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Money Matters

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Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022

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PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

BODY OF LOVE: A giant skeleton on Cusheon Lake Road holds hearts among other Valentine's Day decorations not seen in this photo, following a trend of being the star of Halloween and other holiday displays in the past several months.

CENSUS DATA

Mayne tops Gulf Islands growth spurt

Populations rise 10 to 37 per cent in five-year census period

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Census data released last week confirms what many Southern Gulf Islanders have been experiencing: a big population growth spurt led by Mayne and Galiano islands.

The increase in residents on the Southern Gulf Islands from 2016 to 2021 ranged from 10 to over 30 per cent, outpacing many other rural areas across Canada that saw a 6.3 per cent overall increase.

Mayne Island saw the largest jump, from 949 to 1,304 residents, or 37.4 per cent.

Some of the increase reflects a reversal of a trend from the previous two census periods. The population dropped by 150 people between 2011 and 2016, for example.

Yet even taking this into account, longtime Islands Trust trustee Jeanine Dodds confirms the growth has still been massive on her island. Dodds said Mayne traditionally attracts retirees, which it continues to do, yet with changes in work possibilities during the pandemic the island is also seeing a lot of younger arrivals bringing children along with them.

Dodds said the school population has gone up considerably and work is ongoing for a purpose-built daycare centre.

"We have a lot of children under the age of five, more than we've ever had," she said.

While this growth is an opportunity, it also presents challenges, Dodds said, in terms of the limited resources such as healthcare on the island, the changing nature of the community and their needs and wants, as well as the now "phenomenal jump" in real estate prices.

"Our community will be changing because the affordability has changed a lot. So I think we're all a little apprehensive. We want to carry on to be the happy, friendly place we've always been."

CENSUS continued on 2

Zen Master Wolfgang says:
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Dwelling numbers rise on islands

CENSUS

continued from 1

The island has also experienced a building boom, with census data showing a total of 1,292 private dwellings, up from 1,211 in 2016.

The data states that only 706 of these dwellings are "occupied by usual residents," in other words a home where people live permanently.

"Having 50 per cent part time is not the sign of a really healthy community," Dodds said. "So if that changes, if we have more people here permanently, that actually gives us a healthier community because our economy can run year-round instead of kind of crashing in the winter."

Along with Mayne, Galiano also reversed a population loss trend in the last two census periods. Galiano's population grew from 1,044 in 2016 to 1,396 in 2021, or 33.7 per cent.

The island went from having 1,170 private dwellings in 2016 to 1,216 last year, with 726 of those permanently occupied.

Saturna Island wasn't far behind Galiano, with a 31.4 per cent population increase — from 354 to 465. Just over half, 259, of Saturna's 484 private dwellings were occupied permanently.

North Pender saw a slower pace of growth (19.4 per cent

from 2,067 to 2,467, and South Pender went from 235 to 306 residents, for a 30.2 per cent hike.

South Pender added only five dwellings to the dwelling count from 2016 to 2021, going from 210 to 215 dwellings. North Pender's dwelling count went from 1,711 four years ago to 1,768 in 2021.

Salt Spring had the slowest population growth of the islands, yet the 10.2 per cent growth between 2016 and 2021 still far out-paced British Columbia's average rural growth rate of 0.5 per cent. On May 11, 2021, 11,635 people were residing on Salt Spring, compared to 10,557 five years earlier.

The number of private dwellings counted in the 2021 census on Salt Spring was 6,105, with 5,120 considered occupied permanently. The number of homes is 55 more than five years earlier, when 6,050 were counted.

The census data also measured population density per square kilometre. Perhaps unsurprisingly, Salt Spring is the most dense with 63.6 people per square kilometre, followed by Mayne with 58.4 people per square kilometre. The least dense of the islands is Saturna, with 13 people per square kilometre.

Gulf Islanders will be learning more about their population as Statistics Canada plans to release more demographic information in April and July.

"We want to carry on to be the happy, friendly place we've always been."

JEANINE DODDS
Mayne Island trustee

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ISLANDS TRUST

Policy statement work continues

Programs committee gives nod to public input and timeline

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Islands Trust Council's programs committee will not push for a specific completion date of a new Trust Policy Statement (TPS) document in advance of the next full council meeting set for March 8-10.

Some trustees and members of the public have suggested that Trust Council not try to complete the TPS

update before trustee elections are held this October, contrary to a proposed timeline included in a staff report and council's original plans for the project.

While the programs committee did not recommend a specific timeline at their Feb. 11 meeting, members did agree to recommend to Trust Council "that the timeline for passage of the revised policy statement be guided by and reflective of the engagement process," based on a motion made by Saturna trustee Paul Brent.

As outlined in a staff report, public engagement activities, set to begin before the end of this month, include an online survey, a virtual live question and answer session, a virtual community workshop, by invitation virtual focus groups, in-person community events and pop-ups, with in-person events subject to COVID-19 related restrictions on public gatherings. ISL Engineering and Land Services, the company contracted to develop and implement what is called the phase 3 public engagement program, is expected to produce a report by the end of May. The draft timeline suggests first reading could be considered at Trust Council's meeting in June.

Trustee Tim Peterson from Lasqueti Island expressed sentiments shared by some of his colleagues at Friday's meeting.

"I don't think we need to be married to finishing this project before the end of the term, but I also don't think it's appropriate to stop work. I think especially the issues around reconciliation are really important and we need to be making an effort to be moving this along."

Gabriola trustee Scott Colbourne did not support Brent's motion that the timeline be essentially determined by public input.

"This implies that there's going to be some universal consensus guided by and reflective of public engagement. That's not how public engagement works, folks. . . . Public engagement is not going to yield 'Do it this way.' You're going to get a lot of contradictory information. There's a lot of voices we haven't heard from. There's a lot of voices who are sort of self selecting in terms of their ability to take part in the meetings and get in delegations."

Colbourne said it was important for the new TPS to address long overdue things like climate change and reconciliation issues and finish the job before the end of the trustees' term. To not do so, he said, "would be a monumental failure of the task that has been put in front of us as elected officials in 2022."

Trustees had also been asked to provide community feedback received about the TPS for the Feb. 11 meeting. Eleven of 26 trustees responded to that request.

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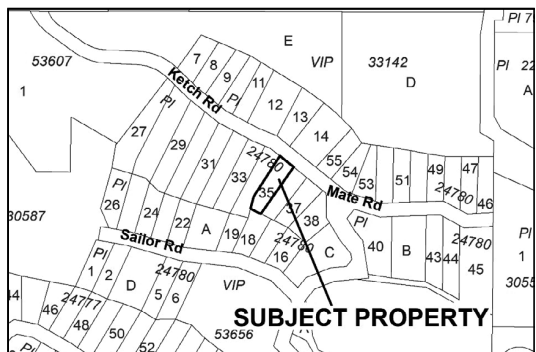
NOTICE NP-TUP-2021.10 NORTH PENDER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 494 of the *Local Government Act* that the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) will be considering a resolution allowing for the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit. The proposed permit would apply to Lot 35, Section 10, Pender Island, Cowichan District, Plan 24780 (PID: 000-787-485). This property is located at **4617 Ketch Road**.

The purpose of this temporary use permit would be to permit a **Short Term Vacation Rental** use within the Dwelling Unit.

The establishment of these uses would be subject to the conditions specified in the attached proposed permit. The permit would be issued for **three (3) years** and the owner may apply to the LTC to have it renewed once for an additional three (3) years.

The general location of the subject property is shown on 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. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, commencing **February 4, 2022** and continuing up to and including **February 15, 2022**.

For the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 499 (2) (c) of the *Local Government Act*, additional copies of the Proposed Permit may be inspected at various Notice Boards on North Pender Island.

