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It's All About Pets

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3 Forest fire risk level hits 'Extreme'



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PHOTO BY ROB LOWRIE

**READY TO SERVE:** Preparing food for 90 Cycle of Life Tour cyclists and 80 volunteers at the Farmers' Institute are, from left, volunteers Francesca Hilborn, Kitty Martinho, Country Grocer signature chef Heidi Fink, Colleen Pommelet, Jenny Campbell and Tula Doffing. See page 12 for more photos and info.

**FIRE DISTRICT**

# New fire hall site work resumes

Staff hopeful, explain reasons for longer-than-expected permit delay

**BY ROBB MAGLEY**  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

As officials mark a spending milestone, the metaphorical sound of crickets at the future site of Salt Spring's new fire hall is coming to an end.

With the first million dollars of the \$12.5-million project spent, per a report to Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD) trustees, CAO Rodney Dieleman said Monday, July 22 the Capital Regional District (CRD) was issuing the foundation permit for the new core fire hall, and work was set to start "within the next day or so."

Money spent thus far has been allocated to design, drawings and engineering for the new facility, Dieleman told fire board trustees at the district's July 15 meeting, as well as paying the first two invoices for civil work — everything contractors could complete without the issu-

ance of building permits from the CRD.

The delay in getting that permit was visibly frustrating for trustees, who said they were fielding questions from the public on what was going on at the site since the CRD building inspector first received plans at the beginning of April; the building permit process was expected to take six to eight weeks and is now marking week 13.

"The full building permit is expected to take a couple more weeks," said Dieleman. "CRD staff and our team have been collaborating on solutions for accessibility and the construction of a hose tower."

Project owner's representative Hans Hazenboom told trustees there had been requests for clarifications on several aspects of the fire hall plans, which he admitted seemed a little "oner-

ous" even compared to other major Salt Spring projects he'd been a part of over the years.

"In any case, we have to answer the questions that are being raised," said Hazenboom. "That has been done over time, six different iterations."

Construction, Hazenboom explained, is being held to the newly released building code, which is updated every few years and tends toward improving accessibility in public buildings — a good thing generally, he agreed. But questions had cropped up on whether the 2024 building code would necessitate an elevator to reach the second storey of the new fire hall, or whether some other accommodation could satisfy accessibility requirements.

**FIRE HALL** continued on 3

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## CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

# Alternate legal enforcement systems explored

Switch by CRD could reduce number of bylaw disputes held in court

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Regional district officials are warming to a change in how bylaw contraventions are addressed, with staff hopeful directors will approve plans to shift away from municipal ticketing schemes to a dispute-resolution-based enforcement model.

The CRD's Bylaw and Animal Care Service told the Planning and Protective Services Committee Wednesday, July 17 that it wants to adopt a Bylaw Notice Enforcement and Adjudication system as an alternative to the existing Municipal Ticket Information (MTI) system for ticketing of bylaw contraventions currently

in place. The adjudication model, according to planning and protective services general manager Kevin Lorette, is meant to be a more "simple, fair and cost-effective" way to deal with minor bylaw infractions, which have been handled through ticketing since 1990.

Over the past three years, according to a CRD report, the MTI system has facilitated the issuance of 5,579 violation warnings, 3,811 of which were issued in relation to CRD bylaws only. That system, according to Lorette, is comparatively inefficient, and can become "extremely onerous" for the CRD, due to the requirement for personal service of tickets, the high cost of court prosecutions and the additional staff time required.

Under the MTI system, not only must



KEVIN LORETTE

tickets be personally served, any disputes can only be adjudicated at the provincial court level. Of some 30 disputed tickets each year, according to CRD staff, some are prosecuted by bylaw staff and some — at additional expense — by outside legal counsel, depending on how complicated the cases become. Enforcement proceedings can span more than a year, according to a CRD bylaw notice enforcement report, including delays from attempts to contact out-of-town property owners, scheduling witnesses, evidentiary procedures and general court congestion.

"By implementing a system of bylaw infraction dispute review and independent adjudicators, the CRD is looking to ensure the regulatory provisions of its bylaws are understood and complied with," said Lorette, "and that bylaw contraventions are dealt with in a fair, equitable and cost-efficient manner — for all concerned."

If adopted, the new model will eliminate the requirement for personal service of tickets and establish a dedicated forum for resolving local bylaw enforcement disputes, using a dispute resolution-based approach to obtaining independently adjudicated decisions.

That would lower costs not just for the CRD, Lorette said, but also for residents who run afoul of relatively minor bylaw enforcement issues — and who often require expensive legal counsel to navigate provincial courts. More serious matters would still be pursued through injunctive relief, he added, but for most minor offences the adjudication process would likely be seen as an improvement by all parties.

The committee voted to recommend the CRD board endorse the approach, and directed staff to prepare various implementation documents and some financial analysis. That reporting is expected to return in the fall.

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## HARBOURS

## CRD mulls regional harbour service and tax

Increasing number of derelict vessels linked to unregulated mooring buoys

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Regional district directors have asked for options to develop a service that might address the proliferation of private mooring buoys within Capital Regional District (CRD) waters, responding to alarms sounded during an April workshop and linking those buoys to a growing number of derelict vessels in harbours from Sooke to Ganges.

That growth, according to CRD staff, is the direct result of a regulatory change by the Government of Canada, which in 2009 eliminated authorization requirements for so-called "minor works" such as buoys, so long as they did not impede navigation. Those buoys, according to a CRD presentation, directly resulted in an increase in abandoned, wrecked and derelict boats, which, even apart from environmental or safety concerns, have had a financial toll on the regional district, as more government staff are needed to address varying community impacts.

In Ganges Harbour, according to a CRD staff review of historical aerial photographs, what in 1996 was 45 boats and 60 buoys became 138 boats and 144 buoys as of last year. Nearly 500 mooring buoys were counted within the Gulf Islands in 2023; across the CRD, staff tallied 1,185 buoys holding 862 boats, docks and other structures throughout 21 bays and harbours.

At the CRD board's direction, staff hosted a regional workshop on April 30 — titled "Collaborative Action to Resolve Boat-Related Issues in the Capital Region" — that saw nearly 60 elected officials, staff and representatives from First Nations, regional government and municipalities. Senior environmental protection manager Glenn Harris told the CRD Environmental Services Committee Wednesday, July 17 that the gathering also included some provincial government staff, including assistant deputy minister James Mack; and while lack of provincial regulation around buoy placement — and B.C.'s deference to federal authority on the matter — had been problematic for coastal communities, Mack gave a brief presentation on the BC Coastal Marine Strategy, meant to directly address the issue of derelict vessels through its focus on marine pollution.

