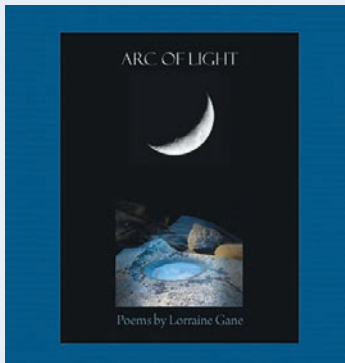
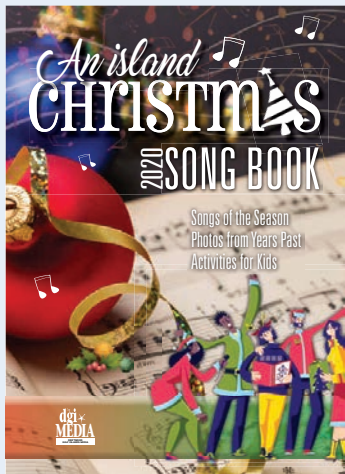


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8 New poetry among Zoom events



9 Farm stand owners plan decorating spree

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# Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2020

60th year  
 Issue 48  
**\$1.50**

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PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

**MONDAY MISHAP:** RCMP and Salt Spring Fire Rescue members attend a single vehicle accident on Vesuvius Bay Road Monday morning, which caused traffic to be routed through Mobrae and Woodland roads for around an hour. The car's driver and passenger exited the car on their own and were later checked by BC Ambulance paramedics and Lady Minto Hospital staff.

**EDUCATION**

## School board chooses K-7 option

Pender 'hub' to open with 2021-22 transition year

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Gulf Islands Board of Education has determined a new plan for configuring schools throughout the district, which will take effect at the start of the next school year in September 2021 and will offer a transitional year for students to get used to the new program.

As recommended by School District 64 staff, the board voted last Wednesday to make most elementary schools cover kindergarten through Grade 7. Salt Spring students will attend Gulf Islands Secondary School starting in their Grade 8 year. Students who live on Pender, Mayne, Galiano and Saturna islands will attend junior high school on Pender for grades 8 and 9, and will have the ability to stay on Pender or move to GISS for grades 10 to 12.

"We've wrestled with the decision. We've wrestled with how to correct the situation the board finds itself in," district superintendent Scott Benwell said before making his recommendation.

Benwell went on to characterize a dilemma of "right versus right," where valid concerns about student choice and access to programs came up against the board's responsibility to balance the budget. The status quo con-

figuration does not provide that opportunity, Benwell said.

A notice of motion was also introduced at the Nov. 18 board meeting to close Salt Spring Middle School at the end of June 2021. As planned, students who are currently in Grade 6 will spend their Grade 7 year at SIMS, although the school will be officially closed. The board is expected to vote on the motion in February.

District staff have previously explained that right now Gulf Islands schools are configured for a larger student enrollment than currently exists, and to keep things the same would produce an annual deficit of more than \$1 million. Provincial funding protection that has been provided for the next few years means there is a buffer period during which changes can be made.

Secretary treasurer Jesse Guy modelled a series of reconfiguration scenarios so staff and trustees could examine how changing variables such as water taxi transportation and the geographic funding grant for students attending more remote schools would impact the budget positively or negatively.

Along with selecting the reconfiguration model dubbed "4b," the board voted to designate the first year of the new regime

as a transition year, so outer island students entering Grade 8 in 2021-22 can choose to stay on their home islands or attend school on Pender during that year. Grade 9 students from the outer islands will have the choice of attending school on Pender or GISS just for the transition year.

Benwell agreed that one transition year was a reasonable compromise even though it would reduce some of the savings from funding protection.

"It will not move us into insolvency at this time," Benwell said.

The reconfiguration decision was opposed by Galiano Island school trustee Shelley Lawson and Mayne Island trustee Janelle Lawson, (who are not related). They had attempted an amendment that would have increased the transition period to two years.

Janelle Lawson said she had real trouble with a mandatory catchment area for outer island students. She also felt a longer transition would help build up the great program that district staff are anticipating.

"I agree, I think Pender could be pretty amazing — but in a short period of time it's hard to make decisions based on 'I hope,'" Lawson said.

**RECONFIGURATION** continued on 2

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# Parents group opposed

## RECONFIGURATION

continued from 1

Shelley Lawson agreed that more time would be needed to create a Pender program that would not only appeal to students who have to go there but also attract those from elsewhere.

"This is our chance to do something incredible, and I feel this motion doesn't get us there," Lawson said.

She further proposed the longer transition period would be necessary to create some potential alternatives to water taxi transportation, whether through BC Ferries or the Capital Regional District.

The amendment failed to pass. Trustees and staff noted the longer the delay to the full catchment on Pender, the fewer resources would be available to invest in that program and available to the district as a whole.

"I think one year is money well spent," said Pender trustee Greg Lucas.

Saturna students already go to Pender for grades 6-8. Trustee Chaya Katrensky said she had become convinced the reconfiguration model with a strong Grade 8 and 9 cohort on Pender was the best course forward, but added the transition year would also be important, especially for students who are currently in Grade 8 and would be expecting to attend GISS next year.

Parent opposition to the plan was especially strong on Galiano. Shelley Lawson noted close to 300 community members had spoken out about the inequity they feel a mandatory Pender

catchment area would produce for outer island students, as well as the historic sense of inequity those island residents feel.

The District Parent Advisory Council also collected large amounts of negative feedback around the plan. A delegation from DPAC at Wednesday's board meeting requested once again the board take more time to consider options and wait until at least January before advancing a motion addressing the main areas of contention.

"Perhaps a compromise is to make a motion today to make decisions where there is consensus — such as the school-based and district cuts — and give yourselves more time to consult on the larger, more complicated, inequitable and impactful cuts," a letter from DPAC stated.

The parent group offered to help plan a collaborative process with more stakeholder consultation; to administer a survey to get parent and student feedback on the proposed options; and to work with the Ministry of Education, the CRD and BC Ferries to find alternative transportation solutions and funding.

As part of the reconfiguration motion, students on the outer islands will be permitted to attend school on Salt Spring if they are registered in French Immersion or the Gulf Islands School of Performing Arts, or to access inclusive education services as required under an individual education plan. Students who live on Salt Spring can choose to attend grades 8 to 12 on Pender if they wish.

## FIRE DISTRICT

# Spring hall vote eyed

## Fire board making plans

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Fire Protection District board is hoping to reinvestigate its campaign to build a new fire hall with room for community participation incorporated into the process from the outset.

The board voted last Monday to rescind a previous motion stating that any new design would be based on the plans produced by Johnston Davidson Architecture for the failed 2013 borrowing referendum. The board additionally voted to put the call out for a project manager to guide the process.

Trustee Andreas Gedeon, who chairs the facilities and physical plant committee, advanced the two resolutions as recommendations of that group.

"Just looking back at the previous process, we never had a project manager — we had a construction manager," Gedeon said. "We as a board had decided around half a year ago to hire one but it was never done."

Gedeon said after investigating different ways of getting public projects completed, it seems the design build method would best fit the fire district.

"The project manager, whether internal or external, together with the owner, runs the process. You decide on an architect and then you engage in a community engagement process" and that informs what is eventually built, Gedeon explained.

"In the 2013 process, we took this all to the front, we confronted the community with something without any input and without the proper floor dimensions."

The fire board is currently waiting for a legal opinion on whether it must continue its contract with Johnston Davidson. Gedeon said it would be a mistake to believe staying with the firm would require using the old design plans, however.

**"I think we should make a move forward and get on with the show."**

ROLLIE COOK  
SSI fire board trustee

"Even if we engage with Johnston Davidson architects, we could still instruct them in a community-engaged process, hopefully, and say 'build us the most efficient hall' or whatever it is we then say," Gedeon said.

Trustees agreed the project manager — whether a person or a firm — should be selected based on their experience with running other similar projects and fire halls in particular. They gave direction to district administrator Andrew Peat to move as quickly as possible on the hiring process, with some hoping to hold a new borrowing referendum as early as the spring of 2021.

"I fully support these two resolutions," said trustee Rolie Cook. "I think we should

make a move forward and get on with the show."

In other business from the Nov. 16 business meeting, the board voted to approve and implement a new policy that will see senior staff members and trustees invited to participate in an exit interview whenever they leave their positions. The interviews will be conducted by a third party.

