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8 Light-up Decorating Contest winners



10 Bandemonium and Swing Shift reunite for concert

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PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

PRIME TRANSPORT: Salt Spring Fire Rescue firefighters, from left, Eddie Novakowicz, Campbell Jackson and Krystal Capranos ensure Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus are transported safely from Ganges Harbour to Meaden Hall, where the Clauses met with island children in the annual Santa Fly-in event.

ROAD SAFETY

Neighbours urge speed limit drop

Transportation ministry agrees to investigate North End Road area

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring residents who live near North End Road and Trincomali Heights are calling for speed limit reductions in their area, feeling the steep hillsides, blind corners and rushing drivers make for a dangerous combination.

Susan Worrall is one of a group of neighbours who has frequently witnessed cars speeding down the steep streets that intersect with North End Road, with LePage Road being her particular concern.

"Every morning and afternoon I walk my dog up the hill on LePage. On these darker days I carry a light or wear my headlamp. Many cars slow down and give me a slightly wider berth. Others, especially in the morning, come racing down the hill in the last 200 meters at at least 60 kilometres an hour and couldn't stop if they tried," she said.

Susan Cox says she won't walk across LePage to get to her mailbox when it gets dark because she's not confident she'll be seen even when packing a flashlight and reflective clothing. She's already had a close call in the daylight hours when she and another neighbour had to jump out of the way to avoid being hit by a truck speeding down the hill.

"The problem is especially bad at dusk, or after work," Cox said.

Cox also won't use LePage Road to get onto North End Road when driving to town because of the blind corner just to the north.

Worrall and others feel that 50 km/h is just too fast for a side street that comes out onto a busy road. But it also seems that people are speeding up the hill.

"I realize it's a busy world and people are anxious to get home, get their sick pets up to the vet clinic and buy those veggies and eggs, but do they have to drive so fast? Will it take an injured pedestrian or worse?" Worrall asked.

North End Road's 60 km/h speed limit is another concern, particularly along the edge of St. Mary Lake. Concerned islanders point out the public beach is the busiest recreational lake access on the island, and is located along one of the busiest stretches of roadway, yet it is the only such access that doesn't have a reduced 30-km/h zone on the adjacent road.

Safety issues on that stretch were noted by local government groups as far back as 2011, when the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission identified the lake and its North End

Road access points as a "red alert area." Concerns raised by local parents of small children using the beach were brought to the attention of the Salt Spring Transportation Commission in 2012.

More recently, Worrall has expressed her concerns directly to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure by writing to Minister Claire Trevena. The response she received indicated that MoTI is working on North End Road visibility issues, and that speeding concerns should be reported to the RCMP.

Information provided by MoTI to the Driftwood states, in contrast, "There is no plan in the works for the St. Mary Lake area. However, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure will review the 60-km/h zone and sightlines on North End Road to see what safety improvements could be considered."

A poll conducted by Research Co. this year found that 58 per cent of British Columbians would "definitely" or "probably" like to see speed limits reduced from the 50 km/h provincial standard in residential neighbourhoods. Saanich city council voted on Nov. 25 to request the province change the Motor Vehicle Act to lower speeds on all B.C. residential streets to 40 km/h.



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WATER RESOURCES

Lack of rainfall challenges lake levels

NSSWD customers encouraged to keep conserving through winter months

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A dry November has the North Salt Spring Waterworks District concerned and potentially stepping into uncharted territory concerning watering restrictions.

November is typically the rainiest month of the year, but this year the island has only seen 33 per cent of the normal amount. As a result, the levels in St. Mary and Maxwell lakes are much lower than average. District environmental manager Meghan McKee explained that the island usually sees around 170 mm of rain during the month, but only 55 mm had actually fallen in November.

"That means more than 100 mm we didn't get in November. We'd have to have very very high rainfall in December to make up for that," she said. "I don't think we will have that much. I'm looking at the forecast and there's rain in the forecast for the next couple of weeks, but none of it is huge."

September was a high rainfall month, but since then there has been unseasonably low amounts of precipitation. The geography of

Salt Spring Island makes it so that the big rain events that hit the West Coast do not result in as much rain here as they do in Vancouver or on Vancouver Island.

"We have a different climate than the rest of Vancouver Island and Vancouver," McKee said. "We simply don't always get the rainfall that they're getting from those big storms."

"Certainly, if the lake did not fill we would be in watering restrictions."

MEGHAN MCKEE
Environmental manager, NSSWD

The district has had a watering restriction bylaw in place since 2015. If the trend continues as it has, it could mean that restrictions stay in place for the entire winter. Dry weather also affects groundwater recharge, which needs to happen before the lakes can refill. A report on St. Mary Lake completed in 2017 indicated that refill could be an issue for the lake looking forward, and that as the probability of refill decreases, the necessary amount of storage at the lake increases.

"That is part of the reason that we're in a moratorium. There have been years in the past where, based on our current withdrawals,

there was low enough rainfall that the lake didn't refill. That is a possibility," McKee said.

"Certainly, if the lake did not fill we would be in watering restrictions. Also, there could be potential water quality implications if the lake didn't fill. It needs that flushing action."

The water quality concerns would not result in a health issue for NSSWD customers, since the water will be treated regardless of quality. McKee explained that it is more of an environmental and ecosystem issue.

"We've had difficulty maintaining flow to Duck Creek this summer because of natural causes like obstructions at the south end of St. Mary Lake where it flows into Duck Creek. The lake is filling in over time. Unfortunately, since the lake has not filled, there is not as much flow as we'd expect in Duck Creek at this time, and this is an important time for fish, both trout and salmon," she said.

Level one watering restrictions are mandated for the months of April, September and October. The district has not removed the restriction, and trustees and staff will be discussing the situation further. The district is also going through a revision to the watering restriction bylaw, which will be based on a new rule curve that is being drafted. For now, they ask that people be mindful of the water they use.

"Even though it's winter and it's not hot out, we would like people to be aware that we have not had normal rainfall, the lake has not refilled and to be aware of that," McKee said.

MARINE RESCUE

Two people pulled from Burgoyne Bay

Nighttime rescue involves several parties

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Rescue units were called to Burgoyne Bay early Thursday morning after two people travelling in a small power skiff went overboard at around 2:30 a.m.

The Joint Rescue Coordination Centre in Victoria dispatched the Ganges Coast Guard as well as Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue units from Salt Spring and Mill Bay. In the meantime, the resident of a nearby float home had heard cries for help and after rescuing the two people from the water, brought them back to his vessel.

RCMSAR Mill Bay arrived in time to meet BC Ambulance personnel at the government dock, and transported them to the float home to assess the patients.

A report from the Mill Bay unit states: "When we arrived on scene and picked up ambulance paramedics, we took them to the float home, where the persons had been given dry clothes and were being warmed. [Coast Guard vessel] Ganges 1 and Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue Station 25 Salt Spring also came on

scene. Great cooperation existed between the parties."

Ganges 1 personnel brought the emergency team and their patients to the waiting ambulance at the dock, from where they proceeded to Lady Minto Hospital.

"For our unit it was relatively uneventful. We ended up doing a search for the missing vessel," said Paul FitzZaland, a member of Salt Spring RCMSAR.

They were not able to locate the skiff, which appears to have sunk.

FitzZaland noted the night of the incident was cold and blustery, with winds hitting around 15 knots (30 km) per hour and a wind warning issued. Although Burgoyne Bay seems protected, he points out there is no breakwater or barrier to stop higher waves, and the bay opens onto a wide part of Sansum Narrows.

"It's not protected when it comes in from the north. The winds can funnel in there pretty hard sometimes," FitzZaland said.

"We do frequent checks on Burgoyne Bay; when we're doing our trainings we like to keep an eye out," he added. "We're concerned about the safety of people down there quite a lot."

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NEWS BRIEFS

Public can support SSE fundraiser

Salt Spring Elementary is one of four Canadian school gardens fundraising online with the "crowd-granting" SeedMoney Foundation this December.

The foundation provides a platform and guides school and community gardens through an online campaign process. Then, they award challenge grants based on the amount raised. SSE set a goal of \$1,500 for garden infrastructure, tools, and materials, and has raised \$1,000 with two weeks to go.

"So far, teachers and family members have been the main contributors, so we thought we'd reach out to the greater Salt Spring community," said PAC treasurer Robin Jenkinson. "If we reach our target, we could win an additional \$500 from the foundation."

People can visit <https://donate.seedmoney.org/4012/salt-spring-elementary-school-gardens> to contribute.

CRTC seeks radio station application input

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission has acknowledged the Gulf Islands Community Radio Society's application for a broadcasting licence to operate as a radio station on Salt Spring.

The commission is now seeking comments from the public about market capacity and the appropriateness of issuing a call for radio applications to serve Salt Spring Island. The commission encourages interested persons, as well as the applicant, to submit additional information that it will take into consideration before making a final determination on whether it should proceed with a call for applications.

The deadline for the receipt of interventions is Jan. 15, 2020. Only parties that file interventions may file a reply to matters raised during the intervention phase. The deadline to file replies is Jan. 30, 2020.

ENVIRONMENT

CRD works on new solid waste plan

Garbage reduction targeted as landfill nears capacity

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Capital Regional District staff were on Salt Spring Thursday to gather public feedback on updating a solid waste management plan for the region.

The plan contains 15 proposed strategies divided into three categories: reduce and reuse, recycling and recovery, and residuals management. Although one of the strategies is to increase capacity at Hartland Landfill so it can be used up to the year 2100, keeping things out of the facility in the first place is a priority.

"We are more aware of the need to reduce our use of single-use items, especially plastics. Capital region residents actively participate in blue box recycling and diversion programs for organic matter like food scraps and yard waste," public engagement materials read. "At the same time, we still produce a lot of garbage."

Currently, about 140,000 tonnes of garbage is sent to Hartland each year. A medium-term goal is to reduce garbage by at least one third by 2030, from the current 380 kg per person per year to 250 kg.

"The easiest way to reduce waste is to avoid purchasing or creating what we don't need," the engagement material observes. Proper diversion of items that don't need to go to the landfill and can be remade or reused is the next best step.

"The easiest way to reduce waste is to avoid purchasing or creating what we don't need."

CRD Solid Waste Plan engagement material

Wood and wood products made up 17 per cent, and another 15.4 per cent stemmed from paper and paper products. The next highest portion came from plastics, at 14 per cent.

Members of the public who attended Thursday's open house session were concerned with advancing more diversion options locally. Questions directed at staff centred around the types of recycling available, extending producer responsibility programs, where material goes after it leaves the island and how to facilitate food waste collection and composting.

In regard to a question about why the CRD banned kitchen scraps without providing a way to deal with organics, Wendy Dunn, program coordinator with the CRD's environmental resource management branch, explained that a processing facility had existed in the regional district when the rule first went into place. It has since shut down, but the CRD is now investigating the potential for establishing an organics processing facility at Hartland.

Dunn said people who wanted to see smaller facilities outside the regional district core, like on Salt Spring, should put that in writing on the feedback forms provided at the open house or through the online survey (which was closed on Dec. 1).

