

inside:

LET'S PICK IT UP,
Salt Spring!

Page: 12



3 GISS Improv team dazzles in Ottawa



8 Matriarchs Uprising Festival at ArtSpring

Easter 2024..... 11
 Arts and Entertainment..... 7
 Classifieds..... 10
 Editorial 4
 Island Life 9
 Letters..... 5
 What's On..... 9

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April 3, 2024

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Issue 14
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PHOTO BY ROB LOWRIE

SOME BUNNY WE KNOW: The Easter Bunny strikes a pose before celebrations and the egg hunt began at the Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS) event Sunday, March 30. The only person who missed out seeing him was PARC recreation programmer Zach Lundrie, who strangely was nowhere to be found while the Easter Bunny was visiting. See more Easter photos on page 11.

ISLANDS TRUST

Recording limits eyed

Staff outline paths to restrict public taping of meetings

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A year-old drama from a Lasqueti Local Trust Committee (LTC) meeting may have ripple effects across the Islands Trust, as the land use authority's Executive Committee (EC) met to consider limits on the public recording of committee meetings. Recommendations on how to structure and implement those limits came during the EC's meeting Wednesday, March 27, as Legislative Services director David Marlor brought back a report requested the previous year, stemming from events during a few "lively" Lasqueti LTC meetings held in early 2023.

The Lasqueti meetings were chaired by Gabriola Island trustee Tobi Elliott, who was confronted over comments she made suggesting if a member of the public wished to have a "collegial working relationship" with their elected officials, it would be respectful to ask permission to record them before doing so. One speaker bristled at the notion, cited the Criminal Code of Canada, and claimed an earlier committee chair had wrongly required advance permission to record — all of which led Elliott to introduce the topic to her fellow EC members later than month.

Some clarity was needed, she told the EC in 2023, particularly around "intent of use" — seemingly hoping to draw a distinction exempting someone recording for professional reasons. But the report returned last week simply offered a green light for limiting members of the public's ability to record procedurally, despite a lack of legislation.

"You don't have any bylaws that indicate whether or not people can record any meetings, and you have no policy," said Marlor. "So really, the only control you have is that the chair does have the ability to control the meeting."

Marlor said a meeting chair could take the time to let attendees know that "somebody wants to record personally" and that it was occurring — or take further steps, as the existing meeting procedure bylaws put responsibility for maintaining "order and decorum" during meetings upon the chair.

"You can also require that they record the committee, not other people," said Marlor. "And if somebody speaking is uncomfortable with that recording, you can request the recording to be stopped."

RECORDINGS continued on 2

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**NSSWD WATERING RESTRICTIONS HAVE CHANGED
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NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT
IS IN**

STAGE 1 WATERING RESTRICTIONS AS OF APRIL 1, 2024

STAGE 1 WATERING RESTRICTIONS:

SPRINKLING

- Even/odd numbered addresses can sprinkle on even/odd dates before 7am and after 7pm up to a maximum of 4 hours per day.
- New lawns can be sprinkled during the hours stated above for 4 hours per day.

MICRO OR DRIP IRRIGATION OF TREES, SHRUBS & GARDENS

- Even/odd numbered addresses can water trees, shrubs, and gardens with micro or drip irrigation on even/odd dates before 10 am and after 5 pm up to a maximum of 6 hours per day.

HAND WATERING OF TREES, SHRUBS & GARDENS (with a bucket or hose with spring-loaded nozzle only)

- Even/odd numbered addresses can hand water trees, shrubs, and gardens on even/odd dates anytime up to a maximum of 4 hours per day.

WASHING OF VEHICLES & BOATS

- Vehicles and boats can be washed anytime using a hose or pressure washer with a spring-loaded nozzle.

WASHING DRIVEWAYS, BUILDINGS, DECKS ETC.

- Driveways, buildings, decks etc. can be washed anytime using a hose or pressure washer with a spring-loaded nozzle.

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NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS

LGA changes unlikely

**No access to preferential
loan rates for water district**

**BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF**

B.C. government officials have poured cold water on a suggested legislative change that might have improved borrowing options for Salt Spring's largest improvement district, telling the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) the province won't consider amending the Local Government Act (LGA) in ways district officials believed would allow access to preferential interest rates.

NSSWD board members had tasked CAO Mark Boysen to forward the request concerning Section 711 of the act, which speaks to both collection of taxes and financing; Boysen said as several projects loomed on the horizon, the lower interest rates available for fire districts — and, notably, improvement districts that have street lighting — looked increasingly attractive.

"Right now, we have to borrow from private sources — from banks directly," said Boysen. "So the only intention here was trying to find a way to reduce our interest rates for future loans we might have to take up."

The provincial response was straightforward; according to a March 11 letter from Assistant Deputy Minister Tara Faganello,

while the Ministry of Municipal Affairs appreciated NSSWD's desire to reduce interest costs, such a change in legislation would require "significant undertaking."

"In this case, as you are aware, a more durable solution is to examine the potential for the conversion of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District to a regional district service or the formation of a municipality encompassing the improvement district," read the letter, noting that municipalities and regional districts can access lower borrowing rates via the Municipal Financial Authority.

Board chair Brian Pyper said the tone was not entirely surprising, saying at the March 28 meeting it was the "kind of standard" response they'd grown to expect.

"We're grateful to the province for the things that we do agree on," said Pyper, such as recent funding for climate resiliency. "I think it was definitely worth the effort."

If there was a glimmer of hope, according to board member Sandra Ungerson, it was a sentence in the letter noting ministry staff would engage with colleagues in other departments to determine if it was feasible for the province to lend to a "wider range" of improvement districts.

"I think that's the first time I've seen a 'bone' offered like that," said Ungerson.

Boysen said he would follow up on what progress might be made as he and NSSWD staff continue to interact with the ministry.

Staff preps 'script' for trustees

RECORDINGS

continued from 1

Marlor said staff are preparing a "script" for local committee chairs to read to that effect, although according to the report he prepared for the EC, staff recommend the chair "require" — not request — anyone making personal recordings "respect the wishes" of public speakers addressing committees who ask not to be recorded.

"Staff recommend that to address this, in the absence of a bylaw amendment or policy amendment, that the Chair posts a notice at the meeting location advising that the meeting is being live streamed and recorded," according to Marlor's report. "The notice can further state that those wishing to personally record the meeting (video or audio) must obtain the consent of the Chair in advance of doing so."

The report cites the widely-reported "banning" of public recordings of council meetings in Lantzville in 2020, itself partially a response to a member of the public there livestreaming council meetings via social media. At the time, Lantzville did not stream video or audio of its meetings, although municipal staff did record them; the Islands Trust currently live-streams video and audio and makes recordings available online some weeks later.

"Local trust committees may, by resolution or bylaw, establish their own requirements for public recording of their meet-

ings," according to Marlor's report. "The only requirement is that the local trust committees ensure that the meetings are open to the public, and this is satisfied by allowing the public into the meeting venue, to join the meeting on-line, or to watch the livestream. Limiting public recording of the meetings would not violate the open meeting requirements."

