

inside:



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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

STRAIGHT UP: Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue (SSISAR) rope team member and SAR manager Jason Grindler ascends the side of a cliff with the help of his colleagues set up on level ground above him during a regular training session on Sunday. The small team meets twice a month to keep their skills and knowledge up to date. This week the Driftwood and community salutes the island's search and rescue volunteers on pages 8 and 9.

HEALTH CARE

Hospital staff shortage persists

Physician describes filling in for emergency room nurses at Lady Minto

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Another note on the door greeted overnight visitors to Lady Minto Hospital last week, advising patients to evaluate the urgency of their needs and consider returning in the morning "when staffing levels improve."

And while health care staffing shortages on Salt Spring may not be new, island physician Dr. Clare Rustad thinks residents may be shocked at how severe they have been, and how long it's been going on. Rustad grew up on Salt Spring, and in addition to her practice here also contracts with the hospital; confirming the absence of an emergency care-trained nurse at Lady Minto's emergency department (ED) overnight Monday, Jan. 23, Rustad

warned that it had happened before, and likely would again.

"I was informed that there would be no emerg-trained nurse on overnight," said Rustad, who was called in for an overnight shift. "And that's not the first time I've had that happen."

After a similar event — from Friday, Jan. 6 until 7 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 7 — Island Health issued a statement acknowledging the hospital had experienced an "unforeseen short notice limited staff availability," adding that — contrary to reports — there was "more than one nurse on" at the hospital that night, along with "allied health provider support."

Rustad took particular issue with the word "unforeseen," saying nurses have been trying

to sound the alarm on chronic shortages for years, and that while the pandemic certainly exacerbated the problem, a growing sense that they're being left unsupported — and the expectation of higher workloads — has nurses leaving the profession at an alarming rate.

"I've been [contracted to Lady Minto Hospital] for five years, and our nurses are excellent," said Rustad. "They're highly trained, they're very skilled, they're really good at what they do. I think I can say I've walked into the hospital once and had the nurses say they were fully staffed. This isn't a new problem."

HOSPITAL continued on 2



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HOSPITAL

Island Health spokesperson Andrew Leyne said that work was underway to improve staffing, and that while there had been a “short-staffing situation” recently, the health authority had the ability

to shift personnel quickly, noting long-term care was also coordinated by Island Health staff.

But emergency nurses have specialized skills and knowledge, said Rustad — to be able to treat trauma, injury, and other sudden changes in health that require urgent attention. Rustad, who esti-

mates she would have spent 100 hours at the hospital this month, described emergency medicine as a “team sport,” and feared administrators were spreading limited nursing resources too thin — to say nothing of deemphasizing their importance.

“The formula ‘nurse plus medical school equals doctor’ isn’t true,”

said Rustad. “Saying the emergency room is covered because there’s a physician in the hospital completely devalues the role of emergency nurses. They’re two different, highly specialized skill sets. And I can’t do my job safely without them.”

The solution Island Health has apparently come up with — to pay contract physicians, typically on-call

from home, to stay overnight in the hospital — isn’t sustainable for staff, or good for patients, according to Rustad.

“Me being in the hospital doesn’t magically conjure up emergency nurses,” said Rustad. “Our goal at the hospital is efficient, safe patient care. This doesn’t make the situation safe.”

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HEALTH

Local overdose calls see drop

BC Emergency Health Services releases stats for 2022

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A tragic 2022 that saw three deaths related to drug overdose and poisonings in 10 days on Salt Spring has possibly ended on a hopeful note, as fewer related emergency services calls were reported than the year before.

Bucking a regional trend, BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) reported a year-end total of 16 overdose/poisoning calls on Salt Spring Island in 2022, down from 22 the previous year and marking the fewest annual calls since 2018. That drop runs counter to numbers for the Island Health region, which had six per cent more calls than the previous year and has not seen year-over-year overdose/poisoning call numbers fall since 2019.

Large-volume health regions like Vancouver

Coastal and Fraser Health saw big decreases — down 19 and 10 per cent, respectively — that brought province-wide figures toward a five per cent drop in drug overdose/poisoning calls overall. But totals don’t always tell the full picture, according to officials; BC saw two months with more than 3,000 overdose/poisoning calls last year, and on Jan. 19, 2022, an inauspicious new record was set when BCEHS received 203 calls in a single day.

On Salt Spring, smaller numbers have outsized impact; after three reported deaths related to drug overdose and poisoning in October, community members met to discuss the need for more widely available safe supplies, testing kits and equipment, mental wellness resources and education, particularly in schools.

In December, the Salt Spring Health Advancement Network’s Mental Wellness Initiative announced it had received a grant-in-aid from the Capital Regional District, as well as a grant from the Salt Spring Foundation to advance its work expanding peer support and volunteer counseling in the community.

BC FERRIES

Quinsam finally returns to Route 6



PHOTO BY NORM KELLY

The MV Quintsa, in front, brings its last load of cars to the Vesuvius ferry terminal last Thursday while the MV Quinsam waits to resume its duties on the route.

Larger-capacity ferry back on duty after refit

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island briefly experienced two-ferry service on the Vesuvius-Crofton route on Thursday — sort of — as the usual vessel returned to operation, and its temporary replacement signed off.

With perhaps a sigh of relief, islanders finally boarded the MV Quinsam Thursday afternoon, Jan. 26, as that ferry returned after 94 days of refit work to a busy route that had been plagued by cancellations and delays.

The switch was eagerly followed by islanders; vessel trackers and ferry-spotters first spotted the Quinsam leaving the Deas Pacific Marine maintenance facility on the Fraser River Wednesday afternoon, stopping at the Tsawwassen terminal before sailing to Fulford Harbour, where it berthed overnight.

Just after 9 a.m. Thursday morning, the Quinsam left Fulford empty — perhaps puzzling

some passengers waiting for the Skeena Queen — and sailed around the south end of Salt Spring and up to Vesuvius, docking at about 11:20 a.m. After a brief stop, the Quinsam pushed off — again, empty — at 11:30 a.m., then stayed a kilometre from the dock.

Meanwhile the Quintsa pulled out of Vesuvius with a full load just after noon, delivering Salt Spring traffic to Crofton for the last time — for now, at least. The Quinsam returned to the Vesuvius dock at 12:10 p.m., finished preparations, pushed back out and — still empty — chased the Quintsa back to Crofton.

It was unclear who won the race, but ultimately the Quintsa offloaded at Crofton. The Quinsam loaded Salt Spring bound passengers there and departed — a little late — at about 1:10 p.m., and after a quick crossing nosed into the dock at Vesuvius a little before 1:30 p.m.

The 40-year-old Quinsam holds more vehicles than the Quintsa, and was originally estimated to return on Dec. 12; supply chain issues for needed parts were blamed for the additional delay. The Quinsam was taken off the route for refit purposes on Oct. 24.

We want to hear from you!

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee is looking for feedback on the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSWIPA) 2023/2024 budget.

Offer comments on the 2023/2024 proposed budget through an online survey.

Open: January 25th – February 6th

To access survey: <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/budget>



To learn more about SSWIPA:
<https://www.ssiwpa.org/>

Questions? budget@islandstrust.bc.ca

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MOTOR VEHICLE INCIDENT

Island woman injured in crash

GoFundMe helps support Horsdal family

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A well-known community member is in good spirits but suffering from a number of injuries following a car accident on Stewart Road last Tuesday afternoon.

Kathleen Horsdal was still in the Victoria trauma unit on Monday, but has been deemed stable and is cleared for transfer to Lady Minto Hospital this week.

Horsdal said she lost control of her vehicle after trying to avoid hitting two deer on the road just before 3 p.m. on Jan. 24.

She said she was grateful to all the first responders, and especially those who carried her up the 20-foot embankment on a spine board. Her passenger was taken to Lady Minto Hospital in a separate ambulance



PHOTO COURTESY KATHLEEN HORSDAL

Kathleen Horsdal, who suffered several injuries in a Jan. 24 car crash on Stewart Road.

lance but was thankfully not injured.

Horsdal said some people assumed she had been transported to hospital via air ambulance as a helicopter landed in a nearby field, but the pilot was passing by

and decided to stop to see if assistance was needed, she explained.

Horsdal said the pain has been "excruciating." She suffered three fractured vertebrae in her lower back, cracked ribs on both sides, a fractured scapula on the left side "that took the brunt of the final impact of a tree," a bruised elbow and funny bone, and a minor concussion. She also has a number of stitches and a broken wrist, but was pleased to have gotten a purple cast.

A GoFundMe page has been set up to help with immediate costs and cover the bills since Horsdal is the primary family breadwinner through her employment as a Gulf Islands Families Together Society caregiver. Her musician husband Valdy has few gigs at this time of year and is now focused on helping her heal, she said. People can access the fundraiser by searching "Kathleen with costs related to her car accident" at gofundme.com.

HOUSING

Doors re-opened to adopt Bylaw 530

LTC reaffirms commitment to explore accessory dwelling units

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Discussion about accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on Salt Spring will advance, according to officials — and a controversial proposed bylaw aimed at allowing more of them will go back under the microscope.

At a special meeting Thursday, Jan. 26, Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee (LTC) started the new year with a brief closed session; upon opening the public meeting, trustee Tim Peterson announced that the LTC has requested staff continue work on proposed Bylaw 530, which deals with permitting ADUs.

Specifically, LTC directed staff to complete a list of tasks set out by the previous committee back in September of last year — before the October election, and after well-attended public meetings on the proposal over the summer. An August public hearing saw dozens of islanders making written and in-person comments both for and against the proposal, as well as the receipt of a letter from Tsawout First Nation representatives expressing their opposition.

