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# Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2024

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PHOTO BY ALAN BIBBY

**ROPED IN:** Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue (SSISAR) rope-rescue team member Matt Kellow accompanies a member-in-training in a stretcher up the cliff face at Channel Ridge during a nighttime exercise on Oct. 22, with Cindy Garvin and Kurt Gierlich visible assisting at the cliff edge. The complicated rescue scenario helps SSISAR prepare for rope-rescue calls in non-daylight hours. See the SSISAR Rescue Watch column on page 12 for tips on staying safe while outdoors during the shorter days of the fall and winter seasons. Daylight Saving Time comes to an end at 2 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 3.

## ENVIRONMENT

# Foreshore plan raises concerns

Islanders sign petition, seek more info on 'Green Shores' proposal

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

An erosion protection plan for homes fronting a Salt Spring beach is drawing skepticism from some islanders, while organizers of a petition seeking to postpone approval said landowners told them they were open to changes.

Comments are being accepted until Nov. 13 with the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, who are considering an application to modify a 560-metre strip of provincial Crown land fronting six Booth Bay waterfront parcels, between Quarry Drive and Baker Road.

Several property owners have applied together, hoping to install the erosion protection above Baker Road Beach using principles from the Stewardship Centre for B.C.'s pilot Green Shores program, according to

submitted documents — a “nature-based” climate adaptation design standard encouraged by Salt Spring’s official community plan that minimizes hard armour seawalls in favour of non-uniform rock clusters, vegetation enhancement and “beach nourishment.”

That “nourishment” — sand and gravel placed at the toe of an eroding slope — worried resident and naturalist Diana Thompson, who said she and more than 700 people who signed an online petition to slow the application were concerned about the potential for coarse gravel and large rocks to subside, impacting nearby eelgrass beds — and possibly spawning grounds for several fish species, including plainfin midshipmen fish nests she said have been there for “centuries.”

“My sister is a snorkeler and saw creatures

in the eelgrass that are too numerous to list,” Thompson said. “The ocean washes the gravel away; where does it settle?”

The popular beach is accessed by two Capital Regional District-maintained staircases nearby for public access — both armoured with concrete and boulders.

Thompson said after some “harsh and ill-founded” comments were posted on social media, a landowner reached out to tell her they were “open to adjusting the proposal when different departments and groups bring up concerns.” Identifying herself as one of the applicants on social media, Heidi Kuhrt said they had reached out to First Nations identified as having interests in the location more than a year ago, and again more recently.

**BAKER BEACH** continued on 3

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## FIRE SAFETY

## SSI fire chief sounds alarm on old batteries



PHOTO COURTESY SSIIR

Lithium-ion batteries blamed for Collins Rd. fire

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

As lithium-ion battery packs continue to grow in popularity, many on Salt Spring Island have inadvertent collections of idle or end-of-life batteries languishing in their homes — and that's a safety problem, according to island firefighters.

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue Chief Jamie Holmes told the district's fire board a blaze last month on Collins Road exemplified the need for precautions when storing lithium-ion batteries. A smouldering battery pack under that home's deck was fortunately noticed by occupants who extinguished the fire before crews arrived. Had it happened at night, he said, or when no one was

home, the outcome could have been quite different.

Holmes said fire officials have seen an increase in lithium-ion battery fires — not just on Salt Spring, but across the province, as the battery packs power everything from scooters to cell phones. And while the potential for electric vehicle fires gets a lot of attention, the sheer number of batteries in everyday devices starts to stack up — and presents a hazard when batteries are not disposed of or stored properly.

"Really they become problematic when they start to get old, and past their cycle," said Holmes, briefing trustees of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District Monday, Oct. 21.

"A lot of times when people have an old battery pack, they'll just kind of toss it in the basement or under the shed or somewhere — and that's when they can be at the most dangerous."

And while the presence of lithium-ion batteries can make an already-burning fire harder to extinguish, Holmes also said that as old batteries start to break down, they can potentially ignite on their own.

B.C.'s Office of the Fire Commissioner is working on public safety messaging, according to Holmes, but in the meantime, local firefighters are trying to spread the word.

"It's a good reminder for everybody, that as our lives go more toward using batteries, we have to take care of them when they're done," said Holmes. "I know I used to have a big drawer of old cell phones with all the batteries still in them."

Holmes said if residents are keeping the old batteries around, they should at minimum be stored in a metal box.

"Rather than just underneath old papers and everything else," chuckled Holmes.

"And they do take them at the recycling depot."

A lithium-ion battery pack that started a fire beneath a Salt Spring Island home's deck.

## ISLANDS TRUST

## Hire finalized, new CAO to start in November

Trustees engage former BC Public Service Agency's Rueben Bronee

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

After months of searching — and nearly a year after former chief administrative offi-

cer (CAO) Russ Hotsenpiller announced his retirement — the Islands Trust Council (ITC) announced Rueben Bronee would be accepting the body's staff leadership position.

Bronee will be starting in late November, according to ITC chair Peter Luckham, who also sat on the hiring committee. Luckham said he was "delighted" to announce the new hire.

"Rueben is a trusted public sector executive," said Luckham, noting Bronee's exten-

sive experience leading "high-profile transformation initiatives" and providing strategic advice.

"We look forward to working with him as we finalize and implement our strategic plan," he added, "and as we carry out the preserve and protect mandate of Islands Trust."

Bronee is moving from a recent position with the BC Public Service Agency, where he served as assistant deputy minister for communications. Prior to that, he held the role of assistant deputy minister/executive lead for policy, innovation and engagement there; he has also held executive roles in the ministries of Advanced Education, Education, and Citizens' Services, as well as

in the Office of the Premier, according to Luckham.

"I have a deep appreciation for the unique role of the Islands Trust, and I am very much looking forward to playing a part in advancing this important work," said Bronee. "It's exciting to join such a skilled and passionate team of professionals in working with trustees to help lead the Islands Trust forward."

In addition to implementing the body's policies and decisions, the CAO position at the Islands Trust has traditionally been the first line of advice for trustees. Luckham thanked administrative services director Julia Mobbs, who continues to serve as interim CAO until Bronee begins.

Capital Regional District



Malview Sewer Local Service Commission

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3693 (Salt Spring Island Water, Sewer and Liquid Waste Disposal Commissions Bylaw No. 1, 2010), residents within the Malview Sewer Local Service Area are invited to attend a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting:

## Malview Sewer Local Service Commission Annual General Meeting

**Date:** Monday, November 4, 2024

**Time:** 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

**Place:** Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS)

124 Rainbow Road, Salt Spring Island, V8K 2V5

The electronic Zoom link will be provided on the first page of the agenda package posted to the CRD website: [www.crd.bc.ca](http://www.crd.bc.ca) four days prior to the meeting.

## Committee Membership Opportunity

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3693, real property owners or residents in the Malview Sewer Local Services Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner or resident who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2025.

Total membership on the committee is three plus the Electoral Area Director (two members must be resident electors; and one member shall be a resident elector of SSI EA). There are three positions expiring December 31, 2024.

## Nomination Instructions

When submitting your nomination, please include the committee name in the subject line, your full-name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's full-name, telephone number and residential address. Nominations may be submitted at the meeting for members to stand on the committee for the following term.

Bylaw No. 3693 is available for viewing on the CRD website at [www.crd.bc.ca](http://www.crd.bc.ca)

Personal information collected is in accordance with s.26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, for the purpose of administering the Malview Sewer Local Services Commission nominations. Personal information submitted will be kept confidential, and used only for the purpose for which that information was collected. Any questions about this matter should be directed to MacKenzie Williamson, Committee Clerk, Salt Spring Island Administration: 250-538-4304 or email: [mwilliamson@crd.bc.ca](mailto:mwilliamson@crd.bc.ca)

## WATER DISTRICT

## NSSWD pushes tax sale

Date set as late as possible to help property owners

five letters this year — the district is required to set a date for the sale, if not necessarily hold it.

