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# Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020

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 Issue 50  
**\$1.50**

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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

**BRIGHT SPOT:** Pleasure craft Arctic Charm from Nanaimo is all lit up with Christmas lights at the float plane dock in Ganges on Sunday. While usual public Christmas events are not taking place this year due to COVID-19, holiday lights and decorations can still be enjoyed in Ganges and throughout the island.

**COVID-19**

## GISS copes with virus exposure

Isolating students and staff expected to return Friday

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gulf Islands Secondary School administrators are looking forward to a return to “normal” later this week after students and staff who were monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms come back to class.

“We’ve been working closely with our students that are in isolation for the 14 days,” GISS principal Lyall Ruehlen told the Driftwood on Monday. “I think the biggest thing is we’re really looking forward to Friday when we have our full student population back and having what is ‘normal’ during this pandemic.”

GISS sent notification to families on the evening of Dec. 1 that a member of the school community had tested positive for COVID-19 and that others may have been exposed to the virus at school on Thursday, Nov. 26. Island Health contact tracers had connected with all those who may have been close to the indi-

vidual by the following morning.

Those people contacted were directed to stay in isolation at home until Dec. 10 to monitor for illness. As of Monday, Island Health had not reported any further exposure dates.

The person who was at the school while ill on Nov. 26 had a COVID-19 test done over the weekend. Island Health notified the school about the positive result and possible exposure at 3:45 p.m. on Dec. 1. The school district then drafted an email with a letter from Island Health that was sent to GISS families around two hours later.

“We feel really confident about our turnaround response . . . and the good partnership with Island Health; the support they are giving us, and how we are supporting them,” Ruehlen said last Wednesday.

He added a lot of preparation for the situation was done in August when the school and district created a start-up plan, which led to a solid rollout last week.

The number of people who were asked to isolate is not available due to privacy issues, but students at the school reported there were noticeable absences from a couple of classes. The school is currently using a quarter timetable, meaning students and teachers have a maximum of two classes per session.

Island Health advises that anyone who is not contacted by public health in a school exposure event should be assured their child did not have a high-risk exposure, and that kids should continue to attend school as long as they are not experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.

Some families with concerns have elected to take a cautious approach in any case. Ruehlen said a few parents advised the school their children would not be attending last Wednesday. On Monday some students who were not asked to isolate were still staying home.

COVID-19 continued on 2

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# COVID-19 cases double in region

**COVID-19**  
continued from 1

"We're going to monitor our attendance records and staff are in communication with anyone who is absent," Ruehlen said. "We're trying to understand the reasons for the absences and how we can support our students, and we're just analyzing that data right now."

GISS has closed its campus during the isolation period, meaning students have not been permitted to leave the school property for lunch. Ruehlen said that measure is scheduled to end on Friday along with the end of the exposure event.

The school will be reviewing its policy, which saw older students in two of the school's five learning groups permitted to leave for lunch on alternate days, and making a plan for the following week and the new year.

The number of COVID-19 cases has doubled in the past month in both the southern Vancouver Island region, which includes the Gulf Islands, and in B.C. As of Friday, Dec. 4, southern Vancouver Island had 224 confirmed cases of COVID-19. That number on Nov. 6 was 109 cases.

Province-wide the total was 36,132 on Friday, up from 17,149 on Nov. 6.

On Monday afternoon, provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry extended restrictions on non-essential travel, gatherings and many other activities that have been in place since Nov. 19. The current restrictions will be extended until midnight on Jan. 8, 2021.

Up-to-date information on COVID-19 public health orders is available on the provincial government's website.

## HOME INSURANCE

# Global events impact insurance

Market conditions risky for some homeowners

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Some Salt Spring homeowners have started to report an alarming trend of being unable to get fire insurance on their houses, or else having to pay many thousands of dollars more than usual if they do manage to find an underwriter willing to take them on.

As reported to the Driftwood, both Westland Insurance Group, which recently bought out Island Savings Insurance, and SeaFirst Insurance brokerages have recently denied coverage for fire losses to some properties located more than eight kilometres away from a recognized fire hall. Other companies may be willing to take on the risk, but at much higher rates than people have seen in the past.

Dan Olive, a commercial producer and media spokesperson at SeaFirst Insurance's Brentwood Bay office, said the difficulty in finding fire insurance is not only affecting Salt Spring, it is happening across the entire market, including Victoria.

"This insurance market right now is just chaotic. I've got plenty of people right now that are just unable to find insurance," Olive said.

Olive explained that losses across the entire market mean underwriters have less "appetite for risk" and for writing off large expenses. Insurers are reducing their exposure to loss by reducing the size of dwelling they will insure and/or withdrawing from certain fire protection grades.

Island homeowners may have been denied because of their distance to a fire hall or hydrant, but Olive said an even greater factor is probably the value of the home they are trying to insure. Large waterfront homes, especially, will cost a lot to replace and may be over the maximum underwriters are willing to cover.

"Salt Spring has a lot of really nice custom-built homes," Olive observed. "Those homeowners are finding it much harder

to find insurance and if they do it could be an increase in premiums of 250 per cent or more."

Cari Watson, vice president of customer experience at Westland, reported that individual cases in which homeowners are having trouble renewing a policy may be just that. She said the company is continuing in the tradition of Island Savings on Salt Spring and has not created any policy of denying insurance beyond a certain point. She also confirmed Westland has not produced any policy because of the local fire department's response times.

"Westland does, in fact, write properties that are more than eight kilometres from the nearest fire hall, and considers each property and risk individually when underwriting and rating the policy. While there may be limited situations where we're unable to accommodate particular homes, we most often are able to find the best insurance policy for each of our clients," Watson said.

Olive said the worldwide insurance market moves in cycles and this further impacts insurance written on Salt Spring. The insurance market recorded losses for the four years 2016 through 2019 and underwriters then began to take steps to restore profitability by increasing rates and reducing exposure to losses through more restrictive risk selection and the use of analytics.

Unprecedented events that have impacted Salt Spring's insurance market this year, according to Olive, include: insured losses from the COVID pandemic that are forecasted to be as high as US \$150 billion, with another US \$100 billion in investment losses; civil unrest and riots in the United States and other countries; the most active hurricane and cyclone season in the United States and Western Pacific in years; western United States wildfire losses totalling US \$12 billion in 2020, following several years of similar losses; and historically low interest rates and investment returns that impact insurers' investment income. The low interest rate environment is forecast to continue through 2023.

Olive said local events are also a factor,

such as the fact insurers paid out an estimated \$10 million of losses on Salt Spring following the December 2018 windstorm.

Current market analysis suggests insurance rates will continue to rise through 2021 and into 2022 before they begin to moderate, subject to a decline in worldwide losses and a return to profitability for the insurance market.

"We expect there will be reduced insurance capacity in the marketplace for high value homes in unprotected or semi-protected areas and while homeowners may be able to find insurance coverage, it will be with much higher premiums and/or reduced coverage limits," Olive said.

Watson said Westland clients with individual concerns and circumstances should contact regional manager Jodi Meldrum. She can be reached by email at [jmeldrum@westlandinsurance.ca](mailto:jmeldrum@westlandinsurance.ca).

### What can homeowners do to make their properties more attractive to underwriters?

- Consider higher deductibles to offset some premium increases.
- Review the limit of your contents insurance, and if you have outbuildings that need to be insured or if they can be removed from your policy. Review your additional living expense limits – can they be reduced?
- To mitigate losses, consider automatic water shut-off valves to reduce water damage. If your roof needs to be replaced, consider a metal roof.
- If a home is located in the forest, refer to FireSmart BC for ideas to help prevent your home from being caught in an interface fire.
- Consider installing smoke, fire and intrusion alarms.
- If building a new home in a rural area of the island, consider roofing materials (metal), siding types (hardiplank), fire breaks (FireSmart BC), interior and exterior sprinkler systems.


SOURCE: DAN OLIVE, SEAFIRST INSURANCE

## TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

DECEMBER 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
9	0446	1.6	5.2	13	0514	3.3	10.8
	1215	3.5	11.5		0909	2.8	9.2
	WE 1927	1.5	4.9		SU 1407	3.5	11.5
	ME			DI	2150	0.1	0.3
10	0126	2.4	7.9	14	0606	3.5	11.5
	0552	1.9	6.2		1015	3.0	9.8
	TH 1242	3.5	11.5		MO 1443	3.5	11.5
	JE 1959	1.1	3.6	LU 2232	0.0	0.0	
11	0303	2.7	8.9	15	0655	3.6	11.8
	0659	2.3	7.5		1122	3.1	10.2
	FR 1308	3.5	11.5		TU 1524	3.4	11.2
	VE 2034	0.7	2.3	MA 2315	0.0	0.0	
12	0415	3.0	9.8	16	0742	3.7	12.1
	0805	2.6	8.5		1233	3.0	9.8
	SA 1336	3.5	11.5		WE 1607	3.3	10.8
	SA 2111	0.3	1.0	ME 2359	0.1	0.3	

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## Christmas Season ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Please note the Gulf Islands Driftwood office will be closed on Friday Dec 25, and will reopen 9am-4pm on Monday Dec 28.