Ultimately, that LTC decided to halt the process in order to both re-examine the proposal and attempt to address public input — and by the next meeting, staff would have direction, and there was a lot of it. In addition to consultation with First Nations addressing concerns about the bylaw, the to-do list included preparation of "communications materials" to guide the public on specifics for ADUs and how they would be regulated. Staff were further asked to produce analyses on how limiting the size, number and frequency — such as how many might be allowed in a calendar year — of ADUs might minimize environmental impacts while still advancing the goal of creating

more affordable housing.

Trustees cited Community Charter Section 90 (1)(i) in closing Thursday's discussion to the public, which suggests they would be receiving advice "subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose." The idea that the LTC might face legal action — either from parties in favour of Bylaw 530, or from those against it — has been banded about in community discussions, although no threat of lawsuit has been made public.

Discussion of Bylaw 530 was not on the published agenda, and it was not discussed further during the open meeting, other than a brief mention as being an LTC priority for the coming term.

Bylaw 530, crafted at the urging of the Housing Action Program Task Force and shaped through several public events and LTC amendments, is hoped by proponents to help ease Salt Spring's rental supply crunch by permitting a new housing option: ADUs, which would be permitted in several zones across the island. The bylaw text — so far — also presents a host of regulations on how those ADUs would be permitted and used. While the proposal has 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 previous LTC's decision to pause its process.

During the fall election campaign, then-candidate and now-trustee Jamie Harris ran on a message that 530 was a "Band-Aid solution" that he would work to implement, while believing it ultimately wouldn't go far enough to solve the housing crisis. Notably, incumbent and continuing trustee Laura Patrick expressed similar thoughts at that time about 530's likely efficacy. She stopped short of promising to work to pass the bylaw, and instead called for additional steps to make a wider range of housing available.

ISLANDS TRUST

Trust wants input on water coordination agency

Salt Spring tax levy continuation proposed

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Islanders are being asked to provide feedback about funding the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA), which has been done through a special Islands Trust tax levy since 2014.

The proposal is to continue funding

SSIWPA for the 2023-24 fiscal year, which runs from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024, with a \$75,000 tax on Salt Spring properties. For the 2022-23 fiscal year the amount was \$60,000.

SSIWPA coordinates and supports the work of various water-related agencies to help protect and preserve freshwater resources on Salt Spring.

Except for the question about SSIWPA, public feedback about the proposed 2023-2024 budget is not being formally solicited by Islands Trust Council as it has been in recent years.

The five-minute survey is open until Feb. 14 at a link on islandstrust.bc.ca/budget.

A backgrounder with more information about SSIWPA is also available on the Trust website.

Salt Spring trustee and SSIWPA chair Laura Patrick said the \$75,000 amount could be reduced by the time the overall budget is finalized. She said work is still being done to trim the 2023-24 budget, originally proposed to be about \$9.8 million. A final budget will be adopted at the March 7-9 Trust Council meeting.



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The Board of Directors of Greenwood's Eldercare Society (GES) is seeking candidates to serve as a Society Director. GES wishes to identify candidates who possess a background in finance, including some knowledge of non-profit and government financial practices.

Orientation and mentoring into the role will be provided.

Those with suitable background and having an interest in serving on the GES Board should contact:

- Dorrie Ferster – dorrie.ferster@greenwoodseldercare.org
- Wayne Glover – wayne.glover@greenwoodseldercare.org



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TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

FEBRUARY 2023 PST (UTC-8h)

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DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
1	0437	3.3	10.8	5	0644	3.4	11.2
	0937	3.0	9.8		1158	2.8	9.2
	WE 1145	3.0	9.8		SU 1514	3.0	9.8
2	ME 2029	0.6	2.0	DI 2257	0.6	2.0	2.0
	0515	3.4	11.2	6	0705	3.4	11.2
	1034	3.0	9.8		1226	2.7	8.9
TH 1239	3.0	9.8	MO 1601		2.9	9.5	
3	JE 2110	0.6	2.0	LU 2328	0.7	2.3	2.3
	0550	3.4	11.2	7	0722	3.3	10.8
	1107	2.9	9.5		1256	2.5	8.2
FR 1335	3.0	9.8	TU 1649		2.8	9.2	
4	VE 2148	0.6	2.0	MA 2359	0.9	3.0	3.0
	0620	3.4	11.2	8	0739	3.3	10.8
	1133	2.9	9.5		1329	2.3	7.5
SA 1426	3.0	9.8	WE 1742		2.7	8.9	
SA 2223	0.6	2.0	ME				

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



EDITORIAL

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Vision and reality

Few projects make headlines in five consecutive decades. The Ganges seawalk/boardwalk/harbourwalk is one of them.

The story details are complicated. It's easiest to say that in the 1980s the community had a grand vision for a pedestrian boardwalk around Ganges Harbour. Funding was secured, but the required rights of way from all private property owners were not, resulting in a "gap" and a project that was never finished. Former Driftwood cartoonist Peter Lynde even named his compilation of local cartoons Boardwalk to Nowhere, giving a nod to the unfortunate humour in the failed endeavour.

The project was given a serious second chance when the late Matt Steffich made it a priority beginning in 2014 when he was a Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce director. That push resulted in creation of a steering committee under the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission and Capital Regional District (CRD). The CRD director at the time, Wayne McIntyre, agreed to set aside \$150,000 in Community Works Fund monies to pay for engineering, environmental and other

THE ISSUE: Ganges Harbourwalk

WE SAY: Diverse approaches needed

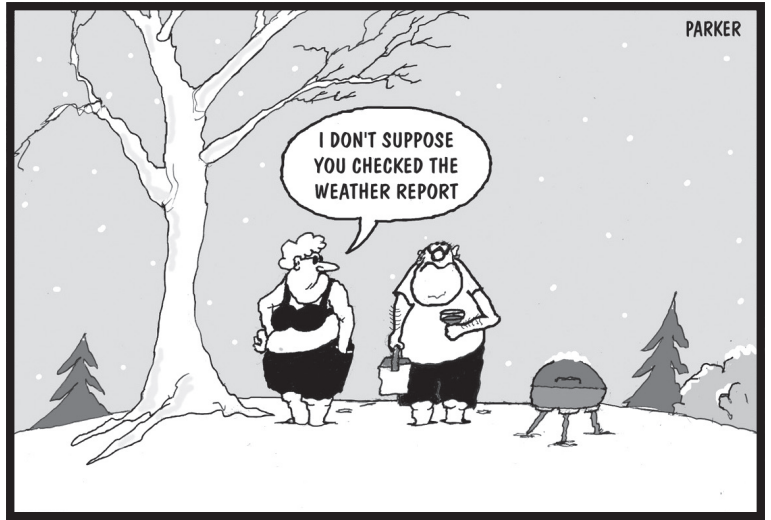
assessments to determine the state of the existing infrastructure.

In recent years, sensitive right-of-way issues have also been broached, somewhat. Most recently, the CRD steering committee, PARC and the CRD transportation commission agreed to a project charter that will seek design and public consultation services.

Whatever happens next, it is certainly time to put away the old jokes and fatalism when it comes to talking about the new "harbour walk" or "harbourwalk." (The fact that the CRD committee has used two words and the Chamber of Commerce group only one word may be symbolic of the differences between the two.)

It's true that nothing would happen on Salt Spring or anywhere without a broad vision and plenty of enthusiasm. At the same time, reality must not be allowed to stray too far as the project hopefully continues to move forward in the next few years. Tangible progress has been made since Steffich and others got the ball rolling almost a decade ago now, but there's still a long way to go before anyone's feet touch a new seaside structure in Ganges.

Hopefully the power of the visionaries and the more practical elements can be harnessed to get us to that point before another decade passes.



Net pen fish farms must go

The following is an open letter written by Nancy Wigen of Salt Spring Island regarding net pen fish farms sent to federal fisheries minister Joyce Murray, filed with the Driftwood for publication.

VIEWPOINT

Is the profound impact of the environmental loss on our multiple species of wildlife, from whales, and orcas especially, to other fish, seabirds, marine

mammals, bears, eagles — even the coastal forests that all need the nutrients wild salmon bring in from the open Pacific — are all these less important than Grieg Seafood's profits?

No. They don't even begin to compare. The federal government must absolutely

Dear Minister Murray,
The federal government promised to get all open net pen salmon fish farms out of B.C. coast waters by 2025 or sooner.

This was wonderful news but now guess what? Once again the fish farm owners are coming up with an escape from the order to transition to land-based closed containment by promising "innovative changes."

And what is the Department of Fisheries and Oceans doing in response? Planning to buy back (remove from fishing) half of B.C.'s salmon fishing boats!! This is just what Grieg fish farms would love to see: less competition for their commercial feedlot inferior product.

Why are these foreign-owned, disease and parasite spreading, industrial fish farms allowed to pollute and infect our waters, killing our native wild salmon, while our own commercial fishers, resident fishers, sport fishers, the tourist-related fisheries and of course First Nations have to cope with fishing restrictions, closures, etc. as we watch our wonderful wild Pacific salmon be pushed to extinction?

Are the foreign owners and shareholders and their fish farm employees more important than Canadian businesses and workers at all levels, as well as the First Nations food and ceremonial designations?

The federal government must absolutely keep their promise to have all those net pens and any form of industrial farming of non-native salmon completely out of our waters by 2025 or before.

keep their promise to have all those net pens and any form of industrial farming of non-native salmon completely out of our waters by 2025 or before.

No excuses and no loopholes.

