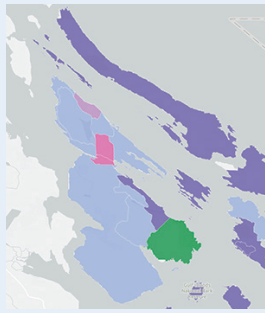


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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

CRASHED: An SUV rests upside down on the beach below a steep embankment in the 300 block of Isabella Point Road, following a single motor vehicle incident on Monday morning at about 10:15 a.m. Salt Spring RCMP said the female driver walked away from the scene without visible injuries at the time.

PARKS

New Portlock concept floated

Senior ball field, track fit into updated draft plan

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring officials got a preview of the latest concept for Portlock Park last week, and a plan for improvements at the site may be near to satisfying the user groups who first clashed, then collaborated on it.

The new draft found space to keep the oval track while still including a new senior ball field, shifting 58 parking spaces — and the pickleball courts — to the southwest corner of the property and repositioning the soccer field. It's an efficient design without much wasted space, something Capital Regional District electoral area manager Dan Ovington said was necessary to try to fit in the many components local groups had said were the most important to them.

"I spent a lot of time working with the landscape architects to see if there was a way that we could keep the track as well as the senior ball field," said Ovington, who brought the latest draft plan to Salt Spring's Local Community Commission (LCC) Thursday, March 21. "If we look at relocating the entire parking lot to the west side of Portlock Park, there is room for both of those larger entities."

Developing a master plan for the site was identified as a priority in 2019 as a strategic planning process for all the island's parks was laid out; public engagement has been long and often spirited, as different park users expressed varying desires for the what-and-where of facilities.

Ovington suggested getting further feedback on the latest proposal from the major user groups who have been most engaged in recent months — including baseball, soccer and pickleball players, as well as track walkers, all of whom have collaborated on designs — and that he bring that information, along with any proposed changes, back to the LCC.

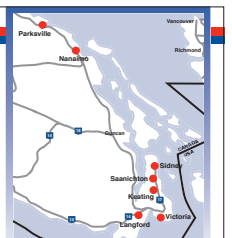
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Amenities can be shifted

PORTLOCK

continued from 1

"There will also be a kind of 'global view' marked out as well," said Ovington, which would show how future build-out at one field or facility would fill in another's gaps — such as adding more pickleball courts to the Rainbow Recreation Centre site. Commissioners lamented the cost of repositioning what might seem to be otherwise functional facilities just a few metres, but Ovington pointed out that every part of Portlock Park was either at, or near, its operational end-of-life.

"When we're talking about the track, for example, as far as drain-

age, the borders, the material," said Ovington. "You can't even get that red cinder material anymore. So, as we look at replacing this aging infrastructure, we're deciding where the best location for it is — on this site, or at another."

Approximately \$20,000 of a \$30,000 budget has been spent on the project to date, according to a staff report, which noted while additional architectural services can likely be funded under the existing budget, the extra staff time needed will probably necessitate a reprioritization of the year's work plan, as plan development had been expected to conclude in the fall of 2023.

NOTICE

NP-TUP-2024.2

North Pender Island Local Trust Committee



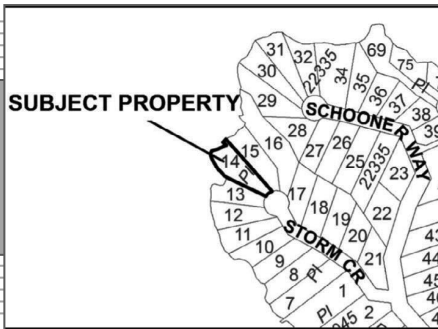
Islands Trust

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 494 of the Local Government Act that the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) will be considering a resolution allowing for the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit. The proposed permit would apply to LOT 14, SECTION 9, PENDER ISLAND, COWICHAN DISTRICT, PLAN 22335

(PID: 003-275-540). This property is located at 1601 Storm Crescent, North Pender Island.

The purpose of this temporary use permit would be to permit a Short Term Vacation Rental use within the Dwelling Unit.

The establishment of these uses would be subject to the conditions specified in the attached proposed permit. The permit would be issued for three (3) years and the owner may apply to the LTC to have it renewed once for an additional three (3) years. The use has been permitted by a previous Temporary Use Permit that was issued in 2018 and renewed in 2021.



The general location of the subject property is shown on the following sketch:

A copy of the proposed permit may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, commencing March 15, 2024 and continuing up to and including March 27, 2024.

For the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 499 (2) (c) of the Local Government Act, additional copies of the Proposed Permit may be inspected at various Notice Boards on North Pender Island.

Enquiries or comments should be directed to Phil Testemale, Planner 2 at (250) 405-5170, for Toll Free Access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867; or by fax (250) 405-5155; or by email to: south-info@islandstrust.bc.ca before 4:30 p.m., March 27, 2024.

The North Pender Island Local Trust Committee may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permit during the regular business meeting starting at 10:00 a.m., April 5, 2024 at the St. Peter's Anglican Church Hall, 4703 Canal Road, on North Pender Island.

All applications are available for review by the public with prior appointment. Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

FIRE PROTECTION

PFAS-free gear phasing in

Firefighters replacing cancer-linked textiles in clothing

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's fire department is moving to eliminate protective gear made with materials linked to increased cancer rates — and trustees for the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD) are backing plans to make firefighters' gear safer.

Textiles used to manufacture firefighters' multi-layer protective clothing currently in service have been shown to contain measurable amounts of a group of lab-made chemicals known as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Health Canada and other agencies have concerns about continuous exposure to PFAS — which has been linked to cancer — and a recent follow-up study by the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology has shown that those textiles release more PFAS when subject to wear and tear.

SSIFPD trustees asked staff to prepare a plan to replace existing equipment with a PFAS-free alternative, including a cost analysis, information on availability and the regulatory approval process and a rollout plan for outfitting Salt Spring's firefighters with that gear.

"It's been a long fight," said acting Assistant Fire Chief Warren Nuyens. "We're needlessly being exposed to [PFAS] chemicals on top of the work that we're doing, which is already dangerous to begin with."

Concerns over PFAS — sometimes referred to as "forever" chemicals — were raised at the fire district's Safety Committee a few years ago, according to Fire

Chief Jamie Holmes. Typically, firefighters' protective clothing — called turnout gear — lasts roughly 10 years, Holmes said, so to avoid a big hit to the budget all at once, the district would routinely replace eight sets each year on a staggered basis.

"But over the last two years, we have only bought gear that needed to be replaced [immediately] because it has been degraded," said Holmes, "because we've been trying not to buy the PFAS gear and we're waiting for something PFAS-free to come out."

Firefighters in Vancouver this month said they had found a manufacturer that can supply turnout gear that doesn't contain PFAS, Holmes said — and, subject to regulatory approval, it should be available relatively soon to most departments without a significant cost difference compared to existing products.

"Gear in Europe does not have the [PFAS] chemicals, so the technology exists," said Holmes. "Now, manufacturers can always take the opportunity to say that it's something new to push up the price; but really it just means using 'chemical a' instead of 'chemical b' to protect you."

Trustee Rob Oliver pointed out MLA Adam Olsen has brought a private member's bill to the provincial government that would phase PFAS out for firefighters across B.C. over the next five years.

"Which I think would be lovely," said Oliver, "but may be a bit pie-in-the-sky."

Nuyens told trustees that even under normal circumstances, there was about a two-month lead time to have protective gear built for firefighters.

"If the province makes a big switch, I think there's likely to be a large backlog on producing this gear," said Nuyens.

"If we can be on the earlier edge of ordering, it would be wonderful."

