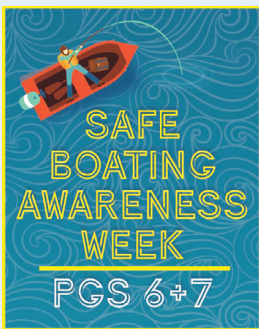


inside:



SAFE BOATING AWARENESS WEEK
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BIG BOOTS TO FILL: Firefighter Jodi Banford takes a boot for a walk to get donations in the Centennial Park market on Saturday as part of the Salt Spring Firefighters' Association's annual boot drive fundraiser. This year's beneficiary was the Salt Spring Harvest Food Bank, operated by Island Community Services. Food items were also collected at Thrifty Foods, Country Grocer and the Ganges Fire Hall on Saturday.

PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

BC FERRIES

Vesuvius terminal gets LTC nod

Long road ahead for ferry infrastructure upgrades to improve traffic flow and amenities

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

BC Ferries is proposing big changes at the Vesuvius Bay terminal — and will need the ongoing approval of Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee (LTC) to advance much of it.

To kick off the multi-year process, Evan Peterson from BC Ferries' contractor Barefoot Design came before the LTC Thursday, May 16, bringing a rezoning application that would enable redevelopment of the three parcels that comprise the terminal's infrastructure.

Those include the vehicle holding area, which BC Ferries leases from the B.C. Transportation Financing Authority; the parking lot, leased from the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship; and the marine area, which BC Ferries controls through a licence of occupation from the province.

On land, BC Ferries plans to increase the number of public parking stalls — from 21 to 25 — and retain 16 additional spots for staff. A "thru-lane" is planned for where Lane 7 currently sits, to improve traffic circulation. A designated pick-up and drop-off zone would be built in the existing parking lot near the government wharf, and improved passenger amenities — washrooms, a waiting room and a vendor stall — would be placed alongside the BC Ferries office. Additional holding lanes would increase capacity during busy times, potentially reducing vehicle line-ups onto Vesuvius Bay Road.

For the marine area, BC Ferries will be applying to provincial regulators for a water lot expansion to replace the existing trestle with one that would be long and shallow-sloped enough to allow for vehicle holding — all of which will accommodate the plan for an eventual two-vessel service between Vesuvius and Crofton.

BC Ferries has proposed a phased approach to the project, which means the marine terminal development will start first with the upland portion, once the company allocates the budget for it. Throughout, according to Peterson, islanders can expect ongoing "engagement and communications" about what's happening and any interruptions or changes to service as a result of the work.

VESUVIUS continued on 2

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FULFORD WATER

Developers ask CRD to grow Fulford water boundaries

Former Vortex project would foot the bill for infrastructure improvements

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Planners for a new development at the site of the former Fulford Inn are asking Fulford Water System (FWS) commission members to recommend the Capital Regional District (CRD) expand service area boundaries to include them.

The proposed Ocean Estuary project — formerly known as the Vortex — is a commercial and retail development with 17 planned motel units within eight cottage buildings, a restaurant and accessory retail sales buildings all centred on an outdoor plaza, according to a CRD staff report. The project received approval for a development permit from Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee in early 2023.

The FWS treatment plant produces enough potable water to service the proposed development, according to CRD staff; and the existing distribution system — along with improvements and upgrades the developers would provide — would be "adequate" to provide service to "all current and proposed" water users.

Among those improvements, a new water main would run from the current FWS boundary to the Ocean Estuary property, which lies at the head of Fulford Harbour on Fulford-Ganges Road. The impact to the level of Weston Lake — the Fulford system's water source — would be "incremental and negligible," states a CRD staff report.

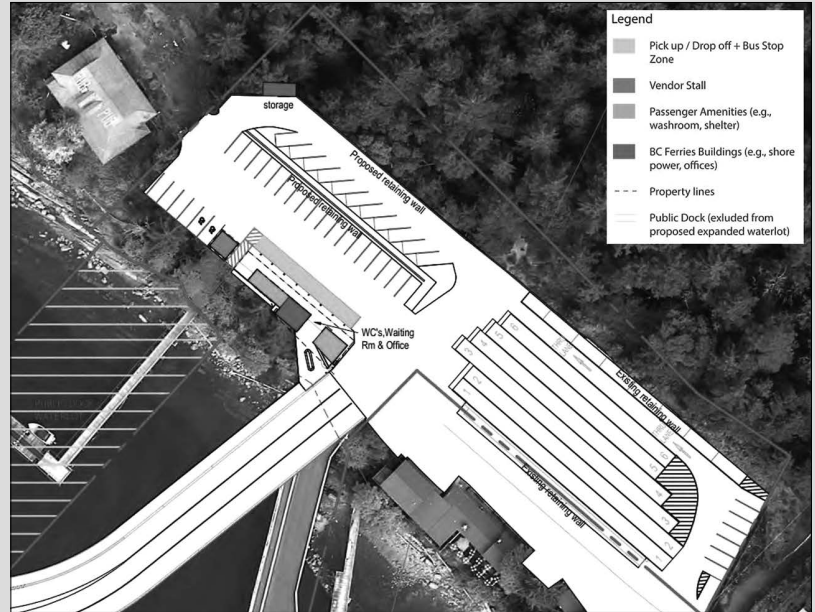
"As an additional user, Ocean Estuary (and any additional users along the new watermain route) would share in the fixed capital and operating costs of the system," adds the report, "particularly the inevitable project to replace all of the asbestos / cement water lines."

The developers argue the system improvements they are proposing will improve fire service to current water users along Fulford-Ganges and South Ridge roads. If the Fulford Water Service Commission or the CRD are not inclined to agree, staff say, the developers have said they would develop their own well and water treatment system drawing from another aquifer; but, staff added, they have also said "they don't want to be in the water business."

Ocean Estuary Development is owned by Merchant House Capital, according to documents submitted for the request for expansion, whose principal and founder David Fullbrook lives on Salt Spring.

The Fulford Water Service Commission meets Friday, May 24 at the Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS) boardroom at 10 a.m.

Water lot expansion needed



Graphic shows proposed amendments to BC Ferries' Vesuvius Bay terminal, including a few extra parking stalls and a thru-lane in the car holding area, a designated pick-up/drop-off zone, washrooms, waiting room and spot for a vendor stall.

VESUVIUS

continued from 1

"And then the marine improvements are slated to begin in 2026," said Peterson. "We're hoping to have the Island Class ferries for 2027."

The water lot expansion application is contingent on the LTC approving the rezoning and appurtenant official community plan (OCP) amendment, according to staff. And as it lies within development permit areas, both demolition of the existing trestle and construction of the new one — as well as the parking area upgrades — will require a development permit from the Islands Trust before construction can begin.

Trustees agreed the opportunity to improve both accessibility and traffic at

the terminal was worth pursuing. As well, it would bring the existing land use into compliance: despite decades of use for ferry service, the upland terminal and parking area are currently zoned "residential" in the land use bylaw with a "residential neighbourhoods" OCP designation. The LTC directed staff to "notify and seek input" from local First Nations and relevant agencies, and proceed with drafting an amendment bylaw to bring forward at a future meeting.

"This is preliminary; we're just kicking the process off here," said Salt Spring trustee Laura Patrick. "I'm glad to see it. I know the terminal is in dire need of some updating."

The Gulf Island Ferry Company provided ferry service between Vesuvius Bay and Crofton from 1955 until 1961, when BC Ferries started doing so.

LCC

Commissioners finalize spring grant-in-aid funding decisions

Second application intake for island groups likely in fall

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring officials anguished over community funding last week, as requests exceeded the available budget — and tough decisions were hammered out.

