

inside:

LET'S PICK IT UP, Salt Spring!

20 Our island-wide clean-up campaign is in full swing!

spring refresh!

EVERYTHING HOME AND GARDEN

SALT SPRING HOME & GARDEN SHOW

PAGES 7 - 12



14 Stagecoach kids present Robyn Hood show

Arts and Entertainment... 13
 Classifieds..... 18
 Editorial 4
 Island Life 16
 Letters..... 5
 What's On..... 14

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Wednesday,
April 19, 2023

63rd year
Issue 16
\$1.50

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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

PLANTING IN PARADISE: Showing native plant artwork and muddy hands at the Indigenous welcome figure site near Salt Spring Elementary School (SSES) on Sunday are enthusiasts working to prepare the area for a new native plant garden that SSES kids will participate in creating on Thursday, April 20. It's just one of several activities with an Earth Day focus on the island this year, including a celebration in Centennial Park on Saturday.

GOVERNANCE

Fulford commission blasts CRD

Longtime volunteer resigns as others criticize lack of respect in process

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Capital Regional District (CRD) staff got an earful from Fulford Water Service Commission (FWSC) members when the group met on Friday, April 14 to discuss a consultant's draft technical report about replacing aging water district infrastructure.

Tony Maude, who has volunteered as a commissioner for 12 years, even resigned his position as a result of the report's contents, which he and his colleagues said did not reflect the commission's wishes, repeating a process that never seems to change.

"It's an extremely frustrating exercise," he said, about being a commissioner.

The commission is mandated to serve the people who use the water system, he said, "But regardless of what decisions we make, and what we decide to do, there seems to be a disregard within the CRD, since we don't

have control. So what happens is we recommend, we ask, we suggest. Things don't happen. Other things do happen."

Maude said he would rather spend his time working to change the system to something that gives real control to commissions.

From the commissioners' point of view, the McElhanney engineering firm should have received input from them before creating the Fulford Water: AC Watermain Replacement report. In addition to what appear to be data and priority inconsistencies, the document includes references to adding the Vortex property to the district and achieving "fire flow" volumes. It also provides a strategy for replacing 4.1 kilometres of asbestos cement (AC) pipe installed in the 1970s and other improvements such as water meters. The project charter for the report, which the commission did approve, specifically excluded fire flow considerations.

FWSC commissioners said they have previously asked the CRD for gradual replacement of lines to be considered, beginning with the most critical areas. They have also requested use of "dynamic testing" to determine the true state of the water lines.

Commission chair Carole Eyles said it was ridiculous to include fire flow estimates in any report, recalling that giving fire protection to ratepayers' properties was one of a few things promised through the initial CRD borrowing referendum passed in 2004 that did not come to fruition. Water meters was another.

"We don't have [fire protection-capable flows], in spite of the fact that we approved a referendum that would give us that," she said.

FWSC continued on 3

Zen Master Wolfgang says:
"Man who fall into upholstery machine now fully recovered.."

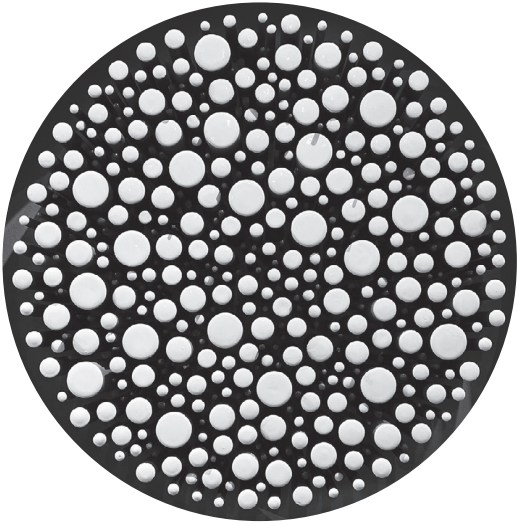
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BC FERRIES

Loose vessel causes delay

Frayed stern line on Fulford ship demands crew response

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A bit of Sunday night excitement sent a BC Ferries crew at Fulford Harbour scrambling to secure lines for a retired vessel that came loose from its moorings.

The 7:50 p.m. sailing of the Skeena Queen from Fulford to Swartz Bay was delayed nearly an hour, according to BC Ferries, as that ship's crew raced to secure the nearby Powell River Queen.

"The stern tie-up line on the Powell River Queen parted last night," said BC Ferries public affairs executive director Deborah Marshall. "The crew on the Skeena Queen launched the rescue boat, and re-secured two stern lines."

The bow line remained secure at all times, according to Marshall, who added there was thankfully no damage to the ferry or any other vessels in the area. The root cause of the incident, she said, was a worn line on the ship.

The Powell River Queen retired after 58 years of service Jan. 17, the last 32 of which were spent serving Quadra Island. Built in 1965, the 84-metre, 61-vehicle ferry was the oldest vessel in BC Ferries' fleet, and was replaced by two new Island Class diesel-electric hybrid ships, the Island Nagalis and Island K'ulut'a — which will operate as fully electric vessels when charging infrastructure is complete.

Auction site IronPlanet showed the ferry for sale shortly after it was retired, with a high bid of \$126,000; no purchase was disclosed, and BC Ferries officials said Monday it was still currently for sale.

The Powell River Queen has been at Fulford Harbour's extra berth since March 10.

TRANSPORTATION

Water taxi launches for summer

AquaLink returns for 2023

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Exploring the Southern Gulf Islands on foot will be a little bit easier this summer, thanks to an expanded passenger boat service that kicks off May 6.

AquaLink will return this year, offering a foot passenger-based water taxi connecting Salt Spring with Galiano, Mayne, Saturna and Pender islands every weekend through September, through a partnership

with Gulf Islands Water Taxi.

The service was first piloted in September and October 2021, followed up by a small number of winter sailings, and then ran every Saturday in the summer of 2022. This year, AquaLink will operate both Saturdays and Sundays — with two sailings on most routes.

AquaLink sails from and to Ganges Harbour on Salt Spring, Sturdies Bay on Galiano, Miners Bay on Mayne, Lyall Harbour on Saturna and Port Browning on Pender.

For schedules, reservations and information, visit aqualink.ca.

Creekside Rainforest Saved

Rare coastal temperate rainforest permanently protected on Salt Spring Island

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy (SSIC) is thrilled to announce that Creekside Rainforest is now protected in perpetuity as the Conservancy's ninth nature reserve. The acquisition of the 6.3 hectare (15.5 acre) Creekside Rainforest is part of a long-term vision of Salt Spring Island's conservation community to protect the fresh water, salmon habitat, rare species, imperiled ecosystems, and archaeological and cultural features of this rare area of coastal temperate rainforest. In 2008, the 7.9 hectare (19.5 acre) property adjoining Creekside Rainforest Nature Reserve was protected thanks to a community fundraising effort. Initially held by TLC The Land Conservancy of BC, this land became the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Jarrod's Grove Nature Reserve in 2015.

Creekside Rainforest Nature Reserve (CRNR), together with Jarrod's Grove Nature Reserve, represents a unique area of lowland coastal temperate rainforest within the drier forest ecosystems more commonly associated with the Southern Gulf Islands. CRNR's forested ravine, northerly aspect, and higher than normal rainfall create a cool and moist microclimate that supports a high diversity of plants and animals, including two species - Great blue heron and Northern red-legged frog - that are classified as species of 'Special Concern' by Canada's Species at Risk Act. The property's cool and moist

conditions also create a refugium for species under stress from climate change and help to mitigate

the threat of forest fires. Cusheon Creek runs through the ravine, where the streamside habitat is pristine and the continuous undisturbed tree canopy helps maintain cool water temperatures benefitting salmonids swimming upstream to spawning and rearing habitat.

Found within this new nature reserve are two ecosystems that are provincially classified as imperiled, as well as Western redcedar up to 250 years old, enormous Bigleaf maples draped in moss and lichen, and numerous species associated with older rainforests. Now protected, Creekside Rainforest's high carbon storage and sequestration values will be maintained. The benefits of protecting Creekside Rainforest extend beyond its ecological importance, however. Culturally-modified Western redcedar and archeological deposits recorded nearby indicate use by the Coast Salish people of the ancient village sites in the Cusheon Creek estuary and Beddis Beach area.

"Protecting Western Redcedars that were seedlings 250 years ago makes this a remarkable piece of Canada's natural history. The Natural Heritage Conservation Program is helping the Government of Canada make progress toward its goal of conserving a quarter of land and water in Canada by 2025, working toward 30 percent of each by 2030. By working with partners such as the Salt Spring Island Conservancy, and with the support of local donors and conservation organizations, we are helping to protect the natural environment in British Columbia and across the country. Protecting land plays a vital role in helping to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and contributes to the recovery of species at risk."

— The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

Conservation of Creekside Rainforest was made possible by the Government of Canada through the Natural Heritage Conservation Program, part of Canada's Nature Fund, and the support of local donors and conservation organizations. SSIC is grateful for the generous support of local philanthropist and conservationist, the late Susan Bloom. Hundreds of local donors contributed to the project, and

local residents Jean Wilkinson and Julia Grace provided invaluable support by organizing the initial neighborhood fundraising. BC Conservation and Biodiversity Awards and TLC The Land Conservancy of BC were important financial contributors, with TLC also helping to advertise and increase awareness of the project.

SSIC hopes to welcome walkers to the new nature reserve in spring 2023, following completion of trail work and installation of signage. A new trail will loop back to the existing trails, providing hikers with a longer and more varied hike. Access to CRNR will be through the entrance to Jarrod's Grove Nature Reserve (on Creekside Drive) with a trail map directing walkers to CRNR.

Susan Bloom said of Creekside Rainforest, "We must save this precious jewel." Thankfully, this jewel has now been saved. As stated by Dr. Penny Barnes, Executive Director of SSIC, "The Creekside Rainforest Nature Reserve stands as a legacy for future generations and demonstrates the shared commitment of the federal Natural Heritage Conservation Program, our generous community and our partner conservation organizations to protecting our beautiful, ecologically fragile island."

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy (SSIC) is a registered charity established in 1995 whose purpose is to conserve, protect and enhance natural values on Salt Spring Island and its surrounding waters. SSIC currently owns and stewards nine nature reserves (312 hectares (771 acres) total), and works with interested owners to preserve sensitive ecosystems on private land through donation, acquisition, covenants (SSIC holds 17 on 323 hectares (798 acres) total), stewardship agreements (SSIC holds 97 on 569 hectares (1406 acres) total)

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING ISLAND CONSERVANCY



PHOTO BY PIERRE MINEAU

and land management strategies. SSIC has a strong public education program, educating islanders on local plant and animal species through community presentations, guided nature walks, workshops, articles, newsletters, website, social media, and e-mail news briefs. SSIC's Stewards in Training school program provides hands-on nature education for up to 700 K-7 Salt Spring Island students annually.

The Government of Canada's Natural Heritage Conservation Program (NHCP) is a unique partnership that supports the creation and recognition of protected and conserved areas through the acquisition of private land and private interest in land. To date, the Government of Canada has invested more than \$440 million in the Program, which has been matched with more than \$870 million in contributions raised by Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ducks Unlimited Canada and the country's land trust community leading to the protection and conservation of more than 700,000 hectares of ecologically sensitive lands.

To learn more about the Creekside Rainforest Nature Reserve, visit the Salt Spring Island Conservancy website: <https://saltspringconservancy.ca>. The Conservancy can be contacted via email (info@saltspringconservancy.ca) or phone (250-538-0318).



