

Driftwood

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PHOTO BY GAIL S JUBERG
Ice in the harbour by Salt Spring Marina tells the story of the week before Christmas in the Gulf Islands.

Our 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

starts on page 7.

See all the highlights of the year!



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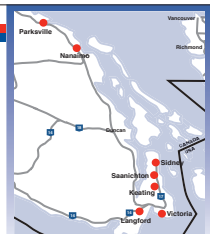
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INFRASTRUCTURE

Snow removal process creaks under heavy loads

Varying jurisdictions make difficult matter even more challenging on Salt Spring Island

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

As Salt Spring digs out from another weather wallop, islanders are thinking about snow removal — and many are wondering who's meant to clear what.

The island-wide undertaking is complicated, often lengthy, and highly interdependent; and, given the reality that snowstorms on the islands are increasingly the norm rather than the exception, evolving.

Right before this last storm kicked off, BC Hydro released a study that highlighted what many have already observed: winter storms over the holiday season are becoming more frequent, and increasingly severe. Over the past five years, the average number of B.C. electricity customers affected by a storm that fell between mid-December and mid-January has risen more than 500 per cent, compared to the previous five years. BC Hydro spokesperson Susie Rieder said the utility had been stepping up staff and line crews during the holidays in response, and increasing year-round vegetation management to identify problem areas and remove branches in advance of snowstorms.

On Salt Spring, that new reality has strained existing snow removal processes. Like parking lots, many sidewalks in Ganges around businesses are privately owned, and responsibility for clearing them lies with the property owners. While there is no standard or bylaw concerning snow removal anywhere on the island, contractors hired by business owners were busy last week helping keep storefronts clear enough to operate. And while not every sidewalk and parking lot was tackled with the same attention to detail — snow windrows blocking accessible parking ramps and pedestrian walkways were a source of friction — businesses

did their best to open as soon as they might be reached by customers, owners and employees.

Despite a clear storefront, many of those walking to work found their routes to-and-from remained snow-covered. Roadside pathways within the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure rights-of-way fall among the responsibilities of the Capital Regional District (CRD) through its Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission. Since that commission doesn't have any maintenance staff, it contracts with CRD parks and recreation staff to maintain them. Historically, that arrangement worked well enough to cover the limited number of snow events Salt Spring Island would face.

But the past few years have been different.

"Over the last couple of years, we've had some heavier snow for longer durations — and we had some complaints that roadside pathways haven't been cleared," said CRD parks and recreation manager Dan Ovington, noting particular concern with the path between Brinkworthy and Country Grocer. "Unfortunately, the only way for us to clear the pathways would be by hand, and we just don't have the number of staff to do that."

Until and unless additional funding for staff can be brought into play, Salt Spring's local commissions are stuck trying to solve the problem within their own budgets. The purchase of a new skid steer loader — the small heavy machine on wheels or tracks, often known by its most popular manufacturer, Bobcat — was coordinated this year between the parks and transportation commissions, splitting the purchase cost and setting up both services to use it on their respective infrastructures for maintenance, repair and snow clearing. Funding is now budgeted for 2023, and the Bobcat should enable parks staff to clear those pathways next winter.

In the meantime, Ovington said limited parks staff meant they had to prioritize; the focus was on shovelling main sidewalks and entrances on its busy properties — the Rainbow Road pool, the SIMS multi-space and Portlock Park — and engaging a contractor to clear those parking lots. The latter has been a challenge, he said, because the CRD requires a specific level of insurance for contractors to remove snow — and in the past most on-island plow outfits couldn't justify that extra cost for a rare snowfall event.

"Last year we couldn't find a contractor who had the proper insurance," said Ovington. "This year, at the last minute, we did. Hopefully we're able to use them again next year — and if they aren't available, we would have the skid steer to do that as well."

Ovington said their already small staff was challenged further by the weather; with so many side roads remaining unplowed, in addition to taxing snow-clearing operations, a lack of qualified pool staff who could even make it in saw the pool closed all day last Tuesday, and forced it to close early on Wednesday.

Side roads are part of Emcon's snow-clearing duties, but aren't the priority. Andrew Gaetz is Emcon's

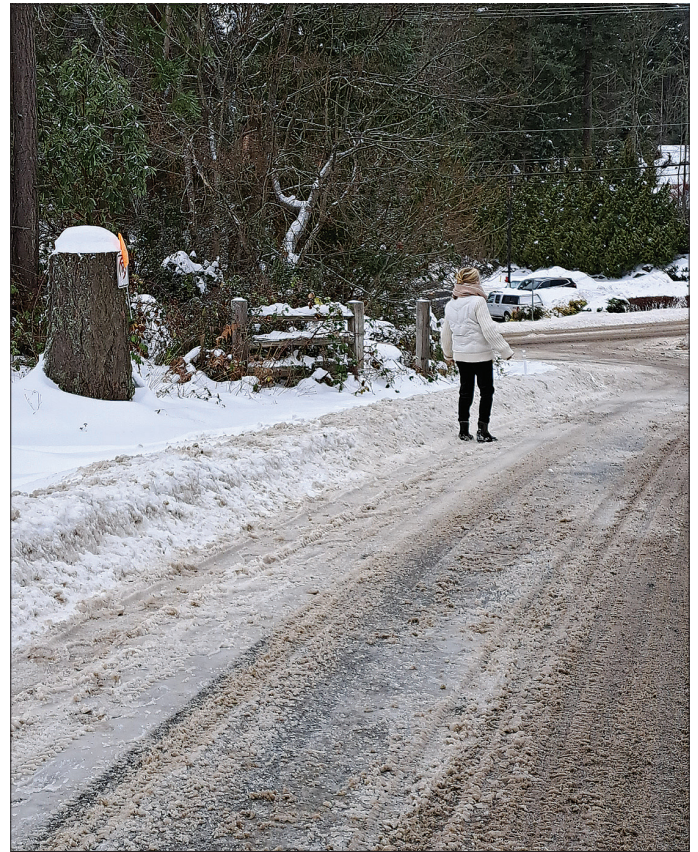


PHOTO COURTESY PETER MEYER

Pedestrian walks down Blain Road, with the pedestrian pathway at left completely covered in snow last week. Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission members and other citizens have questioned whether the Capital Regional District could do a better job of clearing the pathways and bus shelter areas to help improve safety for pedestrians following snowfalls.

operations manager for Area 1 — 3,380 kilometres of roadways from Chemainus to Victoria, including roads to Port Renfrew, Lake Cowichan and Sooke, and all roads on the six Southern Gulf Islands. For a weather event like this, Gaetz said, Salt Spring's standard complement of on-island equipment — four trucks, a grader, and a backhoe constantly loading trucks with sand and salt — got an extra tri-axle dump truck just to haul more salt over from Vancouver Island.

the ferry routes, so that essential services — and ferry crews — can make their way up and down the island. If the snow lets up, and they can keep up, they get into the rest of the bus routes.

"And then there's the big side road cleanup, which always takes a couple of days," said Gaetz. "Our crew does a really good job of organizing themselves, making lists when they're knocking off the side roads to make sure they hit every single one."

But, he said, the process gets set back when large amounts of snow fall in multiple waves — such as what happened last week.

"If it starts snowing again on the main roads, then we have to go back and deal with that. When we get back-to-back storms, the mains get snow-covered, and then everything else gets snow-covered, and we're basically back to square one."

Over the past week, according to Gaetz, Emcon's road reporting hotline put an average of 200 messages a day into his inbox, covering issues ranging from fire and ambulance emergency needs to frustration over snow piled on shoulders making pedestrian travel treacherous. That last is something of a mechanical problem, he said; on narrow roadways like Salt Spring's, there's only so much paved surface to work with to keep the trucks — and their drivers — safe.

"Our plows do go a little bit wider than our trucks," said Gaetz. "But if they go too far, they'll be in the ditch themselves."

"Unfortunately, the only way for us to clear the pathways would be by hand, and we just don't have the number of staff to do that."

DAN OVINGTON
CRD parks & recreation manager

"We've had equipment out 24/7. Our crews have worked some insane hours this week," said Gaetz. "It's difficult for everybody to deal with, even us — to get a foot and a half of snow overnight, and then have to mechanically remove it off the road surface."

Emcon's strategy is to triage; main and secondary roads first, including

Marriage Commissioner

The Vital Statistics Agency, Ministry of Health, is looking for an individual to serve as a Marriage Commissioner for Pender Island. The individual will perform civil marriages within their community on behalf of the agency. Applicants must reside on Pender Island in order to be considered for this position.

For information and an application form please visit our website at:
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PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

IN SOLIDARITY: BC Nurses' Union South Island Region members gathered at Lady Minto Hospital on Dec. 13 to show support for local hospital nurses, who the union says are stressed and overworked due to lack of nursing staff. The union is encouraging the public to learn about the issues and press the provincial government for change by writing letters to MLAs and through visiting the helpbcnurses.ca website.

WEATHER

Exciting week of weather endured

Pre-Christmas storms make travel difficult

BY ROBB MAGLEY AND GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF



PHOTO BY LISA SIGURGEIRSON MAXX

A buried vehicle, like this one belonging to Lisa Sigurgeirson Maxx, was a familiar sight on the morning of Dec. 20 as an average of 30 centimetres of snow fell on Salt Spring Island properties.

The winter weather gods doled out a little bit of everything in the week before Christmas Day — from heavy snow to freezing rain, unseasonably cold temperatures and then torrential rain — and then threw in a Monday morning windstorm for good measure.

Most power outages had been restored by 1 p.m. on Monday, although all of Saturna Island was without power as a repair crew made their way to the island.

The weather mayhem began when between 30 and 40 centimetres of cold, powdery snow fell by Tuesday morning, Dec. 20, after a hectic Monday that saw deteriorating conditions and a host of ferry warnings, cancellations, re-activations, and re-cancellations.

On-island travel across Salt Spring brought drivers face-to-face with icy conditions and limited visibility, as well as significant snow that taxed plow and sand trucks. Salt Spring Island Transit buses had to cease operations 6:50 p.m. Monday, when officials said the icy road under the powder was causing concern and lack of stability. Incredibly, by 5:20 a.m. Tuesday one driver had dug out a bus and was running limited service on main roads; service gradually expanded over the course of the day and throughout Wednesday.