The island's Local Community Commission (LCC) finalized plans for distributions through its grants-in-aid funding Thursday, May 16, answering requests from more than a dozen Salt Spring organizations for one-time support dollars. And despite a modest carryover surplus in the fund, the answer for some "spring intake" applicants would be "no."

Indeed, even for those who will receive funding, most will



A scene from an Invasive Plant Drop-off day held on the Community Gospel Chapel property in 2022. Transition Salt Spring was among LCC grant-in-aid recipients last week, and funds will help facilitate the drop-off day set for Community Gospel's parking lot this Saturday, May 25 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and another one at Fulford Hall on June 9.

not be getting as much as hoped — in an effort, commissioners said, to have something left for another round of applications in

six months. "I am struck," said commissioner Brian Webster, "by how much really valuable work is happen-

ing in so many different areas in our community. It's quite stunning. But my overall feeling is we're going to have to give a little bit of disappointment to almost everybody."

Including the carry-over, the LCC's budget for all 2024 grants sat at nearly \$54,000; had they fully funded every spring intake request made by the April 30 deadline, they would've run out of cash — and been more than \$9,000 short.

The process was clearly painful for commission members.

"Every one of us knows every one of these applicants," said commissioner Gayle Baker. "We care so deeply about our friends and our neighbours, and we're looking at picky things. It's not personal."

Recipients of funding will include — in no particular order — Salt Spring Literacy (\$997.54), Bandemonium Music Society (\$2,150), The Circle Salt Spring

Education Society (\$2,000), the Wagon Wheel Housing Society (\$2,500), Copper Kettle Community Partnership (\$5,000), Gulf Islands Community Radio Society (\$2,770), Transition Salt Spring Society (\$5,000), the Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust Society (\$4,000), the Salish Sea Inter-Island Transportation Society (\$4,000) and the Salt Spring Community Health Society (\$5,000).

Approved for funding — but waiting briefly, in case the project can be funded by Community Works dollars instead — was the Salt Spring Abattoir (\$5,000). A request for \$3,150 from Capital Bike was deferred for additional information, and requests from the Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary Society (for \$5,000), the Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce (for \$5,000) and the Salt Spring and Southern Gulf Islands Community Services Society (for \$12,000) were not approved.

HOUSING

Salt Spring homeshare registry plan gets funding

Program matches homeowners with those who seek housing

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring officials hope a partnership with the Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre (SGICRC) will help connect “home-sharers” with home-seekers.

The island’s Local Community Commission (LCC) unanimously approved a \$22,830 contract with the SGICRC on Thursday, May 16, to create a multi-functional Housing Now Homeshare Registry for Salt Spring, targeting the estimated 1,590 single-person households on the island that might be interested in renting out part of their home.

The SGICRC’s current registry serves the other Southern Gulf Islands, according to project representative Janey Rowland, and in 2023 saw 22 homeowners and 32 home-seekers participate — with seven connections made, four of which were associated with the hospitality workforce. The seemingly low success rate exemplified some of the program’s challenges, Rowland said — like a perfect home was found for a person looking on Pender Island, but it was offered on Mayne.

“Or some of the folks that came forward had two

dogs and a cat,” Rowland told commissioners. “And 12 of the 22 homeowners didn’t want pets, so right away that negates the possibility to make that match.”

Rowland said they estimate 15 to 20 matches this year, noting that as the registration numbers on both sides of the equation increase, so will opportunities. The new Salt Spring registry will support building a workforce housing toolkit of resources specific to the island, including the creation of a fee-for-service payment structure that will apply to a wide range of employers that want to support the project; an employer “guarantor” component that might make the arrangement more attractive to some homeowners will be designed in the coming months, but won’t necessarily apply to every match.

“So the registry itself can kind of address your lower income, affordable housing,” said Rowland. “You’ve got seniors aging in place, and you’ve got workforce [housing]. So it kind of hits three markers for us as far as how we’re going to address our housing shortages.”

The one-time funding will come from the LCC’s economic development service budget, and builds on seed dollars that came from the Southern Gulf Islands Community Economic Sustainability Commission and the Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership Society in 2023. For more information visit linktr.ee/sgihousing.

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

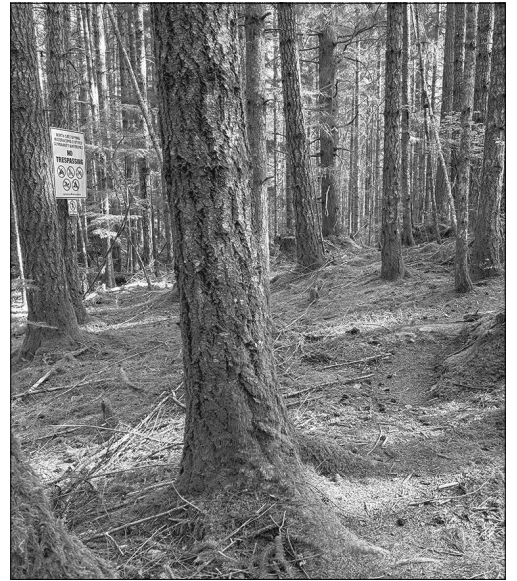


PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

A forest trail winds past a sign noting the boundary between Mount Maxwell Provincial Park and a vulnerable watershed held by the North Salt Spring Waterworks District. The unmarked path continues into the new Mount Maxwell Community Park, management plans for which were the subject of a well-attended perspective-gathering workshop Wednesday, May 15.

ISLANDS TRUST

Musgrave family’s plan clears first hurdle

‘Shared residential’ concept proceeds despite trustee concerns

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring resident whose visits to his land by helicopter might’ve torpedoed an early attempt at expedited approval is still hoping to build houses for his family in the island’s remote southwest, and will finally have his day before the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) — and the public — this summer.

Pilot and online content creator Micha Gelb had come before the LTC last fall with plans to build four homes on his 155-acre parcel off Musgrave Road, using Salt Spring’s “shared residential” provisions. At the LTC meeting Thursday, May 16, Gelb said he has lived with his young family in a small cottage on the parcel for about two years, and that they planned to build a more permanent home for themselves, another for his sister and her family, and two more for his and his wife’s parents.

“I think the opportunity to sell what [the grandparents] have and then to move on to this property — and have actually have a little bit of money that they could retire on comfortably — is something that would be very valuable to them,” said Gelb, “in the last stages of their lives as they go through their retirement years.”

As part of the island’s official community plan (OCP), the “shared residential” provisions allow the LTC to consider passing a bylaw to allow a property owner to build, without subdividing, the same number of single-family dwellings on a lot as might result from an actual subdivision.

Gelb had posted a YouTube video

landing a Robinson R44 helicopter on his hillside parcel last year — and in response to a question from trustee Laura Patrick at the LTC meeting in October, he said as a part owner of an Abbotsford flight training school and working for a U.K.-based helicopter manufacturer, he had certainly “flown there a couple of times” but did not personally own a helicopter, and now primarily worked remotely selling them.

Patrick did not support waiving the public hearing in October, which would have been an option had the LTC agreed the plan was consistent with the OCP.

“This is not indiscriminate development. This is small development.”

JAMIE HARRIS
Salt Spring trustee

“My understanding of why the province brought in the rule to waive the public hearings was under the umbrella of affordable housing, so we could push affordable housing rezonings through the process quickly,” said Patrick in October. “I’d say this doesn’t quite meet that.”

Further, Patrick had expressed concerns that an OCP-specified “clustering” of development on the parcel, currently zoned “Forestry 1,” seemingly wasn’t part of the proposal. While the size of the property if fully subdivided could include seven homes — each with its own secondary cottage — the plan last year had somewhat scattered the four planned homes and single cottage, which Gelb said were situated along existing old logging roads.