EC chair Peter Luckham seemed uncomfortable with the idea of members of the public needing to gain consent from committee chairs before recording — although he agreed with considering constraints that might ask anyone recording to focus on meeting participants.

"Really, we're not offering consent," said Luckham. "It's an open and free space, in which somebody can do what they wish. Do we need to say 'consent' or just have the notice state the chair must be advised that they intend on recording?"

Marlor said changing the language to advisory wouldn't take away from a chair's ability to then "have a discussion" with people about the rules they want to set up in a meeting.

"I just don't want anybody to feel that we might say 'no,'" said Luckham, "when it seems clear to me that we can't really say no, we can just advise them."

Elliott told staff she would need "absolute clarity" on the application of the Criminal Code on Islands Trust meeting procedures when the "script" for future LTC meetings returned.



Send your submissions to
news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Roses

... To Mike and Daniel at Marcotte's Garage, a native wild rose bush in full bloom. I had a tire blowout on Stewart Road and you were there! My good luck.
Wendy Hilliard

... To Nancy Wigen, the original planter of the lovely fawn lilies at St. Mary's Church in Fulford. *Nina Raginsky*

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Weir project updated

St. Mary Lake plans won't raise peak shoreline levels

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

In the wake of an unexpected \$10 million funding windfall, Salt Spring's largest water improvement district has begun a complex planning process, centred on how those dollars will be used — and discussions with the province have begun on how raising the weir level at St. Mary Lake can improve the island's resiliency to a changing climate.

The funding appeared without advance notice in the B.C. government's 2024/25 budget announcement in late February, allocating money to increase water storage capacity and better sustain the required environmental water flow through Duck Creek by "raising the dam height" at St. Mary Lake.

That wording seemed to cause some initial public confusion; the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) operates a weir at the lake, which — unlike a dam — is designed to allow water to flow over its top during periods of higher rainfall. Raising the weir's level would not, according to staff, directly translate to raising the level of St. Mary Lake, but rather would increase effective capacity by allowing more flexibility in managing lake levels and flow into Duck Creek throughout the year.

NSSWD operations manager Ryan Moray explained at the current height of the weir — 40.7 metres above North American coastal mean sea level — water cascades over the top for much of the winter, especially during periods of high rainfall. Those rain events seem to be happening with increasing frequency, according to NSSWD data collected at St. Mary Lake, particularly in January and February — and, Moray added, if the weir was raised to a height of 41 metres as currently envisioned, water would still be pouring over during periods of heavy precipitation.

"You can see during prior years where we peaked, we were seeing lake levels as high as 41.20," said Moray.

NSSWD's examination of climate change data — part of its own recent storage investigations during an ongoing "moratorium roadmap" project — had already suggested a need to find water capacity management

solutions due to changing rainfall patterns; the provincial funding is specifically categorized under B.C.'s response to climate emergencies. CAO Mark Boysen told trustees that district staff had already begun preliminary meetings with representatives from relevant provincial ministries.

"I'd say we're at the very early stages," said Boysen. "The ministries are talking to each other, and we've had some very good initial conversations about eligibility for where the funding could go, what would be possible and potentially not possible."

NSSWD board chair Brian Pyper emphasized the board's hope that discussions for using that funding toward climate resilience goals would remain "as broad as we can," possibly looking beyond the weir to other water storage and management projects the district had been considering.

"We know a lot could be under that [climate resiliency] umbrella," said Pyper. "Not necessarily just the weir."

Until the project goals crystallize, according to Boysen, the weir — and water flows into Duck Creek — remains the focus; interestingly, he said, there was still an active — if stalled — application to raise the weir from an effort nearly a decade ago.

"The province has pulled those documents out," said Boysen, "from back in 2015 or 2016, and we're going to see what has to be updated, and whether we'll be able to continue with the active application or if we have to renew."

The district will be developing a work plan with the province, Boysen said, that will move toward funding agreements and eventually designs and public engagement.

"Because it is a one-off funding program, not a grant, we're not required to contribute matching funds or anything," he said. "It's kind of outside of a typical structure for their funding. But there's a lot of information to go through."

Staff confirmed any new weir construction would be designed to help limit lake elevation gains during heavy rains, possibly reducing the amount of time spent at higher levels — which may come as some relief to landowners around the lake.

"Thanks to the provincial funding, we have an opportunity to do it right, and have it last long into the future," said Pyper. "Operating in a way that we design it."

"Because it is a one-off funding program, not a grant, we're not required to contribute matching funds."

MARK BOYSEN
CAO, North Salt Spring Waterworks District

IMPROV PLACES AT NATIONALS



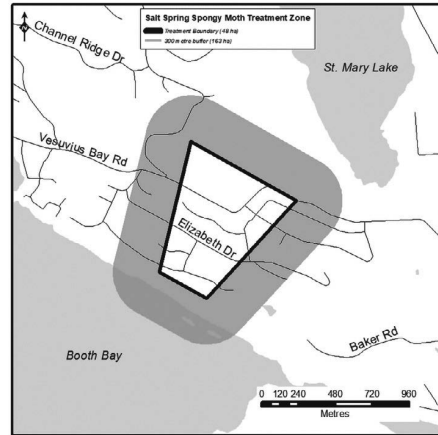
PHOTO COURTESY JASON DONALDSON

The Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) Improv Team pose holding their bronze-win banner after taking third place at the National tournament for the Canadian Improv Games in Ottawa Saturday, March 30. GISS Improv coach Jason Donaldson expressed pride in the team, as well as thanks to "Leynette and the Trustees Trust for the Bill Woodman memorial, John Lefebvre, Windsor Plywood, The Salt Spring Foundation, Tom Townbee, Legion Branch 92, GISS Teaching Kitchen, and our beloved community for all of the support — and to team mate Peregrin McCormick who couldn't make the trip and to GISS teacher Brad Bryan for making it all work." Pictured are GISS students Steph Cowan, Leelu Mann, Reason Perry, Luisa McCarvill-Russo, Melody Silva, Artemis Rome and Cass Corbett.

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The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy issued the Ministry of Forests a permit on March 19, 2024 to use Btk (*Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *Kurstaki*), commercial formulation Foray 48B, to eradicate an establishing spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar*; formerly referred to as gypsy moth) population in a 48-hectare parcel on Salt Spring Island near Vesuvius (see map). Btk has been approved for the control of spongy moth larvae in Canada since 1961.

Three aerial applications are planned between April 15 and June 30, 2024. Each treatment application will take up to two mornings to complete, unless interrupted by poor weather, and will be conducted between sunrise and 7:30 a.m. Treatment dates are weather dependent and will be advertised with lawn signs prior to each application.

A copy of the permit and map can be viewed online, at: gov.bc.ca/spongymoth-news

For more information on the program and spray dates, please visit gov.bc.ca/spongymoth or contact the Ministry of Forests, toll free at: 1 866 917-5999. Multilingual health information is available through HealthLink BC by calling 811.