As the storm progressed, it became significantly harder to get to — or off — Salt Spring. Seaplanes faced reduced visibility and rougher seas Monday; Harbour Air reported only one of three flights from Salt Spring to Vancouver flew, and the first morning flight on that route Tues-

day was cancelled before weather cleared.

BC Ferries struggled with both weather and crewing issues; an early mechanical failure with the Quinitsa's rescue boat knocked out the Vesuvius-Crofton route at 6 a.m. Monday morning. BC Ferries dispatched a pair of small water taxis for foot passengers by 8:30 a.m. as they sought a replacement rescue boat, eventually sourcing one; sadly, staffing began to come up short as crews headed to shifts faced their own weather-related delays.

On Tuesday, only the 3:35 p.m. sailing from Crofton to Vesuvius departed, and about an hour behind schedule — after which BC Ferries issued a cancellation notice for the rest of the day's sailings. While Fulford-Swartz Bay sailings ran generally as expected Monday, that route joined the Vesuvius-Crofton one in cancelling early morning sailings Tuesday — and all Salish Eagle sail-

ings between Tsawwassen and the Southern Gulf Islands were cancelled Tuesday afternoon. Various routes experienced cancellations continuing on Wednesday, and on Thursday BC Ferries announced Friday-morning cancellations due to weather and road conditions as well.

Environment Canada issued an Arctic outflow warning with wind chill values near -20 Celsius for Wednesday evening, and more snow fell overnight Thursday and Friday.

One major weather casualty was the Christmas Day Fulford Hall community gathering, which had to be postponed by a day when water pipes at the hall were reportedly damaged due to the cold temperatures.

The once-traditional Christmas Day dinner hosted by the United Church and other community members at Meaden Hall before the COVID pandemic also did not take place this year.

expert ADVICE

Real Estate



JAN MACPHERSON

A Time For Thanks

During this holiday season we are reminded of how blessed we are to live on this island, in this province and in this country.

To my clients, friends and colleagues in real estate, I continue to enjoy and appreciate working with you especially during these times of immense change.

In 2023 it is my hope that our sense of world community deepens and that we can work together to find creative solutions to address the many challenges ahead.

*Peace, Good Will, Prosperity,
And Above All Good Health To All !*

Jan Macpherson, M.E.S., R.I.(B.C.) - GOLD AWARD 2021 (VREB)



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Please note that the **Gulf Islands Driftwood office** will be closed all day Monday Jan 2, and will reopen 9am - 4pm on Tuesday, Jan 3.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES FOR THE GULF ISLANDS DRIFTWOOD

Wednesday Jan 4 edition will be as follows:
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OPINION

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

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



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EDITORIAL

Caution required

Few things send fear into the hearts of islanders more than a major snowfall like the one experienced last week.

Yet as far as “snowmageddon” events go it was relatively mild, especially with minimal power outages, which was surprising due to the freezing rain that arrived as predicted on Friday. And after some people being caught off guard with the earlier December snowfall, there seemed to be fewer incidents of abandoned vehicles and resulting roadside mayhem.

Perhaps the most unfortunate part of the dramatic weather event was its timing in the week before Christmas, which led to disrupted holiday travel plans and reduced opportunities for gift shopping, which impacted local businesses. As well, the Fulford Hall Christmas Ball did not occur as planned on Christmas Day due to frozen pipe issues at the hall, leaving many people without a place to go that day.

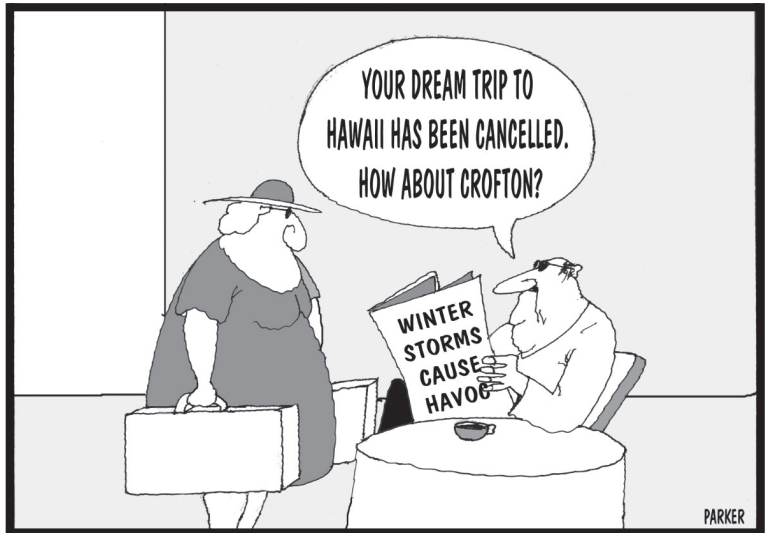
THE ISSUE: Pathway snow clearing

WE SAY: No immediate solution in sight

Some members of Salt Spring’s transportation commission have rightly flagged a major safety issue related to snowfall events on the island, which is the lack of snow clearing on the Ganges pathway network, which falls under Capital Regional District (CRD) jurisdiction. Residents who need to get from one point to another on foot, or to access bus transportation, were forced to walk on ploughed but slippery roads and to share the space with vehicles. It’s hard to imagine a more unsafe scenario for pedestrians. Of particular concern are the pathways on Blain and Crofton roads where the Heritage Place, Braehaven and Greenwoods residences are located.

The CRD says it has budgeted to buy a Bobcat for various uses — including snow removal — in 2023, which will hopefully address the issue. However, having enough staff resources to actually use the machine for snowfall removal purposes is potentially a challenge, as the CRD has faced staff shortages in recent times like most island businesses and organizations.

Until the equipment and personnel deficit is resolved, the only other option would be creation of a volunteer brigade with snow shovels and/or machinery to get the job done quickly. If that’s not feasible, it does mean the continuation of an unfortunately dangerous and unsatisfactory situation on Ganges’ otherwise well-used pathways if another snowfall occurs this winter.



Bill S-5 deserves support

BY LISA GUE

This has been a historic year for the campaign to modernize the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA).

CEPA is Canada’s cornerstone environmental law and hasn’t been updated for more than two decades.

There’s good news! We’re so close to seeing it happen.

Now is the time for Canadians to let their MPs know how important it is that we have the right to a healthy environment and a strong Environmental Act.

With volunteers nationwide, we’ve been advocating for the right to clean air and water for years. In 2014, we launched the Blue Dot movement with the goal of having the right to a healthy environment recognized in Canadian law.

While the Blue Dot chapter has ended, it was instrumental in building support for environmental rights and securing a duty to protect the right to a healthy environment in Bill S-5.

Bill S-5 proposes long overdue updates to CEPA, the law that governs toxins in air and water. Notably, it would include recognition of your right to a healthy environment for the first time in federal law.

But the bill needs to be strengthened to ensure it delivers results on the ground. In particular, it should establish clear requirements for implementing the right to a healthy environment. And it needs to include accountability mechanisms to put an end to lengthy delays when it comes to taking action on toxic substances.

A few weeks ago, I presented recom-

VIEWPOINT

mendations to the parliamentary committee studying the bill. Now we need your help to demonstrate public support.

The journey of Bill S-5 this year looked like this:

- February: The government reintroduced its CEPA modernization bill in the Senate under Bill S-5.
- May: We submitted a petition with more than 5,000 signatures to the Senate committee urging that modernizing CEPA be a priority this session.
- June: The Senate passed an improved version of Bill S-5 and it was referred to the House of Commons.
- October: The bill was introduced in the House of Commons and passed an initial vote.
- November: With our partners, we submitted a list of recommended Bill S-5 amendments to the House of Commons standing committee on environment and sustainable development.
- December: The House of Commons committee began considering amendments to Bill S-5. MPs on the committee passed an amendment reinforcing the principles of environmental justice and intergenerational equity, as recommended in our joint brief. The committee will continue voting on amendments early in 2023.

All these milestones are encouraging, but the campaign isn’t over! When Parliament resumes sitting after the winter recess, we want MPs to strengthen and pass Bill S-5 without delay. Stay tuned for more updates in 2023!

The writer is national policy manager for the David Suzuki Foundation.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should the CRD make pathway snow clearing a priority?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Will you be having a more modest holiday season this year than last?



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

ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

Ferry advocacy appreciated

Regarding last week's Viewpoint piece by David Courtney called "Advocating still effective," as one who has watched David's activities over the past year with amazement, I am very proud to be his neighbour and friend.

He has tackled a problem which we all observed and complained about, and has turned it around to the benefit of all Salt Spring residents.

David's initiative will likely lead to interesting times ahead.

JACK GUNN,
SALT SPRING

A call to joy

The holidays are a time to slow down and reflect on our lives, our community and our world.

There is much to grieve about the state of things: the worsening impacts of climate change, the loss of biodiversity, growing inequalities and the seeming indifference of many of our leaders. And for some, the holidays brings sadness and suffering.

But always, there is hope. In the small and large things we do to help each other, in the resilience of nature, in the slow but steady progress some communities are making to change how they do things.

And there is something that is our responsibility to keep alive: our joy.

Our responsibility to nurture a sense of awe and wonder, to keep the flame of hope alive by enjoying ourselves, connecting with loved ones, helping others and consciously expressing our gratitude for even the small joys in life.

This practice helps to keep our hearts open and strengthens our ability to be compassionate and empathetic to those

around us. And empathy is a key part of building hope and change during these turbulent times.

So I wish you time and space to connect with your own heart, with the spirit of the season, and with those known and unknown beings that make up your community.

With my sincere gratitude for your ongoing commitment to making the world a better place.

DARLENE GAGE,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
TRANSITION SALT SPRING

People, get your headlights fixed

It is the dead of winter.

I can tell, not because of the snow but because everyone is hauling out their Cowichan sweaters. It is not only dark early, it is darker at night.

Maybe new cars have much brighter lights, but I seem to be seeing more and more drivers with their high beams on, all the time.

And an alarming number of drivers have one headlight out and are compensating by driving with the other on high.

Really alarming is the guy with the pickup truck and an extremely bright backup light that stays on even when he is driving forward at speed.

While I might seem like an old grump. I am tired of getting blinded and almost going off the road when I am out driving in the dark.

It only takes a second to walk around your vehicle to check that all the lights are working and less than that to check if your brights are on.

A little courtesy can go a long way to making sure others get home safely.