Enquiries or comments should be directed to Phil Testemale, Planner 2 at (250) 405-5170. 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 before 4:30 p.m., **February 15, 2022**.

The LTC may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permit during the regular business meeting starting at **10:00 a.m., February 24, 2022**.

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

Jas Chonk, Deputy Secretary



PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

SUPPORT FOR UNVAXXED FIREFIGHTERS: On Monday afternoon, people demonstrate outside Ganges Fire Hall against the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District's new policy of requiring all career and paid-on-call members to be double vaccinated as of Feb. 28. A statement from the fire board released before its Monday night meeting confirmed that the policy would not be changed, despite strong public pressure to do so. While a number of fire department members are reportedly not vaccinated, the statement includes the opinion of Salt Spring Fire Chief Jamie Holmes "that implementation of this policy will not compromise the operational integrity and emergency preparedness of Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue." For coverage of the Monday night fire board meeting, as well as previous reporting on this issue, see the Driftwood's gulfislandsdriftwood.com website.

SCHOOL DISTRICT

RV parking irks school staff

School district pursuing options for discouraging practice

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Gulf Islands School District (SD64) is looking to change parking rules outside the high school as members of the school community are concerned about people parking RVs and other vehicles long-term in that area.

The issue of long-term parking in front of Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) was brought up by secretary-treasurer Jesse Guy at a Feb. 9 school board meeting.

"This has been brought to us by our school community. There's a discomfort for having recreational vehicles parked directly in front of GISS, in front of the field," she explained.

No specific signage is currently up, so the RCMP can only act on vehicles in that area if they are unregistered. The district is discussing possible next steps with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI), which owns the land. Guy said that could include signage and possible restrictions such as a prohibition on parking overnight or for longer than 48 hours, for example.

"We are working on that, and it is multiple jurisdictions in this case," Guy said.

Co-chair of the District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) Adria Kray said she is glad to hear the district is looking into the issue.

Board chair Tisha Boulter noted there may be people living in some of the vehicles parked there.

"Of course, there's a sensitivity to housing challenges across our Gulf Islands community. We find it objectionable, however, to park recreational vehicles outside of any of our facilities that have kids coming and going to them," superintendent Scott Benwell said, noting he had heard this concern from many people. "While we understand that challenge, please not in front of our schools."

Kindergarten registration

Director of instruction, human resources D'Arcy Deacon gave a gentle nudge to anyone contemplating registering their child in kindergarten to do so sooner rather than later.

"It goes a long way to predicting how we're staffing schools," he said.

Trustee for Galiano Island Shelley Lawson noted it can come as a surprise to parents that

they need to register their children to start kindergarten.

Enrolment as a whole is also being looked at by the district, with Benwell reporting an expected and "not dramatic" decrease of 15 students for the next school year.

"At this time of year it is an educated guess," he noted. "We're not seeing a dramatic in-migration to our district and we're not seeing a dramatic out-migration, which is what we predicted our district would look like into the foreseeable future."

Benwell noted the district is advertising to fill the role of principal for GISS, one held by educator and administrator Lyall Ruehlen since 2013.

Reconfiguration update

Boulter reported on how reconfiguration at the school district has been going for GISS and Phoenix Elementary School, part of ongoing reporting trustees are conducting for the board since the transition began in September 2021.

It has been a smooth process to add a Grade 8 cohort for GISS, Ruehlen stated, and has been beneficial for staff to get to know students for two years before the focus to graduation transitions starts in Grade 10.

"Lyall said this was a long time coming, and it was the right move in his opinion," Boulter reported to the board.

Ruehlen added that the addition of new educators has been a bonus, and the school is looking forward to when they will receive students directly from Grade 7 this September.

Phoenix Elementary School principal Dan Sparanese stated that reconfiguration had been a challenge as the school lost 11 students out of a 40-student population. With continued interest in the school, enrolment stayed steady at 39 students yet with a higher percentage being Kindergarten to Grade 4, as well as Grades 4 to 7 students. The Grade 4s are now in two different classrooms, Boulter explained, "and it created its own unique challenges to have a primary from K to 4 in grade configurations." Sparanese noted that it would have been better to split this configuration into three groups, yet the school doesn't have the physical space nor the full-time teacher to do so.

Despite these challenges, Boulter reported that moving the Grade 8 students from Phoenix to GISS was a good choice.

"It made sense that that group socially is at the high school," she said. "It was a challenge to meet the needs of that particular age group in an elementary school."



Islands Trust

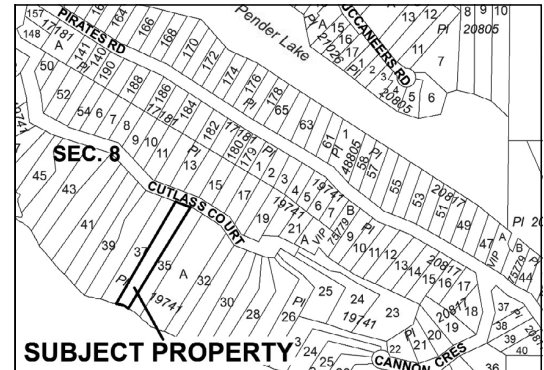
**NOTICE
NP-TUP-2021.11
NORTH PENDER ISLAND
LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE**

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Jas Chonk, Deputy Secretary



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Bronze - Best News Story (Elizabeth Nolan) | Bronze - Community Service

2021 BCYNA Awards
Gold - Best All Round (for circulation Category C)



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EDITORIAL

Clear statement

U

pdating of the Islands Trust Policy Statement (TPS) continues to draw

ample public interest.

Last week's Islands Trust Council programs committee pointed out at a meeting held virtually last Friday, a variety of voices are still to be heard from, while others observed that it's not really the public's document to write. A number of other considerations go into the process and public opinion is just one of them. Hopefully the activities planned by public engagement consultant ISL Engineering and Land Services and set to begin soon will elicit a diverse range of views.

But as some trustees on the programs committee pointed out at a meeting held virtually last Friday, a variety of voices are still to be heard from, while others observed that it's not really the public's document to write. A number of other considerations go into the process and public opinion is just one of them. Hopefully the activities planned by public engagement consultant ISL Engineering and Land Services and set to begin soon will elicit a diverse range of views.

THE ISSUE:

Trust Policy Statement review

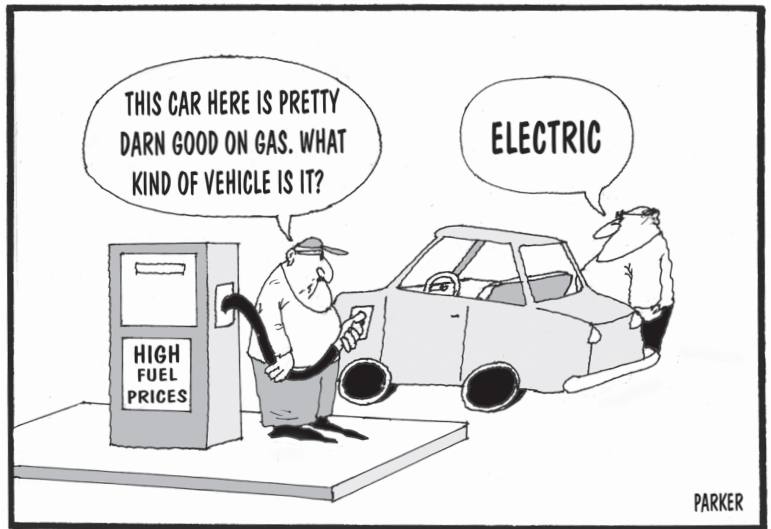
WE SAY:

Trustees set the civil tone

budget and release of a governance review of the Islands Trust — which could possibly reveal some uncomfortable truths and/or provide a clear way forward for the local government body that seems to attract more scrutiny than any other.

