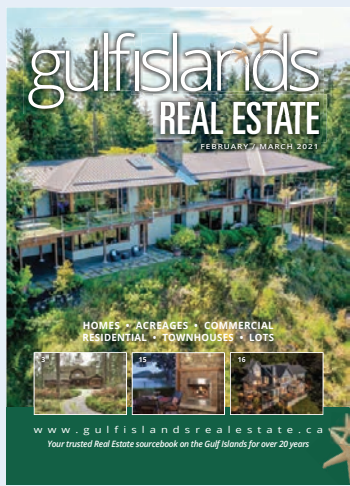


inside:



## Money Matters

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FIRST IN A FOUR-PART SERIES  
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# Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021

61st year  
Issue 5  
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PHOTO BY BILLIE WOODS PHOTOGRAPHY

**TROPICAL TREAT:** Salt Spring couple Michelle Grant and Steve Coopman get their photo taken in the Legion's Staycation spot on Friday night with a fun event that invites islanders to imagine they are on vacation in a warmer part of the world. See story on page 11.

## FERRIES

# Fulford terminal upgrade delayed

Long-awaited project won't start within next three years

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Severe hits to BC Ferries' revenue during the COVID-19 pandemic have reduced the company's operating and capital budgets, meaning terminal upgrade projects planned for Salt Spring Island have been pushed back yet again.

BC Ferries public affairs manager Darin Guenette reported the news during the semi-annual public meeting between company executives and the Salt Spring Ferry Advisory Committee, held in digital format on Jan. 27. While committee members were not surprised that pandemic traffic losses would have some impact, they were taken aback by the extent of the shift on a much-anticipated overhaul at Fulford Harbour. Guenette said the terminal expansion project slated for 2022-23 has been pushed back significantly,

and the scope of the upgrade is also undetermined.

"We're now 37 years and counting since the community has been wanting to change the safety situation in Fulford," said FAC member John Wakefield. "To hear it's been delayed four or five years is disappointing."

FAC chair Harold Swierenga also said he was disappointed by the new ideas on the Fulford terminal upgrade, both in timing and in content. BC Ferries has presented the community with a series of different scenarios for improving the terminal space and getting waiting cars off the road since 2011. Difficulty in finalizing a deal to acquire the Patterson family property next to the terminal has caused the company to propose a much smaller expansion of inner terminal space than its most recent design scheme.

"I had an inkling it was on the back burner,

but I didn't realize how it would compare to other projects," Swierenga said after last Wednesday's meeting. "I think the key thing is they're not spending a lot of money on capital projects right now because they don't have it."

Swierenga was additionally frustrated to hear BC Ferries is not considering a two-ship solution as an eventual replacement for the Skeena Queen on the Fulford-Swartz Bay route.

Peter Simpson, director of fleet operations strategy, explained that it would be difficult to replace the Skeena with two of the Island Class ferries the company is currently bringing in because the morning routes are busy with commuters and commercial traffic, requiring a bigger vessel. Electric power for the hybrid diesel-electric ships could also be an issue.


FERRIES continued on 3

GULF ISLANDS

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RCMP

# DNA helps ID historic remains

Skeleton found on Saturna was buried on Salt Spring

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A man whose skeleton washed up on a Saturna Island beach in 1972 and was buried on Salt Spring without being identified has made it home at last thanks to modern DNA technology.

BC RCMP and the BC Coroners Service announced Thursday they had matched the remains' DNA profile to the daughter of a Kamloops man who was last seen in Coquitlam on May 27, 1967. The man, whose name has not been released out of respect for the family, was 41 at the time he disappeared.

According to the RCMP, the man's family reported his disappearance to their local police in Kamloops, and the resulting investigation spanned

decades. It would be 54 years before they found the answer they were looking for.

"After a lengthy scientific process performed at a British Columbia laboratory, complicated by the degradation of the remains, a DNA profile of the deceased was finally obtained," BC RCMP spokesperson Cpl. Jesse O'Donaghey stated in Thursday's news release.

When his skeleton was discovered near Saturna's Taylor Point more than five years after he disappeared, there was nothing to put the find together with that investigation. A Driftwood news story published on Aug. 31, 1972 reported the remains were determined to be of a man who had been dead for at least a year. It was assumed at the time they were of a man who had been lost at sea in 1971.

After an autopsy, the man's remains

were buried on Salt Spring. They were exhumed last September. Members of the BC Coroners Service special investigations unit finally established an identity for the deceased man using a sample of DNA they had collected from the missing man's daughter in 2014.

"Through scientific advancements in identification processes, we are now able to solve such historic cases. In this instance, we were able to piece together the puzzle that had been challenging us on Salt Spring Island since in 1972," said Eric Petit, director of the BC Coroners Service special investigations unit. "The partnership we have garnered over the years with both the police and the BCIT lab makes success possible. Through collaboration, we are able to work as one team with the ultimate goal to provide families the closure they had been seeking for more than 50 years."

## TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

**FEBRUARY 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
3	0203	1.5	4.9	7	0332	3.2	10.5
	0910	3.5	11.5		0701	3.0	9.8
	WE 1610	1.5	4.9		SU 1122	3.2	10.5
ME 2217	2.4	7.9	DI 1943	0.5	1.6		
4	0248	2.0	6.6	8	0421	3.3	10.8
	0937	3.4	11.2		0844	3.0	9.8
	TH 1705	1.1	3.6		MO 1218	3.2	10.5
JE			LU 2033	0.4	1.3		
5	0028	2.6	8.5	9	0503	3.4	11.2
	0345	2.4	7.9		0951	2.9	9.5
	FR 1006	3.4	11.2		TU 1321	3.2	10.5
VE 1758	0.9	3.0	MA 2121	0.3	1.0		
6	0222	2.9	9.5	10	0540	3.5	11.5
	0509	2.8	9.2		1037	2.8	9.2
	SA 1039	3.3	10.8		WE 1422	3.1	10.2
SA 1851	0.6	2.0	ME 2205	0.4	1.3		

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PARKS

## PARC to look at increased security in parks

Cost estimates for lights, cameras and more enforcement

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

The costs and options for increasing security in Ganges parks will be investigated by Salt Spring's parks and rec department.

Parks and Recreation Commission members made the decision at their Jan. 19 meeting in response to unruly behaviour that has been on the rise in the past year, especially in Centennial Park.

"The downtown community parks have become a place that attracts or enables offending behaviour due to informal management practices and little surveillance," states a PARC staff report in explaining the rationale for taking action. "Public trust and perception in the parks being a safe place is being undermined by the lack of control and not addressing the antisocial behaviour."

Items to be costed include surveillance cameras and lighting in Centennial Park, a seasonal full-time bylaw enforcement officer and an education and reporting campaign.

All commission members did not agree with putting more

resources towards crime prevention in the park.

Brian Webster said he did not object to looking into the options as described but observed that the problem seemed to be exacerbated by COVID-19, with fewer people using Centennial Park since the pandemic struck.

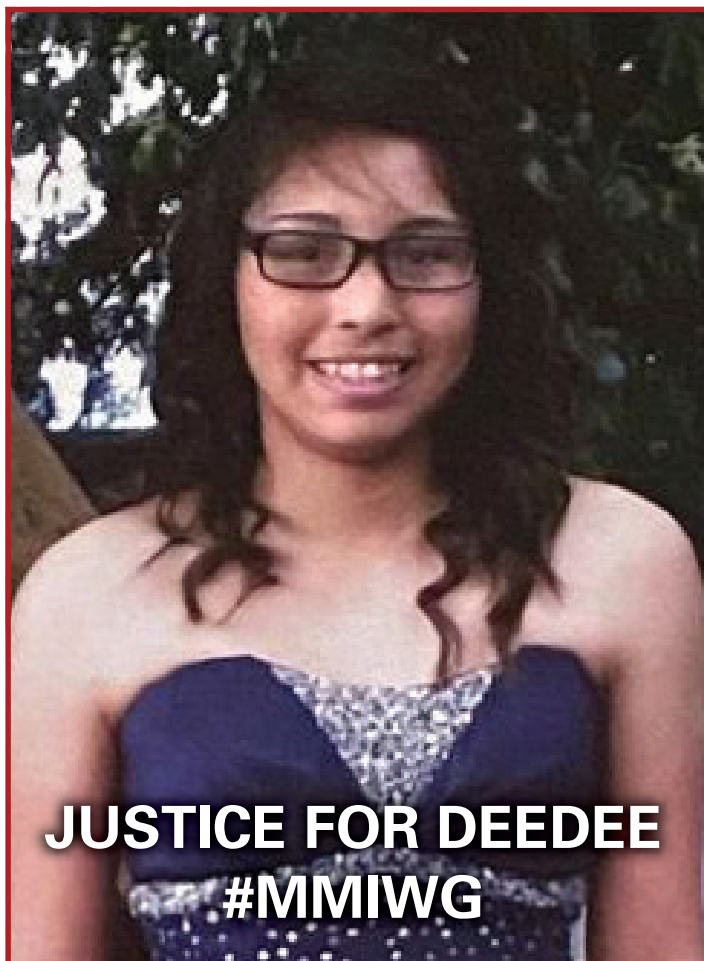
"I would just caution everybody to resist the temptation to leap into a potentially expensive and heavy-handed kind of enforcement approach," said Webster.

"I don't want to see us get to a point where a significant amount of the PARC budget is dedicated to enforcement against bad behaviour in Ganges."

Electoral area director Gary Holman said some improvement has occurred. For example, he said, stepped-up Centennial Park enforcement activities had potentially had an impact, along with a proactive approach taken by new RCMP detachment commander Clive Seabrook.

"We are struggling with the issue, quite honestly, but we are making some progress," Holman said.

He was also hopeful that if Salt Spring Community Services is successful in its bid to acquire 24-hour funding for its shelter, then some people currently gathering in the parks might be more inclined to spend time at the shelter instead of outside in town.



