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Driftwood

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LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Four elected to first commission

Baker, Corno, Rook and Webster earn inaugural Local Community Commission seats

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island voters have elected Gayle Baker, Ben Corno, Earl Rook and Brian Webster to serve on the island's first Local Community Commission (LCC).

The four will join Salt Spring's electoral area director Gary Holman to form the five-person commission under the Capital Regional District (CRD), with its first official meeting taking place Monday, June 19. Holman had championed the LCC concept as voters re-elected him in 2022.

Some 10,033 people were on the CRD's registered voter list: 9,905 resident property electors and 128 non-resident property electors. The number of eligible voters would have grown due to people registering at the advance or May 27 polls, according to CRD chief election officer Kristen Morley, who reported the total number of voters that cast ballots in this election was 3,262.

Morely said once the number of same-day registrations was compiled and added to the registered voters list, the district would have a more accurate calculation that would include a percentage for voter turnout. Those numbers are expected later this week.

New commissioners expressed their gratitude on Monday. Top vote-getter Baker — with 1,977 votes — said she was particularly thankful to "loved ones, who were there to encourage when it got tough," and to those who helped with the campaign.

"I am touched by the amazing support from hard-working folks always willing to help," said Baker. "It takes a village. I have hope that this victory will help pave the way for progress on our most important issues. Working as one, we can get it done."

Corno, in fourth place with 919 votes, said he was "flattered" to be elected and eager to begin work.

"I'm looking forward to finding my feet with this group," said Corno. "Maintaining the value of the knowledge-gathering experiences of the past will help us to become both efficient and accurate."

Corno added he wanted the community to reach out to him to share their thoughts and vision for the future of CRD services that the LCC is helping to administer.

Webster, who received 1,974 votes, echoed the sentiment, saying every community member needed to feel welcome and "that their views are valued."

"We have a great deal of work to do and nothing is more important than making sure the LCC meetings are as open and accessible as possible," said Webster. "We have a strong team on this first-ever Salt Spring LCC and I know we all are motivated to make our local government effective and good value for tax dollars."



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Happy and relieved following announcement of Saturday night's election results are, from left, Brian Webster, hosting a gathering at his Ciderworks tasting room, Gayle Baker and Earl Rook.

Webster thanked both Salt Spring's voters and those islanders who stepped up to run.

"We had a lot of good candidates," he said, "and I expect many voters thought long and hard about which four would represent our community best."

Rook (1,538 votes) joined in appreciation for "cordial and respectful" campaigns run by all candidates, as well as the keen interest voters showed during the campaign period, thanking them for their "commitment to democratic self-governance."

"I spoke with many people over the course of the campaign and was impressed by the depth of their questions and their understanding of the issues," said Rook. "Continued engagement with Salt Springers will be key to the success of the LCC."

Rook said he felt the first LCC commissioners needed to set the tone for future commissions: "effective, transparent and responsible."

ELECTION continued on 2

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PHOTOS BY GAIL SJUBERG

HELPING YOU PREPARE: Just a few of the participants in the annual Emergency Preparedness Fair held at the Ganges Fire Hall on Saturday were, from left, Francois Leonard from the BC Wildfire Service's Cobble Hill station, and Salt Spring RCMP Const. Felix Charette-Thibault and Const. Hardip Gill. Also participating were personnel from the Ganges BC Ambulance Service, Salt Spring Island Emergency Program, Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue Station 25, Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue Society, Canadian Red Cross, Canadian Coast Guard and the Salt Spring Island Amateur Radio Club. Members of the public could learn about the various groups' activities, get a lesson in how to use an AED, take home educational info, swag and more. In emergency preparedness news, the CRD has recently released a Household Evacuation Guide for Salt Spring and for the other Gulf Islands, available to download on the CRD website.

Electees looking forward to upcoming mission

ELECTION

continued from 1

"I think the commissioners we elected have the skills and motivation to work together in a constructive way for the benefit of the community," said Rook, "and I look forward to being a part of that effort."

Salt Spring Island voters approved the change of CRD governance that created the LCC in a referendum held at the same time as local elections in October 2022.

The LCC election saw about half the candidates combining forces during their campaigns. Positively Forward, a group that had initiated the process leading to last fall's referendum, publicly endorsed Baker, Rook and Webster,



BEN CORNO

although those three did not officially run as a "slate" or share a platform. Cudmore, Harris — also a Salt Spring Islands Trust trustee — Kerrigan and Marcotte had declared themselves as a "Core-4" slate. Corno ran independently, as did the balance of candidates.

Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman provided the following comment: "Thanks to all the candidates who put themselves forward in the election, and congratulations to Ben, Earl, Brian and Gayle. I look forward to working with you over the next three and half years."

LCC "UNOFFICIAL" VOTE TOTALS

Gayle Baker.....	1977	Nejmah Guermoudi....	680
Brian Webster.....	1974	Donald Marcotte.....	649
Earl Rook.....	1538	Jesse Brown.....	381
Benjamin Corno.....	919	Jennifer McClean.....	296
Jennifer Lannan.....	863	Kylie Coates.....	285
Jamie Harris.....	842	David Courtney.....	284
Jennifer Kerrigan.....	790	Eric G. March.....	146
Lloyd Cudmore.....	753		



A Sincere Thank You To All My Supporters!

To everyone who took the time to support my campaign, I'm touched and honoured.

Congratulations to our Inaugural LCC Team - Gayle, Brian, Earl & Ben.

We wish you much success, David Courtney.

FESTIVALS

Tour des Îles back for ninth season

Island-hopping pro suggests possible itineraries

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A popular inter-island water-taxi-based festival returns for its ninth year on the June 17-18 weekend, with a schedule connecting the five Southern Gulf Islands for a celebration of culture and heritage.

The Tour des Îles festival highlights the musicians, artists, local flavour and unique culture of Salt Spring, Galiano, Mayne, Pender and Saturna islands, according to Salish Sea Inter-Island Transportation Society (SSITS) board member Darryl Martin. SSITS was instrumental in developing the festival, with recent support from the Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership — who this year have taken the initial "experience the Gulf Islands" idea to the next level with the summer-long AquaLink weekend water taxi connection in full swing.

"Our schedule integrates with the AquaLink schedule," said Martin, "and uses the same booking system, live now at tourdesiles.ca."

The initial idea for Tour des Îles — a demonstration project of small passenger-only ferries between the Southern Gulf Islands including Salt Spring — came from Galiano Island's George Harris, who Martin describes as "Galiano's

Johnny Depp 'Pirates of the Caribbean' look-alike."

"In turn he was building on a concept — "Experience the Gulf Islands" by Ed Andrusiak — that the Southern Gulf Islands should be viewed as a whole, an archipelago providing magical experiences for residents and visitors alike," said Martin. "Successive CRD directors have supported the concept — Wayne McIntyre and Dave Howe, then Gary Holman and Paul Brent — and the concept expanded to include entertainment events on each island."

And while the "perfect itinerary" may not be the same for everyone, Martin's ideas for the weekend would start Saturday on Saturna.

"The weekend provides the unique opportunity to go to East Point on Saturna, spend the day there, and return — all in the same day," said Martin.

East Point is a hidden treasure, he said, with dramatic tafoni rock formations, a seal colony nearby and a tiny museum that explains the history of how Canada's nearby border with the U.S. was established, averting armed conflict, with the help of Kaiser Wilhelm 1 of Germany in 1872.

On Sunday? "I have choices," laughed Martin.

"I can choose to stay on my home island of Salt Spring and spend a fabulous Father's Day at Centennial Park and listen to my favourite homegrown entertainers and run a three-legged race with my son-in-law," he said. "It will be hard to choose. I'm also tempted to visit the lovely Japanese gardens on



PHOTO COURTESY TDI

Gnomemoretankers, a Travelocity Roaming Gnome from Galiano Island that was part of the 2017 Tour des Îles festival. This year's event is on the June 17-18 weekend.

Mayne Island, or look down on Active Pass from the cliffs of Galiano — I could do both in the same day! Or I could enter the golf tournament at Pender's 18-hole course."

Martin said volunteers from the Salt Spring Chamber's Visitor Centre have been invaluable, welcoming the boats and helping visitors over the years. SSITS is very grateful to them, he said, and to the many other volunteers and enterprises that have made the event possible. More volunteers are always welcomed.

People can book their adventure at tourdesiles.ca and click on "Bookings."

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CLIMATE

Water district monitors dropping lake levels

Warmer, drier summers may see more use restrictions

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The onset of sunny days hasn't gone unnoticed by officials — and it's increasingly looking like a dry summer on Salt Spring may lead to further water restrictions.

