

inside:

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7-9



16

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FOURTH IN A FOUR-PART SERIES PAGE 12

- Agriculture 7
- Anti-Bullying 16
- Arts and Entertainment... 10
- Classifieds 14
- Editorial 4
- Island Life 11
- Letters 5
- Money Matters 12
- What's On 10

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PHOTO BY GAIL SILBERG

ANATOMY OF A GAS STATION: The fuel pump area of Ganges Gas undergoing replacement is visible as work by contractor RJ Petroleum of Kelowna continues. The project is expected to be complete within a couple of weeks. The convenience store part of the business is open while the work continues.

ISLANDS TRUST

Vortex proposal paused by LTC

First Nations feedback to be sought on variance permits

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The developer behind plans to revamp the site of the former Fulford Inn will have to wait as the Islands Trust asks First Nations for feedback on variance and development permits they are considering.

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) was meant to decide Feb. 15 on whether a development could go ahead on the site at 2621 and 2661 Fulford-Ganges Rd. The LTC chose to halt the process before issuing any variance or development permits, asking first for early stage feedback from Tsawout First Nation and the Cowichan Tribes, who both expressed interest in the application.

The Vortex is being developed by David Fullbrook, CEO of Merchant House Capital and a Salt Spring resident, who has plans to build 17 commercial accommodation units as well as a restaurant and plaza. It is partially a brown-field site that has stood empty since the inn was demolished in 2015, and is zoned to allow

commercial accommodation. The site is also an ecologically sensitive area bordered by Fulford Creek, Fulford Harbour and Soule Creek and is specifically referenced in the island's official community plan as a place where the LTC "should not support any development that could have a net negative impact on the marine environment" of the estuary and harbour.

To proceed, Fullbrook needs development variance permits for three aspects of the plan, most notably the request to put a sewage disposal field up to 10 metres from Soule Creek and up to 26 metres from Fulford Harbour.

"Ordinarily, the land use bylaw requires a setback of 30 metres from the natural boundary of all water bodies," planner Jason Youmans explained.

The two other variances sought are an underground septic system 1.5 metres from the front lot line along Fulford-Ganges Road. Normally the distance would have to be 7.5 metres, as well as locating buildings closer to the two lot

boundaries that the development spans.

The LTC has already granted these variances, including allowing the sewage field closer to Soule Creek and the harbour, yet as building did not commence on the site these permits from 2019 expired and Fullbrook had to re-apply.

The idea, Fullbrook explained, was to repurpose and reuse the site where the septic field from the former inn was. The other option would be to move it to a location which was previously undisturbed, potentially needing land works that might have archaeological implications and requiring a site redesign.

Ian Ralston with TRAX Developments Ltd., who designed the septic system, said moving it wouldn't change much in terms of risk. The contaminants that people worry most about with sewage systems, the nitrogen species, are quite mobile once they reach shallow groundwater, he told the meeting.

VORTEX continued on 3

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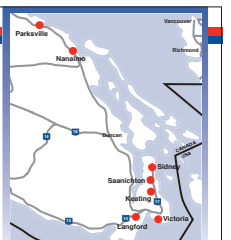
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HOUSING

Door opens on first draft of Trust housing bylaw

Accessory building suites discussed in detail

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Islands Trust continues to work on allowing more rental suites to be created island-wide, with local trustees reviewing a first draft of a new bylaw last week.

The bylaw that came before the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) for first reading Feb. 15 did not include allowing dwellings in accessory structures as first proposed when the LTC directed staff to create the bylaw last November. Staff advised that change would require an amendment to the official community plan (OCP). Instead, staff proposed an interim action to amend the land use bylaw (LUB) to allow secondary suites in all zones. Secondary suites are suites either within or attached to a principle single-family dwelling unit, a definition that doesn't include other dwellings that could be located in a garage or other structure on a property.

Trustees decided not to give the draft bylaw first reading and instead sent it back to staff to add in the definition of suites in accessory buildings. Trustee Laura Patrick said the objective of looking at accessory dwellings in all zones was "to cast a really wide net across the island in search of people who are willing to be landlords." She said including suites in garages or other spaces not inside a home might make the prospect of becoming a landlord more attractive.

Patrick argued that both secondary suites inside homes and suites in accessory buildings could be considered the same thing as the impact on the property is comparable. She questioned whether an OCP amendment would be needed in this case, as the plan leaves room for interpretation.

In a presentation to the LTC, Housing Action Program Task Force chair Rhonan Heitzmann said the task force is taking environmental concerns, including the carrying capacity of the island, very seriously.

"The environmental impact of a suite or dwelling unit is the same whether it is contained within the footprint of a main house

or above a garage or a shop or within the walls of a seasonal cottage or studio," he noted. "To claim otherwise is a logical fallacy that serves only to limit the uptake of the intended use of the bylaw effort underway."

Staff were also instructed to remove the definition of density in the draft bylaw, and to look at what conditions and restrictions should be in the bylaw to phase in any new suites and manage the impacts.

Patrick said that the number of suites approved should be limited, not an outright use, and this use should be monitored.

Heitzmann said a secondary dwellings registry should be set up, perhaps with a defined quota available to property owners island wide "who can prove adequate water and waste management on a first-come, first-served basis." This would control the uptake and use of secondary dwellings in an incremental way, he said, and hopefully assuage the concerns of some regarding population growth.

Patrick also asked whether the current restrictions on secondary suites in the rural upland and rural watershed zones could be

lifted, instead replacing them with other conditions in the bylaw. She argued that some properties in these zones may be suitable for another dwelling depending on its current use.

"We're trying to find people who want to do the right thing," she said. "If we had the conditions in the bylaws that gave that flexibility yet also gave that control so that we didn't have abuse and did just not add density, we're just using unused space."

Regional planning manager Stefan Cermak reminded trustees that in general, the OCP and LUB were based on a principle of preserving the uplands and that Patrick's proposal may challenge that notion.

Trust planner Louisa Garbo said the bylaw will go through revisions and a public input process, so won't be finished in the next few months.

The Islands Trust is also looking at alternative water solutions that do not draw on the existing capacity of the water districts.

For more from the Feb. 15 LTC meeting, see www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com.

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Trustees, staff and developer swap concerns

VORTEX
continued from 1

"I can confidently state that the system is designed to the highest levels of risk management," Ralston said, adding that the design concept was peer reviewed by a prominent B.C. hydrogeologist.

In response to trustee Peter Grove, Ralston explained what might happen to the system in the case of climate change-induced sea level rise or flooding. While a small amount of water might be seen in the septic field area, Ralston said, the system includes continuous monitoring of "vertical separation," meaning the depth from the dispersal bed to the water table below, and an automatic stoppage of discharge and alarms sounding when this separation reaches certain levels.

Islands Trust staff made the same recommendations as in 2019, Youmans said. They had no concerns with the other variances sought, yet were not in support of allowing the sewage disposal field located close to the water bodies as the 30-metre setback in the land use bylaw is meant to protect water quality.

The LTC voted on Feb. 15 to refer the variance and development permit to First Nations with treaty and territorial interests on the island, with a request to comment.

Trustee Grove noted his support of the development, provided concerns about septic are addressed.

"But we have got a game changer. We have a First Nations request for consultation before we go any further," he said.

Trustee Laura Patrick noted that the plan "works for me" yet the voices of First Nations are missing and it is important to ensure the development works for them.

Youmans said the Islands Trust was contacted by chief Harvey Underwood of the Tsawout First Nation, who have a reserve at Fulford Harbour and "strong treaty and territorial interests" in the area. They, as well as the Cowichan Tribes, are interested in commenting on the development. While it isn't standard practice to refer variance permits to First Nations, Youmans said it is within the LTC's power to do so.

"The Tsawout are looking for a physical representation of their ancestral land claims in Fulford Harbour," said Fullbrook.



ZOOM SCREENSHOT, ABOVE, AND MERCHANT HOUSE CAPITAL AT TOP RIGHT

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee members Laura Patrick, Peter Luckham and Peter Grove hear from Merchant House Capital's David Fullbrook and Julie Verville of Kirsten Reite Architecture at a Feb. 15 meeting, while an image at top right shows the plaza area of the proposed Vortex development.

While in support of First Nations engagement, Fullbrook cautioned it may be difficult to get Tsawout to make this a priority given other things the nation is working on.

Tsawout have previously indicated their general support of Fullbrook's plans, yet leadership at the chief and council level has changed since a July 2021 election.