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Hosted by Adam Olsen, MLA

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COMMUNITY OFFICE

SAANICH NORTH AND THE ISLANDS

Adam Olsen, MLA





OPINION

2022 CCNA Awards
Gold - Best Editorial Page | Gold - Outstanding Community Service | Silver - Best Front Page
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2022 BCYCN Awards
Silver - Best All Round (for circulation Category C)
Silver - Community Service Award



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EDITORIAL

Paved and prudent

The first Salt Spring Saturday Market of 2024 is on the books, and the clouds that covered Centennial Park — both literally and metaphorically — seemed to have finally parted for the event.

So far, the new paving project that caused so much heartache over the winter is getting rave reviews.

Back in 2022, when more than a half million dollars in federal grant funding allocated to projects like revitalizing the Centennial Park Plaza was made available, there was a lot of second-guessing when the now-defunct Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission — and local CRD director Gary Holman — chose to reallocate precious “gas tax” and parks reserve monies to meet the project’s budget shortfall and keep the endeavor (and the federal funding) alive.

THE ISSUE: Paving Centennial Park

WE SAY: Character and value retained

As islanders privately calculated how far that money would go elsewhere — pick your underfunded society, service or amenity that could use \$561,748 — we were reminded the only project that qualified for that specific grant was Centennial Park.

So as we peered through the chain link fence all winter, we curated patience, and excused ourselves for wondering whether the seemingly monolithic slab of concrete — easier walking and better drainage notwithstanding — could possibly support the character of our community’s “make it, bake it, grow it” jewel as well as those old cobblestones did.

When the fences came down ahead of last weekend, we got an answer to that part at least. The heart of our Saturday Market beat happily on the textured paving, under some spring sunshine; vendors smiled, visitors wandered, and locals’ grumbles seemed to subside for a moment as we greeted one another, enjoying a long weekend.

While Saturday Market observers saw fewer tourists tripping over uneven cobblestones, they should also note we’ve now begun the first season our market will be managed by a fully-local Salt Spring Island Saturday Market Society, rather than by the regional district.

We wish that board, the vendors and the market community a successful season.

PARKER

THE FIRST SIGNS OF SPRING



THESE ARE THE LOUDEST FROGS I'VE EVER HEARD

Protect firefighters, dens

BY ADAM OLSEN
MLA, SAANICH NORTH AND THE ISLANDS

VIEWPOINT

Service killed more than 900 bears last year, many the result of increasing pressures on bear habitat.

I've sat on a lot of committees in my time as an MLA, including police act reform, freedom of information and privacy act reviews, and several hiring committees.

Last summer, I participated in an all-party committee to look at how private members (all MLAs except cabinet ministers) could introduce, debate and vote on bills or motions. Currently, the legislative agenda is entirely controlled by a couple dozen cabinet ministers in executive council.

All elected representatives should have the opportunity to introduce public policy and have it debated and voted on. The B.C. NDP committed to the committee recommendations to increase access of private members for the next parliament after the provincial election.

However, with an election scheduled for this fall, the only thing current members can count on is the next six weeks. So, I have introduced two solid initiatives with strong public support that the B.C. NDP government should consider before the election.

For three consecutive years, I've introduced legislation to protect bear dens on public and private land. Bear den habitats are a critical oasis for stressed forests, and bears are essential “forest tractors,” spreading nutrients across their territory. Bears are crucial allies in regenerating devastated clear cuts and torched creeks and streams.

It is not in our ecological or economic interest to displace bears. It leads to increased human-bear contacts and unfortunately often ends in the destruction of the bear. The B.C. Conservation

fighters Amendment Act, a proactive measure that creates provincial standards to limit firefighters' exposure to forever chemicals in firefighter personal protective equipment (PPE) and fire suppression foams.

Labour minister Hon. Harry Bains has progressively added presumptive clauses in our workers compensation programs for firefighters with certain cancers to support them and their families access the resources and services they need.

Just as Premier Eby set targets for nature protections, I encourage him to set equally ambitious targets for the transition to fire protection and suppression equipment free of per- and polyfluoroalkyls (PFAs).

Firefighting is a dangerous job, and we should not unnecessarily expose firefighters to toxins. The B.C. NDP government should follow the lead of the Vancouver Fire Department and ensure all fire services, no matter where they are located in British Columbia — professional and volunteer, large and small — have access to PFAs-free equipment.

Former Premier John Horgan recognized that good ideas are not limited to his side of the house. Now Premier David Eby has an opportunity to support good ideas in a spirit of cross-party collaboration in the waning weeks of the 42nd parliament.

I will be visiting Salt Spring Monday, April 15 for my Spring community meeting tour, from 6:30-8 p.m. at the library's program room.

I hope to see you there!

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you regularly volunteer in the community?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you think the Ganges Harbourwalk will be completed some day?

33 78
YES NO

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

ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

Summary report speaks for itself

I had a difficult time following the logic behind Driftwood's March 27 Viewpoint opinion written by Frants Attop. There are so many words in this opinion piece that require a response, but I will focus on a December 2019 resolution: "The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) direct staff to work with Trustee Patrick to establish a Salt Spring Housing Working Group to advise the Local Trust Committee on matters related to the development and implementation of a Salt Spring housing planning project and to provide advice and recommendations on policy and regulations to address housing needs across the housing continuum."

Work was initiated to formalize the working group through a series of reference and appointments, but the pandemic interrupted plans. Instead, the working group met informally and used its energy to recommend a planning project.

The summary from the Sept. 1, 2022 working group report speaks for itself and it was prepared by Laura Patrick, David Secord, Jessica Harkema, Daniel Wood, Rhonan Heitzmann, Meror Krayenhoff, and Ron Cook:

"Salt Spring Island's Official Commu-

nity Plan (OCP) embodies the vision of a diverse community living in harmony with the environment. Over the past two decades, a housing crisis has emerged concurrent with climate and forest (land use) crises. These issues are interrelated. Integrated solutions are feasible and increasingly urgent. This proposed project concerns housing, but in a broad sense. The time is now to pursue housing solutions that also support better solutions for other challenges and crises.

"The objectives of this proposed project are to maximize the benefits and minimize the harms of housing on Salt Spring, including its ecological, climatic, and socioeconomic dimensions. The goals for this proposed project are to develop new policies and regulations that will increase the quality and quantity of housing options, coupled with a high level of preservation and protection of the island's biodiversity and freshwater, marine, and forest resources. Affordable, appropriate, accessible, and attractive housing should be available for Salt Spring residents of all abilities, incomes, lifestyles, livelihoods, and household types.

"An overview of the proposed project is provided in the Project Snapshot below. Two phases are proposed. Phase 1 begins with the appointment of a housing task force, which is a high-energy pivoting body representing environmental, social

and economic interests. A key action for phase 1 is a robust public involvement strategy to ensure that the housing action plan to be developed will accurately reflect the public's values and has community support. Phase 1 ends with the development of a prioritized action plan.

"Phase 2 recognizes that housing-related social, economic and environmental issues are beyond the capacity of any one organization. Cross-sector partners are required to work collaboratively to develop and implement integrated solutions. A permanent, resourced community advisory body is proposed to develop a framework for actions to be implemented in a manner that integrates and considers both human and ecosystem needs through integrated planning, policy development and recommendations for implementation by member agencies and organizations."

