

inside:

Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

64th year
Issue 29
\$1.50

Your Community Newspaper Since 1960 • gulfislandsdriftwood.com • 250.537.9933

PHILANTHROPY

Island welcomes RRU



PHOTO COURTESY ROYAL ROADS UNIVERSITY

Applauding the unveiling of a Royal Roads University (RRU) Bloom Castle by the Sea sign on Friday, July 12 are, from left, Salt Spring Island Conservancy executive director Penny Barnes; RRU vice president of academic and provost Veronica Thompson; RRU president and vice-chancellor Philip Steenkamp; Susan Bagley Bloom estate trustees Kenneth Horne and Jan Theunisz; and Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust co-chair Sheila Dobie. RRU has received a gift valued at \$9.93 million from the Bloom Canadian Alter Ego Trust 2020, including the late Susan Bloom's home, grounds and nearby orchard property.

Philanthropist Susan Bloom's vision for property realized

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The estate of a Salt Spring Island resident has provided the largest single donation to Royal Roads University (RRU) in the institution's history.

The Bloom Canadian Alter Ego Trust 2020 has gifted the late Susan Bagley Bloom's oceanfront Beddis Beach property, home, gardens and historic orchard to RRU, along with funds and a significant endowment, with a total value of \$9.93 million.

RRU personnel, government officials, representatives of partner groups and neighbours gathered at the site on Friday, July 12 to celebrate, express gratitude and share excitement about what the gift means for both RRU and the Salt Spring community.

"Our vision is to inspire people with the courage to transform the world," RRU president and vice-chancellor Philip Steenkamp told the crowd. "And I know that this remarkable gift will inspire changemakers for generations to come."

RRU said the site's primary building — the "Bloom Castle by the Sea" — will house a range of programs, retreats and activities, "inspired and informed by the beautiful gardens and orchards, the rich foreshore and the stunning architectural heritage of the property."

Event attendees heard how only one year had elapsed since Bloom estate trustees Mark Horne, KC, and Jan Theunisz initiated discussions with RRU.

Horne said it was clear from the first day when Steenkamp and RRU chancellor Nelson Chan visited the properties that "the stars were aligned" to realize Bloom's wishes.

"RRU immediately understood Susan's vision and displayed remarkable creativity in essentially fusing her vision with Royal Roads' mission as an

educational institution."

Horne said he and Theunisz had spent "literally hours and hours and days working with Susan about what she wanted to see happen to these properties. And there were times during Susan's darker days when she couldn't have envisaged a day like this. So just on a personal note, Susan, if you're able to observe us here, we did it. We made it to the finish line — and what a day it is."

Theunisz worked with Bloom for decades as her assistant and became her close friend. She provided a portrait of Bloom as a dedicated philanthropist, whose gifts to Salt Spring land conservation campaigns and other causes were mostly done anonymously when she was alive.

But Bloom's reach extended far beyond the community she called home for 35 years.

BLOOM & RRU continued on 3

TRAGEDY

Island sailors found deceased

Sarah Packwood and Brett Clibbery of Isabella Point Road

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The kindness and adventurous spirit of a Salt Spring Island couple are being remembered this week, as details of the likely deaths of sailors Brett Clibbery and Sarah Packwood at sea begin to reach friends and neighbours here.

Police in Nova Scotia said Friday, July 12 that two bodies were discovered in what they believed was the lifeboat for the sailing vessel Theros, which had been reported missing since June 18.

RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment responded to Sable Island National Park Reserve after a boat containing human remains was discovered Wednesday afternoon, July 10, in what officials said was a 10-foot inflatable. The 42-foot Gib'sea sailing vessel Theros had been reported missing one week after leaving Halifax Harbour June 11 en route to the Azores. Cause of death has not yet been released.

Island business owners Tim O'Connor and John Dolman became good friends with Packwood and Clibbery as customers of their TJ Beans Cafe; O'Connor said they were the nicest and most selfless couple anyone could ever meet, recalling Clibbery's efforts to help them out one snowy winter.

"Brett put his car in the ditch trying to get to our place to help thaw our pipes," said O'Connor, "and walked the rest of the way."

Indeed, O'Connor and Dolman's last vacation — four days in Vancouver, he said — was spent with the couple.

SAILORS continued on 3

16 Exercise tunes up emergency responders



3 Treasure Fair more than doubles \$\$ goal

Arts and Entertainment... 11
Classifieds..... 13
Editorial 4
Island Life 14
Letters..... 5
Outdoor Dining..... 15
What's On..... 12

- INSERTS:**
- Country Grocer
 - Home Hardware
 - Pharmasave
 - The Local Liquor St.
 - Thrifty Foods

WE READ CANADIAN Fiction Sale

GROW YOUR COMMUNITY



Zen Master Wolfgang says:
"Birthdays are healthy.
The more you have the longer you live."
GANGES AUTO MARINE • 250-537-9221
SERVICE & REPAIRS FOR ALL DOMESTIC & IMPORT CARS & LIGHT TRUCKS
#3 - 290 Park Drive Below Dagwoods, behind car wash • Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-4:30pm

HOUSING

Hospital staff housing project moves ahead

Planners try to coordinate with Ganges Hill road work

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A housing project for health care workers on Salt Spring is moving forward, and organizers hope to harmonize part of their work with expected summertime construction planned for the island's busiest road.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) board approved a bylaw to expand the Ganges Sewer District to include the parcel at 101 Bittancourt Rd., the former Seabreeze Inne property fronting Fulford-Ganges Road, purchased by the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation (LMHF) and slated for conversion into 17 units to house hospital staff.

LMHF board vice-chair Julian Clark told the Ganges Sewer Commission back in June that the facility would also welcome "health care workers generally on the island," and that the sewer connection was a critical step toward providing adequate septage not

only for those planned units but also for any future development that might be contemplated on the two-acre lot.

But timing becomes more complicated after the CRD's approval Wednesday, July 10, as the clock begins ticking on a hopeful coordination with the multi-million-dollar Fulford-Ganges Road improvement work planned by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI), much of which will occur directly in front of the Bittancourt property.

That roadwork envisions resurfacing and widening of 1.6 kilometres of the two-lane rural road, highlighted by drainage improvements and the construction of paved shoulders for pedestrians and cyclists — a 1.2-metre-wide shoulder heading north (or downhill into Ganges) and 1.8 metres in the southbound direction, according to MoTI tender documents.

With the potential of snarling Salt Spring traffic not once but twice for major road works on the island's highest-traffic thoroughfare, organizers approached MoTI with the idea of an elegant partnership: an

effort that could coordinate laying some 300 metres of new sewer line at the same time MoTI's contractors were moving past the Bittancourt property, Clark said, "so that the road is only ripped up once."

Clark told the commission the ministry had been "very accommodating" and suggested that once a successful bidder had been selected, the foundation's planning team would be introduced to the contractors. The potential savings for the foundation, according to Clark, would be about \$250,000.

Public records at press time indicate there have been three bids for the Fulford-Ganges construction, ranging in costs from \$17.2 million to \$19.5 million; while the ministry has previously indicated they were hopeful work would begin before the end of July, a spokesperson for MoTI confirmed to the Driftwood this week only that the province is currently verifying tender bids, and "expects to provide an update in the coming weeks."

On Thursday, July 11, CRD director Gary Holman reported at Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee meeting his understanding was that a planned coordination between the

foundation, ministry and eventual contractor would likely represent a delay in starting construction — although not long, he said, adding that he felt the Bittancourt project had sufficient support in the community to offset any inconvenience that delay might represent.

"If we have to delay the repaving for a couple of months in order to coordinate those projects, I think that's a wait that would be acceptable to most," said Holman.

He also said there would likely be Community Works Fund monies that could be used to cover some costs that come with expanding the sewer system, although according to the CRD board resolution, the LMHF have agreed to pay all costs associated with adding the property to the service area, including multiple capacity and permit fees alongside construction costs.

CRD staff have said the sewer system at Ganges has more than enough capacity to accept potential outflows from the Bittancourt property, as well as from any future connections along the line between it and the existing system boundaries.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Churchill Beach shows little evidence of bacteria

Warning still in place, but beach and all island lakes test safe for swimming

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A statistical artefact is to blame for regional officials keeping a water quality advisory in place for more than a month at one Salt Spring Island beach, despite most tests there returning with barely detectable amounts of bacteria.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) and Island Health are keeping an advisory in place for Churchill Beach, even after the third water test in a row — June 12, 18 and now July 9 — returned with "LT5" or less than five enterococci bacteria per 100 mL of seawater tested, according to the health department's data.

Enterococci are indicator bacteria Island Health uses to identify the presence of fecal contamination and deter-

mine potential risk associated with swimming. On June 11, one week after a water sample taken at Churchill Beach on June 4 showed 85 bacteria per 100 mL, the CRD and Island Health issued a warning to not only avoid swimming there but also to "keep animals on a leash to prevent them from ingesting or swimming in the water" until the advisory was lifted, according to a CRD release.

That abnormally high reading had come after a May 22 reading of "LT5." It's not clear what might've led to the high reading June 4, but Island Health considers saltwater beaches "acceptable" when single sample enterococci results are less than or equal to 70 per 100 mL — above which there is considered a "significant risk of illness" from entering the water, according to officials.

Unfortunately, the other threshold Island Health considers is whether the average of the most recent five tests finds fewer than 35 of the bacteria per 100 mL sample; in this case, the four "LT5" tests with the single test showing 85 will average out to 37.

Both Churchill Beach and the other nearby testing

spot for Ganges Harbour at the Centennial Park bulkhead showed "LT5" July 9, according to Island Health data.

The addition of testing for salt water at Ganges Harbour to what had in previous years only been a freshwater testing program was requested last year by a group supporting the Clean and Safe Harbour Initiative (CASHI), which advocates regulating liveboards in Ganges Harbour partly over concerns human waste was being discharged there by people living afloat.

Regular testing at popular swimming lakes on Salt Spring on July 9 — for E. coli, the indicator bacteria used for fresh water — at St. Mary, Cusheon and Blackburn lakes all came back satisfactory, at or below five per 100 mL.

At Stowel (aka Stowe) Lake the reading was 15, and at Weston Lake 14.

For E. coli, a warning is typically issued when results exceed 400 counts per 100 mL, or when the most recent five samples average greater than 200.

WILDFIRE

Fire restrictions increased

Campfire ban plus regs for "High" risk in place

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Gulf Islands and the rest of the province are now under a campfire ban.

The BC Wildfire Service enacted the ban as of Friday, July 12, based on the increased risk of wildfires from "current and forecast" weather conditions. The campfire ban is comprehensive, prohibiting fires of all sizes on both public and private land.

BC Ferries also announced last week it had developed a new process, in partnership with the BC Wildfire Service, for streamlining the booking process and offering priority boarding for those aiding wildfire response, both here in B.C. and across the country.

This year's campfire prohibition comes more than a month later than a similar ban last year, when campfires joined the list of already prohibited burning activities June 8.

