

inside:



Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

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PROVINCIAL POLITICS

MLA, minister model cooperation



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Mike Farnworth, B.C.'s Deputy Premier, Minister for Public Safety and Solicitor General, answers a question at Friday's ASK Salt Spring session at the Ganges Fire Hall, with a few of the 56 people attending in the circle; from left, Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce operations manager Alexander Fischer-Jean, active community volunteer Ron Cooke, Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen and Salt Spring Fire Improvement District board member Mary Lynn Hetherington.

Olsen and Farnworth talk public safety and collaboration

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Last Friday's ASK Salt Spring session had more star power than usual, with Deputy Premier Mike Farnworth joining MLA Adam Olsen to meet with Salt Spring constituents.

Farnworth is also the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, and his visit was presented as having a community safety/law enforcement focus. Olsen has also been an active member of the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act.

"Part of the reason Minister Farnworth is here is because we reached out when the announcement for increased police resources was announced," said Olsen. "There's been kind of a chronic situation here on Salt Spring from a policing perspective."

The main problem, he said, is that police are asked to take on more tasks outside of a policing realm due to stresses on the community's social fabric.

Farnworth said he also met with members of the local RCMP detachment while on the island.

"I think one of the challenges that we often face is that you have policing, and you have

mental health, and you have housing and you have poverty," said Farnworth. "And they've been viewed as being separate silos that are operating independently of each other, and there's a lack of recognition that there is a strong relationship between them."

Defunding the police, which has been suggested by some critics of the current system, is not the answer, he said.

"It's a question, in my view, of ensuring that . . . we take care of those people who have the challenges that they face, whether it's poverty, whether it's addiction, whether it's homelessness, and ensuring those things are funded in a way so that, in essence, the police are not ending up being a frontline social worker, or mental health worker, which they are not trained to do."

Another policing question was raised by community members who did not want to lose certain members of the RCMP detachment and asked if a change could be made to the regular four-year transfer rule.

Farnworth said he has heard that request from a number of communities in B.C. and would like to see it addressed.

"But that also means talking to my federal counterpart as well," he said.

Questions from some of the 56 people attending at the Ganges Fire Hall session ventured well beyond the public safety and policing matters under Farnworth's ministry purview. Pedestrian and cyclists' safety, funding for the Island Coastal Economic Trust, ferry service and the lack of senior government infrastructure funds for improvement districts were among topics raised.

He promised to investigate a couple of issues, including the provincial government's long-standing infrastructure funding policy that has made it impossible for the fire district and North Salt Spring Waterworks District to get provincial or federal government grant funding for major capital projects.

Olsen and Farnworth both stressed that all parties in the house work hard to make progress on important issues, and that well-publicized conflicts and controversies do not accurately reflect the relationships between MLAs, the three parties or the work that is done.

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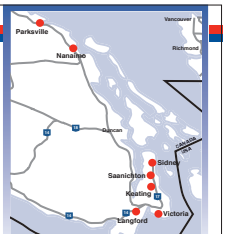


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TECHNOLOGY

Booking services delist Seabreeze

Defunct motel had reappeared on booking websites

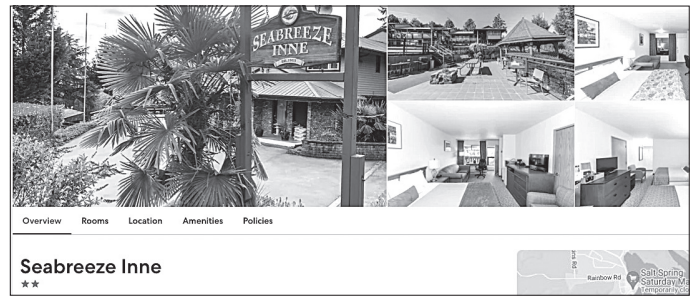
BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Months of visitor confusion finally ended late last week, as U.S. travel industry giant Expedia Group ceased accepting reservations for rooms at the former Seabreeze Inne.

The hotel building was purchased last March by the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation (LMHF) and has been the centre of legal action between the foundation, current occupants and Salt Spring Island Community Services since November. The hotel was delisted upon its sale, and nightly rooms have not been available for tourist accommodations since.

But at the beginning of the year, there were scattered reports of visitors to Salt Spring arriving with seemingly worthless reservations hoping to check into rooms at the former hotel. Reservations for the Seabreeze Inne were once again listed — and indeed could be seemingly made — across all of Expedia Group’s hotel booking websites, including Expedia.com, Hotels.com, Travelocity.com, Hotwire.com, and Trivago.com. Nightly prices ranged from \$85 to \$125, depending on rooms and dates booked — a figure that would make a stay highly attractive to an unsuspecting visitor.

Several disappointed travellers used Expedia’s own website to warn future travellers to stay away; reviews posted as early as January noted the hotel was not receiving guests, and expressed frustra-



Screenshot of recent Expedia webpage for the Seabreeze Inne.

tion at Expedia for neither helping stranded travellers nor removing the ability to book rooms there from its website. As of last week, poor reviews to similar effect continued to be posted online.

As late as last week, in an attempt to replicate those visitors’ experiences, Driftwood staff were able to book multiple rooms for several weeks at the Seabreeze through Expedia.com at a rate of \$116 per night each — ultimately securing a nearly \$7,000 reservation, but one that required no deposit. Expedia’s website said the balance would be collected by the property upon arrival.

Since that initial confirmation email, the Driftwood has received no further communication regarding the bookings to indicate any of them had been cancelled or that the rooms were not actually available.

LMHF executive director Roberta Martell expressed frustration, confirming that the previous owner had severed their relationship with Expedia before the sale, and indicated the foundation had con-

tacted Expedia Group hoping to correct the situation.

“We were relieved to hear that no money had been taken for these reservations,” said Martell, “but we share in the community’s frustration that visitors to our island were inconvenienced because of these actions.”

She added that the foundation continued to monitor mention of the property on such websites, and hopes the community will help and let them know if anything similar happens again.

It’s not clear what triggered both the relisting and delisting of the Seabreeze — Expedia Group was unable to provide a comment to the Driftwood by press time — but early last week the former hotel no longer appeared as a search result on any of Expedia’s websites, although the listing was still active to anyone who had made a booking or bookmarked the listing page. Attempts to book rooms or check availability from there led to a note that the site was no longer taking reservations for that property.

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HAVE YOUR SAY



Proposed Bylaw No. 232

Rezoning to amend the Sidney Island Comprehensive Development (CD2) Zone
PUBLIC HEARING

NORTH PENDER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

What is Proposed Bylaw No. 232?

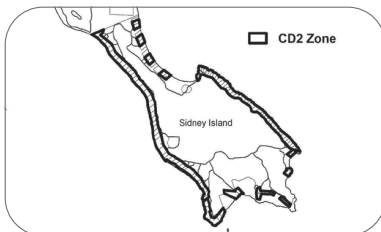
Proposed Bylaw 232 would amend the North Pender Associated Islands Land Use Bylaw No. 148, 2003 by amending the Sidney Island Comprehensive Development (CD2) zone, which applies only to the bare land strata lots on Sidney Island. The amendment would permit the temporary use of recreational vehicles (RVs) as a dwelling on lots where a dwelling has not been constructed for a period of up to four years. The bylaw would also amend the zoning to permit a larger storage building of up to 40m² prior to constructing a dwelling and would permit kitchens in the sleeping cabins on the common property.

How do I get more information?

Copies of the proposed bylaw, the Public Hearing Binder and other information on the application is available on the [North Pender Island Current Application webpage](#) and, at the Islands Trust office at 200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8R 1H8 from the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays, after March 2, 2023.

Submissions

Prior to the Public Hearing: Written submissions will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., March 16, 2023, by Email: vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca, or Mail or Drop Off: Islands Trust, 200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8R 1H8
At the Public Hearing: Only written submissions presented at the Public Hearing will be accepted until the close of the Public Hearing. Written comments made in response to this notice will be available for public review.



Question Period can create confusion, says MLA Olsen

ASK SS

continued from 1

Olsen pointed to a controversy that erupted the previous day about a Langley cannabis company claiming it had the right to produce and sell cocaine via Health Canada permission, which caught the B.C. government off guard.

“This is where the format of Question Period and the theatre of Question Period really actually lets the public down just in terms of what goes on in the Legislative Assembly,” said Olsen, “because you can take a nuanced situation and make it something that perhaps it’s not and that’s what Minister Farnworth faced yesterday in the questioning and what it did was it drove a narrative that now has created confusion, and confusion doesn’t help us work our way through.”

Olsen stressed that all parties in the Legislature have supported safe supply, harm reduction and decriminalization measures when it comes to addressing toxic drug supply deaths.

“This is not a situation that the minister and his colleagues have to solve on their own,” he continued. “Or that the BC Liberals should be thinking that they need to solve on their own and that the [Greens] think they can solve on their own. This is actually a situation, when it comes to the dignity of British Columbians, where the party lines need to just go away . . . and we just need to be colleagues and friends and supporters of good work to keep people alive, in my opinion.”
Farnworth responded to a meeting

attendee who said he felt politicians and governments could not be trusted, as witnessed by their acceptance and promotion of COVID-19 vaccines.

