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 SHIRT DAY IN CANADA.  
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*culture*  
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# Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday,  
 Feb. 28, 2024

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 Issue 9  
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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

**UNDER WATCHFUL EYES:** Steve Martindale, who handles programming and marketing for the Salt Spring Film Festival Society, introduces the Feb. 21 Call Me Dancer film at ArtSpring with an image from one of this weekend's Salt Spring Film Festival offerings appearing behind him. The 24th annual festival at Gulf Islands Secondary School sees an opening gala on Friday night followed by two days of documentary film screenings and the Social Justice Bazaar.

## NSSWD Weir gets surprise windfall

\$10 million included in B.C. budget details

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island's largest water provider received an unexpected but welcome funding boost as the B.C. government announced its budget Thursday, Feb. 22.

Tucked into documents outlining the budget and fiscal plan, and categorized under the province's response to climate emergencies, is \$10 million allocated in 2024/25 to "raise the dam height" at St. Mary Lake, to help the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) in efforts to both increase water storage capacity and better sustain the required environmental water flow through Duck Creek.

"I'd say we were caught off guard a little bit; improvement districts aren't used to getting a lot of things," laughed NSSWD CAO Mark Boysen, who said he was sharing updates with surprised and excited district trustees.

WEIR continued on 2

## HONOURS

# Benson collects Order of Canada medal

Ottawa ceremony held almost five years after first announcement

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Susan Benson was named a Member of the Order of Canada (OC) in June of 2019 for her contributions to Canadian theatre as a set and costume designer.

But due to an interruption in the normal OC induction schedule caused by the Covid pandemic, it wasn't until last week that the Salt Spring Island resident was able to receive her medal from Governor General of Canada Mary Simon. That took place during a Feb. 22 ceremony honouring 60 inductees at historic Rideau Hall in Ottawa.

"Susan Benson's infinite scope of imagination has dazzled theatre audiences worldwide," states Governor General of Canada

OC material. "The celebrated designs of this leading set and costume designer have been featured, remounted and recreated by major theatre, dance and opera companies around the world. Following her illustrious 35-year career with the Stratford Festival, she became a devoted teacher and mentor to the next generation of designers in the Canadian theatre community. In retirement on Salt Spring Island, she has renewed her passion for painting and successfully exhibits her inspiring artwork."

"Over my 50-year career I have been lucky to receive many awards and to have many notable experiences in Canadian theatre and international theatre," said Benson. "But

receiving the Order of Canada has been a high point. I am so grateful to my Salt Spring friends who encouraged and persuaded me to get over my reluctance to travel."

The ceremony was held in the Rideau Hall ballroom, and a tour of Rideau Hall, which houses a collection of Canadian art and a library containing editions of all Governor-General's Literary Award-winning books, was part of the events. Each OC winner also received a specially designed cover as part of the award, Benson said.

Inductees came from a broad range of fields.

BENSON continued on 2

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RCMP

# Man rearrested

## Weapons charges come after release, alleged assault

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF  
FROM RCMP MEDIA RELEASE

A man who was released after being charged in January with assault and possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose on Salt Spring faces additional charges after violating conditions of his release three weeks later.

According to an RCMP media release, on Jan. 22, Tyler Steven Jackson, 40, was involved in a fight with another man while under the influence of alcohol and while possessing a knife. He was arrested for a variety of offences, including assault and possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, and then released on conditions that he not consume alcohol, possess knives or be on Salt

Spring Island.

On Feb. 15, Salt Spring RCMP said they received a report that the same man was back on Salt Spring Island, contrary to his release conditions. Officers located Jackson and arrested him for failing to comply with the conditions of an undertaking, specifically not to consume alcohol, not to be intoxicated in a public place, and not to be on Salt Spring Island. A search incidental to his arrest resulted in the seizure of a knife contrary to a probation order from a previous assault conviction. He was held in police custody and transferred to the Duncan RCMP detachment with a court appearance scheduled for Feb. 27.

Crown counsel have since approved charges of assault with a weapon, possessing a weapon for a dangerous purpose, failing to comply with a probation order and failing to comply with an undertaking.



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

A watering restrictions sign indicating 'Stage 4,' during drought conditions last summer by North Salt Spring Waterworks District. Officials hope the injection of \$10 million in provincial dollars will help with plans to increase water supply resilience in the face of a changing climate.

# Climate change response needed

## WEIR

continued from 1

"But of course the province has been aware of St. Mary Lake for years; we work with them on all aspects of our water licences. And we have had discussions with them in the recent past, when we've had urgent drought conditions."

The new dollars — part of \$234 million laid out province-wide over the next two years specifically for such infrastructure projects — wasn't the result of a funding request, according to Boysen.

"Over the last year, we've been building our relationships with the province," said Boysen, "clarifying our priorities and what our key projects are. This will definitely help."

Boysen said the St. Mary Lake project has been planned as an upgrade to the existing weir — which may include an adjustable component, so that during a large rain event when the lake

is already full, the level could be lowered to improve flow and better manage what is held in the winter.

NSSWD's examination of climate change data — part of its own recent storage investigations during an ongoing "moratorium roadmap" project — has suggested changing rainfall patterns will necessitate finding capacity solutions.

"With the way the climate predictions are for the next 50 years, we actually are going to have to take steps just to maintain our current supply," said Boysen. "The St. Mary Lake weir upgrade project will provide improved water storage and greater resiliency to current and projected climate impacts on our system."

NSSWD will be working out funding details with the province in the next few weeks, he said, and would be engaging with residents in the coming months as they develop designs and timelines for the upgrade.

Capital Regional District



## Notice of Review

### 2024 Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel

Notice is hereby given of the annual sitting of the Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel, pursuant to Sections 204 and 205 of the Community Charter.

**Date:** Wednesday, March 13, 2024

**Place:** CRD Headquarters, Room 652, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC

The panel will consider any complaints respecting the parcel tax roll and authenticate the roll in accordance with legislation for the following services:

- ▶ South Galiano Island Fire Protection & Emergency Response Service
- ▶ North Galiano Island Fire Protection & Emergency Response Service
- ▶ Sticks Allison Water Service (Galiano Island)
- ▶ Small Craft Harbour Facilities (Southern Gulf Islands)
- ▶ Fernwood Dock Small Craft Harbour Facilities (Salt Spring Island)
- ▶ Fernwood Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- ▶ Ganges Sewerage Service (Salt Spring Island)
- ▶ Highland Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- ▶ Highland and Fernwood Water Service
- ▶ Beddis Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- ▶ Fullford Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- ▶ Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Service
- ▶ Cedar Lane Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- ▶ Magic Lake Estates Water Service (Pender Island)
- ▶ Magic Lake Estates Sewer Service (Pender Island)
- ▶ Magic Lake Estates Sewer Debt Service (Pender Island)
- ▶ Maliview Sewer Service (Salt Spring Island)
- ▶ Lyall Harbour/Boot Cove Water Service (Saturna Island)
- ▶ Surfside Park Estates Water Service (Mayne Island)
- ▶ Skana Water Service (Mayne Island)
- ▶ Gossip Island Electric Power Supply Service

The Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel will hear only those complaints or appeals filed in writing with the undersigned at least 48 hours in advance of its sitting.

Commencing February 28, 2024, a copy of the complete roll will be available for inspection at:

- ▶ the Capital Regional District, 625 Fisgard Street., Victoria BC, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday
- ▶ the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area Office, #108-121 McPhillips Avenue., Ganges BC, from 9 am to 4 pm, Monday to Thursday

Dated at Victoria, British Columbia, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024.

Nelson Chan, Chief Financial Officer  
Capital Regional District

# OC event an awards 'high point'



PHOTO BY SGT ANIS ASSAR/OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

Stopping for a photo at the Feb. 22 Order of Canada induction ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa are, from left, Salt Spring's Adrian Wright, friend of inductee Susan Benson of Salt Spring Island; Whit Fraser, current viceregal consort of Canada; Benson; and Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada.

## BENSON

continued from 1

"Many were from the medical profession involved in different aspects of health care and research," said Benson, "and then there was James Cameron, the director of *Titanic*, as well as a composer of opera, a painter, musicians and philanthropists. I was especially proud of the women nominated, including the first woman pilot hired by Air Canada who also was the first woman to pilot a jumbo jet — Judy Cameron."

"This experience is one which I will not forget and it would make anyone proud to be a Canadian," she said.

Benson was nominated for the Order of Canada honour by Donald Stuart, a fellow member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts. It was supported by Karen Kain, a former prima ballerina and artistic director emerita of the National Ballet of Canada;

Veronica Tennant, the filmmaker, director and former principal dancer of the National Ballet of Canada; and Martha Henry, the acclaimed actor, director and 57-year veteran of the Stratford Festival.

Since retiring to Salt Spring Island in 2014 with husband Michael Whitfield, the renowned theatre lighting designer, Benson has shown mostly new artwork in both solo and group exhibitions. A few of those were *Upstage Centre: Susan Benson – 50 Years of Theatre Design*, held in conjunction with *Portrait of an Island* as the Easter Art Show in 2018; *Collaborations*, shown at ArtSpring in the fall of 2020; and a Shakespeare-inspired Artcraft Showcase exhibit called "*We Are Such Stuff As Dreams Are Made On*" in summer of 2022.

Known for teaching and promoting young theatre designers throughout her long career, Benson has continued to support local emerging artists with the Susan Benson Fund for Visual Artists, established in 2022 and administered through Salt Spring Arts.

## CRIME

# Family's fraud experience prompts warning

Level of personal knowledge was "chilling"

BY GAIL S. JUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

While scams that involve a phone call from a distressed relative claiming to need money due to an accident, robbery or being arrested are nothing new, a Salt Spring woman wants to warn others of the sophistication of a scam that recently victimized her family.

The woman's mother first took the phone call from a person claiming to be her son and a Salt Spring RCMP officer, but the woman was also convinced she was talking to her brother and an RCMP member. Both said the brother had re-entered a vehicle where a child was injured and he was going to be charged with "reckless endangerment," which was later threatened

to be "manslaughter" because the child had reportedly died. The whole episode covered a span of about four and a half hours, and only ended when the real brother/son walked in the door, clearly unharmed. By then the sum of \$2,000 "for bail" had been sent to the scammers via e-transfer.

"It left both my mother and I reeling," the woman said.

She said the scammers had obviously done their research about the family, down to knowing the nickname her brother calls her when they are working together.

"That's the really chilling part."

Salt Spring RCMP Sgt. Clive Seabrook confirmed that an investigation into the incident is ongoing and as such he cannot comment further on the specifics of the case.

However, he added, "I can say that a variety of frauds occur here and around the province every day, frauds that are only limited by the perpetrator's imagination."

Seabrook said it is not uncommon

for a person to receive a phone call from somebody claiming to be a family member who is in some kind of distress.

**"I can say that a variety of frauds occur here and around the province every day, frauds that are only limited by the perpetrator's imagination."**

SGT. CLIVE SEABROOK  
Salt Spring RCMP

For example, the scammer pretends to be a grandson who needs money sent immediately because they've been arrested, robbed or in an accident.

"The problem with this is that the

caller really isn't the relative that they claim to be and your money is going to the scammer," said Seabrook. "Often, all the information the scammer needs to pull off the scam is provided on social media or simply by the victim themselves."

Seabrook said this particular scam has evolved over the years "and become even far more sophisticated. The voice used in the phone call may be altered to sound real. This can be accomplished using digital manipulation, likely with the help of artificial intelligence."

The woman said her mother did challenge the caller about their identity, but the voice really did sound like her brother under stress.

Seabrook has some specific advice to help people avoid becoming a fraud victim.