In addition to campfires and open burning, fireworks, sky lanterns, burn barrels or burn cages, binary exploding targets, air cur-

tain burners, Tiki (and similar) torches and chimineas are also prohibited. This prohibition does not include the use of stoves used outdoors for "cooking, heat or ambiance," according to wildfire regulations, which burn charcoal briquettes, liquid or gaseous fuel, and have a flame height less than 15 cm tall.

Anyone who lights, fuels or uses an open fire when a fire prohibition is in place or fails to comply with an open fire prohibition may be issued a ticket for \$1,150 or, if convicted in court, be fined up to \$100,000 and/or sentenced to one year in jail. If the contravention causes or contributes to a wildfire, the person responsible may be subject to a penalty of up to \$100,000 and ordered to pay all firefighting and associated costs, according to the Coastal Fire Centre.

For the latest information on current wildfire activity, burning restrictions, road closures and air quality advisories, visit bcwildfire.ca. The saltspringfire.com website has more local information, including a "cheat sheet" describing restrictions related to high-risk activities such as chainsawing and mechanical land clearing. Salt Spring Island's fire risk is currently rated at "High," with several restrictions in place.

Buy this townhouse at Grace Point!

#6 - 111 Fulford-Ganges Rd

Rare opportunity to own a finely designed and impeccably maintained seaside townhouse in Grace Point on Salt Spring. The entire home has received a major upgrade with premium finishings since original build.

This 1900 sq ft 3-bedroom, 2½ bath home is spacious and light-filled. Top floor has master with walk-out deck and large bathroom with walk-in shower, heated tile flooring and six-foot air-jetted tub. Second bedroom is king-sized and third bedroom/office has a queen Murphy wall-bed, and they enjoy a bathroom with walk-in glass shower plus laundry.

The main floor has oak flooring and two gas fireplaces in the living room and den. With its harbour view and premium touches, the chef's kitchen is unparalleled: granite counter tops, built-in Wolf range (gas top/electric oven), and Sub-zero and Miele appliances including built-in coffee maker, steam oven, convection/microwave, warming drawer. The tile floor is heated and a large pantry is nearby.

Downstairs is the charming entry, attached heated single garage with work bench, and a spotless crawlspace lined with shelving. Among Grace Point's signature features are its ocean views, proximity to Ganges village, and private marina with moorage.

For sale by owner: **\$1,900,000**. Please call Susan at **604.880.3551**.

FUNDRAISER

Treasure Fair breaks record

Original goal more than doubled to \$125,000 with Porsche bid

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
FOR ARTSPRING

Treasure Fair, ArtSpring's largest annual fundraiser, has smashed its own record from 2023 with proceeds now north of \$125,000 being raised in four days.

The online auction website that ran July 10 to 13 initially set its standard fundraising goal at \$55,000. The target was achieved in 17 minutes of the site going live, prompting organizers to up the total target to \$115,000 to take account of the special headliner item, a 1957 Porsche 365 Speedster replica.

The Porsche, courtesy of an anonymous Salt Spring donor, had only 670 kilometres on its odometer and was won by a final bid of \$56,000 from a Sidney resident. Other big-ticket items included a Yukon travel adventure package and custom wood-strip Baidarka kayak built by Ken Katz.

"We are thrilled and grateful for all the community donors, supporters and volunteers who made Treasure Fair our most successful yet," said executive and artistic director Howard Jang. "It's made even more meaningful that it coincided with our 25th anniversary year and Catherine Griffiths' final term as our intrepid Treasure Fair coordinator. We're all very thankful."

From furniture to fabrics, collectables to concert tickets, artworks, wines, experiences and services, over 500 items were included in the auction, starting at prices as low as \$10. One-hundred per cent of the funds go to ArtSpring.



PHOTO BY KIRSTEN BOLTON

ArtSpring executive and artistic director Howard Jang and Treasure Fair coordinator Catherine Griffiths celebrate phenomenal success with the 2024 fundraiser.

Heritage orchard forges fruitful partnerships

BLOOM & RRU continued from 1

"During her lifetime, Susan supported countless efforts to preserve land, oceans, bears, whales, big trees, salmon, along with many humanitarian projects," said Theunisz. "Her generosity spanned borders and had global reach. She derived joy from gifts that made a true difference to the lives of so many. These gifts have truly made British Columbia and the world a better place. Philanthropy was a huge part of Susan's life. It was at the core of who she was."

Theunisz and Horne also acknowledged Linda Hannah, the regional vice-president of the Nature Conservancy of Canada, for her invaluable assistance with negotiations.

Steenkamp later said the site was a natural for RRU field schools, and for its environmental management and sustainability programs, but personnel are also eager to sit down with community members to hear what they envision and to explore programming opportunities.

"We know there is an incredible appetite on Salt Spring for forums, discussions and that kind of thing . . . so figuring out how we can become part of that conversation is important."

RRU said it will also work collaboratively with the Hul'qumi'num' and SENĆOŦEN-speaking peoples to ensure their interests in the lands are recognized and valued. While those and other relationships will be developed between RRU and the Salt Spring community, two important ones have already been initiated. The arrangement will see the Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust (SSIFT) manage the historic "outer" orchard property and develop agriculture-related programming in partnership with area First Nations, and the Salt Spring Island Conservancy (SSIC) will hold a covenant on that land.

SSIFT co-chair Sheila Dobie thanked everyone involved in bringing the parties together to build "a values-based partnership that honours this incredible legacy of Susan. This

is hugely important and we are extremely aware of the significance as we go shoulder to shoulder forward with amazing partners."

Some of the orchard's trees were planted by settlers Samuel and Emily Beddis not long after they arrived on the island in 1884.

Long-time SSIC member Ashley Hilliard wrote the report about the heritage orchard for RRU, with colleagues doing the inventory and mapping of the more than 100 trees it contains.

"Some of the trees that the Beddises planted are still there and still producing," he said. "That's why it's a heritage orchard."

Hilliard said his organization was looking forward to the partnership with RRU.

"Their vision about sustainable development and sustainability aligns so much with the island and with the conservancy," he said. "So we're hoping that maybe our nature reserves can serve as research opportunities, learning opportunities, for more scientific research and things like that."

The conservancy has also been gifted the area known as Birdland, located across the road from the orchard.

"It was very dear to Susan's heart," said SSIC executive director Penny Barnes at Friday's gathering, "and it is our intent to honour her legacy and to work on that property, and to continue to encourage the birds."

While still alive, Bloom was instrumental in the SSIC establishing the Creekside Rainforest Nature Reserve in the Beddis Beach neighbourhood. She died in December of 2021.

Bloom's home was designed in the 1960s by renowned Victoria-based architect John Di Castri for American musician and artist Windsor Utley and his wife Josie, and was known as "Utley's Castle." Bloom moved to the property in 1986.

Based in Colwood, near Victoria, Royal Roads Military College provided military and naval training from 1940 to 1995, when RRU was established as a public, applied research university.

Couple documented numerous adventures

SAILORS continued from 1

O'Connor said a memorial will be held at some point.

Clibbery was a licensed captain, sailing instructor and marine diesel mechanic with more than five decades' experience on the water — including work with BC Ferries on Salt Spring, according to the couples' website, and Bay Ferries in New Brunswick.

Packwood was born in the U.K., and after earning an advanced degree in rural resource management and overseas development pursued a career in humanitarian aid work around the world. She had been sailing since university, notably crewing aboard the STS Lord Nelson during the 2004 European Tall Ships races.

Clibbery and Packwood met at a bus stop in England, and were married aboard their sailboat in 2016, according to the couples' websites, tied to Kanaka Wharf in Ganges Harbour. They re-committed to one another at a hand fasting ceremony on Earth Day 2017 at Stonehenge. They moved ashore part-time the following year, first to a tiny home they built on their Isabella Point Road property and eventually into a larger house they built together in 2021.



PHOTO COURTESY TJ BEANS

Brett Clibbery and Sarah Packwood volunteering for the 2023 Salt Spring Pride Parade.

The pair posted nearly 200 videos to their YouTube channel, chronicling their adventures together building their homes, sailing, kayaking, hiking and road-tripping in their electric vehicle.

Windsor Plywood

SAVE

on Salt Spring Island Flights! Including our newest direct service between Ganges & Victoria Harbour!

LOW ONE-WAY FARES* from **\$91** Ganges - Richmond YVR South

*Includes taxes and fees on select flights through Sept 30, 2024. See harbourair.com for full terms and conditions.

\$103 Ganges - Vancouver Harbour

\$91 Ganges - Victoria Harbour

HARBOUR AIR

BOOK NOW!
1.800.665.0212 / harbourair.com

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



Driftwood
Published every Wednesday by Driftwood Publishing Ltd.
Tony Richards, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Nancy Johnson
PUBLISHER
nancy.johnson@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Gail Sjuberg
MANAGING EDITOR
gail.sjuberg@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Robb Magley
REPORTER
robb.magley@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Bryan McCrae
ART DIRECTOR
driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Robert McTavish
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
production@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Matt Gaudette
ACCOUNT MANAGER
matt.gaudette@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Jane Gartrell
OFFICE ASSISTANT
driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

EDITORIAL

Change making

Friday, July 12 couldn't have been a better day for a party on the late Susan Bloom's beautiful property off Beddis Beach.

The temperature was perfect in the sunshine or in the shade; and except for the sound of crashing waves and passing airplanes occasionally interrupting the speakers' words, the event announcing a new relationship between Royal Roads University (RRU) and Salt Spring Island went off without a hitch.

As a result of the wishes expressed to her trustees by philanthropist Susan Bloom, RRU will now have a major physical presence on the island at a site dubbed Bloom Castle by the Sea — the stunning waterfront home and grounds where Bloom lived from 1986 until her death in December of 2021. The gift is valued at \$9.93 million — the largest in the history of RRU — including \$5.268 million in funds, with \$4.6 million of that amount endowed to provide immediate improvement of the lands and ongoing maintenance, and its activation through programming and events.

The term "values alignment" rose more than once at Friday's celebration. People referred to Bloom's dedication to environmental conservation, stewardship and regeneration, and her philanthropy that benefitted both local and global causes throughout her life, and to RRU's mission as a "university for changemakers" and its desire to "advance creativity in learning that enriches and improves our world" through the Bloom Castle by the Sea.

RRU students, faculty and researchers will benefit hugely from use of the site, but so will the Salt Spring Island community, in a variety of ways.

Formally, the Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust and Salt Spring Island Conservancy are valued partners for their roles in ensuring preservation of the historic outer orchard property, which Bloom invited the neighbourhood to enjoy. Informally, RRU programming and special events at the site will be easily accessible to island residents, and collaborations of all kinds will no doubt transpire as a result of RRU's presence and developing relationships with the community.

Islanders are grateful to Bloom for inviting RRU to Salt Spring, and look forward to working with RRU in continuing Bloom's legacy of creating positive change in the world.



Time to break down silos

BY MAIRI WELMAN
CO-CHAIR
SALT SPRING SOLUTIONS

We were heartened to see last week's column by CRD Local Community Commissioner Brian Webster calling for immediate action on housing on Salt Spring.

