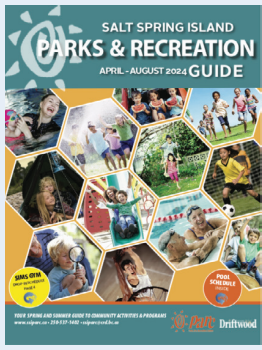


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Wednesday, March 6, 2024

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PHOTO BY JOHN DE BRUYN

FILM FAVES: Dianne Whelan, left, maker of the film 500 Days in the Wild, which earned the Audience Favourite Feature Film Award at the March 1 to 3 Salt Spring Film Festival held at Gulf Islands Secondary School, speaks to a crowd at a screening, along with partner Louisa Robinson, who also appears in the film. Whelan worked on the film as a Salt Spring Arts artist in residence in 2019. The 24th rendition of the festival saw the screening of some 50 documentary films of varying lengths, and several people involved in their making attend the event as guests.

HOUSING

Trust approves local ADU plans

Bylaw 537 gets nod despite further Tsawout objection

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's latest swift-moving effort at allowing some accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on the island has been approved by a senior committee of the Islands Trust, clearing the way for its likely adoption this week.

Bylaw 537's approval by the Trust's Executive Committee (EC) Wednesday, Feb. 28 came after Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee (LTC) held first, second and third readings of the proposal at an online meeting Jan. 22.

It also came on the heels of renewed opposition from representatives of Tsawout First Nation. In a Feb. 2 letter to the EC, Chief Abraham Pelkey expressed Tsawout's "deep

concern and continuing opposition" to the bylaw, as well as frustration with the process — saying they were not consulted or even informed that the Jan. 22 meeting was taking place, nor given time to express opposition before it happened.

"The Salt Spring LTC acted with undue haste," wrote Pelkey, "and with no opportunity for a public hearing at which we could have submitted our concerns."

Pelkey noted the Tsawout First Nation has the only reserve on Salt Spring Island at Fulford, land that would "certainly be affected by misguided land-use decisions" nearby.

"Although Bylaw 537, as drafted, has less reach than the previous Bylaw 530, Salt

Spring LTC is proposing to enlarge its catchment once it is in force," states the letter, "by encouraging a program of spot-zoning to add density on demand."

Pelkey added that by abandoning Bylaw 530 in favour of 537, the LTC did not address the First Nation's previous concerns; rather, he said, they "simply found a way to scale the bylaw down to pass it," with an intention to expand the scope later.

Bylaw 537 adds a new map to Salt Spring Island's planning documents, indicating where ADUs would be allowed — from a land use perspective.

BYLAW 537 continued on 2

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ADU regs 'well within' purview

BYLAW 537
continued from 1

The new map covers essentially everywhere secondary suites are already permitted, except for lands subject to excessive saltwater intrusion and those subject to the existing moratorium on new connections within the North Salt Spring Waterworks District's service area. The bylaw, according to Trust documents, provides "expanded regulation for secondary suites and provide[s] clear, concise regulations for the construction of ADUs" — saying it "only diversifies the form of already available density" rather than an expansion of use and density.

Salt Spring's LTC has asked staff to develop a streamlined spot-zoning "pilot project" to allow residents request their properties be added to the map.

"The Salt Spring LTC lobbied us through much of last summer and fall, months after presenting a version of

Bylaw 530 that was almost the same as Bylaw 537, and which we could not support," wrote Pelkey. "They then told us they would sponsor a potlatch to build a relationship for reconciliation, but never did so. Clearly, the Salt Spring LTC did not believe they had addressed our concerns a few months ago. So why should they think so now?"

In unanimously approving the bylaw Feb. 28, trustees noted the EC's main role was to approve the bylaw — or not — based on whether it was consistent with the Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan (OCP) and the Islands Trust's own Policy Statement.

"My view is that the consistency with the OCP and the Policy Statement checklist is what the Executive [Committee] needs to be looking at," said Lasqueti Island trustee Tim Peterson, who also chairs Salt Spring's LTC. "And that's indicated in the report as being set up for approval."

Mayne Island trustee David Maude

sought reassurance from staff that Islands Trust had met all its statutory requirements for consultation — that they were not "stepping outside of any boxes," he said.

"It has had its legal review, so to speak," said planning services director Stefan Cermak. "And it is well within Salt Spring's legal purview, as it is [within] EC's, to proceed."

Bylaw 537's Feb. 28 approval also came despite a last-minute appeal for deferral voiced at the meeting by Maxine Leichter, on behalf of island advocacy group Keep Salt Spring Sustainable (KSSS).

Among other concerns, KSSS had said it believed — contrary to Islands Trust staff — that Bylaw 537 was not consistent with the island's OCP and therefore was not eligible for the process that gave LTC discretion to not hold a public hearing.

Salt Spring's LTC will meet on Thursday, March 7 to consider adopting the new bylaw.



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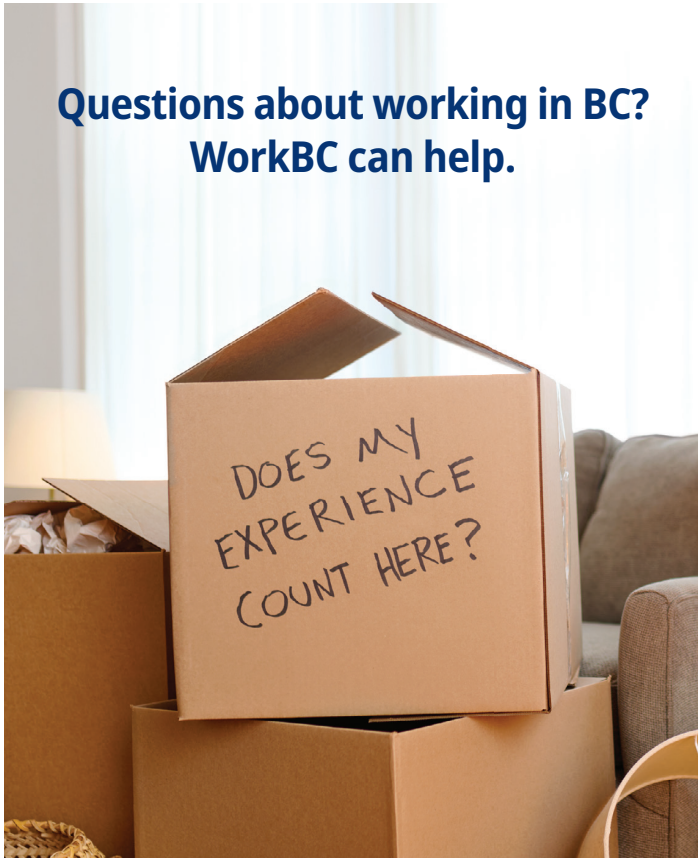
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ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Fire district agrees to new EV charging station

Level 3 service to complement new fire hall when complete

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's first Level 3 electric vehicle (EV) fast-charging station is confirmed, as officials signed off on an agreement that will see the service installed concurrent with construction of the island's new fire hall.

Trustees for the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District directed staff Monday, Feb. 26 to sign a 10-year lease with BC Hydro for the spot, with a planned renewal for another 10 years after that.

DC fast chargers can fully charge most vehicles in less than 30 minutes — versus as long as eight hours or more, depending on the car's battery size, to top up at a Level 2 charger like those recently installed at the Rainbow Recreation Centre. Aside from a good location, the biggest obstacle to their installation tends to be cost — but, according to fire district CAO Rodney Dieleman, that problem has been sorted out.

"BC Hydro pays for the entire construction, design and all of the development of that corner of the property," said Dieleman. "So it's not part of [our] taxpayer package, the taxpayers aren't paying for this quick charging station — not through us."

