

inside:

# AGRI culture



10

# Money Matters

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THIRD IN A  
FOUR-PART SERIES  
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support Celeste

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Wednesday,  
Feb. 17, 2021

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Issue 7  
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PHOTO BY ELEHNA DE SOUSA

**ALOHA HULA SNOWGIRL:** A Tripp Road "snowgirl" provides cheer to passersby over the weekend. The Gulf Islands were buried under more than 38 centimetres (15 inches) of snow that began falling on Friday evening and continued off and on – mostly on – until Monday morning. As of Monday, no major road accidents and only a few power outages had been reported on Salt Spring Island and no further snowfall was in the forecast for remaining days this week.

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

# Calls keep fire crews hopping

House fire and excavator  
incident attended last week

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Fire Rescue teams put their skills to the test during a barrage of calls Thursday and Friday, including a kitchen fire that displaced the residents from both suites of a house on Feb. 12.

Firefighters were called to Churchill Road Thursday morning to extinguish an excavator that caught fire while its operator worked on a property there.

Friday morning started with a call about a possible chimney fire on Garner Road at 8 a.m. Acting Assistant Chief Dale Lundy said crews investigated and found the woodstove pipe had become disengaged, which filled the room with smoke, but fortunately no fire resulted. The crew was then called out again just after 10 a.m. to a structure fire on Lakefair Drive.

Firefighters were able to contain the fire to the kitchen area where it originated, but the blaze has left Lisa Sigurgeirson Maxx and her brother Steve Sigurgeirson without a home until smoke damage can be rectified.

Sigurgeirson Maxx said she had been doing childcare on an outdoor porch play area when she started hearing a beeping sound. At first she thought it might be a clock since her young charge is fond of them, but when the sound persisted she realized it might be the smoke detector. When she went to check, she encountered thick black smoke coming from the kitchen area.

"I couldn't even step inside. It was just full of smoke," Sigurgeirson Maxx said.

She immediately called 911 and went to the basement suite to alert her brother.

Lundy said there was no clear indication of where the fire was located until fire crews entered the home. Around 17 firefighters attended with multiple apparatus. They were able to wrap up and leave the site by about 12:30 p.m.

Although Lakefair Drive is located far from any fire hydrants, crews were able to transport all the water they needed and used a "narrow belay" system, sending hoses from the tanker truck down the driveway.

**FIRES** continued on 2

**Zen Master Wolfgang says:**  
"Many excuses are  
less convincing than one."

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# Lakefair Drive home not habitable after fire



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Salt Spring Fire Rescue firefighters, left, carry hoses to the residence lived in by Lisa Sigurgeirson Maxx and her brother Steve Sigurgeirson on Lakefair Drive near St. Mary Lake.

## 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
17	0144	1.8	5.9	21	0316	3.0	9.8
	0831	3.2	10.5		0635	2.9	9.5
	WE 1534	1.6	5.2		SU 0947	2.9	9.5
ME 2159	2.5	8.2	DI 1844	1.0	3.3		
18	0220	2.2	7.2	22	0354	3.1	10.2
	0849	3.1	10.2		0911	2.9	9.5
	TH 1617	1.4	4.6		MO 1031	2.9	9.5
JE			LU 1934	0.8	2.6		
19	0002	2.6	8.5	23	0425	3.2	10.5
	0301	2.5	8.2		0950	2.9	9.5
	FR 0907	3.1	10.2		TU 1151	2.9	9.5
VE 1704	1.2	3.9	MA 2020	0.7	2.3		
20	0212	2.8	9.2	24	0453	3.3	10.8
	0410	2.7	8.9		1009	2.8	9.2
	SA 0926	3.0	9.8		WE 1304	2.9	9.5
SA 1753	1.1	3.6	ME 2104	0.6	2.0		

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### FIRES

continued from 1

Most contents of the home, especially fabric-based, will not be salvageable and the residents will not be able to return for some time.

"It was great to contain it to the kitchen, but the kitchen was significantly damaged by fire," Lundy said, adding smoke damage throughout the home will make it unhealthy to be inside for a while. "It's definitely not healthy to stay there."

