

inside:



Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

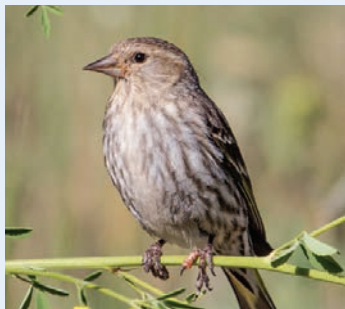
Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021

61st year
Issue 3
\$1.50

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7 Anne Marshall's volunteer service honoured



9 Salmonella outbreak in birds needs urgent response

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Salt Spring Books

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Driftwood



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

MEETING PLACE: Donald McLennan checks out the book exchange part of a new notice board he and others in his neighbourhood created on Monteith Road with help from a Salt Spring Island Foundation grant and other donations. The structure includes logs salvaged from the nearby foreshore, tafoni stone handles that also came from the beach, and shakes for the roof made from a fallen tree in a forested part of the neighbourhood. Once complete it will also include a history of the area, a place for sharing info and a special spot for kids, and a time capsule. For more on the story, see page 8.

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Tug sinking nets fuel spill action

Winter storm wallops marine structures

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Strong winds and heavy rain that hit the coast in the early hours last Wednesday caused damage to more than just the hydro grid, with impacts along Salt Spring's north-western tip including the sinking of a tug boat that caused a diesel fuel spill.

The high tide at Ganges Harbour was forecast for 3.7 metres (12.1 feet) that morning, which did not account for extra surges caused by the wind. Driftwood logs were thrown up in a massive tumble on Vesuvius Beach after the storm and oyster farm rafts that had previously been hard hit on Booth Bay lost many of their remaining floats. Neighbours of Wahl Marine Construction on McGill Road

reported a tug owned by the business was also victim to the wind and waves.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada personnel confirmed the Coast Guard was notified by the owner of an 11-metre (36-foot) tug on Jan. 13 that the boat had broken loose of its moorings off the north end of Salt Spring during the storm.

"The tug was located sunk in 14 metres (45 feet) of water, 91 metres (300 feet) offshore south of Stone Cutters Bay. Diesel fuel was observed upwelling from the vessel by the owner," DFO stated.

The owner deployed a sorbent boom. An initial National Aerial Surveillance Program overflight conducted on the morning of the 13th noted 97.5 litres on the water. A

non-recoverable sheen continued to be present on the water near the site and drifting towards Penelakut Island, DFO said.

"A salvage contractor was hired by the owner. The contractor attempted to plug the fuel vents on Jan. 13 but was unsuccessful," DFO stated.

Coast Guard environmental response officers from Victoria attended the scene on Jan. 14 to ensure an appropriate response. The sorbent boom was reconfigured to improve its integrity and Coast Guard conducted a shoreline assessment from the incident site north to Stone Cutters Bay and the south-east corner of Penelakut Island.

TUG BOAT continued on 3

Zen Master Wolfgang says:
"Any of us can light up an office either by entering or leaving."

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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
20	0246	1.9	6.2	24	0440	3.1	10.2
	1009	3.3	10.8		0801	3.0	9.8
	WE 1747	1.6	5.2		SU 1151	3.1	10.2
21	0031	2.3	7.5	25	0512	3.2	10.5
	0321	2.2	7.2		0933	3.0	9.8
	TH 1031	3.2	10.5		MO 1231	3.1	10.2
22	JE 1827	1.3	4.3	26	LU 2056	0.6	2.0
	0306	2.6	8.5		0542	3.4	11.2
	0414	2.6	8.5		1026	3.0	9.8
23	FR 1054	3.2	10.5	27	TU 1317	3.1	10.2
	VE 1905	1.1	3.6		MA 2133	0.5	1.6
	0406	2.9	9.5		0610	3.4	11.2
SA	0605	2.8	9.2	WE	1059	3.0	9.8
	1120	3.1	10.2		1406	3.1	10.2
	SA 1943	0.9	3.0		ME 2210	0.4	1.3

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SD64

District finances look on track

Unspent 2019-20 funds reinvested in Gulf Islands schools

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Gulf Islands School District has stayed slightly under budget for the first part of the school year, with financial statements showing one per cent underspending as of Dec. 31, 2020.

Reporting to the board of education on Jan. 13, district secretary-treasurer Jesse Guy said the district had spent 44 per cent of its budget and completed 45 per cent of the school year, so things were sitting "as we should be and would want to, because we're just below budget at this time of year."

Guy noted the budget will undergo some changes before the next board meeting on Feb. 10 because there will be adjustments to reflect upcoming alterations to the district that weren't part of last year's budgeting process.

School District 64 administrators have meanwhile adapted spending to account for unexpected events, namely the COVID-19 pandemic. Superintendent Scott Benwell reported the district had taken unspent funds from the 2019-20 school year and reinvested them in schools this year in the form of "grants." Unspent funds mainly came through the transportation budget when school was conducted remotely, and lower need for teacher replacement hours.

"We didn't spend money on 'stuff' because we were shut down, but [that money] was allocated to kids and schools, so we wanted to make sure it was an appropriate reinvestment," Benwell said.

The admin team's focus was on finding ways to use those funds to support students whose learning growth has been impacted by COVID and ensure they could catch up. Funds were additionally put into classroom materials and teacher resources.

SD64 also received COVID relief funding from both the

federal and provincial governments. Federal funds went to hiring two teachers for the "flexible return" program, which allowed some students to take their core subjects at home at the start of the school year, with the idea they could come back to the physical school setting at the start of any quarter. Benwell said there are around 36 students still registered in the program, which is about half of the number from the start of the school year.

"We didn't spend money on 'stuff' because we were shut down, but that money was allocated to kids and schools, so we wanted to make sure it was an appropriate reinvestment."

SCOTT BENWELL
SD64 superintendent

Provincial funds have helped the district upgrade equipment and procedures to reduce virus transmission risk, from purchasing cleaning supplies to installing enhanced air filters that bring in air from outside. The admin team has additionally ordered an outdoor classroom structure for each of the elementary schools on Mayne, Galiano, Pender and Saturna islands.

Regarding the COVID situation in schools, Benwell said there had only been one potential exposure event at Gulf Islands Secondary School and that had not resulted in transmission at the school, so the safety protocols appear to be working. He also thanked Island Health for their response and guidance in that case.

In other school board business, trustees approved the bylaw to close Salt Spring Middle School during a special meeting held Monday morning. The school will officially close on June 30, and while the school will no longer exist as an entity, next year's Grade 7 cohort will use facilities on that site at the direction of the board.

COURT DOCKET

Island banishment clause invoked

Multiple threats of violence lead to judge's strong verdict

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A one-time resident of Salt Spring was ordered to leave the community immediately and not return for at least 12 months following proceedings in Ganges Provincial Court on Friday.

Roger Comeau received the conditional sentence after pleading guilty to a series of charges of uttering threats. He welcomed the result handed down by Judge Karina Sacca, stating he wished to go back to his home province of New Brunswick.

"Thank you. You'll never see me again," Comeau told the court.

Crown prosecutor Liam Thomson described events on April 13, 14 and 25, 2019 that led to Comeau's charges. The first event involved an altercation with Delores Seagrave-Peel and her son Norman "Jay" Seagrave outside their home on Jackson Avenue. Comeau was witnessed shouting threats to kill Seagrave-Peel and to burn down her truck and her home. Seagrave-Peel then drove the truck over Comeau's tent where he had been living on the road right-of-way in front of her house.

Mother and son pled guilty to charges of mischief and uttering threats, respectively, and received suspended sentences for their part in the fight in July 2019.

The second set of incidents began

after Comeau moved camp from the roadside to Mouat Park. The court heard that Capital Regional District bylaw enforcement officer Lance Hurrell discovered Comeau's tent on the morning of April 25 and ordered him to leave. Comeau yelled at Hurrell not to enter his tent, saying he had an axe and would chop the officer's head off. Hurrell said he would return with police at 4 p.m.

Comeau then went to the CRD office in Ganges and told staff that he would burn up CRD trucks if they tried to remove his camp. Later that day he encountered Hurrell at Centennial Park and repeated his threats. He also said he had "people with guns" all through the forest and that no one had the right to make him leave.

Thomson noted in his summary that Comeau agreed to proposed orders not to have contact with the individuals involved and to not be on Salt Spring for a 12-month period.

"We don't need his consent on a banishment order, but I think it's useful that he understands and agrees," Thomson said. He added he felt it would be beneficial "to keep Mr. Comeau away from everyone in the community given his behaviour here in the past."

Sacca agreed the proposed sentence was appropriate.

"Clearly there were threats that were probably pretty scary for people doing their jobs and at their homes to hear," she told Comeau.

The no-contact order had not originally included Seagrave, but his name was added at Comeau's own request.