Nine speakers addressed trustees Feb. 15, with seven against, one in support and one providing information. Those opposed cited environmental concerns, including the potential for septic facilities to contaminate the harbour, the risks of climate change-induced extreme weather and sea level rise and the critical environment the creeks and harbour provide to fish, mussel and other species in decline or at risk of extinction. Fulford Creek is one of 15 sensitive streams listed in the province's Water Sustainability Act.

"I share those concerns. In fact, it's those concerns that drove me to take action, to acquire the property," Fullbrook said.

Consultants presenting with Fullbrook at the Feb. 15 meeting outlined plans to replant the site with native species as well as fence off parts of Soule Creek, and once the project gets to the detailed design stage an environmental protection plan will be developed. The plan will include "erosion sediment control, spill prevention, nesting birds surveys, environmental monitoring, etc.," said Lehna Malmkvist from Swell Environmental Consulting.

Speaking in favour of the development, David Rumsey said

the Vortex would bring back a community gathering space lost when the inn closed. It would also allow family and friends to stay locally when visiting, and reduce the demand for illegal suites such as Airbnbs, which could instead be used for long-term housing. Ryder Bergerud argued that the development, being marketed as "a luxury place," is actually incompatible with affordable housing as it would drive up real estate prices.

LTC chair Peter Luckham said Fullbrook faced an "uphill climb" due to the need to get public confidence behind the project. Fullbrook took issue with the characterization of public opinion being against the Vortex. Despite vilification online and someone damaging his property, Fullbrook said, he has actively avoided drumming up support for the project and asking supporters to take sides.

"I'm not in a position to engage in an ongoing community debate and increase what is already a very divisive social environment on Salt Spring Island."

Luckham said that he needed further assurances that the material submitted by the applicant "is as it appears to be," and suggested a developer-funded formal peer review process.

Fullbrook noted that third party experts and analysts come at the detailed design stage and their information is reviewed at the building permit stage by other levels of government.

"You must let your processes that you've established, under which we made our application . . . play forward," he said. "You can't continue to change the rules as the game goes on."



Capital Regional District



Notice of Review

2022 Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel

Notice is hereby given of the annual sitting of the Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel, pursuant to Sections 204 and 205 of the Community Charter.

Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2022
Time: 12:00 pm
Place: CRD Headquarters, Room 652, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC

The panel will consider any complaints respecting the parcel tax roll and authenticate the roll in accordance with legislation for the following services:

- ▶ South Galiano Island Fire Protection & Emergency Response Service
- ▶ North Galiano Island Fire Protection & Emergency Response Service
- ▶ Sticks Allison Water Service (Galiano Island)
- ▶ Small Craft Harbour Facilities (Southern Gulf Islands)
- ▶ Fernwood Dock Small Craft Harbour Facilities (Salt Spring Island)
- ▶ Fernwood Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- ▶ Ganges Sewerage Service (Salt Spring Island)
- ▶ Highland Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- ▶ Highland and Fernwood Water Service
- ▶ Beddis Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- ▶ Fulford Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- ▶ Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Service
- ▶ Cedar Lane Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- ▶ Magic Lake Estates Water Service (Pender Island)
- ▶ Magic Lake Estates Sewer Service (Pender Island)
- ▶ Magic Lake Estates Sewer Debt Service (Pender Island)
- ▶ Maliview Sewer Service (Salt Spring Island)
- ▶ Lyall Harbour/Boot Cove Water Service (Saturna Island)
- ▶ Surfside Park Estates Water Service (Mayne Island)
- ▶ Skana Water Service (Mayne Island)
- ▶ Gossip Island Electric Power Supply Service

The Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel will hear only those complaints or appeals filed in writing with the undersigned at least 48 hours in advance of its sitting.

Commencing February 23, 2022, a copy of the complete roll will be available for inspection at:

- ▶ the Capital Regional District, 625 Fisgard Street., Victoria BC, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday
- ▶ the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area Office, #108-121 McPhillips Avenue., Ganges BC, from 9 am to 4 pm, Monday to Thursday

Dated at Victoria, British Columbia, this 23rd day of February 2022.

Nelson Chan, Chief Financial Officer
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OPINION

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Gold - Best Editorial Page | Gold - Best Feature Series (Gail Sjuberg)
Bronze - Best News Story (Elizabeth Nolan) | Bronze - Community Service

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



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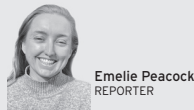
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EDITORIAL

Learn the story

Black History Month has special significance for Salt Spring Island.

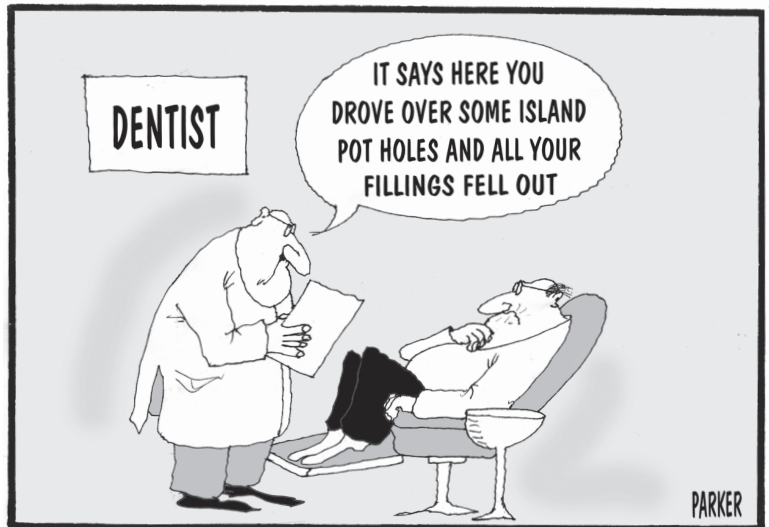
The role of Black people in Salt Spring's early history is well documented in various books and in Salt Spring Historical Society materials. Charles Kahn's *Salt Spring: The Story of an Island*, and Crawford Killian's *Go Do Some Great Thing — The Black Pioneers of British Columbia* are must-read full-length books for learning about the early Black settlers of the island. Sylvia Stark: *A Pioneer* by Victoria Scott and Ernest Jones is a small biography that details the history of what is considered the best-known of the families that first came to the island from the U.S. in 1859. John Craven Jones was the island's first teacher and elected to Salt Spring's short-lived municipal council along with another Black settler, Henry W. Robinson.

People wanting to know more about Salt Spring's rich Black history can access those books at the Salt Spring Public Library. While there this month they can enjoy a portrait of Stark and her father Howard Estes done by Alli Hames and commissioned by Stark family descendant Judy Sims.

While being celebrated that history is also threaded with stories of racism and the documented murder of at least two residents of African-American descent — William Robinson and Giles Curtis — in those early days.

This year's national Black History Month theme is "February and Forever: Celebrating Black History today and every day," which aims to recognize the daily contributions that Black Canadians make to Canada. Dovetailing with that theme is a Feb. 28 online evening presentation by *Overture With the Arts (OWTA)* called *Tracking Black Canada - Trailblazers Edition*. Promotional material states that it will "highlight the contributions and achievements made by prominent residents in these forgotten communities, while illuminating the conditions that led to their systemic demise, and how their impact is still felt today." The event is for School District 64 parents and staff and connects to a student presentation done by OWTA at the high school on Feb. 23.

As a *Conversations on Racism* series held on Salt Spring illustrated last year, along with the creation of a Black Indigenous People of Colour group, racism is still a factor in 21st-century life on the island. Learning about Black history on Salt Spring and beyond can be one step taken towards addressing that issue.



Growth agenda greenwashed

BY FRANTS ATTORP

Contrary to recent claims by local trustees and others that Islands Trust policies will protect the Gulf Islands going into the future, neither the existing Trust Policy Statement (TPS) nor the new draft document offer any guarantee of environmental protection.

To be clear: the main purpose of the Islands Trust Act and, by extension, the TPS, is to limit development on the islands. Without limitations there is no point in having an Islands Trust.

Efforts to weaken the TPS to allow for more development go back to 1994 when Trust Council broadened the interpretation of "unique amenities" to include healthy communities and culture. In that historic moment, Trust Council committed to the impossible: simultaneously protecting the natural environment and the forces that destroy it.

South Pender Trustee Steve Wright has long campaigned to correct this contradiction. At a Trust Council meeting last March, he moved to "prioritize" protection of the natural environment. That motion was defeated 17-8. Trustee Laura Patrick argued that the interpretation of the mandate must be kept "as broad as possible."