The motion fulfills one of the items suggested by a member of the public as a way to give the district more insight into their governance situation and perhaps learn from past mistakes.

The board and fire department staff are now preparing for the 2019 annual general meeting, which is scheduled to take place immediately before the next business meeting on Dec. 14.

Acting Chief Jamie Holmes reported the fire department is operating according to a phased COVID safety plan created by Fire Chief Arjuna George. The fire hall is still closed to the public and staff inside the hall have been wearing masks when not seated at their own workstations. Salt Spring Firefighters Association meetings are taking place online and are expected to do so for the foreseeable future.

Cook said he was concerned that COVID cases had increased so dramatically in the province. While a public meeting schedule for 2021 was approved that generally has trustee meetings set for the third Monday of the month, the board agreed they will need to be ready to move meetings online if necessary.

All these dedicated individuals make our schools wonderful places to learn.

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
and thank you from the Board of Education!  
November 2020

**5 YEARS**

- Brien Anderson
- Camilla Anderson
- Jane Bartlett
- Megan Cameron
- Khalina Demandre
- Meghan Kerr
- Lindsi Kruczko
- Kaz Lundgren
- Rhea Miller
- Holly Van Schoor
- Peter Williams
- Jessica Wilson
- Caroni Young
- Paul Zolob

**10 YEARS**

- Leah Ashford
- Dorianna Chessa
- Alisa Coles
- Malindi Curtis
- Andrew McPhee
- Marie Saint-Pierre
- Valeskca San Martin
- Jill Schulze
- Julianna Slomka
- Maria Soto
- Ara Van Riel

**15 YEARS**

- Cheryl Boland
- Janisse Browning
- Shari Hambrook
- Kelda Logan
- Tony Mason
- Richard Neufeld
- Laura Wedman

**20 YEARS**

- Sarah Kerrigan
- Richard Lee
- Jude Shugar
- Dan Sparanese

**25 YEARS**

- Gerri Charlton
- Tom Vikander

**30 YEARS**

- Claude Kennedy



## TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

NOV / DEC 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
25	0221	2.4	7.9	29	0559	3.2	10.5
	0645	2.0	6.6		1025	2.7	8.9
	WE 1331	3.2	10.5		SU 1450	3.1	10.2
	ME 2044	1.4	4.6		DI 2223	0.6	2.0
26	0335	2.6	8.5	30	0639	3.3	10.8
	0745	2.2	7.2		1117	2.9	9.5
	TH 1352	3.2	10.5		MO 1510	3.1	10.2
	JE 2108	1.1	3.6		LU 2252	0.5	1.6
27	0431	2.8	9.2	1	0720	3.4	11.2
	0841	2.4	7.9		1210	2.9	9.5
	FR 1412	3.1	10.2		TU 1529	3.1	10.2
	VE 2131	0.9	3.0		MA 2323	0.4	1.3
28	0517	3.0	9.8	2	0759	3.5	11.5
	0933	2.6	8.5		1309	3.0	9.8
	SA 1431	3.1	10.2		WE 1548	3.1	10.2
	SA 2156	0.8	2.6		ME 2357	0.4	1.3

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# NEWS BRIEFS

## Roadside van destroyed by fire

Salt Spring Fire Rescue members were unable to do much about a car fire that destroyed an abandoned, unlicensed Dodge minivan parked on Lower Ganges Road in the informal Ganges car lot strip on Saturday night.

A crew of four firefighters attended the scene after receiving the call at 10 p.m. Acting Fire Chief Jamie Holmes said the car was fully involved when they arrived. The firefighters doused the blaze with around 500 gallons of water and were wrapped up within the hour.

The cause of the fire is unknown.

Holmes said the vehicle appeared to have been converted to a camperized style, but there were no occupants on the scene when the firefighters arrived. The van previously had a Québec licence plate, which was removed a couple of weeks ago, although the van remained in that spot.

## COVID restrictions increased

The holiday season will look different on Salt Spring this year, as renewed restrictions on gathering and movement due to COVID-19 mean personal visits and public events alike have been curtailed.

The Fulford Hall craft fair had already been cancelled this season. The status of the Dec. 4-6 Beaver Point Hall craft fair was not confirmed as of the Driftwood's press deadline. Wintercraft, which opened at Mahon Hall on Nov. 20, remains open daily.

ArtSpring concerts are cancelled through to Dec. 7, but a Death Cafe will go ahead as planned on Dec. 2.

New orders issued by B.C.'s public health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry on Thursday are in effect for the entire province until at least Dec. 7. As part of the new regulations, masks are required in all public indoor areas except when eating; people are asked to stay home as much as possible and to socialize with immediate household members only; weddings and funerals may take place with a maximum 10 people and no reception; and some active sports and fitness programs are not permitted.

The rules do allow taking a distanced walk with one friend. People who live alone can join with one or two other single people as a bubble.

## PARKS AND REC

# PARC makes harbour walk priority

Additional staff member sought

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission has moved the Ganges Harbour Walk up on its project list, approving a motion last Tuesday that will put parks and recreation manager Dan Ovington on the file once another staff person can be hired.

"I am not afraid to stand up and say this is important to our community. It has been for decades and it's time for it to happen," commissioner Brian Webster said in support of the motion.

"It's vitally important to the health of Ganges and it's an asset people who live all over the island will use, and it will be used by visitors as well. The positive economic impact in Ganges could be substantial, I'm sure," he added.

The opportunity to move forward on the project to eventually rebuild and extend the boardwalk comes through the Capital Regional District's application for a statutory right-of-way across Ganges Marina areas, which will be necessary to access new sections of boardwalk constructed along the current structure's footprint.

Although the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development has not yet granted the right-of-way, it did leave provision for one when granting the marina's new foreshore lease earlier this year. The ministry has required the CRD to produce detailed design drawings in consultation with upland owners before it will approve the SRW application, however. This reverses the work plan the harbour walk steering committee had originally produced, when it would have invested in detailed designs only after a SRW was in hand.

The CRD had previously allocated \$150,000 in Community Works Funds to the project for assessments, consultation and detailed designs. There is \$86,590 remaining in the project budget to proceed with phase two works.

"We've got the opportunity; we've got the funding; we've got the right to access Crown land, which is public land that everybody owns, and I hope we take advantage of it," Salt

Spring CRD director Gary Holman said at the meeting.

The steering committee recommended earlier this month that PARC proceed with the project ahead of other on-hold projects after staffing capacity increases. Holman suggested the wording be amended to state the project would move ahead "along" with other top priorities, a change that was supported by most of the commissioners.

**"I am not afraid to stand up and say this is important to our community. It has been for decades and it's time for it to happen."**

BRIAN WEBSTER  
SSI PARC commissioner

Ovington agreed the new recreation project technician, when hired, will be simultaneously working on other top priority projects while he focuses on the boardwalk.

Commissioner John Gauld was the sole vote in opposition to the motion, as he found there were too many questions that still needed to be answered first. He noted that even with a SRW across the marina property, there could still be issues with other upland properties like the infamous "Cudmore gap" and a

small section owned by the Salt Spring Farmers' Institute. Ovington said he's had good conversations with institute representatives and design plans will make provision for going around the gap area if need be.

Webster agreed with Gauld that issues do need to be resolved, but he said moving staff time onto the project to get the SRW issue dealt with first would be the way to start finding some answers to the questions affecting the larger project as a whole.

"Let's just do the design so we get that fundamental piece out of the way and at the same time, because we're essentially saying this is a high priority by passing this motion, that we'll be allocating staff time and energy to the full basket of issues — not just that right of way, but all the other stuff . . . because they're all legitimate points," Webster said.

In addition to detailed designs and consultation with upland owners, community consultation, site assessments and First Nations engagement will be required in the next phase. Tendering a construction project and finding funds to build the boardwalk will be another part of the program.

"We phase a lot of our projects and that's really the only way we've been able to do so much, when we take these little pieces," Ovington said. "Unfortunately the nature of the beast is that we need to take these chunks, and sometimes that's not the full project all at once, but eventually everything comes together."

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## Trust Council Meeting Dec. 1-3

Islands Trust works to preserve and protect over 450 islands in the Salish Sea through land use planning, a land conservancy, and public education programs.

Four times a year, trustees from across the Islands Trust Area meet to decide about matters concerning the whole region.