"The goal is to not do a tax sale," said Lannan. "And even though you've set a date, you can still choose not to do it; it's fully up to [trustees] if you think, for example, it's going to be possible for people to pay in maybe another year."

Trustees pushed the date out as far into the year as possible — without setting NSSWD's tax sale date after the province's own, which would endanger the district's place in line.

"If their tax sale date is before ours, we won't get paid," said Lannan. "And if we had to do it, the district should be paid."

With the extra time will come additional communication efforts, according to staff; and trustees will get updates months ahead of time, Lannan said, so there would be no surprises in October.

"These people would be three years owing — or more — to the district," said Lannan. "Luckily, those letters have been able to get people to pay, and that's really the hope."

Trustees also set the date for the annual Court of Revision — the appeals process by which residents can ask to change the tax classification for their parcel — to Tuesday, Jan. 14. If someone can't make the date but still wanted something changed, Lannan offered they could provide their proof to her office over email and she would present it to trustees.

Delinquent taxpayers in 2025 will get a little extra time to sort out their finances, at least regarding back payments owed to Salt Spring Island's largest water provider.

Trustees for the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) voted Thursday, Oct. 24 to extend the date for the district's tax sale — when properties are sold to cover water costs — to Oct. 29, although the hope is not to even hold the sale. NSSWD financial officer Tammy Lannan said that in the eight years she had held the role with the district, they haven't had to take that drastic step, despite some persistently delinquent customers.

"We've had tax sale letters go out," said Lannan. "They come from the province in registered mail, so we know the customers received that letter saying, 'we need this money by this date or your property will be put up for tax sale.'"

Anyone who has not paid their taxes for two or more years is eligible to have their property sold to cover what's owed, Lannan said; and while it's typically a very small number of property owners who fall behind — Lannan estimated there would likely be

NON-PROFIT SOCIETIES

# Community Services flooded with applications

AGM date set for Nov. 14

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Island Community Services (ICS) says it has been inundated with membership applications in recent weeks, but is unable to process them in advance of its governing society's annual general meeting, which has been set for Thursday, Nov. 14 at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

ICS communications and operations manager Rob Wiltzen said on Monday that people who have applied to be members of the Salt Spring and Southern Gulf Islands Community Services Society (SSSGICSS) were set to receive an email that day advising that their applications had been received and inviting them to attend the AGM, but not as society members. Even if an application had been approved, that individual would not be able to vote at the AGM, as the society's bylaws state that people must be members at least 30 days prior to an AGM in order to vote.

Wiltzen said society board members feel they need to step back and take time to consider how they will handle the sudden wave of interest in the society, ensuring best governance, legal policies and procedures. He points out that director approval of memberships is a standard bylaw practice in non-profit societies.

Community members had last week reported varying experiences when applying for membership, and none had been informed if they are society members.

Local Community Commission (LCC) member Gayle Baker said she submitted her membership application and the \$1 fee at the ICS office on Sept. 18. She also brought 32 applications to the office on Oct. 16 and insisted that the \$1 fees for each person be accepted, while others have been told that the dollar would not be accepted until the membership had been approved by the board. Wiltzen said fees were not supposed to be accepted, but ICS has kept track of who paid their dollar.

SSSGICSS bylaws were changed in July to give discretion to the board to decide who will or will not be accepted as a society member, although no criteria for making a decision was included. Previously the only requirement was that an individual be 19 years of age with six months of residency in the Gulf Islands.

Concerns that the society, which has been publicly criticized recently, is trying to prevent involvement from the wider community has prompted a Change.org petition that had 98 signatures as of Monday at 2 p.m.

Christian Tatonetti, a past ICS employee, has started a Change.org petition titled Demand Fair, Transparent, and Inclusive Membership for Island Community Services. It demands that ICS:

1. Publish clear, accessible criteria for membership approval so all eligible residents know precisely what is required.
2. Make the board's policy handbook and complaint process public to ensure transparency in governance and accountability for all

members.

3. Remove arbitrary discretion in the membership process to create a fair, open path to participation that honours Salt Spring Island's inclusive community values.

The petition states: "Despite ICS bylaws stating that membership is open to any resident over 19 who has lived in the Southern Gulf Islands for at least six months, the addition of vague, undefined criteria has made it unclear who qualifies for membership. The board of directors now has sole discretion to accept or reject applications without clearly stated guidelines, creating an arbitrary selection process that may discriminate based on personal judgment or bias."

Members of the public can attend the society's AGM. People should RSVP to connect@ssics.ca to get the meeting link.

SSSGICSS membership applications can be downloaded from the ssics.ca website and either submitted online or printed off and brought to the ICS office at 268 Fulford-Ganges Rd.

# Public comments not required through local Trust

BAKER BEACH continued from 1

"One of the criteria for approval is that we don't impact the public's use significantly," Kuhrt posted. "I like walking the shore and swimming too."

Noting the petition language was a group effort, Thompson said "everyone cares for the beach in different ways and we put our heads together."

"One woman wanted to start a petition, so I took that on," she said.

The online petition asks for independent professional review of the application, with findings published "in such a way as to be easily accessible by all the residents of Salt Spring Island" as well as a public response from "all concerned First Nations" before the application proceeds.

It also asks for "public forums involving the Islands Trust, the CRD

and islanders, to ensure a favourite swimming, socializing, walking, exploring, bird-watching and recreation site for everyone will not be degraded, blocked or impeded."

Trust regional planning manager Chris Hutton told Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee on Oct. 10 the Islands Trust was in receipt of a Crown lease referral for the four properties, which were under a delegated development permit process.

The draft recommendation at that time was for the development permit to be approved. While the process does not require trustees to conduct public comment sessions, trustee Laura Patrick suggested it may be an "opportunity to communicate and educate."

"I'm sure there are some people looking at this going, 'I want to do this now,' or something of that nature," said Patrick at the Oct. 10

meeting. "So I think we should be looking for these opportunities to communicate that there is some joint effort occurring out there."

For information about the application or to comment, visit comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/applications?clidDtId=1415573. The petition is at change.org/p/save-baker-rd-beach-its-rare-midshipman-fish-habitat-sign-this-petition.

Capital Regional District CRD

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Fernwood and Highland Water Service Commission

**Notice of Annual General Meeting**

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3911 (Fernwood and Highland Water Service Commission Bylaw No. 1, 2015), residents within the Highland and Fernwood Water Local Service Area are invited to attend a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting:

**Fernwood and Highland Water Service Commission Annual General Meeting**

**Date:** Monday, November 4, 2024  
**Time:** 10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
**Place:** Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS) Boardroom  
 124 Rainbow Road, Salt Spring Island, V8K 2V5

The electronic Zoom link will be provided on the first page of the agenda package posted to the CRD website: [www.crd.bc.ca](http://www.crd.bc.ca) four days prior to the meeting.

**Committee Membership Opportunity**

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3911, real property owners or residents in the Fernwood and Highland Water Service Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner or resident who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2025.

Total membership on the committee is four plus the Electoral Area Director (three members resident electors; and one member may be a resident elector of the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area). There are three positions expiring December 31, 2024.

**Nomination Instructions**

When submitting your nomination, please include the committee name in the subject line, your full-name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's full-name, telephone number and residential address. Nominations may be submitted at the meeting for members to stand on the committee for the following term.

Bylaw No. 3911 is available for viewing on the CRD website at [www.crd.bc.ca](http://www.crd.bc.ca)

Personal information collected is in accordance with s.26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, for the purpose of administering the Fernwood and Highland Water Service Commission nominations. Personal information submitted will be kept confidential, and used only for the purpose for which that information was collected. Any questions about this matter should be directed to Mackenzie Williamson, Committee Clerk, Salt Spring Island Administration: 250.538.4304 or email: [mwilliamson@crd.bc.ca](mailto:mwilliamson@crd.bc.ca)

Capital Regional District CRD

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Beddis Water Service Commission

**Notice of Annual General Meeting**

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3247 (Beddis Water Service Commission Bylaw No. 1, 2004), residents within the Beddis Water Service Commission Local Service Area are invited to attend a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting:

**Beddis Water Service Commission Annual General Meeting**

**Date:** Thursday, November 7, 2024  
**Time:** 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm  
**Place:** Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS) boardroom  
 124 Rainbow Road, Salt Spring Island, V8K 2V5

The electronic Zoom link will be provided on the first page of the agenda package posted to the CRD website: [www.crd.bc.ca](http://www.crd.bc.ca) four days prior to the meeting.

