional and mental level of preparedness.

"I think a lot of us are trying to take a break from that, and yet, it's difficult to do so because of the necessity to remain vigilant. Completely 'cranking it down' is quite impossible from my perspective."

Gogo and the team at Lady Minto Hospital appreciate the ongoing encouragement from the community.

"We've had incredible support from our community, from all the people going out at 7 o'clock to bang their pots and blow their horns, to the thoughtful words people have sent our way . . . and the food! The many, many people who've sent us food. I think we all feel like, okay, it's time to step away from the carbs a little. But it's important to express the gratitude we have as medical professionals going through this. We're so appreciative!"

When asked if anyone was admitted to Lady Minto Hospital with a confirmed COVID case, Gogo pointed out that as a matter of policy, health authorities in B.C. do not disclose specific communities where COVID exists or the number of people who've tested positive in specific communities unless public health providers can't be certain they've reached everyone who needs to be contacted and might therefore be a risk to the public. It's an important privacy issue, she says.

"If people know their privacy will be protected, they'll feel safe contacting us for treatment and follow-up, and that allows public health providers to do the work they need to do to keep everybody safe."

Gogo says Dr. Henry's message is clear: "Every single person in every community needs to be aware of the risk. It's in your community too and it doesn't serve anybody to think it's not. Everyone, everywhere, must follow the precautions, including physical distancing, frequently and properly washing your hands, and staying home if you're sick."

Currently, the Salt Spring Island shelter is closed to walk-in business.

Staff is responding to voice mails/e-mail daily and are able to set up appointments if you need to come in to the shelter.

To see available animals for adoptions, please visit spca.bc.ca/adopt

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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)
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EDITORIAL

Hearty appetites

One thing the coronavirus pandemic has taught residents of the privileged western world is to appreciate the basic things in life — like food.

Soon after a pandemic was declared in March, fear of food shortages rose locally as elsewhere, and hoarding even occurred. Thankfully that trend and the fear dissipated, and supplies of most necessary goods have been adequate.

But on the other end of the spectrum were the vulnerable members of our community, and those suddenly made economically insecure due to loss of jobs or income from independent business activities. They couldn't have stockpiled cans of beans if they wanted to.

On Salt Spring, concern about individuals and families not being able to buy or access the food they need was and is distressingly real. The Salt Spring Food Bank has seen an estimated 25 per cent increase in use of its services and Community Services' Harvest Food Programs coordinator Simone Cazabon says further demand is expected when the Canada Emergency Response Benefit

is phased out in the fall. Some 136 households have used the Farmers Market Nutritional Coupon program this year. That initiative, which sees people given \$21 (in coupon form) each week, is particularly effective since all funds go to farmers and food producers at the Tuesday Farmers' Market. Relying largely on local donations, Salt Spring's characteristic generosity came through to raise more money for it than any other community in B.C.

Those involved in agriculture also rose to the challenge to create the Emergency Agriculture Response and Recovery Plan. One action in that plan was a call for greater support for island farmers and use of vegetable box subscriptions. That resulted in a 157 per cent increase in demand in 2020 over the previous year, or 603 households versus 235 in 2019.

The Salt Spring Island Foundation's Emergency Preparedness and Relief Fund has also seen great support, with the foundation quickly exceeding its \$200,000 goal — even more evidence that islanders have a hearty appetite for food security programs and COVID-related philanthropy in general.

With no end in sight to the way we are living at present, the generosity, awareness and creativity in meeting basic needs that has been demonstrated so far is laudable and must continue.

THE ISSUE:

Food security programs

WE SAY:

Local support must keep coming



Rural designation crucial

BY GARY HOLMAN, DAVE HOWE AND MIKE HICKS

Having been unfairly designated as "urban" by the province for over 50 years, the rural electoral areas of Salt Spring, Galiano, Mayne, Pender, and Saturna islands have been unable to access critical pandemic response and recovery rural grant-ing programs, such as the Islands Coastal Economic Trust.

A recent letter advocating for our region to be officially designated as "rural" by the province has been sent to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness, Michele Mungall, and signed by all three electoral area directors. The letter maps out why our islands now more than ever need to become part of the Island Coastal Economic Trust, an organization that through community-centred decision-making funds and invests in a wide range of economic development and community-building initiatives from which our communities are currently excluded due to the CRD-urban designation.

The letter is provided below to inform islanders of the advocacy efforts underway.

VIEWPOINT

Dear Minister,

The electoral area directors of the Capital Regional District are writing to urge your support for inclusion of the CRD electoral areas in the Islands Coastal Economic Trust (ICET).

As you know, we have been advocating for inclusion in ICET for years as a matter of consistency and fairness. More recently however, the economic impact of the COVID pandemic on many of our constituents has been as serious as on any other jurisdiction within ICET's current area, reinforcing the rationale for access to this important funding source.

MLA Adam Olsen kindly shared the transcript of your discussion of this issue in a recent session of legislative estimates. We applaud the constructive tone of the discussion and your statement that CRD electoral areas are rural in nature. This is an important acknowledgment. The designation of CRD electoral areas seems to have been an obstacle to our inclusion in ICET.

It is our understanding that the board of ICET was consulted by your government and has expressed concern about dilution of the fund with inclusion of more participants. This is understandable, but in our view, our constituents have been unfairly precluded from access to ICET funding since its inception over a decade ago. Due to the economic impacts of necessary provincial and federal measures to stop the spread of COVID, we also urge you to renew funding for ICET as part of your proposed COVID economic recovery plan.

Our request is a matter of fairness and economic urgency. If we are truly "all in this together" we hope you will support a consistent treatment of rural areas in the Vancouver Island region, and include refurbishment of ICET funding as part of your proposed economic recovery plan.

Thank you for your leadership during these extraordinary times.

The writers are the electoral area directors to the CRD for Salt Spring Island, the Southern Gulf Islands and Juan de Fuca, respectively.

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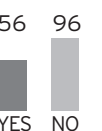
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you feel safe in Centennial Park?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you like the province's return-to-school plan?



Cast your ballot online at 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: }

"Everyone got worn down, so we are counting on this reprieve as a time for all of us to get rested and rebuild our resiliency banks."

SARA GOGO, LADY MINTO HOSPITAL SITE DIRECTOR

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED: *What do you think about the B.C. government's plan to return to in-class learning this fall?*

WARREN NUYENS



I have concerns about it becoming a large gathering and the spread of COVID, but I have faith the school board is doing everything possible to be safe.