This is of utmost importance.

If you care to save our wild salmon, please send your message to Minister Joyce Murray at the address or phone number below. Every voice counts.

Email :

min@df0-mpo.gc.ca or joyce.murray@parl.gc.ca

Mail:

- 1) Ottawa constituency
Joyce Murray (no postage required)
House of Commons
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K1A 0A6
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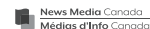
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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you support an open net pen fish farm ban on B.C.'s coast? Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should a completed Ganges Harbourwalk be a community priority?
 57 NO 98 YES

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

Letters to the editor are welcome, but writers are requested to keep their submissions to 350 words or less. For details about deadlines, and word limits for the Viewpoint and other longer opinion pieces, contact the editor at the email address below, or phone 250-537-9933. All submissions may be edited for brevity, legality and taste. Writers are asked to provide a telephone number where they may be reached during the day, and to sign letters with their full name. Letters published do not necessarily reflect the views of Driftwood Publishing Ltd., its staff or advertisers. Send letters to: news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Huge task for new ferries CEO

The new BC Ferries CEO, Mr. Nicolas Jimenez, faces a Herculean task to rescue the company from its lamentable demise.

Having been a regular passenger for the last 30 years, I have never experienced such chaos and inadequacy!

Likewise, growing up in Liverpool and regularly travelling the renowned Mersey ferries, no such disorganization was experienced. It has always been a company whose skillful, intelligent and astute management knew how to respect and reward its employees accordingly.

I sincerely hope that all us loyal and now somewhat betrayed patrons, ranging from those in emergency need for specialized off-island attention such as myself with a broken leg sustained last month, to those with specialist medical needs, essential workers, pet owners in out-of-hours distress, commuters, tourists, shoppers and theatre goers, are no longer betrayed!

Good luck, Mr. Jimenez!
DR. MARTIN E. RANDLE,
LONG HARBOUR ROAD

More harbour walk background

I look forward to working with the group formed to promote the Ganges Harbour Walk ("New group promotes harbour walk vision," Jan. 25 Driftwood) and wanted to provide some perspective on the project's history.

The decades-long delay has resulted primarily from the upland owner withholding support for a right of way (RoW) across its lease area on Crown foreshore until its upland property was satisfactorily rezoned, not "inaction" by local government. After a second failed rezoning, and understanding the lease was being renewed, the Trust applied in 2018 to the provincial government for a RoW on public foreshore to allow harbour walk construction.

After the 2018 election, local officials met with provincial and marina representatives and secured provision for a RoW, finally allowing detailed design and costing (including First Nation, marina and public consultation) to support grant applications and community fundraising.

More recently, CRD parks and rec staff needed more time to assume and com-

plete the Trust's RoW application. There have also been delays due to parks and rec staff turnover, and pressing matters such as repairs and shared recreation/day-care additions to the Rainbow Road pool site, the Salt Spring Commons to Seaview pathway, Centennial Park upgrades, leasing of the middle school, and acquiring the 75-acre Maxwell Mountain Park — all projects our community also values.

GARY HOLMAN,
SALT SPRING CRD DIRECTOR

Time to stop fracking

Heat domes, torrential rains, wildfire smoke, and rising grocery prices are all connected to the effects of our changing climate. Exxon has known since the 1970s that burning gas and oil would affect our climate.

Is not gas derived from fracking, whether in our stove, furnace or car, also affecting our climate?

Is gas from fracking "better" than gas from the mining of oil?

Is the wealth from the mining and burning, worth the increasing of fire,

flood and fury of storms?

Is the discomfort of change not worth accepting the very viable alternatives?

We have everything we need to make the transition off fossil fuels except the political will.

EILEEN WITTEWAALL,
SALT SPRING

Crew service appreciated

On a recent trip back from a medical appointment in Victoria, we missed the 3 p.m. ferry at Swartz Bay by three minutes, so we were almost first in line for the 5 p.m. sailing.

But after two extra hours in the car I needed the handicapped washroom. The person loading let us park the car right beside the handicapped washroom. A crew member came and assisted me to get into the bathroom.

I am so grateful. Thank you for such helpful service!

NANCY WIGEN,
SALT SPRING

MORE OPINION continued on 6

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Saying the emergency room is covered because there's a physician in the hospital completely devalues the role of emergency nurses. They're two different, highly specialized skill sets. And I can't do my job safely without them."

SALT SPRING PHYSICIAN DR. CLARE RUSTAD

Chief executive officers not worth 243 times any of the rest of us

If there was ever a goblet of news to turn a disinterested old reactionary into a rabid revolutionary it was this: By 9:43 a.m. on Jan. 3, Canada's richest CEOs had already earned the equivalent of an average worker's annual salary. Earned! Earned!

That means that just one day and 43 minutes into the first official work week of the new year (Jan. 1 was a public holiday) they had already trousered about \$58,000. In one day and a few minutes, the price of a decent family car had dropped into their bank accounts.

And for what? Mostly for sitting on their butts while the rest of you earn their unspookably inflated salaries for them by scraping together a meagre living for yourself and your family.

If the fact that the 100 grossly overpaid chief executive officers in Canada now make 243 times what a typical worker earns doesn't make you want to roll out the tumbrels, then nothing will. I'll tell you this now — there is not, nor has there ever been, nor will there ever be, a single human being worth 243 times more than me. Or you.

I'm a pensioner and through luck and hard work, the income I share with my wife is slightly more than the average wage, which is not something that bothers me greatly. When I WAS working and at the end of a 50-year career, I was paid perhaps three or four times the average wage. Whether I "earned" it is moot, but it was the going rate and to tell the truth I'd have done it for a quarter of that if I thought I could have survived on it.

But at what point does someone, theoretically, become 243 times more valuable than your average Joe? Did they lay 243 times as many bricks, deliver 243 times as many letters, produce 243 times as many buns as the next baker? And don't let anyone tell you that the job of a stinking rich CEO is 243 times more arduous, more demanding, than a repairman who turns out in the middle of a storm, in the middle of the night to restore power because it just isn't. It just isn't.

What most of them will have done is sit around and figure out how to get more work out of fewer working stiffs, and how they can make more money for their shareholders.



Paul McElroy
+ ANOTHER THING

Because that's the most repugnant aspect of the insatiable avarice in many of the world's boardrooms; these fat cats earn their corporate kibble in bonuses, bonuses for meaningless targets invariably set by their chums on the board.

And I don't want to get all Karl Marx on you, but what is the point of that conspicuous greed? The bonuses that trigger these cascades of over-employment are invariably absurd because there is absolutely nothing a chief executive officer in a \$3,000 suit and silk tie can do to increase profits beyond cutting margins and getting more work from fewer drones.

Suppose for a moment the board sets a bonus target of three per cent increased profitability. Easy-peasy. Lay off a few hundred people who actu-

ally do the work and at the same time encourage those who are left to work harder for fear of losing their own jobs.

But the inflated salaries of Canada's 100 nabobs are pocket money compared to the colossal pay packets of the gold-plated bosses in the high-tech industries who are presently ditching staff by the thousands.

Amazon CEO Andy Jassy recently justified his eye-watering \$220-million "compensation" while preparing for a hypothetical global downturn by sacking 18,000 employees who earn on average \$17.60 an hour, or \$40,000 a year, provided they put in the time.

Jassy's pay package, already 6,474 times more than an Amazon median employee, will likely be even bigger next year when he's rewarded for sacking all those average employees who will face any "global downturn" on social security.

Apple boss Tim Cook recently insisted on having his pay cut by more than 40 per cent because it hadn't been a great year for the tech giant, and as CEO, Tim threw himself on his own sword. Not that it was

much of a mea culpa — he'll be keeping the wolves from the door with a \$3 million salary, \$6 million cash incentive and \$40 million in equity awards. So bully for Tim, but if I were to take an equivalent 40 per cent cut to my pension I'd need to decide whether to eat or freeze, while I can't imagine there will be too much belt-tightening going on at Chez Tim's.

Meanwhile at Microsoft, its CEO Satya Nadella (total compensation \$54 million, up 10 per cent on the previous year, thank you very much) is making sure he earns his own colossal pay packet by laying off 10,000 people to concentrate on "secular growth." Nope, I have no idea what he's talking about and neither, I suspect, does he. Earthly growth? Non-spiritual growth? Temporal? Laic?

These layoffs are going through the tech industry like a tsunami, tens of thousands of jobs and lives written off because the fat cats upstairs have decided the future looks bleak. Not for them, of course. Never for them.

paulmcelroy@shaw.ca

Salt Springers join province-wide forests rally

SUBMITTED BY PAULA KATRINA ELLEN JOHANSSON AND TEAM

Communities from all over the province have been co-organizing to come together in a massive show of solidarity to support The Declaration For Old Growth. The Declaration was created by the United for Old Growth Coalition.

The Declaration for Old Growth, initially endorsed by the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), has been signed by 190 organizations, ranging from small environmental groups to large unions (the BCGEU recently signed on). The Salt Spring Island United Church and Transition Salt Spring are included in the signatory list. It's the broadest grouping ever to sign on together in solidarity with First Nations insisting that the logging of old-growth forests stop. Now!

A major purpose of this event, as well as demonstrating the broadest possible opposition to logging of old-growth forests, is to amplify Indigenous voices speaking out for old-growth protection. Over two years ago the Old Growth Strategic Review Panel (OGSRP), appointed by the NDP government, released its findings in their report entitled A New Future for Old Forests. It made 14 recommendations, including "immediate action to stop logging the most at-risk old-growth forests in B.C." and calling on the government to "embark on a new, holistic approach to protecting old-growth forests."