You can read the entire report at the Islands Trust website.

I know many people are concerned about the health and future of this island community. As the LTC embarks on its planning projects, we want to work with you and hear your concerns and aspirations. Stay tuned for communications on opportunities to participate or to learn more about our planning projects.

LAURA PATRICK,
SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUSTEE

Poke fun, but get some new material

I was bemused by Mike Stacey's satirical letter to the Driftwood last week, "Problem Solved." It's clear that he has quite the bone to pick with inclusivity, "sensitivity training," and, of course, "preferred pronouns" and by extension the trans people who use them.

As your local public-facing transsexual, I know better than to ask the writer not to insert his issues with folks like me into his unrelated quibbling on local politics, nor would I dare suggest that one ought afford us the decency of addressing us correctly. That would surely constitute censorship, compelled speech, or, god forbid, "wokeness." Courtesy is for the birds.

Nonetheless I would like to make a humble suggestion in the interests of advancing literary comedy: pronouns-as-punchline humour has long since been done to death. Ask a trans woman for a trans joke, and you'll get something far funnier (and more offensive) than anything Mr. Stacey could presently imagine. Get some new material!

EMILY WHITELAW,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"We have an opportunity to do it right, and have it last long into the future — operating in a way that we design it."

BRIAN PYPHER, NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS TRUSTEE, ON FUNDING THE ST. MARY LAKE WEIR PROJECT

Tattoos, healthcare and competition between two brothers

I'm thinking of getting a tattoo, nothing ostentatious, maybe a discreet butterfly or seahorse on my wrist or "Don't change Salt Spring, let Salt Spring change you if it ever gets round to it" in Chinese characters across my back.

I suppose it makes sense to wait until the government announces it will be paying for tattoos in much the same way it has recently volunteered to pay my dental bills and for my cataract operation sometime later this year, provided I haven't walked blindly under a truck before they get around to me.

That's the glory of a welfare state and for the life of me, I have never understood Republican and Conservative objections to it.

Cradle to the grave, right, un beholden to some money-grubbing culture in the insurance industry? So, I don't want to seem churlish but while paying for my teeth is a wonderful gift from the government, I'd sooner they did something about the price of drugs. But still contribute to the upkeep of my teeth, which, if I'm honest, could do with a damned good seeing to.

Of course, by "paying for my

drugs" I don't mean that they subsidise my crack habit but rather reduce the cost of the bucketloads of pills, potions and prophylactics that are bolstering my chances of reaching an even riper old age than the ripe old age I am now.

Last week I celebrated my 74th birthday ("celebrate" is probably hyperbole because the only people who paid it any attention on the day were my wife and my dentist).

As it is, I take enough pills every morning to keep a small pharmacy in business and I may rattle when I walk but I have outlived my dad (or rather, exceeded his years because he'd be about 115 today) and just about every other male member of my family. Only my slightly younger brother remains, and he refuses to accept my position as the family patriarch and deliberately disobeys me. (I haven't bothered to broach it with my sons who have never obeyed me anyway.)

I did actually speak to him on the phone recently. It's not something either of us does regularly enough because, despite being quite fond of each other, our lives are beyond dull. Still, it's a fraternal thing to stay in touch,



Paul McElroy
+ ANOTHER THING

at least until one of us is too frail to pick up a phone, or indeed, has passed beyond the range of Telus or British Telecom. Or simply passed. Beyond.

The calls invariably take the same desultory path. "You well?" "Not bad" "You?" "Fine" "Viv well?" "Not too bad. How about Ruth?" "Fine, fine..." and this call didn't much stray from the script.

Inevitably, after the usual pleasantries – exchanging blood pressures, body temperatures and that sort of thing – our conversations remain, without fail, on our states of health and become a tussle of two elderly hypochondriacs trying to outdo each other. My brother was a nurse before he turned to the dark side, went back to university, and became a shrink, consequently his indispositions are

invariably more interesting than mine. More nuanced if you like.

Nothing is simple with Alastair. I have a pacemaker, he has a pacemaker and an ablation, (whatever that is) which I suspect he insisted on simply to annoy me.

He's also on a diet which is patently absurd because he's never weighed more than my left leg. I've had bunions that would outweigh him.

But the real smuggerly kicks in when we get into a contest about who's taking the most pills (yeah, I know, it's probably taking fraternal competitiveness to extremes, but that's what brothers do...) It's about even – until we compare costs in the UK where he lives and here in BC, and the difference is eye-watering.

There is no comparison; he pays next to nothing, while I pay a small fortune. Shoulder to shoulder, the two health systems are wonderful, both are slightly stressed but both are entirely excellent - until the doctor hands you a written prescription.

I've never really bothered keeping track of the price of my medication, because there isn't much I can do about it except

whine. And in any case, if I am ever in the slightest way miffed about the price of my pills up here, I simply look south and gloat, which helps until Alastair brings prescription gloating to a whole new level.

In the UK today, if you are over 60 (and who isn't?) any prescription is free, otherwise, for the able-bodied, there is a flat fee of £9.60 (about \$15) which you can reduce slightly by buying an annual pre-payment certificate for £111.60 (about \$180). Before I left Britain to come here I was, without any conceit, earning a substantial salary and yet because I was 60 years and one week old, I got my medications for nothing. An absolutely absurd waste of money, but the Brits are paranoid about means tests and nobody thought to point out that I could perfectly well pay substantially more and still afford to eat.

And now, I don't know if the British National Health Service pays for Alastair's teeth, assuming he has any left, or his spectacles (they pay for an eye test), but I wasn't entirely convinced when he claimed the NHS also paid for his haircuts.

I shall be writing to my MP ...



**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.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

Tenants available

At the risk of making a lot of B&B owners mad at me, especially air-B&Bs, I would like to see more strict rules to stop these rentals. There are so many people needing rentals. I'm sure the B&Bs are making more money than they could with a permanent rental — but what about our Salt Springers that can't find housing? So many people are leaving 'cause they can't find places to a rental or if they can, the rents are outrageous. We have nurses, teachers, orderlies, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, and others who make a decent living but still cannot find housing.

Our young people who get jobs at Thrifty's or Country Grocer are leaving as well. Simply because they can't find housing. I know some of the companies are building housing for their employees but not every business can do that.

The other thing that bothers me is the fact that Harbour House has spent a lot of money on renos and has beautiful rooms for rent. But if people choose the B&B option, the hotel will suffer.

So why not consider renting to good tenants (with good references) with good jobs who will take care of your place and will be able to stay on Salt Spring and give their skills to the island?

KISHORI HUTCHINGS,
SALT SPRING

School promotion

As I read the report about the Science Fair that took place at Salt Spring Elementary on March 13th, I wonder if it would be possible for such events to be publicized in the future in the "What's On this week" section of the paper?

Many people would love to attend science fairs, concerts and presentations that happen in schools if they only knew about them.

MARIE BEAUDOIN,
SALT SPRING

Rationalized gro

Last week's Viewpoint by Frants Attop outlined how our Official Community Plan amendment process has been anything but open, transparent and inclusive. A small group of housing activists with no respect for the Islands Trust, and some with potential conflicts of interest, was selected to provide input and introduce the same growth model here that has proven so damaging elsewhere.