<https://saltspringconservancy.ca>

HOUSING

Trust revisits Bylaw 530

Community info meeting to be organized

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring officials are taking another run at passing a bylaw allowing auxiliary dwelling units (ADUs) on the island, advancing an amended version of a measure that packed public meetings — and letters pages — last summer.

But trustees hope new changes to proposed Bylaw 530 — and an expanded information campaign — will satisfy islanders, clearing the way for this latest attempt to address the housing crisis.

Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee (LTC) met Thursday, April 13, hashing out details for the proposal, agreeing to give second reading to a version of Bylaw 530 that will be mostly familiar to policy wonks, permitting ADUs on several zones across the island and outlining the arguably long set of steps necessary to build and occupy this newest housing option.

Added restrictions include a 4.5-metre setback from interior lot lines, and a requirement to use a driveway shared with the principal residence in most cases. Bylaw 530 still restricts ADUs to a subset of the island's land use zones, prohibits their use as bed and breakfasts or other temporary rentals, and demands an approved building permit — meaning water and septic systems need to be sorted out — before constructing, much less operating, an ADU.

Trustee Laura Patrick reiterated her position that while Bylaw 530 was a step in the right direction, the number of landowners who will likely create new housing through the bylaw would be small, citing water availability, building costs and numerous studies

of ADU legislation in similar rural areas.

"The 'best case' uptake is between seven and 10 per cent," said Patrick. "Gabriola allows secondary suites over the entire island and they're not getting built; North Pender allows them on the entire island and they're not getting built. I think we need to stress that."

Indeed, a predicted lack of "uptake" will be central to the LTC's messaging to stakeholders, many of whom expressed concern the original proposal could flood Salt Spring with new residents — and add stress to already strained infrastructure. That message will also be part of the referral process as the LTC seeks input from First Nations; on the last proposal, Tsawout First Nation representatives registered opposition to the plan, largely on issues of population growth and environmental sustainability.

"The numbers aren't going to be there," said Patrick. "With all the research, everything that's out there, I'm not expecting to see runaway use of this allowance."

Trustees also passed a resolution setting a monitoring period for Bylaw 530. Although stopping short of triggers or allowing the measure to sunset, staff were instructed — should the proposal become law — to report back in two years on the number of units ultimately constructed.

"We've heard clearly from the community, surveys have been done, we need housing," said trustee Jamie Harris. "The province is pushing for this type of action."

Patrick emphasized that next steps would involve public outreach and communication materials — and a community "information meeting," presumably pushing a formal public hearing to a later date.

"We're listening, we're doing what we can and we're not out of step with any other rural community that is bringing in accessory dwelling bylaws," said Patrick.

CRD says feedback heard

FWSC

continued from 1

Eyles also said that the district has not had leak issues with the supply line, which McElhanney recommends be replaced as a top priority.

"But we have had other issues that don't seem to be indicated here, or taken into account in terms of priority."

Commissioners were also offended by the report's references to the Vortex development, noting that existing FWSC ratepayers should not be contributing to studies that facilitate a private venture currently outside their district.

Salt Spring's senior CRD manager Karla Campbell said the commission didn't pay for the Vortex information as McElhanney is also doing work for the Vortex owners.

"So they probably share that information they have internally to kind of understand what the implications were. So it wasn't any cost to the commission," she said.

CRD engineer Dean Olafson also stated the fire flow information "was essentially free information," but when pressed by Maude he agreed there would have been "a small incremental charge" to include it.

From an engineering standpoint Olafson said he disagreed with use of dynamic or destruction testing and incremental replacement of the lines.

"When asbestos cement pipe fails, it does not develop a pinhole leak. It fails catastrophically. It just starts leaking and then you've got an emergency repair. So the idea behind this program is to do it in a

preventative manner."

He said the report's recommended process would cost less than putting Band-aids on the system through emergency repairs over many years.

Campbell stressed that commission feedback would be provided to the consultant.

"This is what this meeting is for. There's no decision that has to be made. This is not finalized. It's completely at a draft stage. And that's why we paused it here, to consult with you."

But commissioner Alan Martin pointed out that it was ludicrous to have paid a consultant to include information that was not requested, and then pay them again to take it out.

"We've been saying the same things: communication has been awful, as was told to us by other commissions in relation to CRD communication; the things that we ask for don't get done, and things that we don't ask for are forced on us. And we have to pay for all of it," said Martin.

The owners of Fulford district's approximately 100 ratepaying properties must cover all costs of commission projects, unless grants or gas tax monies can be acquired for a specific purpose.

Olafson said he didn't know the exact cost of the McElhanney report but that it was definitely much less than the \$90,000 budgeted in the FWSC capital plan.

Friday's meeting concluded with the commission requesting a meeting via Zoom to discuss the report with McElhanney engineers, which will also be paid for from the FWSC budget.



**NORTH
SALT SPRING
WATERWORKS
DISTRICT**

NOTICE TO THE RATEPAYERS OF THE NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT

2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Ratepayers of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 27, 2023, virtually through Microsoft Teams, and in person at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island, BC. The link to the meeting can be found in the top right-hand corner of our website.

NOMINEES FOR 2 TRUSTEE POSITIONS ARE: (Both positions are for a 3-year term)

Elizabeth FitzZaland
Gary Gagné
Steve Lam
Leigh Large

AGM Voter Eligibility and Process

The Trustee election will use an advance mail-in ballot process and an in-person voting process. Voting packages and instructions will be mailed to all eligible voters on March 22, 2023, and ballots must be received at the district office by April 25, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. In person voting on the day of the AGM will begin at 2:00 p.m. and end at 6:00 p.m. The results of the election will be announced at the AGM as soon as they are available.

Per the *Election Act* and the District's Letters Patent, an eligible elector for the purpose of a Trustee election is a North Salt Spring Waterworks District ratepayer who meets the following criteria:

- Is a Canadian Citizen 18 years of age or older, who has been a resident of British Columbia for at least the prior 6 months;
- Can only vote once in this election unless the owner is also an authorized agent.
- Is a registered owner of land in the North Salt Spring Waterworks District area, or the authorized agent of any board or corporation that is an owner of such land, or the legal representative of any owner of such land who has died, become insolvent or insane (written proof must be provided by the representative);
- Has been a registered owner of a property within the North Salt Spring Waterworks District area for at least 30 days prior to election packages being mailed out;
- Has an account in good standing;
- Is entitled to be registered as a voter under the *Election Act* and is not disqualified from voting by the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment; and
- Spouses or partners who are not registered on title per BC Assessment are not entitled to vote.

www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca

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OPINION

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

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



Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

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EDITORIAL

Earth Day efforts

Salt Spring's traditional Earth Day festival returns to Centennial Park after a few years' hiatus, bringing community awareness and inspiration to environmental action.

Organized by Salt Spring Parks and Recreation, participating groups include Transition Salt Spring, Island Pathways, Salt Spring Conservancy, Salt Spring Water Preservation Society, the Green Party of Canada, Salt Spring Native Plant Stewardship, Green Loans – Transition Salt Spring Enterprise Cooperative and the Green Ground Society.

As Michelle Grant explains in her letter to the editor in this week's paper, people can take up the Earth Day Challenge at the Green Party of Canada booth at the park, committing to implementing one small or big change in their life this year that will help combat climate change.

In addition to Saturday's event in the park, the first two events in Salt Spring Community Energy's Electrify Salt Spring festival take place this week. Thursday evening sees a Monitoring Your Home Energy and Carbon Footprint talk at the library, and a transportation and work fair runs on Saturday, where people can get a ride on the new electric school bus.

The Salt Spring Spring Home and Garden Show at the Farmers' Institute on Saturday and Sunday will also host a variety of local businesses who can help make homes and properties more energy efficient and green. And on Friday, April 21 from 2 to 4 p.m., people can show support for safer walking and wheeling trails on Salt Spring while on a bike ride with MLA Adam Olsen that will traverse sections of the future Salish Sea Trail Network. The meet-up spot is near the Indigenous welcome figure at the south end of the hydro field on Rainbow Road.

Testament to the fact that small actions can make a big difference is the momentum seen in the Driftwood's Let's Pick It Up, Salt Spring island-wide clean-up campaign this year. The list of community members committing to cleaning up Salt Spring roadsides and beaches keeps on growing, and we couldn't be more impressed. Take a look at the map on Page 20 of this week's paper to see all the areas people have signed up for so far. It's heartening to think that so many individuals are willing and able to devote the time required to make such a tangible difference in the health of their island environment.

Keep it up, everyone!



WHU series: water talks

BY ERIC BOOTH

Virtually every discussion around increasing development/density for workforce housing units (WHUs) on Salt Spring revolves around availability of water.

The other three service issues — septic, hydro and roads — pale in comparison, as those are relatively easy to solve.

All water on the island originates from the sky: one metre falls annually. Some is stored in lakes, some in our aquifers and huge amounts run out to the ocean. We "consume" about one per cent of the rain that falls, and deliver that entire one per cent back into the environment via the oceans, aquifers and atmosphere.

The quantity of rainwater stored in our aquifers is entirely dependent upon our underground geology. In generalized terms, Salt Spring is comprised of three land formations. The northern section is primarily sandstone, while the two southern sections are primarily fractured granite.

Sandstone forms on the bottom of an ocean, and then, through tectonic action, is sometimes buckled upwards. If it buckles high enough it will fracture, creating a good aquifer. Channel Ridge, at 220-metres elevation, is an example of such a sandstone ridge. However, travel slightly further north to Sun Eagle Drive, at 160 metres, and the buckling is less. Subsequently, while wells in the Channel Ridge area average three to five gallons per minute, along Sun Eagle you may drill down 500 feet and get nothing.

Fractured granite is an excellent aquifer, and the two southern sections of the island rise to 400 to 600 metres. You can drill virtually anywhere in granite and hit a good water supply.

How much water does the average dwelling use? About 120 gallons per day. Since we have accepted rainwater catchment as one

VIEWPOINT

measure, let's look at its math.

To obtain a CRD building permit for a house, using rainwater for water, you require 1,500 square feet of catchment area.

Three feet of annual rainfall x 1,500 = 4,500 cubic feet x 6.22 Imperial gallons (IG)/cu.ft. = 27,990 gal/year. Divided by 365 days = 76.68 IG = 92.08 US gallons (the measure of well output) = .06 USG/min equivalent. Thus the maximum water output you can achieve solely through rainwater catchment is just 63/1000ths of a gpm. In other words, the output of a one gpm well is the equivalent to the absolute maximum yield of 15 rainwater catchment systems as described above.

This means, if you accept/support rainwater catchment as a potential water supply, then any well, with storage, which can sustainably produce one gpm, can equally support 15 homes, and a 10 gpm well = 150 homes.

North Salt Spring Waterworks District's most recent hydrology study on Lake Maxwell indicates about 30 million gallons per year is safely available, over and above our current usage. Using our rainwater example, that is enough for over 1,000 WHUs.

And, for five months of the year, about 80 million gallons of fresh water overflows Lake Maxwell and drains into the ocean. If the level of the lake was raised just six inches, it could capture half the winter runoff (lake area = 106 hectares = 11,409,745 sf x 0.5 = 35,000,000 IG), which would be enough for another 1,000 WHUs.

So, without even mentioning recycling of grey water, there is a massive, available water supply on the island. All that is required is the vision and political willpower to access/utilize it.

