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National Indigenous Peoples Day

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GULF ISLANDS SECONDARY SCHOOL

class of 2023

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

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Congratulations to the Gulf Islands Secondary School Graduating Class of 2023

Driftwood



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Wednesday, June 21, 2023

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PHOTO BY BILLIE WOODS PHOTOGRAPHY

ALL TOGETHER NOW: The Gulf Islands Secondary School graduating class of 2023 gathers for the traditional group photo as part of Saturday's graduation ceremony at the high school. For more photos, see page 6. See also the 2023 graduation booklet inside the paper.

ENVIRONMENT

Spongy moth targetted by traps

Rise of invasive species brings eradication focus to Salt Spring

BY GAIL SJUBERG DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Some Salt Spring Island trees are sporting a new shade of green this summer as a spongy moth trapping program shifts into high gear. More than 700 bright-green tent-shaped traps have been set out in three different zones around Vesuvius and St. Mary Lake where the moth population grew significantly between 2021 and 2022. Some pheromone-laced traps, which attract the male moths, are always set out by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), but the rise in trapped moth numbers last year prompted a major response for 2023. European spongy moth caterpillars (or Lymantria dispar, formerly known as gypsy moths) are voracious defoliators of numerous tree and shrub species.

Brian Van Hezewijk, a research scientist with the Canadian Forest Service in Victoria, detailed the Salt Spring-specific increase to

about a dozen people attending a recent open house event at Fulford Hall.

"It went from three moths in one trap two years ago to 13 moths in six traps [in the Vesuvius area]," said Van Hezewijk. "That tells us that it's now well on its way to increasing . . . I wouldn't be surprised if we saw 100 moths in our traps this year. What we're hoping is that it's in a concentrated area — or zero. That would be great, but I'm not betting on it."

Three male moths were also trapped in other areas closer to Ganges last year, for a total of 16. "Those numbers might seem low," said Babita Bains, chair of the province's Spongy Moth Technical Advisory Committee, "but they are quite significant for a species that we eradicate for."

Province wide, 356 male spongy moths were trapped in 2022, which Bains said is "huge" compared to the more usual 20 or 50 she has seen in the previous six years in her role.

"I was away for a year and when I came back

and saw 356, I almost fainted. I thought that was a typo, but that is correct."

Intense trapping is a basic part of an eradication strategy, the meeting heard.

"Every male that you take out of the population means that there's another unmated female out there that's not going to produce viable eggs," said Van Hezewijk. "And that means 500 or 1,000 caterpillars that we have fewer of next year."

But just as important is the information about the moths' whereabouts that trapping provides, so egg mass searches and perhaps spraying with the biological insecticide Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki (Btk) can be more focused.

"That's what we want to know — where those reproducing females are. So the more information we have about egg masses and caterpillars the better," said Van Hezewijk.

SPONGY MOTH continued on 2

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Public asked to report sightings

SPONGY MOTH

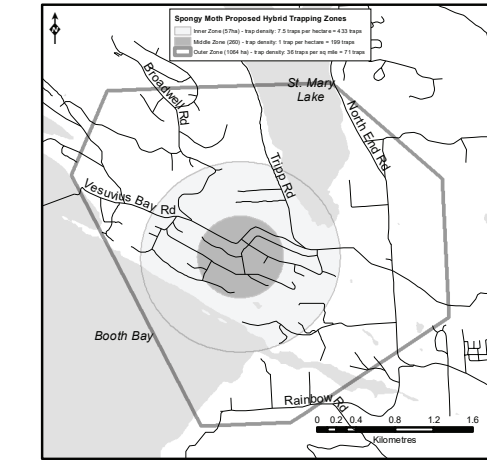
continued from 1

He and others working to keep the moth from establishing itself in B.C. are urging people to be on the lookout for the flat, sponge-like egg masses on their property, or the moths and caterpillars themselves. (Online searches provide images.) Because the male moths have few distinct markings they are not easy to identify. Caterpillars are distinguished by their four sets of two blue dots and six sets of red dots on their body.

Egg masses are usually placed in protected spots. While they may be found in the crook where a branch comes off a tree, the moths actually prefer human-made objects, such as vehicles, boats or garden-related paraphernalia, as host sites.

Nick Wong of the Invasive Species Council of B.C. (ISCBC) said "cars and RVs seem to be the preferred spot," while also giving the tray of a flower planter as another typical example during his presentation at the June 7 meeting.

Wong said the recent rise in B.C. spongy moth numbers can be attributed to egg masses attached to the undercarriage or wheel wells of vehicles travelling from Ontario, which has



Map showing the three zones around Vesuvius and St. Mary Lake where 703 traps for male spongy moths have been placed.

experienced a huge infestation in some areas. A couple of former Ontario residents at the meeting attested to the devastation caused by the spongy moth caterpillar and the challenges of trying to control it, which falls to private property owners in that province.

Any sightings of eggs, moths or caterpillars should be reported to the ISCBC at bcinvasives.ca/take-action/report/ or the CFIA at 250-363-3618. Take digital photos, if possible.

"Once they're here, the females themselves don't fly," said Wong, noting that their bodies are too laden with eggs for flight, "but the small larva can balloon on the winds" and spread for about a kilometre by that method.

Bains addressed the issue of Btk spraying, as she said it would inevitably be used on Salt Spring if the trapped moth numbers do not drop significantly. Btk was applied from the ground on an area near



SHUTTERSTOCK IMAGE

Spongy moth caterpillar, with blue and red dots clearly shown.

Lee's Hill back in 2007, along with intense trapping and egg mass searching.

She said that even though people seem to think ground spraying is better, "they actually use a way higher concentration of the product. And they're way more invasive because you have people in your yard, it stinks. So your exposure to the product is a lot higher than if it's aerial spraying."

Some audience members said they were concerned that aerial spraying would kill other moth/caterpillar species, which was acknowledged to be the case.

Van Hesilijk said spray application is now very precise and controlled by a GPS system. However, he added, if the infested area is small enough, ground spray may be a feasible option.

EDUCATION

CRD honours two GISS grads



PHOTO COURTESY CRD

Photographed at the June 14 CRD board meeting are, from left, Sooke mayor and CRD board vice chair Maja Tait; Jean Thompson, wife of Nils Jensen; Maggie Naphtali, GISS student; and Elvin Shoolbraid, GISS student.

Club and will be attending Dalhousie University where she has been accepted into the environment sustainability and society program, with an intended minor in journalism. She has also been selected to receive a BC Excellence Scholarship, according to Tait.

Next up was Elvin Shoolbraid, who was chosen to receive the 2023 Ed MacGregor Memorial Bursary, also in the amount of \$2,500 per annum.

This bursary was created in 2003 in memory of MacGregor, the first mayor of the District of Sooke. The bursary is also awarded annually on a rotating basis based on financial need, with recipients selected through a collaboration of principals at the eligible school. Shoolbraid is this year's top academic student at GISS, with an average of 97.6 per cent maintained while working part-time through the school year and full-time through the breaks, according to Tait.