VIEWPOINT

Rather than close the barn door, Trust Council opened it even further by supporting a motion by Gambier Island Trustee Dan Rogers (seconded by Laura Patrick) to extend protections to "healthy and inclusive communities — but not limited to — housing and transportation." The words "not limited to" have serious implications.

With no clear priority, no limits, and no definition of key words such as "healthy" and "community," trustees are free to use their imaginations. Is there any development, no matter how urban, that does not arguably contribute to a "healthy community?"

Keeping the interpretation of any legal document "as broad as possible" renders it useless. Denman trustee David Critchley recognized as much and presented a follow-up motion affirming that "the paramount object of the Islands Trust Act is preservation and protection of the natural environment." It, too, was defeated.

Critchley then tabled another motion to give protection of the natural environment "special and profound consideration." It

passed, but try changing the context. Would you drink water where meeting health standards is not required, but rather, given "special and profound consideration" by politicians?

Even that feeble gesture is undermined by loopholes in the Policy Statement Implementation document. For example, to escape restrictions, a local Trust committee need only show it "directed its attention to the matter" and "made a considered decision."

The TPS is a legal requirement intended to protect the islands in the long term. It does not have to preclude human needs, but it must limit development. If each new generation demands freedom from regulations, environmental protection becomes a pretense.

The unfettered powers afforded trustees have spawned a movement to make sweeping changes to Salt Spring without a full public review of our official community plan, even as studies show projected build-out numbers for existing zoning are unsustainable. But nobody admits to this. Instead, we are fed a constant diet of sustainability rhetoric and false assurances that actions have no consequences. We're drowning in greenwash.

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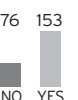
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should suites be allowed in accessory dwellings on Salt Spring?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you concerned about Gulf Islands population growth?



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

Some items published in the Driftwood during the same week of the year noted.

1962

The federal government budget included \$185,000 for a boat basin in Ganges thanks to lobbying by the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce and especially "Bus" Matthews.

1972

Islanders got their first glimpse of changes at Mouat's when the redesigned hardware section of the 65-year-old business was opened to the public. "Once the Ganges post office, the hardware and paint department is a modern merchandizing section in the old-established store," stated a Driftwood story. The next phase was to be construction of a new stairwell to the basement and reconstruction of the rest of the main floor area.

1982



Fernwood school students Kaya Reiss, left, and Corinna Coffey work on a display of life and schooling on Salt Spring to be sent to Nhlambabaloyi school in Zimbabwe as part of a Commonwealth Linking Trust exchange program.

1992

Young rollerblading enthusiasts were being blamed for damaging the tennis courts at Portlock Park. The Parks and Rec Commission was encouraging kids to use the basketball court instead.

2002



Moby's Pub patrons cheer on the Canadian men's hockey team at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games held in Salt Lake City during the gold medal game against their American counterparts. The score was 5-2 for Canada.

2012

Local farmers and others interested in promoting agriculture on Salt Spring were brainstorming a bushel of possible uses for a new produce storage and distribution centre. Creating such a centre was one of three key needs for expanding agriculture production and sustainability on Salt Spring under the Area Farm Plan that was published in 2008. Ten years later, The Root is close to being operational on Beddis Road.

LETTERS to the editor

Mandate MIA

For residents who voted against incorporation based on the assumption that the "preserve and protect" mandate would guide Trust decisions, last week's meeting regarding the Vortex applications raised many concerns.

Trustees expressed surprise at the level of opposition from both individuals and environmental organizations. But there should be no surprise. As more people understand the scale of this project and the associated environmental threats, opposition has grown significantly.

It is unfortunate the developer chose not to have any south island community public meetings or open houses. His applications have instead been manoeuvred through the Trust planning process which, due to its complexity, discourages public participation and limits a full understanding of the proposal.

Legitimate objections have been raised by not only Trust staff but also many environmental organizations, local experts and concerned residents. Trustees have inexplicably ignored any environmental concerns and independent analysis outlining project deficiencies, choosing

instead to rely on developer-funded reports.

The developer seems to be excusing design deficiencies by claiming the site and Fulford Harbour are already environmentally degraded. As someone who lives on the harbour and observes a wide variety of flora and fauna every day, I beg to differ. His claim that Soule Creek has no fish habitat is not supported by the local Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society, which has decades of experience with island streams.

The lack of attention to environmental protection of the Soule and Fulford creeks

watershed, the estuary and Fulford Harbour has meant that concerned residents and environmental groups have had to spend countless hours evaluating the project's environmental impacts and raising valid concerns which have so far been ignored by trustees. This is work the Trust should be doing or requiring the developer to do. Consideration of the "preserve and protect" mandate has been missing in action.

COLIN COE,
FULFORD HARBOUR

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"You can't continue to change the rules as the game goes on."

DAVID FULLBROOK, MERCHANT HOUSE CAPITAL, RE THE VORTEX & THE TRUST

Wishing a fond farewell to fabulous February

You've probably heard of Rodney Dangerfield. He was an American comic actor and stand-up comedian whose shtick often revolved around the self-deprecating catchphrase, "I don't get no respect." A typical Dangerfield joke goes like this: "When I was a kid my parents moved a lot, but I always found them."

Another thing that "don't get no respect" is the month of February. When it comes to months in the calendar year, February is like the runt of the litter. It is at least two days shorter than any other month, but every four years, just to make it feel a little better about itself, it is given an extra day (supposedly for good behaviour).

Many of the other months of the year are named after Roman gods and emperors, but February gets its origin from the Latin "Februa" which was celebrated as a purification feast when Roman citizens ritually cleansed and washed. It makes sense that, after all the partying in December and the resulting hangovers in January, people would want to call a time-out to purify their beleaguered bodies.

The British also gave names to the time of year that is now known as February. In Olde English it was called Solmonath, which translates to mud month, or sometimes it was referred to as Kale-monath, which makes it a good month for cabbage. February, or "Feb-U-Wary" as most people mispronounce the name, is also the only month of the year that may pass without a single full moon.

Research shows that people born in February display unusual traits that can seem confusing at first glance. Although interesting and intelligent, Februarians can be far removed from reality and get lost in abstract thought. This is completely understandable if we take into consideration the rules that make up the conditions for when February gains an extra day in a leap year. Everybody probably knows that if the year is divisible evenly by four, then it will be a leap year and February will have 29 days. Thusly, 2020 was a leap year whereas 2021 was not. However, if the year happens to be a century year, as was 1900, then it is not considered a leap year even though it is divisible by 4. And just



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ASKED ME
BUT

to give your head one last spin, if the year is divisible by 400, then it is again a leap year with 366 days (as was the year 2000).

Statistics are not too kind to people born in February. It has been shown that when men born in February marry women born in May, the relationships are often volatile with an exceedingly high divorce rate. Although they can be exceptionally loyal and love their freedom, Februarians are usually low on self-esteem and can be shy and introverted.

Who are some of the famous February babies? Perhaps you've heard of the scientific geniuses called Galileo, Copernicus, and Charles Darwin. You can also find George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Ronald Reagan among American presidents born in February. Composers and musicians such as Chopin, Handel, Mendelssohn, and George Harrison also checked into the sphere of life during the month of February.

Unfortunately, the month of February has also given birth to some not so illustrious human beings. Included among these are the names of 38 serial killers who are forever identified by their somewhat endearing criminal monikers, such as the Green River Killer, the Angel of Death, the Apostle of Death and the Butcher Barber.

Perhaps because February has been shown so much disrespect over the ages, the powers that be have compensated by assigning a myriad of special days to the month. In 2022, we have or will be celebrating Chinese New Year (Feb. 1), Groundhog Day (Feb. 2), National Flag of Canada Day (Feb. 15) and President's Day or Family Day (Feb. 21).

These civic commemorative celebrations are merely the tip of the iceberg when it comes to acknowledging how much we appreciate our dear February. Among some

of the lesser recognized days in the month (and you can circle these on your calendar because I am not making them up) are: Food Freedom Day (Feb. 9), Random Acts of Kindness Day (Feb. 17), National Pizza Day (Feb. 9, which ironically falls on the same day as Food Freedom Day), National Tater Tot Day (Feb. 2, which coincidentally is the same day as Groundhog Day), National Margarita Day (Feb. 22) and National Frog Legs Day (Feb. 29, which unfortunately can only be celebrated every four years because it only falls, or hops, on leap year day).