**Please join us.**

Learn how you can watch or participate in the Town Hall portion of the online (zoom) meeting: [islandstrust.bc.ca](http://islandstrust.bc.ca)

**NEW this quarter** - both Delegations and Town Hall are offered in an evening session, so more community members can access the discussion and contribute ideas - **Dec. 1 at 7 pm**



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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)



## Driftwood

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Tony Richards, MANAGING DIRECTOR



Amber Ogilvie  
PUBLISHER

aogilvie@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Gail Sjuberg  
MANAGING EDITOR

news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Lorraine Sullivan  
PRODUCTION MANAGER

production@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



JOHANNA WALKNER  
ACCOUNT CO-ORDINATOR

jwalkner@driftwoodgimedia.com



Elizabeth Nolan  
REPORTER

enolan@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Dennis Parker  
CARTOONIST

news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



D. W. Salty  
HISTORY REPORTER

dwsalty@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

### EDITORIAL

# Getting the grade

**T**rying to cut \$1.1-million from a \$26-million annual operating budget is a daunting proposition for any organization.

That's even more the case when the cuts will impact a critically important segment of society like young people in the education system. Nobody envies the School District 64 school trustees or administrators tasked with the job of reconfiguring the school district in order to save those funds. Last Wednesday the board voted to pursue a path that has proven controversial to some degree but has also received significant public support and is the best path forward.

The new plan is dramatically different from the status quo, with Salt Spring Island Middle School eliminated and a return to elementary schools with children in Kindergarten through Grade 7. SIMS has housed Salt Spring's grades 6-8 students since 1994, when the new Gulf Islands Secondary School was opened.

### THE ISSUE: School district reconfiguration

### WE SAY: Best decision made

so they do not to have return to an elementary school in Grade 7. Those students will surely not be scarred by receiving their instruction at an institution they had left two years previously.

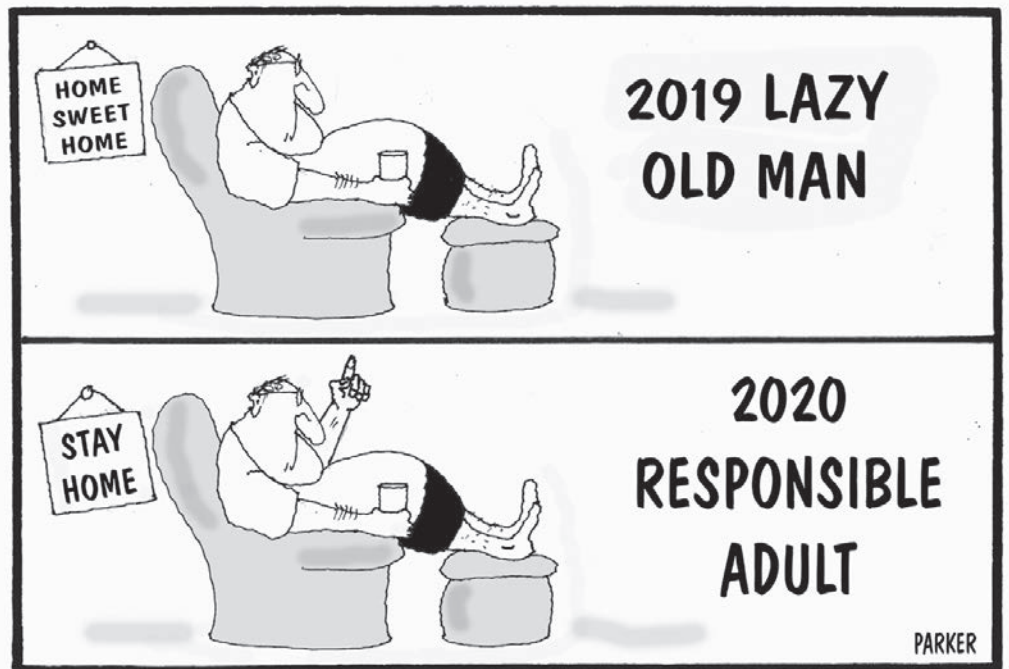
Attracting more controversy to date, though, is a plan to create a "hub" for students who live on Galiano, Mayne, Saturna and Pender islands to attend Pender Islands school for Grade 8 and 9, instead of coming to Gulf Islands Secondary School for those two years.

It is understandable that many parents on those islands would prefer their children be at Salt Spring's high school where they will likely have access to more educational and extracurricular activities, as well as a broader social circle. Parents will always want the best education possible for their children, but must trust that the school district board and administrators want that as well.

Commitment to make the best possible Pender high school program is strong, and Salt Spring students will even be allowed to enrol if they want to do so.

Change is always difficult to plan for and accept, but our school district has done its best with the challenging hand it was dealt.

We must ask, though, if it makes financial sense to keep SIMS open for another year solely to serve students who are currently in Grade 6 there



## CDF protection benefits all

BY LAURA PATRICK

Every single one of us who lives, visits, works and plays on Salt Spring Island depends on the health of our island ecosystems, and the health of these ecosystems depends on all of us.

That's why the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee has implemented a proactive planning project called Protecting the Coastal Douglas-fir Zone and Associated Ecosystems.

The Coastal Douglas-fir (CDF) zone, which is one of the rarest forest types in B.C., encompasses a unique set of ecosystems found only in a small part of southeastern Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and a narrow strip of the Lower Mainland. Unfortunately, the science geeks who named this biogeoclimatic zone, opted for "Coastal Douglas-Fir" instead of "The cool combination of rock outcrops and Garry oak savannas, wetlands and Western red cedar, Douglas-fir, arbutus, estuaries, and lots of other unique communities of plant, animal and fungi found nowhere else in the world." They also could have noted that people from across Canada and the world come to see this cool combination of eco-

### VIEWPOINT

systems.

Protecting these ecosystems goes far beyond merely protecting them for their own sake. They provide our island community not only with environmental benefits but also with strong economic, social and cultural ones. Everything we love about this island is fundamentally linked to the CDF zone. These natural landscapes sustain our local farmers by providing fodder for their animals, and the soil and water to support apple orchards and all of the abundant, healthy, locally grown food that we value so much.

These ecosystems are also a cultural and spiritual refuge for us as we enjoy their moss-covered rock vistas, our favourite swimming spots, stunning hiking trails, streams and tidal pools. It is now scientifically proven that connecting with nature has the power to counter illness, boost our immune systems and promote well-being. Finally, healthy and resilient forest ecosystems remove carbon dioxide from the air and store carbon, all while buffering against strong winds and preventing ero-

sion of our shorelines and steep slopes.

Our island economy depends on both a healthy community and a healthy environment — these things are totally intertwined and cannot logically be separated into silos. We need to come together as an island and create a shared vision to plan and protect, and to sustainably manage and restore our precious natural heritage. We can and must enhance biodiversity and our community well-being at the same time. Any policies or regulations that may arise from this planning project need clear goals and objectives, and transparent performance measures, and must be adaptive. We need to hear what you value most about our island landscape and how these values support you, your friends and family, your quality of life, your business and our community.

This planning project is an important opportunity for the Islands Trust and our island communities to come together and form partnerships to seek solutions to enhance and enrich our island communities. Please visit the project page on the Islands Trust website for more information.

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### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

**Has SD64 made the best reconfiguration choice possible?**  Yes  No

Cast your ballot online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) before Monday 2 p.m. or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 2 p.m.

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

**Is it time to mandate masks inside all public spaces?**

NO	50
YES	253

# OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

**"It's the nature of the beast, but this beast comes with \$1.2 million."**

GARY HOLMAN, SALT SPRING CRD DIRECTOR

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**WE ASKED:** *How do you feel about B.C.'s latest COVID restrictions?*

**AIKO SHEBIB**



I think it's appropriate to be a little stricter.

**BRUCE PEARSON**



Better late than never.

**DIANETTE MAYHEW**



I'm not surprised.

**NIGEL COOPER-SMITH**



I think they're sensible and appropriate and good for community comfort.

**SANDRA HUGHES**



I think it's all good, because they will help to reduce the spread.

## 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

### Flu clinic weekend a success

We immunized 1,378 islanders for the flu over the Nov. 6-8 weekend and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

People commented over and over on how safe they felt, and how quick and organized the flow was.

I was so proud of how our community came together to provide this service. Our volunteers, firefighters, search and rescue, pharmacists, public health nurses and GPs brought their professionalism, levity, expertise and education to the event and helped it run so smoothly.

It shows how we can step up when we work together.

I am in debt to all our part-

ners for how well the weekend went. Even the weather cooperated!