BC Hydro, RCMP and BC Ambulance paramedics also attended the scene. Sigurgeirson Maxx was checked at Lady Minto Hospital for smoke inhalation. Emergency Social Services was additionally activated to provide immediate clothing needs.

Sigurgeirson Maxx said she was lucky to have family nearby, including a nephew on the attending ambulance team. Her daughter and grandson also arrived soon afterward and took care of all her needs that day.

Fortunately she and her charge were just outside that morning and not on one of the long walks they often take, so she eventually heard the alarm. Another lucky break is she happened to have her cell phone outside and was able to reach everyone she needed

without dropping any calls; she often can't get service there.

The fire has been especially traumatizing since her family went through a catastrophic house fire soon after they moved to Salt Spring in January 1974, when Sigurgeirson Maxx was just 12 years old. Just over two years ago, Sigurgeirson Maxx and her brother were driving around on Christmas Eve collecting gifts for another family who were displaced by fire right after the Dec. 20, 2018 windstorm.

In comparison this fire seemed not so bad at first, since the house is still standing, but the impact is large nonetheless. The insurance adjuster had not been able to get to the house due to the weekend's snow, and restoration may take up to six months before the house is livable again.

"It's still devastating because I can't go home. I can't get anything out of my house," said Sigurgeirson Maxx. "It's funny how the brain minimizes things sometimes, just to let you cope."

Sigurgeirson Maxx is grateful for the outpouring of love and support but has quite a few needs for the coming weeks, and will be seeking rental accommodation. Anyone who would like to help can email Sigurgeirson Maxx's daughter Jekka Mack

at jekkakristine@gmail.com or her mother Christine Sigurgeirson Donnelly Ross at ena36@shaw.ca to find out more.

### Hydraulic line sparks machinery blaze

Thursday's call to Churchill Road was the result of an eruption in an excavator's hydraulic line which then likely combusted oil in the engine, Lundy said.

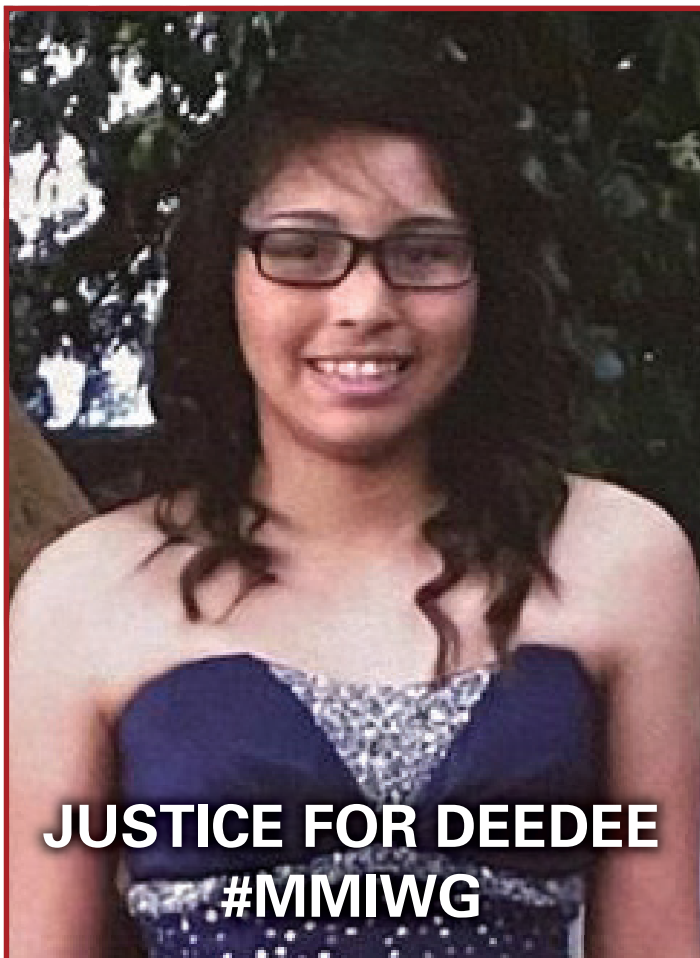
Property owner Brian Milne said an employee of Diggin' It Excavating was operating the machine when the fire started. The driver was quick to act, but wasn't able to douse the fire on his own.

