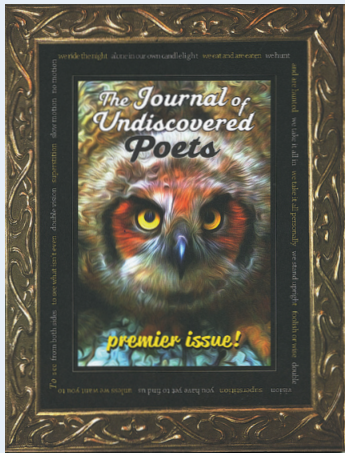


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9 Taking the test for COVID-19

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INSERTS:

- Country Grocer
- Pharnasave
- Thrifty Foods
- The Local Liquor

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Driftwood

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Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2020

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Issue 34
\$1.50

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PHOTO COURTESY MARILYN LEA

HOW HIGH THE HOLLYHOCK? Marilyn Lea stands beside a hollyhock in her garden on Lower Ganges Road that is measured at 14 feet high. She wonders if anyone else on Salt Spring has a taller hollyhock. If you do, please let the Driftwood know!

MEDIA

Woman tries to purchase all copies of Driftwood

Record-level sales of Driftwood at newspaper office for Aug. 12 edition

BY PAT BURKETTE
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

The Driftwood's front-page photo of Salt Spring Fire Rescue's response to an airplane accident at a private airstrip last week resulted in a firestorm that saw the Gulf Islands' newspaper of record arbitrarily pulled from some island store shelves by local distributors.

Family members of the airplane's pilot, Gabor Balogh, attempted to either buy up all the papers or have them removed from sales points. Readers, advertisers, community groups promoting activities and even islanders placing obituaries for loved ones were all impacted while Driftwood staff fought to keep the newspapers on the shelves.

Balogh, a dentist and owner of Salt Spring Dental in Grace Point Square, made a hard landing in his Lake Amphibian aircraft on or about his airstrip at his 66 Suffolk Rd. property on Saturday, Aug. 8. The Canadian Civil Aircraft Register lists Balogh as co-owner of the plane, a 1978 Lake model LA-4-200, call letters C-FCDK, with Philip De Ridder of Chilliwack. According to specifications provided at <http://lakeamphibclub.com/performance-specs/> the plane requires 600 feet for a land takeoff, and 475 feet for a landing. The Transportation Safety Board is investigating the accident, as it does with all incidents involving privately registered aircraft.

Reached by phone at his home in Chilliwack on Sunday, De Ridder said of Balogh's medical condition, "He's fine. He gets out of the hospital today. There were no severe or longstanding injuries."

Salt Spring Fire Rescue documented their actions at the accident scene with a photo on their Facebook page, as they often do. The Driftwood obtained permission to use the photo for the Aug. 12 paper and was given a high-resolution version for print purposes. But last Wednesday afternoon, publisher Amber Ogilvie began receiving reports of the paper being removed from shelves.

According to Ogilvie, Thrifty Foods manager Mike Boizard called her at 12:30 p.m.

DRIFTWOOD continued on 2

Zen Master Wolfgang says:
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DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
19	0313	3.1	10.2	23	0206	1.6	5.2
	1042	0.4	1.3		0757	2.7	8.9
	WE 1829	3.2	10.5		SU 1330	1.5	4.9
ME 2324	2.4	7.9	DI 2014	3.3	10.8		
20	0415	3.1	10.2	24	0303	1.3	4.3
	1123	0.5	1.6		0935	2.6	8.5
	TH 1854	3.3	10.8		MO 1419	2.0	6.6
JE			LU 2043	3.3	10.8		
21	0014	2.2	7.2	25	0400	1.0	3.3
	0521	2.9	9.5		1125	2.7	8.9
	FR 1204	0.8	2.6		TU 1521	2.4	7.9
VE 1920	3.3	10.8	MA 2115	3.2	10.5		
22	0109	1.9	6.2	26	0458	0.8	2.6
	0634	2.8	9.2		1312	2.9	9.5
	SA 1246	1.1	3.6		WE 1648	2.7	8.9
SA 1947	3.3	10.8	ME 2152	3.1	10.2		

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Publication of photo 'appropriate'

DRIFTWOOD

continued from 1

"He told me they were pulling all the papers from the store because a woman came in who was very upset and threatening to sue if they sold the paper. He also said that the woman told him he printed the picture without permission."

Boizard agreed to return the papers to the shelf after discussing it with Ogilvie.

After hearing reports the paper was pulled from Country Grocer, Ogilvie contacted manager Mark Vekeman, who stated "a woman who was very emotional" told the store that the Driftwood had no approval to run the photo that was taken on her private property. Vekeman said he would not put the papers back on the shelf. When Ogilvie said she would send a truck over to pick up the papers, she was informed by Vekeman that most had been sold and the rest put in the trash compactor, but he would recover what they could.

"I told him to tell his staff we were sorry they had to deal with this situation," said Ogilvie.

Ogilvie said after people were directed to the Driftwood office to buy their paper a record number did so.

At 12:50 p.m., Ogilvie heard from Valerie Burkett, Balogh's wife, by phone. Burkett asked that Ogilvie "recall" the papers, stating the Driftwood had no right to run the photo. Ogilvie refused a recall.

Other Driftwood distributors were visited by Burkett. Adina Hildebrandt, co-owner of Salt Spring Books, said Burkett came to the store on Wednesday.

"She offered to buy all our papers. She said it was her husband on the front cover and that he was critical. I had to sit her down."

Hildebrandt said, "It was incredibly intense. I've never had a person approach me like that."

Hildebrandt took the Driftwood off the newsstand in front of the store, but continued selling them from behind the counter.

Jennifer Close, store manager at Pharmasave, was also approached by Burkett.

"She told us to not put the papers out. She said it was her husband and the picture was taken without permission, and that it was illegal."

Close said she put the papers aside and did not continue to sell them. However, when contacted



PHOTO COURTESY SSI FIRE RESCUE

Photo published on the front page of last week's Driftwood of Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue personnel with the Jaws of Life as they try to free pilot Gabor Balogh from his plane on Aug. 8. Balogh's wife Valerie Burkett wanted all copies of the paper removed from vendors' shelves, alleging the photo should not have been published without her family's permission.

by Driftwood office staff a Pharmasave employee stated all the papers had been sold.

Both Embe Bakery and Old Salty said all copies of the paper were sold by Thursday. Cathryn Bowland, owner of Salt Spring Natureworks, reported that "no one approached us," but that only one paper was left on Friday. "They usually last a week." However, Bowland ran a sales report and found all paper purchases were single transactions.

Driftwood subscribers received their papers in the mailbox as usual.

When reached by phone on Friday night and asked about how Balogh was doing, Burkett said, "He's doing better. My husband is in the hospital. It has been a terrible week."

Burkett maintained that the courtesy photo credit appearing under the fire department's photo of the accident meant the Driftwood should not have used it.

She said, "The Driftwood had no right to use that photo. There is a copyright under the photo. You can't use someone else's copyright. That is illegal."

When asked about trying to stop sales of the Driftwood, Burkett said, "The Driftwood didn't lose any money because I bought all the papers."

Reached by phone for comment, Sean Holman, journalism professor at Mount Royal University in Calgary and longtime investigative journalist, discussed public right-to-know factors such as public funding of Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue and the possibility that members of the public may have been injured if the plane had been unable to land on the airstrip.

