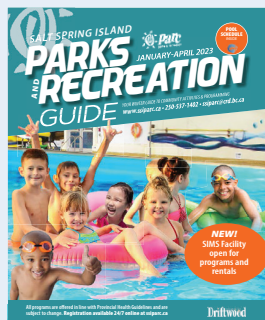


inside:



# Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday,  
Dec. 7, 2022

62nd year  
Issue 49  
**\$1.50**

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40th children's book



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Salt Spring Books



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

**FRIENDLY HOSTS:** Volunteers extraordinaire Michael and Helga Bagnell take a moment away from greeting visitors to the Fulford Artisan Christmas Fair on Saturday for a photo opportunity. The Bagnells spearhead the annual Fulford Hall Christmas Ball and welcome donations and volunteer help for the Dec. 25 family-friendly open-to-all event. They can be reached at 250-653-9856.

## WEATHER EVENT

# Islanders weather winter storm

### Snowy, slick roads a temporary challenge to mobility

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

As the first significant snowstorm of the season receded from Salt Spring this week, islanders began digging out and schedules returned to normal.

All told, the two-part, multi-day storm — which began with swift wet flurries on Tuesday, Nov. 29, took a break and then returned on Friday night — dropped as much as 10 centimetres on some parts of the island, with slippery conditions sending vehicles off roadways as crews worked to clear snow and restore power.

While snow stacked up Tuesday afternoon, Gulf Islands Secondary School's water taxi students left early to beat forecasted heavy

winds, and SD64's transportation department made the call to shift their buses to "main roads only" protocol. That meant amending or eliminating several bus routes to focus on getting as many students as close to home as possible along the island's "backbone" roadways. Remaining school buses were packed, and staff at several schools said many caregivers picked up students early — particularly those who knew access to their own homes was deteriorating quickly.

By that time, "main roads only" had gone into effect for Salt Spring Transit as well. Assistant manager Brad Bunyan said while they had some of their "best and most veteran" drivers working and were able to continue through the afternoon, by 6 p.m. conditions had become so poor that evening bus

service was suspended altogether.

"Our amazing drivers were up to keep going, but due to the inclement weather, and our large rural situation, sometimes the roads just become less than safe for the bus and passengers," said Bunyan. "We haven't seen roads this wet and icy in a long time, so it was deemed too dangerous to keep driving even on the main roads."

Emcon's work to maintain access along major roadways during Tuesday's storm — and the speed with which they made roads passable as the snowfall eased — is credited with a return to nearly normal service Wednesday morning for most school and transit buses.

**STORM** continued on 2

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# Hydro crews face big task



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG  
A damaged 4X4 pickup truck sits wrapped in caution tape on the side of Cranberry Road Sunday, at the intersection with Donore Road where a number of vehicles were reportedly stuck and some collided last Tuesday afternoon.

## STORM

continued from 1

"By 7 a.m. Wednesday morning, almost everything was fully drivable," said Bunyan. "There were a few side roads we couldn't get to right away, but for the most part we barely lost any routing on Wednesday."

The slow-moving storm gradually knocked out power — temporarily — for more than 2,000 customers on Salt Spring, and thousands more on nearby islands, although Pender and Galiano islanders seemed to be the hardest hit. Most lights were back on within a few hours, but some pockets lost electricity nearly overnight — and some more than once. Crews on Galiano worked during the storm's second wave Friday to restore service to some 900 customers — who had previously lost power for five hours

Tuesday night — until 2 a.m. Saturday morning. "At the peak we had about 7,000 customers out in the Gulf Islands," said BC Hydro community relations manager Ted Olynyk, who said the crews deserved praise but Mother Nature's help was also appreciated.

"At the end of the day, it's always up to her. She's in charge," said Olynyk. BC Hydro officials said the snow gradually weighed down trees and branches, many of which were already weakened by a series of fall windstorms, until they contacted lines and equipment — often well after the snowfall had begun to subside.

"Unlike a windstorm, snowstorms can often mean large but slower-paced outages as snow takes time to accumulate on vegetation," read an operational update. "That is why outage numbers spiked after the storm seemed to have passed in some areas."

## Holiday Story Writing Contest

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

The deadline for our annual writing contest is Friday, December 9th. Win a Salt Spring Books gift certificate for a story of up to 500 words about the Holiday Season.

**Driftwood**  
Tel: 250-537-9933 • 241 Fulford-Ganges Road  
email: news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

- All Gulf Islands students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 are eligible.
- Stories will be judged on quality of writing, clarity of presentation and originality of theme.
- Winning entries will be published in the Driftwood in December.
- The name, age, address and telephone number of the writer must be written on the back of each entry.
- Send entries to the Driftwood, 241 Fulford-Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3, email to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com.
- For more information, 250-537-9933.

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

## MAYNE ISLAND

# Arsenic water deemed safe to drink

## Mayne Island's Surfside Park Estates

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Arsenic detected in water on Mayne Island triggered a warning but remains safe to drink, according to health officials.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) advised residents in the Surfside Park Estates water service area

that, due to a malfunctioning filter system, arsenic concentrations of 17 parts per billion (ppb) were found in treated water. That number is above Health Canada guidelines for drinking water of 10 ppb.

CRD crews were dispatched Saturday, Dec. 3 to replace filter media, flush the system and re-sample drinking water; that work is expected to be resolved by Dec. 9.

Due to the short duration and minor amount of excess arsenic detected, the CRD and Island Health both advised the water remains safe to drink. Arsenic is a naturally occurring metalloid in soils and bedrock that can be present in groundwater drinking sources.

For updates on the situation, people can visit www.crd.bc.ca/alerts.

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## FOR THE RECORD

- A story on the Isabella Point Road closure in last week's paper incorrectly stated the road closure nights. The road is expected to be closed from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. on the Dec. 5-9 nights and likely Dec. 12-16. People should check the signage boards installed at the intersection of Isabella Point Road and Musgrave Road for up-to-date information.
- As well, Wave Hill Farm was incorrectly identified as the subject of a Nature Conservancy of Canada conservation campaign in last week's story. The property in question is actually adjacent to the farm.

TRANSPORTATION

# Grants needed for safer travel

Commission hears early findings from active transportation plan

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

An update on the island's active transportation planning process met mixed reactions from commission members last week, as plan designers presented early findings but held back on specific recommendations.

Capital Regional District (CRD) senior transportation planner John Hicks told the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission the team wasn't at a stage to bring full recommendations — although that would be coming soon — but rather wanted to update the committee and make certain they were on the correct path in identifying what islanders feel is important.

"I think we're all very familiar with the challenges and what can be improved," said Hicks. "The intent is to move forward with one or two projects as priorities, get them in a position where they're ready to be budgeted for, and get them in a position where they can be put forward for grant applications."

"Active transportation" includes human-powered forms of travel, from walking and wheelchair travel to biking and skateboarding, fully or part-way to and from a destination or bus stop.

Information was gathered from the public through both an online engagement and a community consultation held at the Saturday Market in August. Tim Shah from Watt Consulting Group said challenges identified for pedestrians included undersized — or non-existent — road shoulders, mostly unmarked crossings and high vehicle speeds.

"It's very uncomfortable for people who are walking, rolling and biking," said Shah, "especially when the vehicle speeds are in excess of 60 kilometers per hour, and thousands of vehicles per day."

Bicyclists face similar problems at intersections due to undersized and unprotected shoulders, according to Shah, with further barriers including poor connectivity to Salt Spring's main destinations and rough pavement conditions.

While committee members seemed to generally agree with most of the problem areas identified, there was a broader frustration with how difficult it will be to correct them — from jurisdictional issues to those surrounding cost. Commissioner Maxine Leichter pointed out it is the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, not the official community plan (OCP), that sets highway classifications — and since the road through Ganges is classified as a main highway, there has been historical resistance to traffic-calming from the ministry.