**ADVERTISING DEADLINES FOR THE DEC. 23 PAPER:**

Display Advertising Deadline: Dec 16, 3pm  
Classified Display Deadline: Dec 16, 3pm  
Classified Word Deadline: Dec 16, 3pm

Please note the Gulf Islands Driftwood office will be closed on Friday Jan 1, and will reopen 9am-4pm on Monday Jan 4.

**ADVERTISING DEADLINES FOR THE DEC. 30 PAPER:**

Display Advertising Deadline: Dec 23, noon  
Classified Display Deadline: Dec 23, noon  
Classified Word Deadline: Dec 23, noon



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## Stocking Stuffers & Gift Ideas

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Task force volunteers wanted

The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee wants volunteers to serve on a task force to help create a Ganges Village Area Plan.

The project aims to address issues impacting the social, economic, cultural and environmental sustainability of Ganges. People with diverse backgrounds and expertise and a passion about the future of the village are invited to apply for a spot.

The application deadline is Dec. 31, with the potential to extend into January.

Terms of reference are available for viewing on the Salt Spring page of the Islands Trust website.

More information is available through the Salt Spring Islands Trust office at 250-537-9144 or [ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca).

### Fire district AGM Monday

The Salt Spring Fire Protection District will hold its annual general meeting and next trustees' meeting at Lions Hall on Monday, Dec. 14 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Due to COVID-19 space limitations, people must send an email to [admin@saltspringfire.com](mailto:admin@saltspringfire.com) or phone the Ganges fire hall at 250-537-2531 to indicate their intention to attend the meeting by Monday at noon.

All meeting attendees must wear masks.

## FOR THE RECORD

The wrong impression about North Salt Spring Waterworks District leak allowance costs was given in a story in last week's paper. Previously, the NSSWD did not contribute to water costs of all leaks, such as those affecting irrigation systems or lines to secondary residences or barns. The amount a customer would pay for in-house appliance leaks was capped at \$500. There was no cap for main-line leaks, meaning property owners could potentially have paid much more in the past. The NSSWD will now cover 50 per cent of the leaked water cost of all leaks on the customer's side of the meter up to a maximum of \$2,000.

As well, the NSSWD's 2021 budget anticipates using \$269,000 of a current operations surplus to cover project costs, long-term debt payments and reserve transfers, not capital project costs.

## LOCAL MEDIA

# New publisher welcomed

Nancy Johnson replaces retiring Amber Ogilvie

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

The Driftwood has a new publisher.

Nancy Johnson, who has 25 years of experience as a publisher and director of operations within the Canadian newspaper industry, joined Driftwood Gulf Islands Media on Dec. 1.

Johnson's past positions with major media companies have seen her based in Prince George, B.C., Brandon, Man., Sydney, N.S., Charlottetown, P.E.I., Moose Jaw, Sask. and High River, Alta. She was vice-president of Manitoba operations for Glacier Media's prairie newspaper group, director of Saskatchewan operations and then Maritime operations for TC Media, and Sun Media's senior group publisher for southern Alberta.

Johnson was thrilled to volunteer in the World Association of Newspapers Middle East Brain Trust initiative in 2018 and 2019, where she mentored two media organizations in Jordan over an 18-month period.

She said she is very excited to be joining the Driftwood team and becoming a part of the Salt Spring Island community, and looks forward to the island being her "forever home."

"I'm stoked to be living and working in a small community again, because the best people live in them. I grew up in a village of 125 in southern Alberta and, although I have managed daily publications, the bulk of my career has been spent in small towns across the country."

Johnson sees the role of com-



PHOTO COURTESY NANCY JOHNSON

New Driftwood publisher Nancy Johnson.

munity media and the Driftwood, specifically, as being 100 per cent about the local: "Local, relevant stories and photos on issues that matter and providing exceptional advertising services to our business community and helping them to thrive and grow."

She looks forward to living on the west coast for the first time.

"I'm totally fascinated by the ocean views and forest air and can't wait to spend time exploring this beautiful island and getting to know its people."

Johnson has two grown children, Alex and Lucas, and is grandmother to two-year-old Felix.

She is also smitten with all things Italian and travels to a small village in southern Italy called Praiano twice a year.

Johnson replaces Amber Ogilvie, who has been the company's publisher for the past nine years. Ogilvie is retiring after working for 35 years in the newspaper industry, the first 26 with Sun Media.

Ogilvie has published dozens of daily and weekly newspapers across Canada. She held executive positions with both Sun Media and TorStar. Ogilvie returned west to launch Vancouver 24 Hours, the

daily commuter paper launched jointly by Sun Media and Jimmy Pattison in 2005, where she held the position of publisher and CEO.

Ogilvie said she has worked with talented people across the country.

"In my career, I had the opportunity to work with the very best in the newspaper industry. I am proud to say that I have worked both for and with the most talented, respected and interesting newspaper people. There are too many to mention but they do include greats like Doug Creighton, Paul Godfrey, John Hondrich and Tony Richards. I feel extremely lucky to have worked for Tony Richards and with the dedicated and talented Driftwood team. I will miss the daily interaction with the staff and the community."

Ogilvie and her partner Paul Zolob own Salt Spring Communication Station, the authorized Telus dealership, and she will remain on Salt Spring Island.



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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, December 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!

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## PARKS & REC

# Aquafit, market placed in limbo

Evolving orders impact events

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Parks and Recreation is grappling with ever-changing orders from the provincial health office, including new rules on indoor fitness classes that have impacted its popular Aquafit program.

Although a new series of classes was set to begin this month, operators are waiting for the province to publish a new set of safety guidelines so they can draft a new safety plan. In the meantime, members of the public can register for a leisure swim and do their own exercises in a set area of the pool for periods of 75 minutes.

Registration can be done by calling 250-537-1402 or online through <https://www.crd.bc.ca/ssiparc/admission-registration/registration>.

PARC was also waiting to hear how B.C.'s health regulations would impact the Christmas market at Centennial Park on Saturday, Dec. 12 and 19. New orders issued on Dec. 2 meant that only farmers and food stalls were allowed to vend at the Dec. 5 session. On Monday, the orders on events and gatherings were extended to midnight on Jan. 8, 2021.

## Safety near power lines

We'd like to remind the public to stay clear of trees that are in contact with power lines. Recently, a member of the public on Salt Spring Island cut a tree that was in contact with a high voltage line, placing themselves at risk of serious injury or death.

Trees are a significant cause of power outages and contact between trees and power lines can create a danger to anyone touching the tree. Power lines can remain energized—or become energized at any moment—and the tree may be a path for the electricity to flow. Please report unsafe activities near hydro lines.

Anyone spotting a downed power line, a tree in contact with a power line, or any electrical emergency should stay back a minimum of 10 metres (33 feet) and call 911 immediately. Individuals should never attempt to clear the area or remove the tree.

BC Hydro offers free electrical safety awareness training for trades workers and first responders, visit [bchydro.com/safetytraining](http://bchydro.com/safetytraining) for more details.

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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 BCYCN 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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### EDITORIAL

# Holiday blues

**L**iving under pandemic restrictions has been tough for everyone, and the longer it's stretched, the more COVID fatigue has settled in.

The majority of islanders have been extremely committed to following the rules and keeping others safe. At the same time, there's been a disconnect in experience since we've seen very few cases actually materialize in the community to date. When the pandemic seems to be unfolding in communities other than our own, it may feel like not all the rules need to apply here.

Like the snap of an elastic band, though, rules that get stretched to their max tend to come snapping back into place. We've seen that happen with provincial health orders that allowed various activities that were curtailed come back under B.C.'s Restart Plan, having been identified as riskier for transmission. Nightclubs, spin classes and most recently adult sports leagues are a few examples of that snap-back. Theatre goes and church members have also been feeling the sting.