DANI GREENE



I'm massively conflicted. My daughter is very excited about entering middle school but is in the high-risk health category. I want to keep her safe and also ensure I'm not exposed.

RYAN GIBSON



I'm concerned that it's ambitious for all children, who have differing needs, as well as differing comfort levels of individual families, to be back in school.

MEGHAN HOWCROFT



Our son went back to school in June and it was safe and successful. But I'm concerned with the plans for September with two kids going back to full class sizes.

JORDAN STRATFORD



The best scenario I think we can hope for is gradual on-ramping of students phased in over at least a month of mixed online and optional in-person instruction. Then we'll just look at the numbers and recalibrate.

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

CRD will be asking

Tony Maude's recent letter, "CRD should ask, not take," is misinformed and passes the buck.

He is an elected commissioner of the CRD Fulford Water District (FWD). He appears to reference the retirement in 2021 of borrowing undertaken by FWD to upgrade their system. The FWD also received roughly \$1 million in infrastructure funding for this upgrade, made possible by their conversion to a CRD utility. FWD has also received \$125,000 in gas tax funding through the CRD.

Mr. Maude states the CRD will be fraudulently "using the money for something else other than (for) the original appropriation." In fact, the retirement of this debt, which helped build a modern treatment plant and some distribution system upgrades, leaves commissioners with more leeway to possibly increase transfers to capital reserves to upgrade their decades-old distribution system, already costing ratepayers with more frequent breakages.

This is a similar situation faced

by the elected commissions of other CRD utilities, also retiring debt originally incurred to build new treatment systems. CRD staff will likely recommend that commissions allocate at least part of the resulting savings to capital reserves, but Mr. Maude and other commissioners will have to decide this.

GARY HOLMAN,
SSI CRD DIRECTOR

R&J show impresses

I caught the YouTube video of exitStageLeft Productions' Romeo and Juliet in Centennial Park one day last week and it blew me away. I set my morning aside to give it my full attention.

The show was extraordinary. Words fail, in a way, though they didn't fail the Bard nor these brilliant interpreters. It was cinched up to a fair thee well and dripping with ingenuity and verve. I felt a couple of times that they were trying to get it all in before the train arrived, but the actors' commitment to "character" and their general exuberance made that cavil vanish. It was superbly staged and executed.

My heartfelt thanks and congrats to the production team and those five dazzling performers: the four actors and the star turn of the chameleon red swatch. Wow!

SCOTT HYLANDS,
VICTORIA

Housing incentives

Regarding recent discussions about housing on Salt Spring Island, I have a few comments.

There is currently no incentive whatsoever for someone who owns land to have a small rental unit on their land, ensuring homes for regular folks such as teachers, healthcare workers, grocery store clerks, etc.

If I own two acres, I can build a massive mansion and legally have a dozen people living there, without any concern for water consumption level or other environmental degradation, like removal of mature forest.

If I have two acres with a modest home of 1,500 to 1,800 square feet, housing two, three or four people (a family), I'm expressly

forbidden from building a cabin that might provide long-term affordable rental accommodation for a couple of additional regular working folks.

Bylaws need to provide incentives for regular property owners to build a cabin or a trailer (or two) on their land. If it was legal and encouraged to have a small cabin on a piece of property (all the way down to an acre or even less in size) there could literally be dozens of small accommodations available for rent that would alter the affordable accommodation landscape. The unmet demand is for peacefully living in a quiet private rural setting on someone's land.

If Salt Spring continues to be unaffordable for folks with regular jobs, everyone loses. We don't want folks to have to commute from somewhere else to work on Salt Spring. We want working folk to be able to be part of the fabric of this community.

Let's put incentives in place to provide affordable rental accommodations all over the island.

STEVEN S. BARER,
QUARRY DRIVE

Passing the clock test and other dementia news

"I passed the clock test!" my mother crowed about 12 years ago. Her supposed success meant she didn't have dementia. I heard that good news so many times it got to be annoying, but I was too busy taking care of my late partner to do more than worry a bit. In fact, that's how my mother heard of the clock test in the first place. Murray had failed it a few years earlier.

In case you've never heard of it, I can explain. The clock test is one element of series of challenges a doctor can use to assess to what degree, if any, we might be experiencing cognitive impairment. First, we are to draw the face of a clock, spacing out the numbers 1 through 12. Next we are asked to show the time, say 1:45. If we're experiencing cognitive impairment we might be able to place the little hand pointing toward the 1. But how do we show "45?" Hmm. Does the long hand go somewhere between the 4 and the 5?

Poor Murray couldn't draw a clock face; instead, he bunched his numbers in the upper right quadrant of the circle. He was able to tell time when he looked at a clock, so he knew he'd messed up. The doctor let him try again, but, try as he might, Murray simply could not space the numbers properly.

He was also challenged to learn three words and remember them later: Alberta, tree and red. Five minutes later, it was tough to remember them, but with a struggle he finally got two. Throughout, his doctor was supportive and encouraging, as I suppose was the doctor who gave a certain someone the words "person, woman, man, camera, TV."

No, I take it back! In fact, I'll bet my last \$20 there isn't a doctor in the world who ever gave anyone those particular



Helen Hinchliff
AGING WITH GRACE

words in a cognitive impairment test — they're obviously too similar. What's more: nobody who's completely with it would ever want to repeat ad nauseum that he'd aced his cognitive impairment test by remembering them!

One day, I shared with my mother my horror about the degree of Murray's dementia. She was fascinated by the clock test. Several years later, she started asking me to describe it again. She also started asking me to explain exactly what Alzheimer's is. Maybe it was then that I should have started to worry, but since our phone conversations mostly covered "the good old days," I could remain in denial.

I was flabbergasted when I was finally free to go down to southern California to take care of her. She was in a skilled nursing facility after a burst synovial sac in her knee made it almost impossible for her to walk. As it turned out, for the three weeks she was there she couldn't remember how to find her way to the rehabilitation room (it was only down the hall from her room and then turn right). What's more, she couldn't remember from one day to the next who had visited her the day before — even when prompted.

For years now, we've been hearing how

the number of cases of dementia is rising and what an enormous public health problem it is and how much worse it will soon become. What's more, we worry about ourselves, especially when we find ourselves in some room in our house and can't remember what impelled us to go in there in the first place.