**Committee Membership Opportunity**

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3247, real property owners or residents in the Beddis Water Local Services Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner or resident who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2025.

Total membership on the committee is four plus the Electoral Area Director (three members must be owners of real property; and one member may be a resident or owner of real property). There are two position expiring December 31, 2024.

**Nomination Instructions**

When submitting your nomination, please include the committee name in the subject line, your full-name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's full-name, telephone number and residential address. Nominations may be submitted at the meeting for members to stand on the committee for the following term.

Bylaw No. 3247 is available for viewing on the CRD website at [www.crd.bc.ca](http://www.crd.bc.ca)

Personal information collected is in accordance with s.26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, for the purpose of administering the Beddis Water Service Commission nominations. Personal information submitted will be kept confidential, and used only for the purpose for which that information was collected. Any questions about this matter should be directed to Mackenzie Williamson, Committee Clerk, Salt Spring Island Administration: 250.538.4304 or email: [mwilliamson@crd.bc.ca](mailto:mwilliamson@crd.bc.ca)

# 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



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### EDITORIAL

## Voting power

**W**hile the truly final results of the Oct. 19 B.C. election may not yet be known, it appears the BC NDP may have managed to form a majority government by the slimmest of margins — although perhaps that will change between our press time and publication of this paper.

It seems nothing may be truer than the cliché that “every vote counts.” Our province is clearly bent on peppering the political chapters of Canada’s history books with its crazy antics.

### THE ISSUE:

#### B.C. election results

### WE SAY:

#### Would a PR system be better?

power is granted to that party, but not accurately representing public sentiment. The problem with majority governments, of course, is that it allows them to essentially act as dictators for the mandate period, barely requiring them to pay heed to alternate viewpoints from other political parties, or the public. It could be argued that minority governments lead to true accountability in our houses of parliament.

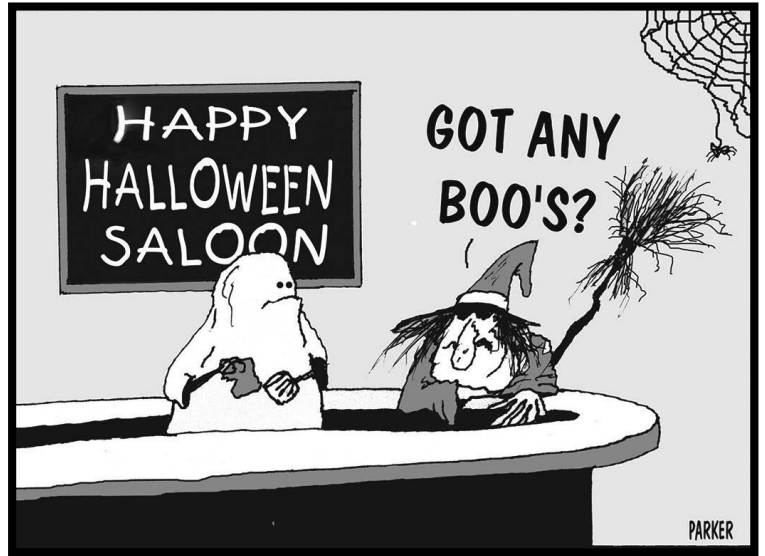
Various attempts to adapt a PR system in B.C. have failed in the past. The third rejection in less than 20 years came in 2018. But it doesn’t mean the subject should not be periodically investigated.

Fear of what voters might do if they were able to make choices that aligned more with their desires and beliefs — rather than voting “strategically” or not at all due to a lack of palatable choices — seems to be at the root of the lack of official enthusiasm for PR expressed by parties in power. Fear of “radical” parties gaining a foothold and official representation in government is also a factor.

We are not certain PR would make for a better governance system, but it would at least reduce the unhealthy level of polarization that currently exists in the first-past-the-post system, and make people feel that voting does what it’s really intended to do, which is reflect their views and wishes.

Even when such a bizarre situation doesn’t exist, calls for proportional representation (PR) often arise following provincial or federal elections in this country, and for more than one reason.

When majority governments result from situations where the winning party’s popular vote is far below 50 per cent, it seems unfair that so much



## Binary world view a failure

BY BILL MAIN

### VIEWPOINT

Minority governments have one tremendous advantage over majority governments:

more of the ideas of the electorate are tended to than is the case with majority governments.

It’s one — and perhaps the best — reason for abandoning the first-past-the-post — us and them — electoral system, which for a very long time now has handed power to parties supported by significantly less than the majority of the electorate. In our case in Canada, our current system of choosing governments has resulted in power centralizing to an enormous degree in the hands of the prime minister and the premiers and their offices. A kind of oligarchy has evolved. Minority governments prevent this by essentially diluting the unchecked power of these central offices, as would proportional representation, which would result, often, in coalitions much more reflective of the voters’ choices and wishes than our current system.

Clearly, parties, themselves, are coalitions. But the management of these coalitions is in the hands of the central authorities (prime minister, premiers and their central offices). The electorate never gets much of a glimpse at this management — really a set of compromises developed behind closed doors. Minority governments are much less opaque in their management, as are coalitions, and this lessening of opacity is hugely desirable, because it makes the sort of dictatorship of the oligarchy which we currently have less possible.

There are those who say that we have to have clear winners and losers in order for our governments to function, but there is no evidence to support that. It’s what Aris-

totle would call a belief rather than the truth supported by facts. And while it’s true that enormous centralized power

in the hands of some people can result in very good government — Franklin D. Roosevelt, Lynden Johnson, Teddy Roosevelt in the U.S., Lester B. Pearson and Tommy Douglas in Canada, and Winston Churchill at least for a time in the U.K. — the odds are great that this power will end up in the hands of other people (Donald Trump, Pierre Poilievre, Boris Johnson, etc.) or, at the least, ideologues (Ronald Reagan, Maggie Thatcher, Stephen Harper, etc.).

Anyone with the time and interest and willingness to think it through will realize that our current, first-past-the-post electoral system has led to the us and them world we currently have to live in. This is the simple, binary world that has caused us so very much grief, has confounded reason, has eroded our belief in the world of fact-based truth and has unleashed the tribalism that threatens our very commitment to democracy. It’s the world we’re handing to our children and grandchildren — a sad, dangerous and utterly destructive world that we can’t seem to see a way out of. Poor children, poor grandchildren, poor world.

Our propensity to tribalism is something that we must create bulwarks against, and proportional representation can be one such bulwark. Adam Olsen is right: the Green party’s price for supporting an NDP minority government in B.C. has to be the imposition of this electoral system. It isn’t the complete answer, but we have to start somewhere limiting the binary, tribal world that prevents rational thought and action, and this is likely the simplest start we can make.

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### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

#### Should B.C. look at proportional rep again?

Yes  No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

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



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

### Advocacy and courage appreciated

I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all the women who have bravely come forward to shine a light on the troubling issues surrounding Island Community Services (ICS).

Their dedication to addressing concerns about this powerful organization, which impacts so many vulnerable individuals and workers on Salt Spring Island, is both courageous and commendable.

I am in awe of these women's efforts to bring much-needed public awareness to systemic issues within the organization. The hard work of these individuals not only gives hope to those who have suffered but also brings the possibility of real change — change that could bring fresh leadership, a renewed vision and a

more inclusive, compassionate approach to the way ICS serves our community.

ICS has played a vital role in providing essential services, yet the concerns about management practices, governance and lack of responsiveness to criticism are serious matters that deserve open discussion and action. It is my deepest hope that the organization will move forward in a way that prioritizes the well-being of both the vulnerable populations it serves and the workers who strive every day to make a difference, often under challenging conditions.

