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# Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024

64th year  
Issue 43  
**\$1.50**

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PHOTO BY ROB LOWRIE

**SPOOKY SEASON:** Olivia Martinson is a magical fairy under an amanita mushroom on the Haunted Forest Walk on Cusheon Lake Road. The now annual Halloween season event at the Salty Boney Shack property sees a spooky and creative experience for visitors of all ages, and a by-donation benefit for the BC SPCA. It runs for two more nights: Oct. 25 and 26 from 6 to 9 p.m. See page 12 for more photos and a round-up of some Halloween week activities.

**BC ELECTION**

## Greens hold local riding

Final election outcome still unclear; Greens with balance of power a possibility

BY GAIL SUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Saanich North and the Islands (SNI) voters chose a Green candidate for the third straight provincial election, as Rob Botterell of Pender Island got the nod from 36 per cent of the electorate in preliminary results.

"It's a great night," said Botterell on Saturday night when only a couple of polls remained to be counted but he had a four per cent lead over the NDP's Sarah Riddell. "It's a real honour to be elected as the Green MLA for Saanich North and the Islands."

- Preliminary SNI results were:
- Rob Botterell, Green: 11,858 votes (36.05 per cent);
  - Sarah Riddell, NDP: 10,540 votes (32.04 per cent);
  - David Busch, Conservative: 9,876 votes (30.02 per cent);
  - Amy Haysom, independent: 623 votes (1.89 per cent).

At the end of counting on Saturday night, the NDP were elected or leading in 46 seats province-wide, the Conservatives in 45 seats and the Greens two. Some "out of district" ballots had not yet been included in tabulations, and recounts will be done in two ridings where the vote difference is less than 100 votes: Juan de Fuca-Malahat and Surrey City Centre, where the NDP candidates are slightly ahead of the Conservatives. Elections BC says a final count will take place between Oct. 26 and 28. Judicial recounts may then occur "if the difference between the top two candidates is less than 1/500th of the total ballots considered."

ELECTION continued on 2

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# Candidates express heartfelt appreciation

## ELECTION

continued from 1

While Green Party of BC leader Sonia Furstenau was not elected in Victoria-Beacon Hill, the West Vancouver-Sea to Sky riding along with candidate Jeremy Valeriote, so the Greens will have official party status in the BC Legislature — and quite possibly the balance of power.

Botterell said Furstenau's loss was very disappointing, but she and past MLA Adam Olsen will still be politically involved.

"It's going to be great to be able to have that wisdom and work with them," he said.

Botterell also added: "I really want to make a point of giving a big shout out and congratulations to the other candidates... I think we've all run really proper campaigns and this is what democracy is all about."

Botterell thanked all of his volunteers, including those on Salt Spring who "have worked tirelessly over the last couple of



**ROB BOTTERELL**

months to introduce me to the community and give me an opportunity to make the case for voting for me." One of those volunteers is longtime Green party member Tom Mitchell. Mitchell said, "Joy was in the air" on Saturday night, with the strong victory being "a tribute to the groundwork laid by the retiring Adam Olsen and the hard work put in by Rob himself, plus all the volunteers on the islands and in Saanich, especially considering that Rob was a relatively new face on the scene with little time to get known."

The three other candidates also gave warm thanks to their volunteers and congratulations to Botterell.

"My heart is full of gratitude," said Riddell. "While last night wasn't the result we hoped for, I'm so proud of the work we did together. We ran a positive local campaign that centred

community and made up ground in a tough riding."

"Congratulations to Rob Botterell on your win," she added. "I look forward to working together in service to our community."

Busch noted that the local Conservative riding association was only founded on Aug. 17.

"In two months we grew, activating hundreds of volunteers and raising the funds to get our word out. Case in point, we ran out of lawn signs, twice! While it has been an exhausting couple of months, I'm happy that we ran an upbeat, cheerful and introspective campaign where we led the way identifying important local issues with common sense solutions," he said.

He added that he enjoyed working with his opponents in this election, "in particular Amy Haysom, whose tenacity and warmth was noticed by all. Congratulations to Rob Botterell, our new MLA for Saanich North and the Islands. My door is always open to discuss

local issues and help improve the lives of our constituents."

Independent candidate and Salt Springer Haysom said, "It's a tough run as an independent as without proportional representation, people tend to vote within party boundaries with a fear of 'splitting the vote,'" and noted that Botterell had been an independent MLA candidate in 2001.

"I am so very grateful for an amazing campaign team, and that people were keen to hear of a new independent political approach, focused on transparency and accountability, and commitment to constituents first and foremost. It may be a longer journey to get there, but I'm committed to the long haul."

The SNI riding saw the highest number of advance poll voters in the province, at 18,277, from a total of 48,787 voters registered as of Oct. 7. Final local turnout numbers were not yet available.

Preliminary voter turnout province-wide was 57.43 per cent.

## COMMUNITY AMENITIES

# Proposals sought for use of former school property

## Non-profit offered indoor space at SIMS

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's elected officials will seek expressions of interest for longer-term use of the property formerly occupied by Phoenix School, and in the short term voted to offer one local nonprofit an available studio elsewhere "as soon as possible."

Local Community Commission (LCC) members unanimously agreed to offer a temporary booking of the "upstairs lookout" studio at the Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS) facility to the Chuan Society, who had made two earlier proposals for use of the former Phoenix Property as a community hub — not a "warming space" in name — although the urgency to get something going before the winter

made clear at least part of the hope is to make space for people to get warm during inclement weather.

Using the former Phoenix School property — even the portion not temporarily slated for parks maintenance to use during their new facility's construction — was off the table in the immediate term, largely due to budget constraints related to booking and operating the newly leased building.

"The reality is that for any user group — you know, even our sewers and weavers — we have to have staff to support that use," said Capital Regional District (CRD) acting senior manager Dan Ovington, outlining options for the LCC Thursday, Oct. 17. "That means we open and close the building; we ensure people aren't staying there overnight; we ensure that hot plates or glue guns or [other] things are turned off."

Staff are budgeted and available to do that at SIMS, Ovington said, but not elsewhere. LCC members agreed that for now, that made the SIMS space the best option to be ready in time for winter.

"Though we would have appreciated the greater capacity the Phoenix site would have afforded us," said Chuan Society chair Kajin Goh, "if the SIMS offer is confirmed, then the island has at least potentially gained a forward advance in having a winter daytime drop-in and resource centre for a number of community members during our most challenging months. While this is still a yet-to-be finalized process, the prospects are looking a little more promising for the oncoming season."

The Gulf Islands School District still owns the former Phoenix School property, and has agreed to lease it to the CRD.

CRD director and LCC member Gary Holman said he hasn't necessarily "given up" on the former Phoenix School site as a possibility for Chuan in the future, but he agreed it was unlikely it could happen quickly enough to beat the winter — and that the SIMS studio space would provide a short-term opportunity for the society when cold weather arises.