**CALICO CHANG,**  
SALT SPRING PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

### Just a rant

I am disappointed that the Driftwood would publish in the Nov. 18 edition the verbal diarrhea from Paul McElroy ("Not much to cheer about after the U.S. election").

He is obviously a frustrated old man insulting the citizens of our important neighbours to the south with his generalizations. This is nothing more than a rant. Please improve the quality of your newspaper content.

**BILL COTE,**  
SALT SPRING

*Editor's note: The writer is referring to Driftwood columnist Paul McElroy's humour column.*

### Conservancy fall appeal

As reported in the Nov. 11 Driftwood, the Salt Spring Island Conservancy is celebrating its 25th anniversary. It has launched a fall fundraising appeal. The goal is to raise \$40,000 for core operations.

As former executive directors and board members, we encourage all islanders to respond to this appeal to the extent their finances allow. With ongoing development and logging pressure, the need for an on-island conservancy remains clear.

While the conservancy has been remarkably successful in obtaining grants from a variety of sources, grants usually only fund specific projects, such as habitat restoration, or assist in land acquisitions. They

rarely contribute to administration, even though they must be applied for, managed and reported on. And all grants have become more difficult to obtain in recent years.

This is where the appeal comes in. It will help the conservancy maintain its small core office and continue its work to protect the natural features of this island we all love and call home.

The conservancy is a registered charity. All donations will receive a charitable donation receipt. To donate, please visit the webpage at saltspring-conservancy.ca. While you are there, consider becoming a member. Thank you.

**JOHN BORST, PETER LAMB, LINDA GILKESON, ASHLEY HILLIARD, JEAN GELWICKS, BOB WEEDEN, KAREN HUDSON**

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 7

## Life with new kittens and iodine has its charms

I wasn't looking for any pets to come into my life. Losing our last old dog had been an emotional ride that I didn't want to repeat. So, I was more than a little hesitant when my wife suggested we adopt a new kitten from the neighbour down the road.

I tried to reason with her. "Do the math," I said. "We're both in our 70s and cats can live up to 20 years and sometimes more. Chances are that the cat will still be around after the two of us are sipping mojitos in those mythical Elysian Fields way up yonder. Who's going to want our middle-age cat then?"

Besides, even though I've had experience as a cat owner a time or two before, I've always considered myself more of a dog person. Each of the three dogs in my life lived to be 15 years old. That's 45 years of dog. If you consider a human year to be equal to seven dog years, I would have accumulated 315 years of man-dog association (if I were a dog, that is).

Dogs are loyal, to a fault. They pine away if you are gone too long and they worship the smell of the ground you walk on. Cats, on the other hand, can be classified as indifferent (as if they really cared how you wanted to classify them). They will tolerate your presence as long as it is accompanied by food, water and a warm place to sleep.

Anyway, getting back to the kittens, my wife announced that she would at least have a look at the prospective adoptees. When she returned, she declared that she was smitten with a little two-toned female, but the tiny black male runt of the litter also tugged at her heartstrings. After a couple of sleepless nights of wrestling with a decision, she convinced me that the best line of action would be to take home both of the kittens. After all, who could separate two such affectionate siblings!

We named our new kittens Moxy and Fruvous (after a 1990s Toronto rock band, Moxy Fruvous, known for their rap rendition of Dr. Suess' Green Eggs and Ham). Moxy, the pretty grey and white female, is a compact little fur ball with an off-centre Hitler moustache marking her face. She is the born hunter, although all she has managed to capture so far are twist ties and small bits of



**Shilo Zylbergold**

**NOBODY ASKED ME BUT**

driftwood. Fruvous, the thin but elongated black male, shows signs of Siamese ancestry because he will look up at us from floor level and talk. So far, he only knows two words. "Meow," which means "food" and "MMMMEEEEEOOOOWWWW," which translates to "more food, now!"

It's presently a month later, and the kittens are now 13 weeks old. They spend almost all their time alternating between two-hour cycles of sleep or wrestling with each other. Although they are natural predators, they will basically ambush and attack only two things: anything that moves and anything that doesn't move. My legs, for instance, seem to often fall into both of the above categories and so are considered fair game. As a result, in order to protect against open wound infections, we have resorted to stashing assorted-sized bottles of mercurochrome, hydrogen peroxide, isopropyl alcohol and iodine in strategic places throughout the house.

Perhaps I'm giving the impression that all our kittens do for entertainment is ambush us or roll around the floor play-fighting like Ninjas. No, no! They are capable of so much more destruction. Take furniture, for instance. Sofas and upholstered chairs make excellent scratching posts. Even if you built one from some spare plywood with a bit of old carpeting stapled on or buy one of those fancy cat tree condominiums, it's clear they much prefer an antique heirloom divan left to you by a distant great aunt.

Kleenex paper is another kitten obsession. They absolutely love to pull clumps out of the bathroom waste basket and shred them back into cellulose fibres. If they are lucky enough to dislodge a roll of toilet tissue off its dispenser, there are hours of playtime

lying ahead. Those television ads you've seen of kittens batting a roll of toilet paper down a hallway as it unwinds into a long ribbon of whiteness are no exaggerations.

We're learning not to get hoodwinked into buying toys and trinkets for the kittens. This would be a total waste of money as nothing seems to please them more than an empty cardboard box from the liquor store or a couple of large grocery paper bags. There is real structure to their "floorplay" as they take turns climbing into these, the one inside being the defender while the one on the outside attacks the "fort."

Other games include riding around on the floor mop, chasing each other up and down the staircase and trying to escape into the great unknown outdoors. Our next dilemma will be to train them to catch rats, but not birds. (Yeah, I hear you say, good luck with that!)

Of course, what to feed our kittens has been a discussion between my wife and me. My personal sentiments lie with the dry kibble. My guess is that all those nutritionists working for the pet food companies must have figured out the best diet for the little critters, so why try to fiddle with the formula? The kittens, on the other paw, tend to disagree. They will stare into a stainless silver bowl filled with some delicious crumbles with that puzzled "whazzat?" look on their faces before walking away in total disinterest. In contrast, my wife who is a firm believer in mushy love, has progressed from canned cat food to canned tuna and salmon accompanied by packages of little liver treats. She is presently in the kitchen baking up mini sockeye quiche biscuits for our feline crew.

Nobody asked me, but I believe this life with kittens is starting to grow on me. There is no end to the entertainment they provide as they work their way through a checklist of mischievous activities that are guaranteed to bring a wry smile. I know; eventually they will grow into cats who will see me as just another piece of furniture upon which to sleep. In the meantime, why not just enjoy Moxy and Fruvous for the imps they are? Now, pass the iodine please.

# Oppose Trust's CDF project

BY JAMIE HARRIS

I am urging people to support the private land rights and forestry jobs for residents on Salt Spring by opposing the "Coastal Douglas-Fir Project" proposed by the Islands Trust.

The Islands Trust is trying to cram this through during COVID without proper public discourse.

They have been at it for years. Paying biologists with our tax dollars to then take away rights from private landowners and workers, who are the very people who pay the taxes. This is insanity! Those opposed need to join together to stop this before it is too late.

The meeting referred to as the "kick-off" for the CDF project by the Islands Trust started off with one of the trustees saying "70 per cent of the island could be clear-cut tomorrow." This ridiculous statement is nothing more than fear-mongering and propaganda.

This type of propaganda has been being pushed by eco-radicals here on Salt Spring Island through social media and the local paper for far too long. In September there was a Driftwood letter to the editor likening loggers and logging with people who took First Nations children away to residential schools.

With articles weekly demonizing the logging and loggers, the eco-radicals and the Islands Trust are pushing the idea that there is some sort of crisis where there is none. Their agenda is pretty clear, with talk of a bylaw being implemented for a permit to be required to fall one tree. These eco-radicals march around the island mercilessly, trespassing on private land snooping around, taking pictures, with nothing better to do than plan how to threaten the livelihoods of private landowners, forestry workers, sawmill operators, etc. with their eco-radical delusions.

Some of these eco-radicals are retired, independently wealthy folks coming from God knows where with their sanctimonious ideas and delusions about how old-time Salt Springers should be going about their lawful business. Some also have been long-time island residents who have been crying "the sky is falling, the sky is falling" all the while. This needs to stop.

A B.C. government fact sheet quoted by Premier John Horgan states: "Old-growth forests are not disappearing in Canada. There is more than 25 million hectares of old growth forests in B.C. About 4.5 million hectares are fully protected, representing an area larger than Vancouver Island."