**Automatically be suspicious of:**

- Anyone asking for money, or gift cards;
- be extra suspicious if the money is requested through a wire (which are difficult to track

and almost impossible to recover);

- also, an increasingly common tactic, if the money is requested to be sent through a cryptocurrency ATM (which is also extremely difficult to recover).

**To avoid being a victim:**

- Ask for the name of who is supposedly speaking rather than offer it.

- Do not be afraid to make calls of your own. Verify identities or whereabouts of the caller with other family members, even if they say "don't tell mom and dad."

- Do not be afraid to say "no" to the caller. You don't need to send money immediately.

- Never give your personal, banking or credit card information to anyone who calls you over the phone, never send cash/gift cards in the mail and never buy someone cryptocurrency under these circumstances.

March is Fraud Prevention Month in Canada.

## CONTROVERSIES

## LCC members crow online

Commissioners debate on social media while legal fund grows

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The latest casualty in Salt Spring's so-called "rooster war" might well have been propriety, as local officials took to social media seemingly picking sides on a pending legal case well before its day in court.

At a meeting on Feb. 8, the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission (LCC) voted to defer public discussion of a court matter involving several rooster-related noise bylaw infractions at one island property until after it was heard by a judge, most likely in late March.

But just weeks later, as Salt Spring Island Poultry Club members raised funds for rooster owners Alia Eleraj and CJ McNichol outside Country Grocer Saturday, Feb. 25 to reportedly defend against a court challenge from the Capital Regional District (CRD) — some LCC members went online, with one calling out poultry enthusiasts for hyperbole and another warning CRD actions could spell the end of agriculture on the island.

On Saturday, Salt Spring CRD director and LCC member Gary Holman defended the regional district's record on supporting island agriculture and food security, noting \$400,000 in recent grant funding for initiatives ranging from small-scale farm food hub The Root to the new composting facility at the Burgoyne Community Farm.

"This is not a govt [sic] conspiracy," Holman posted online. "There are thousands of acres of underutilized ALR land on SSI where the noise bylaw does not apply, plus thousands of acres of rurally zoned land where the bylaw applies but is never an issue on these larger lots."

Saturday evening, fellow commissioner Brian Webster fired back, writing he felt

since Holman was posting online about the issue, he should too — characterizing noise complaints against roosters as "NIMBYism," and calling them a use of bylaw regulations to "get around" the provincial Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act.

"I have great respect for your efforts over the years on behalf of our island, but you're on the wrong side of history on this one," wrote Webster. "It is an existential threat to agriculture on Salt Spring if half the farms on the island can be prevented from carrying out normal farm practices."

Provincial regulators have weighed in on "normal farm practices" on Salt Spring before. In the last two years, B.C.'s Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) has officially responded to three formal complaints on the island regarding noise from roosters — most recently at the property currently facing legal action.

According to decisions signed by BCFIRB chair Peter Donkers, none of the three poultry operations produced evidence of farm status, describing them as a "hobby or lifestyle preference" and not subject to the provincial Right to Farm Act.

In dismissing the most recent case, Donkers wrote that the respondents described themselves as "running a hobby farm with no significant income generated," and that the complainant "can and should" pursue other remedies, including taking up their noise complaint with local government.

"The protections offered by the FPPA only apply to farm businesses following normal farm practices," read the February 2022 decision. "Where there is no farm business the protections have no application."

Meanwhile, the poultry club reported that a fundraising campaign for Eleraj and McNichol had reached \$12,867 of its \$25,000 goal as of Sunday evening, with \$5,000 donated by the club itself, \$5,864 from a GoFundMe page, \$1,903 from the campaign at Country Grocer and \$100 from a private donation via e-transfer.



### SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION OF TWO (2) TRUSTEES

Notice of the nomination and voting process for Trustees is hereby given to owners of land within the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District.

#### NOMINATION PROCESS:

Nomination forms may be obtained and completed documents returned at the Ganges Fire Hall, 105 Lower Ganges Road between:

**9:00 a.m. Thursday, February 22, 2024 and 4:00 p.m. Thursday, March 7, 2024**

Qualified candidates must be nominated by two qualified electors of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District.

#### TRUSTEE POSITIONS:

The Trustee positions are for a three-year term commencing at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held on Monday, April 29, 2024 and terminating at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held in the year 2027.

#### QUALIFICATIONS FOR VOTING AND NOMINATING:

You are qualified to nominate Trustees and vote as an Elector if you are:

1. A Canadian Citizen
2. Eighteen years of age or older
3. Resident in the Province of British Columbia for at least six months prior to election day
4. A registered owner of land located within the boundaries of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District.
5. One vote is allowed for each Board or Corporation that owns land within the Fire Protection District. That vote may be cast by an agent, designated in writing, by the Board or Corporation.
6. No person may vote more than once with the exception that a properly documented, authorized agent (item 5, above) may vote on behalf of the Board or Corporation and personally as a registered land-owner.

#### TRUSTEE ELECTION PROCESS:

Electors may vote either by mail-in ballot or in person on a voting day.

Mail-in ballots will be sent out on March 26, 2024, and must be received at the Ganges Fire Hall by 4:00 p.m., Thursday, April 25, 2024.

Voting Day will be on Saturday, 27 April.

Advance Voting will be held on Wednesday, 24 April

Voting hours on both days will be from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Ganges Fire Hall, 105 Lower Ganges Road.

Questions on the nominating process and voting as a registered land-owner or documentation required to vote as an agent of a Board or Corporation, may be directed to the Returning Officer.

#### NOTICE OF 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the owners of land within the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, April 29, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ganges Fire Hall, 105 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC and virtually through Microsoft TEAMS (the link will be available on the website).

Dated at Salt Spring Island, B.C. this 21st day of February 2024.

Anthony A. Kennedy, Returning Officer

295 Mountain Park Drive

Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1G3

Phone: 250-537-8815 / Cell: 1-647-284-2900

# 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



## EDITORIAL

# Savings at SIMS

**C**ommunity groups who have settled in to the Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS) are understandably feeling threatened these days.

That's due to recent talk of local government offices being set up there beyond the current PARC office, Capital Regional District (CRD) meeting boardroom and the Salt Spring Island Emergency Program. With the Islands Trust losing its current space in the BC Hydro building this summer, bringing that body into the SIMS fold has also been suggested.

Having the Trust and CRD offices under the same roof has long been on CRD director Gary Holman's wish list. It seems logical for a community to have its local government offices close to each other, although in this age of easy digital communication, staff of those agencies don't need to be physically close to each other. And except for someone in the initial steps of a development or building permit application, proximity of the CRD and Islands Trust office is not important.

Bringing the two bodies together might be a laudable long-term goal, but the Trust's need for space is almost immediate. It's not a viable short-term solution.

One of Holman's arguments for moving the CRD's main and building inspection offices from their current downtown spots to SIMS is that it would "save money," as the CRD would not be paying commercial rents to private Ganges landowners. However, as CRD staff recently pointed out to Salt Spring's Local Community Commission, changing the current use of SIMS comes with some potentially expensive challenges.

The promise of "saving money" just doesn't hold much weight. The CRD pattern is that once funds are freed up, as when the Rainbow Recreation Centre construction debt was paid off (\$171,000 was in the 2020 budget for pool debt charges; \$26,000 in 2021), another use is always found for those funds. In that case, the "savings" allowed for the setting up of SIMS.

Then there's the question of the location itself. Compared to the CRD's highly accessible McPhillips Avenue main office, SIMS is not easy to get to for anyone with mobility challenges.

If people are happy with the primary use of SIMS as a community/recreation centre, and if taxpayers won't really "save" money by using a bigger chunk of it for government offices, is it really worth pursuing at this time?

### THE ISSUE: Use of SIMS

### WE SAY: CRD/Trust arguments don't make sense

## Driftwood

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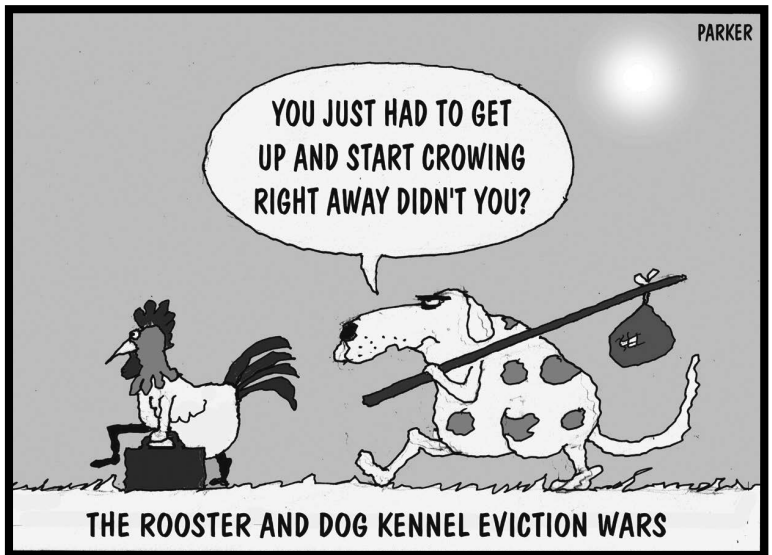
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## 'Unique' governance woes

BY JULIA LUCICH

The Driftwood, of late, has published numerous opinion pieces with much handwringing over the mission statement (or lack thereof) of the Islands Trust. I'll venture to say that whatever that mission statement may be, it will have as much relevance for the civic and social wellbeing of this community as the proverbial arrangement of the deck chairs on the Titanic.

On any given day, in almost any newspaper from any community across the country, there will be an acknowledgement of the "housing crisis." In that regard, Salt Spring is in the same boat. One significant difference, though, is that we lack a governance structure with authority to address it. Every other community of our size has municipal status, enabling coordinated decision-making. That's not to say that those decisions are coherent or prudent . . . only that there is, at least, the possibility for such an outcome.

By contrast, we have a disparate, dysfunctional and dizzying array of autonomous and quasi-autonomous silos (each with its own governing body, letters patent/charter/bylaws/mandate), some of which intersect while others appear to exist in an isolated bubble. By way of example, much of the island is serviced by a checkerboard of "water improvement districts," each of which is mandated to provide potable water to its members. Overlaying this checkerboard is the fire improvement district whose mandate, not surprisingly, is to eradicate the hot stuff . . . which requires access to the wet stuff. One might reasonably expect that pipes of the various water districts would be of sufficient gauge to satisfy the fire service . . . an expectation that presumes

### VIEWPOINT

coordination. Oops. And this is just one example.

A casual peek at our property tax statements offers interesting revelations. In the last decade, our overall property taxes have increased by 67 per cent. For "local services," the changes have ranged from negligible (the hospital) to double (fire district), with the Islands Trust coming in at an increase of 50 per cent and CRD at 72 per cent. While some of these increases may be easily justified (labour costs), some of those same costs may be attributed to redundancies. For argument's sake, how much could be saved through centralized administration as opposed to the current situation where each of these entities necessitates its own budget/administrative staff?

Aside from these obvious, tangible costs, this diffused structure has another, more insidious cost . . . that of undermining and frustrating civic engagement. The old adage that you can't fight city hall becomes even more fraught when you can't even determine with whom to take up the fight. How many of us understand how and with whom to navigate to find answers: do we go to the fire department to get a street number for a new home; to the CRD; to the Islands Trust; to BC Hydro? How many members of young, working families can prioritize the time to attend the assorted meetings of these numerous taxing authorities? How are people with limited transportation expected to attend/participate?

If we really hope to do more than constantly bemoan our problems, perhaps it's time that we abandon our quaint dysfunction and enter the real world.