On June 2, 2022, the UBCIC called for the immediate implementation of OGSRP recommendations.

Still to this day, since these recommendations have been made, tens of thousands of hectares of the most at-

risk stands have been clearcut, and destructive logging practices continue. These forests need our help. It's time to show provincial lawmakers that the public wants these vital forests to remain standing for future generations. Together, we are united for old-growth. On Feb. 25, join us!

Rally organizers and artists have been collaborating to create a vibrant day of celebration to build awareness and show our respect for these important Ancient Forest ecosystems and the Indigenous nations that are calling for action.

**Here on Salt Spring
we have committed
to creating a forest of trees
that can be carried through
the rally.**

This peaceful march and rally will begin at Centennial Square (City Hall) in Victoria (Lekwungen territory) at noon, proceeding to the lawn of the Legislature for a rally at 1:30 p.m. Indigenous nations are being invited to lead the march, and many on the speakers list for the rally are Indigenous. The rally will feature powerful speakers and performers: Chief James Hobart of the Spuzzum First Nation, Elder Bill Jones of the Pacheedaht First Nation, Matriarch Rainbow Eyez from the Da'naxda'xw/Awaetlala First Nation, Afro-Indigenous climate activist Janelle Lapointe of the Stellat'en First Nation, and David Suzuki, just to name a few.

Various organizations, including Elders

for Ancient Trees, Parents 4 Climate and Sierra Club BC have been coordinating art projects for this rally, gathering to paint banners and create large puppetry and sculpture installations for the day of the march.

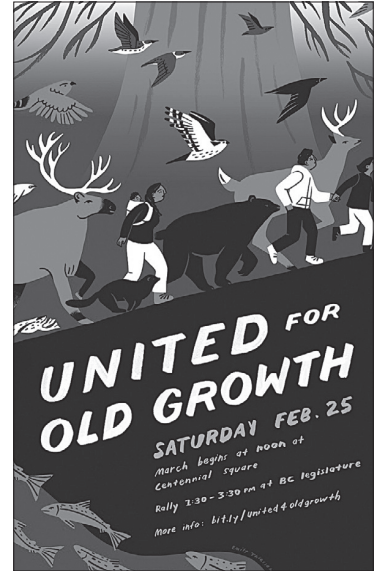
The walk from Centennial Square to the Legislature will be an inspiring creative event to remember. Here on Salt Spring we have committed to create a forest of trees that can be carried through the rally. Volunteers have been gathering to create our forest and we will be continuing to gather and sew and build for the next three Saturdays. All are invited to come and join!

Making party workshops continue Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Feb. 4, 11 and 18 at the SSI Community Creator Space at SIMS (Salt Spring Island Multi Space, formerly the middle school) in Room 2.

Volunteers are also needed to help in Victoria. In the lead-up to Feb. 25, dozens of outreach volunteers for dancers, leafletting/store-front postering and other promotional activities are needed in Victoria. And on Feb. 25, the day of the march, rally organizers need at least 100 volunteers to carry many wonderful banners, to marshal, to help with set-up and take-down.

People who want to help should contact volunteerforoldgrowth@gmail.com with their name and phone number, and the type of volunteer work they are most interested in.

There is a bus being coordinated for all wanting to attend the rally who will be journeying from Salt Spring. The bus will take people from Ganges to Centennial Square on the day of the rally. Tickets will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.



United for Old Growth rally poster created by artist Emily Friesen.

For more bus details, information on joining the Salt Spring team, or more info in general, please email lynxlight-walking@riseup.net.

Are you a part of a local or non-local organization that would like to join the declaration? If so, please email united4oldgrowth@gmail.com.

To read the declaration, go to stand.earth/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/United-We-Stand-Declaration_Final.pdf.



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ISLANDS TRUST

New trustees tackle bylaw enforcement issues

Broader council to examine how bylaws are upheld

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Islands Trust has decided to examine — and possibly change — how it administers bylaw enforcement. But it's still not clear how any changes might be reviewed, whether bylaws will be enforced in the meantime, or even how much of that discussion will be open to the public.

At its December quarterly council meeting, trustees agreed to begin an examination in March of how the Islands Trust delivers enforcement, through a motion brought by second-term North Pender Island trustee Deb Morrison. But it has been new trustees — new to governance, if not always to the islands — largely shepherding the conversation. And while there may be little debate within the council that the model needs a hard look, at least one new trustee felt the process was so damaged that enforcement should halt altogether — at least temporarily.

Morrison's motion — that the Trust's Executive Committee include a session on bylaw enforcement policy and practice in the agenda for March's Trust Council meeting — was met with broad approval: 21 in favour, none against.

"It may be an in-camera session," said Morrison. "The Executive Committee is open to figuring that out. But what we really need to understand is, what is bylaw enforcement

doing, and what are the practices, policies and procedures [to be able to] ask our questions."

That was followed by an advance notice of a second motion, set for the council's March meeting and to be brought by Morrison's fellow North Pender trustee Aaron Campbell. Campbell came to the Trust after seven years farming on the island, and took home the most votes of any candidate in his election.

"There needs to be more done about this issue, faster than 'down the road,'" said Campbell, as he advised trustees he would be moving that the Trust suspend its current enforcement model "and all associated files" pending a full review of bylaw enforcement by a nonpartisan third party.

Further, said Campbell, to ensure that enforcement comes "free of a bias of predetermined guilt," Campbell would be seeking to enshrine rights of appeal — and a neutral body to appeal to — and that any complaint-driven issues "be vetted by individual local trustees to ensure fairness, in keeping with each island's uniqueness."

On its face, Trust Council's action would seem to stem from a presentation brought earlier by Salt Spring resident Mielle Chandler. During the multi-day meeting, Chandler spoke at length on her own negative experiences with bylaw enforcement, which she characterized as "draconian" and "harmful to the cause of working people's support for good land stewardship."

But new trustees — and, to some extent, those returning for another term — were quick to posit Chandler's individual experience with

enforcement as emblematic of broader problems.

"I think it's really important for people to understand that there are other islands exhibiting or reporting similar issues," said South Pender Island's Kristina Evans, newly elected in October.

"This is not isolated," agreed Denman Island trustee Sam Borthwick, another new trustee who ultimately seconded Morrison's original motion. "These concerns are not isolated to Salt Spring or to this delegate. If there's a systemic problem that's going on, it is absolutely our mandate to investigate that exhaustively."

Gambier's Joe Bernardo, again new this term, shared his agreement — and a warning.

"Just because we have an individual person who has got some enforcement issues coming forward as a delegation to make generic complaints about our system, that doesn't delegitimize what she's got to say," said Bernardo. "If we get into a situation where we find ourselves antagonizing people unnecessarily — and I'm not saying that's happened — but if we find ourselves in that situation, we are opening up a world of trouble for ourselves."

Bernardo, who won his seat uncontested in October, brings with him a wealth of legal expertise — earned from years practising law at the BC Securities Commission. He also chairs the Trust's Financial Planning Committee (FPC), and in what is shaping up to be a tight budget year — and with the potential for suspension of some projects that may have strong community support — he mused during the FPC

meeting that trustees should have some mechanism to brainstorm ideas with one another in non-public ways, without "coming from a place of any commentary about the merits" of particular initiatives.

He sought specificity at the Trust's recent Governance Committee meeting about transparency practices — and the policy that whenever a quorum of members is present, that constitutes a meeting that requires notice and must be open to the public.

"These concerns are not isolated to Salt Spring or to this delegate."

SAM BORTHWICK
Denman Island trustee

"At our briefings as newcomers to this, we heard how closed meetings are off-limits, except in some extreme cases," said Bernardo. "I think what we have is a problem here, our traditional interpretation of the [quorum] rule. Having an audience, when there is no decision actually to be made, [and] you're just trying to get your thoughts clear — it's not clear to me that that has anything to do with transparency."

At the end of that meeting's discussion, a request was made asking staff to report back with "options for less formal meeting structures." Back at Trust Council, those same staff need to prepare for an enforcement review session — with few boundaries, and possibly a new direction. When the Islands Trust executive committee met Jan. 11,

chief administrative officer Russ Hotsenpiller told trustees not to expect everything to be covered in a single meeting, open or closed — and that Trust Council's impact on individual islands' local Trust committees (LTCs) had the potential to be muted.

"We've got a bylaw legislative horizon that's got 13 different versions of how we do bylaw enforcement," said Hotsenpiller. "I can tell you, as the chief administrative officer, I've been sternly spoken to at Trust Council because we haven't enforced. Moving to a process where we react to the direction — provided by Trust Council — to perhaps a new approach certainly can be done; [but] how to do it, and over what time?"

Further, Hotsenpiller pointed out, while Trust Council may have the over-arching framework, it lacks specific authority over local bylaws.

"It inflames Trust Council," said Hotsenpiller, "but they have no legislative ability to do anything associated with [individual complaints] because they're not the constituted body. Those things need to go back to the LTC on a specific case-by-case basis."

Thetis Island trustee Peter Luckham agreed.

"Council does not have the ability to tell an LTC to go and change their bylaw," said Luckham. "The LTC has to do that."

"We can't possibly tackle all of these issues in one, or even two, or probably three sessions," said Lasqueti trustee Tim Peterson, who chairs Salt Spring's LTC. "If we're going to diligently explore the issues here, we're going to have to take some time to do it well."

WATER

Lake levels 'good' but more rainfall needed this spring

NSSWD losing current district and operations managers

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

To perhaps no one's surprise, recent rains have filled Salt Spring Island's largest natural reservoirs — and quickly — according to North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) officials.