"It's also an opportunity to develop a relationship," said Holman, calling earlier manifestations of warming spaces on Salt Spring "guerrilla actions" born out of a frustration that no properties were being offered.

"There's a need to establish a working relationship," said Holman, "for both parties to demonstrate that this might be able to work out — and if we can work it out in the short term [at SIMS], maybe it paves the way to work out

arrangements in other locations."

The LCC noted multiple conditions for Chuan to use the space at SIMS, largely consistent with other rental agreements; booking would be offered until March 31 and limited to regular building hours, with staff verifying liability insurance, supervision and an activity schedule. A space of the size being offered will likely run \$375 per month, Ovington said.

"It's less space than they really would like," said LCC commissioner Brian Webster. "Their ability to do stuff will be somewhat constrained by that. For our staff, it's a shift in accommodating activities that they weren't anticipating to have in the building. So there's some mutual give and take here; I'm confident, based on the conversations that I had with the proponent, that that they are adaptable and that they can make this work."

Remembrance Day Special  
Feature publishing November 6

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Driftwood

## PARKS

# Trail remains closed due to aggressive dogs

## Three animals retrieved from Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A popular Salt Spring Island trail remains closed to the public after reports of aggressive off-leash dogs brought bylaw, BC Parks and RCMP officers to Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park's Daffodil Point trail.

BC Parks closed that trail Friday, Oct. 11, and parks staff are unable to provide an estimate for when it would be safe to re-open. The closure notice indicated the agency closed the trail "to ensure public safety in the area," although Capital Regional District (CRD) staff explained the closure was related to a pack of at least five dogs seen running at large in the area.

According to CRD senior corporate communications manager Andy Orr, the trail was still closed as of Monday, Oct.

21 and was being monitored closely by CRD staff.

Orr said bylaw officers responded after receiving a complaint about the dogs "acting aggressively" toward people in the Daffodil Point area. Several islanders took to social media as early as Oct. 4 to report a dog pack running freely around the park, attacking both humans and their leashed pets.

Pets are required to be leashed at all times at Burgoyne Bay, according to BC Parks — as well as at other Salt Spring Island provincial parks, including Ruckle, Mount Maxwell and Mount Erskine parks. A separate standard for the CRD's regional parks requires dogs merely always be "under control," although that bylaw specifically calls for dogs to be in clear line of sight of the owner and return when called.

"Officers were dispatched to this location," said Orr, "and with the assistance of both the RCMP and officers from BC Parks observed five dogs."

Officers were able to retrieve three of the five, according to Orr, and relocated those animals to the CRD's animal shelter.



PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

"Dogs on leash" sign at Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park, where its Daffodil Point trail is currently closed.

Orr encouraged anyone observing unattended dogs to contact the CRD either by email at [animalservices@crd.bc.ca](mailto:animalservices@crd.bc.ca) or by calling 1-800-665-7899. Orr said efforts would be made to retrieve the animals.

WILDLIFE

# CRD considers expanding Canada geese cull

Officials recommend more addling and harvest efforts in Gulf Islands

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Canada geese in Portlock Park. The most recent Capital Regional District (CRD) survey found a population of some 6,669 resident geese in the CRD.

Regional officials are recommending more funding to expand efforts to contain the area's rapidly growing Canada goose population — nearly one-third of which have taken up residence on fields and beaches in the Southern Gulf Islands.

Counts completed in the Capital Regional District (CRD)'s 2024 Regional Canada Goose Moulting Survey indicated a population of approximately 6,669 resident geese, which is two to four times higher than estimated by previous surveys, and likely to be a considerable undercount, according to CRD senior environmental protection manager Glenn Harris.

Harris told the Environmental Services Committee Wednesday, Oct. 16 that current efforts were at best keeping pace with the birds' growing numbers, and that a new survey indicated those on the Southern Gulf Islands represented

30 per cent of the total population in the capital region — mostly at the north end of Salt Spring Island, but also on Pender and Mayne islands.

"The current resources in the service appear sufficient to maintain the population at its current levels," said Harris. "But additional resources would be required to reduce the regional population to a level that meets economic, social and environmental objectives."

Those economic objectives are in sharp focus for regional hay, grain and vegetable farmers whose livelihoods face "severe" impacts, according to Robin Tunnicliffe, who chairs the Peninsula and Area Agriculture Commission.

Tunnicliffe told committee members more action from the CRD was needed to prevent crop losses.

"We're asking for a major goose cull in 2025," said Tunnicliffe, who said even the use of propane-air cannons hadn't deterred the geese. "With Canada's food safety standards, a lot of crops have to be abandoned — and there's no crop insurance that covers wildlife damage."

According to the CRD, the only Canada geese historically found in the area around Vancouver Island were the occasional migratory visitors over the autumn and winter months. Numerous introduction programs were implemented by the Canadian Wildlife Service and

BC Fish and Wildlife Branch in the 1960s and 1970s, meant to increase wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities.

But the introduced birds — from numerous subspecies — were unable to learn migrating behaviour patterns from their parents, interbreeding and eventually creating a hybrid population of non-migratory residents not native to the region.

"The exponential growth of the regional [Canada goose] population is degrading coastal ecosystems and waterways by over-grazing, trampling vegetation, soil erosion and the spread of invasive species," according to a CRD report. "These areas include endangered Garry oak ecosystems, nearshore islands in ecological reserves and estuaries that are critical habitats for young salmon."

CRD staff also pointed to public health concerns at recreational sites due to high densities of fecal matter, and the increased risk to poultry farms from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza spreading with geese as vectors.

"Flocks of over 500 birds are regularly landing in fields and ponds," said Tunnicliffe. "The farmers stand to lose up to \$1 million if avian flu were to strike at

certain points in their growing cycle — and vegetable farmers live in fear of E. coli contamination that's introduced from Canada geese infestations."

Harris said multiple First Nations representatives had expressed interest in participating in both the nest addling and harvest of birds. Future management efforts, according to CRD staff, should be expanded to include regions where no egg addling or First Nation harvests are known to occur — including Salt Spring, which the recent survey found had a larger resident population of adult and juvenile Canada geese than Pender and Mayne islands combined.

"Perhaps the Gulf Islands are key areas of 'hot spots' for harvest potential," said Harris. "We know there's interest. What's needed is resources to carry that out."

The current service budget is currently \$237,000, which last year supported the new survey, a part-time coordinator, an egg addling program that included hiring a six-week assistant goose management technician, and one harvest. The committee voted to recommend the CRD Board direct development of an increase in the service levels at its next meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 30.