Shoolbraid is also class valedictorian and receiving a president's and a dean's entrance scholarship to attend the University of Victoria, where he will pursue a degree in mechanical engineering.

Memorial bursaries to Naphtali and Shoolbraid

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Two Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) Grade 12 students were at the Capital Regional District (CRD) boardroom in Victoria last week to receive bursary awards presented by CRD vice-chair and Sooke mayor Maja Tait.

First to be honoured before the CRD board was

Maggie Naphtali, chosen by the selection committee from School District 64 to receive the 2023 Nils Jensen Memorial Bursary in the amount of \$2,500 per annum. The family of the former CRD board chair established a bursary in his memory in 2022, which is administered by the district and awarded on an annual rotating basis to one of four school districts within CRD boundaries based on a student's financial need and an interest in environmental protection or water security.

Naphtali, who maintained an academic average of over 95 per cent, was a founding member of the GISS Earth

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE GRADUATES OF 2023



IVANNA DERMOKHID

ANA-SOFIA MARSHALL

JAYDA MOFFAT

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Lady Minto Hospital
AUXILIARY



PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

FESTIVAL-GOERS: Craig Hickson and his two-year-old pet iguana Red take in the fun at the Father's Day in the Park event as part of Tour des Îles festivities on Sunday, where all kinds of weather, including a few torrential downpours, added excitement to the day. The Driftwood is now accepting photos of pets for a special feature section in July, and encouraging people to sign up to take photos for our 20th annual Day in the Life of Salt Spring Island photo shoot on Saturday, July 1. Just let us know you'd like to participate by emailing news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com.

ISLANDS TRUST

Public meeting rules examined

Governance committee info on mandate, open meetings kept quiet

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A report by one Islands Trust committee on its efforts to be less hindered by open meeting rules will be given, in what might be mistaken for irony, during a closed meeting.

Indeed, more updates coming from the Trust's relatively new Governance Committee will be held out of public view than not. One year after being formed, the committee will present to the wider Islands Trust Council (ITC) on its progress later this month. A briefing, prepared by committee chair Judith Gedye of Bowen Island, will be submitted during the ITC's June 27 meeting to update all trustees on three priorities: strategic planning, "clarifying and understanding" the Trust's "mandate" clause, and a review of where legal boundaries of the Community Charter's rules on open meetings lay with respect to the Trust specifically.

These priorities were set by the committee itself, largely from among recommendations from the 2022 Governance

Report. The last recommendation on public meetings was crystallized in April, as Gambier/Keats Island trustee Joe Bernardo posited the Islands Trust's standing committees may have "a certain amount of leeway" in when they must hold an open meeting, compared to municipalities and regional districts.

And while staff at the time indicated an understanding that the open meeting rules extended to all Islands Trust bodies — including committees — Bernardo told fellow trustees he felt it worth exploring in the name of more efficient governance, and that there was "sufficient ambiguity" to require a legal interpretation. The group ultimately agreed to ask for legal advice and, according to the committee briefing draft, several legal opinions have been brought together, summarized and discussed. A motion was passed at the April 17 meeting for Bernardo and staff to summarize the opinions and bring them back to the Governance Committee for review, but that summary was not presented in public portions of the committee's May 29 meeting. A similarly planned summary of legal opinions regarding the Trust's object, or "mandate" clause was also not presented at that meeting.

The briefing draft refers to a "large dossier of legal opinions about the meaning

and application of the mandate" that has been collected by staff, summarized and discussed in committee; but again, the summary for ITC, according to the briefing draft, "deals exclusively with material subject to solicitor-counsel privilege" and "must continue to be discussed in a closed meeting."

Local governments — and their committees — are guided by specific rules in choosing to close all or part of a meeting to the public, although application of those rules can be broad, such as a rule allowing closed meetings to discuss "litigation or potential litigation" that could impact the local government.

The Governance Committee's work to date on a draft corporate planning process is part of an ITC public session on strategic planning at the June 27-29 ITC meeting. The development of a corporate plan was among the recommendations from the same governance review that itself sparked formation of the committee, and for ITC will eventually include a "visioning" process to help determine trustees' shared values, likely in September. The June 28 session includes a "strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats" session, recommended by both the Governance Committee and a Financial Planning Committee sub-group.

BC FERRIES

New Fulford schedule in effect June 28

More daily trips through Sept. 4

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Starting next week, BC Ferries hopes more sailings in and out of Fulford Harbour will help alleviate growing system strain, as Salt Spring heads into the "peak" summer season.

The new 10-sailing plan — nine on Sundays — starts Wednesday, June 28, with first sailings most days departing Fulford at 6 a.m. for Swartz Bay, and the last chance for Salt Spring passengers to return home departing Swartz Bay at 10 p.m.

The structure, according to fleet deployment and scheduling manager Steve Anderson, builds five round-trips into each crew shift — up from four, and a "tight fit," he told Salt Spring's Ferry Advisory Committee in April, but the best chance at relieving line-up congestion at Fulford.

BC Transit said it would make changes to better align with the ferry schedule, with a bus generally arriving at Fulford a few minutes before sailings; all trip time changes will be reflected in the new Rider's Guide on the Salt Spring page of BC Transit's website.

Added sailings from Fulford come on the heels of an announcement of the highest vehicle traffic numbers ever recorded, as BC Ferries released fiscal year-end figures through March 31. System-wide, BC Ferries carried 9.4 million vehicles and 21.6 million passengers last year — a new record for vehicles, and an increase of 11 and 21 per cent respectively, compared to the same period in the prior year. Those vehicles and passengers were carried on 86,835 round trips, an increase of more than 4,000 trips over the prior year.

A Driftwood analysis of fuel consumption found the two added Fulford-Swartz Bay round-trips each day — plus one added on Sundays — will consume nearly 95,000 additional litres across the 126 planned "extra" sailings between June 28 and Sept. 4. That's enough fuel to drive a typical school bus from Vancouver to Montreal and back — more than 17 times, per Natural Resources Canada data.

On average, according to BC Ferries' fuel consumption data for 2020 released under a Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act request, the 92-vehicle-capacity Skeena Queen uses roughly 750 litres of fuel per round trip on Route 4 between Fulford Harbour and Swartz Bay.

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TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

JUNE 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
21	0217	2.8	9.2	25	0544	2.1	6.9
	0420	2.9	9.5		0823	2.1	6.9
	WE 1235	0.4	1.3		SU 1456	1.4	4.6
ME 2114	3.3	10.8	DI 2248	3.2	10.5		
22	0318	2.7	8.9	26	0613	1.8	5.9
	0454	2.7	8.9		1044	2.0	6.6
	TH 1311	0.6	2.0		MO 1535	1.7	5.6
JE 2142	3.3	10.8	LU 2309	3.2	10.5		
23	0419	2.5	8.2	27	0641	1.5	4.9
	0534	2.5	8.2		1308	2.2	7.2
	FR 1346	0.8	2.6		TU 1624	2.1	6.9
VE 2206	3.3	10.8	MA 2329	3.1	10.2		
24	0509	2.3	7.5	28	0710	1.2	3.9
	0638	2.3	7.5		1506	2.4	7.9
	SA 1420	1.1	3.6		WE 1731	2.4	7.9
SA 2228	3.2	10.5	ME 2349	3.1	10.2		

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A DAY IN THE LIFE SALT SPRING ISLAND 2023

- We invite people to send us their photos for our 2023 Day in the Life of Salt Spring Island feature.
- Photos must be taken between 6 a.m. on Saturday July 1st and 6 a.m. on Sunday July 2nd.
- Register in advance by sending an email to editor Gail Sjuberg at news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com for deadlines and details about how to submit.

