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GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday,
Oct. 4, 2023

63rd year
Issue 40
\$1.50

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PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

AN OCEAN OF ORANGE: Gulf Islands School District 64's (SD64) Indigenous child and youth care worker Cheryl Ruff, left, and SD64 Indigenous Education principal Shannon Johnston, right, flank Gulf Islands Secondary School students during a school-wide march through Ganges, recognizing Saturday's National Day for Truth and Reconciliation two days early Thursday, Sept. 28 – most wearing orange shirts designed by artist and educator Quentin Harris.

BC FERRIES

Gun threat cancels FAC meeting

Abusive Sunshine Coast incident affects Salt Spring ferry meeting

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The first meeting of Salt Spring Island's Ferry Advisory Committee (FAC) since April was cancelled with little warning last week, after ferry officials reported they faced abuse and threats at similar meetings elsewhere.

BC Ferries issued a notice cancelling — technically "postponing" — the typically biannual meeting abruptly on Thursday, Sept. 28, saying the move had been made on advice of the company's corporate security personnel.

"This change is due to aggressive comments made, and behaviours exhibited, at some recent public events," read the notice. "These instances have raised security concerns for our team and contravene BC Ferries' zero tolerance policy for abusive behaviour."

BC Ferries added: "Over the past several months, our team members have noted

a rise in aggressive, threatening and abusive behaviour while out in the community, including the keying of vehicles, shouting, foul language and a disrespect for personal space."

The company said it would "be back in-person as soon as possible with fulsome safety and security plans to support our staff at these events," although BC Ferries did not respond to questions about what measures, if any, would be needed on Salt Spring Island before FAC meetings could resume.

Salt Spring FAC chair Harold Swierenga said simmering tensions came to a head at the Southern Sunshine Coast FAC meeting the previous week, where one member of the public said they would "take a gun to everyone" if changes weren't made by BC Ferries.

"There's no reference whatsoever to Salt Spring, or any issues we've had," said Swie-

renga. "None of it happened here, but we're caught under the same response."

Swierenga said he believed BC Ferries would have "some kind of protocol" within the coming weeks, and that the company was consulting with all the regional FAC chairs to find a way forward. Salt Spring's FAC decided as a group not to switch to an online format at the last minute, as other FACs had considered, believing that an in-person meeting within a week or two was a better option. As well, said Swierenga, matters on their agenda weren't "immediately critical," although he regretted having to put off several people who wanted to appear before the committee.

"It's too bad that this has even come up," said Swierenga. "I mean, we've had some meetings here where there have been strong words, but nothing like this. I've never run across this kind of thing before."



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PHILATELY

New Fulford Post Office cancel 'hard at work'

Design includes Indigenous names

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring philatelists had reason to celebrate last week, as a new pictorial cancel stamp for the Fulford Post Office entered service,

according to postmaster Andrea LeBorgne.

A "cancel" is an inked stamp, used over postage to indicate the value has been used, and typically will show the date a letter or parcel was mailed and the post office where it was processed. LeBorgne said after several months of working on content and design, Fulford's new cancel was "hard at work" in

the south-end post office next to the Rock Salt Restaurant — and just in time for the third National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

LeBorgne noticed back in January that "2023" was the last year on the date wheel for the Fulford Post Office's cancel stamp — meaning there was plenty of time to work on a new one.

"I was thrilled when Robert Bateman agreed to contribute a sketch for the project," said LeBorgne. "His artful line drawing reflects the natural beauty of the harbour and Mount Maxwell."

WENÁ'NEC and HWUNÉ'NUTS, the SENCÓFEN and Hul'q'umi'num place names for Fulford Harbour, are included on the stamp, as a reminder of the First Nations traditional use of the island.

"This was the perfect time to freshen the look and make a new image specific to the Fulford Post Office," said LeBorgne. "Creating awareness about the Indigenous place names can hopefully become a conversation starter, and



PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

Fulford Post Office's new pictorial cancel, featuring artwork by islander Robert Bateman, entered service at the end of September.

a learning opportunity."

Locals on Salt Spring can look for the new image on items originating from the Fulford Post Office, and can mail letters and parcels Monday to Friday, from 10 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 5 p.m.

To receive a pictorial cancel for

collecting, according to Canada Post, anyone can mail envelopes or covers, stamped with return postage, inside a stamped envelope to the Fulford Post Office, 101 Morningside Rd.

Address the envelope to the attention of the postmaster.

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TRAFFIC SAFETY

Drivers, riders should expect enforcement on Ganges speed

RCMP actively 'raising awareness' of new 30 km/h zone

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Despite arriving several weeks later than planned, new traffic signs designating lower speeds

through Ganges village still managed to catch a few drivers and riders by surprise. The island's newest 30 km/h zone went into effect Tuesday, Sept. 26, and local police say they plan to keep an eye out for speeders.

Crews on contract with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) erected the new signs at least partly due to a long advocacy process, most

recently spearheaded by Salt Spring's new Local Community Commission (LCC), and were originally set to be in place before the end of August. The slower speeds now begin on Fulford-Ganges Road at Seaview Ave — next to Embe Bakery — and end at the north side of town, approximately 100 metres past the intersection with Rainbow Road.

RCMP have been making their presence known since the new signs went up, although most reports indicate police have been focusing on education rather than immediately penalizing drivers caught by surprise. Salt Spring RCMP Detachment Commander Sgt. Clive Seabrook said police believe the new lower speed limit will help keep everyone safer, in what he characterized as a "very busy area" in terms of foot and bicycle traffic.

Drivers can expect a continued RCMP presence for some time, he added, particularly in places where drivers — and riders — may not have noticed the change. "To raise awareness of this reduction in speed, Salt Spring RCMP will be conducting speed enforcement in this area over the next couple of weeks," said Seabrook, "to monitor how things are going."

MoTI has said the move to slower speeds through Ganges is just the beginning of work here, all part of a wider public safety and transportation improvement effort on Salt Spring Island.

As the provincial ministry with authority over Fulford-Ganges Road, setting the road's new slower speed was ultimately MoTI's decision.

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HAPPY Thanksgiving

Please note that the **Gulf Islands Driftwood office** will be closed on **Monday, October 9 - Thanksgiving** and will reopen 9am - 4pm on **Tuesday, October 10.**

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NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS

Water toll rate hike proposed

Five-year financial plan and 2024 budget details set to be shared at Oct. 5 open house

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Most customers within Salt Spring Island's largest water district won't see any increase in their parcel tax base rate this year, according to district officials, who offered a preview of 2024 that included what might be the region's only pause in tax hikes.

But water users will still likely face an increase in per-gallon rates and capital surcharges, according to North Salt Spring Waterworks District's (NSSWD) financial officer Tammy Lannan, who presented a draft 2024 budget and five-year plan to trustees at their regular meeting held Thursday, Sept. 28.

In preparation for the new water treatment plant for Maxwell Lake, she said, customers will again see a capital construction surcharge for the second of four years — a phased-in schedule that cost \$90 this year, and will come in at \$200 in 2024 and \$300 in 2025.

That surcharge is predicted to rise to \$400 in 2026, although the last phased-in amount could change as detailed design plans for the Maxwell plant are completed later this year. The surcharge is expected to fund the long-term debt

incurred by the plant, currently budgeted at \$10 million.

And for water tolls, the NSSWD board is considering a 10 per cent increase in water rates for 2024 — although Lannan said she expects that to only result in an 8.5 per cent increase in revenue because of the "elastic response" the district noticed over the summer — i.e. customers choosing to use less water when per-gallon costs rise.

"I think we're now starting to get in line with the rest of the districts, and with the reality of how much it costs to provide water."

TAMMY LANNAN
NSSWD financial officer

There will also need to be more toll rate increases in upcoming years, Lannan said, admitting rate hikes in the five-year plan were "aggressive" but necessary.

"We need to save for the long-term debt," said Lannan. "There have been many years where either the rates were not increased at all, or were only increased one or two per cent. That was just never getting us to a place where we actually have a healthy reserve after

paying long-term debt."

The draft plan envisions an eight per cent toll increase in 2025, and another five per cent in 2026.