Delivering what will be one of his last water level reports to trustees, soon-retiring operations manager Vaughn Figueira said both St. Mary and Maxwell lakes were currently "full and overflowing," a situation that progressed quickly after recent weather.

Presenting the latest charts to NSSWD trustees at their Jan. 26 meeting, Figueira

added the hope was that rain would continue deeper into the spring this year.

"If you look at the last week of December, that was the atmospheric river we were talking about. Boom, that just took us right up."

VAUGHN FIGUEIRA
NSSWD operations manager

"If you look at the last week of December, that was the atmospheric river we were talking about," said Figueira. "Boom, that just took us right up. By the end of December we were full, and shortly before that, we definitely weren't."

Figueira said the "massive week of storms" thankfully recovered water levels earlier than projected.

"The trick is to keep it coming for a while," he said, adding that the rain needed to continue for the next several months to "keep us out of trouble" for the summer, and that technically rainfall totals so far in January were still a little less than normally expected.

"But glass half-full, our lakes are full," he said. "Good."

Figueira officially retires in April, and the district is actively recruiting for the position.

In addition, with the departure earlier this month of district manager Colum McCready, who was only hired by the NSSWD last summer, current financial officer and office manager Tammy Lannan has been appointed acting district manager.

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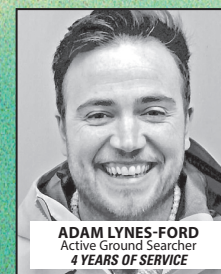
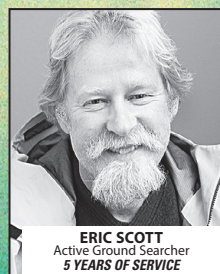
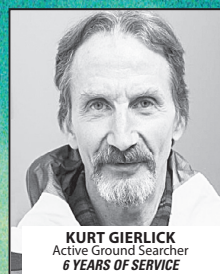
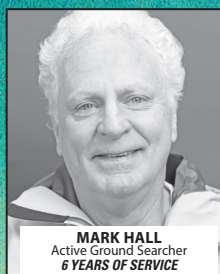
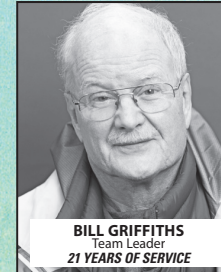
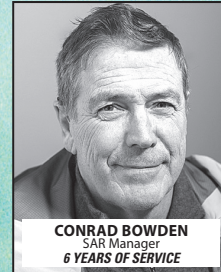
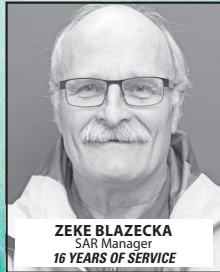
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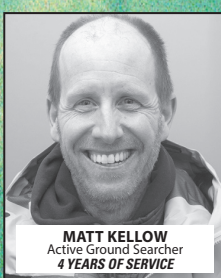
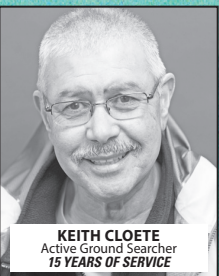
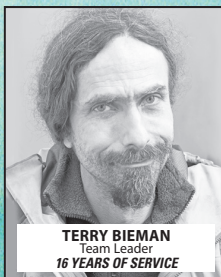
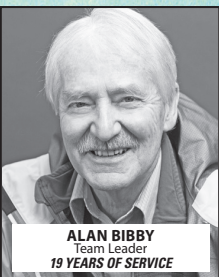
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Bob Walsh, Emilija Kolar, Matthew Seto, Patrick Callas, Jazzi Griffiths, Kate Martinez

New SAR command vehicle on its way



PHOTO COURTESY SSI SAR

Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue senior search manager Zeke Blazecka removes items from the current command vehicle in preparation for their transfer to Intercontinental Truck Body in Surrey, where the group's new vehicle is being assembled.

Community comes together to support non-profit search and rescue society

BY GAIL S. JUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue (SSISAR) Society volunteers are not only skilled and dedicated when it comes to their on-the-ground missions but have proven themselves successful fundraisers as well.

Donations from corporate sponsors, individuals and foundations combined to give the local ground search and rescue group the \$320,000 they needed to purchase a new command vehicle just before Christmas.

The unit is being put together by Intercontinental Truck Body (ITB), a custom large vehicle manufacturer in Surrey, and should be ready by April, said SSISAR Society president Conrad Bowden.

As a cost-saving measure, some parts from the group's previous command vehicle have been

transferred to the new one for reuse.

SSISAR's current vehicle is about 25 years old and was a bread delivery truck before being converted for emergency services purposes. SSISAR acquired it second hand about a dozen years ago.

The new four-wheel-drive unit will be hugely beneficial for search and rescue operations, said Bowden.

One reason is that it has advanced computer, mapping and communications capabilities. For example, both the searchers and the search subject, once identified, can be viewed on a screen.

"These days there are so many electronics in a vehicle," said Bowden.

Command vehicles are ideally set up as close as possible to the search and rescue scene, he said, which is another reason the 4X4 aspect is important.

"Now we will be able to get anywhere," said Bowden.

SSISAR plans to have an open house event after the vehicle has arrived, and funders will also be formally acknowledged.



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PERFORMING ARTS

Second clown art workshop offered

High demand fuels another
 Nayana Fielkov session

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Following the success of her Jan. 14-15 Fools Proof clown workshop, Nayana Fielkov is offering another one on the weekend of Feb. 11-12.

Taking place at Lions Hall from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, Fielkov describes the workshop as "an invitation to expand and develop play and personal presence on stage and in everyday life."

Fielkov uses experiential awareness-building games and exercises to cultivate curiosity, explore emotional range and practise the bravery required to share one's willingness and openness.



COURTESY NAYANA FIELKOV

Workshop leader Nayana Fielkov in clown mode.

"Through following the body and our impulses, we can be in delight with the discovery of the moment," she explains.

Workshop participants will:

- Laugh a lot;
- Practise emotional range in order to widen possibilities of freedom with agency;

- Practise simplicity to discover honesty and detail in what is funny;
- Explore extension of impulse to become familiar with the edges of what is possible;
- Work with tempo, rhythm, space, tensegrity, shape and form to gain agency in the body as a tool;
- Discover by witnessing and practicing what generates laughter;
- Widen tools and possibilities for generating content and inspiration.

Fielkov is co-creator and performer in several award-winning shows, such as *Falling Awake*, *Hotel Vortruba*, *A Can of Worms*, *UNDERBELLY*, *Habitats* and *Out of Time* from *The Myrtle Sisters*. She is a founding member of ensemble theatre/clown troupes *Poupon Parade* and *The Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret*.

Register at nayanafielkov@gmail.com.

CONCERT PREVIEWS

ArtSpring shows span piano to pop

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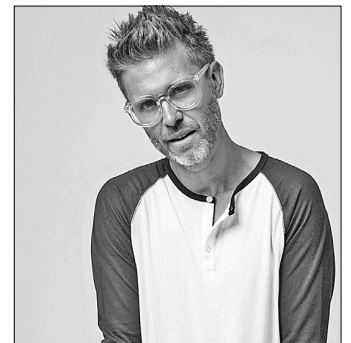
BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
 FOR ARTSPRING

Two B.C. musical artists who have earned international attention will play back-to-back next weekend at ArtSpring: concert pianist Ian Parker on Friday, Feb. 10 and pop singer/songwriter Andrew Allen on Saturday, Feb. 11.

Magnetic, easy-going and delightfully articulate, Vancouver-born Parker captivates audiences wherever he goes. Piano is in his blood. Born into a family of pianists, Parker began his piano studies at age three with his father and went on to graduate with a Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from The Juilliard School, where he was presented with the "most talented Canadian artist" award.

As a pianist, Parker has appeared with top symphony orchestras across North America, and as an enthusiastic recitalist he has performed across the United States, Europe, Israel and throughout Canada. In addition to his work at the keyboard, he is currently music director and principal conductor of the VAM Symphony Orchestra at the Vancouver Academy of Music.

Parker's recordings include a CD with the London Symphony conducted by Michael Francis featuring three piano concertos: Ravel's Concerto in G, Stravinsky's Capriccio and Gershwin's Concerto in F, released by ATMA Classique, and an all-fantasy solo CD including fantasies of Chopin, Schumann and Beethoven on Azica Records. Additionally, CBC Records released a recording of three Mozart concertos for one piano (K. 467), two pianos (K. 365) and three pianos (K. 242) featuring Parker and his two cousins, Jon Kimura Parker and Jamie Parker, with the CBC Radio Orchestra.



PHOTOS COURTESY ARTSPRING

Performing next in the ArtSpring Presents season series are concert pianist Ian Parker, left, and pop singer/songwriter Andrew Allen.

On his performance with the San Francisco Symphony, a review stated that: "The Canadian's hands literally jumped with percussiveness one moment, moved blurry fast the next, and as a further contrast, gracefully and sensuously stroked the Steinway's keyboard throughout the lyrical sequences."

ArtSpringers are, no doubt, in for a treat. Thank you to Mary and Alan Hughes for sponsoring this performance.

On Saturday, Vernon-born singer-songwriter Allen shares tracks from his 2022 album *12:34*, the latest in a string of release successes which have seen him score five Top 10 hits in Canada since 2009.

His benchmark single *Loving You Tonight* (2010) got him signed to Epic Records and put him on tour with acts like Bruno Mars and OneRepublic. As a songwriter, Allen has written with the likes of Meghan Trainor and Carly Rae Jepsen.