But that's not all, folks! February, the month that "don't get no respect," is just loaded with more festive days than you could possibly find time to party on. Take National Frozen Yogurt Day which falls on the first Monday of the month, or National Wear Red Day on the first Friday. In case you're wondering, Ice Cream for Breakfast Day is on the first Saturday while Open That Bottle Night is on the last Saturday of February (if you survive all the yogurt, pizza, tater tots and frogs legs that you have already hoovered down).

Wait. There's even more. Not only are specific days dedicated to certain ground breaking events, but the month itself carries significance for various important causes. For example, February is designated as official National Bird Feeding Month, so make sure you save some of those tater tots and frog legs leftovers to offer to your feathered friends. If that weren't enough, February is also National Children's Dental Health Month, so have the kids go easy on Ice Cream for Breakfast Day.

Whatever days we celebrate, as we watch February slowly slide out of the frame while winter gradually fades in the rear view mirror, we can't help but bid a fond adieu to our little runt of a month. Nobody asked me, but it only seems fitting that as we take a leap forward into springtime, we dedicate a moment or two to honour our wee February, the month that sheltered those of us in southern B.C. through the last of the inclement weather. Too bad that we have no undesignated day left that we could call National February Day.

Local community commission idea discussed

As I indicated in a "year ahead" article in the Jan. 5 Driftwood, public consultation on establishing a local community commission (LCC) will begin later this spring.

I'm proposing an LCC of four, elected-at-large members. Working with the CRD director, an LCC would broaden our community's elected representation and oversight of local CRD services (e.g., budgets, bylaws, policies, grants) and could lead to consolidation of some island-wide commissions.

LCC commissioners would have the same mandate from voters as the CRD director. This means that all CRD decisions, recommendations and advocacy for our community of almost 12,000 — now effectively the responsibility of a single electoral area director — would be by majority vote on a five-member "council" in regularly scheduled public meetings.

While the Local Government Act allows a regional district to establish an LCC, voter approval is necessary. Depending on the public consultation, a referendum would be held at the next local government elections Oct. 15, 2022. This would minimize the incremental cost



Gary Holman
CRD DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

of the referendum and if voters approve, LCC commissioners would be elected in 2023.

Establishing an LCC is a relatively simple governance change compared to incorporation, with far fewer financial impacts. Roads and policing would remain a provincial responsibility, while land use continues with the Trust. Taking over our poorly maintained 265-km road system (a liability that will increase with climate change impacts) and potential weakening of the Trust mandate were key voter concerns in past incorporation referenda. Establishment of an LCC could provide some governance advantages of incorporation without its possible downsides.

The potential benefits of an LCC have already been reviewed by Positively For-

ward and also the Community Alliance Governance Working Group, both formed to consider governance improvements after another vote against incorporation in 2017. At my request, a subcommittee of the Governance Working Group is preparing a more detailed discussion paper with options and recommendations regarding issues such as commissioner remuneration, consolidation of CRD commissions, degree of delegated authority from CRD and procedural guidelines. CRD and provincial government staff will review this discussion paper to ensure it is technically sound.

Similar to the incorporation referendum process, an advisory committee will be established to review the discussion paper and help coordinate public information sessions, perhaps with the help of a consultant. The advisory committee will make its own recommendations for implementation, based on public input. I propose to include representation on the advisory committee from CRD commissions, other key local government agencies and some members at large.

The mandate, responsibilities and maximum cost of an LCC would be defined in CRD establishment bylaws that would

form the basis for the referendum question in October. An LCC may require some local taxpayer cost, primarily for modest stipends for commissioners who would be overseeing all local CRD services. However, some cost savings could also result from consolidation of commissions. The community commission would continue to be supported by CRD staff.

One of my 2018 election platform commitments was to improve governance and pursue an LCC. I've participated in monthly town halls with the local Trust committee and the Community Alliance ASK Salt Spring group; made public presentations of each annual CRD budget; submitted dozens of director reports and columns; and worked to improve CRD cooperation with other agencies and community groups. An LCC would be a more fundamental change on which voters will pass judgment.

Please join the ASK Salt Spring Zoom conversation about an LCC this Friday, Feb. 25, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (ask@asksaltspring.com). If you have an interest in serving on an LCC advisory committee, or have questions and comments, please contact me at: directorssi@crd.bc.ca or 250-538-4307.

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FLUSHING OF WATERMAINS

FLUSHING OF WATERMAINS WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN THE DISTRICT ON TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS - MARCH 9 - APRIL 29, 2022

Short periods of low pressure and discoloration of water can be expected between these dates. Consumers are warned to be on alert for discoloured water, especially before using washing machines, dishwashers and other appliances.

Commercial establishments such as laundromats, restaurants and beauty salons will receive advance warning of flushing in their vicinity if a request for such notification is received by the District. Please contact the NSSWD at 250-537-9902.

In no case can the District accept responsibility for any claims arising out of the use of discoloured water.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

Vortex is a Trust test case

Public support for the Vortex project appears to be largely contingent on memories of the Fulford Inn.

Although the developer has publicly lamented the loss of the Fulford Inn and its sense of community, the proponent has been clear that he is not interested in a 1970s-era rural model based on a motel, liquor store and pub. In the drawings, the proposed restaurant has only 16 two-person table, a 12-seat bar and a lounge with two two-person tables. Given that 17 accommodation units are proposed, the capacity for public use of the restaurant appears to be limited and certainly not on the scale of the former Fulford Inn. The 32-space car park also appears to serve 10 of the accommodation units so the availability of public space is unclear.

In light of this, the proposed Vortex proposal will hardly meet public expectations of a Fulford Inn revival, and any attempt to pretend that it is should be considered misleading. This project comes with serious and urgent environmental drawbacks that have been repeatedly brought to the attention of the Trust, and this is where the focus of the Trust's decision-making should lie. If ever there was a test case for the Trust's current mandate to serve and protect the environment, this is it.

ANNE GUNN,
ROLAND ROAD

Excellent points made

David Rumsey's Viewpoint in support of the Vortex (Feb. 16) was a breath of fresh air.

He discussed excellent points about the Fulford Inn site, blighted now for almost a decade, which previously provided a meeting place and accommodations for generations on a busy intersection near Fulford village. In addition, the commercially zoned site was a venue for our local musicians. There is no rea-

son why this important aspect of our local culture could not be brought back to life at this community hub.

Also, part of the proposal is to extend the water main from Fulford village to the intersection, which would provide a valuable asset to the community. A suitable water source could then be available to Fulford Hall, not to mention the safety provided by a fire hydrant being possible on that busy road.

The Vortex property owner has been very responsive in providing the studies and plan changes required by the Trust in their on-going cooperative meetings. Hopefully the process will continue forward to bring the project to completion.

DAVID STEWART PAINE,
ROLAND ROAD

Two headlights, please

As a 43-year active member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists UK, I am truly flabbergasted at the plethora of vehicles actively being driven on our island with only one headlight.

Needless to say this is a lamentable demonstration of irresponsibility on behalf of the driver and a substantial public safety concern.

Other worries include the prevalence of joggers and walkers, when dark, moving without reflective clothing or source of light, and also in the direction of ongoing traffic as opposed to sensibly proceeding towards oncoming traffic. Many also have dogs off leash, again without any recognizable means to clearly identify them. Not least are the cyclists, on the road as light fades, without front or rear lamps!

Closer to home and much to my chagrin are the vehicles proceeding along our island Grand Prix stretch on Long Harbour Road at speeds in excess of 140 km/hour! This could be disastrous if any of these automobiles were to collide with a pedestrian, adult or child, minus safety clothing, an animal or an oncoming one-headlight pantechon!

MARTIN E. RANDLE,
SALT SPRING

FEB/MAR 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
23	0240	2.4	7.9	27	0410	3.4	11.2
	0843	3.3	10.8		0910	2.9	9.5
WE	1630	0.9	3.0	SU	1210	3.0	9.8
ME				DI	2025	0.4	1.3
24	0103	2.9	9.5	28	0447	3.4	11.2
	0348	2.8	9.2		0952	2.8	9.2
TH	0909	3.2	10.5	MO	1331	3.0	9.8
JE	1728	0.7	2.3	LU	2116	0.4	1.3
25	0231	3.1	10.2	1	0519	3.4	11.2
	0539	3.0	9.8		1030	2.6	8.5
FR	0944	3.1	10.2	TU	1444	3.0	9.8
VE	1829	0.5	1.6	MA	2203	0.5	1.6
26	0327	3.3	10.8	2	0548	3.4	11.2
	0758	3.0	9.8		1109	2.4	7.9
SA	1046	3.1	10.2	WE	1553	3.0	9.8
SA	1929	0.4	1.3	ME	2245	0.7	2.3

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FRUIT PROPAGATION

Growing apple trees can get a bit addictive

Salt Spring Apple Company shares tips for getting your orchard started

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

People might be daunted by the prospect of growing apple trees for the first time, but they don't need to be, says Peri Lavender of Salt Spring Apple Company.