Islands Trust

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Your
Say**

Tuesday,
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Phone (Toll Free):
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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

Rezoning and OCP Amendments for Gulf Islands National Park

Bylaws 129 & 130

PUBLIC HEARING

SATURNA LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

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.

PARK USE

Horse riders decry Burgoyne loss

Some multi-use trail accesses decommissioned

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Members of the Salt Spring Trail Riders group and other equestrians in the community are calling on BC Parks to reverse course on work at Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park that has limited recreational trail use for many participants.

Along with environmental restoration work done at the park in 2020, part of a multi-use trail loop was decommissioned and a metal grid bridge was replaced with a smaller span with steps, through which horse riders can't pass and is difficult for cyclists and some hikers. A series of swales created across old logging roads on the lower reaches of Mount Sullivan has meanwhile made portions of a trail still designated for multi-use more difficult to navigate.

Watershed and ecosystem restoration work has been done in consultation and in partnership with First Nations with interest in the area.

"No one disputes that the plan to restore wetlands and control water-courses is a worthy park management initiative. What is troubling is the lack of dialogue, or opportunity for community input regarding the impacts of that work. Little serious attempt seems to have been made by BC Parks to find ways to meet the concerns of park users," stated Salt Spring Trail Riders member Patricia Lockie, in an appeal for community support.

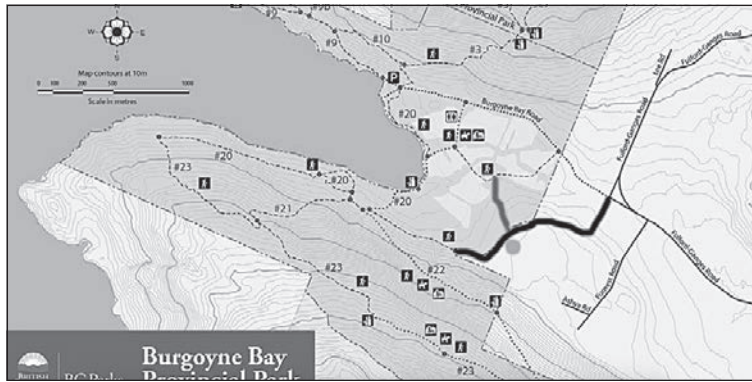
As of Monday, a petition to preserve multi-use trails had gained nearly 1,100 signatures in just six days.

Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park was established in 2004 after an extensive public campaign to protect the land. Texada Land Corporation had clear-cut much of the forest on Mount Sullivan in the five years prior, while the valley had been transformed for agriculture use beginning in the 1860s. Funds to purchase the park were raised by a coalition of federal, provincial and local governments and several environmental groups.

The management plan adopted in 2015 included stakeholder and community consultation, with participation by Salt Spring Trail Riders and the Back Country Horsemen of B.C.'s Salt Spring chapter, among other groups. Lockie was among community members who lobbied for recreational trails suitable for all types of users.

BC Parks was not able to provide an official response to concerns before the Driftwood's press deadline. In correspondence to community members concerned by the project, area supervisor Sarah Joannise explained the bridge structure and fill to support it was slumping into the creek, which was causing "negative effects on the habitat in the salmon-bearing stream below, and in 2018 caused damage to an archaeological site downstream at the head of the bay."

The 400-metre section of trail that was decommissioned is a separate issue, in that it had led park visitors onto private property. Access to the



Part of a Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park map. Added dark lines show where a multi-use trail was decommissioned last year and a private gravel road connects to the trail. The dot is the CRD liquid waste transfer station.

next trail ran through a private road shared by three property owners.

Joannise had previously said BC Parks would be willing to consider an alternate route, but after a site visit they turned down the option proposed by the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club given the confines of the geography, which includes a forested gully along the park's boundary line.

Trail users are frustrated the offer seemingly ended there.

"In spite of hours and hours of on-site research and recommendations for alternate trail routes by one user group, BC Parks management does not seem inclined to listen," Lockie wrote in the appeal. "This is disrespectful to a community that raised more than a million dollars to help purchase the Burgoyne Bay lands, enabling their rescue from the industrial logging operations of the Texada Land Corporation."

Islands Trust trustee Peter Grove has written to BC Parks to support community members who feel management has been unresponsive to their requests for participation.

"Of particular concern to me is that this work is proceeding without input from our community and those who use the park. There is a long history of community involvement with the park and the development of the management plan and so it would seem appropriate to continue to involve us in your plans," Grove wrote in a letter dated Jan. 18. "I ask that you meet with community members and user groups to discuss the concerns raised and how they might best be addressed."

The trail riding group has asked community members to support multi-use trails by signing their petition "Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park Multi-Use Trails Under Threat" at change.org, and to write to BC Parks management at Sarah.Joannise@gov.bc.ca and to MLA Adam Olsen at adam.olsen.MLA@leg.bc.ca.



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Oyster rafts also destroyed



PHOTO BY JEREMY SICHERMAN

Flotation blocks from Booth Bay oyster farm rafts rest on Baker Beach among the driftwood logs washed up after last Wednesday's storm.


TUG BOAT continued from 1

A light non-recoverable sheen was observed at both locations.

The vessel owner was able to successfully refloat the tug on Friday afternoon. DFO said it will be towed to Maple Bay and removed from the marine environment.

Company owner Gord Wahl was not available for comment.

Booth Bay resident Jeremy Sicherman reported that disintegrating rafts owned by Evening Cove Oyster Farm were largely destroyed by the storm, and seven styrofoam float blocks had ended up on Baker Beach. The company had collected all the floats and towed away the shattered raft by the end of last week.



NOTICE OF THE GALIANO, MAYNE, NORTH PENDER, SOUTH PENDER, AND SATURNA ISLANDS LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEES

THIS NOTICE STATES THE PLACES TO LOCATE YOUR ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE'S (LTC), 2021 REGULAR SCHEDULED ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE, POSTED ON ISLAND BULLETIN BOARDS.

<p><u>GALIANO ISLAND</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Community Hall: 141 Sturdies Bay Rd. • North Community Hall: 22790 Porlier Pass Rd. • Galiano Trustee office: 2540 Sturdies Bay Rd. • Activity Centre: 1290 Sturdies Bay Rd. • Daystar Market • Corner Store • Marina Bulletin Board 	<p><u>MAYNE ISLAND</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Hall: 430 Fernhill Rd. • Mayne Street Mall: Village Bay Rd. • Fernhill Centre: Fernhill Rd. • Miners Bay Trading Post: Fernhill Rd.
<p><u>NORTH PENDER ISLAND</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pender Island Community Hall: 4418 Bedwell Harbour Rd. • Islands Trust Bulletin Board at Driftwood Centre • Public Bulletin board at Driftwood Centre • Magic Lake Market Bulletin Board 	<p><u>SOUTH PENDER ISLAND</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Pender Island Fire Hall: 8961 Gowlland Point Rd. • Islands Trust Bulletin Board at Driftwood Centre • Public Bulletin board at Driftwood Centre • Magic Lake Market Bulletin Board
<p><u>SATURNA ISLAND</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturna Community Hall: East Point Rd. • Saturna Recreation Centre: 104 Harris Rd. • General Store Bulletin Boards • Saturna Point Store 	<p><u>SOUTHERN ISLANDS NEWS WEBPAGES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Galiano: http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/galiano/gl-news/ • Mayne: http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/mayne/ma-news/ • North Pender: http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/npender/np-news/ • Saturna: http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/saturna/sa-news/ • South Pender: http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/spender/sp-news/

*NOTE FOR MOST UPDATED INFORMATION: ALL LTC MEETING SCHEDULES / ELECTRONIC MEETING INFORMATION ARE FOUND AT THE ISLANDS TRUST OFFICE (#200 – 1627 FORT ST. VICTORIA) AND ON THE ISLANDS NEWS WEBPAGES.

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)



Driftwood

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EDITORIAL

Helping high

Stories in this week's Driftwood highlight the huge impact that volunteers have on the community, including one about a woman whose lifelong service has just been acknowledged with a national honour.

Anne Marshall has learned she will be a recipient of the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers as determined by the office of the Governor General of Canada. Marshall is most recently known for her part in bringing Syrian refugees to safety on Salt Spring Island, but as our story details, she has devoted her time to a number of groups both on Salt Spring and in other communities she's lived in. Islander Marg Monro, who initiated and led the Caregivers Support Group at Salt Spring Seniors, received the same honour in 2017.

THE ISSUE:

Volunteer efforts

WE SAY:

Join those who make a difference

As Marshall says in our story, "Most volunteer work you get a real helping high from it. You see things happening that make things better for people."

Kit Lewis is another individual who has given much of her time in a volunteer pursuit that has little glamour attached to it. She has been the unofficial custodian of Atkins Road, cleaning up roadside garbage for years. At age 95, it's time for her to pass on the garbage bag and picker tool, and Island Pathways hopes someone will step up to do just that.