# DELORES (DEEDEE) BROWN Unsolved Murder

Disappeared:

July 27, 2015, Penelakut Island

Discovered:

Aug. 19, 2015, near Norway Island

JUSTICE FOR DEEDEE  
#MMIWG

Contact  
Ladysmith RCMP  
(250) 245-2215



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lilreddressproject.ca

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Trust survey deadlines approach

Members of the public have until Friday, Feb. 5 to submit their input in an online survey on whether the Islands Trust is on the right path in its work to amend the Islands Trust Policy Statement.

The policy statement is the Islands Trust's foundational document that sets out how the organization accomplishes its "preserve and protect" mandate. A high level policy directions report and the public survey are available at [www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands2050](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands2050). The survey will remain open through Feb. 5.

Input is also invited on the Trust's draft budget for 2021-22, and Salt Spring's proposed special tax requisition of \$75,000 to fund the Salt Spring Watershed Protection Alliance next year. The budget survey is open through Feb. 7 on the Island's Trust website. Comments can also be emailed to [budget@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:budget@islandstrust.bc.ca).

## TRANSPORTATION

# Road issues dog pathway projects

### Pedestrian path on Ganges Hill in question

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The development of Salt Spring's road network over the years from country lanes to Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure highways has resulted in a varied patchwork of roadway allowance that is hindering some community pathway plans.

Inconsistent road right-of-way widths and private property boundaries have caused complications on the Salt Spring Transportation Commission's current Lower Ganges Road project between Central and Booth Canal Road. Similar problems are now calling into question the commission's ability to build a separated pedestrian pathway on Ganges Hill in tandem with a MoTI repaving project.

Ministry operations manager Don Legault gave an update on project plans to the transportation commission on Jan. 25. He said the paving project has been moved back two to three years and could take a couple of years to complete.

While the ministry has committed to including a paved 1.5-metre shoulder on each side of Fulford-Ganges Road that is suitable for cyclists and a 0.5-m gravel shoulder beyond that, Legault reported there is difficulty securing even that much space. He was doubtful the commission will find the additional room needed for its proposed pedestrian path on the uphill side. As well, the road allowance is 25

metres in some places but only 20 metres in others and the right-of-way is not consistent on both sides.

"It's just a matter of having room to be able to move the utility poles. Some of it will involve blasting," Legault said.

Commissioners were disappointed by the news and tried to brainstorm solutions such as covering over ditches. Legault said the ministry will likely need to take extra steps just to complete its own part, although covering ditches is not ideal.

**"There may be places where there is space, and those where there isn't. It's those pinch points."**

GARY HOLMAN  
CRD electoral area director

Reducing speed limits has been suggested as another way of improving pedestrian safety in the area. The transportation commission endorsed a petition in February 2020 calling for 30 km/hr speed limits on Lower Ganges/Fulford-Ganges roads stretching all the way from the intersection with Brinkworthy Road to Alders Road.

Legault pointed out there are 30 km/hr zones where there are schools and playgrounds. However, he reported MoTI could

consider adjusting speed zones for a portion of the island; higher speed zones may have been set in places they should not have been, Legault said.

Despite the ministry's position on the limitations, CRD director Gary Holman believes there could still be a way to improve pedestrian safety on the hill.

"There may be places where there is space, and those where there isn't. It's those pinch points [that are the problem]," Holman said after the meeting.

Holman suggested a pathway could be built by acquiring more right-of-way, something that needs to happen for the MoTI project in any case. It would add to the costs of the pathway, however.

"Certainly it's been clear for some time their priority is repaving," Holman said.

Holman said good news that came out of the meeting is the ministry has extended the scope for Fulford-Ganges Road resurfacing, which is to start after the Seaview Avenue intersection and will now continue as far as Cranberry Road. The ministry has also indicated willingness to address safety issues at the Beddis Road intersection in some way.

Holman remains concerned the timeline has been pushed back, since resurfacing was originally scheduled to take place in 2020.

"As the timing recedes, my worry is the commitment recedes along with it," he explained.

Holman said he will be working with MLA Adam Olsen to ensure MoTI's commitment to the project, and to accelerate it if at all possible.

## Group to look at Fulford safety issues

FERRIES continued from 1

"Right now it's not in the cards," Guenette confirmed.

BC Ferries does have plans to eventually run two vessels on the Crofton-Vesuvius route after both its terminals have been upgraded. Those plans have also been delayed, though, with a rebuild at Vesuvius pushed back somewhere from fiscal year 2024 to 2026.

Traffic and safety issues caused by lack of terminal space have long been of concern to residents of Vesuvius and Fulford villages. The use of the roadway as a holding lane for ferry traffic in both locations can make it impossible for other vehicles to use the road. Narrow right-of-ways and lack of pathways make travel dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists, and lack of long-term parking brings foot passengers into conflict with local residents and businesses.

Finding a safe route for cyclists and pedestrians in Fulford is an ongoing concern for the Salt Spring Transportation Commission and groups like Island Pathways, who have campaigned to include provisions in any terminal upgrade plans. Salt Spring's Capital Regional District electoral area director Gary Holman proposed that CRD and BC Ferries staff create a working group to talk about potential solutions.

Holman noted that the Fulford Water Service has had ongoing water main breaks under the road near the terminal, so it could potentially be a partner in a future resurfacing project. The transportation commission has also raised the safety issue with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Holman said there is no presumption BC Ferries funds will come along with the company's participation in the group, although he said any money would be welcomed. The CRD wants to work the eventual terminal upgrade into its plans, whether that's with a pathway and/or water main replacement.

"It's our intention that we don't handcuff that work in any way," Guenette said, adding BC Ferries would like to keep the dialogue open. "And if our plans can evolve and change, we would bring that



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

BC Ferries vessel Skeena Queen underway between Swartz Bay and Fulford, where limited terminal capacity has created a major community issue.

information to the table."

In other news from last Wednesday's meeting, BC Ferries execs were quick to act on Swierenga's request on through-fare transfer issues. Swierenga has fielded complaints about inconsistent policy at the ticket booth for vehicles travelling from Tsawwassen to Salt Spring via Swartz Bay. Some agents have required the transfer to take place on the next scheduled sailing, while others allow drivers to do other business on Vancouver Island in between the two ferry trips.

Although the idea behind the through-fare ticket is to replicate a single sailing to Long Harbour, terminal operations manager Camrin Hillis found sympathy with Swierenga's position that BC Ferries would not be impacted by allowing drivers to catch the second connecting sailing — especially since the short gap between ferries means through-fare drivers, who must leave the terminal, often can't get back in time to catch the next sailing anyway.

"I agree, if you arrive and the ferry is full, then why are we making you wait in the terminal?" Hillis asked.

Hillis said he would amend the policy and distribute it to the ticket agents as early as Thursday.



School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)  
112 Rainbow Road  
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2K3

### SCHOOL DISTRICT 64 (GULF ISLANDS) REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR 2021/2022

Registration for all schools in School District 64 will take place February 1 to 25, 2021. Please contact your local school to make arrangements for registration.

#### NEW REGISTRATIONS:

**Kindergarten** – For children who will be five (5) years of age on or before December 31, 2021, i.e., born in 2016, please register your child at the school in your residential catchment area.

Please provide the following documentation when you register your child for kindergarten:

- Verification of the child's birth date and citizenship status (birth certificate, passport or Landed Immigrant authorization - proof of residency may be required.)
- B.C. Care Card

**Strong Start** – Students currently enrolled in the district's Strong Start programs are required to complete a Kindergarten registration form.

**Grade 1 to 12** – Please register your child in the school in your residential catchment area. Please note: Phoenix Elementary School does not have a catchment area. If you wish to register your child at Phoenix Elementary School, please contact the school directly.

Expressions of interest in specific programs can be found on the registration form at: <https://sd64.bc.ca/student-registration/>

Please note that additional application information is required for admission to:

- French Immersion
- SEEC program located on Saturna Island

Registration and water taxi transportation are subject to District Policies and Procedures 410 and 525 available at: <https://sd64.bc.ca/policies-and-procedures/>. Program placement is subject to the availability of space in specialized programs.

#### STUDENTS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLED:

Expressions of interest in specific programs at your child's school should be made to the school principal. For additional information about high school programs available through Gulf Islands Secondary School contact the school's principal.

Note: Students will automatically be enrolled at their next catchment school as part of the normal prescribed grade to grade transition (unless the school is informed otherwise). No registration is required.

#### CROSS BOUNDARY TRANSFER REQUESTS:

Should you wish to enrol your child in a school outside of your catchment area, a cross boundary transfer request form must be completed **annually** (Policy and Procedure 525). The request form can be found at: <https://sd64.bc.ca/student-registration/>

Prior to submitting the form to the School Board Office, parents must obtain signatures from the principal of the catchment area school and the principal of the receiving school. Upon receipt at the School Board Office, the form will be time and date stamped. The deadline for accepting cross boundary request forms is **March 15**. Placement is subject to the availability of space. **Transportation for out-of-catchment requests is not guaranteed.**

# OPINION



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

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



## Driftwood

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### EDITORIAL

## Rocky roads

It often seems that the province's transportation ministry and Salt Spring Islanders are not on the same track in dealing with island infrastructure.

Road maintenance issues, line painting and speed limits are some of the topic areas that have seen conflict over the years. While all parties will state that safety is the number-one concern, policies and actions don't always seem to jive.

Salt Spring Transportation Commission (SSTC) members were disappointed to hear last week that Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) staff do not believe there is enough room to accommodate both a 1.5-metre paved shoulder for cyclists and a separate pedestrian pathway in repaving plans for Ganges Hill up to Beddis Road.

### THE ISSUE: Road and pathway infrastructure

### WE SAY: Rural solutions must be flexible

Accommodating both amenities has been envisioned since the topic was seriously explored with a Capital Regional District study in 2013. It appeared that improvements were on the horizon with repaving of the area announced by MoTI in 2019. But survey work done since then has made it clear that islanders will have to accept a less an optimal solution to improve an unacceptably dangerous route for cyclists and pedestrians.