That will include project management, design, materials, installation and commissioning, Dieleman said. Lease contract terms make it clear BC Hydro is responsible for their own equipment maintenance and repair.

"We're not liable if the public taps into the charger, breaks it, or they light fire to it," said Dieleman. "Or if [the chargers] cause damage to a car; we're not liable for that damage, either."

There will be a separate meter for the chargers, passing along cost for electricity to whoever is hooked up. A question

was raised about approaching BC Hydro for some share of meter revenue, but ultimately trustees decided to take a wait-and-see approach given the utility's substantial equipment investment — well into six figures by most estimates.

"Until their costs are paid back, they're not really looking to entertain a revenue [sharing] model," said Dieleman. "Maybe after 10 years we could negotiate in terms of revenue."

"And is it a community service or is it really for tourists?" asked trustee Robin Williams, wondering aloud how many local EV drivers would use the fast charger instead of just plugging in at home.

"It's a service," said Dieleman. "I can't tell you who will be there; we've had no market analysis."

Trustee John Wakefield pointed out the charger could be used by residents in emergency situations — if they didn't have power at home, they could get a quick charge for their vehicle at the fire hall, "which is in a fairly stable grid area," he added.

"Maybe it's tourists as well, but sometimes things are urgent, people need to charge up," said Wakefield. "And if one of the goals of the fire hall is to be environmentally sustainable, this is forward-thinking. There's a potential that we're going to have electric [fire department vehicles], so this could help fuel those assets as well."

Fire Chief Jamie Holmes said the department wasn't concerned about traffic, as the chargers were away from the fire apparatus entrance and exits. Also, he said, he didn't expect people to loiter.

"There's one rate for 20 minutes, or up to 90 per cent of the vehicle, then it triples in rate after that," said Holmes. "That ensures people are not just parking there and then walking to the Saturday Market and going shopping. It really is 'pull in, charge up and move on.'"

BC Hydro's province-wide fast-charging network currently includes 164 units at 85 sites, according to the utility, who have said they plan to expand to 325 chargers at 145 sites by the end of 2025.

NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS

Maxwell plant could be operational by 2025

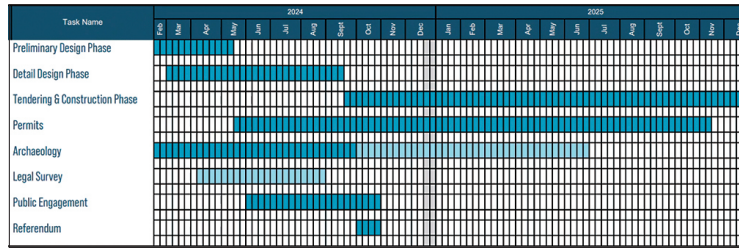
Borrowing referendum likely in October

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's largest water provider has a preliminary timeline for a new water treatment plant, according to officials, who have set a goal for completing the project at Maxwell Lake by the end of 2025.

"It's an optimistic timeline," said North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) operations manager Ryan Moray. "But it does outline essentially basic timelines, which could be influenced by a few contributing factors — such as the water master plan, or the comprehensive supply study."

Island Health has required completion of the new Maxwell Lake Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) Treatment Plant by the end of next year, part of an effort to remove more of the organic matter that reacts with chlorine treatment to create trihalomethanes (THMs), such as chloroform and bromodichloromethane. While Health Canada has noted the health risks of THMs are far less than those from consuming water that has not been disinfected, they direct utilities — including



A draft timeline for the Maxwell Lake Water Treatment Plant project, showing estimated week-by-week plans for progress toward completion — including an October referendum.

NSSWD — to make every effort to keep THMs at the lowest levels possible, so long as they do so without compromising the effectiveness of disinfection.

The Maxwell Lake DAF plant is expected to do just that, although the process toward completion is a long one. One of the larger considerations at the site thus far has been archaeology, according to Moray, who noted as a defined archeological area there was a permitting process required to make any changes. That application was submitted in November, he said, and the province has indicated a processing timeline of about six months.

"So for the preliminary design phase, our timeline is [finishing that] about

mid-May," said Moray, "with the detailed design phase kind of going on right now in concert with the preliminary design."

Moray said there had been some planning made around potential "unknowns" such as unanticipated results of soil testing, or any archaeological discoveries that might necessarily bring delays — and while the consultant they were working with didn't expect either, due diligence was part of the process.

"And of course we've got our public engagement, and a referendum," said Moray. "Nothing is going to be moving forward, in terms of construction phases, without having that referendum."

The timeline as it currently stands calls for public engagement beginning in June, running concurrent with detailed designs, legal surveys, archaeology and permitting, carrying through to a referendum in October. CAO Mark Boysen pointed out the referendum was a loan authorization process, and while the ratepayers would ultimately be responsible for paying it back, those dollars might not entirely come into district coffers via higher bills to water users.

"The referendum is an authorization for us, from our ratepayers, to take out a loan," said Boysen. "There's other ways of paying off that loan; there's reserve funds, it could be other one-time funding sources or possibly a continual [pay-off] through our surpluses."

"The worst-case scenario, we'd have to pull the entire loan out, and the ratepayers would have to pay that over 25 years," said financial officer Tammy Lannan. "But our hope is that we can pay for it with other funds."

Moray agreed, saying while ratepayers are a "big portion of that story" right now, staff would be looking at opportunities to keep direct costs to water users at a minimum. Trustees said they looked forward to hearing regular updates.

"It will be a bit of a moving target," said Moray.

GOVERNANCE

NSSWD fact-finding survey finds little trust in CRD

Current, former commissioners polled for conversion exploration

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A new survey suggests there's no great confidence among current and former Salt Spring Island water officials with the regional district's handling of formerly independent water authorities.

The North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) board had commissioned on-island pollsters Return on Insight (ROI) back in October to explore "attitudes" toward the process of converting independent water authorities to a service owned and operated by the Capital Regional District (CRD). ROI was tasked to reach out to current and former water and wastewater commissioners for their thoughts.

"That was a part of the strategic work that the board wanted to move forward," said NSSWD CAO Mark Boysen, who shared results at the board's regular meeting Thursday, Feb. 29, "starting back when we finished that work in the summer."

Board chair Brian Pyper added the report was sought as a means of "accurately and objectively" measuring their experiences, for the information of both the board and ratepayers.

Among the 27 completed surveys received, the majority — 63 per cent — characterized the

experience of being a commissioner as negative, according to the report, mainly due to "frustration at not feeling listened to, respected [by], or spoken with by CRD management."

Indeed, specifically asked how NSSWD should approach any potential conversion, eight per cent said to begin "ASAP," 27 per cent said to proceed with caution, 23 per cent said not to proceed until more information was available and 42 per cent responded, "Do not proceed under any circumstances."

"Attitudes toward conversion are predominantly negative," according to the report, "with half thinking conversion was not beneficial or necessary, and two thirds lamenting not being informed. Two in three commissioners do not think the CRD has the best interests of ratepayers in mind, and a similar proportion disagree that the process was or is smooth and easy."

Four out of five, per the report, "do not trust CRD promises" with less than one in 20 trusting the CRD. Although close to half believed conversion did or would provide better access to financing for infrastructure investment, 44 per cent disagreed that an expected impact of conversion would include providing potable water at competitive rates. Nearly all commissioners agreed that local influence over project design, execution and budget decreased once conversion to a CRD service proceeded.

"The net impact of conversion is perceived negatively," accord-

ing to the report, "particularly for communications, affordability, debt levels and competitive rates. The only three aspects that commissioners believe may be

positively impacted are water quality, service reliability and financing."

Ratepayers will be able to view the survey in its entirety

— including anonymized comments from respondents — in the coming days at the district's northsaltspringwaterworks.ca website.

NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT

NOTICE

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Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

Tony Richards, MANAGING DIRECTOR



Nancy Johnson
PUBLISHER

nancy.johnson@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Gail Sjuberg
MANAGING EDITOR

gail.sjuberg@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Robb Magley
REPORTER

robb.magley@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Bryan McCrae
ART DIRECTOR

driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Robert McTavish
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

production@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Sky Marcano
ACCOUNT MANAGER

sky.marcano@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Chris Anderson
OFFICE ASSISTANT

driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Jane Gartrell
OFFICE ASSISTANT

driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

EDITORIAL

Confidence gap

It's a question asked from time to time by newcomers and long-time islanders alike: why doesn't the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) get folded into a Capital Regional District (CRD) service?

It seems we might have at least a partial answer now. According to results of a survey, current and former commissioners say they don't think it'd work out.

NSSWD commissioned a survey late last fall, reaching out to more than 50 people who have served, or serve today, as a CRD water commissioner on Salt Spring Island. The objective was to "explore" how they felt about the process of conversion from an independent water authority to a CRD one — something that has happened on Salt Spring, but never on the scale a switch would represent for NSSWD.

THE ISSUE: Lack of trust for CRD

WE SAY: Feedback should be respected

A total of 27 responded and took the survey; among them, half were current commissioners and half former.

At first blush, the results might raise more than a few eyebrows.

Half of the respondents thought conversion wasn't beneficial, two-thirds said they didn't think the CRD had the best interests of ratepayers in mind, four in five "do not trust CRD promises" and fewer than one in 20 "trust the CRD."

One might be tempted to dismiss the survey findings by questioning how those opinions broke down between current and former commission members — were the negative attitudes mostly among those currently serving, or mostly those with memories of days done by? — but that information could at best round the sharp corners of the prickliest responses. And it would risk missing the point.

While even the most casual student of Salt Spring Island history could excuse a certain amount of skepticism for decision-making from the other side of the water, there's a gap in confidence here that needs addressing — and an opportunity for the CRD.

The regional district should take the negative feedback seriously, take a hard look at the conversion process, and start mending a few fences. It's in all our best interests to ensure responsible — and responsive — management of the island's most precious resource.



Noise, not rooster, problem

BY MIKE STACEY

When I was a kid we lived on a farm out in the Fraser Valley. None of the farms had cute names, farmers did not walk around in spotless bib overalls and straw hats, and it sure as hell wasn't *Little House on the Prairie*.

The farmers were all thin, wiry and dressed in clothing that had been caught up in machinery, torn, sewed back together and washed a million times. Their hands had the look of a baseball glove. The same applied to their wives. No driveways had shiny new cars, but once in a long while a shiny new piece of farm machinery would appear somewhere out of necessity.

Dad said more than once that he could never be a good farmer because he did not grow up on a farm. In my mind this would also apply to farm vets. The Bond family is living proof of this. Some things cannot be taught in school.

When we made the move to Salt Spring I could spot the farmers right away. In those days farming was "Do well or die." I remember one old timer telling me, "The beef got sold, we ate mutton." The difference here was that there was not a great deal of dirt, so it was that much tougher to stay ahead of the game.

Almost 60 years later we have small farms and gardens producing food for local consumption. This is not a life-or-death situation anymore, but is great news for those of us who like to know

VIEWPOINT

where the veggies came from and how many chemicals were NOT sprayed on them. There are a whole lot more people here now, and some of them are jammed up tight against one another on small properties.

Enter the rooster. There is no "rooster issue." There is a noise complaint. It matters not what produced the noise. The Capital Regional District (CRD) did not crash this party, they were invited. I have known plenty of bylaw enforcement officers and none of them enjoy this kind of thing. They prefer a quick settlement so that everyone goes home happy.

There is no "rooster issue." There is a noise complaint. It matters not what produced the noise.

In the current battle between neighbours, the voice of doom is telling us that the CRD is going to do away with all the roosters and wipe out small farming on the island. That is a load of swill. The CRD wants out of this situation, and sure as hell doesn't want to make it worse. But a story like that, with somebody being persecuted by the government, will get lots of attention.

What we have is two neighbours, both with heels dug in so deep that they are unable to settle the issue themselves, so everyone else is being dragged into it.

The actual rooster is oblivious to all this. All he wants is to get into the henhouse, put on a little Barry White music and get it on.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident.

241 Fulford-Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2K7 | PH: 250-537-9933
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES PER YEAR:
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Foreign: \$248.00 | Digital Edition: \$45.00 anywhere | Prices include GST



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Canada Publication Mail No. 0040050837 | International Standards Serial Number 1198-7782
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ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

Salty Dog provides sanctuary

The sense of community here at Salty Dog Retreat is incredible. Everyone looks out for each other and offers support whenever it's needed.

It's a safe and welcoming environment where we can truly be ourselves without fear of judgment. Retreat operators Jamie Halan-Harris and Jack Harris are always there to lend a listening ear and provide guidance when necessary. The resources available to us have been invaluable in our journey towards healing and recovery. I am so grateful to have found a place like Salty Dog, where we can thrive and grow together as a family.

Both fathers of my children have been blessed with their own homes here on the land as well, which has been an incredible joy and relief for them, for the kids and I. For all of our lives we have felt displaced and unsafe while living in survival mode, doing our best to cope with

serious post-traumatic stress disorder and many other mental health and physical health conditions. Then facing all of that while also being parents.

Trauma and survival mode have been all we have ever known until we moved here. We are finally getting to see what it feels like to rise up out of survival mode and into safety and support. We feel seen, valued, cared about and accepted. It's like breathing a full breath for the first time.

And suddenly we are able to step into that place beyond just fighting to survive — the place where we can explore our own unique individual talents and skills, how we can use them to better serve the whole. Who am I in my tribe? What do I have to offer? How can I best give back to my community? These are questions that arise when we feel accepted, supported and seen for who we truly are.

There are no words that could describe the level of gratitude I feel towards Jamie and Jack for welcoming us home when we had nowhere else to go. I feel most

grateful that my children don't have to live in trauma, displacement, judgment and fear any longer. They are given a chance to blossom into their truest selves surrounded by true community, fully supported and accepted.

I know that the feelings I have described in this letter are not mine alone, but the same feelings of all the other residents here at Salty Dog. I speak on behalf of the whole when I say, "I have found sanctuary at last, I have finally come home."

JUPITER BUTLER,
SALT SPRING

Weir funding has major, positive impact

Regarding "Weir Gets Surprise Windfall," Feb. 28 Driftwood: Congratulations to the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) board of trustees

and staff. The \$10 million in provincial government funding for the St. Mary Lake weir accomplishes many critical things for NSSWD ratepayers.

- It enables water quantity enhancement as we continue to experience climate change.
- It saves local ratepayers \$10 million.
- It shows provincial government recognition that improvement districts are a form of local elected government. In the past, some people believed that improvement districts needed to become part of another governmental layer. This case suggests that idea has now become debunked.

- After water capacity has been increased, the NSSWD board will have more flexibility as it manages water usage and supply.

If our MLA Adam Olsen was instrumental in the province's decision, kudos to him.

Ten million thanks,
CURT FIRESTONE,
NSSWD RATEPAYER

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"You can build a house on a rock pile, but you can't grow a carrot there."

MARGUERITE LEE, SS AGRICULTURAL ALLIANCE, ON NEED TO PRESERVE FARMLAND

'Ungovernable' island's way forward needs willingness to compromise

Given the choice, I think I'd sooner eat my own right arm than stand for the Islands Trust. Or the other one — the Local Community Commission (LCC) — the new, lesser, local thingamabob whose function I'm still trying to figure out.

Talk about "Damned if you do and damned if you don't!"

Last month's Driftwood was a distillation of everything that's cocked up about the governance of Salt Spring and from whichever side the various contributors were lobbing angry epithets, it was the Islands Trust that copped it.

