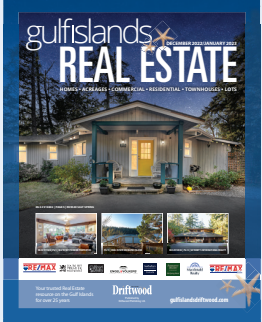


inside:



PLAN A SAFE RIDE HOME
PG 12



8 Island woman creates inspirational calendar

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IN SAFE HANDS: Santa holds Tiki, a Salt Spring BCSPCA foster kitten, during a Pet Photos With Santa event at Island Savings on Saturday. People bringing their pets got a print and digital version of the photo for providing a donation to the food bank.

PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

HOUSING

Drake Rd. project updated

Construction still delayed, but government agency hopeful for 2023

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The discovery of a vulnerable riparian area at 161 Drake Road was the first of several surprises for BC Housing planners, according to representatives hosting a community meeting last week.

And as the agency's delays and challenges were outlined for Zoom meeting attendees, islanders seemed politely incredulous that planners for the 28-unit supportive housing project there hadn't anticipated some issues earlier.

In January, BC Housing — and then-Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing David Eby — touted the fast tracking of the project, to support and house people experiencing or at risk of homelessness on Salt Spring Island. The province used its authority under the Interpretation Act — commonly known as “statutory immunity” — to bypass the local zoning process, predicted an opening date for the facility in late summer, and announced construction would begin “within weeks.”

Some 45 weeks later, BC Housing representatives agreed progress — measured, so far, by the clearing of some blackberry bushes — had been slow. Asked why it was taking so long, and whether “due diligence” had been completed, BC Housing development manager Kirsten Baillie characterized that step as “the phase that we’re wrapping up now.”

“We’ve hired a biologist to work with us through the environmental assessment,” said Baillie. “We’ve hired an arbourist to look at tree protection and wind hazards, and what trees can stay and need to go in order to make sure the slope is secure — and also to be respectful of any birds that may be nesting or will be nesting in the springtime.”

That work has taken longer than expected, admitted Baillie. “And to be honest, the site’s proven more complicated than we anticipated.”

DRAKE ROAD continued on 2

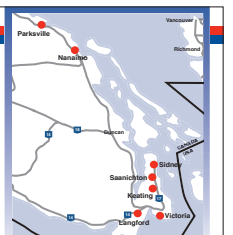
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PHOTO COURTESY THE CIRCLE EDUCATION

SOLEMN NIGHT: Islanders gather on Dec. 6, the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, for a candlelight vigil in Centennial Park. The event remembers the 14 young women who were killed in an act of violent misogyny at Polytechnique Montréal in 1989, and all the other women who have lost their lives to gender-based violence. The vigil, organized by The Circle Education and Islanders Working Against Violence (IWAV) and attended by 45 people, was the first in-person memorial since 2019. The Circle Education and IWAV says women, girls and people who identify as women in Canada and around the world still face unacceptable violence and discrimination, and Salt Spring Island is no exception.

Housing complex details pushed

DRAKE ROAD

continued from 1

The more extensive environmental assessment, along with perennial Salt Spring issues such as road access, stormwater drainage and adequate drinking water have been the source of delays, she said, adding BC Housing had more than 30 people currently working on the project.

"We do anticipate construction of the supportive housing starting sometime in 2023," said Baillie. "I'm hopeful it'll be spring 2023."

At the meeting, BC Housing presented a draft design and site plan for the project, which envisioned two storeys of studio units set at an angle off the road — following the slope of the land, according to planners — along with an outdoor amenity space and a modest amount of landscaping. Builders intend to leave not only the riparian stream area through the property wooded, but also the natural trees and shrubs along Drake Road. Situating the building at the front of the 5.5-acre property — owned by the Capital Regional District (CRD) but leased for the next 60 years by BC Housing — will allow an option to build additional units further up, although Baillie said there were currently no plans to expand into that section.

In addition to asking about delays, meeting participants questioned whether

there were enough units set aside for residents who may have difficulty with stairs — there are six or seven in the current plan, Baillie said — and whether the seven planned parking stalls would be sufficient to keep residents and guests from parking along the narrow street.

Concerns about worsening stormwater drainage were met with assurances that the issue was being carefully considered by civil engineers.

"As you know, some of the challenges are that there's not a consistent culvert system along Drake Road. It's wide, then it narrows, and then it's wide again," said Baillie. "I think that's the role of Islands Trust and CRD, to work on the infrastructure on Salt Spring Island; I'm happy to work with those agencies, but I certainly don't feel this development can take on stormwater management [all] along Drake Road. We will absolutely manage the water that comes off the site."

CRD director Gary Holman pointed out neither Islands Trust nor CRD maintain roadways on Salt Spring, but rather that Drake Road's culverts fall within the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) rights-of-way.

"We don't own our roads here," said Holman. "That's MoTI. We can talk about coordinating with them."

Looking ahead, officials said they were receiving proposals from organizations interested in eventually operating the

facility, and supportive housing advisor Lois Gabbitous said there was still "a lot of flexibility" on management policies for things like pets and number of staff needed.

"It's part of the reason we're a little bit vague right now," said Gabbitous, "because we want to wait until we have the operator named."

BC Housing did not specify which community partners would work with BC Housing to determine eligibility to live in the units, described as being intended for Salt Spring Island residents.

"So far those partners have been identified from four different community-serving agencies," said Gabbitous, "as well as the Ministry of Social Development, and Island Health. Together those six agencies would get together to determine what's important to you as a community."

Gabbitous said typical metrics used are length of time in the community, whether someone is fleeing violence, a member of the Indigenous community, or coming out of foster care; but ultimately, she said, it would be "local experts" working with social service agencies who would make those decisions. She added that being a local resident tended to land high on the list.

"Usually, communities come together and really prioritize those folks who have been in need in their community already," said Gabbitous.