*The writer is a Salt Spring resident.*

### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you going to catch a film this weekend?

Yes  No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should CRD & Islands Trust offices be set up at SIMS?

68 YES 74 NO

Cast your ballot online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://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

### False narratives

Matt England's response, in last week's Driftwood, to our Feb. 14 article ("Islands Trust 'Runs Rogue' with Object and Policy Statement Moves") barks up the wrong tree, while at the same time unwittingly lending support to our argument.

He ridicules what he seems to believe was our central argument: fear of "rampant development" — a phrase he put in quotes, as one normally does when repeating someone else's words to the letter. Nowhere in our article, however, did we use that phrase.

Our focus was, instead, on the mounting signs that the Islands Trust is both failing at and renegeing on its special "preserve and protect" mandate, which the Trust Act established in the 1970s in efforts to curb what was already apparent back then: unrestrained development that was having a negative impact on the fragile ecology and the rural character of the Gulf Islands. It was in fact the development, at that time, of vacation homes on Pender Island that is often credited as one of the B.C. govern-

ment's motivations in establishing the Trust. So Matt is quite right: that kind of development has been happening for a long time. That it is still happening, in spite of the Trust's existence, proves our point: the Trust has not been doing the job it was mandated to do. And now, claiming it wants to solve a problem (lack of affordable housing) that is neither unique to the islands nor in any way within its purview, the Trust is walking away from its mandate altogether. Creating more accessory dwelling units will not solve that problem and may actually contribute to aggravating it.

The false narrative that a concern for the natural environment is a luxury for the wealthy obscures an inescapable fact: ecosystem health is everyone's business. If we don't sustain the life systems that sustain us, everybody's lives and livelihoods are at risk— especially those of the most vulnerable among us. Plenty of people of limited means understand that perfectly well. It's high time that all of us came to that mind-changing realization.

**LUISA MAFFI AND DAVID RAPPORT,**  
SALT SPRING

### Wisdom of the elders

I'm coming home to Salt Spring now on the Salish Eagle after 10 days in the relatively comfortable city of Vancouver and once again I am awe-struck by this beautiful archipelago, and grateful for the deep wisdom of our elders who wished to preserve and protect it for all time.

I remember when I was a kid in Yellow Point, a rural area on Vancouver Island around 50 miles north of Salt Spring on the shore of the Salish Sea. At that time about 70 years ago, no one thought people would ever be able to beat back the forest, that it was basically endless.

But not many years later, a large percentage of the population started realizing that in fact we were losing vast swaths of ancient forests and ecosystems, and that these losses were caused by our own efforts to turn trees into cash and "develop" the land. Not to denigrate the work of hardy loggers and sharp business people, but by the 1970s, anyone with a window seat flying over B.C. could see

that things were getting out of balance.

And with that realization came an effort to save one of the most beautiful places in the world, our very own Gulf Islands, for the enjoyment and the deep edification of British Columbians and all who come.

So if you've been working too hard and are maybe a little annoyed with life's problems, and you haven't noticed this place for a while, take 10 days in any city you can name, breathe that polluted air, savour those sirens, and then come back to the island. On a nice day, winding through the sparkling waters, it will ease your troubled mind.

Our wise elders wanted to preserve and protect this place so that countless people could experience this, to see how great a place can be... but not for everyone to move in and live here, not to bring the city lifestyle. Because then it wouldn't be here for anyone anymore.

I guess what I'm saying is, let's not mess with the Islands Trust mandate.

**BILL HENDERSON,**  
SALT SPRING

**MORE LETTERS** *continued on 6*

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

**"I'd say we were caught off guard a little bit; improvement districts aren't used to getting a lot of things."**

MARK BOYSEN, NSSWD CAO, ON \$10-MILLION COMMITMENT FROM PROVINCE FOR ST. MARY LAKE WEIR

## Multiple pros and cons mulled in the gristle of laboratory meat

The year was 2013. There are a number of reasons you might remember this particular year. Maybe it was because of tragic events such as the death of Nelson Mandela or the Boston Marathon bombing. Perhaps it was something more upbeat like the birth of Prince George to Prince William and Princess Kate.

What you have probably overlooked is an earth-shattering, history-making occurrence that may indeed reshape the future of humanity. For it was on March 5, 2013, that the first lab-grown burger was cooked and tasted on live television in London, England. That's right; Peter Verstrate and Mark Post, the cofounders of the Dutch cultured meat company Mosa Meat, pioneered a whole new age for food production. Let's ignore, for now, that the burger was constructed from over 20,000 thin strands of muscle tissue, cost more than \$325,000 to develop, and needed two full years to produce (and you think your grocery bill is high and the service is slow). The point is that no longer would farmed livestock be the sole source for that steak sizzling on your barbecue grill. The dawn of cultivated laboratory meat was now upon us.

Much has happened since that historic day when cellular agriculture, or Frankenfood as some detractors refer to it, made its entrance onto the epicurean din-

ner table. In a sense, food scientists have eliminated the cow, pig or chicken from the production of meat and replaced them with test tubes and Petri dishes. Now, we seem to be able to go right from the animal cell to the packaged meat without ever having to go through the actual living animal. Talk about cutting out the middle-man!

Apparently, you can have your meat and eat it too without a stop at the slaughterhouse. Imagine it resembling a high school biology lab class except much larger in scale. Or perhaps, imagine something resembling making homemade yogurt or using sourdough starter.

How is it done? Scientists start with a critical number of animal stem cells which are also known as building block cells. These are bathed in a liquid which is loaded with nutrients that will make the cells grow and duplicate. When the time is right, they are put into a giant bioreactor where they are allowed to replicate. What results is a great number of unstructured muscle and fat cells which are then shaped into familiar meat-like masses that are made to look like steak or chicken nuggets. Soy protein, gelatin and other substances are usually added to this cellular spam to give it a recognizable structure. The process takes between two to eight weeks, depending on what kind of meat



**Shilo Zylbergold**  
**NOBODY ASKED ME BUT**

is being cultivated.

If this trend continues to take off, soon the planet's feed lots and slaughterhouses will be replaced by cultivated meat factories. That old advertising question of "Where's the beef?" will be answered synthetically and meal specials like surf and turf will be replaced by cultured laborghiniburgers, smoked mockeye salmon, shamburgers, hoax beef and lobster bisque. Even now, the industry is growing... well... like microbes in a laboratory, with over 20 new corporations being established in Europe alone. Among these are Dutch-owned Mosa Meat and Meatable, Biotech Foods in Spain, and Israel's Future Meat. Singapore's Eat Just has become the first country in Asia to have sales of cultivated meat approved by its food regulations and is now marketing chicken nuggets that are manufactured in the U.S. by Upside Foods. Although two companies in America have been approved to sell the product, so far none in Canada have followed suit.

Detractors of cellular agriculture argue that cultivated meat supporters can promote the product til the cows come home, but the unnaturalness of what ends up on your plate can only be perceived as disgusting to both meat eaters and vegetarians alike.

Wait a minute, answer the proponents of Frankenfood. Just hold your horses. Cultivated meat is humankind's chance to feed a crowded planet without causing environmental disaster. This is our chance to change the way we eat. This is how we can end hunger and famine. Think about it. Feedlots and slaughterhouses are environmentally unfriendly. Large-scale cattle production leads to mass deforestation and loss of biodiversity. The high volume of methane, a major byproduct of animal husbandry, creates 30 times more greenhouse effect than does carbon dioxide. In addition, the main energy needed for cultivating meat is electricity, which is much preferable to troublesome and stinky methane. Even the production of lab cultivated fish is far superior and economical to fish farming because so much less heat is needed for maximum efficiency.

Wait, there's more. If people are worried about cultured meat being unnatural, how natural is much of the meat that we buy in our supermarkets? Much of conventional meat production comes hand in hand (or should we say

hoof in hoof) with growth hormones, antibiotics, inhumane living conditions, demand for unsustainable amounts of water, and the increased chance of future pandemics caused by the cross-over of viruses and bacteria from livestock to humans. Furthermore, cutting down on the antibiotic treatment of livestock would also lessen the growing crisis of bacteria resistance to antibiotics.

Some claim that the transition of conventional meat production to cultivated meat would not only reduce methane emissions, but also decrease land and water use by 95 per cent. So what's the hold up? Why aren't we all jumping on the Frankenfood bandwagon? After all, many of us have already made the jump to plant-based meat substitutes such as tofu, tempeh, veggie burgers, tofurkey and chickpea cordon bleu. How much of a leap would it be to think outside the soybean and embrace the test tube?

Nobody asked me, but I think I'm still straddling the fence on cellular agriculture. I'm all for saving the earth and protecting the natural environment, but does it really have to be done by eating somebody's science project? If I really wanted to eat something truly disgusting, there are a whole slew of jars filled with indeterminate contents sitting at the back of the bottom shelf of my fridge just waiting for me to chow down.

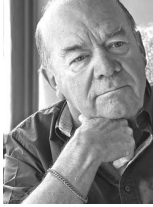
# Reflections on a trip to Mexican tourist-land

Have I mentioned that I just got back from Mexico? I didn't think so. Well, I did, and boy, I have a lot to tell you. I'm pretty sure that most of you have been to Mexico many times and probably have just as many stories as I do, but since I have your attention, there are a few things that maybe you never thought of.

And I was in a part of Mexico that isn't actually in Mexico proper — it's that little rocky, volcanic ridge that hangs down like a tectonic appendix on the Sea of Cortes called the Baja Peninsula. I know, I know, you've all probably been there but I hadn't, so it was all new to me.

For example, I stayed in a condo with a pool that not only wasn't heated, I am sure it was actually refrigerated. Furthermore, I retrieved 27 golf balls from that pool over the course of my stay. The condo was on the fairway of the golf course, which probably explains the reasonable rent. Before I left I went over to the clubhouse and sold the bag of golf balls for \$20 USD. Pretty good, huh? Well, it pays to be paying attention in Mexico.

Before I left, I had no idea what kind of people I would meet down



**Chris Rideout**  
AND THAT WAS WHEN

there. I am not an experienced traveller so I was a little nervous. I needn't have worried. It's fair to say that I met more Canadians in San José del Cabo than I meet at home on an average day. I went for long walks in the afternoon and I devised a silly game. When I encountered a couple walking along I would ask them, out of the blue, what part of Canada they were from. In case you are thinking that it was rude of me, you needn't worry. Because by and large, they were from Vancouver, Kamloops, Calgary and even one guy from Montreal. I figure I put this question to as many as 50 couples and only two were not from Canada. One guy was from Oklahoma, but he quickly said he had visited Canada and really liked it. You see what I mean?

There I was, 2,000 miles from

home seeing licence plates from Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan and one from Nova Scotia. Here I had thought I was going to a place that was exotic, unique and fairly foreign. Instead I found myself in the pool talking about snow in Calgary, the latest Liberal government antics and socialized medical insurance. Just like at home. And what about shopping?

Shopping in Mexico is like shopping at home except all the products are different and all the labels are in Spanish. Luckily I had four years of Latin in high school a hundred years ago so I felt pretty sure of myself. As it turned out, those four years did not help at all. I suppose I could have asked a priest to help me translate, but I just didn't run into one at the supermarket. I realized I would have to just go without Velveeta cheese. I had thought I would get in trouble at customs (you are coming to Mexico with cheese, señor?) so I left it at home.

And another thing while shopping: it turns out that although everyone works in Mexico, not everyone gets paid. Like the hard-working people who pack your shopping bags. At home I am used to not everyone working, but

everyone who is working gets paid. So there is a lot of tipping down here. At first I tipped the packers too much and then I tipped too little and then I just asked the packers how much they wanted. Their answers differed.