More than 1,400 abandoned or derelict vessels await cleanup in the coastal marine waters of B.C., according to the BC Coastal Marine Strategy's 2024 summary document.

The Canadian Coast Guard was invited to the April meeting, according to CRD

staff, but ultimately there were no federal officials or staff in attendance. That absence was keenly felt by Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman, who repeated his call for both federal and provincial levels of government to increase their involvement — while supporting an investigation into establishing a regional service, albeit chiefly as a way to hold the issue in the public eye.

"If the CRD doesn't continue keeping the discussion going at some level, the senior governments who basically have abandoned the field for sure will do nothing," said Holman, adding that without the province at least being more "forthcoming" in their support, he was reluctant to establish a regional service.

**"Moving forward, we'll also think of the governance structure around this service."**

TED ROBBINS  
CAO, Capital Regional District board

Harris reported that the workshop participants seemed to agree that without a coordinated regional approach, locally driven changes in one area simply shift issues elsewhere.

"We're seeing that not only within the region, but between regions," said Harris, noting that when False Creek moorages saw some restrictions, the number of boats there did decrease. "[But] those boats moved over to the Gulf Islands."

Harris said the task at this point would be for staff to return with options for the CRD board, and officials could decide then what level of engagement they wanted to pursue — from a coordination or facilitation role helping local authorities at one end, to establishing regional licences of occupation at the other. CAO Ted Robbins said staff would also look at whether expanding or amending the existing Saanich Peninsula Harbour Service to take on a more regional role might be appropriate.

"That would be our first look," said Robbins. "Moving forward, we'll also think of the governance structure around this service. I would expect given that we're considering this report here today with Environmental Services, ultimately — either through a service amendment or the establishment of a new service — this service would report up to the Environmental Services Committee."

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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.

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# CRD, MoTI permit delays push fire hall build

## FIRE HALL

continued from 1

Hazenboom told trustees he was hopeful for a “common sense” solution, given the second floor was envisioned as a workplace accessed only by active firefighters; the new hall’s sleeping quarters, exercise equipment and kitchen will fill that floor, he said, likely behind a secured door with no public access.

The building code also imposes stricter requirements for post-disaster construction, Dieleman said, and the CRD is specifying the tall hose tower — despite not being an inhabited part of the structure like the core fire hall building— should also be built to that standard. Dieleman said the district is proposing relocating the tower away from the main facility, separating the structures during a seismic event. District consultants are submitting those revised hose tower designs to meet the building inspector’s concerns, he said, which involves some re-design and review time.

“Staff and the consultants are working with the CRD staff to obtain the building permits,” Dieleman told trustees. “And we’re going through different negotia-

tions and alterations. It’s frustrating, but that is the process.”

Trustee Robin Williams made a point of noting Salt Spring’s CRD director Gary Holman had taken the time to get involved and had been supportive of the district’s positions.

“My comment would be about the CRD,” said Williams. “The CRD has kind of an unwritten policy where they pretty well totally shut down in August. So again, the timing is really of the essence.”

But, Dieleman said this week, he is pleased the foundation work would be progressing, and confident the rest of the process would play out well.

“The district values the professional review conducted by the CRD building inspector,” said Dieleman. “The community will benefit from a well-designed fire hall that meets post-disaster standards in 2024.”

The project still faces what seems to be an administrative delay for the fire hall’s highway access permit from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Hazenboom said ministry staff had told him their application was “on the engineer’s desk.”

Meanwhile, and perhaps demonstrating their optimism, SSIFPD



PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

Something of a footprint is visible at the site of Salt Spring Island’s future fire hall Monday, July 22. Weeks of delays were set to end with the Capital Regional District’s issuance of the core fire hall foundation permit.

staff included move-out expenses in the coming year’s proposed budget — a \$40,000 one-time allocation that will include decommissioning pumps, compressors, radios and electrical work as well as transporting equipment out of the old fire hall and into the new one.

That 2025 draft budget was received and a taxation bylaw approved for first reading by trustees this month, with a projected total \$5.65 million in expenditures, up 9.88 per cent from 2024. That first reading is just the beginning of the public engagement process, according

to board chair Rollie Cook, who said trustees were continuing with the long-running tradition of presenting the draft budget to attendees at a town hall for their input.

That town hall is set to take place at 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 9 at the fire hall in Ganges.

## FIRE DANGER

# Wildfire risk ‘extreme’

Caution urged as fires burn across province

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

As the boundary of an “extreme” alert crept south to cover Salt Spring Island, residents and visitors were warned fires can start and spread quickly now — and may be difficult to contain.

More than 340 active wildfires were burning across the province at press time Monday, July 22, according to the B.C. Wildfire Service (BCWS), and with no rain in sight for the Gulf Islands, firefighters are expecting the likelihood of new fires starting will only rise.

The “extreme” fire danger rating, which officially included all of Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands as of 2 p.m. Friday, July 19, means the risk of fire is serious; new fires will “start easily, spread rapidly, and challenge fire suppression efforts,” according to the BCWS, which enacted a province-wide ban July 12 on all outdoor burning, including campfires.

Last week islanders experienced wide-

spread smoke from a now-contained bark mulch hog fuel fire at Harmac Pacific’s pulp mill in Nanaimo, according to Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR) officials, who told the fire district board they fielded multiple phone calls of concern.

Residents are encouraged to report smoke regardless, according to deputy fire chief Dale Lundy, even if they think it could be from somewhere else.

“It could be from the Harmac fire, or it could be the shed in your backyard,” said Lundy. “Any calls that we get, we look into.”

BCWS operates about 260 automatic weather stations that update hourly and send temperature, relative humidity, precipitation, wind speed and wind direction data to support fire weather forecasting and the computer-based Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System.

Salt Spring Island has its own station sending weather stats from SSIFR’s Fulford fire hall property; as recently as last week, the “extreme” fire danger zone only covered part of the north end of the island.

Fire danger ratings are updated daily at around 2 p.m.; visit [wildfiresituation.nrs.gov.bc.ca/map](http://wildfiresituation.nrs.gov.bc.ca/map) and [saltspringfire.com](http://saltspringfire.com).

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### EDITORIAL

## Keep it moving

For several weeks, Salt Spring Islanders have been asking, "What's the reason for the delay on the new fire hall?"

Honestly, to us, the delay did not seem inordinately long. Have we not all accepted that almost everything takes twice as long as expected these days?

But there is justifiable anxiety about Salt Spring's most expensive local ratepayer-funded public building getting off track with its timeline and costing more than promised as a result. So that's why it was helpful to hear the reasons for the delays articulated at the July 15 fire trustees' meeting. In addition to advancing the business of the fire district, those meetings are for sharing of information between staff and trustees, and the public.