Part 5 of the writer's workforce housing series will look at the other services required, and how those challenges can be met.

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Canada Publication Mail No.0040050837 | International Standards Serial Number 1198-7782
Member of News Media Canada + National NewsMedia Council, and BC & Yukon Community NewsMedia Association

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you planning a home or garden improvement project this spring?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you think an LCC can improve SSI governance?



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

Take action on Earth Day

The best way to combat climate despair is to take meaningful action. Join us and other community groups Earth Day, April 22 at Centennial Park from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We'll share ideas — yours and ours — on how we can each contribute to a healthier planet. Should you have any recycling or landfill items that you have given new life to, please bring them for our idea basket. Fighting climate change takes all of us doing what we can when we can and that can be different every day.

Please also think about participating in our Earth Day Challenge. That's when you commit to implementing one change this year, big or small to combat climate change. That could mean committing to changing your heating system over to a heat pump, or remembering to turn off the lights when you leave a room or changing your vehicle to an electric or hybrid car or simply remembering to turn off the tap while brushing your teeth. We will have one signed copy of Elizabeth May and John Kidder's book *Climate Change for Dummies* to give away to the lucky person whose name gets drawn.

Thank you to all our local businesses, community groups and individuals who are already doing what they can to make a difference. From Phoenix Farm for changing over to refillable bottles for their local organic apple juice, to the Glass Foundry for giving newspapers and bubblewrap a

second life as packing materials for shipping their glass items, to the SS Exchange for helping items to find new homes for free or a reasonable price and to the Driftwood for their Let's Pick it Up Salt Spring campaign. There are lots more I could mention but there's only so much room.

Thank you and hope to see you on Earth Day in the park.

MICHELLE GRANT,
FOR THE GREEN PARTY OF CANADA

Rogers cell tower debacle

The cellular industry and some people claim that because we're exposed to natural electromagnetic fields (EMF) all the time, cell towers' EMF must be safe.

But whether Earth's EMF is more powerful than cell tower EMFs is irrelevant and immaterial. We cannot conflate these entirely different phenomena. It's an apples and oranges comparison. The corporate apologist sector has actively promoted many false arguments as specious, inaccurate and misleading as this one, claiming that non-natural EMF/EMR — electromagnetic fields/radiation from cell towers etc. — must also be okay.

There is absolutely no truthful comparison to be honestly made between the natural radiations to which all living inhabitants on Earth have been exposed forever, and the non-natural, pulsed digital EMR from man-made technologies. Modulated (information-carrying) microwave and radiofre-

quency (RF) emissions are found nowhere in nature. These two types of EMF are fundamentally different. Earth's electric and magnetic radiation fields are what we and the entirety of nature depend on for existence. The butterfly and bird travel thousands of miles to and from exact locations guided by the Earth's geomagnetic field. Likewise, whales and all other creatures orient via Earth's magnetic field, but are disrupted and harmed when encountering artificial RF fields, which are xenobiotic (unnatural). These different phenomena have absolutely no comparative properties. Assurance of safety of cellular emissions by "captured," industry-controlled agencies are provably inaccurate. See ehtrust.org/cell-tower-radiation-science/.

Deceptions from industry apologists and their supporters also include likening cell tower emissions, often around 100 or so watts per channel, to a standard light bulb operating at 100 watts of power, thereby implying cell radiations are also no problem. Don't be fooled, warn scientists. Light bulbs and RF emissions are totally different in the real world. The novel, myriad RF technologies employ ultra-high frequencies, using pulsed digital, modulated radiation which becomes airborne and travels far and is fundamentally different and vastly more harmful than the localized 60-hertz electromagnetic fields of a typical residential power supply and related fixtures.

Yes, residential exposures, depending on specifics and proximity, can be dangerous. But much less so than radiofrequency sources. And at least we can wisely decide to avoid various RF pollutants such as cell and

cordless phones, Wi-Fi etc., and to locate sleep areas distant from power panels and "smart" meters, among other measures, so as to choose a safer environment for the home. We do have choices with such radiation sources.

However, we are given no choice to continue having healthy home conditions by limiting such volitional exposures when the cellular industry comes calling. Short of bunkering down behind Faraday-shielded walls, windows and roofs, there can be no avoiding significant, genetically altering trespass by the continual myriad emissions at harmful frequencies from these dangerous transmission towers that thousands of studies show cause great physical and psychological harm to people and have horrific adverse effects also on the natural world, as stated so well by the groups opposing the location of the dangerous Rogers transmission tower on Salt Spring.

Regarding adverse health effects and significant losses in property values, the informed and conscientious opponents of these Rogers transmission arrays are well informed as to the severe threat they face from these latest corporate bullies. This is especially true given the imminent arrival of the most dangerous form ever of telecom technologies — namely 5G. Opponents of the Channel Ridge tower are fighting for their absolute right to a healthy life, which must be allowed to take precedence over corporate profit-taking at their expense.

CHRIS ANDERSON,
FOR GULF ISLANDERS FOR SAFE TECHNOLOGY

MORE OPINION continued on 6

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"We've been saying the same things: communication has been awful, as was told to us by other commissions in relation to CRD communication; the things that we ask for don't get done, and things that we don't ask for are forced on us. And we have to pay for all of it."

ALAN MARTIN, FULFORD WATER SERVICE COMMISSION MEMBER

Resigning Fulford Water Service commissioner shares frustration

BY TONY MAUDE

I am writing this to express my frustration with my 12 years spent on the Fulford Water Service board as a commissioner.

During that time the Capital Regional District (CRD) has mismanaged the ratepayers' water system and violated the trust of the water board members through a process that totally disregards the role of the commissioners in providing guidance and ensuring the financial viability of the water system.

Almost 20 years ago there was a major project initiated to upgrade the plant and distribution system. During the construction process there were numerous actions taken that reduced the scope of the project that resulted in piping undersized to the needs of the system being installed, despite being specified in the contract as the correct size. Water meters were purchased but not installed, a large section of the distribution system not

being installed resulted in a boil water advisory in place for those residents for four years until another referendum raised additional funds to complete what was contracted and promised as part of the original construction. That only occurred after direct action by the commissioners. It's estimated that \$250,000 in contract funding was mismanaged by the CRD on this as a cost to be borne by the 105 ratepayers.

As a commissioner trying to fulfill the role as an unpaid volunteer I have found that the commission has been treated indifferently by the CRD on a day-to-day basis with decisions overridden, funds expended without authority and a general lack of any respect for the endless hours that we spend trying to protect the ratepayers from the excesses of the CRD.

Currently this commission is being bullied into being part of an ill-defined project to replace both existing infrastructure that has been in place for years, along

INDEPTH

with the more recent piping that was installed that is undersized due to a site decision by the CRD manager of the time, despite a contract to install the correctly sized piping at the time. Our recent direction to the CRD was to survey the existing piping to determine the existing condition and remaining life span of the piping. We also have asked that isolating valves be installed on the main distribution branch lines to assist staff in determining and managing any current line issues with existing equipment. Those requests have been in our approved projects list for four years with no action.

Instead what we have received and are expected to rubber stamp is a full replacement of the Fulford distribution system, with both old and new lines to be replaced with new correctly sized piping with

new water meters. The old meters purchased as part of the previous project were deemed obsolete — never installed — and surplussed for pennies on the dollar.

This just-received project brief is a very complex report that cost the ratepayers of Fulford tens of thousands of dollars and is not what was requested, approved or required until the current condition of the existing system is assessed. The attitude is that the existing piping is old and, due to CRD mismanagement, some of it is undersized, and even though less than 15 years old, the entire system will be replaced regardless of the wishes or concerns raised by the commission.

This project will dramatically raise the cost of the water system to the ratepayers, who already pay approximately \$200 a month for water today.

I am not consciously continue to be part of a system that demands there is a commission to monitor and advise the CRD,

yet the CRD seems to have the ability to marginalize and ignore the very authority that is supposed to ensure that the system and the CRD are managed effectively and that the system is affordable to the ratepayers. I feel the disrespect shown the volunteers over the years has been shameful, yet nothing changes, and the high-handedness of the CRD means that I am not prepared to continue the fight when there is no point to the effort. There is enough frustration in life without this and I am convinced that regardless of what we do the CRD will do what they want, when they want and without any consideration to the commission or the ratepayers in Fulford.

For the users of the water system in Fulford, be aware that the CRD will cripple the ability of the residents and businesses to exist and there's nothing you can do about it, but I for one will not facilitate or be part of that effort to legitimize the CRD's actions.

Leak data and issues clarified

BY ELIZABETH FITZZALAND

Last week's edition of the Driftwood included a Q&A with all candidates running in the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) election. In response to a question about how to find more capacity in the water system, myself and another candidate identified fixing leaks as one solution, both referencing a 25 per cent water loss figure. The article was published on Wednesday. By Thursday I was being called out for circulating misinformation.

In fact, I had originally referenced a 2021 water system survey from the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance in which "non-revenue water" (potable water that does not reach ratepayers due to leaks or operational use) for the St. Mary Lake system is reported as 26 per cent of the treated water in 2018. The table with this data was updated at the request of NSSWD in December 2022. The previous version showed about 50 per cent non-revenue water (NRW) in 2018 for the St. Mary Lake system (apparently a calculation error).

Following the article and emails, information was shared with me that showed another figure for NRW for

INRESPONSE

the St. Mary Lake system in 2018: 19 per cent. I did my own research on NRW standards and learned that, depending on the size/age of the system, 10 to 25 per cent NRW is not considered unusual, although many systems of similar size aim for a standard of under 15 or 10 per cent.

Have I learned more about NRW in the past week? Yes. Do I think NSSWD is probably within the normal range? Yes. Do I still think NSSWD has a leak issue? Yes. Do I think NSSWD has a reporting and transparency issue? Absolutely.

Learning that NSSWD was within a common NRW range in 2018 confirms the system was not in a crisis five years ago. It also confirms the competency of NSSWD's daily operations. Less reassuring is the inconsistent reporting, lack of available data over the past five years and NSSWD's financial capacity to prevent major leaks. Like many systems of similar age, most of NSSWD's pipes are made of an asbestos-based material with a limited lifespan. As that life is coming to an end, the pipes are breaking-down, cracking

and — yes — leaking.

A prudent asset replacement program would proactively replace kilometres of pipe each year to prevent major leaks. But this isn't happening at the required level of effort because NSSWD does not have enough funds. In addition to the provincially mandated new Maxwell Lake treatment plant, NSSWD has millions of dollars of deferred pipe replacement. Most local water systems rely heavily (50 per cent or more) on senior government grants to fund infrastructure upgrades like these. Unfortunately, grants are not available to improvement districts despite decades of advocacy.

As a ratepayer, I will only have confidence that we are not on the verge of a leaky pipe crisis when NSSWD has a viable long-term capital funding strategy, is actively replacing aging assets and provides accessible public reporting. I would feel even better if NSSWD could achieve a NRW standard of under 10 per cent to maximize the amount of potable water ending up in drinking glasses.

I want to close with a comment on transparency, a foundational element in fostering public confidence. Learning about NSSWD has

been challenging. I want to know more about the moratorium, Channel Ridge litigation, water quality at Maxwell Lake, system leaks, trade-offs of partnering with the CRD, rate and tax increases, etc. I have spent hours digging through the cumbersome technical reports and meeting minutes available online to extract information that should really be clearly and proactively shared with ratepayers AND the numerous non-ratepayers (renters, businesses, school students, hospital patients, members of the workforce, etc.) who rely on NSSWD for potable water. A lot of the information is missing, buried, incomplete and/or inconsistent. It's time for NSSWD to get better at sharing information, inviting questions and dialogue and opening the floor for better problem-solving. If elected, I will champion this. And I will keep learning.