I should probably say something about the drivers here. On the other hand, maybe I'd better not.

I will say something about the roads, though. After a few trips on the local roads it becomes clear that they never anticipated Chevy Suburbans or cement trucks. But, hey, that's why we go on holidays to foreign countries, isn't it? To experience new and different cultures and new and different hazardous, potholed and narrow streets. In one instance I was pulled over by a heavily armed person who asked if I spoke Spanish. I still don't know what he said or what I did. I guess it can't have been too serious since, as you can see, I am still here to talk about it.

But wait. The main reason we go south in the winter, or just before the winter, is to avoid the winter. I know that's too many winters in one sentence, but it's true. I suspect that there are a lot of winter lovers reading this and shaking their frost-covered heads. Sorry.

But there is always beauty, isn't there? And in this case it came in a most unexpected place. It was the pelicans. On land, these odd-looking birds look like they should be called "Darwin's Mistake." They have large, ungainly bodies and really weird beaks that droop down almost to the ground. But watch them fishing and you will see an almost transcendental transformation. It becomes clear that they were made to fly, not made to walk.

They make use of a flight phenomenon that's something to do with drag and lift. By skimming inches over the water, pelicans exploit an aerodynamic advantage that is a wonder to see. You could look it up, and so could I and I did when I was down there and I put it in my notebook but I can't find it.

My last memory of my winter-avoiding journey occurred just at sunset. Coming at me over the sand, with the surf crashing behind me, was a formation, a platoon, of pelicans gliding silently over my head, with the blood-red sun sinking into the Pacific, looking like a dream of perfect flight, in a silent salute to all that is wonderful and breathtakingly beautiful in nature. So fine.

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

### Abuse of power

David Rapport and Luisa Maffi should be praised, not ridiculed, for reminding everyone that "ecosystems are in dire straits" (Feb. 14 In Depth piece). Gabriola is on the growing list of islands whose natural environments are in steep decline.

Particularly encouraging was mention of the 1986 definition of "unique amenities"—approved by both Trust Council and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs:

"Special areas such as the most outstanding beaches, the most significant landscapes featuring unusual grasslands and wildflower; areas or attractive open stands of Garry Oak, Arbutus, Douglas Fir; intertidal and subtidal zones, especially rich in a variety of marine life ... ; smaller, attractive sand beaches, promontories providing superior views, and the major bays providing protection for boats ..."

How did Trust Council go from supporting this common-sense interpretation to one covering "issues such as, but not limited to, housing, livelihoods, infrastruc-

ture, and tourism?" How was such a reversal justified? We don't know because the September meeting where it happened was closed to the public and now trustees have lost their tongues.

The legality of holding closed-door meetings was discussed by the Islands Trust Council's Governance Committee on Jan. 19, 2023. That discussion led to this resolution: "By general consent, that chair [Judith] Gedye and CAO [Russ] Hotsenpiller work on the questions to ask regarding a legal opinion on open/closed meetings, workshops and quorum."

While some in-camera meetings may be justified, it is an abuse of power to decide the future of the Gulf Islands in secret. The public needs to see any and all legal opinions relating to this matter.

**ANDREW DEGGAN,**  
GABRIOLA ISLAND

### Leave SIMS for community

Regarding the Feb. 21 "LCC mulls SIMS offices" story, the community has waited a long time to secure a space for community arts and recreation that the Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS) building has made possible.

Classrooms are ideal for arts and recreational activities. It makes sense for the PARC office to be located there given their management of the space for the purposes under the umbrella of PARC.

Whilst I support the Capital Regional District (CRD) and Local Community Commission (LCC) securing office space that is affordable for taxpayers, there are plenty of suitable spaces available for the needs of administration and meetings, as suggested by others.

Any investigations made by the CRD and LCC need to include all potential spaces in the downtown core, not just SIMS. These investigations need to be made public and public consultation needs to be sought. The community groups who are currently occupying rooms at SIMS need to be assured that their spaces are secure and will not be taken from them.

**GILLIAN MCCONNELL,**  
SALT SPRING

### Wolf in sheep's clothing

The following has been submitted to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) and Trust staff.

Bylaw 530 was withdrawn last year by the Salt Spring trustees for good reason: strong public opposition was expressed about its potential effect of almost doubling the allowed housing density on the island.

Now the trustees have pushed Bylaw 537, a slightly revised version of 530, quickly through the three required readings all at one online meeting, behind closed doors, at which no input

from the public was allowed.

They also avoided a formal public hearing. Yes, this is legal by new provincial rules, but only if a housing bylaw does not contravene the official community plan. I believe Bylaw 537 would do exactly that, especially if our trustees expand it, as they say they will, by allowing ad hoc spot zoning for increased numbers of dwellings. This could lead to precisely the result that islanders opposed so vigorously in Bylaw 530: scattered development.

It is worrying that the LTC used new rules to pass a bylaw that was so opposed by the public, and the Tsawout First Nation, in its first appearance. It is necessary for politicians not only to act with honesty and openness but to be perceived to do so. In contrast, this passing of Bylaw 537 was hurried and hidden.

The Islands Trust Act was, and is, intended to "preserve and protect" the islands, not "divide and develop" them. Bylaw 537 is that old wolf, Bylaw 530, in very patchy sheep's clothing. It should not proceed.

This bylaw should have been decided upon by the people of Salt Spring.

**MARLYN HORSDAL,**  
REYNOLDS ROAD

### Meaning of words

Just as the right of every American to bear arms seems to depend on a single comma in their Bill of Rights, so the protection of the Gulf Islands from over-development now hinges on two words in the Islands Trust preserve and protect mandate.

In a pre-election interview, Salt Spring trustee Laura Patrick, who has long campaigned for a wide-open interpretation of the mandate, stated: "In other words, 'unique amenities' is entirely subjective depending on whom you ask. It is entirely open to interpretation and has resulted in near paralysis."

While there has been debate about the meaning of the two words, there is a general understanding that they are restrictive; they have meaning and do not allow for everything. In the absence of those words, what would give the Islands Trust its "special conservation-oriented responsibility" as described in the Trust Policy Statement?

Yet on Sept. 26, 2023, in a meeting that excluded the public, Trust Area trustees reached a "consensus determination" that the two words are unrestrictive: "Unique amenities are broad-ranging and may include issues such as, but not limited to, housing, livelihoods, infrastructure and tourism." They may as well have written "everything including the kitchen sink."

As a member of Friends of the Gulf Islands, I suggest this society now appeal to the Office of the Ombudsperson to find out what actually happened at the closed-door meeting and if it was even legal to exclude the public on a matter so central to the future of the Gulf Islands.

**AJ HENSHALL,**  
GALIANO ISLAND

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## SOUPER BOWL SUCCESS

PHOTO COURTESY THE CIRCLE EDUCATION  
 Donna Cloete shows the bowl made by a Hey Julie School of Clay student, which she received as part of The Circle Education's first Souper Bowl fundraiser for its Pass It On Boys program held Sunday, Feb. 25 at Salt Spring Wild. The sold-out event saw more than 50 people contribute to the raising of almost \$4,000 for the program, which is an after-school cross-peer group-mentorship program for boys in grades 8 through 12. The Circle thanks all local businesses that made the event such a success.

### PHILANTHROPY

# 'Pie Ladies' disburse \$12,000 to causes

SUBMITTED BY SSI WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

February is Women's Institute Month, and in honour of the birthday of our founder, Adelaide Hunter Hoodless, the Salt Spring Island Women's Institute (also known as the "Pie Ladies") is pleased to announce our annual 2023/2024 donations.

We are a group of only 24 members, but with the enthusiastic help of 14 community women, we were able to make and sell nearly 750 pies at the 2023 Fall Fair and Apple Festival. The wonderful support we get from the community when we sell our pies, plus donations from Salt Spring Island gardeners, farmers and grocery stores, helps keep our costs down so that we can give away more money.

This year, we are donating over \$12,000 to local, provincial, national and international groups. We have made nearly 12,000 pies since 2001 and have given away over \$10,000 in the past 10 years, an outstanding amount for a group that has historically had fewer than 20 members. We make all of our pies by hand and from scratch.

The Women's Institute emphasizes donations to groups that help children and women, especially in agriculture and health care.

#### Donations for Children and Youth on Salt Spring

- Santa's Workshop: \$300 to buy Christmas gifts for children in families who would not have enough money to buy their gifts.
- SSI Girl Guides: \$200 to help with their programs and to thank them for washing the reusable plates at the Fall Fair.
- SSI Therapeutic Riding: \$250 to support a program which helps many special needs children and adults, both

physically and emotionally.

- GISS Bursary: \$2,000 for a GISS graduating student who will be studying agriculture, environment or education.
- SSI 4H: \$500 to pay for the membership fee for four children who might otherwise not be able to join.

#### Donations for Families in Need on SSI

- Copper Kettle: \$500 for a group that helps so many on a shoestring budget.
- SSI Food Bank: \$500 for an important community service.
- SSI Transition House: \$500 for start-up kits for families fleeing violence.
- Island Comfort Quilts: \$200 to help make quilts for people from the SSI community undergoing medical treatments.
- Greenwood's Eldercare: \$500 for small items for enrichment activities.
- Lady Minto Extended Care Kitchen: \$200 for small items for use in the kitchen.

#### Donations to SSI Institutions

- Salt Spring Farmers' Institute: \$1,000 for the rental of the booth at the Fall Fair.
- Salt Spring Island Museum: \$250 to help the museum with ongoing costs so that our island history is kept for the future.
- Fulford Community Hall: \$1,000 for the upkeep of an important community asset which was originally built and paid for by the Salt Spring Island Women's Institute.

#### Donations for B.C. Women's and Children's Health and Wellbeing

- B.C. Children's Hospital: \$500 for an institution of which the WI was a founder.



**NORTH  
SALT SPRING  
WATERWORKS  
DISTRICT**

## NOTICE TO THE RATEPAYERS OF THE NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF TWO TRUSTEES

Notice is hereby given to the Ratepayers of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, that nominations for TWO trustees will be received in the District office between:

**8:00 a.m. February 7, 2024**

**12:00 noon March 6, 2024**

Nomination of candidates for these positions must be made in writing, duly signed and seconded, by two duly qualified electors of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District with signature of agreement by the nominee, and delivered to the District Office **at or before 12:00 noon, Tuesday, March 6, 2024.**

**Wednesday February 21st at 7:00 pm** NSSWD will be hosting a 2nd Candidates Information Session virtually for anyone interested in learning about the position of Trustee. **The link will be posted on our website on February 19th.**

### NOMINATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FROM THE FLOOR

Both of the Trustee positions are for a three year term commencing at the Annual General Meeting, to be held on Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road and virtually through Microsoft Teams. The link will be posted on the district website for the public to join. The Trustee election will use both a mail-in ballot process for advanced voting, and an in person ballot process for voting on the day of the AGM. Voting packages for advanced voting will be mailed on March 22, 2024 and ballots must be received at the District office by April 30, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. In person voting on the day of the AGM will begin at 2:00 p.m. and end at 6:00 p.m. The results of the election will be announced at the AGM as soon as they are available.

To be eligible a nominee must be a Canadian Citizen, 18 years of age or older, an owner, or spouse of an owner of land in the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, and entitled to be registered as a voter under the Elections Act.

Visit the "Who We Are" and "Becoming a Trustee" pages on our website for more information about the role of a Trustee.

Nomination forms are available at the District Office and online in the Documents/Forms section of the District website.