### THE ISSUE: New Ganges fire hall construction

### WE SAY: Common sense prevails, thankfully

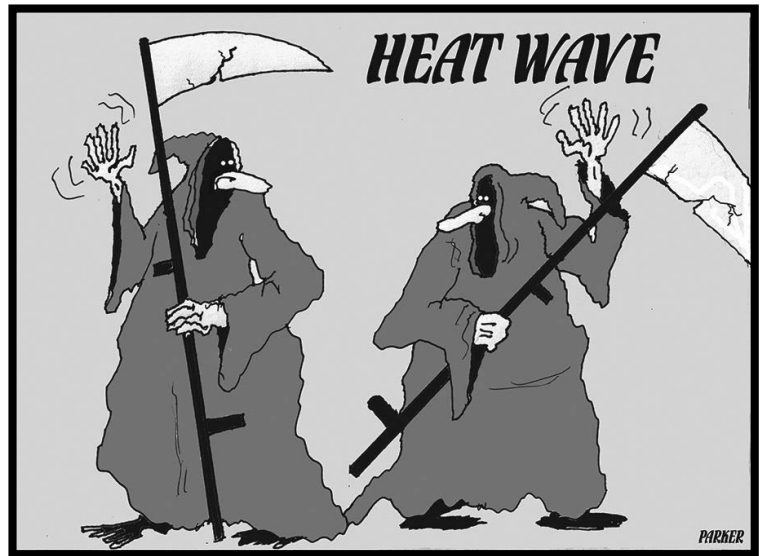
One reason for the delay discussed by trustees and staff was a suggestion that due to recent BC Building Code changes, an elevator could be required by the Capital Regional District Building Inspection department to access the second story portion of the building. That kind of change would not be straightforward, nor inconsequential to the budget. Fortunately, it appears that common sense has prevailed. If the second storey was to be routinely accessed by members of the public — and the elevator stipulation is all about accessibility — that would be one matter. But since the space is essentially used by the firefighters — with the island's 24/7 staffing model requiring a sleeping area and kitchen facilities — it seems ludicrous to require an elevator. If a pizza needed to be delivered, for example, surely it could be picked up from the lower floor.

An issue regarding the hose tower not being constructed to post-disaster standards also appears to be on its way to being resolved, with the structure to now be separated from the main building.

Fire district chief administrative officer Rodney Dieleman confirmed on Monday, July 22 that work on the foundation can now proceed.

Kudos to all parties for getting past that round of hurdles. Still to be acquired is a highway access permit from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

No project with this level of complexity is going to unfold without encountering some kind of obstacle or any number of unforeseen circumstances. Hopefully they will be handled with a similar level of professionalism and success as the elevator issue.



## Space set for queer elders

BY ROBERT BIRCH

An elder taught me that slowing down by just five per cent makes all the difference. Learning how to slow down enough to listen, whatever our age, is an eldering skill.

I remember attending a community event 20 years ago when we were asked to divide into two circles. Everyone under 40 was in the inner circle. I had just turned 40. I wept as I was welcomed by the grey hairs with shining, knowing eyes. They took my hand as if to say, "welcome to the losses and joys of aging." The younger queer people felt equally cared for, knowing those who had travelled a little further down the road had their backs.

As LGBTQIA+ elders, it's been a wild ride over these last several decades. On top of life's expected joys and sorrows, we've had the added blessings and burdens of expanding cultural awareness, not only for ourselves, but also within families, communities and institutions. We have the scars and laugh lines to prove it.

Alongside other great workshops at this year's Pride Fest '24, including chanting, drumming, sacred intimacy, dance, writing and artmaking, we're inviting all LGBTQIA+ elders, and elders-to-be, to join the circle. Please, bring a chair along with your stories, questions and concerns.

On Friday and Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. on the festival grounds, Caffyn Jesse, Susan Higginbotham and I will be hosting 90-minute Elders Circles. We will begin as a larger group to establish some helpful parameters such as accessibility needs and confidentiality

### VIEWPOINT

before joining smaller gender-focused affinity groups. We will briefly return to the larger circle to share what

we've learned, likely to nod and laugh. One coffin size has never fit all. As we all approach the inevitable, many LGBTQIA+ elders have begun to address issues of aging with a renewed sense of purpose and belonging. We're curious how we queer our death and dying. From authoring "living well to dying well" books to a new queer-inclusive initiative sponsored by Vancouver Island Persons with AIDS called Walking Each Other Home, we're inviting people to first come into community circles to discuss what matters to us during these strange days of getting older, and hopefully wiser. We're intending that these gently facilitated circles launch a new chapter for LGBTQIA+ folk here and on Vancouver Island. Together, we can continue to co-create what we need and desire — for our mutual aid, and for the wellbeing of society.

We know Pride takes a village. To Sharyn, Natu, Moss, the Pride committees and DAISSI board, bouquets of roses for making us all shine brighter! To all our dear allies and friends on this big-hearted island, we cherish you. Country Grocer, you continue to model true generosity. We love your amazing staff and community-minded vision. To all our sponsors, volunteers and supporters: thank you for getting it and stepping up. It's a true honour and privilege to be getting older with you all.

Let's keep celebrating together, Salt Spring. Happy Pride, everyone!

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### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do islanders' driving habits seem worse than they were five years ago?  Yes  No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should Joe Biden withdraw from the U.S. presidential race? 29 NO 92 YES

Cast your ballot online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) before Monday 2 p.m. or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 2 p.m.

# ISLAND VOICES

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

## LETTERS to the editor

### Driving on Salt Spring Island – horrors!

Item one: After a decade-plus of the four-way stop at Central, most folks still don't get it: it is NOT one vehicle at a time, it is two at a time. North and south-bound vehicles leave the stop line at the same time and cross in the middle. Then east/west do the same. When turning left, other rules apply. The turning vehicle yields and turns behind the through vehicle, but still leaves the stop line at the same time.

When two vehicles arrive at 90 degrees to each other, the one on the right goes first. In light traffic, the vehicle that arrives first goes first.

There used to be a great little animated drivers-ed film that illustrated all of the above. Maybe it could be found online and used as a PSA at The Fritz. It is sorely needed.

Item two: On rural roads, a slow driver who is stacking up cars behind them should find a driveway, post office box or wide verge at which to pull over and let them pass. Some drivers think they are helping to enforce speed limits; not your job! Such arrogance is merely a specialized form of stupidity.

Item three: What is with the numerous drivers that go under the limit on

Vesuvius Bay Road until they get to the 30 km/h zone at Portlock Park, and then they speed up! I see this almost every day.

Whiskey Tango Foxtrot!