TRANSPORTATION

Transit 'pass-ups' alarm LCC

Expanding bus service would leave fewer riders behind

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Data showing how many locals get left behind when Salt Spring's buses fill up has island officials reexamining whether expanding service should be a priority — apurtenant costs notwithstanding.

BC Transit senior government relations manager Seth Wright told Salt Spring Local Community Commission (LCC) if they thought next year's budget might allow for a service expansion, the time to plan was now. Wright came to the LCC's meeting Thursday, March 21 to deliver an update on ridership trends for island passengers and possibly start the conversation for 2025.

Overall, ridership is strong, Wright said — sometimes exceeding capacity in ways that affect local passengers the most. Salt Spring is a "very seasonal system," according to Wright, who noted the island's ridership increased counter to larger cities — where school getting out for the summer break meant a drop in numbers.

"But this is a tourist community," said Wright. "We were carrying a lot of people every month."

Wright said although BC Transit this year became the first transit authority in North America to recover ridership 100 per cent to pre-pandemic levels, Salt Spring has been a little slower at it than other similarly sized transit systems, such as Mount Waddington and Port Alberni — adding that it wasn't altogether unexpected.

"People in those communities often take transit because they don't have an option of transportation modes," said Wright. "They are beholden to take the bus, and it's often a product of poverty. On Salt Spring, there are a lot more people that choose to take the bus because of environmental

or social values."

Perhaps the most eye-opening chart showed "pass-ups," particularly along the Fulford-Ganges route, quantifying the number of people who were waiting along the road hoping to catch the bus but were thwarted by it being fully occupied. Drivers count those missed passengers, Wright said, and the data showed the Fulford-Ganges route — which moves half the riders in the entire island system — contributed the "lion's share" of pass-ups, largely peaking between 5 and 7 p.m.

"Most of those are in the summer," said Wright, "and they're not exclusively on the weekend as one might expect; they're scattered throughout the week, although worse on weekends."

That meant it was generally local riders who would

be passed by buses that had been filled up by tourists arriving at the ferry terminal in Fulford. Finding a means to capture revenue from those tourists without negatively affecting local riders was a topic of debate during the LCC's budget discussions back in September, when LCC member Ben Corno had expressed unease with asking local riders to shoulder

higher fares to avoid raising property taxes.

"This is a conversation we're going to have," said Corno on Thursday. "I think we have to accept that this is conversation about a budget increase, or a fare increase."

LCC member Brian Webster said while there was a great deal of pride in the community surrounding the bus service, there was also objective value there.

"Both in terms of climate impacts," said Webster, "and in terms of service to people who have lower incomes. One of our highest priorities should be not just maintaining but improving transit service."

Commissioners agreed, voting to set aside time in a future agenda for a detailed discussion on options for expanding transit service. Wright said with provincial planning cycles tending to start wrapping up in September, June or earlier would be the best time to have him back for that in-depth discussion.

"This is a conversation about a budget increase, or a fare increase."

BEN CORNO
Salt Spring LCC member

ISLANDS TRUST

B&B owner battles Trust bylaw enforcement

File now closed, but owner and accommodation group look to future for bylaw clarity

BY GAIL S.JUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

When Terri Potratz and her family purchased their Beddis Road property six years ago, it contained a primary residence and The Blue Ewe, a long-running Salt Spring bed and breakfast (B&B) in a separate cottage.

Being able to earn income from the B&B made their move from the mainland financially feasible, she said.

But in 2021, Potratz received a bylaw violation notice (BVN) alleging her B&B was being operated as a "commercial guest accommodation unit." While she was aware that the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) had passed a resolution in 2019 to proactively enforce against short-term vacation rentals (STVRs), it seemed clear that she owned a legal B&B. She worked with bylaw officer Ethan Xu to achieve compliance, which seemed to be related to removing reference to a kitchen in her advertising to make it clear the B&B was not a self-catering unit.

However, the BVNs kept coming, and Potratz was confused. Communications from bylaw compliance and enforcement manager Warren Dingman did not seem to jive with Salt Spring Land Use Bylaw (LUB) 355 sections regarding home-based businesses and B&Bs. Section 3.13.8 states simply that: "all bedrooms used to accommodate guests must be located only within a principal dwelling unit or within a seasonal cottage, if one is permitted on the lot."

The language is the same in the Trust's own operator's guide for B&Bs on Salt Spring, with even further detail that seems to

confirm The Blue Ewe meets the requirements to operate legally.

However, Potratz said Dingman has insisted that at least one B&B bedroom must be within a property's principal dwelling unit in order for the seasonal cottage to be used for B&B purposes. Potratz said that interpretation comes from the island's previous LUB (#123), which dates back to 1985.

Potratz said she knew "this was not just a case of me getting it wrong," so she disputed the BVNs through adjudication provisions of the Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act (LGB-NEA). Following a June 2, 2023 hearing, the adjudicator agreed with her position and Potratz assumed she could operate without fear of receiving more BVNs.

But that turned out to not be the case. She decided to use the Freedom of Information (FOI) system to determine if her file had actually been closed following the adjudication decision. The first response she received was missing the database that shows a case's log of internal notes and updates, and so she requested the missing file.

"When it was delivered to me later that day," she explains in a Feb. 2, 2024 administrative complaint to Trust CAO Russ Hotsenpiller, which she was advised to make by the Office of the Ombudsman, "I saw that on Nov. 9, 2023, three new BVNs had been simultaneously issued to us just 10 days after I filed the FOI request. This could be explained as a coincidence, except that the TAPIS database shows a June 21, 2023 entry noting 'Ad still active. BN.' This database entry that shows the Islands Trust believed we were operating unlawfully in June, yet no enforcement action was taken at that time. No action or communication occurred at all until I made the FOI request."

Potratz also took her case directly to the LTC, speaking at two town hall sessions earlier this year. Then at the March 7 LTC meeting, trustees went in camera with Dingman and it was decided that her enforcement file would be



Airbnb page image of Blue Ewe B&B, the subject of one of 88 bylaw infraction files on Salt Spring in 2023.

closed. No reason was provided.

But despite that quite definitive action, all communication from the Islands Trust still seems to oppose Potratz's position. In advising Potratz via email that the LTC had closed the file, Dingman noted, "If there are complaints against the unlawful operation, we will need to follow Trust Council policy and open a new file."

An Islands Trust response to a Driftwood query at about the same time also echoes the Dingman interpretation Potratz received: "The regulations in Land Use Bylaw No. 355 are interpreted to mean that a bed and breakfast must be operated in an owner occupied dwelling and that bedrooms in a seasonal cottage can be used as part of the bed and breakfast operation being operated in the owner occupied dwelling."

A detailed March 20 response from the Trust's director of local planning services David Marlton to Potratz' Feb. 2 administrative complaint also rejects each point made.

As well, Potratz has had to go through a second round of adjudication, with her case heard on March 22. A decision will be forthcoming.

Adding to the frustration is that enforcement against B&Bs using

only a cottage for their operation has not been consistent.

"The accommodation group is concerned, as are quite a few others, I think, about what's been going on, because it doesn't appear to us to be a solution to the issue; the issue being housing."

PETER LLOYD-JONES
President, Salt Spring Accommodation Group

"We are aware that many B&Bs similar to ours have been allowed to continue, while others have not," she stated in her complaint to Hotsenpiller. "This disparity suggests a pattern of harassment against B&B operators like ourselves who voice their concerns. We have witnessed a climate of fear among B&B operators who have been permitted to continue their operations but prefer not to be identified due to apprehensions regarding retribution and attacks by IT Bylaw Enforcement."

Peter Lloyd-Jones, president of the Salt Spring Accommodation Group, confirmed that other B&B operators have faced the same kind of enforcement process in the past few years, while others have not.