### NOTICE OF 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Ratepayers of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 2, 2024 at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, and virtually through Microsoft Teams (the link will be available on our website).



COMMUNITY

# Sheep breeders seek Salt Spring members



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

A Salt Spring Island sheep nurses a pair of lambs in springtime. The Inter-Island Sheep Breeders Association hopes to attract new members through a series of events starting this weekend.

Lambing Field Day hoped to attract Gulf Islanders to Metchosin workshop

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

There are currently no active Salt Spring Island-based members in a regional sheep association, according to its new president, who hopes an upcoming field day in Metchosin might change that.

Inter-Island Sheep Breeders Association (IISBA) president Garrett Jolicoeur said the regional organization would be holding its first workshop of 2024 on Saturday, March 2 — the IISBA's Lambing Field Day.

"We're trying to plan three or four events throughout the year to get people connected," said Jolicoeur. "We have a few current members from Quadra, from Galiano, Saturna and Gabriola, but not Salt Spring."

IISBA has been serving the interests of sheep producers within the Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands coastal region since the 1960s; as one of the founding organizations of the BC Sheep Federation, IISBA brings the concerns of sheep producers to the provincial table and then on to the federal level through the Canadian Sheep Federation, Jolicoeur said.

But the association also has a long history of being a means for people in far-flung communities to connect, he added; membership is open to anyone who has sheep, would like to have sheep, is interested in wool crafts, or just wants to support local sheep farmers.

Jolicoeur said dwindling numbers — and then, the pandemic — led to a drop-off in

IISBA event participation some years ago. "It's been about a year now we've been back active," said Jolicoeur, "and our membership has probably doubled since then. So it was definitely needed."

The event is free to current members — and anyone interested is welcome to join. A \$10 annual membership he said is a great bargain for the wealth of knowledge exchanged.

"We're pretty passionate about the sheep industry," said Jolicoeur. "There aren't a lot of big flocks anymore; farming is getting so hard these days, and expensive. We want to be a support network for all these small farmers to learn how to do better, and to be able to make it in these changing times."

Pre-registration is mandatory for the workshop — "We're going to have catering, so we sort of need to know numbers!" laughed Jolicoeur — and hands-on participation is encouraged, so attendees will need appropriate clothing and gumboots.

Topics to be covered include lambing record keeping and marking, ear tagging and maintenance, lamb pulling strategies, tail banding procedures, bottle feeding/bucket raising, lambing pen setup/foot bath, Selenium administration, and barn camera setup and monitoring.

"So everything to do with lambing season," said Jolicoeur, "the problems that can occur, and how to deal with them."

The March 2 event will be held at the Parry Bay Sheep Farm in Metchosin, from 10 a.m. to noon — with refreshments to follow.

For information or to become an IISBA member, email Jolicoeur at iisbapresident@gmail.com or visit interislandsheepbreeders.ca.

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**FOOD SECURITY**

# LCC moves to support local farms initiative

'Grow Local' connects farmers, food businesses

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's elected officials are taking steps to help sustain an island society's ongoing farming initiatives — even as they work to sort out how much money they'll be able to make available.

The Local Community Commission (LCC) voted to support — in principle, according to their unanimous resolution — \$20,000 in funding toward the Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust Society's "Grow Local" program during a Feb. 15 meeting, with a request to staff to report back on the consequences of that level of support. Grow Local was launched in 2022, part of efforts by umbrella organization Salt Spring Agricultural Alliance and the now-dissolved Salt Spring Com-

munity Economic Sustainability Commission (CESC) to expand local food production and enhance the economic viability of farming.

"If you want to use the term 'no-brainer,' food security is absolutely a no-brainer for Salt Spring," said LCC member and Capital Regional District director Gary Holman. "It's a clear identified priority, not only in its own terms, but for economic development."

With the LCC now holding authority formerly administered by the CESC, the funding proposal was brought to the commission by Farmland Trust co-chair Sheila Dobie and Grow Local's Nick Adamson-Jones, who outlined both the work done and that ahead.

"We will continue our food aggregation support in the business and food sector on the island," said Dobie. "We're going to continue to work with the farmers and food businesses — and the school food program, which is still just an emerging thing. Our

work with young agrarians has really been pivotal in the past year, as has our work linking prospective farmers with land holders to build up that food-producing land base."

Dobie also emphasized a growing focus on the gleanings programs that came out of discussions last year.

"It's so beautifully integrated" to the Farmland Trust's values as a society, said Dobie. "Not only are we reducing food wastes and encouraging food production, but also streaming it into our commercial kitchen in food product development — that can go on the shelf and be shelf-stable, possibly with a label that says, 'Farmland Trust.'"

Dobie laughed. "We've got dreams!" she said. "There are all these possibilities, and we need to start somewhere."

"I'm a farmer, and I haven't participated in Grow Local in a direct way," said commissioner Brian Webster. "But that's only

because of the focus on the scale of operation. I've observed it from nearby, and I strongly support it."

"And we already have a sense of the things they're doing," said Holman. "In my view, this is [getting on] a moving bus — it's been moving for two years, it's demonstrating success, and they're saying 'we can do more.' I want to support that."

Grow Local has already started collaborations with the Chamber of Commerce, according to Adamson-Jones, getting some of the data from restaurants on their needs — and reaching out to farmers.

"The information we're getting from the restaurant side is that they'd love to buy more, but they don't have the time or the energy to coordinate getting it," said Adamson Jones.

For more information, visit [ssfarm-landtrust.org](http://ssfarm-landtrust.org).



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# ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

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ARTSPRING PRESENTS

## Indigenous, female performers hit new levels

Two shows next week

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON  
FOR ARTSPRING

Appearing on the ArtSpring stage Tuesday, March 5 is award-winning Diyet & The Love Soldiers, an alternative country, folk, roots and traditional ensemble with catchy melodies and stories deeply rooted in Diyet's Indigenous world view and northern life.

She spent her childhood on the ancestral lands of the Kluane First Nation people in the Yukon, where as a shy child, she discovered she had a big voice and thoughtful stories to tell about the world around her.

Coming from a family rooted in traditions but tempered with a good sense of adventurous hippie attitude, Diyet has created a musical presence that is as diverse as her Southern Tutchone, Tlingit, Japanese, and Scottish heritage.

After acquiring a degree in music and becoming a published songwriter in Vancouver, she found the pull of the North was too strong, so packed her bags and her Dutch husband and moved back to her village of 100 people without a plan or even a pub to play in.

The result of this unlikely career



PHOTO BY AGNES WYRWOT

Acclaimed jazz bass player Jodi Proznick, who will play as part of The Ostara Project, an all-female jazz evening at ArtSpring on March 8.

move has been international collaborations, extensive touring and several acclaimed albums, earning her "Indigenous Songwriter of the Year" at the Canadian Folk Music Awards in 2020.

Playing bass and singing in both English and Southern Tutchone (her native language), Diyet is backed by the Love Soldiers — husband and collaborator Robert van Lieshout on acoustic guitar and drums, and Juno award-winning producer Bob Hamilton on electric guitar, pedal steel and mandolin.

With what the Vancouver Sun calls "vulnerable, true to life songs," this unique trio has a sound and story that has captivated audiences

for over 10 years across Canada and Europe.

On March 8, International Women's Day, there comes a fitting and thematic performance from a new and very rare collective of accomplished female jazz musicians entitled The Ostara Project.

Why so rare? It is estimated only five per cent of jazz instrumentalists in the industry are women.

Deciding to challenge this almost exclusively male narrative, in February 2022, Canadian bassist Jodi Proznick (Juno nomination 2007, 2018) and pianist Amanda Tosoff (Juno nomination 2022) decided to bring together a group of outstanding Canadian female jazz musicians



PHOTO BY ALISTAIR MAITLAND

Diyet & The Love Soldiers members, from left, Robert van Lieshout, Diyet van Lieshout and Bob Hamilton, who will perform at ArtSpring March 5.

from across the country, each one a composer and band leader in her own right.

The collective recorded a self-titled album of seven compositions, one contributed by each member. The playing is powerful and the message is clear, with shows at venues such as Ottawa's 2023 Jazz Festival being called "feel-good and empowering."

Membership in The Ostara Project is fluid. A core group provides continuity and additional guests are invited, creating the opportunity to amplify the voices of more women, including new rising female stars.

Joining Proznick and Tosoff in this female super-group for ArtSpring's

performance will be saxophonist Allison Au, trumpeter Rachel Therrien, Virginia Macdonald on clarinet and Valérie Lacombe on drums. The word Ostara comes from the pagan goddess of spring, fertility and new beginnings.

Thank you to Victoria Olchowecki for sponsoring Diyet's performance and John Moore for sponsoring The Ostara Project.

Tickets are now on sale at tickets.artspring.ca or at the box office Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Theatre Angel tickets are available for \$15 one week prior to ArtSpring Presents shows in person or by phone. Youth tickets cost only \$5.



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TEA À TEMPO

## Baroque trio sonatas on tap at All Saints

Four musicians give  
March 6 recital

SUBMITTED BY MUSIC MAKERS

The team of Music Makers of Salt Spring's Anglican Parish is

delighted to open its 2024 Tea à Tempo concert series in All Saints by-the-Sea with a concert of baroque trio sonatas.

The Wednesday, March 6 event, which begins at 2:10 p.m., features Elyssa Lefurgey-Smith and Carolyn Hatch on violin, Tracie Whitelaw on bassoon and tenor John Whitelaw.

Versatile violinist Lefurgey-Smith grew up in Nanaimo. In over a decade of performing with several Toronto ensembles, she said she cherished her time with Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, which inspired her to pursue a specialty in early music.

In addition to performing, Lefurgey-Smith is an enthusiastic and passionate educator and has been involved in teaching, coaching and program development for over 15 years. She plays with Victoria Baroque and other baroque ensembles. We see her here on Salt Spring Island performing with local musicians and with Bach on the Rock.

Hatch, a 20-year resident

of Salt Spring Island, is best known for her 50-year career in violin teaching. Hatch has toured with students all over the world, including taking a group of Salt Spring students on a tour to New York City.

Now that she is mostly retired from teaching, Hatch has taken up playing baroque music with anyone who will join her.

Tracie Whitelaw moved to Salt Spring Island in 2021 after retiring from the U.S. Army music program where she served for 20 years as a bassoonist. Favourite duty stations included Germany, Korea, El Paso, Texas and as the bassoon instructor at the Armed Forces School of Music in Norfolk, Va.

Whitelaw was first introduced to the baroque bassoon while a student at UBC more than 20 years ago, and is so excited to finally be playing it again with these wonderful violinists. She also plays her modern bassoon with Bach on the Rock and the Prince George Symphony and bass guitar with the house blues band at the Legion. When not playing

music, she can be found in the Lady Minto Hospital laboratory as a phlebotomist.

A recent arrival on Salt Spring, John Whitelaw's musical journey has taken him from high school choirs and bands to studying trombone with Ted Griffith at McGill University and with Benjamin Haemhouts of the Bamberger Symphoniker. An interest in solo singing led to lessons with sopranos Janet Youngdahl and Heather Dials and most recently with tenor Adam Djach.

He was the tenor soloist for Bach on the Rock's *Messiah* this past December, and has also performed as The Baker in Sondheim's *Into the Woods* and as a multi-instrumentalist and singer as part of Virginia Stage Company's production of *A Christmas Carol* (where he learned to love the hurdy-gurdy).

Donations collected at the door provide the honoraria for performers and contribute to the running of the Tea à Tempo series.

Tea and treats will be served immediately following the concert.