**PETER WINTON,**  
SALT SPRING

### Emergency department update

In last week's letters section, Curt Firestone asked for some updates on several items. I wanted to take the opportunity to provide an additional update on our new emergency department.

It's a fair question and I'm sure many of us are somewhat anxiously anticipating the opening of our new emergency department. It's a huge deal for our community.

I, for one, am excited and relieved that we are replacing our circa 1958 emergency department with a state-of-the-art facility that is built to serve our present population for decades to come. This facility increases critical care capacity, hosts updated equipment, and expands our ability to treat mental health and substance use patients. As well, our dedicated hospital staff deserve the best working environment.

We are all so fortunate for the incred-

ible generosity and vision of our community, whose members contributed the lion's share of funds to get this built. It truly would not have happened otherwise.

With all that said, the building does appear complete, so when will it open?

As with any major project, there will always be some unforeseen circumstances. In this case, there were a few workflow issues identified in testing that pushed the project past the anticipated spring opening. Island Health, who are responsible for the planning and delivery of this project, are presently addressing the relatively minor issues identified.

The other reason the emergency department will not open during the summer is that this is the peak of the busy season for the hospital. With a deluge of visitors, the department is operating at maximum capacity. The hospital staff and Island Health simply cannot move a working emergency department at peak season. It wouldn't be safe.

While we have no official date from Island Health yet, all indications suggest that our incredible new emergency department will open in the fall. Rest assured, we cannot wait to tell you as soon as anything is official.

P.S. Keep your eyes out for a Seabreeze update coming soon!

**ERIC JACOBSEN,**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
LADY MINTO HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

### Housing progress is insufficient

Gary Holman's recent missives in the Driftwood bring to mind the orphanage master in Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist* novel.

"More housing? You want some more?" Capital Regional District (CRD) director Holman shouts as he swats at people who criticize his housing record with a letter in the newspaper rather than a ladle. Just as a single bowl of thin gruel is not enough dinner for a growing boy, nor are 131 units in five years enough housing for Salt Spring Island's working class.

Rather than disputing every challenge that comes director Holman's way, perhaps he should learn to listen. Rather than clinging desperately to the dismally small amount of housing the CRD has contributed to creating, perhaps it is time to admit that we need more. Unlike poor Oliver, who is at the mercy of the orphanage master, the electorate of Salt Spring Island has director Holman's career as a politician at our mercy.

Local Community Commission member Brian Webster is right; enough bickering, get to work. Give us some more, or be replaced in the next election. 2026 isn't that far away.

**ERIC G. MARCH,**  
SALT SPRING

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

**"If the CRD doesn't continue keeping the discussion going at some level, the senior governments who basically have abandoned the field for sure will do nothing."**

GARY HOLMAN, SALT SPRING CRD DIRECTOR, ON MOORING BUOY PROLIFERATION IN THE GULF ISLANDS

## Still far to go to ensure safety and freedom for all 2SLGBTQIA+ people

BY DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE SALT SPRING ISLAND BOARD MEMBERS

*Nobody's free until everybody's free.*

~ Fannie Lou Hamer

Pride is a longstanding and beloved event in our community.

Our local Pride Festival celebrates our local 2SLGBTQIA+ community and draws in visitors from afar, offering a safer space for folks to be their full and authentic selves. At the Pride Festival, we share artistic offerings and, most importantly, we build a collective culture of belonging, support and celebration.

Queer joy is an act of resistance. With mounting violence against trans\* and non-binary people, women and the queer community, we need to stand together, now more than ever, in solidarity for the rights of 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

Over the past year, we've witnessed an erosion of laws and freedoms for 2SLGBTQIA+ people here in this country and south of the border. Locally, we've seen attempts at censor-

ing trans\* books in the school system, and anti-trans\* sentiments published in a small local publication.

Here on Salt Spring Island, Pride is more important than ever.

The Diverse and Inclusive Salt Spring Island (DAISSI) board and organizers would like to express our deep gratitude for hosting our second annual Pride Festival on the unceded traditional territories of the Hul'qumi'num and SENCOTEN speaking peoples. We acknowledge that colonial systems of genocide and oppression are still alive today, not only on Turtle Island, but around the globe.

Across Turtle Island, we have witnessed the weaving of related humanitarian causes into Pride celebrations, as demonstrations denouncing pinkwashing and corporate sponsorships have emerged. In light of these actions, we call upon the colonial government of Canada to decisively intervene and take tangible measures to ensure the safety and well-being of Palestinians. It is not just a moral imperative, but an urgent humanitarian and legal

### GUEST COLUMN

necessity. The situation demands all of our participation to help alleviate the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe.

We support the growing call within our 2SLGBTQIA+ communities to divest from corporations who are supporting the genocide, and we stand with Palestine, Sudan, Uganda, the Congo and many other places around the world where colonial violence is unfolding before our eyes.

We still have so far to go to ensure safety and freedom for all 2SLGBTQIA+ people, right here in our community, and around the world. As queer community, we know that to stay alive, we must find joy amidst the pain. Coming together in grief and celebration has always been our way. The essence of the first Pride parades were expressions of outrage and joy. We are proud to carry this tradition forward with all of our hearts.

Bring your open hearts and minds, and join us from Thursday,

July 25 to Sunday, July 28 at the Farmers' Institute to celebrate Pride!

Some festival highlights you won't want to miss:

**All weekend long:**

Camping at the festival grounds, with 2SLGBTQIA+ festival market, beverage patio open daily and hosted by Upper Ganges Liquor Store. Local musicians, DJs and performers will be on stage every evening. Join us for pop-up open mics, workshops and art installations offered by community for community, along with DAISSI-led activities, community discussions, and opening and closing ceremonies.

**Thursday, July 25:**

Opening ceremony, live music, open mic.

**Friday, July 26:**

Workshops, open mic, live music and performances, burlesque, karaoke and dancing at the festival grounds, starting at 6 p.m.

**Saturday, July 27:**

2024 Annual Salt Spring Pride Parade at 11:30 a.m.

Where: Starts at the library (McPhillips Avenue) with speakers

and entertainment. The parade weaves through Shiya'hwt/SYOWT/Ganges village.

Join us at the Pride Festival grounds after the parade with the Ruwadzano Marimba Band, followed by a variety show, open mic, local DJs, headliner act Queer As Fuck and karaoke. Wander the 2SLGBTQIA+ market and enjoy the beverage patio hosted by Upper Ganges Liquor Store. Entertainment all afternoon.

**Sunday, July 28:**

Morning Wellness Workshops: yoga, qigong, meditation, closing heart circle and community potluck.

**Find out more:**

Find tickets (weekend passes, Friday and Saturday night entertainment), view the weekend schedule and find out how to get involved: [saltspringpridefestival.ca](http://saltspringpridefestival.ca).