Gelb said May 16 that there was an “opportunity” to bring the houses on the property slightly closer — but that

it ran a little counter to the whole idea.

“I moved to Salt Spring Island and bought 155 acres so that I wouldn’t be right next to a neighbour,” said Gelb. “The proposed locations for these homes allow everybody to be here and have the space.”

Gelb added he felt the homes were sufficiently “clustered” to be within 30 per cent of the land.

Back in October, trustee Jamie Harris applauded Gelb’s “gumption and vision” — something he repeated at the May 16 meeting — and pointed out how “reduced” the density would be for the family’s houses rather than via a full subdivision. But by a 2-1 vote — with Harris opposing — the LTC chose then not to waive the public hearing requirement.

At the May 16 meeting, Patrick said she was not convinced the project wasn’t at odds with the Trust Policy Statement.

“I think generally putting more density on these areas that are not as well serviced, and are outside our service area, is — just to me — not in the meaning of the Trust Policy Statement,” said Patrick.

“This is not indiscriminate development,” countered Harris. “This is small development.”

Trustee Tim Peterson said “based on the language” he would have trouble not advancing the project.

“And as we heard from the applicant, the existing [clearings] and logging routes are what’s contemplated for building sites and access,” said Peterson.

On Harris’ motion, the LTC voted to indicate the application was not contrary to the policy statement; that cleared the way for a community information meeting and public hearing on a bylaw amending the parcel’s zoning to allow the four dwellings — which at this point could take place at the committee’s July meeting, at the earliest.

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DAY	TIME	FEET	METERS	DAY	TIME	FEET	METERS
22	3:04	9.8	2.99	26	2:31	9.7	2.96
	10:59	1.8	0.55		4:30	9.8	2.99
	19:15	10.3	3.14		13:20	0.5	0.15
	23:34	9.2	2.8		22:05	11.4	3.47
23	3:14	9.8	2.99	27	3:48	9.6	2.93
	11:28	1.2	0.37		5:05	9.6	2.93
	19:55	10.7	3.26		14:06	0.7	0.21
24	0:26	9.4	2.87	28	22:50	11.5	3.5
	3:33	9.8	2.99		5:13	9.2	2.8
	12:01	0.8	0.24		5:44	9.2	2.8
	20:36	11	3.35		14:53	1.3	0.4
25	1:24	9.6	2.93	29	23:32	11.5	3.5
	3:59	9.8	2.99		6:16	8.6	2.62
	12:39	0.5	0.15		6:59	8.6	2.62
	21:20	11.2	3.41		15:43	2.1	0.64

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OPINION

2022 CCNA Awards
Gold - Best Editorial Page | Gold - Outstanding Community Service | Silver - Best Front Page
Silver - Best Local Editorial (Gail Sjuberg) | Silver - Best Local Cartoon (Dennis Parker)

2023 BCYCNA Awards
Gold - Best All Round (for circulation Category C)
Gold - Community Service Award



Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

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EDITORIAL

Missing piece

If good things come to those who wait, we were hopeful that whatever was coming to the neighbourhood around the Vesuvius Bay ferry terminal would be very, very good.

BC Ferries has lifted the lid on some planned changes to infrastructure and layout at Salt Spring's westernmost access point, with improvements for drivers that might help the neighbours a little, too. Additional holding lanes could get a few more cars off the village's main thoroughfare, and a few more parking spaces in the lot might unclog some side streets. Sorting out a drop-off and pick-up zone might organize the congestion chaos that begins every spring and persists later and later each fall.

And we know Vesuvius needs improvement — because the problem is hardly new. Like the shortage of affordable housing, islanders identified the growing traffic issues in and around Vesuvius years ago. But unfortunately, and again perhaps like affordable housing, the steps being taken today would have been a great idea a decade ago — and we're still missing a big part of the puzzle.

The re-tooling at the terminal stems from a 2017 traffic safety review that identified four "key issues" — consultant-speak for "problems" — happening there. The plans for construction starting nearly a decade later address just three — namely those surrounding vehicles navigating an increasingly crowded landscape. The fourth and thus-far unaddressed "key issue" was the lack of pedestrian and cyclist accommodation.

"It is expected that as traffic volumes increase," read that safety review, "the level of exposure for vulnerable road users (e.g. pedestrians and cyclists) will increase."

Setting aside the profound safety issue, it feels like BC Ferries is addressing traffic congestion with perhaps the only management technique that we know doesn't work, at least in the long run: building more lanes.

Like planting a tree, the best time to have improved non-vehicle infrastructure for visitors and commuters was 20 years ago, and the second-best time is today. With BC Ferries' priorities seemingly still laser-focused on cars, it looks like we're not planting any time soon.

THE ISSUE:
Vesuvius terminal upgrades

WE SAY:
Vehicle focus disappointing



Fulford water idea flawed

BY IAN PEACE

VIEWPOINT

With about one week of advance notice, the Capital Regional District (CRD) has tasked Fulford Water Service

commissioners with a 426-page agenda of documents for a special meeting to "consider including the proposed Ocean Estuary (Vortex) development in the Fulford Water Local Service Area and to make a recommendation in that regard." One week to prepare for a meeting that draws on some 400 pages of reports effectively bars Fulford Water Service ratepayers from meaningful participation in the CRD decision.

CRD urgency for local approval of their preferred outcome is one of several sources of a reasonable apprehension of bias in favour of the developer. For example, CRD hired GW Solutions to study the issue of water availability for Vortex. In 2022, GW Solutions published "Weston Lake Water Availability and Climate Change Assessment." In it, GW Solutions estimates climate change will reduce the volume of water available to the Fulford system by up to 30 per cent. Tellingly, in their three-page summary of the issue, CRD does not mention the effect of climate change.

Furthermore, GW Solutions recommended that CRD "Improve the relationship between land development and groundwater usage and place a high importance on land development and land management decisions that do not jeopardize water resources." This recommendation suggests an imbalance between approval of high water use developments like tourist resorts and scarce water resources.

Various reports and the CRD claim "Increased and improved water conser-

vation will ameliorate the situation." Individual water meters for Fulford ratepayers are at or near the top of the list for conservation mea-

sures. However, these reports do not include costs such as the cost of installing the meters. Conservation also includes restricting water from agricultural uses. Since the dry season coincides with high tourist season, CRD recommends growers of food give up their water to the Vortex. Virtually all the costs of additional conservation fall to the ratepayers.

In addition, CRD refers to annual water requirements. This includes the Vortex application's annual requirement. Focusing on annual demand misleads the public away from seasonal drought concerns. Likely, some large fraction of Vortex water demand will occur in the dry season. Supposing some 80 per cent of demand occurs in the summer season changes the water demand picture to the degree the developer's estimates may not be reliable. Is it reasonable to predict some 60 resort guests, retail operations and a restaurant will get by on about 40 cubic metres of water per day?

In general, CRD speaks more to the capacity of their water distribution system and less to the availability of raw water for treatment. This approach results in a reasonable apprehension of bias toward the developer.

In light of the above and other reasons, the Fulford Water Service Commission could vote for Alternative 3 "Refer the report back to staff for additional information." That could include answering questions like "what are the costs of conservation" and "what impact will climate change deliver to fresh water availability?"

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES PER YEAR:
Print Edition: \$65 | Digital Edition with Print Edition: \$85.00 | Elsewhere in Canada \$115.00
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Funded by the Government of Canada

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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

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should the Fulford Water Service area be expanded?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you care enough to follow the Trust Policy Statement process?



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

Who decides on definitions?