As for items such as hard plastic not related to packaging, Dunn said more and more producers are being folded into the responsibility program. Those that make items that are harder to recycle, such as multi-laminate plastic packaging, are required to pay more

into the program than those with easy-to-process items such as soup tins.

"You and I as consumers can exercise our consumer power by what we choose off the shelves, too," Dunn added. "We have some power to do that."

Consumers can find out what happens to their recycled material through the BC Recycling website.

More information on the CRD's solid waste management planning can be found at <https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/management-plan>.

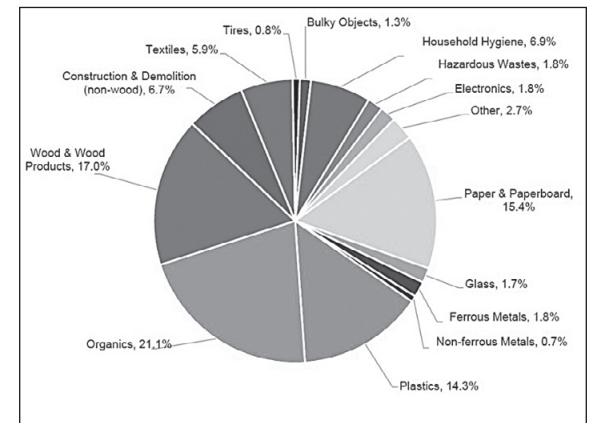


IMAGE COURTESY CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

Hartland Landfill composition by material type.



Audrey - Quench Salon
Barb's Bakery & Bistro
Billie Woods Photography
Celebrity Accents
Co-op Gas Bar
Country Grocer
Driftwood Gulf Island's Media
Farm Fresh Design
Glad's Ice Cream & Sweet Shoppe
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Islands Trust

Have Your Say

LUB Amendment for Short Term Vacation Rentals (STVRs) Bylaw 117

PUBLIC HEARING

SOUTH PENDER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

What is the bylaw about?

Proposed Bylaw 117 amends regulations in the South Pender Island Land Use Bylaw (LUB) to prohibit the operation of STVRs as a principal (outright) use in all zones except commercial resort. The bylaw does not impact legal existing operations.

Thursday,
December 16,
2019
Public Hearing
@ 10:30 a.m.

South Pender
Island Fire Hall
8961 Gowland
Point Road,
South Pender
Island

Who should attend?
Anyone affected by
the proposed
bylaws

Enquires?
Narissa Chadwick,
Island Planner
nchadwick@islandstrust.bc.ca
250-405-5189

How do I get more information?

A copy of the bylaw and other information is available at the Islands Trust Victoria office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays, November 9 to December 12, 2019. Or visit:

www.islandstrust.bc.ca/spender/STVR-project/

Written submissions?

Send by 4:30 p.m., December 12, 2019 to:

- Islands Trust, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8R 1H8 or
- Email: vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca, or
- In person at the Public Hearing

Note: All submissions received become part of the public record

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ISLANDS TRUST

LTC opens housing alternatives

Residential TUP, cottages bylaw advanced

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee made steps toward one of its top priorities last week by voting to advance two projects that will facilitate new affordable housing alternatives.

A bylaw to legalize long-term rentals on some 411 properties where seasonal cottages are currently permitted was updated on Nov. 26 as part of the LTC's affordable housing work. The committee also voted to relaunch a project that would permit temporary use permits for residential purposes.

The dire lack of housing on the island was highlighted a few days earlier, when 100 or so islanders turned up for a rally outside the Islands Trust office. Rhonan Heitzmann, a member of the Salt Spring Solutions advocacy group, renewed the call during the Nov. 26 meeting, stating the urgent need to act on housing could also help combat climate change.

"Housing action is climate action by making use of existing buildings," Heitzmann said during the town hall session.

Heitzmann asked the LTC to focus on creating a plan to legalize occupancy in places such as suites, accessory build-

ings and garages as quickly as possible. He argued the cost of construction is too high to expect property owners to build cottages for affordable rental purposes, especially with a new rain-water collection requirement.

Trustee Laura Patrick also spoke in favour of Salt Spring Solutions' position, as outlined in a letter to the LTC in July. She raised a motion to put the cottages project "on pause" so staff could return to legalizing secondary suites across more of the island.

The resolution was rejected by fellow trustee Peter Grove and LTC chair Peter Luckham.

"It's a great move," Grove said regarding the cottages project. "It's not enough, but it's a step in the right direction."

Luckham noted changes to the bylaw will still be possible after a public hearing is held, but felt it was important to get to that stage.

"Likely through the public hearing process, we may hear some similar comments or suggestions, so we could create some amendments that might embrace the correspondence that we received some time ago from the housing group," Luckham said.

A temporary use permit project that re-entered the work stream last week was last considered by the LTC in 2014. Staff have introduced changes that would allow TUPS to be geared toward providing staff housing for local businesses and services, permit

"tiny homes on wheels" on residential properties, and allow the limited residential use of some secondary suites and seasonal cottages, all on a temporary basis.

While the project originally envisioned using TUPS just for secondary suite and care cottage accommodation, a staff report observes the Trust could face an enforcement issue in having to evict people from homes when the permit period ended. The revised project instead looks at legalizing situations that are already temporary in nature for the most part, which will provide the opportunity to increase housing while ensuring safety standards are being met.

"It is readily evident that there are already significant numbers of people living in tiny homes and RVs on the island. Instituting a formal permitting process can ensure that basic issues such as sewage disposal, potable water and environmental protection are adequately reviewed and addressed," the staff report explains.

Islands Trust bylaw enforcement staff currently operate under a standing resolution from the LTC that directs staff to forego enforcement on properties where there is a single unlawful dwelling unit.

Trustees gave the project's amended bylaw second reading, directed staff to schedule a community information meeting to take place within an upcoming LTC meeting, and resolved to send the bylaw out for referral to relevant agencies and groups.

Meadowlane advances

In other housing business at the Nov. 26 meeting, the LTC voted to forward the rezoning application for 154 Kings Lane on to the Trust's executive council for approval. The decision followed finalization of an affordable housing agreement and conditions on water licensing and sewer connection being fulfilled.

Rezoning will allow construction of the 48-unit Meadowlane complex, which will be owned and operated by the nonprofit Gulf Islands Seniors Residence Association.

The LTC decided to waive a security requirement representing 150 per cent of the cost of building a pathway on Blain Road. GISRA president Janet Smith successfully argued the organization had not been aware that staff would add that requirement, and that no pathway has been designed or costed yet. Smith promised the organization will have the pathway built when the development is actually in progress.



Islands Trust

Have Your Say

Monday,
December 9, 2019
12:30 p.m.

Galiano South
Community Hall
141 Sturdies Bay Rd.

Who should attend?

Anyone affected by
the proposed
bylaws

Enquires?

Robert Kojima,
Regional Planning Mgr.

rkojima@
islandstrust.bc.ca

250-405-5159

OCP Amendment and Rezoning

Forest 1 to Forest Industrial (a)

Bylaws 265 and 266

PUBLIC HEARING (2nd)

GALIANO ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

What are the bylaws about?

The bylaws would redesignate and rezone an approximately 2.2 hectare portion of the subject property as shown in the sketch map below to allow excavation contractor workshops and yards, gravel processing and storage, and one accessory dwelling. Recent changes provide for additional future highway access in the covenant agreement and an additional emergency access in the right of way agreement.

Redesignate OCP to Forest Industry - FI
Rezone to Forest Industrial (a) - FI (a)



How do I get more information?

Copies of the bylaws and other information are available at the Islands Trust Victoria office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays, November 22 to December 5, 2019. Or:

www.islandstrust.bc.ca/galiano/applications

Written submissions?

Send by 4:30 p.m., December 5, 2019 to:

- Islands Trust, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8, or
- Email: vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca, or
- In person at the Public Hearing

Note: All submissions received become part of the public record

LAND USE

Trust hears composter appeal

Temporary use permit, rezoning "untenable"

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Two organizations looking to build a community composter on Salt Spring addressed the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee last week to discuss barriers to completing the project.

The Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust Society, along with Salt Spring Island Community Services, have been working to build a community composter at the Burgoyne Valley Community Farm. The composter would allow materials typically taken off-island and disposed in a landfill to stay on the island and help build soil fertility. The partner groups addressed the Trust because in order to get the composter constructed, the Agricultural Land Commission requires that there is no prohibitions from local government. Multiple concerned parties and farmers from the island also spoke favourably about the project during the town hall portion of the meeting.

"That's ALR land, so our first reference point is the Agricultural Land Commission. They say it's fine with them in legislation and regulations. The only provisions are that we comply with whatever the Ministry of Environment requires, which is reasonable, and that the local government is not prohibiting it — which is different from approving it," Farmland Trust president Patricia Reichert explained.

Under current regulations, composting facilities are only allowed in Industrial-zoned properties. A communication from the Trust to SSICS and the Farmland Trust Society explained that if a use is permitted in one zone, then it is excluded from all others.

Islands Trust regional planning manager Stefan Cermak explained that two areas on the island were permitted to have such a facility, one near Gulf Islands Secondary School and one being the property housing the Farmland Trust's



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Community compost project lead Mary Richardson speaks to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee on Nov. 26.

"The Root" food security hub on Beddis Road. Cermak also explained that in order to build the composter at the farm, two options existed: to either rezone a part of the Burgoyne Valley farm property to allow the composting facility, or to apply for a temporary use permit that would do the same. He said no application has been submitted.

Reichert and SSICS executive director Rob Grant both said that those options were not possible. During the presentation, Reichert expressed her concern that the TUP could establish a precedent that would limit, based on the exclusion mentioned above, other farmers from being able to compost on their properties. Cermak later told the Driftwood that the temporary use permit would not establish any precedents.

Composting appears in an ongoing update to the Trust's zoning bylaws. The proposed Bylaw 489 would allow composting of agricultural waste produced onsite to be a permitted use in all zones that permit agriculture, and that composting organic matter originating at the site of the operation could be a permitted use in all zones. Under that bylaw, all commercial composting would be subject to the Capital Regional District's Compost-

ing Facilities Regulation Bylaw. The Trust bylaw is currently awaiting ministerial approval.

Relocating the facility to the Farmland Trusts' The Root building would not be an option, Grant explained.

"The whole essence of this was to integrate it with the activity on the farm. It's not a stand-alone activity. A very particular set of things all needed to come together and balance to make it work. It takes a bit of labour to do it. That's where we [SSICS] come in. We can bring the labour. We're not at The Root. So there's a huge efficiency to integrate everything on that property. All of the pieces are there," he said.

"It's a farming activity, and we have the materials right at the farm for one thing, and it's an allowable farming activity," Reichert added. She also explained that The Root property does not have the proper space required for the composter.

The unit will turn food waste into compost in roughly two weeks. The main source of input for the composter will be grocery stores and other businesses that produce compostable waste. Under the regulations set out by the ALC, the operators would be able to sell up to 50 per cent of their compost and then use the rest on the farm. Most of the compost will likely be sold to farmers and gardeners within the Burgoyne Valley area.

"We want [the Trust] to circle back and have another look at it," Grant said. "The staff have determined that it's not zoned appropriately, our position is that it absolutely is permitted. We want another look at that."