Interestingly, 10 years ago this week, an opinion piece by former Saturna Island trustee John Money headlined "Beware of policy statement power grab" appeared in the Driftwood, just as the first funds were being committed to the review now nearing completion. He was recalling what happened when the first TPS was being crafted in the 1990s and warned against each island giving up its autonomy through overly prescriptive TPS language. "I witnessed some of the worst and most ugly meetings I have ever seen," he wrote in recalling the earlier process.

We hope and trust the nature of public discourse has progressed since then. Trustees on the programs committee should congratulate themselves on their ability to discuss a contentious topic with civility despite much differing opinions last week. It's a tone that will be needed when the broader council meets next month amid even more public scrutiny.



Vortex deserves green light

BY DAVID RUMSEY

Despite the letters that have been decrying the Vortex development in Fulford, there are many islanders who are eager to see this innovative solution move forward and bring some positive energy to what has been a pit of despair and dereliction for more than a decade.

The Vortex is to be located at the site of the original Fulford Inn, which provided food and accommodations for generations of Salt Springers in the South End. The Vortex will continue in that tradition and provide a much-needed gathering place and local guest accommodations. Having a local facility avoids the environmental and safety problems of driving all the way to Ganges or running the gauntlet down into Fulford village to find food or accommodation. The Fulford Inn was a connection point for much of the South End, and it has been sorely missed since it was left abandoned to fester in red tape and despair.

Besides accommodating friends and guests of local Salt Springers, the

VIEWPOINT

Fulford Inn also hosted groups, gatherings, and friend circles that met there regularly. The local Salt Springer behind the Vortex project has stated that he wants to recreate that energy by providing a location that brings people together, provide local accommodations and also improve the environmental footprint that was left behind by the old inn. The proposed sanitation solution, including microfiltering, exceeds that of the vast majority of dwellings on Salt Spring Island. Will the Vortex be the Fulford Inn? Can it withstand every potential ecological disaster? No, but the Vortex is a local, innovative, on-island solution if ever there was one.

A few of the opponents of the Vortex project would like to see the area turned into a park. However, they fail to understand that the property is zoned commercial, and it has already been purchased! Creating a park will require the owner being willing to sell the property, and park advocates

to change the zoning and raise sufficient funds to purchase it before someone else — from off island and with a worse plan and under a different Trust committee — buys it first.

In the interest of fairness and due process, the local Salt Springer who took the time and risk to purchase the site deserves the chance to implement his vision for it. Voting down the proposed Vortex at this late stage is unfair to the local developer who is acting in good faith. It also stifles other innovative ideas on the island and results in further community cynicism and social stagnation.

Lastly, voting down the proposal will not magically improve the situation for many years, if at all. It will simply prolong the continued blight of an unused, toxic eyesore that greets visitors and residents alike to the island.

Let's not let our vision of perfection get in the way of a positive, concrete plan out of the current weeds.

The writer is a South End resident.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you concerned about Gulf Islands population growth? Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you support the Vortex proposal in Fulford?
YES 130 NO 220

Cast your ballot online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com before Monday 2 p.m. or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 2 p.m.

ISLAND VOICES

Letters to the editor are welcome, but writers are requested to keep their submissions to 350 words or less. For details about deadlines, and word limits for the Viewpoint and other longer opinion pieces, contact the editor at the email address below, or phone 250-537-9933. All submissions may be edited for brevity, legality and taste. Writers are asked to provide a telephone number where they may be reached during the day, and to sign letters with their full name. Letters published do not necessarily reflect the views of Driftwood Publishing Ltd., its staff or advertisers. Send letters to: news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

FROM THE BACK ISSUES

After 30 years, Salt Spring Says is being replaced by a new weekly feature of items published in the Driftwood during the same week of the year noted.



1972

Annual pancake races, sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary to the Royal Canadian Legion, were held in Ganges on Shrove Tuesday as they had been each year since 1958.

1982

Salt Spring parks department officials were angry about the theft of five cords of firewood stored for Moutat Park summertime campers' use and valued at more than \$200. The RCMP said persons caught stealing firewood from the park would face unexpected heat from the courts.

1992

Formation of the Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital Foundation was shared in an article contributed by Patrick Lee. The foundation's initial project was to raise \$40,000 to help with costs of redesigning and renovating the hospital's lab, radiology and other out-patient departments.

2002

The Gulf Islands Radio Broadcasting Society was closer to having a voice on the FM airwaves. Society president Gordon English said his group had developed a business plan in order to make an application to the Canadian RadioTelevision and Telecommunications Commission for a broadcast licence.

2012

Islanders were coming to terms with Salt Spring's first four-way stop intersection, according to local RCMP.

"It's been kind of like watching the Indy 500 just waiting for a wreck. The first day, to be quite honest, was quite worrying," said Salt Spring RCMP Cpl. Martin Beardsmore.

The traffic pattern was changed to a four-way stop at Central due to a high number of collisions at the intersection.



Brian Pickford and Dale Johnson of Mainroad Contracting with four-way signage at Central.

LETTERS to the editor

Responsibility

Oh, the irony!
In the Feb. 2 Driftwood, you have CRD director Gary Holman giving a comprehensive description of the CRD's efforts to support services for the vulnerable, as is his job ("Director reports on housing and service progress). And you have Salt Spring Island Community Services (SSICS) executor director Rob Grant stating in the front-page "Park warming space dismantled" story that CRD is just "shifting it onto someone else," although it's Community Services' job to provide services.

And you have the Mental Wellness Initiative group with their sizeable number of willing peer mentors ("Local mental health focus shifted," by Linda Underwood and David Norget).

And also in the front-page story you have the most vulnerable themselves showing us in their original warming space exactly what works for them, including peer mentoring in action.

And then, unable to coordinate a solution to the warming space situation, SSICS has been designated as the operator of the future complex Drake Road project. Irony aside, is this a good decision?

JO ANN GAINOR,
SALT SPRING

Protect estuary

Concerning the Vortex proposal, I assumed when the variance expired recently that no further variance would be granted and the Vortex proposal for Fulford Creek estuary would be dropped, but a recent

submission to the Driftwood by property owner David Fullbrook proved otherwise.

He made his Vortex proposal sound like a cozy, homey community gathering place for present residents, but in fact, Vortex will be tourist accommodation with 17 short-term rentals, a gift shop and restaurant for the owner's profit, and septage treatment in the sensitive Fulford estuary.

I can't understand why a variance was ever issued in the first place as it was against the advice of the Trust's own experts.

Fulford Creek is the largest salmon-spawning stream in the Gulf Islands, and together with Soule Creek they need the Fulford estuary for the safe emergence of their young coho and chum salmon and the wild population of endangered sea-

run cutthroat trout unique in the world.

The reality of global warming, the climate crisis, rising sea levels and more extreme storms should make building on any estuary unadvised, and especially this one of such unique importance to the environment, the beach, fish, shorebirds, waterfowl, other wildlife and the water quality of Fulford Harbour itself.

I hope the trustees will remember that they were elected with a mandate to preserve and protect as much as possible of the wonderful beauty and nature of these islands for all of B.C. and beyond.

These things once lost can never be replaced.

NANCY WIGEN,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Public engagement is not going to yield 'Do it this way.' You're going to get a lot of contradictory information."

SCOTT COLBOURNE, GABRIOLA TRUSTEE, ON THE TRUST POLICY STATEMENT

Honest conversation about our community needed

BY LUISA MAFFI

Jason Mogus is known as a staunch campaigner and strategist on various environmental and social issues. No doubt, he believes passionately in the causes he takes on.

