

inside:



Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

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8 Meet Salt Spring's new RCMP sergeant



3 Yes, it's been wetter and gloomier than usual!



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

RUNAWAY ROADSIDE: Pink tape along Walker's Hook Road marks the latest area subject to a slide into the waters of Trincomali Channel after heavy rains on Jan. 5. See story on page 2.

COVID-19

Vaccine clinic set for high-risk tier

Health-care workers and long-term care residents on list

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The first doses of the Moderna coronavirus vaccine are expected to be arriving on Salt Spring this week for immunization of high-risk health-care workers and residents of long-term care facilities.

Members of that high-priority group who are able to travel have recently started to have vaccinations in Victoria. A Salt Spring clinic day means those who don't have easy access to the city will also soon be on their way toward achieving COVID-19 immunity.

Aletha Humphreys, executive director of Greenwood's Eldercare Society, received her first vaccine dose at Victoria General Hospital on Sunday, and will get her second dose around 35 days later. She is happy to also have all the necessary consent forms and doctors' orders in place so that residents of the Greenwood's complex care home can receive vaccines on site from a public health team.

Many residents of the Braehaven assisted living facility have also signed up, Humphreys said.

"There's a high level of interest, which is heartening. We have some residents who are vaccine hesitant and wouldn't normally get the flu vaccine who are willing to do this for COVID," Humphreys reported.

Island Health is following B.C.'s Vaccination Plan, which prioritizes residents and staff in long-term care and assisted-living situations, individuals in hospital or the community awaiting placement in long-term care, essential visitors to long-term care and assisted-living sites, hospital workers, paramedics, public health officials, and remote and isolated First Nations communities. The health authority has asked people in the broader community to remain patient because the plan does not allow booking of immunization appointments for the general public at this time. An Island Health press release issued last Thursday states a detailed approach for a mass vaccination strategy is being developed and more details are expected in the weeks ahead.

Early vaccine roll-out was hampered by supply issues to some degree. Humphreys

said it was easy to register online for her appointment in Victoria, but the first date was cancelled and rescheduled. Increasing supply will see more clinics scheduled across the Island Health area for high-priority groups in the coming weeks, however, and other at-risk sectors are expected to be vaccinated beginning in February.

Humphreys said she never imagined the full scale of the pandemic impact when she moderated a discussion with Dr. Kevin Patterson on the topic for the Salt Spring Forum last March.

"I also didn't think there would be a vaccine before the end of the year. That's been incredible," she said.

The past year has been a tense one at Greenwood's and Braehaven as staff have strived to keep residents at both facilities safe. At the same time, they have responded to the crisis by making a number of improvements and innovations with infection-control protocols.

VACCINE continued on 2

Classifieds	10
Editorial	4
Letters	5
Island Life	8

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• Thrifty Foods • Lady Minto Found.

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ISLAND ROADS

Bank slides at Walker's Hook Rd.

Lane reduction potential in 500 block

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Another piece of Salt Spring's north-eastern shoreline slipped into the ocean last Tuesday afternoon during a storm event and following several days of heavy rains.

An area of steep bank between the roadside and the ocean in the 500 block of Walker Hook Road went into the sea around 1 p.m. on Jan. 5. A mature maple tree that was at the top of the bank was taken down along with masses of earth and water, and was seen standing upright in a new position at the waterline below.

While the slide did not immediately impact the road itself, residents of the area say the situation appears to be getting worse.

"The slip is now within 18 inches of the road surface. It's continuing to wash out lower down as water drains out of the bank," longtime Walker's Hook Road homeowner Lawrie Neish said Friday.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure reported last week that ministry staff and the maintenance contractor had attended the site.

"Once the inspection of the area is complete, the team will formulate a strategy to repair the side of the road. In the short term, maintenance staff will cone off the edge of the road until

it is repaired," the ministry stated.

Past landslides and lane closures on Walker's Hook Road have caused BC Transit to suspend and reroute its usual bus service because of safety concerns. The last major slide in that area took out three sections in the 600 and 700 blocks after heavy rains in January 2018. The road was closed to traffic for nine months while repairs took place. Neish, who lives in the 400 block, has witnessed continuing issues with both the surface and the high bank area over 40 years in the neighbourhood. He noted this time the slip happened at the highest part of the road, where the stretch of bank is particularly steep and potentially dangerous. Residents have suggested a reduction to single-lane traffic may be coming to keep vehicles away from that side of the road.

While troubles keep occurring and Neish said he's going to declare one particularly bad stretch of surface a "national heritage pothole site," the province has hesitated to commit funds for a major rebuild needed to secure a more permanent fix.

Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen has identified road conditions as an issue all over the Gulf Islands, especially on historic seaside routes like Walker's Hook that were expanded without being substantially restructured.

He said he looks forward to having a conversation with new Transportation Minister Rob Fleming about the

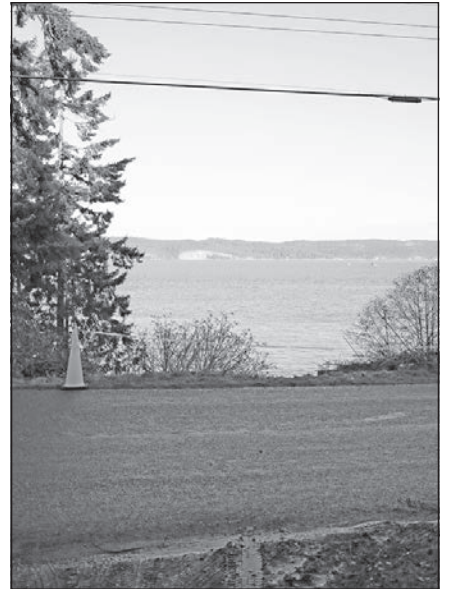


PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

A dangerous area where the bank has slid away on Walker's Hook Road marked by tape and cones the day after the Jan. 5 storm damage occurred.

Gulf Islands' specific challenges when it comes to road design and maintenance, and a discussion on how to keep all modes of transportation safe on all roads.

"If it's not an annual event, it's every other year that we run into issues like this in this riding," Olsen said.

Olsen said his team has already reached out to Fleming and made contact, and will schedule a meeting in the near future.

TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

JANUARY 2021 PST (UTC-8h)

When using Daylight Saving Time, one hour must be added to the predicted time in the table

DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
13	0644	3.6	11.8	17	0101	0.7	2.3
	1128	3.0	9.8		0858	3.5	11.5
	WE 1510	3.3	10.8		SU 1517	2.3	7.5
ME 2301	0.1	0.3	DI 1845	2.6	8.5		
14	0721	3.6	11.8	18	0137	1.1	3.6
	1223	2.9	9.5		0924	3.5	11.5
	TH 1600	3.2	10.5		MO 1612	2.1	6.9
JE 2343	0.3	1.0	LU 2006	2.3	7.5		
15	0756	3.6	11.8	19	0212	1.5	4.9
	1320	2.8	9.2		0948	3.4	11.2
	FR 1651	3.0	9.8		TU 1702	1.8	5.9
VE			MA 2200	2.2	7.2		
16	0023	0.5	1.6	20	0246	1.9	6.2
	0829	3.6	11.8		1009	3.3	10.8
	SA 1419	2.6	8.5		WE 1747	1.6	5.2
SA 1743	2.8	9.2	ME				

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Rezoning and OCP Amendments for Gulf Islands National Park

Bylaws 129 & 130

PUBLIC HEARING

SATURNA LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

Have Your Say

Tuesday, January 26, 2021
CIM - 11:30 a.m.
Public Hearing to follow CIM

Zoom Meeting
Phone (Toll Free):
Canada: 833 955 1088
US: 833 958 1164
<https://islandstrust.zoom.us/j/62432679162>

Webinar ID Code:
624 3267 9162

Who should attend?
Anyone affected by the proposed bylaws

Enquires?
Brad Smith,
Island Planner:
250-405-5194
bsmith@islandstrust.bc.ca

What are the bylaws about?

The purpose of proposed Bylaws No. 129 and 130 is to amend the Saturna Island Land Use Bylaw No. 119 (LUB) and Official Community Plan No. 70 (OCP) to ensure that Gulf Islands National Park Reserve (GINPR) properties on Saturna Island are legally designated and zoned as parkland.

GINPR lands make up a significant portion of the Saturna Island, and the properties that make up the park still reflect land use designations and zoning that were in place prior to the transfer of ownership to the federal government.

The Community Information Meeting (CIM) will be held prior to the Public Hearing and will provide the opportunity for members of the public to ask questions about the proposed bylaw amendment.

How do I get more information?

A copy of the electronic public hearing binder and details on connecting to Zoom is available online:

www.islandstrust.bc.ca/saturna/sa-news/

Copies of the bylaws, the Public Hearing Binder and other information on the project is available at the Islands Trust Victoria office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays, January 8 to 22, 2021, or online:

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/saturna/national-parks-project/>

Written submissions?

Send by 4:30 p.m., January 22, 2021 to:

- Islands Trust, 200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8R 1H8, or
- Email: vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca

Note: All submissions received become part of the public record.

Coping with COVID has been taxing

VACCINE
continued from 1

The biggest concern has been ensuring residents maintain contact with their families. So the vaccines have been great because they have given that optimism in the process."

Both the Greenwoods and wider com-

"The team's really pulled together," Humphreys said. "But it has been taxing, and the

munities have meanwhile provided much-needed support. Humphreys said she is grateful because the society's annual appeal was very successful last year and donors have been generous, families have been amazingly understanding and residents have shown incredible perseverance.