In 2022, Salt Spring Solutions reviewed all of the existing reports and papers that had been researched and written on housing for our island over the years, and synthesized them into a single document that was then peer reviewed by professionals in government, housing and policy development.

Homes for Islanders — an Integrated Housing Solutions Framework for Salt Spring Island was then published in April 2023 and has since been presented to many Salt Spring community groups, from the nature conservancies to the Chamber of Commerce, and to the CRD and the provincial government. We were pleasantly surprised at the positive reception our framework received from all the groups we talked to, and we do know that elected representatives and government staff at the Trust, LCC, CRD and Province have been reading the report and discussing it.

Our recommendations address the environmental, economic and social issues integral to housing solutions by:

- being achievable within the existing local, regional, and provincial regulatory context;
- supporting smaller-scale housing types that are known to have less adverse impacts on the natural environment than typical single-family development;
- supporting efficient use of land, water services and infrastructure;

VIEWPOINT

- not requiring large-scale land clearing of existing forests or harm to sensitive ecosystems
- being financially viable to develop and operate;

- improving the availability and/or affordability of long-term housing options for a range of household types and incomes;
- being compatible with and/or enhancing island community characteristics, such as self-sufficiency, neighbourliness, and low-impact living;
- supporting increased uptake of transit and/or active transportation.

Our very first strategy recommends three actions for the CRD: create a regional plan for rural island housing, develop a housing strategy for Salt Spring and dedicate an entity or staff to ensure coordination between agencies.

So far the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area has led on development of the CRD's Rural Housing Program, which is set to benefit Salt Spring as well. We count this as a success. The LCC also has the opportunity to show leadership, by resourcing coordination of housing policy and action across agencies, and resourcing the development of a much-needed housing strategy for Salt Spring.

We agree with commissioner Webster that the time has come to act, and that the most vital first step is informational sharing and coordination between agencies. We couldn't agree more that it's time to break down the silos and start working together.

If Driftwood readers are interested in learning more, our housing solutions framework, Homes for Islanders, can be found at saltspringsolutions.com/housing/.

241 Fulford-Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2K7 | PH: 250-537-9933
Email: driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com | Website: www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

OFFICE HOURS: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. - noon Friday.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES PER YEAR:
Print Edition: \$65 | Digital Edition with Print Edition: \$85.00 | Elsewhere in Canada \$115.00
Foreign: \$260.00 | Digital Edition: \$45.00 anywhere | Prices include GST

Driftwood Funded by the Government of Canada | **Canada** | Community Newspaper Association | CMCA AUDITED

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

News Media Canada / Médias d'Info Canada

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should Joe Biden withdraw from the U.S. presidential race? Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should Justin Trudeau step down as Liberal Party leader?

61 NO 109 YES

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

Updates wanted

I hope the community leaders responsible for specific local projects will reply in the Driftwood to these questions.

1. Why did the construction of our new fire hall start and then stop?

2. The new Lady Minto emergency department construction appears to be completed and yet it has not opened. Why?

3. Ganges Hill road construction was to take place this summer. When is it scheduled to start and be completed?

4. The Seabreeze motel was to be converted to Lady Minto Hospital staff housing. When will it be ready for staff?

5. Drake Road low-income housing has been on the drawing board for years. What is the status for its construction/completion?

6. Last year, the CRD undertook a community survey regarding a master plan for Portlock Park. When will the master plan be presented for public review and Local Community Commission approval?

On behalf of the community, I am simply asking those responsible for a report to the Salt Spring community on their projects. Please ask the Driftwood to

print your reply. Thank you.

CURT FIRESTONE,
SALT SPRING

Editor's note: Some of Curt's questions are answered in this issue of the paper.

Positivity welcomed

Reading the July 10 issue of the Driftwood was an unexpected pleasure: an entire issue filled with news from the community, informative information about upcoming projects and events, and not a single vitriolic personal attack in sight.

Maybe I'm the only person on Salt Spring who gets tired of thinly (and sometimes not so thinly) veiled attacks on individuals and organizations, but I hope that isn't the case.

Everyone knows that Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands have more than their fair share of issues and inequalities, but attempting to assert possession of the moral high ground by tearing a strip off the backs of those who disagree with you seems both counterproductive and eventually dangerous.

We only need to look towards our

southern neighbours to see how well this approach has worked.

JIM SEXTON,
SALT SPRING

Progress being made

Commissioner Brian Webster, referring to the housing backgrounder that CRD staff and I prepared for our Local Community Commission (LCC), says in last week's piece in the Driftwood that he prefers "actually doing something."

But shouldn't action be based on understanding the opportunities presented by over 300 densities on properties already zoned or designated for housing, as well as a number of recently initiated legislative changes and funding programs?

Webster proposes an "integrated housing strategy" as an example of doing something. But won't the housing opportunities presented by already designated properties, funding programs and legislation identified in the backgrounder inform a strategy?

Seeking "big bucks" from governments and other sources is also doing something and isn't the pipe dream Webster suggests.

Even with zoned land in place, housing won't be truly affordable without such funding. During the last term alone, Salt Spring secured more than \$25 million for over 130 units of supported and affordable housing, and year-round operation of our 30-bed homeless shelter.

I agree about a coordinated response to housing, so shouldn't we confirm the CRD Rural Housing Program proposals to fund a coordinator, project pre-development work and homeowner suite incentives, all starting in 2025? As for housing on unused park land, Webster's comment — "quit musing about it and get to work identifying sites" — is puzzling since the LCC has already passed my motion to do just that.

There is much to do, but we are actually making some progress on housing, not just "standing by and hoping for the best," as commissioner Webster states. And providing information on housing opportunities, including a fast-evolving legislative and funding context is not just bickering. It's an essential first step to ensure we utilize our scarce resources as effectively as possible.

GARY HOLMAN,
SSI CRD DIRECTOR

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Our vision is to inspire people with the courage to transform the world, and I know that this remarkable gift will inspire changemakers for generations to come."

PHILIP STEENKAMP, ROYAL ROADS UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT, ON \$9.93-MILLION BLOOM ESTATE GIFT

Housing for families: an appeal to compassion and community

BY GAIL S. JUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Anyone who peruses social media on Salt Spring even casually can't help but notice the various "rental wanted" posts.

Sometimes they're quite amusing, such as when the person or couple lives elsewhere but feels a deep spiritual calling to be on the island and will happily trade herbs and massages for shelter.

But there was something about the lengthy one posted by Megan Colgan on June 22 that really impacted me. Megan has lived on the island for 30 years, coming here as a 12-year-old child with her parents. Recognizing the name but not sure why, I searched the Driftwood archives, where she shows up as a youth winning equestrian competitions, a poetry contest, in high school drama shows and on the honour roll — living a pretty typical island kid life. As an adult she has been seen acting, singing and dancing in several theatre productions — most recently playing Venus in The Venus Conundrum at ArtSpring. And she also keeps busy as the mother of four children aged six through 13 and with a full-time job as an administrative assistant at Gulf Islands Secondary School. Many people will know her spouse Dominique Gaudet, a paid-on-call firefighter for 18 years with the rank of captain, who also works for the BC Wildfire Service in the summer and in construction through the rest of the year.

Megan explained in her post and to me in a phone conversation on July 14 that the house they have rented for the past 11 years sold within two days of being

put on the market. The new owners take possession on July 31. Megan and her family had a whole year's notice from the owners that the house was going to be sold, and spent considerable time trying to find a new place to live, she said, with options that included having a tiny home built for them and putting it on a friend's property. But they couldn't get bank financing to purchase the structure.

Megan's full-disclosure social media plea was a last-ditch effort to find adequate, secure shelter for her family. In it she stated that they could afford only \$1,800 per month — which has since been increased to \$2,300 per month — and Dom's carpentry/maintenance skills could also be part of the compensation. (That's worth a lot, if you ask me!) Megan and Dom can provide solid references and have never missed a rent payment.

As of July 14, the online post had yielded much-appreciated community support and ideas, but no offers of housing within the family's price range. More than one property owner with a rental home responded with detailed breakdowns of the costs of owning the property and why they would need to charge so much more than Megan's family could ever pay.

Some people said she would have had better luck if she had not been so honest in her post about the financial constraints. I say bravo to her for acknowledging the reality of what it costs to raise a family these days.

Megan said they were temporarily

INDEPTH

buoyed on Saturday when they went to view a "perfect" place, but the owners did not choose them as the

tenants.

On Monday morning, though, Megan texted me to say they may have found a home from an appointment they had on Sunday afternoon, although the deal had not yet been finalized.

(As well, a friend of a friend had come through with a very temporary solution, so that the family wouldn't be immediately homeless after July 31. But that would only give them two more months to find a more permanent home.)

Even if the story turns out to have a deservedly happy ending, for me, this family's struggle to find housing paints a horribly bleak picture of our community today. Is there truly nowhere for working families with children to live? I know it is a highly fraught business to be a landlord, but is there really no one who is able or willing to only receive \$1,800 or \$2,300 per month and maintenance services of some level in order for a family who contributes fully to our community to continue to live among us?

Is making as much as money as possible from a second (or third or fourth) property the only reason for having it? Does foregoing \$500 or \$1,000 a month really make a tangible difference to those property owners? Or have we really just run out of houses here?

Megan said it's hard to understand how they can be "a two-adult working family that can't afford to be in a home. It does

make you wonder how this island is going to survive. What's going to happen when all of the families like us are just kind of forced out because we didn't get into the housing market 30 years ago, or because we don't have family money, or, you know, those kinds of things."

Megan and I laughed when she recounted how people say they might have to move to the Maritimes where housing is cheaper, or to New Zealand where she has family, or even just "off-island." But Salt Spring Island is where they are securely employed and have built their multi-faceted lives. Starting over somewhere else would also take a huge financial investment, and with no guarantee that they would have a decent working income, affordable rent, or face less competition for it.

"We're not unique in the fact that we're searching for housing and facing not having a home," she said. "There are so many families that are in the same struggle, and it's really heartbreaking."

Heartbreaking. Megan has nailed it. Even if Megan's family has found a place to live — and I sincerely hope Sunday's lead works out — how many other families are in a similarly stressful and heartbreaking situation?

I know the powers that be point out how some housing projects are in the works, even if progress is slow or not yet visible. But Megan and Dom's story illustrates how dire the situation is right now. We need to remember that people we know and should care about are truly suffering due to the lack of affordable housing here.

Rants

+ ROSES

Roses

• Yellow roses to Lorenz Appinger for all his broom pulling efforts on Channel Ridge. Every time I am up there I see that with your with patient determination the difference you are making. You really are a master puller, keep up the good fight. *PB*

• Heart-shaped roses to:
- the Salt Spring Island Golf Course and Eric Beamish's team! Your dedication and generosity in providing us with a prime day for our 33rd annual golf tournament on July 6 were instrumental to its success. We deeply appreciate the tremendous work you put in to

make this tournament possible.
- Sergio and the team at Paco's Tacos. Thank you for going above and beyond in preparing a truly fabulous meal for our event. Your extra time and effort did not go unnoticed and were greatly appreciated by all.