## INDEPTH

On Salt Spring Island, old-growth forests are not logged. Here, second-growth forests are logged at a rate of 25 thousand cubic metres, at best, annually. Meanwhile, the annual growth is over 350 thousand cubic metres and compounding annually, making the forestry here 100 per cent sustainable. The Douglas-fir project the Islands Trust is proposing completely disregards this fact.

The hardworking people and their families are also being completely disregarded and their livelihoods are being threatened. Private landowners' rights are being threatened as well. Salt Spring already has stringent rules and regulations when it comes to logging and developing private property, from developmental permit areas to riparian zones. We do not need any more rules and regulations added to the myriad of existing hurdles placed in front of private property owners, loggers, local sawmill operators, machine operators, builders, etc.

A two-acre or 20-acre piece of private property being cleared for pasture, a home or both is not a clear cut.

Properly managed forests protect wildlife habitat, support tens of thousands of jobs in Canada (which pulls a great number of Indigenous people out of poverty) and reduces the risk of disease and forest fires. This empowers our forest sector and creates jobs at a time when they are needed most.

Eco-radical groups not just on Salt Spring but all across Canada are effectively threatening the livelihoods of hardworking people not just in the forest sector but in all the resource-based industries. Keeping them from going to work in great, well-managed industries is truly a disservice to us all.

It is so disheartening and shameful that the Islands Trust and the eco-radicals are causing hardworking people to have to spend their invaluable time off from work fighting for the right to make a living while they ought to be enjoying their time with their families and moving forward in positive endeavours.

Any ideas on how landowners, forestry workers, local sawmill operators, builders and any resident opposed to this cruel injustice can join together forming one entity are welcomed. We need to take this grievance straight to the provincial government and circumvent the eco-radicals and the Islands Trust.

Sign the petition at <https://www.stoptheislandstrust.com/>.

*The writer works in forestry on Salt Spring.*



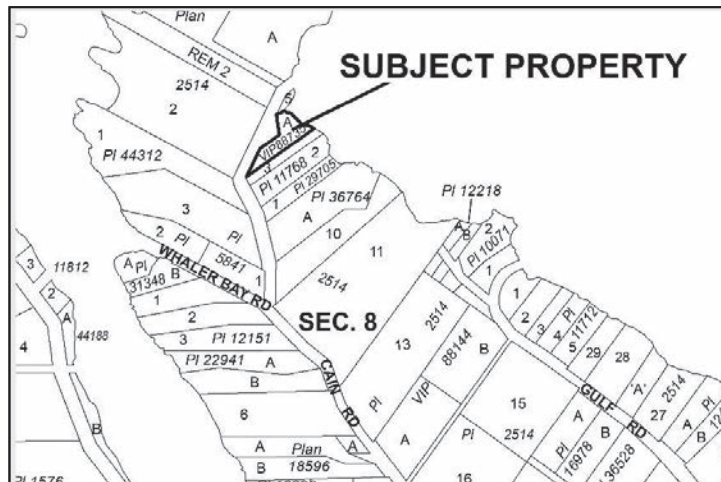
## NOTICE GALIANO ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE GL-TUP-2019.5

NOTICE is hereby given that the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee will be considering a resolution allowing for the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit pursuant to Section 493 of the *Local Government Act*. The proposed permit would apply to:

**660 Cain Road, Galiano Island, BC**  
Lot A Sections 7 and 8 Galiano Island Cowichan District Plan VIP88735  
PID: 028-519-337

The purpose of this temporary use permit would be to permit "commercial vacation rental" in the dwelling on the subject property. The establishment of the temporary use would be subject to a number of conditions specified in the permit. The permit would be issued for up to three years and the owner may apply to the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee to have it renewed once for up to an additional three years.

The general location of the subject property is shown in the following sketch:



A copy of the proposed permit may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, #200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C., V8R 1H8, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding Statutory Holidays, commencing, **November 16, 2020** and up to and including **November 27, 2020**.

For the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 494(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act*, additional copies of the Proposed Permit may be inspected at various Notice Boards on Galiano Island, B.C., commencing, **October 13, 2020**.

Enquiries or comments should be directed to Brad Smith, Island Planner at 250-405-5194, for Toll Free Access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867; or by fax (250) 405-5155; or by email to [southinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:southinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca), before **4:30 p.m., December 1, 2020**. The Galiano Island Local Trust Committee may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permit during the regular business meeting starting at **12:30 p.m., December 7, 2020**, to be conducted electronically.

All applications are available for review by the public. Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

Maple Hung  
Planning Team Assistant

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## Christmas Story Writing Contest

Write a story of 500 words or less whose topic relates to Christmas or the Christmas season.

The deadline for our annual writing contest is Friday, Dec. 11th.  
Win a Salt Spring Books gift certificate for a story of up to 500 words about Christmas or the Christmas Season.

- All Gulf Islands students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 are eligible.
- Stories will be judged by retired teachers and librarians on quality of writing, clarity of presentation and originality of theme.
- Winning entries will be published in the Driftwood in December.
- The name, age, address and telephone number of the writer must be written on the back of each entry.
- Send entries to the Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3, email to [news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com) or fax to 250-537-2613.
- For more information, 250-537-9933.

**Teachers:** Classes with the highest participation level are eligible to win a donation of \$100 made on behalf of the class to the charity of their choice!

## Public feedback opportunity



The Capital Regional District invites feedback from residents on its draft solid waste management plan until January 15.

Please visit the website below to:

- Read the draft plan
- Learn what we've heard so far
- Attend an online information session
- Provide your input

[crd.bc.ca/rethinkwaste](http://crd.bc.ca/rethinkwaste)

CRD

# MLA looks forward to serving riding in new role

I raise my hands in gratitude for the opportunity to continue as the representative of Saanich North and the Islands in the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. Thank you!

I'm honoured to be entrusted with this important responsibility and I pledge to work everyday to better understand our communities so I can more effectively advocate on our behalf.

Over the past three and a half years I have established strong community networks and by continuing to work in the spirit of coordination and cooperation we will advance our local interests to government institutions and secure investments in health care, education, transportation and infrastructure. Together, we will speak with



**Adam Olsen**  
MLA'S  
**REPORT**

a unified voice when we need to seek the support of the provincial government.

In the coming weeks we will be moving the constituency office to a new location in Sidney. We are seeking a street-level space that accommodates community engagement as well as a secure and safe environment to serve constituents who need our advocacy. The constituency office is public space, paid for by public funds, as

such the boardroom and gathering spaces will continue to be available for you and your community organizations to use.

My role in the provincial government has changed. Throughout my first term I was both a partner in a productive minority government and also a member of the opposition. The experience I gained will be invaluable as I transition into an opposition MLA.

The opposition is often undermined and underestimated. Our system of government serves the public interest when there is a balanced distribution of power, when the checks and balances are maintained, and mechanisms for transparency and accountability are respected.

I look forward to fully embracing

the challenges and opportunities as a member of the opposition. I'm committed to asking thoughtful questions in an effort to improve our provincial governance and I'm excited to accept Premier John Horgan's invitation to propose good ideas and work with the government to advance them.

Thank you again for your confidence. I look forward to connecting with you in the weeks and months ahead.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please email me at Adam.Olsen.MLA@leg.bc.ca or call us at 250-655-5600.

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

### Work together

The policies which Dr. Bonnie Henry put into place last Thursday have the great potential to save lives, to curb COVID-19 and to start to change the projection of the pandemic in British Columbia.

This is one of those moments in time when collectively our lives, our culture and our values are more important than desires of each of us as individuals. We call upon ourselves to make personal sacrifices for the common good.

Limiting our face to face socialization to our immediate households and wearing face masks in all public indoor spaces are critical if we are to flatten the COVID curve.

It is wonderful that we as Canadians are able to work together to end COVID and move this point in time to a better place.

**CURT FIRESTONE,**  
**STAN DERELIAN,**  
SALT SPRING

### Charter rights suppressed

Tyranny: Government by a ruler or small group of people who have unlimited power over the people in their country or state and use it unfairly and cruelly; a situation in which someone or something controls how you are able to live, in an unfair way.

Tyranny aptly describes the current situation in B.C. We have no say in any restrictions to our liberty or freedoms that are being put into place by Dr. Bonnie Henry. The media has elevated her into a personality cult figure. She takes away our rights, and then offers her mantra: "Be kind, be calm, be safe." What has happened is tyrannical and undemocratic, and a direct violation of Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Fundamental Freedoms – Section 2

Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms:

- freedom of conscience and religion;
- freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression;
- freedom of peaceful assembly; and freedom of association.