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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 BCYCA 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

Moth maps

Salt Spring Island has unfortunately gained notoriety on the environmental front recently, but not for a positive program or achievement.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency puts out green tent traps containing female spongy moth pheromones annually to detect the presence of the invasive moths, with the males enticed into the traps by the scent. Until last year on Salt Spring the low numbers of trapped moths were not of particular concern. But a jump from three in 2020 to six in 2021 and then 16 in 2022 — combined with a significant rise in other parts of the province — have prompted the first steps of an eradication plan to be taken.

Members of the provincial Spongy Moth Technical Advisory Committee and staff from member government agencies and the non-profit Invasive Species Council of B.C. held an open house at Fulford Hall on June 7 to bring the community up to speed about the need and plan to address the increasing population.

THE ISSUE:

Spongy moth on Salt Spring

WE SAY:

Get educated and look for egg masses

so far been successful.

But the sense of alarm about the numbers from last year, while measured, was palpable among presenters at the Fulford Hall event. A resident couple who had dealt with an infestation in Ontario added to the discussion, stressing the devastation to trees they witnessed was incredible.

Back in 2006, a large volunteer corps was organized to put out traps and look for egg masses in the Lee Road area of Salt Spring in order to prevent the overhead spraying of the biological insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (Btk). Ground spray was eventually used to control an outbreak as well.

Looking for spongy moth egg masses might not sound like a ton of fun, but hopefully everyone — especially in the Vesuvius-St. Mary Lake area shown in the map on page 2 of this paper — will take the time to look for egg masses lodged on or in vehicles, boats, sheds, flower planters or trees. Reports of caterpillar or moth sightings are welcomed as well, but the moths, especially, are not as easy to be seen or identified.

Detailed information about spongy moths and eradication can be found on the B.C. government and Invasive Species Council of B.C. websites.



Cameras on buses alarming

BY MICHAEL HEY

As many of you are aware, the local bus fleet is being renewed. What you may not have noticed is that the new buses are equipped with surveillance cameras.

To my knowledge, these cameras were not installed because anyone from Salt Spring asked for them. They are a gift from BC Transit.

In the past, camera surveillance was passive. We have become accustomed to cameras recording our actions in public spaces. Typically, unless something out of the ordinary occurs, no one is actually watching these cameras. Even so, it is important to be aware when you are on camera lest you behave in some manner that could haunt you, were it to blow up 10 years later on social media.

These days, technology exists to actively monitor cameras in real time. Now the camera is not just recording. Someone may very well be watching. Of course the entities that are increasingly spying on us are not human. They can be powered by AI. Consequently, there is no labour cost in mass surveillance and very little to inhibit those who wish to abuse the technology to monitor our every action.

Big Brother is not only watching. Big Brother is capable of knowing your identity the moment you step on the bus and can instantly correlate this to everything else that is known about you: where you live, who your friends are, which causes you support financially and what kinds of websites you frequent. To some this may sound far-fetched, but the technology exists and is very much in use. There are cities where cameras are so ubiquitous that citizens' whereabouts are known at all times.

I'm not suggesting that BC Transit has nefarious intent. The concept of cameras on buses is nothing new. From a BC Transit perspective, this is purely a safety measure. Some will be able to accept this and possibly even welcome the new cameras. Personally, I reject the notion that surveillance culture makes us safer. I feel decidedly less safe on a bus that is equipped with camera surveillance.

The bus is a public space. If we are going to install cameras in public spaces where previously there were none, then citizens ought to be made aware of the change before it happens. There ought to be public consultation.

Big Brother is no longer science fiction. Everything Orwell wrote about in 1948 has now come to pass. BC Transit is an extension of the B.C. government — a government that has become increasingly totalitarian in its ways. I would argue that given what we know about AI surveillance technology, what it is capable of and how it is already being used elsewhere in the world, we ought to be careful about welcoming more surveillance into our public spaces. I would rather we look towards finding ways of reducing the number of cameras that spy on us all day long, rather than bringing in new cameras in places where they are not needed.

The erosion of freedom is incremental. If we as a community embrace more cameras in public spaces we may not be able to get rid of them, should it become apparent that the technology is oppressive rather than freeing. For those who may see these cameras as a bad idea, the time to be heard is now.

Michael Hey is a bus driver on Salt Spring Island

VIEWPOINT

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES PER YEAR:
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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:
Do you believe individual action can help combat climate change? Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:
Do you ever ride a bike on Salt Spring Island? 42 YES 103 NO

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

Everyone invited to RISE events

The community of Salt Spring has been shaken by the recent tragic deaths of several community members from drug overdoses and poisonings. Claiming the lives and affecting the families and friends of so many people, many of them young — daughters, sons, fathers, mothers — this trajectory has been increasing over several years as the opioid crisis has exploded in B.C. No one has been left untouched by this epidemic.

In response, a group of concerned community members have come together to address this crisis in the forms of harm reduction and safe supply, while working on advocacy and to increase awareness, de-stigmatize substance use and users, and speak to the deeper issues of mental health, care and support that are so needed for those affected. This group, Salt Spring Safely, includes active substance users, individuals in recovery, affected family members, health professionals, counsellors, therapists, activists, advocates, social workers and others who feel compelled to help lower the intensity of suffering, death and damage for those affected by the drug and opioid crisis.

This necessitates a multi-pronged

approach involving a spectrum of supports and actions. One of our imminent priorities is to reduce harm by increasing the chances of safe supply for active users, while advocating for education, training and support. For example, there are presently test strips (available at pharmacies and clinics) and Naloxone kits with free training to the public through various channels. At this time another immediate, much-needed investment for the community is a mass spectrometer which can test supplies with a very high level of accuracy.

What is evident is that we need a community-based network of support in coordination with local health and community agencies to make more effective change. We can make a difference, which can save lives.

As a way to unify the community around this issue, we are hosting a Day of Awareness and Action called RISE, an all-ages daytime event of ceremony, music, art, talks, community circles and dialogue, education, and petitioning the larger community for support and training, which will take place on Sunday, June 25 from noon until 8 p.m. at the Island Savings parking lot on McPhillips Avenue in Shiya'hwat, otherwise known as Ganges.

We are also hosting a screening of a film called Love in the Time of Fentanyl at the library at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 24. Ronnie Grigg, a frontline worker in the Down-

town Eastside of Vancouver and main character in the film, will be speaking at our event.