Farnworth was first elected MLA for his Port Coquitlam area in 1991, after serving on the Port Coquitlam City Council since 1983. He said he had worked with people across the political spectrum “and without exception, I think those people are all elected to work and to do the right thing; to do a job on behalf of the people of this province, whether you agree with them or disagree. I know that the people see Question Period, but behind the scenes there’s a lot of good work that takes place. And when it came to the pandemic, I was incredibly proud of how our legislature worked cooperatively in the best interests of the people of the province of British Columbia, and the decisions that we made based on medical science.”

He stressed that if there’s a solution to be found, “that’s what we are there to do.”

“Ninety per cent of the work is very collaborative,” agreed Olsen.

This Friday’s ASK Salt Spring meeting is at the usual Salt Spring Island Multi Space lobby venue. Capital Regional District (CRD) director Gary Holman is the guest, with this year’s CRD budget being the main topic of discussion. ASK Salt Spring is a volunteer initiative of the Salt Spring Community Alliance coordinated by Gayle Baker. Each week it features local or provincial politicians or reps from various public or community agencies who present updates and take questions from the public.

Public Hearing
Friday, March 17,
2023 at 10:30 a.m.
(in person)

St. Peter’s Anglican Church Hall
4703 Canal Road
North Pender Island, BC

Who should attend?
Anyone affected by the proposed bylaws.

Enquiries?
Robert Kojima
Regional Planning Manager
rkojima@islandstrust.bc.ca
250-405-5159

ANIMAL CONTROL

Sheep likely killed by dogs

Remains discovered on local farm a reminder to control dogs

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Robinson Road farmer hopes their grim discovery will be a reminder of the importance of keeping dogs contained wherever livestock is raised.

At least six sheep — a ram and several ewes — were found killed last week after the snowstorm that struck Salt Spring lifted, according to Jean Taylor, who said the deaths were discovered at feeding time early Wednesday morning. The pattern of the attack, Taylor said, was consistent with an encounter with one or more dogs.

"The ram and a lamb were at the barn door with their throats ripped open," said Taylor.

More remains were still underneath the new-fallen snow, she added, but she estimated at least a half-dozen sheep were killed.

Fatal interactions between domestic dogs and livestock are not uncommon in the Gulf Islands. There have been several similar incidents on Salt Spring in recent years, particularly during the spring lambing season. As more people unfamiliar with livestock issues moved into historically agricultural communities, the Capital Regional District (CRD) identified interaction problems as significant enough to warrant education efforts. It also administers a program for compensating livestock owners whose animals are killed by unknown dogs.

Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman said the Livestock Injury Compensation Service has been in place for "decades" and has more recently been localized, meaning when the new local community

commission is elected later this year, it will take on that responsibility.

For now, CRD staff will review any request for compensation.

Taylor said a neighbour might have taken photos of one of the dogs involved.

"A key issue will be whether the dog and owner can be identified," said Holman. "The CRD service applies when identification of the owner isn't possible, since in that case the owner would be responsible for damage."

Allowing dogs to run "at large" contravenes existing CRD bylaws, which require animals to at minimum be under "direct and continuous control" of their handlers when not on land they own or occupy. In addition, the provincial Livestock Protection Act permits farmers to kill dogs found on their property that could pose a risk to their animals — regardless of whether the dogs are actively chasing or harming livestock at the time.

Dog owners are often reluctant to acknowledge that while their animals might never harm people, the instinct to chase and attack prey — particularly among a group of dogs — is difficult to train away, according to the B.C. Conservation Officer Service. That agency monitors dog attacks on wildlife and have said that it's impossible to predict when seemingly docile dogs might harm livestock or deer, and that keeping them under direct control is critical.

"It's really upsetting," said Taylor, adding that Holman acknowledged that even the best economic compensation is rarely set as highly as farmers value their animals.

"I think the message is that [even] your dog can and will do it, if you don't have it under control. It's important to make people aware."



Islands Trust

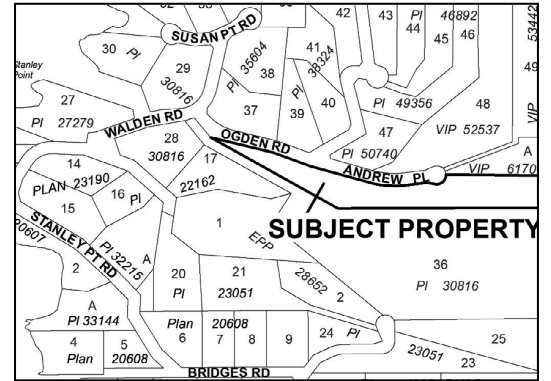
NOTICE NP-TUP-2022.5 NORTH PENDER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 494 of the *Local Government Act* that the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) will be considering a resolution allowing for the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit. The proposed permit would apply to The Fractional North West 1/4 Of Section 23, Pender Island, Cowichan District Except Parts In Plans 20607, 20608, 21047, 21390, 22162, 23051, 27279, 30816, 32215, 35604, 38324, 46892, 49356, 50740, VIP52537 and VIP53442 (PID: 007-934-211). This property is located at **1101 Andrew Place**.

The purpose of this temporary use permit would be to permit the use of the subject property for the **temporary storage of personal possessions** in a maximum of six (6) shipping containers.

The establishment of these uses would be subject to the conditions specified in the attached proposed permit. The permit would be issued for **three (3) years** and the owner may apply to the LTC to have it renewed once for an additional three (3) years.

The general location of the subject property is shown on the following sketch:



A copy of the proposed permit may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, commencing **February 27, 2023** and continuing up to and including **March 10, 2023**.

For the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 499 (2)(c) of the *Local Government Act*, additional copies of the Proposed Permit may be inspected at various Notice Boards on North Pender Island.

Enquiries or comments should be directed to Brad Smith, Island Planner at (778) 679-5185. For Toll Free Access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867; or by fax (250) 405-5155; or by email to: southinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca before 4:30 p.m., **March 10, 2023**.

The LTC may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permit during the regular business meeting starting at **10:30 a.m., March 17, 2023**.

All applications are available for review by the public with prior appointment. Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

Jas Chonk, Deputy Secretary

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

CRD seeks more public input on pedestrian, cycling network

Survey online until March 24

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island's walkers — and wheelers — are needed for the next phase of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Active Transportation Network Plan (ATNP) development.

A new survey has gone online at getinvolved.crd.bc.ca/ssi-active-transportation-network to help guide the next phase of planning, by helping to select and prioritize network and infrastructure improvements.

Active transportation refers to human-powered forms of travel, from walking and wheelchair travel to biking and skateboarding,

fully or part-way to and from a destination or bus stop. The ATNP will focus on both walkability in Ganges as well as active transportation connectivity island-wide, according to the CRD, in an effort to develop options to improve safety, accessibility and convenience.

The first two phases of the process finished in December 2022, producing a pair of reports — the Baseline Conditions Report and the Engagement Summary. The former includes a technical assessment of Salt Spring's existing road, cycling and pedestrian networks; it consists of a summary of barriers to active transportation, and identifies some opportunities for improvement. The second report highlights information collected from community engagement efforts to date,

including a community consultation held at an "ideas fair" during the Saturday Market last August, the first online survey that recently ended, an interactive mapping activity, an ASK Salt Spring event, and a meeting with the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission.

Results of the current survey, which is open until just before midnight March 24, will be used to inform the final plan, expected to be completed in 2023. When complete, Salt Spring Island's ATNP will identify a small number of priority projects which will inform the budget and planning work for funding applications. The ATNP will build upon the 2013 SSI Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan, and will be informed by learnings from the Ganges Village Area Plan process.

FIRE

Horel Road fire deemed accidental

Electrical failure sparked blaze

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The investigation into a Jan. 2 fire that brought 10 apparatus and 22 firefighters to Horel Road has been completed, concluding the fire started accidentally due to an electrical problem.

Salt Spring Fire Chief Jamie Holmes said the fire, which had taken five hours to fully extinguish and burned both a two-storey garage and a nearby

vehicle, had not seemed suspicious at the time of the incident. On Monday, Feb. 27, Holmes told Salt Spring Island Fire Improvement District trustees the result of the investigation.

"It was deemed accidental," said Holmes. "It was determined that a power supply in a wall that runs a deep well pump was the start of that fire."

Some 6,000 gallons of water had been shuttled from the nearby Beddis water system to contain the fire and protect the adjacent home; one firefighter sustained minor injuries, according to Holmes, and the garage had been a "total loss."

TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

MARCH 2023 PST (UTC-8h)

When using Daylight Saving Time, one hour must be added to the predicted time in the table

DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
8	0611	3.1	10.2	12	0115	2.2	7.2
	1200	2.0	6.6		0708	3.1	10.2
	WE 1727	2.8	9.2		SU 1421	1.0	3.3
9	ME 2335	1.3	4.3	13	DI 2202	2.8	9.2
	0625	3.1	10.2		0158	2.5	8.2
	1229	1.7	5.6		0723	3.1	10.2
10	TH 1823	2.7	8.9	14	MO 1508	0.8	2.6
	JE				LU 2344	2.9	9.5
	0006	1.6	5.2		0300	2.8	9.2
11	0639	3.1	10.2	15	FR 1302	1.4	4.6
	FR 1302	1.4	4.6		TU 1603	0.7	2.3
	VE 1925	2.7	8.9		MA		
SA	0038	1.9	6.2	SA	0119	3.1	10.2
	0653	3.1	10.2		0444	3.0	9.8
	SA 1339	1.2	3.9		WE 0750	3.0	9.8
SA 2037	2.7	8.9	ME 1705	0.6	2.0		



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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



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EDITORIAL

Working together

Islanders who attended Friday's ASK Salt Spring session would have seen and heard something a little out of the ordinary when it comes to the political realm.

For one thing, the two provincial MLAs who attended do not sit on the same side of the B.C. Legislature. Mike Farnworth, who is B.C.'s Public Safety Minister and Solicitor General (as well as Deputy Premier) in an NDP majority government, came to the island on the suggestion of local Green MLA Adam Olsen. Anyone who pays attention to provincial politics or attends Olsen's ASK appearances will know that Olsen holds the government's feet to the fire with the best of them. Yet Olsen and Farnworth obviously share a profound mutual respect, which came through in the ASK Salt Spring gathering attended by more than 50 people at the Ganges Fire Hall.

THE ISSUE: B.C. politics

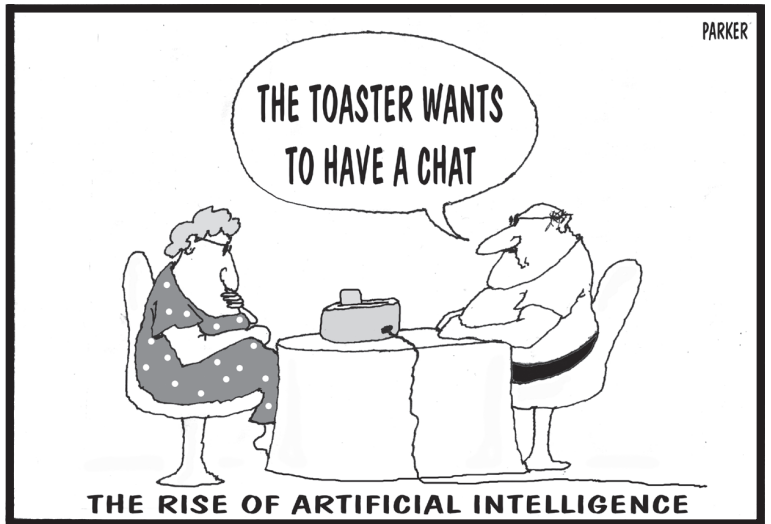
WE SAY:
 Partisanship the least helpful characteristic

They also talked about the positive strides taken by all parties to craft new legislation lately, and that the reality of governance at the provincial level contrasts with the acrimony that comes through in Question Period (QP), which is often the only part of the political process the public sees. Olsen estimated that 90 per cent of the work done by provincial government MLAs is "collaborative."

Farnworth and Olsen were not the only ones who made that kind of observation last week. CHEK News political correspondent Rob Shaw posted a Twitter thread about the work of several specific NDP, Green and Liberal MLAs, describing "some of the positive impressive work" he was seeing, "instead of just the QP controversy criticism stuff all the time."

Institutions of a civil society, such as democratically elected governments, have been taking a beating in recent years through toxic online discourse and the actions it instigates. The visit by Olsen and Farnworth and the legislative progress they work together to achieve shows the system does work when quality people are elected.

Olsen will also be holding a series of community meetings on all Gulf Islands and in North Saanich as part of his program called The Public Circle from March 10 to 18, where more questions will be welcomed. Dates, times and places can be found at saanichnorthandtheislands.com/events.



Don't ignore history lessons

BY COLIN ROSS

VIEWPOINT

I am shocked and disappointed that the Green Party of Canada has decided we should not provide lethal support to the Ukraine. They believe we should encourage a negotiated settlement to the conflict.

This must be music to the ears of Vladimir Putin. Deny the people of Ukraine the means to defend themselves against a brutal, unprovoked attack, and hope the Russian dictator will stop the war and withdraw from their country. Good luck. Fortunately, this shameful attitude is not shared by the vast majority of democratic governments in the world, especially the member states of NATO.

Vladimir Putin is a monster, cut from the same cloth as Adolf Hitler. History should guide our response to his aggression. Before war broke out in September of 1939, Adolf Hitler tested the resolve of the European democracies. He occupied the Rhineland in March 1936 with no military consequences from France, even though the French army was many times larger than the German army at that time. Emboldened by this success, he occupied Austria in March 1938, again without consequences. This led to the occupation of the Sudetenland and subsequent dismemberment of Czechoslovakia in September 1938, when Neville Chamberlain appeased Hitler and sold the Czechs down the river, to Britain's everlasting shame. War broke out one year later when Germany attacked Poland.

The tragic irony of this process became apparent after the war when a number of German generals testified at the Nuremberg Trials that, had the allies stood up to Hitler in the Rhineland, and

later in Czechoslovakia, the German army would have had to withdraw and Hitler may well have been forced to resign. Bullies like Hitler and Putin thrive on weakness and only back down when faced with strength and resolve.

In 2014, Putin took the Crimean peninsula from Ukraine and declared it Russian territory. The European democracies and the United States did nothing to stop this, apart from protesting at the United Nations and instituting ineffective economic sanctions. Is it any surprise that Putin, emboldened by his success in the Crimea, decided to take all of the Ukraine when he launched his attack one year ago on Feb. 24?

No doubt the heroic resistance of the Ukrainian military has surprised Putin and earned the admiration of the free world. We must not abandon these people in their desperate fight for freedom and democracy. In the dark days of the Second World War, when Britain and her commonwealth stood alone in the fight against Naziism, Winston Churchill asked President Roosevelt: "Give us the tools and we will finish the job!" The parallel today is obvious. When President Zelensky asks for military aid from us, we should certainly provide all the lethal support he needs to end the conflict and return his nation to freedom.

The Green Party of Canada is a pathetic example of how well-meaning people often ignore the lessons of history: we should reject their shameful policy of appeasement and redouble our material support for the Ukraine. Isn't it obvious?

The writer is a Salt Spring resident and former teacher.

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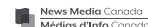
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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should Canada increase its military support to Ukraine?
 Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:



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

Tax inequity

I would like to thank Colin Horel for his Feb. 22 "Bleeding the taxpayers" letter expressing his frustration and objections to the enormous parcel tax and water consumption increases implemented by the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD). I share his concerns and frustrations.

I own a small lot of .23 acres in the NSSWD. The water taxes on this lot are paid and up to date. My lot has no buildings and no water meter and has never consumed water.

My 2023 tax is now \$785.33. This amount is 18.6 per cent more than last year and 110.5 per cent more over 10 years.

Even though I receive nothing for this tax, I am paying this tax because I am within the waterworks district and paying only for the privilege of being able to apply for a water connection at some point in the future. That is, if there are no future moratoriums on connections.

My annual Capital Regional District (CRD) property taxes for this same empty lot are \$819. For this tax I receive the many services and amenities provided by the CRD.

How is it possible that my water parcel tax is almost equal (\$33 less) to my property tax for which I receive an array of services? At the current rate of increase my water parcel tax will soon exceed my property tax.

DOUG SMITH,
SUNSET DRIVE

Health care for all

In Canada when a family moves to a new community, the very first thing they do is register their children in an appropriate age level school. They know that the school will do its best to continue the children's education. In accord with our society values, education is considered critical for the development of all of our children, and it is critical for economic stability of our country and our society.

At the same time, our Canadian society

does not have the same value for the good health of our children and adults. When you move to a new community, the odds are very high that there will not be a primary health care provider available to accept you into their patient caseload. In most areas there is not even a waitlist for you to join. Move to a new area and you are most likely to leave routine primary health care behind.

We have a socialized education system. We have local school boards elected to ensure that our local schools take in every child and provide them the best education possible.

By contrast, we have a poorly organized and in many cases dysfunctional primary health care system. It combines public services like hospital emergency rooms with a mix of private doctors, salaried community health centre doctors and other private health care providers like dentists and pharmacies. In British Columbia, there is a system which fails to use nurses, physician assistants and nurse practitioners in a modern, comprehensive, clinical system.

Our educational system is paid for by taxes.

There are no extra fees for attending public school through the 12th grade. For college and beyond, your educational expenses are up to you and your family.

Our health care system is partially paid for by taxes. The system is enhanced if you are able to purchase extended care insurance. This helps you to pay for dental care, optical care, physical therapy and long term care. Most people who choose to travel outside of their home province even pay for travel health insurance.

Why do we have one set of values for our children's education and another set for our health care? Why have we set up a value system that prizes a good basic education and another that lowers the value of a long healthy life?

An educated society is accepted by all. It is time for the value of a healthy society to also be accepted by all.