TRANSPORTATION

# Lower speeds mulled for Fulford-Ganges Road

LCC gets Q&A session on MoTI process and planning

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

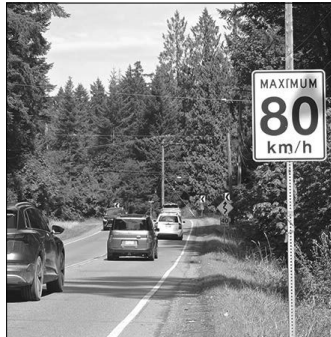


PHOTO BY HEATHER NEVILLE

Fulford-Ganges Road just north of the Cusheon Lake Road intersection where a road sign confusely indicates an 80 km/h speed zone right before the 40 km/h sign on the sharp corner. Despite assurance given to Salt Spring Islander Heather Neville from Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure officials earlier this fall that the sign would be removed at some point, that has not yet taken place.

limit, and that any deviations from that have been the result of MoTI deliberately undertaking studies to see if another speed was more appropriate.

"Where you see Fulford-Ganges Road with sections that are 80 km/h," said Haley, "at the time when they were established, that was through MoTI review; and the 30 km/h [zone] right in Ganges village, that was also due to our review."

To change those limits, the original study — and engineers' underlying assumptions — must be re-examined and re-evaluated based on current conditions and standards. The review process is

complicated, Haley said, taking at least two years — and with just a single district engineer for the whole island, the focus on the current project is taking up all that engineer's time. He added that if there were other projects the LCC thought were a bigger priority, it would be worth letting MoTI know.

"Once [Fulford-Ganges work] is done, I'm sure we can shift their priority," said Haley, "to looking at certain areas that you might want us to put under review."

Haley dispelled one island "road myth," noting that the widening of the hard surface for shoulders on Ganges Hill does not actually increase the size of the "travelled lanes" — and won't trigger an automatic raising of the speed limit there. He also said that extra road sweeping beyond Emcon's contractually obligated annual work was possible to be added as roads became less safe to travel — "Let Owen and I know," said Haley.

But line painting on Salt Spring's roads is unlikely to improve significantly without budget changes. So-called side roads, Haley said, are done as "additional" expenditures.

"And when I say 'side roads,' that's all the roads on the Gulf Islands," he said. "Once a year, I get about \$100,000 for additional line paint for the whole service area."

The current rotation for Salt Spring Island is to re-paint striping on the major routes — between ferries — every second year, and re-do the crosswalks through Ganges as needed.

"Condition heavily weighs where the line paint gets put down, for sure, but there are other factors like how many vehicles drive on the road," said Haley. "If it's a quiet road that sees 200 vehicles per day, or even 2,000, I couldn't prioritize

that over a road that sees 10,000 per day."

Haley also revealed that a new design element that may be added to the Ganges Hill project could have the inadvertent effect of discouraging parking on the hill's shoulders during busy market days. Spurred by residents on the project's east side concerned about drainage, MoTI is looking to secure additional funding to install an asphalt curb on the outside shoulder there, with a series of catch basins to help direct the water.

"So if we have a curb on the outside of that 1.2-metre shoulder, that doesn't really offer a lot of room for a vehicle to park without impeding the travelled lane," said Haley. "That would be a pretty precarious place to park. I don't know for sure, but it should help."

## TIDE TABLES

at Fulford Harbour

OCTOBER 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
23	2:49	0.7	0.21	27	6:55	3.7	1.13
	11:38	10.7	3.26		15:01	10.4	3.17
	16:49	9.5	2.9		21:44	6.8	2.07
	18:31	9.6	2.93		1:24	7.4	2.26
24	3:43	1.3	0.4	28	7:57	4.4	1.34
	12:45	10.8	3.29		15:27	10.2	3.11
	18:52	9.7	2.96		21:57	6	1.83
	4:42	2.1	0.64		3:04	7.7	2.35
25	13:41	10.7	3.26	29	8:50	5.1	1.55
	21:06	9.1	2.77		15:46	9.9	3.02
	5:48	3	0.91		22:16	5.2	1.58
	14:26	10.6	3.23		4:18	8.1	2.47
26	21:27	8.7	2.65	30	9:36	5.8	1.77
					16:00	9.7	2.96
					22:36	4.3	1.31

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# OPINION

2023 CCNA Awards  
Gold - Best Editorial Page | Gold - Best Local Cartoon (Dennis Parker)  
Bronze - Best All Round | Bronze - Best Front Page

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



## Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

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### EDITORIAL

## Driven by democracy

**B**ritish Columbia has historically been known for its crazy politics and the 2024 general election result didn't challenge that image.

As of this writing, no party has a majority and at least two ridings will face automatic recounts as fewer than 100 votes separate the top two candidates. Eleven ridings are still technically "in play" as the results were close and some ballots have not been counted. As was the case in the 2017-2020 New Democratic Party (NDP) government, the Green Party of B.C. could hold the balance of power.

The NDP failed to fend off what was dubbed "the Blue Wave" into the Lower Mainland area and has some serious self-reflection to do. Premier David Eby was humble in his official statement.

### THE ISSUE: B.C. election results

### WE SAY: How democracy works

"To British Columbians who voted for change, I hear you and the serious message you have sent. We have not done enough and we must do better."

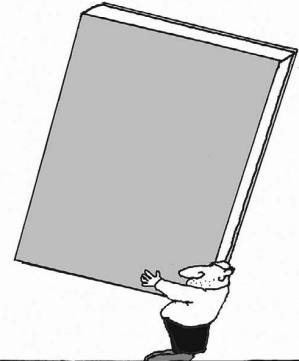
On the local front, winning Green MLA Rob Botterell wasn't ready to contemplate the implications of the Greens holding the balance of power so soon after being elected on election night, but the possibility is absolutely real. He and other Greens have observed that party leader Sonia Furstenuau, who did not win the Victoria-Beacon Hill riding she ran in this time, will still be involved in Green politics and sharing her considerable legislative experience. Some commentators even suggested Furstenuau could be included in an NDP cabinet, without being elected, which is permissible under B.C.'s government system.

What also arises from the Saanich North and the Islands race is the appreciation the candidates had for each other and their volunteers; it was clearly a positive and enriching experience for all of them. It's also something very few of us would ever contemplate doing. We tip our hat to our new MLA Botterell, and to Sarah Riddell, David Busch and Amy Haysom, who provided an engaging, energetic and highly civilized campaign.

Our riding had the highest advance poll turnout province-wide (with final turnout numbers to be determined with new voter registration numbers), and having four quality candidates to choose from is one of the reasons that occurred.

As Botterell said on election night, "This is what democracy is all about."

## GIANT BOOK SALE



PARKER

## From Phoenix to the Hearth

BY KAJIN GOH

In the Oct. 2 edition of the Driftwood, the Chuan Society commented on our ongoing efforts to negotiate a provisional arrangement with the CRD for the temporary use of the now-decommissioned Phoenix School.

The proposal was twofold: one was for a potential winter warming space, and the other was to operate a community space/ neighbourhood house which would also serve as a much-needed daytime warming centre if needed during the winter months.