"So where's the good news?" I hear you thundering. Well, if there's one good thing about COVID-19 it's this: we are learning the difference between the total number of cases and incidence rates. The good news about dementia is this: whereas it's true that the number of cases is greater than ever before, that's because most of us are living longer. Meanwhile, the rate at which any one of us will develop dementia has been declining. In fact, it's down by 13 per cent since 2010, the year Murray entered Greenwoods. In 1995, a 75-year-old-man had a 25 per cent chance of developing dementia; today, it is down to 18 per cent. What's more: there is now a blood test that can detect Alzheimer's disease (the most common form of dementia) as many as 20 years before symptoms appear. Chances are if we can detect it, we'll learn how to prevent it.

Dr. Albert Hofman, chairman of the department of epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health, can't yet explain why the incidence rate of dementia is declining, but he doesn't say no to us having "more social interactions, more activity, better diets, and better control of blood pressure."

Anyone think they can pass the clock test?

author@HelenHinchliff.com

WWII bombing violence still alive

The following was read by the writer, Aina Yasué, at the Hiroshima Day event on Aug. 6.

BY AINA YASUÉ

I would like to acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Coast Salish Hul'qumi'num and SENCOTEN-speaking peoples.

My first encounter with the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that I remember is seeing a black-and-white photograph of the mushroom cloud.

It was a snapshot in time, and it was put away. As it was being put away, the horrors I associated with this event also slipped from view, I was relieved, and "moved on."

I share this moment because I'm interested in how such acts of violence and dehumanization can be presented and commemorated as objects or artefacts, separated from the idea of us, here, now, to them, over there, long ago. This rings true with my experience of seeing the mushroom cloud photo, locating the event away from my life. So until I started my undergrad studies I would have been surprised to hear that Canada was involved in supplying uranium to construct the very nuclear bomb that decimated so many bodies, or that not only Japanese peoples suffered from the disastrous effects of this single event.

I did not know that in 1941 the Canadian government bought a mine just outside of Yellowknife and hired men from the Dené Nation to transport the uranium ore to the refining facility. The majority of men died of cancer in the years following, resulting in the naming of the community as the Village of Widows.

The harm of the explosion also spilled across borders

and nationalities, as the 200,000-plus deaths included Korean people and American prisoners of war. Further, before the attacks, many soldiers and local residents died due to their proximity to the test sites in Nevada, New Mexico and the Marshall Islands.

We might feel that these events are in the past, but even today numerous nuclear test sites remain globally and nuclear power remains a major source of energy that we rely on for the products that we buy. In a globalized world we cannot sit back and view these events as separate both in time and space from our lives today. Viewing it as separate allows us the unearned gift of feeling that we don't have a responsibility to change our own lives.

To justify an event as horrific as a nuclear bombing, the victims must be seen as less human or less important. One way dehumanization of people continues is through our everyday conversations and actions. This means that we, in our everyday lives, can resist or support the continuous violence that is occurring here and around the world. So I want to ask, how do we on Salt Spring create a culture that dehumanizes, devalues the other? How do we — as in all of us — participate?

Even here, frequently when I tell white people that I've lived here for 20 years, they show obvious signs of surprise and confusion. In their minds Canada is a white country, because histories of non-white presence is not taught, or not talked about. And if it is, it is a side-note, and does not take centre-stage. Not only the Indigenous histories but also the other people of colour who have settled here. Yet, if you look at a Salt Spring class photo from 1929, most of the children are children of colour. Many of them are Japanese-Canadians whose land were taken as part of Japanese internment.

I can't help but wonder what happened to all the people of colour? The Indigenous peoples? Forced displacement answers part of the question and I can guess other causes based on other Indigenous histories, but I am still uncovering what I never learned in the public education system. As a woman of colour, I can also guess the exclusion they may have felt. Just a few



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Aina Yasué reading her speech at Hiroshima Day in the Peace Park.

summers ago, on the island, when I worked as a server at an exclusive restaurant with an entirely white staff, the manager suggested that I didn't quite "fit," irrespective of my work ethic. Perhaps as a business that profits from an idyllic get-away image, my presence destroys the visitor's illusion of a nostalgic and romantic white haven.

Salt Spring prides itself (on their official tourism site) as an island that "has always been a place of refuge, restoration, adventure and creativity," perhaps a place to get away from the "real world" complicated by race, power and war.

Therefore, when anthropology scholar and author Michael Lambek states "to remember is never solely to report on the past so much as to establish one's relationship toward it," I want to establish my relationship to the bombing of Hiroshima in conversation to the present, and how it spills over time, borders and culture. I want to resist the thought that I can simply put away the picture of the mushroom cloud when I am done feeling uncomfortable. I want to remember the violence as a continuous event, alive in the present.

So as you walk away from this event I urge you all to think of a call to action. Bring to light erased histories of Salt Spring, stop the ongoing displacement of BIPOC, and intervene in conversations that centre whiteness or romanticize the notion of a white community in which only some of us belong. There is so much we can do.

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Rants + ROSES

Roses

Super-clean healthy roses to Chris Dixon, Curt Firestone and other volunteers who stepped up to help protect our community from possible COVID outbreaks with the table distributing masks, information, hand sanitizer at the market. Volunteering gives you a chance to welcome visitors and helps keep the community safe. Please contact Chris or Curt if you'd like to help. Jan S.

A huge bouquet of striped roses to Dr. Justene Tedder, Erin, Isobel and other staff for the many years of excellent care they gave our cat Melo, and for assisting his peaceful departure at age 21. J and R

Grateful bouquets of all things "hospital" to all of you at our beloved Lady Minto who treated me so well when I needed you. We are blessed many times over that you are there. Thanks! Carol H.

Galiano makes school board appeal

The following is an open letter regarding School District 64's reconfiguration process, the scope of opportunities and, in particular, the creation of an "Outer Island Hub" on Pender Island.

This letter has been shortened to meet the requirements for publication in the Driftwood. The full letter with the names of all signatories is available on the gulfislandsdriftwood.com website under the Opinion tab and on the Galiano PAC Facebook page.

Dear School District 64 trustees,

Over the past year, Galiano community members, parents and students have been working hard to provide you and your staff with clear, helpful and practical feedback on the district reconfiguration. We have met multiple times, either with your board and staff, at our PAC meetings or at more informal community meetings, and our message remains the same: this process has been misleading, frustrating and fruitless.

It is increasingly difficult to trust in this process and this board as you have shown defensiveness at parent and PAC meetings, conducted integral components of the process out of the public eye, have collected and used data in a manner that does not represent appropriate analytical processes, without the oversight or support of experienced professionals, and have already started acting on ideas you're claiming are "just ideas for modelling."