"I'm hoping in 2027 we can get to a consistent two per cent [annually]," said Lannan. "We were the cheapest district forever. I think we're now starting to get in line with the rest of the districts, and with the reality of how much it costs to provide water."

Notably, parcel tax rates in 2024 will not increase under the draft budget, other than the final phase-in for premiums to properties with multiple units, and properties classed as commercial or institutional. Bare lots, single-family dwellings, farms and stratas will not see a base rate increase in the current budget plan.

A customer impact report suggests most NSSWD customers will notice a relatively small increase in their annual water tolls — less than \$7 per month for about 70 per cent of households, according to the report, if their current usage remains the same.

"Our single family dwellings, bare land, farms and stratas are mostly going to notice that \$110 increase for the long-term debt from Maxwell," said Lannan.

The draft budget will be presented to ratepayers at an open house event at Community Gospel Chapel on Thursday, Oct. 5 from 3 to 6 p.m. The budget can also be viewed on the district's northsaltspringwaterworks.ca website.

Ask the Expert



Q: How can I get financing as a new business?

Expert: Trysh Turgeon,
Business Banking Expert—Ganges

A: Roughly half of all failed small businesses each year fail due to a lack of funds. As a small business owner, you have options to start, grow or rebuild your business by finding the appropriate sources of funding.

Your own pocket

If you can, it makes sense to bet on yourself first. One of the biggest benefits is optics. Any potential investor will want to see your willingness to invest as well, which, in turn, will elevate their confidence in your business.

Financial institution loans

A loan from a bank or credit union is the most common avenue taken by entrepreneurs. While the bank is interested in backing great business ideas, they're more interested in backing great business plans. Before you meet with your financial institution, be sure your business plan is solid.

Government grants (GGs)

Governments typically prefer investing in a company that will create more jobs, and by extension, more taxpayers. When you apply for a government grant you should demonstrate how you're planning to meet their interests and strengthen the economy.

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NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT

NOTICE TO RATEPAYERS OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE:

2024 Budget, 5-Year Financial Plan and Updated Strategic Plan

The North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) is pleased to announce we will be holding a public open house on:

October 5, 2023
3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

We will be sharing with residents the Draft 2024 Budget, 5-Year Financial Plan along with the updated Board Strategic Plan.

Please join us on October 5, 2023, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the SSI Community Gospel Chapel (147 Vesuvius Bay Road).

HAVE YOUR SAY



ALR Land Exclusion/Inclusion Application
Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) application to exclude 12 hectares of land from the ALR with a corresponding inclusion of 12 hectares on an adjacent property
Subject Property Addresses: 206 Narvaez Bay Road
Parcel Identifier Numbers: 004-521-889, 015-692-205
Application: SA-ALR-2023.1 (Hall)

COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING
SATURNA ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

What is the purpose of the Public Hearing?

The purpose of this public hearing is to consider a request by the property owner to exclude 12 hectares of property on Narvaez Bay Road from the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), with a corresponding ALR inclusion of 12 hectares on an adjacent property, as shown in the map below and as identified in the Land Capability for Agriculture Assessment Report found under professional reports at: [Saturna Island Current Application webpage](#)

In accordance with the *Agricultural Land Commission Act*, exclusion applications may only be submitted by government agencies including for land they do not own that is located within their jurisdiction. The public hearing is required as part of the regulatory process and is intended to provide the public with an opportunity to speak to the application prior to the Saturna Island Local Trust Committee considering formal application submission to the Agricultural Land Commission on behalf of the property owner.

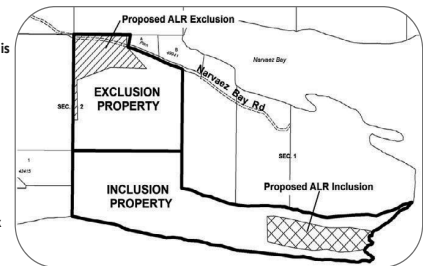
How do I get more information?

Copies of the application, the Public Hearing Binder and other information on the application is available on the [Saturna Island Current Application webpage](#) and, at the Islands Trust office at 200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8R 1H8 from the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays, after October 5, 2023.

A Community Information Meeting (CIM) will be held prior to the Public Hearing and will provide the opportunity for members of the public to ask questions about the proposed ALR exclusion/inclusion.

Submissions

Prior to the Public Hearing: Written submissions will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., October 18, 2023, by Email: vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca, or Mail or Drop Off: Islands Trust, 200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8R 1H8
At the Public Hearing: Only written submissions presented at the Public Hearing will be accepted until the close of the Public Hearing. Written comments made in response to this notice will be available for public review.



<p>Community Information Meeting and Public Hearing Thurs., October 19, 2023 at 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Saturna Recreation and Cultural Centre 104 Harris Road Saturna Island, BC</p>	<p>Who should attend? Anyone affected by the proposed application.</p>	<p>Enquiries? Brad Smith Island Planner bsmith@islandstrust.bc.ca 778-679-5185</p>
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OPINION

2022 CCNA Awards
Gold - Best Editorial Page | Gold - Outstanding Community Service | Silver - Best Front Page
Silver - Best Local Editorial (Gail Sjuberg) | Silver - Best Local Cartoon (Dennis Parker)
2022 BCYNA Awards
Silver - Best All Round (for circulation Category C)
Silver - Community Service Award



Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

Tony Richards, MANAGING DIRECTOR


Nancy Johnson
PUBLISHER
nancy.johnson@gulfislandsdriftwood.com


Gail Sjuberg
MANAGING EDITOR
gail.sjuberg@gulfislandsdriftwood.com


Ingrid Koivukangas
ART DIRECTOR | PRODUCTION MANAGER
ingrid.koivukangas@gulfislandsdriftwood.com


Sky Marcano
ACCOUNT MANAGER
sky.marcano@gulfislandsdriftwood.com


Derek Capitaine
OFFICE MANAGER
driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com


Cindy Jacobsen
OFFICE ASSISTANT
driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com


Robb Magley
REPORTER
robb.magley@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

EDITORIAL

Braking good

Old habits die hard. We will not claim to be immune from our own time-honored habits, and freely admit to stepping pretty hard on the brakes all week as we came around the corner into Ganges from the south, and — oh, right! — spotted the new 30 km/h signs. It was already a good idea to slow down before the signs were there, but now we're better reminded.

Long-time island drivers will recall how long it took Salt Spring to get used to the idea of a four-way stop at Central; even today, it might be argued, many of us aren't quite there yet. But it's proven to be a solid safety measure, the kind increasingly necessary as there are more drivers, more riders and even more pedestrians on island roads. That's part of what change looks like; sometimes, like at the four-way stop, it's a matter of taking a moment to look around before proceeding as usual. And sometimes it just looks like slowing down.

THE ISSUE: New Ganges speed limit

WE SAY: Just one slice of safety pie

In Ganges, that slow-down means fewer of the seemingly inevitable conflicts between motorists and pedestrians will be fatal; DriveBC estimated pedestrian crash survivability rates at 50 km/h at just 20 per cent, versus 90 per cent at 30 km/h. That's no small change, and a good one.

But in terms of "things we can do to make Ganges safer," this feels like the absolute least we can do. Changing a sign should be the low-hanging fruit of safety improvements, and that it took years to get the change approved and implemented signals that perhaps we should make our own changes.

We can reduce traffic by sharing more rides, making fewer vehicle trips and hopping on the bus more often — all without provincial approval. Drivers can improve pedestrian safety by slowing down and keeping their eyes peeled for those on foot, even without a sign mandating it. And those on foot can keep their own heads up as well, and both pedestrians and cyclists can ensure they are visible with lights and reflective clothing at night. No increases to budget proposals are required for those kind of changes.

Slower speed limit signs in Ganges are a welcome addition. But achieving long-lasting transportation safety might not lie with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure as much as in changing our own habits.



Portlock progress lauded

BY SUSAN GORDON

Re: "Park groups aim to collaborate," (Driftwood, Sept. 27), I am thrilled about the collaborative multisport group resulting from the initial CRD proposal offering three options for reconfiguring Portlock Park.