"And our highways do not have large rights-of-way on each side. Private property lines come right up to the highway," said Leichter. "It requires an expensive

process to acquire land from private owners to build those nice walkways and bike-ways."

"When people were asked what they'd like," she continued, "it would have been nice if you had included a question about how much they'd like their property taxes to go up, because we have a very small population relative to the cost of building these kinds of facilities."

Commissioner Luke Campbell pointed out funding would likely not come entirely from an increase in property taxes, and that there were a number of grants that could be applied for.

"The federal and provincial governments are actively trying to diversify the environmental impact," said Campbell. "They've got money to spend to make it green, so we should go after that money."

Hicks said that was why the structured planning process was undertaken in the first place, calling it a "foundational, fundamental requirement."

"It ties back to [having] an adopted network plan," said Hicks. "If you don't have it identified and approved through the network plan, then you're not actually eligible for a lot of the grants."

"I know some people are frustrated about yet another study," said CRD director Gary Holman, "but that's how you get the funding."

Shah said the group would draft recommendations as part of the next phase of planning, with another round of public engagement in January or February.

ECOLOGY

# Saturna conservation effort needs donations by Dec. 31

Nature Trust of BC says Mount Fisher Bluffs a remarkable property

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

An undeveloped parcel on Saturna Island is part of a larger B.C. conservation effort to protect rare ecosystems, plants and animals.

The Mount Fisher Bluffs parcel consists of some 78 acres on Saturna, and represents "one of the most at-risk biogeoclimatic zones in the province," according to the Nature Trust of BC, who is spearheading a crowdfunding project to set aside a total of 825 acres on three parcels in the Southern Gulf Islands, northern B.C., and the Kootenays.

Just \$50,000 is needed to secure the Mount Fisher Bluffs property.

According to the Nature Trust, the area contains rare and critically imperiled Garry oak ecosystems and wildflower meadows, containing rare and sensitive plant life such as the threatened slender popcornflower and endangered white meconella.

It also provides habitat to at-risk species such as the threatened barn swallow and of-special-concern great blue heron. There is also a peregrine falcon nest on the property, with the birds producing chicks nearly every year.

The other parcels in the project are the 581-acre Meteor Lake wetland-bog near Prince George, and the 165-acre Colum-



PHOTO COURTESY NATURE TRUST OF BC

Great blue heron, which is one of the "of-special-concern" species that would be protected by the Mount Fisher Bluffs acquisition.

bia Lake North wetlands in the Kootenay region.

"The Nature Trust of BC is appealing to sustainably minded folks to help them raise the remaining \$265,000 amount needed to protect these three parcels," said organizers. "Conserving these sensitive ecosystems not only protects biodiversity, but also helps combat climate change with natural carbon-absorbing solutions such as old-growth forests, peatlands, and wetlands."

If donation goals are met, the Nature Trust said the properties will be protected as conservation land, ensuring that they cannot be developed or sold. The deadline for fundraising is Dec. 31; for more information or to donate, visit the www.naturetrust.bc.ca website.

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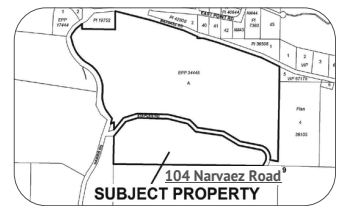
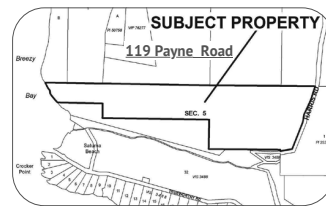
## HAVE YOUR SAY



Proposed Bylaw No. 136 and 137  
Rezoning to permit for the transfer of 10 densities from  
119 Payne Road to 104 Narvaez Bay Road  
COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING  
SATURNA ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

### What are Proposed Bylaw No. 136 and 137 about?

Proposed Bylaw No. 136 and No. 137 will amend the Saturna Island Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 70, 2000 (OCP) and the Saturna Island Land Use Bylaw No. 119, 2018 (LUB) to re-designate and rezone a portion of the subject parcel located at 104 Narvaez Bay Road currently designated Forest Land (F) and zoned Forest General (FG) to a designation of Rural (R) and a zoning of Rural General (RG). In addition, 10 subdivision densities would be removed from the subject parcel located at 119 Payne Road and transferred to the subject parcel located at 104 Narvaez Bay Road via a LUB amendment that would increase the subdivision density on the newly created Rural General zoned portion of 104 Narvaez Bay Road to a maximum of 12 new lots.



### How do I get more information?

Copies of the proposed bylaws, the Public Hearing Binder and other information on the application is available on the [Saturna Island Current Application webpage](#) and, at the Islands Trust office at 200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8R 1H8 from the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays, after November 30, 2022. A Community Information Meeting (CIM) will be held electronically prior to the Public Hearing and will provide the opportunity for members of the public to ask questions about the proposed bylaw amendments. The Public Hearing will also occur electronically.

### Submissions

Prior to the Public Hearing: Written submissions will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., December 13, 2022, by Email: [vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca), or Mail or Drop Off: Islands Trust, 200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8R 1H8  
At the Public Hearing: Only written submissions presented at the Public Hearing will be accepted until the close of the Public Hearing. Written comments made in response to this notice will be available for public review.



Community Information  
Meeting and Public Hearing  
Wednesday, December 14,  
2022 at 11:30 a.m.  
(Electronically)

Location: Via Zoom  
<https://islandstrust.zoom.us/j/62202694223>  
Meeting ID: 622 0269 4223  
Via phone: 833-958-1164 /  
833-955-1088



Who should attend?  
Anyone affected by  
the proposed bylaws.



Enquiries?  
Brad Smith  
Island Planner  
[bsmith@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:bsmith@islandstrust.bc.ca)  
778-679-5185

# OPINION

2022 CCNA Awards  
Gold - Best Special Section | Gold - Best Local Cartoon (Dennis Parker)  
Silver - Best Editorial (Gail Sjuberg) | Bronze - Best Editorial Page

2022 BCYCN Awards  
Gold - Best All Round (for circulation Category C)  
Bronze - Community Service Award



## EDITORIAL

# Driftwood

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# Impactful generosity

The GivingTuesday movement marked its 10th anniversary last week.

Since 2012, the last Tuesday of November has been pegged as the one day of each year when people should think about giving rather than shopping, as they are so strenuously encouraged to do on the last Friday of the month via Black Friday promotions.

It's not necessarily easy to switch one's mindset from expecting a physical object in exchange for doling out our often hard-earned money. But the rewards of donating to a charitable organization, or of simply helping a neighbour are just as tangible — even without considering the income tax benefits of donating to registered charities.

Many people on Salt Spring and the other Gulf Islands are concerned about climate change, species loss and environmental degradation, but are not sure how to have impact as one individual.

## THE ISSUE: Charitable donations

## WE SAY: One way to help change the world

Contributing to important land conservation campaigns currently underway on three islands is one way to make a real difference. The largest — undertaken by the Nature Conservancy of Canada — will preserve a whopping 400 acres of south-end land off Reginald Hill. The four lots in question are especially valuable because they connect to other conserved lands, preserving wildlife corridors and more. As of last week, the remaining funds needed were approximately \$500,000. If added to the recent successful Salt Spring Community Park campaign that saw 75 acres of Mount Maxwell land purchased, the Reginald Hill acquisition would make 2022 a banner year for conservation on Salt Spring.

On Pender Island, the Pender Islands Conservancy and Raincoast Conservation Foundation have gathered more than 84 per cent of the \$2.1-million needed to save the 45-acre KELA\_EKE Kingfisher Forest. An anonymous donor is matching all amounts given by a Dec. 31 deadline, so that goal is in sight with a final financial push. (See raincoast.org for how to donate.)