One of the biggest frustrations in engaging in this consultation process is how little data we are being given. We don't know exactly how many students would attend the proposed Outer Island Hub (OIH) to get a better idea of what the social experience would be like, let alone any information whatsoever about what programming would look like. We don't know how the "unique geographic funding" dollars provided for Galiano students are spent. We aren't being presented with options to choose between, or vote on, and we don't know how the staff took the "theme buckets" from the reconfiguration committee and landed on these very specific, unsupported "opportunities."

Even calling them "opportunities" is disingenuous. One such "opportunity" is to cut the French Immersion program. As per the province's policy, "French Immersion provides an opportunity for non-francophone students to become bilingual" — this opportunity is especially invaluable for Gulf Islands families. In an urban setting, families might find other ways to create such opportunities for their children, through cultural centres, camps or exchanges. In a rural island community, there are significant financial and logistical barriers to such alternative opportunities. Cancellation of this program would be a real loss for our community, yet SD64 calls it an "opportunity?"

We participated in your thought exchange process only to see staff cherry pick requests or suggestions that support the route the board seems to have already decided upon.

FACT: Out of a total of 541 Thought Exchange comments, 50 email submissions and hundreds of suggestions made during public meetings, there were no more than eight recorded suggestions that an Outer Island Hub be established for high-school-aged students.

This proposal requires Galiano students to attend grades 8 and 9 on Pender Island while Salt Spring grade 8 and 9 students get to enjoy the opportunities that GISS has to offer. Off the record feedback



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Pender Island School in July of 2020. A School District 64 reconfiguration process has suggested that the school become an Outer Islands "hub" for grades 8 and 9 students from Galiano, Mayne, Saturna and Pender islands, and offer education through Grade 12.

suggested attending Pender would be an "option," but Galiano families know fully well what "option" means: It means "required" as soon as the water taxi is full. The water taxi is almost always full, year after year.

It is essential to understand:

1. The OIH is not an "option" if GISS is considered a cross-boundary school for Galiano, because it would not mandate water taxi space for grade 8 and 9 students and therefore, keep them from attending GISS.

The OIH is not an "opportunity" if it isn't equivalent to what's on offer at GISS, for example:

- Modern classrooms, metal and wood-working shops, gyms, theatres, labs, gardens, music rooms, kitchens, cafeterias, a well-stocked library and other facilities;
- Gear, equipment, resources and other tools like kitchen/cafeteria equipment, garden tools, musical instruments, science supplies, technology and audiovisual equipment for theatrical, video and multimedia creation;
- Curriculum, teachers, assistants and supports, experts, class variety, electives (from Robotics, Metalwork, and Music Composition, to Yearbook, 3D Design, and Dance) and other in-class opportunities;
- Extracurricular offerings like sports teams, performing arts, music, clubs, groups etc.;
- More robust support for students with learning challenges;
- Social programming, skill-building, community partnerships and collaborations, and diverse peer-based social groups.

What the Outer Island Hub does mean is that SD64 gets to keep the unique geographic funding for the students that don't attend school on Salt Spring. Are our children a "funding farm" for this district? Or are they equal participants deserving of the same educational opportunities as Salt Spring students? How about instead of pitting children and families against each other the SD works with us to lobby the province for a more equitable funding model for water transportation?

If SD64 is proposing to go back to a K-7, 8-12 model for this reason, why make only Outer Island students suffer additional transitions? Why should Outer Island students wait two years before getting to integrate with a larger student body? Why should Outer Island families, whose taxes helped create a spectacular new GISS, miss out on almost half of its opportunities? We already contribute tax money to a band program and French Immersion program that we can't participate in due to transportation issues.

Every student of high school age in the Gulf Islands has the right to attend the provincially funded SD64 high school.

Changing what grade secondary school begins should have no bearing on that mandate whatsoever. The precedent is that the water taxi is available to any Outer Island student to attend GISS. That cannot change.

Finally, and most importantly, we have seen many of our families forced to relocate from their homes on Galiano Island in order to participate in before or after-school activities, a key component of learning. This means that, yet again, the B.C. education system is obliging Indigenous families to disrupt their connection with the home they've known for hundreds of years, and their connection with their extended families and elders. We cannot believe we need to remind SD64 of the Indigenous principles of learning, but apparently that is the case:

- Learning ultimately supports the well-being of the self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits and the ancestors.
- Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential and relational (focused on connectedness, on reciprocal relationships and a sense of place).
- SD64 must honour the connection of Indigenous families on Galiano to their land and their community.

The Galiano community is tired of SD64 solving their budget woes on the backs of Galiano children. We do not want to send our children to an Outer Island Hub, especially being unable to tell them what it will look like, how it will be good for them and what the benefits are.

We are asking the board to take the following concrete steps:

1. Acknowledge the flaws in data collection and processes and press pause on the "Scope of Opportunities and Reconfiguration" process.
2. Engage with all island families to re-envision how meaningful consultation can take place.
3. Commit to be more honest and transparent about the process, goals and financial realities of SD64.
4. Look at multiple cost-saving measures rather than just the cherry-picked Scope of Opportunities. For example:
 - Examine how changing transportation spending or elementary boundaries on Salt Spring could level the playing field for all SD64 students;
 - Rethink the costs of having a top-heavy administration, especially the need for so many district principals, compared to the suggestions in the Scope of Opportunities.

With respect,

Galiano parents (55 signatories)
 Galiano students (21 signatories)
 Galiano community members, including current and present teachers and staff, parents of former and future students, former students, grandparents, business owners and more (121 signatories)

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

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EXHIBITIONS

Bird life brings joy in Janice Parker prints

Cut Press Pull shows to Aug. 19

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A whimsical show featuring island birds is just the thing to promote happiness, and viewers can spark their joy by visiting Cut Press Pull by Janice Parker at the Salt Spring Gallery through to Aug. 19.

Parker's series of lino and wood-block prints puts the focus of each piece on a single bird character. Local species such as the blue heron, California quail, raven and nut-hatch provide the basis for graphic renderings, mainly in simple inkings of black or blue pigment on white. Some are done portrait style, with the birds appearing to pose either in a full body or head and shoulders view. Others are in flight, providing the artistic challenge of recreating bodies in motion in a reduced two-dimensional medium.

"I like exploring; I like playing. It's more about the process for me than anything," Parker told the Driftwood. "It's more of what I discover along the way sometimes."

Although she started working on the print series before COVID struck, the pandemic aligned well with Parker's



recent area of study with a deepening focus on peace, quiet and bird life.