SALT SPRING SAFELY

Sidewalk blindness

I was driving up Hereford Avenue toward the auto parts store the other day when I encountered a woman sauntering down the middle of the road. I slowed down, expecting her to cross to the sidewalk.

Now, I have been on Salt Spring for a decade and I am used to Ganges jaywalkers, or should I say, mindless wanderers. I understand this island is an open air asylum for the stoned, the blissed out and those who feel they are so privileged that they could not care less.

After a couple of minutes, I beeped my horn, figuring the woman had forgotten to get into her car. She started screaming abuse at me and giving me the finger. I pointed out that she was on the road and the sidewalk was a few feet away. She did not appear to be pleased by this information, which I figured had previously eluded her.

I've got to ask. Are some people so stupid they do not understand the difference between a road and a sidewalk?

GREG MIDDLETON,
SALT SPRING

Rants

+ ROSES

Roses

Hundreds of non-invasive roses to our Salt Spring Fire Rescue firefighters, Jim McGuckin, Mark Whitear, Rollie Cook, Isaac Ammundsen, Fulford Hall, the Community Gospel Chapel and all the people on Salt Spring who removed broom and brought it to the drop-off sites for chipping and use by our farmers Ellis Hroch and Daria Zovi. *Transition Salt Spring Native Plant Stewardship Working Group*

Healthy bouquets of vigorous roses, lavender and echinacea to all those returning to school to further their health-care skills and credentials! Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary congratulates the post-secondary recipients of our 2023 Back to School and Continuing Education scholarships: Amanda Kimmel, Jade Barnard and Charlotte Bennett-Peters. Roses and gratitude also go to previous recipients now working on Salt Spring and elsewhere — and to community members whose Thrift Shop donations and purchases help fund the awards.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"I was away for a year and when I came back and saw 356 [moths were trapped], I almost fainted. I thought that was a typo, but that is correct."

BABITA BAINS, CHAIR, BC SPONGY MOTH TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

William's story illustrates impacts of Mental Wellness Initiative

First in a series of awareness-raising stories from Salt Spring's Mental Wellness Initiative. This is called William's Story, written by William MacPherson.

I didn't know I had a chip on my shoulder when I began my journey with the Mental Wellness Initiative (MWI).

I was doing some volunteering when I found out that the Salt Spring Health Advancement Network (SSHAN) was working on a mental health project. This is where I met David Norget and got involved with the MWI.

For the last 20 years I had been focused on understanding why I was mentally ill, determined to correct the imbalances and become a force for healing in the world.

I imagined I was a good collaborator. I didn't realize how much I had to learn about working with people. I wanted to talk. Talk for all the times I wasn't heard. The MWI is where I learned to listen.

This became possible initially because the pace of the group was slower. But I'm a doer, I wanted to proclaim! Little did I know that listening with your whole body is a superpower, and the quality of the attention we pay opens up healing potentials. Learning to really pay

attention would open up opportunities for me to work in a new profession.

I didn't recognize how many coping strategies I employed to compensate for not feeling safe with people. The MWI puts participants' safety first and it was experiencing this safety, and the relationships that developed, that gave me the confidence to step way outside my comfort zone and accept a position as a harm reduction peer support worker at Salt Spring Community Services.

I didn't know if I could hold a job. My neurodivergence made me feel like I needed to do things my way. But my new work supported my growing pains just as the MWI supported my spirit. I discovered what a great privilege it is to hold space for people. My job started at 18 hours a week and a year later I was working full time. I found myself collaborating with the RCMP, with the staff of Mental Health and Substance Use, as well as colleagues from a variety of programs at Community Services. So much became possible as I learned how to really listen and be collaborative.

It was the safety and support the MWI provided that allowed me to take a chip off my shoulder. Safety allowed me to humble

INDEPTH

myself. To stop trying to prove to everyone that I had value. To build a sense of self that replaced the arrogance that I had used to defend against my vulnerability. To become a better version of myself.

The MWI is currently fundraising in the community. We are asking for your help.

These are some ways you can help:

1) You can volunteer.

- Become a goodwill Ambassador (two hours per week paired with another person in the Ambassador Program).

- Consider donating your administrative skills to our Volunteer Counselling Project (one to two hours per week).

- If you are a mental health practitioner (or offer a related wellness service) consider donating 10 hours of your services (per year) to our Volunteer Counselling Project (to be provided to those who can't otherwise afford these services).

- If you are skilled with writing, help us with writing pieces for the volunteer counselling project website. We have a communication working group to assist you (one to

two hours per week).

- Become a recruiter with the Volunteer Counselling Project to recruit practitioners in the community willing to donate 10 sessions per year to those who can't otherwise afford these services (one to two hours per week).

- Become part of our dynamic Communication Working Group team to support our overall communication efforts to the community.

2) Or you can donate. (A charitable tax receipt can be requested.) We currently have two angel funders each willing to donate up to \$5,000 to \$10,000 that, if matched by community donations, will equal \$20,000 in donated funding!

- Cash - contact David Norget (davidnorget@gmail.com) or Martha Taylor (marthataaylor02@gmail.com).

- Cheque - payable to Salt Spring Community Health Society mailing address: 181 Booth Canal Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C., V8K 2N2 (Please specify "SSHAN - Mental Wellness Initiative" on your cheque).

- 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 and please specify "SSHAN - Mental Wellness Initiative" in the note section. During the 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 (canadahelps.org/en/givingchallenge/).

- For any significant (>\$25,000) donation of securities (publicly traded stocks and bonds), there is a possibility of avoiding paying capital gains tax by contributing to a flow-through fund through the Salt Spring Island Foundation (SSIF). Please talk to us to discuss further details. (Great thanks go to the SSIF for this option.)

Our motto is "Co-creating a community of caring and belonging."

The Mental Wellness Initiative thanks our past and present sponsors — Island Health Community Wellness, SSIF, Capital Regional District Grants-in-aid — as well as the many organizations and community members who have contributed their time to our efforts. We also thank Harlan's Chocolates and Salt Spring Coffee for contributing chocolate and coffee to support our community appeal!

GULF ISLANDS SECONDARY SCHOOL

PHOTOS BY BILLIE WOODS

class of 2023

Gathered outside for a photo at the June 17 graduation event are, from left Ana Torres Landa Zarate, Annika Fleming, India Hayden, Quinn Nickels, Anya Neish, Lila Manz, Sophia Hanser-Lam and Maggie Naphtali.



Lila Lindzon-Graham and Keshua Welch.



Boys having a bit of fun before the ceremony are, standing from left, James Schure, James Bateman, Oscar Fox and Jackson Allan holding up Jackson Chen.



Valedictorian Elvin Shoolbraid.



McKenna Jason and Ben Stocks enter the gymnasium for the opening procession of the graduating class at the June 17 ceremony.



Salome Cullen performs.



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Congratulations Graduates!!