Aren't words wonderful? Many seem to have solid meaning until you listen to how folks use them. "Love," for example, can be applied to everything from God to peanut butter.

"Unique" is about to get just as slippery, if we adopt Islands Trust staff proposals reported in the May 15 Gulf Islands Driftwood. I thought it meant one of a kind: "there's no other place like this place." Islands in the Salish Sea fit that definition: no other place has our geologic history, geographic features or ecologic character.

Trusting the accuracy of the Driftwood article, I marvel at the in-your-face ways shifting fog replaces solid ground. Nowhere in the article is the phrase "unique environments" used, but "unique amenities" appears three times. Amenities have to do with what we build or create by changing nature: roads and buildings, gardens, hayfields and homes that replace forests, streams dammed or diverted, etc. Here's a challenge — name one that's unique. We make the changes according to rules, customs and market forces shared with a whole bunch of other places. It shows.

Another change would take away the

present statement that the rate and scale of development "must be carefully managed and requires limitation" and substitutes an instruction to "define and maintain appropriate limits ... in order to protect unique amenities and environment." When we get around to it.

Who is the lucky definer? The Islands Trust, some day. And local trust committees through voluntary "context statements" in official community plans. Any guesses as to how enforceable those will be?

BOB WEEDEN,
PRIMROSE LANE

Men are pigs

Well, it's that time of year once more: blossoms blossoming, little birds singing in the trees and, as always, females of our species performing the annual ritual wherein articles of clothing are jettisoned hither and yon, flung to the four winds, leaving their owner clad in a fashion that can only be described as "scantily."

No problem so far, you won't hear any argument from me, but some, while parading around in this condition, get real uppity-like when the males of our species stare at them. Sorry, girls, but it's not a conscious action, nor controllable. You see, men are pigs.

Countless millennia of evolution have fine-tuned the male brain to perform a minimal number of tasks: hunt, kill, provide, open pickle jars and reproduce. Any man who claims to have evolved any further than this is lying. To himself, the rest of society and the young lady he is taking out to dinner. When one of us spots an attractive female, just about all of the blood in the brain immediately drains out, leaving us not quite brain-dead, just shy of oxygen starved, but close enough to ensure that any rational thinking is a non-starter. Picture a lion sizing up a gazelle. No question about what is going on, and it ain't pretty. Interestingly, all that blood from the aforementioned brain flows instinctively and directly . . . elsewhere.

A classic example of this phenomenon occurred one Sunday at St. Embi's chapel. A number of the faithful were absorbing every word of the sermon being read by the Reverend Scotty Royal, including one parishioner who, at 96 years of age, could see the exit getting closer and had to either repent for his sins or cover his tracks.

All thoughts of salvation were suddenly tossed to the wayside when a lovely young lass walked past him. His old failing eyes locked onto her (refer back to the lion/gazelle analogy) and remained thus focused until she rounded the corner and

out of sight. Upon witnessing this occurrence, the general congregation burst out laughing. In his defence I felt I had to speak up: "He's old, not dead."

A year or so later, the old boy went to his reward, but I'm sure he was checking out the nurses as he drew his last breath. I am convinced that it is the last thing to go.

So there you have it, ladies; through no fault of our own, whether you like it or not, men are pigs. Deal with it.

MIKE STACEY,
SALT SPRING

Signs appreciated

I would like to say how much I like the new sign reader board that gives you speed as you are coming into Ganges.

We need more of these — a quick reminder that you are going too fast and to check the speed limit. Speed limits change so often as you drive around Salt Spring, so it is just much easier to cruise along at a steady speed.

And it would be nice if the vandalized signs on Vesuvius Bay road were replaced. They are a distraction and an annoyance and a year is about enough time to do this.

GREG MIDDLETON,
SALT SPRING

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"My overall feeling is we're going to have to give a little bit of disappointment to almost everybody."

LCC COMMISSIONER BRIAN WEBSTER, ON GRANTS-IN-AID DISBURSEMENTS

Former trustees press Islands Trust over 'unique amenities' decision

The following letter, signed by 34 former islands trustees as noted at the end, was sent to the Islands Trust Executive Committee and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

As former Islands Trust trustees from various islands in the Trust Area, we are writing to inform you of our concerns regarding Trust Council's intention to broaden the meaning of the words 'unique amenities' in Section 3 of the Islands Trust Act (the Object). The spirit and intent of those words seem unmistakable in light of the 1986 Ministry of Municipal Affairs/Islands Trust "Position Paper; The Object of the Islands Trust: Renewing the Consensus," that specified a combination of many natural factors.

Following an in-camera meeting on September 26, 2023, it was reported that Trust Council had come to a "consensus" on how Section 3 of the act that created the Islands Trust would (not "should") be interpreted. What those conclusions were and how they had been agreed upon was not revealed. A silence, lasting almost four months, followed before the "Islands Trust Council Highlights" with a link to "Trust

Council's consensus statement" was officially released on Jan. 18, 2024.

It was then that the details of Trust Council's conclusion were revealed to the general public. "Unique amenities" were to include, "but not be limited to, housing, infrastructure, livelihoods, and tourism." How and by whom these four categories were identified and selected for inclusion is not mentioned.

Apart from consideration of legal opinions, we question the propriety of holding this discussion during an in-camera meeting. We have heard different explanations of how council's decision was arrived at: from staff, the Executive Committee and from trustees. These contradictory responses are problematic and confusing. There is no evidence of a motion being passed by council which would provide a record of Trust Council's approval for the addition of these items under the umbrella of "unique amenities," or how individual trustees voted. It would have been helpful knowing whether this "consensus" was reached by referring to the 1986 Ministry of Municipal Affairs/Islands Trust "Position Paper; The Object of the Islands

INDEPTH

Trust: Renewing the Consensus" and the 2021 "Discussion Paper: The Islands Trust Object: Past, Present and Future."

These additional categories, now identified as "unique amenities," are not unique to the Trust Area. Further, housing, infrastructure, livelihoods and tourism are services provided by regional districts and government agencies. More alarming, this expansion and interpretation of "unique amenities" has the potential of influencing or compromising environmental policies. The Trust is limited to regulating land use in order to preserve and protect the natural environment and rural character of the Trust Area for all residents of B.C., a duty specific to its intended purpose and function as a "trust."

How will this new interpretation of "unique amenities" influence Trust Council as it embarks upon a review of the Trust Policy Statement? Will this decision result in environmental policies being compromised or excluded to facilitate development?

Pertinent and fundamental

questions have been raised by numerous individuals and groups regarding both the process and the conclusions of that process over the course of the past six months and, as of this date, none have been addressed by the chair of the Islands Trust Council.

We believe the credibility of the Islands Trust's promise of a transparent and open public process has been hurt by the manner in which this decision was reached, the lack of a rationale for this decision, and the lack of information provided.

We ask, therefore, that the chair make a public statement with full disclosure of why the interpretation was not made in an open meeting, how a "consensus," unanimous or not, was arrived at, the reasoning used to arrive at this interpretation of the words "unique amenities" and how this interpretation will influence the Trust Policy Statement review.