In Parker's hand, the carving chisel is the perfect tool to suggest textured feathers. She ably uses positive and negative space. Solid areas suggest shadow and outline in a way that builds the contrasts naturally. The background areas, carved out to leave mostly

white paper, echo the birds' feathery plumage with light contour lines and airy swirls left behind.

Parker has also ventured into a couple of multilayered reduction prints with four colours, and portrays island harbours as "bird's eye views." In the latter examples she leaves water areas left as flat black ink. The land is carved into a series of



Janice Parker prints Guardian, at left, and Calm Days, above.

waves or contour lines, which again make good use of the carving tool's qualities to bring the image to life.

Multicolour prints like the kingfisher-based Calm Days shift the view to a more abstracted one than the clean lines of the monotoned prints, with overlaid colour in thin horizontal lines suggesting the movement of light on water.

"Both subtractive methods of printmaking intrigue me as I must think about negative space. The process of creat-

ing a printed piece can turn into a surprise once the block is printed," Parker explains in her artist's statement. "Keeping hands clean, enough ink on the roller, lining up reductions and simply experimenting with different parts of the process makes this a challenging medium as well as a chance to provoke further curiosity from me."

Salt Spring Gallery is currently open Wednesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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MAKING AN OFFER & Time Clauses - Part II

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LITERARY EVENTS

Author night on tap

Kamal Parmar reads via Zoom

The Salt Spring Public Library is hosting a virtual book reading on Saturday, Aug. 15 with Vancouver Island poet and writer Kamal Parmar.

The Zoom event begins at 7 p.m. Parmar will focus on her first book of creative non-fiction, which is called Letters to a Son and a Daughter. It is described in library press material as "a book of letters that are written in an informal and conversational style as tools for personal growth of children, youth and young adults, in order to become responsible and well-balanced citizens of a community. These practical precepts of life are a must read for everyone in order to forge ahead and be successful in what one wishes to achieve."

Parmar has been passionately involved in writing since high school and university years. Her genres are poetry and creative non-fiction and she dabbles frequently with Haiku poetry. She is an associate member of the League of Canadian Poets and a member of the Federation of B.C. Writers. She is also a member of Haiku Canada and of The Writers Union of Canada.

The Zoom meeting link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86714775521> and the Meeting ID is 867 1477 5521.

If people need assistance setting up Zoom at home, they can call or email the library and staff or volunteers will do their best to get them set up and able to enjoy the Zoom literary events.



ISLAND LIFE

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

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ART PROJECTS

Scarecrows invited to hall

Artcraft voucher for winning entry

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Arts Council is inviting people to create a new type of community for the Mahon Hall environs, with a call-out for scarecrow creations open until Tuesday, Aug. 18.

Pitched as a fun COVID activity in which individuals, friends and/or families can join in, the event will potentially draw an entire crowd of life-size scarecrows made from diverse materials and in various styles.

Artcraft manager Sarah Hyams said she came up with the idea as a way to fill the hall's upper grounds in a year when there were no outdoor submissions. In the past, land art pieces made from organic materials both extended the exhibition space and acted as promotion for the work inside.

"This is a show that some years past boasted great and innovative artworks. For some reason this year we couldn't get any response so we let it go," Hyams said. "During that time I was thinking perhaps there may be a way to attract non-'artists' to create outdoor spectacles which we may find in more rural settings or festival settings such as Burning Man. I liked the idea of having creations made by everyday people."

After COVID struck, the arts council was unsure if Artcraft could run at all. Once B.C. entered Phase 3 of the restart plan the council opened the doors, albeit a little later than usual and with distancing measures in place. This also contributed inspiration for the current project.

"We were having a physically distanced staff meeting in our outdoor back space and were surrounded by dried grass and trees. It felt a little barren as this year we could not run our youth camp, which usually occupies that space," Hyams said. "A few days prior I'd had an idea of a sea of scarecrows populating the space, some wearing masks. I



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Salt Spring Arts Council scarecrows on the Mahon Hall grounds wait to build their community with local submissions.

liked the idea of having scarecrows depicting our current reality. I also liked the idea of our island community having artistic licence to glam up their scarecrows and use unusual materials. We all got excited in the meeting and abandoned all other topics and started looking at where they could go and sharing ideas."

The project also recognizes the fact the Salt Spring Fall Fair isn't happening this year. People who will miss the opportunity for participation in the farming and craft exhibits there will enjoy a little of the same experience.

"As a community we are rich in the arts as well as being a rural community. I saw this as an opportunity to involve both sides of Salt Spring's identity," Hyams said.

Participants are invited to bring their creative licence to the project. Some ideas suggested include masked scarecrows, fancy scarecrows in dinner suits and feather boas, traditional scarecrows in overalls and plaid shirts and sea monster scarecrows made from beachcombed found objects.

Scarecrows can be brought to the hall daily between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. through Aug. 18. Artists are responsible for placing their work in the ground and are asked to bring their own equipment to do so. Scarecrows should be labelled with the artist's contact info and the work's title or name.

Artcraft will announce a winner, who will receive a \$100 Artcraft voucher, on Saturday, Aug. 29.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Foundation calls for small grant projects

Pandemic-adaptive activities

The Salt Spring Island Foundation's Neighbourhood Small Grants program has been modified for COVID-19. Residents of Salt Spring Island can now apply for grants for their community projects, which bring people together socially while complying with public health orders and recommendations for physical distancing.

Grants of up to \$500 are open to individual community members or households. Projects may take place online or in small groups of no more than six people, following up-to-date health protocols.

Funding priorities are for activities that connect and engage residents; share skills and knowledge within the community; foster creativity and wellbeing; create a lasting impact; tackle social isolation; and respect and celebrate diversity. Examples provided by the foundation include building a community garden or farm stand, delivering care packages to elderly or immunocompromised people on the island, hosting a webinar or teaching an exercise class.

See the NSG section at www.ssifoundation.ca website for more information and the application form. Questions can be sent to saltspring.nsg@gmail.com.

Remember

WHEN

Five years ago

A crash on Fulford-Ganges Road south of Horel Road sent a 33-year-old Salt Spring woman to hospital in Victoria via air ambulance and a Salt Spring Transit bus over the side of a deep embankment. Salt Spring Fire Rescue members used the Jaws of Life to extricate the woman from the minivan she had been driving. Three passengers on board the bus were unharmed and were able to exit through the passenger door. The bus driver was treated for minor injuries at Lady Minto Hospital.