I have unofficially dubbed the collective of passionate baseball dads, soccer coaches, runners, walkers and pickleball players the Salt Spring Multisport Coalition. Hopefully, it will become a permanent part of this community.

A huge "thank you" to Local Community Commission (LCC) member Ben Corno, who took the time to confer with a small group of Portlock enthusiasts as we chatted outside the Lions Hall after the LCC town hall held on Aug. 31. After acknowledging the concerns of various sports representatives, Ben offered to help coordinate future meetings among the interested parties and act as a liaison between park users and the Capital Regional District.

As of this week, the newly formed cooperative has created a fourth proposal based on each faction listening and learning from the others. While needing to work with compromises on the 9.5-acre plot that is Portlock Park, it is possible to satisfy each sport involved with its use.

This optimal situation happens when a community pulls together, and we all strive to understand the differences and common denominators that unite a broad-based population.

As it turns out, the mothers and fathers of young team players on this island have many concerns beyond developing successful athletes. With-

VIEWPOINT

out the offerings of organized sports for kids beyond age 12 on this island, parents are worried about the number of youth gravitating to "alternatives" that include a draw to the drug culture and the pathway of substance abuse addiction that plagues far too many people in the community. As someone who has previously devoted considerable attention to the issue of youth at risk and the prevention of the abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, I cannot stress enough that we need to pay much more attention to this subject than is currently expressed anywhere in Canada.

For seniors and those who enjoy a brisk walk without hills, Portlock is the only safe place on Salt Spring to do so. For those who run, an oval track is imperative for safety reasons and distance-specific training. Providing options for all sports at the facility is critical to developing island youth, allowing kids to find their preferred activity. While playing on a team is perfect for some children, others may find their talent in track and field events.

I want to give a big shout-out to the coaches, both current and future, who chose to take the time to become National Canadian Coaching Program trained and certified, devoting endless hours and interest in the delivery of programs via the long-term athlete development protocols that allow kids to discover their likes and talents through play without pressure.

We can do this, Salt Spring!

The writer is coach of the Salt Spring Sneakers running club.

241 Fulford-Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2K7 | PH: 250-537-9933
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OFFICE HOURS: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday to Friday
SUBSCRIPTION RATES PER YEAR:
Print Edition: \$65 | Digital Edition with Print Edition: \$85.00 | Elsewhere in Canada *\$115.00
Foreign: \$248.00 | Digital Edition: \$45.00 anywhere | Prices include GST

Driftwood logo and funding information: Funded by the Government of Canada, Canada logo, Community Newspaper Association logo, CMCA AUDITED logo.

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you like the new 30 km/h Ganges speed limit? Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you regularly use Portlock Park? YES 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

Make a Will Week

This week — Oct. 1 to 7 — is Make a Will Week in British Columbia. The provincial government designates the week to encourage everyone to write their will or update an existing one.

Estate planning brings peace of mind for Salt Springers. It's freeing to know loved ones, and community and place will benefit after they've passed. When writing or updating your will, consider including the Salt Spring Island Foundation as one of your beneficiaries. Contact me at our office: shannon@ssfoundation.ca or 250-537-8305. Or visit ssfoundation.ca/leave-a-legacy/.

- Explore ways to support causes you care about through a gift in your will.
- Partner with us to optimize the generosity of your legacy.
- Learn how to be tax-efficient in your estate-giving.

Did you know that retirement funds can be the most heavily taxed assets you own? By designating the Salt Spring Island Foundation as the beneficiary of your RRSP or RRIF fund, you can retain ownership in your lifetime. When these assets transfer to your estate on your passing, your estate will receive a tax receipt for the remaining value of the plan, effectively also removing probate fees. The remaining funds in the plan will be transferred to the foundation for charitable purposes in the Salt Spring

Island community through your remaining registered retirement savings.

Did you know that you can leave a planned gift in your will to the Community Endowment Fund or your own Named Fund at the Salt Spring Island Foundation and to one of its cause funds, such as the Land Protection Fund or the Indigenous Priorities Fund?

We encourage potential donors to consult with their legal or tax advisor before finalizing gifts to the Salt Spring Island Foundation. Bequests are one of the largest ways the Salt Spring Island Foundation grows.

SHANNON COWAN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
SALT SPRING ISLAND FOUNDATION

Sandwich boards should be okay

The other day I noticed that some of the sandwich board signs were missing from the side of the road at Central near Portlock Park.

These unobtrusive little signs let people coming to Salt Spring off the Vesuvius ferry let people know where to go for what and when on the island.

I asked a local merchant whose sign had gone missing what happened to it. He told me he's been told by the Capital Regional District (CRD) to remove his sign. He said he

had asked why and no one could explain it to him.

I think it is terribly short sighted of the CRD. Businesses rely on signs like these and visitors to survive.

The sandwich boards do no harm. They don't obstruct a driver's view of the intersection. There appears to be no reason for this other than a small-minded meanness.

GREG MIDDLETON,
SALT SPRING

Maasai gratitude

Last December Andrea Palframan and myself began a fundraiser to drill a well in Kimana, a small village deep in the heart of Maasai territory in Tanzania.

Thanks to about 65 generous people, most locals, the well was finally drilled this past July, and now 300 Maasai and their cattle have clean drinking water close to their home.

Last year when I was invited to visit the boma (home) of my friend Lalakwa, I was struck by the lack of water. Due to climate catastrophe, encroaching maize farms and more and more lands being reserved for tourist-driven parklands, the nomadic life of the Maasai is being threatened. My friends and their cattle in Kimana were drinking dirty water from a rainfed lake that dried up earlier and earlier every year.

I decided to return to Tanzania to purchase spices from the island of Zanzibar and sell them to raise funds for the well. Within 1.5 months, almost \$10,000 was raised. But this wasn't enough, and this year, the rains fell even less than usual. The community had multiple meetings to discuss how and when they could get water soon. They sold enough cattle to raise the remaining \$6,500 needed, and the well was drilled and cattle trough and tank built.

There are many positive outcomes of the simple gift of good clean water. One is that the girls who would spend a large part of their day collecting water from as far away as 10 kilometres can now attend school instead. They will have fewer water-borne diseases, and water won't be as scarce, so they can grow more food and raise more cattle (which is their main source of food and economy).

I am still collecting funds for maintenance of the equipment, to repay the Maasai for the cattle they had to sell, and for a generator. If you would like to donate, you can e-transfer to: singmeanimage@yahoo.ca.

I want to say thank you to all the kind people who gave. Ashe naleng (Maa for thank you very much).

MELANIE FURMAN,
SALT SPRING

MORE OPINION continued on 6

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"We've had some meetings here where there have been strong words, but nothing like this. I've never run across this kind of thing before."

SSIFAC CHAIR HAROLD SWERENGA, ON CANCELLED PUBLIC BC FERRIES MEETINGS

Cheesecake champion returns to prior form with fall fair victory

Those of you who follow the international cheesecake circuit closely will know that several years ago I suffered a significant defeat and retired, a broken man, from the cutthroat world of competitive puddings to lick my wounds. And my fingers . . .

Well, no more. I am back! My cheesecake emerged triumphant, like a Novak Djokovic of the Clogged Arteries, to take the top prize in this year's Fall Fair cheesecake contest AND the overall best dessert trophy. A whole trophy, no less. With my name on it! And awarded by the Harbour House Hotel, who know a thing or two about food if the menu is anything to go by. Haute cuisine doesn't get much hauteur.

Those years in the pudding wilderness, a forlorn and forgotten figure listlessly stirring eggs into cream cheese are behind me now as I stand jubilantly atop the podium, whisk aloft, the newly crowned king of pecan pies, cream puffs and coronary thromboses. Pudding-meister! Cheesecake champion of the world!

Oh, alright, I'm exaggerating, but in a life that has been singularly bereft of triumphs, in fact so singu-

larly bereft of triumphs that I don't recall ever having one, I think I'm entitled to a moment's rhapsody. Furthermore, when the inevitable earthquake strikes and the rest of you are reduced to eating grass and your pet chihuahuas to survive, I will still have a freezer full of cheesecakes, discarded because they were only slightly less than perfect!