Sincerely,
Nerys Poole, 2008-2011 (Bowen Island); John Rich, 1976-1984 (Bowen); Kim Benson, 1993-2008 (Gambier); Harlene Holm, 1978-1984 (Denman); Roxanna Mandryk, 1992-1996 (Denman); David Critchley, 2014-2022 (Denman); Deb Ferens, 2011-2014 (Gab-

riola); Gisele Rudischer, 1996 to 2008, 2011-2014 (Gabriola); Kees Langereis, 2018-2022 (Gabriola); Debbie Holmes, 1996-99, 1999-2002 (Galiano); Tahirah Rockafella, 2018-2022 (Galiano); Sheila Anderson, 2002-2005 (Galiano); Sandy Pottle, 2008-2018 (Galiano); Tony Law, 1996-2005, 2007-2018 (Hornby); Barry Kurland, 1986-1992 (Lasqueti); Peter Johnston, 2011-2015, 2018-2022 (Lasqueti); Tom Weinerth, 1999-2002 (Lasqueti); Jen Gobby, 2008-2011 (Lasqueti); John Barre, 1982-1986 (Lasqueti); George Ravenscroft, 1996-1999 (North Pender); Ben McConchie, 2018-2022 (North Pender); Christine Torgrimson, 2008-2011 (Salt Spring); Peter Lamb, 2005-2008 (Salt Spring); David Borowman, 1996-2002 (Salt Spring); Elaine Jacobsen, 1986-1996 (South Pender); David Greer, 2008-2011 (South Pender); Wendy Scholefield, 2014-2018 (South Pender); Wendy Munroe, 1984-1988 (South Pender); John Rumble, 1996-2000 (South Pender); Cameron Thorn, 2018-2022 (South Pender); Bruce McConchie, 2014-2018 (South Pender); Liz Montague, 2011-2014 (South Pender); Steve Wright, 1982-1990, 1996-2000, 2018-2022 (South Pender); and Doug Fenton, 2018-2022 (Thetis).



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CHORAL MUSIC

Singers ascend in Across the Universe concert

Heavens, planets, stars and beyond probed in musical choices

BY GAIL S. JUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

As a community choir that passed its 50-year milestone last year, Salt Spring Singers members have explored countless themes in their biannual concerts.

A choir's artistic director is gen-

erally responsible for coming up with concert program concepts, but this time Don Conley asked his members what themes they would like to consider. That's when someone suggested "outer space or the universe," he said, and people "started shouting out songs they knew of with space in the theme."

It ended up providing a rich galaxy of musical choices, which audiences will hear at this weekend's two concerts called Across the Universe at All Saints by-the-Sea church. The first is on Saturday, May 25 at 7:30 p.m., with a Sunday afternoon show beginning at 2:30 p.m.

James Yi is the choir's accompanist.

Conley said the first part of the concert features classical works, such as Creation's Hymn by Beethoven and Haydn's The Heavens are Telling from The Creation oratorio.

"Both of them are big numbers. You get that full, powerful choral sound," he said.

Music by renowned contemporary composers includes A Flight Song by Kim André Arnesen, which is based on a beautiful poem about coming of age and going out into the world and "flying." The metaphor is applicable to just about anything, said Conley.

Across the Vast, Eternal Sky, about the phoenix rising myth,



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Salt Spring Singers director Don Conley introduces a piece at last year's 50th anniversary spring concert. The choir will perform this Saturday and Sunday at All Saints by-the-Sea in a concert with something for everyone called Across the Universe.

comes from choral-world superstar composer Ola Gjeilo, and Walking in the Air is a magical piece from an animated British film called The Snowman.

The Robert Frost poem Choose Something Like a Star set to music by Randall Thompson is another beautiful and cinematic song on the program.

The concert's second half enters a contemporary orbit with Elton John's Rocket Man, Across the Universe by the Beatles, Fly Me to the

Moon — the jazz standard made famous by Frank Sinatra and Count Basie — and From a Distance, which was a Bette Midler hit in 1990. Six of the choir's singers will perform the poignant Underneath the Stars by Kate Rusby, which was hugely popular for Grammy-nominated British ensemble VOCES8.

Because humour is pretty much a constant in Salt Spring Singers concerts (and rehearsals), choir member Jean Brouard will sing

The Galaxy Song from Monty Python.

The concert's closing number is an absolutely on-theme classic — take a guess at what it will be and you might be right!

Conley said his choir is growing in numbers again after the reducing impacts of the Covid pandemic, and the 40-plus group has embraced the Across the Universe repertoire.

"They really like the program so they are singing it enthusiastically."

Tickets for the show are available through the ArtSpring box office, or at the All Saints door, if still available.

While the choir's membership has grown in the past year, Conley would like to see even more islanders enjoy the benefits of group singing, so a free workshop encouraging people to try it out, which will also be valuable to experienced singers, is being offered next month.

Eva Bostrand, a well-known vocalist, teacher and choral director from Edmonton, will lead the June 21-23 event at All Saints. More details will be available soon.

Conley said hosting educational and outreach events like the Bostrand workshop are one of the Singers' purposes.

"Part of our mandate is to reach out to the community and provide education about choral singing and the benefits of it," he said.

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VISUAL ARTS

Hildebrandt artwork prompts Matisse reflections

Remembering the Joy of Life show opens Friday, May 24

BY SHANNON WARDROPER
FOR SALT SPRING GALLERY

In 1906, Henry Matisse painted The Joy of Life — a painting that would revolutionize the European art world and open the doors for what would become the Western Modern Art movement.

The subject of Matisse's painting was nothing new though. Monsieur Matisse pulled heavily and unabashedly from Agostino Carracci's etching of Love in the Golden Age and said himself that the painting was an ode to his post-impressionist predecessor Paul Cezanne's work The Bathers.

All these pieces play on the theme of an idyllic age of humanness, where we frolicked naked and free, imbued with an aura of Eden-esque innocence, as-yet lacking the bodily and sexual shame, self-consciousness and inner turmoil we would soon inherit, living as one with nature and all of creation in a harmonic cherub-filled landscape. A motif that was revisited countless times through the artistic centuries.

I am fond of this idea. Not so much because I believe that historically humans once existed

in an era free of shame and violence — I mean, maybe we did, but looking back on the last 3,000 years or so of human history would suggest that this is rather unlikely — but because I like the idea. Because if we think we did, or if we can even imagine the possibility that we did long enough to paint a picture about it, then we must hold somewhere, buried under our traumatized cultural subconscious, the capacity for this profound love, forgiveness and belonging.

"Life is so damn beautiful, and I just can't get enough of it."

MATTHEW HILDEBRANDT
Salt Spring Island artist

And somewhere inside ourselves there is the capacity for peace and the ability to let go of what we think, and the potential for self-love and self-acceptance — and from there, there is love and acceptance for the whole.

Maybe we can even take things one step further and look about us and say, "You know, life is pretty damn beautiful, human beings are pretty effing gorgeous, and maybe we already are one with all of nature and maybe

the whole universe is inside us, and maybe it would be impossible to be anything but this, and maybe those little birds singing in the tree really are cherubs after all. And maybe, just maybe, life is in fact perfect. And maybe that includes you."

And that's a pretty joyful thing to remember.

Salt Spring artist Matthew Hildebrandt, whose art exhibition called Remembering the Joy of Life opens at Salt Spring Gallery this Friday, May 24, with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m., makes the following statement about his work: "Life is so damn beautiful, and I just can't get enough of it. My work steals unabashedly from artists such as Matisse, Cezanne, Van Gogh, Carr, Morriseau, Rivera, Hockney and many of the folk art styles from around the world, including but not limited to the stone and wood carvers of the Pacific Northwest, the yarn and bead art of Huichol Mexicans, the Fraktur art of the Pennsylvania Dutch Mennonites and the stone carvings of the Celtic and Norse."

Hildebrandt's exhibition runs May 24 through June 12. Salt Spring Gallery is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information about Hildebrandt and to see some of his images, people can visit matthewhildebrandt.ca.