TIDE TABLES
at Fulford Harbour

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
14	0153	0.9	3.0	18	0142	2.3	7.5
WE	1027	3.5	11.5	SU	0459	2.2	7.2
ME				DI	1202	3.3	10.8
				DI	1940	1.2	3.9
15	0230	1.2	3.9	19	0319	2.6	8.5
TH	1053	3.4	11.2	MO	0614	2.5	8.2
FR	1853	2.1	6.9	MO	1223	3.3	10.8
SA	2020	2.2	7.2	LU	2008	0.8	2.6
16	0310	1.5	4.9	20	0421	3.0	9.8
FR	1118	3.4	11.2	TU	0726	2.8	9.2
SA	1857	1.9	6.2	TU	1246	3.4	11.2
SU	2319	2.1	6.9	MA	2041	0.4	1.3
17	0358	1.8	5.9	21	0511	3.2	10.5
SA	1141	3.4	11.2	WE	0834	3.0	9.8
SU	1916	1.5	4.9	WE	1313	3.4	11.2
				ME	2118	0.1	0.3

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Flu vaccine available for children

Salt Spring Health Unit among spots for province-wide immunization 'blitz'

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island children ages six months to 11 years old will be able to receive flu shots on a walk-in, no-appointment-necessary basis this week, as part of an immunization "blitz" announced by the provincial government in the wake of the deaths of six children and youth after contracting influenza in British Columbia.

Provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry announced the effort on Thursday, Dec. 8, adding that the government would now be providing regular weekly updates on flu-related deaths.

Drop-in clinics are spinning up throughout the province, and in every health region. Clinic hours on Salt Spring will be from 1 p.m. until about 3:45 p.m. each day this week until Thursday, Dec. 15, according to Island Health, who added that parents who come in with children and also needed a flu shot would be accommodated. No appointment is needed.

"This is an unusual season with unusual characteristics, including an early and intense

surge in cases," said Henry, adding that death associated with influenza in previously healthy children is a "tragic, but rare" event, and especially so in school-age children and teens.

Of the six reported influenza-associated deaths among children and youth, Henry said, two were between the ages of 15 and 19, three were between five and nine, and one was younger than five years old.

The Salt Spring Health Unit is located at 160 Fulford-Ganges Rd. For information, call 250-538-4708. For more information about the flu, call the Flu Hotline at 250-544-7676, ext. 27545 or visit the immunizebc.ca/influenza website.

PARKS & RECREATION

PARC commits more dollars to Centennial Park

Major grant at risk without additional spending as construction costs escalate

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Quick action taken last Tuesday at a special meeting of the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) may help the island hold on to more than half a million dollars in federal grant funding — but it comes at a cost, and prompted a discussion about how a park system with millions of dollars in assets — and zero debt — could fund projects in the future.

At issue was a \$561,748 grant from Pacific Economic Development Canada (PEDC), meant to bolster a project revitalizing the Centennial Park Plaza — specifically removing and replacing the park's concrete and brick pavers, improving drainage, lighting and some landscaping. In order to keep the funding, the project would need to be completed by March 31, 2023. Adding to the time crunch, any construction in the plaza would have to be out of the way before the Saturday market opens in mid-April to avoid disrupting that keystone resource.

But only one contractor submitted a bid for the work. And while that bidder was confident they could complete a winter construction project in the few months remaining — and agreed to financial penalties that would accrue each day over the allotted time — the bid came in at a higher cost than what was projected back in August, just under \$1 million.

To keep the federal funding intact, the budget shortfall of just over \$300,000 will be met — re-allocated from the Community Works Fund (CWF) per a motion passed with approval from a majority of PARC members and the support of Capital Regional District (CRD) director Gary Holman.

CWF funding is made up of federal gas tax monies, allocated based on population to local governments in



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Plaza part of Centennial Park that will be upgraded in the next few months in order to take advantage of a \$561,748 Pacific Economic Development Canada grant.

B.C. The CRD receives funds for each electoral area — Juan de Fuca, Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands — and distributes those dollars on a per-capita basis for eligible investment categories. As the decision-maker for that funding, Holman said he would work with staff to find economies in other programs — and, hopefully, within the bid of the Centennial Park project itself — but he maintained that the future local community commission (LCC) should eventually be making decisions like this as a group, rather than leaving it up to a single director.

"I can't let \$561,000 in grant funding go," said Holman. "But whatever the Community Works contribution is, I'll be looking for adjustments elsewhere. There have been increases in Community Works allocations to a whole number of other services, so staff and I need to go through the whole list of services and find some savings."

Holman had championed the LCC during his most recent campaign for re-election; both he and the referendum creating an LCC gained voter approval in October.

"Community works [distribution] is

not delegated to the LCC," continued Holman. "So, it comes down — again — to one person, which is problematic. Hopefully, over time, we can change that."

Several commission members expressed concerns over how much other projects might suffer with fewer dollars from the CWF. CRD senior manager Karla Campbell pointed out that it wouldn't be current projects, but future ones, which might be partially or mostly funded from reserves, but would need grant monies to show as fully funded.

"Those future projects that may be at risk [of reduced Community Works funding] would be subject to grant funding anyway, in your capital plan," said Campbell. "So they weren't guaranteed to be funded unless there was a grant that you got awarded. That's what would be at risk."

With a \$2.9-million loan for the Rainbow Road Pool completely paid off as of last year, said Holman, the commission had a strong financial position that might be leveraged into additional borrowing going forward — should the future LCC and voters approve.

"Parks and Rec has tens of millions

[of dollars] in assets," said Holman, "and zero debt. The commission has been basically paying cash, whether it be a requisition, reserves, or Community Works."

It's good news, according to Holman, but perhaps not sustainable, particularly as construction costs continue to rise.

"It's putting us between a rock and a hard place," he said. "Every time we go for a bid, we're getting a rather nasty shock coming back."

Given the financial burden — and the potential for conflict with the Saturday Market opening date should construction face delays — PARC staff also will ask PEDC if they would agree to extend their deadline to November 2023.

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LOCAL GOVERNANCE

CRD sets LCC election for May 2023

Committee expected to direct staff to proceed with transition and election planning

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring voters will choose four members of the island's first local community commission (LCC) at an election Saturday, May 27, 2023.

That's the tentative date recommended by Capital Regional District (CRD) staff and, if a relevant bylaw passes as expected today (Dec. 14), the process to plan the election and to dissolve certain local commissions to be taken over by the LCC will begin.

The CRD's Electoral Areas Committee was expected to adopt Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission Bylaw No. 1 at its Dec. 14 meeting, laying out a transition plan that includes considerations for an expected quorum of newly elected commissioners holding their first LCC meeting in June. Before then, a transition plan would involve minor changes to some bylaws relating to the soon-to-be-disbanded commissions, as well as

final reports and transition materials provided to the incoming LCC before those commissions fully wind down.

Commissions whose purviews will now be administrated fully by the LCC delegation are the Salt Spring Island Economic Sustainability Commission, the Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Local Service Commission, Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission and Salt Spring Transportation Commission. Further administrative authority falling to the new LCC will be that established for street lighting, and for grants in aid — the latter requiring the local director's approval in addition to that of the LCC in order for grants to be awarded.