Ten years ago

Parks and Recreation Commission members were set to re-examine a proposal to develop 50 acres of agricultural land in the Burgoyne Valley as parkland after receiving opposition from the Islands Trust's Agriculture Advisory Committee. "[According to the OCP], there is the ability to remove farmland from the Agricultural Land Reserve for non-farm use for essential services and we don't consider a park or recreation area an essential service," said committee member Tony Threlfall, explaining that protection of farmland would always be the group's top priority.

Twenty years ago

Cusheon Lake water did not meet Canadian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines, according to an engineering study done by the Capital Regional District. The report showed Cusheon Lake to have elevated algal and organic levels, and an uncontrolled watershed with numerous septic disposal fields within its catchment area. An upgrade of the treatment facility was deemed mandatory for the CRD to consider taking ownership of the Beddis water system as had been proposed.

Thirty years ago

The wharf at Miners Bay on Mayne Island became engulfed in flames when fire broke out early on the morning of Aug. 13. A guest at Springwater Lodge, near the head of the wharf, was first to discover the fire. He had heard a loud sound and looked out the window to see the wharf ablaze at around 5 a.m. The cause was being investigated.

Forty years ago

The Salt Spring Advisory Planning Commission gave its support to a plan by Mike Stacey to amend the island's subdivision bylaw and construct 60 residential units at the end of Rainbow Road on Booth Bay. The Salt Spring Island Trust Committee did not agree, however. Chairman Nick Gilbert opposed changing the island's official community plan to allow more intense density outside of a village area.

Fifty years ago

Mouat's Trading Co. released its five-year plan for downtown Ganges after purchasing the Ship's Anchor Inn (now Salt Spring Inn) and the foreshore rights extending across the bay to the Mouat's store. The company had filled in the shallow backwater behind the fire hall the previous year and had since built up that section. Immediate plans called for construction of one new store in the reclaimed area and paving for parking. Pedestrian malls and a marine promenade were planned for within the next few years.

Sixty years ago

Children were warned to stay out of Swanson's Pond as it was heavily infested with swimmer's itch. Several children had contracted severe cases and were now under physician care. The Driftwood reported "the little parasite that causes the itch" had been isolated by one of the island's doctors.

CONSERVATION

PenderPod group aims to save local whales



PHOTOS COURTESY PENDERPOD

Above: Peter Pare, left, and John Allan put up flags from the Orca Prayer Flags Project at Driftwood Centre on Pender Island. Above left: Education and artistic sandwich boards made by PenderPod members.

Fall Fair FOCUS

We're having a FUN FAIR not a FALL FAIR!

Email a photo of your exhibit, or a photo of yourself with your exhibit to ssifallfair@shaw.ca before Sept 1.

BAKING AND PRESERVING -
Everyone is cooking during this time at home so why not enter the Fun Fair contest. No taste judging so show off your exhibit. Get the kids to enter as well.

Winners determined by random draw for blue ribbon and \$50 gift certificate.

Go to www.ssifi.org for information and rules

Prayer flag project engages emotional attachment to orcas

BY GREGORY NICHOLLS
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

PenderPod is a group of Pender Islanders who are dedicated to saving the remaining southern resident killer whales. Since 1976 the number of these whales has fluctuated between 70 and 99. Currently there are 73. Two of these orcas are thought to be pregnant, but usually only 50 per cent of calves survive.

At the beginning of July the resident orcas returned to the Salish Sea. Watch out for them from the shore. Email thewhaletrail.org to find out about land-based viewing of these wonderful endangered creatures.

The Orca Prayer Flags Project

Some of the PenderPodsters got together and came up with a project that involved inviting members of the community to use their creativity to commemorate the many whales that have died since records were kept.

The idea was to hand out prayer flag kits so that people could stitch on a whale of their choice and decorate the flag as they wished. The response was wonderful.

Until Sept. 1 the finished flags are decorating the Pender Island Driftwood Centre in front of the bookstore. You can also see them online at PenderPod.ca, and if you click on a flag you can read what the creators of the flags found out about their whale.

This was clearly a project that engaged people's emotional attachment to our orcas.

what's on this week



Wed. Aug. 12
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Duck Soup.
Tree House Cafe. 5 to 8 p.m.
Wednesday Block Party.
With music by The Seiche at Al's Gourmet Falafel and Fries. 4 to 6 p.m.

Thur. Aug. 13
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
VIXX.
Thursdays on the patio at Moby's Pub. 5 p.m.
Frank & Alan.
Tree House Cafe. 5 to 8 p.m.
Open Mic & Jam.
At the Legion every Thursday. 7 p.m.

ACTIVITIES
Salt Spring Museum.
Bittancourt House Museum is open on the Farmers' Institute grounds from 1 to 3 p.m.

Fri. Aug. 14
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Vaughn Fulford.
Tree House Cafe. 5 to 8 p.m.
Rough & Tumble.
Live music at the Legion. 7 p.m.

ACTIVITIES
Salt Spring Museum.
See Thursday listing.
Antiques Road Show Buying Event.
At Steffich Fine Art. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sat. Aug. 15
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Fawkes & Hownd.
Tree House Cafe. 5 to 8 p.m.
Luke Wallace Mini Concert.
Duck Creek Farm 7 p.m. See www.eventbrite.ca for info/tickets.
Julia Beattie.
At the Legion. 7 p.m.

Sat. Aug. 15
ACTIVITIES
Saturday Market in the Park.
Vendors set up in socially distanced fashion in Centennial Park, as well as in the adjacent Ganges Alley t area. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Salt Spring Museum.
See Thursday listing.
Antiques Road Show Buying Event.
See Friday listing.

Author Event: Kamal Parmar.
Vancouver Island writer reads from and talks about her book called Letters to a Son and a Daughter via Zoom. 7 p.m. Sponsored by the Salt Spring Public Library and Zoom-connecting info is on the library website.

Sun. Aug. 16
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Toots.
Tree House Cafe. 5 to 8 p.m.
ACTIVITIES
Antiques Road Show Buying Event.
See Friday listing.

Mon. Aug. 17
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
TBA. Tree House Cafe. 5 to 8 p.m.

Tue. Aug. 18
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
TBA. Tree House Cafe. 5 to 8 p.m.
ACTIVITIES
Tuesday Farmers' Market.
In Centennial Park. 2 to 6 p.m.

Wed. Aug. 19
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Wednesday Block Party.
Suzanne Gay, Jim Shultz + Honey perform at Al's Gourmet Falafel & Fries. 4 to 6 p.m.
TBA
Tree House Cafe. 5 to 8 p.m.

Send your calendar submissions to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or drop them off at the Driftwood office.



Julia Beattie plays at the Legion this Saturday night.