Lavender and her husband Brian Webster should know. In 2011 they planted 360 dwarf apple trees on their property that overlooks Ganges Harbour off Fulford-Ganges Road south of Ganges. Eleven years later they have almost 10 times that number: it was over 3,500 at last count on about three of their 5.14 acres of land. Then there's the 3,000 babies made in their tree nursery every March.

"It's a little bit of an addiction, it turns out," Lavender said. After doing in-depth research about what varieties would be best suited to the island's climate and their property's location, the couple came up with a "top-10" list of varieties they wanted to grow. The second tier had 15 varieties and a third tier had a few more.

"But we abandoned that pretty quickly," said Lavender. Soon they were planting 100 different varieties, which then grew

to 150, then 365 and now 425.

"We thought we'd stop at 333 because we both liked that number, and then it crept up to 365."

They made marketing materials that promoted "taking an apple a day to a whole new level," but had to change the 365 number to "365-plus."

"So it's kind of fun," said Lavender. "I mean, our collection is really quite remarkable. It's probably one of the largest in Canada. And we've got a really extensive and continuing-to-grow cider variety collection, which is pretty special."

Salt Spring Apple Company doesn't just grow and sell apples and make cider for its Ciderworks business — with 13 different ciders made this year — but nursery trees are sold as well.

When people approach Lavender and Webster about what trees to put in their own orchards, a few questions are posed.

"Are they wanting it for eating? Are they wanting to sell the apples? Are they wanting to make cider? And then we sort of tailor our recommendations to that."

Generally they will recommend people start with three to five varieties of trees.



PHOTO COURTESY SS APPLE COMPANY

Beautiful apple flecked with raindrops.

APPLE TREES continued on 8

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Too much love not recommended for trees

APPLE TREES

continued from 7

"I encourage people to choose an early ripening apple, a mid-season one and then a late-ripening apple," said Lavender. "That way you're not processing millions of apples or thousands of apples in a really short period of time. You can kind of spread it out."

Early apples are nice to be eating in late summer and early autumn, while late-ripening ones can be kept through the winter if they're carefully packaged and put in cold storage.

While some varieties are self-pollinating, generally more than two trees are needed for cross pollination.

"And you need them to overlap in terms of bloom time. They tend to bloom for about five days, and so you need some overlap. But they don't have to be super close together."

Sometimes, though, one tree is enough. Trees from yards four to six houses apart (in the city) can end up pollinating each other, explains Lavender. They have even sold apple trees to people in Vancouver who grow them in pots on their balconies.

Webster and Lavender use the "tall spindle" method of planting, which is popular in

the Okanagan. It's an intensive way of planting with the trees growing close together and using dwarf and semi-dwarf root stock so the trees don't get huge, although the apples tend to be larger.

"You get fewer apples per tree but you get more pounds per acre," said Lavender.

As for watering, Lavender recommends five gallons per week for young trees, either on two separate days or using a slow-drip system. Once the trees are mature, watering becomes less crucial.

When a new tree is planted, half of the soil is mixed with well-composted horse manure. Because most soils on the island are acidic, an amendment to boost the alkalinity is recommended. Mulching annually and keeping weeds away from the root system of young trees are also suggested.

Lavender said that customers may be surprised to hear that over-loved trees are more likely to die.

"When they buy a tree I tell people, 'This tree's only goal in life is to survive. It's going to do everything it possibly can to survive, so you don't need to over-love it. Maybe even under-love it a bit.'"

Lavender points out how delicious apples can grow in ditches and other wild places,



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Some of the more than 3,500 trees consisting of about 425 different varieties in the Salt Spring Apple Company orchard.

without any TLC whatsoever. She recalls seeing one clinging onto the rocks of Grace Point.

"It's been there forever, and nobody fertil-

izes it. Nobody sprays it for pests or picks pests off it or anything like that . . . they're persistent for sure."

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AGRIculture

FARMING

Abattoir meets rising demand

More local meat should be available after expansion complete

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's abattoir continues to be a local success story, with an expansion underway to meet the growing demand for its services.

Operated by the Salt Spring Abattoir Society, the facility located at 1447B Fulford-Ganges Rd. was opened in 2013 after successful fundraising efforts and a change in provincial government legislation. Last year the society was awarded a \$222,525 grant to expand the facility from the provincial government's \$20-million Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program, set up to mitigate COVID-19 impacts and make communities more resilient.

The expansion will also allow for increased hanging space and the abil-

ity to process more beef cattle. "It will also mean a lot more comfortable working space for the workers," said island farmer and abattoir spokesperson Margaret Thomson.

Work on the project has already begun and the society hopes to reopen the revamped premises in early May.

"The opening date is as firm as any building project completion date can be. Some of the finishing touches could be completed after reopening or at the end of the next slaughter season," said Thomson.

How well used is the island's abattoir?

Thomson provided last year's animal numbers to illustrate. There were 451 goats and sheep; 22 beef cattle; 30 hogs; 436 turkeys and 4,310 chickens processed.

"The chicken numbers have been really good all along," said Thomson, but other categories have also grown over the years. A much larger proportion of last year's turkeys were heritage breeds, she observed.

Like almost all organizations on Salt Spring these days, the abattoir is always looking for staff, even just to provide back-up services.

The abattoir society is also leasing land from the Salt Spring Island Farm-land Trust to establish a composting facility on the grounds of the Burgoyne Valley Community Farm.

Having a place where the offal resulting from the butchering process can be turned into an end product with value will be a boon for island agriculture, said Thomson. Other composting will also take place at the site.

People don't need to be members of the abattoir society to have their animals processed at the abattoir, but according to its website, members' bookings will be given priority during times of high demand.

Members also have voting privileges at the annual general meeting.

For more information or to inquire about employment opportunities, see www.saltspringabattoir.ca.

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VIRTUAL

AGM

2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, May 26th, 2022 at 6:00pm

Meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, May 26th, 2022 at 6:00pm.

Any proposed Special Resolutions regarding changes to the rules of association must be received in writing by no later than April 11, 2022 by email to: resolutionscommittee@midisland.crs.

Online election to fill up to four (4) vacancies on the Board of Directors will occur separate from the AGM, with results announced at the AGM. Director nomination packages are available online at www.midislandco-op.crs. The completed nomination form along with all supporting documents must be received by no later than 5:00pm on March 31st, 2022.

Registration to attend the AGM, as well as to vote in the director elections and on AGM business is required. Registration will open on May 9th, 2022 and close on May 23rd, 2022. During this period, a registration link will be available at www.midislandco-op.crs.

Only members in good standing on the date of record of April 26, 2022 will be eligible to vote.

Follow the Driftwood on Twitter >> <http://twitter.com/GIDriftwood>

FILM FESTIVAL

Films unearth history

Three festival selections previewed

BY STEVE MARTINDALE

SS FILM FESTIVAL SOCIETY

"The past is a foreign country," begins L.P. Hartley's 1953 novel *The Go-Between*, "they do things differently there."

Three award-winning documentaries screening at the Salt Spring Film Festival at ArtSpring in early March remind us that the past may seem particularly foreign when history is either forgotten or erased.

The festival kicks off with Bobbi Jo Hart's *Fanny: The Right to Rock*. The first all-women band to be signed by a major record label, Fanny's status as musical pioneers — admired by the likes of David Bowie — has largely been overlooked. Addressing misogyny, racism and homophobia in the music industry, this celebratory documentary corrects our collective amnesia as the aging band members joyfully reunite after half a century to produce a new album.

History can be lost even within marginalized communities, as evidenced by Michael Seligman and Jennifer Tiexiera's revelatory *P.S. Burn This Letter Please*, in which a secret stash of letters resurfaces after 60 years to shine light on the little-known world of New York City drag queens in the 1950s. At a time when homosexuality was illegal and police brutality was commonplace, men who could be criminally charged for "masquerading as women" gathered to perform in underground drag bars run by the Mafia, which simultaneously controlled other criminal



PHOTO BY ALEX BOHS

Still image from the film *P.S. Burn This Letter Please*, which shows Saturday, March 5 as part of the Salt Spring Film Festival.

enterprises such as gambling and prostitution. Even within the LGBT community this history is not widely known.