Cermak told the trustees later in the Nov. 26 meeting that "composting is absolutely permitted and we would never prevent that from happening. What they are asking for is a composting facility, which has to be done on land zoned for it."

"We've been really trying to help them as much as we can," he added. "Staff are really keen to help them get a composting facility. We know it's important. We just can't do it without zoning."

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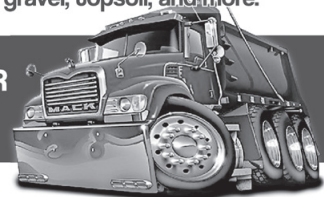
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EDUCATION

SD64 ponders climate

Reconfiguration
feedback period ends

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Climate change is on the minds of Gulf Islands School District trustees, who took time last week to discuss the district's official position and action plan, to be voted on at their board meeting in December.

Discussion on climate change action began at the board level at the Nov. 13 meeting on Mayne Island, where Julie Johnston, a Pender Island-based climate-change advocate, asked the board to consider declaring a climate emergency and to develop a bold action plan to limit the district's effects.

Also on the agenda was a letter from Capital Regional District director Gary Holman, who asked the board to provide input and feedback on the Salt Spring Island Climate Action Plan. The two items were deferred to the district's com-

mittee day, which was held last week.

Salt Spring trustee Tisha Boulter recommended the board set up an ad-hoc committee that would investigate working towards climate change action, and informing the public of what the district already does in terms of climate change mitigation.

She said that she felt the district was "already a leader, it's just not visible," and that decisions have already been made with the climate in mind. Items like the solar panels on Gulf Islands Secondary School, the electric school bus pilot project and the school gardens were all given as examples.

The district has also completed the feedback portion of their reconfiguration process. Some 435 people voiced their ideas to the district online, and 541 individual comments had been logged. The district has also collected the feedback forms from the community meetings and aims to synthesize the data for the new year.

Christmas Season ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Please note the Gulf Islands Driftwood office
will be closed on Wednesday Dec 25.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES FOR THE DEC. 24 PAPER:

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OPINION



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Bronze - Best News Story (Elizabeth Nolan) | Bronze - Community Service

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Silver - Best Multimedia Feature (Marc Kitteringham)
Silver - Community Service | New Journalist of the Year (Marc Kitteringham)



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EDITORIAL

AAP process undemocratic

The Capital Regional District's attempt to create a "safety service" for Salt Spring has garnered lots of negative attention in recent weeks, and for good reason.

The process has been flawed on many levels.

While the desire to help solve a community problem might be admirable, and the amount of money proposed to be spent in the first year will not break anyone's bank, adding to the CRD bureaucracy and using an alternative approval process (AAP) to fund a new service was not the way to go.

Some of the money will reportedly be used to pay for CRD staff to attend and take minutes at one or more meetings. Those staff are already being paid by Salt Spring Island taxpayers. The CRD should not have to charge another CRD service — in this case the new Community Safety Service — for its staff to do jobs that islanders are already paying them to do.

THE ISSUE: Safety service AAP vote

WE SAY: Say 'no' before Dec. 9 deadline

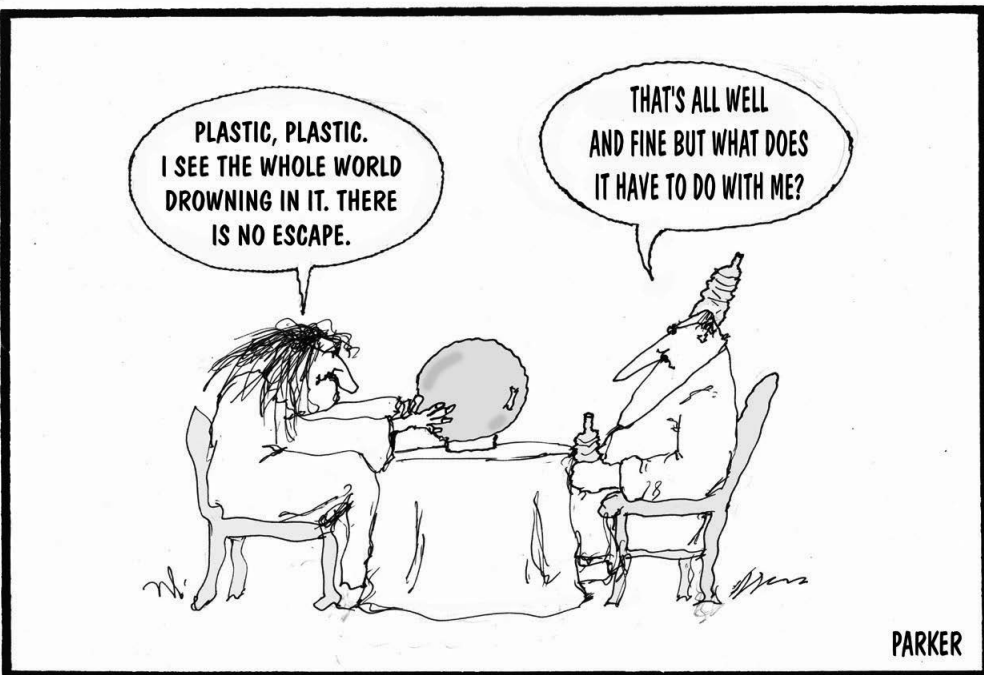
Unbelievably, Ganges CRD office staff have been instructed to not give more than one copy of the Elector Response Form to an individual for distribution to other electors. That policy makes no sense since the verification of a voter's qualifications must still be done by matching the name to a residential address or a piece of property owned by a non-resident elector. (You don't have to be property owner to protest this bylaw; just a "qualified" voter like in any other regular election.)

The form states that it must be returned to the Victoria CRD office (the Ganges office is also fine) and that the bylaw must be attached. Neither instruction is accurate. Another serious flaw.

We encourage island voters to either print off forms for themselves, their friends and family members from the CRD's website or to get one from the CRD office and photocopy it.

While it is natural to feel intimidated by having government employees know one's feeling about an issue, people should buck that fear and drop off the form at the Ganges CRD office at #108-121 McPhillips Ave. by 4 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 9. Or hurry and pop it into the mail to the CRD Victoria office on Fisgard Street, or drop it off there in person.

Even if forms are not returned by the required 910 electors — 10 per cent of registered Salt Spring voters — if enough people do the deed, it might at least make the CRD think twice about using an AAP the next time it is looking to expand its reach and extract more money from island taxpayers to pay for it.



PARKER

Ganges submerged in future

BY TIMOTHY HARVEY

Recently, a public rally on Salt Spring drew attention to the local link between our housing crisis and climate change. Demonstrators suggested, among other measures, that we add accommodations to the Ganges village core. Indeed, this would address some of the problems we face today.

What about the problems we will face tomorrow? In October 2019, a consortium of climate scientists released an updated map of coastal regions predicted to be flooded by rising sea levels by the year 2050. The new estimates triple the previously predicted extent of flooding, by correcting for satellite data in which elevations had accounted for rooftops rather than ground-level topography. The updated map shows virtually all of Ganges under water in just 30 years. That's right: water lapping at the doors of the high school, with everything from Grace Point to Mid-Island Co-op gas station and the sewage treatment plant submerged by tidewater.

Sound extreme? It is.

VIEWPOINT

But the damage to climate is already done. When you place an ice cube in a warm room, it does not instantly melt. It melts gradually over a time scale relative to its size. We are now living within a brief, decades-long lag between present temperatures and the catastrophic melting of the earth's great ice cubes, found mostly in Greenland and Antarctica.

The updated map shows virtually all of Ganges under water in just 30 years.

The consensus on coming floods is based on known variables, including water volume, topography and observations of the current rate of melting. It is safe to assume that the fate of our beloved Ganges is a foregone conclusion.

We either fight this

reality, adapt to it, or both. But unless we raise taxes enough to protect Ganges Harbour with a storm surge barrier reminiscent of the Dutch Delta Works, we have three decades to mount an exodus from our village core, and from dozens of the island's more desirable waterfront residences as well. That should be enough time to shift main roads and to decommission the current village in an environmentally sensitive fashion, and, of course, to find new housing for displaced flood-zone refugees.

Until then, by all means, let's liven up the village and mitigate the current housing shortage. We should enjoy everything Ganges has to offer for as long as we can. But as tidewaters creep to the foot of Ganges Hill and hundreds of millions of climate refugees are displaced worldwide, we'll want a solid plan in place to deal with homelessness on a scale that puts today's housing crisis in stark perspective.

The updated 2050 flood prediction map can be viewed at coastal.climatecentral.org/.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Is speeding a problem on Salt Spring roads?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you in favour
of the CRD safety
service?

19 119
YES NO

Cast your ballot online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com
before Tuesday at noon or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 4:30 p.m.

OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

"Others . . . come racing down the hill in the last 200 meters at at least 60 kilometres an hour and couldn't stop if they tried."

SUSAN WORRALL, ON LEPAGE ROAD SPEEDING

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED: *What should be included in Salt Spring's climate action plan?*

BRUCE LOGAN



It's always about fossil fuels, so we need a way to reduce that. Maybe more bike lanes and pedestrian walk ways.

GAIL MUISE



Working on bike pathways is a good way to keep gas consumption down, along with more recycling and finding a way to remove plastics from the ocean.

MATT ROBERTSON



There are already lots of positives, but we need to reduce waste. A big thing is education so people are less wasteful when it comes to power, consumption and everything.

SHANTI LEVESQUE



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SUSAN LEE



I think I would like to see everyone on board with single-use plastic reduction.

LETTERS to the editor

Save forests

There has been severe logging on a sharp and extensive precipitous pitch of Mount Erskine. All summer the residents below have endured the sound of crashing trees and trucks coming and going. The whine of chainsaws has permeated the days and still do, for here on Salt Spring anybody can do what they want on their land. There is a creek nearby, which is a water source for many residents, including myself.

A short time ago I was a guest at a house in West Vancouver. I was admiring her wooded garden. She said that the huge maple growing was creating a lot of detritus on the roof and skylights and she had applied to the local council for its removal. It was denied. So many trees have come done in the municipality that this is

now the state of things.

I also know from my travels that this is true in parts of New Zealand, where residents have to apply to a regulatory body for removal for construction. Why is that when all of the trees are almost gone legislation finally kicks in?

I am the last person to enjoy being dictated to by a community, as to what I can and can't do on my property. However, it is a situation like this, where taking a bit is not enough. In fact it is a clearcut, except for a couple of shrubs, that moves me to write in protest. It is well documented that the disappearance of trees causes the water table to drop. I am worried now that this is the case with the water. I am also worried the winter rains will cause slumpage and erosion on the buildings and road below, which is Pallot Way leading to

Letters to the editor are welcome, but writers are requested to keep their submissions to 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for brevity, legality and taste. Writers are also asked to furnish a telephone number where they may be reached during the day, and to sign their letters with their full name. Thank you letters will not normally be considered for publication. Send your letters to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Rainbow Road.

I am hoping that as we discuss community and our future we can put some thought into the impact of logging in residential areas, which seems to be most of our island, and whether or not clear-cutting on steep inclines or otherwise should continue to be at the behest of the property owner, regardless of how it is affecting others. Action is needed to affect change.