Some STVR cases may warrant violation notices, he said, "but there's also been, we think, some overreach in terms of going after perfectly legitimate bed and breakfasts, which have either been operating for some time, or not, but are, in our opinion at least — and in the opinion of the legal profession — totally in compliance. This has caused some anxiety, I would say, amongst a lot of people."

As of Dec. 31, 2023, Trust Bylaw Enforcement had 88 open files related to STVRs on Salt Spring, which was 44 per cent of total open bylaw investigation files for the island at that point.

"The accommodation group is concerned," said Lloyd-Jones, "as are quite a few others, I think, about what's been going on, because it doesn't appear to us to be a solution to the issue; the issue being housing."

On a positive note, he said, his group has had discussions with Trust staff and trustees Jamie Harris and Laura Patrick about the need for the land use bylaw to be updated for tourism accommodation, with the aim of ensuring Salt Spring's visitor industry remains viable.

"The bylaw was adopted in 2001, so it's quite old and in need of revision," he said. "We are looking at various options. The trustees are interested in bringing the stakeholders around the table to have discussions to come up with an arrangement which will be a win-win for the community."

Lloyd-Jones said the accommodation group is very cognizant of the lack of affordable housing on the island, while stressing the importance of the visitor industry to Salt Spring's economy.

"There needs to be a balance that works for both sides: for workforce housing as well as for tourism."

ENTOMOLOGY

Permit issued for moth spray

Aerial application will take place over 3 days

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Permits have been issued for a targeted spraying effort in April that officials hope will keep an invasive species of moth from establishing a foothold on Salt Spring Island.

B.C.'s Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy has issued two Pesticide Use Permits authorizing the spraying over 13 locations in the province — including a swath centred on Elizabeth Drive on Salt Spring. Various

notification and application conditions are outlined in the permit and will be carried out by the Ministry of Forests.

Last seen in the 1990s, spongy moths were detected again on Salt Spring Island in 2021; monitoring efforts the following year revealed a growing population of the insects which — while caterpillars — are voracious defoliators, according to Canadian Food Inspection Agency biologists; the spongy moth is the common name for *Lymantria dispar*, renamed from "gypsy moth" by the Entomological Societies of both Canada and the United States in 2022. The name references the insect's "spongy" egg masses, often found in the branches of the same deciduous trees the hatched insects will devour.

The spongy egg masses are roughly the size of a quarter and are difficult to spot; infestation impacts seen elsewhere in Canada range from the destruction of individual trees to defoliation across the landscape.

The area on Salt Spring will be treated from the air over three early mornings in late April or early May; the exact date will be determined by population growth modelling based on measured air temperatures — picking the precise moment when the insects will be at their most vulnerable.

Officials have said signs would be placed in the neighbourhood well in advance of the spraying days. For information visit www.gov.bc.ca/spongy-moth-news or call 1-866-917-5999.

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OPINION

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2022 BCYCNA Awards
Silver - Best All Round (for circulation Category C)
Silver - Community Service Award



EDITORIAL

Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

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On the map

Government officials and weather experts have called the 2021 heat dome the deadliest weather event in Canadian history.

Now, with climate projections tending toward hotter temperatures, less rain and more extreme heat in coming summers, we feel compelled to append the words, "so far."

If a silver lining can be imagined for an event that claimed the lives of hundreds of people in B.C. — and dozens within the Capital Regional District (CRD) — it would be that officials collected and analyzed so much temperature data it seems they have created a solid foundation to plan for the next one. The CRD's Climate Action Program team has put together a sobering

THE ISSUE: Heat map unsettling

WE SAY: Good data informs action

map from a spectacularly large amount of gathered, real-world data — ground and air temperatures, age and health demographics, even building and landscaping information. Combined, the map paints a somewhat dire picture, showing high vulnerability in Ganges to future heat events — and, to a lesser extent, in parts of Salt Spring's north end.

At first blush, it might seem obvious; it's certainly not unexpected to imagine the population centre of any demonstrably aging population looking more susceptible to events that disproportionately affect older people. In many ways, the new "heat map" might be seen as simply a map of where most of our oldest islanders make their homes. But that reduction changes little from a planning perspective; any analysis that shows such clear potential for disaster — particularly during an event we're told to expect — demands action.

We look forward to hearing how local and regional planners will use the detailed, well-sourced data presented at the CRD's Extreme Heat Information Portal to prepare and protect our older population — as well as everyone else — as the focus on climate resiliency sharpens.

Everyone should visit heat.prepareyourself.ca/pages/learn to view the mapping, and to read valuable resources and stories about ways we can be prepared for, and during, the next extreme heat event.

Hopefully, forewarned is indeed forearmed.



Words are not harmless

BY FRANTS ATTORP

While the Driftwood deserves credit for covering the draft new Islands Trust Policy Statement, last week's historical recap — "Special meeting on for April" — missed an important detail: the results of the fall 2019 public engagement process.

According to the Trust, of the many hundreds who participated in "Islands 2050" at physical locations and on-line, "most expressed that they value having a connection to nature on the islands and support the Islands Trust's preserve and protect mandate."

So why isn't environmental protection the Trust's top priority today as required by law and reflected in public outreach results? Much of the explanation can be found on Salt Spring where a lobby group, led by a trustee with a shared antipathy to Islands Trust restrictions, took significant control of an official community plan (OCP) planning process and shifted the focus from the environment to housing.

Since individual OCPs are intricately linked to the Trust Policy Statement, the deregulation movement on Salt Spring has become a major contributor to the slow collapse of the regulatory system protecting all islands in the Trust Area.

Central to the matter is trustee Laura Patrick's long-standing relationship with housing activists. For eight months in 2020, she met with a small group of housing strategists, most of whom participated in a Salt Spring Solutions film that openly rejects the Islands Trust Act, and some who are outspoken critics of growth limits in our OCP. Working as a team, they produced a planning report "to develop new policies and regula-

VIEWPOINT

tions" and submitted it to the LTC.

Trustee Patrick was acting on an LTC resolution that directed staff to work with her "to establish a housing working group." The resolution said nothing about becoming part of the group. Yet she listed herself as a member of the group, referred to "our report," and used the pronoun "we" when discussing the group.

What followed was even more shocking, at least in terms of optics: The LTC made the report "a priority" and "directed staff to provide a Project Charter for the implementation of this initiative." The charter was for a "Housing Action Program" leading to major amendments of Salt Spring's OCP and Land Use Bylaw. It became, for all intents and purposes, the guiding document for the review of our OCP.

Trust staff wrote that the original "comprehensive approach" for amending our OCP was being replaced by the housing group's initiative because of time constraints, "limited staff resources" and "lack of funding," and added: "It is determined that a more effective and impactful effort is necessary." They did not say who "determined" this.

The charter for the Housing Action Program says the Trust mandate extends to "a socially diverse population." It's a loaded term that became even more so last September when Trust Council met in-camera and extended interpretation of the mandate to "issues such as, but not limited to, housing, livelihoods, infrastructure and tourism." The words may sound harmless, but their long-term implications for more than 450 islands in the Salish Sea hardly bear thinking.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES PER YEAR:
Print Edition: \$65 | Digital Edition with Print Edition: \$85.00 | Elsewhere in Canada \$115.00
Foreign: \$248.00 | Digital Edition: \$45.00 anywhere | Prices include GST



Funded by the Government of Canada



Canada Publication Mail No.0040050837 | International Standards Serial Number 1198-7782
Member of News Media Canada + National NewsMedia Council, and BC & Yukon Community NewsMedia Association

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you think the Ganges Harbourwalk will be completed some day? Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Will you visit the Saturday Market on opening day?
18 YES 97 NO

Cast your ballot online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com before Monday 2 p.m. or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 2 p.m.