And just announced last week is the need for the last \$50,000 to save the 78-acre Mount Fisher Bluffs on Saturna Island by the end of the year in a campaign undertaken by The Nature Trust of B.C. (See www.naturetrust.bc.ca.)

Of course any number of worthy charitable groups on the islands can benefit from donations at this or any other time of year (with some of them described in articles in this week's paper).

Without a doubt, your choices and donated dollars can and do have a tangible, measurable impact.



# Matching funds help cats

BY JENNIFER MCMILLAN  
FOUNDER,  
CATS OF SALT SPRING RESCUE SOCIETY

## VIEWPOINT

our programs and operations. We do not have any overhead or staffing costs, meaning that all funds received go directly toward assisting cats in our community.

Last week I spoke with an individual who supported the "trap neuter return" (TNR) activities of the Cats of Salt Spring Rescue Society in 2021.

This gentleman wishes to continue his sponsorship of our efforts to manage the community cat population on Salt Spring Island and has made an extremely generous offer: He will match donations received as part of this campaign up to \$2,500. This means that if other individuals donate \$2,500, we could raise \$5,000 in support of our TNR activities. We could not be more thrilled. Think of all the cats we will be able to help!

TNR activities are essential for managing the community / feral cat population here on our island. TNR is a cost-effective and humane way of stabilizing community cat populations and, in fact, reducing them over time, as the spayed or neutered cats are no longer reproducing. In addition, unwanted behaviours such as fighting and spraying are significantly reduced when all cats in a colony are spayed or neutered. We ensure that all cats released back into the community are not only spayed or neutered but are also vaccinated and treated for fleas and parasites. All cats are released to a responsible caretaker, who feeds and monitors the cats' wellbeing, contacting us if there are any issues that arise.

Cats of Salt Spring Rescue Society does not receive funding from any organization or government. We rely solely on donations and monies that we fundraise (e.g., through our bottle drives, burger events) to support our community TNR program. We are a volunteer-run, foster-based organization, relying solely on donations from the public and fundraising events to sustain

We are very proud to highlight our accomplishments for the first 11 months of 2022:

- Total number of cats and kittens assisted by our rescue: 114
- Cats surrendered to us by owners: 29
- Stray cats / trapped cats or kittens born in care: 80
- Owned cats brought to us for medical assistance: 5

The outcomes for these cats and kittens were outstanding, as summarized below:

- Number of cats / kittens adopted: 63
- Cats released through our TNR program to responsible caretakers / feeders: 21
- Cats placed in lifetime foster (for medical care): 5
- Cats / kittens currently in foster: 20
- Owned cats provided with medical assistance: 5

Please help us support the management of community cat colonies here on Salt Spring. Working together, we can make a difference . . . one cat at a time.

Contributions to Cats of Salt Spring Rescue Society can be made in several ways:

1. Cheques can be mailed to us at the following address:

Cats of Salt Spring Rescue Society  
PO Box 837 Ganges  
Salt Spring Island, B.C.  
V8K 2W3

2. Contributions can be made through e-transfer to our email address – info@catsofsaltspring.com or using our phone number: 236-508-2287.

3. Contributions can be made through PayPal via our catsofsaltspring.com website.

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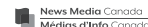
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### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Will you make another charitable donation before the end of the year?  Yes  No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Would you like to walk on the ferry more than you do now?  30 YES  40 NO

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

# ISLAND VOICES

## LETTERS to the editor

### Island's ferry committee on the right track

David Courtney's latest missive in last week's Driftwood ("Keep advocating" letter) accuses the Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee (FAC) of "rubber stamping" BC Ferries proposals.

BC Ferries' current proposal to the ferry commissioner, Eva Hage, which the Salt Spring FAC, (including the CRD director and an Islands Trust trustee), has advocated for years, deserves support. Beginning 2023, the Skeena Queen will be making two additional sailings in the summer. At Vesuvius, the much larger Quinsam (temporarily in refit) has already replaced the Quintisa. BC Ferries will also deploy two Island Class hybrids at Vesuvius, coinciding with completion of terminal upgrades in 2026/27, much earlier than originally planned. At that time, the Quinsam will be deployed during the peak season at Fulford, along with the Skeena's additional runs.

Mr. Courtney, who opposed FAC recommendations for a second Fulford ferry with his focus on the Vesuvius-Crofton route, advocates filling in the harbour to take cars off Fulford hill. While some expansion of terminal parking and improvements to encourage foot passengers may be required, a second vessel at Fulford eliminates or at least reduces the need for terminal expansion (as at Vesuvius and Crofton), by loading Fulford hill vehicles more frequently, reducing the environmental and First Nations impacts of filling the harbour.

It also achieves something that major terminal expansion does not do: increase the level of ferry service, thereby facilitating more frequent transit service, also encouraging foot passengers.

The FAC has written to ferry commissioner Eva Hage supporting BC Ferries' proposal. If Mr. Courtney is truly interested in coming together "with all hands on deck," he might consider doing the same and improving his listening skills.

**GARY HOLMAN,**  
CRD DIRECTOR, SALT SPRING

### No competition among leaders

When Prime Minister Justin Trudeau took the stand to be cross-examined for five hours, he demonstrated accountability to the law and what it means to be the leader of a democracy.

Contrast the sullen turpitude that has befallen the sorry run-for-cover tactics of his opponents. To avoid testifying, Premier Doug Ford wrapped himself in cabinet confidentiality, excusing neglect of his own citizens suffering an unjustified blockade. Ottawa is, after all, his turf and responsibility.

The Leader of the Opposition, usually so aggressive trying to bite the prime minister's ankles, had a headache or a dental appointment when crypto was the subject of Question Period, cleverly sidestepping impertinent queries about his pledge to fire the Governor of the Bank of Canada.

Way out west, new Alberta Premier Danielle Smith, boasting a mandate of several dozens, espouses a Canada somehow without a federal government in which provincial cabinet min-

isters will phone business owners "sug-gesting" which laws to obey or not.

Next door, Premier Scott Moe, who by repute is a whiz with a combine, has told the feds "hands off our fertilizer."

With contenders like these, is it any wonder Justin rules the range?

**CHARLES BRETH,**  
SALT SPRING

### Matt and Arvid deserve kudos

Regarding the harbour walk project, which has been in the news recently, I think it's very important to mention the exhaustive work both the late Matt Steffich and Arvid Chalmers put in over many years trying to make the Ganges boardwalk into a reality.

They both contributed a lot to our community in so many ways.

I hope the Driftwood can find the time and space to acknowledge these two fine Salt Springers.

**NEALE SMITH,**  
SALT SPRING

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

**"At the end of the day, it's always up to [Mother Nature]. She's in charge."**

TED OLYNYK, BC HYDRO COMMUNITY RELATIONS MANAGER

## Taking one's chances with plagues, shingles and other ailments

I bumped into the boss (or Gail, as I prefer to call her) while I was doing my grocery shopping recently and as we exchanged pleasantries and an ageist barb in which she heartlessly joked at my apparent inability to use the self-service checkout, I noticed something different about her. Different from me, at any rate,

She was wearing a mask and I wasn't.

Now, it's fair to say that I don't often see the Driftwood editor in the flesh, so to speak. Most of our business is conducted by email so for all I know she's taken to wearing one in bed. But the fact remains that Gail and at least half the store were masked, so I guess it's time for me to rummage through my pile of discarded facewear and do the right thing.

This time around, though, I intend to be more sanguine, much more forgiving of the people who have decided that they're happy to throw caution to the wind and present their bare faces to the world.

There is no escaping the fact that the health and safety alliance has begun banging its doom drum again, striking up a cheerless chant of "The plague is upon us!" just in time to make a Merry Christmas moot.