MARYANNA GABRIEL,

SALT SPRING

Tax bandits

I am in complete agreement with Tom Pickett's observation in the Nov. 27 Viewpoint point.

The CRD process is a set of loaded dice to ensure the best outcome for those driving this thinly disguised tax grab. As well, the negative response ballot

does not contain proper information about being able to return the form to the CRD office in Ganges. The form alleges it must be returned to headquarters in Victoria. I believe this is intended to dissuade some people from following through. It is very disingenuous and deceitful. Vote no now. Drop the form off to the Ganges CRD office.

Why can these ballots not be tabulated on Salt Spring with community scrutineers invited to participate in our local democracy? It should be the same as any ballot-counting process!

There is a distinct odour in the air surrounding this vague but powerful grant to the non-bean-counters over in the CRD. The tax bandits are at it again.

DAVID MERKE,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

Housing solutions need boldness and courage

BY MEROR KRAYENHOFF

We've known about and studied Salt Spring's affordable housing shortfall for at least 13 years and have made no headway, and perhaps gone backwards.

As a response we now have an anarchic, subversive culture that thumbs their nose at regulations that don't represent the will of the population. Non-compliance has become the norm, and it is broadly believed that it is better to beg forgiveness than ask permission.

We have a complaint-driven, not vision-driven policy paradigm.

Rhonan Heitzmann spoke about how we used to be a beacon for housing solutions. For example, rammed earth in Canada began on Salt Spring. Straw-bale building in the early days was centred on Salt Spring. Salt Spring milled its own timber, quarried its own building stone, used island sand and gravel for its concrete, and had the skilled tradesman to create remarkable projects. Salt Spring is no longer the beacon for permitted home-building solutions for the rest of the country or the world.

So, what would it take to become a beacon? Let's begin by looking at what other people around the world are doing.

A Living Building Challenge project on Bainbridge Island required that the homeowner take care of their own human waste. The owner petitioned for and bylaws were created to allow composting toilets.

Protectionist measures are routinely used around the world to ensure that local designers, local builders and local materials are used to express local culture (as in our OCP).

After presenting the case to the Qualicum City Council, they voted to cut permit fees in half for a SIREWALL residential project. Other municipalities jump green projects to the front of the permit queue and provide a single point advisor. Seattle grants 25 to 30 per cent increase in allowable floor area to Living Building Challenge projects. Allowable heights also increase.

In Lithuania, the building inspector is far less intrusive. He wants to make sure the building is durable, fire-proof, has a good roof, very high insulation levels, and an HRV. Basically, he has no input after lockup

GUEST COLUMN

(which is typically 50 per cent of the cost of a house). People buy such unfinished houses and move in, slowly putting in interior walls, kitchens, floors, plumbing, wiring, etc. This is a huge financial advantage for people starting out.

In China, rammed earth is not permitted. There is an alternative approval process however, that allows the local government official to approve despite non-compliance. On Salt Spring we used to have a senior building inspector, who had authority near to that, and we no longer have that. When it comes to buildings we are governed from Saanich, where there is little appreciation for our local building culture. We need to once again have a senior building inspector for Salt Spring if we are to implement the mandate of our OCP.

For the SIREWALL community centre project in New Zealand, which is currently under construction, approval was contingent upon showing reconciliation with Maoris, training opportunities for youth, a high environmental standard that the community (of all ages) needed to be behind, that it would elevate the well-being of the community, and encourage the right kind of tourism. Those are far more inspiring metrics than cost per square foot.

We have worked in communities where Passive House, LEED Silver or LEED Gold are the minimum environmental building standard. If Salt Spring wants to be a beacon, we should be first to adopt the most rigorous of all, the Living Building Challenge, as our minimum standard. The LBC requires that the building is net positive in terms of water, energy, sewage and liquid waste, contains no red-listed toxic materials, expresses beauty in terms of spirit, inspiration and education, creates health and happiness through such things as biophilia, no use of toxic red-listed materials and many more excellent inspiring measures. Certainly, this does add to the cost but if required only of larger houses (perhaps over 2,000 square feet) then the water, energy and waste costs are no longer borne

by the community and water gets freed up for those not able to afford large homes.

Vancouver has a 100-year plan. Salt Spring has a five-year plan. We need a 200-year (seven-generation) plan. Without a destination we continue to fumble along. Inside a 7G plan, we can begin to see how we need to integrate the different silos and we have something against which we measure progress. Scrambling between climate emergency, housing emergency, logging emergency, etc. is not the practice of getting somewhere great. If we have distinguished the greatest Salt Spring Island we can imagine in a 7G plan, then we can make prioritized decisions in a measured and rational manner.

We are in a time when the scale of the emergencies we face needs to be addressed with solutions of a corresponding scale. These emergencies also have urgency. Our extremely slow and studied-to-death, decision-making process is not designed for this. Even if our CRD/Islands Trust/NSSWD/fire department, etc. silos were working at optimum efficiency, we can't get 'er done. Not even close.

We have a fractured governance that I understood would be capable of functioning with all the capabilities of a municipality. I believe there is much that can be done to solve the emergencies we face, such as described in the list above, but without governance that can act with pace, boldness, courage and the power to implement, we are wasting our time. The context is decisive, and that's where we need to put our attention. Asking our silo people to solve any emergency without adequate tools is a fool's errand.

I end with a question: How do we create a system for Salt Spring whereby we can govern ourselves with pace, boldness, courage and the power to implement?

The writer is a global rammed earth consultant, working with the biggest and best architects in dozens of countries. Prior to that he designed and built housing on Salt Spring, receiving three Best Home Builder in B.C. awards from the Canadian Home Builders Association.



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ART REVIEW

Christmas smalls bring delight

Gallery's seasonal group exhibition on through December

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Christmastime at Gallery 8 is one of the few seasons when all the represented artists contribute work to a group show.

The rich visual scene is compounded by the fact that many are working to the theme of small works, so there are even more delights to discover than usual in the upstairs feature room.

Sculpture fans will find many items to interest them in the exhibition, which opened Nov. 22 and continues through the month of December. James Stewart's bronze Trotting Horse is small enough to fit on a window sill but large enough to showcase a wonderful sense of realism in the anatomy, along with a lovely expressive treatment in the scalloped texture of the original sculpture.

Nicola Prinsen is a recognized local master of the three-dimensional form, usually depicting life-like animals with quirky attitudes, in bronze. She takes this a step further in Radiant Cow (Lavender). This cow has a squared, blocky body extending downward from its bony spine almost to the ground, its udder resting on the floor and its tiny legs styled more like sofa legs. A few stalks of lavender are inscribed onto the body. It's an interesting and appealing piece.

Cornelia Krikke capitalizes on the beautiful warm tones in stone like orange alabaster to create her small sculptures. One called Ideas is shaped like a thought bubble with a smooth, shallow depression that recalls the stone Inuit seal oil lamp, bridging modern and traditional uses of carving. Another, Flow, is shaped like a seashell that has been smoothed by the waves over time, in glowing stone of mottled orange and white.



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

From top, Patrick Skidd's dynamic painted wood veneer fish and Nicola Prinsen's Radiant Cow (Lavender) sculpture, part of the Gallery 8 Christmas Exhibition of Small Works.

Patrick Skidd bridges painting and sculpture in his wall pieces that combine stylized three-dimensional fish against flat ocean-tinted backgrounds, all in painted wood veneer. The small groupings of tiny fish — a different type in each work — have an air of fishing lures, but are dynamic at the same time. They are often positioned on the diagonal, or in a dive, swimming en route to some other location.

On the painting front, Sandhu Singh remains one of the gallery's

most consistent and accomplished artists, with his mastery of the sketch-like watercolour medium matched by a keen eye for observation. Larger works like Heritage Hall capture all the elements of a busy city street on a rainy day. The grey expanse of wet pavement and dark clouds is enlivened by touches of bright primary colours in cars, rain jackets and brake lights.

Singh also has a series of small paintings that are less detailed and more gestural, but equally evoke their environment, such as a bakery tent at an outdoor farmers' market.

Jade Boyd's semi-abstract landscape paintings in acrylic evoke the rippled surface texture of water bodies with many brushstrokes and a constantly shifting palette. Her works are full of light and successfully suggest how it interacts with material just beyond regular human vision.

Tiffany Hastie returns to the miniature landscape for this show and has somehow managed to get even tinier, creating lovely and fully realized scenes on the scale of just 1.5 by one inch. Her jewel-like visions include an empty railway line drawing the viewer into leafy woods in Autumn, and a Garry oak scene with wildflowers, moss and rocky outcroppings in Spring.

Avril Kirby continues her fruitful Conversations with Thomas series, in which she layers 200-year-old line drawings of England by ancestor Thomas Hastings with her own colour photography for subtle and nuanced collaboration. Number 48 features a ramshackle barn of several stories with a figure in the open ground floor door. Areas of brick and wood are left bare by a decayed cladding. The framing brings the structure up close to the viewer's plane; a hint of farm lane with sheep and tall trees curves enticingly out of view from the right of the scene to somewhere beyond the subject structure.

The many other artists in the show also offer lovely works to discover. The gallery is open daily.



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PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: Members of the Christmas With Scrooge cast get ready to perform songs at Lady Minto Hospital's extended care unit Thursday afternoon as part of their community outreach program. From left to right are cast members John Davies, Karen Arney, Kevin Wilkie, Vera Algoet, Sophia Hickson, Patrick Cassidy, Sue Newman, Maggie O'Scalleigh and sponsor Gary Utter of Ganges Pharmsave. The group also visited the residents of Greenwoods, Braehaven and Meadowbrook. Their seasonal theatre spectacular opens next Friday, Dec. 13 at Fulford Hall and continues with seven more shows until Dec. 22.

CONCERT PREVIEW

Bands gather with Miltons at helm

Together Again concert runs this Friday at ArtSpring

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

When Bandemonium and Swing Shift members assemble at ArtSpring for a concert this Friday, their merging will represent a community music tradition having gone full circle.

Way back in 1992, Wendy and Derrick Milton started a community concert band called Bandemonium, with Wendy as its director. Many members had not played their instruments for many years. Some of the more experienced musicians who wanted a jazzier experience led to Derrick and Wendy creating the band that would soon become known as Swing Shift.

Wendy passed Bandemonium over to Dawn Hage in 1999, when it was renamed the Salt Spring Concert Band, and Keith Ollerenshaw took the reins for one season after Hage left the island in 2018.

Leadership of Swing Shift was also passed around amongst various hands over the years. But now both groups are led by the couple who started them.

"I'm at the right point in time where I'm happy to be back," said Wendy.

Derrick has been leading Swing Shift again for a few years.

The Dec. 6 show at ArtSpring is called Bandemonium and Swing Shift: Together Again! Beginning at 7:30 p.m., it will see Swing Shift perform in the first half and Bandemonium in the second, joined by Swing Shift at the end. Bandemonium will cover more of the seasonal content.

Concert band songs will include Let it Snow, Nutcracker selections, Royal Fireworks, A Most Wonderful Christmas medley of seasonal tunes, and another medley in Big Band Bash.