ISLAND VOICES

Letters to the editor are welcome, but writers are requested to keep their submissions to 350 words or less. For details about deadlines, and word limits for the Viewpoint and other longer opinion pieces, contact the editor at the email address below, or phone 250-537-9933. All submissions may be edited for brevity, legality and taste. Writers are asked to provide a telephone number where they may be reached during the day, and to sign letters with their full name. Letters published do not necessarily reflect the views of Driftwood Publishing Ltd., its staff or advertisers. Send letters to: news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

LETTERS to the editor

Problem solved

I like dogs. People I can take or leave. I was therefore torn on the Salty Dog issue, but with the latest upgrade I am fully on side.

The introduction of the "Rooster Retreat" on the Blackburn Road property will give a home to wayward, downtrodden, homeless and unloved roosters. Estimated capacity is 350 to 500 birds.

Being as inclusive as possible, dogs and roosters will be kept together in one large pen. No antisocial behaviour is anticipated, as each guest, canine or avian will receive sensitivity training upon arrival and will wear a tag indicating name and preferred pronoun. Signs will be posted saying "Be Nice" as well as the Fulford village town motto: "No Parking."

As soon as a few birds are on site, the facility will be claiming farm status, forcing the Islands Trust to issue new zoning, most likely Agricultural/Trailer Park. Roosters will be welcomed beginning on April 1.

MIKE STACEY,
SALT SPRING



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Portion of the former incomplete Ganges boardwalk, now part of the hoped-for Ganges Harbourwalk route as steering committee gets underway.

Harbourwalk mottos

I have just read Robb Magley's exhaustive and exhausting March 20 front-page article on the harbour walkway consultations.

I think he could have saved himself a lot of effort by simply saying, "Here we go again, without much more hope."

May I suggest that the whole thing could be solved by the property owners ponying up a strip of land the length of their property and the governing bodies

granting a year's tax break.

And anyone else who thinks they have an oar to row should build a section of the walkway before they open their gob, and that includes those for, against or just wanting to sound off, starting now.

The new motto should be "no beaking off without banging nails."

GREG MIDDLETON,
SALT SPRING

The water is fresh

In last week's Driftwood the Salt Spring Water Preservation Society presented an article for a World Water Day page.

The society has done many good things over the years.

However, I would be more confident of expertise if members realized that freshwater is an adjective, not a noun. Misused six times on the page, and thrice correctly (e.g. freshwater use).

JOHN SPRAGUE,
SALT SPRING

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"We're needlessly being exposed to [PFAS] chemicals on top of the work that we're doing, which is already dangerous to begin with."

WARREN NUYENS, ACTING ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF, SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE RESCUE

Thwarted bank robber scenario sums up currency conundrums

A penny for your thoughts. There will be pennies from heaven. Wait till the penny drops. Stop trying to nickel and dime me. The buck stops here.

What do all these expressions have in common? Most people who have passed the age of consent will recognize that they are all pithy sayings that refer to some form of cash currency. On the other hand, there is a generation or two coming of age which has not the foggiest notion what this concept of cash is all about. Welcome to the cashless economy.

This has gone way past the era of cash or credit card. In case you haven't noticed, the choice of VISA, Mastercard or American Express was last spotted riding off into the sunset. Nowadays, many transactions are being handled by apps on smart phones with nary a single coin or bill changing hands or a card being swiped.

I, on the other hand, like the jingle-jangle sound the coins in my pockets make as I stride along the sidewalks of Ganges. I exalt in being able to pay with exact change at the grocery checkout as I fish one last quarter free of clinging lint buried way down in my deepest pocket. Nothing gives me more pleasure than unfolding a few crisp bills from my trusty wallet

and carefully counting them out in front of the cashier while the shoppers behind me scowl with impatience.

I realize that I'm in the minority. With the exception of a few other dinosaurs like me, most of the population seems to welcome the "cash not accepted" mindset, which is beginning to dominate retail establishments. With all the e-transfers and QR code scans being used by so many, it's hard to sometimes realize that legal tender, or whatever is replacing it these days, is actually changing hands. It's no wonder that so many are having serious problems keeping afloat financially and staying out of debt. How do you know that you're broke if you can never really keep track of when your assets are going up or down and by how much?

I've been considering writing a screenplay depicting the new, cashless economy. It will be about a bank heist, similar to Dog Day Afternoon or The Italian Job, but more in tune with the modern reality. Here's a synopsis so far:

A man walks into a bank, steps up to the teller and whispers that he has a gun in his pocket and this is a stick-up. He wants all the unmarked 100- and 50-dollar bills put into the empty gym bag he has



Shilo Zylbergold
NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

placed on the counter. He warns the teller not to try anything funny or someone will get hurt. The teller informs him that his request would be impossible to carry out because the bank no longer deals with cash transactions.

I, on the other hand, like the jingle-jangle sound the coins in my pockets make as I stride along the sidewalks of Ganges.

Undaunted, the robber asks the teller what the bank has that is valuable. The teller informs him that the bank deals mainly with bitcoins now, to which the robber orders that the gym bag be filled with as many bitcoins

as it can hold. Again, the teller tells the robber that bitcoins are a virtual currency that does not actually have a physical manifestation and so they could not be stuffed in the gym bag.

Now confused, the robber argues that there must be something still valuable in the bank vault. The teller replies that the banks have done away with safes and vaults and that all the crypto currency is now kept digitally. The robber, getting angrier by the minute, threatens the teller to put the hard drive containing all the crypto currency into the bag.

He is frustrated again to learn that the bank no longer has hard drives because everything now is stored on the cloud. The robber reaches into his pocket to give a glimpse of the firearm he is carrying and warns the teller, "You'll soon be on the cloud if you don't give me what I want."

The robber, by now almost reduced to tears, pleads with the teller to find anything of value that he could still steal. He is told that there are these new commodities called NFTs which are becoming very popular. The teller doesn't really understand what these Non-Fungible Tokens are (nobody really does), but they allow you to own the ownership to valu-

able art, although you still don't own the art. The bank robber tells the teller to forget the NFTs and walks dejectedly out of the bank only to find that his getaway driver has long ago abandoned him. Luckily, an Uber car delivering pizza to the bank is willing to trade a ride and a cold Hawaiian pizza for the empty gym bag.

I'm still looking for investors to help finance the project. All donations must be made using real cash. I will accept all legal tender, ranging from copper pennies to coins that date all the way back to the Ming Dynasty in China. Loonies and toonies are always welcome, but special credit will be given to donations made with two dollar bills.

Nobody asked me, but don't expect me to be panhandling in front of the liquor any time soon while holding out my hat for a few spare bitcoins. I'm also unlikely to break open my virtual piggy bank to free up a handful of crypto currency. I'd rather be handling Kryptonite than crypto. As for NFTs, I think I'll hold off on these suckers until I figure out what exactly it means for tokens to be non-fungible. I'm not completely certain about it, but if you want to take a chance on these, I suggest you keep a tube of anti-fungible ointment on hand.



**NORTH
SALT SPRING
WATERWORKS
DISTRICT**

NOTICE TO THE RATEPAYERS OF THE NORTH SALT SPRING WATER- WORKS DISTRICT

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, virtually through Microsoft Teams, and in person at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island, BC. The link to the meeting can be found in the top right-hand corner of our website.

NOMINEES FOR 2 TRUSTEE POSITIONS ARE:
(Both positions are for a 3-year term)

Brian Pyper
Bryce Chapman
David Courtney

Candidates Forum – Hosted by Gayle Baker of Ask Salt Spring

A Candidates Forum will be held on April 10th at 7pm online. The link will be posted on the District website a few days prior to the event. This is your opportunity to ask the candidates any questions you have before voting.