But if my cheesecake is the talk of the islands, the fate of my Scotch eggs is best left unrecorded. Third place in a contest of five. Two whole places behind the winner! I'm planning to lodge an appeal with the World Scotch Egg Federation, which will likely be located in Edinburgh, which is ironic because the only thing Scottish about a Scotch egg is the fact that, like most Scottish cuisine, it is deep-fried.

Most Scots detest being called Scotch and it would have been called a Scottish Egg had they invented it. I should know because my dad was as Scottish as a set of bagpipes and would have regarded a Scotch egg as English frippery.

The egg wrapped in sausage meat was in fact invented by the London grocery emporium Fortnum & Mason in the 18th century



Paul McElroy
+ ANOTHER THING

as a convenience food for toffs going on long stagecoach journeys, so they were not obliged on the way to eat the gruesome swill the peasants ate. A bit like Georgian sushi really. Even when I was a lad only the Japanese and posh people ate sushi because we peasants preferred our fish battered and cooked in grease. Only cats and foreigners ate raw fish.

In fact, now that I think about it, even rice was a bit suspicious then. It was all right in a rice pudding but served as a savoury side dish was quite likely un-patriotic, certainly un-English and a capitulation to unnatural foreign influences. I still remember the look on my dad's face when Mum served up rice with some sort of casserole because she'd been to a cookery evening class at

the local tech college. She'd have got a friendlier reaction if she'd served cat litter on the side, but at least it wasn't an obvious vegetable.

Spaghetti came later and was written off as pointless hard work when mashed potato was simpler to spoon up. (It's always been a mystery to me that the Chinese, an impeccably sensible nation who have been doing clever things for thousands of years, should have come up with the chopstick when their diet comprises mostly grains of rice and noodles. You'd have thought that a civilization that was writing stuff down while the rest of the world was banging rocks together could have come up with a spoon.)

Anyway, in his defence, my dad's Glaswegian mum was to cookery what Lucrezia Borgia was to nibbles. I don't think she ever owned more than one pot and if there was an oven in the kitchen it would have been used to store her knitting. Her piece de resistance was a noisome concoction of dead sheep and pearl barley, which fairly glistened with globules of fat. The only reason my dad and his numerous

siblings didn't have scurvy was that my granddad worked on the Glasgow docks and nicked fruit off the boats that he unloaded.

My mum, bless her, tried to introduce my dad to slightly more exotic food. For instance, until they married, he'd never had gravy, which is not exactly haute cuisine, but it was a slow process, like convincing a cat to eat lettuce. In the end, he was eating almost anything, but needed restraining when a restaurant in Cyprus served him fish and chips in which the fish still had its head on. It was a close thing for the Greek waiter because, in those days of EOKA terrorism, he was obliged to carry a gun. I dread to think how he would have reacted to my winning a trophy in a baking contest; the only thing worse would be to have won it for embroidery or flower arranging.

But this year's Fall Fair coup was just the beginning of a renewed and hopefully all-conquering assault on pies, puddings and pastries. And cheesecakes, of course. Always cheesecakes.

paulmcelroy@shaw.ca

Former trustee outlines Bylaw 530 opposition

BY PETER LAMB

As a former Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) local trustee, I am writing to express my continued objection to the latest version of proposed Bylaw 530.

In spite of strong public opposition over the past year or more, our LTC seems intent on moving ahead without proper impact studies or considering much better options for creating truly "affordable housing" here. Yes, the housing needs of island families and workers must be addressed, but proposed Bylaw 530 is certainly not the best way to go.

A much more effective process would directly provide affordable housing through collabora-

tion with the Capital Regional District, BC Housing, and provincial and federal funding sources, including the speculation and vacancy tax. This would provide rental housing units for full-time residents in preferred locations with controlled rents. A good recent example can be seen at Croftonbrook.

Bylaw 530's greatest danger is that it would allow major long-term increases of Salt Spring's population, violating the core purpose of the Islands Trust, which was established to prevent "large subdivisions and over-development," and to preserve the Gulf Islands' natural environment and rural character.

Among objections to proposed

Bylaw 530 raised by many are these:

a) It is an upzoning of nearly all residential properties, immediately raising land values and property taxes, whether or not anything is built.

b) It is not designed to provide genuine affordable housing. Instead it relies on the hope that private owners and developers will do this voluntarily.

c) Astonishingly, the bylaw would not establish any control or management. There would be no housing authority to run the program and verify that all accessory dwellings are affordable and rented long-term, not for tourist stays. "Affordability" — said by the current trustees to be the bylaw's main goal —

never appears in writing.

d) The bylaw would undermine climate action policies to reduce our CO2 emissions, and efforts to save water and woodland as our best safeguards against droughts and floods.

e) The Tsawout First Nation, who have treaty lands on Salt Spring, submitted their objections to the bylaw in letters to the LTC last year and in June this year; there must be a resolution to their concerns.

f) The bylaw would clearly breach the official community plan. As a former local trustee, I worked on and helped to adopt the current OCP in 2008. We were very, very clear about the importance of avoiding zoning changes that "would likely result

in a larger island population than is expected under the development potential zoned in 2008. Exceptions to this policy are to be few and minor and only to achieve affordable housing and other objectives of this Plan."


Conclusion: I believe that Bylaw 530 must be taken off the table until impact studies are done, other approaches are explored, First Nations' concerns are resolved and a consensus reached with the Salt Spring community.

If you agree, please write to our local trustees at ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca.

The writer was a Salt Spring Island local trustee from 2005 to 2008.

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Ambassadors needed for valuable program

BY WILLIAM MACPHERSON

October is Ambassador month for the Salt Spring Mental Wellness Initiative (MWI). More specifically it is the month where we are recruiting Ganges Goodwill Ambassadors.

The MWI has been operating the Ambassadors as a pilot program through the summer. The Ambassador program is about creating a safer village for everyone, not through a "crimewatch" program but through a connectivity program. We are thrilled with the results, and the next steps are clear: we need more community members to don the green vests with the signature hearts and "we care" embroidered proudly on each vest.

INDEPTH

The Ambassador Program is the first phase of the Mental Wellness Initiative's plan for peer support expansion. Phase two is securing funding for and creating a professional outreach peer support worker program. Having both volunteer and professional outreach workers is a concrete step that we can take as a community to support community members in their mental health.

The volunteer and professional outreach, combined with our Volunteer Counselling Program (where health practitioners can donate 10 sessions a year to people who wouldn't otherwise be able to access these services), creates a framework that enables an under-resourced rural community to take care of its own people, and work towards a community of wellness where everyone feels like they belong.

Salt Spring RCMP detachment commander Clive Seabrook is an Ambassador program community partner and a huge supporter. He sees the value of people walking around Ganges to connect, support and spread goodwill as synergistic with the role of the RCMP. The Chamber of Commerce is another community partner, helping us connect into the businesses, because they need to feel supported too. The last partner is the Community Health Society, whose members have been providing community mental health trainings to assist community members build their outreach skill sets.

Ambassador volunteers receive training and are asked to commit to two hours a week. Volunteers work with another ambassador so you will be part of a team. Ambassadors will also be invited to a frontline workers support circle. This is where we can get the support we need to continue in our roles in the best way.

I believe we need this program to become a permanent feature of our community.

Who am I and why do I think this? My name is William MacPherson, and I am a full-time outreach worker at Community Services. I am the only adult outreach worker you'll see in town, working with the insecurely housed, as well as anyone in distress. I know that

compassionate care is the way we make our town safer, because I'm out there doing it every day. And for the most part I'm alone out there. You can email me at willieonsaltspring@gmail.com if you're interested in learning more!

You may see the Ambassador posters around town with a "we need you!" message. We don't use these words lightly. To make the Ambassador Program sustainable we need more committed volunteers. The ones we have are awesome! But we need more volunteers to ensure success.