Kirk Laidlaw also describes in this week's paper what happened when a few people in his Vesuvius-area neighbourhood got to work on enhancing connections. The results include a new notice board and book exchange, as well as some public trails, viewpoints and a kayak launch/emergency evacuation point. The Margaret Avenue and Monteith Road residents are rightly chuffed about what's been accomplished and encourage others to consider what can be done in their own back yards.

As the pandemic and accompanying restrictions continue to make activities more difficult, any and all contributions of volunteer time are welcomed. Since many volunteers are seniors and potentially more vulnerable to COVID-19's impacts, this would be a good time for younger and healthier community members to step up and enjoy some of that "helping high."

If that's not possible at this time, making a point of expressing gratitude to those who are currently volunteering, or making an extra donation to a non-profit group, could be just as valuable.



Multi-use trails needed

BY PATRICIA LOCKIE

More than 1,000 people have signed an online petition in support of multi-use trails in Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park (Xwaaqw'um).

Based on the number of posted comments, the petition seems to have hit a nerve for many people. The park's current management clearly is of deep concern to the Salt Spring community and beyond.

Recent remediation work within the park has changed the trail network, especially two of the multi-use trails. With no prior public consultation with user groups, BC Parks has decommissioned portions of one trail and blocked access in other areas. A popular, closed-loop circuit has disappeared. No one disputes the need for repair work, addressing trespass issues with the park's neighbours and controlling watercourses, but why must those management tasks preclude the preservation or replacement of existing multi-use trails?

Burgoyne Bay occupies a special place in the hearts of both local First Nations people and the settler community who 22 years ago campaigned hard, and successfully, to protect these unique lands from industrial-scale logging by the Texada Land Corporation.

VIEWPOINT

The Cowichan Tribes have a spiritual and historical connection to Burgoyne Bay. It is they who spearheaded the work of wetlands restoration in the park. Many of those who signed the trails petition applauded that initiative, and others acknowledged the special relationship between Indigenous people and Burgoyne Bay lands.

Two issues, in particular, trouble those who signed the petition. One is the real threat of losing trails that hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, birders and dog walkers can share, just as they have since the park's inception in 2004.

The second issue is the seeming intransigence on the part of BC Parks' management, which has demonstrated an unwillingness to accept alternatives for the lost trails. Recommendations for different trail routings and problem-solving solutions have so far been ignored. This dismissiveness is, at best, an insensitive approach to a community that fundraised more than a million dollars to help purchase the lands which became Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park (Xwaaqw'um).

In response to those who submitted letters expressing

concerns about changes in Burgoyne, BC Parks' south Gulf Islands area supervisor Sarah Joannis wrote: "It is unfortunate that we were not able to maintain some of the multi-use trails that you used to frequent." Joannis also made it clear there were no alternative solutions.

The park's management plan outlines an array of recreational opportunities in Burgoyne. Key user groups are identified and their activities promoted. For example, there are no fewer than 25 mentions of horses and horseback riding. This is one activity that will be curtailed by the changes to the trail network since horseback riding is limited to designated multi-use trails. Surely, then, BC Parks should be held accountable for living up to the provisions of its management plan, including maintenance of multi-use trails. If it doesn't intend to do that, then we need to hear why.

People can sign the petition at www.change.org/BBSupporters.

The writer was part of a Friends of Salt Spring Parks group that produced the first background report for the Burgoyne Bay protected area. She is also a Salt Spring Trail Riders member, and VP of the Gulf Islands Horse Association.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Does Burgoyne Bay park need more multi-use trails? Yes No

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.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you think President Trump should be impeached?

NO	50
YES	191

OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

“It really threw me for a loop when I got a call from the Governor General’s office.”

ANNE MARSHALL, SOVEREIGN’S MEDAL RECIPIENT

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED: *How do you feel about a proposed ban on travel between provinces?*

ANGIE TRARUP



“With the circumstances right now, I would support that. People just have to pull up their socks and do what’s right for everyone.”

DANI GREENE



If we are mandated to non-essential travel, why would other people get to come in and use our province?

RICHARD CARLIN



I don’t think it is necessary, as long as people keep distancing.

ELZA FOX



I’m more opposed than the ban across the border, because the numbers in Alberta are lower now and I have family members there.

TANYA STEEVES



I am not opposed to it unless there’s a specific reason, but I think it would be hard to regulate.”

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

Nothing like watching movies at a theatre

Thank you, Chris Rideout, for your lovely Toronto cinema reminiscences (“Time to Support the Fritz,” Jan. 6 Viewpoint).

They immediately conjured up my memories of those big and beloved beautiful theatres: standing in line, in the freezing snow, clutching my mother’s hand as she sacrificed her Saturday — half of her precious weekend — and her hard-earned money, to take her four-year-old to see Snow White; going to Tarantula at the age of maybe five as my horror-movie-loving father snuck me in under his

massive winter coat. (He covered my eyes during the scariest bits. I was still terrified of spiders for ages afterward, until I later read Charlotte’s Web); going to the Eglinton Theatre without my parents but with a boy in Grade 4 to see Son of Robin Hood. It cost 10 cents and the box tops from two Ipana toothpaste tubes . . . I think.

Fast forward to July 1964 and sneaking out with my best Beatlemania girlfriend to walk to the Downtown Theatre on Yonge Street from Bathurst and St. Clair at 4 a.m. to be first in line to see A Hard Day’s Night, which we somehow managed to sit through numerous times, faithfully memorizing every word of our lads’ Liverpoolian dialogue. (I don’t know how we didn’t get kicked out.) We were blissed

out in a big dark room, eating popcorn with a bunch of other humans all sharing an experience.

There’s nothing like it.
RACHEL JACOBSON,
SALT SPRING

Our future includes viruses

To mask or not to mask: that’s the politically fiery question.

The biologist in me hoped Darwin would shake a warning finger at us, and he would if masked people had more children than anti-maskers. For Darwin, mum’s the word. But he’s apparently waiting for more data.

We’ll let him sit this one

out. Chances are, we’ll still be arguing when we wake up some blessed morning to find that the virus has met its match in vaccines. After that? Years of needle-pricks for COVID-19 added to the ones we take now (or not) for familiar ills, plus those for new critters that in an unending stream shock us in their turn. As long as there are billions of us on this small planet the tiny crowd will make homes in us.

I’m half-expecting some techno-optimist to promote a planetary poison that would kill them all. That would be like a guy who hates turnips saying we should kill all vegetables. Many viruses do good things, like keeping us alive.

BOB WEEDEN,
WHIMS ROAD

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

Tough to avoid excesses during holidays or Tudor era

Well, that wasn’t too bad, was it? The New Year seen in, cocooned in the snugger that is our little living room, the log stove putting out enough heat to melt Greenland and sufficient food left over from Christmas to service a cruise liner.

I had specifically ordered a “small” turkey since there would only be the two of us eating it. I ended up with a bird that had it been any bigger would need to have been airlifted from the store. Small birds were apparently in high demand because of the numbers of us sitting down to lonely, COVID Christmases instead of force-feeding gargantuan amounts of protein into our families and because I’d ordered mine too late I got a bird the size of a well-nourished ostrich. It was free-range, presumably on the African savanna.

What is it with eating anyway? I mean, I know we need to do it, to keep our bones from rattling and to separate the front of our bodies from the back, but a Christmas dinner big enough to feed a small, impoverished nation? Really? Those of you who know me by sight will quite properly be asking yourselves why I needed to eat at all let alone get stuck into the inevitable bonbonnière of seasonal excess.

There was a time (and there still is in the Coptic church as far as I know) when the faithful fasted for 40 days before Christmas, which is approximately 39 days, 23 hours and 30 minutes longer than I fasted. In Tudor times the fast lasted just four days, which is long enough to work up an appetite without fainting and if you were Henry the Eighth (and not many of us were) you would break your fast with a meal that would sink an aircraft carrier. I mean, Henry turned gluttony into an Olympic sport and “the dyette of the King’s majestie” was invariably a 6,000-calorie horror show of dainties, delicacies and dead animals.



Paul McElroy
+ ANOTHER
THING

Mostly dead animals, though, since the average Tudor daily diet (among the wealthy at least) comprised a couple of kilos of meat, which is about 10 times more than we eat today.

And they weren’t that fussy about what animal or indeed what part of the animal they ate. If it moved, they ate it. Venison, of course. There was nothing the Tudor toffs liked more than dead deer. Whole pigs. Peacocks, swans and conger eel, while puffins were regarded as a light snack. (I’ve eaten puffin at a restaurant in Reykjavik and it was about as haute cuisine as a kippered insole. And that’s one of the less revolting dishes on the Icelandic menu.)

Henry’s first wife, Catherine of Aragon, was especially partial to porpoise apparently, although history doesn’t record if she ate it battered with fries. What his other wives were partial to is largely academic since they were not around long enough for anyone to find out.