Negotiations have been ongoing since then, and at the most recent LCC meeting on Oct. 17 we received news that the former Phoenix School site was off the table for the immediate future; it was decided instead to offer the Chuan Society access to a room at the currently CRD-operated SIMS building.

Though we would have appreciated the greater capacity the Phoenix site would have afforded us, if the SIMS offer is confirmed then the island has at least potentially gained a forward advance in having a winter daytime drop-in and resource centre for a number of community members during our most challenging months. While this is still a yet-to-be finalized process, the prospects are looking a little more promising for the oncoming season.

The proposed operative name for this space is the Hearth. A "hearth" is defined as: 1: a brick, stone, or concrete area in front of a fireplace; 2: home ("they longed for the comforts of hearth and home") and 3: a vital or creative centre.

For those without access to resources that some might take for granted — namely warmth and a dry space to shelter and connect with others — the Hearth aims to address these needs and also operate as a point of contact for the redistribution of

### VIEWPOINT

much-needed resources (food, clothing, and other materials), as well as serve an expanded function as a place of activities and culture, where art-making, serving food, and hosting talking circles, film screenings and community discussions can all flourish under one roof.

It is hoped that by the end of winter next year this process can continue and be expanded at the soon-to-be-reactivated former Phoenix School. But until then we will wait for the RFPs to be called for and submitted for review, in a process that is public and transparent.

At the same time we cannot help but underscore that many of us feel — whatever is finally decided for the site — that the former Phoenix School would best serve as a continuing community resource, a hub that has the potential to deepen relationships and connect islanders in a way that is needed now — more than ever — at a time when the market increasingly constricts the availability and access to prospective community-enriching spaces and resources.

Until then, the Chuan Society will invite community engagement and support in the running of the Hearth when we confirm an agreement with the CRD for the proposed space at SIMS. As with our other projects, we welcome the community to join us as partners and co-creators in our project, to actively make change (and make friends) while exploring opportunities for social transformation from the ground up.

Upon confirmation of the space we will also begin fundraising to cover the operational and personnel costs of the Hearth. For this and other inquiries we can be reached at chuanociety@gmail.com. To speak more directly about becoming involved please reach out to me at kajin.goh@gmail.com.

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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



Funded by the Government of Canada



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

### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you happy with the B.C. election outcome?

Yes  No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you happy with your ultimate B.C. election vote choice?



Cast your ballot online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) before Monday at 12 p.m. or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 12 p.m.

# ISLAND VOICES

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## SALT SPRING SAYS

### WE ASKED:

*What do you look forward to eating most fresh from the garden?*

This Salt Spring Says is part of the Lighter Living initiative presented by Transition Salt Spring.

### BRONWYN STOCKS



Strawberries and blackberries.

### MACKENZIE SLACK



My dad's peas.

### ANIL PEREIRA



Any produce from one of the farmstands I find on the Salt Spring Island Farmstand Map.

### ZOË CLARKE



Strawberries, because breakfast is my favourite meal of the day. I love to pick them, rinse and then add them to my granola and yogurt.

## LETTERS to the editor

### Baker Beach should not be altered

Thanks to Debbie Magnuson for drawing attention to the application to add fill and make changes to Baker Beach (Oct. 16 "Protecting Baker Beach" Viewpoint). (I'm not sure the wildlife would call it "nourishment" as described in the application!)

Baker Beach is regionally significant as an ecological treasure, especially for its high proportion of singing midshipmen fish who were recently featured in the Nature of Things' "Secret Sounds of Nature" series, viewable on CBC Gem.

The local filmmakers were advised by our own marine filmmaker David Denning, who has been a tireless advocate for this incredible population at Baker Beach through the Salt Spring

Nature group, introducing many of us to the natural phenomenon. The uniqueness of this habitat is in the geological structure of the flattish structurally stable beach with large stones that over the millennia have provided ideal habitats for these fish who come up from the deep to breed annually under these rocks, which are specially adapted by the fish themselves.

They sing to attract a mate and can be heard, if lucky. These beautiful pat-

terned fish resemble old naval midshipmen uniforms, hence the name. The flock of eagles and great blue herons and other associated wildlife that are drawn to this population form part of the incredible wildlife watching.

No one should be putting fill on this beach in any form. It is one of our island treasures and we must prioritize these ancient populations over development.

**BRIONY PENN,**  
SALT SPRING

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

**"I really want to make a point of giving a big shout out and congratulations to the other candidates . . . I think we've all run really proper campaigns and this is what democracy is all about."**

ROB BOTTERELL, MLA-ELECT FOR SAANICH NORTH AND THE ISLANDS

## Early morning memories from the paper route

Earlier in this space, I wrote a piece about my boyhood experiences as a paper boy. I left some things out, which I now realize was a mistake.

My paper route memories are so indelible, who knows when I will finish talking about them?

The morning papers were dropped off at 5 a.m. in front of a gas station about two miles from my house. Every morning when I rode down I hoped they would not be there. No papers. No paper boy. What a relief. If that happened, I had to call my manager. There were no phones in those days, so I had to ride my stupid girl-bike to the nearest all-night restaurant and ask to use their phone. There I was, an eight-year-old kid, asking to use the phone at 5:30 in the morning. I'm surprised they didn't call the police. Or social services, had such an organization existed.

Every customer had a particular way that they wanted the paper delivered. One house wanted the paper inside the screen door, another yelled at me to never open the screen door. Some houses wanted the paper on the front stoop, which is where I faithfully left it, even during freezing rain. I saw a paper that I had left on the porch during freezing rain: it was four times its normal size and weighed 10 pounds. The customer showed it to me days later and asked me what I expected him to do with it. Many years later I had an answer for him.

The problem was that I never had a clear idea of what a newspaper was. I knew the route was important, the money I had to collect was



**Chris Rideout**  
AND THAT WAS **WHEN**

equally so, as was the delivery time. But I failed to see why this little stupid bundle of paper was important. I just wanted to go home and make oatmeal for my Dad's breakfast. As a kid, I had no idea how necessary the morning paper was to people. For me, then, it was just one more mysterious thing about adults.

The paper had regular circulation drives. They wanted me to increase the number of papers I had by canvassing those houses who didn't get a paper. This, I thought, was a terrible idea. Who in his right mind would want more heavy hard-to-fold papers? I had too many already. It was a goofy scheme designed to hurt paper boys. The company even offered prizes. No thank you. I was not tempted by prizes like BB guns and stuff like that. Even though I wouldn't have minded a BB gun.

And then there was the other part of being a paper boy: the collecting. Every Friday I had to collect money for the week's paper. It was 25 cents. The problem was, customers didn't know who this kid was at the front door asking for money. They had never seen me because I was at their house at 6 a.m. I would hear people hollering, "There's a little kid at the door asking for money." They didn't seem to connect the

paper with money and with me. I had no ID. Kids, as a rule, didn't carry ID in those days.