The new message, though, is that we're all lost unless we wear a mask, but they've left it to us to decide whether we're comfortable spreading the contagion. If Covid doesn't get you, the flu will and if you escape both of these there is something else nasty lurking. I don't remember what it is that's lurking but whatever it is, I don't want it and neither do you. So to that end, I have ordered a set of Christmas-themed masks through Amazon.

**I'd seen those ads on TV, most of them American, of course, in which shingles, all pox and pustules, is like something from the Book of Job.**

I've also been vaccinated. In fact, I've had so many jabs I'm surprised I'm not leaking body fluids. Just recently I had my fifth Covid shot and one for flu for good measure. It would be a miserable irony to come through the pan-



**Paul McElroy**  
+ ANOTHER THING

demic unscathed only to succumb to the winter sniffles. I even enquired about getting a shingles vaccination while I was there but when I learned the price I decided to take my chances. I'd seen those ads on TV, most of them American, of course, in which shingles, all pox and pustules, is like something from the Book of Job.

Have you noticed, by the way, how entirely preoccupied Americans are with their health, or more correctly, how preoccupied Big Pharma is with selling them good health? If, like me, you watch CNN or MSNBC, the two mainly reliable U.S. news channels, you can't miss the constant advertisements for some prophylactic or other for a disease you have probably never heard of, but which will likely cost a small fortune to cure or guard against. Shingles is one of the more obvious ones which, if you believe the ad, is only a short remove from small-pox and will have you scream-

ing on the floor in agony without the jab or potion. It seems safe to assume, on the basis of the number of ads, that the majority of CNN viewers have weak hearts, diabetes, dodgy backs, chronic dyspepsia, irritable bowel syndrome and are mostly suicidally depressed.

I suppose in a market where an in-growing toenail can bankrupt you, prevention is better than cure, but it seems to me that it simply highlights the "them and us" disparities in the American system of health care. If you've got the readies there is no limit to how healthy you can be or how long you can expect to live; if you don't, tough.

The ads are replete with warnings and the usual legal escape clauses, most of them laughable. "May cause death" is probably my favourite, but I'm always impressed by the regular admonishment to "Consult your gastroenterologist" or "Talk to your endovascular surgical neuroradiologist," as though all Americans keep an array of medical specialists in their basements. "I'm just going downstairs to consult my endocrinologist."

These are ads for real medicines, I guess, although some are so rarified I didn't even

know the conditions existed and I have no intention of trying any of them out. There is, for instance, a medication for people who can't bend a finger, which I'm sure is terribly inconvenient, but I had no idea it was prevalent enough to merit its own research and treatment. I suppose being stuck with a permanently rigid middle finger could be embarrassing.

I'm also not entirely sure who the ads are aimed at. Do Americans visit their doctor and tell them they want a medicine they've just seen on TV? I cannot begin to imagine my own GP's reaction if I rolled up at his desk and told him what medicine I expected to be prescribed. "I saw this advertised on MSNBC and the guy who had the same problems as me, more or less, was running the Boston Marathon in a week despite having diabetes and one lung. I'd settle for getting around Thrifty's without having to lie down afterwards."

"HOW MUCH!!!"

*Editor's note: The columnist obviously does not know anyone who has suffered from shingles and has accordingly been advised by his "boss" to bite the bullet and get vaccinated against it.*

# Mental Wellness Initiative keeps on growing

**SUBMITTED BY THE SSI MENTAL WELLNESS INITIATIVE**

It has been quite some time since we of the Mental Wellness Initiative (MWI) last communicated. We have been busy!

The Salt Spring Health Advancement Network's MWI is continuing to work hard to bring the community together in a good way to strengthen mental wellness for all. Our current focus is on expanding peer support and establishing volunteer counselling in the community. We have also been busy submitting grant applications.

We are happy to report that we have received a CRD grant-in-aid, and a grant from the Salt Spring Foundation. We're awaiting word from the Vancouver Foundation, and a response for our funding proposal from the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions.

We've also been working to deepen our existing partnerships and create new ones as well as moving our working groups forward.

And this is where you come in. We are looking for volunteer help. Are you someone with — or do you know someone with:

- Website and other content writing/editing skills?
- PR skills to recruit practitioners for our Volunteer Counselling project or other MWI projects?
- Project management and/or event planning skills?
- Lived experience expertise advocacy/peer support interest and/or skills?
- Interest in becoming a Ganges goodwill ambassador?

The Salt Spring Health Advancement Network (SSHAN) and Salt Spring Community Health Society's (SSCHS) ongoing

partnership continues to focus on community health and wellbeing through the Mental Wellness Initiative. Individuals and organizations who donate \$20 or more to the MWI can now be issued a charitable tax receipt through SSCHS. Examples of areas to contribute to:

- Paid coordination hours for our Ambassador Program.
- Added lived experience expertise honorariums.
- Volunteer Counselling project website hosting fees.
- Educational programming.

Together, SSHAN and SSCHS have been strengthening the capacity of community members and individuals who provide frontline support to residents dealing with mental health and addictions issues to broaden mental wellness support in the community.

There are now 80 Salt Spring residents certified in Mental Health First Aid, with five certified in MHFA for Adults Who Interact with Youth. Last winter, 11 community members took peer support training for rural residents facilitated by Robyn Priest through the Stigma-Free Society. And, most recently, 28 community members learned how to empathize, interact and connect with individuals who are experiencing mental health or substance use challenges in a second workshop facilitated by Robyn Priest. Of those in attendance, almost 45 per cent work in frontline mental health positions.

The MWI continues to include representation from many agencies, lived experience expertise, grass-roots organizations/efforts and other community members in all of its working groups. We feel particularly proud of realizing the commitment of lived experience expertise in all facets of

our work. We see great value in all community members' voices being represented. The creation of a healthy community working well together is the antidote to many mental health challenges.

The MWI vision is one of co-creating a community of caring and belonging. Our missions are fourfold:

- Bringing together Salt Spring Island mental health community providers, users, marginalized and other community members to mobilize cooperatively around issues and needs of/for mental wellness.
- Creating healthy group culture to enable the co-creation of a MW framework and coalition for effective coordination, cooperation, collaboration, responsiveness and adaptation to existing conditions.
- Enabling cohesive and personalized mental wellness services towards healthy and inclusive community.
- Co-creating a community in which everyone belongs (recognizing that each person's needs are unique and that treating them individually is essential!)

If you've taken Mental Health First Aid or Peer Support or similar training and you're looking to apply your skills in service to others while gaining new skills, we'd like to hear from you.

If you're interested in getting involved as a volunteer or in donating (with tax receipts provided), please reach out to David Norget at davidnorget@gmail.com or William MacPherson at willieonsaltspring@gmail.com.

Thanks to our many partners and contributors. Together we are better! Thanks also to our past and present funders: Island Health, CRD and the Salt Spring Island Foundation.



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# ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

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**AUTHORS**

## Ruurs book highlights global youth



PHOTO COURTESY MARGRIET RUURS

Salt Spring author Margriet Ruurs, centre, with her grandson Nico and a girl named Rejan who they visited on a recent trip to Egypt. Rejan is one of 16 children whose life and neighbourhood are featured in Ruurs' latest book called *Where We Live* (held by Rejan in the photo). Nico's brother Aidan represents Canada and Salt Spring Island in the book.

### Launch event this Friday at the library

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

After 27 moves and travels to over 60 countries, Margriet Ruurs has easily gathered enough material to write 40 books for children.

The Salt Spring author celebrates the launch of her most recent one with an event at the Salt Spring Public Library Friday, Dec. 9 at 1 p.m.

Released by Kids Can Press, *Where We Live: Mapping Neighbourhoods of Kids Around the Globe* looks at 16 real children in unique neighbourhoods around the world — from big cities, such as Amsterdam

and Beijing, to small communities, such as Salt Spring Island, and the village of Komanyana in Zambia — and helps broaden readers' understanding of global cultures.