GREG MIDDLETON,
SALT SPRING

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"We've had equipment out 24/7. Our crews have worked some insane hours this week."

ANDREW GAETZ, EMCON SERVICES INC. AREA MANAGER, ON SNOW REMOVAL ACTIVITIES

Prescription drug instructions a true cause of anxiety and alarm

Have you ever taken a close look at the spec sheet that accompanies the medication for any new prescription you may have picked up at your local pharmacy? Also referred to as a drug monograph, this takes the form of one or several printed pages informing you of the dangers, side effects and contraindications of the pharmaceutical you are about to ingest on your body and nervous system.

The first thing you should notice about these drug monographs is that they are impossible to read. The print font is so minuscule that even your reading glasses won't help you very much. In fact, if you didn't need reading glasses before you tried to peruse the specs, you will surely need them from now on. You might consider a magnifying glass to help you enlarge the characters, but my advice is that nothing less than an electron microscope will do the job.

Let's pretend that you somehow manage to sidestep the obstacle of the impossibly tiny print and are able to access the critical facts accompanying your new medication. You will immediately notice that every single warning about possible dangers, health threats and severe side effects is pointing to symptoms you are already experiencing and probably this is the reason you have bothered to take this drug in the first

place. If this isn't bad enough, as you move farther down the list of contraindications, you will find that almost every possible harmful outcome resulting from taking the drug is far worse than any condition you may have had originally.

As you work your way down the Patient Information Leaflet, you will find the topics laid out under several sub-headings. Under USES, you will learn the prime purpose of the medication and what conditions it works best to control. More importantly, it will tell you to avoid using the drug if you display other symptoms. For instance, Amlodipine assists in lowering high blood pressure but doesn't do much to relieve chest pain or reduce the discomfort from athlete's foot. If you suffer from a bad case of halitosis, a.k.a. bad breath, Amlodipine is definitely not the way to go.

Under the heading of HOW TO USE, you will learn whether to take the medication orally or otherwise, how much to take, how many times a day, and whether to take it with or without food. If it comes in liquid form, you will be informed as to whether it should be stirred and not shaken or shaken and not stirred. Most importantly, it will let you know how long you must keep taking your medication before you are allowed to call your pharmacist or doctor to complain that it isn't helping.



Shilo Zylbergold
NBODY ASKED ME BUT

When it comes to the SIDE EFFECTS heading, as mentioned earlier, these can take the form of almost every symptom under the sun. Does your pill make you feel dizzy or light-headed? Do you feel more sensitive to sunlight? Is your skin suddenly itchy and are there signs of a rash? You realize as you scan down the checklist of side effects that you are mentally ticking every box on the leaflet. The more you read, the worse you feel. How long has that headache been there? Was that numbness you feel in your fingertips there before, or did it develop since you picked up your medication? Then again, is it a result of having to dig down deep into the chest freezer to find that container of last year's Christmas' shortbread cookies?

More alarming than the items listed in the side effects section are the warnings falling under the PRECAUTIONS heading. Seriously, by no means should you ever read this section. Just skip right past this part of the pamphlet entirely or you will discover that you risk certain

death or worse by ingesting even one of the pills prescribed to you.

Why the alarm? It's not exactly clear, but whatever it is that will happen to you will make it hazardous for you to drive, operate heavy machinery or even stick a stamp onto an envelope without risking dire consequences. By no means should you consume alcohol, marijuana or breast milk while on this medication and especially not all at the same time.

Even if your new medication doesn't cause you to drop dead instantly, it may cause you to experience an allergic reaction destined to disrupt your existence and make your life miserable. You may break out in hives, develop difficulty in swallowing, or possibly worst of all, suddenly burst into a Swiss yodelling song. It is also possible that you may become unexpectedly oversensitive to certain foods which had never given you any problems before. For instance, it's quite likely that a steady diet of chocolate milkshakes, when combined with your new prescription, may lead to weight gain and the appearance of an inner tube of fat circling your waistline.

The next heading, DRUG INTERACTIONS, warns you that you may be adversely affected by how your new prescription interacts with other medicinal products you are present-

ly using. These products may come in the form of prescription drugs, non-prescription drugs, vitamins, minerals, herbal remedies, balms, salves, ointments, sprays, cough syrups, energy beverages, and diet aids. You may be asked to take up a list of all your meds and supplements so that your pharmacist can check them for possible interactions. If you do this, no matter how careful you are, you can be sure you will accidentally omit the one medication or supplement that will cause you the most grief (even if you ever get released from Emergency).

If the literature that comes with your newly prescribed medication hasn't been alarming enough for you up to this point, the heading OVERDOSE is sure to put you over the top. This is especially true if you are one of the metrically challenged who think that grams, milligrams and micrograms are basically the same thing. Just make sure that the local Poison Control Centre number is always close at hand.

Well, that's about it for another year. Nobody asked me, but you might just find that you need to throw back a pill or two as a remedy for holiday over-exuberance. Remember to always take as directed and, for your own peace of mind, avoid reading the accompanying information leaflet.

And have a happy and healthy festive holiday. See you in 2023.

Tale of a little dog from Korea



PHOTO COURTESY JANET CLIFFE

Karia, a rescue dog from Korea, who after eight months has adjusted to family life on Salt Spring Island.

BY JANET CLIFFE
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

In our world, dogs experience a more or less pampered life of grooming, shampoo, cut, blow dry and nail clips.

They live in the luxury of fenced yards, regular walks and are lavished with treats. There are visits to their vets if needed and some even get dressed up in hoodies, raincoats or life jackets.

One day a little dog from Korea was flown into the Vancouver airport and transported by ferry to Salt Spring Island and placed in a home here. Coming from the streets in Korea she had to fend for her life in all aspects. It was estimated she had done that for 10 years. She had to know how to survive, skirting dangers and any threats to her survival.

Shortly after arriving at her new home, she found an opportunity to escape out the door and ran. Attempts were made to locate her. She travelled completely across the island and within five to six hours was spotted. This is where the blizzard experience is still amazing. She travelled from one sister to the other; the other being myself. I was unaware of the adoption and the whole event was unknown to me. But here was the little dog at my driveway. She travelled through forests and all sorts of terrains to get here.

The neighbour across the street put food out twice a day, and tried to encourage her to come close. To no avail, though. She stayed in the neighbourhood, but many concerns were expressed about her being loose on the roads. Even if her dish or anything was moved she

would stay away for awhile. She didn't trust people but we could see she loved other dogs, which was how she was eventually able to be leashed. Four months had passed and our neighbour took her in and did her best to lovingly give her a comfortable place to be. But it was trying and conditions were difficult for all. The little dog always had an eye on that open door and used the opportunity whenever she could, and then the cycle would start again.

One prevalent thing I noticed was she was really very interested in my two dogs. Especially at our regular daily ball throwing routine. She would run along the fence with them wanting to be part of the game. So . . . what if we changed the rules of the whole game? We'll make this her choice.

So one night I left the gate open. Low and behold, the next morning she was in the yard, all happy and excited to finally greet my dogs in person. She was extremely cautious of us, though, and wouldn't let us near her. Acting on her choices, we honoured this and even left the gate open at night for her if she wanted to leave. But she never left, so now her choice is to stay.

That was almost four months ago. Since then, it's been a seemingly long journey, at times wondering if she will ever rehab to a typical pet, as there was a lot of ingrained fear of captivity. But hope being what it is, she did enter the house, allowed us to touch her, and to eventually put a collar on her. I can now sit with her, patting and rubbing her ears, and she even sleeps on the bed. She allows her harness and leash and loves to go for long walks daily. She guides me on the walk back to "her" home. Her choice.

It was an eight-month journey. She has dog friends, a fenced yard she protects, two meals a day and has decided the pampered life isn't so bad. This is Karia!



PHOTO COURTESY SSI LIBRARY

ILLUMINATION: The Salt Spring Island Public Library's annual red and green book tree glows in the library foyer.

Rants 
+ ROSES

Roses

A huge bouquet of roses to the Salt Spring Island Foundation. Their generous grant allowed us to purchase four new Canon Rebel DSLR cameras for the GISS Photography Program. These cameras have gotten us closer to a 1:1 ratio of students to cameras. Thank you!

A huge bouquet of roses from all the students who will be graduating from GISS in 2023, to everyone who helped make the Safe Grad 2023 online auction a success. From the businesses that generously donated items and services, to all the people that bid on the lots; we appreciate your support! Thanks to you we can give our grads a fun and safe send-off in June.

COMING SOON

The **CONTRACTORS DIRECTORY** will be published in January, watch for the magazine in your Gulf Islands Driftwood.

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CONTRACTORS DIRECTORY

JANUARY 2022

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2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

PULL OUT SECTION

pages 7-14

A month-by-month look back
at 2022 through the
pages of the Driftwood

www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

JANUARY

- Four minutes into the new year was when Shawna White and Ishmael Grimwood welcomed Jace, the first Salt Spring Island baby boy, into the world — at Victoria General Hospital. Jace's excellent timing meant he was also the first baby born in B.C.

- A smaller-than-typical number of Salt Spring Islanders took part in a New Year's Day "polar bear" plunge this year, but those that did had a typically invigorating start to 2022.

- Fallout continued from a particularly cold December, as BC Ferries cancelled sailings due to weather and snowfall issues — and, of course, crewing shortages. Ferry union president Eric McNeely said it was a "compounding" issue, and between weather, seasonal virus increases, and COVID, it would not be the last time ferry cancellations made the Driftwood.

- People were told to avoid contact with the waters around Ganges Creek and Ganges Harbour Jan. 2, after the local sewage treatment plant's piping system experienced a mechanical failure above-ground — likely caused by cold temperatures.

- Students returned to classrooms after winter break to a shift in COVID-19 policy — from contact tracing to assessing spread through attendance monitoring. The fast spread and quick three-day incubation period for the Omicron variant meant public health felt the "proxy" of attendance numbers would be a better tool to understand transmission in schools.

- Salt Spring's first rescue of the year took place Jan. 3, as 16 Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue (SSISAR)

members — wearing ice crampons and dressed for the cold — responded to an afternoon call to help BC Emergency Health Services evacuate a hiker who had been injured as a result of a fall and was unable to walk. SSISAR manager Conrad Bowden confirmed the man had sustained the injury on the Mount Erskine Trail near the head of Trustees Trail.