Sometimes history is intentionally buried, as revealed in the festival's closing night film *My Tree*, in which Toronto playwright Jason Sherman travels to the Holy Land to find the tree that had been gifted to him at his 1975 Bar Mitzvah, part of a popular fundraiser for the Jewish National Fund. Exploring the manicured parks and forests of Israel, Sherman unearths who and what had been removed from the land, asking tough questions about how so simple a gift could hide such dark truths.

All screenings are at ArtSpring from March 1 to 6. More information at www.saltspring-filmfestival.com.

what's on this week



Wed.	Feb. 23	Fri.	Feb. 25	Mon.	Feb. 28
ACTIVITIES Music Bingo. Every Wednesday at Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.		VIA ZOOM ASK Salt Spring. This week is a discussion of the proposal to create a CRD Local Community Commission to improve governance on Salt Spring. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Email ask@asksaltspring.com for the link.		VIA ZOOM Tracking Black Canada - Trailblazers Edition. A one-hour presentation by Overture With The Arts highlighting the contributions and achievements made by prominent Black residents in Canada. Open to all parents, guardians and staff of School District 64. 7 p.m. Get link through Eventbrite.	
Thurs.	Feb. 24				
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Open Mic & Jam. Royal Canadian Legion. 7 to 10 p.m.		Sat.	Feb. 26	ACTIVITIES StoryWalk. See Friday listing.	
ONLINE North Salt Spring Waterworks District. Regular monthly meeting. 10 a.m. See northsaltspringwaterworks.ca for the Microsoft Teams link and agenda.		LIVE ENTERTAINMENT SOLD OUT. Michael Kaeshammer at ArtSpring.		Tue.	Mar. 1
		ACTIVITIES StoryWalk. See Friday listing.		ACTIVITIES SS Film Festival. At ArtSpring. Fanny: The Right to Rock shows at 4 p.m. The Caviar Connection shows at 7 p.m. Advance tickets through artspring.ca . Trivia Tuesday. Every Tuesday at Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.	
Fri.	Feb. 25	Sun.	Feb. 27		
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Ollie Happyness. Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.		ACTIVITIES StoryWalk. See Friday listing.		Wed.	Mar. 2
ACTIVITIES StoryWalk. Follow the trail of laminated signs from a children's book beginning from the Salt Spring Public Library through Mouat Park and toward the Rainbow Road pool. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.		Mon.	Feb. 28	ACTIVITIES SS Film Festival. At ArtSpring. A Once and Future Peace shows at 4 p.m. Daughter of a Lost Bird shows at 7 p.m. Advance tickets through artspring.ca .	
		VIA ZOOM SSI Transportation Commission. Regular monthly meeting at 1 p.m. Email sburnham@crd.bc.ca for the Zoom link before 12:30 p.m. Monday.		Music Bingo. See last Wednesday's listing.	

THE FRITZ CINEMA

Belfast shows on Friday, Feb. 25 through Tuesday, March 1 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 Szpsett, Carol Newmeyer, Nathalie St Amant and Olga Szkabarnicki until 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.
- 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 and Switchboard Cafe until Feb. 28.
- Small Works by Gabrielle Jensen, in Unison pastel, up now through the end of March at Dragonfly Art Supplies.
- Salt Spring Painters' Guild member Sheri Standen exhibits her watercolour paintings of flowers, animals and buildings at the Country Grocer Cafe display wall through February.

Poetry Open Mic

with guest poet Matsuki Masutani

Thursday, March 3 at 7 p.m.

Email programs@saltspringlibrary.com for the Zoom link

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ISLAND LIFE

STUDIES

Vital Signs work begins

Salt Spring Island Foundation updating report from 2017

SUBMITTED BY SSI FOUNDATION

How has Salt Spring Island changed in the last five years? What is better about living here, and what issues and community needs are more significant?

In 2017, the Salt Spring Island Foundation published its first Vital Sign report. Vital Signs is a national initiative undertaken by community foundations across Canada. It uses local knowledge to measure the vitality of a community and support action toward improving quality of life. Data gathered through the program is used to support evidence-based, locally relevant solutions and to recognize Salt Spring Island's strengths.

Salt Spring Island's 2017 Vital Signs report used data indicators and survey responses to create a snapshot of our community, examining 12 topics, including arts and culture, community belonging, housing, and work and economy. It provided much-needed clarity about current, potential and perceived problems facing Salt Springers and was used by individuals, non-profits and governing bodies in their planning, advocacy, grant-making and community engagement work.

Speaking for the Salt Spring Arts Council, executive director Yael Wand says, "The Vital Signs report provides such a valuable tool for the arts council to understand what's happening across our community and how we can ensure the arts better serve and engage islanders on the issues that matter most to them."

The last five years have brought many changes, including a global pandemic, and the Salt Spring Island Foundation's 2022 Vital Signs report aims to reflect these changes

— both good and bad. In addition to updating the topics reported on in 2017, the 2022 report will include two new areas of community concern: Safety and Security, and Transportation.

Brian Lawson, board chair of the Salt Spring Island Foundation, says, "The 2017 Vital Signs report not only identified community strengths and challenges, it was a call to action. Five years later, the Salt Spring Island Foundation is excited to commence work on the 2022 report. By compiling local information and tracking it over time, we will deepen our knowledge and understanding of Salt Spring Island and provide a significant resource that will help shape our island community in the future."

Guided by a committee of engaged community members, the Salt Spring Island Foundation's Vital Signs process is now underway. Consultations with various community leaders have been completed and the committee is now developing a survey that will ask residents to tell us about their experiences of life on Salt Spring Island and their opinions on issues critical to our community's well-being. That information will be combined with local statistics to provide a snapshot of livability and health in our community.

Residents of Salt Spring Island are encouraged to take the 2022 Vital Signs online survey. The Vital Signs committee is working hard to include a wide variety of people of different ages and social and ethnic backgrounds. It also wants to hear from people new to the island as well as those who have lived here their entire lives.

More information will be available before the survey launches in March. Vital Signs 2022 will be published in October.

For more information about the project, please go to ssifoundation.ca/foundation-initiatives/vital-signs, or call the foundation office at 250-537-8305.



NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT

NOTICE TO THE RATEPAYERS OF THE NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF TWO TRUSTEES

Notice is hereby given to the Ratepayers of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, that nominations for TWO trustees will be received in the District office between:

8:00 am February 24, 2022
12:00 noon March 22, 2022

Nomination of candidates for these positions must be made in writing, duly signed and seconded, by two duly qualified electors of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District with signature of agreement by the nominee, and delivered to the District Office at or before 12:00 noon, Tuesday, March 22, 2022.

NOMINATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FROM THE FLOOR

Both of the Trustee positions are for a three year term commencing at the Annual General Meeting, to be held on Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road and virtually. Due to COVID-19 guidelines changing frequently, we are hoping to hold the AGM in person, but this could change depending on restrictions; however the meeting will also be held virtually through Microsoft Teams, and the link will be posted on the district website for the public to join. The Trustee election will use an exclusively mail-in ballot process. Voting packages will be mailed on March 22, 2022 and ballots must be received at the District office by April 27, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.

To be eligible a nominee must be a Canadian Citizen, 18 years of age or older, an owner, or spouse of an owner of land in the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, and entitled to be registered as a voter under the *Elections Act*.

Visit the "Who We Are" and "Becoming a Trustee" pages on our website for more information about the role of a Trustee.

Nomination forms are available at the District Office and online in the Documents/Forms section of the District website.

NOTICE OF 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Ratepayers of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 5, 2022 at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, and virtually through Microsoft Teams (the link will be available on our website).

www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca
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FINANCIAL PLANNING

Tips for growing and preserving wealth

Start with setting timelines

BY CHERYL MORIARITY
ISLAND SAVINGS /CREDENTIAL ASSET MANAGEMENT



PHOTO COURTESY ISLAND SAVINGS
Cheryl Moriarity.

1. IDENTIFY YOUR TIMELINES

Depending on when you start investing, your growth timeline will vary. Everyone's life has a different path. Depending on when you decide to get married, have a family, buy a house and a multitude of other factors, when you need your investment will vary. Your current and anticipated lifestyle will affect when your portfolio strategy shifts to include more conservative investments. Determine what your ideal timelines are and work with an advisor to create a financial plan that will help you reach your goals.