Your support has helped us exceed our fundraising goal, enabling us to purchase a defibrillator crash cart and refresh our palliative suites. Your contributions play a vital role in enhancing the care we provide for our community.
Lady Minto Hospital Foundation

Send your submissions to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

Gratitude for Shirley and article

Kudos to United Church choir member Helen Hinchliff for writing the wonderful article in the July 3 edition about Shirley Bunyan, who devoted 30 years in service to the community as a church organist, piano accompanist and piano teacher.

As a piano accompanist, Shirley gave countless hours of her time and expertise to both the Fernwood and Fulford choirs (for almost three decades), helping children cultivate a lifelong love of music.

Thank you Shirley, from the bottom of our hearts. We are going to miss you!

MARY FREEMAN,
FORMER CHOIR DIRECTOR,
FERNWOOD AND FULFORD SCHOOLS

the Irish parliament had declared independence. Yeats also believed in strong historical cycles that swing from good to bad — and a bad one was due.

The Second Coming has been called the most pillaged poem in the English language, and I don't hesitate to join the pillagers.

However, my 12 summers of watching alpine birds in central Alaska showed me that wild gyrfalcons don't swing senselessly from pole to pole, they are part of an intricate community of species doing their own thing within the overarching rules of adaptation and mutual survival. The problem isn't the falcon, it's the falconer — the human trying to control the bird for human ends.

BOB WEEDEN,
SALT SPRING

Column dangers

Regarding Paul McElroy's July 3 column about the U.S. presidential election, the column begins by peddling the "Trump derangement syndrome." As the saying goes, repeat a lie enough and the public will believe it.

The column proceeds into warning about the perils of a possible Trump presidency (managing to denigrate 35 million citizens with a different political opinion than his own in the process).

Finally, at the end of the column, the last paragraph, "He has already whipped up one insurrection, God knows what will happen . . . if he wins."

How many impressionable people with mental issues might read this, and possibly take matters in their own hands?

WILLIAM STEINER,
SALT SPRING

Falconer is the problem

Thinking about the U.S. presidential elections in the fall, I've been struck by the relevance of lines from W.B. Yeats' The Second Coming:

"Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;

Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world...

The best lack all conviction, while the worst

Are full of passionate intensity."

He could have been writing about Joe Biden and Donald Trump today, but his world was Great Britain in 1920. Poppies were fresh in Flanders' Fields and

Visit HealthLinkBC.ca for health advice you can trust.

Whenever you're unsure, you can visit HealthLinkBC.ca to check your symptoms and find reliable health information. Or call 8-1-1 to speak with a health care provider, 24/7.

Get connected to more care at HealthLinkBC.ca

Insect bites and stings. CHECK YOUR SYMPTOMS

Take Part in the Community Priorities Survey

Southern Gulf Islands

We've gathered a list of the feedback we've heard from your community and Ferry Advisory Committee. Now we need your help! We want to understand which, of the many topics we've heard about, are most important to you.

Participate in an online survey between **July 13 - July 28, 2024** to vote on your top priorities.

Join us on **Tuesday, July 23** to learn more about how BC Ferries makes decisions and how your input will be used in the coming months. Details available on your community page linked below.

Participate at bcferriesprojects.ca/in-your-community or scan the QR code. For survey questions, please email engagement@bcferries.com

bcferries.com



Back for a second colourful year, the Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute welcomes four days of vibrant celebration -- the growing Salt Spring Pride Festival annual extravaganza being held Thursday, July 25 through Sunday, July 28.

For four days, the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and their allies -- here on Salt Spring, and from all over British Columbia and the world -- are coming together again, to help foster community and encourage the diversity and inclusivity that thrives in queer culture. The festival creates a safe space in the fields and buildings at 351 Rainbow Road, where people can express their full authentic selves -- to share their art, their music and their wealth of lived experiences.

From the Pride Dance featuring headliners Queer As Funk, supported by local performers on the main stage every evening, to the Pride Parade through Ganges -- an annual event that brings the entire island together in one epic walk winding through downtown culminating in a big central party -- events during the Pride Festival are nonstop, and bigger than ever this year. The Pride Camping Village has spots to set

up camp for anyone travelling from off-island or those who just want to be in the heart of the action -- and for a more cushy stay, consider the Rainbow Registered Harbour House Hotel.

For community expression and the sharing of passions, there will be pop-up open mics, workshops and art installations; the festival site is extensive and includes a dance hall, family zone, outdoor festival stage, vendor village, workshop domes, and a beverage patio. The parade on Saturday is designed to engage anyone on the island who wants to join to witness queer joy and pride, to share and help maintain a culture of inclusivity on Salt Spring and beyond.

Belonging, support and celebration are the central themes of Salt Spring Pride Festival, once more organized by Diverse and Inclusive Salt Spring Island (DAISSI); tickets are available for day passes, camping, and specific events.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT SALTSPRINGPRIDEFESTIVAL.CA



THE CIRCLE EDUCATION

Supporting Diversity in all its Forms

Our work encourages young people to develop their empathy muscle, challenge their assumptions and judgements, and dismantle harmful stereotypes that create division. With these tools, our programs help youth to be tolerant and respectful of all forms of diversity.

www.thecircleeducation.org

SALT SPRING ISLAND
PARKS & RECREATION

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMMING • www.ssiparc.ca • 250-537-1402 • ssiparc@crd.bc.ca

PRIDE. POWER. TEAMWORK.

WE VALUE THE DIVERSITY OF THE PEOPLE WE HIRE AND SERVICE.

In our commitment to bring differing perspectives to our workplace, and to deliver the best possible service to our customers, we encourage and welcome applications from all people with diverse backgrounds, abilities and lived experiences. **Happy Pride from Salt Spring Island Parks & Recreation!**

www.crd.bc.ca/about/careers/current-opportunitieservice

ArtSpring

Happy Pride Festival 2024

Create
Connect
Express
Include



Great People... Great Coffee!

BREAKFASTS • BRUNCHES LUNCHES & SNACKS

- Poutine • Chicken Strips & Fries
- Onion Rings • Famous Cinnamon Buns

8am - 5pm 7 days a week
250.537.1216

Salt Spring Inn

Joyfully Celebrating Inclusiveness, Peace, and Love

IN THE HEART OF GANGES
250.537.9339

Always celebrating diversity

Salt Spring Books

104 McPhillips Ave • saltspringbooks.ca

Share the Love, Show your Pride!

PHARMASAVE®

Live well with

250-537-5534 • 104 LOWER GANGES ROAD



We honour the activists, trailblazers, and everyday heroes who have fought for 2SLGBTQIA+ rights.

RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL SMALL BUILDINGS SINCE 2008

office: 250.537.0755 cell: 604.220.1633
gail@gjaegerarchitect.ca www.gjaegerarchitect.ca



ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

SALT SPRING INN TAKEOUT AVAILABLE!
 250-537-9339
 Enjoy Cozy Dining Indoors or on Our Deck & Garden Patio!
 11AM-8PM WEEKDAYS | 9AM-8PM SAT & SUN
 Reservations at saltspringinn.com

CONCERT IN THE PARK

Jocelyn Pettit Trio visits Salt Spring

Sóley Ella May opens the show

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING ARTS

This year's Summer Outdoor Concert Series (SOCS) marks Salt Spring Arts' fifth season presenting a series of free live music events in Centennial Park.

The six-week-long program takes place every Thursday evening from 6 to 8 p.m. at Centennial Park through Aug. 22. Next week's concert, on July 25, features award-winning headliner Jocelyn Pettit Trio and local support from Pender Island's Sóley Ella May.

As a multicultural artist with Scottish, Irish, French and Malaysian heritage, Pettit integrates the Celtic



PHOTO COURTESY SALT SPRING ARTS

From left, Erik Musseau, Jocelyn Pettit and Adam Dobres, who will headline the July 25 SOCS concert. Steph Strings is the featured artist on July 18.

and folk traditions of her roots into her shows and compositions. With an uplifting and engaging stage presence, Pettit presents a lively and

joyful performance of traditional, contemporary and original music. A five-time Canadian Folk Music Award nominee, Pettit has per-

formed across Canada, the U.S., the U.K., Europe and Malaysia. She has appeared on CBC and BBC television, and shared the stage with Irish supergroup The Chieftains. Her duo album with cellist Ellen Gira was awarded Traditional Album of the Year honours at the 2024 Canadian Folk Music Awards.

For this performance, Pettit will be joined by top-notch bandmates Erik Musseau (whistle, pipes, piano, vocals) and Adam Dobres (guitar).

Warming up the stage for the trio is local singer/songwriter Sóley Ella May. The 17-year-old artist was raised in a musical family, and has been writing and performing since the age of six. Through festivals, local radio, school performances and more, May continues to play an active role in the music scene today.

ArtSpring
SALT SPRING CHAMBER FEST 2024
 Fri Jul 26 7pm talk
 Sat Jul 27 7:30pm concert
 artspring.ca
 tickets.artspring.ca
 250.537.2102

CONCERT PREVIEW

Outdoor baroque series returns

Visiting and local performers perform at Channel Ridge site on July 27 and 28

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING BAROQUE

Summer Baroque in the Trees is Salt Spring Baroque's two-day concert festival that grew from a desire to keep presenting concerts during the Covid-19 pandemic. We learned that it was safer to attend events outside, and so Summer Baroque in the Trees was born.

People are invited to come and sit amongst the arbutus and Douglas firs, watch the deer saunter by, and enjoy some beautiful baroque music beginning at 2 p.m. each day on a private Channel Ridge property.

On Saturday, July 27, Salt Spring Baroque will present The Gallo Chamber Players violin trio, with members Majka Demcak, Rebecca Ruthven and Jiten Beairsto. Their concert Crossroads & Consolations will include the rarely-performed Sonata for Three Violins by Austrian composer Johann Joseph Fux, the Adagio from the Die Relenge ("Tree Frog") Violin Concerto by Georg Friedrich Telemann, the virtuosic Violin Concerto by Italian composer Francesco Durante, and a new set of pieces

entitled Consolations by Rebecca Nelson, which travels seamlessly between baroque, folk and contemporary classical music.

The second concert on Sunday, July 28 will feature Concerti a Due Cori in its first antiphonal concert on two stages. One of the first composers writing solely for instruments was Giovanni Gabrieli (1554-1612). Gabrieli, while the organist at St. Marks Basilica in Venice, perfected a compositional technique known as cori spezzati, where composers would contrast different instrumentalists by placing them in different areas of the sanctuary. One ensemble would play the "call" and another give the "response" in a musical back and

forth known as antiphonal performance.

This concert will feature sackbuts (Jeremy Berkman and Marcus Hissen), dulcians (Katrina Russell and Kerry Graham), violins (Paul Luchkow and Kathryn Wiebe), cornetto (Bill Jamieson) and recorders (Marea Chernoff and Jamieson), with works by Canale, Gabrieli, Marini, Cavaccio, Picchi, Viadana, Chedeville and others.