Making decisions that affect our freedom of movement, peaceful assembly and association is tyrannical and does not respect our fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

We cannot worship in person with others, and are being forced to accept the new COVID-19/fear religion. This is constantly being bombarded on the public by our media and so-called leaders. Instead of fundamental freedoms and democracy in B.C., we have a personality cult figure making tyrannical decisions without regard to anyone except in regards to the COVID-19/fear religion.

When will Canadian citizens wake up and take back democracy in B.C.?

**WILLIAM STEINER,**  
SALT SPRING

### Solidarity rally on Saturday

When most of us were children, we didn't know that other children were being removed from their families, some to be sent to abusive residential schools, because they were Indigenous. Now, students learn about Indigenous rights, children's removal from their homes and racism.

Of course they also learn by watching their elders. Do we just say "too bad, so sad" or do we work to repair the harm that has been caused?

I'm grateful that here on Salt Spring there are many people who want to stand in solidarity with Indigenous land defenders. These people striving to uphold their moral (and legal) obligation to protect their territories are being arrested and sometimes physically attacked right across the country. They have asked for solidarity actions from Nov. 23 to 29 and Salt Springers will take part. We decided to bring our signs (and our masks!) to a physically distanced rally across from Country Grocer and up by the RCMP detachment from noon till 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 28.

People are also signing e-petition 2984 which asks the government to "prevent injunctions from being used as a tool to prevent Indigenous people from lawfully defending their land and following their duties in accordance with Indigenous legal orders."

Research done by the Yellowhead Institute shows almost all injunctions filed against First Nations involve resource extraction or development (such as homes or condos). A Yellowhead statement explains, "What follows is the militarization of Indigenous lands and the criminalization of land defenders." We see this in B.C., when Wet'suwet'en land defenders were arrested by heavily armed RCMP in order to remove the consent checkpoints to enable heavily subsidized LNG (fracked gas) industrial development, and also when land defenders have been arrested so that another heavily subsidized project, the TMX diluted bitumen pipeline, could proceed.

The Yellowhead statement goes on to explain that "in response to this excessive force, in part, numerous inquiries and commissions in Canada have called for the end to the criminalization of Indigenous people." If we care about truth and reconciliation, we should at least read these reports before dismissing the calls to fully respect Indigenous rights.

For those who would like to make signs for Saturday's solidarity rally, here are some suggestions for slogans: "Protect what we love," "First they took the children from the land; now we're taking the land from the children," "Arresting land defenders - yet another subsidy to dirty industry," "Time to end racist, colonialist laws," "Time to uphold Indigenous law, for all our relatives," "Save \$, save land/water/life = Stop Site C, Stop CGL, Stop TMX."

It's good to know that we are not alone in caring deeply about a livable future and justice for the peoples who stewarded this land for millennia and who continue to do their best to protect it.

**JAN SLAKOV,**  
SALT SPRING



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### LITERARY EVENTS

# Writers' work shared on Zoom

New poetry from Lorraine Gane, plus Rhea Tregobov and Kris Demeanor

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
 DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Literary fans will be busy in the coming week as Salt Spring Public Library hosts three Zoom author readings.

First up on Monday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. is Salt Spring resident Lorraine Gane, whose beautiful chapbook called *Arc of Light* has just been released by local publisher Raven Chapbooks. The 20 poems in the book honour Gane's mother, who died in 2014. They eloquently explore the relationship between the author and her mother in her final years and days, and in the post-death grieving period.

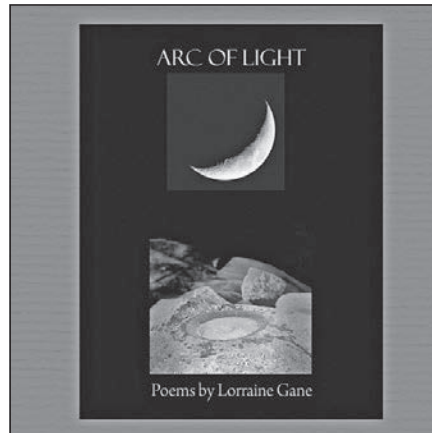
The poem of the book's title refers to an arc of light Gane saw in a photo taken of her mother in her bed the day before she died. It's just one example of how Gane illustrates the profound spiritual aspects that arise for people grieving the death of their loved ones.

*Arc of Light* is released in a numbered limited edition of 100.

Publisher Diana Hayes, who is also a poet and photographer, took the book cover's photograph that features a petroglyph on Churchill Beach. The petroglyph was named Wilson's Bowl by acclaimed poet Phyllis Webb in honour of the late Canadian archaeologist and cultural anthropologist Wilson Duff.

*Arc of Light* is Gane's fourth chapbook. Other volumes of poetry are *The Way the Light Enters*, *Even the Slightest Touch*, *Thunders on my Skin* and *The Blue Halo*, among other writing projects.

Now a resident of Salt Spring Island,



PHOTOS COURTESY RAVEN CHAPBOOKS

Lorraine Gane and the just released limited edition *Arc of Light* poetry chapbook. Gane will read from her book at a Zoom event on Nov. 30.

Gane was born in Niagara Falls, Ont., and grew up in Toronto. She graduated from Carleton University's Honours Journalism Program, then worked as a full-time writer and editor for major Canadian newspa-

pers and magazines. She also taught writing at Ontario post-secondary institutions and conducted private workshops. She now mentors writers around the world through online courses, consultations, workshops and manuscript development and editing.

Then on Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m., the library hosts Rhea Tregobov via Zoom.

Tregobov will read from her new novel *Rue des Rosiers*, which the SaskBooks Review states is "not just an exemplary novel, but an important book." It was shortlisted for the BC and Yukon Book Fiction Prize as well as the Western Canada Jewish Book Awards for Fiction, with the winner set to be announced on Dec. 6.

Tregobov is now an associate professor emerita of creative writing at UBC. Her first novel, *The Knife Sharpener's Bell*, was listed in the *Globe and Mail's* top 100 books for 2009.

Thursday, Dec. 3 is the regular Open Mic Poetry Night with special guest Kris Demeanor, a songwriter/spoken word artist who hails from Calgary.

Library press material states that "Demeanor exposes the underbelly of western Canadian culture — gambling, alcoholism, murder, religion, the suburbs. He has released seven recordings and has toured numerous times in Australia, Europe, solo and with his Crack Band. They've shared bills with such artists as David Byrne, Cake and Elvis Costello, Ray Davies, Billy Bragg and Black Francis, and Demeanor co-wrote two songs on music legend Ian Tyson's 2017 release *Carnero Vaquero*."

People should join at 6:45 p.m. next Thursday if they want to read a poem, and at 7 p.m. to listen.

For all Zoom links, see the library's website: [saltspring.bc.libraries.coop](http://saltspring.bc.libraries.coop).

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

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 250-537-9933 or [dwsalty@driftwoodgimedia.com](mailto:dwsalty@driftwoodgimedia.com)



## ADOPT A PET TODAY!



Kitten season is almost upon us. If you are interested in adopting a kitten or becoming a foster parent please contact the shelter and speak with a staff member.

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# ISLAND LIFE

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PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

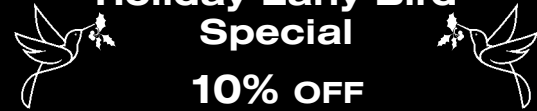
### SAFETY FIRST:

Greenwoods Eldercare Society board executive members, from left, vice-chair Wayne Glover, chair Dorrie Ferster and secretary treasurer Mark Cleveland demonstrate a job well done Friday after clearing brush that was blocking sightlines at the intersection of Lower Ganges and Blain roads. The board is hoping to get action from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to make other safety improvements at the corner.

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### HOLIDAY SEASON

## Decorated farm stands add cheer

Organic 'festival' sprouted for 2020

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Salt Spring farm stand owners are cultivating a bright idea to help islanders enjoy the upcoming holiday season.

They are encouraging everyone who has a stand to decorate it with lights or swag or in any way at all. People can then drive around the island or get out and walk to take in the sights.

Anastasia Williams, who decorates her Old Scott Road stand for various occasions, proposed the idea on a local food and farmers Facebook page a few weeks ago and



PHOTO COURTESY ANASTASIA WILLIAMS

Anastasia Williams' farm stand last year, featuring holiday-season carvings made by Rann Emmerson.

received an enthusiastic response.