In this case, any amount of shoulder beyond the status quo is better than what exists now. To try to force a much more difficult project would likely not be worth the extra effort, time and costs.

As Salt Spring's CRD director Gary Holman pointed out at the SSTC meeting, it does not seem unreasonable to improve the situation for cyclists and pedestrians by creating as wide a shoulder as possible where that can be done, but to accept narrower widths at inevitable pinch points.

Allowing for more "rural" standards in road design and classification is one of the tenets of a road standards agreement first signed by MoTI and the Islands Trust in 1992. For safety purposes islanders should expect the best-possible infrastructure and improvements from the ministry, of course. But if that's not as easy to achieve as it is in other B.C. communities, then we may have to be satisfied with what island topography and budgets allow.



## Nature needs investment

SUBMITTED BY NATURE  
 CONSERVANCY OF CANADA

Canadians have turned to nature in significant numbers to help them cope with the impacts of COVID-19.

A new Ipsos poll, conducted for the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), reveals 94 per cent of people credit time spent in nature with helping them to relieve the stress and anxiety of the pandemic's second wave. The trend is especially prevalent among women and young families. More than 85 per cent of people surveyed say access to nature has been important to maintaining their mental health and three in four Canadians say time spent outdoors is more important to them now than ever before.

From backyard birds and pollinators, to increased use of trails and parks, anecdotally, Canadians report a greater awareness of nature in their lives since the pandemic began. The survey is one of the first to try to measure that impact. It reinforces that nature and health are inextricably linked. Clean air, clean water and healthy foods all come from nature.

### VIEWPOINT

At a time when health is a top priority for Canadians, nine in ten surveyed say we need to invest more to restore and care for the natural areas that sustain us all. By taking care of nature we take care of each other.

### Clean air, clean water and healthy foods all come from nature.

The survey coincides with the conclusion of the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Landmark Campaign, which was the boldest fundraising drive for nature ever in Canada. The Landmark Campaign mobilized thousands of people who took nature conservation into their own hands and gave to protect the lands and waters that sustain us all. With more than \$750 million raised, an additional 115,000 square kilometres has been conserved — an area more than three and a half times the size of Vancouver Island.

The campaign protected habitat for 130 species at risk, seven of which are found nowhere else in the world.

Gifts to the campaign came from every corner of the country, along with contributions from corporations and governments of every political stripe. In fact, 94 per cent of Canadians live within 100 kilometres of a Landmark Campaign project. But donations were also received from people in 40 different nations worldwide, underscoring the global significance of conserving Canada's lands, waters, plants and animals.

The Landmark Campaign strengthened Canada's collective commitment to nature. But with all major habitat types still in decline, combined with the impacts of a global pandemic and climate change, the Nature Conservancy of Canada is committed to building upon that momentum. When conservation becomes a way of life, it benefits us all.

*The Nature Conservancy of Canada has contributed to land preservation campaigns on Salt Spring Island.*

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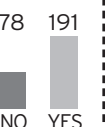
### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

**Are you concerned about COVID-19 vaccine roll-out being stalled?**

Yes  No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

**Do you support an inter-provincial travel ban?**



Cast your ballot online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) before Monday 2 p.m. or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 2 p.m.

# OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

**“We should have been more prepared, and we weren’t. The CRD got caught off guard.”**

SALT SPRING CRD DIRECTOR GARY HOLMA ON PATH ISSUES

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**WE ASKED:** *What shows or movies are you enjoying streaming right now?*

**ELAINE BEATTIE**



“I’ve been watching *The Crown* and enjoying that a lot.

**SHAUN PEJIC**



I’d recommend *The Queen’s Gambit*.

**JEN MAY**



I’ve been watching the original *Sleeping Beauty* and *Cinderella* with my eight-year-old daughter.

**PAMI SIRA**



*The Dig* with Ralph Fiennes and Carey Mulligan. It’s absolutely fantastic.

**LUCIE BALDWIN**



I’m consistently watching *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.

## 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](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

### Ever-growing scourge

Kit Lewis certainly merits recognition for her work as path clean-up volunteer (Jan. 20 Driftwood article).

She’s right to be horrified by plastic debris. When she was a young woman, plastic barely existed. Now we’re “drowning in it,” as Kit says. Plastic garbage kills animals, including whales and dolphins, seals and sea lions, sea turtles and sea birds. Particles of plastic lace soils, lakes and the air.

According to a National Geographic article, only nine per cent of plastic is recycled. It’s cheaper and easier to manufacture new plastic. Even when recycled, plastic ratchets down to landfill or the ocean, since the substance can be re-used only two or three times. But it remains in the environment tens of thousands of years.

It’s discouraging to read that

the production of plastic packaging is booming and set to increase. Reliance on single-use plastic has increased 250 to 300 per cent during the pandemic, according to the International Solid Waste Association. Currently a large petrochemical company is constructing a \$4-billion complex in Alberta, with the contribution of \$49 million from the federal government. This plant will use fossil fuel to manufacture polypropylene — the kind of plastic in single-use water bottles — which litter roadsides, oceans and beaches around the world. It’s also used in baby bottles and lunchboxes. The U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization warns that the tiniest microplastics leaching from this type of container could enter the bloodstream and organs through the digestive tract.

Plastic harms the biosphere and life within it. It is past time to direct our attention and resources to end this ever-

growing scourge and develop safe materials to replace what is surely toxic. At a minimum, on this island, let’s reduce plastic use where possible, recycle and stop littering.

**WENDY HILLIARD,**  
MEYER ROAD

### Put aside FSA tests

I am writing on behalf of the Gulf Islands Teachers’ Association about the government’s decision to direct school districts to administer the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) tests to our grades 4 and 7 students this year.

We are concerned that this directive is pressuring parents to have their children undergo this assessment. For many years we have been concerned about a number of issues with the FSAs.

Some of the recommen-

dations the British Columbia Teachers’ Federation has advocated are that if the tests are administered, that they be administered on a random selection basis and that we no longer allow the results to be misused by the Fraser Institute to rank schools.

The administration of FSAs in this district takes away from teaching time and supports for our students. Unfortunately, too, the tests are not aligned with the curriculum and do not give us accurate, useful assessment information.

Particularly in this year, in the midst of a global pandemic, we are concerned that this is not in keeping with trauma-informed principles and practice. Students are stressed, families are stressed, and we do not need this extra burden.

**IAN MITCHELL,**  
PRESIDENT, GULF ISLANDS TEACHERS’ ASSOCIATION

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 6

## Governor General job potential excites scribe

To Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Dear Your Grace,

I’m not entirely certain of the protocol, but the country apparently needs a new Governor General after the last one turned toxic and I’d like to apply for the vacancy.

I have all the right credentials, I’ve been Canadian for well over six months, don’t have a proper job and am a peerless hobnobber. I’ve even got a full set of teeth now and so won’t frighten the children when I graciously exercise my Governor General smiles. I also own a tie with the Canadian flag on it.

And let’s face it, the outgoing GG wasn’t exactly an overwhelming success despite being an astronaut. I’ve never been an astronaut and consequently would probably make a better fist of the job, having spent my entire life on actual Earth. I’m also moderately pleasant, which is apparently not a description that springs to mind when considering Ms. Julie Payette, who seems to have had a knack for rubbing people up the wrong way, to put it mildly. I can’t imagine how THAT played out in the close confines of a spaceship, but I’d be an excellent employer and, provided I got my morning coffee and coconut cream biscuits, wouldn’t bother the staff unduly.

I know that Ms. Payette was on a basic wage of \$450,000, which is \$8,500 a week plus expenses. I’ll do it for half that and also save you the salary of a chauffeur because Mrs. McE, bless her, will drive me to engagements to make sure I haven’t got food stains on my ceremonial cardigan.

Also, I’m quite keen to see more of Canada and instead of moving into the government mansion in Ottawa would travel by state Winnebago, waving regally from behind glass as I move



**Paul McElroy**  
+ ANOTHER THING

sedately from coast to coast. Secondly, Rideau Hall seems overly large and Mrs. McE would struggle with the dusting and polishing given her knees, while mowing the 80-odd acres of garden wouldn’t leave her much time to accompany me on official duties.

It is true that my French isn’t up to much, but I do have a proper French daughter-in-law who lives in actual France, which ought to go some way to qualifying me as bilingual. Besides, I’d keep the French to a minimal “Félicitations” and “Bienvenue au Canada,” which is as much conversation as anyone needs with foreign dignitaries or when handing out awards.

As to my other qualifications for the job, your Grace, I have at various times been chairman (or chairperson if you prefer, although chairman does illustrate that I am unlikely to be another abrasive lady astronaut), secretary and treasurer of my neighbourhood improvement district, which is not a prerequisite many can boast of and demonstrates a high degree of management skills and social involvement. I don’t know what brought Ms. Payette to your attention, but I’m prepared to bet her CV did NOT include unstinting service to the Mount Belcher Improvement District. That service, I hesitate to point out, should have earned me at least the Order of Canada, but has so far gone unrecognized.

Like most Canadians I’m not entirely sure what a Governor General actually

does, but I do know they are de jure Queen of Canada and therefore spend a great deal of their time, like Her Actual Majesty, opening fêtes and eating at banquets. Eating is my specialty, and I don’t drink so I am unlikely to let the side down by inappropriately propositioning Mrs. Trudeau or the Duchess of Cambridge.

I may have also read somewhere that only the GG can declare war on Canada’s enemies, which I can assure you is unlikely to happen on my watch, however tempted I might be to take out our neighbours to the south. Ms. Payette seems to have been a dab hand at declaring war, mostly with the hapless members of her staff.