This year we are proud to announce that we are giving a total of \$10,000 in bursaries to 9 deserving GISS grads, this includes the \$2000 bursary to the Award of Distinction recipient Xavier Brett.

Over the past ten years, our bursary winners, Award of Distinction winners, and our employees and their families have received over \$136,000 in bursaries to assist them with their future careers! We congratulate them all on their scholastic achievements.



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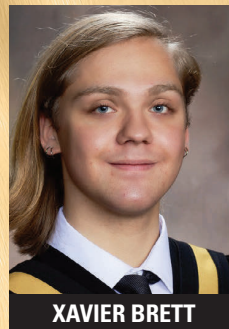


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MAYA PEREZ

COUNTRY GROCER AWARD OF DISTINCTION (\$2000):



XAVIER BRET

COUNTRY GROCER PHARMACY BURSARIES (\$1000 each):



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O Love
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Director Caronji Young Accompanist Shirley Bunyan

SATURDAY JUNE 24, 7:30 PM **SUNDAY** JUNE 25, 2:00 PM

ARTSPRING
 Tickets at ArtSpring
 Adults \$25; Youth (18 or under) \$5

2023 Scan for Concert Detail

CONCERT PREVIEW

Viva Chorale gets love bug



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG
 Viva Chorale choir director Caronji Young addresses the crowd, with some of her choir members seen behind, at the Father's Day in the Park musical event put on in conjunction with the Tour des Îles festival weekend. The choir performs two shows this weekend at ArtSpring.

Choir presents O Love concert on June 24-25

BY GAIL SJUBERG
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Caronji Young and her Viva Chorale choir are finishing their concert season on an emotional note.

This weekend at ArtSpring the long-running ensemble will present O Love, which the group says "features songs of love and longing that are guaranteed to pull those heart strings."

As Young explained, "It ranges from some folk songs like the Log Driver's Waltz, which is more about the funny side of love and looking for that perfect person, and then it goes over to a song by Healey Willan that is based off the Song of Solomon — it's called Rise Up, My Love, My Fair One — that's sort of a sacred love, and everything in between."

The concert's title song is written by prolific American choral composer Elaine Hagenberg.

"It's just a beautiful piece that uses piano and cello accompaniment, and provides a moment of rest and tranquillity and a break from the craziness of today's world. It's really the anchor point for the

whole concert," said Young.

Newer works by Canadian composers such as Laura Hawley and two pieces commissioned by Viva Chorale by Sarah Quartel and Donna Rhodenizer will also be performed.

"I think it's going to be a wonderful show, and I really hope we can get the audiences out to see it," said Young.

The Saturday night concert begins at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday's is at 2 p.m. Tickets are available through ArtSpring.

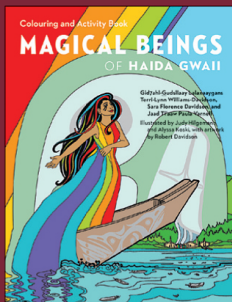
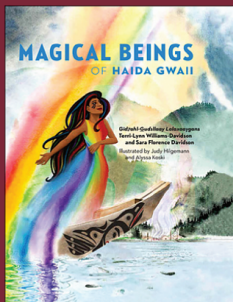
The June 24-25 concerts will be Viva Chorale's last full public shows of their season on Salt Spring, but Meadowbrook and the hospital's Extended Care Unit will be visited by choir members on Canada Day, and people might catch them outside Country Grocer on July 1 as well.

"I think getting out performing and sharing what we do with people is really important," said Young, "so we like getting to take music to the folks who can't get out to see our concerts."

Young and about 20 Viva Chorale singers are then heading to Scotland on July 5 where they have organized a tour that will see them perform with four different Scottish choirs and by themselves in various places.



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FUNDRAISER

Last chance to donate treasures

ArtSpring still seeking donations

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
 FOR ARTSPRING

With less than a week left to collect notable treasures, volunteer organizers of ArtSpring's popular annual Treasure Fair auction are putting out the call to community members for particular items, donations and categories they are seeking to fill by Monday, June 26.

These will join the hundreds of collectables, experiences, artworks, furniture, jewellery and other items already curated, catalogued and ready to preview online June 29 at treasurefair.artspring.ca.

An important highlight in ArtSpring's fundraising calendar, Treasure Fair offers four days of auction excitement launching this year on Wednesday, July 12 at 6 p.m. through Saturday, July 15 at 6 p.m. While bidding occurs online, the ArtSpring galleries will be open to the public to tour and inspect many of the items in person.

"We are very excited about the quality of the donations this year, and we are looking for a few more in certain areas if people want to get involved," said committee chair Catherine Griffiths. "For example, do you have a special skill or service that could be packaged as a gift certificate like tutoring, gardening or landscaping, art lessons, handyman services, or a chef who could provide a dinner experience? It's such a great

way to connect with the community."

Other priorities identified include retail opportunities like a shopping coupon, gym membership or salon services. Griffiths notes the auction site is a great marketing tool as thousands of bidders view it over the course of the lead-up to the event and during the Treasure Fair itself.

Household items such as small appliances, lightly used sports and fitness equipment, subscriptions to concerts or tickets one isn't using, or a weekend in one's vacation property are all wonderful donations.

Giving couldn't be easier. The website treasurefair.artspring.ca has an online donation form. There is organized storage for items, and pick-up services are available. All donors receive a tax receipt and recognition for their contribution.

To bid, online registration is required. Advance registered bidders and donors are also invited to attend the July 12 Treasure Fair Gala Reception to mingle and inspect items in person for two hours before the public auction goes live at 6 p.m. Collectors and savvy shoppers have the edge in making first pick "Buy It Now" offers for the treasures that matter most to them.

"We have such a range this year," said Griffiths. "A well-known interior designer from California has donated over 100 items of English and French furniture, collectibles and art. We have trips to the Yukon, Indigenous works, Stickle chairs, Japanese kimonos, spa retreats, vintage turntables, fine wines, curiosities. There is something for everyone!"

NEWS UPDATES

Follow the Driftwood on Twitter
<http://twitter.com/GIDriftwood>

VISUAL ARTS

Painters exhibit

At ArtSpring from June 23 to July 5

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Island Painters Guild's annual summer show is the next multi-member visual arts event on the island this season.

It opens this Friday, June 23 at 10 a.m. in the ArtSpring gallery, with an opening reception running from 1 to 4 p.m.

"As in previous years, we are delighted to display an inspiring and creative body of work by members of the guild and welcome many new members and fresh ideas," states a press release about the show and sale. "In addition

to the larger works, many smaller paintings will be shown as well as a wide selection of shrink-wrapped paintings, prints, drawings and greeting cards."

Visitors are invited to anonymously vote for their three favourite works, resulting in first, second and third-place people's choice awards.

Work by 2023 guild scholarship winner Lila J. Manz will also be shown. The guild annually gives \$1,000 to a deserving Gulf Islands Secondary School graduate, with contents of an online portfolio the most important consideration in determining a winner.

The Painters Guild Summer Show continues daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. until July 5.