Sue Newman and Clark Saunders will join the group as vocal soloists for The Christmas Song.

Bandemonium will also play Nimrod from the Enigma Variations by Elgar, which fits in with a theme of remembering past band members. In looking at the records, the Miltons counted some 300 people who have played instruments with



PHOTO COURTESY SWING SHIFT

Members of Swing Shift big band ready to perform this Friday, Dec. 6 at ArtSpring along with Bandemonium, the island's concert band.

the band since 1992, and a number of those have died.

This fall Wendy has focused on ensuring the band plays songs they can master and sound good at a performance level.

Swing Shift tunes will include When You're Smiling, the funky Cold Duck Time and Hey Jude, among others.

Derrick promises a great and non-controversial rendition of Baby, It's Cold Outside. The group will play a cool arrangement that was performed by Tom Jones and Cerys Matthews, but Derrick says Swing Shift's version is way better than the original, due to Newman's participation with Saunders.

"I can guarantee that the female vocalist in our performance is far superior to the female vocalist in that one," he said.

People can also take in Swing Shift at a New Year's dance at Mahon Hall, featuring the Andrews Sisters (this year that's Jekka Mack, Margo Milton and Caroni Young).

HOLIDAY SEASON

Tenore trio shares beloved Christmas show

Bach on the Rock singers also on stage for Wednesday event

Tenore, the multiple award-winning tenor group that shot to international acclaim since the release of their debut album, is bringing their Christmas show to ArtSpring on Wednesday, Dec. 11.

Called Christmas With You, which is

also the cover song title of their GMA-winning album, the concert begins at 7:30 p.m.

Adam Sperry, Taylor Fawcett and Kaden Forsberg will join forces with the Bach on the Rock choir.

Audience members will hear holiday classics such as It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year, O Holy Night, O Come all ye Faithful, among others.

The late Roy Kaighan, a past Salt Spring resident and renowned Canadian arranger, will be honoured at

the concert. Kaighan had written many arrangements for Tenore and The Canadian Tenors over the years and Tenore will present one of Kaighan's favourites.

Performing to sold-out audiences across North America, Tenore has crisscrossed the globe from Kampala to California and, along with live TV and award recognition, has garnered an impressive, loyal and international fan base that begins in Canada and stretches worldwide.

SALT SPRING GROUNDWATER LEVEL MONITORING PILOT

By Islands Trust
Senior Freshwater Specialist,
William Shulba

**Tuesday December 10
7:00 - 9:00 pm**

Salt Spring Public Library Program Room

Results of monitoring water level changes over 12-18 months at 12 groundwater wells and 4 freshwater lakes will be presented.
Everyone is welcome.

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SUPER GROUP

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ISLAND LIFE

D.W. Salty is looking for material for his column, **Streets of Salt Spring Island**

If you have information on any of our streets, please contact us at: 250-537-9933 or dwsalty@driftwoodgimedia.com



PHOTOS BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

LET THE FESTIVAL BEGIN: From left, Mollie Colson, Simone Cazabon, Annika Lund and Lynda Turner gather to kick off the Festival of Trees at the Harbour House Hotel. Below is a detail from the Friends of Kenya tree. Members of the public are encouraged to "vote" for their favourite decorated tree by bringing a donation to benefit the Salt Spring Food Bank or Copper Kettle Community Partnership to place under the trees set up in the lobby and the meeting room. The festival continues through Jan. 1.



CLIMATE

Climate plan work well underway

Saturday session calls for public input

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Close to 200 islanders of all ages from babies to elders attended a brunch meeting held at Gulf Islands Secondary School on Saturday morning to hear more about plans to update Salt Spring's Climate Action Plan.

Members of the steering committee starting with chair Darryl Martin gave short presentations on the work to create "CAP 2.0," an updated version of the document that was released in 2011.

Organizers explained that with an escalation in climate change and carbon emissions since that time, there is also a need for new targets for action and new ideas to ensure those targets are met. The steering committee is working on strategies to reduce the island's carbon emission levels by 50 per cent by 2030.

"I'm just glad to see everybody here. We're here with our ears open — so please bring your ideas," said Salt Spring Island trustee Laura Patrick, who sits on the steering committee as a non-voting member.

Capital Regional District director Gary

Holman, another non-voting member, said community participation in the plan will be important both in the planning and implementation stages.

"We need your political support. If the Islands Trust is going to implement a new development permit area to protect water sustainability and the Coastal Douglas-fir, they need your support," Holman said. "Your role is crucial at so many levels, both at the working level and also particularly at the political level."

"Your role is crucial at so many levels, both at the working level and also particularly at the political level."

GARY HOLMAN
SSI CRD director

The 2011 plan included a baseline emissions report using data from 2007. It showed that food accounted for 40 per cent of emissions, and on-island transportation for 36 per cent. Improvements

made since then include the establishment of a local transit system in 2008 and the switch of more than 200 personal vehicles from gas-power to electric. Agricultural initiatives included the opening of the Salt Spring Abattoir in 2012, new allotment gardens in Burgoyne Valley and on Rainbow Road and Community Services' food waste diversion program.

The updated climate action plan will include new calculations of emissions and where they stem from, proposals for making changes and risk mapping that charts the potential for sea level rise, flooding and fire hazards.

Participants of the brunch event had the opportunity to record a short video with their thoughts and ideas, to become part of a larger project. More opportunity for input will come in February with the launch of an online "smart survey," following the release of a draft plan in January. The final plan is targeted for April 2020.

"In many ways it is only then that the real work begins and we do the heavy lifting to implement the plan," observed steering committee member Bryan Young.

More information on the project is available at saltspringclimateactionplan.com.

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Wednesday, December 25th - Closed

Thursday, December 26th - Closed

Wednesday, January 1st 10am - 10pm

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SPIRITUALITY

Yoga Nidra sessions set

Deep relaxation results

Beginning today (Wednesday, Dec. 4), Celeste Mallett Jason will provide ongoing Yoga Nidra classes on Wednesday afternoons.

From 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Star of the Sea Centre, St. Mary's church in Fulford, Jason will lead the sessions on a drop-in, by-donation basis.

According to press material,

"Yoga Nidra" translates as 'Yogic Sleep,' facilitating a deep state of relaxation which is achieved consciously. It is offered as a guided visualization meditation, in which participants are encouraged to turn their attention inward, away from outer experiences."

People should be aware that Yoga Nidra is a meditative spiritual practice and not an exercise class.

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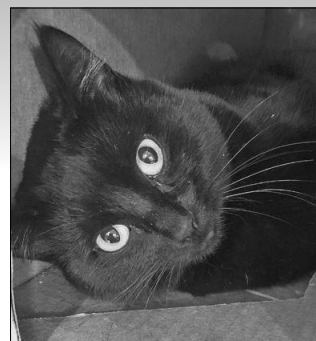
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what's on this week



<div>Wed. Dec. 4</div> <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div> <div>Tea a Tempo: Sue Newman and Friends. Sue Newman and friends bring music, dance and a taste of Christmas With Scrooge to Tea a Tempo at All Saints By-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m. Followed by optional tea and treats.</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div>Festival of Trees. See decorated trees and place a donation for Food Bank or Copper Kettle under your favourite. Harbour House Hotel. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily through Jan 1.</div> <div></div> <div>Tech Tutoring with Peter Freeman. Every Wednesday at the library in three 50-minute sessions between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.</div> <div>Yoga Nidra. Deeply relaxing spiritual practice led by Celeste Mallett Jason at Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice (St. Mary's Church in Fulford). 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays beginning today.</div> <div>Insight/Mindfulness Meditation. A guided session of meditation in the Buddhist tradition by Heather Martin at Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice. 7 to 9 p.m.</div> <div>Music Bingo. Wednesdays with Taylor at Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 10 p.m.</div>	<div>Thu. Dec. 5</div> <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div> <div>Open Mic & Jam. At the Legion on Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m.</div> <div>Open Mic at Moby's Pub. Every Thursday from 8:30 to 11:45 p.m.</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div>Tech Tutoring with Jim Watkins. Every Thursday at the library. 10 a.m. to 12 noon.</div> <div>Poetry Open Mic. Guest is North Vancouver poet and novelist Aislinn Hunter. Salt Spring Public Library. The open mic begins at 7 p.m., with sign-up at 6:45, followed by Hunter reading at 7:30 p.m.</div> <div>Festival of Trees. See Wednesday's listing.</div>	<div>Fri. Dec. 6</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div>Beaver Point Hall Christmas Craft Fair. Annual craft fair at Beaver Point Community Hall opens for the weekend. 5 to 9 p.m.</div> <div>Fulford Hall Christmas Craft Fair. Annual craft fair at Fulford Community Hall opens for the weekend. 5 to 9 p.m.</div> <div>National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Memorial ceremony in Centennial Park. 5 p.m.</div> <div>9th Annual Glowtini Contest. Local mixologists face off in an entertaining night of fundraising. Glowtinis are auctioned off with all proceeds benefiting the Copper Kettle and the Food Bank. Legion. 8 p.m.</div> <div></div> <div>Festival of Trees. See Wednesday's listing.</div>	<div>Sat. Dec. 7</div> <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div> <div>Morien Jones Trio. Award-winning soul music. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div>Fulford Hall Christmas Craft Fair. Second day of annual craft fair at Fulford Community Hall. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.</div> <div>Beaver Point Hall Christmas Craft Fair. Second day of annual craft fair at Beaver Point Community Hall. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.</div> <div>Winterfest. Crafts, music and food for the whole family at Salt Spring Centre of Yoga main building. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A Salt Spring Centre School event and fundraiser.</div> <div>Self-Compassion Break Over the Holidays. Relax, recharge and learn skills to be kinder to yourself over the holidays. Salt Spring Centre of Yoga yurt. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Contact marciaburton369@gmail.com to register.</div> <div>Festival of Trees. See Wednesday's listing.</div>	<div>Sun. Dec. 8</div> <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div> <div>A WONDERHEADS Christmas Carol. See Saturday's listing, except time is 2 p.m.</div> <div>Makana Youth Choir Concert. Local youth choir performs at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div>Beaver Point Hall Christmas Craft Fair. Third day of annual craft fair at Beaver Point Community Hall. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.</div> <div>Fulford Hall Christmas Craft Fair. Third day of annual craft fair at Fulford Community Hall. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.</div> <div>Festival of Trees. See Wednesday's listing.</div>	<div>Wed. Dec. 11</div> <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div> <div>Tenore – Christmas With You. Multi award-winning tenor group performs, accompanied by Bach on the Rock's choir. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div>Same World, Different Words. Bob Weeden reads poems by other people. SS Public Library. 7 p.m.</div>	<div>Wed. Dec. 11</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div>Festival of Trees. See last Wednesday's listing.</div> <div>Yoga Nidra. See last Wednesday's listing.</div> <div>Insight/Mindfulness Meditation. See last Wednesday's listing.</div> <div>Music Bingo. Wednesdays with Taylor at Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 10 p.m.</div>
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Christmas Story Writing Contest

- Write a story of 500 words or less whose topic relates to Christmas or the Christmas season.
- All Gulf Islands students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 are eligible.
- Stories will be judged by retired teachers and librarians on quality of writing, clarity of presentation and originality of theme.
- Winning entries will be published in the Driftwood in December.
- The name, age, address and telephone number of the writer must be written on the back of each entry.
- Send entries to the Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3, email to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or fax to 250-537-2613.
- For more information, call 250-537-9933.