To those who are calling for greater accountability and transparency, and especially to those who are fighting to ensure that ICS stays true to its mission without feeding into the stigmatization of any part of our community — thank you. Your voices matter and your advocacy is paving the way for a better, more just future for us all.

**CHRISTIAN TATONETTI,**  
SALT SPRING

### Proportional representation a sane approach

Like every other Green Party of B.C. supporter on the evening of Oct. 19, I was holding my breath and hoping for an increase in Green MLAs in our province, ideally keeping our present two seats and gaining a few more.

Sadly the results were bittersweet with our wonderful leader Sonia Furstenau losing in her bid to unseat the NDP incumbent. Sonia has widespread respect and regard across party lines and we all hope she stays as leader and returns for the next election. She is too precious to lose completely.

For our riding, joy was in the air as Rob Botterell won handily, 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 Green win in the West Vancouver-Sea to Sky riding with Jeremy Valeriote, who succeeded on his second try, gives the party a toehold on the mainland.

The need for more Green voices in the B.C. Legislature was highlighted by Sonia's statement during her emotional speech on election night, when she said it was bizarre that while people were making their way through an atmospheric river to vote, there was little mention of the climate crisis and the environment by the other parties leading up to the election.

We really need proportional representation for a sane approach to our ongoing multiple challenges.

**TOM MITCHELL,**  
SALT SPRING

**MORE OPINION** continued on 6

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

**"Any resemblance between what's on stage and you is purely intentional."**

SID FILKOW, ON COMEDY SKETCH IN UPCOMING SUTURESELF LIVE THEATRE EVENING

## Giant banana slug and Bowen Queen ferry among memorable costumes

As we drift deeper into the autumn season, we can't help but notice some changing colours in the landscape. Oh sure, the leaves on the maples and alders have taken on a golden hue just before they fade to brown, only to fall helplessly to the earth.

There is another colour that catches our eye. It is orange, but not the tone that seems omnipresent on construction signs and traffic cones lining our roads. No, this orange is the colour of the magnificent pumpkin. Yes, everywhere we turn we see pumpkins. This can mean only one thing: Halloween.

Yes, Halloween. Ghosts and goblins. Witches and fairies. Spiders and cobwebs. Monsters and superheroes. Haunted houses and front lawns dressed up as spooky graveyards. Costume parties and trick or treating.

Yes, trick or treating. The gateway to endless future dental expenses. But when you're a kid, that doesn't really matter. Each hand-carved Jack-o-lantern lighting up the end of every driveway continues to lure the mini Spidermen and petite prima ballerinas towards that motherlode of all things sweet and sticky.

Back in the day, it was me out there on the neighbourhood streets. While holding on firmly to my older sister's hand, we tricked and treated our way from house to house on our quest for the chocolate and candy booty

that awaited us. Every doorstep held out the promise of infinite sugar rushes, but it was usually too dark to see exactly what was being deposited in our paper shopping bags. Of course, Halloween eve was sure to be marked by the inevitable major downpour, which soaked our shopping bags, thereby making them tear at the bottom and leak our confectionary treasures onto the dark pathways and sidewalks all the way back to our home.

What we celebrate as Halloween is actually the eve of the real holiday, All Saints Day, which falls on the first day of November. Interestingly enough, this feast day observes the lives of all the many saints for whom no special feast day has been set aside during the rest of the year. It's a kind of a saints "all you can pray to" buffet. Everybody wins a consolation prize!

There remains a certain nostalgia for all the old costumes of yesteryear. Who can forget those fabulous monster outfits? The mummy, the Wolfman, Frankenstein's spare parts man, Dracula and the Creature from the Black Lagoon were all so terrifying and could often be fabricated with the help of a few torn bedsheets and some red food colouring.

Then, of course, there were the superheroes. Superman and Batman headed the list, but not far behind came Spiderman, Aquaman, Wonder Woman and



**Shilo Zylbergold**  
**NOBODY ASKED ME BUT**

the Green Hornet. Even arch villains like Lex Luther, Brainiac and Catwoman had their devoted costumed minions.

I often felt that the likes of Superman received too much glory for their acts of heroism in defending Metropolis and Gotham City. Perhaps we should be paying Halloween tribute to some of the lesser superheroes who might be doing what they can to save civilization. Pocket Lint Man, for instance collects dust that would otherwise cover your clothes. Crochet Woman does everything Spiderman can do but it just takes her a bit longer. Then there's Magneto Man, who helps keep your favourite photos stuck on your refrigerator.

It should come as no surprise that today's most trending Halloween costumes are still inspired by pop culture. According to a majority of surveys, the number one dress-up for 2024 is Shrunken Head Bob from the movie Beetlejuice Beetlejuice. Not having seen the film myself, I can only imagine that the look will be Scary in a humor-

ous sort of way and make the Beetlejuice franchise a whole lot of Money Money.

The #2 costume for this pumpkin season is Raygun, the alias for Rachel Gunn, the competitive Australian breakdancer/academic who scored zero at the 2024 Olympics and did not get past the first round. Although she became the victim of online bullying, she will forever remain the patron saint for losers the world over. Close behind, in most popular costume #3 place, is CatNap, the scary villain from the Poppy Playtime horror video game. From the little I learned by googling Poppy Playtime, and the less I understood, I may never want to go near my cat's litter box again.

Additional outfits that round up the list for most popular this Halloween include Barbie, Harry Potter, pop singer Sabrina Carpenter, Lady Deadpool, Wolverine, Godzilla and the Chipotle burrito. Of course, you can add to this list most of the hero and villain characters that have evolved from the stinking rich franchises such as Frozen, Inside Out, Dune and Despicable Me.

When I finally reached adulthood, I took great pride in designing costumes for myself that I then wore at various Halloween parties and Beaver Point Hall boogies. Some of the more memorable ones were a Hare Krishna realtor, a two-headed man, an eight-foot-tall slimy banana slug,

the Bowen Queen ferry (complete with loud warning foghorn) and Darth Piggy.

My favourite was when I went as Fulford-Ganges Road. As with most of my concoctions, this one was constructed mainly from foam. I wore a cloud-covered Mount Maxwell as a headpiece and had the road loop up and around my shoulder and descend back around and down to the floor. One end was the village of Ganges and the other was the Fulford Harbour ferry terminal. Neither end had any open parking spots. My torso made up the bulk of the island and I added some endearing features such as sheep standing in the middle of the road and overturned Volkswagens lying in the roadside ditch. Ganges Harbour had a smelly reptilian monster wading through the outfall that originated from the sewage treatment plant across the road. Ahhh, those were the days.

Nobody asked me, but there's no law that forbids adults, even ancient ones like me, from pulling those old costume duds out of the dress-up box or tickle trunk. As far as I know, there is no "best before" or expiry date for taking another turn at trick or treating. Why can't I be Batman or Superman for one more night? Or maybe I should be a bit more realistic and lower my sights a couple of notches. Magneto Man wouldn't be so bad. Now, if I could just unstick this fridge from my body.



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# Keeping Salt Spring's memories alive

BY KEN JACKSON

I was taken aback last week to be reminded it's been 10 years since Corp. Nathan Cirillo was senselessly killed while performing honorary guard duty at Canada's National War Memorial in Ottawa.

When I first heard the story, I remember my horror and disbelief that this volunteer reservist had been gunned down by a stranger with mental health issues for reasons unknown. As I was also a volunteer reservist, I could only imagine how proud Nathan, his family and his regiment were to have that opportunity to serve the country he loved. In his honour, it was the first year I marched with the Salt Spring veterans in our local parade.

Having the opportunity over the years since then to broaden my participation in Remembrance-related activities here on the island, I've led past poppy campaigns, organized Remembrance Day activities and veterans luncheons, attended the extraordinarily special services at Gulf Islands Secondary School and been a welcome observer to the efforts of the Ganges Community Cemetery board with their No Stone Left Alone and Last Post projects at the cemetery beside The Fritz theatre.