**salt spring arts**

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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS  
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DEADLINE – APRIL 15

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ARTIST APPLICATION  
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SHOWCASE EXHIBITIONS  
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[tickets.artspring.ca](http://tickets.artspring.ca)  
250.537.2102

CALL FOR ARTISTS

ARTS SUPPORT

# Grants and awards deadlines around the corner

Community initiatives and individuals qualify for funding

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING ARTS

With over 55 years serving as the island's local arts council, Salt Spring Arts (SSA) is committed to building and nurturing the creative capacity of this community.

Through its grants and awards program, SSA offers opportunities to create, connect and be inspired with accessible funding to support projects, career development and post-secondary education in the arts. This spring, they are accepting applications for project grants, the Susan Benson Fund for Visual Artists and GISS student scholarships.

**Project Grants — Deadline: March 31**

Assisting groups and individuals in undertaking projects of cultural benefit to the community, project grants have supported local initiatives such as workshops, concerts, collaborative performances, documentaries and more.

**Susan Benson Fund for Visual Artists — Deadline: March 31**

SSA's Susan Benson Fund was established by local artist Susan Benson to respond to her knowledge of the historical and continuing unique challenges faced by female visual artists. The limited-term donor directed fund is available to visual artists living on Salt Spring Island who are committed to building their creative careers.

**GISS Student Scholarship — Deadline: March 14**

This scholarship program recognizes and encourages emerging artistic talent and creativity in the performing, visual or creative arts among Southern Gulf Islands youth. It is intended to lower the financial barriers of access to post-secondary education in the arts. In 2023, GISS graduate Larcarmia (Yin-ing) Jia received one of two scholarship awards to pursue studies at UBC.

"I'm very honoured to get this scholarship," she said. "My main instrument is the harp and I will continue playing it. This is a great first step for me and I'm excited."

Applications are now open. Other SSA calls include Artcraft Gallery and Shop artist application, 2025 Showcase exhibition proposals and the Artist in the Class artist application. For more information, visit saltspringarts.com.

LIVE MUSIC

## Tribute to Cuban music on Saturday

Obatalá Orchestra at Fulford Hall

SUBMITTED BY TANIA AGUILA

In 1999, an orchestra was created on the West Coast of Canada consisting only of Cuban musicians. While this project did not last long, it led to a variety of immensely successful projects that helped spread the message of Cuban music in this country.

Following this breakthrough, it became a dream for Cuban musicians residing in B.C. to once again form an orchestra with the same principles, thus creating the Obatalá Orchestra.

Obatalá Orchestra is bringing what they call "a humble tribute to the best of Cuban music; a tribute to one of the most beloved projects developed in Cuba at the end of the last century: Buena Vista

Social Club." Taking place at Fulford Hall on Saturday, March 2, it will be led by world-class trumpet player Miguelito Valdes, who was inspired due to his involvement as a former member of that prestigious band.

For this occasion, special guest Cuban singer Danay Sinclair will accompany the orchestra with her beautiful voice. Additionally, master percussion player and a proud resident of Salt Spring Island — Jose Sanchez (eljose) — will be featured on drums and timbales.

This show has already been presented in Victoria, selling out and garnering rave reviews.

Doors will open at Fulford Hall at 7 p.m. and the band will start at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. People can contact Tania Aguila at eljose@eljose.com for more information.

**The Ostara Project**  
ArtSpring Presents  
25th Anniversary

Fri Mar 8  
7:30pm  
\$35 | \$5

artspring.ca  
tickets.artspring.ca  
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artspring.ca  
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# what's on this week

Wed. Feb. 28

**ACTIVITIES**

**Bridge.** In the library program room. 12:45 to 4:15 p.m.

**Swing Dancing.** Every Wednesday at the Legion. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Thur. Feb. 29

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**ArtSpring Presents: Isidore Quartet.** New York City string quartet. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

**Open Mic & Jam.** Legion. 7:30 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**

**Mother Goose.** For ages 0-4 years and their parents/caregivers. Salt Spring library. 10 to 11 a.m.

Fri. March 1

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**The Legacy of Lightfoot.** Concert tribute to Gordon Lightfoot's music. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

**Friday Nights With DJ Boomtown.** Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

**Karaoke.** At the Legion. 7 p.m.

Fri. March 1

**ACTIVITIES**

**Neighbourhood Story Time.** Library children's area. 11 to 11:30 a.m.

**ASK Salt Spring.** Emcon operations manager Andrew Gaetz is this week's guest and road maintenance is the topic in the TSS/Restorative Justice room at SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Youth Games & Chess Club.** For ages 9 to 13. Library children's area. 1 to 4 p.m.

**Salt Spring Film Festival Gala Night.** With feature film Aitamaako/Tamiskkapi Natosi: Before The Sun. GISS. Doors at 5 p.m. and dinner available. Film at 7 p.m.

Sat. March 2

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Orchestra Obatala Presents a Tribute to Buena Vista Social Club.** Fulford Hall. 7 p.m.

**Irish Newfie Night.** Legion. 7:30 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**

**Salt Spring Film Festival.** Documentary films and Social Justice Bazaar run all day at GISS. Info: Saltspringfilmfestival.com

Sun. March 3

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Jazz Jam w/open mic.** Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**

**Salt Spring Film Festival.** See Saturday listing.

**Salt Spring Forum: Retired Astronaut and Member of Parliament Marc Garneau.** Mahon Hall. 3 p.m.

Tues. March 5

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Country Jam.** With open mic. Legion. 6 p.m.

**ArtSpring Presents: Diyet & The Love Soldiers.** Alternative country, folk, roots band. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**

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

Wed. March 6

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Tea à Tempo: Baroque Trio Sonatas.** With performers Elyssa Lefurgey-Smith and Carolyn Hatch on violin, Tracie Whitelaw on bassoon and tenor John Whitelaw. All Saints by-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m.

**CINEMA**

• **The Boy and the Heron** runs Friday, March 1 to Tuesday, March 5 at 7 p.m. each night plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. See thefritz.ca for more movie info.

**ART EXHIBITIONS**

• Salt Spring Gallery presents **The Elements and the Elementals**, artworks by the women of the She Said Collective from March 1 to 20, with an opening reception on March 1 from 5 to 7 p.m.

• Painter **Elaine Potter's Nature Marks** exhibition runs in the Salt Spring Public Library program room through Feb. 29. The March 1-28 exhibit is **Kaya Reiss – Roman Portraits**.

• **Impromptu**, a multi-media exhibition by several artists, is in the ArtSpring lobby during February. Works by **Salt Spring Painters Guild** members are on display in that space through March.

**Salt Spring Film Festival**  
Fri., March 1 - Sun., March 3  
GISS  
saltspringfilmfestival.com

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# ISLAND LIFE

## PUBLIC POLICY

# Salt Spring CFUW member joins UN forums

Barbara DuMoulin takes leading role in New York

SUBMITTED BY CFUW SSI

In 2024, access to technology is largely recognized as a benefit for education and economic opportunities.

However, these opportunities are not all created equal. Women and girls continue to face a digital divide: with lower rates of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) labour participation rates (women make up 19.9 per cent of the global STEM labour market) and higher rates of experiencing digital harassment and gender-based cyber-violence, according to a 2022 United Nations gender snapshot report.

From March 6 to 17, Barbara DuMoulin, vice president of CFUW International Relations and a member of CFUW Salt Spring, will join policymakers, government officials, and activists from around the world at this year's United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York City. This year's forum will focus on the opportunities and challenges for women and girls in education in the digital age of innovation and technological change. The review theme also includes rural women and girls.

The Canadian Federation of University Women is a non-partisan women's orga-



PHOTO COURTESY BARBARA DUMOULIN

Barbara DuMoulin of Salt Spring Island's Canadian Federal of University Women group at a past United Nations event. DuMoulin, who is also vice president of CFUW International Relations, will lead a CFUW session called Evening the Odds in Digital Education for Marginalized Women and Girls. She will also share her experiences with islanders after she returns.

nization with special consultative status with the UN. CFUW is sending a delegation of representatives from several prov-

inces across Canada to join UN member states, UN agencies and other accredited civil society organizations to discuss the

progress and gaps in the inclusion of women and girls in environmental and climate change policies.

While in New York, DuMoulin will be chairing a CFUW session called *Evening the Odds in Digital Education for Marginalized Women and Girls*.

"Women in remote communities, the Indigenous and the disadvantaged are the most at risk," said DuMoulin.

There will also be a virtual North American regional session on March 15 at 12 noon PDT, which anyone can join.

Since the commission was established in 1946, civil society organizations like CFUW have taken a leading role in strengthening political commitments to gender equality and advancing the dialogue on the empowerment of women and girls across the world. The two-week conference is expected to culminate with a concrete set of commitments on achieving gender equality in the context of climate change for governments to implement at international, national, regional and local levels.

DuMoulin looks forward to sharing her experiences and new information from the UN forum with members of CFUW Salt Spring Island and community members on the island.

To learn more about joining CFUW and gender equality in Canada, visit [cfuw.org](http://cfuw.org), or to learn more about joining CFUW Salt Spring, visit [cfuwssi.ca](http://cfuwssi.ca).

## NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT NOTICE

### FLUSHING OF WATERMAINS

FLUSHING OF WATERMAINS WILL BE  
CARRIED OUT IN THE DISTRICT ON  
TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS  
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MARCH 4 - APRIL 30, 2024

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

Commercial establishments such as laundromats, restaurants and beauty salons will receive advance warning of flushing in their vicinity if a request for such notification is received by the District. Please contact the NSSWD at 250-537-9902.

In no case can the District accept responsibility for any claims arising out of the use of discoloured water.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

# International Women's Day marked

Gender equity workshop, film, book display and concert on next week

SUBMITTED BY THE CIRCLE EDUCATION

This year's International Women's Day (IWD) theme is Inspire Inclusion. Leading up to IWD on Friday, March 8, here are some opportunities to learn about how we can forge women's equality. Collectively we can all inspire inclusion.

Like every year, women are well represented at the Salt Spring Film Festival (running March 1 to 3 at Gulf Islands Secondary School). There's no shortage of films about women, plus more than 50 per cent of the films are directed or co-directed by women, and 12 of the 20 film guests are female. Opening night features *Aitamaako Tamiskapi Natosi: Before The Sun*. An intimate and thrilling profile of Logan Red Crow, a young Siksika woman in the golden plains of Blackfoot Territory, as she prepares for one of the most dangerous horse races in the world: the Indian Relay.

On Wednesday, March 6 from 3 to 5 p.m. Salt Spring Arts is hosting a workshop called "Demystifying Gender Equity: learn how to understand the role gender plays and acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for advancing gender equity in our daily lives and work." Workshop facilitator Dr. A.J. Lowik (they/them), is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Centre for Gender and Sexual Health Equity, Faculty of Medicine, UBC. Register through [saltspringarts.com/product/gender-equity-workshop/](http://saltspringarts.com/product/gender-equity-workshop/).

The following day (March 7), the Salt Spring Public Library hosts, in collaboration with the Canadian Federation of University Women, the screening of *The Magnitude of All Things*, a cinematic exploration of the emotional and psycho-

logical dimensions of climate change, directed by former Salt Spring Island resident Jennifer Abbott. Before she became a filmmaker, Abbott studied political science with a particular interest in radical political thought, women's studies and deep ecology at McGill University.