One of my customers was the local Legion. When I walked in on Friday after school, I caused an unexpected sensation. The place was full of men and they were all looking at me. The smell of beer and cigarette smoke was so powerful it left an indelible impression on me. And of course they teased me: offering me beer and asking if I was old enough to drink. It was comic relief for them. Not for me. When the bartender finally paid me I made a run for the door with the sounds of laughter following me.

Paper boys had to collect the money because there was no other way to do it. There were no credit cards, no e-transfer, no way for the subscribers to pay except to give it to the little kid who came to their door every Friday just at supper time. It had to be then because the kid was otherwise in school and his manager wanted the week's money on Saturday. I didn't wonder why then. At that age I didn't wonder at much. The whole world was incomprehensible to me then, and still is a little.

The absolutely best part of collecting was sorting the money on the dining-room table on Saturday morning. It was exciting because at my age, not much real money ever came my way. My grandmother gave me a dollar bill on my birthday and I spent hours just holding it.

In a week I would collect around seven dollars. Mostly in quarters. I got to keep three dollars. These numbers sound ridiculously small today — it

amounted to around \$150 a year — but keep in mind you could buy a pretty good used car for a hundred bucks. I bought a real bicycle with three speeds and finally got rid of the stupid blue girl-bike.

When my mother got me the paper route she said it would make a man of me and also teach me the value of money. It did neither of those things. You can't make a man out of an eight-year-old boy. And as for the value of money, it taught me that money is hard to come by and you have to make it in all kinds of weather at all times of the day and night. And most people don't really like to part with money unless they have to.

But it gave me things that surprised me then and things that still do. The smell of a fine morning in June when the sun was up with me and my papers. The smell of the neighbourhood's coal-burning furnaces on the crisp December mornings, pitch-dark and wonderfully silent. The thrill of being up and out when everyone was asleep, riding through the dark streets like being on a secret mission. Even the early morning smell of fresh newsprint was special to me. And even at that age, the absolutely clear delight of solitude, of being in charge of myself with a real responsibility, has stayed with me and in some ways, consoled me for a childhood that few would envy.

And some mornings, like Mondays, when the papers were thin, I finished the route fast and got home early enough to make breakfast for me and my Dad.

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— Article submitted by HearingLife



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LIVE THEATRE

## Axis explores Métis story



PHOTO BY JAVIER SOTRES

Scene from Axis Theatre play at ArtSpring Oct. 29.

### Where Have All the Buffalo Gone? at ArtSpring Tuesday

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON  
FOR ARTSPRING

For two daytime performances on Tuesday, Oct. 29, ArtSpring hosts acclaimed Vancouver-based youth theatre company Axis Theatre and its production of *Where Have All the Buffalo Gone?* For the young and young at heart, the play is especially suited to engage youth in grades four through 11.

The story follows two Métis souls through seven

different periods of Métis history. Audiences journey through the emergence of the Métis nations across the plains, the fur trade, the Riel Rebellion, the disappearance of the buffalo, World War I and residential schools, the Great Depression and the Indian Act. The story begins during creation amongst the stars and ends in present day.

The colourful production shares scenarios from the Callihoo family's stories, incorporating fiddle music, jigging and a mesmerizing life-size buffalo puppet. Inspired by historical events of the Métis people of Canada, this original play for young audiences explores the loves, losses and fight of Treaty 6 Métis people — and their love and kinship with the buffalo.

Incorporating combinations of clown, mime, movement, mask work, puppetry and improvisation, Axis' productions are performed in theatres and schools, enriching curriculum, drawing children into stories and giving them access to ideas in new ways. Their 59 original works have earned 21 Jessie Richardson Awards, A Betty Mitchell Award and a Drama Desk Nomination for Unique Theatrical Experience.

There are two showings: one at 11:10 a.m. reserved for teachers and school groups and one at 1 p.m. for the general public and as an optional time for older students or those outside the public school system.

Tickets are available online for the 1 p.m. show, or contact the box office to make arrangements for the morning show or to bring groups.

The play is 50 minutes long with a 15-minute talk-back. Learning materials available upon request.

CHAMBER MUSIC

## Duo Cordelia set to thrill

Improvisation and innovative connections in wide-ranging repertoire

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON  
FOR ARTSPRING

After a string of sold-out performances in October for ArtSpring's 2024/25 season, November's offerings continue to push boundaries and bend genres.

Such is the case on Saturday, Nov. 2, when Montréal-based Duo Cordelia's exquisite violinist and composer Vanessa Marcoux and pianist Marie-Christine Poirier challenge the very premise of the classical music concert by boldly turning it on its head.

In their program called "Visions from the Other Side," they offer listeners a distinctly different path to experience chamber music by introducing improvisation and bridging musical universes that would otherwise be dissociated.

With contemplation, humour and delight, the duo curate an array of exciting repertoire works from 20th- and 21st-century revolutionary artists and combine arrangements of traditional melodies with original compositions, including from Marcoux. From Shostakovich to Philip Glass, the result is a touching and unique concert experience, which goes straight to the heart of our deep connection with music.

Duo Cordelia formed in 2016, with both founders sharing masters degrees in violin and piano performance respectively from Université de Montréal and Conservatory training in France. Collectively, they have performed and won recognition across



PHOTO BY CATHERINE DESLAURIERS

Duo Cordelia: violinist and composer Vanessa Marcoux, left, and pianist Marie-Christine Poirier, who will perform at ArtSpring Nov. 2.

North America, Europe, Asia and Africa, been spotlight chamber performers with acclaimed orchestras, while also touring with jazz and world music ensembles such as klezmer band Oktopus, who performed at ArtSpring last season.

Tickets for the show are available online at artspring.ca and through the box office.

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*Rob Botterell*

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ArtSpring Presents

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4:00pm  
\$35 | \$5

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**WORLD MUSIC**

# Kora master's trio performs

Global roots award winner Sophie Lukacs on island Oct. 30

SUBMITTED BY WORLD CARAVAN RHYTHMS

Salt Spring Islanders can discover the unique sound of Sophie Lukacs when her trio performs in concert on Wednesday, Oct. 30 at Salt Spring Island United Church.

A Budapest-born, Montreal-based artist of Jewish Hungarian descent, Lukacs began her musical journey with the violin and Western classical music. Inspired by her grandmother, Holocaust survivor Eva Fahidi, Lukacs' passion for music led her to study international development and music at McGill University.

Her path took a transformative turn in Burkina Faso, where she discovered the kora, a traditional West African instrument.

Despite the kora being traditionally reserved for men of the griot caste, Lukacs pursued her passion. After a fateful encounter with kora master Malang Jobarteh in New York, she immersed herself in kora studies, eventually learning from legends like Toumani Diabaté in Paris and Bamako.

Living in Mali for seven years, Lukacs mastered the kora and began composing her music. Her



PHOTO COURTESY WORLD CARAVAN RHYTHMS

Kora performer and vocalist Sophie Lukacs.

debut album — Bamako — released in 2023, received critical acclaim and won the Global Roots Album of the Year at the 2024 Canadian Folk Music Awards.