Last year's efforts took a heavy mental and physical toll on me, though I was buoyed by the community's phenomenal support in making those efforts some of the island's best. I have been humbled by the stories that have been shared with me, and the appreciation for my efforts that's been expressed to me by so many. I commend this year's volunteers for continuing and, in some cases, rebuilding the complex web of so many important activities. I know that despite how much was done, I always regretted not doing more.

The good side of that is knowing there's always another year and, with that, unlimited opportunity to get involved to help or create new projects and gestures of Remembrance, at the least by participating in the opportunities that exist here on Salt Spring this year.

Here are some of the ways for everyone to demonstrate their sense of Remembrance:

**Wear Your Poppy:** This simple act tells those around you that you remember. A donation is welcome, but I believe it is a much more important statement to be seen in the community wearing one.

**Attend Remembrance Day Service:** Salt Spring has proven to me that, rain or shine, there is a proud showing of all ages in the community. That's an incredibly powerful message of support to the diminishing



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO BY ROB LOWRIE

Veteran Bill McKenzie leads last year's Remembrance Day parade, which is just one of the activities planned for 2024.

number of veterans we see marching, the families of those veterans and those no longer with us. And to Canada's more recent veterans who are less visible living here on the island with us, don't forget the Legion's open house afterwards.

**Visit the Ganges Community Cemetery:** From Nov. 1st through at least the 11th, special veterans markers will again be placed by the island's Pathfinders on the growing number of grave sites identified as belonging to veterans buried there. It is a truly humbling sight to behold – simple and poignant and a powerful statement of Remembrance to "ours." Clusters of white markers across the lawn evoke images of veteran cemeteries abroad for the many who did not return.

**Witness the What These Eyes Have Seen - Witness to War Exhibition at ArtSpring:** The exhibition runs from Wednesday, Nov. 6 through Tuesday, Nov. 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Free admission. This Salt Spring-based photo exhibition is a collection of 27 veteran portraits taken by local photographer Alan Bibby over the past 13 years, many at our island's Remembrance services. These and other powerful donated images of the island's veterans will be on display with precious local memorabilia loaned by the Salt Spring Archives, Salt Spring Museum and others in the community. Come and see it, and add to the collection of living memories that will help keep our community's commitment to Remembrance alive.

**Share a memory:** Something everyone can do. Share your memory or story about a veteran in your life to keep their memory alive. Be proud to share and take time to listen to someone sharing with you to honour their memory. Find comfort in sharing.

Lest we forget. Lest we forget.

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LIVE THEATRE

## Comedy plus on stage



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG  
Having a visit with market vendor Tamar Griggs while promoting the Sutureself show at the Saturday Market earlier this month are Patrick Cassidy, left, and Sid Filkow in Geezers guise. One of the show's comedy pieces features The Geezers.

One-act plays, comedy and 'never a dull moment' at Sutureself evenings

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Sid Filkow may be most familiar to Salt Spring theatre-goers as one of The Geezers, who along with his late friend Arvid Chalmers mounted several shows that included appearances by the beloved old goofs.

But the actor who has had numerous other acting roles — and was a member of the legendary Salt Spring Hysterical Society — has increasingly immersed himself in writing plays.

Next Friday and Saturday, Nov. 8 and 9, audiences can see four 10-minute one-act plays written by Filkow, including a first-prize winner at the King's Shorts international one-act playwriting competition in Nova Scotia in 2018, and some hot-off-the-press comedy sketches in an evening called Sutureself.

The idea for an evening of Filkowesque drama was born on the dance floor of the Legion during a Wednesday night swing dance session about five years ago, recalls Sutureself director Steve Coopman.

"We just started talking about shows and about material. Sid showed me one of the scripts, which is the one-act play that won at the King's Shorts — Hints and Allegations — and I thought, 'Oh, this is good!' But then we got sidetracked, and we did the Tom Thumb radio play instead."

Filkow also wrote The Adventures of Tom Thumb, which royally entertained audiences at ArtSpring in July of 2023.

Other one-act plays included in Sutureself are A Bit of a Breakdown, which made the top-eight list at a subsequent King's Short festival, and As Above, So Below, which made the first round of cuts; and a sequel to Hints and Allegations. Actors include Suzanne Rouger, Megan Colgan,

Patrick Cassidy, Wyatt Floercke, Eric Pollins, Stewart Katz, Maggie O'Scalleigh, Drew Underwood and Rosita Larrain.

"They are seasoned actors who are having great fun with the material. There's lots of laughs," said Filkow.

Coopman, who directed numerous one-act plays as artistic director of Solar Stage theatre in Toronto, said the one-act play is challenging, "because you have to establish those characters, that situation, the whole plot, and engage your audience from the first moment because you've only got 10, 12, 15 minutes."

A handful of comedy sketches, with a humour style they describe as being "somewhere between Mel Brooks and Monty Python," are also on the menu, and he warns that some Salt Springers will recognize themselves in a final piece on a theme of "relationship recycling."

"Any resemblance between what's on stage and you is purely intentional," joked Filkow.

The evening is also interspersed with historical answering machine messages "that would have changed the course of history if they had been heard," said Filkow.

Even the scene changes promise to be entertaining, with two clown actors tasked with the job.

"There's Furtive and Flourish," explained Coopman. "One wants to be seen. One doesn't. And they do the scene changes."

"So there's never a dull moment," added Filkow.

Coopman and Filkow are grateful to Christina Penhale's help in producing the show.

"She is just awesome," said Filkow, commenting on Penhale's technological wizardry and ability to put together a great production team and get things done.

Coopman is also proud of the programs.

"I'm hoping that people will take the programs home. They'll find them so amusing."

Tickets for Sutureself, which begins at 7:30 p.m. both nights, are available through ArtSpring.

CONCERT PREVIEW

## BOTR set for musical journey

Three composers highlighted in weekend concerts

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

Bach on the Rock (BOTR) is offering a rich musical experience at two concerts this weekend, featuring accessible pieces from three notable composers who wrote music in the 20th century.

Set for Saturday, Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 3 at 2:30 p.m. at All Saints by-the-Sea, the concert by Salt Spring Chamber Choir and Orchestra members includes works by Georges Enescu, Carl Nielsen and Ola Gjeilo. Each piece is inti-

mate and approachable, creating a blend of contrasting styles.

BOTR artistic director Jean-Sebastian Levesque envisioned the program to highlight the rich contrasts between the works. Enescu's Decet, Opus 14 blends folk influences with rich, orchestral textures, creating a vivid soundscape. Nielsen's Kleine Suite, in contrast, is more direct, favouring clean lines and a focused ensemble. Gjeilo's Sunrise Mass introduces a spiritual dimension, using modern harmonic language and cinematic elements.

This concert offers a rare opportunity to experience three distinct styles in one evening.

Tickets are available at the church and from Bach on the Rock members.

## Legion Branch 92 Salt Spring Island

### "Veterans"

Please join us at the Veterans' Luncheon on Wednesday, November 6th, 2024

- 12:00pm Meet and Greet
- 1:00pm Luncheon served
- 2:30pm Depart to ArtSpring for viewing of the Veterans' Portrait Project

All veterans and spouse or guest are welcome. Legion membership not required.

RSVP to Drew Underwood at [info@saltspringlegion.ca](mailto:info@saltspringlegion.ca)



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WORLD-CLASS MUSIC

# Legendary guitarists perform Nov. 6



PHOTO BY COURTESY THE ARTISTS

Jule Malischke and Don Ross collaborate for a concert at ArtSpring on Wednesday, Nov. 6.

Don Ross and Jule Malischke on stage

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

Guitar virtuoso Don Ross arrives on Salt Spring Island for the first time for a concert on Wednesday, Nov. 6, at ArtSpring.

Appearing with Ross will be very special guest Jule Malischke, a renowned German guitarist and songwriter. They will each perform a solo set followed by a collaborative set that will reveal their unique chemistry as they push the boundaries of the genre and deliver an experience that is both technically impressive and deeply expressive.