How to Donate

Please also consider making a donation to the Mental Wellness Initiative. As we await word on funding applications, the MWI is at a vulnerable stage. Donations from the community will lessen our dependence on grants, provide a secure future for the initiative and, of course, strengthen our grant applications by demonstrating community support.

Now is a great time to donate as your donation will be matched by an Angel Funder. Donors who contribute \$20 or more will receive a charitable tax receipt.

If you, or someone you know, wishes to give to the Mental Wellness Initiative please consider donating in one of these ways:

- Cash - contact David Norget (davidnorget@gmail.com) or Martha Taylor (marthatailor02@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@saltspring-communityhealth.ca.

• Online - CanadaHelps.org - search for Salt Spring Community Health Society. Please specify "SSHAN - Mental Wellness Initiative."

The Mental Wellness Initiative is in service to wellness potential and embodies a community-wide engagement vs. problem-solving approach. Instead of focusing on solving individual problems, we endeavour to recognize these as symptoms and get to the root cause.

The Mental Wellness Initiative thanks past and present sponsors: the Salt Spring Foundation, CRD grants-in-aid and Island Health community wellness grants.

Capital Regional District



Committee Membership Opportunity

Magic Lake Estates Water and Sewer Committee

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 2339, real property owners or residents in the Magic Lake Estates Water and Sewer Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner or resident who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2024.

Total membership on the committee is seven (7), including the Electoral Area Director and six (6) real property owners or residents who are prepared to represent the Local Service Area.

Nominations are being accepted for the following vacancies:

- ▶ One (1) residents or property owners of the Magic Lake Estates **Water** Local Service Area
- ▶ Two (2) residents or property owners of the Magic Lake Estates **Water and Sewer** Local Service Area

Nomination Instructions: when submitting your nomination, clearly print the Committee name in the subject line, your full name, telephone number and residential address, along with the nominee's full name, telephone number, residential address and the service you are nominating for.

New appointments to the Magic Lake Estates Water and Sewer Committee will be made by the CRD Board based on the Electoral Area Director's recommendation.

The deadline for nominations is **Monday, October 30, 2023.**

Mail or email your submission to:

Attention: Electoral Area Director, Southern Gulf Islands
479 Island Highway, Victoria BC, V9B 1H7
Email: iwsadministration@crd.bc.ca

Bylaw No. 2339 is available for viewing at:
www.crd.bc.ca/magiclake-ws



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LIVE MUSIC

Kaeshammer excites with concert and food



PHOTO BY TINA ACKE

Acclaimed pianist, vocalist and songwriter Michael Kaeshammer, who always thrills an ArtSpring audience and will perform next Wednesday, Oct. 11 as part of the ArtSpring Presents season.

New album for acclaimed artist, plus unique cooking show

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
FOR ARTSPRING

Popular Victoria-based piano musician, vocalist and songwriter Michael Kaeshammer returns to ArtSpring Wednesday, Oct. 11 with advance singles from his 15th album entitled *Turn It Up*, to be released in the spring of 2024.

Turn It Up is among four new songs released this year, including his take on Queen's *Crazy Little Thing Called Love*, *Never Knew What Love Was* and *My Valentine*. For this multi-Juno-nominated

artist whose career has been highlighted by nine tours of China, three appearances at the Olympics and collaborations with international superstars, German-born Kaeshammer remains attached to the Victoria area where he grew up and got his start.

As a professional performer, Kaeshammer developed a style that weaves threads of classical, jazz, blues, boogie-woogie, stride and even pop into a signature and sought-after sonic tapestry. One of those early threads was co-writing sessions with Salt Spring's past resident rocker Randy Bachman.

Bachman was also the first guest on Kaeshammer's *Kitchen*, a new cooking show venture that premiered this summer. Inspired

by being on the road and often getting late-night food that is not the best, Kaeshammer invites musicians he has worked with to share the kitchen, recipes, and conversations about food and music.

In the first episode, Kaeshammer and Bachman rock a recipe for ragu before performing a rendition of *Takin' Care of Business* together. Kaeshammer's *Kitchen* is broadcast nationwide Saturdays on Yes TV and CHEK.

Tickets for next Wednesday's concert are available online and at the box office, including youth tickets for \$5 and ArtSpring's new Theatre Angel Program, which puts 20 tickets on sale one week prior to a performance for only \$15 each in person or by phone.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Penhale named Stagecoach artistic director

Theatre school celebrates 25 years in community

BY JEN MACLELLAN
FOR STAGECOACH THEATRE SCHOOL

For 25 years, Stagecoach Theatre School has been offering courses in the performing arts for youth on Salt Spring Island.

Community members have filled ArtSpring to watch the year-end productions in support of their families and friends. The school is an island "institution" that has had the extreme privilege of drawing the best teachers, volunteers and board members anyone could hope for, and this year marks the beginning of a new generation.

In 2017, Christina Penhale joined Stagecoach as a teacher. This year, the board is thrilled to announce that she has accepted the position of artistic director.

Penhale describes returning to Stagecoach as "a full-circle moment."

"I volunteered at the school as a high school student, doing make-up for many shows in the early 2000s. At the time, I remember wishing there had been a program like it when I was younger."

Penhale said she is thankful for the dedication and tireless hours that those before her put in to ensure Stagecoach continues to provide opportunities for youth.

For several years Penhale worked side by side with Adina Hildebrandt, who stepped down earlier this year. She recognizes that as she moves into the artistic director position "it is a very different climate and world" than when she first began working with the school.

"Youth need places where they can connect, where they feel belonging, where they feel they have a voice and that their voice is heard, respected and valued. When I think about it we all need this right now in the post-plague-that-shall-not-be-named world. For me the theatre was and is that place. A place like no other, where the audience and performers alike can have a collective



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

New Stagecoach Theatre School artistic director Christina Penhale, left in front, with the cast of Stagecoach's most recent production, *Robyn Hood: Outlaw Princess*, and past artistic director Adina Hildebrandt at right.

lived experience in real time. Where we can live vicariously through the characters on the stage and develop compassion, a new perspective or just consider for a moment what things might be like for someone that maybe doesn't share the same opinions or priorities that we do."

As Stagecoach enters its next phase, Penhale has a number of ideas to meet our island's changing needs and celebrate its future. Sue Newman has also returned, offering dance classes under the Stagecoach umbrella. They will be adding workshops for stage fighting, film acting, audition preparation and more with the assistance of experienced local professionals. She promises an announcement soon regarding the anniversary festivities, to which the entire community will be invited.

Penhale's passion for theatre is obvious to

anyone who knows her. She is already known for *exitStageLeft*, *SOSSI* (Shakespeare on SSI) and her launch of the Salt Spring Youth New Creatives Festival this summer. This year she has made a deeper commitment to focus her attention on further education for island youth.

Penhale refers to something said by Bill English of the San Francisco Playhouse: "Theatre is like a gym for empathy. We practise caring," and adds herself: "Theatre education and theatre literacy for everyone is so important, we can encourage an appreciation and interest from the start. So whether we actively participate on the stage or behind the scenes, we can go and see a piece of theatre and practise caring. We look forward to working with and witnessing the incredibly talented youth on this island. It is a privilege."

Love Bomb ArtSpring Presents 25th Anniversary

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250.537.2102

Michael Kaeshammer Turn It Up ArtSpring Presents 25th Anniversary

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LIVE THEATRE

Powerful musical tackles human sex trafficking

Award-winning production at ArtSpring next Friday

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
FOR ARTSPRING

It seems an unlikely combination that a rock concert within a play driven by solving a mystery also takes an intimate and emotionally brave look at human sex trafficking, an issue that impacts lives in Canada and around the world.

That, however, is the exactly the powerful, engaging experience audiences can expect from Love Bomb, the award-winning theatre production hailing from Vancouver showing at ArtSpring on Friday, Oct. 13.

The story follows a mother who, in search of her missing teenage daughter, comes across a new YouTube singer/songwriter, Justine, whose hit song Missing the Point hits a little too close to home. Convinced the lyrics are about her daughter, she tracks the singer down to the seedy venue



PHOTO BY PINK MONKEY STUDIOS

Sara Vickruck performs in Love Bomb, a Shameless Hussy Productions musical play that won Ovation Awards for Outstanding Production, Small Ensemble and Outstanding Lead Performance - Female.

where the performer is about to play to confront her. By convincing Justine to play through her whole set, clues are pieced together about what likely happened to her daughter.