This celebration is proudly sponsored by our presenting partners: Raffi Foundation for Child Honouring, Country Grocer, Country Grocer Pharmacy, Upper Ganges Liquor store, and Harvest Moon.

# It's All About Pets



1. Daisy (Judy & Mike Tyson)
2. Dikki Dik, age 14 (Elly & Dave Forbes)
3. Dolly Barkin (Michael Ranftal)
4. Doug the Great Pyrenees (Kathy Kendall & Mike Davis)
5. Eddie – "I'm happier than I look!" (Barb Elliott)
6. Frankie (Kathy Kendall)
7. Frankie is a ball of energy. She loves to play, explore and mew at birds – her name was almost Birdie. (Jessica Pearce)
8. Harry (Karen Nielsen)
9. Hugo just finishing a big yawn (Jane Gartrell)
10. Ivy in her hammock (Steve Lynch)
11. Jack thinks he's the king of the castle . . . and he just might be (Jessica Pearce)
12. Katie, Eggie and Copper. "That's where moms sleep. So do we." (Dorothy)
13. Kenny Dogers (Michael Ranftal)
14. Lhasa (Maureen Moore)
15. Luna the farm poodle (Caroline & Andy Hickman)
16. Max at rest (Jim Sexton)
17. Maya & Lucy Best Friends Forever: Maya (Wendy, Corrie) Lucy (Gay, Dominic)
18. Mizuki {Mimi}, an indoor Balinese (Gerardine Charlton)
19. Mochi likes to be carried around in one hand (Tisha Boulter)
20. Molly (Gerardine Charlton)
21. Monty is an absolute sweetheart. He's nervous around new folks but loves to join the group when he's comfortable (Jessica Pearce)
22. Moose, a 3-year-old yellow Lab (Jacqueline Suzanne)
23. Nimbus & Sirius: "It's MY watermelon!" (Elizabeth Zook)
24. Nishim (Katell Leslie)
25. Nova (Arnold & Erin Buckley)
26. Oscar (Judy & Mike Tyson)
27. Oscar (Tim O'Connor & John Dolman)
28. Otto the spaniel, 10, and Buddy the orange tabby, 7, are rescues from Mexico, where they were lifelong friends. (David Abbey)
29. Peetie: this photo by Trudy Lynch a first-place ribbon for photograph last year's Fall Fair. (Trudy Lynch)
30. Perry the parrot (Colin Coe and Marian Porter)
31. Piper & friends: Piper (Sharon McCollough's rescued dog) is the one, Pippa's labradoodle Quinn and his sister Gracie, a guest and his b poodle Sophie enjoying treats at first beach. (Sharon McCollough)

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- 32. Remi in his favourite place. (Jane Gartrell)
- 33. Ren the Conqueror. (Jim Sexton)
- 34. Ripley the Portuguese Water Dog. (Jim Sexton)
- 35. Leah Ostlund on her family's boat with seven-month-old Cavapoo puppy Rusty. (Gail Muise)
- 36. Ryne (Michele Weichel)
- 37. Sally in the sun (Jane Gartrell)
- 38. Sierra, left, and Whiskers, adopted from Cats of Salt Spring Rescue Society (Conway Carruthers)
- 39. Sophie showing off her beautiful green eyes. (Jane Gartrell)
- 40. Spirit (Jeff Grant)
- 41. Suzy Q (Andy & Caroline Hickman)
- 42. Umi the emu is 19 and has many friends (Bob Twaites)
- 43. Willow and her ever-growing fluffy tail. She was adopted from the Salt Spring BC SPCA in October 2023. (Chloe Sjuberg & Evan O'Donnell)

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## ARTSPRING

# Auction yields more than funds

Behind the scenes connections and coincidences

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON  
FOR ARTSPRING

The big story for ArtSpring last week may have been the record-breaking \$127,000 outcome of its most important fundraiser of the year, but behind-the-scenes stories have since been trickling in about how 2024's Treasure Fair was a nexus of lucky coincidences, intersections, and connections that contributed to its success and brought people together.

The donor who contributed the Porsche 365 Speedster replica did so because he saw an article in the Driftwood about the 2023 Treasure Fair. He wanted to remain anonymous.

The man who won was looking for this exact car, having owned one 30 years ago. When Treasure Fair organizer Catherine Griffiths contacted the vintage car restoration company in California to confirm the specs, she asked if there was anyone in Canada looking for this car. The chatty receptionist identified this person, who lives in Sidney. After a few competitive bids, now he and his son co-own the vehicle. The anonymous donor of the Porsche went on to be the winning bid on the \$10,000 custom wooden kayak.

Artist Diana Thompson stormed into ArtSpring upon seeing her work up for auction. She dropped her errands in favour of coming to Treasure Fair to see who was selling unauthorized prints of her work and to submit a "buy it now" bid. Upon inspection, it had been mislabelled. It was not a print but rather her original pastel of a purple iris in blossom that was sold 30 years ago in the Salt Spring Art Gallery above the post office in Ganges.

With her bid, she had just purchased back her own original art. Three minutes later, the donor of the pastel and avid gardener Pauline Maughan came to bid on a rug, and she confirmed she was the purchaser of that pastel years ago. The



PHOTO COURTESY ARTSPRING

From left, ArtSpring executive and artistic director Howard Jang, Treasure Fair coordinator Catherine Griffiths and members of the Brown family from Sidney, who acquired a sought-after Porsche 365 Speedster replica through the 2024 Treasure Fair.

two women now plan to connect over coffee.

"I'm very happy to have the pastel back and so pleased that it is in such good condition," said Thompson. "The show was August 1985. It was my first solo show, I was 26 years old, and all these years later, I'm thrilled to be reunited with it because of all this!"

Griffiths couldn't be happier. "In the end, all this effort, all this time, is about local people, the arts and community coming together."

In what will be her last year as coordinator, Griffiths led a team of 50 volunteers over four months, from soliciting donations to inputting into the website, setting up the displays to manning the event and helping with tear down. From newcomers to veterans, the team included volunteer Patricia Ayton, who comes from Ireland each summer to help, and Laurel Lemchuk-Favel, who took on the challenge of accepting, curating and hanging the large art collection this year.

Questions often arise about what happens to items that don't receive bids. On Sunday, anyone who has the winning bid is expected to pick up their items in person, and the parking lot is a stream of cars and trucks with helpers ready to assist. The secret is that items with no bids are

available at the opening bid value with no competition. This year, a solid wood china cabinet hutch went for \$50, and similar below-value deals occurred for an upscale couch, two curio glass display cabinets, dishware and art.