Folk & Roots to Accompany The Treasure Fair

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Fri July 14, 7:30pm

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what's on this week

Wed. June 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: SJ&B Trio (Suzanne Gay, Jim Shultz and Bruce Grey) present a program called Songs of Resistance, Change and Hope. All Saints church. 2:10 p.m., followed by optional tea and treats.
GISS Theatre Presents Don Quixote. At the Farmers' Institute. 7:30 p.m. Advance tickets only from students or by emailing jdonaldson@sd64.org.
John Herbert. With a musical guest on the lower deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.
Wesley Hardisty & Geoff McFarlane. 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 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

GISS Theatre Presents Don Quixote. See Wednesday listing.
David Carl. Moby's Pub lower deck. 5 to 8 p.m.
Improv Theatre. Featuring Ari, Piet, Kate, Tommy, Ashia, Michael, Simone. Mateada Social Club. 8 to 10 p.m.
Open Mic. The Legion. 7:30 p.m.
Craig's Karaoke. Moby's Pub. 8 p.m. to midnight.
Jessica Benini. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee Meeting. At the SD64 Learning Hub. 9:30 a.m.
Bittancourt Museum. See Wednesday listing.

Fri. June 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

GISS Theatre Presents Don Quixote. See Wednesday listing, except the time is at 2 p.m.
Jessica Benini. Moby's Pub lower deck. 5 to 8 p.m.
DJ Boomtown. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. til 12:30 a.m.

Fri. June 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Daryl Chonka. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.
Karaoke. The Legion. 7:30 p.m.
Raincity. Mateada Social Club. 8 to 11 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring. The new Ambassadors Program members are this week's guests in the SIMS lobby. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Bittancourt Museum. See Wednesday listing.

Sat. June 24

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Viva Chorale Choir: O Love. Concert celebrating love of people and place. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.
El Jose. Moby's Pub lower deck. 5 to 8 p.m.
Marianne Grittani. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.
John Clancy Jazz. The Legion. 7:30 p.m.
Mark Woodyard. Mateada Social Club. 7 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Saturday Market in the Park. Centennial Park. 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Film Screening: Love in the Time of Fentanyl. Film about a Downtown Eastside community trying to save lives amid the overdose crisis. Presented by Salt Spring Safely at the Salt Spring library program room. 7 p.m.

Sun. June 25

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Viva Chorale Choir: O Love. Concert celebrating love of people and place. ArtSpring. 2 p.m.
Jazz 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

Bittancourt Museum. See Wednesday listing.

Sun. June 25

ACTIVITIES

RISE. A Day of Awareness and Action on the poisoned drug crisis. An all-ages daytime event of ceremony, music, art, talks, community circles and dialogue, education and petitioning the larger community for support and training. Island Savings parking lot. 12 to 8 p.m.

Mon. June 26

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Tue. June 27

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Ashton Bachman & Guest. Lower deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.
Country Band With Open Mic. The Legion. 6 p.m.
Caoime Merrick. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Tuesday Farmers' Market. Hosted by the Salt Spring Community Market Society in Centennial Park. 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Paint Swatch Poetry. Workshop led by Gillian McConnell explores the relationship between words and colours through writing and collage. Salt Spring Gallery 6 to 9 p.m. Info/register: saltspringgallery.fine.art@gmail.com.
Japanese Canadian Memory Projects: Rebuilding the Community and Recognizing Our Responsibilities Today. Presentation by SFU communications professor Kirsten Emiko McAllister at the Salt Spring library program room. 7 p.m. In conjunction with Kayla Isomura's The Suitcase Project exhibition in the same space.
Trivia Tuesday. At Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

Wed. June 28

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: Sue Cogan and Sue Newman. All Saints church. 2:10 p.m., followed by optional tea and treats.
John Herbert. With a musical guest on the lower deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.

Wed. June 28

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Doug and His Buds. Tree House. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Music Bingo. See last Wednesday's listing.

ONLINE

Home Water Management Webinar. A Transition Salt Spring event titled Future-proof Your Home With Water Management: Save \$\$\$ Money and Improve Resiliency By Harnessing Your Water Resources. Led by Erinanne Harper and Morgan Fraser. 7 p.m. Register at tinyurl.com/water-management

CINEMA

• **Held over! The Little Mermaid** runs Friday, June 23 to Tuesday, June 27 nightly at 7 p.m., plus a Sunday 3 p.m. matinee. Rated PG. 2 hours, 15 minutes. See thefritz.ca for more movie info.

EXHIBITIONS

- Salt Spring Island Painters Guild members hold their Summer Show at ArtSpring, from Friday, June 23 through July 5, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, with a reception from 1 to 4 p.m. on Friday, June 23.
- Live in Colour is an exhibition of work by Gillian McConnell and a residency at Salt Spring Gallery until July 5, with the gallery open Wednesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, July 2. Meet the artist in the gallery on Saturday, June 24 from 1 to 4 p.m. and see June 27 listings above for workshop details.
- Leslie Corry and Rosalie Matchett's Ingrained Patterns and Pathways is the Showcase Exhibition at Artcraft at Mahon Hall, running daily until July 10.
- The Suitcase Project, a multimedia exhibit by Kayla Isomura, shows in the library program room through June.
- 55th annual Arcraft gallery and shop of work by 100 artisans is on at Mahon Hall daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through the summer months.
- Art Jam at the Laundr-O-Mat is a show of work by Art Jam group members running through June 30.
- Colton Prevost shows wildlife photography in the ArtSpring lobby through June.

RISE

Poisoned drug crisis awareness day
Sunday, June 25
Island Savings parking lot. 12 to 8 pm

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Obituaries


Obituaries

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

Catherine Faulkner
1928 - 2023



My dear friend passed quietly on April 6, 2023 after a brief and peaceful period of letting go of this life.

Catherine was born in Lesmahagow, Scotland in 1928, but she usually said she was from Glasgow. She chose midwifery as a vocation when she was a teenager, emigrated to Canada in the '50s as a Registered Nurse/Midwife, and gratefully took out Canadian citizenship... her only caveat being that as a proud Scot she was somewhat loathe to pledge loyalty to the throne of England!

Catherine lived variously in Windsor ON, Edmonton AB, and Vancouver BC but when she discovered Salt Spring Island she knew she'd found her forever home. She was a nurse on staff at Lady Minto Hospital for many years, but also had a lifelong love of live theatre. After her retirement, she was able to devote copious hours of her time to the Salt Spring Players and many other societies - Theatre BC, Voice of Women, SS Seniors' Society, SS United Church, the SPCA, as an original volunteer at ArtSpring, and also as an original volunteer at Meadowbrook.

While she lived independently until she was in her eighties, she happily gave up the burdens and chores of that lifestyle to live in Meadowbrook, then Braehaven, until she began to require more assistance and last year moved to Greenwood.

I am eternally grateful to the staff of all three residences (and also the Extended Care Unit) for their patience, kindness, and understanding. They all took the time to get to know Catherine, learned to appreciate her acerbic wit and intelligence, and became good friends to both Catherine and myself.