ACROSS THE UNIVERSE

DIRECTOR DON CONLEY
ACCOMPANIST JAMES YI
2024

SALT SPRING SINGERS

ALL SAINTS BY THE SEA
TICKETS AT ARTSPRING

ADULTS \$30 YOUTH \$5
SAT MAY 25TH 7:30 PM
SUN MAY 26TH 2:00 PM



PHOTO BY MAGGIE O'SCALLEIGH

AFTER IT'S OVER: Celebrating a successful run of *The Venus Conundrum* at ArtSpring on Saturday night are Good Company Entertainment Group principals Suzanne Rouger, left, and Karen Arney. Writer-director-co-producer Rouger ended up playing the role of Cupid that night after drummer Daveo Daviday, who was scheduled to play Cupid, was injured. Well-known islander and drummer Mike Stefancsik stepped up to replace him in the band at the last minute and by all accounts the show didn't miss a beat.

LIVE THEATRE

'Curious' play mounted

GISPA show May 28 to 30

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gulf Islands School of Performing Arts (GISPA) students have been hard at work on something completely different this term, and are set to present the results at ArtSpring next week.

The *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* is a play by Simon Stephens, based on the novel by Mark Haddon.

The play explores themes of differences and self actualization through the experiences of Christopher Boone, a young autistic boy with exceptional mathematical abilities.

"Now it is seven minutes after midnight, and Christopher stands beside his neighbour's dead dog, Wellington, who has been stabbed with a garden fork," explains GISPA promotional material. "Finding himself under suspicion, Christopher

is determined to solve the mystery. His detective work, forbidden by his father, takes him on a thrilling journey that upturns his world."

Haddon's novel earned more than 17 literary awards from around the world, and Stephens' play saw a similar level of recognition. The National Theatre production won seven Olivier awards in 2013, including Best Play, and the Broadway production a 2015 Tony Award for Best Play, among many others.

GISPA's adaptation includes fully integrated physical theatre, dramatic elements and an originally composed score and choreography done by students under the direction of teachers Jason Donaldson and Michelle Footz.

The *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* runs Tuesday through Thursday, May 28 to 30 at 7:30 p.m.

The play comes with a strong language and mature content advisory.

what's on this week

Wed. May 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tom Hooper. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Dinner & Jazz with Iain Duncan and friends at Mateada. 7 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission (LCC) Special Meeting. Meaden Hall. 9 a.m.

Swing Dancing. Legion. 6 p.m.

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

Thur. May 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Kurt Loewen. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

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

ACTIVITIES

Book Launch: Steven Earle. Nature Salt Spring presents geologist and his new book *Runaway Climate: What the Geological Past Can Tell Us About the Coming Climate Change Catastrophe*. Library program room. 7 p.m.

Fri. May 24

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Marianne Grittani. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

DJ Boomtown. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

Karaoke. At the Legion. 7 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Fulford Water Commission Special Meeting. SIMS Boardroom. 10 a.m.

Salt Spring Island Conservancy Stewards in Training Program Volunteer Training. Volunteer for the grades 4/5 intertidal program at Fernwood Beach. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration required by emailing Reed at reed@saltspringconservancy.ca.

Salt Spring Forum: *Agent Orange - Can the Atrocities of War be Redeemed?* With guest speaker George Black and others. Bullock Lake Farm. 7:30 p.m.

Fri. May 24

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring. Salt Spring trustee Laura Patrick and Trust planner Jason Youmans are this week's guests at SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

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

Games Night. For ages 13-19. Library program room. 7 p.m.

Sat. May 25

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Sharon Bailey. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Salt Spring Singers: *Across the Universe*. Concert at All Saints by-the-Sea at 7:30 p.m.

Bert's Blues Banned. Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Woodland Band. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

Nostic. Mateada. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Saturday Market. In Centennial Park. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Invasive Plant Drop-off Event. Bring gorse, broom, ivy, blackberry, and daphne - no roots, please! Community Gospel Chapel. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Book Launch: Maria Coffey. Author reads from her new book *Instead: Navigating the Adventures of a Childfree Life - A Memoir*. Library program room. 2 p.m.

Beaver Point Hall Bean Supper. Two sittings: 4:15 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. Tickets at Salt Spring Books.

Sun. May 26

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Salt Spring Singers: *Across the Universe*. Concert at All Saints by-the-Sea at 2:30 p.m.

Sun. May 26

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Josef Aigner. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Intimate Singer Songwriter Night. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

Poetry Reading: Cherie Geauvreau - *Peace, Power, Poetry!* Local poet reads from recent works. Library program room. 1 p.m.

Mon. May 27

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Gordo. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Open Mic. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission Special Meeting. SIMS Boardroom. 12 noon. Meeting matters will be discussed in a closed session without the public present.

Tues. May 28

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

GISPA Presents: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*. Play by Simon Stephens based on the Mark Haddon novel. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Caoimhe. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Country Jam. With open mic. Legion. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

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

Wed. May 29

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

GISPA Presents: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*. See Tuesday listing.

Tom Hooper. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Wed. May 29

ACTIVITIES

Central Hall Society Board of Directors Meeting. Lower hall. 7 p.m.

Swing Dancing. Legion. 6 p.m.

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

CINEMA

• **The Fall Guy** runs Friday, May 24 to Tuesday, May 28 at 7 p.m. each night, plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. See thefritz.ca for more movie info.

ART EXHIBITIONS

• Salt Spring Photography Club's annual *Eclectic Visions* exhibition is on at Gallery 8 daily until May 30.

• Ian Thomas: *Past and Present* runs in the ArtSpring gallery daily to May 26, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• Today, May 22, is the last day to see *Tossed & Found 7* at Salt Spring Gallery.

• Matthew Hildebrandt - *Remembering the Joy of Life* is the Salt Spring Gallery exhibit from May 24 to June 12, with an opening reception on Friday, May 24 from 5 to 7 p.m.

• *Contemplative Threads*, an exhibition of textile art by Medwyn McConachy, runs in the library program room until May 28.

• Photographer Hannah Spray exhibits in the ArtSpring lobby in May.

• Howard Fry shows photographs in the Country Grocer cafe through May.

• Rolando Lampitoc is displaying artwork at the Salt Spring Coffee Cafe & Kitchen.

Beaver Point Bean Supper

Beaver Point Hall
Saturday, May 25
Two sittings: 4:15 and 6:15
Tickets at Salt Spring Books

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Obituaries

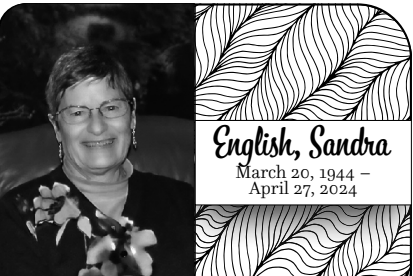
Obituaries

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

Coming Events

HOROSCOPE



English, Sandra
March 20, 1944 – April 27, 2024

ENGLISH, SANDRA (nee SKINNER) March 20, 1944 – April 27, 2024. Passed away peacefully at the Good Samaritan Delta View Care Home at age 80.

Sandra was born to Wallace and Olive (nee Bain) Skinner in Sydney, Nova Scotia, and was close to her maternal grandmother "Ma Bain." Sandy was predeceased by her infant brother, Robert, and recently lost her eldest brother, Wally. She is survived by her twin brother, Carl (BC), and siblings Donald and Debbie (NS), and Jane (NB), their spouses, and nieces and nephews.

As a young woman, she made the bold move to the west coast to continue her career. In 1973, she married Gordon English, and the two were very happily married until Gordon's passing in 2016. They visited family in the Maritimes through the years, keeping the west/east connection alive. Sandy became part of the extended English family, and will be missed by her stepchildren Elizabeth, Susan, Geoffrey, Janet, and Diane, their spouses, children, and grandchildren. Many thanks to Janet and her husband Bruce for their attention to her care and the wonderful gift of music, and thanks to the dedicated staff of Delta View.