"We're just so fortunate to be here," she added.

WEEKLY COVID REPORT

PREPARED BY CURT FIRESTONE AND STAN DERELIAN

What stands out in the most recent weekly COVID report as issued by the B.C. Centre for Disease Control is the increase of cases in Victoria (35) as well as the total active cases when you include the Gulf Islands and their immediate surrounding sections of Vancouver Island (51). We will have to wait a week or two to determine if this is an anomaly or a trend.

Southern Vancouver Island & Gulf Islands COVID-19 case data:

REPORTED ACTIVE COVID-19 CASES

	Week of 12/6-12/12	Week of 12/13-12/19	Week of 12/20-12/26	Week of 12/27-1/2/21
So. Gulf Islands.....	5	0	1	2
So. Cowichan Valley	5	3	0	3
Saanich Peninsula	5	6	12	5
Victoria	6	10	12	35
Langford to Port Renfrew .	3	7	1	6
Total.....	24	26	26	51

NEWS BRIEFS

Erskine deadline looms

The Salt Spring Island Trail and Nature Club is rallying community support to complete fundraising for "the missing link" trail connection on Mount Erskine.

The BC Parks Foundation is hosting the campaign to raise \$244,000 to acquire a part of the trail between Toynbee Road and the peak where it runs through private property. Around \$60,000 is still needed to complete the purchase before the Feb. 10 deadline.

The Trail and Nature Club notes this section represents a crucial link in an almost six-kilometre trail from Collins Road to Toynbee Road.

"The missing link also contains some terrific viewpoints surrounded by majestic trees that make excellent picnic spots," states the foundation.

Trail and Nature Club president Charles Kahn noted in an online appeal that if everyone who regularly uses these trails were to donate even \$25, the campaigners would easily reach the goal of buying the land and the donors would get a tax receipt.

Donations can be made through the BC Parks Foundation website under Mount Erskine Park Trail Connection Fundraiser.

Bread makers seek support

The owners of Francis Bread on Churchill Road are asking for support to demonstrate there's community need for their business to stay open while a rezoning application is being processed.

Francis Bread offers hand-made bread made from B.C.-grown grains. The proprietors are seeking to rezone the property from residential to commercial to allow a home-based business with a commercial kitchen and to make two accommodation units legal. As per Salt Spring Local Trust Committee policy, applicants who are in contravention of the land-use bylaw can request the LTC temporarily cease bylaw enforcement action and permit continuing use while the application is being considered, which may be granted if there is community need for that activity.

The LTC is set to consider the matter at their Jan. 19 business meeting. Correspondence can be directed to trustees through the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee webpage. There will also be opportunity for members of the public to speak during the town hall portion of the meeting.

WEATHER

Island winter starts off dark and wet

Colder temperatures might still be coming

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

People who are feeling this winter has been gloomier than usual so far are experiencing more than just pandemic-associated blahs.

Environment and Climate Change Canada confirms the first two weeks of winter 2020-21 were rainier than most, and in the top five darkest for the period.

"It terms of gloomiest, 2020 tied for fifth place with some precipitation on 11 of the 14 days," said ECCC meteorologist Lisa Erven.

Erven reviewed data for the period from Dec. 21 to Jan. 3 for the Driftwood and compared this year to the past 30 years as the standard for climate studies. Precipitation levels measured at the St. Mary Lake collection station put this year as the fifth wettest in that timeframe, with 123.2 millimetres accumulated in the two weeks. The most precipitation during the first two weeks of winter over the past 30 years occurred in 1996, with an accumulated 109.3 mm.

All the rainfall this winter has also contributed to the darker days that people may be noticing, even with precious added minutes of daylight with days lengthening since the solstice.

Erven explained that local hours of clear skies versus cloudy skies are not recorded by the federal agency. Their best way of calculating gloom for Salt Spring is according to how many days had some amount of precipitation. Using that loose metric, the first two weeks of winter this season tied for fifth with multiple other years.

"There were actually 11 years between 1980 and present that also had 11 days of precipitation out of 14," Erven said, noting the gloomiest year was again 1996, when 14 out of 14 days had some amount of rain or snow.

Many islanders will remember the snowstorm of Dec. 29, 1996, which was still dubbed "the storm of the century" 20 years on.

Salt Spring resident Bob Lynch is another good source for data, as he maintains a high-quality personal weather station at his home on Booth Bay. His station is connected to the Weather Underground network, and he has a number of specific sensors, including both ultraviolet and solar radiation sensors that can calculate hours of sunlight.

"Scientists would rather 'make light of the situation': they measure sunshine duration and bright sunshine hours instead of gloominess," Lynch explained.

Lynch offers the interesting information that meteorologists used to define bright sunshine at the point when there was enough focused light going through a "crystal ball" to burn a hole in paper.

"These days, the international definition is a reading from the modern instruments greater than 120 watts per square meter," he said.

According to Lynch's data set, there were only 2.5 hours of bright sunshine from Dec. 25, 2020 to Jan. 8, 2021. That compares to 4.5 hours during the same period the previous year and 7.5 hours in the winter of 2016-17. In another comparison, there were 137.5 hours of bright sunshine recorded at Lynch's station from July 25 to Aug. 8, 2020.

Lynch's rainfall data meanwhile puts 2020 as a whole as the wettest year since 2009, with a total accumulation of 941.8 mm — although it had only the third wettest December in that period.

January 2020 was the outlier. With 259.1 mm of precipitation recorded, it was 40 per cent wetter than the next highest January, with 184.4 mm in 2018.

Looking to the weeks and months ahead, Erven reports more wet and stormy weather for Salt Spring and the Gulf Islands is in the forecast. Temperatures will continue to sit around normal or perhaps slightly above nor-



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Stormwater rushes down a gully off Broadwell Road after heavy rains on Jan. 3.

mal for the short term.

Erven said the signal is unclear for the longer range forecast heading into February, but at some point meteorologists expect the trend to shift to colder temperatures with the La Niña weather pattern. That typically brings wet and cool weather from the mid Pacific to the south coast and pushes polar winds down through the prairies and across to the east coast.

"So far we're not seeing that system. These recent storm systems are coming out of the west or the south west," Erven said, adding, "It could switch in late January or February. For anyone that likes skiing or wants to build a snowman down on the coast, it looks like March holds out some hope for some colder temperatures coming in."

EDUCATION

SIMS closure vote advanced

School teams request additional planning time

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Gulf Islands Board of Education has moved up its vote to close Salt Spring Middle School from the Feb. 10 board meeting to a special session to be held on Jan. 18.

The board had given notice of motion regarding the closure vote on Nov. 18 and scheduled it for February as the first board meeting following the mandatory 60-day consultation period.

District superintendent Scott Benwell told the school board last Wednesday that senior administrators strongly supported an earlier vote timed to the actual end of that period "because it comes to us from our teachers and administrators."

Salt Spring trustee Stefanie Denz asked about the reason for the move and received confirmation the extra few weeks will add planning time that other schools impacted by the decision can use. Salt Spring's elementary schools will be adding classrooms for Grade 6 and 7 students, while Gulf Islands Secondary School will be welcoming a new cohort of Grade 8s along with Grade 9s in the fall.

Benwell reported that district staff in the CUPE union local were in a neutral position regarding the vote as it will not affect their collective agreement, but they were happy to support it to assist their teacher colleagues.

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BC ASSESSMENT

OPINION



2019 CCNA Awards
Gold - Best Editorial Page | Gold - Best Feature Series (Gail Sjuberg)
Bronze - Best News Story (Elizabeth Nolan) | Bronze - Community Service

2020 BCYCNA Awards
Bronze - Best Historical Writing (Elizabeth Nolan)
Bronze - Best All Round (for circulation Category C)



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EDITORIAL

Eroding roads

When it comes to the state of roads on Salt Spring Island, Walker's Hook Road has been the ultimate problem child for decades.

Several winters have seen the seashore-side bank eroded and road users' safety compromised. Years ago residents and local government officials pressed the transportation ministry to give Walker's Hook Road a proper fix, but only Band-aids were applied. Then when the 600 and 700 blocks of the road seriously gave way in January of 2018, a presumably long-term repair was undertaken and completed over a lengthy period. That required a road closure and subsequent detour in place for much of the year, along with re-routing of Salt Spring Transit bus service. The latest section to let go in recent heavy rains is just a bit further south of the section repaired in 2018.

THE ISSUE:
Walker's Hook Road

WE SAY:
Permanent fix essential

Once again the call has gone out for a permanent fix to the woes of this latest eroding section of Walker Hook Road. Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen said Gulf Islands road conditions have definitely been flagged as an issue needing attention and he has reached out to new Transportation Minister Rob Fleming for a meeting.

Except for the Walker's Hook slip and slide, Salt Spring roads appeared to hold up remarkably well following successive days of rain in recent weeks. Better ditch and culvert maintenance by the island's road contractor could be one factor in that outcome.

But with climate-change forecasts indicating that Gulf Islands winters will become rainier as the years go on, and with certain problem areas screaming for attention, it will take more than routine preventative measures to keep island roads intact.

In 2018 the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure directed long-overdue resources to the 600 and 700 blocks of Walker's Hook Road. A similar assessment and rehabilitation effort needs to take place for the rest of the road before someone is injured or killed after the next inevitable deluge.



Trees cause conundrum

BY FRANTS ATTORP

Trees. They are a key feature that sets this protected area apart from the surrounding urban sprawl.