CURT FIRESTONE,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"I think the message is that [even] *your dog can and will do it, if you don't have it under control. It's important to make people aware.*"

JEAN TAYLOR, SALT SPRING ISLAND FARMER WHO LOST SHEEP TO DOG KILLS

Improved track essential to community rec needs at Portlock Park

BY GILLIAN MCCONNELL

I am a walker and a runner. I have been a member of the Salt Spring Sneakers Running Club for over 10 years. Irrespective of whether a runner competes in road races, trail races, cross country races or track races, or runs for health and fitness, interval training on a track is a vital component of a balanced training schedule. Interval training on a flat, accurately measured, stable surface helps a runner improve cardiovascular fitness, monitor and improve pace, safely practise form and drills, and benefit from coaching. For a track athlete, access to a standard 400-metre, rubberized track is essential.

I noticed, when undertaking the current survey on the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) master plan for Portlock Park, that there is absolutely no mention of running, as though the track is used by neither the Salt Spring Sneakers Running Club, nor any other local or visiting runners. This is most upsetting, especially given that the mission in PARC's Strategic Plan of June 2019 is to "provide access to quality, safe, diverse, year-round, and inclusive parks, recreation and sport facilities. . . ."

Under the 2019 plan's "Strategy for Moving Forward," the priorities are "the development of three junior ball fields and two senior ball diamonds," the upgrading and utilization of "existing fields" and the "development of additional sports fields." A third-level priority is the "support [of] community groups with outdoor recreation initiatives

such as disc golf and equestrian clubs." Again, there is no mention of running.

Our community includes many people who enjoy and excel at team sports. Survey results and strategic planning have identified that the quantity and standard of our playing fields do not meet our current and future needs.

Our community also includes many people who enjoy and excel at individual sports like running, walking, hiking, cycling and swimming. Running is one of the most popular of individual sports. It requires minimal equipment, is relatively inexpensive and is suitable for most people of all ages. The only event in the original Olympic Games, from its foundation in 776 BC until 724 BC was the hoplitodromos, a foot race.

The 2019 Strategy for Moving Forward plan is to "provide a diverse mix of outdoor athletic facilities." Despite the inclusion of the word "athletic," there is no reference to the development of track and field amenities for the benefit and enjoyment of children, youth, adults and athletes. A survey focusing on parks and recreation facilities (cited in the 2019 Strategic Plan) indicated that 66 per cent of participants favoured "an approach that targets someone who is neither a beginner . . . nor an elite athlete but is in the middle of the spectrum." Participants in the survey also "felt particularly strongly that teens are lacking programs specific to their age group" and that addressing their needs "will increase participation

INDEPTH

rates and contribute to improved wellness." A well-maintained track and field with some equipment (we already have a long jump pit) would benefit athletes of all levels and ages and enable our teens to train at home for off-island track and field meets.

Under "The Priority Markets" in the 2019 plan, it states that "our priority will be to provide, facilitate, and/or support parks and recreation opportunities that: Introduce participants to [an] activity . . . allow [them] to learn" it and "facilitate [them] remaining active for life . . ." Given that "participation in parks and recreation activities declines as the level of play, competition and specialization increases," and that by "focusing our efforts where we can reach the most number of participants, we are" more able "to deliver the greatest public good," then surely, the activity of running, supported by a well-maintained track and coaching, unequivocally meets this objective.

The activity of running also fits Bylaw No. 434 of the Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan of 2008, which encourages "a broad range of recreational opportunities, with an emphasis on those which do not consume resources and that benefit the health and safety of residents."

According to Moving Forward: The Future of Parks and Recreation (in the 2019 Strategic Plan), one of the top three priorities is to "review

current maintenance service levels and assess the need for equipment, facilities and resource capacity to deliver a sustainable level of excellent service."

The "Our Plan For Recreation" section states that "our parks and recreation programs and facilities are provided and maintained to the best of our ability within the capacity available," except, it would seem, for the track, which unlike the adjacent fields, is rarely maintained (except once a year for a school sports day, when the surface is prepped and lane markers added).

We only have one track on Salt Spring Island. It is not a rubberized track, but a dirt track. Dogs are no longer permitted in the park or on the track; however, bicycles are. We live on the wet coast. Bicycles often leave deep tire tracks. The field inside the track is for soccer. The goals are frequently dragged (rather than carried) across the track for training and matches, which creates significant gouges in the track surface. This damage, combined with the woeful lack of maintenance, has resulted in a track surface consistently covered in ankle-twisting ruts. The inside and outside track lanes are becoming narrower each year from the ever-encroaching, unmitigated weeds.

With the current focus on safety issues regarding cycling, walking and running on Salt Spring Island roads, it would seem patently evident that public access to a safe, flat and well-maintained, stable running and walking surface is of

paramount importance for residents and visitors of all ages.

Salt Spring Island has an aging population with a median age above 50 years. The elderly, the infirm and people who are recovering from injury all need to safely exercise for health. The track provides a safe place for them to walk and to socialize while so doing. My mother, who just turned 97, is quite mobile, yet unable to safely exercise outdoors except for walking on the track. She suffers from serious osteoporosis (when she falls, she breaks). She cannot walk on the roads due to the lack of shoulders, the unstable surface, her poor hearing and her inability to understand when to turn around and walk back. She looks forward to her track walks, setting goals for the number of laps she intends to complete. Achieving these goals gives her something to strive for and to celebrate.

The Outcomes of the 2019 Strategic Plan highlight a "healthy active lifestyle for all." Key Recreation Facility Trends indicate "the emphasis for facilities is moving towards inclusion and access for all members of the population. Within our public facilities, there should be no physical barriers that prevent participation to any members of our population." Our track already plays a vital role in meeting the objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan of 2019. An upgraded track, combined with facilities for field sports, would significantly increase recreational opportunities for Salt Springers of all ages and athletic levels.


Capital Regional District 

Notice of Meeting
 Capital Regional District Board
 2023 Financial Plan Bylaw Approval

A meeting of the Capital Regional District Board, including budget discussion for 2023, will be held:

Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023
Time: 1:00 pm
Place: CRD Headquarters, 6th Floor Boardroom
 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC

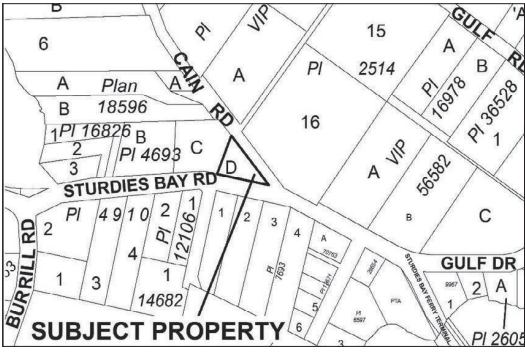
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 **GL-TUP-2023.1 & GL-DVP-2023.1 NOTICE**
GALIANO ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 494 of the *Local Government Act* that the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) will be considering a resolution allowing for the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit. The purpose of this temporary use permit is to permit a community art centre use and short term guest accommodation for artists. The permit would be issued for three (3) years and the owner may apply to the LTC to have it renewed once for up to an additional three (3) years.

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 499 of the *Local Government Act* that the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee will be considering a resolution allowing for the issuance of a Development Variance Permit, the proposed permit would vary the Galiano Island Land Use Bylaw No. 127, 1999, by reducing the front lot line and side lot line to legalize the siting of a dwelling, cisterns, and accessory structures.

The proposed permits would apply to Lot D, Section 5, Galiano Island, Cowichan District, Plan 4693 (PID: 006-008-488). The property is located at **2517 Sturdies Bay Road**. The general location of the subject property is shown in the following sketch:



A copy of the proposed permits may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, commencing February 27, 2023 and continuing up to and including **March 10, 2023**.

For the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 494 (2) (c) nor Section 499 (2) (c) of the *Local Government Act*, additional copies of the Proposed Permits may be inspected at various Notice Boards on Galiano Island.

Enquiries or comments should be directed to Kim Stockdill, Island Planner at (250) 405-5157. For Toll Free Access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC: 1-800-663-7867; by fax at (250) 405-5155; or by email to southinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca before **4:30 p.m., March 10, 2023**.

The LTC may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permits during the regular business meeting starting at **1:00 p.m., March 14, 2023**.

All applications are available for review by the public with prior appointment. Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

Jas Chonk, Deputy Secretary



PHOTO BY VIV NIELSEN

BURIED: A heavier than forecast dump of snow hit Salt Spring Island for about 24 hours beginning at noon on Feb. 27. A photo of Driftwood reader Viv Nielsen's Vesuvius Bay property tells the story. A number of power outages and vehicular mishaps also occurred.

MORE LETTERS


continued from 5

Benefit gratitude

Despite the blizzard on Saturday evening, the Before Night Falls (B4NF) Benefit show for Turkish and Syrian Earthquake Relief was a great success.

Those in attendance at the Legion had a good time, danced a lot and gave very generously! But by 10 p.m., after we had played my suite of songs on the upcoming B4NF release, recorded with Marc Atkinson, the snow was sticking and showing no signs of stopping, so the band and audience reluctantly decided to call it a night.