People should bring a lawn chair, hat and water. No dogs, please.

More information is on the saltspringbaroque.com website. Tickets may also be purchased there, or at the ArtSpring box office.

Salt Spring Jazz & Blues Society
2nd Annual Members Appreciation Day
 Featuring:
 Mia Nicholson
 Frank Allen Four
 Sunday July 21st 3:00 - 6:00 pm
 AT THE LEGION
 Jazz & Blues Society and Legion Members: No Cover
 Non members: \$10
 Visit our NEW web site: saltspringjazzandblues.com

EXITSTAGELEFT PRODUCTIONS & graffix THEATRE, PRESENT
THE TEMPEST
 SHAKESPEARE ON SALT SPRING ISLAND
 JULY 11, 12, 18, 19, 20
 7:30, GATE 7:00 ~
 JULY 21 4:00, GATE 3:30
 ADULT \$30 YOUTH (18 & UNDER) \$15
 TICKETS: WWW.EXITSTAGELEFTPRODUCTIONS.COM
 PRE-SALES ONLY LOCATION PROVIDED ON PURCHASE

Fall Fair Focus
 SALT SPRING ISLAND FALL FAIR 2024
 MAKE IT! BAKE IT! GROW IT! SHOW IT!
 We have 29 Sections with over 800 Classes to showcase your talents.
 Entry forms are on Page 41 in the Fall Fair Catalogue and online at: ssifi.org
 WE HAVE NEW PRIZES FOR YOUTH IN PHOTOGRAPHY!
 ssifi.org

SUMMER OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES
 salt spring arts presents
Steph Strings
 &
 THE SELKIES OF SALT SPRING ISLAND
 JULY 18 | 6PM
 CENTENNIAL PARK
 IslandSavings
 A DIVISION OF FIRSTWEST CREDIT UNION
 With thanks to our generous funders and sponsors:
 Canada Council for the Arts, Government of British Columbia, Salt Spring Island Foundation, SOCAN Foundation, Gulf Islands Driftwood, Harbour House Hotel, SaltyPay

RECITAL SERIES

Popular music shared by 270's at All Saints

David Storm and Bill Morrison on tap

SUBMITTED BY MUSIC MAKERS

Music Makers welcomes the return of two popular local musicians at the Tea à Tempo concert at All Saints church on July 24. The appearance of David Storm and Bill

Morrison is sure to be an uplifting afternoon of music for fans of the summer series.

When the pair met a few years ago, they discovered a shared joy in playing music together. Since Bill was 70 and David was about to turn 70 at the time they met, it was inevitable they call themselves the "270's."

David Storm has been the organist, pianist and music director of the Anglican Parish of Salt Spring for almost 16 years. Since

moving to Salt Spring Island from Vancouver in 2005, he has participated in numerous Music and Munch and Tea à Tempo concerts over the years. Victoria native Morrison was lead singer of the eight-piece R&B dance band Backstage Betty for 10 years. Over the past few years, Morrison has continued to perform with the Jukebox Junkies.

When the pair got together just as the pandemic hit, they started with a plan

to play the music of Elton John and Billy Joel. Their repertoire now also includes artists such as Fleetwood Mac, Paul Simon, The Eagles and Bruce Springsteen. Morrison is happy to be the singer as Storm looks after all accompaniment on his Roland RD-2000 digital piano.

Music by donation begins at 2:10 p.m., followed by optional tea and treats served at a cost of \$5.

what's on this week

Wed. July 17

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: The Selkies of Salt Spring Island. All Saints by-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m.

Morien Jones. Moby's Pub, lower patio. 5 p.m.

Tyger Jackson. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Iain Duncan's Dinner Jazz. With special guest keyboardist Chris Gestrin. Mateada. Dinner at 6 p.m., music at 7 p.m. Reservations recommended.

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt Museum. On the Farmers' Institute grounds. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Embroidery Circle. Local artisan Celeste Morris leads a circle for teens. Library program room. 1 p.m.

Knit Purl Community. Knitters, crocheters and needleworkers meet every third Wednesday in the library program room. 5 to 7 p.m.

Central Community Hall Society Board of Directors Meeting. Public welcome to attend. Central Hall, lower hall. 7 p.m.

Getting to Know Our Neighbours: Retired sociology professor Lynda Turner and partner Mary Beckett give illustrated talk on supporting families and school programs in Kenya. United Church. 7 p.m. (Doors at 6:30 p.m.)

Swing Dancing. Legion. 6 p.m.

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

Thur. July 18

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Summer Outdoor Concert Series: Steph Strings. With The Selkies of Salt Spring Island opening the show. Centennial Park. 6 p.m.

Morien Jones. Moby's Pub, lower patio. 5 p.m.

Duck Creak. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Shakespeare on Salt Spring Island: The Tempest. An exitStageLeft Productions and Graffiti Theatre presentation. 7:30 p.m. (Gate at 7 p.m.) Location provided with ticket purchase through exitstageleftproductions.com

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

Thur. July 18

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt Museum. See Wednesday listing.

Fri. July 19

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Shakespeare on Salt Spring Island: The Tempest. See Thursday listing.

Drama Queen With Hush Hush Noise. Mateada. 9 p.m.

Karaoke. At the Legion. 7 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring. This week's guest is Island Community Services executive director Rob Grant. At SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

Madrona Integrative Health Open House. Annual clinic open house with practitioners in attendance, plus samples, giveaways, refreshments and charcuterie. 3 to 6 p.m.

Bittancourt Museum. See Wednesday listing.

Sat. July 20

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Vixx Sutherland. Moby's Pub, lower patio. 5 p.m.

Jose Sanchez. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Shakespeare on Salt Spring Island: The Tempest. See Thursday listing.

The Bruce Collective. Legion. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

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

Teen Pride Party. Arts, crafts and snacks. Celebrate Pride in a safe space a week before Salt Spring Island's yearly Pride Festival. Library Community Program Room. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

BC Ferries Interactive Community Workshop. Sign up at bcferreriesprojects.ca/salt-spring-island. 12:30 to 2 p.m. More info: engagement@bcferries.com

Sun. July 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Shakespeare on Salt Spring Island: The Tempest. See Thursday listing, except showtime is 4 p.m.

Jazz Jam. At the Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.

Chamigos. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Sunday Sessions With Guest Artists. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

The Lee Boys & Sade Awele. With Serengeti. Mateada. 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Weekly Food Exchange. Exchange home-grown and home-made foods. A Farmland Trust Salt Spring Food Share program at The Root. 2 to 3 p.m.

Mon. July 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Paul LeCorre. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Pitchfork Social: Chris Smither with Betty Soo. The Jam Factory. 7:30 p.m. Tickets through pitchforksocial.com.

Tues. July 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Wesley Hardisty & Geoff McFarlane. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

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

ACTIVITIES

Tuesday Farmers Market. Every Tuesday at Centennial Park. 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

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

Wed. July 24

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The 270's: David Storm and Bill Morrison. All Saints by-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m.

Morien Jones. Moby's Pub, lower patio. 5 p.m.

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

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt Museum. See last Wed. Listing.

Swing Dancing. Legion. 6 to 9 p.m.

Wed. July 24

ACTIVITIES

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

CINEMA

• **Inside Out 2** runs Wednesday-Thursday, July 17-18 at 7 p.m. **Babes** is the movie from Friday, July 19 to Sunday, July 21 at 7 p.m. plus a 3 p.m. Sunday matinee, and **The Bikeriders** is the movie from Monday, July 22 to Thursday, July 25 at 7 p.m. See thefritz.ca for more movie info.

ART EXHIBITIONS

• **Photographer Howard Fry's Flower Child series** is the Artcraft Showcase exhibition at Mahon Hall until July 29.

• **Patrick McCallum's exhibit But I Love You** is on at Salt Spring Gallery through July 24. The gallery is open Tuesdays through Saturdays.

• **Art Jam at the Library: Joseph Reville (aka CJ) and Sherman Sherwood** are exhibiting in the library program room through July 31.

• **Artcraft show and sale of work** by Gulf Islands artisans runs daily at Mahon Hall from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• **Rolando Lampitoc** exhibits artwork at the Salt Spring Coffee Cafe & Kitchen until July 29.

• **April Mackey** has her paintings showing at Dragonfly Art Supplies.

• **Johanne Berube** shows his photo images in the Country Grocer Cafe this month.

• **A photographic exhibition by Cherie Geauvreau called A Family of Trees** will be on display at the Salt Spring Laundry-O-Mat for the month of July.

Tea à Tempo

By-donation recitals every Wednesday at All Saints, 2:10 p.m.

Followed by optional tea & treats

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

DRIFTWOOD Classifieds ^{CALL} 250-537-9933

www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com OR 1-855-310-3535 • OVER 20,000 CLASSIFIEDS ON-LINE UPDATED DAILY

- Obituaries
- Obituaries
- Obituaries
- Obituaries
- Obituaries
- Obituaries
- Coming Events



July 10, 1946
- July 9, 2024

Dawn Sparks would tell you she was a quiet person who lived a quiet life. And that's true. It's also true that still waters run deep.

Born to Carl and Lorna Anderson on July 10, 1946, and raised on Dudley Ave in Fort Rouge, Winnipeg, Dawn was the second youngest of four siblings. A popular girl, she attended Grant Park High School and was a regular at the Friday night dances at Crescentwood Community Centre.

At age 16, Dawn met her future husband, John, one fateful night at the Salisbury House on Pembina and Stafford. John was smitten with her beauty, charm, and freckles. Dawn clearly saw something rather appealing in him too. John and Dawn dated off and on for seven years, finally eloping in 1969 to Grand Forks, USA, for a two-day honeymoon at a cheap motel where Dawn promptly fell asleep before John returned with their celebratory six-pack.

Together for 62 devoted years, they welcomed two daughters and two sons.

In 1977, John and Dawn moved to North Vancouver, eventually settling in Deep Cove. Those early years were filled with family camping trips to Deception Pass State Park, house boating excursions on the Shuswap, ski trips and potluck dinners with friends, and ferrying their kids to endless after-school activities.

In her 40s, Dawn fulfilled her lifelong dream of higher education and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Simon Fraser University. That same decade, she co-authored the book *Echoes Across the Inlet*, a history of Deep Cove and the area for the Heritage Association (1989).

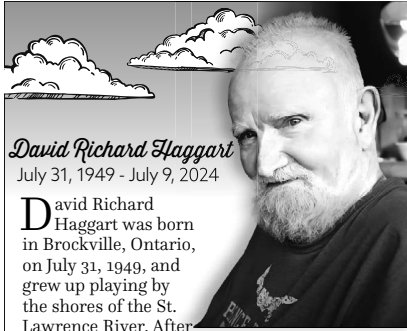
An artist at heart, Dawn was never without a creative project. She studied interior decorating and designed two of the Sparks family homes. She restored furniture and handmade Christmas ornaments, tie-dyed long johns, and baked blackberry pies. Upon retiring to Salt Spring Island in 1996, Dawn's talents blossomed in sculpture and painting. A prolific talent, her artworks line the homes of all her children, friends, family, and more than a few strangers.