While the characters are fictional, a majority of the content is pulled from real life cases. The writer, Meghan Gardener, put in a meticulous research effort, working with police and Crown prosecutors to create the most realistic version of events she could. Many of the circumstances in the play mirror what victims went through in the landmark Regina vs. Moazami case, which resulted in B.C.'s first sex trafficking conviction in 2015. Eleven of the 22 teenage and young women victims bravely came forward to testify, and their testimony is reflected in the play's dialogue.

Love bombing refers to the controlling and manipulative tactic most often used by predators, pimps and even domestic abusers. They seek to obtain quick affection and attention with their targets, develop intimacy and dependence, before tearing their victims down or trapping them.

This was certainly the situation in the Moazami case, where he often travelled to smaller communities in B.C., including on Vancouver Island, to seduce vulnerable girls away from their families and take them back to Vancouver to perform sex work. According to director Reneé Iaci, he bought them puppies, then threatened to harm the puppies if they did not perform.

Due to the importance of the subject matter in the play, there is always a talk-back session at the end of each show to provide an opportunity for local resources people related to sexual exploitation, abuse and human trafficking to share information and awareness on the topic.

In 2015, Love Bomb producers were approached by RCMP to partner up in bringing the show and talk back to over 60 communities

in B.C., Alberta and Saskatchewan as a unique and innovative crime prevention and awareness tool.

"Anyone who works in outreach or law enforcement understands that getting the message out is one step, but ensuring the message is actually received is a challenge, especially considering the content," explains Iaci. "The unique, and dare I say, entertaining medium of the play and its 10 original songs has proven its success in touching and emotionally connecting with audiences who have young people in their lives, or are the young people themselves, engaging them to ask questions and better equip themselves against recruitment and grooming."

According to the United Nations and other sources, human trafficking, including sex trafficking, is now second only to the drug trade worldwide.

Tickets are available online and at the box office, including youth tickets for \$5 and ArtSpring's new Theatre Angel Program, which puts 20 tickets on sale one week prior to a performance for only \$15 each, in person or by phone.

what's on this week

Wed. OCT 4

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: Barbara Slater and Kevin Wilkie. All Saints by-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Local Community Commission Office Hours. Meet with commissioners every Wednesday at the CRD office on McPhillips Ave. Ben Corno, 8:30-10:30 a.m.; Brian Webster, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Gayle Baker, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.; Earl Rook, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

SSNAP Artist Talk. With finalist Guntaj Deep Singh, photographer and filmmaker. Mahon Hall. 12 noon.

Bridge. Every Wednesday at the Salt Spring library program room. Bring a partner and enjoy yourself. 12:45 p.m.

Bittancourt Museum. Open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Music Bingo. Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Thur. Oct. 5

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Poetry Open Mic. With feature poet Yvonne Blomer. Library program room. 7 p.m. Sign-up for the open mic starts at 6:45 p.m. One poem per reader, max. 3 minutes. Feature poet reads at 7:30 p.m.

Open Mic. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Craig's Karaoke. At Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 11 p.m.

Sarah Jane Scouten. Mateada Social Club. 8 to 10:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

North Salt Spring Waterworks District Open House. Learn about the 2024 budget and 5-year financial plan. Community Gospel Chapel. 3 to 6 p.m.

Thur. Oct. 5

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring United Soccer Club AGM. Annual general meeting at Portlock Park Portable. 6 p.m. Board members needed.

Bittancourt Museum. Open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fri. Oct. 6

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Karaoke. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt Museum. Open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the last day of the season.

Neighbourhood Story Time. Stories for young ones read by community members or library staff in the library's children's area every Friday from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

ASK Salt Spring. MLA Adam Olsen is the scheduled guest in the new ASK spot in the Transition Salt Spring/Restorative Justice room at SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Youth Games & Chess Club. For ages 9 to 13. Children's area at the library. 1 to 4 p.m.

Sat. Oct. 7

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Gently Down the Stream. Staged reading of play by Martin Sherman. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Love Cats. Legion. 7:30 p.m.

DJ Skywater. Mateada Social Club. 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

ACTIVITIES

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

Sun. Oct. 8

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Blues Jam. Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.

Scott Merrick's LIVE Celebration of Life! Music, speakers, slide show. ArtSpring. 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Mon. Oct. 9

Thanksgiving holiday.

Tue. Oct. 10

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Country Band With Open Mic. Legion. 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.

Unbroken: An Evening With Indigenous Journalist Angela Sterritt. In conversation with Cowichan educator Maiya Modeste. ArtSpring. 7 p.m. And livestreamed through RAVEN website.

Trivia Tuesday. Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Wed. Oct. 11

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

ArtSpring Presents: Michael Kaeshammer – Turn It Up. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

LCC Office Hours. See last Wednesday's listing.

Bridge. See last Wednesday's listing.

Music Bingo. See last Wednesday's listing.

CINEMA

• **Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny** is the movie from Friday, Oct. 6 to Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 7 p.m. with a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. See thefritz.ca for more movie info.

See thefritz.ca for more movie info or phone 250-538-7718.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Salt Spring National Art Prize Finalist Exhibition** runs at Mahon Hall from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Oct. 23.

• **The Parallel Art Show Finalist Exhibition** runs at ArtSpring from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily through Oct. 22.

• **Salt Spring Gallery** features Feast, a gallery members exhibit, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. until Oct. 18.

• **Colour – Paintings by Josephine Fletcher** is the October exhibit in the lobby at ArtSpring.

• **Bill Gardam** shows visual and written works, photographs, paintings, drawings, poems and short essays in the library program room through October.

GENTLY DOWN THE STREAM
Staged reading of acclaimed play
Saturday, Oct. 7
ArtSpring, 7:30 p.m.

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PRESENTATIONS

Unbroken author at Tuesday event

Indigenous journalist Angela Sterritt in conversation with Maiya Modeste

BY ANDREA PALFRAMAN
 FOR RAVEN



ANGELASTERRITT.COM

Angela Sterritt, the author of *Unbroken*, which tackles the topic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirited people and her experiences as a journalist.

becomes a healer.

Bestselling author Tanya Talaga says, "Sterritt's story is living proof of how courageous Indigenous women are. Listen to her voice and hear the sound of the land, hear the sound of our women weeping but also raging — refusing to be neglected or ignored any longer."

Unbroken takes a rigorous and unflinching look at the failures of colonial institu-

tions — from the overt genocidal policies of residential schools, to the neglectful incompetence of the social services ministry, police and those charged to protect women, girls and two-spirit peoples.

But the book does not leave readers there.

Sterritt points to the strength, wisdom and power of survivors, and to a new generation of uncompromising leaders who are demanding that we all do better when it comes to protecting those who are most oppressed, and preventing the violence that must never become "just a set of statistics." Through a broad cast of characters, she reminds us that the human beings at the heart of the MMIWG2S crisis are possessed of solutions, innovations and resiliency that — when they are listened to and centred within the larger story — show a way forward grounded in respect and healing.

Funds from tickets and the sale of books will be generously donated to RAVEN, an organization that raises legal defence funds for Indigenous nations' access to justice.

To get tickets for the Oct. 10 event or join the online presentation go to raven-trust.com/events/angela-sterritt. Tickets are also available through ArtSpring.

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PHILANTHROPY

New 100+ group season gets underway

Linda Adams fills charity's chair role as fifth anniversary marked

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
 FOR 100+ WOMEN WHO CARE

As its annual membership call goes out and deadlines for nominating a cause to support close on Saturday, Oct. 14, Salt Spring's 100+ Women Who Care has reason to celebrate as the charitable collective approaches its fifth anniversary of giving.

It also marks saying goodbye to Janine Fernandes-Hayden, the organization's chair who initiated the chapter in fall of 2018.