"Publication of the photo is within the bounds of appropriateness," he said. "It is newsworthy. Circumstances which would make publication inappropriate would be an actual defamation or hate speech."

As for the fire department photo being taken on private property, Holman said, "A lot of that is determined by whether you can control access to the space, such as a person breaking through chains to get in, which doesn't apply in this case."

Holman added, "The vendors wanted to help the distressed woman. It speaks to how goodhearted people are. But this should be an opportunity for these vendors to reflect on how they compromised the ability of the news media on Salt Spring."

In fact, Country Grocer operations manager Matteo Hermani had already been reflecting on store actions when interviewed on Aug. 17.

"Twenty-twenty vision is afterwards. Decisions were made that were too quick, in panic. Sometimes, it's spur of the moment. There are a lot of things going on in the store. Ethically, what we should or shouldn't do comes later. Let's put this down as one of those lessons. Now that we've been through this situation, the next time we will phone the Driftwood."

Brent Jolly, president of the Canadian Association of Journalists, also commented in a telephone interview about publication of the photo.

"It has a public interest. People may have heard the engine and worried about what happened."

Jolly pointed to the recent crash of Snowbird Captain Jennifer Casey. "There were houses damaged and fire."

"Fundamentally," he said, "journalism is still about being the eyes and ears of the community and holding people accountable. In the world we live in now, everybody is a content creator. You can portray your own version of the truth. The importance of journalism is in providing accurate reliable information."

Vancouver-based media lawyer David F. Sutherland, QC, said he agreed with the statements of both Holman and Jolly, and added, "The Driftwood's use of the photograph was with permission of the copyright holder, but, in any event, would qualify for the defence of fair dealing for news reporting, under Section 29.2 of the Copyright Act, in my opinion."



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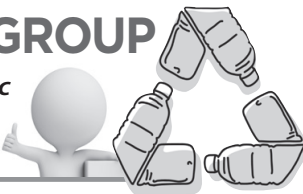
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NEWS BRIEFS

AGM set

North Salt Spring Waterworks District will hold its annual general meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 9 after having to postpone the proceedings during the pandemic restrictions this spring.

The meeting will take place at Community Gospel Chapel starting at 6 p.m. Provincial limitations on gathering still apply, so attendance will be capped at 50 people maximum. However, the district warns there may be fewer than 50 people permitted if adequate distancing is not possible.

Ratepayers will also have the opportunity to vote for one trustee position available on the board, with a choice between nominees Gary Gagne and Garth Hendren. The election is being done solely through mail-in ballot. Voting packages are being sent out this week and ballots are due back at the NSSWD office by 4:30 p.m. on Sept. 8.

More information is available at www.northsaltspring-waterworks.ca.

GANGES VILLAGE

Drake Road could aid park problem

Local officials trying to make a case with the CRD

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Safety issues in downtown Ganges and the recent assault of a Capital Regional District bylaw enforcement officer provided fodder for discussion at the Aug. 14 edition of ASK Salt Spring, where the idea of using a Drake Road property for a semi-permanent camp site inspired some serious consideration.

Participants at the public meeting in the United Church meadow revisited the ongoing situation of the large groups of people who spend hours each day in local parks, often drinking and being loud, and sometimes attended by dangerous dogs. Friday's guest official, CRD director Gary Holman, acknowledged that other community members, and women in particular, have felt unsafe being near these groups. But he observed finding a solution would be a complex proposition.

Ron Cooke, a member of the Wagon Wheel Housing Society, said he's found communities either deal with such situations in one of two ways: with harsh penalties for those involved and sometimes for the people who try to help them with food and shelter, or with a more loving approach.

"It's a mental health problem and we don't have a good mental health solution yet on Salt Spring," said Cooke. He added he feels the community would do better

with a loving approach, and one of the first steps would be to treat each person as an individual.

Cooke said there was a lot of promise in an idea to purchase the Salt Spring Metal Recycling site on Fulford-Ganges Road but the concept had been "shut down." The campaign initiated by former United Church minister Chris Levan proposed turning it into a place where inadequately housed people and their dogs could spend time during the day and be housed overnight. The property has light industrial zoning, however, and any sale would have been at fair market value.

As raised at Friday's meeting, there is another possible location that is already owned by the CRD on Drake Road. Cooke said the people he knows without housing would be happy to make a camp there.

"They'd love to have some place to go where they're not attacked," Cooke said.

The Drake Road property has been earmarked for an affordable housing project with potential support from BC Housing. Holman said he did not want to jeopardize the possibility of that project, which is still being negotiated and has not been confirmed. However, Holman does feel there could also be room for an encampment on the five-acre property. The people staying there could be vetted through Salt Spring Community Services and might receive some support as a separate initiative that would not involve BC Housing resources, he said.

Salt Spring Community Services executive director Rob Grant, who happened

to be in attendance at Friday's session, said Centennial Park is a problem in part because it's such a desirable location and everyone wants to be there, while the space is actually quite small. But moving people out of the park using bylaw enforcement and RCMP won't solve the problem, even if additional resources can be found.

"We're just shuffling . . . people around the community endlessly and it's not right. It's not a solution at all," Grant said. "The CRD owns a property that would be a great resource. The five acres on Drake Road is ticking all the boxes, maybe not as a long-term solution, but as a temporary relief to take the pressure off. Community Services would be full-in to make that work in some sort of way."

"I do believe that would take some of the pressure off Centennial Park," Grant added.

Grant and Holman agreed, though, that convincing higher-placed staff at the CRD and BC Housing that a shared arrangement could work is proving to be a challenge. The two organizations are now looking for additional support from local groups to help make the case in a formal letter.

"There may be a larger role for the community to play in Drake Road," Holman said.

Islands Trust trustee Laura Patrick is the guest official at the next ASK Salt Spring event, set for this Friday, Aug. 21 at the United Church Meadow from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., or at the Portlock Park pavilion if it's raining.

FIRE DISTRICT

Fire department leadership in limbo as hiring delayed

Deputy chief position considered a priority for filling by board but chief's current absence an obstacle

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Fire Protection District is putting more thought into securing leadership roles in the fire department, but will wait to fill one key role until the top position is resumed.

Ron Lindstrom, chair of the district's board of trustees, stated during the July meeting that filling the long-vacant deputy chief position is a top priority under the board's strategic plan. There hasn't been a deputy chief on staff since October 2015, when current Fire Chief Arjuna George left the role to take the head position, following the departure of previous chief Tom Bremner.

Since George has been on indefinite leave since the end of June, there has been neither chief nor deputy chief in the hall. An acting chief has not been appointed.

"We did a review of the front office to see how we might better organize functions there. That helped and

we did make some changes because of that, but the result was still that there's a need for a deputy chief position," Lindstrom said. "I think it validates what we felt needed to be done all along, in the strategic planning process. The chief's current leave is bringing it forward more urgently as something to deal with."

The reason for George's leave has not been released due to privacy concerns.

Lindstrom explained that Assistant Chief Jamie Holmes is fulfilling many of the administrative tasks that an acting chief would do, but he has not been officially appointed since the chief is a non-union position and Holmes is employed under the union contract.