### THE ISSUE:

Christmas plans due to COVID-19

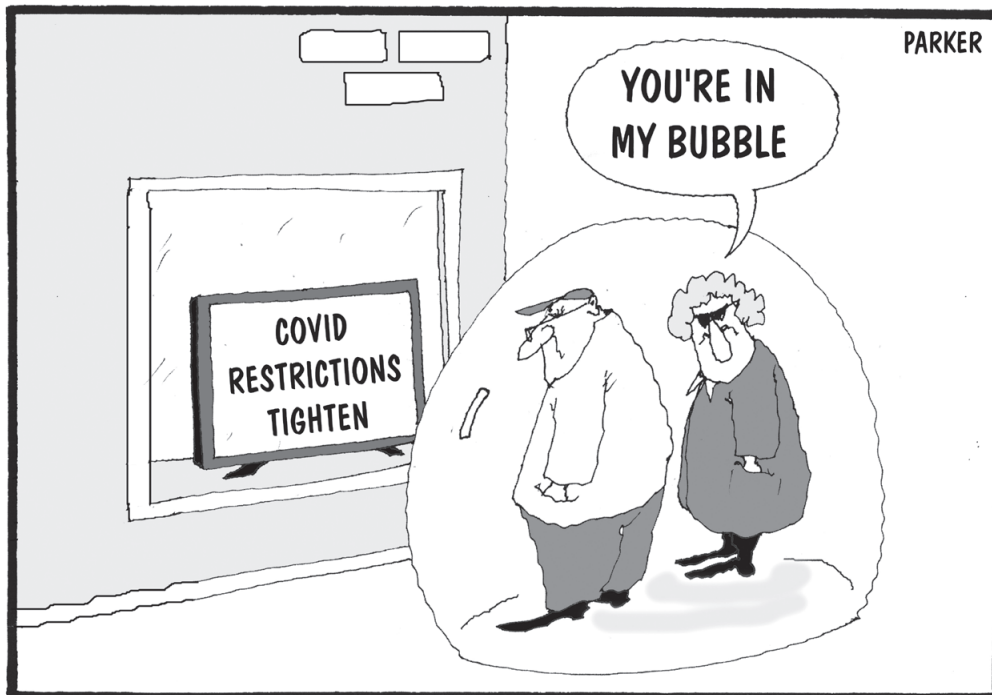
### WE SAY:

Visits must remain on hold

Having a positive case of COVID-19 confirmed and a potential exposure event at Gulf Islands Secondary School announced last week has been a good reminder that our community is not immune to the pandemic. For anyone connected to the school even tangentially, things went from theoretical to real in very short order. Meanwhile, B.C. health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry has renewed and strengthened the restrictions on gatherings and movement she put in place for a two-week period that was supposed to end Monday night.

As cases continue to rise across the nation and around the world, we can expect things will stay challenging for at least some weeks to come. Leaders and health officials have been warning Canadians that a normal holiday season won't be possible this year, and they are urging us all to stay strong and resist the temptation to gather with our love ones. This is indeed a hard ask for many, but nevertheless we should be staying put in our homes and asking our friends and family who live elsewhere to do so as well.

There is light ahead, with vaccines rapidly reaching approval stage. Right now, though, it's important to keep as many people healthy as possible until things turn around. It's time to accept our current reality, come to terms with it and double down on our safety precautions.



# Don't berate messenger

BY JAN STEINMAN

In these troubled times, we all need to remember to "be safe, be calm, and be kind."

Not everyone is doing so, and it harms our sense of community, and could cause more harm than the perceived loss of civil liberties, or even the very real loss of income.

I am a Saturday market farm vendor, and we have been looking forward to three organized markets in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Because they supply the essential product of food, farmers have been allowed to vend on Saturdays after the official close of the market season at the end of October by paying for a permit. In light of prior loosening of restrictions, it was hoped that the three Saturdays prior to Christmas would be opened to craft vendors, but a spike in COVID-19 cases caused the Ministry of Health to issue an order on Dec. 2 that implied only food products were to be sold at such markets.

Saturday market manager Dawn Larden spent a lot of quality time on the phone with the Ministry of Health, seeking clarification, and it was only Friday afternoon (Dec. 4)

### VIEWPOINT

when she was informed that, indeed, only food products could be sold at the market. She notified all vendors of this requirement via email at 4:14 p.m. Several craft vendors did not read this email, and showed up to vend at the market. When they were told they could not, they subjected Dawn to verbal abuse that looked as if it nearly had her in tears.

### With serious illness or death in the balance, wearing a mask and following B.C. public health orders seems like a small sacrifice to make.

We also understand that busking was not allowed. We noted a busker with a number of young, maskless people within six feet of him. I believe Dawn had earlier informed him that busking was not allowed.

It has become fashionable among a certain crowd to view public health orders as an affront to their civil liberties. Salt Spring has a large population of elders; if COVID-19 breaks out in an elder facility, whose civil liberties will be violated then? With serious illness or death in the balance, wearing a mask and following B.C. public health orders seems like a small sacrifice to make.

After consulting with Dawn, we voluntarily withdrew items (goat milk soap) from our tent that were not food items, resulting in significant loss of income. We do this in solidarity with those who only sell soap, while noting that they can apply for government relief to help them through these troubled times.

I am asking that Saturday market craft vendors "be kind" and not abuse the messenger, just because they don't like the message. Dawn did not make the rules, and she does not deserve abuse for insisting that they follow the rules. They should take their complaints directly to the Ministry of Health and their elected officials, instead.

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### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you glad to see COVID restrictions extended in B.C.?  Yes  No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you support the Trust's Coastal Douglas-fir project?  
 YES: 168 NO: 203

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.

# OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

**“It’s like if we were rolling out the COVID-19 vaccine in B.C. and left Dr. Bonnie Henry out of the picture.”**

Laura Patrick, Salt Spring Islands Trust Trustee

## SALT SPRING SAYS

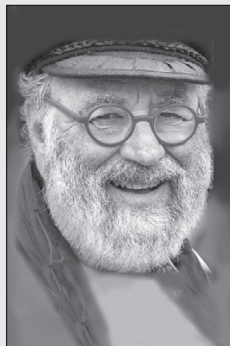
**WE ASKED:** *What areas of Salt Spring would you prioritize for additional protection or parkland?*

**MONA FERTIG**



Larmour Lands Lot F, Mount Maxwell area, the top of Channel Ridge and Walker Hook Beach with public access.

**CURT FIRESTONE**



The expansion of lake access for family beach and swimming recreation.

**GERI RAMSAY**



I would place my focus on opportunities for land acquisition and conservancy covenants that expanded and extended contiguous forest habitat around mountain and watershed areas.

**PETER LAMB**



I would vote for the undeveloped lands on Channel Ridge.

**JEAN GELWICKS**



I would love BC Parks to buy Channel Ridge at some point as the trails in there are fantastic and used by so many people. To extend Blackburn Lake property when possible would also be nice.

## 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

### Positive language

When I read William Steiner’s letter in the Nov. 25 issue of the Driftwood, his negative language on how the COVID-19 situation is being handled by our health authorities (“tyranny,” “undemocratic,” “violation of Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms,” etc.) saddened me.

Three people responded to Steiner’s letter in the Dec. 2 issue: Bill Henderson, Carolyn McAskie and Kishori Hutchings. All of them opposed Steiner’s take on the situation, but what impressed me so much was that all of them did so without maligning Steiner the person!

Here’s just one of several examples from each of them. Henderson: “But COVID also offers us a little opportunity for peace and goodwill.” McAskie: “[Steiner’s letter] is a sad reminder of how much we still need to do to work together as a community to look after each other.” Hutchings, referring to Bonnie Henry: “[I am] grateful to have someone with the vision to see what’s coming, give us warnings and give us

ways [to] avoid getting sick.”

I offer much praise to those who can use such positive language to oppose a position they disagree with so much. Bravo you three!

**REUBEN KAUFMAN,**  
SALT SPRING

### CDF proposal not supported

I don’t know if I’m surprised, shocked or disappointed in the Islands Trust in coming up with the Coastal Douglas-Fir proposal, its theory and intent being described in the Nov. 25 Viewpoint article by Islands Trust trustee Laura Patrick.

CDF protection hardly “benefits all” unless you happen to be part of a certain select group. The Trust is obviously trying to gain a stranglehold on lot clearing, logging, view improvement, etc., right down to the homeowner going out on his own property and getting firewood for his family for the winter.

Salt Springers deserve way more. We deserve a full public discourse on a proposal like this, not to have it slipped

through while everybody’s minds are on the pandemic and Christmas as is being attempted.

Jamie Harris’ In Depth article in the same Driftwood lays it all out pretty clearly from the working man’s and the average citizen’s perspective.

I would urge anybody and everybody to go online to [www.stoptheislandstrust.com](http://www.stoptheislandstrust.com) and sign the petition to stop this proposal before it gets going any further.

**JIM MCCLEAN,**  
SALT SPRING

### Why no CRD Zoom option?

I am surprised that after we have been in lockdown since March, there is still no Zoom link set up to make the CRD meetings on Salt Spring accessible to the public.