Nearly \$900 was raised at the B4NF Benefit gig, and combined with other personal donations brought the total to more than \$1,450, which has been donated to the United Nations' UNHCR fund. Thanks go to: Katherine Nimetz, our lovely bar manager and a founder of the Legion's current music scene; Mark Laberge, who books the bands at the



Roses

A rose to Colin Horel, whose letter to the editor in the Feb. 22 Driftwood titled "Bleeding the taxpayers" expressed the frustration of many regarding the huge increase in the North Salt Spring Waterworks District parcel tax.

A huge bouquet of robotic roses to the Salt Spring Island Foundation! The GISS Robotics Team is extremely grateful for funding that allowed us to buy five new VEX robotics kits and a mobile storage unit in October. Having access to sufficient equipment has had a significant positive impact on student learning on our robotics team. The mobile bin organizer has been used by our team to keep our robot parts organized and easily accessible. We're very grateful for your support.

Legion; Mark and Jackson of the Tree House, who generously provided the sound mixing; Bruce Grey (bass) and Oliver Hodswood (drums), who ably laid down the foundation of the evening's music; and Wilf Davies (keyboards) and Wayne Marston (lead guitar) who soared above them. Also thanks to two friends who brought their posess: Marianne G. and Laura K.

As my son Théo and I stepped out into the cold night with our last load of guitars and amplifiers I felt completely exhausted and elated from the evening. I had a pang of mixed sadness and joy to know I was heading back to a warm home with a hot meal waiting, a comfortable bed and a roof over my head. I feel very fortunate. Those in Turkey and Syria are not so fortunate.

If you were unable to attend the gig and you would still like to donate, please do so to the UNHCR or any other relief organization. Thank you very much. Çok teşekkür ederim. **BRUCE COBANLI**, SALT SPRING

Where could WHUs be built?

BY ERIC BOOTH
 THIRD IN A SERIES

GUEST COLUMN

In Parts 1 and 2, I looked at the magnitude of the housing crisis, and, the challenges of densifying Ganges, both of which beg the question: "If not Ganges . . . then where?"

Salt Spring has thousands of acres of residential, rural and rural upland zoned property. Current Residential zoning, on average, allows for four principal dwellings per acre, rural zoning allows for one per five acres, while Rural Upland is restricted to one per 20 acres.

It is clear from our requirements for workforce housing units (WHUs) that areas of Salt Spring, other than Ganges, need to be densified if we are going to solve the crisis. And, unless that densification occurs in a "blanket wide rezoning" it will be doomed to the proverbial "death by a thousand paper cuts" due to NIMBYism.

Our island's official community plan (OCP) supports the "redirect[ion] of the island's future pattern of settlement from one of 'modest overall density' to one that includes clusters of development interspersed with large areas of open space, protected areas and resource lands."

reduce road construction and encourage non-automotive travel . . . [and] . . . proposals that cluster development . . . in about 20-30 per cent of the parcel . . . provide internal walking or bicycling routes, and recognize existing public transit routes are especially encouraged."

Thus, one of the solutions already supported in the OCP is the rezoning of residential, rural and/or rural upland property to a higher density.

Unfortunately, in the last OCP review (2008), and in spite of the 2005 housing report I had spearheaded (tinyurl.com/mru7jvbj), neither the magnitude or the economics of the housing crisis were contemplated and, as a result, only broad brush strokes of potential solutions were painted.

Logically, development can only occur where there is sufficient space and services available. Using the OCP's clustering recommendation, the following is one example scenario of increasing density on a rezoned, rural upland, 20-acre property:

A non-profit organization purchases the property with an existing home for \$1,500,000. A

clustered building strata project is planned with 19 WHUs on three acres, the principal residence on 10 acres, and seven acres of common green space/garden areas. When the project is complete, the 10 acres with the principal residence are sold back onto the market for \$1,500,000, which means the basic land cost for the 19 WHUs is near zero. This means the price at which the WHUs could be sold is the cost of construction/development. At a \$400-per-square-foot cost, a 1,000-square-foot WHU could be provided to a qualified worker for \$400,000, while a 600-square-foot apartment would be \$240,000.

That simplified example underlines the importance of reducing land costs per unit to make WHUs affordable.

I am sure the first knee-jerk reaction to densifying rural areas of the island for WHUs will be met with the challenge of servicing issues, such as water, septic, roads, hydro, etc.

And so, in Part 4 of this housing crisis series — How WHUs Can Be Serviced — we will look at those challenges.

Eric Booth is a long-time Salt Spring resident and island realtor. The above is the third piece in a series.



ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

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New Spring Hours

11am-9pm Monday-Friday • 9am-9pm Saturday & Sunday



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

MUSICIANS ILLUMINATED: Bach on the Rock chamber choir and orchestra members take a moment before their last performance (the Messiah at Fulford Hall in December) for a whole group photo. The musicians and singers, led by Jean-Sébastien Lévesque (top left in photo), are set to present a concert of beautiful music called *Return of the Light* this Saturday night at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. at All Saints-by-the-Sea church. The program features the *Berliner Messe* by Arvo Pärt for choir and orchestra, and *Dark and Luminous Night* by the acclaimed Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo. The orchestra will also play *Three Pieces in Old Style* by Polish composer Henryk Gorecki and *Concerto Grosso* by Vittorio Giannini. Tickets are available online at bachontherock.com or at the door.

A dance-theatre-musical story

ArtSpringPresents

Hiromoto Ida 井田裕基
Birthday Present for Myself

Tue Mar 14, 7:30pm
\$30 adult | \$5 youth

SPONSORED BY MOUAT'S HOME HARDWARE

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PERFORMING ARTS

Otherworldly shows ready to dazzle

Hotel Vortruba and Birthday Present for Myself at ArtSpring

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
FOR ARTSPRING

It's not every day you have an opportunity to enter a magical, wordless, otherworldly place where creaky floorboards, broken lamps and giant rats inhabit the stage. On Saturday, March 11, the surreal physical comedy of RAGMOP Theatre's *Hotel Vortruba* invites you to check in and see for yourself at ArtSpring.

A collaboration between Canadian clown and movement artist Nayana Fielkov and U.S. circus artist Matthew "Poki" McCorkle, RAGMOP's *Hotel Vortruba* premiered in 2018 to sold-out houses and glowing reviews at the Edmonton Fringe Festival, the largest theatre festival in North America.

Using the mediums of clown, magic, mime, mask, puppetry, illusions, shadow projections, dance, live song and circus arts, the story follows a hotel guest who is having a very difficult time with room service and seeks to confront the proprietor, who has been hiding his true self. The result is an original, compelling, thought-provoking theatre experience.

The production is a whirlwind in 60 minutes and appropriate for all ages. Fielkov conducted clown and movement workshops in January and February on Salt Spring for the community.

On Tuesday, March 14, accomplished dancer-choreographer-actor Hiromoto Ida presents *Birthday Present for Myself*, a poetic and uplifting performance that contemplates the issues of aging and mortality. The piece was inspired by a lengthy visit from Ida's own elderly mother and special memories growing up with his grandparents in Japan.

Skillfully merging dance, theatre, clas-



PHOTO BY SOREN OLSEN

Promotional image for RAGMOP Theatre's *Hotel Vortruba*.

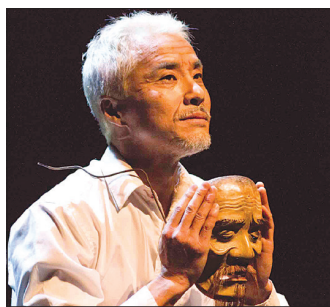


PHOTO BY YOSHIMATA SUZUKI

Hiromoto Ida in *Birthday Present for Myself*.

sical music and voice, he tells the story of the old man (Hiromoto Ida), who is raising a glass of sake to himself in celebration of what will be his last birthday. Reminiscing about the richness of his life experience, he is visited by the spirit of his late wife (Lindsay Clague) in the setting of his peaceful courtyard garden.

Drawing on the subtlety and simplicity of Japanese Noh theatre, but expressed through western contemporary dance and music, *Birthday* features musicians Nicola Everton (clarinet), Sue

Gould (piano), Jeff Faragher (cello), and Martine denBok (violin and viola), who perform an evocative original score by Russian composer Pavel Karmanov and are accompanied by soprano Allison Girvan.

Japanese contemporary theatre playwright Shogo Ota provides the simple but rich text, while a Kagekiyo Noh theatre mask created by mask artist Mitsue Nakamura adds to the cultural experience. Ida, who lives in Nelson and was its 2012 Cultural Ambassador, travelled to Kyoto to meet Nakamura. Upon hearing his story, she graciously invited him to select any mask he wanted from her collection.

"I see western culture giving messages of aging as a negative element of one's life," says Ida.

Looking to move beyond grief and sadness, *Birthday* instead embraces themes of love, transformation and the natural inevitability of cycles of life.

Through the inner world and emotions of this one old man, audiences are encouraged to find the unexpected beauty in their own lives.