Two calls in one day on Jan. 14 — for a water-access-only rescue of a man injured from a fall off his roof on Prevost Island and two more hikers injured up Mount Erskine — signaled a busier-than-usual start to the year.

- Property assessments in the Gulf Islands arrived with little fanfare but huge value jumps — between 15 and 35 per cent, per BC Assessment. The "typical" Gulf Islands residence leapt in value from \$584,000 to \$791,000.

- An unusual 5 a.m. tsunami advisory grabbed our attention Jan. 15, the result of an underwater volcanic eruption near the Tonga Islands in the South Pacific. The advisory area didn't quite include the Gulf Islands, but the Salt Spring Island Emergency Program advised people to avoid local waters, at least temporarily, due to the possibility of strong localized currents.

- The Warming Space Collective moved Jan. 9 to an off-the-beaten-path area of Mouat Park, re-positioning tents and a propane heater from an earlier location in Peace Park in an effort to provide a place for struggling islanders to warm up and have fewer conflicts with park users and passersby.

But on Jan. 28, the space was dismantled upon enforcement of orders of the CRD issued the week prior. The order



PHOTO COURTESY SSISAR

Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue volunteers bring an injured hiker down a trail from Mount Erskine on a cold January day.

cited Bylaw 3795, prohibiting camping in a community park.

- Salt Springer Bettie Pellett celebrated her 100th birthday Jan. 20, crediting her centenary milestone to a willingness to be a lifelong learner. "Stay curious, and keep learning. It will enrich your life."

- After months of uncertainty for people living at the Seabreeze Inne, BC Housing announced it would fast-track a project on Drake Road to provide permanent housing for people most at risk of homelessness. Site preparation and construction was set to start "in the coming weeks" with the buildings expected to be ready in late summer.

- Community members in oppo-

sition to a mandatory COVID vaccination policy for Salt Spring's firefighters voiced their concerns to the island's fire protection district board Jan. 17. Career firefighters indicated it was unlikely to be an issue for unionized department members, but Fire Chief Jamie Holmes said he had been approached by "a percentage" of paid-on-call firefighters indicating their opposition to the policy.

- All students and crew aboard a water taxi that experienced an engine room fire in Active Pass on Jan. 27 were safe, as they were transferred from the Graduate to the Scholarship and brought to Pender Island. Students were delayed in getting to school.

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2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Capital Regional District bylaw enforcement officers try to convince individuals who set up a warming space in Mouat Park in January to leave the public park area.



PHOTO COURTESY ANETTE SCHRAGE

Community members gather in Centennial Park to decry the Russian invasion of Ukraine. By year's end, more than \$54,000 had been raised locally for the Help Ukraine campaign.

FEBRUARY

• Salt Spring Island's pool and preschool offerings were cut back temporarily as the Capital Regional District (CRD) worked to find qualified staff.

Dan Ovington, manager of the CRD's parks and recreation department on Salt Spring, said pool hours had been cut back and the Heron's Nest Preschool had closed as the organization felt the effects of island-wide staffing shortages. The closure further narrowed the early childhood care options offered on the island, following last fall's closure of Tree Frog Daycare.

• Census data confirmed what many Southern Gulf Islanders had been experiencing: a big population growth spurt led by Mayne and Galiano islands.

The increase in residents on the Southern Gulf Islands from 2016 to 2021 ranged from 10 to over 30 per cent, outpacing many other rural areas across Canada that saw a 6.3 per cent overall increase. Mayne Island saw the largest jump, from 949 to 1,304 residents, or 37.4 per cent. Galiano's population grew from 1,044 in 2016 to 1,396 in 2021, or 33.7 per cent.

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

• An historic multi-purpose building off Crofton and Lower Ganges roads

was demolished this month. Owned by the Greenwoods Eldercare Society, the building was formerly owned by colourful Salt Spring resident Margaret Nehl/Spriggs. Nehl/Spriggs was born in Germany and emigrated to Canada. The building had been used over many years, first as a residence, including by the Graham Shoves family, then a second-hand shop, followed by a thrift shop, then Nehl/Spriggs' business of hobby crafts. It may also have been used for temporary housing. The building had been a daycare centre and was given day-use by groups before complete closure due to deterioration.

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

• Salt Spring's abattoir continued to be a local success story, with an expansion underway to meet the growing demand for its services. The expansion will also allow for increased hanging space and the ability to process more beef cattle.

How well used is the island's abattoir? Last year there were 451 goats and sheep, 22 beef cattle, 30 hogs, 436 turkeys and 4,310 chickens processed.

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

• Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee (LTC) pumped the brakes on the Vortex development proposal on Feb. 15, to

seek First Nations feedback; the plan for 17 commercial accommodation units, a restaurant and plaza would have to wait.

• An RV outside Gulf Islands Secondary School went up in flames at 2 a.m. Feb. 21; the RCMP did not respond to a request for comment, but the owner told the Driftwood he did not know why someone would want to set fire to the RV.

MARCH

• The local response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine gathered momentum on Salt Spring, including a number of fundraising initiatives and collection of medical supplies, clothing, and other needed goods to be shipped overseas.

• The public got its first look at the new 1,500-square-foot addition to the Rainbow Road Aquatic Centre, a multi-purpose space that saw finishing touches in late February. Plans for the space included infant and toddler care on weekdays and recreation programming and community groups on evenings and weekends.

• A COVID-19 outbreak declared at the Greenwoods complex care facility began to wind down, after 17 residents and five staff members tested positive. Staff were able to keep providing essential care and services despite having a number of people out sick; Greenwoods Eldercare Society executive director Aletha Humphreys noted all staff were vaccinated, and there was a high vaccination rate among residents — including early roll-out of the third vaccination last October.

• Ownership of the Seabreeze Inne officially changed hands, as the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation took possession of the motel, slated to be renovated into affordable housing for hospital staff.

• An annual report on homelessness numbers in B.C. showed Salt Spring Island again among the top percentiles in several categories; with 146 in the 2021 count, Salt Spring ranked highest in the number of homeless individuals as a percentage of the population — 1.25 per cent.

• Salt Spring's LTC rescinded its support for a Rogers telecommunications tower at Channel Ridge March 22, instructing any company wishing to build a tower in the future to follow its new siting protocols. The vote to do so followed a delegation of residents of the Canvasback Place neighbourhood, who urged the LTC to change its original position and who had in recent months escalated their complaints about how the tower approval was handled by Rogers from the Islands Trust to the provincial level.

• The wheels of a long-anticipated Salt Spring fire hall referendum process began turning in public, as proponents outlined plans for the 11,500-square-foot building that district personnel said would provide the bare minimum of space but would improve operations immeasurably. The estimated cost was \$13.7 million, with approval to borrow \$9.7 million of that amount requiring voter approval.



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TUESDAY JANUARY 10
MAYNE ISLAND
 Mayne Island Community Centre
 493 Felix Jack Rd.
 6 - 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 11
GALIANO ISLAND
 Galiano Island Community Hall
 141 Sturdies Bay Rd.
 5:30 - 7pm

THURSDAY JANUARY 13
SALT SPRING ISLAND
 Fulford Community Hall
 2591 Fulford-Ganges Rd.
 5:30 - 7pm

FRIDAY JANUARY 14
SIDNEY
 Mary Winspear Centre
 2243 Beacon Ave.
 7 - 8:30pm

SUNDAY JANUARY 15
SATURNA ISLAND
 Saturna Recreation Centre
 104 Harris Rd.
 6:30 - 8pm

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2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

APRIL

• Despite the moratorium on new hook-ups, North Salt Spring Waterworks District agreed to provide temporary water service to the Drake Road supportive housing development in hopes of avoiding a delay in opening doors for its future residents.

• BC Ferries warned of a disruptive summer season, announcing they had recruited hundreds of new employees yet were still looking to fill hundreds more positions.

• Salt Spring Island Community Services announced it would be closing purchase on three recently-foreclosed-upon properties owned by the Salt Spring Land Bank Society, with an eye toward affordable housing: 584 Rainbow Rd., 129 Dean Rd., and 384 Fulford-Ganges Rd. However, that deal did not end up happening as planned.

• Fencing went up and construction began on the new emergency department at Lady Minto Hospital — starting with the parking lot, with building construction ramping up over the following weeks. The 4,500-square-foot ER will double the number of patients who can be seen at the same time, from four to eight. An official groundbreaking ceremony took place April 26, with a completion target of fall 2023.

• Salt Spring's LTC gave first reading to Bylaw 530, a measure intended to help ease the rental housing shortage and destined to dominate the Driftwood's letters page. The bylaw would allow homeowners to operate secondary suites in an expanded number of zones, including in accessory buildings, and was one of the Housing Action Program Task Force's recommendations made last summer.

"A first reading purely signals that we want to talk to the community," said trustee Laura Patrick.

• A 2021 fiscal year report released in April charted Salt Spring Island's record-setting development activity as it continued on its upward trend. In its land-use role, the LTC reported 181 building permit referrals, 13 development permits, 26 development variance permits, and four subdivision referrals.

MAY

• A lively campaign for North Salt Spring Waterworks District trustee positions ended with the re-election of incumbents Michael McAllister and Sandra Ungerson. McAllister resigned from the board a few

months later without publicly stating why he made that decision.

• With another pair of rescues May 5, Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue continued to adjust to the reality that, with so many mobile phones offering navigation, there was a lot less searching and a lot more rescuing going on.

An injured but well-prepared hiker at Ruckle Park was brought to safety, as was an injured person on an islet near Galiano. Two SAR members effected rescues on their own birthdays.

• After a hiatus lasting more than two years, south-end residents welcomed the re-opening of the Fulford post office and its new postmaster Andrea LeBorgne — who had worked at the Ganges post office since 2018.

• Thousands of households lost power on Salt Spring and the other Gulf Islands following a windstorm that whipped through the south coast. At one point, some Beddis Road residents were cut off from the rest of Salt Spring Island due to trees across the road in two different areas and power lines down.

Salt Spring's fire department was kept busy responding to reports of downed and sparking lines, including one where trees ignited near Sunnyside Drive in Fulford.

• The Gulf Islands School District made the decision to replace diesel buses at the end of their service life with electric versions, starting with a planned plug-in bus on Mayne Island and another on Salt Spring by the beginning of next year.