AGM Voter Eligibility and Process

The Trustee election will use an advance mail-in ballot process and an in-person voting process. Voting packages and instructions will be mailed to all eligible voters 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.

Per the *Election Act* and the District's Letters Patent, an eligible elector for the purpose of a Trustee election is a North Salt Spring Waterworks District ratepayer who meets the following criteria:

- Is a Canadian Citizen 18 years of age or older, who has been a resident of British Columbia for at least the prior 6 months;
- Can only vote once in this election unless the owner is also an authorized agent.
- Is a registered owner of land in the North Salt Spring Waterworks District area, or the authorized agent of any board or corporation that is an owner of such land, or the legal representative of any owner of such land who has died, become insolvent or insane (written proof must be provided by the representative);
- Has been a registered owner of a property within the North Salt Spring Waterworks District area for at least 30 days prior to election packages being mailed out;
- Has an account in good standing;
- Is entitled to be registered as a voter under the *Election Act* and is not disqualified from voting by the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment; and
- Spouses or partners who are not registered on title per BC Assessment are not entitled to vote.

Signs of Spring



PHOTOS BY ROB LOWRIE
Above is a ewe and lamb, and two lambs at left from the Astill family's Cottonwood Farm in the Burgoyne Valley, where David Astill reported this year's 18 Romney and Cheviot-Romney ewes bore 17 twins and one large singleton. Two of those were stillborn and two were rejected by the ewes and are being bottle fed at Windsor Farm.



PHOTOS BY GAIL SIUBERG
Above, ornamental trees bloom in Heiwa Garden in Peace Park, where this year's Blossom Picnic will be held on May 19, while at left, fawn lilies bloom en masse in front of St. Mary's Church in Fulford Harbour.

CLIMATE RESILIENCY

Ganges tops vulnerability list

Salt Spring village 'in the red' on CRD heat map

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's largest population centre is highly vulnerable to future extreme heat events, according to a new regional mapping project that put Ganges near the top of a grim list.

A report from the Capital Regional District (CRD)'s Climate Action Program (CAP) highlighted a new map, built partly from ground-level data collected during the 2021 heat dome event. Program manager Nikki Elliott ran a live demo of the Regional Heat Map for the CRD's Environmental Services Committee Wednesday, March 20, showcasing the new tool to allow area residents — and planners — a chance to better understand their community's heat vulnerability.

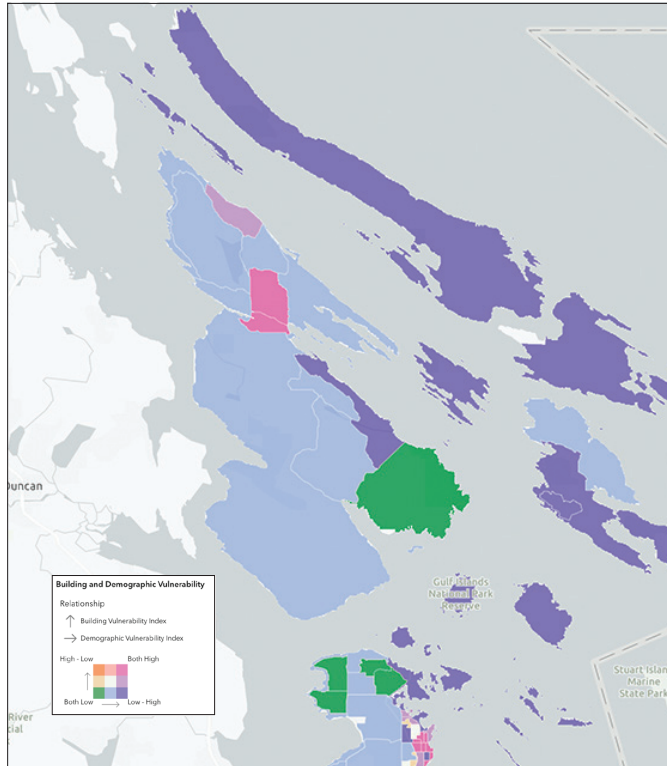
The 2024 report brings updated modelling, new indices for extreme heat, updated regional impact and supportive guidance and new map layers — which can be viewed online via the CRD's Extreme Heat Information Portal at heat.prepareyourself.ca. The map highlights areas where people are most vulnerable to the effects of extreme heat, based on combining measured data.

"You think about building density, tree canopy, hard and reflective surfaces," said Elliott, who said the surface temperature measurements — how people would feel the air at the time of a heat dome — combined with sociodemographic factors to help understand who was vulnerable to heat. Of the more than 700 lives lost across B.C. during the 2021 heat dome, 24 died in the CRD — and there was a pattern, she said.

"We know from the BC Coroners Service report that most deaths during the 2021 heat dome were older adults, adults with underlying health conditions and other underlying factors," said Elliott, "including poverty, living alone and being socially isolated."

The project used census and Community Health Network data to map where there were the highest rates of people in those categories, Elliott said, and for the "bivariate" map overlaid that with detailed temperature measurements from the 2021 heat dome. The result put several areas, including Ganges, in red.

"The red on the map indicates neighbourhoods within the region that contain relatively more people who may be vulnerable to extreme heat, based on health and equity factors," said Elliott. "It overlays all the buildings, considers how much sunlight would hit them, how reflective they are, their age, their height — again to iden-



CRD ILLUSTRATION
A new Capital Regional District map, above, combines temperature measurements from the 2021 heat dome event with demographic and neighbourhood information, showing areas most vulnerable to extreme heat events, including a large swath on Salt Spring Island surrounding Ganges.

tify those neighbourhoods that have high potential vulnerability."

The map presentation was followed by the CAP team's climate forecast updates for the region, which projected new global modelling standards into the regional and local scale. Generally, Elliott said, the results aren't too different from earlier models within the CRD — but they were reached with a higher degree of certainty.

"Hotter summer temperatures, more extreme heat days and heat waves," said Elliott. "We're expecting to see less rain and more dry days in the summer months, warmer winter temperatures, less frequent frost and less snowfall."

The models also called for more precipitation — and longer-lasting, more frequent extreme rainfall events — in the fall, winter and spring.

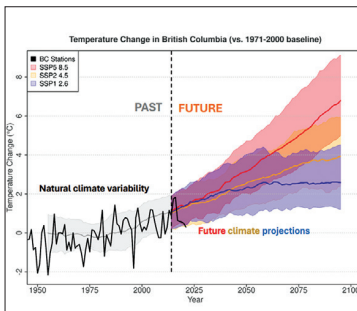
"This report specifically speaks to temperature and precipitation," said Elliott, "because our climate scientists at the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium say that they have high to medium confidence in being able to model these out."

Committee members voted to refer both reports out to regional agencies and local governments; next steps include a public education component that will likely run parallel to strategic planning informed by the data.

"I don't think it's understating it to say it's shocking and upsetting," said Saanich CRD director Dean Murdock. "We're not blaming the messenger, but the message is not one that any of us hope to, or want to encounter in our futures, or the future of our children."

"There's a lot of uncertainty of which emissions pathway we will follow, globally," said Elliott.

"But that shouldn't stand in the way of action."



CRD ILLUSTRATION
2024 B.C. temperature change projections from the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC), a regional climate service centre at the University of Victoria.



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Advertising Deadline Change

WE WILL BE CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY,
March 29 & re-open
Monday, April 1
9 am - 4 pm.
Advertising deadlines
for the April 3 edition
will be Wednesday,
March 27, 4 pm.