The poorer folks in Henry’s England (and that was most of them) ate whatever they could get their hands on, grubbing around in the soil or skulking in the hedgerows, hoping to bag a rabbit or blackbird. Anything bigger pretty much belonged to the king and poachers were invariably hanged, which would put a damper on your evening meal.

The English have always been big on class distinctions and the Tudors lifted it to new heights and actually enshrined it in law so that it was offi-

cially illegal to eat more than your station in life allowed. The Sumptuary Laws dictated, for instance, that a cardinal could serve nine dishes at dinner, while dukes, marquises, bishops and earls could serve seven. Lower-ranking lords were permitted to serve only six, and the gentry class, with an income of £40–100 per annum, could serve three. Goodness knows why a cardinal should need more food. They weren’t exactly working their fingers to the bone and I’ve no idea how they actually policed it.

Not that the Sumptuary Laws mattered much to the peasants at the bottom of the social heap. They lived almost entirely on pottage, which was a kind of cabbage soup with extra cabbage on the side. If they were lucky there might be a handful of oats thrown in before they went back to their daily grind of hard graft and grovelling.

And there were strict regulations about what you could eat and when. Henry Howard, the Earl of Surrey, narrowly avoided a court-ordained thrashing for not eating fish on Friday. It’s not recorded if he refused to eat it as an act of religious insurrection or whether he simply didn’t fancy fish and went for the pork chop that day.

The thing about the Tudors that mostly squares with me, though, is they didn’t do vegetables, except for onions, which I’m not entirely convinced are vegetables anyway. Onions, leeks and more cabbage, which would probably account for the rigorous strictures against breaking wind when dining with the king. It’s estimated that the average Tudor diet comprised 85 per cent protein, until someone discovered America, invented the salad bar and the world discovered its waistline.

Turkey sandwich, anyone?

paulmcelroy@shaw.ca

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Building the road to reconnection

BY KYA DALTON, SHEILA DOBIE, DARLENE GAGE, ERINANNE HARPER, AINA YASUÉ

We've heard it a million times already: "it's been a challenging year."

Most of us feel this in our bones, in our tired, under-exercised bones, in our weary "Zoomed-out" eyes, and in our "aching for hugs" arms. Some of us are lucky that our lives are not deeply affected by the surprises last year brought, some of us are dizzy from our efforts to navigate the endless news and information, trying to find the threads of truth woven amongst the versions of reality shared by friends and media outlets. Some of us are grieving, feeling unsafe in the community, or living an adapted version of life that we deeply hope is not the new normal.

Another thing we've heard is "We're all in this together," but as we spend more time than ever before "not together," what does this really mean?

We at the Salt Spring Community Alliance, after reflecting on this past year during some winter hibernation time, are convinced that connection is the key. We must take this unusual time as an opportunity to build the world we all want. Reconnecting to what matters most: each other, our food, nature, our political systems, our systems of exchange and our responsibility for the future will heal our individual and collective pain.

We are so disconnected:

- From nature: The natural world suffers because individually and collectively we don't feel at one with the

INDEPTH

planet and act as though we are separate.

- From each other: Social isolation deepens because we are doing our best to protect each other during the pandemic, but the impacts are great.

- From our political systems: We've become more disenfranchised, even though we want to trust our leaders but are often disappointed with the process and left out of policies.

- From those we see as "different:" Social division is pitting different classes of folks against each other due to structural divides. Discrimination happens when real or constructed identity markers are used to hierarchically categorize people by gender, nation, country, race, ethnicity, language, religion, class, politics, etc.

- From our systems of exchange: Economic disparity is creating more poverty and marginalization and more people are being left behind.

- From ourselves and our spirit: Our world, our work and our technology can be so demanding on our attention, leaving little space for contemplation, rest or creativity.

- From our history and culture: Few of us know enough about the history of our home or the people who lived here for millennia.

- From action: The variety of global crises and climate change make it hard to understand and feel like some useful action can be taken on a personal level.

The Community Alliance was born out of a desire to bring people together to learn from and support each other and take action to build a better community. We have done this through monthly community meetings on a wide variety of local topics, including the weekly ASK Salt Spring gatherings. These meetings have been well attended and led to a lot of new initiatives and action on Salt Spring. They have also brought many people together across differences and bridged divides that have kept us artificially separated. We want this work to continue!

This year our theme is "reconnection" and we invite you to help us expand this conversation with your presence at our next meeting. What are your thoughts on how our community can come together and reconnect? What topics should be the focus of our monthly community meetings?

We want to hear from you! Because we believe that when we share, listen and see others in the community within the egalitarian structure of the circle, we can build bridges and heal divisions.

Please join the Salt Spring Community Alliance for our meeting on Monday, Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Invite a friend to join! Reply to ssispeaks@gmail.com for more information and for the Zoom link.

The writers form the Salt Spring Community Alliance board of directors.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

Scrooge support appreciated

Ebenezer Scrooger would like to thank everyone for their support in the online presence of his story during the recent holiday season. Newman Family Productions has been sharing that story with islanders since 1971!


Considering that it was originally told over 125 years prior to that, is, I suppose, a testimony to its author, Charles Dickens, and has been deemed worthy of retelling all these years later. I am truly humbled and honoured that it is used to remind us of our humanity, and to refresh our collective commitment to its very definition.

And so, for the ongoing expenses and seed money for the upcoming 50th-anniversary production of Christmas with Scrooge (to mark when the show first arrived on this special isle), I thank you!

Newman Family Productions was originally called Madness Inc. in 1970 by Ray and Virginia Newman, and a group of musicians, performing artists, political activists, friends and neighbours. They wrote plays and music. Christmas with Scrooge was originally produced for the Mahon Hall stage in December 1971 and was called Christmas Madness.

Here's to our happy and healthy New Year.

SUE NEWMAN,
FOR NEWMAN FAMILY PRODUCTIONS



OCP Amendments for First Nations Reconciliation

Bylaw 132

Have Your Say

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.

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

Zoom Meeting
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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

AWARDS

Marshall volunteer work honoured

Nomination results in awarding of medal

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Anne Marshall has been directing her many different talents to the community good for most of her life, and now the Governor General of Canada is recognizing that contribution.

Marshall, a longtime Salt Spring resident, received word this week that she will receive the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers, which recognizes living Canadians who have made a significant, sustained and unpaid contribution to their community, in Canada or abroad. The news was a surprise since Marshall only recently realized she was being nominated by friend Susan Wetmore. Her son David helped get all the information for the application by pretending Marshall's granddaughter Cypress needed it for a social studies project.

"It really threw me for a loop when I got a call from the Governor General's office. At first I thought it was a scam call," Marshall said. "It was very humbling and I felt honoured, but also pretty embarrassed because of all the people that are volunteering."

Despite her humble nature, Marshall has indeed produced an impressive resume of volunteer work in multiple different fields in her 80 years. Many islanders know of her prominent role in bringing refugee families out of a dangerous situation in Syria and to a safe landing spot on Salt Spring. Marshall counts that as her most heartwarming volunteer experience, although she says she just got the ball rolling on that effort in 2015, and credits the many other islanders who helped.

"They formed the Salt Spring Refugee Sponsorship Group — they were a very talented group — and there was also a settlement team. A lot of really committed people were involved in that, and there were over 200 donors to the effort in the community," Marshall said.

The volunteer work Marshall is most proud of was taking up leadership roles with the Girl Guides of Canada, with the Guides, Pathfinders and Rangers groups. She first did so in Lillooet, B.C. at the behest of four teenagers who showed up at her door. It turned into more or less a full-time activity over the next 13 years, with camps and events nearly every weekend between Christmas and June.

Another activity she is proud of is starting up a peer counselling program at Gulf Islands Secondary School in the 1980s. Marshall learned about the program having good results on Vancouver Island and went back to university to take a course on the subject. She then surveyed the students at GISS to determine need.

"Ninety-seven per cent said they would like to be there for their friends in a helpful way, but they didn't know how," Marshall said.

The students also said they would like to take a course in peer counselling. She had a very small paid position setting it up, but also held



PHOTO COURTESY ANNE MARSHALL

Anne Marshall, who has learned she will be a recipient of the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers, a national honour.

volunteer workshops every second Sunday where she connected kids with community counsellors and other resources. As a result of that work, some students went on to volunteer for Planned Parenthood and other organizations. One of her students received a large scholarship for starting an eating disorder clinic. Marshall was involved for 14 years before her husband Mike, who had recently retired as Gulf Islands district superintendent, had a massive stroke. She needed to step back to help care for him.

Some of the "most dramatic and enlightening" of Marshall's volunteer experiences were expeditions to other countries, such as one that brought 600 wheelchairs to Ecuador with an Ontario Rotary Club. Marshall was part of the crew to assemble and distribute the gifts.

"People would bring their family members in wheelbarrows," Marshall said.