• After stating it would no longer fund Salt Spring's emergency shelter facility, BC Housing reversed its stance, confirming funding through at least the end of March 2023.

• The Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission approved a final conceptual design to guide development of the Rainbow Recreation Centre, including relocating four outdoor tennis courts from Portlock Park to Rainbow Road, as well as adding four pickleball courts as part of a larger multi-court structure.

Space by the existing pool was allocated for the addition of a leisure/therapy pool with a steamroom and sauna, waterslide and indoor activity space. Two playground areas would be added, along with a nature trail and lawn area for informal gatherings. The allotment gardens will remain in their current spot, and additional parking slots are planned; all was part of a 20-year master plan.



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Andrea LeBorgne, the new postmaster of the Fulford post office, which opened in May after being closed for more than two years.



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Attending the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Lady Minto Hospital emergency department on April 26 were, from left, former Lady Minto Hospital Foundation (LMHF) chair Derek Fry, Islands Trust trustee Peter Grove, LMHF board member Derek Crawford, CRD director Gary Holman, hospital site director Sara Gogo, Island Health board member M.J. Whitmarsh, LMHF chair Dave Taylor and MLA Adam Olsen.



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2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



PHOTO COURTESY SS STORM
Salt Spring Storm U17 fastpitch softball team, who won a bronze medal at provincial championships.



PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON
One of several trailers is placed on property at 154 Kings Lane to accommodate residents of the Seabreeze Inne as part of a BC Housing initiative.



PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON
Julian Clark, one of the Canvasback Place residents protesting a Rogers cell tower installation.

JUNE

- Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District's new chief administrative officer Rodney Dieleman started this month, filling the shoes of Andrew Peat — who had held down the fort for a second term, despite having retired from the district.
- After three stressful weeks looking for their missing white Labrador "Bailey," Sarah and James Nicol were informed that he had been found in a grave near Juniper Place.
- The Capital Regional District (CRD) and the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District announced a deal for the old fire hall should the proposed new one gain voter approval. The CRD will take ownership and keep the building "as a community asset" according to officials, retaining a 30,000-gallon water storage tank for fighting fires in the downtown core.
- A Salt Spring Island crew was among 49 teams competing June 13 in the sixth Race to Alaska, a 1,389-kilometre race where no motors or supports were allowed. Team Pturbodactyl — John and James Tulip, Terry Bieman and John Hillier — raced their Corsair F-31R trimaran through the first stage of the race from Port Townsend to Victoria, but struck logs on the second day of Stage 2. Damage to the vessel ended their race on June 17, thankfully without injuries.
- Salt Spring Island was temporarily out of all grades of gasoline at both of its gas stations by mid-day over a busy weekend, after a dangerous goods sailing to the island was cancelled for safety reasons stemming from piling damage at the Crof-

ton ferry terminal.

- The community bid farewell to Salt Spring Island Middle School after 28 years, due to a reconfiguration of the school district. The building has been leased to the Capital Regional District for a variety of community uses.
- BC Housing confirmed its Drake Road supportive housing project will be delayed until 2023, leaving people living at the Seabreeze Inne with nowhere to move to — and putting the brakes on the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation's plans to renovate the building to house its staff.
- The results came in, and Salt Spring's fire department breathed a sigh of relief as the June 30 referendum to approve borrowing for a new Ganges fire hall received 75 per cent support from voters: 2,608 ballots in favour, and 864 ballots against.

JULY

- An 11th-hour two-week lease extension from new owners Lady Minto Hospital Foundation materialized, to accommodate a BC Housing plan to place those living at the Seabreeze Inne into temporary modular housing on a Kings Lane property owned by the Gulf Islands Seniors Residence Association.
- But as the modular housing rolled off the ferry and contractors raced to set them up with water and power, several people at Seabreeze signalled plans to remain in place. Some retained legal counsel to clarify whether those not supported by BC Housing were tenants with rights that come with that status, or whether they were obliged to move.
- The Salt Spring Storm U17 girls fastpitch team

- came home from level-C provincial softball championships in Kamloops held on the Canada Day weekend with a bronze medal.
- A suspicious 1 a.m. vehicle fire on Rainbow Road brought firefighters to a blaze already spread to a nearby garage and house. Two people in the house were evacuated, and both Salt Spring firefighting and RCMP personnel were investigating.
- A spate of ferry sailing cancellations July 17 left Salt Spring virtually without ferry service for much of that Sunday. All 12 afternoon/evening Fulford Harbour-Swartz Bay (Route 4) sailings were cancelled, starting with the 1:50 p.m. from Fulford. Four Crofton-Vesuvius Bay (Route 6) evening sailings were also cancelled due to crew availability, except for the 10 p.m. final sailing from Crofton, which ran on schedule. The final two evening sailings between Tsawwassen and Long Harbour also did not run.
- Water taxis were brought in on routes 4 and 6 to transport foot passengers, with the Crofton-Vesuvius route serviced by a 10-person vessel and Fulford-Swartz Bay by a 45-person vessel.
- Some Channel Ridge residents temporarily blocked access to the site where Rogers wanted to build a wireless cellular and emergency communications tower jointly with Capital Region Emergency Service Telecommunications.
- The first protest July 27 saw some 15 people picketing an access road, preventing contractors from accessing the site until the RCMP arrived and threatened criminal charges. The RCMP did not respond to a request for comment about the protest action.

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2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

People opposed to the issuance of a development permit for the Vortex project gather outside Community Gospel Chapel before a Salt Spring Local Trust Committee meeting.



PHOTO COURTESY SSI FIRE RESCUE

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue truck at the entrance to Maxwell Lake, near the site of a smouldering fire that was discovered by a passing cyclist during a fire-ban period.

AUGUST

A total of 113 fines had been given to Salt Spring property owners running short-term vacation rentals (STVRs) since 2019, according to data from the director of Trust area services Clare Frater. A standard fine for an unlawful STVR is \$350. It isn't a progressive fee and the limit on fines is \$500. Frater stated that 25 operators of STVRs have been fined repeatedly between 2019 and 2022.

"Although most of this number have only accumulated two or three fines, one operator accrued a total of 17 separate fines," she said.

The Vortex project at the head of Fulford Harbour received development permit approval from Salt Spring's LTC Aug. 9, despite a number of public pleas to halt the project due to environmental concerns.

In opening the elected officials' discussion about the controversial development, trustee Laura Patrick made it clear that refusing a permit was not in the cards from a legislative standpoint.

"Development permits are such that the conditions of a development permit will not prevent a property from being used as the local zoning bylaw allows, so those are the little boxes that we're in." She said that despite people's desire to "erase all this and go back to some other time... we have to start with the rules that we have, which is the zoning that's in place."

• Supporters and opponents of hous-

ing-related bylaws came out in full force for two Salt Spring LTC public hearings held at the Harbour House Hotel to discuss Proposed Bylaws 530 and 526.

Proposed Bylaw 530 proposed changing definitions to allow secondary suites and cottages — redefined as accessory dwelling units (ADUs) — in most zones on the island. Proposed Bylaw 526 would allow properties zoned Agriculture 1 and 2 to have a secondary suite within a single-family dwelling as well as an accessory dwelling.

The Bylaw 530 hearing began with Bill Henderson playing ukulele and singing a song with such lines as "Don't try to change these islands; let these islands change you." In addition to a line of speakers for and against the proposal, the LTC received 208 written comment submissions before the Aug. 17 cut-off date.

Bylaw 526's hearing saw fewer speakers, with only a couple of them not in support, citing concerns about environmental degradation.

The province announced rationing of alcohol sales at government-run liquor stores effective Aug. 12, in response to a job action that shuttered BC Liquor distribution centres as members of the BC General Employees Union picketed warehouses. Confusing quantity limits were unevenly enforced, a few shelves went bare, and some restaurants reported shortages before bargaining resumed and the

rationing was eased.

As the island sweltered under heat and "extreme" fire danger, Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR) responded to an illegal fire up Mount Maxwell Road that officials say could have been a lot worse, but for a bit of luck.

Three firefighters and two apparatus were dispatched up toward the provincial park after a passing cyclist reported an unattended campfire still smouldering in a meadow off the road. The cyclist rode quickly back to his truck, grabbed a water can and sprayed it on the fire, before racing to a nearby house to call the fire department.

In a stroke of luck, it was the home of Greg Bellavance, who took his Bobcat machine to the location and began turning the earth in search of embers that could have restarted the fire. When SSIFR arrived, they doused the ground with more water and put it out completely.

The dramatic appearance of dozens of RCMP officers, a helicopter and an armoured vehicle baffled Salt Spring residents as a search warrant related to firearms was executed at a local business owner's home. Despite the heavy presence, police ultimately recommended no charges be laid — and, according to the subject of the warrant, apologized for the raid and agreed to hug it out afterwards.

An overnight road striping surprised and delighted Salt Spring Aug. 24, as Fulford-Ganges and several other

major roads received fresh yellow centre-line paint.

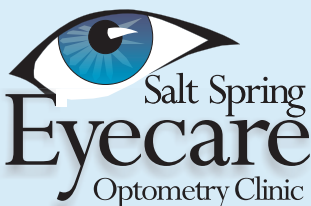
Maliview Drive residents learned their struggling wastewater system would receive a nearly \$2 million boost through a round of federal and provincial funding. The upgrade will increase treatment capacity for the system, originally built by a developer in the late 1970s, with CRD taking over operations in 1979.

Equipment failures at the plant, including one just days before the announcement, resulted in partially treated wastewater being discharged into the ocean, leading to shoreline impacts and public health advisories. Once begun, the project is expected to require 12 to 18 months to complete.

A Salt Spring homeowner was stuck with a \$29,000 water bill from a winter leak that lost more than 865,000 gallons of water over two months. North Salt Spring Waterworks District trustees were compelled to deny a bill adjustment, as the request — which must by policy be submitted within 30 days from when the leak was discovered — was not filed for several months.

The Salt Spring EV Group released figures showing the island's electric vehicle ownership grew in 2021 by 108 cars to a total of 380, a growth rate of nearly 40 per cent over 2020. That kept Salt Spring at the top of electric vehicle ownership by population in B.C., with EVs representing 5.4 per cent of all passenger vehicles on-island.

Looking ahead to 2023.