In the heat of argument, though, sometimes one can get carried away. In his zeal to make his point about affordable housing ("Small dwellings not the villain," Driftwood, Jan. 26), Jason argues that some of us may be suffering so much from "climate grief" that the pain is clouding our judgment and we are unduly "taking it out on our small community." And he ends up suggesting that we should "get help" — somewhat insensitively, I would say, even more so that we are suffering from the effects not only of climate chaos, to which islanders contribute little, but also of clear-cut logging and other forms of environmental degradation for which our actions on the island are fully responsible.

The global crisis that human activities have unleashed is affecting and will continue to affect everyone, beyond the much-touted "working class vs. moneyed elite" divide. That divide, it seems to me, is a red herring and definitely a "tired trope almost as old as Salt Spring," to quote Jason's words. In reality, there are plenty of well-to-do (or at least "comfortable") individuals who care deeply about both the environment and people. And there are plenty of well-to-do individuals who care about neither. Likewise, there are plenty of less well-off people who do care about the environment, and plenty who don't.

The divide is not so much an economic one as it is a cognitive one: a difference in the way we think. We either see our-

INRESPONSE

selves as separate from nature and dominant over it — and then we consider nature as just "out there" to be taken from — or we see ourselves as a part of nature and utterly dependent on it — and then we realize that what we do to nature we do to ourselves, and take action to care for and protect what cares for and protects us. Both ways of thinking cut across economic classes, and that fact needs to be roundly recognized and acknowledged.

In addition, Jason states that "every trustee . . . is a hard-core environmentalist" who takes "protection of this special place seriously" according to "the unique conservation mandate of the Trust Act" — so that any argument to the contrary "has no basis in reality" and "creates unnecessary fear." At present, it is not easy to see how such a statement might be supportable. In the process of reviewing and revising the Trust Policy Statement, over half of all Islands Trust trustees (and our entire local Trust committee) have been in favour of diluting the Trust's mandate by putting social and economic goals on a par with the original goal of environmental protection.

That old "three-legged stool" model of sustainable development doesn't work, and has long been discredited. The balancing act among the three goals has always resulted in trade-offs in which the environment loses. What we understand now is that, if we are to reach any kind of sustainability on this planet — and on this island — we need to recognize the primacy of the

natural world, to which we belong, as the indispensable source of life support for ourselves and all other species. And we need to subsume human activities under the paramount goal of sustaining life. That responsibility applies to all of us, regardless of our economic standing.

Most of us would agree, however, that here and everywhere we are miserably failing to bring about a just society. The plight of many working people, young families, seniors and disadvantaged individuals on the island is heart-wrenching. We don't control many of the pressures that cause that plight, as they come from well beyond our confines. But in our well-meaning efforts to address the local effects of those pressures, we must avoid further adding to what is ailing our already fragile, degraded ecosystems — lest we cross thresholds beyond which the island will no longer be able to sustain any of us. Water is already a limiting factor, ever more so with mounting climate instability. Other limiting factors are bound to follow.

No, we do not need more sprawling mega-homes on the island. But neither can the island sustain ever-increasing densities (even if now re-christened as "intensities"). What we do need, urgently, is an honest, respectful, in-depth conversation on what it really means to have a healthy community within healthy ecosystems, and how we can all work together to achieve that. Let's get that conversation going.

The writer has been a Salt Spring resident for 16 years and has been involved in a local project to assess the health of the island's ecosystems and the impacts on the health and well-being of islanders.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

Compromise for bakery

We, as Salt Springers, pride ourselves in being open-minded, innovative, flexible, helpful and cooperative.

Meghan Carr and Peter Hunt, the young couple who created Francis Bread, the much loved and appreciated bakery and picnic area, are exemplary Salt Springers in this regard. And yet in their attempt to maintain their bakery and provide a warm, welcoming sales area and gathering place they were beset by one obstacle after another as they sought to rezone the property for commercial use. Dealing with the requirements of the Islands Trust, North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) and the Capital Regional District "felt too financially and

emotionally draining to be able to keep doing this," states Meghan Carr.

The couple even started to purchase water for their operation when the use of NSSWD water was disallowed. However, that solution was "at variance with the Islands Trust Policy Statement concerning water as well as portions of the Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan" (Jan. 26 Driftwood story). Or, how about this piece of bureaucracy: "likely due to the difficulty of ensuring provision of potable water from an approved source in perpetuity for increased intensity of use" from a Trust staff report, noting that "no precedent exists for a rezoning on the basis of bulk water, either within the Islands Trust or provincially" (Jan. 18 Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee meeting).

Good grief! Are we going to give more importance to statements like these than to the needs and ideas of the actual human beings whose endeavours make our island the friendly, humane, interesting place it is? Surely, instead of being slaves to the wording of bylaws, those

who sit on diverse committees should be able to arrive at some sort of compromise to help promising local businesses to succeed.

And did I mention the fact that the local Trust committee has never received so many letters of support from us for any previous application for rezoning — almost 500! And the bread is scrumptious: try a sample at Woodshed Provisions. Let's not let this deserving business opportunity fade away. Go Francis Bread!

I am a long-time island resident and supporter of local businesses.

ANDREA RANKIN,
SALT SPRING

Water is finite

I am writing on the matter of the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee's proposed housing Bylaw 528, which would allow 3,500 properties (more than half of all private dwellings of Salt Spring) to have occupied suites in response to the need for affordable housing.

A standing resolution was passed to defer enforcement on the matter of "accessory buildings" except where health, safety or inadequate water issues are shown.

The need for more affordable housing comes from two groups: i) working people who cannot afford to live here, and ii) non-working people on more limited income. Hence the use of accessory buildings on existing properties for which enforcement may be deferred.

If one chooses not to report occupancy of an accessory building there is no awareness of it by the Trust or the Capital Regional District, making enforcement of health, safety or water concerns irrelevant. For example, if a hose is connected from the main occupant residence to an accessory building, all metered water consumption is recorded to primary residence. Therefore the onus of enforcement falls on the water districts to investigate and enforce consumption anomalies. In downloading the problem the Trust passes the responsibility and expense to water districts. In the case of well water, consumption limits of wells are governed by the provincial government, which does not monitor consumption and the well owner faces risk of the well going dry.

The bottom line is that the natural supply of fresh water determines the limits of consumption, not political or economic bodies. Nature has no conscience in such matters. Climate change is already demonstrating that fact. History continually reinforces the fact, as overstressed natural systems fail and the consequences fall on humanity.

Since we are all in this together I recommend stricter limits on the volume of water licensed consumers are allowed to draw, beyond which severe fines and/or discon-

nection of service results. Limits of natural capacity are influenced by establishing accurate limits of population growth matching accurate limits of natural supply.

The Trust's definition of sustainable housing is: "... until there are safe, secure, appropriate housing options that are affordable for all demographics and household types in perpetuity." Sustainable in perpetuity? Is that an oxymoron or an essential truth? Demand placed on the supply of water defines what is sustainable in perpetuity. History everywhere tells that human nature only learns this by exceeding demand over natural supply.

RON HAWKINS,
SALT SPRING



HARVEST MOON
CANNABIS - SALTSPRING

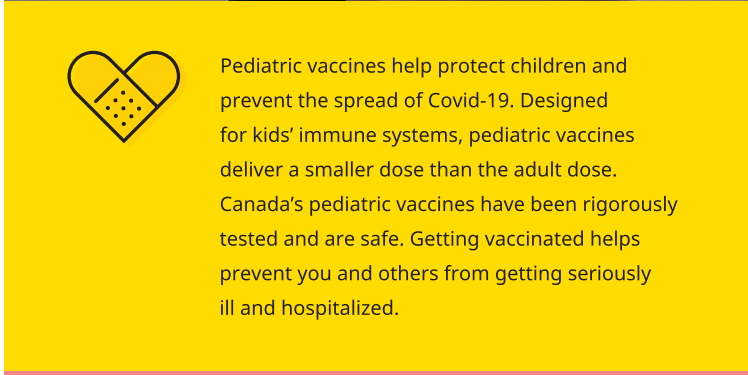
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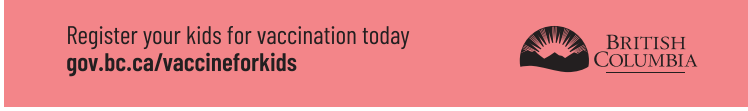


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Register your kids for vaccination today
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BRITISH COLUMBIA

Beautiful beavers



PHOTO BY CAFFYN JESSE

Beaver lodge near Upper Ganges Road and Long Harbour Road intersection.