Described as "a genuine and authentic artist who truly embodies the term 'live performer,'" Allen's comic wit and storytelling ability, smooth vocals and memorable songwriting promise

to create a dynamic, interactive live show.

Wearing his heart on his sleeve, Allen's 12:34 song opens every emotion and shares the pain and struggle of losing love, the confusion and chaos of rediscovering yourself again, and the blissful happiness that comes in finding new love.

Its title, 12:34, is an "angel number" Allen says he's seen repeatedly over the last few years, and one many believe is the universe's way of communicating with us.

"12:34 can be seen as a number of progression and/or steps along a journey or life path," he shares. "It indicates that you may have to put some hard work and effort towards a new project, venture or important life change."

It's a personal musical journey about the ups and downs that come with major change, sung with heart, soul, some laughs and a positive outcome.

Thank you to Mouat's Old Salty for sponsoring this performance.

Both shows begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are now on sale through ArtSpring, at the box office and online.



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Have your responsible investment and eat it, too

BY ROD MARTENS, RIS
ETHICWEST

Long ago, people needed to accept lower returns in order to exclude certain industries like weapons, tobacco and gambling from their investments. But for the last 15 or more years, so-called ESG (Ethical, Social, Governance) ETFs and professionally managed mutual funds that often exclude those companies have outperformed their less-discerning brethren. That favourite investment cake of yours can now also be free-range AND organic!

Excluding selected industries is enough for some clients but others want to be more proactive by encouraging investment in sectors like sustainable agriculture, responsible waste management and renewable energy. Happily, many professionally-managed mutual funds support all sorts of earth-friendly goals and a few of those, like the Mackenzie Greenchip Environmental All Cap have emerged as significant investment winners.

While there's no guarantee of future returns – after all, governments could decide to reverse course on recent climate incentives, for example – the investment industry itself is betting on continued high demand from investors and even more companies and funds are in the pipeline.

THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAILS

Lots of mutual funds marketed to the ethical investor, such as the NEI US Equity RS fund, are dominated by huge tech companies like Apple, Amazon, Facebook and Google. These companies aren't chemical plants poisoning rivers but they're also not the ones people think of when they imagine positive change. Ask to see what's under the hood before you stake your position.

How you structure your portfolio is a matter of your own principles but you no longer have to sacrifice your financial future to take a stand. In fact, doing the right thing might actually pay off handsomely.

The comments contained herein are a general discussion of certain issues intended as general information only and should not be relied upon as tax or legal advice. Please obtain independent professional advice, in the context of your particular circumstances. This article was written, designed and produced by Rod Martens for the benefit of Rod Martens who is an Investment Fund Advisor registered with Investia and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of Investia Financial Services Inc. The information contained in this article comes from sources we believe reliable, but we cannot guarantee its accuracy or reliability. The opinions expressed are based on an analysis and interpretation dating from the date of publication and are subject to change without notice. Furthermore, they do not constitute an offer or solicitation to buy or sell any securities. Mutual Funds, approved exempt market products and/or exchange traded funds are offered through Investia Financial Services Inc.

Binnacle team set to help

BY DAVID MCCALLUM
THE BINNACLE FINANCIAL TEAM

A binnacle is the housing of a ship's compass. The sole purpose of a binnacle is to correct the magnetic deviation of a ship, keeping the compass pointed due North. Like a ship's binnacle, my team is here to correct life's financial deviations, keeping your personal and corporate financial heading on course.

I love to work with my friends and clients on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, and Salt Spring in particular. I have been visiting Salt Spring monthly for the past 10+ years, on both business and pleasure (I love the annual 'Round Salt Spring sailboat race!'). While I enjoy sailing and motorcycles as transportation and recreation, I approach the work I do with strict privacy and consistent professionalism. Alongside my partners, I work with several successful families and growth-mode business owners, specifically

addressing their goals of (1) Financial Risk Management, (2) Corporate Tax Efficiency & Legacy, and (3) Extended Employee Benefits Planning.

One of my partners specializes in Investment Portfolio / Retirement Income Planning, and you may already have someone on Salt Spring or elsewhere that advises you in this regard. My work specifically focuses on Business Owner (incorporated) financial goals. Are you someone with a Holding Company and corporate taxation concerns that may affect you both now and after you pass away? Residual income or estate taxation? Estate equalization and distribution? These are the conversations where we can add significant value to the planning you have already accomplished.

It would be my honour and privilege to speak to you about your legacy; perhaps with the vision of sailing a broad reach in the tradewinds, bound for paradise.

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DAVID MCCALLUM

The Binnacle Financial Team



ISLAND LIFE

NEW BOOKS

Former fire chief shares burnout story in book

Nature of organizational stress explored in *Burnt Around the Edges*

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A full schedule isn't necessarily a bad thing, according to resilience coach and author Arjuna George.

Indeed, moments after an email exchange setting a time to chat, my inbox dinged with an RSVP request, which itself triggered a follow-up confirmation. George recently published a new book, and has speaking engagements all across Canada and in much of the U.S.; it's a lot to manage, and he's got a system. Despite suffering what he called an "organizational burnout" during the pandemic summer of 2020, the former fire chief clearly hasn't abandoned the methodical discipline that helped him lead Salt Spring's fire department for half a decade.

But George's scheduling these days includes room to breathe. "For example, after our conversation today, I've got another hour that's totally white space," said George, "for me to go play with the dog outside, or get some fresh air, meditate a little before my next meeting, right?"

George grew up on Salt Spring Island, joining the volunteer fire department in the late 1990s. There wasn't a history of fire service in his family, he said, apart from a grandfather in a London, England fire brigade. But in 2001, he became the first career firefighter from the force of paid-on-call volunteers led by chiefs, rising through the ranks to leadership in no small part due to his dedication — to the job, and to his community.

That personal level of dedication was a blessing, and a curse. It was a lot to shoulder, and he took it seriously.

"After one or two years of being the fire chief, I found myself working around the clock," said George. "Pretty much having no boundaries, just kind of working 24/7."

When COVID hit, the workload became heavier, and the sense of responsibility grew. As a profession, firefighting is not unexamined as a lightning rod for stress, but the focus across North America has been on post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic stress, said George — very important, he was quick to add, but only part of the picture.

"Nobody was talking about organizational stress," said George. "There's a gap around some other traumas, just from day-to-day operations of being a chief officer."

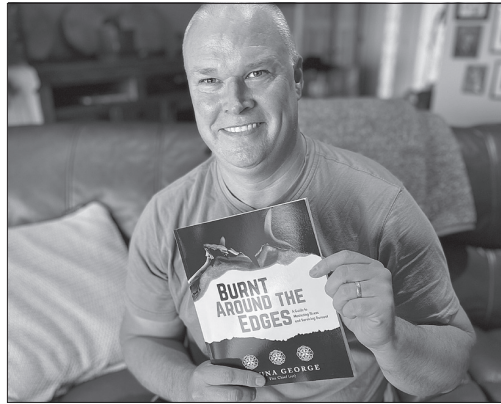


PHOTO BY CATHY GEORGE

Former Salt Spring fire chief Arjuna George with a copy of his book called *Burnt Around the Edges*.

George wants to fill the gap, to help not just firefighters but anyone taking on a heavier load than they should. His first book, *Burnt Around the Edges*, lays out the very personal story of his own burnout after 24 years in the fire service, how he got to the point where he had to step aside, what lessons he took from the experience and, hopefully, how others can take steps to prevent their own burnout. The message of structured self-care and intentional resilience has resonated. George said he's had great interest from people on many career paths, and that his story has felt familiar to readers across a wide range of high-pressure professions.

"The book is definitely focused on the fire service, because that's my expertise," said George. "But in any occupation, if you're stressed out, it dysregulates your body, makes you anxious. It leads to a whole bunch of mental and physical health issues."


George said *Burnt Around the Edges* is available through booksellers and online at his website, where islanders can schedule a free delivery deal, complete with inscription. And count on it to be a well-scheduled delivery.

"I owe a debt of gratitude to the community and the firefighters in the department for a pretty amazing career, to be able to serve my home town," said George. "I didn't do a good job of taking care of myself. So the message to everyone: consider yourself as part of your plan, and don't forget about your own wellbeing."

For information about George and his resilience coaching, visit silverarrowco.com. *Burnt Around the Edges* can be ordered at burntaroundtheedges.com or through Amazon, Apple Books or Google Play.

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CONSERVATION

'Kingfisher' parcel secured

Pender conservation land links biogeoclimatic zones

DRIFTWOOD STAFF REPORT

After more than a year of fundraising, organizers announced this week a 45-acre parcel on Pender Island singled out for its rare habitat has been secured for conservation.

The Raincoast Conservation Foundation (RCF) and the Pender Islands Conservancy made the announcement Monday, Jan. 30 that the "globally rare and threatened habitat" of the KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest would be protected in perpetuity. The forest links wetland headwaters to intertidal foreshore across globally rare Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zones. It is home to maturing coastal Douglas-fir, western red cedar and arbutus trees, and connects to Plumper Sound, critical habitat for endangered Southern Resident killer whales.

Raising the \$2.1-million price tag was ambitious and necessary, according to organizers, who said the land had been slated for development. If those plans proceeded, the forest would have been transformed from a refugium to a residential suburb.

"Land purchase is one of the only tools currently available to ensure ongoing protection of intact

ecosystems," said Shauna Doll, RCF forest conservation program director, "particularly in the Coastal Douglas-fir zone where most land is under private ownership."