Editor's note: When Driftwood staff observed near press time last week that candidates Elizabeth FitzZaland and Leigh Large had cited different water leak percentages in their submitted answers, the only documented leak rate we could pinpoint was a 25 per cent estimate.



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

FIRST VIEW: Julianna Slomka takes in artist John Macdonald's huge Pause painting and eagle sculpture on the stage at the Archipelago exhibition opening at Mahon Hall on Friday night, with one of Jane Kidd's garments seen in the background. Work by Gulf Islands artists is on display at Mahon Hall until April 30. The San Juan Islands portion of Archipelago opens April 21 at ArtSpring, and numerous related artist talks and panels take place this month.



The Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District is having its **63RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** at the Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue, Salt Spring Island, BC, at 7PM on April 24, 2023.

The Agenda includes:

- Present and approve the Agenda
- Appoint a recording secretary and Parliamentarian
- Review and accept the Minutes from the 62nd Annual General Meeting
- Review the Audited Financial Statements
- Receive the Fire Chief's Report
- Receive the Salt Spring Island Volunteer Fire Fighter's Association Report
- Receive the Chair of the Board of Trustees Report
- Call for a motion to fix the remuneration of the Trustees for the ensuing year
- Trustee acclamations for 3 three-year positions
- Questions from the floor

HAVE YOUR SAY

Proposed Bylaws 256 and 257
Rezoning to permit for the development of a
spiritual education retreat facility

PUBLIC HEARING

GALIANO ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

What are Proposed Bylaw No. 256 and No. 257?

Proposed Bylaw No. 256 and No. 257 will amend the Galiano Island Land Use Bylaw No. 127 and the Galiano Island Official Community Plan No. 108 by rezoning and re-designating District Lot 90, Lot 9 and District Lot 88 and 89 Lot A, North Galiano Island, to allow for the development of a spiritual education retreat facility. Lot 9 (20.5 hectares) is currently zoned Rural 2 (R2) and Lot A (4.0 hectares) is zoned Forest 1 (F1).

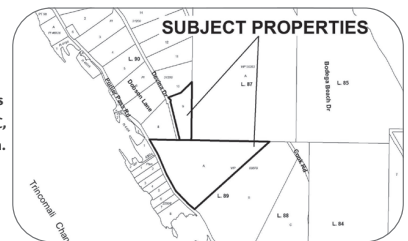
How do I get more information?

Copies of the proposed bylaws, the Public Hearing Binder and other information on the application is available on the [Galiano 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 April 23, 2023.

The Public Hearing will occur in person and via Zoom per the details on this notice.

Submissions

Prior to the Public Hearing: Written submissions will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., May 5, 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.



Public Hearing
Saturday, May 6, 2023
at 12:30 p.m. (in person and hybrid)

Lions Hall (in person)
992 Burrill Road
Galiano Island, BC

Via Zoom:
<https://islandstrust.zoom.us/j/64426047638>
Via phone: 833-958-1164 / 833-955-1088

Who should attend?
Anyone affected by the proposed bylaws.

Enquiries?
Brad Smith
Island Planner
bsmith@islandstrust.bc.ca
778-679-5185

FOR BREAKING NEWS SEE: gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Spring refresh!

EVERYTHING HOME AND GARDEN



The 5 most durable fence materials

When building a new fence, you must pick high-quality, durable materials to ensure it lasts for years to come. Choosing poor materials can lead to an ugly, sagging fence that'll be expensive to repair. Here are some of the most durable fencing materials on the market.

1. Wrought iron. Ornamental iron fences can last hundreds of years if regularly maintained. In fact, some of the wrought-iron latticework found in the French Quarter of New Orleans dates back to the 1700s. However, iron is prone to rust and must be regularly repainted.
2. Brick or masonry. Fences built from brick or concrete can withstand the test of time. However, these materials are pricey and must be installed by professional masons.



3. Aluminum. Lightweight, rust-resistant and easy to install, aluminum fences are a sure bet for any climate. Aluminum requires little to no maintenance and can be painted to match your home's exterior.
4. Vinyl. A relative newcomer in fencing material, vinyl can be designed to resemble wood and metal. It doesn't rot or rust and is resistant to pests. All you need to do is wash it down once a year to keep dirt and debris at bay.
5. Pressure-treated wood. Wood fences are timeless. Fortunately, pressure-treated wood can last many decades with annual upkeep, such as painting and staining. Consult a fence professional to discuss what type of fencing material is best for your property.

How a fence can increase the value of your property

Installing a new fence around your home has many benefits, including increasing the value of your property and making it more attractive to future buyers. Here's why.

- It delineates your property. A fence visually outlines your property to give potential buyers an exact idea of the size of your yard. Remember to always double-check property lines before installing a fence.
- It increases curb appeal. You can increase your home's curb appeal by installing a decorative wooden or wrought-iron fence. A well-placed fence can also block unsightly views.
- It adds privacy. If you want to create a

visual barrier around your home, a fence is a great way to shield your yard from the gaze of strangers.

- It improves security and safety. Installing a fence keeps would-be thieves and vandals out of your yard and home. Enclosing your yard with a fence can also help keep young children and pets from escaping into the street. Safety and security are significant features when selling a home. Lastly, always opt for professional installation to avoid future problems and hassles. Additionally, invest in regular maintenance and repairs to ensure your fence looks and performs its best for years to come.



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spring refresh! EVERYTHING HOME AND GARDEN

LANDSCAPING

Broom removal part of spring maintenance

Stewardship group answers frequently asked questions about dealing with broom

BY JANE PETCH
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Earth Day is our reminder to be aware of and to marvel at the remarkable natural environment that surrounds us.

It is also a reminder to think about ways we can support or repair our natural world.

For over 12 years, islanders have been engaged in removing Scotch broom from roadsides and properties. A non-native invasive shrub, broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) out-competes native plants, toxifies the soil and spreads without limits in sunny, dry locations. It is also an extreme fire hazard.

Spring, with the CUT BROOM IN BLOOM signs going up along the roadways, is an ideal time to cut broom. Salt Spring's Native Plant Stewardship Group has been asked to review steps for removing broom effectively. Here are some questions we are often asked.



PHOTO COURTESY JANE PETCH

Volunteer broom pullers gather at a Long Harbour property that is monitored for broom growth each year. Broom and other invasives can be brought to May 13 and June 4 drop-off events this year, with a third date a possibility.

Why should I cut broom plants, and not pull them?

The best advice is: don't pull broom plants. Cut them. Pulling disturbs the broom seeds in the soil. The minute the seeds are exposed to light they will sprout. One plant can produce thousands of seeds which can last up to 30

years. But you can pull small plants with stems thinner than pencils.

How do I make sure the broom does not come back?

Cut the stems as close to the ground as you can, even below the soil level if possible. If you leave part of the stem showing, it will resprout. Broom stems are photosynthetic. For a great video about removing broom, go to broombusters.org.

Can I cut broom any time?

Yes, you can cut broom any time. But cutting in the spring when the plant is in bloom and has no seeds makes it safer to transport without spreading the seeds. Also, spring cutting when the plant puts all its energies into producing blooms, means the plant doesn't have the resources to survive the summer drought.

Can broom spread by runners?

No, broom is a member of the pea family and spreads by seeds.

How do I dispose of the broom I cut?

The stewardship group organizes annual

drop-offs for non-native invasive plants. This year, the drop-offs are on Saturday, May 13, and Sunday, June 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We may be able to add one more in later May. Dates, times and locations will be posted in local media.

Drop-offs are by donation. Plants are either chipped or recycled. Supporters of these events include Salt Spring Fire Rescue, Transition Salt Spring, the Salt Spring Island Conservancy and the Capital Regional District.

You can drop off broom, blackberry, spurge laurel, gorse, ivy, holly and other woody non-native invasives. To save the chipper blades, please remove any dirt or stones dirt from the roots. Giant hogweed is too toxic to accept.

Can I really get rid of broom permanently?

There are great success stories all over the island. Check out broombusters.org for Qualicum's success. The broom removal site on Long Harbour Road demonstrates how little effort is required to monitor a hillside that was once choked with broom. And the native plants thank everyone who takes on their own small patch and keeps it broom-free!

Call 250-537-0880 to volunteer or for more details.





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GARDEN CLUB

Daylily star visits Salt Spring

Pam Erikson speaks at April 26 garden club meeting

BY SSI GARDEN CLUB

The Salt Spring Island Garden Club guest speaker on Wednesday, April 26 is an award-winning daylily hybridizer, photographer, instructor and lecturer from Langley.

In 1991, Pam Erikson became the first American Hemerocallis Society (AHS) judge in Canada. That same year she started the first Canadian daylily club in the country in affiliation with the AHS and is still its president to this day. Erikson and her family invite gardeners from around the world to tour the gardens in July at peak bloom time and are members of the Circle Farm Tour program through Tourism Langley. The one-acre display garden has seen bus tours from Australia, Japan, England and the United States, in addition to thousands of local gardening enthusiasts and several gardening television and radio shows from around the country. The gardens now contain over 3,000 varieties of daylilies and lilies, over 600 varieties of hostas and hundreds of other specimen trees and perennials.

Erikson travels extensively in the fall and winter months, giving presentations to introduce new gardeners to her favourite plants and travelling to many destinations to acquire new and rare varieties.



PAM ERIKSON

Erikson has collaborated on several books dedicated to daylilies and is a member of the Garden Writers of America and writes regularly for numerous publications across North America, as well as being editor of the Pacific Daylily, which is a bi-annual publication for AHS Region 8. She makes yearly appearances on local radio and television shows to continue the promotion of her favourite plant.

Erikson was named Hybridizer of the Year by the Canadian Hemerocallis Society in 2005, and to date has introduced 82 new daylily cultivars to the world.

The garden club meets at Meaden Hall, in the lower level of the Legion. Doors open at 6:45 p.m., with a social time and an opportunity to meet our speaker and to purchase special plants and bulbs that she has brought from her nursery. A short business meeting begins at 7:30 p.m., followed by Erikson's presentation titled What Excites Me in 2023!

The April 26 talk is open to the general public for a cost of \$5 and free to Salt Spring Island Garden Club members. The club always welcomes new members. Visit ssigardenclub.ca or sign up at the membership table at meetings.

The club's annual spring plant sale is also just around the corner on Saturday, April 29 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Farmers' Institute.

RESOURCES

CRD website has green living ideas

How much water do you use?



CRD website water calculator.

Curious about how you can "live green" in your home? Want to learn how to build a rain garden?

The Capital Regional District (CRD) has a variety of resources available on their website, from ideas about how to conserve water in bathrooms and kitchens to tips on yard and garden care, maintaining underground pipes and preventing pollution at home. A helpful water calculator and charts for residential use are online as well.

Visit the crd.bc.ca/education/live-green website.

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Take in one or more of the guest speakers on topics ranging from garden pest management to home upgrade energy rebates — see the schedule on page 11 — relax in the beer garden and enjoy selections from popular food trucks on site.