Similar expeditions brought health care, mattresses and outdoor kitchen equipment to Haitians living in the Dominican Republic. They had been stripped of their citizenship and were living in concrete huts with no amenities and no rights. Another project brought 1,100 reconditioned bicycles from Japan to Cambodia, serving children who had to walk up to 10 kilometres to get to school.

Most disappointing, in Marshall's view, was volunteer work with the Salt Spring Unitarians that brought three-course hot meals to homeless people once a month in Centennial Park — but only because of how it ended.

"It was really, really needed and the people were so appreciative," Marshall said.

Unfortunately, something about the timing seemed to produce problems in the area later in the day after the volunteers had packed up. Local business owners and families using the park complained, and the RCMP requested the group stop, so they regretfully did.

Marshall said she is a little embarrassed not to have done much volunteer work over the past year, but

COVID-19 has limited the possibilities. She has attended Zoom meetings for various groups, and although sitting on boards is not her favourite activity, she says that's important too, in order to get things done.

"Most volunteer work you get a real helping high from it. You see things happening that make things better for people," Marshall said.

Marshall credits her husband for giving her the opportunity to embrace her volunteer passions the way she has, and notes not everyone is able to do so.

"He's been very supportive. I was very lucky that I could be a stay-at-home mother for a number of years. It gave me the time and the energy to be able to do this," Marshall said.

About the Medal



The Medal for Volunteers consists of a silver circular medal that is 36 mm in diameter with a suspension ring. The obverse depicts a contemporary effigy of the Sovereign, circumscribed with the inscription in capital letters of the Canadian royal title and the word "CANADA," separated by two maple leaves.

The reverse indicates the ideas of caring and generosity, represented by two interlaced hearts. The sunburst pattern of the rim symbolizes the time that volunteers are giving and their actions. The ribbon uses the viceregal colours of blue and gold. The five gold stripes evoke the fingers of a hand, present in the Caring Canadian Award emblem, while the deep red colour is associated with royalty.

The design of medal was created by the Canadian Heraldic Authority, based on a concept by Darcy DeMarsico of the Chancellery of Honours. The medal is manufactured by the Royal Canadian Mint at its Ottawa facility.

Source: Governor General's website

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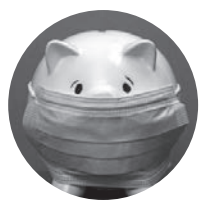
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COMMUNITY BUILDING

Neighbours create connections

Vesuvius-area projects include trails and notice board/book exchange

BY KIRK LAIDLAW

SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Community. We all like the word. The idea. But what makes it "happen?"

One community — well really just the people who live on Margaret Avenue and Monteith Road — is discovering what community means to them. I want to describe what we have done. But first, here are three things we have been learning:

It Takes Doing "Something."

Community is about a shared experience. Ideally, a shared benefit. Something positive that unites the people. What kind of benefit? Well, have you ever found yourself saying "I wish someone would . . . [fill in the blank]. That's the idea. The spark. And that's how it starts.

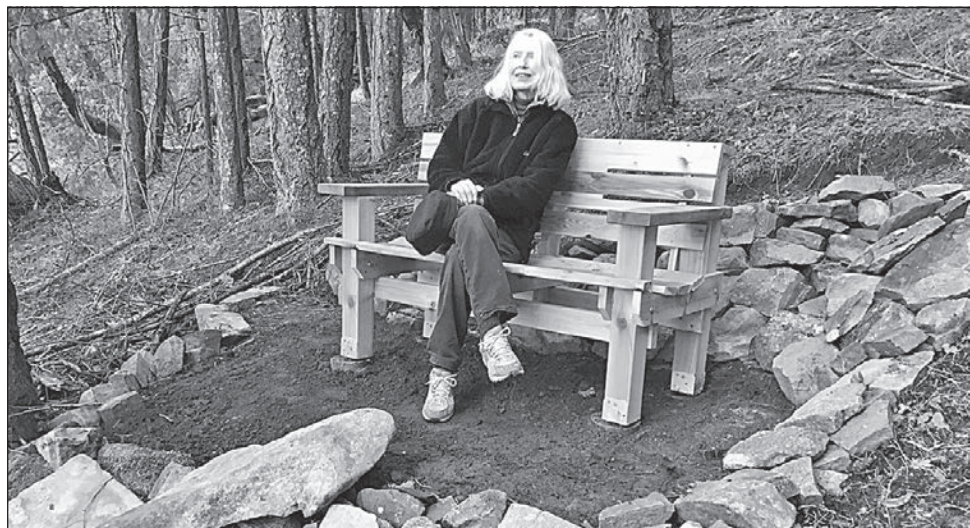


PHOTO BY KIRK LAIDLAW

Judy McLennan enjoys a new bench and lookout spot.

It Only Takes a Few.

We found that everybody does not need to participate. Whew! But it does take a spark . . . someone with the idea that could ignite one, or two or a few others. Continuing this metaphor, let's call these people the kindling. The volunteer team. These are the ones who will make it happen.

Enjoyment Cannot be Compromised.

Here's the deal with volunteers: they only get paid with enjoyment. It's a no-cash deal. So you have to pay, and pay well, but pay with having a good time. No compromise. That means sharing loads. Allowing for other priorities. Letting people contribute within their areas of expertise. Celebrating milestones. Dropping the interpersonal nit-picking. [Repeat.] And taking time.

One Neighbourhood's Projects.

Our neighbourhood is effectively surrounded by water. The idea got sparked to create a public water access point using an existing Ministry of Transportation (MOT) shoreline access. We built steps and a shoreline platform for emergency water evacuation if needed. The site also serves as a neighbourhood kayak launch and sunset viewpoint.

And since we do love our sunsets on this side of the island, one neighbour noticed an obscure and very overgrown MOT right-of-way which gave access to a park reserve and a bluff that was not suitable for development. He had an idea. He kindled that idea, which resulted in a group of locals slashing through a walking path and one skilled carpenter building a wonderful wooden bench. That bench has a million-dollar view.

A community needs communications. So this week we put the finishing touches on an artisan-style community notice board. It has a cabinet for notices and pamphlets, a book exchange, a history montage of the neighbourhood, a kids' project shelf and even a time capsule. We got our MOT permit and the Salt Spring Foundation Neighbourhood Small Grants program provided the initial funding, which was tripled when a call for donations went out to neighbours. These funds were combined with an Island Pathways grant to help us with our biggest project, the Vesuvius-Margaret Community Trail.

Everyone is welcome to explore our new trail! It starts at the BC Ferries parking lot in Vesuvius. Look for the green sign. A property easement was ceded, money got raised



PHOTO BY KIRK LAIDLAW

Sheri Standen visits the new notice board and book exchange on Monteith Road.

and volunteers spent a summer's worth of Friday mornings building and fencing a trail connecting the ferry parking lot to our new viewpoint bench on up to Margaret Avenue. Walkers are also guided on a 40-minute trail and roadway loop to Duck Creek Park and back to the ferry terminal. We thought it would be great for those missed-sailing waits on hot summer afternoons. We created this for the enjoyment of all.

What Does it Take?

It takes an idea, a team and a commitment to enjoy. Here's one great suggestion of what could happen where you live. It's an idea from one of our team on the Vesuvius-Margaret Community Trail. (He shall go unnamed due to his enduring humility, but if you have walked or hiked much on this island, it is very likely you have directly benefitted from his unpaid efforts.) He said simply, "Wouldn't it be great if streets were linked by trails to adjoining streets so people could walk more easily and be connected?" Now there's an idea. A spark for someone to fan. You?

Kirk Laidlaw is a consummate volunteer whose current passion is helping a team make the Salt Spring Island Peace Class available online to all Gulf Islands residents in February.



OCP Amendments for Temporary Use Permits for Commercial Vacation Rentals Bylaw 275

PUBLIC HEARING

GALIANO LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

What is the bylaw about?

The purpose of proposed Bylaw No. 275 is to amend the Galiano Island Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 108, 1995 (OCP) to restrict the issuing of Temporary Use Permits (TUPs) for commercial vacation rental land uses in the Galiano Island Local Trust Area (LTA).

The proposed bylaw amendments have resulted from a review of commercial vacation rentals that has been undertaken by the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) since spring of 2019. The proposed changes will **not** affect home occupation STVRs.

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:

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/galiano/gl-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 15 to 29, 2021, or online:

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/galiano/stvr-gl-2019-project/>

Written submissions?

Send by 4:30 p.m., January 29, 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.

Have Your Say

Monday,
 February 1, 2021
 CIM - 12:30 p.m.
 Public Hearing to follow CIM

Zoom Meeting

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Webinar ID Code:
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Who should attend?

Anyone affected by the proposed bylaws

Enquires?

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

PATHWAYS

Kit Lewis retires Atkins trash beat at age 95

Replacement volunteer sought for valued clean-up role

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Island Pathways is respectfully honouring the retirement of its most dedicated trail clean-up volunteer, while hoping her good example might inspire others to step up and take over.