North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) held its first

board meeting with newly elected trustees Elizabeth FitzZaland and Steve Lam on May 25, hearing from operations manager Ryan Moray that lake levels at Maxwell and St. Mary were starting to trend downward, headed below the tops of the spillway and weir, respectively — with the good news being that the curve isn't as steep as many previous years, he said.

"The bad news is, when we look at Environment Canada's quite detailed sheet they put out, it looks like we're going to have higher than normal tem-

"Right now what's forecast for the immediate future is 'hot and dry.'"

RYAN MORAY
Operations manager, NSSWD

peratures, and maybe a little lower than normal rainfall," said Moray, adding that while not predictive, the curve this year bore some resemblance to that of 2017 — and nowhere near

last year's levels during a long, wet spring.

The island's largest water district enacts restrictions beyond Level 1 based on where that curve lies through the summer within specific lake levels; current restrictions are Level 2, which still permits most water uses for residential customers. Additional restrictions are generally triggered as lake levels drop — and stay in place until more rain falls.

"How we mitigate is through watering restrictions," said Moray. "We're hoping for more

rainfall, [but] right now what's forecast for the immediate future is 'hot and dry.'"

Weather conditions recently prompted a prohibition of most open burning activities on Salt Spring Island — and throughout the Coastal Fire Centre's jurisdiction — as of noon on Thursday, May 18. That came much earlier than last year, when record April precipitation kept such burn bans off the table until mid-July, but was roughly in line with several previous years' regulatory action, according to provincial data.

HOUSING

Bylaw 530 returns for public dissection again

Salt Spring Trust sets two 'open house' events

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Plans to amend Salt Spring's land use bylaw to allow accessory dwelling units (ADUs) are soldiering on, and the community will have yet another chance to listen and be heard.

Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee (LTC) is hosting a pair of open house events in early June to bring the public up-to-speed on Bylaw 530, a recently recategorized "minor project" that seeks to increase the housing stock by allowing ADUs on a number of properties across the island.

The new categorization is a little confusing, trustees admitted, but is meant to ensure an administrative slot in the project list for the long-considered bylaw.

"It's because there's major [projects] and there's minor, and we're allowed [room] to do a minor," said LTC chair Tim Peterson at the May 18 LTC meeting. "If we make 530 'minor,' we can work on it. I know it's a little weird, but there we go."

The first open house will take place Tuesday, June 6 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Salt Spring Island Public Library. The second is being held Saturday, June 10 from noon to 3 p.m. at Meaden Hall at the Salt Spring Island Legion.

An ADU is defined as a distinct and separate unit from a principal dwelling structure, with its own cooking and washroom facilities and its own entrance. The current version of Bylaw 530 would add ADUs as a permitted use in limited and specific zoned areas — three residential zones (R7, R8 and R9), rural (R), rural uplands zones (RU1 and RU3), the rural islet zone (Ri), a comprehensive development zone (CD3) and a forestry zone (F1). ADUs in these zones would be subject to further restrictions before being approved; in addition to needing to satisfy all code requirements for a building permit, ADUs will be limited in size — 56 square metres on lots less than 1.2 hectares and 90 square metres on larger lots — and cannot be located within a Community Well Capture Zone.

Current language in the bylaw specifically excludes recreational vehicles and dwellings on wheels; moreover, any ADU to be located within a community water system needs in-writing confirmation from the operator that the site has sufficient water capacity to supply it.

These and a host of other regulations suggest not every property within the referenced zones may find itself eligible for an ADU should the bylaw pass. Trustee Laura Patrick has called the measure "low-hanging fruit" in the discussion of ways to increase affordable housing on Salt Spring, and questions remain about how many property owners would pursue the opportunity — and how much new housing the bylaw would actually create.

Regardless, public engagement is — once again — the next step, according to trustees, who hope for robust attendance at the open houses. Notably, despite numerous engagement events and a hearing last year, a new formal public hearing will be required prior to the bylaw's final approval. That hearing has not yet been scheduled.

Bylaw 530, originally crafted at the urging of the Housing Action Program Task Force and shaped through several public events and LTC amendments, is meant to help ease Salt Spring's rental supply crunch by permitting a new housing option.

The combination of substantial public concern and direct opposition from Tsawout First Nation seems to have been pivotal in the LTC's decision last year to pause its process.

While acknowledging the broader housing crisis, Tsawout First Nation representatives wrote it believed the proposed referral would significantly change the "environmental trajectory" of Salt Spring Island by pushing the living capacity past the standards originally outlined in the island's official community plan.

"The island does not have the capacity to increase living conditions without threatening the environmental stability of our traditional territory," read the letter.

Staff reports, public correspondence, the current text and other information about Bylaw 530 are available online at islandstrust.bc.ca/island-planning/salt-spring/projects/.

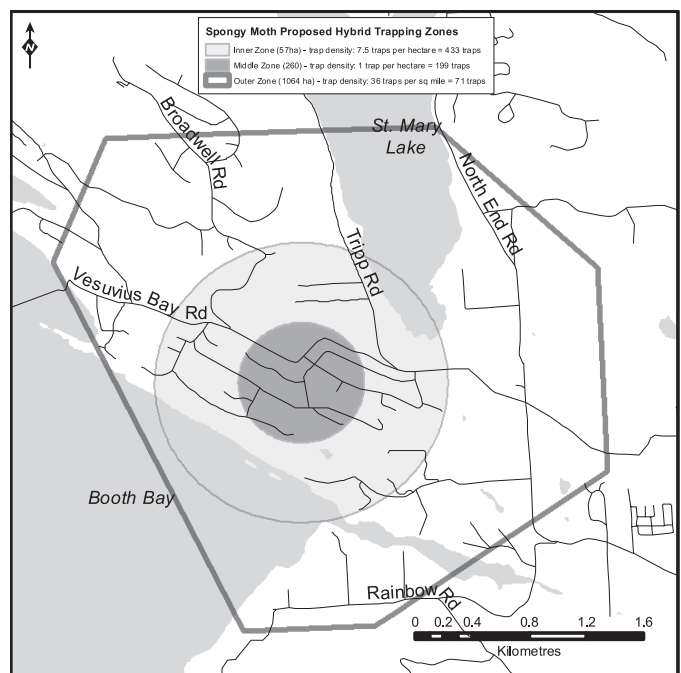
SPONGY MOTH TRAPPING PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSION

Spongy moth (formerly gypsy moth) is an invasive species that has been found on Salt Spring Island. The Spongy Moth Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has developed a monitoring and trapping program to protect Salt Spring Island's farms, parks and trees from this invasive species.

A program to eliminate the spongy moth on Salt Spring Island occurred in 2007. The spongy moth has once again been detected in the area. Routine monitoring by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency found a small population near Vesuvius in 2021 and monitoring in 2022 indicated that the population has grown and spread. Typically, the Spongy Moth TAC would recommend that the area be treated with Foray 48B (active ingredient Btk) by ground or air. For this season, however, the treatment was replaced with an intensive monitoring and trapping program for the summer of 2023, using pheromone traps that target spongy moth. Trapping results will allow the Spongy Moth TAC to precisely define the boundaries of the spongy moth population on Salt Spring Island, determine how quickly the population is growing, limit the growth and spread and potentially reduce the area that may need to be treated in the future.

The Spongy Moth TAC would like to work with residents to eradicate this invasive species from Salt Spring Island. An information session will be held on June 7, 2023, from 5 to 7 p.m., at Fulford Community Hall, 2591 Fulford-Ganges Rd.

For more information please visit www.gov.bc.ca/spongymoth



OPINION

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

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



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EDITORIAL

New era with LCC

Salt Spring's first-ever Local Community Commission (LCC) election is now in the books.

Gayle Baker and Brian Webster, the two candidates with past experience on Capital Regional District (CRD) commissions, topped the polls with almost identical vote counts. Earl Rook finished in a solid third place, and Ben Corno came fourth.

Voters' top-three picks mirrored the recommendation of Positively Forward, the group that initiated discussions on the Local Community Commission (LCC) concept following the resounding rejection of incorporation in a 2017 referendum. Corno was one of the younger candidates who made himself familiar to those outside his circles by running for Islands Trust last fall and whose positive demeanour was among the brighter spots of both campaigns.

An extremely diverse set of candidates made the courageous decision to compete for the four available LCC spots. We applaud all of them for being interested enough to do some research about the LCC and CRD and run the sometimes harsh gauntlet of public scrutiny. The demands to earn votes were high, with candidates fielding questions directly from voters and groups with specific interests — even some organizations that are not directly connected to or receiving funding from the CRD. In fact, much of the discussion during the election period was not about LCC-specific matters, but it did result in some worthwhile public conversations.