The LCC will also administer livestock injury compensation matters, and serve in an advisory capacity for funds allocated via the Salt Spring Island Arts Contribution Service, Salt Spring Island Public Library Service, and the Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue Service.

The LCC will be composed of the four new commissioners and the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area CRD director, currently Gary Holman. Commissioners will serve four-year terms, and will hold regular public meetings each month. The LCC may also choose to create advisory bodies. Details surrounding how individuals should express their interest in running for LCC positions are expected in the coming weeks.

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



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EDITORIAL

Reality preferred

Sometimes the up-close view of government functions can be downright frightening.

People interested in housing insecurity on Salt Spring Island have had a ringside seat in the past year as BC Housing took the lead on creating homes for people living temporarily in the Seabreeze Inne.

BC Housing hosted an online information meeting last Monday night, bringing neighbours and other community members up to speed on its Drake Road supportive housing project. The word "speed" may not be appropriate in referring to activity at the 5.5-acre site, as BC Housing development manager Kirsten Baillie described the various obstacles that had so far delayed progress. Those include considerations that go with a sensitive riparian area being identified on the land, plus stormwater management, site clearing and drinking water servicing.

THE ISSUE:
 BC Housing and Drake Road

WE SAY:
 Realistic information more respectful

press release about a 28-unit housing project being built on Drake Road by BC Housing. Both at the time and in retrospect it was obviously issued to make it seem as if the Seabreeze Inne residents about to be displaced by the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation's renovation of their newly purchased building would not be thrown out onto the street. The provincial government then boldly declared that Seabreeze residents would be living in the new Drake Road facility by late summer.

When it became apparent that timeline was not possible, Eby again stepped up at the end of June to state that the Seabreeze residents would be offered temporary residences at 154 Kings Lane on property owned by the Gulf Islands Seniors Residence Association. "Spring of 2023" was the predicted occupancy date for the Drake Road complex. And to be fair, the Kings Lane complex was put together quickly.

What is disconcerting is the disconnect between the government's messaging and reality. The honesty from BC Housing personnel at last week's meeting is appreciated. The "problem solved" press releases with a lack of tethering to reality are not. Our community, and especially the people directly affected by housing insecurity on the island, deserve better.

But none of those issues should have been a surprise to BC Housing or the politicians giving their public support to the plan. That includes the person who is now B.C.'s premier, David Eby, who was housing minister when the Drake Road project was first announced.

Eby was the spokesperson in a Jan. 20, 2022



Island opinions do matter

BY BRUCE CAMERON

VIEWPOINT

The new fire hall was approved by 75 per cent of voters, exactly what we predicted

Salt Spring Insights, an online research panel created in 2022 to enhance the quality of conversations taking place on Salt Spring, has concluded its first year.

The Salt Spring Insights online research panel is structured to represent Salt Spring residents by key demographics and region on the island. And it has proven very accurate at capturing the mood here.

A lot happened on Salt Spring in 2022: you told us you were happy, but have serious concerns about housing affordability; and you questioned the value you are receiving for the tax dollars you pay, and approved borrowing to build a new fire hall.

Here are some of the highlights revealed by Salt Spring Insights panelists.

The mood is upbeat but concerned

- Salt Spring Islanders are happy with their quality of life (87 per cent), but concerns include access to affordable housing, providing more services and facilities, building better road and ferry infrastructure, and the perennial issue of improving the governance structure. The doctor shortage, improved walking and cycling paths, and the need to build community spirit were also cited.

- Perceived value for tax dollars paid to different providers varies, with fire services rating the highest (62 per cent good value), while less than half of residents think they get good value for the taxes they pay for CRD transit or parks and recreation services. About four in 10 think the school board provides good value, while water services are rated most poorly in terms of taxpayer value.

- Taxpayer approval was required to borrow the money necessary to build a new fire hall. Given the failed attempts to win approval in previous years, the campaign to seek approval in late June 2022 was closely watched. Salt Spring Insights correctly predicted that 75 per cent of voters would approve the project.

Despite uncertainty about the concept, a local community commission was approved

- Prior to the referendum in the fall of 2022, Salt Spring Insights asked participants whether they approve or disapprove of the CRD local community commission concept. Almost four in 10 approved of the idea, about one third were unsure and just under a third were opposed. Excluding those who were unsure, Salt Spring Insights revealed the idea would be passed, which it was, by 61 per cent.

Who says nothing ever changes on Salt Spring? A new fire hall, a new emergency department, Islands Trust issuance of a development permit for the Vortex project, creation of a new 75-acre public park on the northeast slope of Hwmet'tusum/Mt. Maxwell, passage of the LCC concept.

You can add your voice to the important conversations taking place in 2023 by signing up to become a Salt Spring Insights panelist at Saltspringinsights.com.

The writer is president of the strategic communications firm *Return On Insight* and co-founder of *Salt Spring Island's own consumer opinion panel, Salt Spring Insights*.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you generally trust info from government press releases? Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

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45 NO

50 YES

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ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

Support our nurses

There is a nurse staffing crisis at Lady Minto Hospital where on any given day, the nurses who work there are left to do their job with fewer than half the number of required staff.

This means the daily reality is having to work unsupported and understaffed, while managing soaring patient demands in unsafe conditions. It's not unusual for nurses to have to reach out to their colleagues to help cover shifts and many are distressed not knowing if there will be a nurse available to care for their patients when their shift ends.

These dire working conditions are behind the overwhelming strain and moral distress our nurses face as they work to provide safe patient care.

The residents of Salt Spring Island deserve better. The nurses of Lady Minto Hospital deserve better.

We are calling on the government to invest in the province's health-care system, so that hospitals like Lady Minto and communities like Salt Spring Island aren't left

to manage the health-care crisis alone. This means coming up with strategies to recruit and retain enough nurses to provide quality care to British Columbians.

The BC Nurses' Union was on site at Lady Minto Hospital to support its members on Tuesday.

Everyone can take action to support nurses by going to HelpBCNurses.ca and emailing your MLA to demand change.

CARLY KOEPPEN,

LEANNE ROBERTSON-WEEDS,
BC NURSES' UNION REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS,
SOUTH ISLAND REGION

Shingles is serious

At the outset let me state that I usually read and enjoy Paul McElroy's column and that last week's effort fell largely into that category — except for his reference to shingles.

It's fairly obvious Paul has no personal knowledge of this particular malady.

Sadly, the ads for Shingrix to which he refers are — although sensational, being

ads — all too accurate. If you get shingles you most likely will encounter a rather large map of running herpes pustules which are not only revolting to behold but also debilitatingly, unrelentingly painful.