The Pender Islands Conservancy's Dr. Erin O'Brien agreed; O'Brien is ecology and conservation director for the conservancy, and said goals of protection and stewardship of forest, wetland and foreshore habitats on Pender are strongly advanced through purchases. In this case, the forest's value as a link between ecosystems couldn't be understated.

"The resilience of our communities in the face of climate change and ongoing development pressures depends on intact, healthy and resilient terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems," said O'Brien. "Protection of KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest will help to ensure this resilience — both through the ecological diversity that is supported by the land itself, as well as through its connectivity to other protected Coastal Douglas-fir forest habitats in the area."

This project was made possible by the Government of Canada through the Natural Heritage Conservation Program, part of Canada's Nature Fund. Support was also provided by the Sitka Foundation, the McLean Foundation, the Islands Trust Conservancy's Opportunity Fund, the Greater Victoria Savings Credit Union Legacy Foundation, several other foundations and over 500 individual donors.

Capital Regional District



Notice of Volunteer Opportunity

Solid Waste Advisory Committee

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is seeking members from the community to serve on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. This committee provides input on solid waste management matters and will monitor the implementation of the CRD's new Solid Waste Management Plan. Participation is voluntary and members will be asked to commit to meeting (minimum once a month) for up to three years.

There are vacancies for members representing the following communities:

- ▶ First Nations Representative (2)
- ▶ Public Representative (1)

We invite you to send us a brief summary telling us about yourself, who you represent, your relevant experience and why you would like to serve on this committee. **Deadline for receipt of applications is Tuesday, February 28, 2023.**

For a copy of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, contact CRD Environmental Resource Management at the address below.

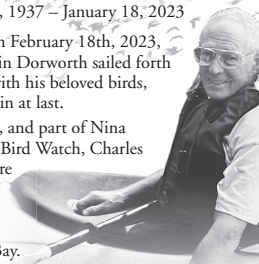
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CHARLES EDWIN DORWORTH
May 1, 1937 – January 18, 2023



At daybreak on February 18th, 2023, Dr. Charles Edwin Dorworth sailed forth over Duck Bay with his beloved birds, freed from his pain at last.

An avid birder, and part of Nina Raginski's Water Bird Watch, Charles took great pleasure in recording the daily presence of bird life in the waters of Duck Bay.

Charles was also the proud warden at the North End Reserve of the Salt Spring Island conservancy, where for many years he took great pride in helping to protect the environment where he lived.

Employed by the Federal Government as a Senior Scientist in Forestry, Charles spent his career travelling the world, sharing his knowledge and making many life-long friends.

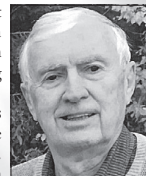
Charles was a man who took great pleasure in life, always positive in his outlook and generous with his charitable donations and time for his family.

Gloria, his beloved wife offers gratitude to Jeremy and Fiona for their love and support of Charles, and to the Anglican church for their prayers in his final days.

Our family offers thanks to the doctors and nurses in the Acute Care Ward of Lady Minto Hospital for their care and support of Charles.

Please offer any donations in Charles' memory to Lady Minto Hospital.

NORMAN STEPHEN ELLIOTT
1939 - 2022



Norman Stephen Elliott was born on May 13, 1939 in Vancouver, BC. He passed away on December 14, 2022 on Salt Spring Island, BC of Alzheimer's disease.

He was predeceased by his parents Thomas and Nellie (nee Bliss) Elliott and his son Stuart. He is survived by his son Stephen (Candace nee Brydon) and grandsons Samuel and Keil. He is also survived by his wife Diane (nee Wilkie) and his sister Janice Besharah and her daughters Nancy and Susan.

Norm grew up in the Dunbar neighbourhood of Vancouver. He attended Queen Elizabeth Elementary School and then Lord Byng Secondary School graduating in 1957. He also attended UBC and studied a very rewarding Sales and Marketing Program in which he was quite proud of.

His big break came when he joined Permasteel Engineering when he was 22 years old. He started in the heating department and eventually moved on to metal building construction sales. He travelled northern BC and the Yukon and was very successful. He eventually bought out the two owners of Permasteel and he thrived in the business.

Norm took up flying lessons when he was 27 years old and subsequently bought a small Cessna plane in partnership with a friend. He enjoyed flying as a hobby for the next few years.

He then took up sailing and purchased a C&C sailboat, took sailing lessons, and started racing locally out of RVYC. His crew of 5 entered the Victoria to Maui International Yacht Race in 1976.

He and his family discovered Salt Spring Island in 1981 through boating and eventually bought property, built a home and moved there part time.

Norm loved to travel. This passion took him to some exotic locales that were off the beaten path at the time. He loved to scuba dive in various places that had warm tropical water. He enjoyed helping people financially during these travels.

The family would like to thank the many compassionate people who helped care for Norm during his final couple of years.

A celebration of life will be held on Salt Spring Island in the spring.



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Jean Elizabeth Wallis (nee Fry)
1926 - 2023



Jean Elizabeth Wallis (nee Fry), born January 9, 1926 passed away quietly with family by her side on January 11, 2023 on Salt Spring Island. She was predeceased by her husband Army in 2013, her son Joe in 2022, and her grandson Rob in 2004. Jean will be lovingly remembered by her daughters Lesley (Mike) and Colleen; daughter-in-law Cindy; grandchildren Jeannie (Craig), Helen (Darcy), Sheila (Cal), Joe, Jenny, Joanna, A.J. (Carina), Mike (Katie) and Stephanie; plus her 14 great-grandchildren. Jean is also survived by her 2 sisters-in-law Marjorie and Eleanor, many nieces, nephews and wonderful neighbours and friends.

Jean was the last living of 8 siblings. She was born and raised in Windsor, Ontario, plus one year in Ottawa. After serving in the Navy during the War in Montreal and Guelph, and then becoming an R.N., the spirit of adventure led Jean to the west coast. She worked in the O.R. in Comox, B.C. for a year before going to North Vancouver where she got her life-long dream job as an obstetrics nurse at Lions Gate Hospital. She met and married her true love, Army, and spent many happy years working, raising her family and enjoying life in North Vancouver. The couple moved to Salt Spring Island in 1979 to finish off their working lives and then retire. Both enjoyed their road trips around B.C., and Jean spent many happy hours walking, swimming, reading, knitting, sewing, and pursuing many more hobbies that she was always discovering. Heartfelt thanks to Mom's caregivers who she looked forward to seeing each day for the past year - you made it possible for her to stay in the home she loved. Many thanks to all the staff at Lady Minto Hospital who made Jean's last days safe and comfortable, and also thanks to them and Hospice staff and volunteers for helping our family feel supported.

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE *Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer*
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The standout theme this week is the Full Moon in Leo. It is the culmination of the New Moon in Aquarius that occurred on January 21 at the 1st degree of Aquarius, constituting the seed event. The chart as a whole reveals a rebellious determination in the face of persistent authoritarianism. Although this is already increasingly evident, this pushback will become even more elaborated this week under the fully illumined moon in dramatic Leo. Yet, it will itself prove to be just the beginning of a mounting period of determination to oppose the assumptive encroachment of corrupted organizations symbolized by Pluto in Capricorn and at the highest degree. If this is not evident, you may not be paying close enough attention. Anyone interested to know more can gain easy access but it will not likely be found in common places. Aquarius is symbolic of the unique, individuated and uncommon approaches to knowledge in particular and knowledge in general. Tune in to the Aquarian vibe to see outside the box.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19) Returns for past efforts, or mistakes, continue to flow in. You may also have the opportunity to alter the outcome of any mistakes, if even by way of your attitude, but perhaps more practically, as well. The Leo Full Moon will illuminate creative ideas and innovation is highlighted.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20) You have been learning to be more self-assertive. This currently includes acquiring new tools and techniques. This is an important follow-through time, especially in your public and/or professional life. Asserting your sense of individuality at home is the other side of the story. Claim your office, shop, or studio.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21) New realizations that could be defined as awakenings are illuminating your mind. Realizing that perception is subjective and bias is a given could help you to be more willing and able to rethink and reconsider what you deemed factual and true up to now. Enter discussions to learn more than to teach.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22) Like a butterfly, you are in the early stages of breaking out of the cocoon. Patient perseverance is required now. The main thing is that you know that the time to push harder is fast approaching. For now, bringing this awareness into consciousness and mentally and emotionally is probably enough.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23) The Full Moon in your sign signifies going big to express yourself. This could require a determination to be more assertive. Be careful not to lapse into reaction and instead focus to be proactively deliberate. Critical thinking and analysis will support your creative process. Go for it!

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22) A whole new impulse has been activated by the recent Aquarius New Moon. Now with the Leo Full Moon, the emphasis is on deciphering how to follow through with more clarity and discipline. It may simply begin with your resolve to persevere. Make your commitments within and do it your way.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22) Aquarius time tends to be a playful and creative cycle for you. With the Full Moon in Leo, the friend factor is amplified. While this generally implies others, it can emphasize being your own best friend by allowing yourself to express your sense of individuality more fully. This theme will continue for a few weeks.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21) A strong focus on home and family is likely now. It includes changes on relationship fronts as well. Positively, these are manifesting as a process of deepening bonds. It will also likely manifest as heightened imagination and creative inspiration. This process includes facing your fear to claim your power.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21) Many new realizations are awakening in your mind. A new learning curve is featured. With Jupiter in Aries, you are in an uplifting, empowerment cycle. It does include and perhaps requires that you are willing to entertain new perspectives, approaches and vision for your life in general.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19) A cycle of creative building continues. This can apply to any area of your life from your body to your business. By now, you have probably invested into this process quite a lot, but if you have not, this is the last call for this round. Fortunately, your focus is currently strong and will get stronger yet.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19) A whole new level of discipline has been steadily rising in you. This reaches back 2-3 years. You have likely stepped more fully into your own personal power. This focus has been amplified recently. A rising determination to stand strong in your truth is emphasized and this trend will continue.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20) Many lights are being turned on in the deeper reaches of your mind. This can be understood as an illuminating process. You may feel that much clearer about what you do and do not want and/or need. Meanwhile, a busy time behind the scenes that began in late 2022 continues.