Ultimately the election outcome is a good one for the island. Baker and Webster already know how the CRD system works, giving them a head start in navigating the bureaucracy. All four individuals are diplomatic, have relevant experience, lots of energy and wide networks in the community. That's not to suggest the other candidates lacked those qualities, but as Rook said on Monday, this particular group has "the skills and motivation to work together in a constructive way for the benefit of the community."

While the LCC has nowhere near the powers of a municipality, it should be an improvement on the status quo by reducing silos and increasing coordination in delivery of some CRD services. Having five elected individuals instead of only one involved in public consultation and decision-making will also be a big plus.

Let the era of a new form of Salt Spring governance begin.

Let the era of a new form of Salt Spring governance begin.



PARKER

Fundraiser set in motion

BY DAVID NORGET
FOR MENTAL WELLNESS INITIATIVE, SALT SPRING HEALTH ADVANCEMENT NETWORK

VIEWPOINT

funds to support our vision of "co-creating a community of caring and belonging." In addition, if you donate during the

"There is no health without mental health." — World Health Organization

Salt Spring Island is changing, and what is clear is the need to reaffirm and acknowledge the powerful interconnected and interdependent nature of our island ecosystem. This interconnection is being felt on every level, from housing availability, workforce shortages, health-care accessibility challenges, inflationary pressures and a general struggle to make ends meet and have certainty about future stability. Furthermore, these strains are creating increased fear, stigma, culture clashes and a deepening resentment for the challenges many face.

The Salt Spring Health Advancement Network (SSHAN) Mental Wellness Initiative (MWI), in partnership with the Salt Spring Community Health Society is looking for financial assistance! Please see our article, "Mental Wellness Initiative team provides update and appeals for funds" in the May 2 edition of the Driftwood and online at gulfislandsdriftwood.com. For the past three years we have operated entirely from grant funding and are looking to expand our flexibility and support through this community fundraising campaign until July 31.

We are happy to announce that we have received two anonymous donations from angel funders. These donors will each match funds up to \$5,000, meaning that there is potential for \$10,000 in matching

month of June through CanadaHelps, every \$1 donated gives the MWI the chance to win \$20,000. The more that's donated, the greater the chances of our winning. (See canadahelps.org/en/givingchallenge/).

We see our community's strength being dependent on the positive forces of connection and compassion for the health of all islanders. If as a community we embrace the belief that the way forward is together, then we measure the success of our island home through the lens of how we take care of each other.

If you have a thought of making a difference in our community, now is the time to donate to this very worthy cause. Here's how:

- Cash: contact David Norget (davidnorget@gmail.com) or Martha Taylor (marthataylor02@gmail.com).
- Cheque: payable to Salt Spring Community Health Society. Mailing address: 181 Booth Canal Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C., V9K 2N2.
- E-transfer: donations@saltspringcommunityhealth.ca. (Please specify "SSHAN - Mental Wellness Initiative" in the message section of your transfer.)
- Online: CanadaHelps.org. Search for Salt Spring Community Health Society. (Please specify "SSHAN - Mental Wellness Initiative" in the note section.)

We thank Harlan's Chocolates and Salt Spring Coffee for contributing chocolate and coffee to support our appeal.

We see our community's strength being dependent on the positive forces of connection and compassion for the health of all islanders.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you satisfied with the LCC election outcome?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you think regulation of liveboards should be pursued?



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

Get ready to speak up at Bylaw 530 hearing

The dreaded proposed Bylaw 530 is back. This is the bylaw that would allow a suite or a cottage to be built on many residential properties on Salt Spring.

Salt Spring trustees stopped work on this bylaw last fall after receiving a letter from the Tsawout First Nation expressing opposition to the bylaw as "the island does not have the capacity to increase living conditions without threatening the environmental stability of our traditional territory." Trustees often proclaim their commitment to reconciliation, but it seems that only applies when First Nations don't oppose what the trustees want to do.

This bylaw was also strenuously opposed by many community members who pointed out that the bylaw is not consistent with our official community plan, will encour-

age unsustainable growth over the long term, jeopardize water supplies, result in more vacation rentals and do little to provide affordable housing. These concerns are dismissed as "fear mongering."

The fact that open house gatherings have been scheduled rather than public information meetings suggests to me that trustees don't want to hear directly from the public. Additionally, trustee Laura Patrick made it clear at the April Salt Spring Local Trust Committee meeting that she wants her biased perspective (that ignores the long-term consequences of this bylaw) to be the one distributed to the public. She continues to focus on short-term uptake rather than results over the long-term when all lots are fully developed.

Luckily, provincial law requires a public hearing where elected officials must face the public before they can give third reading to a bylaw. When this is scheduled, I urge you to attend and speak up.

MAXINE LEICHTER,
SALT SPRING

Advice for new commissioners

The election is over and the island has chosen its new special representatives.

We are indeed at a crossroads in so many ways and we have put our confidence in you to express our values and concerns. This is mine.

As a horse person I will use an equine analogy: the rule of thumb for successful horse management is one horse per acre of land. You can, of course, increase this ratio, but there will be consequences.

Overgrazing will devastate the land, turning it into a dust bowl in summer and a quagmire in winter. Feed costs will increase as now concentrates and forage must be purchased. Water consumption will increase not only from more actual drinking, but wastage from hay and grime will require troughs to be more frequently dumped. Fencing will require more maintenance and costs to repair breakage from timid beasts' attempts to escape the alphas. Veterinary

visits will likely be required as such encounters will lead to more injuries.

And manure! Not only will field cleaning be more labour intensive, but where to put it all? Working the piles will require more time to keep flies and parasites under control. Yes, you can increase the horse to land ratio, but there will be consequences.

There will be a price to pay in considering the growth of Salt Spring. Of what use are the businesses if the customers have nowhere to park? How much longer will tourists put up not only with our "unique" roads and insane ferry line-ups? Our Saturday Market may be charming but there are many more easily accessible and less costly options available on the "Big Island."

I urge the new representatives to be good "horsemen" in considering the future of our "field," Salt Spring. Choose wisely and give good counsel, and good luck!

MARIANNE HOBBS,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"If we make [Bylaw] 530 'minor,' we can work on it. I know it's a little weird, but there we go."

TIM PETERSON, CHAIR, SALT SPRING LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

Artificial Intelligence just another step on the evolutionary trail

Considering all the debate and posturing these days about the benefits and dangers of Artificial Intelligence, or AI for short, you must be asking yourself if you really feel threatened by high-functioning machines and computer programs that seem on the verge of taking over the planet and replacing its present landlords: you and me.

Are robots really out to get us? Maybe it hasn't reached the point where they are planning to destroy our species, but they are getting to be extremely annoying. Take the robot test, for instance.

You know the feeling. You're trying to get to a website in order to take care of a very important matter and you get side-swiped by an idiotic dialogue box that demands that you tick off the little square next to the statement "I am not a robot." And just to make certain that you are not indeed a robot that has been programmed to lie about its mechanical orientation, you are subjected to completing a small test to prove that you are flesh and blood and not some machine language algorithm.

What does this test look like? Sometimes there is a grid of nine photos of intersections and you are asked to identify which of them contains a traffic light. Or, you might be asked to pick out chimneys in a grid of skyline pictures. If this seems too difficult, and you keep failing the "not a robot" test, you may be shown

a series of alphabet letters and numerals that have been depicted in a cursive style comparable to a Salvador Dali surrealist masterpiece. When you fail to recognize even one of these distorted characters, you begin to question your humanity and doubt creeps in as to whether or not you may indeed be a robot.

In all actuality, Artificial Intelligence is a bit of a misnomer. Expecting a robot to disqualify itself because it cannot pass a test that most humans fail miserably as well is idiotic. Perhaps we should call it Artificial Stupidity, or more fittingly, Artificial Stupidness.

Science-fiction novels and movies have long played upon our fears that the very same machines that we have created to serve us will someday seek to supplant us. In the 1951 classic *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, the eight-foot-tall robot Gort is just about to destroy humanity for harming its master when it is calmed by the words "Klaatu barada nikto," which is space alien for "just chill." In 2001: *A Space Odyssey*, the HAL 9000 computer which runs everything onboard the spaceship attempts to dispose of the human crew when it senses that they are about to decommission it for faulty decisions. Even in the *Star Wars* saga, the two robots C-3PO and R2-D2, although benevolent and eager to serve, often get their humans into dire circumstances because of their limitations. In contrast, *Robocop* and the Termi-



Shilo Zylbergold
NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

nator wreak havoc on any humans who stand in the way of their missions.