Salt Spring Island once was home to hundreds of acres of beaver-built wetlands. Marshy areas along every creek, in every valley, once incubated a huge diversity of life, with prime habitat for migratory birds and amphibians. The water filtered by these wetlands was pure and clean. Between hunting beaver for fur, and the filling in of wetlands for farmland, Ganges village and suburban development, just a few of these hardworking animals and tiny remnants of the ecosystem they create remain. Somehow, every year, they have been showing up in Madrona Creek. Right at the corner of Long Harbour Road and Upper Ganges Road, you can admire a fine beaver lodge. Walking along Leisure Lane, you'll walk beside the beaver-built wetland. Enjoy the birdsong and the frog song. Watch the ospreys soar. That is, until the lodge is violently dismantled, as it is every spring. Or perhaps this spring, we will find another way.

CAFFYN JESSE,
SALT SPRING



Happy Family day

Please note that the **Gulf Islands Driftwood office** will be **closed** on **Monday, Feb. 21 - Family Day** statutory holiday - and will reopen 9am - 4pm on Tuesday, Feb. 22.

Driftwood 250-537-9933
241 Fulford-Ganges Rd
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Advertising deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood
Wednesday February 23 edition
will be Wednesday, Feb. 16, noon

Islanders invited to connect with radio station

BY DAMIAN INWOOD

These are exciting times for radio supporters on Salt Spring Island.

Last month, the CRTC gave approval to Gulf Islands Community Radio Society to launch a Community FM station. The new station will go under the call sign CHIR FM. The "IR" stands for "Islands Radio" and the call letters should be pronounced "Cheer."

CHIR will broadcast on 107.9 in the Ganges area and 102.1 in Fulford and is using existing towers used by the former CFSI station.

We aim to provide an improved signal so that more residents will be able to hear us. The station will be known as "the Voice of the Gulf Islands" and will reach Pender, Galiano, Mayne and Saturna Islands and parts of Vancouver Island.

We're working hard to get on the air by spring of 2023 and CHIR would like residents to get "radio-active" by volunteering for

fundraising, public relations and staffing our booth at the Saturday market.

What can you expect from the new station?

- CHIR will broadcast up-to-the-minute local news, weather, road reports and ferry reports.
- When emergency events occur, CHIR will broadcast vital information on what roads are open, which services are operating and where to take shelter.
- Local current affairs shows will feature reports on local politics and meetings.
- We will provide local, provincial and federal election coverage from all-candidates meetings.
- Salt Spring's diverse community will get its voice heard in inclusive shows covering LBGTQ+, Indigenous and francophone topics.
- Gulf Islands musicians will be showcased in live concerts and in-studio performances.
- Our local sports team will provide in-

depth news about high school, adult and seniors teams.

- Local concerts, theatre productions, poetry readings and author series will be featured.
 - Expert hosts will talk on subjects from real estate and gardening to pottery and holistic medicine.
 - A broadcast booth will bring live coverage and interviews from the Saturday market, the fall fair and the apple festival.
 - Correspondents will bring news from Galiano, Mayne, Pender and Saturna.
- We're currently in a transition phase between the application process and going on the air. The first stage took six years and cost around \$25,000 for engineering studies. In 2016, we launched an online music streaming system at www.islandsradio.ca.
- In 2017, we opened a studio and added local programs, including a daily morning show. The studio costs more than \$4,000 per

year to run.

We need to raise about \$85,000 and have already raised about \$10,000 to buy the equipment to expand our studio and install transmitters.

We recently launched Club 107.9 and already have 36 members who have donated \$107.90 and who are recognized on our website and receive other bonuses. Anyone interested in joining Club 107.9 or donating to CHIR should send an e-transfer to treasurer@gicrs.ca.

We are continually adding new local programming to our online stream and people interested in hosting a show can contact Dave Gordon at radiogordo@protonmail.com.

And those interested in volunteering should contact president@gicrs.ca.

The writer is president of Gulf Islands Community Radio Society.

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SAVING

What type of saver are you?

Plus ways to save more money for retirement

Will you be ready to retire when the time comes? The amount of money you save and for how long will determine your level of comfort in your golden years. So what type of saver are you?

THE STEADY SAVER

You have a firm grip on your finances and know you'll squirrel away enough to retire on. You regularly contribute to your retirement fund and put a predetermined portion of your pay into an emergency savings fund.

THE PART-TIME SAVER

You've thought about your retirement plan and tend to put away money when you have some leftover at the end of the month. This is a great way to start, but you should put cash into your retirement fund more regularly. Getting the bank to automatically transfer funds on a specific day is a good way to move towards having better saving habits.

THE FUTURE SAVER

You know you should put away money for your retirement, but you haven't started yet. If you don't know how to begin, seek advice from a financial consultant. They can help you make a retirement plan and show you ways to maximize your savings.

THE NON-SAVER

You don't save and don't plan to start. This is a risky way to conduct your financial affairs as governments and businesses alike are reducing pensions now more than ever.

Many people across the country don't know how much money they'll need to retire. To find out, reach out to a financial advisor in your area.

Tips for Saving More

If you are struggling to build up your retirement fund, it may be a good idea to pay attention to your spending habits. In fact, you may be surprised to discover where your money is going. Here are some ways to save for retirement that won't feel like a sacrifice.

- **Rethink small indulgences.** Spending three dollars a day on picking up a coffee on your way to work may seem like an affordable treat. However, over a year those coffees cost almost \$800; money that could have gone into your retirement fund.
- **Establish a budget and stick to it.** Knowing how much money you have coming in and out over the course of a month will help you live within your means and allow you to put more aside for retirement. Be sure to make monthly contributions to your retirement fund.
- **Put windfalls directly in your retirement fund.** Are you expecting a sizeable tax refund from the government? Or perhaps you're receiving a bonus from work, or maybe an inheritance? Put any unexpected money directly into your retirement fund. Since it wasn't part of your budget, you won't even miss it.
- **Lower your monthly expenses.** This can be as simple as calling your insurance company to renegotiate your rates or removing unnecessary options from your cellphone plan. Instead of adding these savings to your monthly budget, increase the amount you allocate to your retirement fund. Making small changes may not seem like a big deal, but they can add up over time and make a significant impact when you retire.



PERSONAL FINANCES

A financial plan can help you answer important questions

Budgets, saving and debt topics

BY SCOTT HOWE

Finances can sometimes keep us up at night.

But with proper planning, a financial plan can help you answer some key questions including:

How do I create a budget that fits my lifestyle?

Creating a budget is at the heart of any financial plan, and learning to manage it is key to thriving financially.

Follow this rule:

- 50 per cent of your after-tax income covers your needs
- 30 per cent covers your wants
- 20 per cent is what you save.

Should I pay off my debt or build up my savings?

Growing your nest egg is a big reason for why you should start saving as soon as possible. But, not all debt is the same - with credit card debt, it's best you pay that off quickly as the interest rates can be extremely high.

Am I saving enough for retirement?

Make sure to pay yourself first. It's never too early to start planning your retirement and it's never too late to plan what it's going to look like.