Ruurs met many of the children featured in the book through her travels, over a period of five years, telling the story of each child's neighbourhood by highlighting places that are important to them, such as where they live, go to school and play, as well as interesting facts about their lives, including the food they eat, their religious practices and the sights and smells they encounter every day.

Ruurs said each place is special to the children who live there.

She said the book had to include a place in Canada, of course, and so used her 10-year-old grandson Aidan Ruurs, who

lives on Salt Spring.

"Writing about his neighborhood allowed me to share details of our unique island. It shows Kanaka Skate Park, where Aidan spends much of his time, and also Phoenix School, floatplanes and other features specific to Salt Spring."

Something exciting that happened recently was that Ruurs and her 12-year-old grandson Nico, Aidan's brother, visited Egypt and met Rejan, the girl featured in the book for Egypt.

"By helping children to understand other kids' cultures and religions, I hope this book will contribute to global awareness and acceptance of others," the author said. "Having two of these children meet each other was a very special moment."

In the book's opening pages, Ruurs explains what a map is and what its component parts are: compass rose, legend, scale bar. Then, each child's story gets its own spread, with Chinese/American Wenjia Tang's playful maps as a backdrop featuring illustrations of the important places and a legend specific to that map. The text includes words and phrases in each child's native language.

The publisher calls the book "a valuable resource . . . and an insightful look at how much children around the world have in common," adding, "This book has a wealth of social studies applications."

Among Ruurs' past bestsellers is *My Librarian is a Camel*, which features unique mobile libraries around the world and is used in the U.S. common core curriculum.

Her book *Stepping Stones, A Refugee Family's Journey* was featured by the BBC and selected by Pope Francis as "one of his favourite books for young people to encourage compassion." She also wrote a picture book biography of Salt Spring-based artist Robert Bateman.

Readers of all ages are invited to attend Ruurs' slideshow presentation about the making of *Where We Live* and to enjoy some treats in the library's program room.

Books will be available for purchase at the event through Salt Spring Books.

## ARTISTS' CALL Waste-to-art show entries wanted

Printmakers host Re-Imagined exhibit in March 2023

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Island Printmakers group is inviting artists to create works of art from waste for a two-week show set for ArtSpring in March called Re-Imagined.

Artists working in any media are eligible, as long as their primary material sources for this exhibit are being diverted from the waste stream.

"Printmakers often say that, like a hammer that sees everything as a nail, they look at all found objects as potential printing materials," said SSIP member Nora Layard. "When the opportunity came up to receive support from the Capital Regional District for an exhibit it looked like a perfect intersection of interests. The CRD wants to reduce garbage going to its Hartland landfill, and artists can seek inspiration to create new, unusual and exciting works."

Entries will be juried for artistic excellence and materials content, but all Salt Spring residents, whether or not they are established artists, are encouraged to enter.

The deadline for receipt of entries is Feb. 10, 2023.

The call for entries can be found at [www.ssiprintmakers.ca](http://www.ssiprintmakers.ca).

**CONCERT PREVIEW**

## Singers promise fun and cozy holiday concert

GISS Choir also on the bill for Dec. 10-11 at All Saints

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

With Salt Spring Singers entering its 50th year as a community choir, director Don Conley thought he would look back over the past five decades to compile a "best of" repertoire for this weekend's Christmas concert.

The result — From Vivaldi to Berlin — will be presented at All Saints by-the-Sea on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 10-11. Special guests are the Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) Choir, directed by



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Don Conley, director of the Salt Spring Singers, which is celebrating 50 years as a choir in 2023.

music teacher Michelle Footz. Ben Neufeld is the choir's accompanist.

As the concert title suggests, audiences will hear songs by Vivaldi and Irving Berlin (finishing with Berlin's *White Christmas*), some tra-

ditional German carols, fun Christmas songs from Broadway and film, some Messiah selections and familiar pieces for singing along.

"With everybody singing along it should be very cozy and fun," said Conley.

He said his group has been enjoying the varied selections.

"They like the music a lot. It's fun, accessible and because it's familiar it's pleasurable, and I'm sure the audience will feel the same."

Conley is especially thrilled that the GISS Choir is joining the Singers this weekend.

"This has been a longtime dream of mine to combine these two wonderful parts of our community and have them sing together."

Both choirs will do a few pieces

together, and the GISS group will also sing three holiday-themed selections on their own.

Footz said her choir is excited to be performing alongside the Salt Spring Singers.

"The GISS Choir meets at lunch-times on Mondays and bright and early before school on Thursday, and consists of students from grades 8 through 12," she said. "After a bit of a hiatus due to 'you-know-what,' we are delighted to be hitting the stage again."

The Saturday night concert begins at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday's is at 2 p.m.

Advance tickets are on sale through ArtSpring, at the box office during weekday open hours and online at [artspring.ca](http://artspring.ca).

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## OPERA

# World premiere of *The Hours* arrives at ArtSpring

Acclaimed story comes alive in contemporary opera

SUBMITTED BY ARTSPRING

Variety Magazine calls it a "stunning triumph."

It is a very unique opportunity to experience an opera in English, and one that is contemporary in its composition and staging, within the generational landscape of the

great Italian and German traditions.

Such is the world premiere presentation of *The Hours* at The Met, brought to ArtSpring through the Live in HD Program, screening this Saturday, Dec. 10 at 10 a.m. with its visual opulence and behind-the-scenes interviews.

Renée Fleming makes her highly anticipated return to The Met in Kevin Puts' *The Hours*, adapted from Michael Cunningham's Pulitzer-prize winning novel. Inspired by Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway* and made a household

name by the Oscar-winning 2002 film version starring Meryl Streep, Julianne Moore and Nicole Kidman, the powerful story concerns three women from different eras who each grapple with their inner demons and roles in society over the course of a single day.

The exciting premiere radiates with star power, with Kelli O'Hara and mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato joining Fleming as the opera's trio of heroines.

Tickets are on sale through ArtSpring.



PHOTO COURTESY ARTSPRING

From left, Joyce DiDonato, Kelli O'Hara and Renée Fleming in *The Hours*.

## what's on this week

Wed. Dec. 7

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Tea à Tempo.** Sue Newman and guest Monik Nordine perform at All Saints. 2:10 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

#### Festival of Trees.

DAILY through Jan. 1. Display of decorated Christmas trees with people invited to put food bank items under their favourite; or donate to the Copper Kettle. Harbour House Hotel.

#### Forest of Miracles.

DAILY through Dec. 17. Display of decorated Christmas trees that will be bid on via a Dec. 17 charity auction and given to needy families. Harbour House Hotel. Please bring a food bank item to the hotel as "admission" for viewing.

#### Best of the Fests: Buffy Sainte-Marie: Carry It On.

Salt Spring Film Festival presentation at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

#### Teen Lounge.

The library's Teen Zone welcomes youth aged 13 to 19. 4 to 5 p.m.

#### Music Bingo.

Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

Thur. Dec. 8

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

#### Bex & Tommy.

At the Mateada. 8 to 10 p.m.

#### Craig's Karaoke.

Moby's Pub. 7 to 11 p.m.

**Open Mic.** At the Legion. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

#### An Advent Quiet Morning – A Glimmer of Hope.

Facilitated by Richard Stetson at St. Mary's Church, Fulford. 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Register at staroftheseassi@gmail.com.

#### Mother Goose.

Free songs and storytelling for parents and their children under 4. Library program room. 10:30 a.m. to noon.

### VIA ZOOM

#### Robert "Lucky" Budd and Roy Henry Vickers Author Event.

Zoom-in for a live author-illustrator guided exploration of collaborative works made by author and artist team Robert "Lucky" Budd and Roy Henry Vickers. Best for kids 9+. Email jwagner@saltspringlibrary.com for the Zoom link.