One other thing. Because I live on Salt Spring, a small island on the periphery of your domain and mostly run by hippies and the Green party, I’ve not actually worn or even owned a suit for many years. Or shoes for that matter since gum boots are de rigueur, so unless you are content for me to preside over the opening of parliament in dungarees and a bobble hat I would likely require a clothing allowance. Nothing fancy because as stated earlier, I do have a Canadian tie and would be happy with any suit NOT thrown together by Don Cherry’s tailor.

And finally, I am available for banquets most evenings now that my line dancing classes have fallen to COVID, but I’m not available between 9:30 and 11 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, which are my Aquafit days. Also, I’d be grateful if we could avoid any Tuesday, which is 10 per cent off day at my local grocery store.

I remain, Your Humble Servant,  
Paul McElroy, Esq.

P.S. Does the job come with a COVID vaccine? Because I fully intend to be around long enough to pick up my \$140,000 per annum pension for life.

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

## Not much changes in four years

I recently came across your paper of Jan. 27, 2016 and read with interest the articles you published in that edition. I observed how few things have changed since then, apart from COVID-19.

The following is a list of some of those articles:

- Rainy weather caused road wash-outs;
  - Ganges boardwalk still being discussed;
  - SSITC revisits recommendations to lower speed limits;
  - Ferry woes;
  - Inter-island trail and foot passenger vessel options still being explored;
  - New report of Salish Sea health;
  - RCMP Sergeant George Jenkins stated in his farewell interview that by far the most challenging aspect of working on Salt Spring was responding to situations involving people with mental illness;
  - And roses to the person returning a change purse full of money!
- Perhaps the article I found most endearing was a Wit & Whimsy column written by the late Arthur Black

titled, "It's happy days, people!" He starts by writing, "You made it! The saddest Day of the Year is behind us and look at you, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, ready to take on all comers!"

Arthur goes on to explain that experts have determined that the third Monday in January is officially Ground Zero in the calendar year.

I can't help wondering what he would write now to encourage us in this changed world. Is there someone there who can match Arthur's "Wit & Whimsy?"

**DIANA SYMONS,**  
SALT SPRING

## Letter-writer's forestry GHG figures not accurate

While reading Briony Penn's "Strengthen Bill C-12" letter in last week's Driftwood, I was surprised to see her claim that 50 per cent of B.C. greenhouse gas emissions (CO2) were attributed to forestry-related activities.

Deciding to do some research of my own, I referred to the B.C. Ministry of Environment website. What I found was a very different set of numbers to what Ms. Penn is peddling.

CO2 emissions are defined by five different sectors: afforestation and deforestation, agriculture, energy, industrial processes and produce use, and waste. The graphs and numbers reflect the years 1990 to 2017, and were updated in 2019. The graph shows agriculture as the lowest emitter per millions of tonnes of CO2 equivalent at two, followed by afforestation and deforestation at 4 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent. Industrial processes and product use follow at 10 million tonnes, followed by waste, producing approximately 14 million tonnes. The largest CO2 emitter in the province is energy, coming in at a whopping 65 million tonnes CO2 equivalent in 2017. The energy sector is grouped into three main subsectors: transport, such as road vehicles, marine and jet engines.

The graph also shows that as the provincial gross domestic product has risen steadily, along with population growth, greenhouse gas emissions were highest through the years 2000 to 2002, and have actually declined slightly up to 2017. CO2 emissions per unit of GDP have dropped provincially from approximately 450 tonnes emitted in 1990 to 250 tonnes in 2017.

Ms. Penn's letter does not reflect fact. According to Ministry of Environment statistics, forestry-related activities produce approximately six per cent of the total CO2 emissions in B.C., not 50 per cent as reported by Ms. Penn. Her letter does not fairly contribute good community dialogue surrounding the island's forestry issues.

**KEN BYRON,**  
SALT SPRING

## Read Canadian

While I am thrilled that memories of favourite children's books were the topic of last week's Salt Spring Says, I am also dismayed that none of the books mentioned are Canadian.

In addition to Family Literacy Week, the Canadian Children's Book Cen-

tre, literacy organizations, libraries, authors and illustrators across Canada are helping to bring more awareness to Canadian children's literature.

And we don't have to look far to find amazing, high-quality books. Several award-winning creators of Canadian children's books live right here on Salt Spring Island. Mike Deas has illustrated more than 20 books for companies such as Scholastic, Disney and other top (often American) publishers.

Aidan Cassie's books include several award-winning titles and receive rave reviews both in the U.S. and in Canada. Kim Woolcock has a new nonfiction book coming out this spring with Orca Book Publishers.

Lavonne Leong, who serves on our local library board, is an award-winning writer and editor, with a doctorate from Oxford University. Her children's book *Up in the Hawaiian Sky* was named one of the best multicultural books by New York-based Center for the Study of Multicultural Children's Literature.

And which Salt Springer doesn't know Sarah Grindler, who has written and illustrated several gorgeous books for children. My own 40 titles for children include many award-winning books and have been translated into many languages.

On Wednesday, Feb. 17 Canada will be celebrating I Read Canadian Day. Salt Spring Books will be showcasing (and selling) our books. The Salt Spring Public Library will feature a display of our own, locally produced books for young readers.

Please support local authors and illustrators, and, especially in these difficult times, support Canadian books for children.

For more details, visit the <https://ireadcanadian.com/day/> website.

**MARGRIET RUURS,**  
SALT SPRING

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 7



### NOTICE OF NOMINATION SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TWO TRUSTEES

Notice is hereby given to the owners of land within the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District that nominations for two trustees will be received between:

**9:00 A.M. 5th February 2021  
and 4:00 P.M. 19th February 2021**

In which period the nomination documents shall only be received during the office hours of Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the Ganges Fire Hall, 105 Lower Ganges Road, or arrangements may be made to file nomination documents by phoning Anthony Kennedy, Returning Officer at (250) 537-8815.

One trustee position is to fill a vacancy for the balance of a term of office ending at the close of the Annual General Meeting held in 2022; and one trustee position to fill a vacancy for the balance of a term of office ending at the close of the Annual General Meeting held in 2021. The length of terms for those elected will be determined according to the number of votes received with the higher receiving the longer term.

The Election will be held exclusively by mail-in ballot. Ballots will be mailed to registered voters or may be obtained from the office of the Ganges Fire Hall beginning on Monday, 8 March 2021. Ballots will be received by mail or delivered in person addressed to the Returning Officer at the Ganges Fire Hall during office hours. Election results will be announced at the first regular meeting of the Board of Trustees following the March 19, 2021 General Voting day.

Candidates shall be nominated by two duly qualified electors of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District. Nomination forms may be obtained at the Ganges Fire Hall or from Anthony A. Kennedy, Returning Officer (250) 537-8815

Those persons eligible to vote at this election will have the following qualifications:

1. Be a Canadian Citizen
2. Be eighteen years of age or older
3. Be a resident in the Province of British Columbia for at least six months prior to this election
4. Be an owner of land within the boundaries of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District
5. One vote is also allowed for each board or corporation that owns land within the Fire Protection District. The Board or Corporation must designate one person in writing to act as an authorized agent to vote on its behalf.

If more than one person is registered on title as owner of land then those owners may vote providing they meet the qualifications set out above. Such persons must be listed on the register of eligible voters or present documents indicating their ownership. No persons may vote more than once with the exception that they may vote as an authorized agent and personally if they own land on a personal basis.

Dated at Ganges, B.C.  
This 18th January 2021

Anthony A. Kennedy  
Returning Officer



Islands Trust

### Two New Priorities for Salt Spring Island

**The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee** (the local government land use planning authority) recently approved two projects: 1) developing a Ganges Village Local Area Plan and 2) developing an island-wide Housing Action Program. Both projects will provide a holistic approach to examine and address issues impacting the social, economic, cultural and environmental sustainability of Salt Spring Island.

**The immediate action for each project** is forming a task force composed of a diverse group of people to help guide the projects. If you are passionate about planning the future of Ganges Village, or addressing issues relevant to housing, and, if you believe you have relevant expertise, experience and time to contribute, we invite you to submit an application for consideration.



**For more information**, please visit the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee Projects webpage or contact staff.

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/salt-spring/projects-initiatives/>

PHONE: 250-538-9144

EMAIL: [ssiinfo@islandstrustbc.ca](mailto:ssiinfo@islandstrustbc.ca)

# Waterbird decline observed in local waters

BY JOHN AND HEATHER NEVILLE

The marine habitat degradation at Burgoyne Bay (Xwaaqw'um) was featured in the Driftwood last week.

There is a recent research paper documenting the decline of waterbirds in the Salish Sea done by Birds Canada, accessible at <http://www.ace-eco.org/vol15/iss2/art20/> and illustrated in the accompanying graphic on this page.

We have been the surveyors for the BC Coastal Waterbird Survey for Burgoyne Bay for the last 20 years. We have watched and recorded the steady deterioration of the habitat. The sunken boats, damaged and beached houseboats, beached floating barges and discharge of raw sewage and pollutants in Burgoyne Bay are negatively impacting all the sea life. Burgoyne Bay is the estuary of two productive salmon and trout-bearing creeks.

Please support the cleanup and protection of the Burgoyne Bay (Xwaaqw'um) by contacting BC Parks' area supervisor Sarah Joannis at [Sarah.Joannis@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sarah.Joannis@gov.bc.ca).

Islands trustee Peter Grove ([pgrove@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:pgrove@islandstrust.bc.ca)), Joe Akerman, Stqeye' Learning Society ([akermanjoe@hotmail.com](mailto:akermanjoe@hotmail.com)) and John Roe of the Dead Boats Disposal Society (250-383-2086). Please also report pollution and impacts at the following two phone numbers: Canadian Coast Guard Regional Operations Centre 24/7 Marine Pollution Hotline: Reporting any boat incident, whether it's abandoned, a live-aboard, sinking, polluting or hazardous - 1-800-889-8852. Report fisheries violations and damage to fish habitat and pollution at 1-800-465-4336.

Letter writers are reminded that a name and phone number must be provided with all letters submitted to the Driftwood in order for them to be published.