As you can see, AI is nothing new; it's been around for almost forever. Devices such as the abacus, the slide rule and the calculator have been our friends since the time we first had to figure out how much 15 per cent of the total bill at a restaurant was so we could leave the proper tip at the table without seeming too chintzy or overly extravagant.

The next giant leap in robotics came with self-directed robot vacuum cleaners, which do an adequate job at removing dust from carpets, but whose main aim is to scare the living daylight out of house cats while occasionally ingesting the odd pet hamster.

At about the same time, there arrived the dawning of the computer age. You may remember those massive mid-20th century early analog models that took up about four floors of an office high-rise building although all it could practically do was add up numbers and round off the sum to two decimal places. Much later came the introduction of more

compact digital machines which could solve such complex computations as amortization problems where you can discover in a matter of nanoseconds that you've spent half your life paying the mortgage on your house but all you've really paid off is the interest on the interest and you still owe the entire original amount.

If AI continues its march towards domination, how long can it be before robots wanting access to vital data will have to take the "I am not a human" test. If they succeed at being able to assemble IKEA shelves by following the printed directions, or are able to program an ancient VHS recorder using the remote (which no human over the age of 10 could ever figure out), then they will be receive a passing grade and be granted entrance to the protected site. However, if they flit about from site to site while taking the test, simultaneously checking sports scores, weather forecasts, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok postings, and a myriad of other distractions, then for certain they will show themselves for the impostors that they are.

There are strong arguments being made on both sides of the AI debate. On one hand, supporters are quick to point out that the ability of AI to analyze and learn from mistakes far outstrips the human learning curve. Humanity will receive the benefits from the advances made by AI. Taking a look at the medical research field,

there are so many treatments and life-altering medications that have been made available because of AI involvement. At this very moment there are over a half million research papers published about AI discoveries and 350,000 AI projects shared in open source.

On the other hand, pundits such as Geoffrey Hinton, a University of Toronto scientist who is recognized by many as the "Godfather of AI" because of his founding intellectual research and development, fears there will be a computer takeover and it is unavoidable that humans will be superseded by AI. Just recently, Hinton left his lofty gig with Google's AI program because he felt obligated to publicize the danger that in a few years, machines may become significantly more intelligent than we humans.

Nobody asked me, but perhaps it's all a matter of Darwinism and the theory of natural selection. Our species of humans, *Homo sapiens*, squeezed out the less intelligent humanoids, the Neanderthals, because we were more able to adapt to increasingly taxing conditions. They must have looked down on the Neanderthals the way that we perhaps dismiss robot vacuum cleaners.

Is it possible that AI machines will look at us as dumbed-down creatures who need feeding and looking after similar to how we treat our pets? If this is the case, I hope I don't get mistaken for a hamster.

Ride and rally to advocate for safer cycling

BY ISLAND PATHWAYS

More cars on Salt Spring, or fewer cars on Salt Spring?

Of course, probably everyone can agree that the island doesn't need more traffic congestion, more speed or more people fearful to get between home, school, shopping, and the ferry terminals outside the protection of a vehicle.

It seems that only the most experienced and fearless among us are willing to ride a bicycle for everyday travel, an otherwise logical commuting choice (one would think) for rural islanders.

It's also the mode promoted by the B.C. government; just four years ago, as part of a joint "CleanBC" strategy between the transportation and environment ministries called Move Commute Connect, the province set a goal of doubling the number of cycling and walking trips by 2030.

Today, with car traffic levels returning to (and seemingly exceeding) pre-COVID levels — and Salt Spring year-round residency and seasonal visitation numbers rising — one thing seems certain: the number of cars being used on the island for everyday use probably won't stay the same. Things are changing one way or another, so how do we make the change work for all residents and visitors?

On Friday, June 2, in conjunction with province-wide GoByBike Week celebrations, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Rob Fleming will come to Salt Spring



PHOTO COURTESY ISLAND PATHWAYS

Cyclists stop at the Cusheon Lake and Fulford-Ganges roads intersection during last summer's ride and rally for safe cycling. Another event is planned for this Friday, June 2 as B.C.'s transportation minister Rob Fleming meets with the Salish Sea Trail Network Working Group and is also the main ASK Salt Spring guest at the Mouat Park meadow.

to meet with the Salish Sea Trail Network (SSTN) Working Group to discuss the situation on Salt Spring and try to answer that question.

Members of SSTN — which includes MLA Adam Olsen, MP Elizabeth May, CRD director Gary Holman, Islands Trust staff and trustee Laura Patrick, a Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee representative, and local NGOs Transition Salt Spring and Island Pathways — have called on the provincial government to complete a 20-kilometre trail across Salt Spring Island from Fulford to Vesuvius as part of the Salish Sea Trail, which would be a 250-km-long cycling circuit from Victoria through the

Saanich Peninsula and the Cowichan Valley.

Connecting the existing Lochside, Galloping Goose, Cowichan Valley Regional and E&N Railway trails, this active transportation network would provide safe and climate-friendly access through some of the most populated and scenic parts of coastal British Columbia. And, it's 92 per cent complete, save for the stretch on Salt Spring that connects Swartz Bay to Crofton.

A recently published cycling safety review commissioned by the province highlights many safety improvements that could help encourage more Salt Springers and visitors to choose cycling and walking over driving,

but it would take bolder investments to complete the Salish Sea Trail and provide safe connectivity and commuting options for all.

You can advocate for Salt Spring to receive some of the same investments in infrastructure improvements, pathways and education being provided to other communities across the province to encourage more cycling, make walking safer and help achieve those audacious CleanBC goals.

Join Island Pathways members, MLA Olsen and others for a public, "all ages and abilities" group bike ride from Fulford to Ganges that morning — Friday, June 2, starting at 9 a.m. at Fulford Harbour — or join in at 9:30 at the Cusheon Lake Road intersection to show your support for safe cycling.

The group ride will culminate in a family-friendly rally at 10 a.m. at Lions Bike Park in Mouat Park, complete with scoot bikes for little ones, bicycle blender smoothies, prize giveaways and an opportunity from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to speak with Minister Fleming at an ASK Salt Spring meeting about making cycling safer for everyone.

You can also show your support for safer walking and cycling infrastructure on Salt Spring Island by joining Island Pathways with a \$10 lifetime membership: IslandPathways.ca/membership-signup/.

For more information about GoByBikeBC Week and events happening on June 2, visit gobybikebc.ca/salt-spring-island/.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

We've turned a corner

Congratulations to team Gayle, Brian, Earl and now Ben. That was indeed a commanding win! Go forward, team, and make us all proud.

For the independents who are lying in a heap at the bottom of the chute — ok, so Eric March

and me (LOL) — well done! What was demonstrated is that we can come together as a total of 15, with eight independents, and it doesn't have to be the usual polarized, divided debate, hard over on one specific issue or another. From that standpoint this has been a very civilized campaign and election.

Have we turned a corner as a community? I think so, to the betterment of all Salt Springers. Collectively, let's move forward and get some of the nagging crisis issues resolved together.

For those who have supported my campaign, I am deeply grateful for your trust in me and support. I'm honoured.

Thank you.

DAVID COURTNEY,
LCC CANDIDATE

Elders still a vital force

Several of us "grey hairs" were reading the letters published in the May 24 Driftwood. We concluded

there may be a new bias brewing on Salt Spring: ageism.

Please remember, dear young islanders, we seniors did not grow up in a vacuum. We, too, faced the same challenges as you face today (and without computers, without a government safety net, for a long time without health care and pharmacare).

We weathered rising housing shortages, rental shortages, crazy double-digit mortgage and inflation rates, rising transportation costs and escalating food prices. We faced prejudices and job dis-

crimination. We lived through the ravages of war and the threat of nuclear annihilation — and yet — here we are: we survived. It's called "life."

Please do not look upon us as a negativity. We are living proof of the ability of the human spirit to survive, even to prosper, under the direst of circumstances. We can teach you resilience, if you give us a chance.

We may be bent, grey and wrinkled, but we are still a vital force.