According to Nick Lyons of Analogue Magazine, "Don and Jule's collaboration is a masterclass in guitar artistry. Their interplay of intricate melodies and emotional expression creates a musical experience that is nothing short of extraordinary."

After collaborating at a guitar festival in Europe, Ross and Malischke uncovered a sound that was too exceptional to overlook. Malischke is one of Europe's most treasured guitarists, known for her captivating performances that masterfully navigate various guitar styles, blending virtuosity with exceptional songwriting.

Ross is an acclaimed and pioneering figure whose innovations have shaped an entire generation of acoustic guitarists. He is the only two-time U.S. national finger-style guitar champion, and his unique style of playing is celebrated by fans worldwide. Over the span of his career Ross has amassed millions of YouTube views, won multiple Canadian Folk Music Awards, is Juno nominated, was awarded Guitar Player Magazine's Best New Talent, collaborated with Bruce Cockburn on his 2023 release *Water* and was awarded the prestigious Walter Carlton Prize for Excellence in Performing Arts by the Canada Council for the Arts.

Next Wednesday's concert begins at 7 p.m. (Note the slightly earlier than usual time for ArtSpring concerts.)

Tickets are available through ArtSpring, online and at the box office.

Send event emails to:  
**news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com**

# what's on this week

**Wed. Oct. 30**

**ACTIVITIES**

**Caravan World Rhythms: Sophie Lukacs Trio.** Kora player/vocalist with Laszlo Kooos on bass and Noel Mpiaza on percussion. Salt Spring Island United Church. 7:30 p.m. (Doors at 7 p.m.)

**An Evening of Improv.** Kate Nash, Ari Lazer, Michael Mann, Piet Suess, Simone Cazabon and Nayana Fielkov. Mateada. 8 p.m.

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

**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.

**Thur. Oct. 31**

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Monsterpiece Theatre.** Haunted house for all ages downstairs at SIMS. Presented by StageCoach Theatre School. 5 to 7:30 p.m.

**Halloween Fireworks.** In Ganges Harbour. Presented by the SSI Firefighters Association. 7:30 p.m. Followed by hot dogs and hot chocolate at the Ganges fire hall.

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

**Halloween Party with The Coalition.** Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. Costume prizes.

**Fri. Nov. 1**

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Comedy Night With Brett Martin.** Stand-up comedy at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

**Karaoke.** Legion. 7 p.m.

**Fri. Nov. 1**

**ACTIVITIES**

**ASK Salt Spring.** This week's guests are Christine Marshall of the historical society and Kurt Irwin of the Penelakut Tribe talking about reconciliation with First Nations and local history. SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Salt Spring Forum: Angela Marie MacDougall.** Executive director of Vancouver-based Battered Women's Support Services with an update on intimate partner violence issues. Mahon Hall. 7:30 p.m.

**Sat. Nov. 2**

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Salt Spring Baroque: Spirit and Song.** Contra-alto Vicki St. Pierre with Victoria Baroque in a program featuring Bach's Cantata BWV 170 along with works by Buxtehude and members of the Bach family. All Saints. 2 p.m.

**ArtSpring Presents: Duo Cordelia.** Pianist and violinist in *Visions From the Other Side* concert. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

**Bach on the Rock: A Musical Journey from Romanticism to Modern Day.** Salt Spring Chamber Choir & Orchestra performs works by Georges Enescu, Carl Nielsen and Ola Gjeilo. All Saints by-the-Sea. 7:30 p.m.

**Everyday People.** Legion. 7:30 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**

**Abattoir Birthday Bash.** Local farm-to-table dinner, silent auction and live music. Fulford Hall. Doors at 4:30 p.m.; dinner at 6 p.m. Tickets at Salt Spring Mercantile or Foxglove.

**Dia de los Muertos: Community Ofrenda.** Bullock Lake Farm. Drop in from 5 to 10:30 p.m. Info/pre-register through dosamorestortilleria.com.

**Sun. Nov. 3**

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Bach on the Rock: A Musical Journey from Romanticism to Modern Day.** Salt Spring Chamber Choir & Orchestra performs works by Georges Enescu, Carl Nielsen and Ola Gjeilo. All Saints by-the-Sea. 2:30 p.m.

**Blues Jam.** Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.

**ArtSpring Presents: Jeremy Ledbetter Trio.** Contemporary Caribbean Latin jazz. ArtSpring. 4 p.m.

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

**Mon. Nov. 4**

**ACTIVITIES**

**Highland/Fernwood Water Service AGM & Budget Meetings.** SIMS boardroom. 10 a.m. Attend virtually via Microsoft Teams meeting link in the agenda on the CRD website.

**Maliview Sewer Service AGM & Budget Meetings.** SIMS boardroom. 1 p.m. Attend virtually via Microsoft Teams meeting link in the agenda on the CRD website.

**Tues. Nov. 5**

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Country and Folk Singers and Songwriters Night.** With Sherry Leigh Williams. Legion. 7 to 10 p.m. 1 p.m. Check for ticket availability at artspring.ca.

**Trivia Tuesday.** Moby's Pub. Games at 7:30 and 8:30 p.m.

**Wed. Nov. 6**

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Tea à Tempo: Peter Prince.** Salt Spring singer-songwriter performs at All Saints by-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m.

**Wed. Nov. 6**

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**The Legendary Don Ross With Jule Malischke.** World-class guitarists. ArtSpring. 7 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**

**Veterans Luncheon.** All veterans and a spouse or guest are welcome. Legion. Doors at 12 p.m. with lunch served at 1 p.m. RSVP to info@saltspringlegion.ca.

**CINEMA**

- Here runs Friday, Nov. 1 through Tuesday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. each night, plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday.

**ART EXHIBITIONS**

- **What These Eyes Have Seen: Witness to War.** Remembrance Day portraits honouring Salt Spring veterans presented by Alan Bibby. ArtSpring. Wednesday, Nov. 6 to Tuesday, Nov. 12, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.
- **Sam Barlow, Raven Fox and Margaret Westaway: Imagine the Possibilities** is in the library program room this month. Reception on Nov. 1 at 5 p.m.
- **Salt Spring Island Foundation: 40 Years of Giving - In Pictures.** Exhibit in the ArtSpring lobby from Nov. 2 to 30.
- **Michael Wall** is showing a new set in his continuing series of Italian Photographs at Pasta Fresca.
- **Denise Johnson** has paintings and stained glass artwork at the Salt Spring Laundromat this month, with some proceeds benefitting the Copper Kettle Community Partnership, and glass artwork at TJ Beans Cafe.

**Monsterpiece Theatre Haunted House at SIMS**

Thursday, Oct. 31, 5 to 7:30 p.m.  
Presented by StageCoach Theatre

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## ARTSPRING PRESENTS

## Jazz fuses with Caribbean, Latin influences

Acclaimed trio at ArtSpring Nov. 3

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON  
FOR ARTSPRING

Originally trained as a classical pianist, Canadian Jeremy Ledbetter has made a career of travelling the far-flung corners of the globe in search of the most fascinating and unique musical ideas, then seamlessly integrating them into his work as a pianist, composer and producer.

Once a child prodigy who then went on to the Royal Conservatory of Music at York University to study jazz performance, he strayed from his structured lessons to accept a placement as an exchange student at the University of the Southern



PHOTO BY DENISE GRANT

From left, pianist Jeremy Ledbetter, bass player Rich Brown and drummer Larnell Lewis, who will perform at ArtSpring on Sunday Nov. 3 at 4 p.m.

Caribbean in Trinidad. The fire was fuelled.

While his intent was to study Trinidad's steelpan phenomenon,

he was soon drawn into the exciting world of calypso and its modern-day descendant, soca. Three months into what was to be an

eight-month excursion, Ledbetter called York to say he was not returning. He would remain in Trinidad for three more years, learning from and working with the region's best artists.