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LET'S PICK IT UP, Salt Spring!*

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- 2 PHONE OR EMAIL US** at the Driftwood with your name and the area you've chosen. driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or 250-537-9933.
- 3 ENJOY BEING RECOGNIZED** in the Driftwood and the satisfaction of knowing you have helped make Salt Spring a cleaner and healthier place to live.
- 4 PICK UP YOUR Laurie's Recycling & Waste Services coupon** from the Driftwood office and take your bag(s) to Laurie's, or otherwise dispose of what you've collected.
- 5 ALSO AT OUR OFFICE,** pick up your coupon for a free tea, coffee or hot chocolate from TJ Beans.

It's time for the Driftwood's annual island-wide clean-up campaign! Join your friends and neighbours in clearing litter and other debris from island roadsides and beaches.

*Recipient of the 2021 & 2022 BC Media Industry Community Service Award

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RECITAL

Salt Spring Divas perform

Billie Holiday show at All Saints on April 3

SUBMITTED BY MUSIC MAKERS

The Salt Spring Divas — Suzie Gay, Hannah Brown and Monik Nordine — are excited to be back at Tea à Tempo with another of their Billie Holiday shows. It runs at All Saints by-the Sea on Wednesday, April 3.

This time they will feature not only the songs that Holiday wrote herself, like Stormy Blues, but also songs written for her by her friends, Arthur Herzog and Irene Kitchings.

Suzanne Gay (pianist and vocalist) and Hannah Brown (vocalist and story teller) are thrilled that saxophonist, composer and bandleader Monik Nordine will join them and share her talent that has made her an international artist.

No Holiday concert would be complete if her compositions Billie's Blues and Fine and Mellow were not included. About the latter, Holiday said, "There are poetic blues, highly intense blues, happy or sad blues,

and sometimes they are all mixed up together . . . you have to just feel in each song what it's all about."

Holiday lived and sang through a tragic life as a child listening to jazz in houses of prostitution while her mother cleaned there, to being in a child's detention centre because she was raped, to prison for possession of drugs and, finally, to dying far too young while in police custody in a hospital.

In her short lifetime she left a legacy of having recorded over 300 songs. Holiday, also named Lady Day by her friend and renowned saxophonist Lester Young, was a phenomenal singer. Her only musical training was listening to jazz in her early years. Holiday's phrasing was impeccable. She always envisioned that she sang like the horn she heard in her head.

The Salt Spring Divas love performing her music and hope you will come and enjoy an hour of Billie Holiday with them.

The concert begins at 2:10 p.m. Donations provide the honoraria for performers and contribute to the running of the Tea à Tempo series.

Tea and treats, for \$5 (note the price change), will be served immediately following the concert.

POSTERS OF THE PAST



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Just three of the many posters from past performing arts shows on display at the March 16 Community Roundtable Committee Pre-history of ArtSpring presentation, along with photos and articles that depicted Salt Spring's always-lively arts and entertainment scene.

what's on this week

Wed. March 27

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
ArtSpring Presents: Shay Kuebler | Radical System Art: Momentum of Isolation. Dance show at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES
Salt Spring Garden Club Meeting. Guest speaker is Gary Lewis of Phoenix Perennials on groundcovers. Meaden Hall. 7:30 p.m.

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

Thur. March 28

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

ACTIVITIES
Mother Goose. Group for babies, young children (0-4 years) and their parents/caregivers. Library. 10 to 11 a.m.

Green Drinks. Transition Salt Spring event features guest speaker Julian Sale of Motorize Electric Vehicles. Salt Spring Golf Course restaurant. 5 to 7 p.m.

ONLINE

Invasive Species Webinar. Led by Jessica Bayley, Coastal Invasive Species Committee. A Salt Spring Island Conservancy event via Zoom. 7 p.m. Info/register: saltspringconservancy.ca

Fri. March 29

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Karaoke. At the Legion. 7 p.m.

Fri. March 29

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

ACTIVITIES
Story Time. In the children's area at the library. 11 to 11:30 a.m.

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

Sat. March 30

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Whisper. Sonic DJ Experience. Fulford Hall, 5 to 11 p.m.

Old Times Cafe. Open stage at the Fulford Hall annex. 7 to 11 p.m. Refreshments available.

Everyday People. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Easter Egg Hunt. Easter Bunny visit, egg hunt, music and face painting at SIMS. Kids aged 0 to 5 from 11 a.m. to noon; kids aged 6 to 8 from noon to 1 p.m.; kids aged 9 and up from 1 to 2 p.m.

Sun. March 31

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Jazz Jam. With open mic at the Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Easter Egg Hunt. Annual event at Salt Spring Cheese. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92 Annual General Meeting. Meaden Hall. 2 p.m.

Mon. April 1

ACTIVITIES
Driftwood Ombudsperson's Complaints Forum. Mount Tuam Peak. 5:01 a.m. Delegation materials must be filed by March 26.

Tues. April 2

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Country Jam With Open Mic. At the Legion. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Dance As Prayer. With Kristen Lewis, hosted by Star of the Sea at All Saints by-the-Sea. 2 to 5 p.m. Register at staroftheseassi.ca.

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

ONLINE

Butterfly Presentation. A Salt Spring Island Conservancy event led by Linda Gilkeson via Zoom. 7 p.m. Info/register: saltspringconservancy.ca

Wed. April 3

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Tea à Tempo: Billie Holiday Show. The Salt Spring Divas — Suzie Gay, Hannah Brown and Monik Nordine — perform at All Saints by-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Sauntering the Sonoran Desert. A presentation of photos, stories and music by Dave Manning and Eroca Dancer. Library program room. 7 p.m.

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

CINEMA

• Dune: Part Two returns Friday, March 29 to Tuesday, April 2 at 7 p.m. each night plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. See thefritz.ca for more movie info.

ART EXHIBITIONS

• Drawing From Life – A Selection of Work from the Dragonfly Life Drawing Group runs at Salt Spring Gallery until April 10. The gallery is open Tuesdays through Saturdays.

• Kaya Reiss – Roman Portraits is the Salt Spring Public Library program room exhibit through March 28. Then from April 1 to 27 the exhibition is A Sampler: Recent Paintings by Charles Breth.

• Works by Salt Spring Painters Guild members are on display in the ArtSpring lobby during the month of March. The April exhibition is a celebration of ArtSpring's 25th anniversary with materials compiled by Seth Berkowitz.

• Judy H. McPhee shows photographs at the Country Grocer cafe.

Billie Holiday Show
Salt Spring Divas at Tea à Tempo
Wed., April 3, 2:10 p.m.
All Saints by-the-Sea

THRIFTY FOODS
Ganges, Mout's Centre 7:30am to 9pm
Customer Service 250-537-1522



ISLAND LIFE

HEALTH

Wellness fair and tour merge

April 5 to 7 events on Salt Spring

BY GAIL S. JUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The second annual Salt Spring Well-being Fair is shaping up for next weekend at Mahon Hall, with an island-wide “tour” feature added for the first time.

The fair presented by the island’s Navigator For Wellness group sees all kinds of health-care practitioners, healers, and food and product vendors bring their wares and abilities to the hall on Saturday, April 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, April 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

“It’s such a nice way for people to learn about what’s out there and the alternative supports that exist for them right now,” said co-organizer Cindy Clark.

“And as far as the practitioners go, it’s just really nice for them to be connected, and to know what other people are doing.”

A number of participants from last year’s inaugural event are returning, with new people also in the mix.

“Practitioners are engaging,” said Clark. “They liked it last year and they want to come back, so that’s great.”

Speakers or group activities will not be part of the 2024 fair, as last year organizers found people were too busy in conversations or with “taster” treatments to focus on a specific activity or speaker.

The first Salt Spring Island Wellness Tour sees a number of classes being offered, plus bookable sessions at Madrona Integrative Health, Solace Organic Spa and Hastings House’s Wellspring Spa.

Clark credited partnerships with bodies such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Harbour House Hotel with support for getting the Wellness Tour off the ground and promoting it off-island.