I inquired about attending the Nov. 26 Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission meeting. I was kindly allowed into the meeting as I had the understanding that I could attend if there was a commissioner absent and that way the total of 12

attendees could be kept.

There is provincial legislation under the Emergency Program Act to hold meetings in public whenever possible. The library program meeting space is limited to 12 meeting attendees or less. As there are already 12 attendees due at every SSITC meeting because that is the amount for the commissioners, the CRD director, the recording secretary, the CRD manager and others necessary to the meeting, there is no planned spot available for any member of the public.

I am surprised that no Zoom link has been organized yet as there have been almost nine months of meetings with no guarantee that anyone from the public can attend.

On the other hand, the local Trust committee has been working in public and including the community. Even the Salt Spring LTC Advisory Planning Commission meetings are on Zoom.

I am just wondering what is up with the CRD on Salt Spring?

**JENNY MCCLEAN,**  
SALT SPRING

## MPs say freighter anchorage problem is fixable

BY ELIZABETH MAY AND PAUL MANLY

Australia solved its freighter anchorage problem. We can too.

As Members of Parliament representing communities bordering the Salish Sea, we have worked for years to get unwanted freighter anchorages out of the waters around the Gulf Islands. First Nations, local governments and grassroots community organizations have made it very clear that the light, noise, pollution and environmental degradation caused by freighters are not welcome. But the water past the low tide mark is federal jurisdiction. Transport Canada marked 33 sites in and around the Gulf Islands as designated areas for safe anchorage. Those free parking spots are now in near constant use by foreign bulk freighters waiting to load in the Port of Vancouver.

The situation has worsened in recent years. Concerned residents deserve to know how the problem got so bad, and what we can do to remedy it.

The Port of Vancouver is very efficient when it comes to the loading and unloading of container ships. It is the shipment of goods in bulk, particularly grain and coal, that is at the centre of the anchorage problem.

In 2012, the Harper government eliminated the Canadian Wheat Board and with it went the central logistics desk for grain shipments. Prior to this decision, delivery by rail to the Port of Vancouver was efficiently coordinated. Now the system is so inefficient that grain freighters regularly make multiple trips into port and back to anchor before they are fully loaded. This is costly for grain farmers, shippers, and buyers, as well as our coastal environment and

### GUEST COLUMN

quality of life. No one benefits and many suffer.

Another piece of the freighter traffic problem is the export of U.S. thermal coal. Strong environmental regulations in Washington, Oregon and California have made it virtually impossible to ship thermal coal from western U.S. ports. Canada’s weaker environmental regulations have drawn that dirty export to our shores. As a “product in transit,” U.S. thermal coal is not subject to import tariffs, carbon taxes or other levies. The freighters waiting to receive it can arrive weeks or even months in advance and anchor for free in the southern Gulf Islands. This is madness and it needs to end.

We were pleased to second MP Alistair MacGregor’s private member’s bill to ban freighter anchorages in and around the Gulf Islands. But we recognize, as does MP MacGregor, that the bill is not workable legislation, and is primarily intended as a way to raise awareness.

We have repeatedly pressed Transport Minister Marc Garneau on this completely unacceptable situation. The increasing misuse of our waters has led to accidents. What level of catastrophe will be required to provoke Transport Canada to mandate change? And what type of change will address the root cause of the situation, rather than simply shifting it elsewhere?

Working on this issue together, we have been increasingly drawn to Australia’s approach. The Port of Newcastle had a similar freighter parking problem, until the

coal ship Pasha Bunker dragged anchor and ended up on a popular local beach. There is nothing like an accident of this magnitude to motivate governments. Newcastle implemented a vessel arrival system that requires freighters to contact the port 15 days ahead of their anticipated arrival. Port authorities can then require a vessel to slow down in order to match its arrival to its loading time at the port. The system has been a success. Two-thirds of vessels loading at Newcastle no longer anchor at all, and the remainder have dropped from an average of 11 days at anchor to just three days.

The solution to the freighter problem in the Salish Sea is not as simple as legislating a ban on freighter anchorages in a specific geographical area. We must reduce the demand for anchorage. That means correcting the damage done to the grain supply chain that is costing prairie farmers upwards of \$24 million per year. It means continuing to improve the efficiency of loading grain onto ships. It means banning the export of climate-destroying U.S. thermal coal from Canadian ports. And it means implementing a vessel arrival system at the Port of Vancouver, and stronger regulations and protections within Canada’s 12-mile territorial limits.

The freighter anchorage problem is fixable. It is the absence of political will to address its root causes that perpetuates this unacceptable situation.

*Elizabeth May is the Member of Parliament for Saanich-Gulf Islands and Paul Manly is the Member of Parliament for Nanaimo-Ladysmith.*

# Island's Climate Action Network launched

BY BRYAN YOUNG

Have you ever had a party where everyone invited came? That was the scene on Nov. 30 when the Community Alliance hosted a special online meeting with Transition Salt Spring (TSS) Society featuring key findings from the soon-to-be-released Salt Spring Island Climate Action Plan 2.0.

CAP 2.0 is the product of more than 18 months of work on the

part of a team of more than 30 volunteers, including feedback from 2,000 islanders and 50 stakeholders. The plan has more than 250 recommendations on what we need to do on Salt Spring to reduce emissions by 50 per cent by 2030, and help keep our community and natural systems resilient in the face of climate change.

To kick start the release of the plan, we invited over 50 stakehold-

ers representing key agencies, local government, business, institutions and island-based non-profits to hear CAP 2.0's key conclusions. The group also received an invitation to join TSS' brand new Climate Action Network to collaborate in developing the initiatives we need to have a safe and resilient future as our climate changes.

TSS delivered an overview of the climate risks Salt Spring faces over the next 80 years, illustrating a future with zero frost days, a 25 per cent increase in days with rain over 20 mm, and average summer highs over 30°C.

All this bodes poorly for climate change impacts like infestations of pests (which will survive our California-like winters), erratic spring pollination of our island's fruit trees, longer and deeper periods of drought, and — Salt Spring's greatest climate change risk — forest fires.

While professional scientists on the CAP team developed the forecasts, we included in the presentation fictional but plausible headlines from a Driftwood of 2080 to make the data more relatable.

"Douglas-fir beetle: Years of frost-free winters decimating forests - Maxwell PP sees highest infestation after tragic 2032 Burgoyne fire" blared one headline. "Rain-storm fall-out: Residents rely on Coast Guard barge." "No end in sight after collapse of Musgrave and Dubois roads" blared another.

Sadly, headlines like these are far from exaggerations because these types of events have already begun to occur. A hotter future with more storms and heavy rains will simply accelerate the processes driving these events.

Another change already underway is sea level risk. By 2080, our seas will be one metre higher than they are today. At the meeting, we showed sea level risk maps for three island locations generated by

scientists and mapping specialists.

Attendees heard that by 2080, higher sea levels will begin to flood parts of Ganges. Combine that with king tides and an additional storm surge, and flooding throughout Ganges is very likely, with water flooding to just past the public library.

Scores of businesses and pieces of infrastructure — from Mouat's and Thrifty's, to our library and the wastewater treatment plant — could all be affected, with big and expensive consequences.

Think of the costs to our homes and public infrastructure if we don't act now. Some may balk at the costs of proactive preparation, but the future costs in lives, damage and hits to our economy will be far greater if we kick this can further down the road.

There are payoffs for taking action on climate change, aside from long-term fiscal savings. Acting now gives us time to generate "co-benefits" for the many climate change adaptation actions we will need to take.

Again, take Ganges village as an example. Plan proactively for the people who are likely coming to Salt Spring in the next several decades, and we have time to not only better protect vulnerable parts of the village but also build a better village. This could see residents in a mix of new affordable and market rate housing in an attractive, protected village core. This leads to saving valuable forested lands from clearing so that their trees can continue to absorb carbon out of the atmosphere into their mass and the surrounding soil.

If we break through barriers to using treated rainwater and grey water for domestic use, we have the makings of a climate solution with multiples of these co-benefits. And with additional people in our village, we could also create a bigger market for shops and services

useful year-round to residents — not to mention year-round jobs.

The next question is: How do we get there? At the online meeting, every breakout group praised the value of collaboration — particularly on an issue like climate change, which, like forest fires, doesn't respect institutional borders.

Repeatedly, representatives from the breakout groups reported many shared concerns and identified opportunities for collaboration. In one discussion, a representative of a leading organization in our community spoke of the need to reduce emissions in an area that also carries with it high financial costs. By the end of the breakout, representatives from other organizations provided valuable information on funding aimed at solving the very problem that was voiced, and offered to collaborate.

This provided the prospect of a classic win-win for emissions reductions and tightening public budgets. The evening ended with the vast majority of attendees seeing the value of climate action collaboration, and keen to participate in the network's next meeting.