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Rants + ROSES

Roses

• Beluga-sized buckets of roses and appreciation to the Raffi Foundation for Child Honouring for their generous donation of \$20,000 to our children's programs! *Salt Spring Literacy*

• Baskets of wild roses from the Salt Spring Historical Society and Archives to all who contributed to the creation and celebration of new Indigenous signage at Fernwood: Augie Sylvester, Myrus James, Jill Harris, Florence James, Marguerit James, Florence Edwards, Fergie Charlie, the late Delmar Johnnie, James Charlie and the late Mike Charlie, the Penelakut Tribe Sulxwe'en (Elders group), Robert Sam, Penelakut artists, educators, adult learners and community members, the Donna Martin Legacy Fund, Salt Spring Foundation (SSF), Mouat's Trading Company, Salt Spring Arts Council, Thrifty Foods, Country Grocer, Stowel Lake Farm, Alex Harris, Abbie Sherwood, SSF Neighbourhood Small Grants Program, Shaun Luttin (Fernwood Road Café), Andrea Bryson, Santina and Justin Oppmann (Off the Hook Restaurant), Kurt Irwin, Shannon Johnston, Russell Hardy, Ron Crawford, Todd Beatson, Dan Childs, Phil Vernon, Maggie Ziegler, Tara

Martin, Chris Marshall, Ceridwen Ross-Collins, Chris Arnett, Jean Wilkinson, Sharon and Gary Bywater, Kate Martinez, Jack Martinez, Ruth Riddell, Karen Hudson, Katell Leslie, Lorna Fraser and Fernwood School youth, Anna Ford and so many more!

• A bushel of wild Nootka roses to Windsor Plywood for the discount on rolls of fencing to support the wildfire research project taking place on Mount Maxwell by the Transition Salt Spring CARL team. Fire is our biggest climate threat on Salt Spring, and your contribution is helping all of us to get ready now, while there is still time. Thanks for your leadership, Windsor team!

• The Driftwood sends a democracy bouquet to everyone who made the May 16 all-candidates meeting at Fulford Hall run so smoothly: our co-organizers the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce and especially Dayle Murray; moderator Robin Williams; timekeeper Kate Cooper; Greg Pauker of Sculptor Systems (sound); Cindy and Eric Jacobsen of FrogTalk Media (video); Fulford Hall volunteers; Driftwood staff and anyone who helped with set-up and take-down; and especially the 15 (!) election candidates. Great job, everyone.



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EXHIBITIONS

Showcase season openers push patterns' limits



Leslie Corry, left, and Rosalie Matchett, the two artists presenting Ingrained Patterns and Pathways, the first Artcraft Showcase exhibition of 2023.

Corry and Matchett show opens June 9

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
FOR SALT SPRING ARTS

An exciting program of Showcase exhibitions gets underway on Friday, June 9 along with the opening of Artcraft's 55th anniversary season at Mahon Hall.

The first of three month-long shows this summer finds Salt Spring artists Leslie Corry and Rosalie Matchett riffing on a unifying concept in very different ways. Ingrained Patterns and Pathways features abstract encaustic paintings by Matchett, who has taken up the use of pattern as a way to go deeper into painting fundamentals in abstract encaustic works. Corry, meanwhile, explores how inherited behavioural patterns have impacted her family, expressed through a series of abstracted figures in The Travellers sculpture series. Together they show how repetition of form or action can be a liberating experience, within self-imposed boundaries. Their works also show how patterns can be overcome when they start to be constricting or negative.

Matchett is a former oil painter who discovered that encaustic's smooth pigment-infused wax was her ideal medium. Previous series have been largely representational and conceptual as she explored topics like the history of whaling and the importance of bees. Matchett said she enjoyed those streams of work and the research involved, "But I always felt like those paintings were illustrations of the idea. So I wanted to just deal with painting."

She decided abstraction would allow her to deal more directly with those concerns, and was influenced to involve pattern as a tool after curating the Salt Spring Arts 2021 spring art show featuring Ron Crawford. (She also wrote and produced the catalogue for the show.)

The circle is Matchett's main motif, which she morphs into complex combinations by introducing 90-degree angles in dissected and quartered circle shapes, or extending straight lines along a side to connect with negative space. Usually the circles in a painting are all the same size, but not always.



From top, Rosalie Matchett's Pathway piece; detail from The Travellers sculpture series by Leslie Corry.

"I had given myself rules, which were just 'these are the rules you try to follow.' And sometimes I broke them," Matchett said.

"These paintings started as a way to explore composition and to merge abstract constructs with elements of figuration. The overall pattern works as a ground on which I build the painting. It is also a foil against which I can push at the limits of the pattern to try to move beyond it and create new compositions. The American poet Wallace Stevens is

another influence, especially a line from The Rock, "That its barrenness becomes a thousand things." Stevens was exploring how to fill life with meaning in the absence of god.

"My use of pattern is akin to Stevens' metaphor of the rock as the ground from which we build meaning in our lives," Matchett explained.

That use is just the starting point in composition, employing depth, layering and colour with the goal that viewers will in fact stop seeing the pattern and start seeing something beyond that as composition.

Some paintings in the series were initiated on blank panel, while others were built onto previous unfinished paintings. Colour choices were informed by what was in the underlying works, or by the seasons represented: delicate pastels for earliest spring or bright and vibrant for summer.

Corry began her sculptural series in part because of her longstanding interest in her family history, which she has explored in other works in the past.

"Part of it is a search for identity, coming from a nomadic family, and not having any roots," Corry said.

She was moved to create works referring to specific ancestors and family members but also the pattern of constant movement they passed down the matrilineal line. It started with her great grandmother Annie, who disappeared from the family when her daughter (Corry's grandmother) was only five. To this day, no one knows where she went or why, but that event seems to have set off a chain of restless wandering in the generations to follow.

"My grandmother moved and moved and moved and moved; married somebody who moved and moved and moved. And then my mother did the same thing," Corry said. "It was a pattern and so I was very intrigued, and especially with this character Annie. It was a mystery.

Many of the sculptures started as gestures and then were developed from there. They are created from found objects and materials that represent the nomadic lifestyle — suitcases and cardboard boxes, constantly being packed and unpacked — and other ephemeral scraps.

"Nothing is a 'good' material that I'm using. I'm not starting with strong structural things. They're very flimsy and thrown together and impermanent and shoddy, and then I try to make them strong," Corry said.

The resulting sculptures are more or less life-sized, some a little smaller than the human scale and some reaching up to seven feet tall. Figures became who they were supposed to represent through the process of finding the materials, rather than the other way around. They are portraits of family members, some of whom bear the trauma of constantly moving from place to place as a child, while some present as free spirits embracing the nomadic lifestyle.

Corry knows how hard it is to be without community as the perpetual newcomer, but observes, "There is also much joy and anticipation with each move, and

a great sense of freedom, and of looking forward, for all that is left behind. And children are very resilient. Good life skills are learned."

The show runs daily to July 10. An opening reception takes place from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, June 9, with an art talk on Friday, June 16 at 5:30 p.m.

MUSIC

Kathy Stack and friends perform at All Saints

June 7 Tea à Tempo recital

SUBMITTED BY MUSIC MAKERS OF THE ANGLICAN PARISH

On Wednesday, June 7, Tea à Tempo is pleased to present three talented musicians forming the Kathy Stack Trio at All Saints by-the-Sea Anglican Church in downtown Ganges.

Stack, on acoustic guitar, will be joined by Tom Bowler, who is often seen performing with Auntie Kate and Victo-

ria's Pretzel Logic Orchestra, David Vest, and the Relics, a Pink Floyd tribute band. Bowler plays acoustic and electric guitars, harmonica, mandolin and drums. Delion, on bass, is from local bands SugarBeat and the Frank Allen Four.

While Stack sings most of the lead vocals, they all join in at times with exciting three-part harmonies. Stack's songs extol local characters as well as love songs and stories. Her lyrics are touching or humorous with lovely melodies. She writes in folk or folk-rock style.

Stack sang her songs at the Gumboot Gala held at Fulford Hall last November with Valdy, Bill Henderson and Bruce Everett.

Both Bowler and Delion will contribute original material to the recital, which begins at 2:10 p.m.

Patrons' donations provide the honoraria for performers and contribute to the running of the Tea à Tempo series.

Tea and treats, for \$4, will be served immediately following the concert in the hall overlooking Ganges Harbour.



PHOTO COURTESY MUSIC MAKERS

From left, Bob Delion, Kathy Stack and Tom Bowler, who will perform as a trio at All Saints on Wednesday, June 7 at 2:10 p.m.

what's on this week

Wed. May 31

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

John Herbert. With a musical guest on the lower deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.
Dan Smith. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt Museum. Open Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Music Bingo. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

Thur. June 1

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Poetry Open Mic. With featured poet Karl Meade. Library program room. 7 p.m.
Dave Carl. Moby's Pub lower deck. 5 to 8 p.m.
Leonard Island. Mateada Lounge. 8 to 10 p.m.
Open Mic. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.
Craig's Karaoke. At Moby's Pub. 8 p.m. to midnight.
Caomhe Merrick Trio. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Elementary Junior Market Fair. Support grades 5-6 entrepreneurs at the SS Elementary gym. 9 to 11:45 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.
Introduction to Insight Meditation. Four-class weekly series with David Rumsey of the SS Insight Meditation Community begins today at Star of the Sea/St. Mary's Church in Fulford. Registration and info at staroftheseassi.ca.
Bittancourt Museum. See Wednesday listing.