Hiring a deputy chief is considered necessary to maintain efficient operations, and Lindstrom said the position has been budgeted for. Filling the vacancy is actually the second highest item on the strategic plan action list and one of just a few with a zero per cent completion rate.

While the chief's absence has highlighted the need to have a deputy in place, it is also adding to the delay in resolving the situation since the board would like to have George's input.

"We would ideally want to have him be part of the hiring process because they will be working very closely together," Lindstrom said.

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- Coins for the Coin-Op. Bring your stash of cash - coin, that is to fill Dryer Ball Cans!
- Munchies Available.

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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

The right to know

Thomas Jefferson may have said it best: "Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost."

Last week one individual tried to limit that freedom by trying to convince some of our newspaper distributors that you should not have seen the photograph on the front page of your community newspaper.

Was the photo depicting a hateful or gory incident? Did it violate community standards of decency?

No. It showed Salt Spring firefighters with the Jaws of Life trying to help that individual's husband, who was trapped in his plane following a hard landing on his private airstrip. It had news value because it was not something that is seen every day and involved a public service agency in action. It was not unlike our July 29 front-page photo of emergency services personnel aiding a fallen cyclist. In neither photo was the victim even visible nor identified.

THE ISSUE:
 Attempts to stop people from seeing paper

WE SAY:
 Suppression unacceptable

and RCMP members who attended are all funded by taxpayers. Aviation incidents of any kind are also a matter of public interest and investigated by the Transportation Safety Board of Canada, a federal body funded by taxpayers.

If the pilot had died, the story would have been covered by major media outlets. How successful would attempts to suppress the story have been in that case? Thankfully he did not die.

Allegations made to store owners and managers that the photo — which was provided to the paper by Salt Spring Fire Rescue on request — should not have been published without permission because the incident occurred on private property and was "illegal" are uninformed nonsense. While people's compassion for the woman's state of mind last Wednesday is understandable, it should not have resulted in the public's lack of easy access to the newspaper, which contained many more items besides the front-page photo.

One individual or company or government agency must not be given the ability to suppress public news gathered and reported in a responsible manner. When that day comes, freedom of the press has been irreparably damaged. We must be vigilant to ensure that is not allowed to happen.



EXTRA!
 EXTRA!

READ ALL ABOUT IT

PARKER

Divisive message saddens

BY HOJO TAKUYUKI

I am writing in response to Aina Yasué's opinion piece titled "WWII bombing violence still alive" that appeared in the Aug. 12 issue of the Driftwood. Ms. Yasué writes, "I want to ask, how do we create a culture that dehumanizes, devalues the other?" She then goes on to list various ways that non-whites have been mistreated in Canada, and various ways that she herself has been the victim of racist attitudes.

It makes me really sad to read this. I don't blame Ms. Yasué. I am sure that she is a good-hearted young person who is sincerely interested in creating a more open, just and equitable society for all people of the earth. I do, however, blame her teachers and others who taught her that the best way to improve society was by separating us into various tribes based on ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and political belief system. We only have to look south of the border to see how society is being ripped apart by this divisive way of thinking. Sure, if we are taught to believe that every time a person asks a non-white Canadian where they are from, then they are guilty of malicious racism, but we could just as easily

VIEWPOINT

see that as innocent curiosity, awkwardly expressed.

If we divide the world into various tribes and believe that all relations are based on power and reflect varying degrees of privilege or oppression, then the workings of confirmation bias will surely prove that that is the case. I'm just sad to see this way of thinking has taken root in a young lady who should be entering the world with an open heart and positive attitude, not an attitude of suspicion and mistrust.

It makes me particularly sad to read Ms. Yasué's piece because I know that her parents came here as immigrants from Japan. Despite her claims that Canada is a racist society that dehumanizes others, it is this very society that welcomed her parents and allowed them to build free and prosperous lives here. It is that same society that offers Ms. Yasué all the opportunities available to any young person in this wonderful society.

Later in her piece, Ms. Yasué writes that we should "intervene in conversations that centre whiteness." What does this mean? Obviously, "whiteness" in this context actually means

"white people," since it can only be instantiated in individual people. Ms. Yasué starts her piece by decrying the dehumanization of the other, but isn't this a perfect example of exactly that sort of behaviour? She is asking us to single out white people for criticism and correction.

As I say, I do not blame Ms. Yasué. I feel compassion for her. But somewhere along the way, she came under the tutelage of a person teaching a philosophy of division, resentment and suspicion. Yes, anyone or any institution that can be shown to mistreat someone based on race, gender or orientation should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Yes, we should study the historical wrongs committed against various peoples in our history. But, first and foremost, we should educate our young to take the words of Martin Luther King Jr. to heart: We should teach them to judge people by the content of their character and not the colour of their skin. We should teach our young people to think of themselves as human beings first, Canadians second, and individuals third. Racism will not be defeated by more racism. Racism will be defeated by teaching unity, cooperation and trust.

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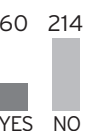
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are rising COVID-19 numbers making you more vigilant?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you feel safe in Centennial Park?



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: }

"I think these cohorts they're talking about are really a fantasy."

IAN MITCHELL, GULF ISLANDS TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
PRESIDENT, ON THE BACK-TO-SCHOOL PLAN

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED: *What is something you would like to do before summer 2020 is over?*

ALISTAIR KING



I have a giant pile of wood rounds I'd like to get split, and I'd like to paint my house.

JILL TARSWELL



I'd been wishing all summer to visit family in the Okanagan, especially my one-year-old grandniece, and it looks like a go. So excited!

SEBASTIAN STRATFORD



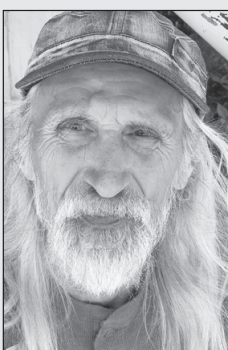
I just want to see more of my friends.

LILA ADAM-GORDON



Probably just to get an idea of what to do after high school because I'm graduating this year.

ANDREAS MAUER



To finish a floathome.

LETTERS to the editor

Raise fines

Sunday, Aug. 16 was a hot 30° C day here. The harbour, as well as pedestrian traffic, was thick. I wondered how authorities deal locally with the question of American visitors coming by boat and decided to find out. The following is what I learned.

Each of the two private marinas in Ganges screen the registration of boats mooring at their facilities. American visitors, sea or land, are not permitted entry to Canada until at least the end of August, at which time Ottawa will review the matter. Some boats with American registration are legally owned by Canadians, making entry legal, and vigilance at marinas critical.

The Harbour Authority of Salt Spring Island does not concern itself with "traffic cop" issues. They empathize with the challenge and the need to remain vigilant but this is not part of their mandate.

Canada Border Services Agency personnel (the contact person is Bryan 1-250-889-9780) based in Saanich visit Salt Spring one or two times per week performing spot checks of marine traffic. They believe the large majority of visiting boats are Canadian, with a few isolated cases of illegal traffic. "Most boaters are aware of the closed border visiting restriction currently in place between Canada and the United States," they claim.

An RCMP patrol vessel based in Esquimalt also checks marinas throughout the south Vancouver Island and Southern Gulf Islands area.