“I think we’re off to a good start,” she said.

Activities begin on Friday, April 5, with a Sound Bath event at Ganges Yoga Studio with Adam Huber at 7 p.m.

Ganges Yoga Studio is also the spot for Hatha Flow Yoga led by Howie Baral from 9 to 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 6, and Debra Cobon offers Slow Flow Yoga there from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Also on Saturday, a Vinyasa Yoga and Yoga Walk event is at Sitaya’s south-end farm from 10 a.m. to noon, and Muneera offers Ayurvedic Tips for the Spring Season at Ganges Yoga Studio from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Sunday’s line-up begins with a Restorative Yoga session with Celeste Mallett Jason at Ganges Yoga Studio at 9 a.m.; Vinyasa Flow Yoga with Satiya at her farm at 10 a.m.; an Ayurvedic Cooking Class with Muneera at her home at 11



PHOTO COURTESY NAVIGATOR FOR WELLNESS

Scene from the 2023 Salt Spring Well-being Fair at Mahon Hall. This year’s version runs April 6-7, with an additional island-wide April 5-7 “tour” component.

a.m.; and a Holistic Skin Care Demonstration with Lisa Thomaidis at Bayview Cottage B&B at 1 p.m.

Pre-registration is required for all of the above-described events and spa treatments, with contact emails in the Salt Spring Island Wellness Tour Catalogue available at navigatorforwellness.com or in print form at various spots around the island.

As well, Salt Spring Island Natural Cemetery is offering tours on Saturday at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., with pre-registration done by phone to 250-653-9884.

“I like the idea that people can travel around and make it exciting and interesting and see different parts of the island,” said Clark.

She also noted how all longstanding popular island ventures, such as the Salt Spring Apple Festival, started

small, and now people look forward to it every year.

“I’m hoping that the wellness tour and fair will become that for the island in the spring, and people will look forward to it and come back to it.”

NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT NOTICE

FLUSHING OF WATERMAINS

FLUSHING OF WATERMAINS WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN THE DISTRICT ON TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS - 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.

TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

MARCH / APRIL 2024 PST (UTC-8h)
When using Daylight Saving Time, one hour must be added to the predicted time in the table

DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	
27	0:43	6.5	1.98	1	0:46	10.3	3.14	
	6:35	9.7	2.96		5:37	9.5	2.9	
	13:10	3.8	1.16		7:48	9.6	2.93	
	20:12	9.6	2.93		16:49	2.4	0.73	
28	1:19	7.2	2.19	2	1:59	10.5	3.2	
	6:47	9.7	2.96		17:56	2.4	0.73	
	13:43	3.2	0.97		2:54	10.7	3.26	
	21:08	9.8	2.99		8:56	9	2.74	
29	2:01	7.9	2.41	3	9:49	9	2.74	
	7:00	9.7	2.96		19:05	2.5	0.76	
	14:19	2.8	0.85		3:33	10.8	3.29	
	22:12	9.9	3.02		9:16	8.4	2.56	
30	2:50	8.6	2.62	4	12:10	8.7	2.65	
	7:15	9.7	2.96		20:09	2.7	0.82	
	15:01	2.5	0.76					

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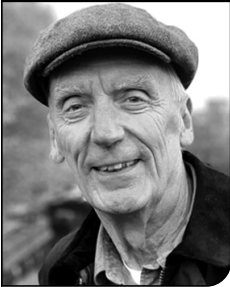
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Obituaries

GRIFFITHS, Robert John (Bob)
October 14, 1944 - February 17, 2024



Bob passed away peacefully in Victoria, BC, on February 17, 2024. Bob is survived by his son Jeffrey Griffiths and Jeffrey's wife Anne and her children Cole Bazin and Geneva Bazin.

Bob was born on October 14, 1944, in Vancouver, BC, to Arthur

and Kathleen Griffiths (nee Robinson). He grew up on Alder Street with his parents and grandparents Harry and Harriet Robinson and attended Cecil Rhodes Elementary School and King Edward High School where he met his future wife, Patricia Chard. He studied at the newly opened BCIT where he was part of the first graduating class in 1966. Bob went on to marry Pat in 1971, and the couple welcomed their son Jeffrey in 1976, purchasing a house in West Vancouver that same year. Many happy times were spent there with the Chard family and close friends, the Sims.

Bob's career took him from the front desk at the Georgia Hotel to managing operations and staffing for world expositions in Australia, China, and the US. Closer to home, he was immensely proud of his role as Director of Operations at Expo 86 and later with BC Rail where he managed the creation of the Whistler Northwind tour train.

Bob lost his beloved Patricia in 1995, but through his remarkable strength, carried on in his successful career and travelled extensively. Bob's connection to Salt Spring Island began with boyhood fishing trips and led him to retire there in 2012 where he enjoyed his many outdoor projects. Bob will be sorely missed for his remarkable energy, generosity and positivity.

A private ceremony was held at Capilano View Cemetery on March 7, 2024 where Bob was laid to rest next to his wife Patricia. A Celebration of Life is being planned for the coming months and information will be posted online. The family wishes to thank Bob's dedicated care team for their remarkable support. Tributes may be made in Bob's name to the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation (Salt Spring Island) or the BC Cancer Foundation.

Condolences may be offered to the family at www.mccallgardens.com

In Memoriam

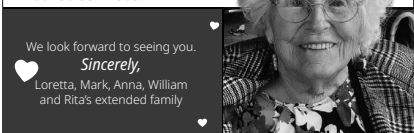
A Mass and Celebration of Life For
Rita Eugenie Marie Dods ♥
(nee Hudon)
Saturday, April 27, 2024

MASS: 1pm Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, 135 Drake Road, SSI

CELEBRATION TEA: 2-4pm Community Gospel Chapel 147 Vesuvius Bay Road, SSI

Please join us to celebrate Rita. She loved fun, colourful earrings and her rain bonnets - both are encouraged.

Contributions of your family's favourite treat for sharing at the tea are most welcome. Please contact Loretta at 250-537-7503.



We look forward to seeing you.
Sincerely,
Loretta, Mark, Anna, William and Rita's extended family

"When someone you love becomes a memory the memory becomes a treasure"

Obituaries

Strike, Ken
(Arthur Kenneth Strike)
March 16, 2024



On Saturday March 16, 2024 our father, grandfather and great grandfather Ken, passed away peacefully at the age of 89, in

the care of Greenwoods Elder Care on Salt Spring Island B.C.

Ken had a life full of adventure and travel. As a boy he grew up in Gloucestershire England. As a young man he completed University, then fulfilled his duties in the Military.

Ken then packed up his young wife and family and crossed the ocean to Guyana South America where he worked for several years. He then left the heat of the tropics for the snow in Canada, settling in Kemptville Ontario where he worked for the Federal Government retiring as Director of Mediation and Arbitration.

Ken and Gwyn moved to retirement life on Salt Spring Island in 1989 where he enjoyed hobby farming, bee keeping and wine making. Ken was also a lifelong member of the Anglican Church and Masonic Lodge. He will be missed by many friends and acquaintances from over the years.

Ken was predeceased by his wife Gwyn and son-in-law Greg Froome. He is survived by his sons Richard(Pam) and Trevor and daughter Karen, grandchildren Christine(Tyler), Angela, Katie, Kayla(Jesse), Chelsea(Mark) and great grand-daughter Ella.

Special Thank You to Greenwoods for the care and compassion given during Dad's stay.

Please join us, celebrating his life on Saturday, April 6th at 1:00 pm at All Saints by-the-Sea (110 Park Drive).

Donations may be made to Greenwoods at greenwoodseldecare.org.