In simple terms, shingles is the return of the long dormant virus that originally caused you to endure a common case of chickenpox, usually in one's youth. It will show up on the skin in various parts of your body.

If you are "lucky" it will appear as a girdle around one side of your ribs, front and back.

If you are unlucky it may appear on both sides and/or up the side of one's face and possibly affect an eye, or worse, descend into the groin area.

Normally shingles strike the elderly owing to the deterioration of one's immune system, which is a natural consequence of aging or (as it was in my case) as a consequence of a depressed immune system owing to stress and exhaustion.

When you have shingles it feels like you are being blowtorched. Even having a loose shirt brush up against the affected area is a

brutal experience. It was and remains the most agonizing malady I have ever encountered.

As I was only 33 at the time I recovered relatively quickly. It was only six weeks from first noticing pain about a week before the herpes started to appear until it completely resolved. Of course I was young. My elderly mother suffered with it for six months. At its height I was being prescribed eight Tylenol 3s per day, but was actually taking 12 in order to maintain marginal functionality.

From my point of view, no one who is not in robust health should be unvaccinated.

Sadly (again) our government does not view the vaccine as a sufficient priority to subsidize its availability and so the two-dose application exceeds \$300.

And finally, even if you have had a bout of shingles it can return.

This a horrible and quite prevalent disease, not a trifling cosmetic concern as are many of the ailments Paul referred to in his column, and should by no means be taken lightly.

DAVID ABBEY,
SALT SPRING

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"It's putting us between a rock and a hard place. Every time we go for a bid, we're getting a rather nasty shock coming back."

GARY HOLMAN, SALT SPRING CRD DIRECTOR, ON FUNDING GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Practical ways to help someone struggling with their mental health

By **THERIN GOWER**

The struggles of people who have health conditions affecting their mental function and ability to communicate are much on my mind due to some new insights.

Oh, I had education from a psychology B.A., teacher certification and on-going paramedic training. I had 40 years of experience interacting with people in need and crisis. I thought I understood. But nothing but personal experience can convey what it is really like from the inside when your thinking and emotions have gone wild.

In my case, this was a temporary situation caused by a medication intended to fix another problem, now being tapered off, plus another drug reaction causing anemia. I spent a month and a half warm and dry in a house with food and loving support of family and friends. I had the luxury of telling strangers I had to interact with that I couldn't function well mentally right now because of medication I was on. No stigma or shame in that. I'm returning to "normal" functioning more every day.

But there are a lot of people on this island and elsewhere who live for years, even their whole lives, with these immense mental/emotional challenges, often in much worse physical

locations, with few supports. These insights and suggestions may help you to help them.

1. What seems to the observer like a tiny thing to accomplish is an enormous task. There is only so much ability/energy to put together a sentence; only make them do that for things that matter.

2. It was like having ADHD x 1000. Lines of thought shooting off in all directions, intentions formed and immediately lost, distracted by the next thing. Walk two steps to do something, think of something else and move to do it, forget the first, be agonized trying to remember what is important. Making lists and ticking things off saved my sanity. You could help them do that if they don't have the mental or physical resources.

3. Managing to eat was a huge task. Even with food made and set on the table, sitting down and consuming it often took several attempts as distractions occurred, and required someone to monitor that it happened. Get them food and make sure it gets into them.

4. What can you trust if you can't trust your own thoughts? It was clear a minute ago, now it makes no sense. Maybe this bad thing is happening. You can't stop obsessive thoughts. You read what you wrote and it says some-

thing different than what you thought. Or something is so clear to you, but everybody else is seeing it differently. Is that because you are missing something, or are you right and they are dismissing you, assuming you aren't thinking clearly? Be the person they can trust. Consider what they are saying. Paraphrase to clarify, so they can agree or disagree. Acknowledge they see it that way, but say you see it differently. Reassure them if you can, repeatedly.

The reassurance of having a second brain there that will understand and remember what happens is enormous.

5. It's too much work to make a decision. Avoid multiple options.

6. I needed help but it was too much work mentally and emotionally even to call a friend. Conversely, once I started talking I couldn't stop. Be prepared

either way. Be the one that calls them. They can always say they don't want to talk. If you send them an encouraging email or message, be prepared for them to not respond. It may be just using too much mental power for them at that point, but they will be encouraged.

7. When things did get arranged, I forgot them. Remind the person, confirm more than once, or better yet be the one that makes the arrangements and picks them up.

8. Every task seems insurmountable. Go to this place, talk to this person, explain this problem? Better to not even try. If you can accompany them, do. The reassurance of having a second brain there that will understand and remember what happens is enormous. This is especially true of medical appointments. Bring a notebook to write down questions ahead of time. Note the answers, and new instructions. If they must do a task alone, make each step short and clear for them. Don't run steps together.

9. Medications/health monitoring become a big part of the day, with multiple steps and combinations. Again lists, charts and especially bubble packs helped. Anything that can help with organization and routine and confirmation is good here. Make sure they take the

medication immediately from the bubble pack to their mouth without putting it down anywhere. Recognize that it all gets wearisome.

10. I couldn't control what I said without big effort. I couldn't control emotional outbursts at all. Listen to the good parts, toss out the bad parts, don't take it personally, don't think they mean it. Never say "Calm down." Be calm yourself. Be there. (Caveat: be aware of your personal safety. You can comfort them by your physical presence from a distance, with an exit available behind you if applicable.) Participate in the calming: "How about if we take some breaths together?" If you can and they want you to, just hold them.

11. I couldn't cope. With pretty much anything. Just be the person who copes.

12. Everything becomes self-centred because the inside of your massively chaotic brain is as huge as a planet, and you feel like you are trying to control the winds of Jupiter in there. The whole world outside your brain keeps trying to thrust more information in. Too much! So don't expect thanks, don't expect understanding or empathy in return, just know that you are helping to make it slightly more manageable in there. And that is a huge gift to give.



PHOTO BY KERRY LEE

PROUD TO SERVE: Salt Spring's Pathfinders unit of the Girl Guides – and unit guider Gail Temmel, third from left in the back row – pose behind poinsettias after a successful evening serving turkey dinner and holiday smiles to more than 100 guests at the annual Lions Club Christmas dinner for seniors, held Sunday, Dec. 4 at Meaden Hall at the Legion.