## BIRDS INDICATE GREATER ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURES IN SALISH SEA

20 years of British Columbia Coastal Waterbird Surveys (1999-2019) reveal major trend differences between the overwintering bird communities on our inner and outer coasts, including globally important populations of 22 species.

1600 volunteers  
50,000 hours  
326 survey routes

**LEGEND**  
Outer Coast  
Salish Sea

**KEY TRENDS**

- Six of seven migration and feeding guilds are significantly declining in the Salish Sea
- Many benthivores, birds that feed on prey at the bottom of the Salish Sea, are declining rapidly.
- In contrast, most bird populations are stable or increasing on the Outer Coast.

12/50 species declining in Salish Sea  
3/37 species declining on Outer Coast

**POSSIBLE CAUSES**  
Pollutants, Dredging, Fishing, Shipping activity, Climate change

**Why is this happening?**  
Birds living in the Salish Sea are exposed to stronger human-caused pressures than those along the outer Pacific coast. Collaboration and further research is needed to fully understand how these pressures affect waterbird abundance and how government can take action to protect the habitat required by coastal waterbirds.

Ethier, D., P. Davidson, G. H. Sorenson, K. L. Barry, K. Devitt, C. B. Jardine, D. Lepage, and D. W. Bradley. 2020. Twenty years of coastal waterbird trends suggest regional patterns of environmental pressure in British Columbia, Canada. *Avian Conservation and Ecology* 15(2):20. <https://doi.org/10.5751/ACE-01711-150220>

Please support the cleanup and protection of the Burgoyne Bay (Xwaaqw'um) by contacting BC Parks' area supervisor Sarah Joannis at [Sarah.Joannis@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sarah.Joannis@gov.bc.ca).

Islands trustee Peter Grove ([pgrove@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:pgrove@islandstrust.bc.ca)), Joe Akerman, Stqeye' Learning Society ([akermanjoe@hotmail.com](mailto:akermanjoe@hotmail.com)) and John Roe of the Dead Boats Disposal Society (250-383-2086).

## Path work mysteries

I have studied the site along the new Baker to Booth Canal pathway discussed in last week's "Risky trees along path route" story.

I see that there are lots of trees down. Some are cut down for obvious reasons, but the wood beside a very large arbutus is rock hard and has no rot whatsoever.

Any tree is potentially dangerous, as any tree can have water around its roots and become unstable. However, there was no particular reason to remove that particular tree. To see one tree featured in last week's article, when actually the others are already down, does not tell the whole story.

However, the project is also concerning because there is an excavator digging at the foot of many graves. By "at the foot" I mean that the graves come right up to the fence line and so does the excavator. Anyone can go have a look for themselves.

JENNY MCCLEAN,  
SALT SPRING

## Notice of request for authorization to take possession of a vessel under section 38 of the Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act

A VESSEL - W2021-501808 - White Sail boat located at Hope Bay, Pender Island, CRD Wharf, British Columbia, Canada, is currently considered to be Wrecked, Abandoned, Sunk.  
A Vessel - W2017-500456 - 30 Rust/blue/white Steel barge, wood building located at Fulford Harbour, Salt Spring Island, British Columbia

The Minister of Transport may authorize, The Dead Boat Disposal Society, to take possession of the vessel if the owner(s) does not contact Transport Canada to demonstrate ownership and take concrete measures to address this vessel within 30 days after the day on which the notice was given.

If you are the owner(s) of this vessel or if you have any information about the owner(s), it is important that you contact, Transport Canada's Navigation Protection Program at: 604-775-8867 or [nppac-ppnac@tc.gc.ca](mailto:nppac-ppnac@tc.gc.ca) and reference file number

# WE'RE MOVING!

Effective March 1 we are relocating to:  
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[driftwood@driftwoodgimedia.com](mailto:driftwood@driftwoodgimedia.com)  
[www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

# Salute to Salt Spring Search and Rescue Society

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• 166 Rainbow Rd  
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**JASON GRINDLER**  
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Team Leader  
19 YEARS OF SERVICE

**ALAN BIBBY**  
Team Leader  
17 YEARS OF SERVICE

**TERRY BIEMAN**  
Team Leader  
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**JAMES WOOD**  
Team Leader  
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**SHASTA COFFEY**  
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Thank You to our Dedicated Community Volunteers!

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A HEARTFELT THANK-YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND SERVICE.

Elizabeth May M.P.

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SERIES

# Money Matters

Hire a pro and make your money grow!



## TAXES & BENEFITS

# COVID-19 benefits in the mix

Recipients advised to get informed

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) is offering tips to ensure Canadians receive all the benefits and credits to which they are entitled in a timely manner, especially with the COVID-19 pandemic affecting some people's financial lives.

The CRA's Get Ready page has information on online filing, deadlines and other helpful links related to income tax matters.



### How COVID-19 Benefits Affect Your Return

If you received the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB), Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB), Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB), or Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB) payments, these are considered taxable income, and you will have to enter on your return the total of the amounts you received. You will receive a T4A (for benefits issued by the CRA) and/or a T4E (for benefits issued by Service Canada) tax slip in the mail with the information you need for your return. You can view tax slips online as of February in My Account.

In addition, you may owe tax when filing your return. This will depend on your personal circumstances, and the type of COVID-19 benefits you received:

- If you received the CERB or CESB, no tax was withheld when payments

were issued, and you may owe tax when filing your 2020 tax return.

- If you received the CRB, CRSB, or CRCB, 10 per cent tax was withheld at source. However, this may not be all the tax you need to pay. When you complete your personal income tax return, you may need to pay more (or less), depending on how much income you earned in 2020.

The CRA states that repaying these benefits could present significant financial hardship for some individuals. For this reason, payment arrangement parameters have been expanded to give Canadians more time and flexibility to repay based on their individual financial situations.

### How To Register for My Account

To register for My Account, go to [canada.ca/my-cra-account](http://canada.ca/my-cra-account) and select "CRA register."

You will need to provide:

- your social insurance number
- your date of birth
- your current postal or zip code

such as your pension providers or financial institutions. If you've lost a slip or haven't received one, ask your employer/payer for it.

For COVID-19 benefits recipients, you will receive a T4A (for benefits issued by the CRA) and/or a T4E (for benefits issued by Service Canada) tax slip in the mail with the information to enter on your return.

Registering for My Account may give you access to copies of your tax slips online. My Account will also give you access to use Auto-fill my Return, which quickly fills in parts of your return with the information the CRA has on file, including the tax slips for your COVID-19 emergency benefits.

If you're still missing information, you can use pay stubs and statements to estimate the amount of income to use when completing your income tax and benefit return. To avoid penalties and interest, file your return by the due date.

- an amount you entered on your income tax and benefit return (the amount requested changes, and it could be from the current tax year or the previous one).

If you previously registered for My Account to apply for COVID-19 benefits, you are encouraged to enter the security code you received in the mail to access all of My Account's features.

### Where Do You Get Your Tax Slips?

Tax slips for the filing year are prepared by your employer or from other payers,

## RETIREMENT PLANNING

# Strategies offered for retirement readiness

Consult with financial advisors

Professionals on the cusp of retirement are often excited about what lies ahead. Some prospective retirees may look forward to traveling once they no longer have to go to work each day, while others may plan to return to school. Regardless of how adults envision spending their retirement, they're going to need money when they're no longer being paid by their employers.

As retirement nears, some professionals may be concerned that they haven't saved enough. There's no one-size-fits-all answer in regard to how much money people will need in retirement. People who are worried they haven't saved enough can try various strategies to build up their account balances before they officially call it a career.

- Take advantage of catch-up RRSP contributions. There are limits that govern the amount of money people can contribute to their RRSP, but taking advantage of unused contribution room is a good idea.

- Consider relocating. A recent study from the Employee Benefit Research Institute found that housing costs accounted for 49 per cent of seniors' spending. Professionals nearing retirement who live in areas traditionally associated with a high cost of living can begin to rethink their long-term housing strategy. Relocating to an area with a lower cost of living is one option, while those who prefer to remain in their current town or city can consider downsizing to a smaller home to reduce their property taxes and monthly utility bills.

- Continue investing. Conventional wisdom suggests moving away from investing in stocks the closer you get to retirement. Though that's a sound strategy, professionals who are trying to build their retirement savings in the final years before retiring could be missing out on significant growth by abandoning stocks entirely. Speak with a financial advisor about stock-based investments and your risk tolerance. Maintaining a diversified portfolio with a little risk can be a great way to grow your savings as retirement draws near.

Professionals approaching retirement may be dealing with a mix of excitement and anxiety, particularly if they're concerned about their retirement savings. Various strategies can help quell such anxiety and make it easier for professionals over 50 to build their savings as retirement nears.

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# ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT



## GETAWAYS

# Legion offers tropical 'staycation' escapes

Hawaiian and Chinese New Year themes next up

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Islanders who are missing their usual winter escape to a warmer locale can find a little taste of what they crave this month in a "staycation" at the Salt Spring branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic means few people will be hopping on planes, and new rules announced by the federal government last week will make it increasingly difficult to do so. Fortunately there is a way to do the right thing while supporting a local organization and to alleviate winter blues all at the same time: the Legion's staycation brings diners to a different tropical paradise every week.

Offered Thursday through Saturday nights, the specialty kitchen and drink menus are not the only draw. Members and guests are invited to immerse themselves in the staycation vibe by getting photographed in a tropical set-up on the Legion's stage.

"I think we can all agree the past year has been incredibly challenging for everyone with all the new rules, restrictions, and the very real threat of illness around us," said the Legion's entertainment coordinator Angela Sandberg in a message to the membership. "It has been a contemplative time for many of



PHOTO BY BILLIE WOODS PHOTOGRAPHY

Legion entertainment coordinator Angela Sandberg, left, and Laurel McRae wear rastacaps and hold Jamaican beer bottles for their Staycation photo on Friday night.

us learning new ways to do old things and learning to live without the close comfort of our friends and family around while we do our best to keep those around us safe and healthy."

