

inside:



12 Library shares plans and successes at AGM



9 Zukerman brings ensemble for Beethoven concert

Arts and Entertainment..... 9
 Classifieds..... 11
 Editorial 4
 Island Life 10
 Letters..... 5
 What's On 9

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PHOTO BY GAIL SILBERG

BUS DRIVERS ARE THE BEST: Taking a moment out for a photo on Transit Driver Appreciation Day on Friday are, from left, Salt Spring Transit driver Dan Cronin, supervisor Lorne Bunyan and driver Tom Gray. Bunyan said Salt Spring's transit service didn't lose even an hour of service due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with credit given to the dedication of the 10 to 11 people who drive the island's buses.

HEALTH CARE

GP shortage impacts islanders

'It feels like starting over when there's nowhere to start,' says one island resident

First in a three-part series

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Until recently, Salt Spring Islanders were used to having a family doctor and, when said doctor left the island or retired, they'd become patients of a new family doctor.

Sonja Dorotich describes having five doctors in the 15 years since she moved here, which at times felt like a lot of turnover. Crucially though, there was always a new doctor to take her and her family on. That was how things worked on the island until recent years, when doctors leaving the island or retiring haven't had anyone to take their place.

The situation is worsening, said Dr. Christopher Applewhaite, a family doctor at the Salt Spring Island Health Centre and physician lead for the Southern Gulf Islands chapter of the Rural and Remote Division of Family Practice. Around two-thirds of islanders

had a family doctor in 2019, a figure which now stands at around 50 per cent. Physicians David Beaver, David Butcher and Robert Crichton have closed or are closing their practices and have all tried very hard to find replacements, without success.

At present, Applewhaite said, 11 doctors currently practise on the island. Seven of those provide full-service care including family medicine at a clinic, the hospital emergency room (ER), inpatient medicine and long-term care. The other doctors do some of these duties, with one doctor focusing solely on a family practice, two who do all duties save for the ER and one doctor who only practices in the ER.

Jane Worton, the local chapter coordinator with the division of family practice, added that three physician positions will be unfilled this summer.

Salt Spring's population surged by 10.2 per cent from 2016 and 2021, a figure which does not capture new arrivals since May 2021, put-

ting added pressure on the need for family doctors.

Applewhaite said doctors on the island take on anywhere from 600 to 1,150 patients.

The island will also be losing one of their two midwives within a few months. Salt Spring is a midwifery-led community, Worton explained, where midwives provide primary care and manage low-risk births on-island.

Nurse practitioners are also primary care providers and the island has one of these positions still unfilled.

"We're working very, very hard to maintain the quality of care that we have," Applewhaite said, although some changes will be felt in the short term. "More people are going to have to go to the emergency room to get non-emergency care, or they'll be faced with going off-island to go to a walk-in clinic or using one of the many virtual medicine platforms that are out there now."

DOCTOR SHORTAGE continued on 3

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WATER

NSSWD adds to conversation with new report

Governance and cost issues laid out for public consumption

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) trustees and staff have made their intentions about whether or not to become a Capital Regional District (CRD) water service crystal clear in a governance report released last week.

Designed to update NSSWD ratepayers on attempts over the past

five years to gain access to federal-provincial infrastructure funding while not giving up local autonomy, the report reconfirms the water district's previously stated view that becoming a CRD entity would not be the best choice for its ratepayers.

But NSSWD trustees vow to keep exploring ways to increase revenue to help offset costs for needed capital projects.

As the governance report explains, one of the issues is purely financial: Of the approximately \$25 million worth of infrastructure upgrades needed in the next 15 years, only the Maxwell Lake treatment plan — estimated to cost

about \$7 million — would be eligible for federal-provincial funding (of between \$4.7 and \$5.25 million) if the NSSWD joined the CRD.

"Beyond this single project, conversion to CRD ownership holds no potential for financial benefit. In other words, ratepayers will have to foot the bill for the remaining \$20 million worth of projects whether or not we turn NSSWD assets over to the CRD by way of conversion."

NSSWD chair Michael McAllister said at a special board meeting last Thursday that "Getting to 'no' is an important milestone because North Salt Spring is now able to move forward and explore other options

that may be available to us."

McAllister said the estimated cost to each parcel owner to pay for the Maxwell Lake treatment plant without grant funding at this point would be \$300 per year while the debt is being paid off.

NSSWD trustee Brian Pyper commented that, "We will continue to encourage the province to look at their outdated and problematic policy regarding improvement districts . . . There needs to be thought given to logical exceptions or alternatives when it comes to important groups of districts like ours with respect to access to grant funding."

The NSSWD plans to host a public forum of some kind with ratepayers on the topic.

The report is downloadable on the northsaltspringwaterworks.ca website under the Docs and then Reports tabs.

Salt Spring's representative to the CRD, Gary Holman, responded to the NSSWD report in his director's column on page 6 of this paper.

In other NSSWD news, the water hook-up moratorium will be on the next meeting agenda on Thursday, March 31 as the peer reviews of hydrology reports used to justify the moratorium several years ago will be made public.

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Limited options for islanders without physicians

DOCTOR SHORTAGE

continued from 1

Several Salt Spring residents told the Driftwood they are doing everything they can to find a doctor taking patients. They are also managing their care as best they can, using walk-ins, online services and even deferring non-urgent medical care.

One Salt Spring resident, an octogenarian, penned handwritten letters to all doctors on the island with no reply. She declined to have her name published to avoid being seen as a troublemaker and having further difficulty finding a doctor.

"Not having a doctor, not being able to get one at my age is becoming very stressful," she said.

After finding out her family doctor is moving, Barbara DuMoulin said she searched locally and on Vancouver Island for a doctor. She is also in the process of writing to Premier Jon Horgan about the desperate need on the island.

Debbie Moolman has visited a walk-in clinic to take care of some medical issues and has registered for MedicAlert, a service which helps first responders identify medical conditions, as she is highly allergic to bees.

While Moolman understands the shortage of medical professionals on the island, a bigger concern for her is not being able to add her name to a waitlist or link up to a system notifying people when spaces do open up. "If somebody comes in and I'm not on the ball and recognize that somebody is here, for whatever reason, I'm not going to get [a family doctor]," she said. There isn't any information out there for someone in her position, and "that's also very disconcerting."

Dorotich used a walk-in clinic by phone to



DR. CHRIS APPLEWHAITE

get some paperwork filled out, yet she is very hesitant to use Lady Minto Hospital as a walk-in clinic unless there is an urgent medical issue.

Having a family doctor provides comfort, she said, knowing that they know her and her partner's health profiles. This security

felt all the more important during the COVID-19 pandemic, which made access to medical care more difficult. Having a doctor that understands a chronic condition Dorotich lives with is also crucial for continuity of care.

"If your doctor can relate, in some way, or have compassion and empathy and some deeper understanding of what you're going through, then that doctor-patient relationship is very important," Dorotich said.

At 73, not having a family doctor is "not a good thing at this point in my life," said DuMoulin. When she found out her doctor was leaving the island, she contacted a neurologist she sees in Vancouver for her multiple sclerosis diagnosis. That's when she found out he had already retired.

"I'm very lucky, my MS is benign, I'm one of the lucky 20 per cent. But there is no guarantee. At any point in time I could have further attacks and suddenly be needing greater care," she said. "All of us, when we're seniors, we do need to see doctors, family doctors in particular, more often than what we would have when we were younger."