Thank you to Victoria Olchoweki for sponsoring *Hotel Vortruba* and to Mouat's Home Hardware for sponsoring *Birthday Present for Myself*.

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Real Estate

How Should I Prepare My House For Listing? Part 2

JAN MACPHERSON

You have one chance to make a first impression with drive-by appeal. Buyers begin to evaluate a home before they are in the door. Consider painting the front door, placing spring flowers in pots, or setting out bedding plants near the entry. Is the yard and drive tidy? Is the home address clearly visible?

Create ambiance! Treat yourself to presentation accessories. A new tablecloth, bedspread, or speciality lighting can add pizzazz. Enliven your living space with bowls of fresh fruit, plants, freshly cut flowers. Buy or borrow artwork from friends. Rejuvenate your current living space and enjoy the new items in your next home. You are presenting an image, a lifestyle.

Staging your home can make a huge difference as to how quickly your home sells and increase its perceived value!

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2021 RE/MAX CHAIRMAN CLUB

CREATIVE MOVEMENT

Dance workshop on its way

Vancouver instructors lead The Lunacy Phase

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Islanders can enjoy a free movement workshop at Antler Ridge Dance Studio when Vancouver-based dance artists Simran Sachar and Sophia Sosa Laurio visit on the March 25-26 weekend.

Titled The Lunacy Phase, it's a joint collaboration between Antler Ridge Dance Studio and Dance West Network and offered for people of all ages and dance experience levels.

Sachar will lead a Saturday morning experimental session to help people discover their own sensations, creativity and freestyle move-

ments. In the afternoon, Laurio will teach participants 10 basic hip hop grooving techniques.

Sunday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. will consist of a collaborative class that melds the two women's movement practices, offering creative tools for class participants to put together what they have learned. The week-end ends with an open jam where everyone will enjoy dancing, creating and practising together.

According to press material, Sachar is a Canadian East Indian/Punjabi experimental contemporary and street dance artist, and writer.

"She is currently interested in the value of memories, imagination, and our deepest desires shaping our own unique dance. Sachar's versatility has allowed her

to train and perform in multiple shows across the Philippines, New York City, Los Angeles, Vancouver, Calgary and Toronto. Sachar prides herself on versatility, working in film/TV, contemporary spaces, street dance spaces, teaching dancers of all levels, and producing her own work."

Laurio is a versatile Filipina movement artist who explores a wide variety of dance styles like hip hop, house, waacking, locking, dancehall, Afro-dancehall and contemporary. She has trained, competed and worked on prestige platforms both locally and internationally.

For more information and to register for The Lunacy Phase, people can contact Robbyn Scott at antlerridgedance@gmail.com or phone 250-537-6537.

TEA À TEMPO

Backstage recital rescheduled

March 15 at All Saints

Last week's snowstorm threw a wrench into plans for the first Tea à Tempo recital of 2023.

The group known as Backstage — with members Edgar Hann, Em (Marilyn) Walker and Adam Huber, with a repertoire that includes Irish, Newfoundland, folk and gospel music — were scheduled to perform on Wednesday, March 1 at All Saints by-the-Sea church, the home of Tea à Tempo.

"We delayed the start of programming because we often have to cancel February's show due to snow," said Music Makers committee member Lolla Devindisch, "and here we are in March."

The Backstage performance will now take place on Wednesday, March 15 at the usual 2:10 p.m. start time. Optional tea and treats are available following the music.

what's on this week

Wed.

Mar. 8

ACTIVITIES

Teen Lounge. Activities for youth aged 13-18 every Wednesday afternoon at the library's Teen Zone. 4 to 5 p.m.

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

Buddhist Meditation. Offered by Salt Spring Insight Meditation at Ganges Yoga Studio. Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Info: saltspringimc@gmail.com.

Swing Dancing. Wednesdays at the Legion. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

VIA ZOOM

Let's Talk Supportive Housing on Salt Spring Island. Online Community Information Session hosted by BC Housing. 4 to 6 p.m. RSVP to SSI-Community.eventbrite.ca.

Thur.

Mar. 9

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

John Gogo & Mike McKenna Jr. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m. (Preceded by the meat draw from 5 to 7 p.m.)

ACTIVITIES

Mother Goose. Rhymes, songs and storytelling activities for babies and children to 4 years of age and their parents/caregivers. Library program room. 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Film: Mary Two-Axe – I Am Indian Again. The film tells the story of Mary Two-Axe Earley, who challenged sex discrimination against First Nations women embedded in Canada's Indian Act and became a key figure in Canada's women's rights movement. Presentation by CFUW SSI at the library program room. 2 p.m.

SSI Grand(m)others to Grandmothers 15th Annual Scrabble Fundraiser for Stephen Lewis Foundation. Scrabble games played at the Salt Spring Inn. 3 to 5 p.m.

Fri.

Mar. 10

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Everyday People. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m. (Preceded by the meat draw from 5 to 7 p.m.)

Caleb Hart & Band. Mateada Lounge. 8 to 10:30 p.m.

'90s Party With DJ Boomtown. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Fri.

Mar. 10

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring. This week's guest is CRD director Gary Holman, with a focus on the 2023/24 CRD budget. In the lobby at SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Neighbourhood Story Time. Community members read stories for kids and parents/caregivers in the library's children's area. 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Youth Games. Every Friday for ages nine to 13 in the library program room. 2 to 4 p.m.

Sat.

Mar. 11

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

ArtSpring Presents: RAGMOP Theatre – Hotel Vortruba. A show presented by Canadian clown and movement artist Nayana Fielkov and U.S. circus artist Matthew "Poki" McCorkle. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Back on the Rock: Return of the Light. Chamber choir and orchestra play and sing works by Pärt, Gorecki, Gjeilo and Giannini under the direction of Jean-Sébastien Lévesque. All Saints by-the-Sea. 7 p.m.

Iain Duncan Jazz Trio. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m. (Preceded by the meat draw from 5 to 7 p.m.)

ACTIVITIES

CHIR.fm Record & CD Sale Fundraiser. Saturdays at the portable classroom at SIMS. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

SSI Grand(m)others to Grandmothers 15th Annual Scrabble Fundraiser for Stephen Lewis Foundation. Games, delicious desserts and goods sale, and prizes, at Salt Spring Island United Church, lower hall. 6 to 9 p.m.

Sun.

Mar. 12

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Back on the Rock: Return of the Light. See Saturday's listing, except the time is at 2 p.m.

Blues Jam. Singers, players and fans welcome at the Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Spanish Conversation Group. Chat with other Spanish speakers or learners in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. Library program room. 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Sun.

Mar. 12

ACTIVITIES

Community Bake Sale. Island chefs and bakers provide goods for a fundraising sale at Bullock Lake Farm. 1 to 3 p.m. The event benefits Stqeeye' Learning Society, the Indian Residential School Survivors Society and World Central Kitchen, which is helping feed earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria.

SS Community Health Society AGM. With guest speaker Deborah Scott discussing free health programs available for adults. An update on the plan to get a mobile health van for the island will also be discussed. Library program room. 1 p.m.

Hike with the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club. Meet at ArtSpring at 1 p.m. to join in a hike. Non-members may attend up to three hikes per year. For more details, see saltspringtnc.ca.

Tue.

Mar. 14

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

ArtSpring Presents: Birthday Present for Myself. Dancer-choreographer-actor Hiromoto Ida, with musicians Nicola Everton (clarinet), Sue Gould (piano), Jeff Faragher (cello) and Martine denBok (violin and viola) performing a score by Russian composer Pavel Karmanov, accompanied by soprano Allison Girvan. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Songwriters Circle Acoustic Open Mic. At the Legion. 6 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Spiritual Conversation - Virtue, Morals, Ethics: Why Do They Matter? Regular monthly session led by Heather Martin and Brian Day at St. Mary's Church, Fulford. 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Book Launch: Tara MacLean's Song of the Sparrow. Event at Mateada Lounge (in partnership with Salt Spring Books). Doors at 7 p.m.

Hike, Walk or Ramble with Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club. Non members may attend up to three hikes per year.

For destinations see saltspringtnc.ca
Trivia Tuesday. At Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.



Wed. Mar. 15

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo. Backstage plays Irish, Newfoundland, folk and gospel music. All Saints by-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m. Followed by optional tea and treats. Postponed from March 1 due to the snowfall.

ACTIVITIES

Teen Lounge. See last Wednesday's listing.
Music Bingo. See last Wednesday's listing.
Buddhist Meditation. See last Wednesday's listing.
Swing Dancing. See last Wednesday's listing.

CINEMA

• **Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania** runs Friday, March 10 to Tuesday, March 14 nightly at 7 p.m., plus a Sunday matinee at 3 p.m. Rated PG. 2 hours 5 mins. (And continues March 17 to 21.) See thefritz.ca for more movie info or phone 250-538-7718.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Salt Spring Painters Guild** members show work in the ArtSpring lobby this month.
• **The Re-Imagined: Making Waste Into Art** exhibit opens in the ArtSpring gallery on Tuesday, March 14 and continues daily to March 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with an opening reception on March 15 from 3 to 6 p.m.
• **Salt Spring Gallery** presents *Sculpture by Janus* from the Mind Myths Series until March 22.
• **Photographer Howard Fry** shows portraits of family, friends and acquaintances in the **library community program room** through March.