Also at the library, you can find a special display of books for IWD. Sophia vom Bauer Jackson, adult services manager at the library, has curated an extensive list of newer books about, or by, women breaking the gender bias. Her favourites include *Eve - How the Female Body Drove 200 Million Years of Evolution*, by Cat Bohannon (non-fiction). This is a sweeping revision of human history and an urgent and necessary corrective for a world that has focused primarily on the male body for far too long. Another favourite is *When Women Were Dragons*, by Kelly Regan Barnhill (fiction). This is a fiery feminist tale, exploding notions of a woman's place in the world, expanding minds about accepting others for who they really are. The complete IWD book list can be found at [thecircleeducation.org/blog/](http://thecircleeducation.org/blog/).

To wrap up the collection of IWD offerings on the island, ArtSpring is presenting a special performance on Friday, March 8 in recognition of International Women's Day: The Ostara Project, an all-women award-winning jazz ensemble. An estimated five per cent of jazz instrumentalists are women. In February of 2022, Juno-nominated Canadian bassist Jodi Proznick and pianist Amanda Tosoff decided to challenge the almost-exclusive male narrative by bringing together seven outstanding Canadian female jazz musicians, each one a composer and bandleader in her own right. Tickets are available through ArtSpring.

Happy International Women's Day! On this day, let's remember to support the accomplishments of women in all aspects of our lives.

**WORKFORCE HOUSING**

# Hospital staff residential project advancing

Lady Minto foundation hiring construction manager

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The building is vacant, zoning is in place, permits have been issued and plans for the conversion of a former Salt Spring Island motel into housing for hospital staff are moving forward.

Lady Minto Hospital Foundation (LMHF) executive director Eric A.F. Jacobsen confirmed last week the foundation was again inviting applications for a construction project manager to oversee the Bittancourt Staff Housing Project — a renovation to build out some 20 multi-family residential suites for hospital employees on the site of the former Seabreeze Inne.

Housing has been noted as one of the “top impediments” for recruiting and retaining healthcare workers at Lady Minto Hospital, Jacobsen said, adding it was dif-



ILLUSTRATIONS COURTESY LMHF

A pair of proposed elevation drawings of the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation's Bittancourt Staff Housing Project, a renovation of the former Seabreeze Inne motel purchased in 2022.

ficult to overstate how important it was to see these units through to completion.

“It’s filling such a critical need,” said Jacobsen. “And it’s really exciting we’re able to directly address it, with dedicated hospital and healthcare staff housing on

the island.”

While the invitation for applications closes March 15, Jacobsen said construction timelines would be more certain once a successful applicant was selected.

Staff shortages at Lady Minto have led to

abrupt shifts in service, notably in early 2023 when overnight visitors were greeted with notes on the front door advising patients to evaluate the urgency of their needs and consider returning in the morning “when staffing levels improve.”

That spring, an unprecedented communique signed by 11 doctors on behalf of the Lady Minto Hospital Medical Staff Association was published, characterizing the ongoing shortage as an “emergency” that threatened the existence of critical care on Salt Spring — alarming residents and prompting Island Health to publicly reaffirm its commitment to addressing staffing challenges.

LMHF purchased the former motel for staff housing in early 2022 and had started a similar search for a construction manager in May of that year, anticipating a renovation start date some three months later.

Conflict between the foundation, several people who stayed to live in the building after it changed ownership and Island Community Services prompted a lengthy legal battle that ultimately left the site unoccupied.

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

# First annual Volunteer Fair coming to SIMS foyer

Event hopes to match and educate about volunteer opportunities

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

More than two dozen clubs and societies have already signed up for a spring volunteer-pairing event, which organizers hope will help grow the thinning ranks of Salt Spring Island's community groups.

The first Salt Spring Island Volunteer Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 13 at the Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS) building, according to Local Community Commission member Ben Corno, who has been working to gather island organizations who might have struggled in recent years to maintain operations.

“Springtime feels like a great time to host this fair,” said

Corno. “We’re starting to get our sunlight hours back, and we start asking what we might do ourselves as we get more of our time back.”

The event will take place in the SIMS foyer and will likely overflow throughout the building, he said, with groups ranging from community service organizations to sports clubs and hobby groups. Already confirmed are representatives from the Salt Spring Public Library, Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue, the Salt Spring Island Minor Baseball Association and the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation.

The island community has a long history of volunteerism, Corno said, with many of Salt Spring's favourite institutions held together by small groups of people who offer their own time — but many of those groups saw their numbers drop off as the pandemic began.

“I don’t know that those numbers have recovered,” said Corno, who said he was inspired by other communities in B.C. who found success with events like the one he

is organizing to connect volunteers with the groups that need them.

“I believe a lot of newer community members are looking for ways to get involved in supporting our community, but it’s not always easy to figure out how to do that.”

Not all societies and clubs have brick-and-mortar buildings for people to just walk into, he said, and even those that do have found it’s not always the most comfortable way to meet.

“It could be a good way to learn more about the clubs and societies that are on Salt Spring, maybe find a new hobby, or ask important questions to groups that interest you,” said Corno. “This fair is set up to create those conditions, and I hope people come check out the clubs and societies that would love your help.”

Corno said groups looking for volunteers who are wanting to attend the fair should contact him via email at benjaminorno@gmail.com.

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**ERIC "ACE" MAINWARING**



Eric "ACE" Mainwaring, age 76, passed away peacefully in Nanaimo on Saturday February 24th. A man full of character and humor throughout life, he will be forever loved and remembered.

He was born to Gordon and Enid Mainwaring on Friday, February 13th, 1948 in Dawson Creek BC, and was raised in Edmonton Alberta. As a young man Ace went to RCMP basic training in Regina, Saskatchewan. In his first post, Port Hardy, he met his future wife Gunna, when he walked his muddy boots across her freshly mopped floor. They were married on May 20th, 1972 and enjoyed almost 52 years together.

Ace continued his career as an RCMP officer, working in Island communities around BC. He served Port Hardy, Courtenay, Saltspring Island and Haida Gwaii, before settling his family in Nanaimo.

Some of his affiliations included Admiral Lodge #170 on Saltspring Island, The Saltspring Volunteer Fire Department, and the Royal Canadian Legion. He played hockey, baseball, and loved curling. He passed on his love of sports to youth as both a hockey and fastball coach in Courtenay and Nanaimo. Ace was also an avid hunter who did seasonal trips to Northern BC for moose with his hunting partners. Ace lived a full life and retired early to spend time with his family and grandchildren.

Ace enjoyed his Thursday morning breakfasts, strong handshakes, games of crib for a penny a point, chess, monopoly and cheezies with the grandkids, maple fudge, Kenny Rogers, watching curling, and the morning coffee routine with Gunna. He was a generous man and a great host; never wanting anyone to leave his house hungry.

Ace was also known for a lot of "Ace-isms":  
 "Walk backwards so you can see where you're coming from"  
 "Five bucks"  
 "About a four"

"To make a long story short..."  
 "Give yer head a shake"  
 "Hello, my name is John Johnson"  
 "Hey Alice!"  
 "Don't go there..."

Ace leaves behind his wife Gunna, daughters Inga (Lyle), Loa (Dan), and his son Gordon (Cindy... his favorite daughter-in-law), along with his grandchildren Hailey, Josh, Nik, Emma, Cashel and Roman.

Respecting Ace's wishes, there will be no funeral or memorial. As an RCMP member for 35 years, Ace's family would appreciate it if you would take some time to thank a first responder today. In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Ace can be made to Nanaimo Regional General Hospital's Palliative Care Unit.

Ace's parting words to those he loved were in line with his life as a cop. "Drive slow and watch the cars".

Photo Credit: Hjordis Didi Jonsdottir



1945 - 2024

Tudor Davies left this world on January 15th, 2024 after a courageous battle with prostate cancer.

Tudor was born in 1945 in Wales, a very proud Welshman. In 1964 he joined the Gloucestershire Constabulary and served until 1995. Tudor was a fire-arms officer and during the last seven years of his career he was attached to the Royal Household Protection group. He was posted at Highgrove House, then home of the Prince and Princess of Wales. This was an enjoyable time for Tudor as he could carry out his passion for bird and wildlife watching. He loved sharing his knowledge with the future King. After retiring from the police force he moved to Savannah, Georgia, where his family lived.

Tudor returned to the UK in 1998 and later met Gwenlais Morgan – a meeting that was to totally change his life. In August 2012 he married Gwen, the love of his life. They moved to Canada and settled on Salt Spring Island where he joined Search and Rescue, the Trail and Nature Club and the Royal Canadian Legion. In October 2012, he became a Canadian citizen and, soon after, the Legion allowed him to carry the Canadian flag on Remembrance Day.

He moved to the Okanagan in 2019 after being diagnosed with prostate cancer. This meant he was closer to family and made happy memories following his passion for fishing. In 2023, he rallied from his cancer treatment and came to Salt Spring on November 11th to deliver his powerful rendition of "In Flanders Fields." In the weeks before his passing, Tudor was awarded the 2024 Judy Burch Memorial Award, which recognizes SAR members that have made an outstanding service to Salt Spring SAR and the community.

Policeman, humanitarian, volunteer, raconteur, humorist, wood craftsman, ornithologist, outdoors man, fisherman, rugby fan and true friend...he loved life and was sorry to leave but was very grateful for everyone and everything. He wrote "please think of me if you see a raven (my favourite bird) and whenever Wales scores a try, especially against England".

Da boch chi (Welsh for Goodbye/farewell). All are welcome to come and celebrate Tudor's remarkable life at the Legion on Salt Spring Island Saturday, March 9th from 2pm to 4pm.

**In Memorium**

**In Memorium**

**Salt Spring Island NATURAL CEMETERY**

2100 Fulford-Ganges Road  
 Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1Z7  
 250-653-9884  
[saltspringcemetery.ca](http://saltspringcemetery.ca)

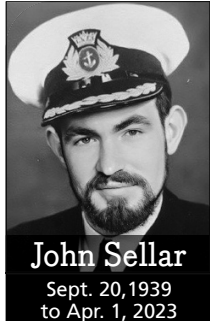
**Coming Events**

Central Community Hall,  
 Board of Directors,  
 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

SUNDAY MARCH 17TH  
 at 1 pm in the main hall at  
 901 NORTH END RD.

PUBLIC WELCOME

**WHAT'S ON**  
 page 11



**John Sellar**

Sept. 20, 1939  
 to Apr. 1, 2023

A Memorial Service for John Andrew Cordiner Sellar will be held at 2pm on Monday, March 11th at Dignity Memorial, located at 4725 Falaise Drive, Victoria, BC. Livestream available on request.

Born in Buckie, Scotland to a commercial fishing family, John had a strong connection to the sea. A seafarer from an early age, John travelled throughout the world in his career with the Royal Navy and the Merchant Marine in the UK. After coming to Canada, John worked as a Captain with BC Ferries for many years, living on Salt Spring Island BC.

He is predeceased by his mother, father and two sisters (Jean and Anne), and his dear wife Claire (Tennant) Sellars, RN. Both he and Claire were proud members of the local Salt Spring Legion Branch No. 92.

He is survived by his niece Jean McGilveray, by Claire's family in Ontario, and by aunts, uncles and cousins in Scotland.

Thank you to the staff at Island View Place and Veterans Memorial Lodge for their excellent care over the past five years.

**Employment**

**Employment**

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**Coming Events**

**Coming Events**

**Salt Spring Island Public Library Association Annual General Meeting**

Thursday March 14, 2024 3:30 pm  
 Salt Spring Island Public Library  
 129 McPhillips Avenue, Ganges, BC

A resolution to amend the bylaws of the Association will be presented for approval.