VIA ZOOM

Reducing Fire & Drought Risk. Join forest ecologist Erik Piikkila for a Q&A session on safeguarding your home from wildfires and preserving your drinking water. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Register at tinyurl.com/Healthy-Forests. A Transition Salt Spring event.

Fri. June 2

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Ange Hehr. Moby's Pub lower deck. 5 to 8 p.m.
Fridays With DJ Boomtown. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. til 12:30 a.m.
Rough & Tumble. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.
Karaoke. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Fri. June 2

ACTIVITIES

Bike Ride & Rally. Join Island Pathways members, MLA Olsen and others for a public, "all ages and abilities" group bike ride from Fulford to Ganges. Start from Fulford Harbour at 9 a.m., or join at 9:30 at the Cushoon Lake Road intersection to show support for safe cycling. Meet at the Lions Bike Park in Mouat Park at 10 a.m. for rally, fun activities for all ages and prize giveaways.
ASK Salt Spring. Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure Rob Fleming and MLA Adam Olsen are this week's guests. Session will be at the Lions Bike Park meadow area in Mouat Park. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Salt Spring Laundr-o-mat Second Anniversary Celebration. Come down to the laundromat for cake served from 2 to 4 p.m.
Artist Talk by Kayla Isomura. Kayla Isomura's talk follows the 6 p.m. opening of her exhibit called The Suitcase Project, which is at the library program room through June. 7 p.m.
Bittancourt Museum. See Wednesday listing.

Sat. June 3

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Duck Creak. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.
Dave Carl Band. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.
Buck Dodgers Band. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.
Littlefox & Michaela Slinger. Mateada Lounge. 8 to 10:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Saturday Market in the Park. Centennial Park market. 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Sun. June 4

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Blues Jam. Singers, players and fans welcome at the Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.
Vixx. Moby's Pub lower deck. 5 to 8 p.m.
Alan Moberg. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Invasive Plant Drop-off Event. The Native Plant Stewardship Group will take your Daphne, English holly, English ivy, gorse, Himalayan blackberry and Scotch broom at Fulford Hall parking lot, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. No soil, rocks or roots please! By donation to cover chipping costs.

Sun. June 4

ACTIVITIES

Explore Duck Creek Park With Forest Ecologist Erik Piikkila. Vancouver Island visitor will provide real-life sustainable forest management practices and show how to protect your home from fire and drought. 2 to 4 p.m. Register at tinyurl.com/Healthy-Forests
Bittancourt Museum. See Wednesday listing.

Mon. June 5

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

TBA. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Beddis Water Service Commission AGM. Annual general meeting of the CRD commission for the Beddis area at the SIMS boardroom. 10 a.m. Also accessible via Zoom. Link is in the agenda package on the crd.bc.ca website.
Cedar Lane Water Service Commission AGM. Annual general meeting of the CRD commission for Cedar Lane area at the SIMS boardroom. 12:30 p.m. Also accessible via Zoom. Link is in the agenda package on the crd.bc.ca website.

Tues. June 6

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Ashton Bachman & Guest. Lower deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.
Songwriters Circle Acoustic Open Mic. At the Legion. 6 p.m.
Kathy Stack Trio. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring LTC Bylaw 530 Open House. Library program room. Noon to 3 p.m.
Tuesday Farmers' Market. Hosted by the Salt Spring Community Market Society in Centennial Park. 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Trivia Tuesday. At Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

Wed. June 7

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: Kathy Stack Trio. All Saints church. 2:10 p.m., followed by optional tea and treats.
GISPA's Wrinkle in Time. GISS performing arts program production at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.
John Herbert. With a musical guest on the lower deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.
K-Tones. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Wed. June 7

ACTIVITIES

Star of the Sea Speaker Event. Petra Hasenfratz of the Green Raven Clinic will share her recent experiences with the Spiritual Elders of the medicine tribes in the jungles of Ecuador and Colombia. Star of the Sea/St. Mary's Church. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Registration and info at staroftheseassi.ca.
Music Bingo. See last Wednesday's listing.

CINEMA

• **Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3** runs Friday, June 2 to Tuesday, June 6 nightly at 7 p.m., plus a Sunday 3 p.m. matinee. Rated PG. 2 hours, 20 minutes.
See thefritz.ca for more movie info or phone 250-538-7718.



EXHIBITIONS

• **14th Annual Eclectic Visions exhibition** by Salt Spring Photography Club members runs at Gallery 8, with the opening reception on Friday, June 2 from 5 to 7 p.m. Show continues daily until June 15.
• **The Suitcase Project**, a multimedia exhibit by Kayla Isomura, shows in the library program room through June, beginning with the opening at 6 p.m. on Friday, June 2. Artist talk from 7 to 8:30 p.m.
• **Mixed-media abstract artist Laila Jensen's Groovy Grooves** show is on at Salt Spring Gallery on Wednesdays to Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., until June 14.
• **Art Jam at the Laundr-O-Mat** is a show of work by Art Jam group members running through June 30.

A Wrinkle in Time

GISPA production by dance, music and theatre students
ArtSpring
Wed., Thurs., Fri., June 7, 8 & 9
7:30 p.m.

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YOUTH PERFORMANCES

Student-led 'Wrinkle' set to enchant crowds

GISPA adaptation involves dance, music and theatre

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

"Step into a world where time is a mere concept, and the power of love and bravery knows no bounds," writes student publicist Elisabeth Innes.

And as the Gulf Islands School of Performing Arts (GISPA) prepares a student-led production of Madeleine L'Engle's novel *A Wrinkle in Time*, it's clear audiences will indeed find themselves transported. The student-led production of the enduring classic — with the gentle direction of educators Michelle Footz (music), Sonia Langer (dance) and Jason Donaldson (theatre) — is perhaps itself a fitting metaphor for the long-running program, having nurtured so many young, diverse artists on Salt Spring over the years.

"The book is very 'GISPA,'" said Grade 12 dance strand student Jane Holmes. "It has a lot of the elements we use in terms of different worlds — different dimensions, the portals through them. Dynamics and magic."

"And each world has a very different feeling to it," added Raiven Hamer Garton, a GISPA theatre strand student in Grade 11. "Like



PHOTO BY META ROSE PHOTOGRAPHY

Rehearsing a scene from GISPA's production of *A Wrinkle in Time*, which runs at ArtSpring on June 7, 8 and 9, are, from left, Mickey Heck, Jane Holmes, Tayler Debruin and Abby Zacharias.

the program here; we're able to showcase our talents in each world. This year in particular has been one of the most integrated shows I've been in — or heard about."

The storyline of "Wrinkle" — the tale of Meg Murry, her brother Charles Wallace and their friend Calvin racing across worlds to rescue family — is moved along by each of the GISPA strands, said Hamer Garton: acting, music and dance. The production features a host of student artists, including nine actors, four dancers and nine

musicians, moving between their own worlds and blurring strand boundaries — imagine actors helping with choreography, or musicians in dance pieces.

"There's a lot of that crossover," said Grade 12 musician Cedar Lopateki. "There are people in the musician group who have experience acting or dancing; there are dancers who have experience acting."

And even as audiences can expect actors on stage surrounded by music and dance — an integration inherent in GISPA's per-

formance philosophies — Holmes points out the experience isn't "musical theatre," at least as one might expect.

"There's a distinction, I feel, between what GISPA does and what musical theatre does," said Holmes. "GISPA [productions] have a more serious message revolving around the play, not just the cheeriness you see in musicals. I think we have a very mature way of building the show — for a group of high school students."

That maturity shows up in the choices the student leaders made for script — jumping-off, Holmes said, from an existing adaptation and stage notes — as well as in score, choreography and even set. All the music and every dance in the show is original, largely a collective creation from the cast members, and the set is innovative and multi-functional; less is often more for the small group, who all pitch in to handle scene changes.

"It's a unique challenge," said Lopateki. "We had to make things seem full. To do the big ideas, we had to do it smaller — we had to fill the stage, and create a deeper meaningful image with less."

Many of the ideas were inspired by other productions seen off-island; Lopateki said GISPA students get the occasional opportunity to travel to see shows elsewhere, broadening their horizons — and stashing away ideas for later.

"It's important, on this small island and community to bring in new ideas," agreed Holmes. "Sometimes you might stagnate, in our instinct to stay in what's familiar. But reaching out into the world for those new ideas is so important to being an artist."