Eric Booth, for instance, was very, very cross and had previously demanded the resignation of Laura Patrick, one of the Trust's worthies, because he disagreed with her. Or she disagreed with him. Either way, Eric theoretically knows his stuff because he was a trustee himself in the olden days.

I'm not entirely sure where Eric's coming from, but it seems to be from a different direction to the Islands Trust. He wants something done urgently about the shortage of housing on the island which, in Eric Booth's argument, appears to be entirely Laura Patrick's fault. Laura and Bylaw 537, which is apparently even worse than Bylaw 530 and something "those of us with half a brain should be hopping mad about." Grrr.

Eric wants the Trust to get on

and build stuff, or at least to allow people to open up their guest suites to rent payers, which doesn't seem too much to ask, but I suspect he's been banging the same drum for 20 years and, as with most things on Salt Spring, nothing much gets done.

Meanwhile, a few pages into the Driftwood, the Islands Trust was being given another going over for allowing TOO much development, and unless something was done about it, we'd become a second Hong Kong.

Its writers, a couple of scholars, unless I'm mistaken, do at least admit that the Trust is in a difficult position: "Damned if you do, etc. etc." but has become comatose or worse still, is now "running rogue," which conjures up a disturbing image of the island's trustees rampaging through Ganges in leathers and swinging bicycle chains.

The basis of this particular complaint is that the Trust has had the temerity to try to redefine its mandate so that it makes some small sense in the 21st century. David J. Rapport (a pioneer, no less, in the field of ecosystem health) and Luisa Maffi, an anthropologist, which is an entirely useful discipline for understanding the capriciousness of Salt Spring and other small tribal islands, are miffed because the duly elected trustees have taken it upon themselves to consider some small



Paul McElroy
+ ANOTHER THING

degree of development, which, in the opinions of Rapport and Maffi, is protected down to the last blade of grass by the Trust's original mandate.

And there's the rub. What little governance there is on the island is so utterly convoluted, so arcane, as to be unfathomable to most of us. At least it is to me.

I'll confess that I know Laura Patrick well. I admire her and know that she is a woman of great principle, but sit her down and get her to discuss the machinations of the Islands Trust, the CRD and the LCC and you quickly realize how utterly impossible it is to manage Salt Spring. Ask Laura why she bothers, why she doesn't just walk away, and she'll tell you she serves because she cares about Salt Spring and the people who call it home.

I care, but not enough that I'm prepared to get slapped up and down from both sides. The truth is the island is virtually ungovernable because of how its authority was ordained years ago. Like the Ameri-

can Constitution, the Trust's mandate seems to be open to interpretation and lends itself to endless haggling over its intent.

Preserve and protect, but preserve and protect what? On the one hand, there are the "Originalists" who believe the Trust's mandate doesn't extend beyond the environment and therefore disapprove of just about everything.

The Originalists, on the other hand, insist that Salt Spring has only one amenity – the environment – which, in my opinion, is a notion that is both suffocating and short-sighted.

But there is another interpretation, which has the Trust preserve and protect its unique environment AND its unique amenities, which is where the trustees mainly wind up bashing their collective heads against a brick wall.

Most dictionaries define an amenity as "a desirable or useful feature or facility of a

building or place." In property and land use planning, it is something considered to benefit a location, contribute to its enjoyment and thereby increase its value. Heating is an amenity, and so is a library or an ice rink. Housing is most certainly an amenity and there are those on the Trust like Laura Patrick who recognize that if Salt Spring is to flourish those amenities and others need to be addressed.

The Originalists, on the other hand, insist that Salt Spring has only one amenity — the environment — which, in my opinion, is a notion that is both suffocating and short-sighted. If it is to thrive and survive into the next century, or even the next few decades, Salt Spring needs sensible management, neither a developers' free-for-all nor a complete mistrust of anything that smacks of development. Many of us chose to live here because the island is relatively rustic, undeniably picturesque and offers a degree of rural life without ever having to become farmers, but we are as much entitled to our own amenities as the guy in the gumboots.

It needs a compromise and THAT is something that has always been in short supply on Salt Spring.

paulmcelroy@shaw.ca



HOME RENOVATIONS

Projects help improve long-term home value

Four important things for home owners to consider when thinking about upgrades

But a fresh coat of paint and some new handles on the drawers and cabinets are a low-cost way to refresh the most popular room in the house.

Refresh the bathrooms

Next on the list of best renos for ROI are bathrooms. Turning a dingy old bathroom with inefficient fixtures into a home-based spa will do wonders for your day-to-day life, and the home's resale value.

Some investments, such as low-flow showerheads and faucets, and water-conserving toilets are both environmentally friendly and will help lower your utility bills. Others, such as adding heated floors will have your feet thanking you for as long as you live there.

Prepare to age in place

As we start to get older and think about retirement living, most of us are planning

For most of us, our home is by far our biggest investment. So, if we're going to spend more money on it for renovations, we want to make sure they're wise expenses for the long-term.

Here are four things to consider when planning your next reno.

Upgrade the kitchen

In most surveys of the best renovation projects for return on investment (ROI), kitchen renos usually top the list. It makes sense given how much time we spend in there cooking, eating and socializing. If it's in your budget, opening-up walls and adding a kitchen island are trendy options.



Planning for a kitchen upgrade is a wise move when it comes to home renovation options.

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to stay in our current homes — or, age in place. If you are planning on renovating some or all of the rooms in your house, there are some simple steps you can take to make it easier for you to stay there well into your golden years. This includes adding extra lighting, widening doorways so a walker or wheelchair can fit through, and having a barrier-free shower or bathtub.

Test for radon

Your home should be your sanctuary, but some homes can house some real hazards, including radon, a cancer-causing radioactive gas.

Radon is a naturally occurring gas that

comes from the breakdown of uranium in the ground. In many homes, the gas can seep in and accumulate to dangerous levels. Long-term exposure to radon is the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers, so reducing your risk is important for your health.

The first step is to test the radon level using a simple DIY kit. Then, if the level is high, you can lower it with the help of a certified professional, making your home healthier for you and increasing its value long term.

Learn more about radon, how to test for it and fix problematic levels at the takeactiononradon.ca website.

www.newscanada.com

An advertisement for Dennis Maguire Architect. It features a background image of a lake at sunset with a person's face in the foreground. The text reads: "Architecture in Nature", "Dennis Maguire Architect", "Serving the Gulf Islands with experience, imagination, and professionalism.", "PH: 604-902-0702", "See our website for contact and portfolio information: www.dmarchitect.ca"



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SAFETY

Equipment maintenance crucial



PHOTO COURTESY OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT INSTITUTE

Several steps should be taken before lawn and garden maintenance equipment is used for the first time each spring.

Handling and safety procedures should also be reviewed each year

Spring is coming and homeowners are eager to get outside and spruce up their yards. The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI), an international trade association representing outdoor power equipment, small engine, utility vehicle, golf car and personal transport vehicle manufacturers and suppliers, reminds homeowners to keep safety in mind.

"Before you use a mower, trimmer, blower, power washer, chainsaw, pruner, portable generator or other piece of outdoor power equipment this season, it's important to be up to date on handling and safety procedures," said Kris Kiser, president and CEO of OPEI. "We're all eager to get outside and enjoy our yards, but you also need to take the time to do maintenance to ensure your equipment operates safely for the season and is ready to get the job done."

Here are tips to help:

- Read your owner's manual. Follow all guidelines for your outdoor power equipment and familiarize yourself with the controls. Review how to shut on, shut off, and use the equipment safely. If you have lost your manual, look it up online (and save a copy on your computer for

easy reference in the future).

- Inspect equipment. Check the air filter, oil level and the gasoline tank. Also check for loose belts and missing or damaged parts. Ensure all safety guards are in place. Replace any parts needed or take your equipment to a qualified service representative for servicing. If using electric equipment that relies on power cords, make sure cords are in good condition and not damaged.