Rants + ROSES



Roses

A huge bouquet of roses to the Salt Spring community, from the hardworking and dedicated volunteers to the generous donors of books and jewellery, and to all the wonderful people who attended Books & Bling this year. Thank you to the media, organizations and merchants who donated services to this fundraiser. The unwavering support from the members of this very special community is gratefully acknowledged and greatly appreciated. Thank you! *Board members and staff, Salt Spring Literacy Society*

Multicoloured roses to our wonderful Country Grocer, which not only gives ongoing support to Bach on the Rock Chamber Choir and Orchestra but helped out the Manitoba Gathering too. You are a big part of what makes this a caring and active community that has fun together. Roses also to Helga and Michael Bagnell, who made our concession at Fulford Hall beautiful and also the hall itself. Thank you all. *Bach on the Rock Music Society*

To all of the BBQ crew: lots of copper roses; and to the garden elves and especially Peter: buckets and buckets of copper roses and a huge thank you! *Love, Jewel & Cherie*

Six thousand roses to the dozens of volunteers who contribute an estimated 6,000 hours a year to bringing the arts and community together at ArtSpring! From box office volunteers, ushers and technical assistants, to those who canvas the town with our show posters and those who serve concessions and intermission treats — it truly takes a village. ArtSpring so values your commitment, time and enthusiasm. We couldn't do it without you!

Roses to those who helped to assist the elderly gentleman who had a nasty fall in the lane behind lower Ganges mall on Dec. 7. Luckily, the first person on the scene was also a first responder, who knew exactly how to handle the situation. I hope the gentleman is okay and recovers quickly from his injuries. *M. Perry*

Christmas GIFT GUIDE

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CONCERT PREVIEW

Handel's Messiah concert on tap at Fulford

Bach on the Rock and friends at Fulford Hall

BY GAIL SJUBERG
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

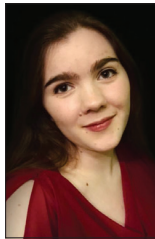
A Salt Spring holiday season tradition continues with the 11th Annual Bach on the Rock Messiah Sing Along set for this Sunday afternoon at Fulford Hall.

The island's chamber orchestra and choir held its first Handel's Messiah event in 2011 under then music director Jim Stubbs. It was quickly adopted by the community as part of beloved holiday festivities, and has continued each year except for 2020.

The Messiah will be directed by Bach on the Rock's new artistic director Jean-Sébastien Lévesque. The first concert under his leadership — Mozart and Cherubini Requiems on Nov. 19 at Fulford Hall — garnered a standing ovation and many enthusiastic comments.

The Dec. 18 Messiah, which begins at 2 p.m., gives attendees the opportunity to sing along with some of the piece's choruses, but there is no expectation to do so. A shortened version of the original work will be performed.

The concert features four exciting vocal soloists either currently based on or with roots in the Victoria area: Celeste Lingas, soprano; Cassidy Stahr, mezzo-



PHOTOS COURTESY BACH ON THE ROCK

Visiting soloists for the Dec. 18 Handel's Messiah Sing Along concert are, from left, Celeste Lingas, soprano; Kyrón Basu, baritone; Adam Schmidt, tenor; Cassidy Stahr, mezzo-soprano.

soprano; Adam Schmidt, tenor; and Kyrón Basu, baritone.

Lingas spent many years performing in the Oxford Girls' Choir, with director Richard Vendome. There she sang as both a chorister and soloist in productions of Purcell's Dido and Aeneas, Handel's Semele, and a variety of classical and contemporary choral works.

Stahr is in the touring Vancouver Island Chamber Choir and was a choral scholar at Christ Church Cathedral for five years. This past summer, she performed in Menotti's The Consul (Secretary) and the musical Tuck Everlasting (Mae) with Opera NUOVA in Edmonton. In the chorus at Pacific Opera Victoria, she appeared in Don Giovanni and Carmen, and looks forward to The Birds in February. Studying with John Mac Mas-

ter at McGill University, tenor Schmidt's most recent activities have included singing Ottavio in Mozart's Don Giovanni, Peter Quint in Britten's The Turn of the Screw, Emilio in Handel's Partenope, and he helped create the role of Claudio in James Garner's new opera Much Ado, all in association with Opera McGill.

Basu has appeared with groups such as Fretwork, the Victoria Baroque Players, Victoria Philharmonic Choir (VPC) and Victoria Children's Choir. Recent engagements include the role of Christus in Bach's St. Matthew Passion with the VPC and Schubert's Mass in G with the Linden Singers. Basu is also a passionate teacher and a member of the voice faculties of the University of Victoria and the Victoria Conservatory of Music.

FUNDRAISER

Viva Chorale hosts holiday fundraiser

Christmas in the Cotswolds at ArtSpring on Friday

Viva Chorale community choir is holding its annual Food Bank Fundraiser at ArtSpring this Friday, Dec. 16, combining music, drama, holiday spirit and raising funds for a good cause.

Starting at 7 p.m., Christmas in the Cotswolds puts the audience in the shoes of a young boy chorister who goes carolling door-to-door with his friends. Actor Jeffrey Renn brings the story to life, reading excerpts from Laurie Lee's book Cider With Rosie, interspersed with seasonal music performed by the Viva Chorale choir.

Audience members also get to go carolling, with several



JEFFREY RENN

(Youth aged two to 18 pay \$2.) As well, donations for the food bank can be made by e-transfer to vivachoralesietransfer@gmail.com with no security question required.

Tickets are available at the ArtSpring box office from Tuesday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or online through the ArtSpring website.

well-known seasonal songs on the program. Viva Chorale! is directed by Caroni Young and accompanied by Shirley Bunyan.

After the one-hour performance, people are invited to enjoy yummy treats and cider in the lobby, thanks to Country Grocer.

The \$25 ticket includes a \$20 food bank donation, or people can pay \$5 for the ticket and donate food or funds at the show.

FILM

Mort Ransen film now accessible on NFB site

Documentary about Salt Spring land battle from 2001

A National Film Board (NFB) film that put the spotlight on Salt Spring Island and attempts to save Texada Land Corporation holdings from logging and development is now available to watch online at any time.

The NFB's English collection cura-

tor, Camilo Martín-Flórez, has recently digitized and uploaded the late Mort Ransen's film 'Ah . . . the Money, the Money, the Money' - The Battle for Salt Spring.

People can now stream it, free of charge, indefinitely, on the nfb.ca platform. Search for the title there. It is also available on the NFB's YouTube channel.

NFB press material says: "First launched in 2001, the film follows a group of islanders who oppose a log-

ging company that has purchased one of the largest expanses of undeveloped wilderness in the Southern Gulf Islands. The award-winning director Mort Ransen turns his camera on his own community to document a lively and provocative debate. On one side — the developers, who defend their right to do what they want on private land. On the other — Salt Spring residents, who blockade roads, chain themselves to logging trucks and lobby government to protect their island."