Fri. Dec. 9

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

#### The Dang Package.

With Billie Woods & Jose Sanchez. Mateada Lounge. 9 p.m. to midnight  
**Fridays with DJ Boomtown.** At Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.  
**Karaoke.** At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

#### Book Launch: Margriet Ruurs.

Salt Spring author presents her new book, *Where We Live - Mapping Neighbourhoods of Kids Around the Globe*. Library program room. 1 p.m.

#### Neighbourhood Story Time.

Stories and activities for babies through 7-year-olds and caregivers. Led by community members at the Salt Spring Public Library. 11 a.m.

#### StoryWalk.

This week's story leading from the library through Mouat Park is *Extra Yarn* by Mac Barnett.

#### A Southend Christmas.

An Anglican Parish event at St. Mary's Church. 3 p.m.

#### ASK Salt Spring.

CRD director Gary Holman is the scheduled guest. In the lobby of SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

#### Friday Game Night.

Card and board games for youth aged 13 to 19. Library program room. 7 p.m.

Sat. Dec. 10

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

#### Salt Spring Singers: From Vivaldi to Berlin.

Seasonal themed concert at All Saints by-the-Sea church. 7:30 p.m. With special guests the GISS choir.

#### Jenny Banai.

Mateada Lounge. 8 to 10 p.m.

#### Buck Dodgers Band.

At Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

### ACTIVITIES

#### Met Opera HD: *The Hours*.

World premiere of opera based on the Michael Cunningham book and film of the same name. ArtSpring. 10 a.m.

#### Winterfest.

24th festive event of craft making and delicious food, plus a raffle, put on as a fundraiser for Salt Spring Centre School. At Salt Spring Centre of Yoga. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sat. Dec. 10

### ACTIVITIES

#### Christmas Market in the Park.

Vendors set up in Centennial Park. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

#### CHIR.FM Fundraiser.

Vinyl record and CD sale. Portable classroom at SIMS. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

#### Salt Spring Forum: Technology, Ethics and the Ukraine War: Armed Drones and Precision-guided Weapons.

With guest professor Stephen D. Wrage. United States Naval Academy. GISS multi-purpose room. 3 p.m.

### Sun.

Dec. 11

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

#### Salt Spring Singers: From Vivaldi to Berlin.

See Saturday listing, except the time is at 2 p.m.

#### Jazz Jam.

At the Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

#### Spanish Conversation Group.

For all levels. At the Salt Spring library's program room. 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Mon. Dec. 12

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

#### Caroline Nicolas: The Expressive Cellist.

A Salt Spring Baroque concert at the Salt Spring Sailing Club. 7 p.m.

Tues. Dec. 13

### ACTIVITIES

#### Salt Spring Local Trust Committee Meeting.

Regular monthly business meeting at Community Gospel Chapel. 9:30 a.m. with town hall at noon.

#### Trivia Tuesday.

Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

Wed. Dec. 14

### ACTIVITIES

#### Lolla Devindisch and Jackie Truscott Book Signings.

Local authors discuss their works and sign books at Artcraft at Mahon Hall. 4 p.m.

#### Music Bingo.

See last Wednesday's listing.

#### Teen Lounge.

See last Wednesday's listing.

### THE FRITZ CINEMA

- **The Banshees of Inisherin** is the show from Friday, Dec. 9 to Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. each night, plus a 3 p.m. Sunday matinee. Rated 14A. 1 hour, 44 minutes  
For more movie info, see [thefritz.ca](http://thefritz.ca).

### EXHIBITIONS

- **Artcraft Winter**, the Salt Spring Arts hosted sale of work by Gulf Islands artists and artisans, runs at Mahon Hall from Nov. 25 to Dec. 22, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The Art Jam Rolls On show and sale is in the Mahon Hall annex for the same period.

- **Gallery 8's 14th Annual Christmas Exhibition of Small Works** runs through Dec. 31.

- Today, Dec. 7, is the last day to see **New Works - Sav Boro and Paul Bryans** in the A Space at Salt Spring Gallery. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- The ArtSpring lobby space features **Lesley Burke's** paintings and mixed-media works until Dec. 16.

- **Pamela Thornley** exhibits work in the Salt Spring Public Library's community program room through December.

- **Sonja Barnard** has artwork in the library's display case this month.

- **Dulcy Wilson** is showing oil paintings at the Salt Spring Coffee Cafe through Dec. 19.

## Festival of Trees

View trees at Harbour House Hotel and put a food bank donation under your favourite and/or donate to the Copper Kettle. Daily until Jan. 1.

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# ISLAND LIFE

## PHILANTHROPY

# Wildlife care centre awarded more than \$15,000

Funds will help campaign to replace aging and unsafe animal transport vehicle

SUBMITTED BY 100+ WOMEN WHO CARE

After three compelling presentations, including from the Beaver Point Community Hall Association and Salt Spring Therapeutic Riding Association, Jane Armstrong's nominated cause Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre (IWNCC) was declared the winner during 100+ Women Who Care's meeting on Nov. 16.

The organization was awarded the collected total of approximately \$15,000 to go towards replacing its much-needed wildlife rescue vehicle.

Armstrong, who is president and chair of the group's board of directors, emphasized how important it is that a resource like the Island Wildlife Centre is available.

"Almost everyone has encountered a bird hitting a window, a fawn by the roadside hit by a car, an orphaned seal, or an animal or bird injured by a pet," she said. "It is very distressing when people discover injured, sick, or orphaned wildlife."

Since 1996, the IWNCC has been the only facility on

the Gulf Islands and Central Vancouver Island offering emergency care to wild animals seven days a week, 365 days a year, answering emergency pages 24 hours a day. For each call, the centre ensures every animal is rescued safely and properly by staff or its 130+ trained volunteers.

Last year, IWNCC rescued 723 animals and birds and answered hundreds of phone calls to provide information and advice on everything from how to keep raccoons out of one's yard, manage bird feeders, and keep otters from nesting under the house.

With its tight budget, comprised of 54 per cent from private donations and the balance from annual appeals to foundations and grants, the wildlife centre is able to employ a full-time veterinarian and cover the basic costs of its facilities and operations. Extras, however, are tough.

"We offer transportation by vehicle or boat as needed for the rescue and then provide the appropriate medical care, TLC and rehabilitation with the goal of release," Armstrong explained. "Our current animal rescue vehicle is over 20 years old and not considered reliable to take off-island."

The funds from 100+ Women Who Care will be directed towards the campaign of replacing the vehicle. A small used 4WD truck is being sought to keep staff, volunteers and the animals they transport safe throughout their crucial missions. Additional donations towards this goal are gladly accepted.

"In addition to providing compassionate, knowledgeable care for hundreds of animals each year, the Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre provides peace of mind to many Gulf Islands residents, giving them somewhere to turn when they encounter a wild animal in distress," said Armstrong.

"We see animals as independent lives, not as populations," added Jeff Lederman, the centre's founder. "If we can pre-



PHOTOS COURTESY 100+ WOMEN WHO CARE + IWNCC

From top, Salt Spring women at the most recent 100+ Women Who Care meeting held at ArtSpring, where members chose the Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre as the recipient of that session's available funds, and baby raccoons being fed at the centre.

vent the needless suffering of a single animal, then we have done important work."

The 100 Women Who Care initiative was launched in 2006 as a simple, efficient and effective collective fundraising model for charities. One hundred (or more) women each contribute \$100 and vote for one of three nominated charities three times a year. There are now over 400 chapters active across North America.

The Salt Spring branch was founded November 2018 to bring this high-impact

philanthropy to the island, and in four years, it has raised over \$211,000 for now 12 causes, including eldercare services, pathways, the public library, the SPCA, IWAV, Community Services, and Search & Rescue. Any member of 100+ Women Who Care can nominate a CRA-registered charity that has a local impact.

The nominations deadline for the next 100+ Women Who Care vote is Jan. 13, 2023.