On the Monday, after certain items are held back for the 2025 Treasure Fair or returned to owners, representatives from local charities Transitions Thrift Store and Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Shop are invited to select items for their respective stores to ensure donated treasures are not wasted and find a home.

Responding to what sounds like a wind-fall fundraiser, ArtSpring's executive and artistic director Howard Jang puts things into perspective.

"We couldn't be more pleased by the support for and outcome of this fundraiser in our 25th anniversary year, and we are grateful to our volunteers, donors and bidders," said Jang.

Funds are invested into operations, local and visiting artist programming, accessible Theatre Angel and subsidized youth tickets, and capital projects such as the replacement of 25-year-old carpeting.

Donations of \$25 and \$250 for the new carpet fund are still being accepted at [treasurefair.artspring.ca](http://treasurefair.artspring.ca) until the end of August.

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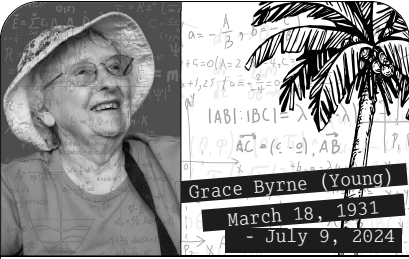
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**Obituaries**



**G**race attended the University of Alberta, where she received a BSc with Honours in Physics, a rare achievement for a woman at that time. After graduation, Grace worked on a project researching the "V" particle with the US Atomic Energy Commission.

In 1951, Grace married Pat Byrne, with whom she enjoyed 58.5 happy years. They had three children: Jimmy (deceased at 2.5), Sheila (deceased at 53), and Michael. In 1957, Grace and her family moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, for seven years before returning to Calgary, Canada.

Upon their return to Calgary, Grace enrolled in the computer science program at the University of Alberta, becoming a pioneer in the world of computer programming. She worked as a system analyst for a Calgary-based engineering firm.

In 1971, Grace and Pat moved to Canmore, AB, where they bought and ran a motel for five years. Wherever Grace lived, she was always very involved in the community. While in Canmore, Grace was a school trustee for eight years and worked as a writer and editor for the local newspaper, \*The Canmore Miner\*.

Grace and Pat moved to Salt Spring Island in 1983. Grace was elected to the School Board and continued as a member from 1985 to 1993. She also served one term on the Islands Trust from 1993 to 1996. Grace's community experience enabled her to serve on the Salt Spring Library Board, eventually becoming Head Librarian. She took that expertise with her when she moved to the Meadowbrook Seniors Residence and updated and organized the library there as well.

One of the joys of Grace's life was taking holidays to many parts of the world, especially island nations in the Caribbean and South Pacific.

A memorial service will be held at All Saints by the Sea, in Ganges, Salt Spring Island, on Friday, July 26, 2024, at 12:00 pm. The service will be followed by a light lunch and interment at Purdy Cunningham Memorial Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Grace's name to the Salt Spring Foundation (<https://ssifoundation.ca/>).

Grace is lovingly remembered by her brother Robert Young, son Michael Byrne, four grandchildren (Alicia, Ryan, Scott, and Heather), and seven nieces and nephews.

**Obituaries**

**Keith C Wilson** March 8, 1942 - June 30, 2024

Born in Ottawa on March 8, 1942, only child of Alice and Jack Wilson, beloved husband of Shelley. A kind and gentle man, Keith would say "it's a wonderful life".

Retiring to the island in 1995 Keith made things with wood, renovated homes, planted trees and garlic and goodness.

Keith was so thankful for the kind compassionate care and understanding he was shown by home support professionals, nurses, BC Ambulance EMTs and Dr. Peter Verheul. Each of you made his end of life journey...better.

A celebration of his life will be held August 24th at All Saints by the Sea in the Upper Hall At 2:30 pm. Everyone welcome. Donations in remembrance to Lady Minto Hospital.

Flowers gratefully declined.



**In Memoriam**

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**In Memoriam**

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**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
24	2:18	7.9	2.44	28	5:58	3.4	1.04
	6:15	9	3.05		13:31	8	2.44
	13:31	1.8	0.55		15:50	7.8	2.38
25	21:15	11.2	3.41	29	22:51	11.2	3.41
	3:12	6.9	2.29		6:54	2.4	0.73
	7:37	8.4	2.59		23:15	11.1	3.38
26	14:10	3.1	0.94	30	7:48	1.7	0.52
	21:40	11.2	3.41		17:35	10	3.05
	4:06	5.7	1.98		23:42	10.9	3.35
27	9:11	7.9	2.44	31	8:39	1.2	0.37
	14:48	4.7	1.43		17:52	10.6	3.25
	22:04	11.3	3.44		21:05	10.2	3.11

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**Obituaries**

## HOROSCOPE

**WEEK OF JULY 21 TO 27, 2024**

**THE LUCKIEST SIGNS THIS WEEK:**  
ARIES, TAURUS AND GEMINI



**ARIES**  
You may need to speak up to be heard among those close to you. Afterward, you may feel tired. Resting and taking a step back this week is a good idea.



**TAURUS**  
This week, you'll be flooded with responsibilities. Time will be of the essence. Even if you're on holiday, you must manage your time to ensure you do and see everything you planned.



**GEMINI**  
A spontaneous getaway or holiday trip will make you very happy. You might even consider returning to school to start a more exciting career.



**CANCER**  
Strong emotions often indicate a need for change. After a deep cleaning and a bit of effort, you'll reset your priorities and feel happy again.



**LEO**  
You're good at negotiating, which will help you professionally and personally. You might find some great deals while shopping. You'll be able to resolve conflicts easily.



**VIRGO**  
You'll be busy this week, whether at work or home. You must pay attention to every detail to keep everyone happy, even if you're on vacation.



**LIBRA**  
You'll be in the spotlight this week. People will be interested in everything you say, and you'll feel proud. Expect applause!



**SCORPIO**  
You'll spend some of the week improving your home and hosting a family member. This will improve your quality of life and environment.



**SAGITTARIUS**  
You'll travel far to join your family on a holiday that will meet your expectations. You won't compromise on anything to maximize your free time.



**CAPRICORN**  
Although RSVPs to an activity have been slow, everyone will show up. Summer might even inspire you to start a new career.



**AQUARIUS**  
You'll be in the mood for partying and having fun instead of working. You'll be promoted, which will make you very happy. You'll enjoy your holidays to the fullest.



**PISCES**  
You'll have a lot to do this week, yet some things may seem confusing. Take some time to think before you act. Your overflowing imagination will help you create something amazing.

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Our deepest appreciation to the donors of over 500 treasures, our community of bidders, and to Catherine Griffiths and her team of volunteers for countless hours of time. ArtSpring is grateful for your support in helping to enrich, uplift, and connect the community through the arts.