Singing in English, French, Hungarian and Bambara, Lukacs will be joined by Laszlo Koos on bass and Noel Mpiaza on percussion.

Next Wednesday's concert, which begins at 7:30 p.m., with doors open at 7 p.m., is presented by World Caravan Rhythms.

Tickets through caravanbc.com or at the door.

Send event emails to:  
[news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

# what's on this week

**Wed. Oct. 23**

**ACTIVITIES**  
Music Bingo. Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.

**Thur. Oct. 24**

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
Open Mic & Jam. With Rough & Tumble at the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**

Vincent Van-Ghoul & Other Classic Re-imaginings. An afternoon of ghostly, eerie and even spine-chilling crafting. Teen Zone at the library. 1 to 3 p.m.

Introduction to Clowning Workshop. With Nayana Fielkov. ArtSpring. 5 p.m. Register through artspring.ca.

Green Drinks. With host Tom Mitchell at Salt Spring Wild. 5 to 7 p.m.

**Fri. Oct. 25**

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
Iain Duncan's Dinner Jazz. Saxophonist Iain Duncan, with Nick Peck on organ and Hans Verhoeven on drums. Mateada. 7 to 9 p.m. Preceded by special dinner. Reserve at iainctduncan@gmail.com.

ArtSpring Presents: Underbelly. An evening of physical comedy with Nayana Fielkov. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Karaoke. Legion. 7 p.m.

Tumblin' Dice. Country music at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**

Books & Bling. Fundraising sale of books and jewellery for Salt Spring Literacy. Farmers' Institute. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. See saltspringliteracy.ca for details.

**Fri. Oct. 25**

**ACTIVITIES**  
ASK Salt Spring. This week's guest is Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership ED Jamie Sterling. SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A Haunted Forest Walk. At the Salty Bonez Shack, 606 Cushene Lake Rd. 6 to 9 p.m. Cash, food and supplies donations for SPCA welcomed.

Rev. Harold Munn. Experienced church leader and author speaks at All Saints-by-the-Sea. 7 p.m.

**Sat. Oct. 26**

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
John Gogo & Allen Dobb. In concert at Mahon Hall. 7:30 p.m.

Old Times Cafe. Open stage at the Fulford Hall Annex. 7 to 11 p.m.

Local Motion Ladies Blues and Rock Show. Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Man Cubs. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

Boom Human. Mateada. 9 p.m. Tix through buytickets.at/boomhuman/1386512

**ACTIVITIES**

Saturday Market. Last official market of the season in Centennial Park. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Books & Bling. See Friday listing.

Halloween Spooktacular. Open house and fun events at the Salt Spring Rod & Gun Club. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Book Launch: Rev. Harold Munn. Faith in Doubt – How My Dog Made Me an Atheist and Atheism Made Me a Priest. Salt Spring Public Library. 2 p.m.

A Haunted Forest Walk. See Friday listing.

**Sun. Oct. 27**

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
SOLD OUT: ArtSpring Presents: Victoria Ballet – Frankenstein. 2:30 p.m.

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

Sunday Sessions With Guest Artists. Moby's Pub. 5 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**

Books & Bling. See Friday listing.

Kids' Halloween Party. Mask making and costume parade. For ages 5 to 12. ArtSpring. 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Snack provided. Bring bag lunch. Caregivers required for children under 10.

**Tues. Oct. 29**

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
ArtSpring Presents: Axis Theatre – Where Have All The Buffalo Gone? ArtSpring. 1 p.m. Check for ticket availability at artspring.ca.

Country and Folk Singers and Songwriters Night. With Sherry Leigh Williams. Legion. 7 to 10 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**

Tuesday Farmers Market. Last official market of the year at Centennial Park. 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

**Wed. Oct. 30**

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
Caravan World Rhythms Presents: Sophie Lukacs Afro-World Folk Trio. Salt Spring United Church. 7:30 p.m. (Doors at 7 p.m.)

An Evening of Improv Theatre. Mateada. 8 p.m.

**Wed. Oct. 30**

**ACTIVITIES**  
North Salt Spring Waterworks District Open House. Learn about the district's multi-pronged resiliency plan. Meaden Hall. Drop in between 2 and 7 p.m.

**CINEMA**

• The Wild Robot runs Friday, Oct. 25 through Tuesday, Oct. 29 at 7 p.m. each night, plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. See thefritz.ca for more movie info.

**ART EXHIBITIONS**

• Paper & Paint: Art showcase & sale featuring Garry Kaye, acrylic paint, and Bly Kaye, tissue collage. Runs through October at Steffich Fine Art in Ganges Alley.

• Three members of The Headhunters portrait group — Ojima Clark, Mary Pennell and R M Dupuy — show portraits of islanders in the library program room through October.


• The League 181 group of Judith Borbas, Peter Eyles, Don Hodgins, Wendy Wickland and Dulcy Wilson has a showing in the ArtSpring lobby for the month of October.

• Hazel Gardner shows her animal portrait art at Country Grocer Cafe for the month of October.

• Michael Wall is showing a new set in his continuing series of Italian Photographs at Pasta Fresca.

**Books & Bling**  
**SS Literacy fundraiser**  
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# ISLAND LIFE

## ANGLING FOR CHARITY



PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

Moby's Pub and Cassette Cafe and Dive Bar owner Mike Jacobsen accepts a thank-you card from – and lifetime membership in – Salt Spring's Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society from members Kathy Stack, left, and Michele Layard, who stopped by Wednesday, Oct. 16 to celebrate the successful inaugural Salt Spring Lunger Derby fishing event held back in September. "When I took on Moby's, everybody said, 'You've got to bring back the derby,'" said Jacobsen. "The Salmon Enhancement Society seemed an obvious choice for where some money should go." Jacobsen said the amount started to grow quickly. With \$100 per angler, plus the live and Calcutta auctions, the event was able to donate \$10,000 to the society and another \$10,000 to the Salt Spring Island Minor Baseball Association.

## CULINARY ARTS

# Salt Spring chef vies for TV title



PHOTO COURTESY TOP CHEF CANADA

Haan Palcu-Chang, the Salt Spring Island chef who is part of the current Top Chef Canada series on the Food Network.

## Haan Palcu-Chang competing to be Canada's Top Chef

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Haan Palcu-Chang's jump to the small screen has Salt Spring Island's food lovers cheering at their televisions, as the local chef is appearing on the now-airing latest season of Food Network's Top Chef Canada.

Reached at home on-island, Palcu-Chang was appropriately coy about the remaining episodes. The first aired last week, and he said — without giving anything away — he was confident he "did the island proud."

"It was really intense," said Palcu-Chang, "but really gratifying. I'm super glad I did it."