"Five years ago, a friend and former Salt Spring resident called me up after having attended a meeting of the Oceanside Chapter of 100 Women Who Care and insisted I form one on Salt Spring," said Fernandes-Hayden. "I was so impressed with the high-impact model of philanthropy, I could not let the idea go, and it fell into place very quickly with the right people."

The 100 Women model, which now has over 400 active chapters across North America, was launched in 2006 by Karen Dunigan of Jackson, Mich. as a simple, efficient, and effective collective fundraising model for local chari-

ties. One hundred (or more) women contribute \$100 each and after hearing five-minute presentations from three randomly selected nominees, a vote determines which charity receives the collected pool of funds. The agreement is members must contribute their \$100 even if their charity of choice is not the winner.

Not including the social networking reception, the presentations and results are turned around in an hour. No formal paperwork or reporting is required, however, the winning charity is invited to speak at the next event to share how the funds helped its organization. Nominees are submitted from the 100 Women members, not the charities themselves. Voting events are held three times a year.

The Salt Spring branch launched in September 2018 with modest hopes of attracting 60 women. By the time it hosted its first vote in November, membership had reached 110.

"We were on the trajectory to hit the 200 mark but the arrival of COVID in 2020 put a damper on that," explained Fernandes-Hayden. "We adapted and continued through Zoom meetings, but the in-person social component got compromised. We were very happy when live events and minglers returned and have remained at a strong and consistent number of 170 ever since."

Putting that into perspective, it means in under an hour, 170 women

can raise \$17,000 for a cause in need. In the past five years, 100 Women Who Care have raised over \$228,000 for 14 island charities, ranging from eldercare services, pathways, the public library, the BCSPCA, IWAV, Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre, Salt Spring Search and Rescue, Salt Spring Community Health Society, Salt Spring Early Learning Centre and more.

As Fernandes-Hayden moves on, she looks back on her time as group chair.

"It still surprises me how far we've come, and after five years, it feels really good to leave this work in the capable hands of such a great team, knowing that it has legs to carry on."

Stepping up to fill Fernandes-Hayden's shoes as the new chair is Linda Adams.

"I am so grateful for the inspiring work pioneered by Janine and to have the support of our outstanding steering committee members Kirsten Bolton, Carin Perrins and Perry Ruehlen," said Adams. "Moving forward, I'm hoping even more members can join this wonderful women's group that has had such a positive and immediate impact in our community."

Membership forms are online at 100womensaltspring.org. Any member of 100+ Women Who Care can nominate a CRA-registered charity that has a local impact. Nomination deadline is Oct. 14. Meeting and vote is on Nov. 14 at ArtSpring, with doors opening at 6:30 p.m.

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 at Fulford Harbour

OCTOBER 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
4	0155	0.6	2.0	8	0545	1.1	3.6
	1017	3.2	10.5		1419	3.2	10.5
WE	1449	2.8	9.2	SU	2104	2.4	7.9
ME	1843	3.0	9.8	DI	2257	2.4	7.9
5	0244	0.7	2.3	9	0648	1.2	3.9
	1134	3.2	10.5		1452	3.2	10.5
TH	1711	2.8	9.2	MO	2113	2.3	7.5
JE	1853	2.8	9.2	LU			
6	0338	0.8	2.6	10	0052	2.4	7.9
	1241	3.3	10.8		0742	1.3	4.3
FR				TU	1517	3.1	10.2
VE				MA	2129	2.1	6.9
7	0439	1.0	3.3	11	0213	2.5	8.2
	1336	3.3	10.8		0827	1.4	4.6
SA				WE	1536	3.1	10.2
SA				ME	2146	1.9	6.2

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Obituaries

Sheryl Patricia Paton




We sadly announce the passing of Sheryl Patricia Paton on September 20, 2023, in Christchurch, New Zealand, aged 67 years. She was the beloved daughter of Shirley and Ken Baker, and sister of Rhonda and Myrene.

Sheryl cherished her role as wife to Rick, mother to Sean, Carina, Kenny, Nicola, and Andrew, mother-in-law to Isaac, Rowena, and Craig, and grandmother to Danielle, Joshua, Ella, Chloe, Leif, and Mira.

In lieu of flowers and cards, please share condolences and memories of Sheryl at <https://shorturl.at/suEU6>, where details are also given for a gathering in December for all loved ones.

Obituaries

LEONARD WALBRANK
1935 - 2023



Less "my own accomplishment", died following a short but fierce fight with cancer. I would like to thank Dr. Gossman, Dr. Holly, Jan, Judi and the rest of the health care team.

Rest in peace, my Love.

Recovery

In Memoriam



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In Memoriam

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RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER.

Coming Events

Salt Spring United Soccer Club is holding its **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

6:00 pm on Thursday,
October 5th 2023 at
Portlock Park Portable

All members and people interested in our program are welcome.

Personals



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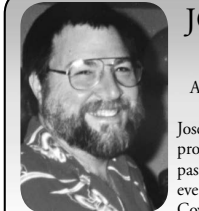
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In Memoriam



In Memoriam

JOSEPH JOHN CLARKE
Aug 20, 1944 – Sept 23, 2023

Joseph John Clarke, a man of profound integrity and wisdom, passed away peacefully on the eve of September 23, 2023, at Cowichan Lodge, where he had been under compassionate care. Born on August 20, 1944, in Vancouver to Jean and Arthur Clarke, he was the eldest of five beloved children.

Joe's inquisitive mind and love for learning were evident from an early age, a trait he carried throughout his life. He pursued education at Magee High School and later at the University of British Columbia, graduating with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in the Class of 1967. Athletics and sports played a significant role in his youth, where he excelled in baseball and rugby, igniting a lifelong passion for sports as both a participant and an avid spectator.

In 1963, fate introduced him to Claudia through friends, and their lively and often challenging adventure together began. They exchanged vows in 1968, establishing a lifelong companionship. In 1976, they made a life-changing decision to move to Salt Spring Island, seeking solace in the island's simplicity and nurturing a close-knit family. Joe wore many hats, embracing various professions, until he founded STONE GATE Hardwood Floors, leaving an indelible mark in countless island homes with his expert craftsmanship alongside his devoted sons.

Joe's dedication to family was unparalleled. He leaves behind his wife Claudia, four children—Ben, Robin (Phil), Josh, and Anna (Chris)—siblings Betsy, Peter (Kathy), Bert (Ellie), and Andrew (Curtis), and his cherished grandchildren Jordann, Jacob, Osha, Emelia, Lily, Ella, and Chloe. Being a Dubda to his grandchildren brought him immeasurable joy and pride. He was a beacon of unwavering support, wisdom, and love for them.

He will be remembered as a man of unshakable loyalty, precise and thoughtful in his actions, endlessly generous, and a true friend to all. Joe's legacy will live on in the hearts of those fortunate enough to have known him.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the staff at Cowichan Lodge for their compassionate care and support during Joe's time there. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Parkinson's Society of Canada in Joseph John Clarke's name, to honor his memory and contribute to the research and care for those facing Parkinson's disease.

A memorial service to celebrate Joe's life will be announced at a later date, allowing family and friends to gather and pay their respects to a remarkable man.



Horoscope

For the Week: October 6, 2023

TIP OF THE WEEK: The march of the near planets entering new signs all occurs this week. Mercury is now in Libra as of October 4th and Venus and Mars enter Virgo and Scorpio on the 8th and 11th respectively. These shifts will prove very noticeable now and over the coming several weeks. Watch for the social and political shifts that will gain even more momentum after next week's Libra New Moon. The chart as a whole indicates the critical thinking meter will rise to a whole new level and people will be seeking accountability and justice.

The Moon this week, therefore, is in its Last Quarter phase bringing the last remnants of whatever remains of summer holding on as long as it can to finally and fully yield to autumn. This will be true in the social and political mood, at least as much as changes in the weather. Watch for examples of people holding on to the past and tradition, perhaps disproportionately to the changing times. That said, how the new social trends will emerge and settle remains a matter of process as various polarized social factions clash in their determination to decipher what constitutes social health, justice and civility.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

A diligent push to pay attention to the finer details continues amidst a need to also give relationship harmony their due. You may feel a little reluctant in this regard yet will make the extra effort for the sake of fairness and to keep the peace. Focus to be a diplomatic power broker. . .