Scott Howe is Senior Wealth Advisor / Senior Investment Advisor with Island Savings Insurance Services / Credential Securities.

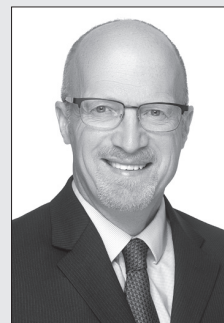


PHOTO COURTESY ISLAND SAVINGS
Scott Howe, senior wealth advisor and senior investment advisor with Island Savings.

The right choices for your changing life!

We all face risks throughout life. As time goes by and circumstances change, the risks change too. Insurance protection can help you manage many of the risks such as: Defaulting on your mortgage because you are unable to work. Not being able to pay bills or support your family because of illness. Having the money in your estate whittled away by taxes. A major disruption to your family's day-to-day life because of financial hardship.

Ashleigh Roslinsky
8 year Salt Spring Island resident, Consultant,
Investors Group Financial Services Inc.
and member of the Salt Spring Poultry Club
Ashleigh.Roslinsky@IG.ca

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INCOME TAX

Tax time information and advice shared

Canada Revenue Agency deadlines and details

SUPPLIED BY CANADA REVENUE AGENCY

Last year, Canadians filed almost 31 million income tax and benefit returns.

Having the information you need on hand to file your return makes the filing process that much easier. We want to help you get ready, so you are in good shape when it comes time to file your return this year.

The following is information on filing options, COVID-19 benefits, and what's new for this tax-filing season.

The tax-filing deadline for most individuals is April 30, 2022. Since that date falls on a Saturday, your return will be considered filed on time in either of the following situations:

- we receive it on or before May 2, 2022
- it is postmarked on or before May 2, 2022.

You have until June 15, 2022, to file your return if you or your spouse or common law-partner are self-employed.

The payment deadline is April 30, 2022. If you have a balance owing, your payment is due on April 30, 2022.

If you or your spouse or common law-partner are self-employed, your payment is still due on April 30, 2022.

If you filed your 2020 return and qualified for interest relief, you have until April 30, 2022, to pay any outstanding income tax debt for the 2020 tax year. This applies to the tax owing for the 2020 tax year only, and not for any previous tax year.

Since April 30, 2022, falls on a Saturday, in all of the above situations, your payment will be considered paid on time if we receive it, or it is processed at a Canadian financial institution, on or before May 2, 2022.

Plan ahead this tax-filing season

Plan ahead, and file your income tax and benefit return as soon as you can. Doing so will allow you to:

- receive any refund faster (if applicable)
- avoid interruptions to your benefit and credit payments
- seek help if you need it.

To help you plan ahead, we encourage you to sign up for direct deposit and to file online. Using these tools will help you avoid delays and get your notice of assessment (NOA) and any refund, if applicable, faster. Also, please sign up for My Account. It is the fastest and easiest way to view and manage your tax and

benefit information. If you own a business, you can also sign up for My Business Account.

Filing before the deadline is the best way to make sure your entitled benefit and credit payments are not interrupted. This includes the Canada child benefit, the goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax credit, and any related provincial or territorial benefits. Even if you owe tax, don't risk having your benefits interrupted by not filing. If you cannot pay your balance owing, we can work with you on a payment arrangement.

Our service standard is to issue your NOA within two weeks of receiving your return online. Due to COVID-19 delays, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) may take 10 to 12 weeks to process paper returns. The CRA will process them in the order they are received. Canadians who file online and who are signed up for direct deposit may get their refund in as little as eight business days.

Go digital this tax-filing season

Go digital this tax-filing season by using our online services such as:

- My Account – This service lets you manage your tax and benefit affairs online. You can update your address, direct deposit information, marital status, and more. You can also sign up for Email notifications and access digital services such as Auto-fill my return and Express NOA in certified tax filing software.
- NETFILE certified software – You can file online using NETFILE-certified software options. There are many products to choose from, depending on your needs. Some of these products are free.
- Express NOA – This service allows you to view your NOA in your certified tax software. Your notice becomes available right after the CRA receives and processes your return, seconds after filing.

• Email notifications – These notifications help you keep track of information in your account. They help prevent fraud by sending you an email when you have mail from the CRA, your address, direct deposit or other information has been changed or any paper mail from the CRA that was addressed to you is returned.

Please note that it will be mandatory to provide an email address to use My Account as of February 2022.

You can check out our questions and answers about filing your taxes page for more answers to common questions. This page will be updated periodically to incorporate changes that may affect you during the tax-filing season.

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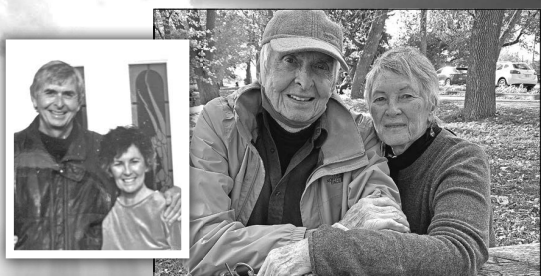


RANDALL W.D. SMITH
2021

Randy, beloved husband of Paula Smith, passed away peacefully on December 28, 2021, in his 73rd year.

Heartfelt thanks to Dr. K. Smith, Dr. A. Freeman, and their teams in Ganges and Victoria; staff at Lady Minto Hospital, RJH, BC Cancer Agency, SSI Palliative Care and Haywards Funeral Home.

Randy's obituary, tribute and photos may be viewed at forevermissed.com



MARLENE & TONY SMITH
1943-2021 & 1936-2022

Tony Smith, born and raised in Paris, ON, graduated from Queen's University, Chemical Engineering, under the Regular Officer Training Program with the Canadian Armed Forces. His three years of serving were spent flying fighter jets in Europe, based in France.

Marlene Smith, born Marlene Charko in Winnipeg, MB, daughter of an Air Force Officer, lived in many different places. They were stationed in France when she turned 18.

And at 18, Marlene attended her first Officer's Ball. Tony took one look at her and followed his heart... they were married October 28, 1961, and were blessed with their son, Don, 1962, and daughter, Rhonda, 1963. The family settled in Newmarket, ON, for 25 years.

Marlene loved to organize and volunteer. In Newmarket, she founded the Newmarket Crafters and Newmarket Hospice. On Salt Spring, she spearheaded the arts activities for Salt Spring Island's Millennium Project and was part of the Salt Spring Arts Council, a supporter of SSNAP, and an active member of the Federation of Canadian Artists. Marlene was incredibly artistic. She had a fine arts degree. She designed a line of silk screened clothes and created a variety of beautiful porcelain and clay pottery, paper mould sculptures and paintings.

In Newmarket, Tony channelled his intellect, gentle nature and sense of humour into teaching seniors chemistry and physics at Bayview SS, becoming a favourite teacher at the school. He loved speed, loving to fly fighter jets, ski and sail. He loved being physical, playing squash, practicing yoga and was an active member of the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club. He volunteered with the Roscommon Strata and Salt Spring Search and Rescue.

Tony and Marlene thought about and experienced life outside the mainstream - e.g. forty years ago, they were healing themselves with homeopathy, Jungian therapy, and massage. They opened to their spirituality in a variety of ways - e.g. meditation, kundalini dancing, and time in nature. They were both avid readers, fiction and non fiction. They loved music and dancing. And, they grew and loved to smoke the "herb"... Tony earning the nickname, "Mr. Green".

Their Georgian Bay island cottage, built by Tony, was their favourite place. Besides swimming, sun worshipping, and spending time with extended family, they loved to explore the Bay together, heading off for the day in their Albacore sailboat, "The High Flyer". Later, it was mainly at the cottage where they spent time with their grandchildren, both being wonderfully creative and loving grandparents.