After the release of CAP 2.0 early in the new year, TSS will begin working with islanders on what they can do to tackle climate change, and with members of the network to determine collaborative projects with a high potential to deliver early wins.

In the meantime, TSS just launched its One Cool Island campaign, starting with an appeal for \$10,000 by New Year's Eve to support the launch of the Climate Action Network and public engagement on climate action in 2021.

To become a donor and sign up for Transition Salt Spring's newsletter, go to [transitionsaltspring.com](http://transitionsaltspring.com).

*The writer is a TSS board member and a co-author of the forthcoming Climate Action Plan 2.0.*

## Is Health Care training in your future?



The Gulf Islands School District is partnering with Camosun College and the Greenwood Foundation to offer the Health Care Attendant program on Salt Spring Island in the Spring of 2021.

For more information on the scope and content of this course, check out this link...

<http://camosun.ca/learn/programs/health-care-assistant/>

If you are interested in registering for this program please complete the survey here.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XZ8RRMS>



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### Mechanic

#### This year is different.

With Covid keeping us home more than usual, most vehicles are not racking up the miles at their regular pace. However, they still need to be driven regularly to keep vehicle systems moving.

Tires will develop flat spots if left too long in one position. Brakes will begin to stick, causing overheating and premature wear.

Batteries will slowly go dead. These are just a few of the more obvious problems that will develop.

The best thing you can do for your vehicle is let it do what it was designed to do, be driven. It will save on repair bills in the long run.

*Stay Safe, Gyle*



GYLE KEATING

### 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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### Real Estate

#### A Time For Thanks



JAN MACPHERSON

During this holiday season we are reminded of how blessed we are to live on this island, in this province and in this country.

To my clients, friends and colleagues in real estate, I continue to enjoy and appreciate working with you especially during these times of immense change.

In 2021 it is my hope that our sense of world community deepens and that we can work together to find creative solutions to address the many challenges ahead.

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**MUSIC**

## Joy triumphs in rock album release

Salt Spring Underground available in vinyl and digital forms

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

If 2020 has got you down — and really, who isn't looking forward to this year being over — rock and roll music fans can find comfort and joy in a very home-grown effort.

Amidst all the bad news, Salt Spring Underground released its self-titled debut album this year. With vinyl records newly arrived on the island and available at local shops, now is the perfect time to take in their unique product. The band describes the experience as “psychedelic pop meets the wall of groove and joy triumphs over darkness.”

“We really believe in our sound. We think if people hear it, they will like it,” said band founder and chief songwriter Chris Arnett. “That’s why we are musicians. We want to share our art with other people.”

Salt Spring Underground as a band is just a couple of years old, but its members bring together a wealth of experience and musical attributes. Arnett is a long-time islander but remains a legend of the Vancouver punk scene. He headlined the city’s first-ever punk show with the Furies back in 1977. While Arnett has been doing more solo work in recent decades, news from a friend that another musician with similar taste was moving to the island led to an eventual connection with drummer Adrian Mack. Mack has toured extensively with Rich Hope and His Evil Doers, among other groups.

“We hit it off right away. That’s so important, especially with this kind of music,” Arnett said.

According to their press material, “matters became even groovier” with the addition of born-and-bred Salt Springer Josh Cook, known to many as the Barefoot Thieves bassist, and with Marta Jaciubek-McKeever. A veteran of the Vancouver music scene in bands such as e.s.l., Fan Death and Girl Nobody, she brought keyboard skills, vocals “and her own soaring if undefinable magic.”

“The combination makes it work. We all bring something to the recipe,” Arnett said, explaining while he writes all the songs, each musician comes up with his or her own arrangements.

As they describe it, their self-released debut album offers “a powerful melodic punch, rich harmonies and insistent swing, moving from lush ballads to gnarly rippers and instant pop classics.”

“To me, we are trying to go for an orchestral sound,” Arnett said. “Ninety-nine per cent of rock and roll is horrible — but when you get the good stuff it’s really important.”

Arnett says the songs on the new album “draw on everything” and some actually go back one or two decades, although he wrote most of them in the past year with Salt Spring Underground. The group has a set of 25 to 30 original songs they play at live shows. They recorded 14 of these and then selected



10 for the final cut.

“It’s kind of hard to pick the songs to record but we whittled it down and kept all the gems,” Arnett said. “I’ve done a few recordings over the years and this is my favourite by far.”

The album was recorded by Kirk A. Douglas at his South Island Sound studio in Fulford and was mastered by Jordan Koop at the Noise Floor Recording Studio on Gabriola Island. The vinyl edition was pressed at Clampdown Record Pressing in Burnaby.

The plans were to support release of the album with a performance tour, which the band was ready to launch in early 2020. The advent of COVID ended that plan, but the group did release the digital record and sent press kits to radio stations across Canada, where the album has been steadily gaining support. It has reached number 14 at CTR, the University of British Columbia’s campus radio.

The vinyl release is fresh, however, having just reached Salt Spring last week.

“We wanted it out on vinyl, too; that was really important,” Arnett said. “The sound is beautiful, warm and full — and you get the artwork. It’s the whole package.”

Arnett feels strongly that nothing compares to the experience or the energy of live music. That said, the album does come pretty close. The entire recording session took just six hours, and each song took no more than three takes. Some songs needed just one. This has translated into a really immediate sound while still being entirely professional and expertly produced.

“Rock and roll is like stir fry. You want to capture the moment,” Arnett said.

Salt Spring Underground in fact shows just how good a group can be when it grooves together. The Velvet Underground is an obvious and important influence. Arnett said he’s always liked the way they managed to be soft and pretty yet powerful at the same time.

The SSU song What’s Happening excels at the power side of the combo with its driving rhythm and textured guitar riffs. Arnett’s history at the forefront of the Vancouver punk scene can meanwhile be heard in high-energy songs like Bring Me One of Everything, I Let You Go and City of Glass. These are the songs to get toes tapping and heads bobbing — or bodies out onto the dance floor, whenever that becomes possible again.



PHOTO BY YVONNE HACHKOVSKI

Left: Salt Spring Underground album cover art by band founder Chris Arnett. Above: bandmates Marta Jaciubek-McKeever, left, and Arnett rock out.

Blue Diamonds has a velvety pace and recalls the surf guitar of the 1960s (think The Ventures and Link Wray) as well as the next generation, such as 1980s indie heroes the Pixies. Here Arnett’s warm baritone is underscored by Jaciubek-McKeever’s haunting, precise harmonies.

The latter has a unique and captivating tone to her voice, and the two vocalists together create a satisfyingly layered sound on multiple tracks.

Find the Salt Spring Underground vinyl record at Waterfront Gallery and Strong River Studios in Ganges. Digital downloads are available through Bandcamp.

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**Information session**

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

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### CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

# Scrooge appears online in 2020

Show from 2017 season ready to roll

BY SUE NEWMAN

NEWMAN FAMILY PRODUCTIONS

Ready, Scrooge? Lights! Camera! Action!

That's right! This year Christmas with Scrooge is a movie!

Ray and Virginia Newman's musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol has been around for a long time. It's been a beloved off-and-on Salt Spring tradition since 1971! My dad Ray Newman called it a "cast of thousands" with our "friends, neighbours, or even your relatives" performing, and truly over the years we very likely have included at least a thousand community members.

The many faces of Christmas with Scrooge on Salt Spring present something like a little museum. Generations of islanders have either found themselves onstage, backstage or in the audience, appreciating the goodwill and the closeness of a caring community, recognizing the need for personal and social change here, and on the broader stage of world issues, through the messages in Dickens' timeless story. How fortunate Ray and Virginia were to tap into that story as they were finding their place on their new island home all those years ago. (They also wrote a musical history of Salt Spring; their dream to fit in was strong.)

After a hiatus of 11 years, Christmas with Scrooge was remounted in 2017. A whole bunch of island theatre artists from "the old days" as well as a whole bunch of new ones brought the show back to life at ArtSpring. A key component has been the talents of the amazing pianist, Karen Gail, who had transcribed Virginia's pencilled notes and has continued to bring Ray



PHOTO BY DAVID BORROWMAN

Some of the cast members in last year's Christmas With Scrooge production, which was presented in the round at Fulford Hall. People can watch a video of the 2017 show that took place at ArtSpring through a Vimeo link this month.

and Virginia Newman's charming and glorious music back to life. As a result, a decision was made to make a run for it. A five-year plan was initiated, with productions planned annually, culminating in the 50th anniversary production in 2021. What a fun build-up! We did two years at ArtSpring, and planned for three more, immersing ourselves in theatre "in the round" as we did at Fulford Hall last year.