A gathering to remember my friend is arranged for Monday, June 26, 2023 at 2 pm in the Salt Spring United Church hall. I look forward to renewing our mutual friendships. *(Dawn Luker)*



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Coming Events

2023 SUMMER ART SHOW & SALE!
Presented by Salt Spring Island Painters Guild Location: Artspring Gallery - 100 Jackson Avenue, Salt Spring Island OPENING RECEPTION: Friday, June 23rd, 1pm to 4pm You are invited to come, enjoy a nibble, a drink and meet the artists. Open Daily: June 23rd to July 5th, 10am to 4pm

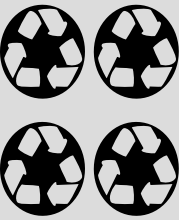
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THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CENTRAL COMMUNITY HALL SOCIETY

Wednesday
June 21, 2023 at
7:00 pm in the lower hall at 901 North End Road.
Public welcome.

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If I had a flower for every time I thought of you, I could walk in my garden forever.
- ALFRED LORD TENNYSON

HOROSCOPE

WEEK OF JUNE 18 TO 24, 2023
THE LUCKIEST SIGNS THIS WEEK:
LEO, VIRGO AND LIBRA

- ARIES** One of your children may be worried about losing their friends this summer. You may need to devote more of your attention to them and take time off work. An elderly relative may also need your help.
- TAURUS** If you're planning a holiday or long drive, make sure you also give yourself plenty of time at home to rest. A good friend will keep you on the phone for hours.
- GEMINI** You may have to claim a refund or price adjustment after a transaction. You'll register for a short training course this summer, which will benefit your career.
- CANCER** Your family and friends need you. You'll have no choice but to devote yourself to them. Fortunately, they'll show you their appreciation and gratitude.
- LEO** You'll dedicate the next few weeks to a new professional or personal project. You'll surround yourself with inspiring people that will help you make your dream come true.
- VIRGO** Your energy levels will fluctuate wildly this week. You'll receive good news about the health of someone close to you. You'll throw together a last-minute party to celebrate.
- LIBRA** You'll feel short on time this week. You must improve your organizational skills to complete everything you have planned. You'll attend a last-minute party that will be a lot of fun.
- SCORPIO** If you're looking for a job, someone close to you will steer you toward a surprising career. You'll be involved in a fascinating project, possibly involving travel or starting a business.
- SAGITTARIUS** You'll make time to go on a holiday this summer if only to relax. You have the tools you need to start your own business. You'll also have the support of several professionals.
- CAPRICORN** It's time to restore peace and bury the hatchet if you've been in conflict. You'll find ways to settle a debt or renovate a property.
- AQUARIUS** You'll be involved in an important negotiation or transaction that's been dragging on and on. Rather than fearing change, embrace it; it can only benefit you.
- PISCES** You'll be the focal point this week, much to your surprise. You'll be congratulated for your selfless actions, even if it's just for listening to someone.

HAPPY Canada DAY

Please note that the Gulf Islands Driftwood office will be closed on Friday, June 30 - Canada Day statutory holiday - and will reopen 9am - 4pm on Monday, July 3.

Advertising deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood Wednesday July 5 edition will be Wednesday, June 28, noon

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driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com • www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Send us your PET PHOTOS!

Send your favourite pet photo along with their name, to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com by July 5th for publication in a special feature on pets! We'll choose the best ones for publication in **All About Pets** coming in July 12th.



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ISLAND LIFE



PHOTO BY SOPHIA VOM BAUER JACKSON
LIBRARY THANKS: From left, Jean Elder, Rosalind Hope, Melynda Okulitch, Rita Archer and Lynn Blanche – who together have almost 100 years of volunteering – were among those honoured Sunday, June 11 as the Salt Spring Island Public Library held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Brunch at the Salt Spring Island Sailing Club. This year the library celebrated the work of volunteers with over 15 years of service – and several with more than 25 – with an award made at the library's FabLab. Over 20 years: Cora McCrea (31), Sheila McEachern (29), Garth Hendren (27), Melynda Okulitch (22), Rosalind Hope (20) and Rita Archer (20). Over 15 years: Pat Anderson (18), Nancy Verhoeven (18), Susan MacLeod (17), Audrey Denton (17), Lynn Blanche (16), Richard Magnusson (15), Bobbi Ruckle (15) and Jean Elder (15).

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TRANSITION SALT SPRING

Water webinar shares ideas

Ways to save and manage home owners' water resources

SUBMITTED BY TRANSITION SALT SPRING



ERINANNE HARPER

As concerns about climate change and resource management grow, homeowners continue to seek better ways to future-proof their properties. Recognizing the importance of water management in creating resilient homes, permaculturalist and Transition Salt Spring's Erinanne Harper, along with climate action coach Morgan Fraser, are hosting an upcoming webinar called Future-proof your Home with Water Management: Save \$\$\$ Money and Improve Resiliency by Harnessing Your Water Resources on June 28 at 7 p.m.

This online event will help equip participants with the knowledge and tools needed to make a positive impact by maximizing their limited or underutilized water resources on Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands. Harper, a seasoned practitioner and teacher of permaculture and land stewardship, will lead the discussion alongside Fraser.

According to Harper, "Water management might sound complex to some, but it's actually a very straightforward aspect of increasing resilience to our homes and properties. By understanding and effectively utilizing our water resources, we can save money, improve the quality of life for ourselves and our ecosystems, and contribute to a more sustainable future overall."

During the webinar, Harper will cover many aspects of water management, ranging from rainwater capture in tanks and landscaping that reduces water runoff and stores it in the ground, to reducing water usage with composting toilets and greywater recycling. Attendees will understand the 4 S's of water management (Slow, Sink, Store and Save) and learn about upcoming rainwater harvesting rebates that can help to maximize your savings.

Harper emphasized the importance of

understanding the connection between water and healthy forests, stating, "The best place for water is in the ground because infiltration is vital for creating healthy ecosystems. By exploring the benefits of utilizing ponds and understanding the concept and application of swales and berms, homeowners can enhance their property's water retention capabilities leading to healthier ecosystems, better gardens and reduced fire risk."

Greywater, another crucial aspect of water management, will also be explored during the webinar. Innovative ideas for utilizing greywater will be discussed, along with an overview of the regulations in B.C. and simple legal systems to implement at your home.

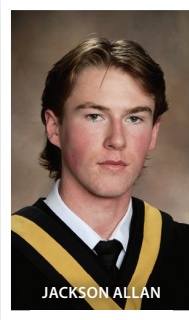
The webinar will also touch on ways to reduce water usage through the use of drought-resistant native plants and the benefits of implementing composting toilets. These practices conserve water and contribute to your home's overall sustainability and FireSmart rating.