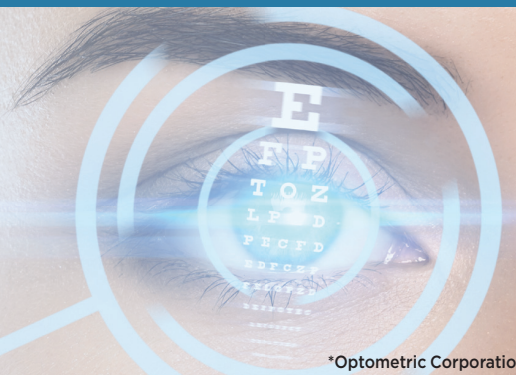
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2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

Cowichan Tribes Tzinquaw Dancers in the Sept. 24 Community Procession of the On the Rise climate action and arts festival, which ran throughout September.



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Aftermath of a vehicle fire on Fulford-Ganges Road near St. Paul's church in Fulford.

SEPTEMBER

- Island Health formally announced a contribution of \$1 million to the new Lady Minto Hospital Foundation emergency department expansion project. Up until now, all funds for what began as a \$10.4-million project and was most recently estimated at \$12.8 million had come from the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation and the Capital Regional Hospital District (CRHD).

- Island Health said construction of the 420-square-metre (4,500-square-foot) emergency department had reached a significant milestone with the concrete pour for the project's foundation footings completed. Foundation wall concrete was poured Sept. 13.

- Provincial wildlife officials monitored cougar sightings on Salt Spring Island after fielding a number of calls, advising people to keep their distance if they spotted the elusive animals.

- BC Ferries started construction work at the Fulford Harbour terminal on a replacement foot passenger walkway and operator cab at the terminal ramp. Some re-routing of foot passengers and some night-time work noise were the main disruptions.

- A vehicle fire near St. Paul's Catholic Church in Fulford Harbour that filled the area with smoke and brought reports of booms was quickly extinguished by Salt Spring firefighters. Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR) Engine 1 was nearby that night and reached the scene quickly, put-

ting out the fire that began inside a Volkswagen bus.

- On the Rise — An Arts Festival Navigating Climate Grief + Action, a month-long climate action festival, took place on Salt Spring with a host of events framed by a self-guided art walk through Ganges that roughly followed the projected 2050 king tide line through town. It began at Mahon Hall and finished at Salt Spring Books, highlighting individual art pieces along the way, each tied to a specific climate challenge.

- The festival lineup included local poets, First Nations people, textile artists, multimedia artists and storytellers, all seeking to find new ways to communicate and understand our current climate reality. A traffic-stopping community procession Sept. 24 with puppets, costumes, dance and other artful expressions brought diverse parts of Salt Spring together, and the festival wound up with a dance party at the end of the month.

- Salt Spring's latest effort to address the island's tight housing market was put in a holding pattern, while officials and staff looked to address both First Nations and wider public concerns.

- Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) members agreed Sept. 6 with a staff recommendation to pause consideration of a third reading for Bylaw 530 in order to consult with Tsawout First Nation — given receipt of the nation's lands manager's negative response to the proposal — and also directed staff to develop recom-

mendations to address multiple concerns expressed by other community members.

- Bylaw 530, crafted at the urging of the Housing Action Program Task Force and shaped through several public events and LTC amendments, was meant to help ease Salt Spring's rental supply crunch by permitting a new housing option: accessory dwelling units (ADUs), which would be permitted in several zones across the island. The bylaw text also presented a host of regulations on how those ADUs would be permitted and used, and while the proposal had been referred to several relevant organizations with no changes recommended — apart from the inclusion of building and fire code requirements and the provision of water and sewer, according to staff reports — the combination of substantial public concern and direct opposition from Tsawout First Nation seems to have been pivotal in the LTC's decision to pause its process.

- With comparatively little fanfare, a proposed bylaw addressing housing for agricultural workers passed through the hands of Salt Spring's LTC and continued its journey towards implementation. Salt Spring LTC Bylaw 526 was given third reading Sept. 6, with no further changes to its draft version. Bylaw 526 is an effort to implement recent legislation in support of farmworker housing, and would effect several changes in how agricultural land use is regulated.

- Final lists of candidates for Capital Regional District (CRD), Islands Trust and

- Gulf Islands School Board positions presented voters with several contested races. Eight put forth their name to fill two Islands Trust trustee seats on Salt Spring Island: Ben Corno, Gary Gagné, Jamie Harris, Jennifer Maksymetz, Don Marcotte, Jenny McClean, Laura Patrick (incumbent) and Elissa Poole. Incumbent Gary Holman would face a challenge from Jesse Brown and Kylie Coates for the Salt Spring CRD director position.

- The death of Queen Elizabeth II on Sept. 8 prompted islanders to share their fond memories of encounters with Her Royal Highness over the years.

- A busy Salt Spring Fall Fair welcomed much fowl play — 183 birds, from 17 adult exhibitors and 18 junior exhibitors — as part of an American Poultry Association show. It was the first time the fair was held on the second weekend of September rather than the third, and the first back-to-full-steam fair since the COVID pandemic.

- Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District announced a tax increase was en route for 2023 — smaller than last year's, but still "a large number" according to board chair Rollie Cook, who was hopeful the downward trend might continue.

- None of the increase was a result of the new fire hall, but rather the inflation-driven rise in prices for equipment, and the department's gradual shift from a mostly volunteer force to a partially unionized, 24-7 protection program — increasing the number of paid positions on staff, as well as the hours they work.

Happy New Year!

Wishing all the best to you and your family.
Looking forward to seeing you in 2023!

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2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY



PHOTO BY CARLA FUNK

From left, Salt Spring CRD election candidates Jesse Brown, Gary Holman, Kylie Coates; and Salt Spring Islands Trust candidates Ben Corno, Gary Gagné, Jamie Harris, Don Marcotte, Jenny McClean, Laura Patrick and Elissa Poole at an Oct. 6 all-candidates meeting co-sponsored by the Salt Spring Forum and the Driftwood at ArtSpring.

Moss Mountain area, which is the subject of an Islands Trust Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program covenant.

OCTOBER

• Despite a growing season described as “challenging,” 333 varieties of apples were on display Oct. 2 at Fulford Hall for Salt Spring Island’s 2022 Apple Festival.

• Local election results saw Gary Holman was returned as Salt Spring CRD director and Laura Patrick as Islands Trust trustee, with Jamie Harris also elected to the Islands Trust. Patrick topped the Islands Trust polls with 1,441 votes and Harris was in second place, receiving 1,347 votes. Harris’ running mate Don Marcotte came third with 1,286 votes, followed by Gary Gagné with 1,141 votes; Elissa Poole, 1,125; Ben Corno, 1,059; and Jenny McClean, 235. In the CRD race, Holman received 1,917 votes, Jesse Brown 971 votes and Kylie Coates 941.

A proposal to change the island’s governance system to create a local community commission (LCC) under the CRD passed by a large margin, with 2,297 voting in favour and 1,448 against.

Elected to represent Salt Spring on the Gulf Islands School Board were incumbents Tisha Boulter (1,486 votes) and Rob Pingle (2,005 votes), and Nancy Macdonald (1,981 votes). Jenny McClean received 1,101 votes and Anna Szul 636. Even though George Sipos had formally removed himself from the race, his name was still on the ballot and he attracted 561 votes.

A total of 3,916 ballots were cast in the on-island polls at Community

Gospel Chapel, the library and Fulford Hall. With 10,041 registered resident and non-resident property-owning voters, according to local returning officer Tony Kennedy, that makes for a voter turnout rate of 39 per cent. Kennedy said the 10,041 figure does not include new registrations, which is not a large number. Approximately 30 people also voted off-island or by mail.

• Gulf Islands Secondary School students marked the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation with a program of learning and listening, highlighted by powwow drumming, singing and a march through Ganges.

• In an effort to help as many as possible avoid a predicted rough flu year, Island Health rolled out a mass vaccination clinic at SIMS on Salt Spring, with invitations going out through the provincial Get Vaccinated system just as they did for COVID-19 shots.

• The Salt Spring Men’s Shed opened its workshop doors Oct. 12, at 154 Kings Lane, part of a larger, global movement of creating such spaces, designed to provide men with “somewhere to go, something to do and someone to talk to” — all while contributing to the wider community by building and fixing things.

• BC Ferries sent its “wish list” to the BC Ferries Commission, with some items that should please Salt Spring residents if they come to fruition. Included in a 12-year capital plan are two new Island Class ferries to serve the Crofton-Vesuvius Bay route (#6), envisioned for operation by the fall

of 2026, and using the existing Route 6 MV Quinsam for supplemental peak season use on the Fulford-Swartz Bay route (#4) with the Skeena Queen beginning in summer of 2027.

• Organizers of a grassroots fundraising effort celebrated after announcing they raised enough money to purchase 75 acres on Salt Spring for a new park. On Oct. 12, the Salt Spring Community Park campaign reported the initiative to raise \$850,000 towards the purchase of forested land on Hwmet’utsum (Mount Maxwell) reached its goal ahead of an Oct. 31 deadline.

The goal was achieved thanks to a final push and a generous grant from the Salt Spring Island Foundation, enabled by funds from the trust established for the estate of the late Susan Bloom. Some \$250,000 in community-raised donations and the \$100,000 Bloom grant made up the \$350,000 set as a fundraising goal this summer. Salt Spring’s Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) had previously pledged \$250,000, as had a private foundation whose directors wished to remain anonymous. The landowners had also substantially reduced the purchase price. Plans for the property include the establishment of a multi-use trail network for horseback riding, mountain biking, disc golfing and hiking.

• Salt Spring also gained a new protected forest area, thanks to a covenant agreement between islander Gay Young and the Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC). The new Moss Moun-

tain covenant encompasses 112 acres along Sansum Narrows — a critical wildlife corridor identified by ITC between Stoney Hill Regional Park on Vancouver Island and Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park and Mill Farm Regional Park Reserve. The property is protected through the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program, a program unique to Islands Trust.

• Discovery of the H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in birds on Salt Spring led to much of the island being declared a Primary Control Zone (PCZ) by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. The infected zone boundary roughly followed a five-kilometre-diameter circle centred on Ganges; the restricted zone encompassed most of Salt Spring Island north of Fulford. Movement controls were put in place per the Health of Animals Act, requiring special permits to move “birds, their products and by-products, as well as things exposed to birds” into, out of, within, or through the PCZ.