In this exceptional year we weren't able to present a live show and requests came for an online screening of a historical production. Always a theatrical event, Christmas with Scrooge certainly wasn't designed for film. The shows have always been filmed and archived, however, for our casts and crews to view. We even have some reel-


to-reel tapes from before video and digital technologies. With permissions and thumbs up from all involved, and with the expertise of Living Water Media, Newman Family Productions is delighted to offer a Vimeo screening of the 2017 production throughout December, and look forward to seeing you "live and in person" next year for our 50th anniversary.

Please join us from the comfort of your living rooms. Pour a glass of holiday cheer or a nice hot cuppa, and sit back and enjoy Christmas with Scrooge.

We are asking for donations for current and ongoing expenses via GoFundMe.

Access to the online screening is available by email at saltspring-scrooge@gmail.com.

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# ISLAND LIFE



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

**HAPPY ENDING:** Sherri Windsor puts out her hand to show the engagement ring that was lost way back in March while she was working at Thrifty Foods in Ganges. A public appeal went out at that time asking the store's customers to check their grocery bags to see if the ring had possibly fallen into a bag and been taken home. Windsor was happy to report last week that the ring was discovered on Nov. 11 by coworkers under a candy shelf when they moved the shelves in order to clean the floors underneath.

## NATURE

# King 'shroom fêted

Fleshiest fungi adored by writer

BY LINDA QUIRING  
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

The king bolete, or *Boletus edulis*, is a pretty big guy — larger usually than the Prince mushroom — and one of 100 or more bolete species, though I have rarely found it on Salt Spring. It is normally found with conifers.

Last year, after it had been raining forever, the sun came out and my husband Bill and I decided to spend that Sunday driving to Port Renfrew to visit the Avatar Grove and have lunch on the beach.

It's a nice easy drive of under an hour now that the Pacific Circle Route has taken the place of the twisty old rough logging road that took twice as long.

On a lonely stretch of road, we spotted a somewhat Germanic-looking older guy walking down the road with a white plastic shopping bag.

"Stop the car!" I shouted, and jumped out to accost the stranger. "So," I demanded, "What's in the bag?"

He smiled. He knew that I knew! He held the bag open, and of course, there they were! More big, large, fresh, edible king boletes than I have seen in my lifetime. The man named Fred had gathered them along the roadside and apparently had been coming there for years, knowing they would be there after the rains.



PHOTO COURTESY MUSHROOMCOLLECTING.COM

*Boletus edulis*, or the "king bolete" mushroom.

We chatted for a while and then Bill and I went foraging, but found only huge waterlogged specimens that Fred had rejected. Not even enough for a good meal. So what's all the fuss about?

Fungi guru David Arora says in *Mushrooms Demystified* that "*Boletus* boasts some of the finest and most flavourful of all the fleshy fungi. First and foremost," he says, "is that fabulous fungus cherished by the Europeans above all others — the king bolete."

Arora notes there are more names for the king bolete in Europe than there are languages, and goes on: "If any mushroom deserves the dubious title of 'king,' this is the one. It is a consummate creation, the peerless epitome of earth-bound substance, a bald bulbous pillar of thick white flesh — the one aristocrat the peasantry can eat . . . The entire fruiting body is exceptionally delicious."

I rest my case.

## PHILANTHROPY

# Health fund benefits from 100 Women group

Greenwoods health care assistant course gets big boost

Greenwoods Eldercare Society was the big winner at the sixth meeting of the 100+ Women Who Care Salt Spring Island group held Nov. 18 via Zoom.

Members voted to give the meeting's \$16,100 collected donations to the society that operates the Greenwoods complex care residential facility on Blain Road.

Also drawn from the charity basket during that meeting were the nominated charities Gulf Islands Families Together Society and the Salt Spring Island Branch of the BC SPCA.

According to a group report, three members gave informative and inspiring presentations about why their nominated charity should receive the collected funds.

"It was a new experience to join the 100+ Women Who Care on a virtual call format," said Dorrie Ferster, who presented the winning pitch for Greenwoods. "I must admit that I missed the energy of everyone's presence."

Members cast a secret online vote for one of the three, and for the first time ever, there was a tie vote. Members were asked to cast their votes again, this time for the two tied charities. Greenwoods was the winning charity.

In her presentation, Ferster spoke about Greenwoods's hiring needs and challenges, related to but not solely because of COVID-19.

"The selection of Greenwoods' proposed and greatly needed health care assistant (HCA) education fund will assure a minimum of three program training seats for identified islanders," said Ferster. "Qualified health care assistants provide care services that make a meaningful difference in the lives of older adults."

Greenwoods executive director Aletha Humphreys said the



IMAGE COURTESY 100+ WOMEN WHO CARE

Screen capture of recent Zoom meeting of 100+ Women Who Care.

support for the HCA fund was much appreciated. "HCAs are at the heart of the care we provide at Greenwoods, and an on-island program is the best way to secure the staff we need to serve our residents. The current support service team members who have expressed interest in becoming HCAs are all amazing women, and I think it is so fitting to have the winning funds go towards empowering and supporting these individuals while also contributing so much to Greenwoods."

Since its inaugural meeting in November 2018, 100+ Women Who Care Salt Spring has raised just over \$100,000 total to benefit the community in various ways. With around 150 members at this time, the group can raise over \$15,000 in less than an hour. Recipient charities are able to use 100 per cent of these funds in ways that they need most, as long as the charity's efforts directly benefit the community.

The next meeting date is Feb. 24, 2021 at 7 p.m. over Zoom. More information is available at 100womensaltspring.org.

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## ISLANDS TRUST COUNCIL

## Trust votes to review governance and operations

Salt Spring's omission from steering committee regretted

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Islands Trust Council will establish an ad hoc steering committee to search for and oversee a consultant to carry out a governance and management review, but Salt Spring's interests are so far not part of the package.

A preliminary budget request of \$75,000 is attached to the project, which is to examine what the Trust does well and what it could do better within its current legislated mandate.

As information attached to the motion raised by Saturna trustee Lee Middleton explains, "Healthy organizations look at themselves periodically through outside reviews to learn how to be better. Trustees voted to propose a review through the Auditor General for Local Government at a council meeting in September 2019. The office of Auditor General for Local Government no longer exists but the desire of trustees to arrive at a vision of the Trust by accessing objective data on present performance remains."

The Trust's entire executive committee, including chair Peter Luckham and vice chairs Sue Ellen Fast, Dan Rogers and Laura Patrick, opposed the motion, as did Patrick's fellow Salt Spring trustee Peter Grove, who chairs the Trust's finance committee.

LEE  
MIDDLETON

As Rogers explained, he is in favour of having an external review, but he felt the steering group proposal was problematic based on the "subjective" statements made therein, as well as the process by which the group formed. He noted Middleton had referenced some "necessary evils" while introducing the motion.

"For me, the necessary evils in this are just too much for me to accept," Rogers said.

The proposal came out of a working group of eight trustees that came together independently of Trust Council endorsement, comprising Middleton, Paul Brent, David Critchley, Michael Kaile, Kees Langereis, Ben McConchie, Cameron Thorn and Steve Wright. That group with the addition of Deb Morrison then presented a request for a decision on the proposal as part of the December Trust Council meeting last week.

Several council members registered issues with the terms of reference for the steering committee set out in the proposal. These terms identify not just the areas of representation — such as northern islands, southern islands, Howe Sound islands and members at large — but appoint specific trustees to fill those spots.

The resulting steering committee is heavy on male representation and also heavy on membership from the southern Gulf Islands. As constituted on Thursday, trustees from Saturna, North and South Pender islands accounted for five of the

nine seats to be filled by trustees. (A 10th seat is reserved for Islands Trust CAO Russ Hotsenpiller.)

Patrick said she found the steering committee appointments problematic.

"It's like if we were rolling out the COVID-19 vaccine in B.C. and left Dr. Bonnie Henry out of the picture," Patrick said after the meeting.

Middleton told the Driftwood that his group did not intend to skew the steering committee the way it did. In addition to the gender imbalance, he said they realized too late that Salt Spring is an important part of the project and representation from the island is crucial. In fact, his group was very much hoping to have Patrick involved and one of the southern Gulf Island reps has since offered to give up his seat in her place.

"That was a screw-up. It wasn't intentional," Middleton said. "We apologize to Salt Spring for being blind. We are seeking urgently to correct that."

Middleton explained the group came together organically through trustees that live close together geographically meeting and having conversations. They approached raising the motion via a working group because of their experience at how difficult it is to carry any idea through the comments and amendments made by 26 council members at a quarterly council meeting. Referral to committees can also further transform an idea into an unrecognizable form, Middleton said.

All of that is one reason for the group's approach, which focused first on including the people who supported having a review. It's also just one example why some trustees would like an objective outsider to review how the Trust does its business.