- Protect your power by only using E10 or less fuel in gasoline-powered outdoor power equipment. With today's higher ethanol content fuels, most manufacturers are recommending a fuel stabilizer be used, especially if you don't use up all the gas purchased right away. Some gas stations may offer 15 per cent ethanol (E15) gas or higher ethanol fuel blends, but any fuel containing more than 10 per cent ethanol can damage, and is illegal to use, in small engine equipment not designed for it.

- Store fuel safely. Label your fuel can with the date of purchase and ethanol content of the fuel. Never put "old" gas in your outdoor power equipment. If you don't know the date of purchase, dispose safely of the fuel in the can and buy fresh fuel. Always store fuel out of the reach of children or pets and in approved containers. You should never leave fuel sitting in the gas tank of your equipment for more than 30 days as it may cause starting or running problems or damage.

- For battery-powered equipment, recharge your equipment only with the charger specified by the manufacturer. A charger that is suitable for one type of battery pack may create a risk of fire when used with another battery pack. Follow all charging instructions. Do not charge the battery pack or tool outside the temperature range specified in the instructions.

- Store batteries safely. When the battery pack is not in use, keep it away from other metal objects, like paper clips, coins, keys, nails, screws or other small metal objects, that can make a connection from one terminal to another. Shorting the battery terminals together may cause burns or a fire.

- Clean your equipment and store it in a dry place. Remove any dirt, oil or grass. Clean equipment will run more efficiently and last longer. Never store your equipment in a place that is damp or wet.

Always keep kids and pets away when operating outdoor power equipment.

To learn more, go to www.opei.org. For information on safe fuelling, see www.LookBeforeYouPump.com.

GARDENING

Worm composting workshop offered

Nick Jones and Polly Orr lead session at The Root on April 6

One of the benefits of belonging to the Salt Spring Garden Club is access to workshops taking place at various times of the year.

Next month, on Saturday, April 6, Nick Jones and Polly Orr will lead a three-hour educational workshop packed with information and hands on learning about how to set up home worm composting systems. The session runs from 1 to 4 p.m. at The Root at 189 Beddis Rd.

As a garden club website item explains, "the first part of the workshop will introduce people to vermicomposting theory, including information about worms and different worm composting systems. Then Nick and Polly will demonstrate how to set up a small bin worm system, with participants able to help with setting up the new bin, including harvesting worms from finished castings, identifying worm eggs and how to troubleshoot common problems. In the last part of the workshop, they will introduce participants to making compost tea with their castings including what's needed to make a simple compost tea bubbler and how to apply compost tea successfully."

People are advised to dress for the weather as the workshop takes place outdoors.

Annual garden club membership costs \$25. The worm composting workshop fee is \$30.

Other workshops on tap are Soils 101 – My Relationship With My Garden Soil on May 4, and How to Make Home Flower Arrangements From Your Garden on June 8, both led by Ted Baker.

See ssigardenclub.ca for more information.

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DANCE

Burlesque dancer brings show to hometown

Chai Tease excited to share passion for genre at ArtSpring next weekend

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

When Tala Small Wolf was a student at Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS), one place she would not be found was in the dance studio.

"I was an apprentice cook, like nowhere near dance, because as a plus-sized human, dance wasn't really open to people who weren't straight sizes at that time," she said.

But Small Wolf is now the owner, producer and creative director of SINnergy Productions, a Victoria-based burlesque dance company she founded in the summer of 2022, and is bringing her group's Caravan of Desire show to ArtSpring on Saturday, March 16, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Dancing in the show will be Small Wolf, whose stage name is Chai Tease, as well as Jacqueline Daniels, Tommy Tricker and Ginger Vicious, and drag performer Oliver Clozoff.

How did Small Wolf end up dancing professionally after graduating from GISS outside of the performing arts stream in 2013?

Small Wolf moved to Victoria two years later and started taking general dance classes at the Passion and Performance dance studio.

"I really started to learn about dancing sexy, and just how fun dancing is, and it kind of reevaluated my entire relationship that I had with my body," she said.

When the studio added a burlesque program to their offerings, Small Wolf immediately signed up, having loved the 2010 movie *Burlesque*, which starred Cher and Christina Aguilera.

She said she was surprised when the instructor turned out to be "a plus-sized human. I was not expecting that. I kept taking the classes, and being like, 'Oh my god, there is space for us. There is a lot of space for us.'"

Small Wolf is now the burlesque class instructor at the studio and loves to share her passion for the genre.

"Burlesque is incredibly transformative for how people feel about the skin they are in," she said, "because I can say, personally I've been 140 pounds — and 240 pounds — on stage and the cheers never change."

Even if Small Wolf wasn't part of the GISS dance program, she always enjoyed the shows, supporting friends on stage and being amazed by the choreography.

"Whenever I listened to music, I would create routines in my head — the creativity has always been there — but there was just that blockage of 'Oh, but that's not for me.'" Now, she says, "Choreographing routines for groups is my favourite thing to do and I cannot imagine my life without that."

Small Wolf was encouraged to create Caravan of Desire, where the dancers play travelling showgirls, and bring it to Salt Spring after getting enthusiastic feedback from a burlesque show she participated in at Mateada in Ganges last year.

For the March 16 performance at ArtSpring, the audience will get a taste of the huge range of burlesque forms that exist.

"We're going to be going through styles like bump and grind, drag-lesque, nerd-lesque, burlesque that tells a story . . . There's just so many micro categories of burlesque that I'm really excited to show everyone who comes to the show."

Varied music is used for the routines, from an Elvis piece to smooth jazz to metal. A BC Ferries joke routine that uses sounds from the ferries is also on tap.

Due to nudity, the show is for people aged 18 and older, with two pieces of ID required at the door.



PHOTO COURTESY SINNERGY PRODUCTIONS

From left are SINnergy Productions dancers Jacqueline Daniels, Ginger Vicious, Chai Tease and Tommy Tricker.



PHOTO BY KITTY PHOTOGRAPHY

Dancing in a past burlesque performance are, from left, Ginger Vicious, Jacqueline Daniels, Tommy Tricker, Oliver Clozoff and Chai Tease.

Small Wolf explained that the word burlesque has 18th-century Italian roots in "burlesco" and "burla," which means to joke or to make a mockery of.

"So original burlesque was making fun of the higher-ups. It would be



PHOTO BY NEGATIVE NANCY PHOTOGRAPHY

Jacqueline Daniels, left, and Chai Tease in "BC Ferries" outfits. The March 16 Caravan of Desire show includes a BC Ferries-themed comedy routine.

common for them to take highfalutin Shakespearean plays that normal people couldn't get their hands on and make some jokes out of them and make it a parody."

Small Wolf said while some people might initially think it's "a little weird" to watch people dance naked, "Every single person I've talked to afterward who's gone to a burlesque show is so enthralled in the art form itself. It's just such a beautiful way for people to express themselves and show how happy they are with their body . . . and it's just such a creative world; it's just another type of dance."

Tickets for the March 16 show are available through ArtSpring.

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- Equity Grants:** For arts initiatives by those from communities at risk of exclusion or who have difficulty accessing support for systemic reasons
- IDEA Grants:** For arts projects and events by non-arts mandated organizations.
- Incubator Grants:** To assist the acceleration of arts organizations and projects by funding capacity building needs.
- Project Grants:** To support arts organizations with projects, including short series of events and extended programming over a year.

Equity Grant, IDEA Grant and Incubator Grant applications are due March 14, 2024 at 4:30 pm.
Project Grant applications are due April 18, 2024 at 4:30 pm.