• The death of three people on the island due to drug toxicity within 10 days was being framed as indicative of the increasingly dangerous street drug supply.

Friends and family members on Facebook identified two young women as having died due to drug toxicity. A third individual, an older man, also reportedly died from the same cause. Their deaths sparked a community discussion about how to prevent further tragedies.



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2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Construction work on Isabella Point Road gets underway in November.



PHOTO BY NETTIE ADAMS

Saturna Island residents walk aboard the Mayne Queen on the ship's farewell tour.

November

- Salt Spring Island Community Services (SSICS) was responding to a B.C. Supreme Court civil claim filed against them by the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation (LMHF). The claim arose from the Seabreeze Inne not being vacated despite the foundation assuming ownership of the building on March 15. The claim asked for an injunction and damages resulting from SSICS and "its agents and representatives" allegedly trespassing at the former hotel. A second part of the lawsuit was aimed at nearly a dozen named and unnamed individuals allegedly occupying rooms at the Seabreeze; in that action, LMHF sought a similar injunction against trespassing, declaration of wrongful possession, and writ, but no damages or costs.

- Dozens of islanders turned out to the new community sandbag filling station, above the community gardens at the Rainbow Road pool site, on Nov. 12. The station was a coordinated effort by the Salt Spring Emergency Program, Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue, Emergency Management BC and the Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission — and offered free sand and sandbags, along with use of shovels and gloves. Salt Spring Emergency Program coordinator John Wakefield said the program wanted to be pre-emptive this year, and that 42 people came out and filled 314 sandbags — a total of four yards of shoveled sand — before the station closed.

- Reconstruction of part of Isabella Point Road damaged in flooding in November of 2021 was underway. Emcon South Island division operations manager Andrew Gaetz explained that almost a year of engineering and studies was needed before construction could begin. The work saw some one-lane traffic in the affected spot for several weeks and overnight road closures in December.

- Thetis Island's Peter Luckham was elected chair of the Islands Trust Council (ITC) for a third term by fellow trustees at the inaugural council meeting held Nov. 19. At its first meeting since local elections in October, the ITC also elected three vice-chairs — Tobi Elliott from Gabriola Island, David Maude from Mayne Island and Timothy Peterson from Lasqueti Island — to form the Islands Trust Executive Committee. Peterson was later appointed by Luckham to be Salt Spring's local Trust committee chair.

- Residents of Saturna, Mayne, Pender and Galiano turned out on Nov. 20 to bid farewell to the MV Mayne Queen, the BC Ferries vessel that had served their islands for some 40 years of its 57-year life. Many spoke fondly of its reliable service and crews over the years, with cakes and even a special song performed on the Mayne Queen deck on Saturna Island.

- The North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) approved both an increase in water toll rates and a change to the existing tier system for the 2023 budget year. The move was designed to both bring in more revenue and to

incentivize conservation, encouraging NSSWD customers to reduce their water consumption so as to stay within the lowest possible tier.

- Community members got the opportunity to see the future of 20 hectares of field area at Xwaaqw'um, also known as Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park, during a public event hosted by Cowichan Tribes and BC Parks. The ecological restoration project is funded by Environment and Climate Change Canada through the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk Fund and Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund, and targets storing carbon naturally in forested areas — and improving habitat for the key species the Stqeeye' Learning Society hopes to see thrive.

- The Gulf Islands Secondary School senior boys soccer team had an exciting road to AA-level provincial championships, winning the North Island event, finishing fourth at Vancouver Island championships and then 13th at provincials in Burnaby.

December

- The first blast of winter arrived as November gave way to December, resulting in vehicles in ditches, temporarily cancelled bus service and power outages. But it was only an opening act for the main event of December that saw some 30 to 40 centimetres fall overnight on Dec. 19, with another dollop arriving on Dec. 22. Temperatures dropped to almost -10° Celsius, with windchill values close to -20°. The pre-Christmas chaos was

intensified by numerous ferry cancellations related to both the weather and lack of crew availability. By Christmas Eve temperatures had climbed to 9° Celsius, prompting a fast melt of snow and fears of flooding.

- On Dec. 14 the Capital Regional District passed bylaws to establish a local community commission for Salt Spring Island, following the referendum passed by voters in October, and announced the date to elect four commissioners would be May 27, 2023.

- A campaign to acquire some 400 acres of ecologically valuable south Salt Spring land got a boost from the Susan Bloom Trust as announced by the Nature Conservancy of Canada on Dec. 14. The Bloom Trust had not only pledged \$150,000 directly to the campaign, but would match all donations up to \$150,000. Some \$500,000 of the \$7-million purchase price was needed when the conservancy made the acquisition known in November.

- School District 64 reported that its 2021/2022 graduation rate was 92.2 per cent, and for the first time in more than a decade had exceeded the provincial average of 91.6 per cent.

- A lack of fall rains saw St. Mary and Maxwell lakes at unusually low levels for this time of year. NSSWD operations manager Vaughn Figueira said lower lake levels had been experienced due to drier summers, but few wet seasons had been as slow to effect a refill of the lakes.



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ARTS PROGRAMMING

Arts council survey results to guide planning

New strategic priorities to be set in 2023

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Salt Spring's community arts council has a better idea of how to direct its energies and resources in the future thanks to islanders who shared their input in a survey exercise this fall.

The council's strategic planning committee recently shared the results of the public survey Salt Spring Arts held during October, along with conducting direct interviews with 15 community stakeholders. Executive director Yael Wand wants the community to know their messages have been received.

"We've heard you. We got incredible feedback from people, and this is going to directly feed into how we develop our priorities in the coming years," Wand said, adding, "We want to ensure we're utilizing our limited resources in the best way possible to serve this community through the arts."

Results suggest Salt Spring Arts is doing many things well, but some improvements will be healthy for the organization's future and sustainability. Strategic goals will likely involve attracting a younger demographic; continuing with family events and programs; producing more events that involve the entire community; and addressing inclusion, diversity and BIPOC issues.

"People are hungry for more diverse cultural offerings and access to diverse artists," Wand observed.

Among the things people feel Salt Spring Arts does well, a majority of respondents agreed that it's supporting local artists (their top choice) and producing relevant or engaging exhibitions. When asked what they most



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Galiano Island-based singer-songwriter T-Nile, who was one of the opening acts in the Salt Spring Arts Summer Outdoor Concert Series in 2022.

valued about the organization, respondents offered statements such as, "It has heart and soul about what is precious about Salt Spring," and it "embodies all that is great about arts on the island."

Board vice-chair Deborah Osborne, who also co-chairs the strategic planning committee, said many respondents were excited about the public-facing events that Salt Spring Arts presented or partnered in over the past year, such as the Summer Outdoor Concert Series, the Murals on Salt Spring Project and the On the Rise climate action festival.

"They wished for more activities like those, and would love to see more public art, sculpture, dance, music, literary events and theatre," Osborne noted.

Artcraft continues to be a beloved program: it is the number one way people engage with the arts council and the program respondents felt

had most value. Participants likewise believe it's important that Salt Spring Arts is a non-profit entity, and they support the arts council having its base of operations at Mahon Hall as a cultural hub and historic treasure.

In terms of things to work on going forward, respondents felt the arts council somewhat addresses the needs of children, youth and emerging artists at present, but they would like to see a bit more focus on these groups and also on diverse art forms in addition to the visual arts. Programs centred on digital, multi-media, film technologies, animation and interactive art might help engage this group.

Another concern the strategic planning committee highlighted is that "a handful of survey participants did not know about all the events, programs and activities Salt Spring Arts created, produced, or was involved in with other organizations — or indeed, what exactly Salt Spring Arts is all about." Shining more light on the organization's many initiatives will therefore be another goal going forward.

In addition to the valuable information collected from those who did respond, the gaps in participation also provide important data. The arts council now has a good idea of who is not being reached by its communications, and where more effort needs to be directed.

Many of the respondents were Salt Spring Arts members, indicating people who are already interested in the arts wanted to have a say. As well, respondent demographics largely reflect the island's median age of 56, with 49 per cent in the 65+ age group. Fewer than seven per cent of survey participants were younger than 40 — reinforcing the notion that more should be done to reach and engage these groups in the future.

The arts council board and staff are now getting ready to take the research findings, alongside other sectoral and community data,

and use them to develop strategic priorities and more great community arts programs in 2023 and beyond.

"People took so much time and care to answer the questions. It's really evident and we're so appreciative of that," Wand said. "The responses really demonstrated how much people value the arts and artists in this community."

More information on Salt Spring Arts programs and events is available at www.saltspringarts.com.



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what's on this week

Wed. Dec. 28

ACTIVITIES

Festival of Trees. 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. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. DAILY through Jan. 1.
Music Bingo. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

Thur. Dec. 29

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Open Mic. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.
Craig's Karaoke. Moby's Pub. 7 to 11 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Festival of Trees. See Wednesday listing.

Fri. Dec. 30

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Karaoke. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.
Friday's With DJ Boomtown. At Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

ACTIVITIES

Friday StoryTime. Drop-in session of stories and activities for ages 5 and up at the Salt Spring library. 11 a.m.
StoryWalk. This week's story leading from the library through Moutat Park is The Adventures of Beekle, the Unimaginary Friend.

Sat. Dec. 31

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

New Year's Eve Party at the Legion. With Valdy, Two Point Oh, SugarBeat and Rough & Tumble bands. Beginning at 5 p.m. Check for ticket availability by emailing generalmanager@saltspringlegion.ca.
Dan Snakehead Presents: Community Dance. All-ages event with headliner The Ashton Bachman Band (7 p.m.) and DJ Jollay at midnight, plus many others. Beaver Point Hall. Doors at 5 p.m.
New Year's Eve Party With Everyday People. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Check for ticket availability through Moby's.

ACTIVITIES

Festival of Trees. See Wednesday listing.
New Year's Eve Roller Disco Party. A family-friendly Marty's Roller Parties event at Fulford Hall. 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.
Holy Mother of God Mass. Our Lady of Grace Church. 5 p.m.

Sun. Jan. 1

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Blues Jam. At the Legion. 3 to 6 p.m. Every Sunday afternoon alternating with the Jazz Jam.