THE FRITZ CINEMA
• **Knives Out:** Murder mystery starring Daniel Craig, Chris Evans, Ana de Armas and Jamie Lee Curtis. Plays Wednesday-Thursday, Aug. 12-13. 7 p.m. Rated PG. 131 minutes.
• **Little Women:** Coming of age period drama based on the book by Louisa May Alcott. Runs Friday, Aug. 14 through Wednesday, Aug. 19 at 7 p.m., plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday, Aug. 16. Rated G. 130 minutes.
• For more movie info, visit [The Fritz website](http://TheFritzWebsite.com) at www.thefritz.ca

EXHIBITIONS
• **Janice Parker** presents Cut, Press, Pull at Salt Spring Gallery Wednesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. until Aug. 19.
• **Arctcraft**, the annual Salt Spring Arts Council summer show and sale of work by Gulf Islands artisans, is open at Mahon Hall daily from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
• **Pandemic Postcards Project** — a Salt Spring Literacy project — shows community creations in the display case of the Salt Spring Public Library through August.

SSI Pandemic Postcard Display
Drawings, stories, poems and collages
SS Library Display Case through August

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Obituaries



Gale Hingston
April 5, 1950 - August 4, 2020

Nana of Ciara, Owen, Brenna, Isla and Emma; Mother of Lianna, Adrian and Melissa; Wife of Charles; Friend and role-model to us all.

Gale was a sweet, genuine, kind and caring person. She opened her arms and her heart to everyone she met, loving easily and openly. Her courage, strength and bravery were clearly evident and she had such beauty and grace. She was full of love and provided unconditional acceptance and support. She was quiet, patient, dedicated, conscientious and consistent. She was our rock.

Gale had a zest for life. She was playful and creative in so many ways. People around her took delight in every moment she shared. Her interests were diverse and she approached learning with focus. She was a graceful dancer and a talented artist. She was a free-spirited adventurer and a 'mountain goat' hiker, absorbing herself in the nature and experiences that surrounded her. Her work on our family home and garden made it so warm and welcoming. She created our 'Island Home'.

She left us too soon. Her beautiful soul and young spirit will live on. Her joyful laugh, her radiant smile, and her bright blue eyes will always be remembered.

She leaves a legacy of love, compassion and community. Thank you for your support, thoughts, prayers and care. Love, Charles, Lianna, Adrian, and Melissa Hingston.

A butterfly to remind me even though we are apart



Your spirit is always with me forever in my heart...



Nina Wichmann
September 16, 1921 - August 1, 2020

Nina died peacefully under the gentle care of Greenwoods care aids and nurses.

She emigrated to Canada from Estonia, where she met and married her husband. They arrived to live in Fulford Harbour in 1968, where she remained living independently until she was 95 years old.

Nina was a member of the local Historical Society and Salt Spring Island Hiking Group. She was a loved member of her community. Every Christmas, she would gather all Orchard Road neighbours for a get together, preparing food and colourful abundant cookies a month or two ahead of time.

Nina loved dogs, gardening, reading and swimming at Stowell Lake. She was well known in the community for all the walking she did.

Nina is survived by 2 daughters and a grandson, the apple of her eye.

Help Wanted



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Rick Colliou
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In Memoriam



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Pet Obituaries



Widget, my much loved little dog died on 31 July.
He leaves a much bigger hole in our lives than his 10lbs. I'd like to thank the staff of the former uptown Pharmasave, Mouat's, Grace Point Liquor store and others for the delight they gave him, plus the treats in his 14 years of visits and also for the pleasure it gave me at the other end of the leash. My best wishes to all concerned and thank you for the happy memories.
~ John

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Lost & Found

FOUND - HONDA Key Fob & Key at Mouat's Park. Contact Driftwood 250-537-9933

Misc. For Sale

SAILBOAT, Gulf Island 29, hull and sails (1970), diesel motor (1995) in good condition. Needs a holding tank. Moored Westport Marina near Swartz Bay. \$9,000. 250 592-6484; philmar@islandnet.com.

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer
www.sunstarastrology.com 1-800-836-0648 sunstarastrology@gmail.com

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

We have rounded an important corner as the waning moon approaches the Leo New Moon on August 18-19. We should expect a dynamic, dramatic and powerful lunar cycle as the Sun and Moon at 26 Leo closely align with Mercury Leo and they all form a Grand Trine in Fire aspect configuration to Mars at 27 Aries and the Lunar South Node at 27 Sagittarius.

27 Sagittarius is also the degree of the Galactic Center, from our perspective here on earth. It is recognized by many astrologers as representing a 'spiritually sensitive point'. So, regarding our current reality, it will have the effect of activating the sharing of 'truths', since doing so is very much about what Sagittarius symbolizes. However, Mercury in Leo is not such an easy placement and it tends to manifest as ego-centric perspectives. This is a very big issue in the world currently due to such extreme news spin in the media. Buckle-up, this is going to be another wild ride.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)
These are dramatic times and you are probably making a concerted effort to keep it together on more practical fronts. Positively, you are in the mood for fun, play, and games and, quite possibly, romance too, if the opportunity is available. Yet, home is where your heart is these days and you are happy to huddle in rather than venture afar. Focus to create beautiful moments.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)
You are in a creative, passionate mood. Whatever else may be said, you are eager to advance your position somehow. This may have as much to do with integrating new perspectives and philosophies into your approach. Above all, you want to feel secure and this extends directly to your family. If breaking through existing beliefs and priorities is what is required, you are in.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)
Some cycles are more creative than others and this is likely to be one of them. Your focus will be deep and precise and you won't be so given to flights of fancy and inspiration alone. So, give yourself space and time to produce something marvelous. If you do not engage your energies, you may feel something is amiss, so this is your cue.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)
The time has come to establish a more solid base. Yet, to do so you may have to clear the clutter. Will this clutter be material, physical, mental, emotional or perhaps a bit of all of the above? The time is ripe to take new leads and strides and this includes getting to the bottom of things. Are you as sure about what you know as you could? Trust but verify and demonstrate that you truly are able to think critically.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)
The pioneer in you is getting ignited by this New Moon. If you were born prior to August 18, the activation may occur more fully behind the scenes than if you were born on or after this date. Either way, you will feel inspired to both learn and share new perspectives. Yet feeling as confident as you would like will require some extra effort.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)
A busy time behind the scenes both continues and increases. Although your focus will be directed to your public and professional life, the actual work will likely be from your office, den, basement, or garage... Your power potential is steadily rising and you are determined to harness it as fully as you can. This is probably requiring a multi-task approach, so trust that.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)
Who are your friends and who are not. This will emerge as an important question over the coming weeks. It may include asking if you are a good friend to yourself and the finer implications of what this means. And it will be directed to others, as well. Sometimes, we be-friend people indirectly, like stars, celebrities, and public figures. In any case, to get the best answer, you may have to move beyond fears.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
A window of opportunity to be seen and heard and to get the respect, attention, and recognition that you feel you deserve and/or have earned is fast approaching. This can prove to be a big go-ahead time when you can advance your position measurably. If this is your goal, you may have to make extra efforts to avoid scattering your attention and concentrate your focus.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
This grand trine in fire could prove extra opportune for you. It will activate both a playful drive and a spirit of adventure. At worst, you could get overly enthusiastic and come on too strong and over-do it. So, you may have to reel in your ego a bit, but you won't really want to. It all comes down to the consequences of doing so and only you can discern that.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
Some dives are deeper than others and this stands to be one of them. So while others are experiencing ego-inflation issues, you may have to undergo a process of ego-purge. In other words, circumstances may push you to do what you would rather not. Positively, you are ready to do what the situation requires for the sake of realistic expansion of your current status.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)
This Leo cycle will have a powerful and direct impact on your relationships. Fortunately, there are good indications that things will flow your way. In addition to increased interaction with others, it will also activate rich creative exchanges. You will be happy to enter into cooperatives now as opposed to going it alone. Positively, the results could prove exponential!