Some members of the Viva Chorale and Salt Spring Singers choirs will also join the Bach on the Rock choir for the concert.

Tickets are available through bachontheroke.com or at the door.

FINE FREE DAY!
 Tuesday, December 20th

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- Returned Overdue Items
- Lost Items That are Returned
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 http://s3.library.bc.ca/s3lib

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE **Gulf Islands Driftwood** office will be closed on **Monday, December 26 & Tuesday, December 27** and will reopen **9am - 4pm on Wednesday, December 28.**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE FOR THE Gulf Islands Driftwood Wednesday December 28 edition will be as follows: **Wednesday, December 21, noon**

Driftwood
 GULF ISLANDS
 COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
 241 Fulford-Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island
 250-537-9933 • gulfislandsdriftwood.com

ISLAND LIFE

CREATIVE PROJECTS

Fire victim's calendar aims to support, inspire

Lisa Sigurgeirson creates 'RisingUp from the ashes'

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

After a fire took most of her belongings in 2021, it might not have surprised friends of Lisa Sigurgeirson — aka Lisa Maxx — that art would emerge from the ashes.

But no one, Sigurgeirson included, expected the journey would evolve into hundreds of poems and thousands of photographs, daily creations that found their own community online, and ultimately inspired a new calendar.

"RisingUp from the ashes" is Sigurgeirson's effort to curate hundreds of daily dispatches into 12 pages she hopes will inspire and uplift. The musician, writer, photographer and accomplished parenting educator's home was damaged in a morning of smoke and sirens two years ago this February; as she processed the event, she thought writing down her thoughts might be helpful.

"I didn't own a pen, or a piece of paper to my name," she laughed. So she started writing her thoughts on



PHOTO COURTESY LISA SIGURGEIRSON

Lisa Sigurgeirson, who is still not able to live in her Lakefair Drive home almost two years after it and the contents were damaged in a fire in February of 2021.

her phone. Sigurgeirson is adamant that she wasn't setting out to write poetry, but it started looking that way almost on its own.

"Once I had written the first one, it wasn't really a poem at that point. They were just kind of, I called them 'poetic thoughts'; it was on the page, and it sort of looked like a poem."

Being on her phone — and being the sort of person who tended to share her feelings, she said — posting to Facebook seemed natural. The format invites photos with posts; Sigurgeirson said her daily walks in nature had been incredibly comforting, so she thought she should find ways to share that part as well.

And that was the start of it.

"So I posted it onto Facebook with a photograph," said Sigurgeirson. "And then the next day I did the same thing. And then the next day, I did the same thing."

A poem a day. It felt like it was helping, both the routine and the act of creating something. Sigurgeirson promised herself if



PHOTO COURTESY LISA SIGURGEIRSON

Copies of Lisa Sigurgeirson's 2023 calendar called 'RisingUp from the ashes.'

nothing else was accomplished each day, she would manage a poem and a photograph. It became a journey that lasted more than a year. Every single day, without fail, she would write and shoot a photo.

In the beginning, she said, they were about what she was experiencing in the moment — the trauma of losing so much in the fire loomed large. Sigurgeirson recalled an early poem about how it took two hours to make a cup of tea, because her brain wouldn't hold firmly to the task.

"It would get detoured," she said, "And that's a common, natural experience post-trauma. And I mostly would write them at night, at the end of my day."

The promise became a practice; as the days became weeks, Sigurgeirson said people began to reach out — online at first, and in person as she began to return to her routines on the island. They were, to her surprise, thanking her.

"Once I started going out into the world again, a number of weeks — or even months

— later, they were saying 'thank you so much for your writing and for your photographs, I look for them every morning.' And I'm like, wow. People were wanting, or needing to see and read these. Someone was counting on me, in a way."

Sigurgeirson said the poetry went through darker times; not every day can be filled with sunshine. And the daily missives would also intersect with moments of uplift, of resurging joy. But both are important, she said, because it's a process, not a destination. Well-meaning people, she said, would accidentally minimize the trauma of the fire. She called it a "toxic positivity."

"Sometimes people would respond and say, 'oh, at least you didn't die' or 'at least you had insurance,' 'you get to pick new floor coverings' and all that," she said. "But when you're in the throes of loss, it's not time yet for these kinds of supposedly uplifting comments."

But the calendar, she said, was all about lifting spirits at a glance, whenever someone might need it — and even, she argued, when they might not.

"People have been purchasing them to give to friends and family who are going through challenging or difficult times," said Sigurgeirson. "But I also feel like they're little reminders that we could all use; you don't have to be going through a trauma or grief to want something beautiful."

After a few false starts with contractors and insurance, Sigurgeirson said her house was seeing improvements, she was indeed picking out flooring and there would be a return to the place she'd lost. But there was still work to be done.

"It will be 22 months next week since the fire," said Sigurgeirson, "and I'm not home yet."

Sigurgeirson invites anyone interested in ordering a calendar to follow her social media (Instagram @lisa_sig_ or on Facebook "Lisa Sigurgeirson; writer") or reach out via lisasigurgeirsonmaxx@gmail.com.

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All Saints, Ganges (110 Park Drive) **St Mary's, Fulford (2600 Fulford-Ganges Rd)**

Thursday, December 15 • 4:45 pm
Blue Christmas, All Saints

Wednesday, December 21 • 2 pm
Carols for Christmastide, All Saints

Saturday, December 24 • 4 pm
Christmas Eve Family service with pageant, All Saints

Saturday, December 24 • 7 pm
Christmas Eve, St Mary's

Saturday, December 24 • 10 pm
Midnight Mass, All Saints

Sunday, December 25 • 11 am
Christmas Day, All Saints

Sunday, January 1 • 11 am
New Year's Day & Epiphany, All Saints

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Everyone is invited to attend.

HOLIDAY SEASON

New program aids seniors

Stocking Stuffers for Seniors seeks donations, volunteers

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A new charitable effort on Salt Spring Island is aimed at fulfilling a few holiday wishes for our senior population.

“Stocking Stuffers for Seniors” is in full swing, according to Brad Hefferon and Sylvia Andress, who teamed up to launch the project. A list of island seniors with needs reached about 180 this week, they said, and the generosity of the community so far has been wonderful.

“Most seniors live on a fixed income and cannot afford more than the necessities, such as food, toiletries and housing costs,” explains the project’s website. “These individuals may request certain items just like the rest of us. If they do not have loved ones who can purchase these items, they

may never receive them.”