Backstage

At Tea à Tempo
at All Saints by-the-Sea
Wed., March 15, 2:10 p.m.

(Postponed from March 1 due to snow)

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ISLAND LIFE

EDUCATION

Salt Spring class among kindest in the nation

Grades 5-7 Salt Spring Elementary class wins Depths of Comfort competition

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A group of Salt Spring Elementary School students has been named among Canada's kindest, according to teacher Fanny Wightman — who never had any doubt about the matter.

Along with fellow teacher Christina Novak and education assistant Sue Ann Donaldson, Wightman's class submitted their entries to advocacy group Depths of Comfort in February, alongside classes from all across Canada. The Salt Spring class was the only winning classroom in the province.

The search, according to contest organizers, was for the "Kindest Classes in Canada" to be recognized for prioritizing

kindness at school — and that piqued Wightman's interest the moment she learned about it.

"I thought it sounded a lot like our class," said Wightman. "That's us! We're the kindness class!"

Students in Wightman's class range from Grade 5 to 7, she said, and in addition to accolades will also be receiving a pizza party courtesy of contest organizers. Entries were judged by a panel of "Canadian Kindness Captains" that included noted public figures and celebrities like Superstore actor Lauren Ash, musician k.d. lang and 90210 actor Jason Priestley.

"The kids were looking at the list and going, 'Who is that?'" laughed Wightman. "You probably have to be older to know who some of them are."

Wightman said students brainstormed and wrote a group letter on why they should win, and some students wrote individual letters about what made the class special. How the pizza party — sponsored by Pizza Hut — will



PHOTO COURTESY SSE

Grades 5, 6 and 7 class from Salt Spring Elementary School having circus program fun at the Salt Spring Island Multi Space gymnastics/circus space. The group, taught by Fanny Wightman and Christina Novak, earned Kindest Class in Canada honours in the Grade 6-7 category from a recent competition.

take place on an island without that franchise is uncertain, she added, but she was confident

they would work something out. "Maybe we can do a field trip," she laughed, again praising

the class. "They're all so sweet together, and really good to each other."



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COMMUNITY AID

Laundromat gift card program one way to help

United Church committee extends initiative to wider community

BY CLARK SAUNDERS
FOR SSI UNITED CHURCH

It would be hard to find anyone who would deny that the Salt Spring Laundromat, operated by the Wagon Wheel Society, is a great asset to the community.

For people who lack their own laundry — or even shower — facilities, it provides washers, dryers and showers for use

at a relatively modest cost.

But what if you are a single-parent family struggling to make ends meet in these inflationary times? What if you are a single person living rough in the cold winter months? Meeting the cost of keeping your clothes clean and providing for your own self-care can be a real challenge.

Last year, recognizing a need, the Social Justice Committee of Salt Spring Island United Church initiated a program that provides gift cards for people who have trouble meeting these expenses. Distributed at the discretion of community peer support workers and the laundromat staff,

the cards have a value of \$25 and can be used for any of the services the laundromat provides. Depending on the size of the load, use of a washer can range from \$5 to \$15, with laundry soap provided. Dryers begin at a rate of one dollar for five minutes. And showers can be set for five, 10 or 15 minutes, at a rate of a dollar per minute.

For people who have trouble affording the facilities available at the laundromat, the gift cards offer more than practical assistance. They provide the means of achieving a sense of well-being and dignity. And how good does it feel to step out of a hot shower

and into some clothes fresh from the dryer?

The Social Justice Committee of the United Church has been engaged in a number of projects that are intended to improve the quality of life for our neighbours on Salt Spring. Supporting the food bank and Family Place and collecting and distributing socks and warm winter clothing are among them. More recently, the United Church has become the venue of a Friday mid-day meal program. The food is supplied and prepared by Community Services and served by volunteers from the Anglican, Unitarian, and United Churches and the Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The Salt Spring Laundromat gift card program is another effort to help meet the needs of people in the community. Last year individuals in the congregation donated \$1,100 to the project. Support from others in the wider community is welcome.

Cheques should be made out to "Salt Spring Island United Church" with "Laundromat" on the memo line and can be sent to Salt Spring Island United Church at 111 Hereford Avenue, Salt Spring Island, B.C., V8K 2T3 or handed in at the office during office hours: Tuesday to Friday, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

LAND MANAGEMENT

Forest fire experts plan strategies

Workshop puts focus on enhancing forest resilience

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A recent fire risk workshop brought together more than 70 experts to sort out challenges unique to the Salt Spring Island area — and identified strategies to mitigate those risks under current land management regulation, according to organizers.

Transition Salt Spring (TSS) hosted the event called Fire Risk Reduction in the Coastal Douglas-fir (CDF) Biogeoclimatic Zone, with sponsorship from the Islands Trust, North Salt Spring

Waterworks District, and Environment and Climate Change Canada. Panelists and participants included regional Fire Smart coordinators, Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR), BC Wildfire Services, forest managers and experts working in the CDF Zone. SSIFR assistant chief Mitchell Sherrin said the group agreed that public outreach is the necessary next step to move forward on forest fire protection.

"I believe education is the key," said Sherrin. "We need to fundamentally change our relationships with the forests around us, how we think about them and how we interact with them."

The workshop provided context for the issues in the region around fire, according to organizers, including the notion that while fire is a natural feature, a century of clearcut logging has left behind a level of fire hazard in marked contrast to what would have occurred pre-colonization.

One challenge identified was the lack of available knowledge about techniques to help reduce the risk of catastrophic fire and enhance ecological resilience — particularly that there is very little support or resources available for land under private ownership. Addressing this gap was a discussion of the need for educational strategies to increase risk awareness and knowledge of how to live in a wildfire area.

Another clear message: there is a need for activities to improve forest health.

"We are going to have to start doing some modifications to the forests around us," said Sherrin, "and continue to take care of them."

Over the past century, panelists agreed, logging and other activities on Salt Spring have changed the natural communities in the CDF from complex and diverse, with a natural resistance to fire, to the current state where they are vulnerable to fire. This zone is mainly owned by private individuals, according to TSS, and many people live where the forest meets residential land — areas where experts agree fires are most likely to occur.

Managing the risk of fire while safeguarding these ecosystems will be a difficult balancing act, according to Sherrin, and it won't happen overnight.

"A lot of the things we need to do are going to be long-term things," said Sherrin. "This is something that's going to go on for generations, ultimately, if we want to live in an environment where the forests will be healthy, and where we won't be as at-risk as we are right now."

TSS will be hosting a pair of educational events this spring focusing on fire risk reduction, scheduled for May 17 and May 28. For information, visit transitionsaltspring.com.



Islands Trust

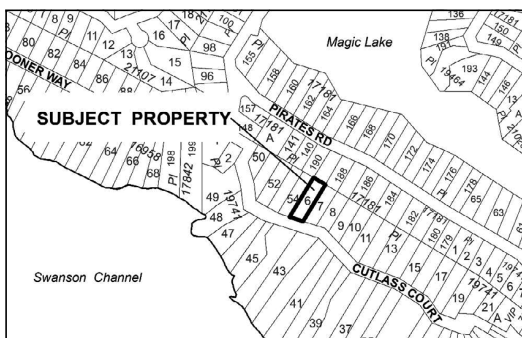
NOTICE
NP-TUP-2023.1
NORTH PENDER ISLAND
LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 494 of the *Local Government Act* that the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) will be considering a resolution allowing for the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit. The proposed permit would apply to Lot 6, Section 8, Pender Island, Cowichan District, Plan 19741 (PID: 003-618-358). This property is located at **3812 Cutlass Court**.

The purpose of this temporary use permit would be to permit a **Short Term Vacation Rental** use within the Dwelling Unit.

The establishment of these uses would be subject to the conditions specified in the attached proposed permit. The permit would be issued for **three (3) years** and the owner may apply to the LTC to have it renewed once for an additional three (3) years.

The general location of the subject property is shown on the following sketch:



A copy of the proposed permit may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, commencing **February 27, 2023** and continuing up to and including **March 10, 2023**.

For the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 499 (2) (c) of the *Local Government Act*, additional copies of the Proposed Permit may be inspected at various Notice Boards on North Pender Island.

Enquiries or comments should be directed to Charly Caproff, Planner 1 at (250) 405-5172. For Toll Free Access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867; or by fax (250) 405-5155; or by email to: southinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca before 4:30 p.m., **March 10, 2023**.

The LTC may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permit during the regular business meeting starting at **10:30 a.m., March 17, 2023**.

All applications are available for review by the public with prior appointment. Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

Jas Chonk, Deputy Secretary

NORTH SALT SPRING
WATERWORKS DISTRICT
NOTICE
FLUSHING OF
WATERMAINS

FLUSHING OF WATERMAINS WILL BE
CARRIED OUT IN THE DISTRICT ON
TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS
AND FRIDAYS -
MARCH 7 - APRIL 28, 2023

Short periods of low pressure and discolouration of water can be expected between these dates. Consumers are warned to be on alert for discoloured water, especially before using washing machines, dishwashers and other appliances.