Hamer Garton gestured to set pieces built specifically for the production.

"Just these three door frames, adding or taking away some extra space, help create four or five different planets," said Hamer Garton. "Rather than trying to make the set speak for the piece, it allows the audience to focus on the artists."

Audiences can nonetheless expect a "visually stunning spectacle," according to Innes, with imaginative lighting effects transporting viewers from the Murry family's humble home to far-flung planets and mystical realms.

"In this performance, witness the extraordinary power of human connection, the triumph of good over evil and the unwavering strength of the human spirit," writes Innes. "Prepare to be swept away on a breathtaking journey, filled with wonder, danger and heartwarming moments that will leave you inspired and believing in the extraordinary."

Performances run three nights at ArtSpring, with curtain at 7:30 p.m. on June 7, 8 and 9.

Tickets are on sale at artspring.ca.



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

DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
31	0113	3.1	10.2
	0833	1.1	3.6
	1557	2.6	8.5
WE	1944	2.3	7.5
	0132	3.1	10.2
1	0858	0.8	2.6
	1653	2.8	9.2
TH	2039	2.5	8.2
	0151	3.1	10.2
2	0928	0.5	1.6
	1744	3.1	10.2
FR	2133	2.8	9.2
	0213	3.2	10.5
3	1002	0.2	0.7
	1833	3.2	10.5
SA	2227	2.9	9.5
	0240	3.2	10.5
4	1040	0.0	0.0
	1921	3.4	11.2
SU	2324	3.0	9.8
	0314	3.2	10.5
5	1123	-0.1	-0.3
	2009	3.4	11.2
MO	0028	3.0	9.8
	0355	3.2	10.5
6	1210	-0.1	-0.3
	2055	3.5	11.5
TU	0144	3.0	9.8
	0441	3.1	10.2
7	1259	0.0	0.0
	2139	3.5	11.5

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SOCIAL ISSUES

The Suitcase Project opens at library

Artist Kayla Isomura also speaks on opening night; workshop and talk take place later in June

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A special multimedia exhibit opens at the Salt Spring Island Public Library program room this week, with the artist also providing a talk on opening night.

The Suitcase Project by Kayla Isomura shares the experience and history of the Japanese Canadian community's mass uprooting and internment in the 1940s in a personal way that viewers can feel and connect with.

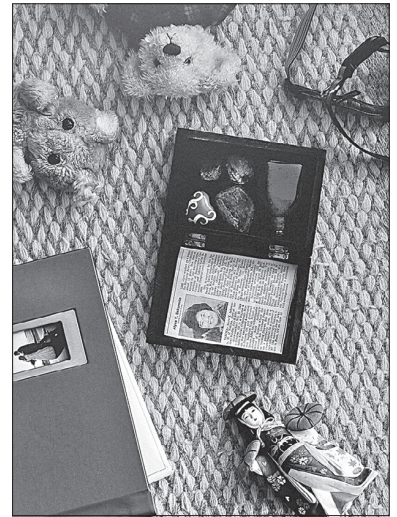
"Through her photography and video of the participants' packing process, supplemented by local archival photos, we will learn about this dark chapter of Canadian history and connect with how it impacts us today," explains a press release from the Japanese Garden Society of Salt Spring Island (JGSSSI). "It is also an opportunity to reflect on the uprooting and dispossession of people around the world due to natural disasters, political instability and war."

Isomura is a Vancouver-based photographer currently exploring intergenerational trauma and racialized identity.

The show opens at 6 p.m. on Friday, June 2, with Isomura giving a talk at 7 p.m.

The Suitcase Project can be viewed Mondays through Saturdays in June when the program room is not otherwise in use.

Two other related events are scheduled for the program room. On Friday, June 16 from 5 to 8 p.m., Susanne Hunter, MD and RCC, will offer a Community Workshop of Intergenerational Memories. Hunter will lead a gently guided exploration of intergenerational and collective trauma and healing through the Japanese Canadian uprooting experience.



PHOTOS COURTESY KAYLA ISOMURA - THE SUITCASE PROJECT

From left, portrait of Kayla Isomura, whose multimedia exhibit titled The Suitcase Project includes items from the suitcase of the Sakamoto family, who were among more than 22,000 people of Japanese descent forcibly removed from B.C.'s coast during World War II.

"We are all affected by intergenerational and cultural trauma — sometimes from the distant and sometimes from the more recent past," states press material. "In this workshop we are going to explore the mistreatment of Japanese Canadians on Salt Spring Island and in B.C. before, during and after World War II from the trauma perspective."

Hunter's workshop is limited to 15 participants and people should pre-register at heiwagardensaltspring@gmail.com.

Then on Tuesday, June 27 at 7 p.m., SFU communications professor Kirsten Emiko McAllister presents a talk called Japanese Canadian Memory Projects: Rebuilding the Community and Recognizing Our Responsibilities Today.

"McAllister will explore how the community's wider pursuit of social justice requires us to go beyond our own experiences of persecution and examine our responsibilities to Indigenous nations and our links to other groups facing persecution today," states the JGSSSI.

The Suitcase Project event on Salt Spring is presented by the JGSSSI, with sponsorship from the Salt Spring Island Public Library.

The exhibition's community talks and workshop are funded by the Salt Spring Foundation, archival photographs are courtesy of the Salt Spring Island Archives and this mini travelling version of The Suitcase Project is a loan from the Nikkei National Museum.

RECREATION

Rajsic Classic action heats up the courts

Twenty-five teams participate in tennis tournament and fundraiser

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The fifth annual Rajsic Classic tennis tournament saw a great turn-out and some exciting matches on the May long weekend.

The event was created in memory of Roy Rajsic, a local tennis fan who loved supporting junior tennis and died in 2016. Funds raised benefit junior tennis players' development through the Salt Spring Tennis Association (SSTA) Tomorrow's Champions program.

Tournament director Pete Schelling was thrilled to host 25 teams with players from Vancouver Island, Vancouver and Salt Spring for the two-day event.

Categories consisted of combined ages adding up to 80, 100 or 120 years of age in ladies doubles, men's doubles and mixed doubles play.

- This year's winners and finalists were:
- Ladies 100: Victoria's Sarah Angus and Olivia Han defeating local players Carolyn Flam and Babette Arnoldus 6-3.
 - Ladies 120: Vancouver's Tracy MacKinlay and Salt Spring's Deborah Orange defeating local Jenny Pickering and Nanaimo's Holly Calvin 6-3.
 - Men's 120: Salt Spring's Tim Dubois and Jordy Sharp defeating locals David Youngson and Ian Light 6-4.
 - Mixed 80: Victoria's Olivia Han and Matt Veillette defeating Salt



PHOTO COURTESY SSTA

Ladies 120 category tournament players, from left, Holly Calvin, Jenny Pickering, Tracy MacKinlay (holding Maggie) and Deb Orange.

Spring's Adria Kray and Ryan Gibson 6-0.

- Mixed 100: Nanaimo's Holly and Brian Calvin defeating Tracy MacKinlay and Tim Dubois 6-3.

Organizers thanked the Capital Regional District Salt Spring parks and recreation department for hosting the event, and sponsors SSTA, Gulf Island Veterinary Clinic and Salt Spring Wild Cider.

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Obituaries **Obituaries** **In Memoriam** **In Memoriam** **Coming Events**



Beverley Anne (Bakes) Lillyman
1936 - 2023

Bev passed away peacefully in her sleep at Greenwood's Thursday May 18, 2023. Bev was a painter, art teacher and weaver.

Bev was born in Montreal to parents Hazel & Norman Bakes. Brothers David & Norman followed before they moved out to Vancouver in 1948 before graduating King Ed High School in 1954. Bev married Ronald Watt in 1957 and raised sons Dallas & Lloyd in Vancouver until she remarried the love of her life, James Lillyman in 1971. Dallas married Heather Cameron and gave Bev Grandchildren Jackie & Ryan. Lloyd married Kathy Champagne and gave her Grandchildren Christopher and Matthew. Bev had 4 Great Grandchildren, Jayden (Jackie's), Elyse & Jacob (Christopher's) & Angelina (Matthew's).

Jim & Bev dedicated much of their time in Vancouver to Scouting. Bev's Cub Pack name was Bagheera. Jim & Bev moved to Salt Spring in 1989 and built a house on North End Road until they moved to Brinkworthy in 1991 where she set up her art studio & weaving loom and taught & shared her artistic passions with local students.

Bev was a long time active member of the Salt Spring island spinners & weavers guild. She was a past president and also coordinated the Eye for Colour, a collaboration with painters and other crafts.