Meadowbrook resident Kit Lewis celebrated her 95th birthday this week and has more than earned her retirement from self-imposed community service. As a keen environmentalist and a staunch opponent of litter and littering, she has kept the Atkins Road pathway and the surrounding neighbourhood clean for many years, but has conceded it's time to hang up her gloves and picker and for someone else to take her route.

"Island Pathways was so grateful when Kit came up with the idea," board member Jean Gelwick said about the trail adoption. "The Atkins Road pathway is by far the cleanest section of pathways into and around Ganges. Kit is amazing, and deserves a medal."

Contrary to what some people seem to think, there is no one employed to clean up litter on Salt Spring and no public agency paying for such efforts. Lewis wishes more than anything that people would stop throwing trash out their windows, something she cannot believe people do in this day and age. She has in fact suggested that ICBC instruct new drivers not to do this as part of their licensing requirement.

She has picked up and recycled countless bottles and cans and tried to find a way to deal with hubcaps. Her volunteer work directly inspired this newspaper's first community-wide litter clean-up campaign in 2018.

"Mostly I'm just horrified by plastic. That's the worst. It's going to drown us all."

KIT LEWIS
Pathway volunteer

The Driftwood happened to be on site with Lewis when she discovered the most infamous piece of trash in her journey: an empty hog feed bag. Other items picked up over the years belonged in the lost category, and if found near Meadowbrook Lewis would hang them on the fence in case their owner returned for them. If not, they also went into garbage or recycling.

"The tires were fun," Lewis said with wry humour. "Mostly I'm just horrified by plastic. That's the worst. It's going to drown us all."

Island Pathways is looking for someone willing to take Lewis' place on the Atkins Road pathway — and Lewis has a fairly new garbage picker that she's willing to pass on to the next person.

"Actually, we would love it if islanders adopted any section of the Ganges Village Pathway Network so we can keep them all free of trash," Gelwicks said.

For more information, contact Island Pathways at info@islandpathways.ca.



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Kit Lewis picks up litter – including an empty hog feed bag – thrown into the ditch beside the Atkins Road pathway in 2018.

what's on this week



Wed. Jan. 20 Thurs. Jan. 21 Sat. Jan. 23 Mon. Jan. 25

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.



Thurs. Jan. 21

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

Recovery Information Session: Recovery Grants
Online event for local business owners/managers hosted by the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce and the Community Economic Development Commission. 8:30 to 9 a.m. Contact the Chamber for the link.

MP Elizabeth May Virtual Community Meeting.
7 to 8:30 p.m. See elizabethmaymp.ca to register and get the link.

Fri. Jan. 22

VIA ZOOM

ASK Salt Spring.
Restorative Justice volunteers are the special guests today. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Email ask@asksaltspring.com to get the Zoom link.

ACTIVITIES

MP Elizabeth May In-Person Community Meeting.
Fulford Hall. 2 to 3:30 p.m.



Mon. Jan. 25

VIA ZOOM

Salt Spring Transportation Commission.
Meets from 1 to 3 p.m. Contact Tracey Shaver (tshaver@crd.bc.ca) before 10 a.m. today to get the link to join.

VIA ZOOM

Salt Spring Community Alliance.
Theme of the evening is Building the Road to Reconnection. Public input wanted on how the community can come together and reconnect and what topics should be the focus of monthly community meetings. 7 p.m. Email ssispeaks@gmail.com for more info and the Zoom link.



Be COVID-19 safe:

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

EXHIBITIONS

• **Jacky Cooper** has work hanging at **Salt Spring Coffee Co.** this month.

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.

• **Tali Peckel** shows artwork and **Erin Morris** is the ceramic mug artist at **Switchboard Cafe** in January.

WILDLIFE

Salmonella detected in local bird feeders

Islanders asked to take preventative measures to protect wildlife

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

A salmonella outbreak detected in bird feeders in the Gulf Islands and across B.C. is prompting calls for people to clean their feeders thoroughly and ideally remove them for a time.

Woodland Drive resident Jean Gelwicks found a few dead pine siskins and a finch at her place and then learned about the outbreak.

"Pine siskins are especially vulnerable as they travel in groups and we have more of them around this year," said Gelwicks.

Marielle Bonnet of the Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre confirms the centre has treated birds and/or had reports of dead birds found in various areas of the island in recent weeks. The disease, which is transmitted mainly through fecal contamination of food and water, is also on Galiano and Mayne islands.

"I'm hoping it is not as severe here as on Vancouver Island," said Bonnet.

She said taking down feeders for at least two weeks is the ideal solution, as doing so prompts the birds to disperse.

Otherwise, feeders should be cleaned and disinfected at least once a week.

"Clean with soap and then soak for 10 minutes in a 10 per cent bleach solution (nine parts water/1 part bleach)," states a centre bulletin about the issue. "Rinse thoroughly and dry completely before using it again. Refill with fresh seeds. Clean your birdbaths as well. If you are unable to clean your seed feeders and birdbaths regularly as described above, please disinfect and remove them for at least two weeks."

"The recommendation to take down bird feeders is important, but the advice about cleaning feeders is also important," said Bonnet.

People should also clean up the area below feeders, and wear gloves throughout all cleaning activities or wash hands thoroughly afterwards.

Salmonella can be transmitted to other animals as well as birds. Sick pine siskins will appear inactive, sometimes look "fluffed up" and will be too weak to fly away when approached.

People should contact Island Wildlife at 250-537-0777 to report any sick or injured pine siskins, or any wildlife in distress.

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Obituaries **Obituaries** **Obituaries** **Obituaries** **Obituaries**

Mary Fitzgerald



We are saddened by the passing our dear Mary Fitzgerald. Mary passed away in her home where she loved to be sitting by the warm fire. She will be joining her husband Harold who passed away in 2018. They were married over 40 years. One of Mary's great joys in life was her pets, most recently her lovely kitty Stripey.

She is survived by her sister-in-law Sylvia (John), brother-in-law Brian, sister-in-law Karen (David), as well as nephew Patrick (Shelley), nieces Meegan (Andy), Melanie (Wayne) and Kathleen (Ryan). She is also survived by sister-in-law Janet Rogers, and nieces Shari and Adrienne, and many great nieces and nephews.


Along with her loving husband Harold, Mary was predeceased by her parents Fred and Freida (Eileen) Rogers, brother Bob, sister Barbara, sister-in-law Vivian, sister-in-law Wanda, brother-in-law David, and mother-in-law Grace and father-in-law Patrick.

Mary was born in Ontario and moved with her family to Vancouver as a teenager. Mary and Harold were married and lived in Vancouver before retiring to Salt Spring Island. Mary and Harold were long time members of the local Legion, where they loved to meet friends to share a few laughs.

The Fitzgerald family would like to thank Mary's neighbors and friend who were always there to lend a helping hand and make sure she had all the chopped wood she needed to keep her warm.

WATKINS, Aubrey

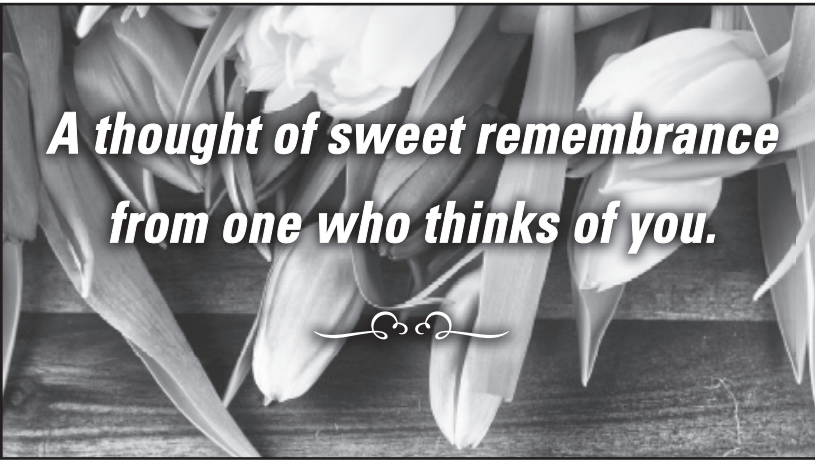
May 16, 1920 to January 4, 2021



We are saddened by the passing of Aubrey at Greenwoods on Saltspring Island. He came to Canada from Wales in 1952, settled in North Vancouver then moved to Saltspring Island in the late 70's.

He will be missed by his best friend Richard Cruickshank and his many friends. We also would like to thank all the Staff at Greenwoods for his care and a very special thank you to Darcie.

He is remembered by his daughter Rita and her partner Pat and all his friends, nieces and nephews throughout the world.



A thought of sweet remembrance from one who thinks of you.

Gwenyth Chalmers Tuttle

Gwenyth died January 10, 2021 at the age of 88 in Ottawa, Ontario.