The Toronto-born Taiwanese-Romanian chef said he brought his best effort to the program, which again this year gathered 10 of Canada's top culinary talents from Tofino to Halifax under bright television lights and the pressure pot of competition.

The Michelin-star trained Palcu-Chang came to the show — as he did to Salt Spring — from a background cooking in some of the most celebrated kitchens around the globe. And despite a shift to island life, where he mostly consults and caters — and holds one of the most in-demand culinary workshops to ever fold dumplings at the SIMS kitchen — the call of the Top Chef challenge was impossible to ignore.

"I'd never done TV before," said Palcu-Chang, "and I

thought the worst that could happen is I get to see the 'TV cooking' side of the industry."

With his experience, and his breakout success on social media, Palcu-Chang said he felt prepared for the professional side of the show. Leveraging his skills to showcase a repertoire of flavours from Romania and Taiwan, he said he was comfortable around his competitors. They're a high-talent group, he admitted, but pretty agreeable. In fact, he said, the production team told them they were probably the friendliest season of the show since its inception, and Palcu-Chang agreed it felt like everyone was competing against themselves more than each other.

Then the cameras turned on, and taping began.

"It's a serious production," said Palcu-Chang. "And then you're seeing all these people that you see on TV in person. It's odd for sure."

Palcu-Chang said there were easily more than 100 crew members making things happen on-set; he quickly adapted to the routine, he said, thinking on the fly and developing a plan in the moment for each challenge.

"You figure out what you're going to do about five minutes before," he said. "And you have no team to back you up like you would in a professional kitchen. I just kind of had the mentality of, you know, it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity — you've got to just roll with the punches and figure stuff out."

The most pleasant surprise, he said, was that the drama he'd seen on the show before arriving was "real" — that is, driven by the competition itself, not manufactured for its own sake or from behind-the-scenes personality conflicts.

"Yeah, it's just legitimately hard," laughed Palcu-Chang. "The drama really is in the cooking; it's so intense that you didn't really need anything extra."

**"The drama really is in the cooking; it's so intense that you didn't really need anything extra."**

HAAN PALCU-CHANG  
*Top Chef Canada contestant*

Despite a slight concern he might regret saying "yes" to the show — or "make a complete ass of myself on national television" — Palcu-Chang said the experience was a good one, and he enjoyed making new connections with professionals from across Canada.

"Everybody there was highly competitive in their own ways, but I don't feel like it came out in a way that was super combative with the other contestants," said Palcu-Chang. "We all got along really well. And I decided I would just be myself and not try to be anything else, because that's worked for me."

Top Chef Canada's remaining episodes air Mondays on Food Network Canada. To keep up with Palcu-Chang's culinary journey and find upcoming workshops on Salt Spring, visit him on Instagram (@haanpc) and at haanpc.com.

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*We'll come and get them.*

*~ Thank You!*

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## HOROSCOPE

**WEEK OF OCTOBER 20 TO 26, 2024**

**THE LUCKIEST SIGNS THIS WEEK:** LEO, VIRGO AND LIBRA

- ARIES**  
Travel and communication may become complicated this week. There may be delayed responses to messages or getting lost on the road. Despite disruptions, practice patience.
- TAURUS**  
Working overtime is in the cards this week, which may affect your family relationships. However, the extra pay will help you pay off debt, making up for the sacrifices.
- GEMINI**  
Starting a new job or taking on a significant project could initially seem confusing. Take the time to discuss and understand the situation to find balance in this new venture.
- CANCER**  
After an intense period at work, take a well-deserved rest. Going on a getaway alone, with friends or as a couple, will rejuvenate your energy and bring back your smile and vitality.
- LEO**  
You'll experience a sudden surge in popularity. Follow your intuition, and your creativity will shine through. You may even find success with creating a work of art. Your community could use your help.
- VIRGO**  
Although you manage your time well, you may face delays in certain situations. You must fine-tune your patience, as some people will test you this week.
- LIBRA**  
As the weather gets cooler, the idea of a warm holiday may come to mind. If you work hard, you can make this dream come true and explore some tempting travel offers.
- SCORPIO**  
As an artist, you may soon be able to earn a living from your art. Significant changes will steer you toward new opportunities. A project will strengthen your romantic relationship.
- SAGITTARIUS**  
You must maintain an active social life to maintain good relationships with your friends. Moving to a new house may cross your mind, offering a breath of fresh air and a more welcoming space for you and your family.
- CAPRICORN**  
Although you may spend more time than expected on a specific project, your perseverance will pay off. You'll feel the satisfaction of a job well done when you finish something you've been putting off.
- AQUARIUS**  
Buying new clothes and accessories could boost your self-esteem and help you match your image to your new professional duties. Personal confidence is the key to success.
- PISCES**  
You may feel like doing a major clean-up. You can purify your environment and clear your mind by eliminating unnecessary things. This deep cleaning could also brighten up your life.

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ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

# Off-road pathway completed on Mayne Island

Trail connects Miners Bay and Village Bay ferry terminal

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Mayne Island is celebrating completion of a \$4.5-million pathway linking Miners Bay and the Village Bay ferry terminal.

The Mayne Island Regional Trail officially opened to the public Wednesday, Oct. 16, after two years of construction to create 2.3 kilometres of two-way gravel surfaced trail for pedestrians and bicycles.

"I am thrilled about the opening," said Capital Regional District (CRD) Board chair Colin Plant. "Projects like these not only contribute to the safety and wellbe-

ing of residents and visitors in the region but they also help to contribute to local and national climate action targets by giving people a greener way to travel around the places they live and visit."

Mayne Island's trail was selected as the first phase of the multi-year Gulf Islands Regional Trails Plan, approved by the CRD Board in 2018. Officials have said the project was a "pilot" to learn more about future regional trail development within the Gulf Islands.

Paul Brent, Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area director, called such routes key to supporting resident and visitor needs — and economic development.

"I am thrilled this project is complete," said Brent, "and I look forward to what the future phases of the Gulf Islands Regional Trails Plan hold for these communities."



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Construction sign for the Mayne Island Regional Trail.

The CRD's regional parks service directly funded a portion of the project, with support from a \$2.8-million grant from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program and \$500,000 in project funds from B.C.'s Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program.



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Part of a new 2.3-kilometre gravel trail recently constructed on Mayne Island between Village Bay and Miners Bay via the Capital Regional District with regional, federal and provincial government funds as seen in early September before it was completed.

FOOD SECURITY

# Farmland Trust reduces barriers for farmers with big opportunity



PHOTO COURTESY TRANSITION SALT SPRING

Parcel of Burgoyne Valley Community Farm land needing farmers to make it productive and help enhance Salt Spring's food security.

Community farm acreage available for affordable rent

Part of Transition Salt Spring's Lighter Living Series

As concerns about food security and local agriculture grow, farmers are retiring and fewer young people can get in the business. The skyrocketing cost of farmland and limited access to start-up capital have left many aspiring farmers with plenty of work experience, but as they come from non-farming backgrounds, they are struggling to realize their dreams. For those with a passion for sustainable farming, a unique opportunity has emerged on Salt Spring Island that could change the course of their future — and be an asset to the community at the same time.