The full text of the resolution is posted on the Library's website:  
<https://saltspring.bc.libraries.coop>

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

**In Memorium**

**Storage**

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**Celebrations**

**Jay Sturgess**  
 FEBRUARY 23

**HAPPY 91st BIRTHDAY**  
 FROM LEIGH, CYDNEY & JEFFREY  
 And their families

**Legal**

DECLARATION OF SEIZURE AND SALE OF A VEHICLE UNDER THE REPAIRERS LIEN ACT

In the matter of Michael Heslop  
 2010 Jeep Patriot  
 4-door SUV  
 1J4NT2GA5AD594239  
 Mark M<sup>c</sup>Eachern

On the 13th of February 2024, I caused the above-described vehicle to be placed under seizure on behalf of Mark M<sup>c</sup>Eachern (Or on my own behalf, under the provisions of the repairers lien act.

The cost of the repairs amounted to \$2500, and the monies have not been paid as agreed and have been owing For a period of time exceeding 90 days.

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CELEBRATIONS

# 10th annual Family Day event delivers on fun

Crafts, music and dance delight all ages at Mahon Hall

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING ARTS

On Monday, Feb. 19, Salt Spring Arts (SSA) celebrated the 10th anniversary of their free BC Family Day event at Mahon Hall. This year's occasion showcased a vibrant performance by the Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret Revue, who debuted their new production One Small Step, featuring live music, dance and dynamic storytelling.

Salt Spring Arts has been building and nurturing the creative capacity of our community since 1968, and this mission is reflected in the decade-long Family Day initiative. The annual event is a free, accessible opportunity for local families to spend time together, connect with the community and engage with the arts

hands-on. For many, it opens the door to experiencing a theatrical performance for the first time.

"What an amazing Family Day event," said local parent Brody Paine. "From the face painting, make-your-own masks and the very artistic live show, it was fun for all ages. Salt Spring Island needs more events like this one!"

Mahon Hall was packed to capacity with local kids and families celebrating the provincial holiday. Over half of the attendees were children who learned new dance moves from the performers, had their faces painted, took wacky family photos with the Salt Spring Island Photo Booth and participated in colourful craft activities. Crafts included paper plate aliens and mask decorating, with help from volunteers, some of whom are artists in SSA's Artist in the Class Program. A craft station was also presented by the Salt Spring Island Printmakers, who helped attendees make unique cards with printed stamps to bring home.



PHOTO BY METTA ROSE PHOTOGRAPHY

View from the stage shows a packed Mahon Hall for last Monday's Family Day event featuring the Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret Revue and other activities.

## ABOVE ALL BE KIND

RACISM, HARASSMENT & BULLYING ARE NOT TOLERATED AT SD64



GULF ISLANDS SCHOOL DISTRICT 64

# STOP BULLYING!

FEB. 28, 2024 IS ANTI-BULLYING DAY OR PINK SHIRT DAY IN CANADA. EACH YEAR THE LAST WEDNESDAY IN FEBRUARY IS MARKED TO STAND UP TO BULLYING IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

## IS IT TEASING OR BULLYING?

Bullying isn't always a clear-cut matter, which can make it very hard to deal with for both kids and adults. The slyness of mean words and online taunting means it can be hard to draw the line between teasing and aggressive bullying. Figuring out these grey areas is part of the fight in putting a stop to bullying at school and in the neighbourhood.

### The Canadian Council on Learning divides bullying into four categories.

**PHYSICAL:** punching, kicking, hitting, tripping, hair pulling, spitting and forced confinement.

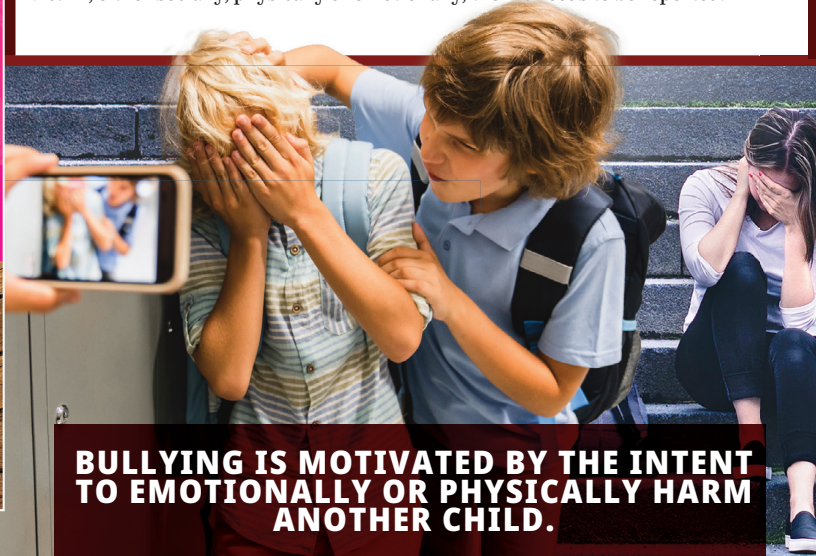
**RELATIONAL:** social exclusion, spreading rumours, gossip and mean-spirited notes.

**VERBAL:** name calling, verbal threats, mocking and insulting.

**CYBER:** verbal and relational bullying that takes place online. Also includes the sharing of private photos, e-mails and information without permission and sending or posting such things using the victim's name.

Physical and cyber bullying are fairly easy to identify because they are concrete actions. But what about social bullying? Psychologists put it this way: Teasing involves words or non-verbal actions that are meant to be playful and funny. Sometimes these are an irritation to the person on the receiving end, who perceives them as neither fun nor amusing. Bullying is a recurring and persistent behaviour by one or more children that is motivated by the intent to hurt another child emotionally, physically or socially.

When it comes to reporting bullying to the authorities, it's helpful to talk about what happened with a trusted adult. If the incident was threatening to the safety of the victim, either socially, physically or emotionally, then it needs to be reported.



**BULLYING IS MOTIVATED BY THE INTENT TO EMOTIONALLY OR PHYSICALLY HARM ANOTHER CHILD.**

Stand up for your friends and they'll stand up for you!

# STOP BULLYING

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# SPORTS + RECREATION

## GISS SPORTS

# Windsor sponsorship boosts athletics at GISS

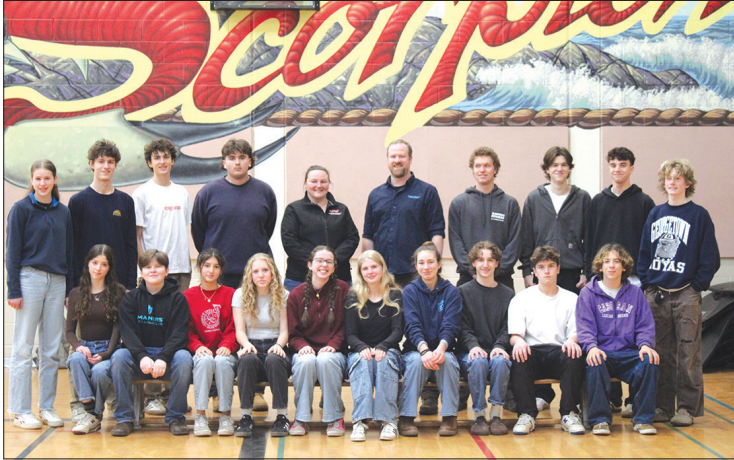


PHOTO COURTESY GISS ATHLETICS

GISS sports team captains, with two of Windsor Plywood Salt Spring's owners – Jess Harkema and Adam Geddes, centre at back – to mark 2023/24 school year sponsorship of the high school's athletics program.

\$10,000 helps with fees, uniforms and ferry travel

BY GAIL S.JUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) athletes have been given a big boost this school year thanks to sponsorship by Windsor Plywood Salt Spring.

According to GISS athletics program director and teacher Brittany Allan, the \$10,000 will help pay for team fees, ferry travel, and new uniforms for track and field/cross country athletes and Grade 8 basketball players.

"Two thousand dollars of Windsor's donation was set aside to directly support students and families in paying their team fees," said Allan. "Windsor's donation has been invaluable in making sport accessible

to all students."

Travelling off island costs between \$6,000 and \$7,000 per year for sports teams, she said, so the Windsor contribution was a game-changer in that department.

GISS has more than 200 students in grades 8 through 12 participating in 24 different sports teams. The fall season sees six volleyball and two soccer teams in action, as well as cross country, rowing and swim teams. Seven basketball teams are on the courts in winter months, with tennis, track and field, mountain biking, disc golf and two soccer teams starting up each spring.

Recent achievements include the junior girls basketball black team finishing first at mid-island championships and 10th at the Vancouver Island championships. The senior boys basketball team finished fifth at island championships held at Brentwood College School in Brentwood Bay this past weekend.

"Without community support, we would not be able to run the same quality programming we offer, leading some of our athletes to pursue athletic scholarships at the post-secondary level or a career in sport at the professional level," said Allan.

Jess Harkema and Adam Geddes of the Windsor Plywood Salt Spring ownership group said the decision to support the GISS athletics program came after GISS parent Julie Nowell approached the company last year about making a donation. They suggested Nowell return with a specific proposal.

"So they broke it down for us, and we all agreed to donate this year," explained Harkema, adding that they would evaluate the decision and hopefully be able to provide support again next year.

As individuals who benefitted from participating in sports during their school years, the sponsorship was a natural fit. Harkema primarily played soccer, basketball and volleyball when she was a GISS student. Geddes was on soccer, rugby, track and ultimate frisbee teams.

"I think both of us spent countless hours before and after school, and on weekends, with athletics," said Geddes, "and it sort of

helped form who I was, making good connections and friends. And I think it's very important both for mental health as well as physical, so for us, it was a bit of a no brainer, and we're happy to try to support how we can."

Harkema added that when a group photo was taken the broader community connections became apparent.

"So many of our customers' kids are athletes, right?" said Harkema. "So we sat in the gym and it was like, 'that's that guy's kid, and she's so-and-so's kid . . . it was a good moment.'"

Nowell underscores the importance of Windsor's support when noting that "participating in GISS athletics is becoming financially unfeasible for many families as the program is fully funded by team fees."

"Our school has athletes that are already committed with post-secondary scholarships for 2024 and our athletics department is doing extraordinary things in building future leaders, both academically, athletically and in the community. Without continued community financial support, participating in a high school athletics program will be limited to those who have excess funds."

## DISC GOLF

# Local player makes mark in Mexico

Ryan Watson takes division title in A-tier PDGA event

BY BEN CORNO  
FOR SSI DISC GOLF CLUB

In late January, one of Salt Spring's newest disc golf club members became the first Mexico disc golf champion in the Mixed Professional Over-40 division.

Ryan Watson, who began playing at Wills Park in Alpharetta, Ga. in the early 2000s, travelled to Mexico with friends from

Vancouver and Vancouver Island to play in Mexico's first A-Tier Professional Disc Golf Association event.

"I saw an opportunity to be a part of disc golf history, and escape the Canadian winter for a bit and learn about the disc golf culture in Mexico," he said.

Over 120 people played in the three-day event in San Luis Potosi at Tangamanga Park, which hosts two 18-hole disc golf courses inside an ambling city park.

Watson began the second round with a seven-stroke lead and took control early on the third hole of the final round.

"I threw a side arm five

feet away from the basket for a 'tap in birdie,'" he reported. "Meanwhile, my cardmates threw into the water for a 2-3 stroke swing. After that, I told myself to keep my head where my feet are. 'First this, then that.'"

Watson thanked the Salt Spring Wellness Centre for "giving me a place to practise yoga and stay in shape during the off-season," the Salt Spring Disc Golf Club for "continuing to grow the sport, offering multiple courses and even holding an indoor winter putting league," and lastly, Miguel and Daisy for "being my tour guides and translators. Y'all made the trip!"

# Young @ Heart

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