His travels, performances and working relationships also took him to Cuba, Brazil and Venezuela. Today, the result is an inspiring cauldron of genre-bending contemporary Caribbean and Latin jazz that pushes the boundaries of jazz and world music.

For an ArtSpring Presents concert on Sunday, Nov. 3 at 4 p.m. The much in-demand Jeremy Ledbetter Trio sees Ledbetter join forces with fellow Toronto-based heavyweights Grammy-winning drummer Larnell Lewis of Snarky Puppy and renowned electric bassist Rich

Brown, who offer the perfect counterpart to Ledbetter's iconoclastic energy at the piano.

The trio's debut 2018 album called *Got a Light?* has been described as "a controlled explosion of big ideas and compelling musical storytelling." The trio's follow-up album, "Gravity" was just released in September to rave reviews.

"An eclectic mix of calypso, Latin, contemporary jazz and other Caribbean flavours, Gravity brings together the best musicians in Canadian jazz right now," said Jazz FM91's Jonsaba Jabbi. "The album is a high-powered set of new original music, brimming with fresh ideas and jaw-dropping virtuosity and musicality."

Tickets are available through ArtSpring.

## ISLAND PERFORMERS

## Good vibes promised at Prince Tea à Tempo recital

Next Wednesday at All Saints

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

The Music Makers group is pleased to welcome back long-time Salt Spring Island resident,

musician and filmmaker Peter Prince to the Tea à Tempo stage at All Saints by-the-Sea on Wednesday, Nov. 6.

Versatile, intrepid Canadian music and video artist Peter Prince is based on Salt Spring Island. During a career that spans four decades, he has taken his musician's soul and

filmmaker's eye from the Haida Gwaii to the Himalayas, but his heart is rooted in the natural beauty and culture of the Salish Sea.

With his warm and resonant voice, Prince delivers artfully wrought lyrics. His distinctive finger-picking acoustic guitar, expressive piano and bluesy harmonica

create good vibes that move both body and soul. Renowned for the stories behind his songs, Prince crafts music that takes the listener on a journey.

On his new record, *Born to Fly*, Prince muses on themes of change and resilience. His acoustic guitar and piano explore compelling sonic

territory while backed by outstanding guest artists. Over the album's 13 tracks, he mines the depths of the heart — unveils vivid imagery and upbeat gratitude for life's joys and sorrows.

The concert begins at 2:10 p.m. and is followed by optional tea and treats.

## BAROQUE MUSIC

## Bach family in focus at concert



PHOTO BY KGOOD PHOTO

Victoria Baroque members, who will perform at All Saints church on Saturday, Nov. 2 at 2 p.m. with soloist contra-alto Vicki St. Pierre from New Brunswick.

Renowned contra-alto joins visits with ensemble

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

Salt Spring Baroque is excited to present contra-alto Vicki St. Pierre with Victoria Baroque this weekend in Spirit and Song, a program featuring Bach's Cantata BWV 170 along with works by Buxtehude and members of the Bach family.

The concert is at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2 at All Saints by-the-Sea.

St. Pierre is a renowned contralto whose voice combines clarity of expression and beauty of tone. She is also one of Canada's most spirited musical leaders — an esteemed choral conductor and Dean of Arts at Mount Allison University.

Recent and upcoming engagements for St. Pierre include the role of Nutrice in Monteverdi's *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* with the Academy of Ancient Music in London, U.K., the role of the Sorceress in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* with Les Violons

du Roy at Carnegie Hall, Messiah with Orchestra London and Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* with 13 Strings and Splendors of the Emperor's Chapel with The Toronto Consort.

Victoria Baroque brings together early music specialists from Vancouver Island and beyond for explorations of chamber, orchestral, vocal and choral works. Playing on the instruments of the 18th-century, Victoria Baroque brings audiences closer to the sound world of the period, embracing the dance-driven rhythmic vitality, as well as the lyrical and conversational aspects of baroque music. The mellower tones of the baroque instruments — gut strings on string instruments, shorter bows, mellifluous wooden flutes, oboes and bassoon with fewer keys, natural horns without valves, etc. — respond in a more intimate, conversational manner than their modern equivalents.

Tickets can be purchased online through [saltspringbaroque.com](http://saltspringbaroque.com), through the ArtSpring box office ([artspring.ca](http://artspring.ca)) or the door before the performance.

Capital Regional District

CRD

Ganges Sewer Local Service Commission

### Notice of Annual General Meeting

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 1906 (Ganges Sewer Local Service Commission Bylaw No. 1, 1991) residents within the Ganges Sewer Local Service Area are invited to attend a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting:

#### Ganges Sewer Local Service Commission Annual General Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, November 7, 2024

**Time:** 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Place:** Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS) boardroom  
124 Rainbow Road, Salt Spring Island, V8K 2V5

The electronic Zoom link will be provided on the first page of the agenda package posted to the CRD website: [www.crd.bc.ca](http://www.crd.bc.ca) four days prior to the meeting.

### Committee Membership Opportunity

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3247, real property owners or residents in the Ganges Sewer Local Services Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner or resident who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2025.

Total membership on the committee is five plus the Electoral Area Director (four members must be residents or owners of a business; one member may be a resident or owner of a business within the Electoral area; and one of the five members may be an employee or member of the school district, hospital, or community care facility which owns or manages property within the service area). There are two position expiring December 31, 2024.

**Nomination Instructions:** When submitting your nomination, please include the committee name in the subject line, your full-name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's full-name, telephone number and residential address. Nominations may be submitted at the meeting for members to stand on the committee for the following term.

Bylaw No. 1906 is available for viewing on the CRD website at [www.crd.bc.ca](http://www.crd.bc.ca)

Personal information collected is in accordance with s.26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, for the purpose of administering the Ganges Sewer Local Service Commission nominations. Personal information submitted will be kept confidential, and used only for the purpose for which that information was collected. Any questions about this matter should be directed to MacKenzie Williamson, Committee Clerk, Salt Spring Island Administration: 250.538.4304 or email: [mwilliamson@crd.bc.ca](mailto:mwilliamson@crd.bc.ca).

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### Coming Events

#### Island Community Services ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6:00 pm Thursday, November 14, 2024 | Via Zoom teleconference  
 RSVP to connect@ssics.ca for the meeting link

Island Community Services provides a broad range of community services in the following areas:

Early Childhood, Child/Youth Counselling and Family Development, Adult Counselling and Support, Housing First Shelter and Supports,	Developmental Disabilities, Seniors, Housing, Food Programs, Community Justice and Safety, and Recycle Depot.
---	---

AGM agenda includes reports from the Chair, Treasurer and Executive Director and election of Directors.

**For more information contact Island Community Services at (250) 537-9971 or connect@ssics.ca**

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## HOROSCOPE

WEEK OF OCTOBER 27 TO NOVEMBER 2, 2024

**THE LUCKIEST SIGNS THIS WEEK:**  
 SCORPIO, SAGITTARIUS AND CAPRICORN

**ARIES**  
 Negotiations always require effort and compromise. You'll make some significant changes that will promote your health and improve your quality of life for years to come.

**TAURUS**  
 Significant success and recognition await you, whether in the form of a promotion or a professional change. You'll also have a health win after a difficult period.

**GEMINI**  
 You may have the opportunity to find a more spacious property for your family this week. You must make changes to your daily routine to become more efficient, which will prevent conflicts among your family members.

**CANCER**  
 Don't forget to charge your electronic devices every night to avoid communication mishaps from a dead battery. Expect to play taxi driver for your family this week.

**LEO**  
 Your honesty will shine this week as you openly express what others are thinking. You won't hesitate to point out your partner's excessive spending or impulse buys.

**VIRGO**  
 You'll feel great this week! You must swiftly handle a urgent situation at work to avoid complications. You'll be promoted, and despite the changes and stress associated with this change, you'll be happy.

**LIBRA**  
 You'll soon finish a task you've been putting off. To avoid health issues, take some time to rest before taking on new challenges.