The number-one challenge for new farmers in Canada is gaining access to affordable farmland. In British Columbia, where the cost of agricultural land



is among the highest in the country, the challenge is even more pronounced. The average price per acre of farmland is nearly \$11,000, and in popular farming regions like the Okanagan, it can soar to \$32,000 or more per acre. On Salt Spring Island, where local food production is critical but currently accounts for less than 10 per cent of consumption, farmland is often out of reach for young, motivated farmers.

This is where the Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust (SSIFT) comes in. Established in 2009, the Farmland Trust is dedicated to preserving and revitalizing local agriculture by making farmland available to those who need it most. Through donations and bequests, the Trust has acquired parcels of Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) land, which is rented at affordable rates to help launch sustainable farm businesses. Located on 60 acres of Salt Spring Island's best agricultural

land, the SSIFT's Burgoyne Valley Community Farm is home to four farm businesses, Salt Spring Island Community Services' Harvest Farm program and 90 families who tend to 1,000-square-foot garden plots. It is also the site of the community composter, which is not yet operational, and where educational programs are held.

For the right person or team, the Farmland Trust is now offering a 4.5-acre plot at Burgoyne Valley Community Farm for rent at an annual cost of just \$1,000. This drastically reduces the financial burden for new farmers, providing them with an affordable way to start or expand a farm business without the high cost of land ownership.

The Farmland Trust is looking for the right farmer or team to take on this opportunity. Ideal candidates will have solid farming experience, a business plan, and a vision for bringing the land into full production. While the land was previously used for fruit and vegetable production, the Trust is open to other types of sustainable farming, including livestock, flowers and mixed farms.

If you are ready to start or expand your farm business and want to be part of Salt Spring Island's growing food movement, this is an opportunity you can't afford to miss. With affordable land and a community of support behind you, the dream of running your own farm is closer than you think. To learn more contact info@ssifarmtrust.org, or apply to kiyomi@youngagrarians.org.

Farming on Salt Spring Island is more than a business opportunity. It's a chance to be part of a community that values collaboration, sustainability and local food production.

Transition Salt Spring invites you to explore more Lighter Living content by signing up to [tinyurl.com/Lighter-Living](http://tinyurl.com/Lighter-Living) and discover how you can make a difference for our community and for the environment.

# Windsor Plywood

## Cookies & Carols

We'd love to print your favourite Christmas cookie recipe!

Featuring cookie recipes and your favourite carols. Publishing November 20.



Email your recipes to [news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)  
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Connie Furness, a BC SPCA supporter from Victoria, joins the Haunted Forest Walk fun as a witch.



Unfazed by a scary clown and enjoying the night bathed in pink light Krystyna Roberts from Ontario with youngsters from Victoria.

## HAUNTED FOREST WALK

PHOTOS BY ROB LOWRIE



Just one of the creepy characters on the Haunted Forest Walk at the Salty Bonez Shack property on Cusheon Lake Road.



Jamie Furness demonstrates his love of spiders.



Clowns, jack o'lanterns, skeletons and more. The forest walk is also open on Friday-Saturday, Oct. 25-26 from 6 to 9 p.m. and is a fundraiser for the BC SPCA.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

# Halloween happenings abound

Plenty of activities for youth and adults

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Islanders of all ages have plenty of options for celebrating Halloween this year, with a variety of events planned for the week leading up to and including Oct. 31.

On Thursday, Oct. 24, the library's Teen Zone is the spot for an afternoon of "ghostly, eerie and even spine-chilling crafting" from 1 to 3 p.m. on an early dismissal day. Library staff explain that "paintings of classic artists such as Vincent van Gogh, Francisco Goya and many others will be provided along with various supplies to make a petrifying re-creation of a classic artwork."

The Haunted Forest Walk continues at the Salty Bonez Shack at 606 Cusheon Lake Road on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 25-26 from 6 to 9 p.m. People are invited to bring a reusable mug for hot chocolate, and cash, food and supplies for the BC SPCA. While the event is for all ages, it may be scary for some.

On Saturday, Oct. 26, the Salt Spring Island Rod and Gun Club on Long Harbour Road hosts an all-ages Halloween Spooktacular with fun events like a pumpkin smash, spectral trap shooting and a zombie shoot. It runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 27 sees craft activities for ages five to 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at ArtSpring when a special Halloween Party with mask-making and a costume parade takes place. A guardian must accompany kids under the age of 10. Snacks are provided but bringing a bag lunch is recommended.

The event is from the ArtSpring Roundtable Committee in partnership with StageCoach Theatre.

On Halloween night, StageCoach Theatre presents the Monsterpiece Theatre Haunted House downstairs at the Salt Spring Island Multi Space from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Entry is by donation. The event is made possible with support from the Salt Spring Island Foundation, PARC and Country Grocer.

Fireworks in downtown Ganges are on tap at 7:30 p.m. courtesy of the Salt Spring Island Firefighters' Association, with hot dogs and hot chocolate served at the Ganges fire hall afterwards.

This year the Brinkworthy Estates community is not giving out candy to trick or treaters but is collecting some for the Maliview and Wildwood neighbourhoods. They are also having a costume-optional dance party for residents only from 2 to 4 p.m.

Country Grocer has once again set out boxes to accept donations of candy for distribution to residents in the popular Maliview and Wildwood neighbourhood trick or treat destinations.

Adults can take in costume parties at Moby's Pub (with The Coalition) and the Legion with a Halloween Open Mic with Rough and Tumble.

On Nov. 2 at Bullock Lake Farm, the Dia de los Muertos: Community Ofrenda will take place for the fourth year between 5 and 10:30 p.m. Pre-registration is requested through dosamore-stortilleria.com. Donations are not required but appreciated to offset costs.

More events or details may be announced closer to Oct. 31.



## Building a More Resilient System



- 1 New Connections Policy**  
Easing the water moratorium on the Maxwell Lake system, with quarterly reviews.
- 2 Raising the Weir on St. Mary Lake**  
Building a weir to stabilize water levels while maintaining a sustainable flow to Duck Creek. Consultations with stakeholders will be taking place throughout 2024-2025.
- 3 New Water Treatment Plant Maxwell Lake**  
A new water treatment plant is required on Maxwell Lake to improve water quality and supply. Detailed designs and costing will be presented to the public this fall and a referendum seeking borrowing authority will be held by the Spring of 2025.
- 4 Connecting the Systems**  
Once the weir and water treatment plant are constructed, connecting the two systems will enhance resilience and sustainability.

- Spring 2025
- Fall 2026
- Winter 2026
- Spring 2027

Open House Oct 30

Drop by and review the projects:  
• 2-7 pm at Meaden Hall  
Legion Branch 92 •