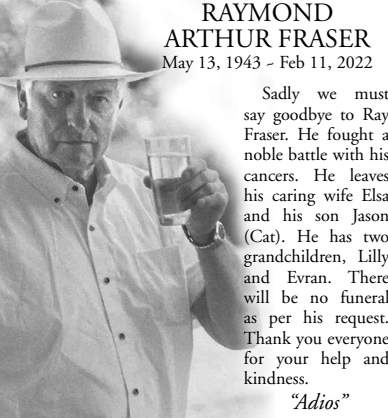
They lived in Ganges for 23 years. They loved the Salt Spring community and natural environment. They loved to entertain their friends, working together to create wonderful meals. One year, they purchased warm socks and handed them out to those in need.

In November 2019, they moved from BC to Guelph, ON, to be close to their daughter. In June 2021, Marlene was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. She spent her final months looking after her beloved husband, finishing a few paintings, and enjoying time with daughter and family. She was able to celebrate their 60th anniversary. Marlene chose a medically assisted death (MAiD) and passed away, with courage and Grace, at Rhonda's home on November 20, 2021.

Tony continued to live with Rhonda and family, gently fitting his routine into their life. He quietly grieved the loss of his beloved wife, and two months after her death, he followed his heart once again... passing away on January 21, 2022, with his daughter by his side.

Tony and Marlene are survived by son, Don Smith, grandson Aaron Smith, daughter-in-law Zhang Wei; daughter Rhonda Christie, son-in-law Doug, grandsons Reaves and Alex; Tony's brother, Peter Smith, sister-in-law Dallis; Tony's sister Wendy Hilliard, brother-in-law, Ashley; Marlene's brother, Ron Charko, sister-in-law Bonnie; Marlene's sister, Janice Charko, brother-in-law John.

Tony and Marlene will be deeply and forever missed by their cherished family and friends.




RAYMOND ARTHUR FRASER
May 13, 1943 - Feb 11, 2022

Sadly we must say goodbye to Ray Fraser. He fought a noble battle with his cancers. He leaves his caring wife Elsa and his son Jason (Cat). He has two grandchildren, Lilly and Evran. There will be no funeral as per his request. Thank you everyone for your help and kindness.

"Adios"

For those who love, time is not missing you today and always.



Simone Fidelman
October 21st, 1942 - January 14th, 2022

We would like to announce the passing of our beloved Simone Fidelman.

Simone was born in the Netherlands the youngest of seven children. Simone's remaining siblings, 9 nieces and 12 nephews remember their Canadian aunt Simone with affection.

Simone arrived in Canada in the late 1960s. She worked with Children and earned her degree in Counselling Psychology. Her kind and creative way of working with her clients was legendary. She was a counsellor in Nunavut, in Golden and here on Salt Spring Island at IWAV for the last 13 years.

She reluctantly retired in the late summer of 2021 at the age of 79.

Her death came too quickly after her last days at work. She surrendered with grace to her last days, encircled by friends and family. She nurtured deep friendships and adored her chosen family, the Vaillancourts, Don, Kathleen, Maia and Serena and their spouses Brad and Jeff, and children Cyrus, Madrid, Rowan, and Cooper.

Simone loved to write, to paint, to dance and to knit! She adored playing games, music, nature, her cat coco. She will be easily remembered for the unique and warm woman she was, and for the wisdom she easily shared with friends and clients alike.

Simone lies at rest in the Green Cemetery here on Salt Spring Island. The ceremony took place on January 16th, 2022, attended by many of her loved ones.

Simone will be deeply missed.




Lady Minto Hospital AUXILIARY
is offering three

"Back to School" Bursaries

Applicants must be mature adults who wish to pursue a career in a health related field.

Information & applications at:
www.lmhas.ca/bursaries

Application deadline is March 31, 2022. Complete applications can be sent by email to: contact@lmhas.ca or by postal mail to: LMHAS Scholarship Committee 328 Lower Ganges Rd, SSI, V8K 2V3



Lady Minto Hospital AUXILIARY
is offering

Two Continuing Education Scholarships to GISS graduates who have completed at least 1 year of a healthcare course of study.

Information & applications at:
www.lmhas.ca/scholarships

Application deadline is March 31, 2022. Completed applications can be sent by email to: contact@lmhas.ca or by postal mail to: LMHAS Scholarship Committee 328 Lower Ganges Rd, SSI, V8K 2V3

Additionally, LMHAS is offering

Three Scholarships to students presently attending **Gulf Islands Secondary School**

Completed applications must be submitted to GISS Counselling Department **by April 7, 2022**

All applicants must be continuing their studies in a healthcare related field

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Coming Events



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

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19) After what probably amounts to a rather busy cycle extending all the way back to December, you may be heading for some much-needed rest. This turning within could well include a quest for answers and new tools, knowledge and possibly training.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20) Your sense of individuality is getting stronger, as if daily. You yearn to see a bigger picture, to be guided by a practical vision that you can rely on. You are willing to assert strong measures, as necessary, even radical actions. Others may well see you to be extra stubborn and rebellious.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21) The storm clouds are clearing. Yet they are revealing a different sky and perspective on reality. The shift may be subtle, yet is probable. Chapters have ended and new ones are beginning. You yearn for stability, yet it may not be so forthcoming at this time. It will require 2-3 weeks longer anyway.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22) A metamorphic and transformational process continues. It could be described as a death and rebirth process. You can expect it to continue for about another year, actually. It is a background influence, but a powerful one. More immediately, the Sun in Pisces will help to calm the waters.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23) You are committed to creating a more solid future. Yet, you are challenged to contend with the changing and uncertain times the world has entered. In this regard, you are not alone, of course. One way or another, measurable changes are rolling in and they will continue.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22) Pisces time marks a period of extra emphasis on relationship fronts. This can extend to a wider public than just your own personal life, especially due to Jupiter and Neptune there. The New Moon in early March will prove especially significant.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22) And the beat goes on... Pisces time will activate an impulse to make improvements in your daily rhythm and lifestyle generally. Venus, Mars and Pluto all huddled close are powerfully influencing your home and family life and have been for many weeks now.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21) Change is the new norm and it is wrapped in uncertainty. This trend is unlikely to end anytime soon. So, you are challenged to keep an open mind, especially regarding the perspectives of family members. Circumstances are pushing you out of your comfort zone and probably requires you to face certain fears.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21) You have entered a time of surrender. It comes with a sense of death of the old making way for the new. It can also be described as a form of transcendence, as though you are awake in a dream.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19) Many new perspectives are flowing through your mind. It may feel like your imagination has been super-boosted. Negatively, this could be manifesting as an over-active imagination. On the high side, this is supporting a strong creative focus.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19) Getting clearer about what you do and do not value, want and need is an important process now. This theme focus will progressively deepen through to spring. You may be doing a lot of work behind the scenes, which has likely been the case all year so far.

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20) The Sun in your Sun will have a series of key activations for everyone. For you specifically, these will have a profound effect on your mode and style of self-expression. Venus and Mars closely huddled in Capricorn will help you to remain grounded.



ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

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CONCERT PREVIEW

Anticipation building for Kaeshammer concert

Info on more tickets coming soon

SUBMITTED BY ARTSPRING

There are the obvious sights and sounds you get from coming to a Michael Kaeshammer concert. A mastery of the 88 keys in front of him, a breathtaking journey from his trademark jazz and boogie woogie to classical and pop influences, the ease as both band leader and band member alongside his fellow musicians.

And then there are those you get from tak-

ing a peek round the audience: huge smiles, laughter, hand clapping and foot tapping. A live Kaeshammer show is truly a 360-degree experience.