Sun. Jan. 1

ACTIVITIES

Polar Bear Swim. At Vesuvius Beach. 12 noon.
New Year's Satsang. At Salt Spring Centre of Yoga. 1:30 p.m.
Holy Mother of God Mass. Our Lady of Grace Church. 10 a.m.
New Year's Day Service + Epiphany. All Saints by-the-Sea. 11 a.m.

Tue. Jan. 3

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club Hikes & Walk. Regular Tuesday hikes and walks begin. Non-club members may attend up to three hikes per year. For more details, see saltspringtnc.ca.
Trivia Tuesday. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

Wed. Jan. 4

ACTIVITIES

Teen Lounge. Activities for youth aged 13-19 every Wednesday afternoon at the library's Teen Zone. 4 to 5 p.m.
Music Bingo. See last Wednesday's listing.

CINEMA

Tår runs Dec. 30-Jan. 3 at 7 p.m., plus a 3 p.m. Sunday matinee. Closed NY Eve.

EXHIBITIONS

- **Gallery 8's 14th Annual Christmas Exhibition of Small Works** runs through Dec. 31.
- **Pamela Thornley** exhibits work in the **Salt Spring Public Library's community program room** through December.
- Beginning Jan. 2, **Steve Chisholm** has artwork on display in the **library's community program room**.
- **Sonja Barnard** has artwork in the **library's display case** this month.

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.
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Firstborn of 2023 Contest

We can't wait to see who will be the first baby of the New Year!

Several community sponsors are set to shower the first baby of 2023 with many generous gifts. Salt Spring Island's first tiny new resident of the year will enjoy these wonderful offerings, presented in a basket:

A \$50 gift certificate from **West of the Moon**. A \$50 gift certificate from **Pharmasave**. A \$50 gift certificate from **Salt Spring Books**. A baby onesie, Solmate sock bundle and Baby Baa from **Old Salty**.

The **Gulf Islands Driftwood** is excited to offer the first born baby their first print media appearance and keepsake: an 1/8th page, colour baby announcement. We look forward to announcing the special delivery!



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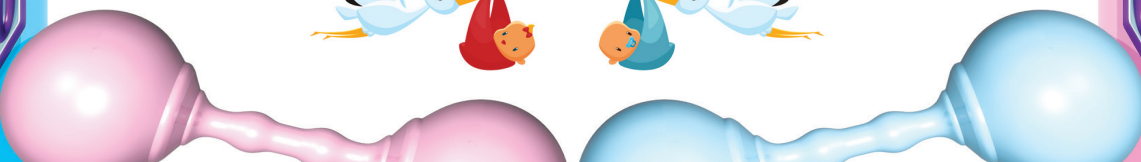
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ISLAND LIFE

YOUTH

SSE students raise \$500 for food bank

Bake sale proceeds donated

BY MIKAYLA LANGDON, JUNIPER LEE AND YARA HOLMES
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

During the months of November and December the Grade 6 French Immersion class at Salt Spring Elementary organized two bake sales to raise money for the

Salt Spring Island Food Bank. Our goal was to raise money to support families who struggle financially. This goal was important to us because we believe that we should all have enough food to eat. This fundraiser was our way of helping our community as much as possible so other families could have something to enjoy over the holidays. Students from SSE generously donated \$500 during our bake sales!



Salt Spring Elementary Grade 6 French Immersion students who donated bake sale proceeds to the island's food bank before Christmas. PHOTO COURTESY SSE

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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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Obituaries In Memoriam In Memoriam In Memoriam

Beverly Joyce Menzies
 July 16, 1932 - December 7, 2022



With great sadness we want to share the passing of Beverly Joyce Menzies at 90 years of age. Born July 16, 1932 in Vancouver, to her parents Stafford and Beatrix Stavert. Passed December 7, 2022 at the Sidney All Care Facility in Sidney, BC where she spent her last years.

Bev was married to the love of her life John on July 21, 1951 and were together 66 wonderful years. They started their life together in the Cowichan Valley and had their sons Allen and Michael. Shortly after they moved to West Vancouver they had their son Steven, adopted their daughter Suzette and had their last son Ian. They lived in West Vancouver for a number of years, then onto Galiano Island and finally 46 years on Salt Spring Island.

Bev was predeceased by her husband John and her eldest son Allan (Margarite).

Lovingly remembered by her son Michael (Valerie), daughter Suzette (Paddy), son Steven (Laura), and son Ian (Denise). By her grandchildren, Jeremy (Danielle), Kyle (Brooke), Chelsea, Russel (Nichole), Michelle, Carson, Jennifer (Ian), Brian (Leah), and Stacey. Her great-grandchildren Cooper, Bronwyn, Reilly, Colton, Wyatt, Casey, Brooklyn, Lucas, Morgan, Rowan, Evan, and Bailey.

Bev did a great job raising a very busy family. She also balanced life beside John in their many ventures. Including catering in Honeymoon Bay, driving for the boys paper routes in West Vancouver, building and managing a resort on Galiano Island and working on John's numerous home builds, boat restorations, water taxis and endless projects.

Bev and John finally found time to spend the winter months in Palm Springs, where Bev enjoyed the sunshine, swimming, playing shuffle board, golfing and meeting many "snow birds" through the years.

A special thank you to Sidney All Staff for their care and kindness and Dr. Pawlik for assisting Mom in her last years.

There will be no service by request of the family.
 First Memorial Funeral Services
 1155 Fort St.
 Victoria, BC, V8V 3K9

Nairn Howe
 April 30th, 1957 - December 25th, 2005 (48 years)

17 YEARS AGO
CANCER IS NOT SO POWERFUL!
THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS IT CANNOT DO...

*I cannot cripple love.
 I cannot shatter hope.
 I cannot corrode faith.
 I cannot destroy peace.
 I cannot kill friendship.
 I cannot suppress memories.
 I cannot silence courage.
 I cannot invade the soul.
 I cannot steal eternal life.
 I cannot conquer the spirit.*



NAIRN HOWE

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Trickster Mercury turns retrograde on the eve of 2023. Mercury Rx trailing Pluto, empowered at the highest degree, portends tales of tested nerves. Venus exactly conjunct Pluto at the stroke of midnight reeks of ruthless ambitions. 2023 is a Universal 7-year symbolic of initiations, rites of passage, and spiraling that can go up or down... Ideally, the elevated spirit of 7, also symbolic of hard turning points and of evoking faith to overcome fears, will prevail. March will be just that as karmic Saturn enters karmic Pisces on March 12th and Pluto enters Aquarius on March 23rd. Jupiter in Aries initially enters Taurus in mid-May indicating accelerated drives with mounting momentums, amplified by the Lunar North Nodes also entering Aries in mid-July. With Uranus in Taurus, cryptocurrencies and the counterpunches of digital currencies promises a clash of titans. Given the scope and gravity of the transformation of money on a global scale, it will win full attention. Keep breathing, get informed, hold on tight, and focus to adapt!

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19) 2023 will push you to assert new leads. Yet, it also implies the beginning of a longer, potentially confusing cycle of Saturn in Pisces. Have your map, compass and flashlight close at hand as you enter these mysterious waters. Do persevere yet slow down in your determination to move forward faithfully.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20) 2023 Get ready for some powerful shifts. The needs of the many will overtake those of the fewer in your attitude and approach. You are likely to invariably enter revolutionary mode and a slow but sure proactive pace will prove more productive than futile attempts to resist the inevitable changes.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21) 2023 One twin will want to go global while the other wants to go home. Focus to reconcile both with creative ingenuity. Either way, you will feel compelled to advance, despite the complexities. You could be called to serve a higher purpose yet circumstances will push you to access hidden reserves of faith.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22) 2023 Expansion requiring focus, discipline and perhaps rigor in your public and professional life is highlighted this year. Ideally, you will build your momentum early on as procrastinating could prove extra costly this year. Acquiring new knowledge via self-directed studies will prove extra helpful.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23) 2023 A spirit of risk and adventure is the key to building the momentum you need to stimulate new streams of income and/or advance your position such as a promotion. This includes doing the work and not simply spinning the wheel. Be ready and willing to break out of your comfort zone.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22) 2023 You will likely be out of the gates early this year. Returns for past efforts continue to roll in and you are wise to focus on how you can re-invest them. Be careful of get-rich-quick schemes as usual, but do get strategic with future-oriented strategies. Your commitment factor will increase, perhaps by necessity.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22) 2023 Changes on relationship fronts emphasize new beginnings. Yet, you will have to continue to pay close attention to the overall quality of your health. Your creative prowess will begin to rise in spring and it will likely involve finances and investment planning and strategies possibly in land and real estate generally.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21) 2023 Focusing to overcome doubts and inertia will prove extra important during the first half of 2023. Increasing the quality of engagement and partnerships all year is emphasized. Undergoing a process of personal change has a lot to do with your attitude, but also the quality of your strategy.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21) 2023 Waves of creative inspiration, already washing in, will continue throughout 2023. You will be pushed to break through any doubts, procrastination and fears in general. Focus to be ready and willing to undergo some measure of transformation to adapt to perform the roles required of you.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19) 2023 Get ready to get measurably more focused. This will involve the pursuit of new knowledge, or perhaps a series of adventures in both mind and body. Perhaps you will read more books or maybe even write one. Harness your creative ingenuity early on and then get ready to dive in deep, perhaps to your very core.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19) 2023 The beginning of a powerful process of change in terms of your overall mode and style of expression in the world will begin in 2023. You will likely have to be more disciplined and pay your dues somehow. Positively, you will become both more focused and confident in your professional arena.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20) 2023 Digging in deep close to home, which began last year, continues well into 2023. The time is right to take new initiatives in terms of expressing your talents more fully. Especially where these include financial returns, your motivation levels will rise steadily. Clarify your goals and be disciplined to work towards them daily.

The
**LAST
PAGE**
of 2022



You've reached
the last page of our
last issue of 2022.

We'd like to use this space to express our sincerest gratitude to all our readers and advertisers. Your support is the lifeblood of the Driftwood.

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To the readers who turn to us every week for the latest local news and stories, thank you for being there. We do it all for you.

As we approach the dawn of a brand new year, our mission remains the same as ever: to give our island community a voice. Thank you, once again, for allowing that voice to be heard.

On behalf of the entire team at the Driftwood, we wish you the happiest of holiday seasons and all the best for 2023.

Driftwood
GULF ISLANDS

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