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This cultural calendar is an initiative brought to you by salt spring arts **GULF ISLANDS**

### MUSIC SERIES

# Mazacote ready to heat up park

Latin band next SOCS headliner

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING ARTS

Next week marks the third concert of Salt Spring Arts' six-week long Summer Outdoor Concert Series (SOCS), presenting live music for free in Centennial Park every Thursday until Aug. 22, in collaboration with Salt Spring Country Grocer and Island Savings, a division of First West Credit Union.

The Aug. 1 concert, running from 6 to 8 p.m., features JUNO-nominated world/Latin band Mazacote with support from Pender Island duo Peach & Quiet.

Mzacote is a hard-hitting band with deep roots in the music of Colombia, Mozambique and Venezuela. Inspired by Afro-Caribbean percussion and tropical party sounds, they play brass-heavy Latin dance beats with a message. Their new politically charged album PATRIA, on Justin Time/Netwerk Music, draws upon themes of identity, immigration and resistance, reflecting on the plight of those escaping violence and corruption in Latin America and around the world.

Mzacote performs across the globe at music festivals and concerts, bringing their world party vibes to audiences of all ages! Highlights include headlining the Vancouver International Salsa Festival with salsa legend Jimmy Bosch as well as multiple appearances at Townsite Jazz Festival, Carnaval de Sol, the Vancouver International Jazz Festival, the Winterruption Arts and Culture Festival, Edmonton



PHOTO COURTESY SS ARTS

Members of Mazacote, who will perform in Centennial Park on Thursday, Aug. 1.

Jazz Fest, Victoria Jazz Fest, Saskjazz Festival, Winnipeg Jazz Fest and more.

Three years ago the Pender Island-based duo Peach & Quiet, a.k.a. Jonny Miller and Heather Read, came out with their debut album, Just Beyond the Shine. In a few short months, that record topped the folk and roots music charts in North America and had airplay around the world.

As detailed in last week's Driftwood, the Thursday, July 25 concert features Jocelyn Pettit Trio with Sóley Ella May.

### EVENT PREVIEW

# Chamber fest marks 25 years

Two ArtSpring concerts showcase composers and festival musicians

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON FOR ARTSPRING

In step with ArtSpring's 25th anniversary, the Salt Spring Chamber Music Festival also celebrates its history dating back to its inaugural concert on Aug. 9, 2000 in the then newly opened arts centre.

On July 26 and 27, original musicians, and those who joined over the years, regroup to perform two special individual concerts under the theme of "Time is an Island: 25 Years of Salt Spring Chamber Music."

"Salt Spring Island has been its own unique location and time capsule in creating space for us to make meaningful music together for so many years," said violist David Visentin, associate dean of postsecondary studies at the Victoria Conservatory of Music. "We wanted to celebrate the rare treasure that is ArtSpring with a repertoire of truly beautiful music that can only be created by musicians who share the intimate bonds of relationships that have spanned 25 years. A fitting theme."

Combining favourite pieces from the past with music for strings and piano never performed live on Salt Spring, the festival promises to pull out the heaviest of the heavyweight composers: Richard Strauss, Gustav Mahler, Antonin Dvorak, Ernst von Dohnányi and Edward Elgar.

Each concert features a 7 p.m. pre-show talk by Visentin, with other artists stepping up to comment about the music, its history and what the ensemble has discovered through getting to know it. This year, audience members are being invited to ask questions and engage in the conversation.

In addition to Visentin, musicians include violinists Kai Gleusteen and Hiroko Kagawa, pianist Catherine Ordonneau and cellist Amy Laing.

Tickets are \$20 and \$5 for youth. Each performance is different. See the artspring.ca site for program details.

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EXHIBITIONS

# Painters' Guild annual show opens this week

In Artspring's gallery space

SUBMITTED BY SSI PAINTERS' GUILD

The Salt Spring Island Painters' Guild's 52nd annual Summer Show and Sale opens at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. on Thurs-

day, July 25 with a reception on Friday, July 26 from 1 to 4 p.m.

During the reception, a certificate of recognition will be presented to this year's Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) scholarship winner, Aio Panwar, whose excellent work is on exhibit as

part of the show. Each year the guild awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating GISS student to assist their further art education.

The guild takes great joy in sharing the astonishing variety of works from our talented members. Our mandate

is to encourage fellowship and growth among artists through a variety of both regular and special activities, from weekly workshops to life drawing and ad hoc summer plein air painting sessions.

The show at ArtSpring runs daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Aug. 6.

## what's on this week

Wed. July 24

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: The 270s. David Storm and Bill Morrison. All Saints. 2:10 p.m.

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

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

ACTIVITIES

**Getting to Know Our Neighbours:** Retired sociology professor Lynda Turner gives illustrated talk on supporting families and school programs in Kenya. United Church. 7 p.m.

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

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

Thur. July 25

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Salt Spring Pride Festival Music.** Outdoor Festival Stage from 6 p.m. See saltspringpridefestival.ca for details.

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

Raven Barn Band. Tree House. 6 p.m.

**Summer Outdoor Concert Series: Jocelyn Pettit Trio.** With Soléy Ella May opening the show. Centennial Park. 6 p.m.

**The Tempest. HELD OVER!** 7:30 p.m. See exitstageleftproductions.com for tickets.

**World Caravan Rhythms Presents Frander.** Swedish contemporary folk band at the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

**Salt Spring Pride Festival.** Gates open at Farmers' Institute at 3 p.m. Opening Circle Ceremony at 5 p.m.

Green Drinks. Salt Spring Wild Cider House. 5 to 7 p.m.

Bittancourt Museum. See Wed. listing.

Fri. July 26

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Salt Spring Pride Festival Music.** Farmers' Institute Outdoor Festival Stage from 6 p.m. Boa Karaoke from 10:30 p.m. in the main hall. See saltspringpridefestival.ca for details.

Dave Carl Band. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

**Salt Spring Chamber Fest. Concert 1:** Kai Gleusteen, Catherine Ordronneau, Hiroko Kagawa, David Visentin and Amy Laing present a program of Dvorak and Elgar. ArtSpring. 7 p.m.

Fri. July 26

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**The Tempest. HELD OVER!** 7:30 p.m. See exitstageleftproductions.com for tickets.

Fawkes & Hownd & Yael Wand. Mateada. 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

**Salt Spring Pride Festival.** Workshops all day (10 to 6) at the Farmers' Institute site; writing circle readings from 4 to 5 p.m.

**ASK Salt Spring.** This week's guest is Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May. 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.

**Friday Game Night.** For ages 13-19. Library program room. 7 p.m.

Bittancourt Museum. See Wed. listing.