Moolman moved to Salt Spring last year with her husband and 86-year-old mother, none of whom have a family doctor. While they aren't facing any major health issues, both she and her husband are over 60 and



PHOTO BY EMELE PEACOCK

Salt Spring Island Health Centre physician's examination room, a well-used space as a result of the current doctor shortage.

"getting to that age where things start to go wrong."

Many Salt Spring Islanders are at this stage in their life. According to the local health area profile for the Southern Gulf Islands, the average age is 51.6. Twelve per cent of residents are over 75, a demographic which is expected to more than double over the next 20 years.

Should DuMoulin need to visit a specialist clinic in Victoria, she wonders who she would ask for a travel assistance ferry pass.

"It's a small thing . . . but there are all sorts of ramifications that are not everyday ones that wouldn't affect people living, for example, on the mainland."

"I definitely feel like my health has somewhat deteriorated not having my doctor who knows my history," Dorotich said. "So it does really feel like starting over but there's

no place to start."

Calling around to local doctors won't work, Applewhaite said, as no doctor on the island is taking patients.

"My message is, really, people need to be calling the health minister, their local politician, that's where the problem is going to get fixed," he said, as well as voting for parties that will fund primary care. "It's not in the offices. We're all full and all working as hard as we can."

"Because of the bigger issues with primary care in B.C. in general, it's probably going to get worse before it gets better, but we are doing everything we can to keep services up," Applewhaite said.

Patients might see some changes, including limiting some clinic services during July and August, which is peak time for the hospital's emergency room. Wait times in the ER could also increase.

"They're burning out, they work all the time," Worton said, of the effect this is having on family doctors. "The fewer physicians we have, the longer the hours are that the physicians work."

Doctors are fielding personal requests to take on patients, delaying their retirements and only taking time off if locums can be arranged.

Unable to provide care to people who need it, they are also experiencing moral distress.

"None of us want people to not have a doctor, but we just know that we can't take on anyone else without compromising the care of the people we have," Applewhaite said. "It's really tough."

Next week: *The physician shortage situation on the Southern Gulf Islands.*

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OPINION

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



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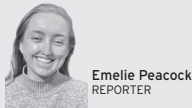
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EDITORIAL

Functional discussion

Anyone hungry for local governance discussions has had a lot to chew on in recent weeks.

On March 8 a Governance and Management Review of the Islands Trust report was shared in depth at the quarterly Islands Trust Council meeting in Nanaimo. Conducted by a consulting firm called Great Northern Management at a cost to Islands Trust Area taxpayers of approximately \$75,000, it found room for improvement in how the Trust functions in a number of areas. Among other observations, consultant Maryantonett Flumian described the Trust as having "one of the most burdensome and heavy governance structures that I've ever seen for an organization this size." A number of suggestions are made for how to make the situation better.

THE ISSUE: Salt Spring governance

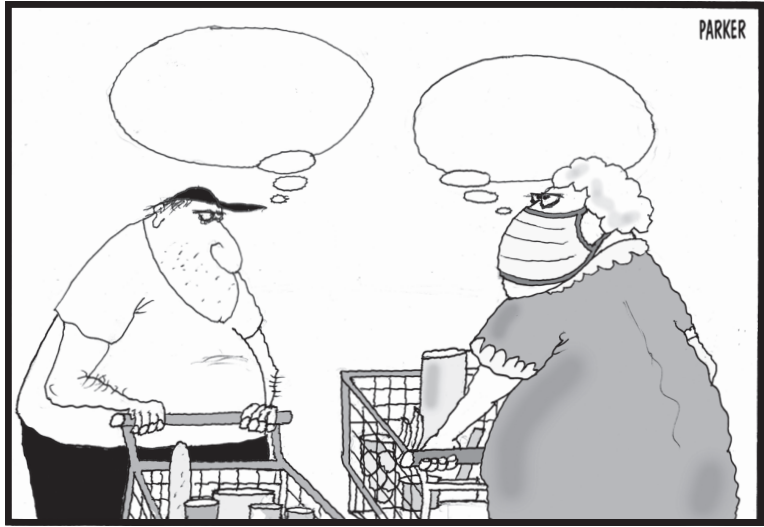
WE SAY: Time to explore options

to CRD service delivery on the island and spread the considerable CRD workload among more elected officials. Holman had raised the LCC idea during the 2018 election campaign. Both the COVID-19 pandemic and waiting for the outcome of a Water Optimization Study paid for by the provincial government and involving the province, CRD and North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) were cited for reasons for the delay in getting the LCC topic on the table before now. It could be presented as a referendum question with the next round of local elections set for this October.

Speaking of the NSSWD, trustees and staff of the island's largest water utility last week released a report on governance and issues the district faces in coming years. The intention is to have a fulsome dialogue with NSSWD ratepayers in the near future.

Between all three issues there will be plenty to talk about in coming months for those who have the stomach for the subject and the potential conflicts that will arise. Whether those discussions lead to any changes that could give the island a healthier governance diet remains to be seen.

Gary Holman, Salt Spring's electoral area director to the Capital Regional District (CRD), has added to governance discussions by formally initiating the idea of adding a Local Community Commission (LCC) to Salt Spring's existing governance menu. The hope is that an LCC would add some cohesion



Reign of the psychopaths

BY FRANTS ATTORP

As death and destruction rain down on innocent Ukrainians, Canadians must surely be thankful they are spared similar horrors. How fortunate we are to have our democratic institutions to protect us from tyrants! But are those protections secure?

While there is little chance of a Putin or Assad taking control in Canada, it is less difficult to imagine someone like Donald Trump. Corporations, working through puppet politicians, have the same basic goals as other psychopaths: disempower the masses, deregulate the economy, and grab all the money, even at the expense of life itself.

Just over a year ago, Trump almost overthrew democracy by creating an alternate reality and inciting a riot. He followed the usual dictator playbook: make key supporters fabulously wealthy, silence or discredit the media, provoke prejudices and divisions, corrupt the judicial system, and undermine fair elections.

Trump could not have come to office without America's two-party system. If the truly radical types — those with strong anarchistic leanings — were isolated under a proportional system, there would not be

enough votes to defeat the combined will of progressives.

But they are not isolated. Instead, they find their political home under the Republican tent, and now have so much power it is almost impossible to be a party member without buying into Trump's lies.

The contagion has unfortunately spread to Canada. We have just witnessed several weeks of mob behaviour in the nation's capital. The horn honking and diesel fumes must have been pure hell for Ottawans!

How disturbing to witness so many angry and aggressive protesters, some sporting "Make Canada Great Again" caps, chanting "freedom" like a drum roll for war. What is their interpretation of the word? Their grievances seem to go well beyond the vaccine issue.

Erin O'Toole was ousted as leader of the Conservative Party because of his moderate position on issues such as climate change and conversion therapy. Clearly, today's Conservative Party bears little resemblance to the Progressive Conservative Party of yore.

Pierre Poilievre, a leader-

ship candidate, participated in all of Stephen Harper's abuses of power. Not surprisingly, he is still flogging the "freedom of religion" red herring. Jean Charest, another leadership hopeful, is pledging not to tighten gun controls.

As the planet burns and Putin holds Trump-style rallies, Canada is being squeezed militarily, economically and ideologically. How are we going to survive as a liberal democracy, especially if Trump, or someone like him, is re-elected in 2024?