Learn more and sign up for an online info session:
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PERFORMING ARTS

Children's theatre show set to enthrall

Verdi opera also on ArtSpring schedule

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
FOR ARTSPRING

Vancouver-based Axis Theatre and its imaginative productions for children have become an island

favourite with many appearances in ArtSpring's programs over the years. On March 13, it returns with the curiously titled *Frog Belly Rat Bone*, a performance especially for pre-school through elementary-school-aged students.

Incorporating beautifully handcrafted puppets and an original pop-rock musical score, the setting of Cementland comes to life as two enigmatic garbage collectors tell the story of a very special boy whose singular wish is to find a treasure.

As the plot unfolds, the boy discovers a rusty tin box packed with colourful envelopes and an old wrinkled note: "put my wondrous riches into the earth and enjoy."

The boy opens the envelope and tosses the contents — hundreds of tiny grey specks. As night approaches, the specks must be protected from junkyard thieves so the boy invents a guard by gathering wet smelly socks, moldy old pillow stuffing and scraggly wire to bring his creation *Frog Belly Rat Bone* to life.

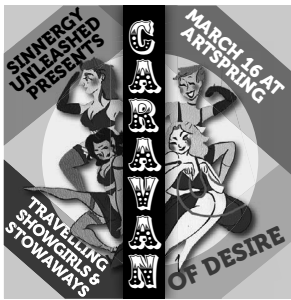
With an energetic running time of 40 minutes and a post-show talkback with the performers, the production is designed to keep young minds and attention spans engaged.

"With this kind of programming, ArtSpring seeks

to be a place and a resource that promotes the arts within the curriculum, provides opportunities for teachers and parents to introduce students to ideas, and gives children the chance to experience a performance in a theatre setting — sometimes for the first time," explains Howard Jang, ArtSpring's executive and artistic director. "It's quite wonderful to have a theatre full of young children cheering or participating back and forth with the actors as they get drawn into the story."

On March 9, the Saturday a few days prior, ArtSpring's second last Met Opera Live in HD broadcast pushes the artistic pendulum out the other way with Verdi's *La Forza del Destino*, starting an hour earlier than usual due to its epic scale and two intermissions.

Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts Verdi's grand tale of ill-fated love, deadly vendetta and family strife, with soprano Lise Davidsen in her role debut as the noble Leonora, one of the repertory's most tormented and thrilling heroines. Director Mariusz Trelinski delivers the company's first new Forza in nearly 30 years, re-setting the scene in a contemporary world and making extensive use of the Met's turntable to represent the unstoppable advance of destiny that drives the opera's chain of calamitous events.



HAVE AN EVENT FOR THE EVENTS CALENDAR?
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what's on this week

Wed. March 6	Fri. March 8	Sun. March 10	Wed. March 13
<p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</p> <p>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.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Bridge. In the library program room. 12:45 to 4:15 p.m.</p> <p>Swing Dancing. Every Wednesday at the Legion. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>Music Bingo. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</p> <p>ArtSpring Presents: The Ostara Project. Concert featuring acclaimed female jazz musicians. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Karaoke. At the Legion. 7 p.m.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Neighbourhood Story Time. Library children's area. 11 to 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>ASK Salt Spring. Local Community Commission members are this week's guests at SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.</p> <p>Friday Games Night. For ages 13 to 19. Library program room. 7 p.m.</p> <p>Salt Spring Home & Garden Show Pre-Show Social. Farmers' Institute. 5 - 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</p> <p>Blues Jam w/open mic. Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Salt Spring Home & Garden Show. See Saturday listing except the time is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.</p> <p>Tango Lesson With Por El Amor Al Tango. ArtSpring gallery. 10 to 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>New Moon Meditations. Recurring monthly on the New Moon with Belinda Schroeder and Shelagh Dodd at Star of the Sea. 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.</p>	<p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</p> <p>Robin Layne: Journey Into Rhythm. Family show in the library program room. 11 a.m.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Bridge. See last Wednesday's listing.</p> <p>Swing Dancing. See last Wednesday's listing</p> <p>Music Bingo. See last Wednesday's listing.</p> <p>CINEMA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bob Marley: One Love runs Friday, March 8 to Tuesday, March 12 at 7 p.m. each night plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. See thefritz.ca for more movie info. <p>ART EXHIBITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salt Spring Gallery presents The Elements and the Elements, artworks by the women of the She Said Collective, through March 20. Gallery is open Tuesdays through Saturdays. • Kaya Reiss – Roman Portraits is the Salt Spring Public Library program room exhibit through March. • Works by Salt Spring Painters Guild members are on display in the ArtSpring lobby during the month of March. • Judy H. McPhee shows photographs taken at the July 1 car show at the Country Grocer cafe.
<p>Thur. March 7</p> <p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</p> <p>Poetry Open Mic with Feature Poet Susan Braley. 7 p.m. Sign-up for the open mic starts at 6:45 p.m. Library program room.</p> <p>Open Mic & Jam. Legion. 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Salt Spring Local Trust Committee Meeting. Meaden Hall. 9:30 a.m. Or livestreamed through the Islands Trust website.</p> <p>Mother Goose. Group for babies, young children (0-4 years) and their parents/ caregivers. Library. 10 to 11 a.m.</p> <p>Film Screening: The Magnitude of all Things. Documentary by Jennifer Abbott. Presented by CFUW Salt Spring. Library program room. 2 p.m.</p> <p>Scrabble Games. For Grand(m)others to Grandmothers fundraiser. Salt Spring Inn. 2 to 4 p.m.</p>	<p>Sat. March 9</p> <p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</p> <p>Rough and Tumble. Legion. 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Met Opera: Verdi's La Forza del Destino. ArtSpring. 8:55 a.m.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Salt Spring Home & Garden Show. More than 40 vendors on site, plus activities for the whole family, speakers and demos. Farmers' Institute. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.</p> <p>The Paradox of Conflict: Following the Principles and Practices of Restorative Justice. With Laura Dafoe at Star of the Sea. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Pre-register through staroftheseassi.ca.</p> <p>SS Historical Society Presents John Lutz: Ranfurley Island? UVIC professor and author John Lutz is guest speaker. Library program room. 2 p.m.</p> <p>Scrabble Fundraiser. Games and silent auction for Grand(m)others to Grandmothers fundraiser. Harbour House Hotel. 6 to 9 p.m.</p>	<p>Mon. March 11</p> <p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</p> <p>Vetta Chamber Music: Music for Eternity. Works by Brahms, Mackey and Messiaen. ArtSpring. 2:30 p.m.</p> <p>Tues. March 12</p> <p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</p> <p>Folk Jam. With open mic. Legion. 6 p.m.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Transition Salt Spring AGM & Get Together. At the TSS space at SIMS. 6 p.m. (with optional dinner beginning at 5 p.m.)</p> <p>Trivia Tuesday. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Spiritual Conversation: Non-duality and Duality, Union and Separation. With Heather Martin and Brian Day at Star of the Sea. 7 to 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Wed. March 13</p> <p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</p> <p>ArtSpring Presents: Axis Theatre. Frog Belly Rat Bone. All-ages show and post-show talkback. ArtSpring. 1 p.m.</p>

Journey Into Rhythm
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CELTIC MUSIC

Two bands visit to celebrate St. Patrick's Day

March 15 event at Mahon Hall

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF
FROM MEDIA MATERIAL

St. Patrick's Day weekend will start off with a bang on Salt Spring as two Vancouver Island-based ensembles bring their dynamic celebration of Irish music to Mahon Hall on Friday, March 15.

Clanna Morna and The Slieves are two of the region's liveliest traditional Celtic/Irish bands, who will each perform a selection of Irish and Celtic songs, stories and instrumentals over the evening; and will also join forces for a collective performance of traditional songs and tunes.