"I was a little surprised at how it took off," she said.

Tali Hamel, who has a

stand on Beaver Point Road, is another coordinator of the effort. She is creating a digital map with participating locations.

Farm stands will be decorated by the Dec. 5-6 weekend. Crafts and other items will be for sale at those spots on the Dec. 13-14 and Dec. 20-21 weekends.

Williams stressed the main idea behind the plan is to share some Christmas cheer. As well, stand owners are encouraged to donate 10 per cent of proceeds on the two sale weekends to the local Lions Club or the Wagon Wheel Housing Society.

Williams has also created a fundraiser for the Salt Spring Lions Club. She makes and sells Christmas cards using a photograph of her stand taken last Christmas. It features beautiful wood carvings made by the late Rann Emmerson, who was a dedicated Lions Club member.

### PARKS AND REC

## Maxwell park bid referred onward

CRD Regional Parks to investigate land purchase proposal

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A community-based proposal for a new Capital Regional District park on Mount Maxwell will go to the organization's Regional Parks office in Victoria for assessment.

The Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission voted on Nov. 17 to forward the Hwmet'utsum (Mount Maxwell) land acquisition request, noting Regional Parks has the staff and resources to evaluate the potential value of purchasing one or more forest lots located on Seymour Heights.

Community members from Salt Spring Solutions and other groups have already secured pledges of more than \$1 million toward the property purchase, with the goal of developing it for recreational activities such as horseback riding and mountain biking while keeping the forest intact. The property was recently purchased by private owners in Vancouver who may be interested in parting with one or more of the four lots.

Salt Spring Parks and Recreation manager Dan Ovington said initial conversations with regional CRD staff indicate there could be interest in the proposal, even though the

property lies outside the branch's identified areas of interest for future regional parkland acquisitions.

"It was pointed out to me there are other qualifiers as well," Ovington said.

Positive factors include that the property is adjacent to other parkland with contiguous forest, and the ecological value of protecting the land will add to the discussion.

"Also when I mentioned a large donation they said that would also prompt them to take further consideration," Ovington said.

CRD director Gary Holman said even if Regional Parks ends up becoming the property's official purchaser, Salt Spring PARC could still have a role in management and operations, and that would mean an impact to the tax requisition. However, he noted the large donation pledge might be enough to purchase some of the lots and that makes the proposal more feasible than other community pitches. Commissioners regretted not being able to take any action on a proposal made by Charles Kahn last month toward purchasing a Stewart Road property, for example.

"It's the nature of the beast, but this beast comes with \$1.2 million," Holman said.

Ovington said Regional Parks staff will bring their report with recommendations on the Maxwell property to the CRD Board, which might take place at their February meeting.



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## COVID-19 IN BC

# New rules are in effect to help bend the curve back. Let's pull together.

The second wave of COVID-19 is here and new rules are in place to help protect the people we love and keep our schools, businesses and workplaces open, safely. That means we must all say 'No' to gatherings with people from outside our immediate household, and avoid unnecessary travel outside our community.

Learn more about the new rules at [gov.bc.ca/covid19](http://gov.bc.ca/covid19)



Stay informed via these resources:  
[gov.bc.ca/covid19](http://gov.bc.ca/covid19) | 1-888-COVID19

Symptom Self-Assessment:  
[covid19.thrive.health](http://covid19.thrive.health)

## what's on this week



Thurs. Nov. 26 Sun. Nov. 29 Wed. Dec. 2

### ACTIVITIES

**Al-Anon (Support for Friends and Families of Alcoholics and Addicts).** Our friendly, supportive group meets in person each Thursday, 12 to 1 p.m. at Salt Spring Seniors' Centre. Social distancing and COVID-safe practices in place. Participants' privacy also guarded.

Fri. Nov. 27

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Billie Woods.** Live at the Legion. 7 p.m. Masks required for entry.

### ACTIVITIES

**Weekend Story Walk.** This week's story is *The Paper Bag Princess* by Robert Munsch. Weekend Story Walk is a self-guided family activity through Mouat Park. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday through Monday.

Sat. Nov. 28

### ACTIVITIES

**Solidarity With Indigenous Land Defenders Gathering.** Across from Country Grocer. Noon to 2 p.m. Masks & physical distancing required.  
**Weekend Story Walk.** See Friday listing.

### ACTIVITIES

**Weekend Story Walk.** See Friday listing.

Mon. Nov. 30

### ACTIVITIES

**Weekend Story Walk.** See Friday listing.

Mon. Nov. 30

### VIA ZOOM

**Lorraine Gane Author Reading.** Gane reads from her new poetry chapbook *Arc of Light*. 7 p.m. Sponsored by the Salt Spring Public Library. See [saltspring.bc.libraries.ca](http://saltspring.bc.libraries.ca) for the Zoom link and more info.

Tue. Dec. 1

### VIA ZOOM

**Islands Trust Council.** Quarterly meeting of trustees will be accessible via Zoom. 1 to 3 p.m., and delegations set for 7 p.m. See [islandstrust.bc.ca](http://islandstrust.bc.ca) for link.  
**Listening to the Land.** A fireside chat on science, nature, culture and community presented online by Salt Spring Island Conservancy. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. To register go to [saltspringconservancy.ca](http://saltspringconservancy.ca).

### VIA ZOOM

**Islands Trust Council.** Meeting continues 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. See [islandstrust.bc.ca](http://islandstrust.bc.ca) for link.  
**Island Arts Centre Society AGM.** Annual general meeting of ArtSpring. 4:15 p.m. Email [board@artspring.ca](mailto:board@artspring.ca) to register and receive a Zoom link.  
**Rhea Tregobov Author Reading.** Tregobov reads from *Rue des Rosiers*. 7 p.m. Sponsored by the Salt Spring Public Library. See [saltspring.bc.libraries.ca](http://saltspring.bc.libraries.ca) for the Zoom link and more info.

### THE FRITZ CINEMA

• **Babe** shows Friday-Sunday, Nov. 27-29 at 7 p.m., with an additional 3 p.m. Sunday matinee, and on Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. Rated G with a running time of 1 hour 32 minutes. The theatre is closed on Mondays until further notice.  
*For more movie info see [www.thefritz.ca](http://www.thefritz.ca).*

### SPECIAL EXHIBIT

• **Tai Whelon Open Studio at The Point** gallery on **South Ridge Drive**. Friday-Sunday, Nov. 27-29. Online sign-up system in place to facilitate 20-minute viewings of one person or a family bubble. See [ssartscouncil.com](http://ssartscouncil.com) for the sign-up link; or email the artist at [taichee1@live.com](mailto:taichee1@live.com).

## Creative Expressions Show & Sale

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#### IS IT BETTER TO LIST NOW OR WAIT UNTIL SPRING ARRIVES?

Often sellers will say to me "I want to wait till my spring garden blooms". Many, many homes have lovely spring gardens; the better plan is to get the jump on the season and avoid undue competition as the listings supply expands later in the year.

#### By listing now, your residence will:

- stand out when it comes on the market on a day when there are few other new listings - buyers are waiting;
- possibly be the only listing that a buyer receives instant email notification about, when listed this time of year;
- have a better position in the market - price-point wise, BEFORE all the new competition is available;
- many "last year" temporarily off the market (while owners vacation) listings, burst back onto the market in April & May...your listing can stand out more effectively - SOONER.

I sell many homes in February and March that may not have sold at the same price later in the year, due to more supply, hence competition, or better buys coming on the market as the spring progresses.

This old adage is really true for real estate:

*"Why Wait till Spring? - Do it NOW!"*

Jan Macpherson, M.E.S., R.I.(B.C) - GOLD AWARD 2018 (VREB)

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JAN MACPHERSON

### Mechanic

#### Seasonal changes

Fall seems to have snuck up on us this year with all the distractions that 2020 has brought us.

The cold, wet weather is here so we need to get ready for the coming winter.

Call now for an appointment to have your vehicles serviced and have any necessary repairs done.

When you come in, please maintain social distancing, only one customer at a time in the office, and do not enter the shop area.