We must reinforce our democratic institutions so they are immune to attack from both without and within. This means adopting a proportional electoral system, safeguarding our elections and judiciary from political interference, and combating disinformation through education. Our approach to trade must also be re-examined.

Freedom is not about owning a gun or tearing up the social contract. It's about living free from fear, violence and discrimination, free from extreme inequality, free from pollution, free from thought control, and free from minority rule. The world is sending us a wake-up call. We ignore it at our peril.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Has your family been impacted by war?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Will you continue to wear a mask in public indoor spaces?



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ISLAND VOICES

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FROM THE BACK ISSUES

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

1962

The prize for the SSI Volunteer Fire Department firemen's ball fundraiser was announced as being a trip for two to the World's Fair in Seattle. Tickets were \$1.25. Funds were needed for training room equipment.

1982

The court of revision was in the process of hearing more than 1,200 appeals of property assessments on Salt Spring and Galiano islands. Assessed values of land had more than doubled from the previous year in many of the cases being heard.

2002



Men from the Anglican Parish of Salt Spring joined with Eddie Jang (seated, left) at the site of a new Celtic cross, dedicated by the parish at a ceremony on Palm Sunday. The 12-foot cement marker, located at the Purdy-Cunningham Memorial Cemetery, was built with Jang's expertise.

2012



Salt Spring residents and Tsawout First Nation members celebrated installation of new trail signs on Tsawout lands in the island's south end. A collaborative effort between the Tsawout First Nation, Institute for Sustainability Education and Action, and Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission, signs depicted the Tsawout's 13-month lunar calendar in a colourful circular design by artist Briony Penn. Seen in the photo from left at back are ISEA's Margery Moore, Penn, and Gwen Underwood and Belinda Claxton, and her grandson Tristan, from Tsawout First Nation.

LETTERS to the editor

No need for LCC

Proponents of a local community commission (LCC) claim its principal benefit will allow for the consolidation of commissions. What's not mentioned, however, is that there's nothing preventing commissions from being consolidated now. An LCC is irrelevant. Why haven't the individuals promoting an LCC tried to do this? It's a simple process, far less complicated than an LCC.

It's often said that an LCC will broaden representation. This too is hard to grasp. Salt Spring already has 11 commissions and 50 volunteer commissioners. There are twice as many commissioners on Salt Spring as there are councillors in the City of Toronto. Why would residents elect four more paid commissioners who will receive as much as \$40,000

a year to add to this enormous volunteer force?

I have some sympathy for CRD director Gary Holman's workload. Why hasn't he downloaded a portion of his duties to alternates who are compensated accordingly? There are dozens of bright, talented young people on the island who will serve the community well and be delighted to have a paid, part-time job in a key sector. I have no doubt residents would support this.

Furthermore, there's nothing stopping the director from forming an advisory volunteer board from the outstanding pool of experienced commissioners already involved. The board could provide advice on budgets and gas tax grants, among other possibilities. Advisory boards are a common practice in many jurisdictions.

The group promoting an LCC does not accept or understand that it is the same genre

as a committee. It's a creature of the CRD board and regardless of pleas for more authority, an LCC will be largely advisory with limited operational capacity, like other commissions.

As for the delivery of services, that's the responsibility of CRD management and staff. They report to the CRD Board and its chief administrative officer. They expect to receive community input and recommendations from commissioners, but not direction or orders.

Residents should contact the CRD director and ask him to shut down this groundless idea before embarking on a sham community engagement process and forcing residents to endure another referendum. There are more beneficial things to be doing for island governance.

BOB MOFFATT,
SALT SPRING

RV an eyesore

If there is a single monument to this island's complete lack of sensible governance it is the clapped-out, burned-out RV on Rainbow Road.

The wretched thing has been there for weeks now, and no one seems willing to take the initiative and have it towed away despite its potentially dangerous proximity to the high school and the fact that it is a monstrous eyesore.

Any proper authority would have had it removed and billed the owner, but here on Salt Spring, where civic governance is just wishful thinking, it sits and rots.

Do get a grip, Salt Spring!
PAUL MCLEROY,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"None of us want people to not have a doctor, but we just know that we can't take on anyone else without compromising the care of the people we have."

DR. CHRIS APPLEWHAITE, PHYSICIAN LEAD FOR THE SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS CHAPTER OF THE RURAL AND REMOTE DIVISION OF FAMILY PRACTICE.

Let's quit switching and stick to standard time

BY DULCY WILSON

Since we just changed our clocks to Daylight Saving Time (DST), I am encouraged to write this.

I am all for not changing the clocks twice a year. The BC NDP asked us a couple years ago if we wanted to stop the twice yearly change and most said yes. However, the question was skewed. We were only given the option of DST year round or keep changing twice a year. That is not correct. We should have been asked which time we preferred, Standard Time or DST. I personally prefer Pacific Standard Time. DST is not necessary and is harmful.

Daylight Saving Time is an outdated measure. It causes a lack of productivity after the time changes because people are tired. Heart attacks, car accidents and other types of accidents increase after the time changes. It was introduced over 100 years ago as a way to save coal, and even though there is no evidence that it actually leads to energy conservation, it has been hard to abolish because it is embedded in our and the U.S.'s economy. The federal government should work with provinces to eliminate DST across Canada to promote public safety and health.

A few facts about Daylight Saving Time:

- In Canada, at first, DST use varied from town to town. Saskatchewan and some regions in Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and Nunavut also don't observe daylight time.
- Safety: workplace injuries are six per cent more frequent after DST, especially

GUEST COLUMN

in the trades, and traffic collisions are about 20 per cent more frequent (Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety).

- Health: risk of heart attack and stroke increases after the spring time change.

Sleep experts have stated that DST is harmful to our health, especially children, as it disrupts our natural sleep patterns. It raises the risk of obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disturbances and depression.

We, along with all of nature, follow the circadian rhythms of nature, whether we are aware of them or not. Having the time set as natural as possible is having the sun be at its highest point on any day at noon, not 1 p.m. This gives a natural balance to our biological functions. Pushing it one hour ahead throws an imbalance into our lives. You may think you adjust to the extra hour imposed on us, but I do not think that really happens. We are only going to get so much sunlight on any given day. Changing the time of day does not change that.

If we were to have DST in the winter it would be much worse. We would have to wake up and be functional an hour before we naturally would. Sleep is lost and disrupted, and we do not necessarily go to bed one hour earlier to make up for this loss.

In all the years I had to be at work at 8

a.m. I noticed that it was always harder to get up and be at work for 8 a.m. during DST, even though it may have been summer with more daylight. And when the time changed back to Standard Time for winter I found that I had no problem getting up and being to work at 8 a.m., even though it may be darker. My circadian rhythms were not interrupted. In our world of so many unnatural things to imbalance our place in nature, having only Standard Time year round would be much more natural and gentle on our biological selves. I for one see no need to have it light until after 10 p.m. in the summer. I like the evening with some dark time to watch videos, read and just settle down before I go to bed and sleep.

Europe recently voted to end DST and have just Standard Time. Hawaii is on Standard Time year round as are many other places. Business does not require that we are all on DST in order to function. Following the U.S.A. in any changes they may make on whether to keep DST or not should not dictate to B.C. that we have to do what they do.