Sandy and Gordon made Salt Spring Island their retirement home in the 1980s. They enjoyed boating, golfing, and playing tennis with their many friends. Sandra discovered a passion for stitching and was renowned for her award-winning hooked rugs. She also enjoyed working at the Waterfront Gallery and helping Gordon with his fundraising efforts for the hospital and Meadowbrook Seniors Residence. Her effervescent personality, boundless energy, and positive approach to life made being with her a true joy for everyone. The family will be holding a private memorial service at a later date.

Salt Spring Island NATURAL CEMETERY
2100 Fulford-Ganges Road
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1Z7
250-653-9884
saltspringcemetery.ca

Coming Events

Coming Events

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the SALT SPRING ISLAND SENIOR'S SOCIETY
THURSDAY, MAY 30, 12:30pm
SSI Seniors Centre - 379 Lower Ganges (across from Country Grocer)
Everyone welcome. Members in good standing are eligible to vote. Memberships available (\$5) at the door.
Immediately follows the regular Thursday lunch 250-537-4604 Salt Spring Senior's Society

Coming Events

Coming Events

Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, June 12, 7:00 p.m.
SSI Conservancy members, please note that the AGM will be in person at the Conservancy office, 265 Blackburn Road. Please RSVP to debra@saltspringconservancy.ca, or call 250-537-0318, no later than June 10.

Employment

Employment

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The Salt Spring Island Saturday Market Society is hiring **two Market Assistants**
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Salt Spring Seed Sanctuary Society AGM
Weds, June 12 4pm – 6pm
The Root 189 Beddis Rd

Coming Events

THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CENTRAL COMMUNITY HALL SOCIETY
Wednesday May 29th, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the lower hall at 901 North End Road.
Public welcome.

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RECYCLE THIS NEWS PAPER.

WEEK OF MAY 19 TO 25, 2024
THE LUCKIEST SIGNS THIS WEEK: SAGITTARIUS, CAPRICORN AND AQUARIUS

ARIES
You must put your feelings aside during negotiations to guarantee a positive outcome. It will also be essential to respect laws and regulations closely to avoid potential problems.

TAURUS
You'll have a heavy workload at the office this week, leaving you little time to breathe. If your health isn't at its best, you'll need to rest to regain energy and face the challenges life throws you head-on.

GEMINI
Completing a challenging task could reveal hidden talents and fill you with pride. However, your family might create stressful situations, making coping harder.

CANCER
You may spend part of the week at home, renovating your space or moving spontaneously. Household chores could take up all your time. A family member will need your help.

LEO
Your discretion will be put to the test. If you know certain secrets, you could find it challenging to keep them to yourself, risking unwittingly revealing sensitive information. Position yourself to receive information rather than give it out.

VIRGO
This is the ideal time to consider buying or selling a property. You'll be surprised to discover that you have the means to reach your ambitions. Affection is necessary in a happy relationship.

LIBRA
You may feel unstable at times this week, but you'll know how to make decisions and solve problems when faced with challenges. You may be surprised to find that people respond positively to your call.

SCORPIO
Your creativity will peak, and you could create an artistic masterpiece. An exhibition or show could impress you and give you an unforgettable moment. You'll be generous.

SAGITTARIUS
You'll have an active social life this week. Many of your friends will want to meet up at the same time. You'll take part in important events and engage in enriching and sometimes very revealing conversations.

CAPRICORN
The opportunity to start your own business could present itself. You could also take a big step forward in your career by getting promoted to a leadership position. You'll take on this new role until retirement.

AQUARIUS
You could be told something confidential or discover a secret. You may have to decipher a message in a foreign language at work or receive a particular comment from your partner.

PISCES
You may feel nervous or excited, possibly caused by tears of happiness. It could be due to a significant achievement of one of your children, such as taking their first steps or graduating, which will make you incredibly proud.

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ISLAND LIFE



PHOTOS BY KAREN OLENDER KIPNIS

UPLIFTING: Rachel Jacobson gets an up-close look at a bald eagle being released after it was rehabilitated by the Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre (IWNCC) on Salt Spring and the Wild Animal Rehabilitation Centre on Vancouver Island. Jacobson said she contacted IWNCC after finding the eagle at the end of her north-end driveway unable to fly one day earlier this spring. The female eagle was not injured, she said, but was found to be dehydrated and underweight. After about 10 days of care and restored health, Jacobson was invited to open the cage door and witness the bird's release near the spot she was found. Jacobson said it was an "exhilarating" experience, and praised the IWNCC staff and volunteers for their efforts. She encourages people to learn more about IWNCC and support the charitable organization.

HONOURS

Library earns provincial association award

Truth and Reconciliation efforts celebrated

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island Public Library has been recognized for its Truth and Reconciliation work through a British Columbia Library Association (BCLA) award.

Library director Karen Hudson, library board chair Adrian Wright and Indigenous coordinator Caroline Dick accepted the Building Better Communities Award during the annual BCLA conference held last month in Vancouver.

This award goes to an organization responsible for increasing the relevancy and impact of library services through partnership, collaboration and building trust where little had previously existed.

"Salt Spring Island Public Library formally began doing Truth and Reconciliation work in 2018, with an



PHOTO COURTESY SSIPL

Representing the Salt Spring Island Public Library at the recent British Columbia Library Association conference are, from left, Caroline Dick, Adrian Wright, Karen Hudson, Sophia vom Bauer Jackson and Julia Wagner.

UNDRIP series, Indigenous author readings and Indigenous displays, and expanded in 2019 with the formation of their Reconciliation Read-

ing Circle, which continues to this day," states information about the award. "Most recently, in January, they opened ITOTELNEW HÁUTW

Tatul' utew't-hw, their new Indigenous Learning Area. The awards committee was impressed by the ongoing commitment and leadership Salt Spring Island Public Library has demonstrated to Truth and Reconciliation, and what they have been able to achieve as a relatively small library."

Pender Island Public Library nominated their Salt Spring counterpart for the award.

In her acceptance speech, Hudson encouraged other libraries to take steps in reconciliation.

"This year's conference theme is Commitment – Courage – Community, and it takes courage to stand up for what is right, take risks and pursue innovation," said Hudson. She added they learned that building relationships with Indigenous Peoples is ongoing, takes its own time and the way of working is based on trust and patience. To be successful, you need to be flexible and respectful.

Hudson also mentioned the library's "ReconciliActions," including completing the Indigenous mural with Quw'utsun artist Charlene Johnny in 2021, to raise awareness of local Indigenous communities and to be a symbol of the library's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation; making the library's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation a strategic priority, with a focus on policies, operations and programming that support the Calls to Action of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report in 2022; and hiring Indigenous staff-person Caroline Dick in 2023.

After thanking the long list of supporters and Indigenous partners, Hudson encouraged everyone to attend the conference session the next day with herself, Caroline Dick, and Amelia Boissoneau from Surrey Libraries, titled Committing to Community Reconciliation at a Public Library, which was attended by more than 100 people.

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SPORTS + RECREATION



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CHALLENGE CUP THRILLS: The 39th annual Salt Spring Challenge Cup soccer tourney saw tons of highlights, including a thrilling all-Salt Spring Men's Competitive division final that saw AFC Gauntlet beat Sons of Pitches 2-1 on Monday afternoon, resulting in the celebration at right on the Gulf Islands Secondary School field.

Other Salt Spring winners were A Dash of Salt in the Women's Comp division and We Dem Boyz in the Men's Rec group. Men's Over 35 division winner was Dirty Sanchez.