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Some cycles are better suited for work, while others are for play, yet sometimes we enter a cycle that includes a rich synthesis of both and this is one of those. However you interpret it, the focus now is to 'bring it home'. This will include some measure of critical thinking woven in with the creative focus. Great works can be realized under such conditions; are you up for such a feat?

PROTECT OUR PLANET...



RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER.

SUDOKU

		2	9	8			6	
			7					5
					3	8	1	
			1			6		
		9	2					
4				3		5		
	8				7			
	5			1		4		
	6				9			7

Level: Advanced

FUN BY THE NUMBERS
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

5	4	2	8	9	8	1	7	6
3	1	8	7	4	6	2	9	5
7	9	6	5	2	3	8	4	1
8	7	5	1	9	4	6	3	2
6	3	9	2	7	5	1	4	8
4	2	1	6	3	8	5	7	9
9	8	3	4	6	7	9	5	1
6	5	3	7	1	2	4	8	9
7	2	3	2	6	5	8	4	7

ANSWER:

FOOD SECURITY

Community Services food programs evolve

Projects stepped up in response to COVID-19

BY SIMONE CAZABON

SSICS HARVEST PROGRAM MANAGER

The Harvest Food Programs at Community Services have been adjusting to the changing needs of our community arising from COVID-19.

We are proud to provide Salt Spring residents access to healthy food through safe and affordable methods. As well, the Harvest Food Programs work together to provide less food waste, food cost efficiencies and a heightened quality of product. Our overall health and nutrition matters most at these times.

We've outlined some highlights from our programs that are new and exciting that will continue through the fall and winter.

Harvest Food Bank

- We are now providing online access where anyone can pre-order their food bank bag to have it ready for pick-up on Tuesdays between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. at Community Services at 268 Fulford-Ganges Rd. We are also accepting requests from seniors and people with disabilities to have their bags delivered on Wednesdays by one of our drivers.

- Since March there has been much concern for food bank lines getting larger. What we have found is that we have an estimated increase of 25 per cent, with several newer clients who are residents of Salt Spring requesting food assistance. We are predicting a further increase when the Canada Employment Response Benefit program ends.

- We have welcomed back our valued food bank volunteers with new protocols and procedures to ensure safety and success for the community. Many dedicated volunteers had paused their participation with the food bank, and we are happy they have a safe and low-risk environment to be in. Please email volunteer@ssics.ca for volunteer inquiries.



PHOTO COURTESY SSIF

Farmers Market Nutritional Coupon Program sign at the Tuesday Farmers' Market. More than 130 Salt Spring households have received coupons worth \$21 to spend each week at the market.

Harvest Home Meals

- Harvest Home Meals is a meal program similar to Meals on Wheels where we are currently providing 78 meals weekly to seniors and families in need on Salt Spring. Meals are prepared by our talented team at Harvest Kitchen and delivered to clients on Wednesdays along with food bank bags and their groceries.

- All meals are currently being subsidized by COVID-19 funding. We will be introducing sliding-scale donations to continue this well beyond the winter months. Providing ready-to-eat nutritious meals for households of lower income and or stressful situations has proven to give more than meets the eye.

- We are currently seeking a driver on Wednesdays as a volunteer to help with these programs. Please email volunteer@ssics.ca.

FMNCP Harvest Market

- One of the most successful programs and outcomes this year is raising \$60,000 for the Farmers Market Nutritional Coupon Program. This program begins with funding from the health and agriculture ministries (\$22,000) with the rest from community member donations and funding from the Berman Foundation and Salt Spring Island Foundation.

- A total of 136 households are receiving \$21 worth of coupons per week to shop at our Tuesday Farmers Market with local farmers benefitting from the \$60,000 over the course of the season. This is a program where donations are doubled; families, seniors and farmers all win. Salt Spring Island has raised the most out of the province for this year!

- We are continuing to accept donations and applications as there is still a waiting list of over 20 households wanting to participate.

Harvest Farm

- Our one-acre farm located at the Burgoyne Community Farms now has installed a wash station on location from the generous donations of the Salt Spring Island Foundation.

- We have also formed a partnership with Salt Spring Seeds, growing more seeds for our community.

- We are continuing our vocational development program called Success Works that provides leadership and job training for local people who have barriers to employment.

- We are continuing to find new ways to serve this community and remain flexible to the required changes and people's needs. All Harvest Food Programs are a cooperative effort leading to greater success in our services, providing access to food for low-income individuals and families on Salt Spring.

More info is available at harvestsaltspring.ca or ssics.ca.

The food bank email address is foodbank@ssics.ca. People can email volunteer@ssics.ca for inquiries about volunteering. All other harvest program inquiries: sczabon@ssics.ca.

ANTIQUE ROAD SHOW BUYING EVENT "Salt Spring Style"

FREE EXPERT APPRAISALS

Friday, August 14
Saturday, August 15
Sunday, August 16
10am - 5pm

Steffichfineart

John Newman

BRITANNIA ANTIQUES ESTATE BUYER

William Matthews

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See you there!

A portion of the proceeds will go to the 'Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce'

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