I asked the CBSA about placing signs at all marinas/government docks informing visitors "It is currently illegal to enter Canada if you are a U.S. visitor because of COVID-19," believing this would be a step in the right direction to make it obvious to such visitors they are being informed. CBSA's response to my suggestion: no funds, unlikely to be

given them if asked, suggest you write to your federal MP (Elizabeth May), which by copy of this letter I will do.

The view expressed by CBSA was that visitors who are intent on breaking the law will break the law. This, to me, suggests they don't care and that a \$1,000 fine is not a concern. I think there is some truth to this, since it is an expensive means of recreation to travel internationally by private boat, i.e. the fine should be \$100,000, since it is only targeting prospective "crooks."

It is impossible and unaffordable for the government of Canada to be monitoring every harbour 24/7 during a busy tourist season. The large area of coastline and small sampling of patrol relies heavily on citizens reporting suspicious entries.

The rest lies in the hands of COVID. Wash those hands and keep your eyes open, metaphorically speaking.

RON HAWKINS,
SALT SPRING

Biochar helps clear algae

In the past, I've used a UV system for cleaning algae from the pond, but this year it was difficult to get the requisite UV bulb.

The pond thickened; the koi swam through the murk; what to do?

As an experiment, I knitted hemp bags, filled them with biochar and hung them in the pond. Within a day or two, the water was clearer. When it starts to thicken up again, I add another bag. Next year, I'll extract the green-bearded bags, plant them in the garden beds (great for fertility) and replenish the pond with fresh ones.

I am not buying UV bulbs anymore!

SHAN MACPHERSON,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

For the love of our islands, offer a survey, please

BY EMMA-LOUISE ELSEY

Over the next while, our Islands Trust Council will be working to update the policy document that guides the future direction and priorities of the Islands Trust over the next 30 years. So this is obviously important for everyone who lives here.

In late July, the Islands Trust Council released a report called *What We Heard Islands 2050: The Future of the Trust Area*, which summarizes the public's input and apparently "captures the ideas and thoughts of more than a thousand people from across the islands."

So far, so good. And before I share my thoughts, I have a request: please don't pigeonhole me.

I'm an environmentalist and avid naturalist. My parents grew food and raised chickens in a beautiful part of the world that had many tourists in the summer. I've lived on Salt Spring for 12 years, and have built a successful online business employing local people. I fundraised for a local abattoir even though we're largely vegetarian and somewhat vegan. I was on the CRD's Community Economic Development Commission when we (and I) voted not to support The Cottages at Bullock Lake's commercial rezoning request because of concerns about the impact on local residents' water supply, and various concerns about impacts on Bullock Lake itself.

I believe in the Trust's preserve and protect mandate, and believe it's been heavily applied to nature, and that we have forgotten to preserve and protect our more vulnerable homo sapiens.

I am an "and" person. And it's hard to see so much polarization on this beautiful island of Salt Spring: for or against the Islands Trust, for or against X, Y or Z. It creates a divisiveness that seems to just pit people against each other, and leads to people getting increasingly fixed in their positions.

INDEPTH

So I ask that you read this with an open mind. Right now, it's hard to make myself sit here and write this after a long week working on a computer, when I want to be thinning apple trees, weeding the garden and checking on the dehydrated chorus frog we rescued this morning. But this is important. It's our future.

Back to the topic at hand: the "What we heard" report from the Islands Trust Council.

It's a beautiful report, with icons, easy to follow and read. And I have some serious concerns about the value of the data reported. I have four main concerns:

First, we have no information on whose views have been collected: there is nothing at all to suggest that a broad variety of people have been engaged with.

For example, what were the respondents' ages, financial and work situation, marital status, family size and education levels? Do they rent, own or have a second home among our islands?

In particular, before we set the future direction of our Islands Trust, do we know the priorities of young families? Vulnerable elders? Low-paid workers? Single parents? And what has been done to engage with the young, who are the people who'll live on our islands 30 years from now?

Second, the way the majority of feedback was collected (an app called Thought Exchange) was somewhat random, and rife with "confirmation bias." Thought Exchange is rather like Facebook where we see people reinforcing views like their own, while other voices are not seen, or don't feel comfortable expressing themselves.

Specifically, when I went to Thought Exchange, I found it unstructured and confusing. And I felt uncomfortable sharing

different views, and decided to wait until a survey was issued.

Third, the only question asked that looked at people's concerns over the next 30 years was a leading question, framing everything in the context of climate change.

Yes, climate change is incredibly important. As is our coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem. And so are the people living on our islands.

The direct result of asking, "In the context of a changing climate, what concerns do you have for the next 30 years?" is that affordable housing doesn't even make it onto the list of 17 concerns for the future of our islands.

I ask (as you keep an open heart and mind) if it seems right that out of a list of 17 concerns for the future of our islands, that the topic of affordable housing is excluded because it's not a climate change issue?

Lastly, this feedback was gathered last fall — before COVID-19. As COVID ravages our economies, island amenities and the livelihoods of those who live and work here, I wonder if people may now have different priorities.

I recognize that our trustees and planners work hard, have a tough job and that their work is often thankless. So a huge thank-you for all the work you do.

And I am calling for Islands Trust Council to hold a survey, which of course these days can be done online. I ask for crucial demographic information to be gathered, so we ensure that everyone's voices are heard, including our youth. I ask that we remove the leading question about climate change, and I ask for this survey to be widely advertised so as many people as possible are included.

This is our future. What do you want it to look like?

The writer is a Salt Spring Island resident and digital entrepreneur.



PHOTO BY DAVID SEEKER

SITTING PRETTY: A barred owl sits on a branch not far from a bird feeder on the photographer's South Bank Drive property. David Seeker said the owl spent about five hours in the same spot, watching the feeder, which is sometimes raided by four squirrels, and Seeker's pet cockatoo (which also kept an eye on the owl).

School board appreciates input

BY SCHOOL DISTRICT 64 BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education for School District 64 (Gulf Islands) respectfully acknowledges the open letter that appeared in the Aug. 12 edition of the Driftwood.

The intent of our board is to provide the best learning opportunities to each of our students. Our strategic plan, policies and Indigenous Education Enhancement Agreement all lead in the same direction: ensuring the greatest possible access and equity to our students as we deliver public education in all our communities. We must find balance and opportunity within the complexities of declining enrolment, transportation needs, commitment to climate action and staffing to ensure the absolute best education for students. Our goal has always been to maximize resources going directly to support instruction and learning.

The current configuration review stems from the following motion that was passed by the previous Board of Education in October 2018: . . . that the district initiates a community-based consultation process to review configurations that support the best educational outcomes for students in addition to maximizing cost-effective education delivery.

Through invitations for email submissions, face-to-face community meetings, and an online ThoughtExchange process, we gathered valuable feedback. We then worked with partner groups in the analysis of input from our commu-

IN RESPONSE

nities. Some ideas generated significant support while others received mixed reactions. We believe the review process of the feedback committee is a fair representation of what was heard over the course of the consultations.

As we have shown throughout the process, we will share what we have found, along with new insights and next steps in September.

In June of 2020, we directed our senior staff to undertake a financial and operational feasibility study of configuration ideas to be brought back to trustees at the September board meeting. This work has continued throughout the summer, with trustees active in their communities and sharing feedback to the Scope of Opportunity with senior staff. Our goal is to achieve a configuration that simultaneously creates equitable access to educational programs and stability in our funding, while maintaining our values across the district. We have approached this challenge with

seriousness as we adjust to our most recent budget realities.