Commercial establishments such as laundromats, restaurants and beauty salons will receive advance warning of flushing in their vicinity if a request for such notification is received by the District.

Please contact the NSSWD at 250-537-9902.

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Obituaries

BARRY AUSTIN BYRON



Sadly, we announce the passing of our youngest brother, Barry Austin Byron. After suffering a stroke, Barry passed away peacefully on Saturday February 11, with his brothers Darrel and Ian by his side. Barry was born and raised on Salt Spring Island. Several years after graduation, he moved to Alberta, where he made a life for himself. He was predeceased by his parents Terry and Marjorie Byron, and his sister, Darlene. He is survived by his siblings Darrel, Ken, Barb, Linda, Ian, Michael, Teresa, and Vicky, many cousins, nieces and nephews and numerous friends. Barry lived life to the fullest. And he loved entertaining with his guitar and singing country music. There will be a gathering to celebrate Barry's life at a future date.

"When someone you love becomes a memory the memory becomes a treasure"

HUBERT WYLAM KING



The King family is very sad to announce the passing of Hubert Wylam King on Sunday evening, February 12th in Victoria, B.C. He was an internationally renowned research scientist. He taught Metal Physics and Material Engineering at Imperial College, London, Dalhousie University, the Technical University of Nova Scotia, University of Western Ontario, University of Victoria, B.C. finally retiring at the age of 85. He was an active member All Saints by-the-Sea Anglican Church and the Salt Spring Island community in general.

Some of his hobbies included reading, bowling, hiking with the Trail and Nature Club, world travel, and he enjoyed tackling any kind of home renovations. A loving husband and father, he leaves behind Ann, his wife of 65 years of marriage, four children of whom he was very proud - Wendy (Marco), Kathy (Roald), Richard (Isabelle) and Andrew (Sarah); also eleven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Anglican parish of Salt Spring Island.

In Memoriam

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Obituaries

In Memoriam

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Coming Events

Coming Events

Salt Spring Island Public Library Association

Annual General Meeting
Thursday March 16, 2023 3:30 pm
Salt Spring Island Public Library
129 McPhillips Avenue, Ganges, BC

A resolution to amend the bylaws of the Association will be presented for approval. The full text of the proposed resolution will be posted on the Library's website: <http://saltspring.bc.libraries.coop/> between the publication of this advertisement and the Annual General Meeting.

All valid Library cardholders are welcome to attend and are eligible to vote at the meeting.

The Annual General Meeting OF THE

salt spring arts council

Sunday, March 19, 2023, 11am
Mahon Hall - 114 Rainbow Road

For details, members and Notice of Special Resolution: www.saltspringarts.com

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Coming Events

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Saturn's entry into Pisces has been a central focus these past several weeks. Saturn is a major planet in every sense. As the farthest planet visible to the naked eye, Saturn is symbolically associated with boundaries and limitations. Since Saturn rules the earth element sign of Capricorn, these principles extend to the very laws of physical manifestation and its many layers. In its more mathematical sense, geometrical shapes woven into the very fabric of the material world as with atoms, molecules, cells and crystals, illustrate some features of this archetypal theme of structure. As the Law of Correspondences reveals, this foundational aspect of life also extends to every aspect of existence, including the universe itself, countries and societies, each governed by rules and laws, and also to human psychology. For example, form, structure, pattern, boundary and limitation extend to duty, discipline, responsibility and routine. Pisces is the mystical sign symbolic of imagination, subtlety and formlessness. So, the contrast should be evident. This week's horoscope offers a glimpse of Saturn in Pisces for each sign.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19) Saturn in Pisces will prove extra powerful for you. A transitory cycle from what was to what will be could prove disintegrating, somehow. At worst, you could end up feeling lost and confused. Positively, you will dissolve lifestyle rhythms that have served their time, limiting attitudes, self-concepts and perceptions.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20) Saturn in Pisces for you will synchronize with a full spectrum of returns based on years of activity and effort, or lack thereof. So, understand the repercussions of what they are. Anticipate the results of if and how you have been negligent, evasive or uncooperative, or focused, disciplined and steadfast.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21) Saturn in Pisces could prove quite empowering for you. However, with power comes responsibility. You should expect that you will have to make extra efforts and to 'pay your dues' both literally and figuratively. Your task list will include the need to face some fears, yet by doing so you will claim gifts they conceal.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22) Are you ready to set sail on an adventurous journey in search of new knowledge and wisdom? Well, ready or not, the ship is leaving the docks and you are on it. Your willingness to travel lighter to travel freer is featured. Be willing to downsize and aim for simplicity and minimalism where possible.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23) A cycle of deep change and transformation has begun within Saturn in Pisces. It will continue for three years until Saturn fully enters Aries. Since resistance is futile, you are wise to focus to be more conscious of what is destined and to cooperate fully. Metaphorically, you will grow wings to fly more freely.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22) The time has come to enter a whole new phase of focus and commitment. New knowledge, research and creativity are featured. Discipline and patient diligence will be required. Aim to be clear with your goals and consistent with your efforts, extending your vision over the long-term.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22) For the sake of your overall level and quality of health, the time has come to be willing to learn new skills and integrate new levels of discipline. Making a healthier lifestyle routine and rhythm your new norm is the key. Focus to do the work mentally, emotionally and physically, both inside and out.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21) Saturn in Pisces could actually prove quite empowering for you in terms of your creative resolve for the sake of new levels of success. Yet, you should be prepared to establish a more disciplined flow based on long-term commitment. The flow factor includes your ability to be consistent yet flexible in a non-linear way.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21) You have entered an important and somewhat complex cycle with Saturn in Pisces. Positively, it indicates an extended period of a few years during which time you will be pushed to confront some of your biggest fears. Positively, latent gifts and treasures beneath these fears are ready to be claimed.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19) The time has come to put on your critical thinking cap and review all your lessons. Your learning curve will include philosophical perspectives linked to ethics, truth and justice. You will also learn lessons about how to fight and to discern the difference between selfish ends versus fighting the good fight.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19) Saturn in Pisces will prove complex for everyone. For you, striking the balance between fact and fiction, reality and fantasy, and inner and outer allegiance are examples of your mission. You will be expected to commit and be disciplined yet also to discern where and how to let go and let God.

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20) Saturn transiting through your own sign initially implies a prolonged cycle of increased discipline. The more you can set clear goals and objectives, the better. A steady learning curve is implied, and you should be ready and willing to shoulder the responsibility of getting crystal clear regarding desired outcomes.

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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

SPELLING IT OUT: Practising up for this week's 15th annual Scrabble fundraiser for the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers Campaign at the Salt Spring Film Festival's Social Justice Bazaar are Oni Freeman, left, and Jill Tarswell, members of the Salt Spring Island Grand(m)others to Grandmothers organization which supports grandmothers in Africa who are raising grandchildren who have lost their parents to AIDS. Games take place Thursday, March 9 at Salt Spring Inn from 3 to 5 p.m. Then, on Saturday, March 11, a fun evening of games, desserts, prizes and a goods sale takes place downstairs at the Salt Spring United Church from 6 to 9 p.m. People can also support the local fundraising team by donating online at sfl.akaraisin.com/ui/grandmotherscampaign2023/t/saltspringscrabble2023. The Salt Spring group has raised a total of \$240,000 through the annual Scrabble fundraiser in the previous 14 years.

Stay Connected be part of the Driftwood's online community.

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Let's Celebrate!

Editor's note: Linda Koroscil celebrated the 32nd anniversary of operating her Love My Kitchen store in Ganges last week. Koroscil has also had a Let's Eat recipe column in the Driftwood and former Barnacle newspapers over the years, which sometimes ventured beyond just the recipe, as the one reprinted below illustrates.



PHOTO COURTESY SHIRLEY COMMAND
 All smiles at Love My Kitchen's 32nd anniversary event are, from left, business owner Linda Koroscil and employees Marsha Bower and Shirley Command.

(Em)powering the housewife?

It was 1948. Predictions about the new automated world were the conversation of the day and it was said that appliances for the new electrified home could reach staggering sums.

Morning: The typical housewife tosses aside her electric blanket and rises. She takes a shower in water heated by an electric furnace and dries her hair under a hair dryer. The baby is crying. The woman puts the baby's bottle in an electric sterilizer and warmer.

Breakfast: The housewife prepares a scrumptious meal with the electric waffle iron, coffee maker, egg beater, egg timer and toaster.

The six-cubic-foot refrigerator is opened and closed. When the meal is over the dishes are placed in the electric dishwasher.

Cleaning: Washing machine and dryer are on. Iron is on. Upright vacuum cleaner is on. Housewife frequently glances at electric clock to ascertain the time. Baby is crying. Housewife stops cleaning to put electric heating pad below baby and vaporizer beside baby.

Evening: Wife is too tired to appreciate electric phonograph, electric radio, electric harpsichord or husband. She picks up a newspaper and reads that her electric devices cost \$2,274. She wonders just how long she must wait to buy an electronic maid.