Harper is eager to share her expertise, saying, "I have been practising and teaching permaculture and land stewardship on Salt Spring Island for two decades and am so grateful for the wisdom of this approach. I feel people are thirsty for new ideas and ready to take action now that the signs and pressures of change are so much stronger now than when I started on this path. By empowering homeowners to manage their water resources effectively, we can create a more resilient future for our properties and communities on the island."

Don't miss this opportunity to revolutionize your home's water management and contribute to a more sustainable future. Join Harper and Fraser on June 28 at 7 p.m. for an evening of enlightenment and practical insights.

Tickets for the event are free or pay-what-you-can, ensuring accessibility for all participants, and pre-registration is required. Register at tinyurl.com/water-management.

Driftwood GULF ISLANDS BURSARY WINNER



JACKSON ALLAN

BARBARA RICHARDS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is awarded to a student who is selected on the basis of an essay describing why the community newspaper is important to the community it serves. The award is named for Barbara Richards, who with husband Frank, published the Driftwood newspaper from 1967 until 1979. A woman of strong principles, she had a profound influence on her family, members of which continue to publish the newspaper today.

Congratulations, Jackson!
The following are excerpts from your winning essay.

"The heartbeat of a community lies within the pages of its local newspaper. Serving as a lifeline that informs people of what's happening where they live, local newspapers keep the pulse of a community alive, delivering the news and capturing the essence of the place we call home."

"I firmly believe that it serves a great purpose, connecting residents of the island and fostering a sense of unity and shared understanding of our home ... In the face of news sources inundating us constantly through the internet (fake or otherwise) the value of local news in today's fast-paced world is increasingly significant. From covering local government decisions to our school events, sports games and performances, the newspaper

ensures that Salt Springers stay informed and engaged with the events that shape our lives. We see our friends' and neighbours' faces in the features..."

"Providing space for opinion pieces and letters to the editor – and the fabulous cartoon of Dennis Parker – the Driftwood encourages dialogue, and healthy conversations will only cause us to become better individuals and a better community as a whole."

"By keeping us informed and connected, the Driftwood is more than a mere source of news – it endures as a reminder that, even as the world changes around us, there will always be a place for local voices and stories that bring us closer together."

National Indigenous Peoples Day

JUNE 21



Galiano hosts Coast Salish wedding ceremony

Traditions shared

The following is part of a larger piece written by Gitksan artist Shar Wilson, AKA Wiihluun, whose daughter Jaren was married on Galiano Island on June 10. The whole piece can be read at gulfislands-driftwood.com.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped, participated, attended and made space for our daughter's wedding. Her ceremony was beautiful and was the first Coast Salish wedding ceremony to be performed on Galiano since the arrival of the settlers.

I want to take this time to also thank my cultural advisor, my daughter-in-law, Cecilia Wilson. She was married in a similar fashion and helped me with the ceremony. I will explain the ceremony to you.

The wedding arbour was built by the bride's brother, Rob Wilson. It was set up to face the East to represent the new journey of the couple. The sun rises in the East and since time immemorial we have learned that Grandfather Sun will always rise in the east to give us a new day. We do not expect tomorrow but we live for the present day.

The number four is significant to Indigenous peoples. Four represents the four medicines of Cedar, Sage, Tobacco and Sweetgrass. It also represents the four colours of the human race: Red, Black, Yellow and White. Four represents the four directions of East, South, West and North. We also have four cherished main elements of Water, Fire, Air and Earth. Within us, we have four chambers in our hearts, we have four sections in our brains, and we have four parts in our bodies. You will often see four figures in art created by our Ancestors. This is why four is important to us.

Traditionally, the family Elders and Grandparents led the wedding ceremony. As this was the first time the ceremony was being performed, we chose to use family that knew the significance of the parts of the ceremony. While my father was there, he was torn about the ceremony as God was not present. He went to residential school and he was forced to fear God and the bible. However, he agreed to witness the wedding ceremony with his Ancestral blanket on. I thank him for this as his blanket represents his Ancestors.

We began the ceremony by the laying of four Cedar boughs, each had to be laid in a

specific way. Cedar has been a part of Indigenous life and culture for time immemorial and we still work with it today. The next thing was the laying of the four blankets that represent our Ancestors and all the four elements mentioned above. We asked the bride's Auntie Eva Wilson and Uncle Lindsey Wilson to walk the couple onto the blanket from the East. Once they were on the blanket, a Cedar crown was placed on the groom's head. One would have been placed on the bride's head but Jaren chose to have her Cedar crown woven in with her hair. The Cedar crowns represented the union of thoughts for the couple. Each have their own minds but as a couple joined in the eyes of our Ancestors, they must now have joined thoughts that will bring them through their life together in a strengthened and unified way.

Secondly, a cedar rope, woven by me, Mother of the Bride, was placed around the couple. The rope signifies the encircling of the couple by tying the Cedar and making them as one. The joining of the rope was very significant to me as I learned a lot by weaving the rope. The rope and Jaren's Cedar crown was made with Cedar from our Gitksan territory. As I was weaving the rope that morning, I marvelled at the beauty and strength of the Cedar. I also thought about our Ancestors and how they used Cedar in every aspect of their lives, including clothing, shelter, harvesting and adorning their lives. I was also able to see weak spots coming up so I wove in extra Cedar for those times.

"Ooh, I see!" I exclaimed as the lessons came to me from Ancestors. I was able to make the rope as long as I wanted as I had prepared enough Cedar to keep going. "Ooh, I see!" At a few points I lost my focus and the rope began to unravel. I had inadvertently changed the direction of my weaving, having one of the two strands going one way while the other maintained the course. I had to go back to the point where everything was right and begin again. "Ooh, I see!" The final weave was the biggest test of the rope and for me. I had to let it go. I had to see if the rope would stay wound up and it did. "Ooh, I see." So many lessons from weaving this Cedar rope for my daughter's wedding.



PHOTO BY JESSICA KIRKWOOD

Jaren and Reid Pirie with a blanket, cedar crowns and cedar rope at their traditional Coast Salish wedding held on Galiano Island on June 10.

The next thing that happened was a blanket was placed around my daughter, Jaren, and her new husband, Reid. The blanket represents all her Ancestors and all of those present. As they stood on the four Cedar boughs, the four blankets, I asked them to acknowledge the faces of everyone there and know that everyone had made space for them in that moment. Those beautiful humans who were present are represented by the additional Cedar in the rope that was used to strengthen the weak spots. So, while they are two, they are not alone, they are strengthened by all of those present. Finally, Auntie Eva and Uncle Lindsey were once again asked to take the hands of the couple and walk them off of the Cedar boughs and blankets to their future. They begin their journey as one.

My husband Bob and I want to thank you all again. We also want to acknowledge our Ancestors and all the fours in our lives. We are in our busy time now, so stay safe, be present always. As my grandmother taught me, "Walk softly, be aware, be careful, be mindful." Hamiyaa! **Hands raised.**



JUNE 21 IS NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY.

This is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. The Canadian Constitution recognizes these three groups as Aboriginal peoples, also known as Indigenous peoples.

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A Community of Learners

National Indigenous Peoples Day
June 21, 2023