And they contribute so much. They are integral to the hydrological cycle and home to myriad lifeforms. They filter out pollution, release oxygen and soak up enormous quantities of carbon dioxide, thereby helping slow climate change. And, just as importantly, they bring beauty and serenity to a world that has become hectic, fragmented and commodified. Collectively, they are part of a unique and fragile ecosystem known as the Coastal Douglas-fir zone.

When we bought our south-end home 10 years ago, we did so because of the trees and the privacy they afford. We cannot see any neighbours, and have backdoor access to many kilometres of hiking trails. We feel very fortunate.

As with all other rural properties, development of ours required plenty of tree clearing. Trees were felled for the house, outbuildings, a garden area, a driveway and a septic field. Of the six acres we own, approximately 20 per cent has been cleared, and we don't even have a garage or secondary

VIEWPOINT

dwelling like many others.

Over the years, the forest has tried relentlessly to reclaim its territory, but I have a handsaw to keep the vegetation at bay. The choice is clear: fresh beans and tomatoes or encroachment by fast-growing trees and bushes. And that's not to mention the remaining tall trees near the house that whip back and forth during windstorms. Yikes!

There are many other reasons trees are felled, such as for pasture, orchards or more light. Views are also popular. Wooded lots can sit on the market for ages, attracting little attention until some or all of the trees are removed. There may be a Darwinian explanation. Studies have shown that people from many different cultures prefer landscapes similar to the Pleistocene Savannah where they evolved — vistas featuring open spaces, copses of trees and water in the distance.

There is of course money in the trees themselves. Some cash-strapped people buy a property with the aim of selling the trees to help pay the mortgage. Developers, meanwhile, look for larger parcels with mer-

chantable timber so they can sell the logs, subdivide, and then market the newly created lots. The infamous "strip and flip."

So what can we conclude? First, the obvious: modern humans can be incredibly destructive. The Islands Trust, whose primary responsibility is to protect ecosystems, must therefore limit long-term growth as much as possible.

Secondly, with so much money at play, there will likely be significant resistance to more restrictive land use regulations. Rather than do battle with private landowners, the Trust, with limited enforcement capabilities, may pursue a variety of density deals that give landowners an economic incentive to protect forestland. Some swaps may be warranted, but overuse of this planning tool will violate our official community plan and erode the rural character of the island.

Lastly, the tree removal issue is complex and made more problematic because many expect the same development rights here as in unprotected areas. This settlers' mentality impairs conservation efforts. To slow deforestation we need not just a change of policy but a change of heart.

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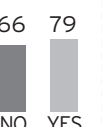
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you think President Trump should be impeached?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you feeling optimistic about 2021?



Cast your ballot online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com before Monday 2 p.m. or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 2 p.m.

OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

“It’s not like the people there have a million choices and this is what they’ve chosen to do.”

SSI RCMP SGT. CLIVE SEABROOK ON PEOPLE IN PARK

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED: *What are you doing to cope with grey winter days?*

EMILIE SIPOS



“Hiking, finding ways to be creative and reading.”

JACK ROSEN



Going surfing and back country skiing. It doesn't matter if it's grey or blue, it's still fun.

LIZA KEOGH



My husband and I are making sure we get outside and we're both getting into the ocean. It has positive effects!

RICHARD STEEL



Cooking, exercise and dreaming.

MAIRI WELMAN



I'm doing a lot more reading than usual, and hot baths with a glass of wine as the sun goes down.”

LETTERS to the editor

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

Wrong spot got sewage treatment

The following letter was written to B.C. Premier John Horgan and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

Dear Premier,
I will get to my principal reason for writing shortly but before that I want to congratulate you and your team for the way you have governed during the course of the pandemic. I have not been an NDP voter for a number of reasons but want to give credit where credit is due. Your decision at the start to make decisions based on science and with advice from public health professionals has won the confidence of a great percentage of the B.C. population.

Unfortunately you strayed far from the scientific approach in your recent apology to the governor of Washington for being complicit in the pollution of his waters for all these years. With respect, Premier, numerous highly qualified marine scientists and public health officials have made it clear that the now abandoned outfalls posed minimal risk to the marine environment.

Further, I know of no scientific evidence whatsoever that suggests Victoria's effluent impacted U.S. waters in any

way. Please send evidence if you have it. Certainly a substantial upgrade of the Victoria system was needed, but politics, not science, put it at the top of the to-do list.

Vancouver citizens have looked down on Victoria for years while they pour billions of litres of effluent each day into the mouth of our greatest salmon river. For example, the Iona Island plant discharges 600-million litres plus of barely treated effluent per day and its upgrade has been moved up to — 2030! What irony. Victoria, situated on a huge body of turbulent, fast-moving water gets tertiary treatment while a plant discharging into a vulnerable estuary can wait 10 years for an upgrade!

The fact is it is Governor Jay Inslee that should be apologizing to you. If you go online you will find numerous reports on pollution in Puget Sound and its negative impact on salmon stocks. Secondarily treated sewage discharged to river estuaries plus run-off from roads, parking lots, etc. are prime suspects. Unlike Victoria, Puget Sound is an embayed area with extremely slow flushing, so pollutants can easily build.

A year or two ago, two distinguished scientists suggested drug residues from municipal sewer systems discharging in estuaries impacted tiny salmon smolts on the way to sea

and could be responsible for a 50 per cent decline in Chinook returns to river. It was sheer hypocrisy for Inslee to go on blasting Victoria when an immensely greater problem for salmon was festering on his doorstep.

I hope someone reads this and if so tells him I fervently hope he won't suggest Mr. Floatie as a candidate for the Order of Canada.

TOM TOYNBEE,
SALT SPRING

Caring place to live

We want to thank those local businesses and volunteers who helped to provide 100 take-out Christmas dinner feasts to our community.

The year 2020 marked not only the presence of COVID-19 in our lives but also what was to be the 21st Community Christmas Day Dinner, sponsored by the Salt Spring Island United Church and supported by the community at large. It was clear that COVID safety protocols would not allow the traditional sit-down dinner and program that “normally” occurred.

The organizing volunteers are pleased to report the successful partnership with the food services and shelter programs of Salt Spring Commu-

nity Services that ensured the traditional feast continued for many. The simplified, but traditional, “turkey with all the trimmings” menu “pivoted” to preparation by volunteer FOODSAFE “household bubbles.” These were then delivered to Community Services where shelter staff and volunteers prepared them for individual pick-up and delivery. The meals were accompanied by an individual bagged dessert.

Thanks, of course, to our 12 cook teams, as well as to our delivery volunteers, as none of this would have happened without you. Special mention goes to Community Services managers Vivienne Challandes and Simone Cazabon, plus shelter volunteers Randi and David, for their willingness and flexibility in working with us to make this dinner a reality for many again during this unusual year. Also thanks this year to Country Grocer, Thrifty Foods, Embe Bakery, Windsor Plywood and Beddis Road Garage for their continued generous support.

As in other years, the 2020 Community Christmas Day Dinner was once again a “gift from the community for the community.” Thanks, Salt Spring — a caring place to live.

DIANE & JOHN LUGSDIN,
VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS,
COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

Another virus lurks in Gulf Islands communities

BY JENNIFER MARGISON

After coming to Galiano Island 15 years ago, my husband and I quickly became aware of how divisive local issues could be on a small island.

As part-time residents for some of those years, it was easier to avoid becoming involved or being impacted. But Galiano worked its magic spell on us and we made the decision to live here full time. We now have good friends and volunteer involvement in the community. Being surrounded by nature and growing some of our own food are comforts in this chaotic world.

I value our local social media for the information about local doings or its ability to generate help for people when they need it: picking up a prescription in town, finding items you need without having to leave the island, getting help when sick or injured or in cases of wind and snow storms. Island people really step up in those situations.

However, I want to comment on what I see as another insidious virus besides COVID-19 gaining a foothold on Galiano and perhaps in other island communities, one that I think is impacting and infecting our civil discourse, our ability to hold different opinions and to communicate those views without making it about the person rather than the issue. I am speaking of how I see our local social media increasingly be used in a way to shame,

GUEST COLUMN

blame and shun, to divide the community and to stifle exploring divergent views.

I have recently experienced this personally because I am known to hold a particular point of view on a current issue. I became the subject of derogatory and false accusations on a local Facebook site, Galiano X. Other people joined in by “liking” or otherwise supporting these posts.

I have attempted to address these posts directly with the writers. My messages were either not responded to or my requests to meet were refused. It appears easy to slander someone online but not to do so face to face. I consider it the most cowardly form of communication.

It is tempting to explain or defend oneself on the same media platform. But this only generates more attacks. I am not normally a fearful person, but reading insulting comments or lies about oneself on social media in a small community is a deeply disturbing experience. I know of others who in witnessing such behaviour or in being the subject of such attacks themselves are now afraid to voice their views. They are intimidated into silence to protect themselves and their reputations.

I contacted the Galiano X administra-

tor to discuss his responsibility to prevent use of this site to personally disparage people. Facebook does have a “bullying and harassment policy” for its pages and groups, prohibiting posts targeting private individuals “with negative character or ability claims.” I feel my complaint was met with indifference and the only action taken of which I am aware was to delete me as a member of the site.

Is this really the kind of community in which we want to live? Is this the behaviour we want to model for our young people? Have we learned nothing by what has gone on south of our border, where falsehoods and insults have taken the place of reasonable discussion and debate?

We all hold different views on many things. Through inquiry, through talking to one another rather than invoking mob mentality, rushing to judgment based on little or false information and seeing the other as the enemy, we can find out why we disagree, perhaps learn things we did not know before and maybe even find common ground.