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Guest Speaker Line-up

Saturday, April 22nd

- 11:00am - Mielle Chandler - Fullcircle Water Systems
- 12:00pm - Jeff Chamberland - Bearfoot Renewables
- 1:00pm - Karen Cross - PCS Pest Control
- 2:00pm - Jane Squires - Soil Quality
- 3:00pm - SS Fire Department - Fire Safety

Sunday, April 23rd

- 11:00am - AloPluvia - Integrated Water Resource Management
- 12:00pm - Linda Gilkeson - Garden Pests
- 1:00pm - Morgan Fraser - Transition Salt Spring

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spring refresh! EVERYTHING HOME AND GARDEN

Wood decks: durable and affordable

Among all of the flooring options available on the market for decks, terraces and patios, treated lumber is undeniably one of the more popular choices, mainly for its reasonable cost and long lifespan. Often made from pine or spruce, these pressure-treated wooden planks are equally suitable for ground-level patios and elevated balconies. Are you looking to complement your yard with a beautiful terrace? Treated wood might be exactly the building material you're looking for.

Easy to cut, carve and paint, treated lumber is the perfect choice of material for a terrace that is unique in design and resistant to insects and rot. In addition to its superior resistance, it's also very easy to work with. For example, to preserve the natural beauty of the surface, you can stain or paint the wood in a colour of your choosing. Furthermore, to ensure your deck remains in prime condition for years to come, you can apply a transparent, waterproof sealant available at any hardware store.

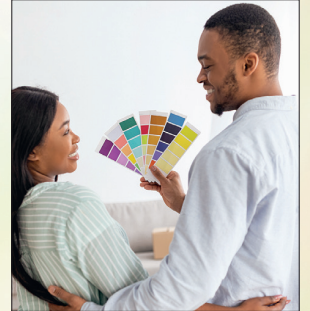
Contrary to popular belief, wood may actually one of the more eco-friendly options available for deck flooring. Given their exceptional durability, wooden planks limit the number of trees chopped down each year. Additionally, wood is a reusable and biodegradable material that is highly regulated by environmental agencies worldwide. To build a timeless wooden deck of the highest quality, entrust your project to a professional carpenter!



6 things to consider for a successful painting project

Do you want to paint (or repaint) a room, staircase or piece of furniture? Here are six things to remember to ensure your painting project is successful.

1. Choose high-quality products. For the best results, invest in high-quality products. For example, spend the extra money on good paint, brushes and rollers.
2. Select the right colour and finish. Compare several samples to select a paint colour you love. Make sure to choose the right finish for your desired look.
3. Think about maintenance. Kitchens, bathrooms and entryways are more likely to collect dirt and dust. Therefore, choose a finish that's easy to clean and can withstand heavy traffic.
4. Consider the surface type. When choosing the right paint for your project, it's essential to consider the surface type. For instance, concrete, wood and metal require different types of paint and surface preparation.
5. Evaluate your experience level. If you've done several painting projects in the past, you may have enough experience to take on the task yourself. If not, call a professional for beautiful, smudge-free results.
6. Buy enough paint. Depending on your project, you may need to apply a primer and account for one, two or even three coats of paint. Ensure you buy the correct amount of paint, especially if it's a custom blend.



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CONTEMPORARY FINE ART

San Juan Islands artists highlighted

Second exhibit opens Friday at ArtSpring

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
FOR ARCHIPELAGO

After Salt Spring Arts' 16th Annual Spring Art Show at Mahon Hall opened its Archipelago exhibition last Friday showcasing six Southern Gulf Islands artists, ArtSpring follows suit with its presentation of six San Juan artists this Friday. An opening reception welcomes the public for a first sneak peek from 5 to 7 p.m., with the American artists and special guests in attendance.

The exhibition, entitled Archipelago: Contemporary Art of the Salish Sea, is framed as "twelve artists, six mediums, three exhibitions, two countries, one sea." A unique collaboration between the creators and communities of two of North America's most feted art communities, it marks the first international exchange of this nature and scale on Salt Spring. Partnering organizations ArtSpring, Salt Spring Arts and the San Juan Islands Museum of Art are each hosting different elements of the exhibition.

An aspect about ArtSpring's exhibition that local co-curators Richard Steel and Patrick McCallum are particularly excited about is Salt Spring Island can also claim another first with this extraordinary presentation.

"None of the San Juan artists has ever shown in the Gulf Islands before, or even in Canada to my knowledge," says Steel. "This is a fantastic opportunity for everyone to see these remarkable artists' work and explore how their approaches, viewpoints and techniques are different or similar to our own."

The exchanges and presentations of international work is a development that Howard Jang, executive and artistic director of ArtSpring, is committed to supporting.

"This exhibition serves as an opportunity for artists, and we as art centres, to engage in meaningful cultural exchange, foster relationships, introduce our communities to world-class artistic excellence and form a bit of pride that for such a small specific region, we can celebrate something unique on the global stage," he says.

ArtSpring will show the work of established San Juan stone sculptor Tom Small and painters Joe Miller and RaVae Luckhart, along with a younger generation of artists like printmaker Glenn Hendrick, photographer Danielle Dean and Indigenous glassworks artist Raven Skyriver.

As with the Southern Gulf Islands, the artists of the San Juans have been significantly impacted by their profound sense of place. From melancholy weather affecting their palettes to the desire for self-imposed isolation; from creating their work in old-growth forests and on mountaintops to focusing attention on the ocean and its creatures; from the Salish Sea being a location versus a state of mind, the artists have a shared ecosystem of inspiration.

Millennial Skyriver from Lopez Island grew up connected to the land and its surrounding waters. He was introduced to the artistry of glass at 16 and, through it, discovered a way to celebrate biodiversity and better understand his heritage.

Today his renderings of the aquatic life of the Pacific Northwest are created with such exquisite detail and sensitivity, he is widely



PHOTO COURTESY ARCHIPELAGO

Vertical City, one of Tom Small's sculptures in the Archipelago exhibit at ArtSpring.

collected in the U.S. His ability to recreate the features and hues of salmon, whales, seals and octopus and imbue them with life and movement has been reviewed as truly exceptional.

"My work is almost exclusively derived from the marine ecosphere," explains Skyriver. "Using earth tones and the natural translucent element, I love to capture the creatures' fluid nature in molten glass and place them back into their environment, as if swimming weightlessly and suspended."

From his remote home studio atop Cady Mountain, surrounded by old-growth forest, ravens and foxes, veteran artist Small practises his art and craft of stone sculpture. From rough-hewn and functional stone basins and benches to sensuous and futuristic pieces, architectural sculptures and monumental basalt forms bearing carved sketches from the natural world, Small is also a master of his medium.

With the two San Juan painters, Miller and Luckhart, the words "visual" and "visceral" have been aptly used to describe their work. Moving from the South Dakota plains to the atmospheric Pacific Northwest, Luckhart is a painter, print maker, but most of all a "mark maker," who requires total immersion into her paintings.

In her challenging, large-scale collection of deer carcass paintings, she examines bold themes of love, terror, grief, redemption and culture, and invites viewers to do the same.

"This work is not about a deer on a hook," she states. "Ultimately, I am expressing the human condition. Objects such as flesh and bone assume cultural and spiritual significance reflecting values and beliefs. Attempting to unearth the mystery, I represent the story with the mark, the colour and the composition with deer as the metaphor."

Miller on the other hand is a painter of emotional landscapes, born from his desire to create "visual music." He is described as bold, magical and rhythmic, with work fresh from his imagination inspired by the years and geography that have sustained him.

"Personally I find a real sense of joy in looking at Miller's landscapes," says Steel. "With the strong colours, his compositions and the unexpected interpretations of nature, it just makes the clouds part."

Raised in the Midwest U.S.A. with flat topography, Hendrick found her move to the San Juans offered a stacked perspective as she moved between the sea islands. It would profoundly influence her woodblock work, as seen in her abstract landscape prints. She

blends the Pacific Northwest with the sensibilities of ancient China and Japan, creating highly technical, layered, ghostly images that shift like the backdrops of a stage.

Photography lies at the core of Dean's artistic practice, but her pieces are ultimately multidisciplinary. In her spiritual meditations of the Salish Sea, she uses charcoal and wax on her prints to accentuate textures and moods related to her images of, and submerged in, the ocean. Often, quietly, the pieces allude to the effects of climate change and human interference on the ocean.

"My goal for viewers is to be immersed in these meditations, finding connections to their own ecology and spirituality," says Dean. "My work encourages an awareness of how the natural realm sustains us and what we can do to preserve the environment, both for our own well-being and for the future of our planet."

With the theme of cross-border creativity, connection and cultural exchange at the forefront, the dialogue gets underway with two artist panels on Saturday, April 22. Mixing the Gulf Island and San Juan artists equally into different six-person panels, the first free public panel starts at 10:30 a.m. at ArtSpring and the second is at 2 p.m. at Mahon Hall, moderated by curators Steel and McCallum.

Volunteer opportunities at both exhibitions to be gallery ambassadors are still open.

The Southern Gulf Islands artists will be journeying down to the San Juan Islands Museum of Art for display from Sept. 22 to Dec. 4.



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SEE OUR
What's On Calendar
ON PAGE 14

archipelago

CONTEMPORARY
ART OF THE SALISH SEA

12 ARTISTS
6 MEDIUMS
3 EXHIBITIONS
2 COUNTRIES
1 SEA

MAHON HALL EXHIBITION
16TH Annual Spring Art Show
APR 14 — 30 | 10 am — 5 pm

ARTSPRING EXHIBITION
APR 22 — MAY 24
10 am — 4 pm

OPENING RECEPTION
APR 14 | 6 — 9 pm

OPENING RECEPTION
APR 21 | 5 — 7 pm

ARTIST PANEL
APR 22 | 2 pm

ARTIST PANEL
APR 22 | 10:30 am

A full listing of events at Mahon Hall on our website.



114 Rainbow Road
saltspringarts.com



100 Jackson Avenue
artspring.ca

Viva Chorale!
presents
Spaghetti Western
From: *A taste of Italian opera*
To: *the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*
Director Caroni Young
Accompanist Shirley Bunyan
SATURDAY
APRIL 22, 7:30 PM
SUNDAY
APRIL 23, 2:00 PM
Tickets at ArtSpring
Adults \$25; Youth (18 or under) \$5
2023
Scan for Concert Details

EVENT PREVIEW

Film genre stars in concert

Viva Chorale presents Spaghetti Western at ArtSpring

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

One might expect Viva Chorale director Caroni Young to laugh off a seemingly boilerplate question about how she comes up with program ideas for the Salt Spring-based choir.

And the laugh comes — but there's a typically thoughtful answer right behind it. Under Young's direction, Viva Chorale's concerts have consistently surprised audiences with innovative selections that encompass broader themes. The upcoming performance is no exception; Young said the choir was in its final weeks of rehearsal for Spaghetti Western, a two-act concert that will delight music lovers even as it gently encourages an examination of how Western cinema depicted Indigenous culture.

"I think it was the idea of pairing two things that are contrasting yet related through this movie genre that sort of sparked my interest," said Young. "In terms of a beautiful classical Italian repertoire, but then looking for something playful that would highlight the 'Western' side."

Viva Chorale has performed themes from Western movies over the years; Young said those sorts of pieces showcased the various aspects of the choir singers' skill sets. But

the upcoming performance will split the concert into two halves: classical music from Italy first, then selections from Westerns, with surprising correlations.

The idea of the Spaghetti Western, according to Young — cowboy-genre films produced in Italy, using mostly Italian actors and crew and ultimately dubbed into English for U.S. and Canadian audiences — was itself a sort of subversion of expectations.