Dawn was a lifelong learner and a self-professed "joiner." She studied religion, spirituality, and Tai Chi with equal fervour. She loved long walks in the woods, always at a brisk pace, and travel, especially in Europe. She loved folk music, books, and documentaries, and a glass of white wine in the evening.

A devoted mother and wife, a considerate friend, a sweet woman, and a gentle soul, Dawn was quite simply an easy person to love.

Dawn is survived and dearly missed by her husband John, her children Wendy, Shane, Joel, Carley, their spouses, her 13 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life for Dawn will be held later this summer. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the Alzheimer Society of Canada in Dawn's name at alzheimer.ca.



David Richard Haggart
July 31, 1949 - July 9, 2024

David Richard Haggart was born in Brockville, Ontario, on July 31, 1949, and grew up playing by the shores of the St. Lawrence River. After briefly studying journalism at Ryerson in Toronto, he headed north to Yellowknife in the early 1970s to work in the remote wilderness, forming lifelong bonds with the people and the land. David then moved to Chilliwack, BC, where he managed an apartment building, worked at a bookstore, played drums in an amateur blues band, and assisted his friend Abraham, a renowned Inuit carver.

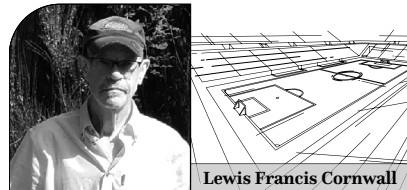
In the 1990s, David helped form The Stray Dog Poetry Project, touring the Lower Mainland, giving readings, and producing chapbooks before he moved to Ganges, BC, where he lived for over twenty years. Although he suffered from severe depression, he kept writing poems, and in 2021, he released his collection *A Curious Happiness in Small Things* (Raven Chapbooks) with the help of his publisher and dear friend Diana Hayes.

David never shied away from talking about his personal challenges. After struggling with substance abuse, he joined AA in 1986 and was still sober when he died, having helped many others on their sobriety journeys. He was not a fan of small talk, preferring to connect on a deeper level, and while he could be gruff and didn't suffer fools, he loved his friends and family fiercely and had a wicked sense of humour, a tender heart, and a formidable intellect. He was also okay-ish at cribbage.

David leaves behind his daughter, Rebecca, grandchildren Jake and Eden, former partner Janice, cousins Bob (Diane), Pat, Melissa, Jenny, and Rachel Haggart, Shelley and Stev'nn Hall, and countless beloved family members and friends.

The family offers tremendous gratitude to the nurses and staff at Lady Minto Hospital, the Island Health home support staff, and to Dr. Ron Reznick, Dr. David Montalbeti, Jean and Wendy, and Anastasia Williams for their compassionate care. Thank you to Murakami Gardens Community Housing for providing a safe and affordable home with wonderful neighbours for David in his last years. Thanks also to the Copper Kettle Community Partnership for their amazing work.

A memorial will be held in Ganges in early October, date and time to be announced.



Lewis Francis Cornwall

July 18, 1953 - July 7, 2024

Born in London, England to Frank and Brenda (Lewis) Cornwall. He moved to Canada in 1956 and to Salt Spring Island around 1974.

Married Beth (Owen) on December 11, 1981, and had three children: Micheal (Melissa), Roshann (John), and William. Proudest of all, grandson Seth from Mike.

Big brother to Tracey, Dorothy (Dean), Dean, and Rosheen (Mark).

Lewis was happiest on the ocean, in his garden, and on the soccer field.

He was a great husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, uncle, and friend.

His teachings will never be forgotten, even if you're as useful as a bag of hammers. Cherish your families, your friends, and your neighbours!

THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CENTRAL COMMUNITY HALL SOCIETY

Wednesday
July 17th, 2024 at
7:00 pm in the lower hall
at 901 North End Road.

Public welcome.

Building Materials

GULF COAST MATERIALS

Serving the Gulf Islands

- Concrete
- Concrete Pumps
- Sand/Rock
- Colour & Sealers

Call to schedule material.

All payments to be made by credit card over the phone.

345 Rainbow Road
250-537-2611

SUPPORT LOCAL NEWS

In Memoriam

Salt Spring Island NATURAL CEMETERY

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

In Memoriam

Feeling lost without your local news online?

Scan and subscribe to our free email newsletter

Driftwood DRIFTWOOD

Bookmark: gulfislandsdriftwood.com

- Legal
- Legal
- Legal

NOTICE

Notice of intention to dispose of a vessel under section 39 of the Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act

W2024-503203 - 15ft White w Blue and Red Stripe SV - Hammond Bay - located at approximately 49.22665, -123.95608, in Nanaimo, British Columbia, is currently considered to be **abandoned**.

This notice serves as official notice of the Minister's intention to dispose of this vessel after 30 days from which this notice was given. Should you have any questions, you may contact, Transport Canada's Navigation Protection Program at PPNPAC-PPNPAC@tc.gc.ca or 604-775-8867 and reference file W2024-503203.

TIDE TABLES
at Fulford Harbour

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

DAY	TIME	FEET	METERS	DAY	TIME	FEET	METERS
17	8:49	2.2	-1.52	21	2:42	10	3.05
	18:03	10.1	3.08		11:27	0.1	0.03
	21:26	9.8	3.02		19:54	11.1	3.38
18	0:10	10	3.05	22	0:38	9.3	2.87
	9:26	1.4	0.43		3:50	9.8	3.02
	18:30	10.6	3.25		12:09	0.2	0.06
19	22:30	9.9	3.02	23	20:22	11.1	3.38
	0:47	10	3.05		1:26	8.7	2.74
	10:05	0.7	0.21		5:01	9.5	3.26
20	18:57	10.8	3.29	24	12:50	0.8	0.24
	23:15	9.8	3.02		20:49	11.2	3.41
	1:39	10	3.05		2:18	7.9	2.44
20	10:46	0.3	0.09	24	6:15	9	3.05
	19:25	11	3.35		13:31	1.8	0.55
	23:55	9.7	2.96		21:15	11.2	3.41

Driftwood DRIFTWOOD

250-537-9933
241 Fulford-Ganges Rd,
Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2K7
driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com • www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

*For those who love, time is not.
Missing you today and always.*

ISLAND LIFE

This Week In Pictures



PHOTOS BY ROBB MAGLEY
Elyse Walsh, left, leaps from the block at the annual Salt Spring Stingrays meet Saturday and Sunday, July 13-14, at the Rainbow Recreation Centre.

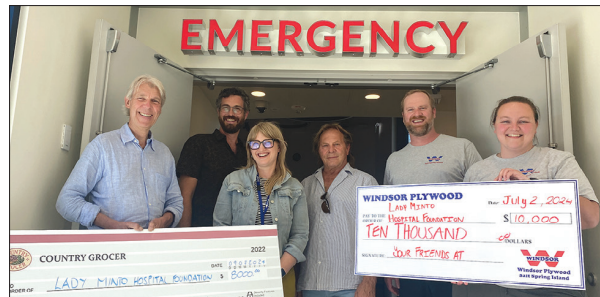
At right, Stingrays novice swimmer Harley gets pumped before a race with encouragement from teammate Jasper Beerends-Meisner. Over 350 swimmers from teams across the Vancouver Island region came to the island to compete over two days.



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Above, Bittancourt Museum hostess Mary Ann McColl shows a photo of Helen Ruckle making one of the rugs like the one in front of McColl, which she acquired by trading a copy of the photo. Museum tours were among several activities at Heritage Day at the Farmers' Institute on Sunday, July 14. The museum is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

PHOTO COURTESY LMHF
At right, from left, Robert Steinbach of Country Grocer community relations, Lady Minto Hospital Foundation executive director Eric Jacobsen, Lady Minto Hospital site manager Erin Price Lindstrom, and Windsor Plywood owners Mike Stefančík, Adam Geddes and Jessica Harkema pose with cheques from the foundation's annual golf tournament fundraiser. Completion of the emergency department project is entering its final stages, according to Island Health, who in response to inquiries told the Driftwood they anticipate receiving the occupancy permit within the next few weeks, although they expect the project will be completed this fall.



Join Us for an Interactive Community Workshop
Salt Spring Island

Date: Saturday, July 20, 2024
Time: 12:30 - 2:00 PM
Space is limited. RSVP for more details.

We've gathered a list of the feedback we've heard from your community and Ferry Advisory Committee. Now we need your help! We want to understand which, of the many topics we've heard about, are most important to you.

Join us for an interactive workshop, or participate online, and help us shape the list of your community priorities.

An online survey will be available July 13 - July 28 at the link below.

Learn more and RSVP at
bcferriesprojects.ca/salt-spring-island
or scan the QR code. For event questions, please email engagement@bcferries.com

bcferries.com

COMMUNITY

Online events calendar launched

Arts and tourism groups partner in project

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING ARTS

Salt Spring Arts (SSA) and the Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership (SGITP) have collaborated to create and launch a community cultural calendar. The new community website, GulfIslandEvents.com, promotes public events centred around the arts, food and nature,

from live performances to art exhibitions, farm-to-table dinners, cultural workshops and more.

"We finally have one place where islanders and visitors can discover great local cultural events," said SSA executive director Yael Wand in a press release. "We've heard our community dream about this and Salt Spring Arts is so proud to deliver on this dream in partnership with SGITP. This website is going to drive greater connectivity between audiences and our local culture so I invite our island event organizers to take advantage of GulfIslandEvents.com and to post your events."

"We are thrilled to support this project and work collaboratively with Salt Spring Arts," added SGITP executive director Jamie Sterling. "GulfIslandEvents.com showcases the incredible creativity on display in the Southern Gulf Islands, supports event producers in filling seats and spaces, and fulfills a genuine community need. We look forward to it strengthening arts and cultural relationships, connections and programming across the region."

Users should note that GulfIslandEvents.com is not intended to be an exhaustive list. The calendar is moderated, and events must be arts, food or nature-related, open to the public, and taking place in the Southern Gulf Islands. Examples of events eligible for publication include performances, exhibitions, guided walks, workshops, film screenings, historical talks and literary readings.



Tony Montana is a very sweet, quiet guy who is looking for a good home that can be patient with his timid nature.

BCSPCA
SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS

Contact the BCSPCA at
250-537-2123

PROUD SUPPORTERS
OF THE LOCAL SPCA
250-653-4013

GULF ISLANDS SEPTIC LTD.

FAITH ACTIVITIES

Church's social justice activities highlighted

Getting to Know Our Neighbours offered

BY HELEN HINCHLIFF
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Last spring, Roger Mah Poy and other members of the United Church Social Justice Committee attended a booth at the Salt Spring Film Festival, hoping to share with festival goers the kinds of work our community of faith does on Salt Spring Island, in the province and around the world. It was a surprise to discover that many who stopped by the booth knew nothing about the United Church and its Social Justice program.