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### Financial Advice

#### I'd like to align my investments with my ethics and values. Can you help?

Ethical investing is an area that I'm particularly passionate about. I'm also proud to say that my team at Island Savings has a lengthy history of providing socially responsible investment options. In days gone by, ethical investors sometimes had to compromise on the performance of their investments. This is simply no longer the case - there's a large and growing number of outstanding values-based investment options, products and strategies. Whether you simply want to avoid certain industries like tobacco or military products, for example, or you want to ensure your investments are divested from fossil fuels, there are solutions for you. It doesn't matter if you're just starting out as an investor or if you're highly experienced: you can ensure that your entire portfolio is invested responsibly in companies that are committed to making a positive impact on our planet. Unfortunately, not all financial advisors have significant experience with socially responsible investing, so if this is important to you, make sure you find an advisor who does. I'm happy to suggest one, if you like!

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**Obituaries      Obituaries      Obituaries      In Memoriam      Cards of Thanks**

*Blanche Poborsa (nee Anderson)*  
December 2, 1926 - October 31, 2020

Blanche passed away at Peace in her home, her three daughters at her side. It was a sacred time. Predeceased by her parents and seven siblings, her husband Stan Poborsa and son-in-law Victor Cox. Blanche will be greatly missed by those she leaves. She is survived by: daughter Kathryn Landry (Craig), grandson Manuel (Dawn), grandson Jordan (Carla), great grandson Cameron, great granddaughter Jenna; daughter Cynthia Camsell (Charles), granddaughter Sarah, granddaughter Leah Smith (Everett), great grandsons Nate, Riker, Tucker, grandson Gabriel, granddaughter Kelly Jones (Brent), great granddaughter Fenix, great grandsons Paxton, Berkley, Lincoln, grandson Julian Camsell (Ashley), great granddaughter Emery, great grandsons Sullivan, Callahan, grandson James; daughter Valerie Poborsa-Cox, grandson Spencer, granddaughters Carrie, Sarah, Carly and Rufus and Telly; nieces and nephews across Canada, her American cousins and friends far and wide.

Blanche loved her family dearly and was very proud of her 12 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. Blanche strongly believed in education and equality and respect of all human beings. Ever a teacher, she worked in Saskatchewan on the prairies in a one-room school house, had her family, and then returned to teaching when her children were old enough. A person of great inner strength and integrity, our mother met every challenge with finding a successful way to carry on a life of meaning. She passed on her love of music, literature and an eye for beauty in art and nature.

Her lifelong joy of reading good books and nurturing plants was inherited by her family. Blanche enjoyed Mensa Bridge, Mah Jong, and deeply valued her friends and neighbours. In response to situations and people she often had a humorous witty little quip, she was sharp as a tack! A genuinely friendly person, Blanche was always interested in people and their stories, she was a listening ear, comforting shoulder and a trusted confidant to many. She was an inspiration and mentor throughout her long life.

Blanche enjoyed living on Salt Spring Island over the past 30 plus years. She felt a strong bond with the community was important for a person, she felt that she belonged on Salt Spring. That sense of belonging was felt deeply within her spiritual community and she felt a deep sense of rapport and respect with United Church ministers, especially Dr. Barry Cooke, Clark Saunders and Faye Greer.

In her later years Blanche sincerely appreciated everyone who helped, it brightened her days. She was thankful for rides to and from her activities, singing group, concerts, church, medical appointments, shuttle bus and Copper Kettle service. The list is endless (you know who you are). All this allowed Blanche to remain living in her own home, which was so important to her in this past year.

A special thank you to Thrifty Foods, Country Grocer, Moutat's and her Pharmacists for going the extra mile. A profound thank you to those who helped in Mom's last days including, the doctors and home care nurses who attended. Your capable, respectful kindness is so appreciated. Thank you also to Haywards, your helpful understanding is such a contribution.

Blanche's daughters, Kathryn, Cynthia and Valerie, feel such gratitude!  
The family will have a private gathering at a later date. Mom loved all animals great and small, so donations can be made to the local SPCA or Canadian Wildlife Federation.

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*We felt like Royalty!*

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.....

Brian & Janice Finnemore



**Coming Events**

**Coming Events**

Capital Regional District 

**NOTICE of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Beddis Water Service Commission -**  
Thursday, December 3, 2020 from 9 am -12 pm

This will be a virtual meeting at the request of the Beddis Water Service Commission and replaces the originally scheduled in person meeting on November 2, 2020 for which there was no quorum.

To listen to the meeting live, please contact Tracey Shaver no later than Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 4 pm to receive an email invitation.

**Tracey Shaver, Committee Clerk**  
Salt Spring Island Electoral Area office  
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**Coming Events**

**Coming Events**

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**Coming Events**

 Islands Arts Centre Society

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**ARTSPRING (virtual) AGM**

**Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 4:15 p.m.**

For the receipt of Annual Reports, Financial Statements, and the Election of Directors.

All are welcome. All who have been members for 30 days as of December 2, 2020, are eligible to vote. (2019-2020 members are at liberty to renew right up to the date of the AGM in order to vote).

**Please email [board@artspring.ca](mailto:board@artspring.ca) to register and receive a zoom link for the AGM. At the same time, members may request a copy of the AGM report.**

**Coming Events**

**THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE** *Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer*

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**Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)**  
You have entered an expansive yet sober and determined cycle. You are focused to increase your power, one way or another. It is likely that you are strongly considering alternative approaches to strengthen your overall financial portfolio. This impulse is leading you to explore alternative approaches that you are excited to pursue.

**Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)**  
When it comes to the deep end, there are many levels. Recently, you began to explore the next level, which can also be described as wide. With your sights set on the future, you are getting ready for a whole new consideration of possibility. A blend of dreams and higher ideals vie for your attention, however, and this is where managing your time effectively is extra important.

**Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)**  
Relationship dynamics have entered a much more complex cycle. Some of this is due to your own transformational process underway. It is revealing both your power and returns for past choices and actions. These returns may not exactly amount to rewards, however. In fact, you could be dealing with negative paybacks. Positively, your powers of critical analysis have sharpened.

**Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)**  
Concerns and considerations centering on health, are on your mind. This may well touch upon the realities and implications of Covid19. Of course, you are not alone in this regard, yet you may be more worried than others seem to be. As the sign of personal safety and nutrition and with possible convictions like 'food is the best medicine...' you are probably assuming a very vigilant posture.

**Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)**  
Sagittarius time generally represents a create cycle for you or at least one that is sporty, playful, and perhaps adventurous too. Regarding creative projects, success will depend on your willingness to make much more concerted efforts. This includes rolling-up your sleeves and doing the work required. Breaking through fears of failure may also pose a challenge. For best results, dive-in!

**Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)**  
You are probably more interested in philosophy, principles, and ethics than others realize. Yet, this side of you is getting activated now. More than simply wanting to enter into discussions, you yearn to engage in more practical activities and to achieve more measurable results. Translating your visions into investments that will bring returns, especially of the monetary sort, will prove extra appealing.

**Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)**  
Sagittarius time is one of heightened intellectual activity for you. During this time, you will feel inclined to see the details of the bigger picture more clearly. Interestingly, this time, you will be catapulted into a whole new level and quality of creative thinking. Whether this leads you to journalism, expressions of art, writing a novel, or simply engaging in good conversations, the impulse will be big!

**Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**  
Some cycles are more about business than others, like this one. And this is just the first chapter. This theme and focus will continue. The biggest challenge continues to be getting clear on your goals and objectives, without getting scattered. You will notice that the pace is faster than this time last year and stands to accelerate measurably, yet. Time management is a veritable necessity.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**  
While the Sun is in your sign and this is already and will synchronize with you taking new leads, the last New Moon was in Scorpio and this will have the effect of drawing you inward. Balancing this urge for a retreat with the simultaneous desire to blaze a new trail is, therefore, the current complex. With awareness and allowing time for both, you will solve the puzzle.

**Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)**  
Recent activations have and continue to stimulate your contact network. Some of these new connections may be purely professional while others may also prove to be the beginning of important new friendships and alliances. Yet, you are hardly in a frivolous mood. Rather, you feel expansive and want to advance your front. The future cometh and you are determined to meet it head-on.

**Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)**  
A creative impulse continues to beat in your heart. Engaging it will prove extra satisfying during which time both vanishes and passes quickly. In some respects, your focus will include the bigger picture trends of the world. Of course, not all of these are terribly inspiring currently. Yet, it is this very reality that is also activating you to make a difference via a creative process.

**Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
The focus has turned to your public and professional life. This trend will continue and increase over the coming weeks. It is important for the sake of success that you have taken at least some initiatives and established even the smallest amount of momentum. So, use this time to get organized and gain some clarity about your goals and objectives going forward with the long-term future in mind.

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