Teachers: Classes with the highest participation level are eligible to win a donation of \$100 made on behalf of the class to the charity of their choice!

The deadline for our annual writing contest is Friday, December 6th.
Win a Salt Spring Books gift certificate for a story of up to 500 words about Christmas or the Christmas Season.

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THE FRITZ CINEMA

- **Fantastic Fungi** returns Friday, Dec. 6 to Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. each night and an additional Sunday matinee at 3 p.m. Rated PG. 80 minutes.
- **Hustlers** starring Jennifer Lopez — last two shows on Wednesday-Thursday, Dec. 4 and 5 at 7 p.m. Rated 14A. 105 minutes.

For more movie info go to www.thefritz.ca

EXHIBITIONS

- **Pat Webber** holds her annual **Studio Show and Sale** at 425 Stewart Rd., Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 7-8, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Gallery 8's** 11th annual **Christmas Exhibition of Small Works** runs through Dec. 31.
- **The Venter Gallery** holds an exhibition and sale of 'Small Gems' by Deon and Kathy Venter.

EXHIBITIONS

- **Wintercraft show and sale** of work by Gulf Islands artisans is open at **Mahon Hall** daily until Dec. 22, along with the **Artists From the Fringe** show and sale of artworks.
- **The Winter Solstice Gift Shop** — a treasure trove of artful creations in stained glass, painting, mixed-media, textile, jewellery and ceramic — is open at **Salt Spring Gallery** through Dec. 28.
- **Diana Hayes** shows an exhibition of her photography at the **Salt Spring Library Program Room** through December.
- **The Group of Six Photographers** — **Simon Henson, Larry Citra, Bruce McPhee, Kahsia Hartwell, Ross McLeod** and **Judy McPhee** — exhibit at **Fernwood Road Cafe** through mid February.
- **League 181** painters present **Warming Up the Season** in the **ArtSpring** lobby through December.

9th Annual Glowtini Contest

Friday, Dec. 6 • 8 p.m.

At the Legion

Copper Kettle & Food Bank fundraiser

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PARKS AND REC

PARC targets childcare funds

1,500-square-foot building to house programs

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Capital Regional District and the Parks and Recreation Commission are applying for a grant to fund a potential extension to the Rainbow Road Pool building to house a licensed childcare program with room for 24 kids aged 18 months to five years.

The district is applying for a grant through the UBCM's Community Child Care Space Creation Program, which is designed to provide funding to B.C. communities looking to expand their childcare capabilities. PARC will be applying for \$750,000 for the project, and will contribute a \$75,000 contingency as well as \$100,000 in administration and project management costs, the latter of which is already budgeted for in the 2021 operating fund.

"Our contribution is \$75,000. That would be for contingencies and we'd only use that in the event that we had some overruns," parks and recreation manager Dan Ovington explained in the Nov. 18 PARC meeting. "The CRD administration and project management are fixed staff costs and are already in the operating budget. That way, we're showing the grant people that we have some skin in the game and we're willing to put up some funds as well."

Under the scope of the project, PARC

will only be responsible for the building itself. The childcare services will likely be contracted out to a third party, though the CRD does have the capacity to provide services themselves if necessary. Under the scope of the grant, if successful, the CRD must commit to 15 years' operation of the childcare service.

Plans are for programming that would run from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on weekdays and would run year-round. That would give parents of young children a space for childcare during the workday. The facility would be used by other recreation programs after 5 p.m. and on weekends.

This project is in addition to a similar grant application filed last year. That grant was for a pre-school aged childcare program to be built and operated by PARC staff within a portable located at the pool site. The new project does not affect the existing project.

Commissioner Darlene Steele was concerned about the money going into the contingency fund, which had originally been set aside for an eventual Rainbow Road Pool expansion project.

"It's like when you have a bank account. If some important thing comes along, you say 'okay, I'll just take ten grand out of that bank account, and re-allocate it.' You'll never get it back," she said. She asked whether the \$75,000 used as a contingency could be taken from a different location within the PARC budget.

Ovington said there was other fund-

ing they could look at within the reserve to move around, and that in the grant submission, it was required that funding be identified within an existing budget.

"If we had to use the contingency, similar to what we did for the portable last year, that would shrink that pot," Ovington said.

Commissioner Brian Webster said he saw the idea as a positive opportunity, and that his understanding of the pool expansion project was that it would include multipurpose space.

"I take this as being able to take care of part of that larger project with a significantly lower cost to the taxpayer," he said.

Steele also questioned the rationale of spending a large amount of money on 24 childcare spaces, and was concerned about the 15-year commitment.

"The two groups that we identified as being in need most of our services are youth and elders. We're putting a lot of money into one little group, which is the under five group, which was not identified in our strategic plan," she said.

New commissioner Colin Walde replied, "It's not just 24 kids. It's 24 families that need somewhere for their kids to go. I know I have friends who don't have anywhere for their kids to go, and they're looking to go off island."

The commission voted to approve the application. If awarded, the CRD would have two years to complete construction after the award is given.

SEASONAL ACTIVITIES

Fulford Hall Xmas event shares wish list

Drivers, donations needed for Dec. 25

A free celebration for the whole community is once again taking place on Dec. 25 with the Christmas Ball at Fulford Hall, but a few more details still need to be fixed in order to make the event jolly for everyone.

Coordinated by Helga and Michael Bagnell, the celebration sees the hall doors open for brunch at 11 a.m. Everyone can stay and enjoy music and games until after dinner, which starts around 6 p.m.

The alcohol-free event includes gifts for the kids and an evening jam session. Over the past few years it has regu-

larly brought in around 350 community members.

While local businesses have been generous, more food donations and volunteers are always needed. Participants can also contribute a potluck item.

This year the Country Grocer shuttle service has graciously offered to bring people who need rides from Ganges to Fulford. Contact Nancy at 250-538-2398 a day or two before Christmas so she can make a schedule. The coordinators are also looking for someone who can volunteer to drive people home again that evening.

Contact the Bagnells at 250-653-9856 to learn more or to arrange donations.

SALT
SPRING

Star
of the **WEEK**

Sandi Muller



This week's star was nominated by Lady Minto Hospital. Sandi is the care coordinator at Heritage Place.

"Sandi is patient, caring, knowledgeable, and she goes over and above for her family at Heritage Place," hospital staff wrote. "She devotes countless hours and consistently strives to ensure the needs of the residents are met. She is gracious, humble, a strong advocate and an unsung hero whose dedication is invaluable to our hospital team."

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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

by Michael O'Connor

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TIP OF THE WEEK: READ MORE IN MY NEWSLETTER. SIGN-UP IS FREE ON MY WEBSITE.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

Balancing a conservative mood with an urge to take calculated risks begins this week. Your main focus continues to center on home and family. Although you might like to, this is probably not the time to travel. Yet, it is a good time to enter into private meetings to discuss plans and designs with other key players destined to be on your stage now.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

Some cycles are deeper than others and this is one of them. Words like intense, powerful and transformational also apply. Your ambitions are running high and these may be spurred on by significant others as well as by your own interests. The stakes are probably pretty high and this is probably not a time to be casual. Balance the deep implications with a broad vision.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

As is true of others, you are experiencing both an expansive and contractive cycle. The expansion is linked to increased outer association. The contraction refers to a deep process of change that has been underway for a couple of years now, yet is entering the next effective stage. In both respects, you are challenged to exercise a realistic vision for the future.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

The powerful changes that have been occurring on relationship fronts are now entering a new phase. You will feel moved and inspired to strengthen your overall position. This will include an assertive, creative approach linked to feeling more secure. Your sense of strategy will increase progressively with a noticeable added edge that will escalate all month.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

A playful window has opened. Positively, it will also stimulate a creative focus. Yet, you should anticipate the need to be diligent and disciplined if you want to achieve your goals. At worst, you could be contending with over-analysis and subsequently a stronger tendency to worry. You probably also need to support and assistance of others at this stage.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 23)

Sagittarius time is usually a good one for you. Things flow easier and this often includes abundance. As well this year you could experience professional expansion and increase. This includes heightened ambitions and the stimulation of new ideas and perspectives providing you with clarity regarding how to best achieve your goals.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

Many thoughts and ideas are flowing through your mind. Fortunately, you are feeling more confident about things than you did even last week. Yet, you may still feel challenged to overcome some areas that may feel stuck or stagnant. It is likely you have been pushing for meaningful change but keep confronting blocks. This is destined to change, starting this week.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

You want a bigger slice of the pie. What the pie depends on your circumstances. It could well include more money and at least more security. Since last month you began to take new leads and initiatives and this focus continues. And you are sharp in your approach, even if you are entertaining more than one direction.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

You are keen to explore new territory. This includes more money and new approaches, methods or strategies to achieve it. Working behind the scenes is also featured, a theme that has been underway for several weeks already. It includes doing the inner work which could imply research and homework or go deeper into psychological processing.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

On one hand, you are happy to take some time out and duck behind the scenes. On the other hand, circumstances are pushing you out. Positively, this outer push is to engage more fully with family. You do and have been feeling a bit restless and punchy for the past while so some social stimulation could prove satisfying, providing it is brief.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

Increasing your social network has been a steady theme all year and continues now. Yet, you are also feeling the need to dig deeper into your reserves of power and faith to meet current challenges. Perhaps you are dealing with a heavier workload or perhaps deeper questions regarding your sense of purpose and the best direction need more attention.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

Sagittarius is the sign that sits on your career line. This generally implies that you directly or indirectly seek a sense of adventure in your work. Jupiter in Sagittarius all year has pushed you to increase your social outreach and this theme continues yet now enters its next effective stage which implies new alliances. These must be forged with diligence and discipline if they are to endure.

Where
is it?

Where is this found on Salt Spring? Send your answer to news@gulfislands-driftwood.com

Last Week's Answer: We know, that was too easy! The first person to identify the Recycle Depot gate was Esther Sufady, clearly the person to beat at this game!

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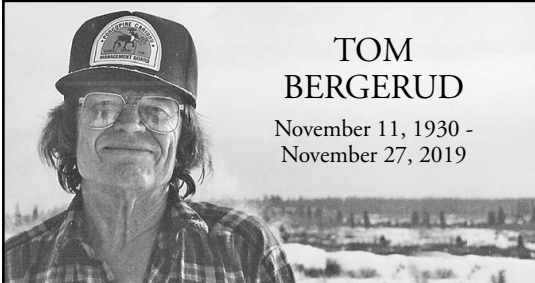
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Obituaries

TOM BERGERUD

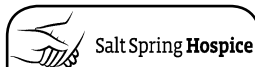
November 11, 1930 -
November 27, 2019

Tom grew up in Minneapolis, a keen Eagle Scout, canoeist, and birder. As a teenager, he hitchhiked across the mid-west to California on a birding trip. After graduating with a BSc from Oregon State, he married his first wife Wynona. He spent ten years as a game biologist in Newfoundland, during which he pursued an MSc degree from University of Wisconsin. He then moved west to UBC where he produced his PhD thesis on caribou population dynamics - his true passion, followed by an assistant professorship at UVic.