The board recognizes our privilege, as visitors on these ceded and unceded territories of the Coast Salish people. We acknowledge the need for public officials to listen to the voices of the people they represent. It is an honour to serve the islands we call Saturna, Pender, Salt Spring, Galiano and Mayne, and to be a part of discussions about critical issues affecting our communities.

We appreciate the many creative and thoughtful ideas received during this configuration review process and recognize that any changes considered must be sustainable and fiscally responsible. As trustees, parents and community members ourselves, we understand that potential change can bring about feelings of uncertainty, especially during a global pandemic, and we approach this process with care and compassion. As we have shown throughout the process, we will share what we have found, along with new insights and next steps in September. We will take the necessary time to make the changes we approve as an elected board that serves the Gulf Islands community.

We would like to take this opportunity to genuinely thank everyone who shared their feedback with us, and we look forward to continued engagement with our Gulf Islands communities that are as passionate about public education as we are.

More information about the configuration process can be found on our website at sd64.bc.ca.



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MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

Mandate masks, please

The following letter was sent to B.C. Health Minister Adrian Dix and public health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

I am grateful for the solid and difficult work you both have done during this pandemic.

I am asking you now to mandate the use of masks. Hiring 500 contact tracers may be necessary, but as a response to B.C.'s daily case count it is a matter of shutting the

barn door after the horse has run.

The argument that some people cannot wear masks is not a reason to avoid the mandate. People who can't wear masks can be accommodated. The situation is too dire to let cases rise as they are doing.

Asking young people to take responsibility is clearly not working. Again, the barn door analogy holds.

Please do the thing that has worked for many nations around the world: require masks to be worn indoors and in public where distancing is not possible.

Please take the necessary steps to keep us all safer.

ROWAN PERCY,
SALT SPRING

Rants + ROSES

Roses

A big bouquet of roses for each of you: For Michael, who helped me out of the water, and for Susan and Nathalie who bundled me up, drove me home, and made sure I was safe after my experience with hypothermia at Vesuvius Beach recently. My most sincere gratitude to each of you, and a cautionary note to others that Vesuvius Bay water may not always be as warm as it seems! Margaret MacKenzie

Bountiful bouquets of the most beautifully scented roses to all of the support staff at Lady Minto Hospital. Without your skills, hard work, patience and teamwork we would not have a hospital. Thank you so very much for your efforts during these stressful times. Namaste. Sharon and Gary Bywater

Roses to all the non-nursing staff at Lady Minto Hospital not mentioned in the Aug. 12 Driftwood article about how the hospital responded to the coronavirus pandemic. Your hard work, dedication and smiles are the backbone of the operations of the hospital and it wouldn't run without you. Thank you!



Salt Spring Island residents and businesses support their local detachment of the RCMP

SALUTE TO RCMP

Detachment shares 2019 statistics

Constable also reflects on first year

BY CONST. TED TURGEON SALT SPRING ISLAND RCMP

My wife and I transferred to Salt Spring Island and I began work at the SSI RCMP Detachment in May of 2019.

Moving from my previous detachment in the Prairies where long, cold winters and being out in -40°C weather was the norm, and then being assigned to Salt Spring Island, seemed like a dream opportunity. Upon our arrival, we began making a list of the many places on Salt Spring we wanted to go, restaurants to try, studios to see and farm stands to visit. We are both thankful for the opportunity to work here in our respective careers and proud to now call this Island home. We are looking forward to many years of being part of this community. Thank you for welcoming us!

When asked about what I do or where I spend my time as a police officer on the island, it can sometimes be difficult to answer briefly. It is my hope that sharing some of the 2019 statistics of the Salt Spring Island RCMP Detachment will answer some of those questions.

In 2019, there was in excess of 3,400 calls for police assistance on Salt Spring Island. This is an average of 9-10 calls per day. Despite popular belief/misconception, it is a busy place to police. (For frame of reference: Salt Spring Fire Rescue responded to 655 calls and Salt Spring Island EHS reported approximately 1,300 calls in 2019).

The types of calls SSI RCMP responded to in 2019 included, but are not limited to: assaults, motor vehicle collisions, impaired

investigations, traffic complaints, drug investigations (including fentanyl and methamphetamine, as well as reports of found discarded drug paraphernalia), frauds, firearms complaints, unsafe vessels, sexual assaults and domestic violence, etc.

Some of the specific calls responded to by our detachment in 2019 that resulted in charges being recommended to the BC Prosecution Service (Crown Counsel) included: a historical child abuse investigation, an arson where a home was destroyed, a break and enter where the offender was arrested while still in the residence (the suspect was initially seen on the home's remote video camera), and a night-time threats call on a vessel in Ganges Harbour resulting in RCMP locating and arresting a subject who was subsequently deported back to the U.S.

In 2019, Salt Spring Island RCMP members conducted Criminal Code investigations resulting in numerous other charges including fraud, assault with a weapon, impaired operation of a motor vehicle and others. In one instance, police investigated and submitted a request for charges regarding the clear-cutting of a protected Salt Spring forest. Other charges and investigations involved not just the Criminal Code but the Liquor Control and Licensing Act, the Cannabis Control and Licensing Act, Immigration Act, Canada Shipping Act, Fisheries & Oceans Act, and Bylaw Enforcement; police also responded to complaints regarding the Family Law Act, Child and Family Services Act, Mental Health Act and the Landlord Tenant Act.

Missing persons were found by Salt Spring Island RCMP, next-of-kin notifications were conducted as a result of the ongoing opioid crisis in B.C., and farm stand thefts were investigated; police responded to the major snowfall in February 2019 and the dozens of motor vehicle collisions, roadway blockages and traffic complaints that resulted. Police recommended charges after an investigation into alleged historical sexual assaults for crimes dating back 25+ years

here on Salt Spring. SSI RCMP responded to an average of one sex-related offence every three weeks that occurred here on Salt Spring (20 calls for 2019) and more than one firearms-related complaint every two weeks (31 calls for 2019). There were 131 impaired-related driving complaints (one every three days) and 338 mental-health related calls (almost one call every day).

In addition to the 3,400+ complaints SSI RCMP responded to, local officers also conducted a great deal of proactive work, including but not limited to 800+ documented foot patrols (not part of the SSI call volume) through various parks and public areas on the island in an effort to ensure safe locales for individuals/businesses/families, in support of local bylaw enforcement and to maintain a public presence. Officers also conducted over 450 licenced premises (liquor establishment) walk-throughs in 2019; and members gave presentations at local schools, including participating in the P.A.R.T.Y (Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth) program with students from GISS.

The Salt Spring RCMP Detachment can certainly be a busy place. Although perhaps not often mentioned, we appreciate the public's support; we are humbled by the trust and respect that continues to be shown to SSI RCMP members by residents and visitors of this island. We are honoured to serve here. We are proud to live here and be part of this community. Various individuals, businesses and partnering agencies have supported us in word and deed for years -- beyond these mere words, we are thankful for that.

Our continuing commitment is to serve everyone with respect, honesty, integrity and professionalism. And we will continue our efforts to make this island safer for everyone.