Gwenyth is survived by her daughters Alison (Craig Fraser), Kelowna, BC, Sandra (Larry O'Gorman), Ottawa and Karen (Corey Sharman), McKinney, Texas. Grandchildren Sidney (Adam Crossman), Ottawa, Carrie, Kelowna and Kylie, Liam and Calum, McKinney and great grandchildren Etta and Otis, and her brother Kerby Goddard, NSW Australia.


Gwenyth was predeceased by her brothers Geoffrey and Hugh Goddard. Her beloved husband Adney Clifton Tuttle passed away on November 1, 2009, Salt Spring Island.

Gwenyth met Adney in 1955 while working in Williams Lake, BC; Gwen a registered nurse from Sydney, Australia and Adney, a Constable with the RCMP. Gwen and Adney moved to Ottawa in 1961 with their first daughter Alison and Sandra quickly joined them in 1962 then Karen Leslie Ann in 1965. In 1974 Gwen and Adney spent a year at University Laval mastering French. Gwen continued working throughout her nursing career at the Montford Hospital in Ottawa. Gwen and Adney lived in Almonte, Ontario for a few years before retiring and moving to McLennan Valley on Salt Spring Island. Gwen started working at Lady Minto Hospital shortly after arriving in Salt Spring. Gwen and Adney loved their time on the Island and had many wonderful friends and experiences. Gwen started painting again thanks to the lush scenery on their beautiful 10 acre dream property. After Adney passed away in 2009, Gwen moved back to Ottawa in 2010 where she traded in her gardening hat and gloves and moved to condo living.

We wish to sincerely thank the doctors, nursing and support staff at The Glebe Centre. Their constant care and assistance has been incredible.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to The Glebe Centre. Gwen (Mum, Nengie) requested that there be no service. Tributes, condolences and donations may be made at www.tubmanfuneralhomes.com

BOB GREGGS



Bob left this world suddenly at home on December 3, 2020. He is mourned by his wife Marilyn Hood and dog Cooper as well as their combined family of children and grandchildren. He was predeceased by his first wife, Robin (née Howland, 1997) and dogs Shandy, Georgie Girl, Tamworth, Candy, MacDuff, Tory, Casey and Terra.

Robert George Greggs was a vibrant and engaged man who lived life on his own terms to the end. Born in Gananoque 90 years ago on July 29, 1930 and growing up with a younger sister, Zoe (now Zoe Jewers, Ottawa), Bob pursued knowledge all his life. His interest in geology led him to completing an undergraduate degree at Queen's University where he met and married a fellow student, Robin Howland. Bob went on to complete graduate programmes at UBC before eventually returning to Kingston for a career in academia at Queen's. Robin and Bob formed many close friends in Kingston and there raised a family (Darcie, Jonathon, Susan Darling, and Melissa Mountain) in town and at a near-perfect lake cottage nearby.

After leaving Queen's, Bob moved west to work in the energy industry in Calgary until he retired. After Robin died, Bob returned to Kingston and married Marilyn to begin another chapter. The west called again and they returned to British Columbia, first to Salt Spring Island and eventually Sidney.

Bob was an avid birder and was able to mimic bird sounds much to the dismay of family members. He was on top of local and national politics and the weather always, loved red wine, walks with Marilyn and the many dog companions. He did not like cats and only owned three of them. His family remains ever grateful to Marilyn for the joyful and active years they shared together in their "second chapter". During this time of the pandemic, we are unable to gather to mark Bob's life as we would like. Raise a glass of decent red in Bob's name, and should you wish to make a memorial donation, anything avian or green would meet his approval.

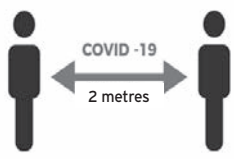
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Obituaries

Elizabeth Anne Armour (Molson)

know as Liz / 1932 - 2021

Lizzie passed away peacefully early on the morning of Saturday, January 16th at the Lady Minto Hospital on her beloved Salt Spring Island. She had been suffering from dementia for many years and had spent the last three in the ECU there. We would like to offer our profound thanks to all the staff of the Lady Minto Hospital, and particularly ECU staff, for all their hard work and kindness caring for Liz. Thanks also to Dr. Ian Gummeson for his wise and considerate care.

Liz was born in Victoria, daughter of Hobart and Margaret Molson. She was predeceased by her siblings Andy, David and younger sister Margaret Oliphant. She married John Armour in 1955. They began a family in Victoria, but moved to Vancouver in 1959.

Vancouver was her home while the kids grew up. Liz was very involved with their schooling but once that was underway she turned her attention to the nascent arts and cultural life of Vancouver. Always a generous host and an active volunteer, she particularly loved the theatre. She served on the board of the Playhouse and Arts Club. She loved live performance of almost any kind, and supported it by attending - often more than once.

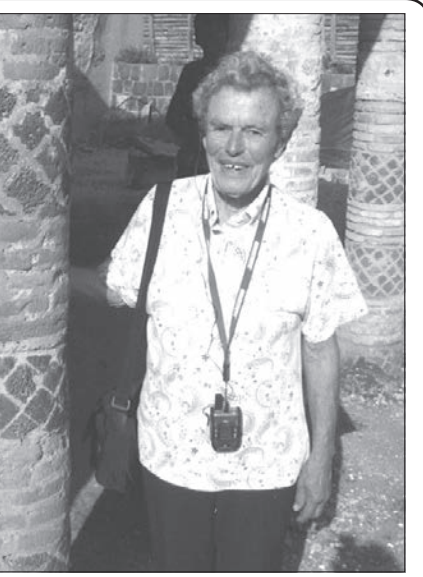
She, John, and 3 young kids took up sailing aboard the Baron Rouge in 1966, exploring widely from Puget to Desolation Sounds around the Salish Sea. In the early '70s they thought it would be nice to find a small place with a dock for the boat in the Gulf Islands, and ended up with 'The Maples' here on Salt Spring Island in 1973. It was a large farm operation instead of a small place, and the boat was sold soon after. At first she was a weekend visitor from Vancouver but in 1978 she moved over permanently. She renovated the farmhouse and rebuilt the garden, adding huge vegetable patches everywhere! Every kind of livestock could be encountered at one time or another. Salt Spring was home.

Active in the community cultural life, she helped with ArtSpring and the Library.

Liz was a kind and gregarious person who made friends with anyone she encountered. She was always generous and ready to give a hand up to someone who needed one. She is survived by her son Mark, daughter Jane Black (Jim), and son Bruce (Bunny); granddaughters Brianna, Jocelyn, Kirsten, Ruby and Molly; cousins around the world and friends too numerous to count. We will all miss her ever-present smile and warm kitchen fire.

All that said, she loved to travel too. Planned or spur-of-the-moment she went all over North America and Europe. She went to visit or help family, learn about other cultures, and experience beauty in any form.

For pandemic reasons we will have to remember Liz individually in our own way, and put a really good send off back for a while. If you would like to memorialize Liz, please donate to the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation. It will help other people have the great care that she did.



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


Obituaries

Obituaries

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

Clearly, there is nothing average about Aquarius time this year. It is early in the morning after the official crack of dawn of the Age of Aquarius. While it officially began in the early 1990s when the internet went public, if we were to squeeze the 2160-year cycle into a 24-hour day, and dawn officially occurred at 6 am, it would be about 6:15 and right about when the caffeine kicks in.