At left, taking a header for AFC in semi-final action against FC Zion Sunday is Aiden Taylor, with Isaac Faulkner watching.

Below at right are three young Salt Spring Goal Digger players (in blue) in a Sunday Women's Rec match: from left, Lyla Luke, Rebekah Argo and Sahara Reith.

Below is one of the Sons of Pitches young goat mascots, who delighted people of all ages wherever they went. Thirty-six teams participated in the Saturday-Monday event.



SAILING

Race weekend a success



COURTESY SSI SAILING CLUB
Boats race towards Captain's Passage near the Saturday morning beginning of the 49th annual Round Salt Race hosted by the Salt Spring Island Sailing Club.

Near record turnout and island spirit showcased

BY JOHN TULIP
2024 RSS RACE CHAIR

The 49th annual Round Salt Spring Race, a major highlight of the sailing circuit around the Salish Sea, saw more than 100 race boats participating in either the traditional round-the-island race, or a new shorter day race over the long weekend.

The sailing community gathered at the Salt Spring Island Sailing Club docks for a lively Friday night BBQ and dance party. Salt Spring's favourite band — Everyday People — gave a fantastic performance, setting an upbeat tone for the weekend.

On Saturday morning at 10 o'clock, boats in many divisions — from ocean racers to open day sailboats, and even human-powered boats equipped with pedal propulsion — launched from Ganges Harbour into unsettled weather. Sailors faced wildly varying conditions, from good breezes to rain, squalls and windless patches. Competitors took different routes around the island, with some choosing the longer race and others opting for a

shorter course.

Despite the fickle weather, the first boats completed the race in about seven hours, and most boats finished before nightfall. Early finishers were rewarded with a chili dinner accompanied by smooth tunes from another talented island band, the Moonlighters.

Congratulations to all the winners, including overall winner of the Marshall Sharp Trophy, Wave Reviews out of Canadian Forces Sailing Association; Royal Vancouver Yacht Club's Strum, the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation Trophy winner for first across the finish line; and especially our own Tony Meek, Keith Simpson and Ole Anderson on Slippery When Wet, which took the Steve Thomas Trophy for first Salt Spring Sailing Club finisher.

The Round Salt Spring Race owes its long success to the support of many island sponsors, and is famous in the racing community for the spectacular "prize bags" that go to all division winners, stuffed with delectable products made here on Salt Spring Island. The sailing club and race committee are grateful for Salt Spring Island's support of the race, and of our Junior Sailing program and sailing school. The Round Salt Spring Race has once again showcased the camaraderie of our sailing community and the spirit of our island.

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SAFE BOATING AWA

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The Gulf Islands Marine Rescue Society is the charitable organization that fundraises and supports the **RCMSAR Station 25**. To donate, contact Tim Slaney-tlslaney@telus.net.

To find out about volunteering with the unit, contact John Metzger - recruiting@rcmsar25.com or phone him at 250-221-1677.



WEAR IT!

"It happened so quickly. One minute you're having the most fun of your life, the next minute you're struggling for your life."

That was Dave Kimpinski's comment after nearly drowning in a boating accident. Dave and his young son, Curtis, were pulling Dave's niece Amanda on an inflatable tube with their small outboard powered boat. They hit a large wake from another boat and Dave leaned across to prevent his son Curtis from falling in but instead went overboard himself.

Dave wasn't a swimmer, and he wasn't wearing a life jacket. The boat started to make lazy circles while Curtis cried out for his dad. Amanda saw her uncle struggling to stay afloat and left the tube and began to swim after him. Fortunately, Amanda was prepared for the water and was wearing a life jacket. She reached her uncle and Dave grabbed on to her.

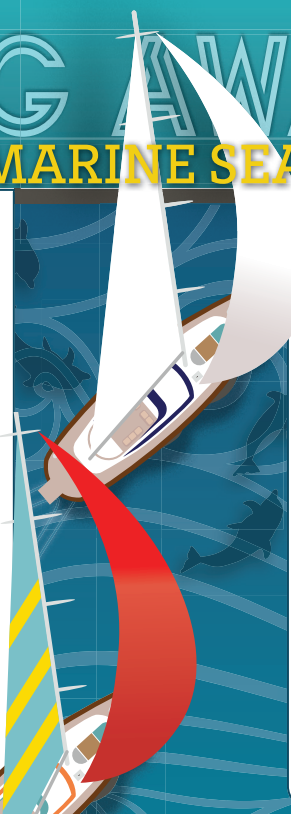
Curtis, meanwhile, pulled the safety lanyard on the motor just like he'd seen his dad do and the boat stopped moving. Amanda's life jacket kept both of

them afloat and they were able to get back to their boat and climb aboard. Dave was lucky! He was lucky that his little boy managed to stop their boat, but he was even luckier that Amanda was wearing a life jacket and was able to help him. Because of his near tragedy, Dave Kimpinski will tell you he is a much wiser, safer boater today.

None of us can predict when potential disaster might strike. Dave Kimpinski knows that firsthand. A fun day of tubing nearly turned deadly because he decided not to wear a life jacket. For years, the Canadian Safe Boating Council (CSBC) has been urging boaters to take the necessary precautions and always wear a life jacket on the water. Often, boaters will proudly tell boating safety officials that they always have their life jackets on board their boats, just like the law demands.

The CSBC applauds this but reminds those boaters that a life jacket isn't intended to save the life of the boat. It's meant to save the life of the human being on the boat! So if you fall in the water without your life jacket on your body, that fine sense of pride in having life jackets on board won't help keep you floating. The CSBC urges you that when you go boating this season, don't just carry your life jacket aboard your boat, wear it!

Article provided by the Canadian Safe Boating Council.



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BEING PREPARED HELPS HEAD OFF BOATING TROUBLES

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY; the sun is shining and you've just launched your boat for the start of another season on the water. And the thoughts of that tough winter just past are quickly forgotten. Everyone's on board, excited about the day ahead, so off you go. The day unfolds as you had hoped it would. Until a problem leaves you dead in the water.

It could be that you've run out of gas or you've had a mechanical breakdown of some kind. What to do? Likely what you did not do is check your boat thoroughly before heading out. And unfortunately, you are not alone.

Scott Miller, a Maritime Search and Rescue Coordinator with the Canadian Coast Guard says: "Seventy-five to 80 per cent of calls for help to the Coast Guard are non-distress calls; the most common ones deal with boats that have broken down, run aground or have just run out of gas which is far and away the most common call to the Coast Guard

Mechanical failures can strike any boater, any time. That's just part of boating. And it's not necessarily an indication that the boater has simply failed to properly look after the boat. Stuff happens! But many calls for help are predictable and preventable. Have a proper check list for your boat and follow it before you head out, each and every time. Make sure that your boat is mechanically sound and that you have enough gas for your intended voyage with some in reserve. And file a sail plan or itinerary with friends or loved ones to help Search and Rescue find you in the event of a real emergency. A few simple steps will save you the embarrassment of making an unnecessary call for help and diverting search and rescue resources from areas where they might be needed more.

REVIEW YOUR CHECK LIST BEFORE YOU LEAVE - BE PREPARED.

For a sample pre-departure checklist, visit csbc.ca
Article provided by Canadian Safe Boating Council.



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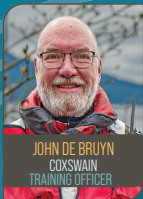
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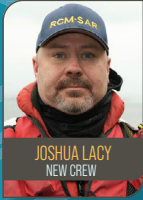
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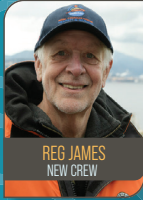
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