Getting rid of the twice yearly switch will be a very good thing, but only if Standard Time is the norm. Let us have the most natural time, not the false imposed time of DST. Having DST year round would be devastating. Please let us not be fooled into thinking it is the answer. Please let us have Pacific Standard Time all year.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident.



PHOTO COURTESY BRUCE COBANLI

FUNDS FOR UKRAINE: Musician Bruce Cobanli, right, gives more than \$300 in proceeds of his recent Before Night Falls evening with musical friends at the Legion to Ukraine humanitarian relief fundraising organizer Igor Darmokhid. Another fundraising concert and auction is planned for April 30 at Fulford Hall, with more details to come. Jayne Lloyd-Jones is also offering a Yoga for Ukraine session at Ganges Yoga Studio on April 3.

COVID-19 IN BC



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Salt Spring's portion of CRD budget rises from original estimate



Gary Holman
 CRD DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Board approved its final 2022 budget on March 16.

Local CRD service requisitions remain the same as provisionally approved last fall. However, due to the unprecedented 31 per cent increase in local property assessments versus 22 per cent for the CRD overall, Salt Spring Island will pay a higher proportion of region-wide service costs. Also, since provisional budget approval, all local governments within CRD consented to increase climate action funding, reflecting our declaration of a climate emergency.

These changes resulted in an overall increase in the CRD and CRHD (Hospital District) requisition of 5.8 per cent (versus 3.3 per cent in the provisional budget) to a total of \$7.244 million. Over the 2018-22 term the average CRD requisition increase has been 3.5 per cent, compared to inflation, negotiated CRD wages and salaries, and Salt Spring population growth, all roughly two per cent per year. The average Salt Spring residential property, currently assessed at \$983,000, now pays roughly \$96 per month for a range of CRD services and facilities. During this term alone, Salt Spring has received millions in regional CRD funding for affordable housing at Croftonbrook, the new Lady Minto emergency room, and free residential recycling.

As I indicated in my Oct. 18, 2021 provisional budget report, the single most important driver of local requisition increases is the cost related to PARC's leasing of the middle school (SIMS). SIMS will house CRD's Emergency Program and serve as Salt Spring's first true community centre, providing affordable space for a number of non-profits that contribute so much to our quality of life. Local requisition increases will also fund continued increases in Parks and Rec maintenance and bylaw enforcement, a full-time IT staffer for our library, improved public transit to Long Harbour, and an economic development coordinator.

North Salt Spring Waterworks District

The North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) recently announced its rationale for refusing to submit a funding application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. NSSWD significantly underestimated the potential ratepayer savings from this particular grant, which would have contributed almost 75 per cent of project funding for the Maxwell Lake treatment plant, not the two-thirds estimated by the district.

NSSWD's blame game is disappointing. CRD management of some water utilities has been criticized, as have

NSSWD and other service delivery organizations on Salt Spring, but this is a smokescreen. CRD water districts, with several million in infrastructure funding, have built three state-of-the-art dissolved air flotation plants years before NSSWD built their first on St. Mary Lake. NSSWD is also the only water district declaring a moratorium, a major obstacle to affordable housing in Ganges. Infrastructure funding could have helped, directly or indirectly, by reducing distribution system leakage.

For months, CRD and the province urged NSSWD to submit a grant application, and during the lengthy adjudication process, continue discussions regarding NSSWD's governance concerns. I was not directly involved in early discussions of the so-called "water optimization" report, but CRD was clear from the outset they didn't support the consultant's recommendation to bypass senior staff who the CRD Board relies upon for advice. The consultant's proposal for an island-wide utility reflected an astonishing misunderstanding of the area-specific nature of our water utilities.

NSSWD continues to tilt at windmills regarding alternative funding mechanisms, but the province has made it very clear to MLA Adam Olsen and to myself during my tenure in that role, that joining local government is a requirement for infrastructure funding. NSSWD complains the funding would not cover its infrastructure deficit, again a reflection of magical thinking. But there is little doubt NSSWD could have received the single largest infrastructure grant in SSI's history. The real issue is that NSSWD ratepayers have been denied their right to decide for themselves whether they would accept delegated authority within the CRD to secure millions in grant funding.

Local Community Commission

A first draft of a discussion paper developed by a sub-committee of the Salt Spring Community Alliance's Governance Working Group (GWG) has been submitted to CRD staff for their review and their further discussions with provincial staff. A local advisory committee will soon be appointed, and CRD staff will prepare a draft establishment bylaw, which with the GWG report, will form the basis for public consultation.

I must comment on the March 9 Driftwood Viewpoint on the LCC by former GWG member Bob Moffatt. First, the LCC proposal was a 2018 platform commitment I made to all Salt Spring voters, not just "anti-incorporation supporters." Second, an LCC is not "like any other commission" or "another layer of local government." In fact it is quite the opposite. It would be elected at large just like the CRD director, not appointed. An LCC could also consolidate existing commissions, thus reducing the number of siloes and meetings. Finally, the CRD budget is a prime example of "real issues" an LCC would address — the need for broader, more diverse representation to determine local CRD taxation and service levels.

ISLANDS TRUST

Trust planning services dissected in new report

Planning teams siloed and inefficient, report finds

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A recently released Governance and Management Review report commissioned by the Islands Trust had several recommendations for improving the Trust's local planning services, the biggest function of the Islands Trust, accounting for 74 per cent of the 2021-22 budget.

Eric Vance, a planning expert and member of the Great Northern Management consulting team, took trustees and staff through that part of the report at a March 8 Trust Council meeting. It recommends actions such as delegating most development permits to staff, reviewing and increasing of development application fees to ensure cost recovery.

The Trust has 70 planning projects underway. Some of them were initiated years ago — and many by local Trust committees (LTCs) themselves — with little progress since then. Staff stated they are only able to devote around 20 per cent of their time to these projects, which consultants found to be low. Demands such as development applications, public inquiries and participation in public meetings take up 80 per cent of planning staff time.

With roughly \$100,000 coming in from applications in the 2021-2022 fiscal year and staff spending 50 per cent of their time on development applications and public inquiries, "this suggests a large gap between what is being paid for this service and what it costs to deliver the service."

Vance noted that the number of applications is growing and some are more complex.

"What the right number is, I don't know, but it certainly should be more than what it is," he said of what the Trust charges developers. "Development application fees, while in theory intended to cover a significant share of the cost of processing applications, rarely do in any local government in the province. Nonetheless, the gap here appears large and is being off-set by property tax revenue," the review noted.

The report found the typical time between filing an application and approval to be an average of 20 months for rezonings, and up to four months or more for development permits and development variance permits. LTCs only meet once a

month, and can only handle three to four applications per meeting, which can extend the time it takes to approve them.

As for staffing, the 17 professional planners relative to the circa 26,000 full-time population of the Trust Area is "a per capita ratio of 1:1,500 that almost certainly exceeds that of any other municipality or regional district in the province," the report stated. The number of staff would still be significant, the review noted, even if the 10,000 part-time residents were included, which would change the ratio to 1:2,100. The report acknowledged the unique situation planners find themselves in, with 13 LTAs each with their own bylaws and processes and with around 172 public meetings held in 2021 where one or more planners attended.

"The three planning teams are siloed," the report stated, "with limited communication and sharing of information between them, leading to some duplication of effort and also inconsistencies in the approach to dealing with some planning matters."