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SERVICES FOR ELDERERS

Seniors advocate volunteer surveyors needed

Rewarding experience results from interactions with long-term care residents

BY EMILY JUREK
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

The Office of the Seniors Advocate has launched the second province-wide survey of the experiences of residents living in all 294 publicly subsidized long-term care homes in B.C. and is calling on all interested British Columbians to join the survey team.

There are two local facilities on Salt Spring Island, and volunteers are needed to spend time engaging with these seniors in the coming weeks. The surveyors are supported by health care professionals from the Ministry of Health,

health authorities and individual care homes. Volunteers will be screened for suitability and participate in training sessions to prepare them for conducting surveys with a minimum of 10 care home residents during the survey period.

A current volunteer from B.C.'s interior has shared the following about her experience:

"The training prepared me for the technical work. What I was unprepared for was the range of emotions the work elicited. The first contact with the resident always started like a cold call. Would they be interested in doing the survey? Sometimes the answer was a 'hard no' and other times the answer was 'not now.' That meant I would need to return. But if the answer was 'yes' the session moved to the survey design of question and response. The start was usually quite formal with some curious hesitancy on the part of the resident. However, a few moments of silent

patience would often provide an opportunity for them to gain confidence and begin to relax. It was so rewarding to watch the mood change from cautious to comfortable.

"By the survey's end a magical transformation had happened. Now it was my turn to listen. With a twinkle in their eye, the residents would share stories of their growing up, moving around or hard times. There would be stories of pride in their accomplishments, and in their children and grandchildren. But then with the occasional quiet honesty would come the quiet disclosure of being kinless and an expression of their loneliness. We shared chuckles, expressions of wonder and sometimes a tear. I felt so privileged to be in their home, the place where their memories now reside. We had become friends.

"As a first-time volunteer in such a venture, I would encourage other beginning volunteers to carefully follow the

training guidelines. The integrity of the survey must not be compromised. But remember the human element. It is important to take some additional time with the resident. Find a balance for the survey and listening time. Always keep in mind that while you are gathering information you are a guest in the resident's home, a place of rich memories that are waiting to be shared. The opportunity to gather information that will be used to improve the lives of the residents, combined with 'heart hearing,' is invaluable. This gathering and listening will enrich your life, knowing that you have contributed to the lives of others in multiple ways."

Volunteers can apply online at surveybcseniors.org/volunteer/.

Emily Jurek is the regional engagement lead for the Office of Patient-Centred Measurement in the B.C. Ministry of Health.

CREATIVE PROJECTS

Part of the Pack hits the screen

Relationship between humans and wolves explored

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring Island filmmaker's latest feature-length documentary was shown at the Vancouver International Film Centre last week and is set to screen at the Victoria Film Festival at the Blue Ridge Theatre on Feb. 10.

Part of the Pack, co-directed by award-winning wildlife filmmakers Isabelle Groc (of Salt Spring) and Mike McKinlay, is about the relationship between humans and wolves.

The Victoria premiere will be at the Victoria Film Festival on Feb. 10.

Part of the Pack "explores our relationship to the wild through different stories in which people and wolves get closer to each other," explains press material about the film.

"Long feared, the wolves that have survived in places such as Vancouver Island in British Columbia, now live in a habitat that is becoming increasingly encroached upon by human development. At the same time our fascination with the wolf — as the quintessential symbol of something wild and dangerous — has become stronger. As urban lifestyles have increasingly removed us from nature, some people long to find that connection again and encountering a wolf can satisfy that craving for the natural world. Some people have even taken a step further by bringing a wolf or wolf-dog into their homes (literally into their living rooms) as a way to feel closer to the wild. Part of the Pack follows three such stories where people have developed a unique relationship to individual wolves, and explores the ethical questions around creating intimacy with the wild."



IMAGES BY ISABELLE GROC

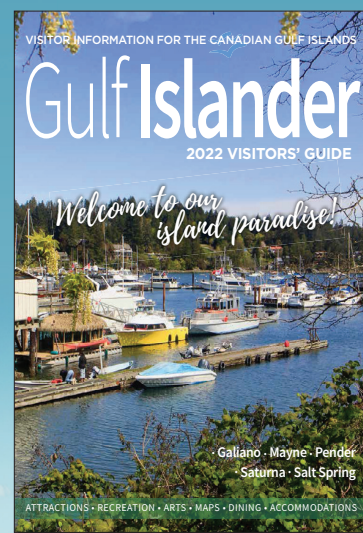
Two of the wolves featured in Part of the Pack by Salt Spring-based filmmaker Isabelle Groc and co-director Mike McKinlay.

The featured subjects include:

- Gary Allan, a self-described "wolf educator" who tours schools with his wolf, Tundra, and who keeps multiple other wolves on his property in Nanaimo;
 - Cheryl Alexander, a conservation photographer who achieved international fame for her photos of a lone wolf named Takaya who lived on a small island off Victoria;
 - Samantha Law, a woman living in Vancouver who finds comfort and meaning after a traumatic period in her life, in her relationship with her wolf-dog, Luna.
- As well, the film features insights from wolf behaviour experts, conservation officers, First Nations leaders and an animal law lawyer.

Part of the Pack has played at film festivals across Canada and beyond, including the Cinfest Sudbury International Film Festival, the Calgary International Film Festival, the Wildlife Conservation Film Festival in New York and the Ireland Wildlife Film Festival. It recently won Best Feature Documentary at the Chilliwack Independent Film Festival.

In addition to their many individual projects, Groc and McKinlay co-directed the documentary Toad People, which premiered at the DOXA International Documentary Film Festival in Vancouver, won The Impact Award at the Wildscreen Film Festival in Bristol, and is now streaming on CBC Gem.



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PHOTOS BY KEN JACKSON

TO THE POINT: In the two photos at left, off-island visitors and Salt Spring Islanders participate in a Royal Canadian Legion zone dart tournament on Sunday hosted by Branch 92 at Meaden Hall, while at right, Branch 92 Ladies Auxiliary president Lynne Terry unloads the dishwasher as part of providing food and refreshments for the players.



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GROWING ADVICE

Gilkeson leads gardening session

Resilient Gardens for a Changing Climate offered via Zoom on Feb. 12

BY ANDREA PALFRAMAN
TRANSITION SALT SPRING

Atmospheric rivers. Heat waves. Drought. These are the conditions we've been warned are a "new normal" in an era of climate change.

Gone are the days when a consult of the Farmer's Almanac could pair with your years-long experience to support the perfect garden plan. Nowadays, the idea of "perfection" is being replaced by the goal of "resiliency." If that resonates with your own process of maturation and aging, well: consider yourself having taken the first step in the resilient gardener's path.

Islanders are very fortunate to have Linda Gilkeson, Ph.D., as a community resource. A renowned author, entomologist and master gardening consultant, Gilkeson is helping to provide guidance to move through the challenges that climate disruptions pose to our coastal ecosystems and ability to grow food. Her career in organic pest control offers a good grounding in adaptive systems. She has been helping gardeners and farmers meet the challenges of increasing local food security while enhancing landscapes that are ecologically suitable to the weather extremes we are already experiencing.

Join Transition Salt Spring and Gilkeson on Sunday, Feb. 12 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and learn how to garden (and landscape) in the face of increasing climate changes.

In this online webinar, participants will learn how extreme weather affects plants — including trees — and how to design resilient food and ornamental gardens that can survive changing weather patterns.

Of course, cultivating resilience is a team sport. Working together — by sharing land, labour and knowledge — is key to fostering a strong food network for our communities.

The Echo Valley Farm group offers



LINDA GILKESON

a beautiful example of how collectivizing food production can create not only healthy systems but healthy human cultures.

Robert Birch, who has been farming together with his neighbours on their patch of south-

end ground since the project's inception, thinks of the Echo Valley Farm as a social experiment in neighbourhood connection. The project really gained momentum during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, as a way to counter isolation and, at the same time, boost the community's immune system.

One of four gay men — all survivors of the AIDS years — who founded the project, Birch says, "This wasn't our first pandemic. We already knew community mobilization is the single most effective response, the necessary partner to biomedical interventions. This mutual care and interest gives respite to trauma-based reactions by providing two hours a week of hands-in-the-earth relief from having to deal with a world seemingly coming undone."

After years of working the soil together, the Echo Valley group have a new nickname for what they do Sunday mornings in a small valley, under the sun. They call it "Dirt Church."

"We're healthier because of each other's willingness to overcome our fears. Kind-hearted enough, resourced enough (for now) to take responsibility and care for ourselves, together," Birch adds.

Just as a seed contains a universe within it, so too do each of our individual gardens hold the potential to incubate community. Gilkeson's Feb. 12 workshop is a chance to connect with people who want to proactively participate in a response to climate change that transforms grief into a practical process of repair.

Visit tinyurl.com/TSS-Resilient-Gardening to enrol.

For seasonal guidance and practical, month-to-month gardening guidance, join Gilkeson's monthly mailing list at lindagilkeson.com.