Middleton said because the Trust has been put into a defensive position in the past, there is a tendency to view any attempt at review as an attempt to dismantle the entire organization. However, he said there is no agenda beyond wanting to know if the Islands Trust is operating in the best way to achieve its goals, or if there are perhaps tools that other land trusts are using successfully to balance ecological protection with human occupation.

"It's not a review in opposition to a problem. We really hope to learn a lot, and then it will be up to a future Trust Council to determine if there's a course of action," Middleton said.

Patrick said she opposed the motion mainly because of its timing. Trust Council is in the midst of updating its policy statement to focus on issues of reconciliation and climate change — a project that's been underway for two years already and has incorporated a major public feedback campaign.

"If we're going to spend money, let's spend money to finish the policy statement. Let's finish this and then look at if we are best structured to achieve that," Patrick said.

Like others, Grove agreed that reviewing operations is healthy, but added, "I don't think this is the time or the place."

He noted the Trust's governance structure is defined and regulated in the Islands Trust Act and the Local Government Act, so any major changes would need to take place through the B.C. Legislature. That leaves only changes to management possible, in his opinion.

"The Islands Trust recently hired a very accomplished CAO. He has done a great deal for this organization and I think he will continue to do so," Grove said.

Grove also feels that \$75,000 will be insufficient for the consultant and the project could likely cost twice that amount. As it stands, the amount represents one per cent of the Trust's projected budget for 2021 and would mean an increase in property taxes.

## what's on this week



Thur. Dec. 10

ACTIVITIES

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

ONLINE

**The Jeff & Chrissy Show.** The show must go on! Livestream of holiday theatre production by Jeffrey Renn and Christina Penhale that was scheduled to be mounted with a live audience at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m. See [www.artspring.ca](http://www.artspring.ca) for details.

Fri. Dec. 11

ONLINE

**The Jeff & Chrissy Show.** See Thursday listing.

Fri. Dec. 11

ONLINE

**Zoom Youth Writers Group.** Online writing group for ages 13-19 sponsored by the Salt Spring Public Library. 3 to 5 p.m. via Zoom. Email [ahughes@saltspringlibrary.com](mailto:ahughes@saltspringlibrary.com) with all inquiries.

Sat. Dec. 12

ACTIVITIES

**Christmas Market in the Park.** Saturday market in Centennial Park that will include food vendors and possibly craft vendors, depending on updated provincial health orders. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Farm Stand Light Up & Tour.** Island farm stands around the island will be open and decorated for the season, featuring food, crafts and more. 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. See Farmstands, Farmers and Foodies of Salt Spring Island page on Facebook for a map.

Sat. Dec. 12

ACTIVITIES

**Big Vinyl Record and CD Sale.** At SS Seniors, 379 Lower Ganges Rd. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Proceeds to support Gulf Islands Community Radio.

ONLINE

**The Jeff & Chrissy Show.** See Thursday listing.

Sun. Dec. 13

ACTIVITIES

**Farm Stand Light Up & Tour.** See Saturday listing.

ONLINE

**The Jeff & Chrissy Show.** See Thursday listing, except the time is at 2:30 p.m.

Mon. Dec. 14

ACTIVITIES

**Salt Spring Fire Protection District AGM.** Annual general meeting at Lions Hall. 6:30 p.m. Due to space limitations, people must register their intention to attend by sending an email to [admin@saltspringfire.com](mailto:admin@saltspringfire.com) or phoning 250-537-2531.



Tues. Dec. 15

VIA ZOOM

**Salt Spring Local Trust Committee.** 9:30 a.m. Join the meeting via Zoom on Islands Trust Salt Spring page website, or watch a live stream at <https://collaboratevideo.net/islandstrust/B>.

Wed. Dec. 16

VIA ZOOM

**Gulf Islands Board of Education Meeting.** Special meeting to consider closure of Salt Spring Island Middle School. 6:30 p.m. See [sd64.bc.ca](http://sd64.bc.ca) for link.

Be COVID-19 safe:

wear masks indoors in public spaces  
and stay 2 metres apart.

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EXHIBITIONS

• **Artcraft Winter** runs daily at Mahon Hall from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Dec. 22, along with the **Creative Expressions** exhibit and sale. COVID-19 safety protocols in place.

EXHIBITIONS

• Needle and felt art by Tracey Cobane is hanging in the Salt Spring Public Library Community Program Room until Dec. 16. Ceramic sculptures by David Jackson are in the display case until Jan. 5.

• **Shine - A Celebration of Light and Art at Salt Spring Gallery** features work by gallery members and invited guests from Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. until Dec. 23.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Rolando Lampitoc** shows paintings and **Kasumi Lampitoc** has ceramic mugs at **Switchboard Cafe**.

• **Kathy Dryden** shows collage and acrylic paintings at **Country Roasters Cafe** this month.



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**Coming Events**

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Call 537-4666 or email [info@saltspringlibrary.com](mailto:info@saltspringlibrary.com) for details.

Holiday closure: December 24- January 3.

**Coming Events**

**In Memoriam**

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**Coming Events**

## Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District Meeting Notice

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD) will be held on **14 December 2020** at the Salt Spring Lions Club Hart Bradley Hall, 103 Bonnet Avenue. Commencing at 6:30pm

**The election results will be announced, as well, the District Auditor's Report, Fire Chief's Report & Trustees Annual Report.**

A motion to set Trustees' remuneration will be called for.

A meeting of the SSIFPD's Board of Trustees will commence following the AGM.

Due to COVID 19 restrictions, we must limit the number of people in attendance, so please pre-register by email at [admin@saltspringfire.com](mailto:admin@saltspringfire.com) or by phone at 250-537-2531. Deadline for registration is noon Monday, December 14, 2020. In order to comply with COVID 19 restrictions the wearing of face masks is mandatory. Attendees will be asked to provide their contact information and sign in at the door.

*Fire District ratepayers and the general public are encouraged to attend.*

**Coming Events**

**Coming Events**

**Coming Events**

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## THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer  
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**TIP OF THE WEEK:** READ MORE IN MY NEWSLETTER. SIGN-UP IS FREE ON MY WEBSITE.

The lead-up to the Solar Eclipse New Moon in Sagittarius on December 14th is the big news in the astrological world this week. Mercury closely aligned brings a strong philosophical influence to the fore. However, it includes a strong theme of attachment to subjective perspectives as well, as opposed to the higher levels of critical thinking that qualify for clear mindedness needed for clear philosophical insight and journalistic integrity. So, things could get very heated regarding the clash of perspectives, opinions and truths. Restrictive measures and pressure from governments will continue, yet their grip and authority will weaken and progressively slip from a grip to a desperate grasp. Themes of justice will also sound strongly on the airwaves, and may well even shift from appeal to prosecution and execution, subject to reactions against crimes contributing to restricted rights and freedoms and economic losses. In short, the heat is on in the social and political arena. Saturn and Jupiter entering Aquarius will have the effect of drawing upon the curtain to reveal some of what is hidden behind it.

**Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)**  
The fires of Sagittarius are a source of energy and inspiration. You continue to deal with sobering considerations regarding your future, but you are finally ready to make some big decisions. A spirit of adventure will guide your reasoning process. You have probably been working extra hard these past few years and you are ready for some ROI and R&R.

**Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)**  
You have been contending with some deep changes these past few weeks. Positively, they are the kind that is liberating you from prior restrictions. You remain determined to be practical and realistic, yet also yearn for change. Specifically, you are ready to engage in more creative projects. Getting prepared and cleaning corners as necessary to this end will keep you busy.

**Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)**  
The emphasis now is upon relationships. Features of the plot surround themes of authority and of spirituality. Listening to the guidance of your heart is more important than over. Call it an override of your lower mind with your higher mind in full command. Only those who truly understand will realize that all you can do is surrender to your inner authority.

**Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)**  
The flow of events both in your own personal life and on the larger social stage has prompted a good deal of reflection. Thinking critically about things is leading you to consider new perspectives. Deepened feelings of love for significant others is indicated. Enjoy the warmth of these before they shift to a more sober cycle starting next week when duty sounds the call.

**Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)**  
Finding the sweet spot between a creative, passionate charge and low-lying worries, is a complex you must manage now. Taking this time to huddle in close to home to recharge is likely and ideal now. Yet, there is also work to be done in your privacy. Much is destined to shift very soon in your world and the change will prove exciting, dramatic and expansive.

**Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)**  
Nestling in close to home remains a strong impulse for you currently and this emphasis will continue for a while yet. Positively, this constitutes a creative and industrious cycle which you are happy to engage. Deep thoughts ranging from politics, psychology to philosophy and ethics are on your mind. What is right, true, best and necessary...?

**Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)**  
A barrage of thoughts, ideas and communications are vying for your attention. At worst, you may be contending with lingering fears linked to concerns of an uncertain future. Other players on your stage are presenting direct challenges to your comfort zone, physically, mentally and emotionally. The only 'out' is to see beyond habitual self-concepts and patterns of perception.

**Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)**  
For the sake of your financial future, you are moved to diversify. This could apply to your approach, your portfolio and overall strategy. Naturally, you want to feel secure, and exercising your ability to think critically feels important. Beliefs may seem like a luxury now as circumstances push you to contend with realities. Outline all of your options so you can see them objectively.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)**  
The desire to take new leads and strides continues. Yet, you are probably contending with various continued restrictions and delays. Like an icebreaker plowing through thick ice, the going is slow and arduous, yet you are determined. The momentum will increase in the coming weeks, but will require that you make specific changes in your daily routine.

**Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)**  
The retreat cycle currently underway continues. Unfortunately, although you find yourself behind the scenes, it is likely that you are not idle or resting. In fact, quite the opposite may be true. Since early summer, circumstances have been pushing you to get to the bottom of things. Call it a renovation process requiring you to strip away the old structure.

**Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)**  
Your perspectives are changing with each new day. Keeping an open mind and not drawing conclusions due to a steady stream of conflicting information is part of the plot. The challenge is to be aware yet present and appreciative of the process. Finding your place in it all has, and continues to be a bit murky. However, like the pre-dawn light, you are beginning to see the light of a new day.

**Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)**  
Expanding your public and/or professional front continues. Your sights are set on the future and you are determined to remain as realistic as you can. Starting projects now that you can work on for literally the coming months and years is ideal and important. So, make efforts to get clear on what they are and at least begin the process with confidence that you can work on them later.

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# DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

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Over the phone registration is open Mon-Fri 8:30am-3pm at 250-537-1402. No in-person registration at this time.

# Winter Recreation Guide

Registration available 24/7 online at **ssiparc.ca**

Registration closes at 3:00pm three days before the programs starts, no same day or late registrations. Regular Refund and Cancellation policies apply and can be viewed online at ssiparc.ca

## AQUATIC PROGRAMS Pre-registration required

- Blocks include time in change rooms. Wait to enter facility until booked time.
- Spaces limited & physical distancing required
- Mask required in facility
- Registration will open each Friday at 3pm for the following week's swim times
- Swimmers will not be permitted into the facility if they have cold or flu like symptoms
- Limit of 3 LAP SWIM times per week
- Jan 11th-Mar 13th (\*No Aquafit and limited swimming Feb 15th)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Lap Swim</b> (individual lanes)	1pm-2pm 2:15pm-3:15pm 3:30pm-4:30pm	9:15am-10:15am 1pm-2pm 2:15pm-3:15pm	11am-12pm 1pm-2pm 2:15pm-3:15pm	9:15am-10:15am 1pm-2pm 2:15pm-3:15pm		
<b>Lap Swim</b> (communal lanes)	11am-12pm 6pm-7pm	11am-12pm 8am-9am	11am-12pm 6pm-7pm	11am-12pm 8am-9am	1:30pm-2:30pm 3:30pm-4:30pm 4:45pm-5:45pm	10am-11am 11:15am-12:15pm 12:30pm-1:30pm
<b>Leisure Swim</b>		3:30pm-5pm		3:30pm-4:45pm	6pm-7:30pm	1:45pm-3:15pm
<b>Aquafit</b>	Energizer 8:15am-9am Aqualite 9:45am-10:30am	Aqua Intervals 5:45pm-6:30pm	Energizer 8:15am-9am Aqualite 9:45am-10:30am	Aqua Tabata 6:30pm-7:15pm	Energizer 8:15am-9am Aqualite 9:45am-10:20am	<b>Family Swim</b> M Feb 15 12-1:30pm & 1:45-3:15pm

### Red Cross Swimming Lessons

(4 months – 12 years)  
Swimming lessons will be taught from the pool deck with physical distancing considered. **Preschool levels and Swim Kids 1-4 require parent participation** in the water to assist each student. Swim Kids levels 5-10 are taught without parent participation. See ssiparc.ca for more details.  
Tu Jan 12 - Mar 9 \$55.08  
Th Jan 14 - Mar 11 \$55.08  
F Jan 15 - Mar 12 \$48.96 \* No class Feb. 19

### ADVANCED AQUATICS

**NATIONAL LIFEGUARD RECERTIFICATION**  
Sa 10am-7pm Jan 9 \$100  
**NATIONAL LIFEGUARD** (15yrs+)  
Fri & Sa 8:30am-6pm Jan 29-Feb 13 \$305  
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Step 1: Sa Jan 15  
Step 2: M-F Mar 15-25 \$350



**SHOWERS ARE AVAILABLE:**  
8am – 12pm on Tuesday and Thursday (excluding stat holidays). Patrons can drop-in or reserve ahead of time via phone 250-537-1402 or email ssiparc@crd.bc.ca.



All classes and courses are designed to allow for safe participation and adhere to Public Health direction. Pre-registration is required for all classes.

### TOTS & KIDS

**PARENT & TOT CIRCLE** walking-4 yrs  
Yoga, movement, story and song.  
Instructor: Flo Roberson  
F 9:30am-10am Jan 8 – Feb 5 \$50/5 classes  
F 9:30am-10am Feb 26 – Mar 26 \$50/5 classes  
Location: Heron's Nest Classroom  
**KID'S YOGA & CRAFT** 5-8 yrs  
Instructor: Flo Roberson  
F 10:30am-12:30pm Jan 8 – Feb 5 \$90/5 classes  
F 10:30am-12:30pm Feb 26 – Mar 26 \$90/5 classes  
Location: Heron's Nest Classroom



STARTING JAN 11TH

M & W am: 9:00-11:30 or pm: 12:45-3:15  
T & Th am: 9:00-11:30 or pm: 12:45-3:15  
\$17 per Day

**New!**

### ADULT PROGRAMS

**STRONG NATION**  
High-intensity, boot camp, group fitness.  
Instructor: Shal Friesen  
M 5:30pm-6:30pm Jan 11 – Mar 15 \$120/10  
Location: Portlock Park

**MOON WAVES**  
Embodiment, dance, and movement in the pool.  
Instructor: Shauna Devlin  
W 6pm-7:30pm Jan 27, Feb 24 \$20 per session  
Location: Rainbow Road Aquatic Centre

### HOLISTIC COOKING SERIES

Instructor: Beth Whalley  
Location: Herons Nest Classroom

**LEARN TO MAKE KOMBUCHA**  
Su 1pm-3pm Feb 7 \$32

**DIY SAUERKRAUT & KIMCHI**  
Su 1pm-3pm Mar 7 \$39

**FERMENTED PICKLED VEGGIES, SAUCES & VINEGAR**  
Su 1pm-3pm Apr 18 \$35



**TRX**  
Full body, suspension trainer, group fitness.  
Instructor: Molly Black  
Tu 8am-9am Feb 16 – Mar 30 \$84/7  
Th 8am-9am Feb 18 – April 1 \$84/7  
Location: Portlock Park

**PERSONAL TRAINING**  
Instructor: Molly Black  
For more information, contact 250-537-1402 or ssiparc@crd.bc.ca

### ONLINE FITNESS



**BARRE ONLINE**  
Workout from home. New classes weekly.  
\$20/8 online classes  
Instructor: Tanja Akerman

**66 DAY FITNESS & HEALTH CHALLENGE ONLINE**  
Workout from home. Personal health guidance, and unlimited online fitness classes for 66 days.  
\$99/entire course  
Instructor Tanja Akerman



### FIRST AID PROGRAMS



**STANDARD FIRST AID w/ CPR C**  
Sa-Su 9am-5pm Jan 9-10 & Feb 6-7 \$122/2 classes

**EMERGENCY FIRST AID w/ CPR C**  
Sa 9am-5pm Jan 30 \$89

### Need a Recert?

Participants must bring their current, unexpired certification card to class.



**STANDARD FIRST AID w/ CPR C RECERTIFICATION**  
Sa 9am-5pm Jan 16 \$79

**CPR LEVEL C RECERTIFICATION**  
Sa 9am-1pm Jan 16 \$36

For custom classes contact ssiparc@crd.bc.ca

### YOUTH SAFETY

**STAY SAFE!** 9-12 yrs  
Red Cross certification, focusing on home and personal safety.  
Sa 10am-1pm Feb 20 & 27 \$35

**BABYSITTER TRAINING** 11-15 yrs  
Become a Red Cross certified babysitter.  
Sa 10am-2pm Mar 6 & 13 \$65

All programs and offerings are subject to change due to COVID-19 restrictions.