Sat. July 27

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Salt Spring Pride Festival Music.** Farmers' Institute on the Outdoor Festival Stage from 1:30 p.m.; Under the Big Top from 3 p.m.; in the Main Hall from 5 to 7:30 p.m. and Queer As Funk headliner dance band on the Outdoor Festival Stage from 8:30 to 10 p.m. See saltspringpridefestival.ca for details.

**Summer Baroque in the Trees: Gallo Chamber Players** perform Crossroads & Consolations concert. 2 p.m. Tickets + location through saltspringbaroque.com or ArtSpring.

Billie Woods. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

**Salt Spring Chamber Fest. Concert 2.** See Friday's listing, except the program is Strauss and Dohnanyi.

Chris Jackson. Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Sway Wild. Mateada. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

**Saturday Market.** In Centennial Park. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Salt Spring Pride Parade.** Begins with a ceremony on the library steps at 11:30 a.m. Parade at 12 noon.

Sun. July 28

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Summer Baroque in the Trees: Concert a Due Cori.** 2 p.m. Tickets + location through saltspringbaroque.com or ArtSpring.

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

Sun. July 28

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Julia Beattie. 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

**Salt Spring Pride Festival.** Morning Wellness Workshops at the Farmers' Institute. 9 a.m. to noon. Heart Circle Closing Ceremony from noon to 2 p.m. Community potluck from 2 to 3 p.m. See saltspringpridefestival.ca for details.

**Sweetwater 500 Lawn Mower Racing.** At Sweetwater Distillery on Toynbee Road. Noon.

**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 29

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Monik Nordine Trio. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Tues. July 30

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Mike Alviano. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Folk 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 to 9:30 p.m.

Wed. July 31

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: The Roly Poly String Trio. All Saints by-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m.

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

Bruce & John. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt Museum. See last Wed. listing.

Swing Dancing. Legion. 6 p.m.

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

Wed. July 31

ACTIVITIES

**Getting to Know Our Neighbours:** Carleton university geology professor emeritus John Moore and Nedjo Rogers, Latin America social and fieldwork volunteer. United Church. 7 p.m. (Doors at 6:30 p.m.)

**Snorkelling Around Salt Spring Island in 80 Images.** Scuba divers and photographers Ann Donahue and Catherine Griffiths give a presentation at the library program room. 7:30 p.m.

CINEMA

• **The Bikeriders** runs Wednesday-Thursday, July 24-25 at 7 p.m. **Despicable Me 4** is the movie from Friday, July 26 to Thursday, Aug. 1 each night, plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. See thefritz.ca for more movie info.

ART EXHIBITIONS

- **Salt Spring Painters' Guild** 52nd annual Summer Show and Sale runs at ArtSpring from July 25 to Aug. 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, with an opening reception on Friday, July 26 from 1 to 4 p.m.
- **Photographer Howard Fry's Flower Child series** is the Artcraft Showcase exhibition at Mahon Hall until July 29.
- Today, July 24, is the last day to see **Patrick McCallum's exhibit But I Love You** at Salt Spring Gallery.
- **Cheryl Long: Recent Work** runs at Salt Spring Gallery on Friday, July 26 through Wednesday, Aug. 14, with an opening reception on July 26 from 5 to 7 p.m.
- **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.
- **Johanne Berube** shows 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.

Shirley Valentine

Live theatre, plus Greek tapas & wine at Stonewell Farm with Grace Jordan  
Thurs.-Mon., Aug. 1 to 5  
Gate at 5:30 pm; show at 7:30

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



PHOTOS BY ROB LOWRIE  
**RIDING FOR HOSPICE CARE:** Ninety Cycle of Life Tour bike riders, supported by 80 volunteers, visited Salt Spring on Saturday, July 20, camping overnight at the Farmers' Institute grounds for the annual Victoria Hospice fundraiser, which also benefits Salt Spring Hospice (SSH) and other hospice organizations on Vancouver Island. At left, from left are SSH volunteer Kitty Martinho, Country Grocer Spinners riders Jessie Durand, Clare Morelli, Dave Hubscher, Karen Hartley, Jeff Zala and Brian Hartley, and SSH volunteer Aerin Young. The Hartleys are former long-time Salt Spring residents. Below, all riders gather before setting off for the Fulford ferry on Sunday morning. With donations still rolling in, the cyclists had raised a record \$331,000. For more information or to donate, see cycleoflifetour.ca.



RECREATION

# Underwater images shared

World Snorkelling Day presentation at the library on July 31

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Salt Spring Island — a snorkelling destination? Generally speaking, people imagine themselves snorkelling in warm tropical waters surrounded by colourful fish and bright corals. But snorkelling in the cool waters of the Salish Sea? Believe it or not, when properly equipped, it can be just as much fun! Our waters are full of cool invertebrates, lush kelp, colourful seaweed, schooling fish and more. We have underwater scenery that can rival any tropical destination, really.

Ann Donahue and Catherine Griffiths are scuba divers and photographers who have explored many tropical destinations, but they both enjoy snorkelling around Salt Spring and have done so for over 20 years. To celebrate World Snorkelling Day 2024, they are hosting a presentation called Snorkelling Around Salt Spring in 80 Images.

During the talk, Donahue and Griffiths will introduce attendees to some of the best snorkelling spots on Salt Spring and show some of the local Salish Sea creatures in 80 locally shot underwater images. They will also discuss equipment, safety and techniques for a pleasant snorkelling experience in our refreshing Salish Sea.

The evening talk will take place on Wednesday, July 31 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Salt Spring Public Library program room.

Entry is by donation, with proceeds going to the Marine Stewardship Group of Transition Salt Spring.

**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](https://bcferriesprojects.ca/in-your-community) or scan the QR code. For survey questions, please email [engagement@bcferries.com](mailto:engagement@bcferries.com)

[bcferries.com](https://bcferries.com)

**PRESENTING PARTNERS**

- UPPER GANGES LIQUOR STORE
- RAFFI FOUNDATION for CHILD HONOURING
- COUNTRY GROCER
- COUNTRY GROCER PHARMACY WELLNESS IN OUR COMMUNITY
- HARVEST MOON CANNABIS • SALT SPRING

**MEDIA PARTNERS**

- THE FISHBOWL CAFE
- AQUA GULF ISLANDS LIVING
- Driftwood Salt Spring Exchange
- malcolm design

**MAJOR PARTNERS**

- BC FAIRS Exhibitions & Festivals
- HARBOUR HOUSE HOTEL Salt Spring Island
- PHOENIX DOMES

**FESTIVAL PARTNERS**

- JJ Beans
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- MOUAT'S TRADING CO SALT SPRING ISLAND
- SALT SPRING 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	