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DECEMBER 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
7	0613	3.4	11.2	12	0041	0.5	1.6
	1043	2.9	9.5		0929	3.5	11.5
	WE 1431	3.2	10.5		MO		
8	ME 2223	0.4	1.3	LU			
	0656	3.5	11.5	13	0117	0.7	2.3
	TH 1148	3.0	9.8		0959	3.5	11.5
TH 1455	3.1	10.2	TU				
9	JE 2256	0.3	1.0	MA			
	0737	3.6	11.8	14	0153	0.9	3.0
	FR 1252	3.0	9.8		WE		
FR 1521	3.1	10.2	WE		1027	3.5	11.5
10	VE 2330	0.4	1.3	ME			
	0817	3.6	11.8	15	0230	1.2	3.9
	SA 1358	3.0	9.8		1053	3.4	11.2
SA 1543	3.0	9.8	TH 1853		2.1	6.9	
11	SU 0005	0.4	1.3	JE 2020	2.2	7.2	
	SU 0854	3.6	11.8				
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## SSI FOUNDATION

# Fall community grants disbursed

Youth, arts, mental health and more receive support from Salt Spring Island Foundation

SUBMITTED BY SSI FOUNDATION

The Salt Spring Island Foundation is pleased to announce \$76,243 in community grants for the fall 2022 cycle, awarded to 11 local charities.

The foundation is always delighted to fund a wide range of projects, benefiting many individuals and organizations throughout the community. Fall funding has been directed towards projects as diverse as community biochar kilns, support for post-partum families, safe off-road pathways for walking and cycling, and a new backup generator for the Legion's emergency designation shelter.

The new dance studio at the Salt Spring Island Multi-Space on Rainbow Road will receive funding for a dance floor, ensuring classes will be fun and injury-free. Programs will be able to

expand to include more ballet sessions, as well as tap, stretch, and contemporary dance for all ages.

The Stqeeye' Learning Society will receive funding for operational technology, and the third year of the Salt Spring Mental Wellness Initiative will expand to develop its peer support and volunteer counselling with funding directed to the Salt Spring Community Health Society and Salt Spring Health Advancement Network.

Island youth will benefit from the funding of many creative and educational programs: The Gulf Islands Secondary School robotics team will purchase supplies for robot building, encouraging engagement and interest in STEM subjects. The wonderful on-farm school trips for elementary school children will expand to include more students, while much-needed photography cameras will be funded for the GISS Media Arts program; and children at Fernwood Elementary School will participate in a handmade, screen-printed flag workshop led by Métis artist Hazel Bell Koski.

For more information and to donate to the work of the Salt Spring Island Foundation, visit [ssifoundation.ca](http://ssifoundation.ca), or contact operations director Shannon Cowan at [shannon@ssifoundation.ca](mailto:shannon@ssifoundation.ca).

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## FARMERS' INSTITUTE OFFICE MANAGER

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The Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute is looking for a part time office manager. Responsibilities will include: Overseeing rental bookings of the facility, managing the property maintenance checklist, office correspondence, emails, phone messages, membership renewals and newsletter. Attending a monthly directors' meeting and preparing the agenda and taking minutes is required. A significant part of the role will also include managing the Fall Fair 'To-Do' checklist.

The position is hybrid, requiring working from home as well as at the office. The start date is January 3, 2023. The job will require approximately 10 hours per week at \$25/hr.

**Experience and Education requirements:**

- Minimum Grade 12
- Three (3) years' experience in related work
- Must have an interest in local agriculture and the Fall Fair
- Demonstrated knowledge of office management
- Ability to work independently and as a member of a team
- Must be proficient in MS Excel, Word and basic Google Docs. A working knowledge of Wordpress would be an asset

**Please include with your application:**

- A cover letter
- Current resume
- Names of three previous work experience references including phone number and email address
- Please apply at: [ssifi@shaw.ca](mailto:ssifi@shaw.ca) by **December 15, 2022.**

We look forward to hearing from you!



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**Obituaries**

## Verity McKenzie

Verity McKenzie passed peacefully at home November 21, 2022. She was 93.

Throughout her life Verity was endeared for her kindness, grace and humour - all with that marvellous style and aplomb!

Verity and Bob, her husband/partner in absolutely everything, were blessed to have shared their great love for almost 70 years. After Bob's passing in 2021, she impressed all with her strength and determination as family leader and mentor.

Verity was, simply, an amazing woman. She is remembered with affection and a smile by friends and family (4 children, 6 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren). And in recent years her family grew to include special caregivers and neighbours.

Verity, like Bob, did not wish to have a service. Next spring her children will host an open house to celebrate both their lives.

**Help Wanted**

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**Driftwood** COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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**Obituaries**

**Obituaries**

## Lou Rumsey

SEPTEMBER 18, 1927 - NOVEMBER 23, 2022

Louise (Lou) Rumsey (Née Colling) passed away peacefully on November 23, 2022 at Lady Minto Extended Care Home, Salt Spring Island, British Columbia. Lou is predeceased by her husband Arthur (Art) and daughter Wendy.

Lou is survived by four daughters, Sue (Don), Pam (Paul), Judy (Joe), and Debbie (Wayne), nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

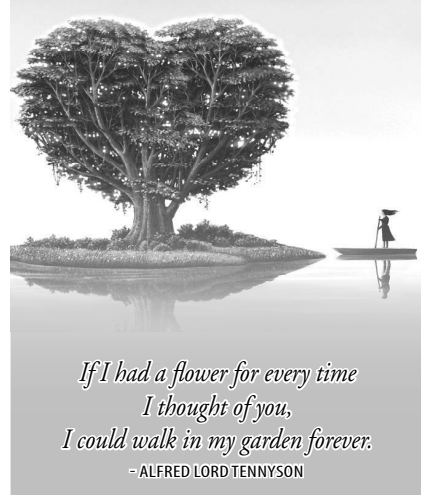
One of eleven children, Lou was born in Hartlepool, England on September 18 1927, where she met and married Art in 1945 and emigrated to Canada shortly thereafter.

Lou and Art lived in Vancouver, British Columbia for many years, where they raised their four daughters. They moved to Salt Spring Island, British Columbia, building their dream home in which they spent many happy years.

It was during her years on Salt Spring Island that Lou was able to follow her passions, including her participation in the Raging Grannies activist group and her significant international travels with Art.

Lou was known and admired by family and friends for her dramatic flair, quick wit and dedication to environmental justice.

Lou's family would like to thank the dedicated health care professionals who cared for Lou during her latter years. In particular, they would also like to thank Janet Rayner, for her loyal friendship and kindness, as well as Lou's friend Bea, who often visited.



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HOLIDAY SEASON

# Christmas activities underway



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Attending the ribbon-cutting opening of the 9th annual Festival of Trees fundraiser for the island's food bank and Copper Kettle Community Partnership at the Harbour House are, from left, Lynda Turner (festival co-organizer), Harbour House general manager Kelly Armstrong, Community Services food programs manager Cora Platz, festival co-organizer Mollie Colson, Copper Kettle reps Cherie Geauvreau and Jewel Eldstrom, and Grandmothers to Grandmothers group rep Anne Zeller. People are invited to bring food bank items to place under their favourite tree in the hotel lobby and Crofton Room, and/or to donate to the Copper Kettle daily through Jan. 1.

## Busy time on Salt Spring

The Christmas season is well underway on Salt Spring Island, with the island's Chamber of Commerce helping everyone

get into the spirit of the holidays with several special events.

The first was the Light-up in Centennial Park event, which saw a crowd enjoy hot chocolate and treats, carolling and a

search for a golden candy cane, giving the finder — five-year-old Lotus — the honour of flicking the switch to turn on the lights in the park trees.

On Friday, Dec. 2, the Love-Local Winter-Wander saw some Ganges stores open late for shoppers who were not afraid of the wintery weather. A shopping passport encouraged people to visit four different areas.