This year the United Church of Canada is in its 100th year, and our congregation (formerly as Methodists) has been working on behalf of this community for 125 years. So, if you have never heard about us, maybe it's past time to introduce ourselves.

Back in 2001, we launched Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day in

the lower hall of our church on Hereford Avenue to anyone who needed dinner and some Christmas cheer. The event became so popular we were grateful when the Legion agreed to let us serve everyone at Meaden Hall and we welcomed the substantial support offered by community businesses and volunteers. Unfortunately, since Covid we haven't had enough youthful people power to re-establish it.

Some might remember back in 2003, the United Church started the island's first In from the Cold shelter program offering a hot meal and a warm space overnight for as many of the island's unhoused people as we could fit into our lower hall on extra cold, rainy or snowy nights. We were hard pressed to shelter everyone and relieved when Community Services created its first shelter in 2009.

In 2015, we helped launch and provided space for Art Jam (AKA Artists from the Fringe) who met Sunday afternoons in our lower hall until Covid put a stop to it. Most recently they have met in the GIFTS

building with United Church member and well-known island artist Stefanie Denz as their leader.

These days, our Social Justice Committee serves a free lunch on Fridays to those who need it with support from Community Services and additional volunteers from the Anglican and Latter-day Saints churches. We also support those who need a shower and a place to launder their clothes through our laundry gift card program. We conduct annual drives for socks, shoes and mitts and we support the Latter-day Saints Church in its semi-annual food bank drives. We host the Chu'an Society's Memory Tree Project each spring for folks to hang ribbons, photos, poems and flowers in memory of friends they have lost during the past year. We also have people protesting the clearcutting of the Fairy Creek old-growth forest, among other projects on behalf of our environment. Not only do we do good things for our local community, but our church also contributes 10 percent of our income to good works throughout the world

through the United Church of Canada's Mission and Service Fund especially in Ukraine and Gaza.

In May, we launched our newest program: Getting to Know Our Neighbours. We're guessing that if people don't know what the United Church has been doing to be helpful, then maybe they don't know about the good works of others in the community. So, we are offering a forum for learning about what a wide variety of Salt Spring Islanders have been doing around the world to help others in need. We have already heard from Nick and Jenny Coghlan, who shared their experiences in South Sudan when he was the Canadian ambassador, and from United Church member Ethel Magnus, who recently travelled to Malawi with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Up next is retired sociology professor Lynda Turner, who, under the auspices of All Saints Anglican Parish and the Salt Spring Organization for Life Improvement and Development made 16 trips to Kenya providing money for primary school

uniforms, hygiene kits for girls, water tanks for schools and layettes for new mothers, among many other good works too numerous to mention here. Turner will be giving an illustrated talk on Wednesday, July 17 with her partner Mary Beckett at Salt Spring United Church. Two weeks later, on Wednesday, July 31, John Moore will talk about his experiences in Ethiopia. Moore is a well-known saxophonist and a bass singer, but how many know that he is a retired Carleton University professor emeritus in geology who served two two-year postings to Ethiopia, where he participated in a geological survey of the southwest part of the country. Moore has "maintained an affection for the Ethiopians and an ongoing interest in their oft-fraught modern history and politics" and will share it with us.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; talks begin at 7 p.m. Refreshments are provided; donations for them appreciated. We are hoping you will come, get to know your neighbours, and tell us about yourselves.



It's always Patio Season at
Ox Eats Grass

Amazing plant based food at great prices, in a gorgeous rural setting.
189 BEDDIS RD
Check website for hours: oxeatsgrass.ca

True summer weather has finally arrived in the Gulf Islands and with it the opportunity to spend more time in the glorious outdoors.

There's nothing like gathering with family and friends in the sun or the shade at a picnic table, on a patio, at the beach or at a park with a freshly prepared meal — and a cool beverage, of course.

Summer is short . . . enjoy the pleasures of eating al fresco at a local restaurant or eatery while you can!

GANGES HARBOURVIEW TERRACE



Espresso and Martini

SALT SPRING HARBOUR HOUSE HOTEL

AT THE

HARBOUR HOUSE HOTEL

Salt Spring Island



harbourhousesi.com
250-537-4700



Woodley's
Kitchen • Bar • Patio
Salt Spring Island

Phone 250.537.4700 to make a hotel reservation or reserve your table on the Terrace or at Woodleys

harbourhousesi.com



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Important emergency lessons learned from Vesuvius 'fire'



PHOTO BY JOHN DENNISTON

Salt Spring Fire Rescue personnel set up water storage on Bayview Avenue in Vesuvius for a June 25 emergency preparedness exercise involving a simulated wildfire and evacuation scenario.

Neighbours, responders work together

BY CAROL VOLKART
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

The fire was fictional, but its lessons were real.

When first responders descended on Vesuvius in a surge of fire trucks, flashing red lights and rescue gear the evening of June 25, they were part of an Emergency Program exercise aimed at preparing Salt Springers – civilians and emergency workers alike – for a disaster that could happen any day.

The goal was to discover what could be learned from a dramatic – if imaginary – fire in a residential waterfront neighbourhood like Vesuvius. How would agencies work together? How would residents be warned and, if necessary, evacuated? How would missing people be searched for? What services, and where, would be offered to victims?

“We know preparation is key,” said Emergency Management lead John Wakefield, whose organization coordinates about four simulated disasters — such as windstorms, wildfires and tsunamis — every year. “When residents know how to take care of themselves and first responder agencies know how to work together, we’ll have far better outcomes when disasters happen.”

Because it’s wildfire season, the scenario for the latest exercise was a vehicle fire at Tantram and Bayview that spread through the treetops to cover six hectares. Ground Search and Rescue crews knocked on doors to warn residents and ensure they knew where to go. Marine Search and Rescue crews plucked four pre-selected “evacuees” off a private dock and took them across the bay to a wharf at the ferry terminal, then searched along the coastline for others reported missing. A BC Transit bus took the evacuees to a reception centre at the Community Gospel Chapel, where Emergency Support Services helped them register for assistance.

Many aspects of the scenario went smoothly, but there were the inevitable challenges. The first happened shortly after Salt Spring Fire Rescue’s trucks were parked on Bayview, which was supposedly closed off. An SUV bearing residents who had just arrived from off-island needed to get past, and had to be carefully guided alongside crews busy with gauges, hoses and a giant water storage

tank set up on the road.

Speaking a few days after the event, Wakefield said a full debriefing will explore what lessons can be learned. But his initial impression was that while the marine and bus transfer parts of the operation went smoothly, there appeared to be issues around the evacuation process, as well as with communications and technology.

“The incident command structure — who is controlling what and how people are working together — are the critical pieces when you have a number of agencies working together.”

He also emphasized the importance of the exercise in raising awareness among residents. Key to this on Salt Spring are the neighbourhood pods.

“The exercise was mainly geared for the response agencies, but the real thing is to involve the pods,” he said. “These exercises help the pods to get to know each other and work together, and they really do.”

Wakefield said disaster planning is often viewed in a top-down fashion, with emergency agencies at the top. But he said he agrees with a recent description by Corey Anderson, manager of CRD Emergency Programs, of it as an upside-down pyramid, with the neighbourhood (pods) at the top. “To have people on the ground connecting to neighbours makes for the best responses.”

Suzanne Ambers, one of the leaders of the Vesuvius pod, said Wakefield brought that attitude to all the meetings on the exercise.

“He never made us feel we were less responsible and less involved. He made us feel like a major player.”

Ambers spent many hours helping prepare the community for the event, as all households had to be contacted and asked if they wished to participate. The small minority that opted out or were away had blue ribbons attached to their gateposts or driveways that day to warn off emergency crews.

For most people in the approximately 36 participating residences, the exercise amounted to answering a knock on the door. There, an orange-jacketed Ground Search and Rescue volunteer asked a few simple questions: How many people living in the household? Would you need help in an emergency? Do you know where to go? Do you have pets?

Ambers said she was pleased by the Vesuvius community’s positive response to the exercise, the generous offers of the

use of homes and docks, and most importantly, with the awareness it raised.

“I’m impressed with the enthusiasm of the pod for learning about fire prevention and safety in emergencies,” she said. “A lot more people are asking questions and want more information about safety. It brought home to a lot of people that this is going to happen here.”

The evacuee end of the exercise gave Emergency Support Services (ESS) a chance to practise its role in a disaster. Its first job, getting people to safety, was accomplished by busing the evacuees to the reception centre.

ESS workers used the next step — connecting people to basic services immediately after evacuation — to introduce the evacuees to a new process that will mean smoother, faster help for anyone forced to leave their homes.

It involves registering your BC Services Card online, then going to the ESS site (ess.gov.bc.ca/) and creating a profile with the Evacuee Registration and Assistance tool.

ESS lead Elizabeth Zook said the province is encouraging everyone — even those facing no immediate disasters — to do this so they can quickly access emergency support if they ever need it. It means evacuees can get almost immediate assistance, and by transferring, allowing them to choose their own suppliers. It also means faster processing in a large evacuation and reduces pressure on emergency responders.

ESS was also able to practise some of its other duties, such as rapid registration — basically a quick “snapshot” of those on the bus — to provide an early heads-up on their needs and numbers. The agency also serves as a contact with the Emergency Operations Centre, so it can relay information about what’s happening at the disaster scene to the evacuees.

Zook, who has 30 years of experience in emergency management, said exercises like this can’t portray the reality of what a disaster is like, but “it was a good little practice. We got to practise some good new stuff and break in some volunteers.”

Along with its other lessons, Vesuvius’ imaginary fire shone a light on another important aspect of disaster preparedness: the vital role of volunteers. Whether first responders or community members, they were the backbone of the exercise. Of the 52 people from the first responder agencies who took part, for example, the majority were there on their own time.

The need for more volunteers was a constant theme of those interviewed about the exercise.

Ambers said that as helpful as Vesuvius residents were for this event, pods always need more people to get actively involved.

“We’re hoping this exercise will prompt more people to be willing to volunteer for pod work.”

Zook said ESS is building a team and training new people, but it always needs more volunteers.

“We’re trying to get people together to help other people.”

Writer Carol Volkart and photographer John Denniston are retired Vancouver journalists who have had a home in Vesuvius since 1999.

For a longer version of this article and more photos, visit gulfislandsdriftwood.com.

Advertise Here
Call Us Today!

HMC
HERE'S MY CARD

YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS SPECIALISTS



SMYTHE
ROOFING

Vince Smythe

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

Ph: 250-213-6316

Fax: 778-746-7310

info@smytheroofing.com

“Quality Workmanship - Reliable Service”

Dan Hardy Denturist

Salt Spring office located at
the Gulf Clinic
241 Lower Ganges Rd.

- New Dentures
- Reline & Repairs
- Home & Care Facility Visits

For appointments call 1-250-710-1884

Your “clear” choice for glass.