She was a member of the Salt Spring Island painter's guild and was a keen golfer and in 1991 was a founding member of the Business Ladies league at the Salt Spring Island Golf & Country Club.

Bev's professional career spanned 35+ years with the TD Bank and Island Savings, but her passion was acrylic & water colour painting. Her paintings and weavings are lovingly displayed by family and friends locally on Salt Spring, across Canada, the USA, Australia and England.

Bev will be missed by all who loved her and was laid to rest at the Purdy Cunningham Cemetery on Saturday, May 27th at 1pm. A Celebration of Life will be held at the Brinkworthy Clubhouse later this Summer at a date to be named later.

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In Memoriam **Coming Events** **Coming Events**

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday, June 15, 7:00 pm
SSI Conservancy members, please note that the AGM will be online with access via computer (Zoom) or telephone. Please RSVP to debra@saltspringconservancy.ca no later than June 14 with your choice of access (Zoom or telephone).
Access instructions and reports will be posted at https://saltspringconservancy.ca by June 13.
For members without internet, call 250-538-0318 by June 8 and we'll mail the info to you.

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- ALFRED LORD TENNYSON

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HOROSCOPE

**WEEK OF
MAY 28 TO JUNE 3, 2023**

THE LUCKIEST SIGNS THIS WEEK:
SCORPIO, SAGITTARIUS AND CAPRICORN

- ARIES**
You'll be successful at work by taking the time to negotiate, ask questions and close deals. Your home life will improve if you impose more discipline.
- TAURUS**
Whatever the project, you must take the time to work out the small details and prepare to thrill your social circle.
- GEMINI**
You'll succeed in standing out and being admired in some way. For example, getting a new look for the summer will turn heads and attract attention.
- CANCER**
If you're anticipating a move, you'll be inspired to redecorate. You could be told about a birth in the family. An apprenticeship would be beneficial to your career development.
- LEO**
You've earned certain confidences because you're trustworthy and discreet. You could be told a secret or two that will leave you feeling perplexed.
- VIRGO**
Travel will be more complicated than expected. You may have to drive your loved ones around this week. You'll show initiative in a project in which you'll be involved for several years.
- LIBRA**
Make sure you reflect for several days before making a significant purchase. This will ensure you get a better price.
- SCORPIO**
You must rest this week. Drinking a second cup of coffee at work will help you clear your head and be more productive. Your creativity and intuition will guide you in the right direction.
- SAGITTARIUS**
Your plans could change suddenly. For example, your guests could cancel an activity you had planned. Fortunately, you'll enjoy the calm and relaxation instead of the frenzy.
- CAPRICORN**
You'll organize a staff meeting at work. You'll also have success with a housewarming or birthday party. Your popularity will skyrocket.
- AQUARIUS**
You'll find relevant information about a course or training program that will lead to spectacular professional development. You'll have the opportunity to broaden your horizons.
- PISCES**
The holidays are just around the corner. If you have young children, you may be worried about finding summer activities to keep them busy. Take time with them to carefully choose a day camp, for example.

NATURE

Fuzzy critters have their way with island trees

Island growers unsure how fall apple crop will fare

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

If you've been outside in the past few weeks, you've seen the webs and the millions of tent caterpillars crawling up — and munching on — tree leaves.

The fuzzy visitors have been seen on every Gulf Island and across much of Vancouver Island, intriguing young children and alarming backyard plant lovers.

And while apple growers on Salt Spring Island say the infestation is significant, they agree it's too early to say if the year's apple harvest will be severely affected — and that the island's diversity in production and terroir, combined with quick action from orchardists, will be what saves the season.

South-ender Harry Burton, at his Apple Luscious operation, said it seemed to be worse mid-island — and grower Bob Weeden said the scene at his north end Whims Farm orchard "looked like a war zone."

It's not the first time, nor likely the last, Salt Spring will be beset by caterpillars — not an inva-



Tent caterpillars on the march on an apple tree branch, left, and others still in webs in a tree with already munched leaves.

PHOTOS BY GAIL SJUBERG

sive species, according to experts, but certainly one that can wreak havoc in large numbers.

"In 2012 we cancelled the Apple Festival, they were so bad," said Burton, who said he'd seen a "medium infestation" at his orchard this year. He said he was largely able to control the caterpillars with the usual lopping-off of nests at branch ends with a pole pruner.

"They tend to go up to the ends of the branches, making it

very easy to cut off, if you get them early when they're concentrating up at the top."

At this point in the caterpillars' life cycle, lopping is the preferred method, according to Health Canada, which notes the outbreaks are unlikely to happen on an exact schedule, because of the wide variation in environmental and biological factors that lead to large populations. Salt Spring's garden and entomology expert Linda Gilkeson actually

recommends checking in January for egg masses in branches — an early warning that it might be a caterpillar-filled spring. Gilkeson's extensive advice can be found at lindagilkeson.ca.

Burning is not recommended for anyone looking to remove tents, particularly during the current weather-triggered ban on most backyard burning. Contravening fire prohibitions can result in fines up to \$1,150, according to provincial officials

— and well into six and seven figures should the burning result in a wildfire.

Meanwhile, Burton said it remained to be seen how Salt Spring's apple orchards will weather the storm.

"I'm sort of on top of it here," said Burton, who was ready to move past the caterpillars and into growing season. "Right now my trees are thinking of apples, they're not thinking of caterpillars."

HISTORY

Local place names explored

Chris Arnett presentation at the library on Saturday, June 10

BY MARGRIET RUURS
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR



CHRIS ARNETT

The Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club (SSTNC) is offering an entertaining and informative talk in the library on Saturday, June 10.

Local historian and archaeologist Chris Arnett will use Salt Spring's physical landscape as storyboard to share his knowledge of Indigenous, colonial and settler-era place names on the island.

Preserved through original languages, local place names are a wealth of information.

"Place names are a window into the past," Arnett says wistfully as he recalls how he himself first became familiar with the Indigenous culture and history of places where he lives and used to live through learning about original names.

"Indigenous names gave much more than a name to a feature," he explains, adding that the stories connected to these names convey a rich history of events that might have taken place, or a landscape's natural features that were inherent in the name given.

"Like Mount Maxwell," Arnett tells me. "Its Indigenous name refers to a bent-over figure that was involved with supernatural beings across the Salish Sea."

And who knows who Fulford or Southey were?

Arnett explains how more recent place

names dating from the mid 19th century reflect the colonial presence of the Royal Navy whose officers renamed many places after ships and their officers. Other places record the names of early settlers.

Arnett's talk will touch on pre-contact history but also explain how, after colonization, Indigenous people were denied access to their territories and their frequency of visits to Salt Spring Island changed.

"The last full-time aboriginal occupants left in 1923," he explains, adding that when there is a loss of physical connection, inevitably there will be a loss of memory.

Indigenous names often described physical features of land or water, with implied lessons on history and the landscape. Arnett learned from elders and early maps of our area about these connections to the land. There were hundreds of Indigenous place names but only 30 or so are recalled today.

His talk will be of specific interest to those walking Salt Spring's many trails as they will learn to associate natural features, like mountains and bays, with the rich storytelling history of those in whose footsteps we follow.

The June 10 SSTNC presentation will take place in the Salt Spring library's program room at 2 p.m.

This event is free to attend.

Information on becoming a member of the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club will be available at the event.



Islands Trust

OPEN HOUSE

Proposed Bylaw No. 530 - Accessory Dwelling Units

SALT SPRING ISLAND

LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

What is Proposed Bylaw No. 530 about?

Proposed Bylaw No. 530 seeks to amend the Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw (SS LUB) to allow Accessory Dwelling Units, such as secondary suites, cottages, or garden suites, to be established on an expanded number of properties island-wide. A public hearing is required prior to final approval of the proposed bylaw.

How do I get more information?

Copies of the proposed bylaw and other information is available on the Islands Trust webpage (islandstrust.bc.ca) under the Salt Spring Current Projects page and at the Islands Trust office at #1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island BC, from the hours of 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays.

A Planner is also available to meet via Zoom or phone every Tuesday. Please reserve a day and time by emailing ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca.

First Open House

Tuesday, June 6, 2023
12:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Salt Spring Island Public Library
129 McPhillips Ave,
Salt Spring Island, BC

Second Open House

Saturday, June 10, 2023
12:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Salt Spring Island Legion - Meaden Hall
120 Blain Road,
Salt Spring Island, BC

Questions?

Louisa Garbo
Island Planner
ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca
250-537-9144

Who should attend?

Anyone affected by the proposed bylaws.

MORE
INFO