Editor's note: The Galiano X Facebook page administrator told the Driftwood he had a long phone discussion and other communications with the writer, deleted an offending comment from the page and takes his administrator role seriously.



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D.W. Salty is looking for material for his column,

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dwsalty@driftwoodgimedia.com

Island workers deserve gratitude

BY HANNA BARCLAY AND RICHARD HULL

This past year has brought along many trials and tribulations for everyone in this community of ours.

Everyone has experienced this in their own way — good, bad, up, down, left and right. But here we all stand at the finish line. We're not saying that this new year is going to be a magical experience with no stress, but we crossed the finish line and it's time to tippy-toe into the next chapter.

We feel as though it's important to send out a moment of gratitude and gratefulness to those who keep the community running and help sustain the awesomeness that is Salt Spring Island. There are certain people you always see writing articles, certain people who always seem to be standing out in the community with a loud voice, but there is a huge percentage of this community that goes unnoticed, unappreciated and unacknowledged, and doesn't often speak up, and they are often unable to make it to community meetings because they have jobs.

Ever wonder how it is your home came to be? How many hours were spent in a machine digging away at the earth to make the foundation? How many shovels did it take to put that drainpipe over there, how many truckloads of gravel had to be brought in to make that privacy berm, how early in the morning did the gravel pit operator have to wake up to warm up his machines? Did you ever think to yourself how cool it is that the wall behind your painting is so seamless? Ever lifted a piece of drywall before? How many nails were hit by hand to frame this house?

It's amazing that the roof over my head keeps all those buckets of rain out, and when it doesn't there is someone who comes running to fix it. They work on the roof when the rest of us are hiding in the shade. Keeping the gutters flowing the way they should and stopping the snow from crashing down on your head when you close the front door to leave in the morning.

Is it not a miracle that you can wake up every morning and flick on a light switch and see your teapot on the stove and turn a button to make the water boil? That it's just a turn of a tap and water simply comes out of it, and then you hop in the shower and the water is nice and hot. Does anyone ever think about how that all works?

How does the house stay so nice and warm during these dark damp months? Is it because of the hard-working guy who chopped all those cords of wood and delivered them to your house? Or is it the HVAC guy who installed the heat pump or the furnace, who also comes running if it stops working and the family is cold? Ever think "How did all that sheet metal get into my crawl space?"

Ever admire the ones who choose to climb hundreds of feet up a tree to take the top off so the tree doesn't come crashing down through the house during a windstorm? Or the ones who are out there fixing the power lines in the middle of the night, working all hours to clear the roads and restore the power?

Isn't it a miracle that you flush that toilet and all your problems just disappear? Where do the pipes go, how does a septic system really work and how hard was it to get the hole dug for the tank, or the field laid out? What really is behind the gates to that reclamation plant in town, how does that work and who has to be there to make that happen? Is it as dirty as it sounds?

What about on your drive to work

INDEPTH

after a dump of snow? Did you know that someone drove a plow truck all night to clear and sand those roads for you, so it's safer to drive to work? Or who is it that plugged that giant pothole around the corner that you tried to avoid but smashed into anyway and broke a tie rod.

Where do you go when you break your car, or who do you call when you need a tow? This is a stressful experience that seriously inconveniences your day but yet someone is there to rescue you and fix the problem. Have you ever stopped to ask yourself how many vehicles they are trying to put back on the road that week? I sure hope you don't get frustrated when your car can't be fixed until the next day because maybe they are working on the van of a tradesman who needs to get to the customer who doesn't have heat or hot water or whose roof is leaking.

Did you ever wonder how early those bakers have to wake up to make sure you get your hot cross buns and coffee at 7 a.m.? Or how early did someone have to come into the kitchen to start preparing the anniversary dinner that you and your partner are having at the restaurant tonight? Or who are the people behind the scenes at the bakery, restaurant or grocery store keeping those freezers frozen and prep tables warm, and food tasting so damn good?

It's amazing that the roof over my head keeps all those buckets of rain out, and when it doesn't there is someone who comes running to fix it.

Who are the ones out there in the morning collecting the garbage, cutting the grass or hanging all those beautiful lights in the trees around town so we can enjoy our parks while we drink our coffee or walk down the paths on the side of the road?

Where does all that garbage go anyway? Everyone puts it in these bins and totes and somehow it just disappears. How early does that garbage truck have to get running through town to collect everything so as not to impede on your daily trip to the store? How many pounds of garbage have been slung around with those arms so you don't have that stink in your yard anymore? What happens after it's in the truck?

What about that dark hole that is your crawl space? However awful you might think it is, it's probably worse. Someone has to go in there, whether it's pest control people sealing up holes so the rats can't get in, or running the line set for your heat pump, or the plumbing pipes that have to be snaked because you keep dumping bacon grease down the sink. On their hands and knees they crawl through the dust and muck, the poop and the spiders to fix your problem, and they can still crack a joke when they come back out.

Does everyone say thank you to the men and women that work in the assisted living facilities, who provide 24-hour-a-day care to our mothers, fathers and grandparents? These men and women are the only physical interaction those

folks get right now and the emotional weight these people carry on their shoulders is greater than you could imagine, and yet they do it every day with passion.

What about when your pet gets sick, or the horse in the pasture won't get up? Ever wonder to yourself how they deal with the emotions behind your best dog friend needing to be put to rest? That's just one emotional tragedy for you that they deal with on a daily basis and they can still smile.

How did that meat end up in my freezer anyway? Because 365 days a year that farmer is out there rain or shine to feed those animals, crack the ice in the buckets so they can drink, check on them throughout the night to make sure the birthing goes smoothly for the mom. How many of you have ever helped your neighbour collect hay bales out of the field? Everyone sure loves buying those eggs on the side of the road, but how many of you think about what it takes to keep that chicken healthy?

There are so many people within this community who have gone unmentioned: the post office worker, the waiter, cashier, teller, delivery driver, butcher, office lady, housekeeper, cook, laundry and maintenance workers, the parts store employee, the gas station and marina worker, and all the important people who play a role in keeping this community going.

We ask you to please check yourself the next time you get frustrated at the van tailgating you whose driver is trying to get to his next service call while you take in the scenery, and to not shake your head when you see a loud car or truck drive past chirping the tires, or a dirt bike whizzing past en route to the mountain because they are just blowing off some steam from working so hard all week. Don't get annoyed at the sound of the chainsaw next door because your neighbour doesn't have time to cut firewood during the week while working. Please don't get frustrated with the truck driver going 15 km/h up the hill past Embe. It's truly impossible to get a run at that hill. These people were born here, they are the "indigenous population," and this is their culture. Please just take a breath as we are all in this together.

We send out a giant hug of appreciation to all of you that are a part of sustaining this island. You know who you are, and you are the ones who make this community what it is. You all pour blood, sweat and tears into this island to keep it running; working day and night to make ends meet, trying to come up with the money to buy a property to settle down and start a family in this place you call home. You give everything you have to make rent to fight the trades workers' housing crisis, continuing to move every other month, it seems, but refusing to give up in the hopes that someone in the community will reach out and provide you with a secure, affordable place to live.

Thank you for being who you are and doing what you do. Without your attitude, effort and willingness, this place we call home wouldn't be what it is.

Please continue to work hard and fight your way through this game called life. You are the ones who got us through the crazy year that was 2020. You are the ones who had to go to work while the world shut down, and you will be the ones to continue to allow this island to be the magical place that it is. From young to old we all owe you a debt of gratitude.

The writers are Salt Spring residents.



PHOTO BY ELAINA HYDE

WHITE AS SNOW: Joining the early blooming parade for winter 2020-21 are snowdrops photographed in Elaina Hyde's Vesuvius Bay Road garden on Jan. 7. Hyde says they have bloomed about a month earlier than usual.

Mental health plan has good start

BY DAVID NORGET

The Salt Spring Health Advancement Network's Mental Wellness Initiative (MWI), funded this fall, has begun its work.

A key coalition of providers, community members and people with "lived experience" (those living with mental illness or supporting someone living with mental illness) lead this initiative. Participants include the local Chapter of the Remote and Rural Division of Family Practice, School District #64, Island Health Adult Mental Health and Substance Use, Salt Spring Community Services Society, Salt Spring Community Health Society, Salt Spring Health Advancement Network, Chu'an Society and the BIPOC Community Collective Society. With the challenges of COVID-19, representatives are unable to meet face to face as a group, so continue progress with the use of Zoom for video conference meetings, phone and occasionally with physically distanced face to face meetings.

Two of the consistent themes around mental wellness on Salt Spring are feelings of isolation and loneliness among not only the service users but also by the professionals who are trying to help them. One community mental health worker expressed, "I'm in this role on my own." And this is not an uncommon sentiment. We've become aware of

many community members — including professionals — who don't really know about all of the services, how to find them and/or where to refer people.

This is why the MWI coalition has made its first focus relationship building within the coalition itself, particularly because of the challenges to mental wellness during the current pandemic. As one coalition participant noted, "The act of connecting with other members in our coalition has made me realize the value of connection. It's great for my own mental health."

One community mental health worker expressed, "I'm in this role on my own."

Of course, strengthening the bonds within the group leads to and supports future broadening of the connections to the larger community. "Community building" is the antithesis to isolation and loneliness. Building connection and cohesiveness amongst the larger community necessitates it being modelled within the coalition.