Thank you. Cst. Ted TURGEON, Salt Spring Island RCMP

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Sending my sincere thanks to the women and men of the RCMP.

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

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POETRY

Island journal elevates poets

Annual prize also launched

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A new publication launched from Salt Spring's quiet shores is poised to give under-heard poets from Canada and around the world a platform to share their voices.

"We're really responding to the idea there's just a dismaying number of people who haven't been published," said editor and co-founder Margaret Sullivan. She noted many literary journals won't include someone who hasn't been published before, which creates a closed loop with no escape. "We're trying to get people out of that rut, and shine a light on people that deserve to be published. Once they have those credentials, many more publishers will be open to them."

Seeing one's name in print also motivates people who might be about to give up the needed boost to keep trying, as Sullivan learned first-hand from many of the poets she accepted into the first edition.

"There's been a great deal of joy around discovering the undiscovered, and I think the poets are really feeling it," she said.

The premiere issue of The Journal of Undiscovered Poets is now available for free to anyone who would like a copy. The cheap price belies the quality presentation, however. This is no mimeographed broadsheet but a bound book with high-quality paper and full-colour printing, expertly produced by island company Contour Grafix.

The people behind the new journal are equally impressive. Sullivan is a poet who holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Columbia College Chicago. She has published three books with Chicago Review Press and is a contributing author to the American Psychological Association's text called On the Stigma of Mental Illness. She moved from Chicago to Salt Spring last year.

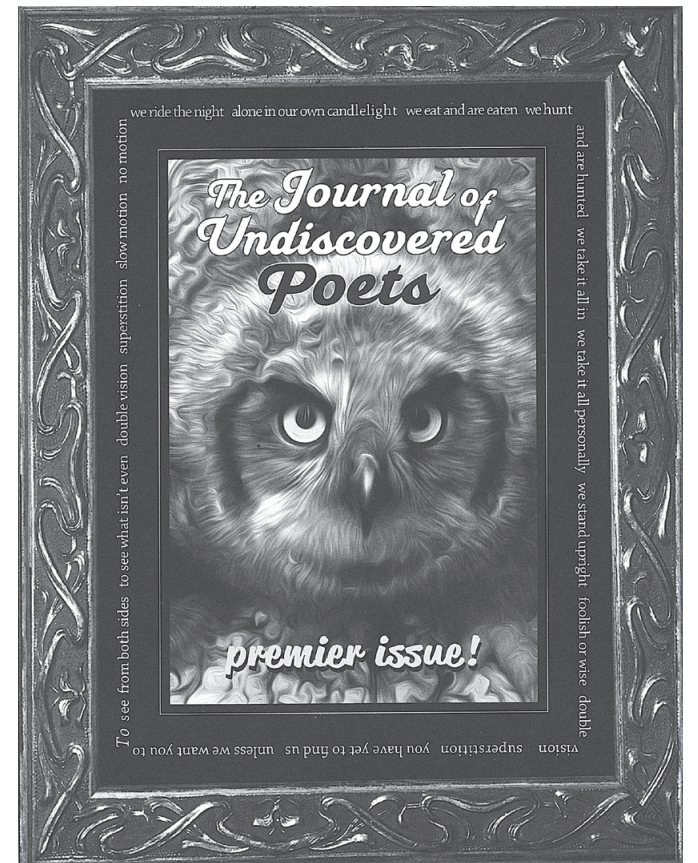
Her co-founder and publisher is Jeff Lederman, known to many for his work leading the Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre on Salt Spring. Before he devoted his life to rescuing wild creatures, Lederman was a highly acclaimed graphic designer specializing in logo designs for Chicago's restaurants, nightclubs and boutiques. He continues to create visual art, and acts as creative director for the new publication.

Sullivan and Lederman have been collaborating on everything from gallery exhibitions to advertising and branding since the mid 1970s. The journal came about because Pilar Bauta of the W. Garfield Weston Foundation approached Lederman in 2019 looking for an interesting and fundable project. The pair successfully pitched Sullivan's lifelong dream of creating and editing a poetry journal, creating a new avenue for undiscovered talents.

The front piece of the new journal contains a quote from Rainer Maria Rilke stating "We are unspeakably alone," which emphasizes the fact being a poet can be a lonely experience even for those who have made some headway in their field. The situation has probably only deteriorated since the time the Bohemian poet was writing at the turn of the 20th century and into its first couple of decades.

Sullivan reached out to all those modern day lonely writers through calls for submissions advertised in Poets and Writers Magazine.

"They just had their 50th anniversary and I've been read-



ing it since childhood," Sullivan said. "I think I had a unique selling point. I knew what they did and I knew what they didn't do."

The journal is focused on Canadian writers but has international scope. The first publication includes a number of poets Sullivan knows from Chicago, which has a strong local tradition and boasts North America's first open poetry mic. An interview with New York poet Carl Watson is one of the features of the premiere edition. There are also several Salt Spring artists represented, who Sullivan met through the local open mic at the library. There's even a poet from Mumbai, whose work was so accomplished Sullivan included three of the poems he submitted.

"I couldn't resist. They were all so good," she said.

Sullivan admits what makes a poem "good" is in some ways subjective, but as an editor and a poet herself she has a clear idea of what is effective and compelling writing.

"Obviously, there's something that surprises," she said. "I think it's any poem in which you get to know that person in a way that you would never get to do at a party or a bus stop or a classroom ... Sometimes it's just a line that I can't shake for days after reading it."

The Journal of Undiscovered Poets is available by request. Free copies can also be found at the Salt Spring Public Library and Dragonfly Art Supplies.

The inaugural issue of the journal received hundreds of entries, so the publishers don't need to advertise a call-out for the next edition, but Sullivan said she will never stop calling for new submissions. The journal has also launched an annual poetry prize, with submissions open until Nov. 18. More information is available at 7moredays2020@gmail.

EXHIBITIONS

Glass artist featured at Steffich Fine Art

Opening reception this Friday

Steffich Fine Art is featuring architectural cast glass creations by the Anthony Jamieson Design Studio of Mayne Island beginning this week.

Members of the public are invited to drop by the gallery this Friday, Aug. 21 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. for an opening reception with one of the studio artists, who will also be on hand at the gallery throughout the weekend.

Anthony Jamieson Designs is a collaboration between partners Michael Anthony and Bill Jamieson, and apprentice AJ Kutshaw. They have been working together creating original, decorative and architectural glass on Mayne Island for over 30 years.

The studio specializes in stunning custom glass panels embedded with sculpted relief artworks, with west coast wildlife, forest vistas and Indigenous iconography some examples of their product.

The show will be on display through to Sept. 2.



stay safe

COVID-19

Virus test process takes time

A walk through the COVID-19 test trail

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

I know how rumours can thunder around Salt Spring with very little encouragement, so I am going to state this clearly at the outset: I do not and did not have COVID-19. But maybe I should be more specific. When I was tested in the parking lot of Lady Minto Hospital on Tuesday, Aug. 11 at 3:45 p.m., I did not have COVID-19.

I woke up last Tuesday morning with a tickle in my throat and a mild burning sensation in my sinuses. Even though I did not have a fever, you know what my first thought was. How it could be otherwise?

I knew the responsible thing to do was to not go to the office, to cancel my 10 a.m. coffee date with a friend and arrange to get tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible.