"It took the American or European model of cinematography — even the way they would do close-ups on certain characters' faces at particular times — and try to be something like the American version, but it was just not quite as you would expect it to be," said Young. "So for this concert, it sort of became the underlying theme — that things aren't always as they appear."

Young said a lot of Viva Chorale's repertoire has some sort of link to that idea, and a recent documentary she had watched while working on the program had brought the "Spaghetti Western" notion into focus — how American filmmakers shaped a lot of the stereotypes and misconceptions carried into today about Indigenous culture, through how they were represented in the films.

"So part of the program is speaking to that concept," said Young. "There's that playfulness, but with the underlying intent of hopefully asking the audience to reflect on how our perceptions have been changed and shifted by Hollywood as well."

Spaghetti Western is at ArtSpring on Saturday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 23 at 2 p.m.

what's on this week

Wed. Apr. 19

ACTIVITIES

Artist Talk: John Macdonald. Presentation by Archipelago exhibition artist John Macdonald. Mahon Hall. 12 noon.
Teen Lounge. Activities for youth aged 13-18 every Wednesday afternoon in the library's Teen Zone. 4 to 5 p.m.
Music Bingo. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

Thur. Apr. 20

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Sophia Ammann & Winsome Kind. At Mateada Lounge. 8 to 10 p.m.
Open Mic. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.
Craig's Karaoke. At Moby's Pub. 7 to 11 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Artist Talk: Anna Gustafson. Presentation by Archipelago exhibition artist Anna Gustafson. Mahon Hall. 12 noon.
Library Talk Series: Monitoring Your Home Energy and Carbon Footprint. Library program room. 7 p.m. Part of Salt Spring Community Energy's Electrify Salt Spring! festival.

Fri. Apr. 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Someh'n' Else – All-Vinyl Night. Mateada Lounge. 8 p.m. to midnight.
Karaoke. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.
Fridays With DJ Boomtown. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. til 12:30 a.m.

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring. MLA Adam Olsen is the guest in the SIMS lobby. 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.
Film Screening: In From The Cold. Created on Salt Spring, using interviews with the local homeless population and the front-line workers who assist them. Discussion follows. Salt Spring United Church. 3 p.m.
Earth Day Bike Ride. Join Island Pathways and MLA Adam Olsen. Meet near hydro field. 2 p.m.
Friday Game Night. Friendly competition and fun with various games for ages 13 to 19 at the library program room. (Magic the Gathering players generally meet up to play at these events.) 7 p.m.

Sat. Apr. 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Viva Chorale Choir: Spaghetti Western. Repertoire includes classical music from Italy and selections from Western-genre films. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.
Doug and His Buds. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.
A Family Curse Featuring Kandle & Neil Osborne. Mateada Lounge. 9 to 11:30 p.m.
Downtown Mischief. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

ACTIVITIES

Saturday Market in the Park. Centennial Park market. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Salt Spring Home & Garden Show. More than 40 vendors, guest speakers throughout the day, plus coin-op mini-excavator for the kids, food trucks, beer garden and prizes. Farmers' Institute. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Earth Day Celebration. Music, info booths, speakers and more at the Centennial Park gazebo. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Electrify Salt Spring Transportation and Work Faire. See the new electric school bus and more at the Kanaka Road parking area next to Salt Spring Elementary School. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Archipelago Artist Panel #1. Panel discussion by artists from the Gulf Islands and San Juan Islands, featuring Joe Miller, John Macdonald, Sam Montalbetti, Danielle Dean, Glenn Hendrick and Anna Gustafson. ArtSpring. 10:30 a.m.
Archipelago Artist Panel #2. Panel discussion by artists from the Gulf Islands and San Juan Islands, featuring Tom Small, Temoseng, RaVae Luckhart, Joanna Rogers, Raven Skyriver and Jane Kidd. Mahon Hall. 2 p.m.

Sun. Apr. 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Viva Chorale Choir: Spaghetti Western. See Saturday listing, except the time is at 2 p.m.
Blues Jam. Singers, players and fans welcome at the Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.



Sun. Apr. 23

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Home & Garden Show. See Saturday's listing except the time is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Book Launch: Janet Smith. Former Salt Spring resident Janet Smith returns for an event to celebrate her book *Standing in Possibility: A Memoir of Resilience and Hope.* Library program room. 2 p.m.

Mon. Apr. 24

ACTIVITIES

Artist Talk: Joanna Rogers. Presentation by Archipelago exhibition artist Joanna Rogers. Mahon Hall. 12 noon.
BC Ferries Community Meeting. Drop in to Harbour House Hotel to chat with BC Ferries reps. 5 to 6:30 p.m.
Panel Discussion: What the %\$# is a Curator? Patrick McCallum leads discussion with a panel of curators, including Celia Duthie, Margaret Day, Rose Spahan, Richard Steel and Kaeli Yarwood, about the experience of sharing their vision and passion for art through curation. Mahon Hall. 7 p.m.
Salt Spring Fire Protection District AGM. At Lions Hall. 7 p.m.

Tue. Apr. 25

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

ACTIVITIES

Trivia Tuesday. At Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

Wed. Apr. 26

ACTIVITIES

Labyrinth Walk. Step out of routines and into a welcoming place of quiet. All Saints by-the-Sea upper hall. 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Salt Spring Garden Club. Day lilies expert Pam Erikson from Langley speaks on *What Excites Me For 2023.* Meaden Hall. Doors at 6:45 p.m., short business meeting at 7:30 p.m., followed by the guest speaker.
Music Bingo. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

CINEMA

• **The Super Mario Bros.** Movie runs April 21 to May 2, Friday to Tuesday at 7 p.m., plus a Sunday 3 p.m. matinee. Rated G. 1 hour 32 minutes. See the Fritz.ca for more movie info or phone 250-538-7718.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Archipelago: Contemporary Art of the Salish Sea** featuring San Juan Islands artists **Danielle Dean, Glenn Hendrick, RaVae Luckhart, Joe Miller, Raven Skyriver and Tom Small** opens with a reception at the **ArtSpring gallery** on Friday, April 21 from 5 to 7 p.m.
• **Gallery 8's Symbolically 8 14th Anniversary Exhibition** features work from all gallery artists, beginning with an opening reception on Friday, April 21 from 5 to 8 p.m. Show runs daily through May 21.
• **Salt Spring Arts** presents its **16th Annual Spring Art Show: Archipelago – Contemporary Art of the Salish Sea**, a cultural exchange between the Southern Gulf Islands and the San Juan Islands. Artists **Anna Gustafson, Jane Kidd, Joanna Rogers, John Macdonald, Sam Montalbetti and Temoseng (AKA Chazz Elliott)** represent the Gulf Islands in the exhibition at **Mahon Hall**, April 14-30, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.
• **Sixth Annual Tossed & Found** exhibit of recycled art by various artists continues at **Salt Spring Gallery** Wednesdays through Saturdays until May 3.
• **Ramona Lam's 50 Over 50 Photo Exhibition: Celebrating Mature Women of all Shapes, Sizes, Lifestyles and Backgrounds** is in the **library program room** until April 28.
• **Larry Melious** has his photography hanging in the **ArtSpring lobby** through April.
• **Salt Spring Laundromat** shows art from **Michelle Edgar - Patten's family collection** through April.

Spring Plant Sale

ANNUAL GARDEN CLUB EVENT
Saturday, April 29, 1-3 p.m.
SS Farmers' Institute

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

PERFORMING ARTS

StageCoach's Robyn Hood show ready to thrill



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Ten of 13 cast members for StageCoach Theatre School's Robyn Hood: Outlaw Princess take to the woods with weapons for a photo op before rehearsal last week. The show runs April 29 and 30 at ArtSpring.

Strong ticket sales needed to ensure school's survival

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

StageCoach Theatre School directors are pleased to be presenting a full production at ArtSpring next week after a pandemic hiatus, but that excitement is mixed with trepidation.

If the school doesn't cover its costs

through ticket sales, the non-profit organization that has provided a high-level performing arts experience for Salt Spring youth since 1999 could fold.

After 20 years of activity, said current artistic director Adina Hildebrandt, StageCoach had reached the point of being financially sustainable and offered three different programs. But as a result of COVID's impacts, with only a small program offered last year, and none the year before, StageCoach lost the nest egg it had built up.

"We're now teetering on the brink of failure, which, after so much work to get

sustainable is really heartbreaking."

One thing could easily shift that trajectory, however.

Having two solid houses at their upcoming Robyn Hood: Princess Outlaw show will bring the organization back to financial health and allow it to continue next year. The play runs at ArtSpring on Saturday, April 29 at 7 p.m., and on Sunday, April 30 at 2 p.m.

Hildebrandt and co-director Christina Penhale (of exitStageLeft Productions fame) are super excited to present this version of Robyn Hood, with 13 cast members and featuring an all-girl set of "merry men" who live in the forest.

"Robyn is a girl who was a princess and is fighting the Sheriff's tyranny," explains Hildebrandt.

It's a "bold and cheeky" piece of fun musical theatre, which their students have embraced, including the hand combat aspects with training from Jeffrey Renn.

"They're amazing," said Hildebrandt of the cast. "They're young, and incredibly talented and dedicated."

Penhale observes that theatre arts "build so many different skills for you as a human other than just the art itself." In the case of Robyn Hood, the actors are learning about tyranny and witnessing different kinds of characters.

"They have to learn empathy and compassion, and they step into the shoes of somebody who might not necessarily be very nice," she said. "And then you start to see things from different perspectives, and it builds different tools that you might not necessarily get either at school or at home. Theatre is a very interesting medium for teamwork and compassion and listening."

WORLD MUSIC

Caribbean carnival experience on tap

Steelpan Extravaganza at Fulford Hall next weekend

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

On Saturday, April 29 at Fulford Hall, islanders can enjoy the sounds of the Caribbean with Bernard Fernandes and his steel drums, for a Salt Spring version of a Caribbean carnival called Steelpan Extravaganza.

Fernandes is bringing a set of steel drums for this event, and in tandem with Swing Shift Big Band there will be a concert featuring him, his workshop participants and a few sax solos from Monik Nordine.

The inspiration for the concert, presented by Magenta Music, was a result of Nordine and Fernandes' most recent trip to Trinidad where they met up in Port of Spain to hear the steel drum competition there called Panorama.

"This takes place yearly as part of the carnival celebrations on the island," explained Nordine. "Each borough or neighbourhood has their own steel pan band with anywhere from 20 to 100 members and practices all year to compete at Panorama for a cash prize of a million Trinidadian dollars. The festival is put on by the government of Trinidad and Tobago along with corporate sponsors and over a million people, roughly 90 per cent of the population, take part in carnival-related events."

Fernandes will bring 12 tenor pans for folks to try out in the workshop next Saturday, which will consist of learning to play



PHOTO COURTESY MAGENTA MUSIC

Bernard Fernandes plays steel drums at a musical event. Fernandes, Monik Nordine, Swing Shift Big Band and workshop participants will all be part of Steelpan Extravaganza at Fulford Hall on April 29.

a song by ear on the steelpan along with Fernandes and the others.

Fernandes is a native of Trinidad and the originator of the SweetPan Entertainment and Carib X Press bands. He performs as a solo artist on steel drums, piano, vocals and guitar and has arranged for and/or led La Tropical, Karib Brass, Cinnamon, Fernandes & Co, Sweet Pan and Panarimba.

The Steel Pan Food Truck will be parked at the hall for the April 29 event, with some Caribbean delicacies available from 4 to 7 p.m. Colourful clothing and dancing is highly encouraged.