In 1969, Tom fell in love with Salt Spring, gradually settling at Isabella Point with his family, and retiring from teaching duties but retaining research grants and contracts to continue to study caribou mainly in Labrador, Ontario and BC. Throughout his career he also studied moose, beaver, ptarmigan, blue grouse, and ruffed grouse.

Tom was predeceased by his daughter Wendy (Bill). He leaves behind his wife Heather Butler, sister Mary and brother Lee, sons Daniel (Ellen), Michael (Watsana), Brett, Cody (Zoe), and Ryder; and grandchildren Corey, Sam, Daniel, Quinn, and Sarah.

A celebration of life will be held tba.

Obituaries**In Memoriam**

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**Information**

Hello Peggy Mackenzie The grads of 1970 Renewable Resources class are planning a reunion and looking for members of the class. Can Peggy Mackenzie or anyone who knows her please contact Byril at 250-804-3726

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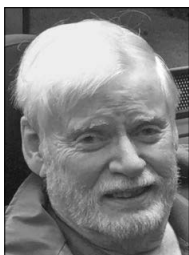
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NORMAN HENRY DINSMORE

October 16, 1935 - November 19, 2019



Norm has sailed into a peaceful sunset after enduring a number of health challenges in his last few years.

Born in New Westminster, he was the son of Surrey pioneers Ed and Louise Dinsmore, and together with his sisters Helen (Earle) and Mary Jo (Dick) grew up on The Dinsmore Brothers Farm.

Norm chose a different path and attended UBC where he graduated in civil engineering and began working for HA Simons. While at UBC he met and married Ann Brown and made several lifelong friendships. The two set off on a travelling adventure visiting Africa, Australia and Europe, often as passengers on freighters, before settling in Vancouver and having sons Michael (Linda) and Bruce (Lisa). Norm worked in the pulp and paper industry and moved the family to Ticonderoga in upstate NY in the early 1970's, then to Wisconsin Rapids, WI a few years later. Summers were spent on the Gulf Islands boating with family and friends.

Norm had a reputation for being steady and fair. He was often sought out for advice or help in a jam, and was always ready to lend either a hand with friends or while at work offer his considerable expertise. Ann passed away after an illness in 1999. Dad shared the next chapter of his life with Sally Plunkett on Salt Spring Island. Sally, whose husband Pat predeceased her, and their children Stephen (Janine), Shelagh, (Shane) and Chris (Tora) had been lifelong friends of the Dinsmores, the two families sharing holidays and hijinks.

On Saltspring Norm and Sally made many new and wonderful friends, travelled to Ireland and Russia among other destinations, and were active members of the Saltspring Island community and Sailing Club, where Norm captained "El Zorro de Plata" and served as Rear Commodore. Norm's grandchildren, Jordon, Kurtis, Gabriel and Tallula, and Sally's grandchildren Niamh, (Andrew) Patrick and Lucia will all miss him dearly. The family would like to thank Dr Ian Gummesson for his thoughtful care, and the entire nursing staff at Lady Minto hospital for being so incredibly supportive, attentive and kind to Norm during his last few days.

A celebration of life will be held on both Saltspring Island and Vancouver in the coming year. In lieu of flowers, a donation to Lady Minto Hospital in Norm's memory may be made.



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WEDNESDAY

SALT SPRING GENEALOGY GROUP: Info: Email cloudie48@gmail.com

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Salt Spring Seniors. 2 to 3:30 p.m.

SOUTH SALT SPRING SENIORS meet on the last Wednesday of each month at Fulford Hall at 2 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

SRHYTHMS MOVEMENT & DANCE CLASS led by Shauna Devlin at All Saints By-the-Sea (downstairs). 9 to 10 a.m.

ALL LEVELS HOT HATHA YOGA with Sarah Jane Smith at The Nest Hot Yoga. 75 mins. 9:30 a.m.

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC at SS Seniors Centre board room. 10 to 11 a.m. Confidential, accurate, easy and convenient.

BRIDGE CLUB at the SS Library program room from 12:30 to 4 p.m.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP for people caring for individuals with Alzheimers and others. Every Wednesday at Salt Spring Seniors (379 Lower Ganges Rd.) at 11 a.m. Info: Margaret Monro, 250-537-5004.

COMPUTER HELP — Free help with computer, tablet, smartphone issues at Salt Spring Literacy. By appointment at the literacy centre at 125B Rainbow Rd. or by calling 250-537-9717 or emailing coordinator@saltspringliteracy.org.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE group meets at Salt Spring Seniors. 12:45 p.m. (for 1 p.m. start).

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY offers free access to premium genealogy websites at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at 221 Vesuvius Bay Rd. from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m.

GAMES AFTERNOON at Salt Spring Seniors. 1 to 3 p.m.

HATHA FLOW YOGA with Dorothy Price at Stowel Lake Farm. 9 to 10:30 a.m.

KUM NYE SERIES: OUTER KUM NYE. At the yurt at the Salt Spring Yoga Centre at 355 Blackburn Rd. Wear loose comfortable clothing suitable for movement and sitting. Sign up for four-week series via info@movingpresence.center.

KIRTAN at the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga. 7:30 p.m.

MEDITATION GROUP suitable for beginners meets at Salt Spring Seniors from 10:10 to 11 a.m. Everyone welcome. Info: Deb Stevenson, 250-930-5333.

MEDITATION MEETINGS and teachings with the Salt Spring Vipassana Society. The Gatehouse at Stowel Lake Farm. Offered by donation with Insight Meditation teacher Heather Martin. 7 to 8:30 p.m.

MEN'S BRIDGE at Salt Spring Seniors at 7 p.m.

SSI PAINTERS GUILD meets at ArtSpring. 9:30 a.m. For activities see website sspaintersguild.ca.

SSI ROTARY CLUB meets each Wednesday for a deliciously prepared lunch with community focused speakers and presentations at the Harbour House Hotel Crofton Room from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SWING DANCE at SS Elementary School gym. East-Coast, West-Coast, and Lindy Hop. Everyone welcome. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. For more information, call Larry Nelson or Wendy Hartnett at 250-537-4118.

TAOIST TAI CHI at All Saints By-the-Sea, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Info: Stephanie, 250-537-1721.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

TECH TUTORING with Peter Freeman at Salt Spring Public Library. Times available at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and 12 noon. Free training and assistance with tech issues, including Windows, Mac, iPads, eReaders, tablets, using OverDrive, and more.

YOGA - Mixed levels with Celeste Mallett Jason at SSI Wellness Centre. 8:15 to 9:15 a.m. and 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. PLUS Chair Yoga (Seniors) from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

YOGA with Dorothy Price at The Gatehouse at Stowel Lake Farm. 9 to 10:30 a.m. Info: info@santoshayoga-retreats.com, 250-537-7675

ZEN MEDITATION at 210 Cedar Lane at 7:15 p.m. Call 250-537-2062 for details. Newcomers always welcome.

THURSDAY

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets on the first Thursday of the month at SS Wellness Centre. 1 to 2 p.m. Info: ljcharlton@shaw.ca

VISUALLY IMPAIRED SUPPORT GROUP meets on the first Thursday of the month at SS Seniors Centre, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Info: David at 250-537-8595 or Seniors Centre 250-537-4604.

EVERY THURSDAY

AIKIDO MARTIAL ARTS classes for kids and adults at the SSI Wellness Centre. Kids from 5 to 6 p.m., and adults from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Info: Alan, 250-538-5549; alanwardroper@gmail.com.

AL-ANON for friends and families of alcoholics holds an Easy Does It Lunch Bunch open meeting at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church rear annex. 12 to 1 p.m.

ALL LEVELS WARM YANG YIN YOGA with Sarah Jane Smith at The Nest Hot Yoga. 75 mins. 6 p.m.

DANCE TEMPLE at Beaver Point Hall. 7 to 9 p.m.

INTERMEDIATE HOT VINYASA with Sarah Jane Smith at The Nest Hot Yoga. 60 mins. 8:30 a.m.

LUNCH at Salt Spring Seniors Centre. 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Phone the centre at 250-537-4604 to reserve your seat.

KUNDALINI YOGA - all levels with Shannon Cowan at the Wellness Centre. 8 to 9:15 a.m.

NIA — Discover the delicious music, mindful movement and healing magic of Nia, a fabulous, fun blend of dance, martial arts and yoga with a welcoming community of women. No dance experience needed. Classes are 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. at Antler Ridge Dance Studio. More info: arleensadler@shaw.ca.

OPEN MIC NIGHT at the Legion. 7 to 9 p.m.

PICKLEBALL runs at Fernwood Elementary School from 6 to 9 p.m.

TAOIST TAI CHI for beginners at All Saints By-the-Sea, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Info: Stephanie, 250-537-1721.

WOMEN'S YOGA with Jaya Levesque at SSI Wellness Centre. 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.

VIJNANA YOGA with Liz Young at Stowel Lake Farm. 6 to 7:30 p.m.

YOGA ALL LEVELS with Dorothy Price at SS Centre of Yoga from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

YOGA with Jim Dickinson at SS Seniors. 2 to 3 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

COFFEE TIME for seniors is at Salt Spring Seniors from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

DRUM CIRCLE meets at Salt Spring Seniors from 4 to 6 p.m.

ELEMENTARY BRIDGE COACHING. Beginning bridge lessons (but also with more advanced coaching available) at the Salt Spring Library Program Room. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

EVERYBODY STRETCH class with Catherine Bennett at SSI Wellness Centre. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

FELDENKRAIS AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT® CLASS with Anna Haltrecht, 10-11am. Move with less pain and stress by learning how to make any activity more effective and more enjoyable. Info: Anna Haltrecht, 250-537-5681, anna@bonesforever.com

SALT SPRING LIONS CLUB GARAGE SALE drop-off and sales at club hall at 103 Bonnet Ave. 10 a.m. till noon.

STORYTIME at the SS Public Library in the children's corner at 11 a.m. Drop-in program best for kids ages 3-6 and their caregivers.

GAMES NIGHT at the Salt Spring Library Program Room. Facilitator Bryan Dubien brings his vast collection of board games, or you can bring your own. 6 to 9 p.m.

MAH JONGG players gather at Salt Spring Seniors from 12:15 to 2 p.m.

MEAT DRAW at the Legion. 5 to 6 p.m.

MIXED LEVELS YOGA with John Howe at SSI Wellness Centre. 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.

EVERY SATURDAY

DAD 'N' ME PANCAKE BREAKFAST at Family Place. For dads and kids aged 0 to 6. 8:30 to 10 a.m.

SALT SPRING LIONS CLUB GARAGE SALE drop-off and sales at club hall at 103 Bonnet Ave. 10 a.m. till noon.

MEAT DRAW at the Legion. 5 to 6 p.m.

PICKLEBALL runs at Salt Spring Elementary School from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: hafizbhimji@shaw.ca or 250-653-9579.

TAOIST TAI CHI at All Saints from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Open practice. Info: Stephanie, 250-537-1721.