- Auto Glass • Residential & Commercial
- Aluminum Fabrication • Custom Skylights
- Mirrors & Shower Doors
- Custom Sunrooms • Free Estimates



TROY KAYE

Kapa Kai Glass 250-653-4148

GET YOUR VEHICLE READY FOR SUMMER DRIVING

From car wash soap to battery chargers, air fresheners to stereos, tune-up parts to mag wheel sockets sets, pickup everything you need to “Ride & Shine” on the roads this season.

Bumper to Bumper® Saltspring
CANADA'S PARTS PEOPLE
106 JACKSON AVENUE 250-537-5507

Anniversary Sale at

GULF ISLAND PICTURE FRAMING

#3203 Grace Point Square 250-537-1299 • gabriellejensen@shaw.ca

25%

off all wood mouldings
for the month of July!

• open monday-friday 10-4pm or by appointment

CALL TODAY TO ADVERTISE HERE!

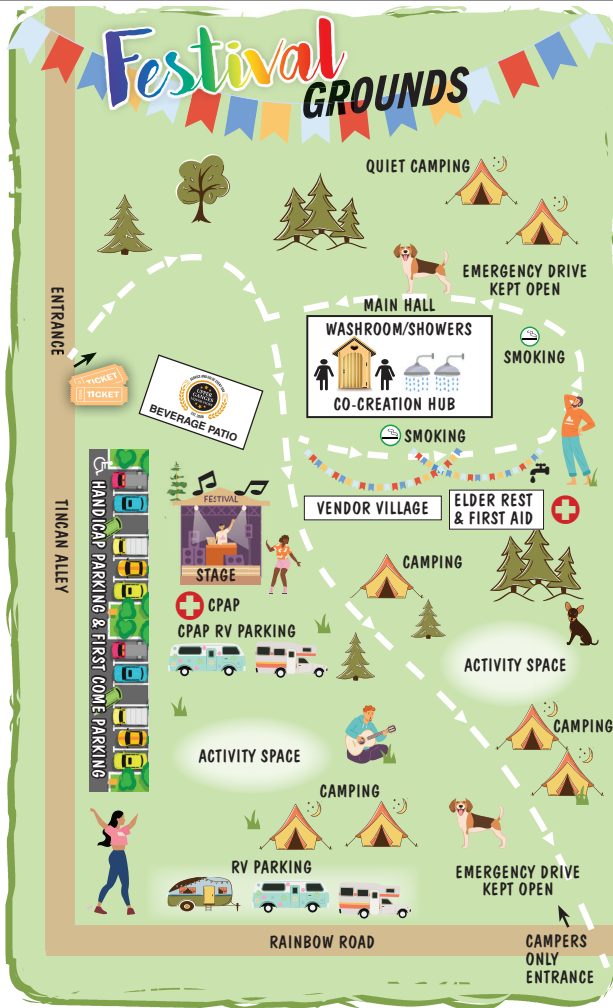
250-537-9933

241 FULFORD-GANGES ROAD
DRIFTWOOD@GULFISLANDSDRIFTWOOD.COM

GROW YOUR COMMUNITY

buy local!





SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(events and details may change without notice)

THURSDAY, JULY 25TH

- 3PM Gates Open
- 4PM-10PM Upper Ganges Liquor Store Beverage Patio Open
- 5PM-6PM DAISSI's Opening Circle Ceremony
- 6PM-7PM Broadband-Live Music Performer on Outdoor Festival Stage
- 7PM-8PM Mission-Live Music Performer on Outdoor Festival Stage
- 8PM-10PM Open Mic on Outdoor Festival Stage
- 10PM-11PM MoonCat-DJ on Outdoor Festival Stage
- 11PM Gates Close

FRIDAY, JULY 26TH

- 8AM-10AM Campground Wake-up/Check-in Circle
- 9AM Gates open
- 10AM-6PM Workshops Day!
- 4PM-10PM Upper Ganges Liquor Store Beverage Patio Open
- 6PM-8PM Open Mic on Outdoor Festival Stage
- 8PM-8:45PM Safiya-Live Music Performance on Outdoor Festival Stage
- 8:45PM-9:30PM Shorefox-Live Music Performance on Outdoor Festival Stage

- 9:30-10PM Burlesque Show on Outdoor Festival Stage
- 10PM-11PM b soft (NOTaGIRL)-DJ on Outdoor Festival Stage
- 10:30AM-Late Boa Karaoke-IsEnt Productions with Craig's Pride Karaoke-Main Hall Gates Close

SATURDAY, JULY 27TH

- 8AM-10AM Campground Wake-up/Check-in Circle
- 9AM Gates Open
- 11AM-11:30AM Festival Site - Pride Parade Shuttle Service for the Mobility Challenged to Mus Point (Library) Register at the Hub in the Main Hall
- 11:30AM-12PM Pride Parade Ceremony at the Library
- 12PM Pride Parade begins - walk only, no vehicles except accessibility van
- 1PM Gates Re-Open at Festival
- 1:30-3PM Ruwadzano Marimba Band on the Outdoor Festival Stage
- 2PM-10PM Upper Ganges Liquor Store Beverage Patio open

EMBE BAKERY

Baking With
PRIDE

174 Fulford-Ganges Road • 250 537 5611

Greens celebrate diversity.

"We love all colours of the rainbow and stand in solidarity with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community!"

SAANICH-GULF ISLANDS

Elizabeth M.P.
May 250 657-2000
ELIZABETHMAYMP.CA
9711 4TH ST. SIDNEY, BC V8L 2Y8

CONSCIENTIOUS, CARING, NON-PARTISAN CONSTITUENCY SERVICES.

HARVEST MOON CANNABIS-SALTSRING

366 Lower Ganges Rd. | 778-353-4200 | harvestmooncannabis.ca

OPEN DAILY 9:00AM - 9:00PM

We are all

Wonderfully made

Driftwood

250-537-9933 • 241 Fulford-Ganges Road Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2K7
driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com
www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

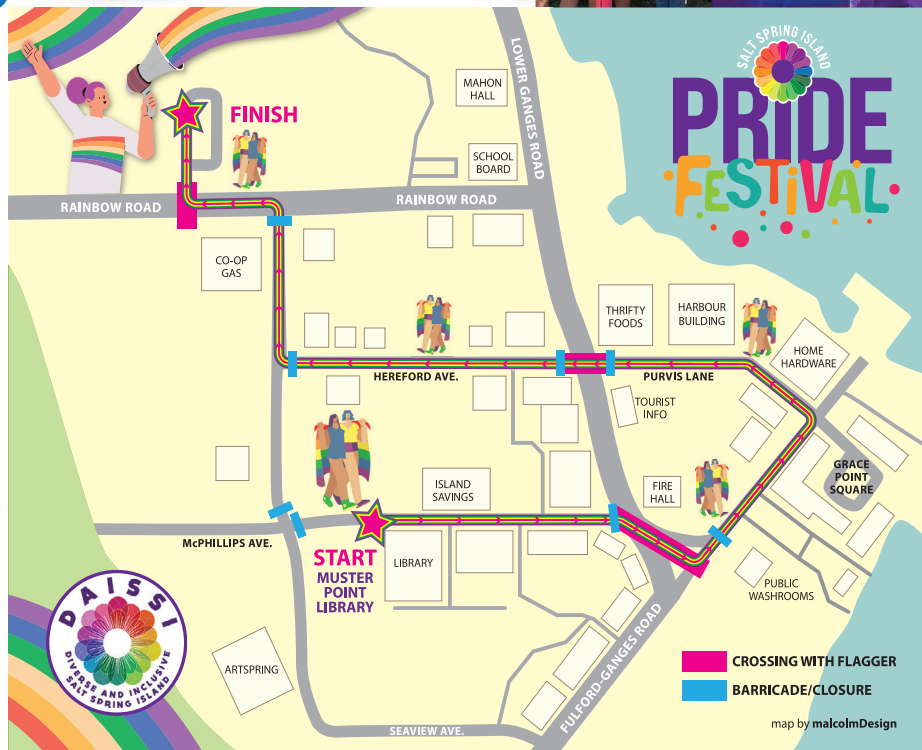


Courtesy of malcolmDesign

- 3PM-5PM Variety Show and Open Mic hosted by Drag Queen Vicky Smudge-under the Big Top
- 5PM-7:30AM Boa Karaoke-IsEnt Productions with Craig's Pride Karaoke-Main Hall
- 5PM-6PM Triikstr-DJ under the Big Top
- 6PM-7PM Tetsu-DJ under the Big Top
- 7:30AM-8:30AM Canis lupus - DJ on Outdoor Festival Stage
- 8:30-10PM Queer As Funk - Headliner Dance Band on Outdoor Festival Stage
- 10PM-11PM little.fiery.one - DJ on Outdoor Festival Stage
- 10:30PM-Late Boa Karaoke-IsEnt Productions with Craig's Pride Karaoke-Main Hall
- Gates Close

SUNDAY, JULY 28TH

- 8AM-10AM Campground Wake-up/ Check-in Circle
- Gates Open
- 9AM Morning Wellness Workshops- Yoga, Silent Disco, Qigong, Meditation
- 9AM-12PM Heart Circle Closing Ceremony
- Community Potluck
- 3PM Gates Close



PRESENTING PARTNERS

- UPPER CANCER COORDINATOR
- RAFFI FOUNDATION for CHILD HONOURING
- COUNTRY GROCER
- COUNTRY GROCER PHARMACY
- HARVEST MOON CARRABBO ITALY/PIZZA

MEDIA PARTNERS

- THE GOLF CLUB
- AQUA
- Driftwood
- malcolm design

MAJOR PARTNERS

- BEACH HOUSE
- DRIFTWOOD
- WINDSOR PLYWOOD
- PIZZERIA DUMPLIS

FESTIVAL PARTNERS

- THE GOLF CLUB
- WINDSOR PLYWOOD
- PIZZERIA DUMPLIS
- COFFEE

FESTIVAL FRIENDS

Adrian Wright Law	Raven & Gold	Feast
Anna Pugh Law	SSI Mobile Electronic Repair	Love My Kitchen
Anne Zeller	Steffich Fine Art	Harbour Air
Carolyn McAskie	Island Magic Hair	Dragonfly Art Supplies
Julie Kemble	Salt Spring Inn	Harlans Chocolates
Mondo	Black Sheep Books	Foxes Board Game Shop
Gallery 8	Ganges Fitness	Treehouse Cafe
B Natural Hair Studio	Gulf Island Picture Framing	Choices
Switchboard Cafe	Folklore Studio	Apple Photo
Paco's Clubhouse	Salt Spring Books	
Nook	Whiskers	

"166 Rainbow Road"

Windsor Plywood

166 Rainbow Road • 250-537-5564

Mon to Fri 7am to 5pm / Saturdays 8am to 5pm / Closed Sundays & Holidays
 225B Beddis Rd. Contractor's yard hours: Mon 6:30am to 3pm
 Tues to Fri 6:30am to 4pm / Sat 8am to 4pm / Closed Sundays & Holidays
saltspring@windsorplywood.com www.windsorplywood.com

RAFFI FOUNDATION
for CHILD HONOURING

Respecting Earth & Child

Raffifoundation.org