Going without winter is travel has been especially hard on community members who appreciate the

heat. Organizers say their light-hearted response to the situation has been a hit with guests and staff alike.

"We're all having a lot of fun with it . . . We need the laughs," said Legion president Tom Woods.

Mexican and Caribbean nights helped warm attitudes along with bellies at the end of January. Featured menu items included fish tacos, jerk chicken and Caribbean beef curry. Desserts such as Jamaican rum cake and Mexican chocolate cream pie are some of the mouth-watering creations devised so far.

Coming up this weekend there is a Hawaiian menu with dishes such as pineapple shrimp, Kalua smoked pork and Kona coffee mousse. A Chinese New Year inspired feast runs Feb. 11-13, and following that the culinary journey heads to Louisiana to celebrate Mardi Gras with Cajun chicken, beignets and jambalaya. A Southeast Asia theme is also planned with fried bananas and ice cream along with pad thai and satays.

Dinner service is from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights with discounted prices for Legion members. Memberships are available.

The Legion says it is committed to keeping members, guests and staff as safe as possible and that COVID-19 protocols are carefully followed.

"We are incredibly grateful to our community, staff and volunteers during this time for their support in helping keep our doors open and the drinks flowing," Sandberg said.

## LITERARY EVENTS

# Tater guests Poetry Open Mic

Regional fiction contest also on the calendar

On Thursday, Feb. 4, the Salt Spring Island Public Library will host a Zoom Poetry Open Mic with featured poet Mallory Tater.

The evening begins at 7 p.m.

Tater is the author of the 2018 poetry collection *This Will Be Good* (Book\*Hug Press) and the 2020 novel called *The Birth Yard* (HarperCollins Canada). Tater was the recipient of CV2's 2016 Young Buck Poetry Prize and is the publisher of *Rahila's Ghost Press*, a poetry chapbook press. She currently teaches fiction at the University of British Columbia and the University of Victoria. Tater lives in Vancouver with her husband and fellow writer Curtis LeBlanc.

People wanting to read a poem should join the meeting to sign up at 6:45 p.m.

See the library website at <https://saltspring.bc.libraries.coop> to get the Zoom link.

## Fiction Contest

In other upcoming events, writers of all ages and experience levels have until March 31 to send their submissions to the 2021 Islands Short Fiction Contest.

Winners of the contest, hosted by the Nanaimo Arts Council, will share \$2,200 in cash and prizes in three categories: junior (under 12s), youth (13-18), and adult (19 and above).

The organizers report this year's contest places particular emphasis on supporting young people through encouragement and mentoring.

"Writing can have strong benefits, and studies show that even 40 minutes of cre-



PHOTO COURTESY MALLORY TATER

Vancouver-based poet Mallory Tater, who appears as the featured artist at the Feb. 4 Open Poetry Mic.

ative writing a day for two weeks can increase personal well-being," the arts council states.

Professional writers and librarians will judge the entries. Winning submissions, subject to their author's permission, will be published on the Islands Short Fiction Contest website at [isfc.ca](http://isfc.ca). Every junior and youth participant will receive a certificate of achievement for successfully completing their story. An online awards ceremony will be held on May 1.

See [nanaimoartscouncil.ca](http://nanaimoartscouncil.ca) for contest rules and submission procedures.

## Have your Say!

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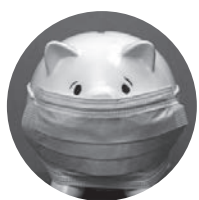
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# ISLAND LIFE

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

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## EMERGENCY SERVICES

# Search & rescue group works through pandemic

Volunteer group faces challenges but keeps growing during COVID-19 period

BY CHRIS ROWTHORN

SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

The COVID-19 pandemic presents unique challenges to first responders and Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue (SSI SAR) is no exception.

The team has worked hard since the earliest days of the pandemic to adapt their procedures, training techniques, and rescue methods to this new situation.

As you might expect, the first concern for the team was personal protective equipment.

"We were fortunate enough to have a good stockpile of personal protective equipment (PPE)," said SSI SAR president Jason Grindler. "The only thing we were missing was face shields."

Fortunately, the island stepped up.

"A local group of 3D printers created and 3D-printed some reusable face shields," Grindler said.

In addition, another Salt Spring business stepped in to produce another much-needed product.

"The local distillery, Salt Spring Shine, was very generous in terms of donating some hand sanitizer," he noted.

With PPE and sanitizer in place, the team was ready to establish protocols to use them effectively to keep members and subjects safe.

"Over the time that COVID has developed, we've had to institute a screening program every time we get together," said SSI SAR training manager Zeke Blazecka. "We sanitize ourselves, the equipment, the vehicles, things that we never did before. It's not complicated, but I suppose it slows down our response time a bit. But it's necessary."

Grindler was extremely well situated to help establish new safety procedures, since he works as a BC Ambulance Service paramedic, which provided rich information on best practices.

"Being able to take some of that information and tailor it to a ground search perspective was very helpful in terms of not reinventing the wheel," he said. "Using best medical practices from an organization that does 500,000 medical calls a year in the province of B.C. was really helpful."

Early in the pandemic, Grindler teamed up with SSI SAR members Mike Cotton and Alan Bibby to produce a short video on the proper procedure for donning and doffing PPE, which is vitally important when dealing with a potentially COVID-positive subject. In addition to island members, the video was widely viewed by other provincial SAR teams and even mentioned in one of the provincial SAR safety committee bulletins.

A big part of SAR involves training new members and keeping skills current for existing members. The team adopted mandatory mask use early on and continued to train in person, usually outside, until provincial health regulations put a stop to such meetings. Following that, the team did what half the world seems to have done: moved to video conferencing. Like everyone else in this brave new digital world, the team encountered the usual problems of holding meetings online.

"Video conferencing, while it can be beneficial, has lots of downsides," Grindler said. "It's really challenging to make sure everyone feels involved and engaged. So we've switched to smaller meetings, starting with big general meetings, then moving to smaller six-person meetings."

Amazingly, despite the pandemic, SSI SAR was able to train a new group of five members last year and is set to graduate another group this year.

"Our organization is getting stronger," Blazecka said. "We've never had as many members as this in the 12 years that I've been involved. People really want to contribute to society."

But what about the actual work of search and rescue teams: finding lost people? The experience of SSI SAR sheds some interesting light on the pandemic and how Salt Spring has fared. While most search and rescue teams in the province have become busier, there have been few on-island searches.

Grindler observes: "Interestingly



PHOTOS BY ALAN BIBBY

Salt Spring Search & Rescue members during a survival weekend training session last summer. The group has since moved all training to virtual formats but looks forward to the day when in-person training can resume.

enough, we're one of the few groups in the province that actually had a decrease in the number of incidents in 2020. Most SAR groups saw an exponential increase in calls, and that was a result of more people going into the wilderness to escape the COVID doldrums. And that resulted in a significant increase in the number of rescues. And that trend continues."

**"Our organization is getting stronger . . . People really want to contribute to society."**

JASON GRINDLER  
President, SSI SAR

SSI SAR often joins search and rescue groups on Vancouver Island and in other parts of the province to offer "mutual aid" on searches requiring larger teams. While there have been only two on-island searches since the start of the pandemic, local members have gone off island to participate in six mutual aid missions.

"We had a mutual aid call to assist the Saanich Peninsula Emergency Measures

Organization and we had 12 people out. We've never had 12 people out on a single day for a mutual aid call before," said Blazecka.

Of course, like everyone else, members of SSI SAR are eager for a return to normalcy, when they can meet their teammates and work together to hone their skills.

"As soon as we are able to train in person again, it's going to make a huge difference to how we can maintain all our competencies," Grindler said. "It's the hands-on group training that makes all the difference."

Being intimately involved with health issues through his work with both BC Ambulance and Salt Spring Search and Rescue, Grindler is keenly aware of the deep and potentially long-term effects of the pandemic.

"We're all kind of going through this in very similar but different ways. When we can come together and have a debriefing, then we can get back and speak about our experiences and find a way to move forward and learn all the amazing lessons that we've learned throughout the pandemic. We can get stronger from this and focus on all positives and all the lessons learned. And support for each other is a huge part of this."

The writer is a member of SSI SAR.

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## Advertising Deadlines Change

Please note that the  
Gulf Islands Driftwood office  
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Monday, Feb. 15 - Family Day  
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Deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood  
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will be as follows:

Display Advertising deadline:  
Wednesday, Feb. 10, noon

Classified Display Deadline:  
Wednesday, Feb. 10, noon

Classified Word Deadline:  
Wednesday, Feb. 10, noon

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# Remember **WHEN**

News from this week in history published by the Driftwood.

## Five years ago

• Islanders were grieving the sudden death of Arvid Chalmers. The well-known realtor, comedian and bon vivant had suffered a fatal heart attack while performing at a venue near his winter home in Melaque, Mexico on Jan. 29, 2016. "It's one of those things that's hard to believe," said Chalmers' frequent comedy partner Sid Filkow. "It's a shock. He was an icon. He was a big presence on the island. He was larger than life."

## Ten years ago

• Around 25 islanders gathered in downtown Ganges on a Saturday afternoon to oppose Phase 3 of the Creek House development, which they felt would destroy the town's "quaint and funky vibe." A new section of the commercial complex was set to displace four small shops located across the street from Gasoline Alley on Fulford-Ganges Road.

## Twenty years ago

• The Nature Trust of British Columbia secured purchase of a Texada Land Corporation parcel offering a prime piece of Canada's largest Garry oak woodland meadow. The 32-hectare area abutting the Mount Maxwell ecological reserve was purchased for \$465,000 and was funded by Forest Renewal BC's private forest biodiversity program. Texada principal Rob

Macdonald also announced the company would stop logging on all lands identified for possible purchase as national parkland, and a separate campaign by North Salt Spring Waterworks District hoped to acquire Texada lands in the Maxwell Lake watershed.