"I give him credit," Milne said. "He got the fire extinguisher out and he emptied the fire extinguisher, but he didn't get the fire out. I think for a young man he did extremely well."

Milne said he was similarly impressed by Salt Spring Fire Rescue, both in terms of their equipment and how they handled the situation.

He added no one came close to being injured or hurt. Although work is being done to clear the land, piles of woody debris were not located close to the excavator so there was no danger of the fire spreading to a larger area.

Lundy said it appeared the excavator will be a write-off.



# DELORES (DEEDEE) BROWN Unsolved Murder

**Disappeared:**  
July 27, 2015, Penelakut Island

**Discovered:**  
Aug. 19, 2015, near Norway Island

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PHOTO BY HEATHER NEVILLE

**PETAL POWER:** Heather Neville photographed a standard (or tree) rose in bloom in the Walker's Hook area on Feb. 9, another sign of an early spring, notwithstanding the weekend's snowstorm.

## Weekly COVID Report – Gulf Islands and region

PREPARED BY CURT FIRESTONE AND STAN DERELIAN

The B.C. government releases the statistical information used in this report each Wednesday for the previous week. Last week's statistics chart contained three typographical errors. The information in all previous charts, including today's chart, is accurate.

For the past three weeks, the absence of active COVID-19 cases on the Southern Gulf Islands has been very welcomed. Unfortunately, the chart at right shows that the number of active cases has increased in the Chemainus to Nanaimo corridor.

We also wish to share with you that Whistler has become a high-risk area; just in case you are considering a ski trip. If you are considering leaving Salt Spring Island, please pay careful attention to the COVID levels in the area you plan to visit. Protect your health and the health of our Salt Spring family.

As of Feb. 13, Canada ranks 49th of all countries for COVID vaccinations, with 3.24 per 100 residents.

First is Israel with 72.58 vaccinations per 100 people. The number then falls off steeply.

Sixth is the U.K. with 22.23 per 100 people. The U.S.A. is in 11th spot with 15.30 per 100 people. Number 68 is Mexico with 0.56 per 100 people.

The world-wide rate is 2.20 per 100 people.

While the people of the Southern Gulf Islands are doing everything they can for good public health, the government is failing to purchase and make available the vaccines.

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

#### REPORTED ACTIVE COVID-19 CASES

	Week of 1/17-1/23/21	Week of 1/24-1/30/21	Week of 1/31-2/6/21
Southern Gulf Islands.....	1	0	0
Saanich Peninsula .....	5	7	14
Victoria .....	14	33	26
Langford to Port Renfrew .....	4	13	9
Duncan Area.....	75	53	22
Chemainus to Nanaimo.....	57	55	104
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>175</b>

### EDUCATION

# SD64 amends annual budget

## Enrolment drop predicted for 2021-22

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Gulf Islands Board of Education passed an amended 2020-21 budget last Wednesday evening that increases the total budget from \$25,410,116 to \$27,206,313 and decreases the anticipated end-of-year surplus by \$279,000.

School District 64 staff had budgeted a \$1.14-million surplus, and now hope to find \$862,969 at the end of the year. Notable changes to revenue include a decrease in the tuition paid by international students, with less take-up for the program during the pandemic, and a drop in investment revenue. The district also saw elevated expenses related to teaching hours and operations, while transportation, housing and administration expenses dropped to some degree.

The district offset its COVID-related spending with over \$1 million more in provincial grants than was originally anticipated.

Changes to district demographics next year will have an impact on finances, district staff reported last Wednesday. Enrolment for the current school year stands at around 1,450. This year's graduating class of up to 116 students will be replaced by a kindergarten cohort of just 87, so the projected enrolment for 2021-22 is 1,420.

"That drops our budget," district secretary-treasurer Jesse Guy observed.