The consultants recommend reducing the time spent at meetings by allowing planners to attend remotely, even when meetings return to in-person. The report also recommends moving the Trust's northern office from Gabriola to Nanaimo, keeping a satellite office on the island, to help with the staff turnover seen in the Gabriola office.

The report also recommends starting two reviews of official community plans per year until all are updated, and streamlining things across the islands by having the same definitions within OCPs and having LTCs adopt model bylaws.

Staff said there is only follow-up on half of permits issued to ensure compliance, which is lower than some other local governments, and there is also confusion around whether certain complaints should go to the Trust or the regional district when the Trust only deals with land use issues.

These suggested changes to the land use function should wait, the report noted, until the trust has addressed governance issues and until a new policy statement and strategic plan are in place. Some of the larger recommendations, particularly around updating the OCPs, will have significant budget implications, Vance said. Yet some of the smaller recommendations could be implemented quite easily.

Already underway at the Trust is a local planning services renewal project, which will address some of the issues raised by Vance.

swim to their sailboat," she stated.

The ferry crew brought the person aboard their rescue boat, then transferred them to the Coast Guard team at the Fulford dock. The person was taken to hospital, and the Coast Guard was also able to recover the dingy.

A ferry alert went out at 10:25 a.m. on the 15th, advising travellers that the Skeena was 35 minutes behind schedule due to the rescue effort.

With around 475 sailings per day across the BC Ferries network, crew can sometimes be the closest vessels to assist with distress calls.

"They train for these types of incidents and we are very proud of their professionalism," Marshall wrote.

MARINE INCIDENT

Skeena joins Fulford rescue

Rescue boat deployed

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

BC Ferries crew and the Canadian Coast Guard worked to rescue a mariner in distress, whose dingy had capsized in Fulford Harbour on March 15.

BC Ferries communications person Deborah Marshall confirmed the Skeena Queen launched its rescue boat in response to a "mariner in distress." "An individual was travelling across Fulford Harbour in a small dingy to a sailboat at anchor, when the dingy capsized and sank. The individual was able to

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Governance challenges face Trust

Independent report makes 15 recommendations for improvement

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Islands Trust has fundamental governance issues to grapple with, a \$75,000 governance review found, and consultants recommended they should be undertaken before many other priorities are looked at.

Great Northern Management, the consultants undertaking the review, presented 15 recommendations to Trust Council at a quarterly meeting held in Nanaimo on March 8. Changes to the structure of the Islands Trust or to the Islands Trust Act were outside the scope of the review, which focused on recommended changes to how Trust Council functions, is supported and interacts with staff, the public and the province.

Overall, the report found that current practices of Trust Council, the governing body of the Islands Trust, "do not meet requirements set by good governance principles."

"There are very fundamental governance issues that need to be addressed, in order for trust council to effectively set direction and provide oversight," said consultant Maryantonett Flumian. She acknowledged trustees are working within "one of the most burdensome and heavy governance structures that I've ever seen for an organization this size."

Trustees will need to tackle governance issues as they simultaneously try to meet the Trust's unique mandate to preserve and protect the area, and while adapting to dramatic social, environmental and economic circumstances.

Consultants did find, in interviews with trustees, the desire and commitment to make the Trust work in spite of the difficulties the organization finds itself in.

Yet there is fundamental misunderstanding among some members of the public, consultants noted, and even among trustees, about what the Islands Trust is. While the Trust takes on some characteristics of a local government, dealing with land use planning and having "democratic concepts of election and representation, even if not based on population," Flumian said the Act makes it clear that the trust was intended to be an agency of the provincial government. Consultant James Roche noted that a number of other factors point to the trust being an agency, rather than a local government: reporting to a minister of the crown, directive powers in the Islands Trust Act that allow the province to "either allow things to happen or instruct other things to happen." "These...are characteristic, generally speaking, of an entity that the government of British Columbia is intent on keeping a certain amount of control of and its powers derive from it in a more direct way than the municipal governments do."

Coming to a consensus around what the Trust should be over the next 25 years is work that needs to be done before the Trust approaches the province for assistance with governance challenges.

Flumian and Roche said the Islands Trust Act invites the Trust to ask the provincial government for help.

"So clearly, they gave you an overall act, which allows you lots of latitude, and then they said 'In case we forgot something, and it's essential to the conduct of your mandate, please come back to us and ask us for you fill in the blank,'" said Flumian. "Those are pretty broad powers that have never been used...since the Islands Trust has been around. You won't find them in many pieces of legislation."

The review recommended undertaking advocacy with "relevant stakeholders, influencers, policy-makers and decision-makers" to improve awareness and support for the Trust, as well as improved communication between the Trust and residents.

"A new approach that emphasizes consensus and collaborative decision-making will allow trustees to better fulfill their responsibility to set direction, guide operations and assess performance," the report noted.

Trust Council itself has to become a deliberative body, focusing on working towards consensus yet not necessarily unanimity. "The issues are that the body was seen to be too transactional in nature, endorsing many of the proposals put before it, sometimes with greater understanding, sometimes with less," Flumian said. Moving from what many interviewees pointed to was a council "unduly encumbered by procedure, and not particularly focused on outcomes," would involve changing how agendas are set, how meetings are organized and having more digestible briefing material.

Consultants recommend increasing the number of committees, since they are the real "workhorses" of Trust Council, and adding members to Trust Council representing First Nations and the province.

"Reconciliation requires that the question of co-governance be taken up as a priority by Trust Council," and by local LTCs, the report stated. Adding seats for First Nations at Trust council would involve discussions with the province, First Nations and an amendment to the Islands Trust Act.

Many of those interviewed for the review reported a "disconnect between trustees and senior staff that inhibits the efficient functioning of both the Trust Council and Trust management." The report noted some trustees felt "staff's efforts lean toward managing Trust Council, rather than enabling it," with others noting that questioning staff recommendations or activities "is construed to be challenging the preserve and protect object itself." Meanwhile, some staff felt trustees don't always fully consider the advice and information they're provided. Recommendation 13, to conduct a management review, is aimed at identifying measures to improve the relationship between Trust Council and staff.

The review noted that while the Islands Trust Conservancy is probably the most popular part of the Islands Trust brand, its place "seems to be downplayed." Recommendation 14 is to "take measures to ensure greater sharing of expertise, experience, and resources between the Conservancy and other Islands Trust operations."

The Islands Trust's governance structure has not changed significantly in 30 years.

For a copy of the report, visit islandstrust.bc.ca and search the "document library."

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JAN MACPHERSON

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TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

MARCH 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	0155	2.5	8.2	27	0238	3.3	10.8
WE	0709	3.2	10.5	SU	0844	2.7	8.9
ME	1449	0.6	2.0	DI	1048	2.7	8.9
	2314	3.1	10.2	DI	1904	0.7	2.3
24	0308	2.8	9.2	28	0319	3.3	10.8
TH	0732	3.1	10.2	MO	0913	2.5	8.2
JE	1545	0.6	2.0	LU	1240	2.7	8.9
				LU	2004	0.8	2.6
25	0040	3.2	10.5	29	0353	3.3	10.8
FR	0509	2.9	9.5	SA	0943	2.2	7.2
VE	0758	3.0	9.8	TU	1412	2.7	8.9
	1648	0.6	2.0	MA	2055	0.9	3.0
26	0147	3.3	10.8	30	0422	3.2	10.5
SA	1757	0.6	2.0	WE	1014	2.0	6.6
SA				WE	1529	2.7	8.9
				ME	2141	1.1	3.6

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SHELTER

Homeless numbers high for Salt Spring

Latest count puts island at the top when compared to its population

SUBMITTED BY SSI COMMUNITY SERVICES

Salt Spring Island is once again in the top percentiles of key statistical categories among the latest British Columbia homelessness counts.