In the now well-established tent outside the main entrance to Lady Minto Hospital, the ever-cheerful Maggie O'Scalleigh gave me a card with the testing appointment line number on it. I beetled back home and made the first call at 8:35 a.m. The automated voice estimated I had a four-minute wait. "Perfect!" I thought.

At the 105-minute mark, my phone connection cut off. Just as well, since the recorded voice message I had on speakerphone about my call being answered in the order it was received, and other information I should be able to effortlessly repeat, was driving me crazy. The message had indicated that early afternoon was the less-busy time to call. I gave it a break and at 12:22 p.m. scored a 34-minute estimate. I decided to stick with that one, putting the phone in another room so I would be less irritated by Mr. Too-Much-Info Voice.

Ninety minutes later a fellow named Ben was suddenly my best friend. But Ben was only the first of three people I needed to talk to as he got my basic medical and contact info. My next best friend, who I met much later, was a nurse named Hilary. After I described my symptoms, she said I qualified for the test and would be transferred to another person for scheduling.

"How long will that take?" I asked nervously.

She assured me there was no one ahead of me in the queue for an appointment time, unlike the 45 people on hold still waiting to talk to her. Yikes.

I did not remember the name of the scheduler, but accepted a 3:45 p.m. appointment time at Lady Minto Hospital and took down the number I was instructed



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

COVID-19 drive-through parking spot in the Lady Minto Hospital parking lot.

ed to call once I was in the allotted spot in the parking lot.

Wonderful nurse Ian came out in his PPE holding the ominous-looking swab package. He asked me if I had a preferred nostril and I chose the right one. (Don't ask me why.) He kindly showed me how much of the swab would go up my nostril and before I could suggest that wouldn't be physically possible, he was trying to prove me wrong. Up it went, but encountered resistance, probably because I was furiously scrunching up my face in reaction to the discomfort. Ian told me to relax — ha! — and once I mastered that the swab found its desired resting spot. It felt like the back of my eyeball was being tickled, and the swab needed to do that for eight seconds. It wasn't really painful, just uncomfortable. Do not let this description deter you from getting tested if it is determined that you should!

After I had the test and was at home again, I made a list of all the people I interacted with somewhat significantly in the previous two weeks. Besides my six co-workers, there were 13 individuals, including a hair stylist and massage therapist. I shuddered to think of the repercussions of all of those people needing to isolate and/

or be tested; and all of their contacts, if I had tested positive. But there was no point anticipating the worst, or unnecessarily worrying people, although I did tell some of those people on the list about the test, as well as my co-workers.

Ian advised the result should be available 48 hours later. I had missed the 2 p.m. lab sample ship-out time for that day; otherwise it would only be a 24-hour wait. The info sheet Ian gave me stated that I would be contacted if the result was positive. I signed up for a service that would send a text message to my phone if the result was negative.

As the 48-hour mark passed without a call, I felt reasonably assured I did not have COVID-19, but of course needed the negative confirmation in order to venture out. I looked at the info sheet again and saw I could call the Island Health lab at 7 a.m. the next morning, which is what I did and how I got my thankfully negative result.

Several hours later I received a text message reiterating that my test result was negative.

Getting a negative result put me with 99 per cent of the 5.47 million other tests undertaken in Canada so far during the pandemic.

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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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ENTERTAINMENT

Space made safe for movie fans

Movie theatre reopens with shields, spacing, sanitizer and more

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

An island institution has worked hard to ensure it could reopen its doors following the COVID-19 shutdown in B.C.

Like all other movie theatres in the province, The Fritz on Salt Spring closed in March.

After major modifications to the cinema's Central Hall space and adapting operations to the province's COVID-19 protocols, The Fritz opened for the first time on July 31.

As owner David Paul explained, seating has been reduced to 44 to accommodate social distancing. Seats are arranged in pairs of two with at least six feet between the pairs.

"Attendance has been very slow and even with reduced capacity we are never more than half full," Paul added.

The theatre has hand sanitizer stations, and touchless faucets and soap dispensers in the bathroom.

"The ticket booth and concession area have plexiglass shields, and the concession and ticket people are wearing masks and gloves," he said.

Air in the hall is exchanged every two to three minutes through the HVAC system.

Upcoming movies and other information is available



PHOTO BY JULI PAUL

Fritz employee Ruby Black in the concession area of the movie theatre.

on the website: thefritz.ca, and weekly listings are on the What's On page of the Driftwood. New movies will start rolling out on Sept. 1.

"We look forward to seeing you come back to our new safe environment and thank everyone for the support they've been giving us," said Paul.

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.

POULTRY AND RABBITS -
Show off your poultry or rabbits without having to move them from home. Fancy feathers or fluffy fur makes for a great photo. No limit to the number of entries.

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

Go to www.ssifi.org for information and rules



what's on this week



Wed. Aug. 19

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Sue Newman & Tom Bowler. Tree House Cafe. 5 to 8 p.m.
Wednesday Block Party. Suzanne Gay, Jim Shultz + Honey perform at Al's Gourmet Falafel & Fries. 4 to 6 p.m.

VIA ZOOM

Teen Book Club. A Salt Spring Public Library event for ages 13-19. 3 p.m. If interested, email ahughes@saltspringlibrary.com



Thur. Aug. 20

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

VIXX. Thursdays on the patio at Moby's Pub. 5 p.m.
Sarah Osborne. Tree House Cafe. 5 to 8 p.m.
Open Mic & Jam. At the Legion every Thursday. 7 p.m.

Thur. Aug. 20

VIA ZOOM

Local Author Limerick Reading. Entrants in the Pandemic Limerick Project contest will read their entries via Zoom. Join the zoom meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82462508390> Meeting ID: 824 6250 8390 or find the link via the Salt Spring library website.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Museum. Bittancourt House Museum is open on the Farmers' Institute grounds at 351 Rainbow Road from 1 to 4 p.m.

Fri. Aug. 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Oliver Swain. Tree House Cafe. 5 to 8 p.m.
Fridays with the Costners. On the deck at Moby's Pub. 5:30 p.m.
The Regulars. Live music at the Legion. 7 p.m.



Fri. Aug. 21

ACTIVITIES

Weekend StoryWalk. This week's story is Scaredy Squirrel at the Beach. A self-guided activity through Mouat Park. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday through Monday.
Salt Spring Museum. See Thursday listing.
ASK Salt Spring. Trustee Laura Patrick is guest in the United Church Meadow (or Portlock Park pavilion if raining). 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sat. Aug. 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Miles & Bradley. Tree House Cafe. 5 to 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Saturday Market in the Park. Vendors set up in socially distanced fashion in Centennial Park, as well as in the adjacent Ganges Alley parking lot/waterfront area. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Weekend StoryWalk. See Friday listing.

Sat. Aug. 22

Salt Spring Museum.

Bittancourt House Museum is open on the Farmers' Institute grounds at 351 Rainbow Road on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m.
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. 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

John Gogo. Tree House Cafe. 5 to 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Weekend StoryWalk. See Friday listing.
Sidewalk Party COVID Style! Celebrate the arrival of the SS Laundromat machines. Music, silent art auction, colouring contest, fundraising table, food and more. COVID protocols will be followed. 162 Fulford-Ganges Rd. 3 to 5 p.m.