The intent of the Mental Wellness Initiative includes:

- building and strengthening relationships of group members;
- identifying and fulfilling a simple high impact goal;
- engaging with the larger mental health community — providers, users and community members — to support a common understanding of mental wellness, including an understanding of what's working, and what the needs, gaps and causes are;
- hosting a summit or series of summits with the larger mental health community to determine ways of addressing some of the needs, gaps and causes;
- remaining committed to ensuring that all voices are heard.

There are so many good people doing good work in many agencies, and great efforts within these agencies. But there is also a need for cohesiveness among agencies and representation of a community voice that can more effectively address what is needed and advocate for additional resources. Strengthening community builds greater resilience within it.

David Norget is co-chair of the Salt Spring Health Advancement Network and coordinator for the Mental Wellness Initiative. The MWI is funded thanks to grants from the Salt Spring Foundation, Island Health Community Wellness and a CRD grant-in-aid.

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The Capital Regional District (CRD) invites applications from members of the public interested in sitting on the Regional Housing Advisory Committee. This committee will provide the CRD a forum that supports ongoing engagement with government, industry, non-profit housing providers and community on matters related to housing development and affordability.

There are vacancies for four members representing private developers, non-profit housing developers and operators, the indigenous community and the homelessness service sector. Meetings will be held bi-monthly and appointments will be for a two year term effective immediately.

To apply, submit your CV and a one-page summary including the following information: contact information, area of expertise, description of previous citizen engagement experience, reason for wishing to serve on the committee, and any other information you feel is relevant.

Deadline for receipt of applications is January 21, 2021.

Send your application to:

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Fax: 250.361.4970

Email: jmichael@crd.bc.ca

RCMP

Sgt. Seabrook settles into role

New Salt Spring detachment head prefers collaborative community approach

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's new RCMP detachment commander Sgt. Clive Seabrook is making strides toward getting to know the community after being on the job for a busy couple of months.

Seabrook hit the ground running when he took up the post last fall, when the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic was inflaming existing tensions in the downtown Ganges area. The disruptive and violent behaviour that's come to mar Centennial Park and the surrounding business community is a complex issue with no easy solution. But the 15-year RCMP member brings with him considerable life and career experience that makes him amply qualified for managing island matters. At the same, his excitement for the posting and the opportunity to live on Salt Spring with his family promises a bond with the community at large.

Originally from Prince Rupert, Seabrook said he is very familiar with small-town living. He came to policing later in life, having first been a businessman who was active in the town's chamber of commerce and Rotary Club.

"I came to a place and time where I was ready to make a change, and I kind of saw it as a continuation of my community service activities," Seabrook said.

Seabrook was most recently stationed in Port Alberni, where he was detachment head in his final year. Prior to that he spent eight years in plain clothes investigating serious crimes. Throughout his career he has done everything from frontline policing to traffic patrols to investigating homicides.

The RCMP notified Seabrook of his new posting in October of 2019 but the transfer was delayed by having to sell his family home and then by COVID-19. He feels the totality of his previous career will benefit his work on Salt Spring and its diverse demographic.

Unruly behaviour at Centennial Park has been the top issue Seabrook has heard about from community members since being on Salt Spring, and a major focus of his daily work. He pointed out that police are left to respond to the results of that behaviour and they wish to help with a solution, but at the same time the roots of the problem are not really a policing matter.

"The people there need supports and a place to go," Seabrook said, "which is why I'm trying not to be too heavy-handed there. It's not like the people there have a million choices and this is what they've chosen to do." Since coming to Salt Spring he's



PHOTO COURTESY SALT SPRING RCMP

Sgt. Clive Seabrook, the new Salt Spring RCMP detachment commander.

been keeping a presence downtown, visiting people in the park and the surrounding businesses, and also attending Zoom meetings and conference calls with multiple community members. Over the past few weeks he's stepped up those visits to at least once or twice a day whenever he's on shift, and community members have reported a positive impact in the park environs.

"My objective is just hearing everyone's voice and hearing how the police can assist," Seabrook explained. "I'm a firm believer in the collaborative approach to solving issues."

He added the police can be one of the partner groups working toward a solution, but the solution cannot rest on them alone.

Seabrook is certified as an expert in drug trafficking relating to a variety of different drugs, including cocaine, meth and fentanyl. This means he is often called to give testimony at trials with his opinion on whether a drug was in someone's possession for the reasons of trafficking or not. He was one of only two officers with expert knowledge of fentanyl during the early years of the overdose crisis on Vancouver Island. He also has experience working with people with addictions and has compassion for their struggles, which he feels is a valuable tool for helping with the situation in downtown Ganges.

"I understand the challenges of people with addictions and the trauma that generally goes with it," Seabrook said.

Seabrook noted the province was making headway on its campaign to reduce overdose tragedies, supporting people to keep naloxone kits and getting the message out to users to not use alone. COVID-19 appears to have reversed that work, because now people are told they have to be alone and many have reported their mental health has declined. His focus is normally on the trafficking end, which may not be a huge problem on the

island but is nonetheless a concern.

"I haven't seen a place where there hasn't been trafficking, so the assumption is it's here," Seabrook said, noting he has recently made some related arrests on the island and will be watching the situation.

"My objective is just hearing everyone's voice and hearing how the police can assist. I'm a firm believer in the collaborative approach to solving issues."

SGT. CLIVE SEABROOK
*Detachment commander,
Salt Spring RCMP*

Another tool Seabrook brings to the table is being a good communicator who can acknowledge all the different sides of a situation. He also has his own experience of trauma, having survived the Queen of the North ferry-sinking with his family in 2006. Although that is not something he likes to talk about, he agreed all his different life experiences have combined to make him empathetic to people in crisis.

On a personal level, the sergeant and his family are happy to be on the island and to have received a warm welcome to their new home. Although Salt Spring is a limited posting detachment with a four-year maximum stay, Seabrook says he can't foresee any reason they would want to leave before that.

"It's a really good place to work and it's a great group of people, both the members and the support staff. Everyone lives here and wants to make the community a great place to live. It's a passion for people," he said.

NATURE

Screech-owl gets attention

Biologist's Sunday talk sets the stage for upcoming project

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy is launching a three-year western screech-owl stewardship project with a talk by biologist Tania Tripp of Madrone Environmental Services Ltd. on Sunday, Jan. 17.

Tripp has conducted research on the western screech-owl for more than 20 years and will be assisting the conservancy with their project.

Called Western Screech-Owl - Monitoring and Habitat Enhancement Efforts in Coastal B.C., the event begins at 3 p.m. via the Zoom platform. People are asked to register by noon on Saturday, Jan. 16 by sending an email to debra@saltspringconservancy.ca.

She completed her M.Sc. thesis on the bioacoustics of this species in 2003 and continues to study their vocal behaviours, working with many naturalist and not-for-profit groups to initiate screech-owl monitoring programs.

According to the conservancy, Tripp's focus in recent years has been on habitat restoration and enhancement of habitat for the western screech-owl through nest box programs. Some of the groups she has worked with include the Habitat Acquisition Trust in Victoria, Thetis Island Nature Conservancy, Campbell River Fish and Game via funding through the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program and MOSAIC, and the Fraser Valley Naturalists.



PHOTO COURTESY EBIRD.ORG

Western screech-owl, which is the subject of a new local stewardship program led by the Salt Spring Island Conservancy.

Tripp's presentation will highlight findings from recent surveys for western screech-owls. The quest for owls has largely been volunteer-based and focused on using audio recording units and specialized software to determine the presence of the species in habitats on the south coast. Her talk will provide information on the nest box projects she has assisted with in recent years, as well as information on what SSIC will be doing on Salt Spring to help this threatened owl.

Sunday's presentation will be approximately 45 minutes to an hour in length with additional time left for questions.

SPIRITUALITY

Reconciliation issues explored in Zoom event

Star of the Sea session

On Wednesday, Jan. 20, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon, Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice will present a free online event via the Zoom platform called Rainbow of Reconciliation.

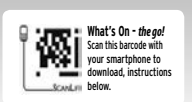
It will focus on developing common ground and spiritual connection across deep cultural boundaries.

Presenters are Alex Nelson and Logan McMenamie, who are friends and colleagues in the work of reconciliation and decolonization. Nelson is a member of the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw First Nation and an elder and senior advisor to the Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council, and Logan McMenamie is the recently retired Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of the Islands and the Inlets.

"Together they will reflect on how stories shape individuals and communities to look beyond the obvious and see the divine and sacred in creation — nature — and our traditions," explains Star of the Sea press material.

People must register in advance and get the Zoom link by emailing staroftheseassi@gmail.com.

what's on this week



Wed. Jan. 13 Thur. Jan. 14 Fri. Jan. 15 Tues. Jan. 19

VIA ZOOM

Chris Humphreys Author Reading. Salt Spring writer and author of 20 books reads from his latest work via a Salt Spring Public Library event. 7 p.m. Get the Zoom link from the library website at: saltspring.bc.libraries.coop

Gulf Islands Board of Education Trustees Meeting.

Public welcome to observe school board meeting via Zoom. 1 p.m. See the sd64.bc.ca website under "board meetings" for the link.

ACTIVITIES

Al-Anon (Support for Friends and Families of Alcoholics and Addicts). A friendly, supportive group that meets in person every Thursday, 12 to 1 p.m. at Salt Spring Seniors' Centre. Social distancing and COVID-safe practices in place. Participants' privacy also guarded.

VIA ZOOM

MP Elizabeth May Virtual Community Meeting. 7 to 8:30 p.m. See the elizabethmaymp.ca website for the Zoom link.