Salt Spring voters have repeatedly rejected incorporation, mostly due to concerns that developers would gain too much influence and put the island's rural character and natural resources at risk. Now the intent of those referendum results is being overturned.

The mandate of the Islands Trust was seen as protection against rampant development. While the Trust governance structure remains, the mandate, at least as interpreted by Trustees, has become meaningless. Despite the island having no major industry, we have seen a surge in our population that has exceeded our available housing stock and overwhelmed our infrastructure and resources. Much of this pressure has come from those wanting to escape the pressures and costs associated with urban areas.

The stalking horse is always: "We need to provide housing for our critical workers," but this is never quantified, it is always anecdotal without proof. We are told that only by creating thousands of new densities—far more than identified in housing reports—will our ferries run on time. Precisely how many ferry workers are without adequate housing? Is it two, five or fifty? The same with hospital workers—is it five, fifty, or more?

We need to provide secure housing for critical workers but let's define what that number is rather than use the unknown as an excuse for across-the-board densification. I am sure our businesses would like a large pool of workers, but how many and how can we ensure new dwellings go to people engaged in the workforce?

It is unreasonable to expect an island with limited land and resources to provide housing at a cost lower than in urban areas with better access to labour and materials and multi-story buildings that can provide density at a reasonable price. What we can do is add a limited number of subsidised housing units to meet critical needs without neutering our OCP.

Other communities have developed housing programs for workers without using that as justification for widespread development. Trustees and housing advocates trumpet what is gained, but ignore what is lost. It was never the intent for the Islands Trust to create an alternative low-cost housing relief valve for adjacent urban areas or upzone thousands of residential lots, most likely for tourism. It is neither logical nor sustainable.

Globally, communities are questioning the growth-at-any-cost model and respecting the interests of existing residents. They are thinking globally and acting locally. On Salt Spring, we express concern over global environmental degradation but sanction it locally with hypothetical rationalizations.

COLIN COE,
FULFORD HARBOUR



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MAHON HALL

Spring show pings intersection of time, place

're:location' exhibition pushes artistic boundaries

BY PHÖENIX KELLEY
FOR SALT SPRING ARTS

Salt Spring Arts presents the 2024 Spring Art Show, "re:location," curated by Annika Hagen Siemsen. The multidisciplinary group exhibition features 18 dynamic artists from the Southern Gulf Islands, and is open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 12-28 at Mahon Hall.

Heralding the expansion of our vibrant creative artist community in recent years, "re:location" showcases artists at various stages of their careers who have accepted the challenge of pushing the boundaries of their practice through incorporating two or more disciplines. Through a rich mix of contemporary media, questions of identity, the dichotomy of isolation and community and the impacts of displacement are explored through art.

"My piece highlights a harmony between human creativity and nature while emphasizing our role in environmental conservation," said participating artist Wallethmoth, who will be presenting a Noon Hour Artist Talk on April 24.

"re:location" features artworks by Germaine Koh, Wallethmoth, Dina Gonzalez Mascaró, Robert Moss, Veronica Classen, Stasia Garraway, Eli Horn, Patrick McCallum, Anna Karolina Szul, Seb Evans, Matthew Robertson, Kerry Weinrauch, Gordon Brent Brochu-Ingram and John David James, Randy Lee Cutler, Liljana Mead Martin and James K-M, as well as artwork by Annika Hagen Siemsen, the exhibition's curator.

In addition to curation, Siemsen's creative pursuits span poetry, screenwriting, filmmaking, printmaking, alternative process photography and more.

The daughter of an impressionist painter, she relocated from Mexico City to Vancouver to Salt Spring Island, where she spent her early teen years. After moving to New York City and spending 16 years working in the film industry, Annika found herself back on Salt Spring in 2016, opening Salty Pear Gallery and B&B.

"I have brought together 18 multidisciplinary artists from various stages in their careers and have asked each to delve into their per-

sonal stories of adapting to life on the Gulf Islands," Siemsen said. "This exhibition leans to the contemporary and steps away from conventional depictions of 'island beauty,' confronting and connecting complexities in our collective experience."

The work of Salt Spring Arts (SSA), our island's arts council of over 55 years, bridges the gap between artists and audiences through joyful, meaningful creative connection. SSA presents opportunities such as the Spring Art Show that highlight local artists, support curatorial practice and engage with the community. The annual program invites locals and visitors to explore the work of, and connect with, local creatives through the exhibition and events including artist talks, curator conversations and performances. This year, Salt Spring Arts is also presenting docent talks with gallery manager Zoe Zafiris for those interested in an informative guided tour of the exhibition.

Each year, the Youth Exhibit provides the opportunity for young local talents to present their artwork in the Mahon Hall Annex during the Spring Art Show. This year, Home As We Know It features work by beginner GISS Photography Students under the direction of teacher Seb Evans. The exhibit showcases their visual reflections on the theme of home, place and relocation, to build on the theme of Spring Art Show.

"re:location" opens Friday, April 12 at 10 a.m. followed by the opening celebration from 6 to 9 p.m. Throughout the last two weeks of April, a series of events highlighting the exhibiting artists take place at Mahon Hall: an Artist Panel, Noon Hour Artist Talks, a Curator Conversation and an evening event featuring spontaneous improvised cabaret and live music by The Mercy Dogs and Graham Van Pelt.

On Sunday, April 14, Artist Panel 6-8 p.m.; Tuesday, April 16, Curator Conversation with Annika Hagen Siemsen 6-8 p.m.; Wednesday, April 17, Artist Talk with Germaine Koh noon-1 p.m.; Friday, April 19, Artist Talk with Stasia Garraway noon-1p.m.; Saturday, April 20, Docent Talk with Zoe Zafiris 2-3 p.m.; Wednesday, April 24, ArtistTalk with Wallethmoth noon-1p.m.; and on Friday, April 26, Docent Talk with Zoe Zafiris 2-3 p.m.

For more information, visit saltspringarts.com.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION COURTESY SSA ARTS
Above, Gulf Islands artists appearing in 're:location.'

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ARTS EVENTS

Four-day event celebrates Indigenous dance

Short films, workshops at Matriarchs Uprising Festival

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
FOR ARTSPRING

From Wednesday, April 10 to Saturday, April 13, ArtSpring is proud to host the Matriarchs Uprising Festival, celebrating contemporary work of Indigenous women creating and dancing stories of transformation.

Artistic director and festival curator, Olivia C. Davies (Anishinaabe) has woven together a captivating program for Salt Spring audiences that features dance performances by award-winning Hoop Dancer Beany John (Taino/Cree), O.Dela Arts' artistic associate Sophie Dow (Métis), and Vn'i Dansi's artistic director, Yvonne Chartrand (Métis.)

The headliner 7:30 p.m. shows on Friday and Saturday respectively are "Indigi-Dance on Screen," an hour-long collection of evocative short dance films from Indigenous artists who are activating the land with their movements, followed the next night by the mainstage Matriarchs Uprising Performance featuring three striking choreographic stories by the dancers themselves.