Workshops will run in the hall from 3 to

6 p.m. and the concert will take place from 7 to 10 p.m.

Workshop cost ranges from \$20 to \$60, depending on the amount of time spent in the sessions, and includes concert admission. Concert tickets are \$20.

Tickets and workshop sign-up are at Mondo and Company in Ganges.

The school's importance has been underscored for Hildebrandt by parents and young adults who have told her that StageCoach was the best part of their schooling on the island, made them strong and confident and made a huge difference in their lives overall.

"I think the social kind of learning in theatre is so incredibly strong. We know this and we see it every day, but to have adults coming back in my life now and saying it is actually so gratifying."

Hildebrandt and Penhale encourage everyone to come to the play next weekend, or if that's not possible, to buy a ticket regardless, or otherwise donate to the school.

"If this doesn't work, and we lose money on the show, we are in really big trouble," said Hildebrandt.

Tickets are on sale through ArtSpring.



TREASURE FAIR

DONATIONS

Spring is here, and it's the perfect time to declutter and donate to The Treasure Fair.

Donations Open: May 1st
Auction Runs: July 12-15th

treasurefair.artspring.ca


ELIZABETH For NSSWD Trustee



RATEPAYERS CAN VOTE
by mail, ballots must be received by April 25th, or in person on April 27th at the Community Gospel Church 2pm-6pm



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ELECTION BY ACCLAMATION SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF THREE (3) TRUSTEES

Notice is hereby given to the owners of land within the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District that the nominated candidates

Roland Cook
and
David Courtney
and
Mary Lynn Hetherington

Stand elected to the District Board by acclamation. Each will serve for three-year terms to begin at the next Annual General Meeting of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District, which will be held at 7:00 pm at the Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue on Monday, April 24th, 2023.

Dated at Ganges
April 11, 2022
Anthony A. Kennedy
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LIVESTOCK

Straying sheep grab attention



Sheep graze on a Broadwell Road lawn after wandering from their home on Tripp Road, which suffered fence damage this winter.

came down over the fences over the windy season," said Michaux, "which we seem to have had in abundance this past four or five months. But we have been taking measures to control the wandering sheep."

Despite the internet stardom of the Vesuvius area's "night sheep" and other prone-to-peregrinate livestock, farmers emphasize the effort is always to keep them enclosed.

"We're really trying to restrict their movements," said Michaux, "and keep them here where they belong."

Newcomers to the island might not be aware of how often people and livestock intersect — and whether animals seemingly "at-large" are in conflict with local bylaws. But most livestock matters on Salt Spring fall under the broad authority of the province; owners here are required to contain their animals under a "reasonable care" standard — which tends to be dwarfed by how much work farmers truly put into keeping their livestock enclosed. Established farms on Salt Spring often have fencing that runs through densely forested areas, making repairs after storms just that much harder.

"It's quite a job to get out into the underbrush, find all the breaches, and repair them," said Michaux, adding that an investment into all-new fence in an area that's particularly difficult to reach is often the only answer.

Still, Michaux said over the years he'd helped round up escaped cattle on other farms, and preferred sheep.

"Sheep are pretty good, once you locate where they are," he said. "They seem to want to come home with you."

Fence mending takes time, says farm worker

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Rural drivers across Canada might be familiar with "deer-thirty" — the twilight hours when we're most likely to encounter wildlife on roadways, and extra vigilance is required.

But Salt Spring farmers want to remind motorists that "sheep-o'clock" can happen just about any time — "half-past-cow," too — and keeping an eye peeled for livestock is an important part of safe island driving.

Almost two thousand acres on Salt Spring are held as forage and pasture land — accounting for 91 per cent of all cultivated land registered on the island, according to B.C.'s Ministry of Agriculture. A recent inventory noted nearly 100

livestock operations on the island, with most holding less than 125 animals — but several with more. In an average year, the Salt Spring Abattoir alone processes between 400 and 600 lamb and goats, alongside dozens of pigs and cattle. Adding in poultry, at any time of the year there are thousands of farm animals living on Salt Spring.

And sometimes, they wander. Arne Michaux said he has been helping out at the Reimer family's 18-acre farm in the Duck Creek valley, which is home to several dozen well-behaved sheep — and a handful of naughty ones. The latter have recently become minor social media celebrities — and the subject of a few phone calls to the Driftwood — but Michaux echoed what farmers across the island have reported: fence-mending on Salt Spring is a full-time job, made even more difficult this year by a particularly challenging spring.

"There were a number of trees that

Dr. James Buchan
Medical School Awards

A trust was created under the will of Dr. James Buchan, providing annual awards to former students of Gulf Islands Secondary School who are attending an accredited medical school on a full time basis. The trustee may review a variety of criteria including:

- Academic excellence
- Financial need or
- Leadership qualities and school/community involvement.

This award may be renewable in subsequent years, should the student wish to re-apply. The value of the awards may vary. Final deadline for applications (letter, resume, transcripts of marks, letters of reference and income information) is June 9th, 2023 to the Counselling Office at GISS.

TIDE TABLES
at Fulford Harbour

APRIL 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
19	0357	3.2	10.5	23	0059	2.6	8.5
	1028	1.1	3.6		0521	3.0	9.8
	WE 1716	2.9	9.5		SU 1255	0.4	1.3
20	ME 2216	1.9	6.2	DI 2119	3.3	10.8	
	0417	3.2	10.5	24	0214	2.8	9.2
	1103	0.8	2.6	0540	2.9	9.5	
21	TH 1818	3.0	9.8	MO 1336	0.5	1.6	
	JE 2305	2.2	7.2	LU 2220	3.3	10.8	
	0438	3.2	10.5	25	0404	2.8	9.2
22	1139	0.5	1.6	0546	2.8	9.2	
	FR 1919	3.1	10.2	TU 1419	0.6	2.0	
	VE 2358	2.4	7.9	MA 2318	3.3	10.8	
23	0459	3.1	10.2	26	1506	0.8	2.6
	1216	0.4	1.3	WE			
	SA 2018	3.2	10.5	ME			

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241 Fulford-Ganges Rd,
Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2K7
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COMMUNITY BUILDING

Islanders invited to Gabriola conference

Rural island group hosts gathering

sected at an April 25-27 forum on Gabriola Island.

Residents of all Gulf Islands are welcome to attend the conference hosted by the Rural Island Economic Partnership (RIEP), a non-profit society dedicated to

furthering economic resilience among B.C.'s rural islands.

Called an "unconference" conference, the forum was created in 2019 to address challenges and build resilience across the province's network of rural island communities. Following a series of online-only events during COVID, this year's forum marks a return to in-person events for RIEP, and will feature and focus on action.

"We're thrilled to be back in-person, but the challenges for many rural island communities go back many, many years — economically, environmentally and socially," said RIEP board chair Francine Carlin. "Our 2022 virtual forum gave us a real head of steam, and we're carrying it forward to this year's theme of 'connect, reflect and act.' We're grateful to our supporters, like presenting sponsor Vancity, who understand the action imperative and have stepped up for the forum and our rural island communities."

The 2023 forum program will include interactive panels and presentations on a variety of topics, such as the economics of climate change, regenerative economics and working with Indigenous-owned businesses and communities, as well as participatory "action labs" on themes such as housing, tourism, arts and agri-food.

People can learn more about the conference and register at RIEPForum.ca.

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PHOTOS BY GAIL SJUBERG

MOVING MEMENTOS: A gathering and ceremonial circle marked the opening of Salt Spring's Memory Tree at United Church Meadow in Ganges Friday, April 14 – a space for the community to express “grief, loss, love and memories” for those who have passed. The event was coordinated with the Day of Action for Moms Stop the Harm BC. The public is invited to bring photos, flowers, objects and writings to hang or lay at the base of the tree in remembrance; in addition, purple and silver ribbons are available, to represent someone lost to the opioid crisis or drug poisoning. The Memory Tree will continue through April 29, at which time people are asked to retrieve their mementos.

LAND USE

New lounge permit opposed

Brewery expansion meets early neighbourhood opposition

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

In the late 1990s, one of the first beers crafted by the nascent brewery at the end of Furness Road was named “Bureaucracy Bitter” — a hoppy nod to Salt Spring’s long permitting process.

Decades later, early steps for the Salt Spring Brewing Company’s efforts to expand from a “tasting room” to a “lounge” liquor manufacturer licence have already run into resistance from neighbours. An April 11 virtual “open house” hosted by the Islands Trust through Zoom brought the brewery’s local management staff and nearby residents together in a public consultation, part of the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) approval process.

The brewery has asked the LCRB for an expanded tasting room and patio, representing a new cap of 50 patrons on the new outdoor patio and a change of potential operating hours to 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. most days, staying open as late as 10 p.m. Fridays

and Saturdays. Islands Trust planner Anthony Fotino pointed out his role at the open house was to act as a “middleman” — simply to facilitate the public portion of the liquor branch application.

owner on their mitigation plans was necessary.

Brewery management staff said the owner was “overseas,” but Fotino said in addition to relaying information to LCRB, he would be reaching out to the owner on the community’s concerns.

Salt Spring Brewing Company is currently owned by the Victoria-based Forbes Group; principal Michael Forbes made national news recently when a pharmaceutical company he helmed announced it had obtained a Health Canada licence to sell cocaine.

Health Canada later clarified the licence did not grant permission to sell to the general public. In addition to the brewing operation on Salt Spring, Forbes Group owns an assortment of cannabis, psychedelics, “biohacking” and assisted/complex living centres, as well as rental stores and pharmacies, according to company literature.

The LCRB process is only the beginning for the brewery’s expansion plans. Fotino said regardless of the LCRB’s decision, Salt Spring’s Local Trust Committee (LTC) would still need to consider the land use portion of the application at 270 Furness Rd. That issue may be before the LTC as soon as its May 18 meeting, he said.

“What I can tell you is that there is a fair amount of opposition to this application.”

ANTHONY FOTINO
*Salt Spring
Islands Trust planner*

“We’re just relaying what concerns the community has,” said Fotino. “What I can tell you is that there is a fair amount of opposition to this application.”

Concerns from residents at adjacent properties — and from others on-island — included noise from intoxicated patrons and speedy traffic at the end of a road populated by at least some families with young children. Additional concerns surrounding water and septic — and the general notion of what was seen as a bar in a residential neighbourhood — drove a consensus among public attendees that, at a minimum, hearing from the

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Salt Spring Island Community Drop-in



Delivering the best service to coastal communities, means knowing what is important to those who live, work and play in them each day. Drop by and chat with our team.

Date: April 24, 2023
Time: 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
Location: Harbour House Hotel, 121 Upper Ganges Road

A Ferry Advisory Committee Meeting will be held prior to the community drop in. Public are welcome to attend!

Help shape the conversation!
Visit bcferriesprojects.ca/salt-spring-island and share your comments, questions and ideas with us.

For more information or to attend the FAC meeting, contact:
FAC Chair, Harold Swierenga
haroldswierenga@gmail.com or
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Obituaries



Elizabeth (Betsy) Dosco

On June 27, 2022 Elizabeth (Betsy) Dosco passed peacefully at the age of 62. She leaves a huge hole in the hearts of her family and friends who were always entertained by her stories and hilarious sense of humor.

Betsy was always making sure everyone around her was not only being looked after, but having a blast. She will be remembered for her extra tight hugs, swift kicks in the arse and her infectious laugh.