The 2020/21 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C. was recently released by the Homelessness Services Association in collaboration with BC Housing.

Salt Spring Island, as in previous counts, is highlighted in the top percentiles of key statistical categories.

"We've seen a continuation of a years-long trend on Salt Spring Island in rising homeless counts far outpacing the services available," said Annika Lund, program director at Salt Spring Island Community Services, host of the Salt Spring Emergency Shelter. "The report confirms the dire and increasing need on Salt Spring for increased resources."

The Point-in-Time (PIT) homeless counts were conducted across eight designated communities of the federal Reaching Home program and 16 other communities funded by the province of British Columbia.

With 146 in the 2021 count, Salt Spring Island ranks highest in the number of homeless individuals as a percentage of the population at 1.25 per cent. The proportion is orders of magnitude higher than Metro Vancouver (0.14 per cent), Greater Victoria (0.26 per cent) or Nanaimo (0.45 per cent).

Some 8,665 people were tallied in the 2020/21 PIT counts around the province — a 13 per cent increase from the 7,655 counted in 2018 and a number that constitutes 0.17 per cent of the provincial population, up from 0.16 per cent in 2018.

With Salt Spring Island comprising 0.23 per cent of the provincial population at 11,635, according to the latest census data, there is a significant over-representation of people who are homeless at 1.7 per cent of the homeless population of the province.

Highlighting another key distinction on Salt Spring Island is the 75 per cent of individuals in the homeless population who are completely unsheltered, as opposed to those in the count who are couch-surfing or otherwise insecurely housed. It was the fifth highest of the 25 communities included in the report.

Full details of the report and analysis of the 24 homeless counts can be found on the BC Housing website at bchousing.org.



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CONCERT PREVIEW

George Zukerman celebrates young Beethoven

Stories and music from accomplished instrumentalists

SUBMITTED BY ARTSPRING

We find George Zukerman, OC, OBC, on an early spring afternoon in a buoyant mood.

The project he curated several years ago, and planned to tour in 2020, has finally hit the road. With most of the pandemic sat out in his south Surrey home, he says it feels very good to be getting these concerts underway.

The Young Beethoven, a celebration of the composer's early and rarely heard works, was scheduled to mark his 250th anniversary in late 2020. A sanguine Zukerman said at the time, "pandemics leave few options. Beethoven waited 250 years. Another few months will probably not bother him unduly."

Those few months turned into a year, and a change in original personnel, before the first performance in November 2021.



PHOTO BY TOM GOULD

Musicians gather with legendary bassoon player and artistic director George Zukerman (between bassist and bassoonist, standing) in advance of The Young Beethoven concert at ArtSpring on Sunday afternoon.

The concert runs at ArtSpring Sunday, March 27 at 2:30 p.m., with a pre-concert talk at 2 p.m.

Zukerman introduces the pieces with fascinating stories. The program includes movements from early works, which are "seldom heard because it's difficult to get

this type of ensemble together — it's an unusual mix of instruments," he says of the group that includes two violins, viola, cello, double bass, clarinet, bassoon and three French horns. "In fact, I'm challenging anyone on Salt Spring to say they've heard the Quin-

tet W.o.O. 208 for clarinet, three horns and bassoon."

Zukerman is particularly drawn to the Sextet, with its spectacular French horn writing.

"Horn player Andrew Clark, who played with the London Symphony Orchestra, really is an expert on the ancient French horn. He has great skill with open chords. I often do a double take when I hear him play. I think, 'A horn can't do that.' But he nails it."

The concert finale — a complete performance of the celebrated Septet, Opus 20 — is a chamber piece albeit symphonic in nature.

"It was one work before Opus 21, his first symphony. With the music in this concert we hear the path from his early, quasi-orchestral moments through to his great symphonies."

A much-celebrated bassoonist and impresario, Zukerman retired from playing 12 years ago. He describes selling his instrument as going "cold turkey."

"I have some regrets, but I take enormous pride knowing I stirred a generation of bassoon players who heard me play."

The pre-concert talk is in the theatre with Zukerman, violinist Nancy DiNovo and bassoonist Jesse Read.



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what's on this week



Wed. Mar. 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Dancers of Damelahamid. Indigenous dance group presents their Spirit and Tradition show at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Shiya'hwt: Indigenous History of Ganges. Presentation by historian Chris Arnett drawing upon Indigenous oral histories and traditions, as well as non-Indigenous historical and archaeological records, to illuminate some of this long history prior to and after the arrival of non-Indigenous settlers in 1859. Mahon Hall. 6 p.m.

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



Thur. Mar. 24

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Fri. Mar. 25

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Vixx. Live at Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Rough & Tumble. Live at the Legion. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Fri. Mar. 25

ACTIVITIES

Antiques Road Show Buying Event. Free expert appraisals and purchasing by John Newman and William Matthews. At SteffichFineArt. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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.

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring. This week's guests are Salt Spring fire trustees. At the Salt Spring library program room. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sat. Mar. 26

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Comic Strippers Present The Improvisers. Touring improv comedy show at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Two Point Oh. Live at the Legion. 7:30 to 10 p.m.



ACTIVITIES

Antiques Road Show Buying Event. See Friday listing.

Fabulous Flea Market. At Fulford Hall. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sun. Mar. 27

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Young Beethoven. George Zukerman leads large ensemble of musicians to present a concert of Beethoven's early works. ArtSpring. 2:30 p.m. with a pre-concert talk at 2 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Antiques Road Show Buying Event. See Friday listing.



Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92 AGM. Annual general meeting at the Legion. 2 p.m.

StoryWalk. See Friday's listing.

Mon. Mar. 28

ACTIVITIES

StoryWalk. See Friday's listing.

Tue. Mar. 29

ACTIVITIES

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

VIA ZOOM

Sustainable Travel: Balancing Protection & Tourism. A Rural Islands Economic Partnership Connection Cafe event. 5 to 6:30 p.m. Register at ruralislandspartnership.ca.

Wed. Mar. 30

ACTIVITIES

Music Bingo. See last Wednesday's listing.

THE FRITZ CINEMA

The Batman shows on Friday, March 25 through Tuesday, March 29 at 7 p.m., plus a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday. (Note the earlier matinee time.) See www.thefritz.ca for more movie info.

EXHIBITIONS

- Gallery 8 presents **Raised on a Song and a Story** – the Art of Will Millar daily through March 24.
- **Woman With Conviction** is an exhibit of work by the She Said Collective showing at Salt Spring Gallery until April 6. The gallery is open Wednesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Salt Spring Painters Guild members show work in the lobby of ArtSpring until April.
- **Small Works by Gabrielle Jensen**, in Unison pastel, is up through the end of March at Dragonfly Art Supplies.
- **Alexandra Aristera** shows her artwork in the programs room of the Salt Spring Public Library through March when the library is open (Monday through Saturday) and the room is not otherwise in use.
- Salt Spring Photography Club member Colton Prevost is exhibiting at Country Grocer Cafe this month.