VIA ZOOM

ASK Salt Spring. Salt Spring trustee Laura Patrick is this week's guest from 11 a.m. to 12 noon, followed by Salt Spring trustee Peter Grove from 12 to 1 p.m. Email ask@asksaltspring.com to get the Zoom link.

Mon. Jan. 18

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Fire Protection District Trustees Meeting. Public meeting at Lions Hall. 6:30 p.m. COVID-19 safety protocols in place.

Tues. Jan. 19

VIA ZOOM

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee. Monthly public business meeting. 9:30 a.m. See Salt Spring page of islandstrust.bc.ca website for the agenda and link.

VIA ZOOM

Salt Spring Poultry Club Talk. Bryan Shelton, director of District 11 of the American Poultry Association shares what the APA is actually all about, what to expect if you participate in a poultry show, and how to get prepared. Time for questions after the presentation. 7 p.m. For Salt Spring Poultry Club members. See saltspringpoultry.com to become a member and get the Zoom link.

Wed. Jan. 20

VIA ZOOM

Rainbow of Reconciliation. A Star of the Sea event facilitated by Elder Alex Nelson and Bishop Logan McMenamie. 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. For more info and to register, email staroftheseassi@gmail.com.

Be COVID-19 safe:
wear masks indoors in public spaces and stay 2 metres apart.

THRIFTY FOODS

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

THE FRITZ CINEMA

Closed until further notice due to COVID-19 regulations. See www.thefritz.ca for updates and info about Friday-Saturday concession nights.

EXHIBITIONS

• **The SSI Painters Guild Sketchers Group** shows work in the **Salt Spring Public Library** display case called "2020 - The Creative Spirit - Undaunted" through January.

EXHIBITIONS

- **Jacky Cooper** has work hanging at **Salt Spring Coffee Co.** this month.
- **Tali Peckel** shows artwork and **Erin Morris** is the ceramic mug artist at **Switchboard Cafe** in January.



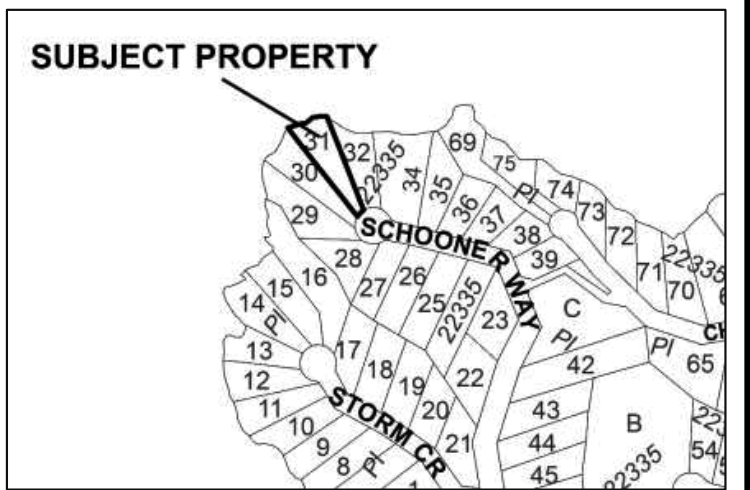
NOTICE
NORTH PENDER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE
NP-TUP-2020.7

NOTICE is hereby given that the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee will be considering a resolution allowing for the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit pursuant to Section 493 of the *Local Government Act*. The proposed permit would apply Lot 31, Section 9, Pender Island, Cowichan District, Plan 22335 (PID: 000-785-733). This property is located at **1602 Schooner Way**.

The purpose of this temporary use permit would be to permit a **Short Term Vacation Rental within the Dwelling Unit** for a maximum occupancy of **six (6) people**.

The establishment of these uses would be subject to the conditions specified in the attached permit. The permit would be issued for three years and the owner may apply to the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee to have it renewed once for an additional three years. The use was previously permitted by NP-TUP-2018.2 and 2019.2 (Renewal)

The general location of the subject property is shown in the following sketch:



A copy of the proposed permit may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, commencing **January 8, 2021** and continuing up to and including **January 20, 2021**.

For the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 499 (2) (c) of the *Local Government Act*, additional copies of the Proposed Permit may be inspected at various Notice Boards on Pender Island.

Enquiries or comments should be directed to Phil Testemale, Planner 2 at (250) 405-5170, for Toll Free Access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867; or by fax (250) 405-5155; or by email to: southinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca before 4:30 pm, **January 20, 2021**.

The North Pender Island Local Trust Committee may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permit during the electronic business meeting starting at 9:00 a.m., **January 28, 2021**.

All applications are available for review by the public with prior appointment. Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

Maple Hung, Planning Team Assistant

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Obituaries **Obituaries** **Obituaries** **Obituaries** **Obituaries** **Obituaries** **In Memoriam Gifts**

LOUISE NYE

December 21st 1934 - January 6th 2021



A resident of Salt Spring Island since 1989. Louise passed away from Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.

Born in Toronto and raised there and in Caledon East, Ontario. Louise attended Brampton High School and the Windsor Beauty Culture School.

Predeceased by parents Louis Stevens Nye and Winifred May Butt Nye, second husband Brian Cornwall in 1998 and her older sister Barbara Nye Christmas in 1999. Grandson Jackson Cooper Mouat Miles November 2020.

Survived by her three children: Michael and Stephen Miles, both of Salt Spring, Sheryl Miles Ross (Mike) of Belleville, On. and three grandchildren Lindsay Ross of Calgary, Sam Miles of Salt Spring Island and Dylan Ross of London, On. Her two sisters Gloria Nye and Alberta Nye, both of Rockwood, On. and many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Louise was a former owner of Salt Spring Cinema (1990-1997) and author of "Fritz the Cinema Cat", "Fritz Gets his Wings" and "Salt Spring Cinema Pix" which contained 100 from her pre-movie side shows.

No service by request

Donations to the Canadian Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Association would be greatly appreciated.

"When someone you love becomes a memory the memory becomes a treasure"

PETER MACFARLANE MACLEAN

At Providence Care Hospital, Kingston on December 14th 2020 in his 93rd year.

Dad was predeceased by parents Mary and Henry MacLean, In-laws Euphemia & William Thomson, brother Roderick Maclean, sister Jean Jamison (Arthur), brother and sister in-law Iain and Betty Thomson, niece Maureen Neill all of Edinburgh Scotland and his beloved wife Jessie.

Survived by son; Peter Scott Maclean (Mary) Salt Spring Island B.C., daughter; Linda Stripe (Bob) Paris Ontario, cousins Sheila Buckley (Dom), Charlie Pride and Isla all of Scotland; niece Fiona Maclean Auckland New Zealand, nephews Stewart Maclean (Grace), Gordon Neill and niece Jill Robertson (Stuart) all of Edinburgh. Dear grandfather of Diana Pattison (Paul), Connor Maclean, Erin Stripe (Sean March), Jacqueline Watkins (Cooper), great grandfather of Dylan and Nehv Watkins. Peter will be fondly remembered by loved Scottish family and his dearest friends Anita Howells and Dr. Andrew Bruce.

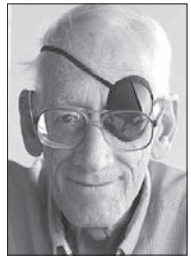
Dad was a retired chemist, inventor, executive and entrepreneur. He lived life to the fullest, as an executive who travelled the world, living and working in Scotland, Canada, and the USA. Peter was an advocate of physical and mental fitness, an athlete, a true friend, Best Dad and host extraordinaire. He was also a prolific writer of letters to the editor.

Special thanks to his Doctor Paul Gallupe, Nurse Chrystal, The entire care team at Providence Care Heritage 2, and Patrick Campeau and Heather Petersen of Nurse Next Door.

The celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers donations to Amnesty International or Doctors without borders would align with Dad's wishes.

FRANKLIN REID COLLINS

April 28, 1947 - December 17, 2020



Franklin Reid Collins (known to all as Reid) died peacefully in the company of his daughters on Thursday, December 17th at the Lady Minto Hospital.

He is survived by his two children, Georgia and Laurel, by two grandchildren, Summer and Seth, and by his siblings, Russ, Billie, Tim and Laurel (predeceased by brother David).

Reid was raised in Streetsville, ON and was known for his remarkably sharp mind, quick wit and generosity of spirit. After attending Teacher's College, Reid put his talent for inspiring youth to good use as the principal of a remote school in Pikangikum, in The Alternative Program at Salt Spring Elementary and later taught at The Little Red Schoolhouse.

It was 1974 when Reid made his journey west and sailed around the Gulf Islands with his beloved Aunt Mary. He knew then that Salt Spring Island would be his home. With an exceptional pioneering spirit, Reid devoted himself to the Fulford community, built a home on Reynolds Road and set to work at keeping us all entertained. As a founding member of the Hysterical Society, a skilled musician and natural performer, Reid could most readily be found on stage: playing the Bumblebee Boogie on the piano down at the pub, knighting a local politician at the Apple Festival in his notorious parody of the Queen, or singing "If you love the island, please don't come" to a crowded audience at Mahon Hall.


It was there, upon the news of his cancer diagnosis, that his comedic community raised funds to send Reid south. Reid became a snowbird and spent a great deal of time in Melaque, Mexico. Though ailing, he still helped out at a school in Rincon, supported a family there, performed where and when he could, and honed his domino skills. The warmth of the people and climate provided him great joy in his final years. Reid wrote skits, composed music and performed until his dying day. He simply loved to make people laugh. We're sure he's having a hoot wherever he is now, with Arvid and James, laughing, singing and organizing the next big show.