In the production, John, a grass dancer,



Dancers Sophie Dow and Beany John, above, part of the Matriarchs Uprising Festival April 10-13.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL LINDON

hoop dancer, and traditional artisan from Kehewin Alberta, uses hoops as the circles that hold the stories and dances within them. The stories in "The Awakening" capture growth after the storm — the pandemic

— and an awakening of artists of all nations coming together for support.

"Eagle Spirit" was inspired by the illness and passing of Chartrand's mother and the sudden abundance of eagle feathers

that appeared in her travels. As eagles are believed to have a special connection to the spirit world, working with feathers and the medicine wheel were essential components in imagining this new dance work. Chartrand is a national award-winning master Métis jigger, and her contemporary works are always informed by her Métis identity.

A collaboration between John and Dow, a Treaty-1 born multidisciplinary creative with Michif/Assiniboine and French/Ukrainian roots, "Carriers and Keepers of the Ancestral Portals" invites audiences to peek through portals, as old and new ancestors pass each other by.

The Talking Truths Circle Conversation and Tea invites community members to a panel discussion about ancestral legacies, the importance of dance in expressing experiences, and its role in uplifting communities and revitalizing culture.

Workshops include Davies' Masterclass, an introduction to contemporary Indigenous dance methodology on Wednesday, and on Saturday, the Indigenous Dance Sampler will have people learning about the history and steps of the Red River Jig and how to handle hoops from a world champion hoop dancer. Hoops provided!

For tickets visit tickets.artspring.ca.

Fest marks ArtSpring's 25th

'All hands on deck' as anniversary nears

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
FOR ARTSPRING

As ArtSpring readies itself to welcome the community in to its ambitious 25th Anniversary Festival April 17-21, it's all hands on deck for organizers, staff, volunteers, and over 45 individual groups, artists, performers, speakers, and workshopers who are preparing to bring this landmark celebration alive.

Brought on to spearhead the planning and coordination of the five-day community-focused festival, Christina Penhale, a local actor and artistic director of StageCoach and exitStageLeft, left no stone unturned in her search to invite and find a diverse range of local talent.

Apart from two sold-out concerts with headliner Jim Cuddy of Blue Rodeo fame, the acclaimed Vancouver writer and cultural commentator Max Wyman's speaker presentation in partnership with Salt Spring Forum, celebrated pianist Jane Coop's intimate recital, and visiting Japanese drum and shamisen musicians Keita Kanazashi and Chie Hanawa in association with the Salt Spring Japanese Garden Society — all other events and performers are proudly local.

From seven local choirs appearing on stage in unison at the Opening Celebration to Cuban singer-songwriters at the Closing, face painters to glass blowing, shaking up Shakespeare to dance and interactive art projects, the festival promises to have something for everyone, including families.

"The approach to planning this festival was very much about highlighting and being grateful for the

diversity of local arts, crafts, and talent," says Howard Jang, ArtSpring's Executive and Artistic Director. "It is also about welcoming and inviting everyone, including those who have never been here or are new, to engage with the venue, each other, and the idea that this is where creative connections have a home."

April kicks off with a month-long lobby exhibition by local photographer and artist Seth Berkowitz and his interpretive visual history panels of ArtSpring's colourful past including when the idea of ArtSpring was just a dream. Assembled from posters, promotional materials, programs, and news clippings from over the years, the experience will take visitors down memory lane or lead them to discover new insights.

In addition to the archives of ArtSpring, Salt Spring Island Archives, and The Driftwood, mementos and memories were contributed by ArtSpring's newly formed volunteer ArtSpring Community Roundtable Committee and members of the community at large. Earlier in March, the committee hosted a well-attended panel discussion of ArtSpring's early days from the people who were there, including April Curtis, Sue Newman, Victoria Olchowecki, and Tom Toynbee.

With a theme of celebrating the past, present, and future of arts and community, ArtSpring's Festival also puts a spotlight on young performers of tomorrow.

GISS music, dance, and Improv programs will be represented, alongside the ArtSpring-sponsored Makana Youth Choirs. A preview of Stagecoach's upcoming Enchanted Bookshop, an elementary school art wall, and performers such as the youth folk band 19 Strings and Jim Cuddy's opening act, GISS-graduate up-and-coming country musician

Salome Cullen, all aim to kindle the spark in the next generation.

To truly bring the festive spirit together, ArtSpring is hosting its first-ever Finger Food Potluck and Community Dance Party in the Bateman Gallery on Thursday April 18, featuring local favourite cover band Everyday People and cash bar. Prior to that at 5:00pm, an "open mic" stage will be available for talent who wish to sign up for a 10-minute slot to perform, share poetry, or do stand-up comedy.

Opening and Closing Celebrations, Wax Wyman, and Jane Coop are priced at \$10-\$20, while all other activities are free. Printed schedules of the festival are now available as well as on the website. Events that require tickets or pre-registration are available through the Box Office.

NOTICE SS-TUP-2023.2 Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee

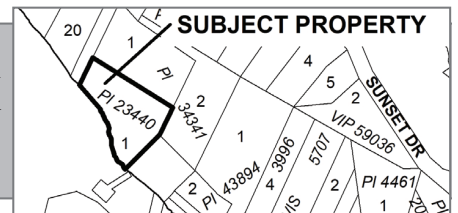


Islands Trust

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 494 of the Local Government Act that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee will be considering a resolution allowing for the issuance of Temporary Use Permit.

The proposed permit would permit five (5) short term vacation rental units on the property as part of a commercial operation

The property is located at **805 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island** and is legally described as LOT 1, SECTION 10, RANGE 3 WEST, NORTH SALT SPRING ISLAND, COWICHAN DISTRICT, PLAN 23440 (PID: 003-105-661).



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, 1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island BC V8K 2N8 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, excluding statutory holidays, and on the Islands Trust website commencing March 26, 2024 and continuing up to and including April 10, 2024. www.islandstrust.bc.ca/island-planning/salt-spring/current-applications/

Enquiries or comments should be directed to Chris Buchan, Planner 2 at (250) 537-9144, 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: ssinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca before 4:30 pm, April 10, 2024.

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permit during the business meeting on April 11, 2024 starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Salt Spring Legion, Meaden Hall, 120 Blain Road, Salt Spring Island. Typically, applications are considered in the afternoon portion of the meeting, which begins at 12 noon.

Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

Rob Pingle, Deputy Secretary



ISLAND LIFE

SPORTS

Spring league firing up

The Salt Spring United Windsor Plywood Spring League is about to start up for another spring, with games beginning Wednesday, April 10 and running for 10 weeks (ending June 12) at Portlock Park.

SS United is pleased to announce that Windsor Plywood has once again partnered with our club to keep this league affordable and fun for all. Special thanks to Ken Marr and Mike Stefansic for their support.

The Spring League is a fun league, with no standings or points, where soccer is just played recreationally for enjoyment under a five-a-side format for games. It is also not just for soccer players as anyone and everyone is welcome.