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

Making specific, key improvements in your overall lifestyle is indicated now. This will become even more evident this week and over the next several. Your challenge will be to change yourself and lead by example and not waywardly walk into projecting onto anyone about it.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Libra time is generally full of color and excitement for you. This has likely already proven true. Now, the shift is to deeper matters close to home and/or involving family. Circumstances will push you to be creative and diplomatic in your communications.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

A busy time close to home continues. You may feel stretched to attend to the many fronts requiring your time and attention. Positively, this presents an opportunity to do the rounds and get a lot done. It all comes down to your attitude, focus and strategy.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

Many thoughts, perspectives and ideas in your mind are pushing for attention. This is one of those times when it might prove extra helpful to make list to categorize and objectify them all. This will reveal each in its own light and support you to be a goal-setting superhero!

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

Getting clear on your priorities is a central theme now. It includes knowing where and how and perhaps when to be focused on certain things and to either complete, shelf for now or let go of other objectives altogether. Fortunately, your energy levels and focus are destined to increase soon.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

The Sun in your sign and especially next week's New Moon are serving to activate a whole new resolve to take new initiatives. This can include entering new territory, whether intellectually, emotionally, or physically, or perhaps all three. Use this impulse to advance.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

Libra time is an invitation and opportunity to be super productive behind the scenes. Mars in Libra currently emphasizes this. Yet, with it entering Scorpio, later this week, it will support you to also take powerful new steps externally, as well. Get ready to give more but focus to do so on your terms.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

The time has come to give more emphasis to your sense of individuality. By extension, this does include your friendships or interest groups you are involved with to the fore as well. Your task is to get extra honest with how you feel and either move on or deepen your involvement.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

Your career and/or public life and social status are demanding your full attention. In some respects, it is important to be more empathetic. In other regards, you are wise to increase your scope and degree of diplomacy. Meanwhile, your ambitions will soon rise testing your integrity.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

Seeing a bigger picture and with more confidence regarding how you choose to interpret and be affected by matters is a complex theme now. A philosophical attitude of recognizing that life is a game and 'all the world a stage' implies a soul perspective that will help you to feel at peace.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

Libra time is traditionally a transformational one for you. Whether your engagement leads to an upward spiral or downward is the question. Positively, you are ready to integrate new levels of power. Yet, even a downward spiral can be turned into a victory, as with surrendering cooperatively.

Michael O'Connor, Life Coach Astrologer: sunstarastrlogy.com



PHOTOS COURTESY SALT SPRING LIONS CLUB

DARING TO DROP: Celebrating their participation in the Easter Seals Drop Zone fundraiser on Sept. 19 are, from left, Salt Spring Lions Dropouts team members Ron Patterson, Brent Simpson, Dawn Seymour, Dawn Hadler and Dorothy Christopherson, with Patterson seen high in the sky as he gets ready to descend. The group raised \$7,800 for the Lions Easter Seals program by rappelling 13 stories down the Manulife (CIBC) building in Victoria. The team thanked corporate sponsors Country Grocery, Country Grocer Pharmacy, Windsor Plywood, Mouat's, Brighton Drain Service and Moby's Pub, as well as Dave Carlson at Celebrity Accents for supplying team shirts. Easter Seals helps children and adults with disabilities address life's challenges.

YOUTH SPORTS

Soccer AGM Thursday

Board members needed for new season

BY MALCOLM LEGG
FOR SS UNITED

The Salt Spring United Soccer season is well underway with more than 270 youths and over 125 adults on teams or in programs.

The panic to get teams organized, practices set, fields ready, referees in place and have everything operate properly is over. Most of our youth teams have their new uniforms and the house and tots program kids will get theirs next.

Now we can just enjoy the games unfurl weekend after weekend, as long as weather holds.

Of course there is always housekeeping for the executive and that comes in the form of our annual general meeting (AGM) for the club, a must do for every organization.

The AGM will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 5 at the Portlock Park portable. We will do our election, have a review of the 2022/2023 year and an outline of programs for 2023/2024 by technical director Josip Bratanovic, directors' reports and questions from the floor. We hope to do the whole process in one hour and 15 minutes.

The disappointing news is that Colin Walde is stepping off the board as vice chair due to work commitments. I believe our contingent of hardworking directors will be staying another year, but we are definitely interested in adding new blood.

We have one new candidate possibility but hope there are some other parents or interested people, especially from the younger house teams, who might wish to join the board. We have lots of jobs in the club, many being done by the same people, so if you have a talent and a little time, we can use you. Contact me — Malcolm Legg — at mallegg@shaw.ca for info.

Hope to see a lot of you on Oct. 5.

We are Hiring!
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We are on the lookout for a community-loving, well-organized people person to join us as

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Salt Spring Apple Festival

Photos by Rob Lowrie



Sam Bowen shows one of the largest apples in the display at Fulford Hall at Sunday's Salt Spring Apple Festival – a Red Bietigheimer, a German cooking apple – with Salt festival volunteer John Rowlandson seen behind.



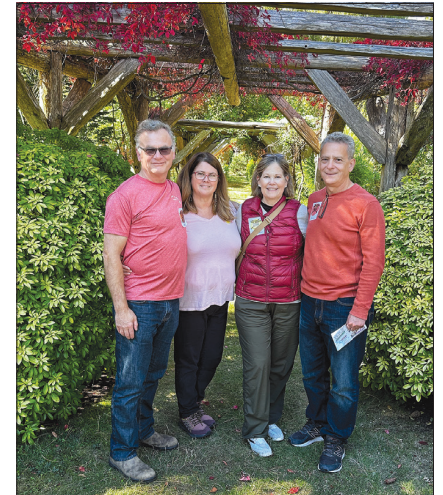
Allison and Noel Ainsley from Nanaimo, who came to the island on their scooters, enjoy apple samples at Apple Luscious Organic Orchard. They said the festival was "amazing."



Salt Spring Apple Company's orchard and grounds provide the perfect spot for a picnic and purchasing of apples and treats.



Huge crowd outside of Fulford Hall, where the legendary apple display and other activities took place.




Enjoying a visit to the Beddis Castle property, which is only open to the public for the apple festival, are, from left, Rob Dodds and Beverley Duthie from Salt Spring, and Heather and Kevin Deibert from Winnipeg.


Declutter your Books & Bling!


Book donations
October 26 to October 29 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Farmers' Institute.

Jewelry donations
Island Savings Collection Bin: 9:30 am to 5 pm daily Salt Spring Literacy office (located in former SIMS building): Monday to Thursday from 12 pm to 4 pm



Your generously donated gently used books, as well as designer, vintage, and costume jewelry suitable for adults, teens and children, will be featured for sale at this popular charity event. Proceeds go to the Salt Spring Literacy Society, which provides free literacy support to children, youth, adults, and seniors. **Thank you for your donations and for making this event another success!**

 Salt Spring Literacy



BOOKS & BLING

Nov. 3 – 5, 2023 • Farmers' Institute

CHARITY

Operation Christmas Child program gets underway on Salt Spring

Shoebboxes for gifts available now at Community Gospel Chapel

BY GAIL NEUMANN
FOR COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHAPEL

Christmas is speeding this way and it's time to start looking for gifts. Why not begin the season with a tangible act of generosity for a child in need?

Operation Christmas Child gives people a chance to buy gifts, and pack them in a shoebox with a personal note just like you might for a child you know.

Community Gospel Chapel, at 147 Vesuvius Bay Rd., in cooperation with Operation Christmas

Child, is a transfer station for the program's gifts. During office hours, which are Mondays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to noon and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., people can pick up shoeboxes and directions for packing, and then return the filled boxes by Nov. 12.

Samaritan's Purse, a world relief organization, will deliver the gift to a special child somewhere around the world. This is a great activity for young and old. Leaders can involve children's groups, to help teach generosity and compassion.

Learn more about the project and get ideas for what to put in the shoeboxes at the samaritans-purse.ca/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/ website. The shoebox can also be purchased and filled online.

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