The Slieves are a West Coast Celtic band hailing from Victoria and Duncan. Brought together by their love of traditional Irish music, this group has brought Celtic folk and Celtic-inspired original music to the coast of B.C. for well over a decade. Members include the magical Tasia MacKay (Irish flute

and whistles, five-string banjo, vocals), the accomplished Jeremy Walsh (guitar, vocals) and the foot-stomping Andrew Morris MacKay (bodhran, spoons, vocals).

Victoria-based Clanna Morna brings their take on the Celtic traditional genre to the west coast. Their sound is rooted in the traditional Irish, Scottish and English music that many love, and features carefully crafted arrangements, rhythmic spirited energy and captivating storytelling. Comprised of an ensemble of multi-instrumentalists, their collective musicianship and attention to detail contribute to a unique audience experience featuring both familiar and lesser known folk ballads and tunes.

Members of Clanna Morna have been arranging and performing traditional Celtic and original music for three years together and for over a decade in other projects, sharing their melodic arrangements and stories both locally and internationally. They have racked up a history of over 270 performances in the past three years.

The band is comprised of Cody Baresich (guitar, mandolins, Irish bouzouki, tenor banjo, percussion, vocals), Finn Letourneau (fiddle, banjo, vocals) and Mark Leigh (accordion, tin whistles, vocals). With the combination of traditional instruments featuring strong melodic leads, rhythmic guitar accompaniment and foot percussion, the band covers a wide swath of musical ground. From high-energy instrumentals to slow ballads, drinking songs to sea shanties, Clanna Morna brings a unique west coast influence to Celtic and English folk. The band pays tribute to and takes inspiration from legendary predecessors including The Dubliners, The Pogues, The Bothy Band, Planxty and The Clancy Brothers.

The group's debut album called From the Lowlands to the High Seas was released on CD and all streaming services in June 2023.

Tickets for the family-friendly event are available online through the clannamorna.ca website.

Doors open at 7 p.m., with music commencing at 7:30 p.m.



PHOTO ABOVE COURTESY THE SLIEVES; PHOTO BELOW BY RYAN MACDONALD

Above, from left are Jeremy Walsh, Tasia MacKay and Andrew Morris MacKay, members of The Slieves. Below, from left, are Clanna Morna members Mark Leigh, Cody Baresich and Finn Letourneau.



COMMUNITY BUILDING

First speaker series event delves into pre-history of ArtSpring

Four players to lead discussion on March 16

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
FOR ARTSPRING

As ArtSpring readies to celebrate its 25th anniversary of opening its doors with the ribbon cutting by Birgit and Robert Bateman in April 1999, over a decade of petitioning, fundraising, coordinating and building occurred in the community leading up to that big day.

Four game changers from what is being called the "pre-history of ArtSpring" are assembling for a panel discussion to share stories and lived experiences on how and why the dream of ArtSpring came to be. The panel, Q and A, and coffee mingler session is free to the public on Saturday, March 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This is the first in an ongoing speaker series to be coordinated by the newly launched Community Roundtable Committee, an initiative that came out of an ArtSpring "listening session" in May 2023 to gather opinions from the island's artists and organizations. A volunteer group passionate about developing public programming for ArtSpring was established to engage and grow community creative thinking, skill sets and involvement through local speakers, workshops and networking cafés.

"The story of why ArtSpring was wanted and needed and how it was achieved is an epic drama," explains April Curtis, who served on the first Island Arts Centre Society

board formed in 1989. "It's a perfect theme to set the tone for engaging long-time residents, while inviting more recent arrivals to learn about our unique history and culture."

Salt Spring has long had a reputation as one of the most dense per capita regions for artists in North America. The impact it has had on local culture, attracting tourism and contributing to the economy is a defining trait. That the island's performing and visual artists needed a centralized place to stage productions and exhibitions, learn and practise their crafts and support students became a driving priority.

At the event, Curtis will be touching on how the seed grants arose, what fundraising events were hosted by enthusiastic groups and how the community came together with over 12,000 signatures to prove interest for a home for the arts

on Salt Spring. The process of finding land, architects, design plans and grant proposals will be highlights as well as the forming of the first board of directors.

Sue Newman will be speaking to the community music, dance and education contributions in the process and the specific needs that group of artists, musicians, choirs, bands and students had.

Victoria Olchowecki will present the history of the art and craft guilds and their critical role in the development of ArtSpring. Some work from the guilds will be on display in the gallery for the event.

Finally, Tom Toynebee will lead audiences through the exciting drama of the difficul-

ties and costs of building an art centre. With critical moments of stops and starts, some doubted whether it even could be completed. He will reveal the story of how and who gave the final lift, which made it possible to cross the finish line and open ArtSpring's doors.

The Community Roundtable Committee is seeking volunteer members who care about the arts at ArtSpring and have ideas and opinions to enrich local engagement and development.

"The story of why ArtSpring was wanted and needed and how it was achieved is an epic drama."

APRIL CURTIS
Original Island Arts Centre Society board member

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March 9-10



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DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
6	3:49	3.3	10.8	10	5:31	3.3	10.8
	9:33	2.9	9.5		11:06	2	6.6
	10:39	2.9	9.5		16:32	3	9.8
	19:45	0.5	1.6		22:53	0.9	3
7	4:20	3.3	10.8	11	5:52	3.4	11.2
	9:31	2.8	9.2		11:50	1.6	5.2
	12:32	3	9.8		17:47	2.9	9.5
	20:39	0.5	1.6		23:34	1.3	4.3
8	4:46	3.3	10.8	12	6:13	3.4	11.2
	9:54	2.6	8.5		12:36	1.2	3.9
	13:57	3	9.8		19:03	2.9	9.5
	21:27	0.5	1.6		17	1.7	5.6
9	5:10	3.3	10.8	13	6:36	3.4	11.2
	10:27	2.3	7.5		13:23	0.9	3
	15:16	3	9.8		20:23	2.9	9.5
	22:11	0.6	2				

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- Obituaries
- Obituaries
- In Memorium
- In Memorium
- Coming Events
- Building Materials
- Legal



Mary Joan
(Mosley) Glover

(1931-2024)

It is with sadness that the family announces that Joan passed away suddenly after a brief illness on January 3rd in her 92nd year. Born in Midland, Ontario, she lived in Oakville, Port Credit, Etobicoke and Creemore before moving to Salt Spring Island in 2016. She was the daughter of Thomas Harold Mosley and Eva Ann Perreault, also of Ontario. She was predeceased by her husband of 69 years, Barry Clayton Glover, brother Douglas and sister Fay Sproule (Harlan). She is survived by her son Wayne Barry (William Stedwill) on Salt Spring Island, and grandson Christopher Thomas (Vanessa) in Fergus, Ontario as well as sisters-in-law Sheila Mosley and Marilyn Washington, brother-in-law, Roy Glover and many nephews and nieces.

Joan was the stereotypical 1950's housewife until Wayne entered high school, at which time, she joined the workforce and had a very successful career. She started helping at a nursery school and grew into the job through taking courses at Sheridan and Humber Colleges. She started at Holt Howard in Mississauga in 1973 in an administrative role, eventually moving to Toledo Scale where she started as receptionist and worked her way up to Secretary to the President.

Creemore was a special place to Joan and Barry. After acquiring property on the Niagara Escarpment in the early 1970's, they built their "self-designed" retirement home where they moved full time when they both retired. When upkeep on the property became too great to manage, they moved into the town of Creemore and then on to Salt Spring Island.

On Salt Spring, Joan did volunteer work with the Senior Services Society and Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary where her dedication was so much appreciated.

Joan requested no special memorial ceremony and, if desired, donations in her memory may be made to the Senior Services Society or Greenwoods Eldercare Society on Salt Spring.

**Salt Spring Island
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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.

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**Central Community Hall,
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WHAT'S ON
page 12

**DECLARATION
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1J4NT2GA5AD594239
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On the 13th of
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caused the above-
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seizure on behalf of
Mark M^cEachern
(Or on my own
behalf, under the
provisions of the
repairers lien act.