## Thirty years ago

• Architect Donovan Marshall presented the Gulf Islands Board of Education with siting options for a new secondary school on Rainbow Road. The school district was attempting to have plans ready by April to secure \$14 million in Ministry of Education funding, and was hoping the facility would be completed by September 1993. Increasing enrolment projections suggested the district would need to use nine portable classrooms by that date in order to accommodate students at the existing site.

## Forty years ago

• Boredom was determined to be a major factor in a recent rash of break-ins on Salt Spring and the subsequent arrest of 23 local youths. Probation officer Neil Pearce said teenagers were "bored silly" and noted, "During the winter months there is precious little for these kids to do of a constructive nature." RCMP Sgt. Mitch Hanks added lack of parental supervision, use of alcohol and lack of respect for other people's property as other leading contributors.

## Sixty years ago

• Nearly 400 people turned out to watch boxing at Fulford Hall, with a card that included boxers from Salt Spring, Vancouver, Victoria, Chemainus and Ladysmith, and army fighters from the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry. Salt Spring youth participants fought in categories from 65 pounds and up and won four of their matches.

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CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

# Lower Ganges tree work saddens residents

New policies in development

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Capital Regional District has managed to save one arbutus tree that was threatened by pathway construction work on Lower Ganges Road, but the loss of other

trees, including a second, larger arbutus, has upset some people who live in the area.

The new pathway runs past Pauline McDonald's property, and the second arbutus was situated on the right-of-way fronting her home. McDonald said she didn't know there were plans to take the tree down until she heard the chainsaws and went to investigate, and she's questioning why the CRD did not issue notice of that work.

"What infuriates me is there are only three occupants [affected], and they never had the decency to come and talk to me about it and tell me the tree was coming down," McDonald said.

"It would not have hindered the pathway at all. It makes me sad they would take this approach," she added. "I would have stood out in the road if I had known. You know, 'Save this tree.'"

Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman has said the tight timeline to meet a March 31 grant deadline has limited the CRD's ability to change course for this pathway. He does not believe the next pathway projects on the Salt Spring Transportation Commission's priority list will face the same issues with trees in the right-of-way, but he feels there is a need to review the framework going forward.

"We should have been more

prepared, and we weren't. The CRD got caught off guard," Holman said Friday.

As reported in the Driftwood last week, an arborist's report prepared for the Capital Regional District and pathway contractor Don Mann Excavating identified a number of trees located in the Lower Ganges Road right-of-way as needing to be removed.

Capital Tree Service Inc., which was contracted to prepare the report and to do the tree work, recommended removal of 12 trees and modification of one more due to health and structure concerns. Another 10 trees were identified as needing to go due to trail construction impacts. Most of the trees were Douglas firs.

The report recommends removal of both arbutus trees. The CRD worked with the contractor to find a way to work around a healthy arbutus near the cemetery on Baker Road, but the arborist found the arbutus closer to McDonald's property had extensive deadwood, die-back and decay.

Speaking to the issue at the Salt Spring Transportation Commission last week, CRD staff recognized trees as a highly contentious topic on Salt Spring. A tree removal policy is already in development following concerns related to community parks.

CRD engineer Allen Xu agrees with Holman that a policy on rural trail standards would be a good idea as well. He did not have much input on the pathway from Central because it was designed by the Stantec engineering company before he took up his position.

"We're talking about coming up with some design standards that are suitable for Salt Spring," Xu said last week.

Such standards could specify how pathways are constructed in densely treed areas, for example by determining how far the path bed is dug into the ground so that tree roots can be protected. Reducing the depth would also help save on gravel fill costs, Xu said.

portation commission toward future sidewalk construction as a condition of his rezoning in 2011. He made a delegation last August requesting the return of these funds, stating the only roadside improvement so far had been done by himself.

According to the letter Ogilvie submitted, he laid down aggregate and gravel to resolve an issue with water coming off Rainbow Road, which effectively created a pathway surface. He obtained a permit from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and extra liability insurance for the work.

CRD manager Karla Campbell strongly recommended against returning any funds, noting Ogilvie had received a significant benefit through his rezoning. Staff also found Ogilvie had not constructed a pathway or sidewalk to the specifications named in the rezoning bylaw, which included an asphalt curb.

While hiring a mediator to resolve the issue was raised as one option, commissioner Maxine Leichter suggested meeting in the middle by returning half the funds.

Holman reported after the meeting the Capital Regional District Board may need to approve the recommendation before Ogilvie sees any refund, and staff are looking into the legalities.



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## what's on this week



Thurs. Feb. 4	Fri. Feb. 5	Fri. Feb. 5	Sun. Feb. 7
<p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>Al-Anon (Support for Friends and Families of Alcoholics and Addicts).</b> 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.</p> <p><b>VIA ZOOM</b></p> <p><b>Poetry Open Mic.</b> With special guest poet Mallory Tater. Sign up at 6:45 p.m. to read a poem. Join at 7 p.m. to listen. See saltspring.bc.libraries.coop for the Zoom link and more info.</p>	<p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>Makana Youth Choir.</b> A new Makana Youth Choir session directed by Caroni Young begins today. Register through ArtSpring at 250-537-2102 or by emailing tickets@artspring.ca.</p> <p><b>Story Walk.</b> A special Family Literacy Week self-guided activity in Mouat Park featuring the story called Yoga in the Forest. Runs all day through Sunday, Feb. 7.</p> <p><b>VIA ZOOM</b></p> <p><b>Story Time.</b> Story time fun with picture book author Joan Elizabeth Buchanan and Bonnie Sherr Klein. 10 a.m. Request link from nanarescue@gmail.com.</p>	<p><b>VIA ZOOM</b></p> <p><b>ASK Salt Spring.</b> This week's guest is MLA Adam Olsen. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Email ask@asksaltspring.com to get the link digitally.</p>  <p><b>Sat. Feb. 6</b></p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>Story Walk.</b> See Friday listing.</p>	<p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>Story Walk.</b> See Friday listing.</p> <p><b>Wed. Feb. 10</b></p> <p><b>VIA ZOOM</b></p> <p><b>Gulf Islands Board of Education Trustees Meeting.</b> 1 p.m. See sd64.bc.ca website for Zoom link.</p>

**THE FRITZ CINEMA**

Closed until further notice due to COVID-19 regulations. See [www.thefritz.ca](http://www.thefritz.ca) for updates and info about Friday-Saturday concession nights.

**EXHIBITIONS**

- **Jacky Cooper** has work hanging at **Salt Spring Coffee Co.**

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**EXHIBITIONS**

- **The 125th anniversary of the first Salt Spring Island Fall Fair** is highlighted with interesting trophies and signage in the Salt Spring Public Library display case.
- **Margo Zak** is the ceramic mug artist at **Switchboard Cafe** until Feb. 15.

MEDIA

## Youth wanted for podcast

Platform and valuable experiences offered

Gulf Islands high-school-aged students are invited to add their voices to a new podcast project initiated by The Circle Salt Spring Education Society.

Called Salad Days, the five-part podcast series for youth by youth is set to be released in May. The project will give a diverse group of rural island youth a platform and a voice: they'll choose topics meaningful to them and talk about these topics and the different realities and issues that they face. Funding from the Community Action Initiatives arm of BC Safe and Responsible Gambling made the project possible.

To participate, students are invited to submit a statement of interest by Feb. 8. Six to eight youth will be accepted and will spend 25 hours between February and April producing the podcasts with the Gulf Islands Community Radio Society. Students will gain valuable volunteer experience and skill development and will receive a small honorarium.

Janine Fernandes-Hayden, executive director for The Circle, said she is excited about the name Salad Days.

"It's a Shakespearean idiomatic expression signifying the youthful period before adulthood, an early flourishing period or 'heyday' marked by enthusiasm, ideal-

ism and passion," explains a press release from The Circle.

"This is an amazing way to get the youth voice out, have them share their experience, and give them a sense of agency," said Fernandes-Hayden. "We hope that by using a medium that has the potential for a broad reach other youth beyond the Gulf Islands may find support and validation in the podcasts."

"We are excited about this podcast project," said Damian Inwood, president of the Gulf Islands Community Radio Society. "The voices and opinions of young people are not heard often enough when it comes to important issues . . . One of our long-term goals is to involve local youth in radio programming, and this is a significant first step."

Students will have the opportunity to gain valuable technical experience with audio recording, editing and podcast production, along with developing communication and public-speaking skills. The project will follow all current provincial COVID-19 guidelines.

Students should submit their statement of interest to Fernandes-Hayden at [executivedirector@thecircleeducation.org](mailto:executivedirector@thecircleeducation.org). Their email should include name, contact information, and reason for wanting to participate. Ideas for topics or podcast formats can also be included.

For more information, email Fernandes-Hayden or call her at 250-537-1336.

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**Obituaries      Obituaries      Obituaries      Obituaries      Financial Services**

## Susan Carole Savage

(NEE BECK)  
1943 - 2021



Susan Savage born in London, England August 2, 1943, died peacefully on Salt Spring Island January 26, 2021. Sue emigrated to Canada with her parents George and Elsie Beck in 1948. She grew up in Toronto, completing her M.Ed. degree at U of T and taught for the Toronto School Board.

Sue greatly enjoyed her Salt Spring and Toronto friends, anything by Handel, the Bach Cantatas, Billy Collins, the Anglican Church, her allotment, flowers, birds, the provenance and preparation of food and sharing a home-cooked meal with friends.

Predeceased by her husband Mike Lourim in 2016, she is survived by son Dylan (Becky), grandchildren Colton and Ayden, step-son Sean, her sister Debbie (Dave), nieces Sarah (Mike) and Becky (Luke), nephew Graham, and cousin Bruce (Deb).

Donations in Sue's memory may be made to UNICEF, The Lady Minto Hospital Foundation, or a charity of your choice. (Private interment due to Covid restrictions.)