Fabulous Flea Market

At Fulford Hall
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CLIMATE ACTION

Transportation forum on tap

Greening plans shared March 31

BY GAIL S. JUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

According to Transition Salt Spring (TSS), transportation is Salt Spring Island's single biggest source of direct CO2 emissions.

"How we get around emits 60,000 tonnes of CO2 per year, or about the same amount of carbon storage a forest one and a half times the size of Salt Spring Island stores in a year. That's a lot of trees!" the not-for-profit group states in press material about an upcoming event.

Let's Get There Green! Transportation Solutions for the Gulf Islands is a webinar that runs Thursday, March 31 from 6 to 8 p.m. via Zoom.

The event will focus on what members of government, local transportation experts and policy makers are going to do to get islanders moving in the right direction to reduce emissions caused by transportation activities.

People are invited to join the evening "to hear about the path and vision to improving our transit system, electrifying transportation and making Salt Spring more walkable and bikeable for our health, our planet and our economy."

At the event, islanders will hear from:

- Rob Fleming, B.C.'s Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, who will be in conversation with TSS chair Bryan Young about transforming transportation at the provincial and local levels;

- Adam Olsen, MLA for Saanich North and the Islands, who is working to close the loop on the Salish Sea Trail with its missing link on Salt Spring;

- Gayle Baker, chair of the CRD's Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission, on developing a greener transportation future for Salt Spring Island.

Also participating are Jean Gelwicks and Bob MacKie from Island Pathways; Justine Starke, manager, Southern Gulf Islands (SGI) service delivery for the CRD; Tristan Ford, transit planner for BC Transit; and Paul Brent, chair of the SGI Economic Sustainability Commission and alternate director for the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area, in addition to being an Islands Trust trustee for Saturna Island.

One new initiative to be discussed is the Southern Gulf Island Transportation Integration Plan, which proposes a new transportation function for the CRD to support better mobility in the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area of Galiano, Mayne, Saturna, and North and South Pender Islands.

"With a new service, the CRD could provide funding for the community buses, facilitate improvements to active transportation networks and integrate with opportunities for additional inter-island travel between the islands beyond BC Ferries," explains Transition Salt Spring.

Registration for next Thursday evening's event is available at www.tinyurl.com/gettingthegreen

The suggested donation is \$10, but everyone is welcome to participate regardless of ability to pay. Email TSS at info@transitionsaltspring.com for complimentary registration.



PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

SPRING HAS SPRUNG: Daffodils make their presence known at Daffodil Point in Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park on Saturday, one day before the first day of spring arrived on a rainy Sunday.

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Obituaries



Robert Napier Duncan Mathieson,
LCdr. RCN (Ret'd)
February 21, 1936 - March 11, 2022

Duncan passed away peacefully at Victoria General Hospital in BC. He was the son of the late Catherine Mathieson and the late Thomas Mathieson of Victoria.

Duncan attended St. Michaels University School in Victoria and Collège Royale Militaire in St Jean, Quebec. He joined the Royal Canadian Navy in 1957 and was stationed in Halifax where he met and married Shirley Ward (deceased). They had three daughters, Cynthia MacEachern (David) of Miami, Jill Mathieson (Ian) of Oakville & Sally Peters (Craig) of Oakville and 8 grandchildren, Alasdair, Madison, Chelsea, Aidan, Lily, Wil, Megan and Ethan.

His Navy career, took him and his family to Nova Scotia, Virginia Beach, Ottawa and London, England. He left the Navy in 1984 to work for Saint John Shipbuilding on the Frigate Program.

His daughters will lovingly remember him as being able to fix absolutely anything and their many adventures traveling and family camping trips.

In retirement he was an active member of the Navy League of Canada and the Naval Officers Association of Canada. While living in Ottawa he married again and with Sarah, returned to his West Coast shores settling on Salt Spring Island.

During these years, from 1998 until the present time, Duncan was involved in the life of the community. Together with Sarah, a garden was carved out of rock at their home and a small B&B was nurtured and enjoyed. Duncan became involved with All Saints Anglican Church, serving on several committees and as Warden. He spent six years sharing the role as Clubhouse Administrator at Blackburn Meadows Golf Club where he met and made many friends.

Duncan was always welcoming to Sarah's three children: Tim (Dawn), Lindsey (Laura) and Christopher (Sally) and grand children, Meredith, Liam, and Hugh (and Kate their mother), Ben and Annie, and Molly and Gillian, and he will be remembered with love by them all.

Our thanks to the medical staff at Lady Minto Hospital, on Salt Spring Island and at the Victoria General Hospital in Victoria, and special thoughts to Duncan's doctors, Anik Momsen-Smith and Stephane Voyer, whose kindness and support mean so much to his family.

Celebration of Life to be held at All Saints By the Sea on Salt Spring Island on June 2nd. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation or a charity of your choice.

Obituaries

Coming Events

Coming Events

Garage Sales

Coming Events

Coming Events

Salt Spring Hospice
Salt Spring Hospice Society
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, April 6, 2022 7pm on Zoom

This meeting is open to the public. Members only will be able to vote (membership fee is \$10).

To receive a Zoom Link for the meeting and to inquire about how to purchase a membership please contact:
Salt Spring Hospice Society Office
(250) 537-2770 or office@saltspringhospice.org

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Medical Office Assistant/Receptionist
Needed for the Mayne Island Health Centre

We are a busy health centre, open Monday-Friday, with two primary care providers looking for a part-time MOA/receptionist to join our team. Regular hours will include 09:00-17:00 Mondays and Tuesdays, with additional hours/days to assist with holiday and sick relief the remainder of the week, as needed. The successful candidate must have excellent communication and organizational skills and be comfortable working in a team environment.

The ideal candidate will have experience in medical office procedures and electronic medical records (EMR), however candidates with related experience and/or education, but without this skill set, may also be considered. This is a contract position, with a payment rate of \$20/hour, and a proposed start date ASAP (position will formally become available April 18th and to accommodate ample orientation, successful applicant could start anytime). Conditions of employment include a successful criminal record check and signed confidentiality agreement.

If interested, please apply in writing only, with cover letter and resume, and mail to #210, 526 Felix Jack Road, Mayne Island, BC, V9N 2J2, attention Dr. Leanne Rowand, Family Nurse Practitioner. Being sensitive to COVID protocols and clinic volume, please do not drop your application off at the health centre, and please do not call the clinic. Only those short-listed will be contacted for an interview.

Thank you for considering this position and to all who applied.