The cost of the
repairs amounted
to \$2500, and the
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ISLAND LIFE

FUNDRAISER

Grandmothers raise funds



PHOTO COURTESY SALT SPRING G2G

Some of the Salt Spring Grand(m)others to Grandmothers group members gear up for their 16th annual Scrabble Fundraiser supporting the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers Campaign, which has seen more than \$250,000 donated since the first local event was held in 2007.

Scrabble, silent auction events

SUBMITTED BY SSG2G

Salt Spring Grand(m)others to Grandmothers are presenting their 16th annual Scrabble

Fundraiser for the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers Campaign.

HIV/AIDS continues to devastate communities in Africa as grandmothers struggle to raise millions of orphaned children. The Salt Spring Grand(m)others to Grandmothers fundraising

efforts support over 300 community-led organizations turning the tide of HIV/AIDS in the 15 African countries hardest hit by the pandemic. An integrated and holistic approach focuses on projects in health-care, income generation, food security, education, protection from violence, counselling and community mobilization. Communities are recovering, but much more needs to be done.

The Scrabble Fundraiser is the Grand(m)others' foremost effort, and between it and other initiatives has donated over \$250,000 to the campaign since 2007. Games are played by donation at events at the Salt Spring Inn (2 to 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 7) and the Harbour House from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, March 9 with a silent auction. You can bring a friend or come on your own and be partnered with new friends. You might even win a prize.

Online donations are also welcomed.

PERSONAL GROWTH

Popular clown workshop led by Nayana Fielkov

Fools Proof set for March 16-17

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF
FROM ORGANIZER PRESS RELEASE

Nayana Fielkov is once again offering her Fools Proof clown workshop on Salt Spring this month.

From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, March 16 and 17, Fielkov will work with participants to expand and develop play and personal presence on stage and in everyday life.

"Through a series of experiential awareness building games and exercises, we will cultivate curiosity, explore emotional range and practise the bravery of sharing our willingness and openness," she explains in press material about the event. "Through following the body and our impulses, we can be in delight with the discovery of the moment."

Fools Proof takes place at Lions Hall.

Fielkov is a Canadian-based performing artist dedicated to the work of play. She brings together the mediums of clown, dance, mask and physical comedy. She is the co-creator and performer in multi award-winning shows *Falling Awake*, *Hotel Votruba*, *A Can of Worms*, *UNDERBELLY*, *Habitats*, and *Out of Time* from The Myrtle Sisters. She is a founding member of ensemble theatre/clown troupes the *Poupon Parade* and *The Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret*, which performed at Salt Spring Arts' Family Day event.

Fielkov's teachers have included David MacMurray Smith, Deanna Fleysler, John Turner, Peter Bingham and Ruth Zaporah. She has taught for over a decade both internationally and throughout Canada.

Registration and payment done through nayanafielkov@gmail.com.

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AGRICULTURE

Ag land preservation flagged

Farming community meets with Islands Trust members

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Agricultural community members met with land use officials last week to ensure their concerns about threats to the preservation of suitable farmland were heard.

The meeting held Tuesday, Feb. 27 was an opportunity for the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) to have a discussion with members of the Salt Spring Island Agricultural Advisory Planning Commission (AAPC) and representatives of the Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance (SSIAA) on agriculture-related issues. Pre-Covid, the meetings were generally held three times per year, often based around planting and growing seasons, but the sense Tuesday night was that it would be important to set times that also coincided with key decision-making points during upcoming work planned for Salt Spring's Official Community Plan (OCP).

SSIAA member Marguerite Lee said it was critical trustees remember to keep land use priorities in good balance, particularly in the face of a growing focus on crisis issues like housing affordability or climate change.

"There's three essentials for life," said Lee. "Clean water, air, and of course healthy food. And dealing with current issues, these elements must be considered together, in order that their relationship and impact upon each other is clearly noted; they can't be issues that are dealt with one-off, it's a combination."

Lee said whether dealing with social, economic or environmental issues, considering agriculture is critically important.

"It's not secondary," she said. "It's not an 'also-ran' topic. Because if we have people living in houses, and they don't have food, it just isn't going to work."

Farmers' Institute director and retired agrologist Kevin Chipperfield said he was worried Salt Spring might not notice degradation of Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) land until it was too late to act — like, he said, he'd seen on two- to five-acre ALR parcels in Abbotsford where the total acreage remained "protected" by ALR designation but the land's real agricultural value suffered.

"What I saw people do, especially on the smaller acreages, was move in, use them as storage lots," said Chipperfield. "Put machinery businesses on them or other non-agricultural things. When the population increases, and there's more demand, and ALR land is generally cheaper."

LTC chair Tim Peterson agreed it was difficult to manage, particularly given the wide variety of so-called related uses allowed under ALR designation.

"If the ALC (Agricultural Land Commission) specifically allows it, we can't disallow it," said Peterson. According to Islands Trust regional planning manager Chris Hutton, it's a common concern in agricultural policy.

"It's not the first I've seen of it, where a business might start off as just being a farm with a lot of machines," said Hutton, "and over 25 years it evolves into a truck mechanic's [shop]. There's a risk there, to be sure."

AAPC member Ken Byron said in addition to cost

issues, there's simply a persistent lack of industrially zoned land, and that puts pressure on ALR parcels. He'd heard from at least one contractor running afoul of neighbours as a direct result of not being able to set up in a more appropriate spot.

"As much as some people may hate the word 'industry,' there really is a need for industrial lands," said Byron. "He needs a place to do business, there's nothing available, so we're forcing people to be out of compliance with the bylaws."

Trustee Laura Patrick said she agreed and felt the Islands Trust needed to look at industrial, commercial and agricultural land more as one of the parts necessary for a functioning island.

"We should be preserving and protecting that land as well," said Patrick, "to make sure that we're not losing it."

Lee added that flat agricultural land was often attractive because of how easy it was to build on — but what was convenient for residential or industrial projects was a necessity for agricultural ones.

"You can build a house on a rock pile," said Lee. "But you can't grow a carrot there."

Chipperfield agreed, saying it was important to maintain as much agricultural land as possible — and, he added, there was some concern within the community about so-called ALR trades, where land elsewhere could be exchanged for the right to use ALR land for non-agricultural uses.

"Losing any agricultural land diminishes the financial sustainability of the agricultural industry through losing 'critical mass,'" he said. "Agriculture isn't just soil based, it's livestock barns, it's greenhouses."

"There so much more than just exchanging land

for land," agreed Island Natural Growers' Lorenz Eppinger. "There's access to water, there's soil fertility. And quite frankly, we have a very small agricultural [land] base on Salt Spring considering our population, and from what I'm hearing, you want to increase the population — so if anything, the ALR should be added to."

"Let's be clear," chuckled Patrick. "No one's wanting to increase population; it's happening, but it's not an aim."

Chipperfield suggested in Salt Spring's upcoming OCP update, non-ALR land with agricultural potential should be identified in the same way land that can potentially be added for industrial use is currently.

"And of course," added Lee, "not all [utilized] agricultural land is in the ALR."

Hutton said that the update process would necessarily include much collaboration with the AAPC and other island advisory commissions.

"We want to make sure that we capture input from this group," said Hutton.

The group plans to meet again in late May or early June, at a date that will likely be finalized during the LTC's April 11 meeting.


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Speakers Schedule

Saturday March 9, 2024

10:30am PCS
Pest Control Services
~ Dave French
It's Alive! On Salt Spring Island!

11:30am Jennie Sparkes
Wildfire Resilient Gardening

1:00pm Jane Squier
Growing Citrus & Avocados
on Salt Spring using Sustainable
and Regenerative Systems

2:00pm Emony Nicholls
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3:00pm Bearfoot Renewables
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