*"All you probably need is a sense of humour and some duct tape to get through your adult life."*  
- Sue 2021

## DR. JAMES TRAVIS

1935 - 2020



Dr. James Travis of Athens passed away on November 26, 2020.

If you knew Jim, you remember a man in constant motion, wasting little of his 85 years.

Just consider the more than 250 research papers he published as a biochemistry professor at the University of Georgia.

Much of Jim's career involved working to understand the finely-tuned balance between two critical classes of proteins in the human body — proteases and protease inhibitors. When that balance is disrupted, it can often lead to the development of certain diseases.

Through his work, some of it ground-breaking, he helped the scientific community better understand the reason for diseases like emphysema, gingivitis and periodontal disease. In his busy lab, he mentored hundreds of younger scientists, inspiring new generations of researchers who shared his passion for asking why and how and whether there might be a better way.

Jim's gregarious nature, scientific expertise and appreciation for the value of teamwork resulted in him forging collaborations with scientists throughout the world. The result of these many collaborative interactions not only led to greater scientific understanding but also made Jim an icon in his field. This worldwide renown was never flaunted by him, rather it was used to help promote the young scientists Jim mentored.

For his work helping Polish scientists, Jim received an honorary degree from Jagiellonian University in Krakow, a 650-year-old institution where Copernicus graduated. When he signed the book accepting this degree, the signature before Jim's was Pope John Paul II.

But for every professional accomplishment, Jim enjoyed far more in his personal life.

A native of Winnipeg, he cherished his college years working summers as a waiter on the transcontinental Canadian railroad, putting himself through graduate school at the University of Manitoba.

He was a Little League coach. Taught his sons how to complete and play fair.

He always had a positive attitude and a generous smile. Taught his daughter hard work can overcome life's challenges.

He loved to travel. Taught his children to respect other cultures and constantly seek new adventures.

He loved sports, books, film and theatre, especially musicals. Those passions live on not just with his children, but his six grandchildren as well.

His wit, boundless. His hugs legendary.

He loved his family and, above all, being a father.

In 1983, he met his wife Freida. Their most joyous days were spent living part-time on Salt Spring Island off the coast of Vancouver, often accompanied by his beloved brother-in-law Donald Hall. But in recent years, after Jim developed Parkinson's Disease, they returned to live full-time in the home they built in Athens.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents Sam and Gwennie Travis, sister Velma McIntyre and brother Dr. Larry Travis. He's survived by his wife Freida Travis: his first wife Lillian Yeatts and their children Randy, David, Teri Lynn and Joe.

A memorial service will be held sometime in 2021.

Donations in Jim's name can be made to the Parkinson's Foundation.

Arrangements by Lord and Stephens, Athens, GA [www.lordandstephens.com](http://www.lordandstephens.com)

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

**Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)**  
You remain focused on what is next even more than usual. This coming New Moon will activate this theme of engagement even more. Securing your financial base is at the forefront of your mind. Taking deliberate action to this end will keep you busy over the coming weeks. Be aware of Mercury Retrograde before signing long-term contracts.

**Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)**  
The world is changing quickly now and so is yours. Positively, it is leading you to reach for new heights. Yet, it comes with a challenge to break through walls of resistance, whether within or manifesting as external barriers. This will prove especially strong with this coming New Moon. So, this week is your preparation for it. Expect the drum beats to get louder by the day.

**Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)**  
Opportunities to see a bigger picture have been coming in strongly over the past while. The question is: are you taking advantage? Or are you clinging to your beliefs? Critical thinking requires you to question why you know and believe what you do. Where did you learn it and are there opposing perspectives worthy of your consideration? The rewards of opening your mind will extend into the future.

**Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)**  
All this Aquarian energy is occurring in your solar 8th House. Although the 'solar chart' is not as strong as your actual natal chart, this suggests that a process of deep change is underway and what might even amount to be a metamorphic process. The 8th House is Scorpio's House and 'deep' and 'transformational' are keywords. Your conscious participation will contribute to a more positive process.

**Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)**  
A big activation of change is brewing on relationship fronts, which will likely amount to a deepening of your commitments in some regards and endings of some of your relationships as well. Altogether, this amounts to a reconsideration of your priorities and time management. Positively, this is a very expansive time for you and could lead to significant returns.

**Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)**  
Changes in your usual lifestyle rhythms are underway. This will be especially activated by this week's Aquarius New Moon cycle. It probably already is and will continue to prove somewhat unsettling, at least. Ironically, Mercury retrograde stands to have a positive result as it leads you to a whole new round and level of critical thinking. Basically, you are destined to create new networks.

**Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)**  
Making the most of an already activated creative cycle continues to be a central theme. This emphasis will get another big boost very soon. There are indications that it will include financial considerations and actions that will either include or actually require you to dig deeper than you have for some time. Courage, will and resolve may also be required to prevail.

**Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**  
The host of six planets in Aquarius is all closely huddled in your 4th Solar House, symbolic of home and family. This implies change, which may come about quite unexpectedly. By extension, the changes indicated are closely connected to relationships. It may, however, take until the Full Moon in Virgo on February 27 for the deeper implications of these to come fully to consciousness.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**  
Are you ready for a whole new activation in the way you think, perceive and interpret reality? Well, ready or not, you are about to get a jumpstart. The implications of this will likely have an impact on your daily routine and rhythm and perhaps even your lifestyle in general. In any case, it will push you to 'do the work' that may initially include wrapping your mind around it all.

**Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)**  
A powerful activation is occurring for us all and for you it appears to be closely related to your finances. Investments in particular will be impacted. Themes of inheritance are also indicated. You are not simply eager to push on but to break through and this may include walls and restrictions that you deem either unfair or unnecessary, or both. Remember, though, you are responsible for the consequences. . . .

**Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)**  
The coming New Moon in your sign will synchronize with a strong determination to enter new territory. This may be literally true or it may manifest as new knowledge, understanding and interpretation of reality. This will have the effect of leading you to make a few changes close to home, some of which could prove unexpected. Positively, dreams could come true.

**Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
All the lights are about to be turned on in your mind and a manner that will prove awakening in a big way. This could manifest as eureka insights or as new realizations of existence and reality. These could prove quite energizing indeed and impact changes in terms of your attitudes and priorities. With Aquarius, there is always the element of surprise, so be ready.

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

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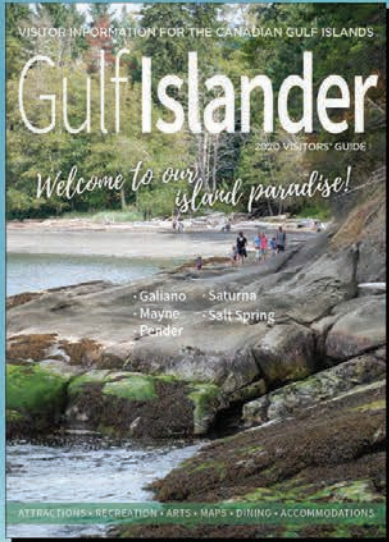
# SPORTS + RECREATION

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

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



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## RUNNING

# Keep gear and spirits in shape



*Susan Gordon*  
THE PERENNIAL  
**RUNNER**

Exercising outdoors a must during pandemic

Most people have felt a gamut of emotions since the pandemic began and it is hard to imagine how difficult these past months might have been for many. Everyone I know, including myself, has had moments of doubt, loneliness, frustration and fear that have probably transformed us in more ways than we know.

If you find yourself asking a lot of questions and vacillating on answers, you're not alone. Nobody knew this was coming, and the bottom line is that we need to continue to be kind to ourselves, and others.

Maintaining good health and mental wellness is imperative. Find joy in the activities that help retain those qualities! It is invaluable to sit quietly at home and contemplate, meditate, visualize a bright future. But if you sit and stay sad for too long, don't move enough, and don't eat well, you are beginning to go down a "rabbit hole" of behaviours that have detrimental health effects, making recovery more difficult in the event of sickness.

Exercising outdoors is widely accepted as one of the most invaluable things we can do to stay healthy, even in the midst of a pandemic.

If you have been running on roads or trails with more enthusiasm than usual over the past few months, now is the time to check your shoes for wear, replace socks that are starting to over-stretch or wear thin, and think about what you want to add to your closet as we transition to spring and beyond.

Look at the bottoms of your shoes and examine the wear patterns to see how



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Salt Spring runner takes a moment to tie a shoelace during a past local event. Salt Spring Sneakers coach Susan Gordon advises runners to check their current footwear to ensure it is in the best shape possible.

your footstrike might be affecting injury potential. Is it uneven? Too much wear on the heel versus the forefoot? Are you over- or under-pronating? Look at a side view. Is one shoe worn thinner than the other? Do your socks show uneven wear?

**Whatever you do outdoors for exercise, you'll want to feel comfortable and have your footwear doing its job to support your foot properly and help you align your body correctly.**

If you are relatively new to endurance running or walking and need help diagnosing shoe wear and footstrike patterns, I recommend taking your shoes to a reputable sports store with a focus on running and having a professional fitter make suggestions as to whether you need a different shoe or an alteration to your running form.

If you need to change the way you run,

that can take some time, and I'll address that in a future column.

Understandably, funds may be tight for a lot of people right now, but there are ways to upgrade or replace your running gear that fit every budget. Brick and mortar stores in our local area are extremely appreciative of business, and most are now offering online services if they didn't previously. You can also find great bargains in thrift shops on lightly used pieces that might be quite costly to buy new, such as a lightweight wind and water resistant jacket, which is an absolute necessity for this climate when the weather gets ugly. Acquire the best quality gear you can afford, or do some sleuthing to find sources that will provide you with what you need for less money.

Whatever you do outdoors for exercise, you'll want to feel comfortable and have your footwear doing its job to support your foot properly and help you align your body correctly. After that, managing heat, cold, rain and wind with a variety of clothing and accessories will help you stay motivated and looking forward to your workout.

Besides, who couldn't use a little "shopping therapy" right about now anyway? Be calm, be kind, and be safe on those roads and trails.

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