The Sun entered Aquarius on January 19, Mars formed an exact conjunction with Uranus on January 20 and, after having recently formed a hard square to Saturn, Jupiter formed another edgy square to Uranus on the 17th and Mars crosses Jupiter on the 22nd. Altogether, these represent a dynamic and tumultuous set of revolutionary events that are sure to synchronize here on Earth as powerful turning points. Given the global network of our modern era, these planetary alignments above will most certainly synchronize here below in ways that will affect us all and for years to come.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)
A strong assertion of your sense of individuality has been steadily growing over the past several months. Now it comes to a peak moment with Mars aligned with Uranus. Manifesting as an emboldened stride with heavy steps, you will plow through any opposition with bulldozer torque. Yet, you are also willing to keep an open mind and receive new information and guidance.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)
This is a powerful time for us all and not least of all you. Changes marked by new beginnings and initiatives in your public and/or professional life should be clearly evident by now or will be very soon. You are determined to push ahead with stealth determination. A mix of creativity and practical resolve may manifest as pragmatic assertions that may be described as audacious.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)
A time of transformation continues. There remain some powerful final scenes for this round which you will learn all about this week. Positively, this is an epic time in your life. Many new realizations have been pouring in steadily over the past several weeks especially, leaving you happy and at peace. Yet if and where a sense of fairness, justice and democracy is not realized, you have a lot to say.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)
Even by normal standards, this would be a noticeable time of change for you. Yet, these are hardly 'normal' times. So, the impact is much larger and the process is much longer. In some respects, the results are probably very positive; returns for past efforts and achievements. These changes will continue strongly into mid-March, so hopefully they are going your way.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)
The recent Capricorn New Moon planted a seed of change for you in terms of your health. Programs and new routines to achieve your goals may be at least as much a matter of necessity as the result of inspiration. Either way, you feel committed, disciplined and determined to follow through to achieve the desired results. This is a turnaround cycle but requires your full participation.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)
Some periods of change are larger than others and this is true for you. Your openness to make the effort to learn and proceed with faith is extra important. Fortunately, your confidence levels are receiving boosts from a couple of angles anyway. So, be willing to take calculated risks and the results may prove exponential. Diversifying your focus implies investments.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)
A whole new theme of creative inspiration and possibility was seeded with the recent New Moon. It will also receive another boost with the New Moon in Aquarius on February 11. These will come as quite welcome and you have likely earned the returns implied. Generally, you are committed to new knowledge and higher learning these days so expect these two themes to unite.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)
Will it be a breakthrough for you or a breakdown? In some respects, the outcome is up to you, but not entirely. We are ever subject to the forces of destiny and karma. Some karma is woven into the fine print of our destiny while some is based on our choices and actions over time. So, you have arrived at a critical turning point that, either way, will require you to pay your dues.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)
Financial concerns and considerations continue to play a prominent role. These are also related to values and priorities associated with your overall level and quality of health. Your lifestyle in general is also featured and all of the above implies the need for new knowledge and initiative. Replacing old habits that no longer or have never served you well is a central theme.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)
Taking new initiatives should be keeping you busy now. These may come in the form of new knowledge, awareness and perceptions. While you have to play to win and playing requires investments or payments of some kind, there are indications that you have reason to feel optimistic. Going forward, you have arrived at a new chapter which will bring new opportunities.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)
What specifically does the need to contract mean to you now in your life? Generally, discipline is implied. As well, you are destined to pay your dues as well and doing so will unfold steadily over time. In the bigger picture of your life, a steady flow of efforts that amount to investments is indicated. Expansion is also featured and the implications reveal both material and spiritual rewards.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)
The quickening is underway and you are feeling it. Keeping pace with it is its own challenge, yet you are determined to do so. Your intuition stands to be flowing at a whole new and higher level. A lot of work will happen behind the scenes and some certainly will occur with and in the public, but less. Pushing forward into new territory is already underway and will bring rewards.

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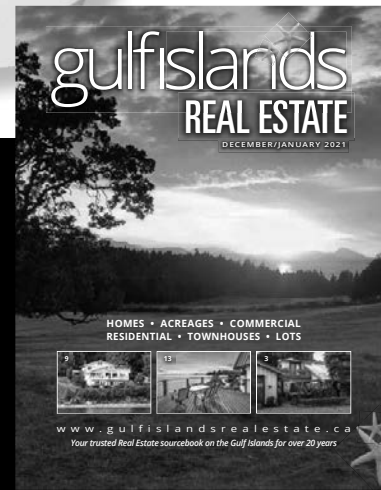
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ADVENTURES

Cycle tourist takes on Canada's Great Trail

Salt Spring forms rest point in trip through the Americas

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A German world traveller has ended up on Salt Spring while he waits for the border with the United States to reopen and the continuation of a journey that will ultimately encompass much of two continents.

André Baumgarten recently completed a six-month cycling trip from London, Ont., back east to Cap Gaspé and then west all the way to B.C.'s coast. With plans to hike the Pacific Crest Trail, Baumgarten had originally hoped to end the Canadian portion in Vancouver before heading to Seattle, hiking through the United States into Mexico, and then starting a trip through South America. The pandemic may have stopped him short for now, but Baumgarten is happy to have enjoyed the ride so far.

"In the end I was actually kind of happy that it didn't work out because then I could spend more time on the trail in Canada," Baumgarten told the Driftwood. "I never could have made that in four months, which was my timeline. So now I did it in six months — and I skipped the whole Maritimes."

An environmental engineer by training, Baumgarten has been travelling the world for the past seven years doing many other types of jobs through the working holiday visa program, which is available in many nations for people up to age 31. Canada has a special arrangement with Germany that issues such visas up to age 35, a feature that took Baumgarten to Ontario for a year of work in a winery and then a kombucha brewery. While there he came across an online posting by someone who wanted to

do a cross-Canada road trip, with a map of his route attached.

"I said, 'That's actually a nice idea just to see the country a little bit,'" Baumgarten said, noting that although he was living and working in Canada, he hadn't seen anything beyond London. Before his work visa expired he ordered a touring bike and made plans to come back to Canada with a tourist visa on the way to his trek of the Pacific Crest Trail and beyond. He spent time in between in Iceland, where he worked on a farm for two months while plotting his route through the Americas.

"So I had it all nicely planned, but then the pandemic hit and so the PCT kind of got cancelled," he said, explaining hiking there was discouraged because of the wish to protect isolated communities along the ridge line. There were also bush fires in the region, so he decided to take more time on the Canadian leg.

COVID-19 restrictions changed some of his plans, but without having a job or anywhere to live in his home country, Baumgarten decided to go ahead with his 2020 cycling trip despite the pandemic. Much of his travel was accomplished during the time when restrictions were lighter.

"I had this discussion with myself whether to do it or not, and I came to the conclusion to do it. And it went well," Baumgarten said. "I appreciated having more time to explore Canada. 'It's huge — I underestimated that.'"

Discovering The Great Trail — previously known as the Trans Canada Trail — helped provide much of the route. Baumgarten usually took side roads for some sections that are only passable by hikers.

"The only real dangerous highway that no cyclist can really avoid is around the Great Lakes. It's pretty much from Sault Ste.

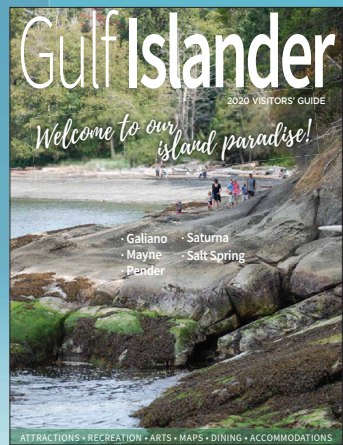


PHOTOS COURTESY ANDRE BAUMGARTEN

From top, cyclist André Baumgarten prepares to go through the carved gate at Elk Pass on the Alberta-B.C. border, and takes in the view at Drumheller during his 2020 trip across Canada.

2021

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Marie to Thunder Bay. There is actually no secondary road there," Baumgarten observed.

Hitting the mountains starting at the Rockies could have posed a challenge to some weary legs, but in B.C. The Great Trail mainly follows old railway lines.

"At least the inclination was penetrable; it was never more than two per cent. You don't have the steep passes that you have if you are following the Trans Canada Highway," Baumgarten said.

On the other hand, the ties and rails have been removed but the former railroad's surface has not been improved, so the loose gravel bed can be extremely hard to navigate. Some sections were so bad that Baumgarten was inspired to send his notes and video footage to the non-profit organization that oversees the trail in Montreal, and he has offered to work with them to suggest improvements.

"I also want to make this trail better for other Canadians or maybe other tourists who might intend to cycle it as well," he said.

Baumgarten spent many of his nights camping near the trail, choosing sites near water where he could bathe. He also used warmshowers.org, a free hospitality platform created by and for touring cyclists. In that case he would contact hosts a few days before he expected to arrive in a community and ask whether they could take him.

"That worked astonishingly quite well, even though it was the pandemic year. It was actually pretty cool," he said, adding some people told him they couldn't host at that time, but many were still willing to do so with some precautions.

He pointed out long-distance cyclists are kind of self-isolating anyway. He often went a week to 10 days without meeting

anyone.

"I'm aware of the risk and I try to avoid contact as much as possible," he said. "But if people in the bigger cities are willing to host me, that's okay."

The Great Trail purposefully intends to connect Canadians and communities and is routed to go through towns and smaller communities, so Baumgarten got to see a good swath of Canadian life in addition to the countryside. He also took some detours that took him far off the straighter path on the advice of people he met along the way — going back to the Gaspé and along the eastern Great Lakes instead of cutting across Ontario from London, for example, and travelling far south of Calgary and the route over the Rockies to visit Drumheller.

"I'm really happy I did those detours. That's actually what makes my tour so special, especially for me," Baumgarten said. "It's not like I want to establish a new record, going east to west. I really took my time in order to get the most out of this trip: meeting locals, seeing special places, and changing myself, being on that trail."

Having finished his cross-country ride at the end of November, Baumgarten did a side tour of the Sunshine Coast and the Gulf Islands. He arrived on Salt Spring just before Christmas and is currently volunteering on a farm in exchange for accommodation. When he departs again depends somewhat on the border situation and when non-essential travel can once again cross.

Baumgarten is putting together a slide show about his trip and posting content to YouTube. Email him at andrebaumgarten@posteo.de to get the links. He can also be heard discussing his trip on the online show Eh! Canada Travel at www.ehcanadatransit.com/blog/#talkshow.