EVERY SUNDAY

FREE POOL at the Legion. 12 to 7 p.m.

KUNDALINI YOGA with Jaya Levesque at SS Wellness Centre. 10 to 11:15 a.m.

PICKLEBALL runs at Salt Spring Elementary School from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Beginners from 9 to 10 a.m.

SUNDAY SATSANG at the SS Centre of Yoga. 3:30 p.m.

UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP meets at Salt Spring Seniors Centre at 10:30 a.m.

EVERY MONDAY

ACTIVE LEARNING group meets at Salt Spring Seniors. 2 to 4 p.m.

ALL LEVELS HOT VINYASA YOGA with Sarah Jane Smith at The Nest Hot Yoga. 75 mins. 9:30 a.m.

EVERY MONDAY

ALL LEVELS WARM YANG YIN YOGA with Sarah Jane Smith at The Nest Hot Yoga. 75 mins. 6 p.m.

ART STUDIO at Fulford Seniors Annex. 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Info: Ingrid - 250-537-1885.

BOOMERFIT at Beaver Point Hall. 9 to 10 a.m. Exercise classes for the boomer gen. Info: trisha.synergyfit@gmail.com, 250-653-4656.

CHESS GROUP meets at Salt Spring Seniors from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

DANCE TEMPLE at Beaver Point Hall. 7 to 9 p.m.

DARTS players meet for games at the Legion from 6 to 9 p.m.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE meets every Monday from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Brinkworthy Clubhouse. Info: George Laundry at 250-653-9095 or pastorale@shaw.ca.

FELDENKRAIS AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT CLASS with Alice Friedman at The Gatehouse, 9 to 10:30 a.m. Info: Alice Friedman, 250-653-4332, alicef@saltspring.com.

NIA. See Thursday description, except the classes are held from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at All Saints Church - downstairs hall. Info: arleensadler@shaw.ca.

PARKINSON'S MOVEMENT CLASS with Anna Haltrecht, 12:45-2:15 p.m. Small group class using conscious movement and other innovative techniques to encourage regular safe exercise to increase mobility, strength, endurance and balance. Appropriate for people with PD and other neurological conditions. Info: Anna Haltrecht, 250-537-5681, anna@bonesforever.com

PILATES+ CLASS with Anna Haltrecht, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Pilates is a body conditioning system that builds flexibility, strength, endurance and balance. Resistance bands and other tools are also incorporated. This class uses the principles of the Feldenkrais Method® to illuminate and clarify Pilates exercises. Info: Anna Haltrecht, 250-537-5681, anna@bonesforever.com

QUAKER MEETINGS for workshop are held on Mondays at various locations at 6 p.m. Contact Ruth at 250-537-4075 for more information.

SALT SPRING ISLAND QUAKER WORSHIP GROUP meets in Croftonbrook lounge at 6 p.m. Info: Ruth, 250-537-4075.

SALT SPRING PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB holds casual coffee mornings for its members at Penny's on the Green at 10 a.m.

SALT SPRING SCOTTISH DANCERS meet at All Saints By-the-Sea Church from 6 to 8 p.m.

TAOIST TAI CHI at All Saints By-the-Sea. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. With beginners until 8 p.m. Info: Stephanie, 250-537-1721.

TECH TUTORING WITH CONRAD at the Salt Spring library. ON HIATUS until Nov. 18. iPad, Tablet and eReader tutoring with Conrad Koke. Sign-up sheets are found in the Info Desk Programs binder. Sessions between 12 and 1 p.m.

EVERY MONDAY

TOASTMASTERS, a dedicated band of public speaking learners and enthusiasts, meets at the Salt Spring Public Library. 7 to 9 p.m. Public welcome to attend. See saltspring.toastmastersclubs.org.

THE CLINIC by OPT: Options for Sexual Health is open every Monday at the Çore Inn 2nd floor. 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. 250-537-8786.

YOGA with Celeste Mallett Jason at SSI Wellness Centre: Mixed Levels from both 8:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.; Level 1 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

YOGA WITH DOROTHY PRICE for all levels at the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga. 4:30 to 6 p.m.

EVERY TUESDAY

ALL LEVELS WARM YOGA SCULPT with Howie Baral at The Nest Hot Yoga. 60 mins. 9:30 a.m.

ALL LEVELS HOT HATHA FLOW with Andrea Palframan at The Nest Hot Yoga. 75 mins. 6 p.m.

ARTS & CRAFTS GROUP meets at Salt Spring Seniors from 1 to 3 p.m.

CHAIR YOGA with Cate McEwen at Fulford Seniors Annex. 2 p.m.

CHESS GROUP plays games at Salt Spring Seniors. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

CHOIR at Salt Spring Seniors. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

EVERYBODY STRETCH class with Catherine Bennett at SSI Wellness Centre. 11:30 to 12:30 p.m.

FLOOR HOCKEY at Fulford Hall at 7:30 p.m.

LOST CHORDS seniors choir meets at SS Seniors at 10:30 a.m.

NIA — See Thursday description, except classes are 5:45 to 7 p.m. at All Saints Church - upstairs hall. Info: arleensadler@shaw.ca

MEN'S GROUP - A council of highly supportive men. 7 to 9:30 p.m. Info: John, call/text 1-519- 821-9703, reinless@mender.ca or meetup.com/reinless/

PICKLEBALL games are played at Fernwood Elementary School from 6 to 9 p.m. Instruction and equipment provided for beginners. Info: hafizbhimji@shaw.ca or 250-653-9579.

SS SEARCH & RESCUE - Learn ground survival, search and rescue techniques at the SAR Hall. 7 to 9 p.m.

TAOIST TAI CHI at All Saints By-the-Sea, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Info: Stephanie, 250-537-1721.

UBUNTU sacred chants with Barb Slater. SSI Wellness Centre. 1 to 2:30 p.m.

YOGA WITH DOROTHY PRICE — Slow Flow class at Salt Spring Centre of Yoga from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m.

YOGA with Gay Young at Stowel Lake Farm. 5:15 to 6:45 p.m.

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SPORTS + RECREATION

D.W. Salty is looking for material for his column, **Streets of Salt Spring Island**

If you have information on any of our streets, please contact us at: 250-537-9933 or dwsalty@driftwoodgimedia.com



TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

NOV/DEC 2019 HNP Z+8

DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
4	0329	1.4	4.6	8	0350	2.7	8.9
	1145	3.4	11.2		0734	2.4	7.9
WE	1925	2.0	6.6	SU	1329	3.2	10.5
ME	2246	2.1	6.9	DI	2056	1.0	3.3
5	0421	1.6	5.2	9	0439	2.9	9.5
	1214	3.3	10.8		0832	2.6	8.5
TH	1946	1.7	5.6	MO	1352	3.2	10.5
JE				LU	2122	0.8	2.6
6	0108	2.2	7.2	10	0522	3.1	10.2
	0523	1.9	6.2		0926	2.7	8.9
FR	1240	3.3	10.8	TU	1414	3.2	10.5
VE	2009	1.5	4.9	MA	2150	0.6	2.0
7	0245	2.4	7.9	11	0603	3.3	10.8
	0630	2.2	7.2		1017	2.9	9.5
SA	1305	3.2	10.5	WE	1438	3.2	10.5
SA	2032	1.3	4.3	ME	2221	0.4	1.3

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SPORTS FACILITIES

SD64 mulls turf field project

ALC approval needed for project to continue

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Gulf Islands School District trustees and staff had a lively discussion concerning a project to install a synthetic soccer field at the Gulf Islands Secondary School at their committee meeting day last week.

The board had been asked to apply for a change of use from the Agricultural Land Commission to allow the project to move forward at their November board meeting on Mayne Island. Since the board meeting, which was held on Nov. 13, trustees received an influx of letters from Salt Spring community members about the project.

In June, the board moved to agree in principle with the synthetic turf field project, which originally was to be comprised of a plastic grass with TPE fill, a plastic similar to rubber that is used in toothbrush



PHOTO BY GAIL SIJBURG

Salt Spring Old Boys goaltender Richard Steel makes a save during a recent home game on the GISS lower field, which was the first time in two years that the field was accessible for the team. GISS is now the site being considered for an artificial turf pitch.

handles and baby soothers. That idea was changed to a more natural solution of coconut and cork after the board and soccer association received negative feedback about the plastic granules. The field was also originally to be at the "Hydro field" at Salt Spring Middle School, but that idea was changed because the high school could offer better amenities like change rooms.

That field is within the Agricultural Land Reserve. A synthetic playing surface is not a recognized use by the ALC, and to move forward the board, as the owner of the property, will need to submit an application to the commission for a change of use. The soccer association has said they would pay the fee for the application.

Other factors to be considered by the board would be any future costs for replacement. Secretary treasurer Jesse Guy said that moving forward, the board would be counting on having to save money every year to pay for the eventual replacement of the field and that by the time the field replacement is needed the soccer association would still be robust and active in the community. The district entered a funding protection model with the Ministry of Education in June, which allows them to prepare for drastically lower funding than they were used to. The expense would be roughly \$15,000 to \$30,000 each year. District superintendent Scott Benwell said that was about the same as one educational assistant per year.

"We would need to put aside money every year," Guy added. "It's not an amount that would break our bank."

The application is an important stage in the project, and could determine whether

or not it continues. Benwell said that asking the soccer association to spend the money for the application would make it difficult and awkward if the district decided to change its decision later on in the process.

"When we come close to that tipping point, my guidance to the board would be that we should be really solid about what we want. If the ALC comes back saying yes, we can't be thinking no," he said during the meeting.

Part of the agreement in principle was that the soccer association undergo a "fullsome community consultation" process about the project. Benwell asked the trustees to consider whether they thought that consultation had been completed. Options on that front would be to accept the consultation received so far, or to conduct a further consultation at the board level.

Saturna Island trustee Chaya Katrensky explained that she believed further consultation would "be getting the same [opinions]."

"We're going to be getting really strong opinions for it and really strong opinions against it," she said. "Going through the hoops again in a full public forum is going to bring us back to the same position."

The meeting ended with a discussion of the board's role in the project, and the dilemma facing them. Trustee and committee chair Tisha Boulter described it after the meeting as a "right vs. right" issue and that the trustees would be considering their personal positions on the decision in time for the next board meeting on Dec. 11.

Staff will be speaking to physical education teachers and athletic directors at both GISS and SIMS, as well as facility staff.

BRIDGE

Bridge club meets in new spot

Daylight hours more suitable for members

The Salt Spring Island Duplicate Bridge Club has changed its regular meeting place and time.

After years of meeting on Monday evenings at Salt Spring Seniors, club members are now gathering at the Brinkworthy Club House on Monday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m.

"This enables our players to come during the day and not get involved in night driving

in usually inclement weather in the winter," explained club secretary Patricia Hewett.

She noted that the club is a social group that welcomes any new members, "particularly those who are intimidated by the word 'duplicate'" as it refers to bridge.

Partners can often be found for people who want to play duplicate bridge but don't have a regular partner.

Anyone interested in playing can call Hewett at 250-538-1838, George Laundry at 250-653-9095 or Gisela Welsh at 250-537-1398.

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