**SCORPIO**  
 Waiting for medical test results for yourself or a loved one will be stressful. However, you'll receive a positive response, which will help alleviate your worries. The prospect of a bright future will dispel anxiety and allow you to sleep peacefully.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
 Tread carefully when dealing with family or professional matters. You may need to adjust your schedule to accommodate a promotion. The pay and nature of the work will make your decision easy.

**CAPRICORN**  
 It's time to start thinking about your end-of-year vacation! Booking things in advance, regardless of whether you're going alone or with family, friends or a significant other, will make things easier and avoid complications.

**AQUARIUS**  
 You may be responsible for international assignments or training at work. You might find it challenging to communicate with people who aren't comfortable speaking English.

**PISCES**  
 You must communicate openly with your partner to reignite the spark in your relationship. You'll need to make some adjustments to avoid emotional conflicts.



**RECYCLE THIS NEWS PAPER.**

## SHOP LOCAL. SAVE LOCAL

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### TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

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

DAY	TIME	FEET	METRES	DAY	TIME	FEET	METRES
30	4:18	8.1	2.47	3	0:12	1.6	0.49
	9:36	5.8	1.77		7:19	10.1	3.08
	16:00	9.7	2.96		12:03	8.6	2.62
	22:36	4.3	1.31		15:47	9.3	2.83
31	5:16	8.6	2.62	4	8:06	10.3	3.14
	10:17	6.5	1.98		13:00	8.9	2.71
	16:10	9.5	2.9		16:06	9.3	2.83
	22:57	3.5	1.07		0:21	1.2	0.37
1 NOV	6:51	9.5	2.9	5	8:56	10.5	3.2
	11:34	7.7	2.35		14:13	9.1	2.77
	16:24	9.3	2.83		16:24	9.2	2.8
	23:44	2.1	0.64		1:02	1.2	0.37
2	7:35	9.8	2.99	6	9:51	10.7	3.26
	12:15	8.2	2.5				
	16:33	9.3	2.83				

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# ISLAND LIFE

## PET PROJECT

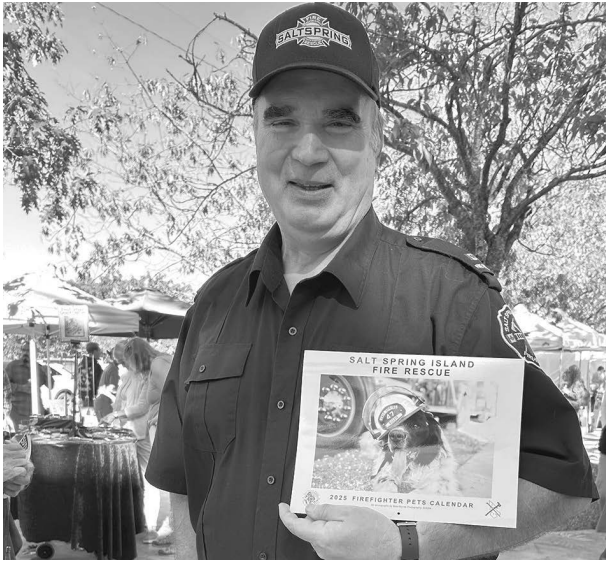


PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG  
 Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR) firefighter Grant Gussie shows the 2025 SSIFR Firefighter Pets Calendar he was selling in the Saturday Market earlier this month. The project includes photos of SSIFR members' pets, with information about the pet plus FireSmart tips. Photos were done by professional photographer Billie Woods. (Gussie's own pup is on the cover wearing his master's helmet.) Sale proceeds benefit the BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund.

# Awareness offered for bat week

Learn about bat boxes, white-nose syndrome

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

Halloween images of spooky bats and blood-sucking vampires are classically fun.

However, they have also created fear and misconceptions about these important animals. International Bat Week is from Oct. 24 to 31, and it's a great time to bust some myths.

The Community Bat Program of B.C. organization — also known as BC Bats — is encouraging everyone to learn a fact or two about the 15 species of bats that live in British Columbia. Bats in B.C. are major predators of insects, devouring many insects that are considered pests to our forestry and agricultural industries. This makes them an important part of our economy as they provide millions of dollars worth of natural pest control.

Most B.C. bats only have one pup per female in the summer and they face many threats to survive. White-nose syndrome is a disease that has killed millions of bats in eastern North America. It is caused by a fungus that attacks them in winter when they are hibernating. It does not affect people or other animals.

"People can help us monitor bat populations by keeping an eye out for winter bat activity or dead bats. If you find one, report it," said BC Bats program coordinator Paula Rodriguez de la Vega, who also cautions to never touch a bat with bare hands or allow your pets to contact it.

The Salt Spring Community Bat Program is working with B.C. government biologists to collect and test dead bats in order to detect



PHOTO BY PETER OMMUDSE/SSI CONSERVANCY  
 Installing and maintaining bat boxes are ways to help support bats in B.C.

white-nose syndrome. It has not been found in B.C. yet, but it is in Alberta and just south of B.C. in the Seattle area. People are asked to report the finding of dead bats

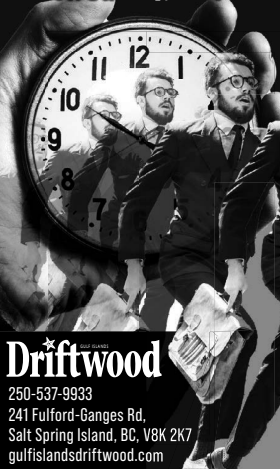
online at [bcbats.ca](http://bcbats.ca), call 1-855-922-2287, or email [BCBats@info@bcbats.ca](mailto:BCBats@info@bcbats.ca).

Bat Week also marks the time of year when bats disappear from our neighbourhoods, until the return of warmer weather in spring. As insect-eaters, our B.C. bats must leave their summer roost sites and migrate or hibernate to survive the winter. This absence means that this is the time of year to do home renovations that you have delayed due to bat presence. You can clean out and repair a bat box, or do bat-friendly exclusion work, without disturbing or injuring bats.

The BC Bats organization provides information and promotes stewardship and citizen science in partnership with the B.C. Ministry of Environment, and funded by the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. and the Habitat Stewardship Program.

For more information about bats and how to help them, visit [bcbats.ca](http://bcbats.ca).

**Don't forget to set your CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR on Sunday, Nov 3**



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# BOOKS & BLING

Photos by Rob Lowrie



Books & Bling volunteers Lisa Dahling, left, and Wendy Lefsrud greet customers at Salt Spring Literacy's annual fundraising sale held Oct. 25 to 27 at the Salt Spring Farmers' Institute. This year's event broke another sales record, exceeding the \$60,000 mark, said volunteers.



Barbara Brindamour has all of her winter reading in two shopping bags.



Olivia carefully chooses her jewellery at the sale with guidance of parents Jeremy Watkins and Elizabeth Pataky.



Book shoppers have their heads down combing the offerings in one section of the huge book sale.



## Get prepared for less daylight

As the days get shorter, it's easy to underestimate how quickly the sun sets. At Salt Spring Search and Rescue, we see more calls this time of year from people caught out after dark. Here's how to stay safe:

### Plan with Daylight in Mind

Always check sunset times and plan to finish your adventure well before dark. What seems like plenty of daylight can disappear fast.

### Bring Good Lighting

Headlamps or flashlights are a must. Even on short trips, pack extra batteries and keep a backup light handy. You might not plan to be out after dark, but you'll be glad you prepared.

### Tell Someone Your Plan

Before heading out, leave your trip details with a friend or family member. Include your route and return time—this helps us find you quicker if something goes wrong.

### Pack for the Unexpected

Conditions can change quickly as the day fades. Pack an emergency kit with essentials like an extra layer, a space blanket, and a whistle. Being prepared means you're ready for any surprises.

Have fun and remember: preparation is key. See you outside!



As the days get shorter, make sure you pack a headlamp and an emergency kit with the essentials when you go hiking.



## 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 •

## 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)  
DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NOVEMBER 13, 2024

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