Stocking Stuffers for Seniors has two ways participants can anonymously provide a gift to a needy senior. Organizers can match donors with a local senior, and provide them with a list of items that they have on their wishlist. Donors can then purchase the items on the list and drop them off at a designated time, where they will be wrapped and handed over to the senior who requested them.

As a second option, donors can put cash towards the purchase of items, and one of the volunteers will procure the items on the list and wrap them prior to handing them over to the senior who requested them. Recommended spending, per senior, is \$25 to \$40, according to Hefferon.

Participants should sign up at the website: www.bradhefferon.com/stocking-stuffers-for-seniors before Dec. 14; cash donations can be made any time until Dec. 21. For more information or to volunteer, call Andress at 250-537-7012 or Hefferon at 604-363-5639.



PHOTO COURTESY MID ISLAND CO-OP

FUELLING GENEROSITY: Salt Spring Island Community Services (SSICS) food security programs got a boost from a \$2,000 Mid Island Co-op donation last week. From left is Mid Island Co-op Salt Spring site manager Joel Shaver, SSICS food bank coordinator Trish Hatfield, SSICS food programs manager Cora Platz, and Mid Island Co-op Salt Spring assistant manager Heather Wallace. Mid Island Co-op reps said, “On behalf of all of us at Mid Island Co-op we thank SSICS for the work their organization continues to do to help the ongoing issue of food insecurity that so many in our community are facing. We hope that the donation of \$2,000 will help provide SSICS with additional resources to support the important work they are doing through the food bank and other food security programs.”

what's on this week

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.

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. Harbour House Hotel. Please bring a food bank item to the hotel as “admission.”

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. 15

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Open Mic.

At the Legion. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Craig’s Karaoke.

Moby’s Pub. 7 to 11 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Blue Christmas.

Service especially for people who may be struggling at this time of year. All Saints by-the-Sea. 4:45 p.m.

Mother Goose.

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

Fri. Dec. 16

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Christmas in the Cotswolds.

A Viva Chorale choir fundraiser for the food bank, with special guest Jeffrey Renn reading from Laurie Lee’s Cider With Rosie. ArtSpring. 7 to 8:15 p.m.

T. Nile & The Flames.

Mateada Lounge. 9 to 11 p.m.

Fridays with DJ Boomtown.

At Moby’s Pub. 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Karaoke.

At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Fri. Dec. 16

ACTIVITIES

Neighbourhood Story Time.

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

StoryWalk.

This week’s story leading from the library through Mouat Park is The Night Before Christmas.

ASK Salt Spring.

Nejmah Guermoudi from The Space: Community Resilience Hub is the scheduled guest. People are invited to bring warm winterwear such as socks, mittens and sweaters, and other items that people who spend much of their time outdoors could use to stay well. In the lobby of SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Youth Games.

Drop-in board games for youth aged 9 to 13. Library program room. 2 to 4 p.m.

Sat. Dec. 17

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Reggae Ninjas.

Mateada Lounge. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

Sugarbeat.

Moby’s Pub. 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Doug and the Buds.

Legion. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Farmstand Light-up & Tour.

Get a map from craft and other stores, visitor centre or print/view map through facebook.com/groups/farmstands.

Forest of Miracles Charity Tree Auction.

Bid on beautifully decorated trees that will be donated to needy Salt Spring families. Harbour House Hotel. 3 p.m.

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.



Sun. Dec. 18

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Bach on the Rock Presents Handel’s Messiah Sing Along.

Chamber orchestra and choir, with soloists Celeste Lingas, Cassidy Stahr, Adam Schmidt, and Kyron Basu at Fulford Hall. 2 p.m. Scores available for those who want to sing along to some choruses.

Blues Jam.

At the Legion. 3 to 6 p.m. Last one before a holiday break.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Farmstand Light-up & Tour.

Get a map from craft and other stores, visitor centre or print/view map through facebook.com/groups/farmstands.

13th Annual Cusheon Lake Carolling Event.

Enjoy carols and warm beverages at the public dock at Cusheon Lake. 1 to 3 p.m.

Burgoyne Carol Service.

A SSI United Church event at the Burgoyne United Church. 2 p.m.

Mon. Dec. 19

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Merry Monday.

Annual carol singalong with Valdy in the Salt Spring Mercantile parking lot in Fulford. As soon as the 5:50 p.m. ferry leaves.

Tues. Dec. 20

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Public Library Fine Free Day.

Return overdue items to the library today and pay no fines!

Trivia Tuesday.

Moby’s Pub. 7:30 p.m.

Wed. Dec. 21

ACTIVITIES

Carols for Christmastide.

Carol-based service at All Saints by-the-Sea. 2 p.m.

Music Bingo.

See last Wednesday’s listing.

THE FRITZ CINEMA

• **Black Panther Wakanda Forever** is the show from Friday, Dec. 16 to Tuesday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m. each night, plus a 3 p.m. Sunday matinee. Rated PG. 2 hours, 41 minutes.

For more movie info, see thefritz.ca.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Artcraft Winter**, the Salt Spring Arts hosted sale of work by Gulf Islands artists and artisans, runs at Mahon Hall 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.

• **Salt Spring Gallery** members provide a sneak peek at works in progress.

• 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.

THRIFTY FOODS
Ganges, Mouat’s Centre
7:30am to 9pm
Customer Service 250-537-1522

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 TIP OF THE WEEK: READ MORE IN MY NEWSLETTER. SIGN UP IS FREE ON MY WEBSITE.