Mon. Aug. 24

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

TBA. Tree House Cafe. 5 to 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Weekend StoryWalk. See Friday listing.

Tue. Aug. 25

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

K-Tones. Tree House Cafe. 5 to 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Tuesday Farmers' Market. Produce and food-products market in Centennial Park. 2 to 6 p.m. Social distancing and COVID-19 protocols in place.

Wed. Aug. 26

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Wednesday Block Party. Edgar Hann and Em Walker perform. Al's Gourmet Falafel & Fries. 4 to 6 p.m.
Vargo. Tree House Cafe. 5 to 8 p.m.

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

Weekend StoryWalk

Self-guided family walk through Mouat Park
Fridays through Mondays,
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

THRIFTY FOODS

Ganges, Mouat's Centre • 7:30am to 9pm • Customer Service 250-537-1522

THE FRITZ CINEMA

- **Little Women:** The last day to see this film is on Wednesday, Aug. 19 at 7 p.m.
- **National Theatre Live - Leonardo the Works:** Thursday, Aug. 20 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- **Jojo Rabbit** shows Friday-Sunday, Aug. 21-23 at 7 p.m. each night plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday.
- **The Goonies** runs Monday-Thursday, Aug. 24-27 at 7 p.m.
- For more movie info, visit *The Fritz* website at www.thefritz.ca

EXHIBITS

- Today, Wednesday, Aug. 19, is the last day to see **Janice Parker's** Cut, Press, Pull exhibit at **Salt Spring Gallery**. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Exhibit of architectural cast glass from **Anthony Jamieson Design Studio** of Mayne Island opens at **Steffich Fine Art** on Friday, Aug. 21 with a reception from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Studio reps will be in attendance through the weekend, with the work on display until Sept. 2.

- **Salt Spring Arts Council Youth Exhibit** of work by 2019 summer art camp participants runs in the **Mahon Hall** annex daily until Sept. 7. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Artcraft**, 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.



**NORTH
SALT SPRING
WATERWORKS
DISTRICT**

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

**2020 ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Ratepayers of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island, BC. Due to COVID-19, a maximum of 50 people is permitted to attend in person; however, it may not be possible to maintain social distance with 50 people in attendance. Therefore, the actual number of people that can attend may be limited to less than 50 and will be determined at the time of the AGM.

NOMINEES FOR TRUSTEE ARE:

Gary Gagne
Garth Hendren

AGM Voter Eligibility and Process

Due to COVID-19, the Trustee election will use an exclusively mail-in ballot process. Voting packages will be mailed on August 17, 2020 and ballots must be received at the District office by September 8, 2020 at 4:30pm.

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

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

www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca

761 Upper Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1S1 (250) 537-9902

COVID-19

School plans evolving

Province adds mask order for older students and staff in high traffic areas

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Plans for how the 2020-21 school year will start in September continue to evolve as district administrators and staff work to adapt to provincial orders for a full return to in-class learning.

An announcement by Education Minister Rob Fleming last week that students will return to school two days after teachers do on Sept. 8 has produced some relief for educators. Teachers will now have at least a little time after returning from holiday to work out classroom arrangements and COVID safety protocols. Students will have Sept. 10 and 11 to get used to the new system.

"That's great that we'll be looking at an extra couple of days before the kids come back—the more time, the better," said Ian Mitchell, president of the Gulf Islands Teachers' Association.

Mitchell said the Ministry of Education will not require schools to make up for the lost instructional time, which is also helpful. However, he said there are many issues that need to be worked out, and details that are still unknown with the "learning pods" system established by the province. This will keep students in designated groups of 60 people for elementary and middle school grades and 120 for high school.

"There are so many moving parts, not the least of which is the upward trend [in cases]," said Gulf Islands School District superintendent Scott Benwell. "The province has announced there will be some flexibility in the first week for school staff and kids to train about the cohort approach. It won't be a typical restart."

School districts are required to submit their draft restart plans to the ministry by Aug. 21 for review. Finalized plans are to be made public by Aug. 26. Individual schools will then send out information about how things will work.

"As a parent, as a grandfather, I understand those timelines can be problematic for families, but those are the guidelines we are given. That's provincially mandated," Benwell said.

"We do believe that within these guidelines, our schools will be safe for students and staff," he added.

Parents across the district have been feeling ambivalent about the news that students will be returning to class full-time. Many feel their kids will benefit but they still worry about the safety of having full classrooms, and about keeping kids at appropriate distances from each other. And many did not send their kids when in-class learning was offered in limited form in June.

"I think that educators did a really good job of working with the parameters they were given, and I really have the utmost respect and appreciation for educators going back into that environment when they have not been given clear guidelines. The experience of that can be unbelievably stressful," said Jenny Redpath, a member of the Salt Spring Elementary School parent advisory committee.

As a clinical nurse and nurse educator who works at Lady Minto Hospital, Redpath did send her two daughters to school in June and is not considering any other options for September.

"I think any decision that is made is going to have some risk to it. At this point

because I am a frontline worker, I have to take that risk," Redpath explained.

School District 64 leadership has been meeting regularly with the principals and vice principals association, GITA and CUPE, the union representing support staff. Mitchell said emerging issues with the full return include how to use water taxis safely, what to do with kids with special needs, and how to work with a secondary school that is already at high capacity.

"We don't know quite how the year will look at the high school," Mitchell said.

"We've got a very very popular health officer in Dr. Bonnie Henry, but she's also not a teacher. It's all very good to talk about 'bubbles,' but kids' bubbles can expand exponentially after class. I think these cohorts they're talking about are really a fantasy."

"I think one of the concerns parents have is the perceived lack of transparency — that's causing the anxiety," Redpath said. She suggested having some understanding of the parameters districts have to work with, such as how many cases would arise before a shut-down is ordered, would help.

"Even the use of language can be confusing. We were talking about bubbles and now we're talking about pods," Redpath said.

Benwell said one thing that won't be possible is a return to the remote learning option that B.C. schools employed in the spring, since the province has required teachers to be in class. Fleming has suggested some families might make use of distributed learning centres if they don't feel comfortable sending their children back into the classroom. However, SD64 does not have a distributed learning centre, so families who wanted to pursue distance learning would have to enroll in a different school district.

"We never want to lose one of our students or families, so we empathize with that," Benwell said. "We are playing with some very specific rules that are not of our making."

Mitchell said one idea that has been raised to deal with the larger high school cohorts is shifting the calendar from two semesters with four classes each to a quarterly system in which students take just two classes for a period of 10 weeks. That would help limit the numbers of students interacting with different teachers at one time and movement between different areas of the campus.

No change to the timetable structure had been announced as of the Driftwood's press deadline.

Benwell suggested there could also be other ways of visually keeping track of the cohorts and their assigned areas of the high school, perhaps with designated entrances and exits. Masks have now been provincially mandated for staff, middle school students and high school students when in high-traffic areas.

Coming up with the plan that works for as many as possible in the short time available will be the challenge.

"It's definitely unprecedented work that needs to be done, and I think our district is up for it. But I think their success will be based on their transparency with the community," Redpath said.

The school district meanwhile says it will work with its constituents to make the best of the situation.

"We believe it will be safe. We empathize with families on the difficulty of the decision-making, and we encourage families to reach out for help," Benwell said.

The school district office can be reached at 250-537-5548.