A celebration of life will be held on April 23rd, at 1:00pm at 191 Byron Road.


TREVOR NORTHEAST
1935 - 2023



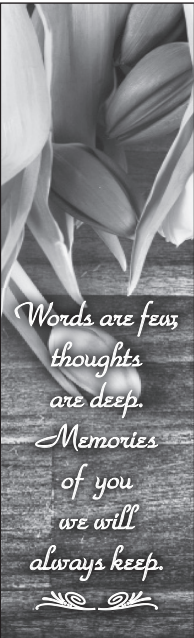
Trevor Northeast passed away early on February 28th at the age of 87. Trev, as he was known to most, was born in 1935, in Tredegar, South Wales. He came to Salt Spring Island in 1982 and married the love of his life, Margaret. He quickly fell into the rhythm of island life and became known to many through his job on the ferries and his commitment to the Legion. Margaret and Trevor spent many happy years together, devoted to family, friends, and their beloved dogs. Margaret's passing in 2017 was a terrible loss for Trevor, yet he continued to be active in the community and was a regular volunteer at the Legion. According to his wishes, Trev lived at home as long as it was possible (and even a little longer). He did this with the support of Dr. Reznick, Island Health and his incredible friends. Trevor is survived by his step-son, David Marsh and his wife Debbie, his step-daughter, Ceri and her husband Ben Rahn, and his grandchildren, Dylan and Gareth Marsh, and Esme and Julian Rahn. A celebration of life will be held at the Legion on May 13th from 3 to 5 p.m.

Celebrations

Please join us for a **CELEBRATION OF LIFE** for




JOHN WOODWARD
at the SSI Farmers' Institute on Sunday, April 30th from 12 - 2pm. Family and friends are all most welcome. Tea/coffee and snacks will be served.



Words are few thoughts are deep. Memories of you we will always keep.

In Memoriam



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Coming Events

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



SALT SPRING SENIORS CENTRE

April 27, 2023 • 2:30pm
at the Salt Spring Seniors Centre
- 379 Lower Ganges Rd.
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Your Community Your Classifieds

In Memoriam



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The universe has a few little surprises in store for us all this year: a second New Moon in Aries on March 20 which is also a Solar Eclipse followed by Mercury turning retrograde on the 21st. Both lunation cycles began with the critical degrees of 0, or the first degree, and 29 degrees, or the last one with both seeds of their respective cycles in Aries, the sign of pioneering initiatives. The influence is further strengthened in complex ways due to the fact that the eclipsed Sun is forming a tight 90-degree angle to Pluto at 0 Aquarius! Anyone with planets or angles in the last couple of degrees of Aries, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn or the first couple of degrees of Taurus, Leo, Scorpio and Aquarius is likely to experience a stronger impact than most others. Get ready for some big power plays over the next several weeks specifically, and for the next six months generally.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19) Yet another series of activations are destined to shift you into high gear. A very proactive cycle with an emphasis on getting to the bottom of things is indicated this week. Supported by a steadily rising ambition and impulse to make changes, you are sure to cause some waves in your circles.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20) The Sun now in your sign indicates that you are ready to take new leads. These will become noticeable in your daily rhythms and include a new scope of interactions with other key players. With your energy levels rising rapidly now, you will be a force to reckon with.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21) A busy cycle these past several weeks will continue to percolate. Yet, the opportunity for a bit of retreat time is also on the cosmic itinerary. If you must keep busy, use this time to get things done behind the scenes. With Venus in your sign, aim to express or create an atmosphere of beauty.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22) The double Aries impulse is destined to activate new beginnings in your career and/or public life. Mars in your sign all the while is adding to this pioneering impulse and it will continue to do so well into May. This is an expansive time yet is one during which all advances must be earned.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23) The fiery impulses of Aries are invariably added heat to your own inner furnace. For you, the activation is to adventure, whether literally and physically or intellectually and philosophically. Some degree of searching is likely as you question your reality and decipher your next, best moves.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22) The double-dip Aries theme is destined to produce a rather deep process of transformation. It includes changes in your usual mode of self-expression, your overall style and your self-image. Circumstances may also be pushing you to be innovative and even to engage in some measure of self-reinvention.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22) New interests and aspirations on relationship fronts are guiding your actions. You may find that you are bolder than usual. Increase and expansion are indicated and you are willing to take a few risks. A spirit of liberation is indicated and could lead you to venture out beyond familiar borders.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21) Spring fever has a way of seeping deep into your inner recesses and this is likely very true this year. You are in the mood for an adventure. You want to engage and be met. A push and pull factor between cautious restraint and casting all caution to the wind must be reconciled.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21) This double dose of Aries is the source of a strong creative impulse. Your desires and ambitions are running deep and strong. A persistent itch to socialize is woven with thoughts about love and perhaps romance too. Seeing yourself and the world and in the world in new ways is a persistent theme.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19) Your core sense of I Am is ruminating regarding that proverbial Shakespearean question: "To be or not to be?" If the answer is affirmative, the next question is how? The simple answer is creatively and strategically. Yet, the time has come for new methods and a learning curve is implied.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19) Changing circumstances are instigating new thoughts and perspectives. Venus in Gemini is contributing a creative, playful and passionate impulse. A gentle yet persistent push is required, which will become increasingly evident. Replace worry with imagination power that generates productive solutions.

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20) Last month's New Moon established the ground of the new reality and now this one will push you to follow through with new methods and approaches. Fortunately, your ambitions are rising and Mercury Retrograde stands to work especially well for you to make the most of it.

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PHOTOS BY MARGRIET RUURS

GARDEN WONDERS: Local illustrator/author Sarah Grindler celebrated the launch of her latest book for children last Friday in the Salt Spring Public Library to a packed house. It was standing room only as Grindler read from *Garden Wonders, A Guidebook for Little Green Thumbs*. The book comes with a package of wildflower seeds to encourage young gardeners. The title follows earlier books in the series: *Seaside Treasures* and *Forest Magic*. The audience was invited to enjoy cupcakes featuring "pumpkin vines" and to plant sunflower seeds. Grindler's books are available at Salt Spring Books.

LITERARY EVENTS

Smith book launches

Extraordinary life revealed in biography

BY STANLEY SHAPIRO
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

There is no shortage of talented authors on Salt Spring Island and Janet Smith has recently joined that number. After more than 12 years on Salt Spring, Smith had to relocate for health reasons. During the end of her stay on the island Smith wrote her autobiography, calling attention both to her life's triumphs and its tragedies. The book's very appropriate title is *Standing in Possibility: A Memoir of Resilience and Hope*. Smith will be back on Salt Spring on Sun-

day, April 23 for a 2 p.m. book launch at the Salt Spring Public Library. *Standing in Possibility* is a book about the author's secrets and their emotional impact on both her personal and working life. Smith was a pioneer in many areas, a woman who, smashing through the federal government's glass ceiling, became a deputy minister in Ottawa, often as the first woman in the positions she held. At the same time, Smith's personal saga first preceded and then overlapped those milestones. Smith very early in life gave up two children for adoption and later kept her love affairs hidden. Freedom came later for Smith, who brought all the many pieces together, first in her life and then in the book. Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the event.

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LET'S PICK IT UP, Salt Spring!

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

With 13 days left in April as the Driftwood went to press, we couldn't be more pleased with how islanders have stepped up to pick it up this year.

It felt like a steady stream of people dropped by our office last week to confirm their clean-up areas, pick up

the Laurie's bags and coupons, TJ Beans coffee coupons and instructions. Some were "first-timers" and others were annual participants, with many taking on more kilometres than in the past.

As readers can see from the list at right and the map at the bottom of the page, community members are having a huge impact! All the

roads and shorelines printed in red have been adopted. Thank you, everyone — you really do rock!

To help get even more red ink put on the map, just email us at driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com, phone 250-537-9933 or drop in to our office to sign up, and see below for all the instructions and benefits.

OUR RUNNING LIST AS OF MONDAY IS:

- Sichertman family — Baker Beach.
- Michelle Grant & Steve Coopman — From Epron Rd., up North End, down North Beach to Fernwood.
- Robert Steinbach — Kitchen Rd., and Fulford-Ganges Road from Kitchen to Horel.
- Elizabeth Hayes — Byron Rd.
- Ranji Bhimji — End of Isabella Point Rd. to Mountain Rd.
- Tangachee Goebel — South end beach shores: Beaver Point, Ruckle, Fulford Harbour.
- Nancy Johnson — Beddis Rd. from Fulford-Ganges Rd. to the sailing club.
- Gail Sjuberg — Cranberry Rd. from Fulford-Ganges Rd. to Blackburn Rd.
- L. & L. Fraser — Long Harbour Rd. from Upper Ganges to Eagleridge.
- Anuradha from Salt Spring Centre of Yoga, and the Heron Class of Salt Spring Centre School — Blackburn Rd.
- Mark & Tim Hiltz — Salt Spring Way East, Castle Cross Rd., Barker's Place, Arnell Way, east side of Fulford-Ganges Rd. between Arnell & SS Way.
- Ken Jackson & Friends — Baker Rd.
- Ron Watts. Eleanor Point Beach. (End of Stevens Rd.)
- Amanda McLeod — North End Rd. from North Beach to Southey Point Rd.
- Anne Parkinson & Maureen Stephenson — Fulford Bay from Hamilton Beach to the ferry terminal.
- Illtyd & Joanne Perkins — Fulford-Ganges Rd. from Garner to Mereside.
- Sowden Family — Vesuvius Bay Rd. from ferry terminal to Central.
- Salt Spring Unicorn Riders — Fulford-Ganges Rd. from Fulford ferry terminal to Kitchen Rd.
- Charles Kahn — Broadwell from Vesuvius Bay Rd. to Channel Ridge Rd. & Sunset.
- Fiona Wolfe-Milner — Old Scott Rd. and Long Harbour Rd. between Old Scott turnoff and the ferry terminal.
- Brian Wolfe-Milner — Beaches between the Booth Canal estuary up to and including Bader's Beach.
- Burgess Family — Walker Hook Rd. from Fernwood Dock to Robinson Rd.
- Kelly-Ann and Hue Haslauer — Collins Rd.
- Roger Brunt & Doug Wahlsten — McPhillips & Hereford Avenues.
- Ron Wright & others — Jennifer Way.
- Kim & Douglas Woolcock — Jasper Way.
- Liz Anderson — 1860 Fulford-Ganges Rd. to Burgoyne Triangle.
- Elizabeth Nolan — North End Rd. from Epron to Fernwood.
- E. & N. Hildebrandt — Eagleridge Dr.
- Andrew & Melynda Okulitch — Long Harbour Rd. from Eagleridge to ferry.

It's time for the Driftwood's annual island-wide clean-up campaign! Join your friends and neighbours in clearing litter and other debris from island roadsides and beaches.

Here's how it works...

1. Pick a section of road, beach or neighbourhood that you'd like to rid of trash in April.
2. Phone or email us at the Driftwood with your name and the area you've chosen. driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or 250-537-9933.
3. Pick up your Laurie's Recycling & Waste Services bags & coupon from the Driftwood office and take your bag(s) to Laurie's, or otherwise dispose of what you've collected.
4. Also at our office, pick up your coupon for a free tea, coffee or hot chocolate from TJ Beans.
5. Enjoy being recognized in the Driftwood and the satisfaction of knowing you have helped make Salt Spring a cleaner and healthier place to live.

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Areas where people have promised to clean up as of April 30 are shown in red. Road sections in black are still available to volunteers.