Just because you've seen him perform once doesn't mean you know what you'll be getting a second time. Each show is dynamic. Whether it's his feeding off the audience, or his selfless interaction with his musicians, it's all a joy to watch. He really wants everyone to shine and seems genuinely thrilled when another player is suddenly the star of the stage. Who can forget the trombonist on his last show at ArtSpring?

Kaeshammer has been wowing audiences since his early teens. Now based in Sidney, he grew up in southwest Germany. His early, prodigious talent saw him playing in venues around Europe, before a move with his family to Vancouver in the mid-1990s, and an immersion in the city's music clubs really opened his eyes to a way of making a living from his passion.

From his first studio album in 1996, Kaeshammer has been recognized through multiple Juno Award nominations and several wins at the Western Canada Music Awards. While a new studio album due to be recorded in

2020 has been pushed back, he did release his second live album that year (Live In Concert, recorded at the Charlie White Theatre, and featuring Randy Bachman and Colin James).

Although his scheduled Saturday, Feb. 26 evening concert at ArtSpring was an early sell out at 50 per cent capacity, we are able to open up more tickets. As we go to print we're awaiting a capacity update from the province. We'll either be able to add more tickets to this original date, or if not, Kaeshammer has offered an additional matinee performance on Sunday, Feb. 27. Check the ArtSpring website for updates.

what's on this week



Wed. Feb. 16

ACTIVITIES
Music Bingo.
Every Wednesday at Moby's Pub.
7:30 p.m.

Thur. Feb. 17

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Open Mic & Jam.
Royal Canadian Legion. 7 to 10 p.m.

Fri. Feb. 18

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Mike & Margo.
Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

StoryWalk.
Follow the trail of laminated signs from a children's book beginning from the Salt Spring Public Library through Moutat Park and toward the Rainbow Road pool. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This week's story is Some Bunny Loves You by Salt Spring's own Jesse Thom.

Fri. Feb. 18

VIA ZOOM
ASK Salt Spring.
This week's guest is Salt Spring Islands Trust trustee Laura Patrick. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Email ask@asksaltspring.com for the link.



Sat. Feb. 19

ACTIVITIES
StoryWalk.
See Friday listing.

Art Talk With Sofia Jain-Schlaepfer.
Artist with work on display in the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room gives a talk on her work at 1 p.m.

Sun. Feb. 20

ACTIVITIES
StoryWalk.
See Friday listing.

Mon. Feb. 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Family Day Event: The Myrtle Sisters.
A Salt Spring Arts event at Mahon Hall. 2 to 3 p.m. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. RSVP via the sartsCouncil.com website. The event will also be livestreamed through the website.

ACTIVITIES

StoryWalk.
See Friday listing.

Tues. Feb. 22

ACTIVITIES
Trivia Tuesday.
Every Tuesday at Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.



Wed. Feb. 23

ACTIVITIES
Music Bingo.
See last Wednesday's listing.

THE FRITZ CINEMA

Julia shows on Friday, Feb. 18 through Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m., plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. See www.thefritz.ca for more movie info. COVID-19 protocols, including vaccine card and mask requirements, and limited seating, in place.

EXHIBITIONS

• Salt Spring Gallery presents **For the Love of Art**, work by artists Allison Brodie, Lisa Lipsett, Carol Newmeyer, Nathalie St Amant and Olga Szkabarnicki beginning Wed., Feb. 16 and running through March 16.

• Sofia Jain-Schlaepfer presents an art show titled **Earth Whispers** in the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room until Feb. 28 during library opening hours when the program room is not otherwise in use. The artist will also give a talk on Saturday, Feb. 19 at 1 p.m.

• **Looking Up** - the seventh annual display of artwork by Suzanne Prendergast and Bill Underwood shows in the ArtSpring lobby on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and before evening concerts in February.

• **GIFTS and Friends Art Show** is on at the Salt Spring Coffee Co. Cafe until Feb. 28.

• Small Works by Gabrielle Jensen, in Unison pastel, up now through the end of March at Dragonfly Art Supplies.

The Myrtle Sisters

Family Day event at Mahon Hall and Online
Monday, Feb. 21 at 2 p.m.

sartsCouncil.com to RSVP for the in-person event and for the link

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PASSAGES

Historic landmark building demolished in Ganges

Salvageable materials acquired by 50-plus islanders

SUBMITTED BY GREENWOODS ELDERCARE SOCIETY

An historic multi-purpose building off Crofton and Lower Ganges roads was demolished last week.

Owned by the Greenwoods Eldercare Society, the building was formerly owned by colourful Salt Spring resident Margarete Nehl/Spriggs. Nehl was born in Germany and emigrated to Canada. She was known by both surnames in Salt Spring records, after marrying John Spriggs, a local electrician.

After a period as a local businesswoman, artist and poet, Nehl/Spriggs donated the land and residence to the Greenwoods Eldercare Society late in the last century and it has been held in trust by Greenwoods Foundation since 2002.

The building had been used over many years, first as a residence, including by the Graham Shoves family, then a second-hand shop, followed by a thrift shop, then Nehl/Spriggs' business of hobby crafts. It may also have been used for temporary housing. The building had been a daycare centre and was given day-use by groups before complete closure due to deterioration.

Greenwoods Foundation president Wayne Glover noted that the old building was unstable and asbestos-contaminated, and a fire risk



PHOTO COURTESY GREENWOODS

Crews work to dismantle a building that had many uses in its lifetime and was owned by the Greenwoods Eldercare Society but not occupied for several years.

to neighbouring buildings and community. The foundation had reason to be concerned about trespassers in recent months.

Graffiti had exclaimed, "DO SOMETHING WITH THIS!" It was determined that the building was too derelict to safely renovate to return to housing or community use.

In true Salt Spring tradition, many of the building's treasured old-growth beams and joists were re-purposed via on-site lumber sales.

"Our licensed hazardous material crew gave new lease to whatever was safe and salvageable. Many island residents reported that wood from this historic residence will grace renovations and home building projects across the community," said Glover.

Wood from side walls and flooring were sorted for quality, which meant a much slower demolition. And as interest in the salvaged material grew, BROD Demolition took great-

er care. Over 50 island residents took wood home, charged just pennies per foot, for recycling into decks, flooring and in one case, to build a small house.

A clean site offers the foundation many new options for land use on the property, which is zoned for health-care uses.

Items found between the studs included a working cast iron spirit level, and a 1940 toilet training guide.

Greenwoods Foundation raises funds in support of the Greenwoods Eldercare Society. Donations enhance care, comfort, and quality of life for residents of Greenwoods' long-term care and Braehaven assisted living homes. Funds raised also support the society's community programs. The foundation most recently contributed \$150,000 of community donations for refurbishment and modernization of hallways at the Blain Road Greenwoods long-term care residence.



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Plus, get one-on-one job support at your local WorkBC Centre.



TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

FEBRUARY 2022 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
16	0627	3.3	10.8	20	0038	1.3	4.3
	1140	2.7	8.9		0741	3.3	10.8
	WE 1535	3.0	9.8		SU 1359	1.7	5.6
ME 2258	0.6	2.0	DI 1941	2.6	8.5		
17	0646	3.3	10.8	21	0114	1.6	5.2
	1205	2.5	8.2		0800	3.3	10.8
	TH 1628	2.9	9.5		MO 1446	1.4	4.6
JE 2332	0.8	2.6	LU 2110	2.6	8.5		
18	0704	3.3	10.8	22	0153	2.0	6.6
	1238	2.3	7.5		0821	3.3	10.8
	FR 1724	2.8	9.2		TU 1536	1.1	3.6
VE			MA 2259	2.6	8.5		
19	0005	1.0	3.3	23	0240	2.4	7.9
	0722	3.3	10.8		0843	3.3	10.8
	SA 1316	2.0	6.6		WE 1630	0.9	3.0
SA 1827	2.7	8.9	ME				

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