Now underway is the Glowtini Contest and the Driftwood Window Decorating Contest, with winners determined by online votes. The christmasonsaltspring.com website give details about who has entered and has the online "ballots."

Check the website as well for details about the new Dec. 3 to 17 Forest of Miracles Charity Christmas Tree display at the Harbour House Hotel, with an auction on Dec. 17 at 3 p.m.

The ninth annual Festival of Trees that supports the food bank/Copper Kettle is also running in the Harbour House Hotel from Dec. 2 to Jan. 1.

A number of other holiday season events take place this month. See the www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com/events/online calendar for a comprehensive list.



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

**THEN AND NOW:** Launi Middleditch sells Ohana Green Balm at last weekend's packed Fulford Hall craft fair, where she recalled that her picture had been taken at the fair by Driftwood photographer Derrick Lundy some 21 years earlier, as seen in the inset photo, when she sold wooden Christmas trees as a food bank fundraiser.

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# SPORTS + RECREATION

## TENNIS

# Blackwood career recapped



FILE PHOTO COURTESY SSTA

Tennis coach and player Marjorie Blackwood with winners of a Salt Spring tourney in 2020: Dawson Reid, left, and Charlie Murray.

## BC Tennis includes island woman in 'legends' series

Salt Spring tennis player Margaret Fisher submitted the following introductory paragraph and arranged for publication permission of this article about Marjorie Blackwood from BC Tennis:

*Salt Spring is home to so many interesting people with richly diverse backgrounds. The arts are well represented by artists, authors and musicians but the sporting world boasts one of Canada's most successful tennis players! Marjorie Blackwood and her husband Pete Schelling have made Salt Spring home for many years. The couple provides valued tennis coaching through the vibrant local tennis association. Here is a great article about Marj recently published through BC Tennis. Thanks to author Gary Davidson and BC Tennis for allowing us to share the article.*

### B.C. Tennis Legends

Tennis has a long, proud, and storied history in B.C. In this series, we celebrate the playing careers of 10 B.C. tennis legends who are honoured members of the Canadian Tennis Hall of Fame or the B.C. Sports Hall of Fame.

#### MARJORIE BLACKWOOD Home: Salt Spring Island, B.C.

Following her professional playing career, Marjorie and her husband, Peter Schelling, have been a celebrated teaching team in B.C. They helped develop the Whistler Racquet Club from 1994-2010. In 2016, the couple moved to Salt Spring Island where they coach at the remarkable Salt Spring Tennis Centre and Portlock Park.

A Very Short Selection of Playing Career Highlights

- Singles Ranking: Canada #1 (1979-83) Canadian Closed Singles Champion (1977-79)
- World #48 (Aug. 1981) Canada's first top 100 player of the Open era

- 9 WTA Doubles titles (1979-82) with 4 different partners
- 2-time Wimbledon Doubles Quarterfinalist with Susan Leo (1981, 82)
- French Open Doubles Quarterfinalist with Pam Whytcross (1980)
- Wimbledon Singles R32 (1982)
- Australian Open Singles R16 (1981)
- Federation Cup Member from 1976-1980; Captain 1983
- Singles Record: 10-7 Doubles Record: 6-4
- Honours and Awards
  - Inducted into the Canadian Tennis Hall of Fame – 1998
  - Tennis Canada – Female Player of the Year – 1982
  - Inducted into Ottawa Sport Hall of Fame – 2000
  - Ontario Sports Achievement Award – 1972, 1974-75

### Chasing Your Dream

Most of us play tennis for fun, exercise, and above all, to get better at playing tennis. We'd be overjoyed to have strokes like the pros, but playing for a living can come with enormous challenges and pressure.

Marjorie recalls, "The constant worry about having enough money to continue on tour, the hunger for a big break to move you forward in rankings and prize money, not to mention being the only Canadian on the WTA tour."

While Marjorie made friends on the tour, she wants to dispel any notion that these were the good old days. The Avon Futures tournaments commonly had five pre-qualifying and three qualifying rounds just to make it into the main draw, where a first-round loss earned you about \$20. After one particularly tough loss, Marjorie drove over her racquets until they were nothing but wood splinters and jagged bits of string . . . probably not a lady you want to mess with.

### Name Dropping

In 1978, Marjorie defeated Pam Shriver at the Wimbledon warmup tournament in Chichester.

At the 1981 Aussie Open, Marjorie held a set point against Tracy Austin (#2) in the round-of-16 before losing 6-3, 7-5.

1982 was a banner year for Marjorie. She began the year by defeating future ITF Hall of Famer Helena Sukova (CZE) in Fort Myers, Florida. Later that year, Marjorie extended Billie Jean King to a first set tiebreaker in the 3rd round of Birmingham. Two weeks later and still on form, Marjorie defeated British legend Virginia Wade 7-6, 7-5 at Wimbledon.

For her part, Marjorie says the most dominant player she ever faced, both in singles and doubles, was Martina Navratilova, winner of 59 major titles. Marjorie smiles and recalls, "a lead against Martina was always short-lived."

### Learn from a Legend

Experiment with relaxing your grip and using your big body parts to swing your arm and throw it at the ball. Many people try too hard, and one symptom of that is overgripping and "muscling" the ball with their arm. This tension leads to possible elbow and shoulder issues, and a less efficient serve and forehand. You'll stroke the ball more smoothly and improve your timing by loosening your grip and making your arm more of a "dead weight." (Marjorie Blackwood, 2022)

To read more about B.C.'s tennis legends, visit the BC Sports Hall of Fame website (bcsportshall.com) and the Canadian Tennis Hall of Fame (www.tenniscanada.com).

## HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

# Scorpions nab 13th spot at provincial tourney

## Boys' efforts rewarded

### SUBMITTED BY GISS SOCCER

The Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) senior boys soccer team concluded their season by finishing 13th at provincials held in Burnaby from Nov. 21 to 23.

The boys opened the tournament with a strong showing against Sands of Delta, but just could not turn their dominance into an opening goal. A close penalty call filed under "seen-them-given" did not go GISS's way and a late free kick from Sands saw GISS defeated 1-0. The second game was keenly contested against Langley Fundamental, but again luck was not on GISS's side as they fell to a 3-2 defeat despite throwing the kitchen sink at the Langley defence.

Day two saw a change in fortune with a fantastic display against pool winners St. Thomas Aquinas who eventually finished third overall. Shinta Kikuchi — the Pender Messi — opened the scoring with a sublime goal from an impossible angle. Basil Scott lasered a second from distance in the second half. This 2-0 triumph deservedly saw the GISS players' intensity, effort and composure rewarded with a positive

outcome. With an unfortunate first day limiting possibilities, GISS were now in the 13th to 16th bracket at provincials.

The semi-final for 13th spot was a 5-0 triumph against David Thompson of Invermere. Star centre-back Noah Logan got his first goal of the season, Scott added two more, Kikuchi got another and Wyatt MacMaster completed the scoring.

The final game on the third day of the tournament was against Smithers. Though bodies were tired, GISS kept going and lead 3-2 without ever really hitting top gear. Liam Divers, in his final game for GISS, wrapped up the game and the season with a tidy finish after great work from upcoming Grade 10 player Sisaye Patterson, sealing a deserved 4-2 win.

Special mention to the Grade 12s who finished their final year making it all the way: captain Sel Patterson, vice-captains Kikuchi and Scott, Lucas Segura Diaz, Divers and Jamie Charlebois. The Grade 10s and 11s will go again next year.

The team thanks everyone from the community and beyond who generously donated to help them attend provincials, and especially the May Long Tournament group and Country Grocer.

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Go to [christmasonsaltspring.com](http://christmasonsaltspring.com) to vote or email [nancy.johnson@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:nancy.johnson@gulfislandsdriftwood.com) by Dec 9.