We would like to thank Reid's doctors, nurses, and friends for the care you all provided these past many years. We cannot thank the staff at the Lady Minto Hospital enough for your care, competence and compassion. Our thanks also to Haywards Funeral Services for the ease that you brought to our time of grief.

For all of us wishing to get together to celebrate Reid's extraordinary life, we are going to wait until we can do this in person. Please stay tuned for further details, post pandemic.

BILL EGELAND

April 8, 1943 - Dec. 17, 2020



Bill left suddenly on his last boat trip. His time here was well spent and he left his mark on more people than he ever realized.

He was born in Sidney to a family with fishing in their blood, often heading to the docks to fish with an uncle instead of going to school. He first owned a salmon troller, Key West; a wooden schooner, the Annie Tuck, which he rebuilt to suit his needs; a 60-foot steel trawler, the Westerly, that he built in Victoria; a 40-foot aluminum boat, the Nor-Star he built in a hangar at the Sidney airport; and his ultimate accomplishment, the 65-foot aluminum Black Magic, a classic-looking yacht. While building Black Magic he built a 20-foot aluminum crab boat in three months, which we fished locally. The Nor-Star and Black Magic were both designed by Bill despite his never having formal training.

It was remarkable to watch them all being created when actually the boat-building was second to his commercial fishing career. Over the years, Bill fished salmon, tuna, cod, dogfish, all bottom fish, packed herring, shrimp, king crab on the northern B.C. border and crab locally. His fishing career covered the B.C. coast and entailed many adventures and good times with fellow seamen. Bill was an excellent captain, always treating the ocean with respect and showing his crew the right way to do things.

Bill liked to build other things and he had a real competitive edge when it came to racing anything. He has built dragsters, which he raced at the old Cobble Hill track and in Vancouver, a drag motorcycle, and he raced motocross bikes with the B.C. Oldtimers club all over the northwest. He often got the holeshot and we have so many good memories of travelling to races and all the good people involved. When injuries came too often in motocross racing he turned to trials riding on local trails with good friends.

Also a passion was sailing HobieCats. We raced our 16-foot Hobie on Vancouver Island and won the island championship in 1978. One really crazy escapade he did was sail the Hobicat around Vancouver Island in 13 days with a fellow sailor.

In the mid-1970s, Bill purchased a piece of waterfront in Madrona Bay and in early 1979 we moved into our piece of paradise, a house built by my father, brother and Bill.

The winter of 1981 found us on the first of many trips driving down to the Baja. The birth of our wonderful son, Willy, was the result of this adventure. Bill was an amazing father, passing on many of his good traits.

On the completion of Black Magic, summers were spent exploring the B.C. coast and winters found us on a beach in Baja, fishing for pleasure. Bill still had to race something so we did some off-road desert racing, which was quite the experience.

Bill was the hardest-working person, he was creative and ingenious, had a great sense of humour, and could spin a good yarn with all his many friends, whom he held in high esteem. He loved nature and woke up every morning looking forward to the day.

He liked the following words: "There is a majesty in the sea that those who gaze at it from shore will never experience. The solitude and peace experienced while drifting at night on a boat, cracking crab and swapping yarns with good friends is something that can't be fully described. The work is hard, cold and sometimes dangerous, but it is a life like no other."

Bill, you had a full life but you left too soon and we will miss you forever.

Salt Spring Hospice

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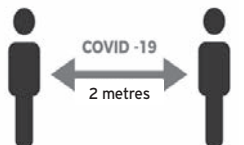
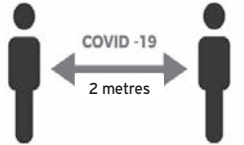
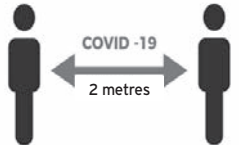
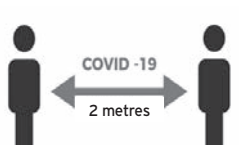
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STAY SAFE ... PRACTICE PHYSICAL DISTANCING



SEE WEEKLY HOROSCOPE ON PAGE 12

Legal Notices **Legal Notices** **Legal Notices**

PUBLIC NOTICE


Transport Canada Abandoned Vessel Chuckanut. Located in Gerrans Bay, BC has been found.

If you are the owner(s), or if you have any information about the owner(s), contact Transport Canada before 30 days from the date of the posted notice, at npppac-pnpac@tc.gc.ca or 604-775-8867 and reference file W2020-501787.

DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

Obituaries Obituaries Obituaries Obituaries Business Opportunities Computer Services Concrete & Placing

Elsy Perks (nee Price)
September 10, 1923 to December 29, 2020



Mum/Granny/Elsy, at the grand age of 97, is at peace, passing away the way she had wanted – quickly and without suffering on Saltspring Island after returning home from a walk and while continuing to live independently.

Elsy was born in India and within months moved to settle on Saltspring Island with her family and grandparents (Wilkes). She was predeceased by her parents, Gussie (nee Wilkes) and Robert Price, and brother Kendrick, and is survived by her sons John (Julie) and David (Laura), her grandchildren Jamie, James, Ben and Will, and her nieces Helen Hutton, Marilyn Perks, Jonathan Jepsen, Clarissa Bass, and great “niece” Diana Conner, as well as many dear friends both old and new, all of whom fulfilled and enriched her life.

Elsy lived a full, active and long life – she grew up and worked on the Saltspring Island family farm (Price Road) for her first 28 years, and also worked in the Saltspring Island telephone exchange (now the Switchboard Café). After WWII she left the Island, moving to Victoria and worked odd jobs and then at the Bank of Commerce. She married Raymond Perks in 1963 and together they built a home, started a small business (Perks Florist and Nursery) and raised their family.

Many fond and lasting family memories were made with month-long adventures, first on Joda (25’ sailboat) and then Mangarava (30’ sailboat) exploring Vancouver Island’s east coast. The adventures continued with trips to Asia with her befriended student borders, and then many southern winter Caribbean vacations/adventures with family creating even more fond and lasting memories.


Elsy moved back to Saltspring Island in 1995, built a new home at 310 Isabella Point Road, and then at age 79 built an addition and started up her next small business “The Garden Retreat B&B”. She “retired” in 2008 and moved to Brinkworthy where she kept busy creating a new home and garden, painting, crafting, volunteering, and socializing with many great friends.

Heartfelt thanks to Elsy’s many friends, and a special thanks to close friends Ilse, Francine, Neil and Debbie, and great “niece Diana” for their help and support to Elsy, and to Sylvia Walters who provided kind daily care over the past year and became a wonderful companion/friend – all your friendships, care and kindnesses filled Elsy’s life with joy and meaning, and helped her live the independent life she desired.

Cremation followed by a private ceremony with family and close friends will be held in the spring (Covid dependent).

Donations to the Salt Spring Island Historical Society or Salt Spring Island Painters Guild would honour Elsy’s memory.

Indigo Matiko
(Matthew Davis Hewko Burt)
March 24, 1984 - January 2, 2021




It is with sadness and much love that we announce the sudden passing of Matt at the age of 36 years. Born in Edmonton, he will be forever loved and remembered by both parents, mother Margaret, father Garry and step mother Maria; brothers Aaron, Zac, Chris and sister Shannon as well as numerous extended family and friends.

Matt loved life wholeheartedly. Matt had a winning smile and his laugh will never be forgotten. He was the light that reminded us that goodness still exists. Matt traveled the world and loved nature, music, and people. His exuberance left a lasting imprint on all who had the honour of knowing him. Matt had no bias, no prejudice, loved everyone and wished us all the best. An accomplished arborist he lived on Salt Spring Island, BC. His loss has devastated all who knew him. Due to Covid a celebration of life will be held at a later date.

As Matt would say, “Peace, Love Life”

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Real Estate

IS IT BETTER TO LIST NOW OR WAIT UNTIL SPRING ARRIVES?



JAN MACPHERSON

Often sellers will say to me “I want to wait till my spring garden blooms”. Many, many homes have lovely spring gardens; the better plan is to get the jump on the season and avoid undue competition as the listings supply expands later in the year.

By listing sooner, your residence will:

- stand out when it comes on the market on a day when there are few other new listings - many are waiting;
- possibly be the only listing that a buyer receives instant email notification about, when listed this time of year;
- have a better position in the market - price-point wise, BEFORE all the new competition is available;
- many “last year” temporarily off the market (due to Covid-19) listings, may be back onto the market in April & May...your listing can stand out more effectively - SOONER while we have a dire lack of supply.

Homes that sell in February and March do so in an environment of less competition. It is possible that when the surge of spring listings comes on the market they may not be sold at the same price.

This old adage is really true for real estate:
“Why Wait till Spring? - Do it NOW!”


Jan Macpherson, M.E.S., R.I.(B.C) - GOLD AWARD 2018 (VREB)
STRATEGIC MARKETING SPECIALIST

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Financial Advice

I’d like to align my investments with my ethics and values. Can you help?



SCOTT HOWE

Ethical investing is an area that I’m particularly passionate about. I’m also proud to say that my team at Island Savings has a lengthy history of providing socially responsible investment options. In days gone by, ethical investors sometimes had to compromise on the performance of their investments. This is simply no longer the case – there’s a large and growing number of outstanding values-based investment options, products and strategies. Whether you simply want to avoid certain industries like tobacco or military products, for example, or you want to ensure your investments are divested from fossil fuels, there are solutions for you. It doesn’t matter if you’re just starting out as an investor or if you’re highly experienced: you can ensure that your entire portfolio is invested responsibly in companies that are committed to making a positive impact on our planet. Unfortunately, not all financial advisors have significant experience with socially responsible investing, so if this is important to you, make sure you find an advisor who does. I’m happy to suggest one, if you like!