In Memoriam

Salt Spring Island NATURAL CEMETERY

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In Memoriam

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HOROSCOPE

WEEK OF MARCH 24 TO 30, 2024
THE LUCKIEST SIGNS THIS WEEK: SAGITTARIUS, CAPRICORN AND AQUARIUS

- ARIES** You may need to negotiate skillfully in various contexts such as at work or with your friends or partner to achieve harmony. You'll have to make compromises and adjustments to cultivate happiness in all your relationships.
- TAURUS** At work, you may experience some confusion and conflict. This could prompt you to start thinking about a career change. Take the time to weigh the pros and cons and get advice from those closest to you.
- GEMINI** You'll find yourself in a position to stand out. This could transform your life in the long term. Your value will be highlighted in a variety of ways, boosting your self-esteem and self-confidence.
- CANCER** You may decide to move soon, especially if the family home has proved too big since your children left the nest. In your relationship, change could strengthen or rekindle your passion.
- LEO** Your outspokenness will be evident as you express openly what others think in silence. A secret could leave you perplexed for a while. The Full Moon will have a revealing effect. A revelation will show you the way forward.
- VIRGO** If you're struggling financially, you could discover some interesting solutions. You'll finally get the opportunity to invest in a project dear to your heart or, at least, to redecorate your home.
- LIBRA** This will be an active and dynamic week. You may need to shake things up with certain people. Even if you prefer keeping the peace, it's time to assert your position to re-establish harmony with those close to you.
- SCORPIO** Your talents will increase tenfold, opening the door to a spiritual awakening. You'll develop a deeper perspective and greater empathy, allowing you to see things in a new light. The artist in you could also be revealed.
- SAGITTARIUS** A post on social media could inspire you. Someone close to you will play a key role in helping you become the person you've always wanted to be. This will guide you toward fulfillment and happiness.
- CAPRICORN** If you have a jam-packed week, make sure to space out your appointments to avoid scheduling conflicts and minimize the pressure. Time is precious; carefully manage yours.
- AQUARIUS** You could decide to radically change your life on a whim. This transformation could involve going back to school or starting a new career in line with your deepest aspirations.
- PISCES** The heart has its reasons, which reason knows not. Even if you try to rationalize a situation, your emotions will influence your choices. Sometimes, you must step out of your comfort zone to move in the right direction.

PHILANTHROPY

Schoolhouse gets funding



PHOTO BY KIRK LAIDLAW

Teachers, students and Salt Spring 100 Men Who Care organizers wave behind a big cheque in front of the Little Red Schoolhouse, which was built by Samuel Beddis in 1885. "Little Red" is the longest-running single-room schoolhouse operating in B.C. Teachers, from left to right, are Joanne Fisher, Rowyn George, Minette Moolman, Zoe Chalmers, and Jaime Fry – plus Bob Milone and Urs Dietschi from 100 Men.

100 Men Who Care donate to Little Red Schoolhouse effort

BY SALT SPRING 100 MEN WHO CARE
CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

The longest-running single-room schoolhouse in B.C. got another big boost for planned upgrades, thanks to a \$10,400 donation from Salt Spring Island's 100 Men Who Care.

The Little Red Schoolhouse will get some much-needed "TLC," according to school program director Minette Moolman; the historical "Little Red" sits at the far end of Beaver Point Hall Park, with teachers and families acting as caretakers.

"It was such an honour to present in front of such gentlemen," said Moolman, who had been part of the group who made their case for funding at the Harbour

House Feb. 4. "They were all so kind, welcoming and supportive."

100 Men Who Care meets three evenings a year to hear presentations from three registered Salt Spring charities; members then vote on their favourite and the winning candidate gets a \$100 donation from each member. Members voted in favour of "Little Red" and soon after presented them with a cheque for \$10,400.

"We feel so grateful to have the support of the 100 Men Who Care organization and we look forward to putting their generous contribution to good use," said Moolman.

With over \$130,000 donated to Salt Spring charities since 2018, 100 Men Who Care Salt Spring Island is one of more than 400 chapters around North America and always on the lookout for new members. The group's next meeting is set for June 4.

For more information, visit 100mensaltspring.org.

WELLNESS EVENTS

Half-day meditation set

Retreat hopes to demystify art of 'sitting quietly'

BY SALT SPRING ZEN CIRCLE
CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

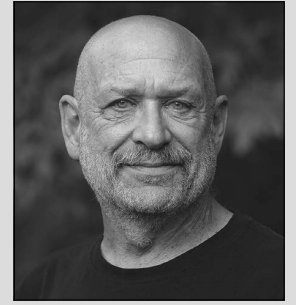


PHOTO COURTESY PETER LEVITT

Peter Levitt, Salt Spring Zen Circle founding teacher.

Have you always wanted to learn to meditate? Or did you used to meditate and now find yourself too busy or distracted to sit still? Are you mystified by what Zen meditation actually means?

On Sunday, April 7, the Salt Spring Zen Circle invites both beginners and experienced meditators to a half-day of meditation at 210 Cedar Lane from 7:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Instruction is offered for those who would like it, with both chairs and cushions provided. We will have an hour of dharma discussion. Please wear dark comfortable clothing.

We know how daunting it may seem to sit quietly without listening to music, checking for messages, or watching our own internal movie, which can increase stress. Meditation can help.

"When meditating, the instructions are very straightforward; rather than allowing our thoughts and feelings to distract or capture us with their compelling drama as they usually do, we focus on following our breath," our founding teacher Peter Levitt said. "This simple practice, which has been proven to help people around the world for thousands

of years, allows us to be present, aware and calm. By dropping the internal story line and returning to following our breath, we experience ourselves in a way that people find quite wonderful. This is why our practice has been kept warm and alive for such a very long time."

"We experience ourselves in a way that people find quite wonderful."
PETER LEVITT
Founding teacher, Salt Spring Zen Circle

Salt Spring Zen Circle members and friends find that practising meditation settles our distracted minds, helps us cope with stress and live in the present moment. We meet Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. at All Saints-by-the-Sea, upper hall, in Ganges. Everyone is welcome.

While there is no fee to attend, in the Zen tradition donations are gratefully accepted.

To enquire, please call Chris Smart 250-653-2411 or visit saltspringzencircle.org.

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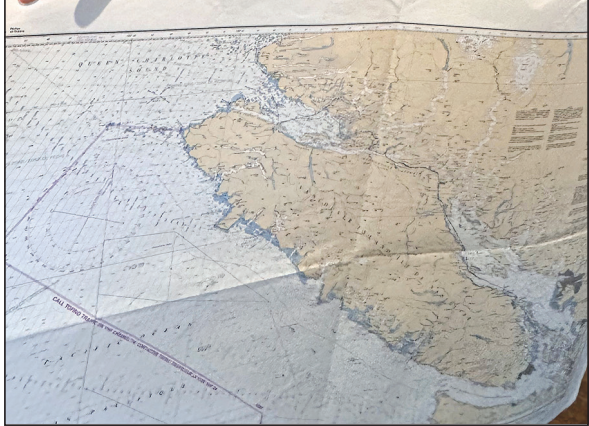
FULFORD HALL

Island faces shine at Fabulous Flea Market



PHOTOS BY ROB LOWRIE

The biannual Jan's Fabulous Flea Market at Fulford Hall, above, took place Saturday, March 23, featuring Salt Spring Islanders peddling their wares, strolling the aisles and helping raise funds for hall operations. Clockwise starting at right, Mike Hunsberger rescues metal treasures from the melting pot; Roberta Temmel poses with vibrant fabrics and textiles; visitors Autumn Hong and Zed Myers with a local map and cookbook they found; and Brook Holdack beams a smile as the "retired" former Rare Find second-hand store operator happily admits it's a hobby and habit she can't break.



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