~ Your Mayne Island Healthcare Team

FABULOUS FLEAMARKET
At Fulford Hall
Saturday, March 26, 2022
10am - 2pm
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Come Celebrate EARTH HOUR

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
Transition Salt Spring UNITED CHURCH

Live music followed by a candlelight vigil with readings and a sharing circle

TIME: 6-8pm
WHEN: Saturday, March 26, 2022
WHERE: United Church Meadow

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

www.sunstarastrology.com 1-800-836-0648 sunstarastrology@gmail.com
READ MORE IN MY NEWSLETTER. SIGN-UP IS FREE ON MY WEBSITE.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19) Spring Equinox followed by the New Moon in your sign indicates resurrection. You will feel the rising energies as a new lease on life. The finer details of the entire year ahead are indicated by the planets on your birthday, especially the sign and phase of the Moon. Either way, a drive for power and financial security will be backed by a revolutionary impulse.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20) Others have identified a defiant streak in you, or at least expressions that outline your unique sense of individuality. Connecting and bonding with friends carries deep emotional and even spiritual tones. A busy time behind the scenes will characterize much of the coming weeks. Yet, you are wise to also include deep bouts of rest to recharge.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21) A punchy, pioneering impulse has come to the fore since equinox. This week's New Moon will add to this ignition and will reveal a rebellious resolve to be more fully awake. Cultural, philosophical or journalistic exposure and activity will support this focus. The more willing you are to shake it up and think outside of the box to break free from winter's slumber, the better.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22) Aries time is one of action and sober purpose for you. This will prove quite true this year. In some respects, you may still feel like you are searching for your authentic place in the world and this theme will be triggered. Meanwhile, aspirations for loftier visions of truth for the sake of peace of mind gain added importance.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23) A quest for visionary purpose coincides with Aries time and the first lunar cycle of the Zodiacal New Year (Spring Equinox). It comes with some measure of provocative agitation, especially close to home, but in your public and professional life as well. Somehow your status has and is changing and destiny is pushing you to engage, cooperatively.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22) Aries time activates a cycle of deep inner change for you. It can be difficult to see it when you are in it, but one way or another you will notice an urge to purge, regenerate and transform. The process this year will require extra effort, some of which will also require an extra positive attitude for best results. Fortunately, good fortune is shining through the clouds.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22) Aries time emphasizes relationships for you. This year, the plot is laced with passion and originality. Meanwhile, changes on financial fronts that have been underway for many months may require more of your attention. Your sights are set on the future and you are probably open to new possibilities and investments requiring discussion.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21) You are in the mood to take new initiatives associated with your daily rhythm and lifestyle in general. Positively, you feel adventurous. You yearn to create a more beautiful and harmonious living situation and this is likely pushing you to dig deep, to get to the bottom of things and to clear out both psychological blocks and literal dead wood.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21) Creative cycle is underway and will increase over the coming days and weeks. It comes with an energetic and rebellious push to break through limiting or narrow thinking. Where this is apparent in others you associate with, you will either push to awaken from their slumber or you will take your leave of them, perhaps forevermore.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19) The warrior spirit that resides at the core of your being is awakening. Like a dragon asleep for a long time, you may feel a little clumsy at first, but you are also rested and ready for a whole new round. Deciphering who are your allies and who or what represents the opposition is the first task. Either way, you are already moving and accelerating.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19) Desires for fresh perspectives and new knowledge are a guiding force now. Venus and Mars in Aquarius are leading you into new territory, but Saturn is making sure that your actions are not frivolous or hasty. The time is right to proceed slowly and patiently and do not make final commitments before you have completed a thorough assessment of what is available.

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20) The Sun passage through Aries is one during which you are ready to explore new options and priorities. This year, your focus includes personal inner work, sober thinking and practicality. A process of clearing away the past, which includes familiar behaviours and perception patterns, is central. Be willing to break free of old beliefs and nurture new expressions.

In Memoriam Gifts

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Services

LIBRARY

Library aims to keep community centre role

Climate change and anti-racism work also part of strategic plan

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Island Public Library has big plans to continue being the island's "community centre" into the late 2020s, offering innovative programming while shifting to a staff-driven model as volunteer involvement is on the decline.

The 2022-2027 strategic plan was presented at the library's annual general meeting March 17.

"The plan addresses climate change, volunteerism, equity, diversity, inclusion and improving user experiences," library board chair Judy Nurse said. "It is an ambitious plan and we look forward to the possibilities that lie ahead."

The library updated its vision, values and mission statement, adding equity, diversity, inclusion and social justice to their list of values that also includes innovation, discovery, sustainability and being community-led. The library also has a new motto, "doorway to possibilities," and guiding principle: "you belong here."

With chief librarian Karen Hudson remarking that "the library is our community centre," the first value in the plan is to grow the capacity of the library to be this centre by engaging with diverse audiences and communicating what the library provides to the community.

The second value is to build robust financial resource streams, both to keep the library responsive to the needs of the community and allow a shift to a service delivery model that is staff-based and supported by volunteers.

Nurse noted the extent to which the community relies on the library, with 60 per cent more books checked out this year than in a typical year. Volunteer numbers, however, have dropped from an average of 120 hours, to 96 in 2020 and 60 in 2021.

"This drop in volunteer numbers has had a big impact on services in the library, including budget pressures whenever paid staff had to be brought in to fill the gaps," she explained.



PHOTO BY EMELIE PEACOCK

Screen shot of library AGM held March 17 via Zoom.

While Nurse hopes the number of volunteers will bounce back post-pandemic, she noted a "national and even global downward trend in volunteering."

The third value commits the library to "principles and activities that promote diversity, equity, inclusion, truth and reconciliation, and physical/social accessibility." This includes increasing accessibility of the library building itself, as well as its resources. In both its policy and operations, the library is also committing to "diversity, equity [and] inclusion, anti-racism [and] anti-oppression" and to supporting the Calls to Action of the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report.

In 2018, the library officially supported the Canadian Federation of Library Associations' report, which looked at the 94 calls to action and translated them into steps libraries can take.

"I am just so proud of our community for the way that it is stepping up for diversity, equity and inclusion, and I love that the library is at the heart of that in our community," Hudson said, noting the 215 shoes placed on the library's steps after the remains of 215 Indigenous children had been found on the former Kamloops Indian Residential School grounds.

The final value is to maintain and evolve the library's collections, both physical and digital. The work will include enhanc-

ing the digital library experience and working to "bridge the digital divide" so all patrons have equal access to resources.

This value also includes looking for "innovative ways" to enable community members to "explore, solidify skills, make connections, and find entertainment and knowledge." A "living library" is planned, where people can come to the library and "check out" elders or young people in the community with knowledge to share.

The library will also be launching the FabLab makerspace in a few months, complete with 3D printers, 3D scanners, laser cutter, a sewing machine as well as autocad software and Adobe Creative Suite. The library is hiring for part-time positions at the lab, with seniors encouraged to apply.

Looking back at 2021, Hudson noted that the B.C. government deemed libraries an essential service. "Our library did the best to be flexible and provide services where we could," she said, which included shifting online for some months and providing around 50 per cent of the programming that would happen pre-pandemic. Over 100,000 visits were made to the library, which was 20 per cent more than in 2020 yet lower than pre-pandemic levels. Virtual visits were at 60,000, a number that keeps rising as the library adds digital offerings like Kanopy and Hoopla. There were 650 new members last year, as well as three new staff.

Funding from the Salt Spring Island Foundation and the Philip and Muriel Berman Foundation was funnelled into a mural project by Quw'utsun artist Charlene Johnny and 10 Indigenous youth.

"This was my personal highlight of the year, to see all these young people come together – some with no art experience, some with years of experience – to work under this extremely talented Indigenous woman who just provided great mentorship and leadership to these young people," she remarked.

Board membership also saw some changes at the AGM, with Christie Roome and Lavonne Leong retiring from their positions. Incumbents Peter Freeman and Adrian Wright were re-elected by acclamation as were three new board members: Christine Hunt, Jenny Petrak and Richard Swann. They join Nurse, Gary Holman, Garth Hendren and Anne Zeller.

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