2. DETERMINE YOUR RISK APPETITE

There are many factors that will determine your risk appetite. Your personal relationship with money and your objectives for you and your family will determine your portfolio's level of risk during growth and preservation stages. A financial advisor will be able to set a clear and objective risk profile for you to ensure the right balance of risk and return.

3. DON'T OVERLOOK TAX PLANNING

Most Canadians growth their savings by investing in tax-sheltered vehicles such as Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) and Tax-Free Savings Accounts (TFSA) but often other tax efficient strategies are overlooked. A comprehensive tax strategy will help maximize real returns and protect your wealth.

4. GET A SECOND OPINION

Ensure you take a personalized approach to your investments. Seek professional advice and get a second opinion to ensure you are on the right track.

The key to growing and preserving your wealth is to have a personalized plan that is built for you. With the right strategy in place, you will grow and protect your wealth not only for your future but for your family's as well.



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islandsavings.ca/wealth **Wealth Management**

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Working collaboratively with myself and the Advanced Financial Planning team, I can help guide you across a range of complex situations and goals.

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



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EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

Water stewardship comes to life

Freshwater Salt Spring creates educational video

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

By virtue of living on a rock surrounded by salt water, all freshwater we rely on comes from the sky, says Briony Penn in a new film about water stewardship on Salt Spring Island.

The freshwater then gets stored in lakes and trapped by forest ecosystems within the 100 watersheds on the island.

"Wherever you live, you are in a watershed," explains John Millson.

Both he and Penn are featured in Freshwater Salt Spring, a recently released short film with a big goal of increasing knowledge of and appreciation for the watersheds of the island. It can be viewed on YouTube.

Young people are the primary audience for the film and for a larger film project Millson is working on, an audience he hopes to reach through the classroom.

"They're the ambassadors. If they take it home even if their parents are not keen or have got other stuff to do, then you've introduced this root into the home," he said.

The film and teacher resources have been shared with educators in the Gulf Islands School District, with good reception so far, he added.

Millson is a geologist, environmentalist, member of a Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance technical working group and a director at large with the Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society. Soon after arriving on Salt Spring, he realized "we know nothing about most of the creek systems on this island." From this grew the Salt Spring Island FreshWater Catalogue, a so-far 3.5-year effort to collect information on surface water on the island. Some of this data is now being fed into a Capital Regional District project in the Weston Lake area, Millson explained.

The short film was borne out of the ongoing pandemic, which forced the 50 freshwater catalogue volunteers to pause their awareness raising and community building around watersheds on the island. While some kept sampling water on their own or in little bubbles, Millson thought, "Here's an opportunity. I want education to be ongoing, I've got this window. How can we do it?"

The answer to that was a six and a half minute short film, which broadens the conversation from water stewardship to stewardship of the land and First Nations perspectives.

Freshwater is special, Millson said, as it is a finite resource and despite what may feel like copious rainfall, very little of the water stays on the island. And knowledge of freshwater is not simply beneficial but essential to keep the delicate water balancing act between the natural environment and the human community on the island. It is a balance that may deteriorate over time with climate change, or with destruction of the natural ecosystems by human activity.

Being so deeply involved in the topic of freshwater on the island,



IMAGE FROM FRESHWATER SALT SPRING

A still image from a short film about Salt Spring Island's freshwater, meant to introduce islanders to stewardship of this finite resource.

Millson knows there is an education issue that needs to be addressed. He described the state of understanding as a spectrum, with a choir on one side and naysayers on the other. In between are a large population who don't know much about the issue, an estimated 60 per cent of islanders, Millson guessed.

The short film was filmed and edited by Alex Harris, produced by Miranda MacDougall and made possible by a donation from Nancy Braithwaite. Apart from its educational purpose, the film will be a "calling card" to show potential funders for the next big project Millson is working on: a documentary.

In the planning stages, the documentary will answer questions, including "Who are we? What do we know? What is stewardship?" Millson explained. Helping to answer the latter question are a collaboration group consisting of organizations working on conservation, forest protection, water preservation, climate change as well as Indigenous stewardship, including the Cowichan First Nations community and the Stqe-ye' Learning Society.

Finally, the film will turn to the question of "What can we do?", looking at stewardship through the lens of Transition Salt Spring's Climate Action Plan and through a conversation with ecologist Chris Drake.

"It could be as simple as 'I'm going to do something differently in my garden,'" he said, or it could open the door for people to get involved in stewardship efforts.

Then the plan is to "take the camera into the field, and show what this stuff is," Millson said, sharing with viewers what is happening with stewardship on the island.

The primary audience is, as with the short film, young people through the classroom. Although it will be focused on Salt Spring, the film can also find an

audience further afield.

"If you look at islands worldwide, islands have a common problem," Millson said. "So I see it as a flagship project for education and outreach on our islands, the Salish Sea islands and it's a great project to demonstrate Indigenous stewardship."

For the time being, Millson is busy getting the larger film project off the ground, looking for funding and assembling a volunteer production crew to do research, videography, editing, support during the filming process, fundraising and video content illustrations. Anyone interested in knowing more can reach Millson via jamsiwater@gmail.com.

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Islands 2050 Policy Statement Amendment

Islands Trust is launching the third phase of engagement on its Policy Statement. It has not been substantively updated since 1994, and a lot has changed in the past 25 years.

In response to feedback, we have expanded engagement opportunities – we want to hear from as many people as possible.

Visit our website to learn more and to provide your input.
islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050/

Join the Conversation!

We need your input to help shape and inform changes to the Policy Statement!

Join us at one of our upcoming virtual events in March.

Complete the online survey between February 25 and April 17.

In-person opportunities for input will be shared on our website as bookings are confirmed.

Capital Regional District **CRD**

Arts & Culture Spring Grant Deadlines

Applications are open for CRD art grants:

- Equity Grants: For arts initiatives by those from communities at risk of exclusion or who have difficulty accessing support for systemic reasons
- IDEA Grants: For arts projects and events by non-arts mandated organizations
- Incubator Grants: To assist the acceleration of arts organizations and projects by funding capacity building needs
- Project Grants: To support arts organizations with projects, including short series of events and extended programming over a year

Equity Grant, IDEA Grant and Incubator Grant applications are due March 17, 2022 at 4:30 pm.

Project Grant applications are due April 21, 2022 at 4:30 pm.

Learn more and sign up for an online info session:
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Obituaries

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A series of powerful events will occur over the course of this week as Pisces time builds momentum. It begins on March 2 with the New Moon in Pisces, scarcely an hour after Mercury conjuncts Saturn in Aquarius... together triggering emotionally charged themes of spiritual conviction, empathy, transformation, revolutionary passion, critical and strategic thinking, and power. The very next day on March 3, Mars will conjunct Pluto in Capricorn, together occupying the highest degree in the chart. Just hours later, Venus also conjuncts Pluto, very possibly manifesting as harsher draconian measures by governments. Yet, these will be opposed by the emotionality of "the people." The very next day on March 4, the Moon conjuncts Chiron in Aries, activating a mini-cycle of healing linked to "being" and identity. Then on March 5, the Sun conjuncts Jupiter, and then on March 6, both Mars and Venus enter Aquarius within one minute of each other. This is an emotionally charged and important New Moon.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)
 As eager as you may feel to nip behind the scenes for a while, this impulse is countered by both an ambitious surge and a revolutionary one too. You are determined to exercise a visionary perspective complete with open-minded and creatively critical thinking to secure your financial foundation. Expect this theme to continue.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)
 While the spotlight is still on you, it is not as bright as it was the past several weeks. This dimming of the lights could manifest as a reprieve, but it is just as likely to activate a strategic surge of ambitious assertion. Whether slow but sure or loud and obvious, you are in revolutionary mode, which could produce fame, infamy or a fine mix of both.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)
 Clouds have cleared and you are getting glimpses of the future. There may, however, remain some degree of mystery and possibly of confusion in this regard. Positively, you are realizing dreams. Meanwhile, deep changes are brewing, which do come with a mixed report of both where ambitions can be realized yet also where you are expected to give more.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)
 Despite deep changes occurring within and without, Pisces time is inviting you inward and perhaps upward to have the advantage of visionary reflection, yet could also sync with a wide array of demands on your time and focus and scattered perspectives. Positively, it could manifest as a period of retreat and also of spiritual revelation.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)
 Pisces time tends to be a deep dive period for you. It is an ideal time to turn inward, even amidst outer activities. In a higher sense, it represents a time of purging, clearing and personal transformation of unwanted or disruptive attitudes and attachments. Meanwhile, changes on relationship fronts are brewing, which will require your full attention.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)
 An expansive cycle on relationships fronts is underway. This cycle actually began at the beginning of the year, but will be amplified now by the Sun there and especially thanks to the New Moon and the lunar activations of Jupiter and Neptune. Just be careful of overconfidence leading to assumptions.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)
 It is the activated Pisces factor in your chart that is contributing to your health needs and concerns. On the low end, you could be experiencing a lowering of your immune system, so boost it to counter this tendency. Positively, the exercise of mind power and visualization is helping you to experience the miraculous results of mind over matter.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
 Pisces is your sister water sign suggestive of creative inspiration for you. With Jupiter and Neptune and now the Sun and soon the Moon too, this inspirational impulse will both increase and be ignited. The strong Capricorn factor indicates higher energy levels for you, yet also a deep tendency to react to whatever does not match your hopes and wishes.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
 Triggers and activations close to home are keeping you busy now and these will continue and increase yet. These are lending to thoughts, ideas and to a brainstorming process in general. In addition to thinking of new ways to generate extra streams of income, making changes in your lifestyle is also featured.


Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
 Dreams, ideals and visions of possibility are tumbling in your mind. These may be met, however, with notions of how to escape certain current realities. Either way, it may feel harder to focus these days due in part to too many distractions, and/or over-analysis. This trend will continue and will require decisive action.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)
 The upcoming Pisces New Moon will activate new perspectives, values and priorities. Your sights are set on the future, which could be a good thing unless your focus to take action is in the here and now. You must also be wary of negative thinking and pessimism regarding the future. Focus to be aware but avoid escaping into the unknown.

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
 You have likely entered an active cycle, yet one that is currently as much about completions as new beginnings. The gears will shift, however, to be more about the future and what is next. This will include the need for optimism and taking a few risks. Neptune in Pisces could manifest as vague thinking but could also be shared by vivid dreams of possibility.

GEORGE E. COOKE
 Feb 4, 1925 - Feb. 13, 2022

A long and happy life - laughter being his signature. A final year bravely borne. *A life well lived.*



My heartfelt thanks to our doctor Ian Gummeson, the many community care, acute care and latterly the Extended Care staff who watched over my husband George Cooke, often under difficult conditions, sustaining him through his final months.

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 - DOREEN COOKE

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HUBERT R. LEBER
 1934 - 2022

Hubert, 87, died on February 7, 2022 in Burnaby BC. He was born in Breslau-Oswitz, Silesia, Germany (now Wroclaw, Poland) on March 1, 1934. He and his family fled to the west after WWII, as Russia ceded Silesia to Poland. He became a master blacksmith and immigrated to Canada in 1955. He married Brunhilde Heine in 1957, and the couple had two children, Janet and Peter. After Brunhilde died in 1966, Hubert met Marianne. They wed in 1981 and he became a stepfather to daughters Rita and Helga.


An amazing craftsman, Hubert founded Expert Handrail LTD, a company that specialized in ornamental iron railings. He also built over 20 houses in his lifetime as well as a 37 ft. steel hull sailboat which he sailed around the Canadian Gulf Islands once he and Marianne moved to Salt Spring Island in 1979. They were residents for 28 years before moving to Vancouver Island where Marianne passed away in 2015.

In 2016, after being apart for 48 years, Hubert re-connected with Traudi England. Together they purchased a home in Sooke, BC and split their time between Vancouver Island and the mainland where Traudi's extended family adopted him as their own.

Hubert is survived by Traudi and her family; daughter Janet (John), son Peter (Karen), stepdaughters Rita (Thomas) and Helga (Wade); four grandchildren, Christopher, Annie, Kirsten and Danen; and three great grandchildren, Savana, Lukas and Ren.

A funeral mass was held/live-streamed at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Parish on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Burnaby Hospital.



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Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)
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RECREATION

Hikers head further afield in March

Scheduled outings shared

SUBMITTED BY SS TRAIL AND NATURE CLUB

The Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club is adopting a more week-by-week planning approach to walks and rambles in March. Destinations are updated regularly on the website at saltspring-tnc.ca. Meanwhile, hikes are continuing their new twice-weekly pattern with some pre-planning.

Tuesday, March 1:

- Hike: Bob Keates will lead a hike in Channel Ridge starting at the Merganser access point. After enjoying some nice views to Vancouver and the North Shore mountains if it's clear, we travel along the crest of the ridge to the John Myers bench for lunch. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. to carpool or at 10 a.m. at the Merganser turn-around.

- Walk and Rambles: Announced on the website about one week before.

Sunday, March 6:

- Hike: Meet at ArtSpring at 1 p.m. and we will choose a destination.

Tuesday, March 8:

- Hike: Jan and Larry McIntyre will lead an off-island hike on Maple Mountain. We'll walk on the ferry at Vesuvius and, once in Crofton, follow the boardwalk along the shoreline before taking some quiet roads that lead to Maple Mountain. The trails on Maple Mountain are steep and will have some wet and slippery bits, but are quite scenic. It will be a strenuous hike: more than 10 km total, with 390 m of elevation gain. Meet at the Vesuvius ferry dock at 9:20 a.m. to catch the 9:35 a.m. ferry or carpool from ArtSpring at 9:05 a.m. We'll aim to catch the 3:35 p.m. ferry back from Crofton.

- Walk and Rambles: Announced on the website about one week before.

Sunday, March 13:

- Hike: Meet at ArtSpring at 1 p.m. and we will choose a destination.

Tuesday, March 15:

- Hike: John Gauld will lead a hike in the area north of Maxwell. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. Starting point details will be announced.

- Walk and Rambles: Announced on the website about one week before.

Sunday, March 20:

- Hike: Meet at ArtSpring at 1 p.m. and we will choose a destination.

Tuesday, March 22:

- Hike: Ashley Hilliard will lead a moderate hike in Salt Spring's deep south. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. to carpool, or join at the starting point, Beaver Point Hall, at 10:05 a.m. The hike will be along trails and quiet roads.

- Walk and Rambles: Announced on the website about one week before.

Sunday, March 27:

- Hike: Meet in the post office lot at 1 p.m. and we will choose a destination. (There's an afternoon event at ArtSpring so a different meeting point is needed.)

Tuesday, March 29:

- Hike: Charles Kahn will lead. Details to be announced.

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Feb. 23, 2022 is Anti-Bullying Day or Pink Shirt Day in Canada. Each year the last Wednesday in February is marked to stand up to bullying in our communities.



Against bullying in person, online, and everywhere else.



Salt Spring Books

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STOP BULLYING

Conversations on compassion, empathy and courage needed

BY THE CIRCLE SALT SPRING EDUCATION SOCIETY

How do we address bullying? This is a complex question. One thing for sure is that it starts with positive relationships.

At the Circle Education, we believe that when we build safe spaces where we are able to learn about one another through the lens of empathy and respect, and when we explore difficult topics like fairness and conflict, labels and assumptions, boundaries and consent, we begin to deconstruct the components that breed bullying.

There are so many variations to the recipe but it begins with some key ingredients. The number one ingredient is respect: respect for others but equally and maybe even more important is respect for self. Next comes empathy. Conversations where we listen to our children's perspective with compassion and care are the first steps to role-modelling this.

From there, in the face of conflict, demonstrating curiosity and empathy for all involved can allow us all to do the difficult work of recognizing that there are many sides to a scenario, many reasons why hurt occurs and that often "hurt people hurt people." In doing this, we can help our children develop the tools to better understand themselves and others and see inherent goodness in all people.

Frequent dialogue with our children about negative and/or discordant incidents is part of helping to imprint what healthy relationships should look like. Helping our kids to discern the difference between arguments, disagreements, unintentional actions/ words that cause hurt and bullying is important.

From there, we can take the next steps towards fostering the leadership and service it takes to be an "upstander."

The ingredients of courage and compassion make this happen. Compassion puts the wheels on empathy in order to reach out to those who need help. Courage is the strength to recognize when something is wrong and to act in ways to make it right, by taking action for those who are unable on their own or by making amends for our own actions.

Below are some great Canadian resources that offer expertise that are very specific to bullying:

- Government of Canada - Bullying Resources
- Kids Help Phone "Let's Talk About Bullying"
- PREVNet
- Bullying Canada

The Circle Salt Spring Education society fosters healthy relationships — to promote communities free of violence, bullying, discrimination, assault and abuse — by delivering innovative, evidence-based social-emotional educational programs for children, youth and adults.



Respect for Others

Respect for Self

Be Kind



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