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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer

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

The Capricorn triple conjunction New Moon with Sun, Moon, and powerful and transformational Pluto has begun. Amidst all the revolutionary Aquarian planet activity, this heavy hit of the Capricorn establishment was lost in the fray. Mercury having formed a conjunction with Pluto on January 4 was the foreshadow and the synchronistic announcement of severing lockdowns on that very day and a day on either side, revealed its destined expression. So, now it gets the spotlight, but it will have a good deal of competition from all the Aquarian activity that not only continues but steadily escalates. What should we expect by measures that are producing an economic earthquake of unprecedented magnitude?

On January 19, the Sun enters Aquarius to begin that 30-day cycle, which is destined to be epic. Mars forming an exact conjunction to Uranus, the modern ruler of Aquarius, on January 20, and followed 2-days later by a square to the blue, gas giant of eccentric rotational behavior that Uranus is, together promise to launch Aquarius time with big booms and bangs.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

Your sights are firmly set on the future. As if suddenly awakened by a blinding lightning bolt quickly followed by deafening thunder, you are now at full attention. Deciphering how to exercise your power and authority to make any form of meaningful impact that makes sense is your top priority. Forward-thinking is all you can do as you realize the new norm has fully arrived.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

Big change is the theme of the day and you are fully swept-up into its wake. Positively, this is a very expansive time for you. However, it is the sort that comes from contraction as well. Discipline is among the keywords that express this emphasis. It also refers to focus and to realism. Given the circumstances in the world, you are fully awake and soberly so.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

The final chapter of a deep and prolonged process of change and transformation is underway. Like the proverbial 'final cut', the experience and results could prove bitter-sweet. Beyond the pinch, however, is the liberation. The question is: what kind of freedom is it? Invariably, it comes with a strong impulse and desire to move forward. Doing so to feel secure and to nurture the same in others is a priority.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

Measurable shifts and changes on relationships will be apparent by now. These are requiring your full cooperation, which you are determined to give. Returns of various sorts are featured and some of these will come as gifts and earned rewards. In truth, they represent the end of a karmic round which may have proved quite trying. Acknowledge these and accept them gratefully to uplift your spirit.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

A whole new level of focus on creating positive change in your daily rhythm and for the sake of your health is underway. This impulse may have already begun earlier but now takes a new determined turn. Meanwhile, changes on relationship fronts revealing themes of expansion and commitment have also begun. These will require you to pay your dues, but it will prove worth the investments later.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

A creative cycle continues and, with the recent New Moon, will steadily increase. Success will require calculated risk and a willingness to learn new skills. Doing so will require you to face some fears. Fortunately, a boost of confidence is supporting you to advance like a wind at your back. Your main job is to show up and follow through as the circumstances and the creative spirit guide you.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

While some of the weight has been lifted, there remain some powerful indicators of change and transformation occurring close to home and/or within you. These have actually been underway for some time. However, this New Moon will have a powerful activating influence. It is important to be forward-thinking now and to not only accept but cooperate with the changes.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

Significant shifts in your usual scope of perceptions and interpretations have been activated. Digging deep to lay claim to hidden talents, skills, and other such resources, is featured. Technical analysis will likely be required. Fortunately, your confidence levels are strong currently and this will help you to feel the fear and do it anyway. A powerful breakthrough is very possible.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

Activating a push to consolidate practical matters in your life is a central theme. Finances are a likely focus. With many new perspectives flowing in, you will not fall short on ideas. Be careful not to scatter your energies but remember the eggs and baskets cliché. Pushing ahead to consider all your options to create an overall better balance is the winning strategy.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

Making key investments to bring more security to your future is squarely on your mind. Weighing your options with careful assessments of the possibilities is guiding your focus. Who you know matters more than usual. Yet, what you want from these contacts is solid advice and guidance. This momentum is already underway and will grow progressively this month.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

Balancing the urge to expand with the need to contract, to be more focused and disciplined is a central theme now. Digging in deep close to home somehow is featured and this intention will accelerate. Key choices and actions made now will bring rewards especially in about six months and then in 2022. Emphasis on new knowledge and strategy is important.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

The year is off to a fast pace. The many changes occurring everywhere and beyond anyone's control are reasons to focus on what you can do and achieve. You are probably busy behind the scenes and this will continue. Positively, this could prove to be a very productive cycle extending into next year. Work before pleasure will take on new meaning, so make it enjoyable.

CHARITY

SSIF fund aids families

COVID-19 relief program boosts hamper bounty

The Salt Spring Island Foundation's COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Relief Fund continues to help meet essential community needs.

Island Christmas hamper recipients with children were the beneficiaries of \$5,000 in Country Grocer gift cards thanks to a foundation partnership with Salt Spring Community Services.

The foundation points out in a press release that the COVID-19 pandemic has a long-range effect on everyone, but particularly on the most vulnerable people in the community.

"Young adults and families with children in B.C. were disproportionately affected and families with children were more likely to report worsening mental health burdens," states the foundation.

"These grocery gift cards responded to a



PHOTO COURTESY SSI COMMUNITY SERVICES

real need, helping to address the inequities of the pandemic and making the holidays brighter for families with children."

A SPEAK web survey by the B.C. Centre for Disease Control, in which almost 400,000 British Columbians participated, indicated that young families are being seriously affected by the pandemic. This data can be found on

the www.bccdc.ca webpage where one can find statistics relevant to Salt Spring.

The Salt Spring Island Foundation continues to accept donations to the COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Relief Fund. More information is available on the foundation's www.ssifoundation.ca website or by calling Shannon Cowan at 250-537-8305.



Islands Trust

Have Your Say

Tuesday,
January 26, 2021
CIM - 11:30 a.m.
Public Hearing
to follow CIM

Zoom Meeting
Phone (Toll Free):
Canada: 833 955 1088
US: 833 958 1164
<https://islandstrust.zoom.us/j/62432679162>
Webinar ID Code:
624 3267 9162

Who should attend?

Anyone affected by the proposed bylaws

Enquires?

Brad Smith,
Island Planner:
250-405-5194
bsmith@islandstrust.bc.ca

OCP Amendments for

First Nations Reconciliation

Bylaw 132

PUBLIC HEARING

SATURNA LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

What is the bylaw about?

The purpose of proposed Bylaw 132 is to amend the Saturna Island Official Community Plan (OCP) to include wording in acknowledgement and reconciliation of First Nations place, context and inherent rights.

The proposed amendment is consistent with the reconciliation objectives of the Islands Trust and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP); as well as Bill 41 Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA).

The Community Information Meeting (CIM) will be held prior to the Public Hearing and will provide the opportunity for members of the public to ask questions about the proposed bylaw amendment.

How do I get more information?

A copy of the electronic public hearing binder and details on connecting to Zoom is available online:

www.islandstrust.bc.ca/saturna/sa-news/

A copy of the bylaw, the Public Hearing Binder and other information on the project is available at the Islands Trust Victoria office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays, January 8 to 22, 2021, or online:

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/saturna/fn-relationship-project/>

Written submissions?

Send by 4:30 p.m., January 22, 2021 to:

- Islands Trust, 200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8R 1H8, or
- Email: vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca

Note: All submissions received become part of the public record.

Remember WHEN

Five years ago

• Seismic activity was strong in the Salish Sea area, where more than 8,000 small earthquakes were recorded to have happened since Christmas Day. Though the cluster appeared alarming, seismologist Trevor Allen at the Pacific Geoscience Centre in Sidney said the shakes were a regular phenomenon known as episodic tremor and slip, or ETS. Researchers had recorded similar outbreaks about every 14 months since they first noticed the pattern around a decade earlier.

Ten years ago

• Galiano couple Keltie Miles and Rich Wilson were hoping to get the online votes needed to secure the prize in Global's TV's Win a Dream Wedding event — a contest that Wilson's sister had entered on their behalf. The pair were excited by the prospect of the trip to Mexico, but were even happier to have received news that their five-year-old son was cancer-free after a long battle with leukemia.

Twenty years ago

• Teachers and students at Gulf Islands Secondary School returned to campus after the winter holiday to find a live goat on the roof of the covered walkway. The goat was the victim of a grad prank.

Forty years ago

• The Ministry of Transportation and Highways was reportedly finalizing negotiations to purchase the old Patterson Store lot in Fulford as part of a plan to increase ferry terminal space and parking. [The Driftwood would report in 2017 that BC Ferries was in a similar place in its negotiations for the lot with Bruce Patterson. The purchase still had not been achieved by late 2020.]

Fifty years ago

• Bill Arnold was caught in a tough situation when Salt Spring adopted land use bylaws and building codes. Arnold had purchased a mobile trailer but had not yet transferred it to his own property when the rules took effect. He was told the trailer's use was grandfathered to its existing location but would not be legal on his lot and a moving permit was therefore denied.

Sixty years ago

• Gavin C. Mouat, president of the Gulf Islands Ferry Co., appealed to Premier W.A.C. Bennett to stop a proposed 25 per cent fare increase for local ferries. Mouat argued that ferries were "an extension of the highway system" and as such need not be operated for a profit. The province had additionally ordered cuts in service to the Gulf Islands that started on Jan. 3.