We have several levels that one can join and time slots they play in, as follows:

- 1) 5:00pm Youths (Boys and girls) U-7 to U-10
- 2) 6:00pm Youths (Boys and girls) U-11 to U-15

3) 7:00pm Adult Co-ed which includes youths U-16 and up

4) 7:00pm Womens Recreational Program

The differentiation between Co-ed and Womens Rec is whether players have played soccer, as for Co-ed one needs to have played soccer before. Women's Recreational is a program designed to teach women and girls how to play the game and includes proper warm

up drills, skill development through practices, and low impact games.

All our divisions cost \$70 for the whole ten weeks and each participant gets a T-shirt. Just go to our website: www.saltspringunited.com and sign up under registrations (make sure you find the correct group to sign up under on the site).

If you have questions about the program or anything to do with the Spring League, please contact Malcolm (yes, that is me) at mallegg@shaw.ca. We look forward to seeing you all April 10 at Portlock Park.



Malcolm Legg
SOCCER
ROUND-UP

TOASTMASTER TOP CONTENDER



PHOTO COURTESY SS TOASTMASTERS

Salt Spring Toastmasters member Elangovan Srinivasan clinched the top spot in the Division A International Speech Contest Saturday, March 23, marking the first time in several years a local Toastmaster has advanced to the district level, according to local education vice president Christin Boyd, who invited interested islanders to visit saltspring.toastmastersclubs.org for information about how to join the group's biweekly meetings.

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DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
3	2:54	10.7	3.26	7	4:52	10.7	3.26
	8:56	9	2.74		10:55	4.9	1.49
	9:49	9	2.74		16:58	9.4	2.87
	19:05	2.5	0.76		22:44	4.9	1.49
4	3:33	10.8	3.29	8	5:14	10.7	3.26
	9:16	8.4	2.56		11:33	3.6	1.1
	12:10	8.7	2.65		18:09	9.8	2.99
	20:09	2.7	0.82		23:30	6	1.83
5	4:04	10.8	3.29	9	5:35	10.7	3.26
	9:45	7.4	2.26		12:14	2.4	0.73
	14:07	8.7	2.65		19:17	10.2	3.11
	21:06	3.1	0.94		0:17	7.2	2.19
6	4:29	10.8	3.29	10	5:57	10.7	3.26
	10:19	6.2	1.89		12:57	1.6	0.49
	15:40	9	2.74		20:25	10.4	3.17
	21:56	3.9	1.19				

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what's on this week

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. Followed by optional tea and treats.

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. 7:30-10:30 p.m.

Thur. April 4

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Poetry Open Mic. With guest poet RC Weslowski. Library program room. 7 p.m.

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

ACTIVITIES

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

Fri. April 5

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Karaoke. At the Legion. 7 p.m.

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

Fri. April 5

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. Youth Game Night. For ages 13 to 19. Library program room. 7 p.m.

Salt Spring Wellness Tour: Sound Bath With Adam Huber. Ganges Yoga Studio. 7 p.m. Pre-register through adamhuber777@gmail.com.

Book Launch. Coast Salish author Andrea Fritz reads from newest children's book *Crow Helps a Friend*. Library children's area. 2 p.m.

Sat. April 6

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Music at the Legion. TBA

Moby's Pub: TBA

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Well-being Fair. Health and wellness-theme with vendors and practitioners. Mahon Hall. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Salt Spring Wellness Tour. Numerous activities. See navigatorforwellness.com or the tour catalogue in various spots around Salt Spring.

Sun. April 7

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Blues Jam. With open mic at the Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Half-Day Zen Meditation Retreat. At 210 Cedar Lane, 7:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Info: Chris, 250-653-2411.

Salt Spring Well-being Fair. Health and wellness-theme with vendors and practitioners. Mahon Hall. 11 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Salt Spring Wellness Tour. See Saturday listing.

Mon. April 8

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Toastmasters public speaking club meeting. 7-8:30 p.m. at the library.

New Moon Meditations presented by Star of the Sea, 2:30-4:30 p.m. at St. Mary's church, Fulford.

Tues. April 9

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Folk Jam With Open Mic. At the Legion. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

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

Spiritual Conversation with Star of the Sea, topic of spirituality and climate change. 7-8:30 p.m. St. Mary's Church, Fulford.

CINEMA

• 500 Days in the Wild runs Friday, April 5 to Tuesday, April 9 at 7 p.m. each night plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. See the Fritz.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.

• **A Sampler: Recent Paintings by Charles Breth** is the exhibition in the library program room in April.

• **"re:location" Salt Spring Arts 2024 Spring Art Show, at Mahon Hall.** Multidisciplinary group exhibition featuring 18 artists from the Southern Gulf Islands runs April 12-28.

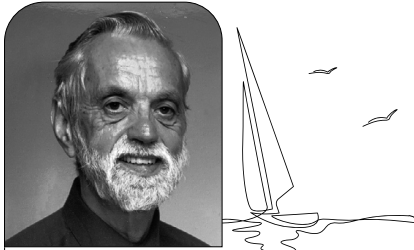
ArtSpring's 25th Anniversary
April's exhibition: interpretive visual history panels by Seth Berkowitz celebrating 25 years of community art and performance.

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Obituaries **Obituaries** **Obituaries** **Obituaries** **In Memoriam** **In Memoriam** **In Memoriam**



Hugh Wayne Preddy

March 28, 1938 – March 23, 2024

Hugh cast off from his last moorage for a final trip on March 23, 2024 surrounded by his family. He is survived by his wife of 60 years Karen, his son Ryan, his daughter Angie (Gavin) Mitchell; his granddaughter Paige, daughter in law Megan, granddaughters Emma and Kaycee Preddy; chosen sister Thea, sister in laws Arlene, Eileen and Nancy (Gus); along with numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his son Garth, parents Ernest and Mabel, and sister Iris.

Hugh was born in Prince Albert, SK and at the age of 10 the family moved to Delta, BC where he lived until his marriage to Karen in 1963. They spent the next 12 years living in Vancouver, BC where he worked first at Canadian Pacific Railway in the computing centre, and then at the new Simon Fraser University until his retirement in 2003.

In 1975, the couple moved to Maple Ridge, BC where Hugh built the family home and lived there until 2003. The arrival of Ryan, Garth and Angie formed the family. Then Lihn and Thong (two Vietnamese boat children) joined the family for five years until reunited with their family members.

Boating was Hugh's passion and summers were spent exploring the Gulf Islands using the family cabin on Mayne Island, BC as a base. Hugh joined the Maple Ridge Power Squadron where he held various positions and eventually became commander in 1988.

In 1996, an advertisement for the position of "Justice of the Peace" drew his attention. For the next 5 years, he handled all search warrants and hearings (outside court hours) for an area north of the Fraser River.

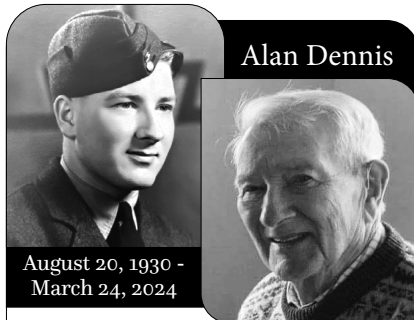
Retirement brought a change of homes and islands. Salt Spring Island had a sailing club where he was wharfinger for 5 years and was involved in the dock expansion. Life was good.