Jupiter re-entering Aries on December 20 and Winter Solstice on December 21/22, depending on your time zone, are the big stories now. This combination of events will have a strong activating effect. Important decisions brewing in the background will become more evident as they are shifted into high gear. As Jupiter enters Aries, it will yield the position of planet of highest degree, which it has held for a couple of months, to the Sun for a very brief day or two, which will then pass it back to Pluto in Capricorn. The result of this is that the year-end, encompassing Christmas and other cultural celebrations, will have to contend with an otherwise sobering impulse of authoritarianism.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19) Especially since your ruling planet Mars is conjunct it, you will be experiencing this Full Moon strongly. Since Mars is retrograde, it could push you to revisit and redo what was started some time ago. At worst, you could feel very reactive and angry, so be aware and choose to direct your energies wisely.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20) Themes of transformation have been percolating in you for some weeks now. They include a whole new sense of self and resolve to harness your creative power and potential. All being well, you find yourself busy on a variety of fronts with a growing determination to face your fears and lay claim to hidden power.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21) A cycle of increase, expansion and inspiration has been steadily unfolding. This impulse will continue but now requires various forms of purification and transformation. This process began on about December 7, aligned with the Full Moon in your sign and will continue for some months, actually.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22) Tending to the quality and health of your daily rhythm and lifestyle in general continues as a central theme. Seeing a bigger picture is implied and includes vision and commitment. Changes in your public and professional life have been brewing for many months and these are about to undergo another key activation.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23) A strong, creative impulse has been yours to harness and enjoy over the past few weeks and continues now. Yet, a shift towards more practical choices and actions has also already begun. Reconciling current realities that are beyond your control and focusing on what is in your power to do and change is in the spotlight.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22) You may be accurately understood as a practical philosopher. In other words, meaning really only has value where there is some actual benefit that can be experienced. Shifting gears to engage this very impulse beyond subtle or lofty notions of truth has already begun and will advance to the next level this week.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22) A steady flow of change in your usual perceptions and interpretations has been underway for some weeks now. In the bigger picture, returns for past actions and from key associations have also been coming your way. Especially take note of any negatives in this regard so you can adjust your attitude and approach accordingly.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21) Getting clear on what you value, want and need continues. This prioritization process has already and will continue to be directed towards practical realities. Taking a creative lead in this regard is important and the inspiration and determination to do so should now be evident; if not, seek counsel.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21) The Sun in your sign has likely had the effect of boosting your confidence levels. However, you may have dealt with and continue to deal with various complexities on relationship fronts. If so, get very clear on what you want and need, then meet others by asking what they want and need so you can create a win/win.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19) Hopefully you have enjoyed a bit of rest and respite over the past few weeks. If not, there may still be time. However, your thoughts have already begun to scan the spectrum of realities and possibilities before you. By this time next week, you will be more fully engaged as duty calls you to outer engagement.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19) Your sense of individuality has been emphasized of late. Yet, more recently, you have been called within to listen more, reflect, contemplate and meditate. This cycle will continue for some weeks, actually, and will deepen yet. Accept this influence as an opportunity to retreat and fill your inner peace tanks.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20) The time is right to get the earned attention you want and feel you deserve. Jupiter in your sign has helped by increasing your confidence levels and the time is right to take more deliberate action. Some measure of inner work is implied for the sake of increasing your awareness to be more practical and realistic.

Obituaries



David Tasi

FEB. 13, 1963 – NOV. 26, 2022

David Tasi, of Toronto, prepared and enjoyed his very last, perfectly-brewed cup of coffee on November 18 in Victoria, BC, at age 59 – two very-content years into retirement.

Known for his keen intellect, David effortlessly cruised through the gifted program in school, and went on to dabble in aviation before settling into a career at the Ford Motor Company in Oakville, a suitable choice for someone who loved cars. Classic motorcycles were another passion. He spent years working on his beloved 1977 Honda 750 – the envy of many a King West hipster. On the side, he earned a certificate in accounting. It surely contributed to discovering a multi-year error by Revenue Canada, which resulted in a substantial tax refund.

David's long and successful career at Ford was only rivaled by his career as a bon vivant which began modestly, sneaking out of Appleby College to the only Oakville bar that would serve 15 year olds. It culminated in Toronto where he could be found having dinner and making friends at the bar in any one of Toronto's top restaurants. Known as one of the greatest tippers of all time, he never met a server, fellow patron, or a negroni with a beer on the side, that he didn't like. David carried on his appreciation of fine food in Victoria, where meals were made better by the company of his much-loved mom. He loved his healthy lifestyle in Victoria and the city's natural beauty and vistas. Enjoying the outdoors became part of his daily routine.

David, who succumbed to injuries sustained in a slip and fall accident, is survived by his mother, Eta Tasi Hall; sister, Mary Tasi Baker and family; and a large family of friends he chose. He will be remembered as a smart, stylish, generous, and infinitely sociable man, who never failed to demonstrate how much he loved his people. In lieu of flowers, Donations to Doctors without Borders in David's memory are appreciated.

In Memoriam



Margaret Northeast (nee Edwards)
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PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

The Mouat's Home Hardware window was the winner in all three categories of this year's Driftwood Window Decorating Contest: best all round, best use of lights and most creative. Winners were determined by online Christmas on Salt Spring website voting this year. Salt Spring Inn earned second place in all three categories. West of the Moon came in third place for most creative and tied with the Ganges fire hall for third place in best all around. The fire hall was voted third for best use of lights.



PHOTO COURTESY CHRISTMAS ON SALT SPRING

The 2022 Glowtini Contest winner, based on online votes through the Christmas on Salt Spring site, is The Local's Ghost of Christmas Shaft creation. Second place went to Cassette Cafe and Dive Bar for its Bench Warmer glowtini.



PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

Part of the Friends of Kenya tree with food bank donations underneath it at the Festival of Trees at the Harbour House Hotel.



PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

Christmas tree sponsored by Pharmasave for the first Forest of Miracles Charity Tree Auction, set for Saturday, Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. at the Harbour House Hotel, where trees are now on display on the Woodley's restaurant patio.

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Driving under the influence: **YOU HAVE EVERYTHING TO LOSE**

5 THINGS YOU COULD LOSE AS A RESULT OF IMPAIRED DRIVING

Getting behind the wheel after consuming drugs or alcohol can have dire consequences. Here are five things you may lose as a result of this choice.

1. Your Licence

One potential penalty for driving under the influence is that your licence may get revoked. In some regions, first-time offenders are prohibited from driving for a period ranging from several months to a year.

2. Your Money

In addition to getting fined for the infraction, you'll need to pay for a lawyer. You can also expect to spend more on car insurance for many years to come.

Additional expenses may be involved too. Depending on the circumstances, you may have to settle up with a victim or pay into a compensation fund. You may also need to pay for a breath alcohol ignition interlock device.

3. Your Clean Criminal Record

If you're found guilty of driving under the influence, you'll end up with a criminal record, which could complicate many facets of your life, from landing a job to travelling.

4. Your Job

If your job requires you to operate a vehicle (for example, if you're a trucker, delivery person or taxi driver) you may be forced to leave it. This may also be the case if your employer demands that you have a clean criminal record.

5. Your Life

Impaired driving heightens your risk of being in an accident, and if you add poor road conditions to the equation, it could make matters worse. If you get into a car crash, you could be seriously injured or killed, or you could injure or kill your passengers or other road users.

If you plan to consume drugs or alcohol, make sure you have a safe way to get home. Call a taxi, hire an Uber or catch a ride with a friend.

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