Hugh had many different interests and was always building something; a 28 ft. cabin cruiser from scratch, rebuild a 39 ft. sailboat, a summer cabin, the family home, garages, barns, sheds etc. When he wasn't building, he took up hang gliding, crewing a sailboat from Hawaii to Vancouver, driving a Vanpool with 10 ladies, farming with cattle, 200 chickens and emus. Hugh had a wicked sense of humor, and looked forward to April Fools day.

The family wishes to thank Dr. Magda Leon, our family doctor. The doctors and nurses in the emergency room at Lady Minto, the home care nurses, and a special thanks to Dr. Holly Slakov for a peaceful sendoff.

In Lieu of flowers please consider a donation to Lady Minto Hospital Foundation (www.LadyMintoFoundation.com) or a charity of your choice.

A celebration of life will be held in the summer. Please visit www.HughPreddy.com for more details.



Alan Dennis

August 20, 1930 - March 24, 2024

Our beloved husband, father, grandpa, and great grandpa, passed away peacefully in hospital on Salt Spring Island, Sunday, March 24th after a lengthy yet valiant battle with cancer. He was 93.

Alan was born in England, twin son to Florence and Arthur Dennis of Swadlincote, Derby. As a young man, Alan completed his national service with the RAF before marrying his soulmate, Joan (nee Wood) in 1952. Together they raised four children.

In 1966 our family sailed on an immigration cruise to Canada, settling in Westsyde, Kamloops, where dad started a cabinet making business. Dad always loved soccer, coaching kids all the way up to university level. He found a love for the Lord and became active in the church there.

In 1987, once their children had left home, mum and dad set out on another big adventure to purchase land and build their own home in Summerland, where dad continued as a cabinet maker until his retirement. There he enjoyed sailing on Lake Okanagan and building and flying radio controlled airplanes.

By 2000 mum and dad sought to retire to a warmer climate. Saltspring Island charmed them into staying for the past 24 years. They enjoyed trailering all over the province. They both enjoyed square dancing, dad becoming president of the Salty wheels square dance club. For a time dad was also, president of the Seniors Society. They both sang in the Lost Chords Choir. Dad's lifelong love of airplanes fuelled his hobby of building and flying radio controlled planes, spurring him on to form the SSI Radio Control Fliers (S.S.I.R.C.F).

Alan is survived by his wife of 72 years, Joan; children Jane (David) and their kids Evan, Kelsey, Liam, and Kristin; Robert and kids Dustin and Arliss; Andrew (Sue) and kids Aaron and Matthew; and Louise (Allen) and kids Jordan, Blake and Taya; and 6 great grandchildren. He is predeceased by parents Florence and Arthur Dennis, and his twin brother Ron.

Dad led our family with love, integrity and a wicked sense of humour. We had so much fun growing up with him as our ringleader.

Our family would especially like to thank the staff at Lady Minto for their compassionate professional care in Dad's final few weeks.

We invite you join in a Celebration of Life service at the SSI Baptist church, 520 Lower Ganges Rd., Saturday, April 13th at 1 pm.

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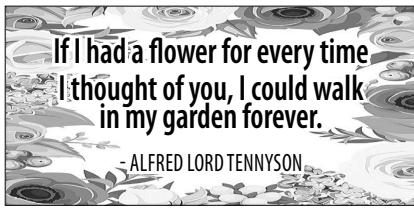
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Driftwood

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Easter Joy: Capturing the Smiles and Laughter of our Island



Clockwise from above, Addie begins the search for eggs at the SIMS Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 30; Christina Haase and daughter Siena make an egg basket; Victoria and Sophie with freshly painted faces pose with the Easter Bunny himself; Cassandra smiles with her first find; and Gabby Boysen, on the Easter Egg Hunt Crew. Photos by Rob Lowrie.



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LET'S PICK IT UP, Salt Spring!*

The Driftwood's Let's Pick It Up, Salt Spring! campaign is back for 2024

Dear readers,

Can you believe it, it's April again!

Whether it's your first time with Let's Pick It Up, Salt Spring! or you join us every year, we hope you're looking forward to helping rid our island of trash throughout the month!

It's simple: choose an area and have at it. We'll keep track and share progress as we go.

This should be a nice mild April for it; some years it's been a little chilly still, but especially for those of us who like to "stake out" our favourite routes to pick up, it's nice to get started early. Many choose routes that are already on our daily walks — and some of us choose our commutes, where that one tin can we see every day has been sitting there, mocking us for weeks. We're coming for it now, bags in hand!

If you're a big achiever, keep it up! And even if you're not, don't be afraid to sign up for a little piece of road, because truly every metre counts. Even just picking up garbage (or recyclables) in the area right in front of your home, or down your block, helps us fill in the puzzle.

Part of the fun is putting names in the Driftwood and helping get people hyped-up to join in. If you don't want to be recognized — you modest trash-picker-upper, you! — we can keep a secret. But make sure you let us know where you've been, so we don't duplicate efforts.

So contact us to sign up! Email nancy.johnson@gulfislandsdriftwood.com, phone 250-537-9933, or drop in to our office at 241 Fulford-Ganges Road between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and until noon on Friday. Let's Pick It Up, Salt Spring!

See the bottom of the page for all the instructions and benefits. Thank you in advance for your contributions, and thank you to our campaign sponsors!

OUR RUNNING LIST AS OF MONDAY IS:

- **Fiona & Brian Wolfe-Milner:** Welbury Drive & Old Scott Road in between Old Scott Road and Long Harbour ferry terminal
- **Amanda McLeod:** North Beach Road from the bottom of Fernwood. To the intersections at North End Road
- **Roger Brunt & Doug Wahsten:** Downtown
- **Neale & Niki Smith:** End of Fulford Harbour
- **Nancy Johnson:** Beddis Road from Fulford-Ganges to the Sailing Club
- **Gail Sjuberg:** Cranberry Road from Fulford-Ganges to Blackburn
- **Robert Steinbach:** Kitchen Road (whole street)
- **Jerry Fitzpatrick:** Booth Canal Road (full length of the road)

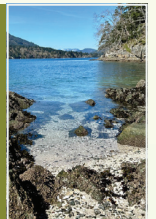


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It's time for the Driftwood's annual island-wide clean-up campaign! Join your friends and neighbours in clearing litter and other debris from island roadsides and beaches.

- 1 Pick a section of road, beach or neighbourhood that you'd like to rid of trash in April.
- 2 Phone or email us at the Driftwood with your name and the area you've chosen. nancy.johnson@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or 250-537-9933.
- 3 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.
- 4 Also at our office, pick up your coupon for a free tea, coffee or hot chocolate from TJ Beans.
- 5 Enjoy being recognized in the Driftwood and the satisfaction of knowing you have helped make Salt Spring a cleaner and healthier place to live.



*Recipient of 2021 + 2022 BC Media Industry Community Service Awards

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