New data released by the B.C. Ministry of Education related to class size and composition reveals SD64 has fewer students in classrooms in every age group compared to the provincial average. The average B.C. kindergarten class has 17.4 students, compared to 14.2 in the Gulf Islands. Secondary school classes average 21.4 students in B.C., compared to 19.3 locally.

SD64 director of instruction D'Arcy Deacon noted the district always meets provincial regulations on class size but it does sometimes have more students with individual education plans per class than the two that a provincial letter of understanding permits.

The Ministry of Education describes an individual education plan (IEP) as a documented plan developed for a student with special needs, according to a completed assessment.

The October 2020 data shows that in the grade 4 to 12 range there were 19 classes where three students were entitled to an IEP, 13 classes with four such students and four classes with five IEP students. There was additionally one class with six students entitled to IEPs and two classes in which there were seven or more.

Deacon said in cases where the number surpasses the agreement, teachers can choose a "provision of remedy" that supplies extra help from another teacher in a number of possible ways.

The Feb. 10 public Zoom meeting was held in the evening instead of the regular 1 p.m. time slot to accommodate parents and teachers who might want to join outside of work hours. The board voted in January to hold both the February session and the April 14 meeting in the evening.

Board chair Tisha Boulter said having the meetings online during COVID made it possible to make the temporary switch, but once regulations relax and in-person meetings resume they will likely need to take place in the daytime since trustees are travelling from multiple islands using the school water taxis.

There will be no public board meeting next month due to spring break, which runs March 12 to 28 this year.

### COVID-19 IN BC

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THE TOUGHEST.

By fall 2021, everyone in BC will have had the option to get their COVID-19 vaccine. We're getting closer, but we can't stop now. Please continue to say "no" to gatherings, stay local, and if you feel sick, get tested and stay home. Let's help keep each other safe and put this pandemic behind us.

Learn more:  
[gov.bc.ca/covid19](http://gov.bc.ca/covid19)

COVID-19 vaccine info:  
[bccdc.ca/covid19vaccine](http://bccdc.ca/covid19vaccine)



MEDIA

# CRTC confirms radio market

Public hearing on community group's application expected

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Members of the Gulf Islands Community Radio Society are happy to see their application to launch a radio station on Salt Spring has met another milestone on the long road to regulator approval.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) issued a decision last Wednesday stating it has determined Salt Spring's market can sustain a radio station. With that criterion in place, and given the fact no other entities have expressed interest in serving the local market, the CRTC has additionally decided to waive a call for applications and will move on to publishing the GICRS application in advance of a public hearing.

"This process has taken quite a while. We're five and a half years in and we're hopeful now," said radio society president Damian Inwood. "It looks positive, but we still have to wait for the CRTC to make a decision."

The commission received approximately 200 interventions in support of GICRS during the process to determine market capacity. Meaningful comments singled out by the commission include the potential for emergency communications as noted by the Capital Regional District and the Salt Spring Island Amateur Radio Society.

"Members of the public and small businesses stated that a radio station would provide public safety infor-

mation and emergency alerting, which is especially important in rural locations such as Salt Spring Island. They also indicated that the station would give the community a local voice by broadcasting content relevant to the community and would benefit the region's older demographic as well as local businesses, local art and community engagement," the Feb. 10 decision states.

The National Campus and Community Radio Association submitted an intervention arguing the CRTC should not issue a call for other applications because the proposed station would have very little commercial potential, and said the commission should proceed with a notice of consultation regarding GICRS's application.

Inwood said the society envisions financial support for the volunteer-run station will come through a combination of memberships, donations, advertising and federal grants. If the station does win eventual approval, additional fundraising will be required to buy transmitting equipment for two towers on Mount Bruce and Mount Belcher. Inwood said the society has agreements with the site owners to keep using those towers, which were previously used by the commercial station CFSI before the CRTC revoked its broadcasting licence in 2013.

"Depending on when a hearing happens and how long it takes them to make a decision, we would hope to hear something by the end of the year and then aim to start broadcasting in 2023," Inwood said. "We feel we're a step closer, anyway. We want to thank everyone that's been involved, and in the meantime we'll keep pushing on."

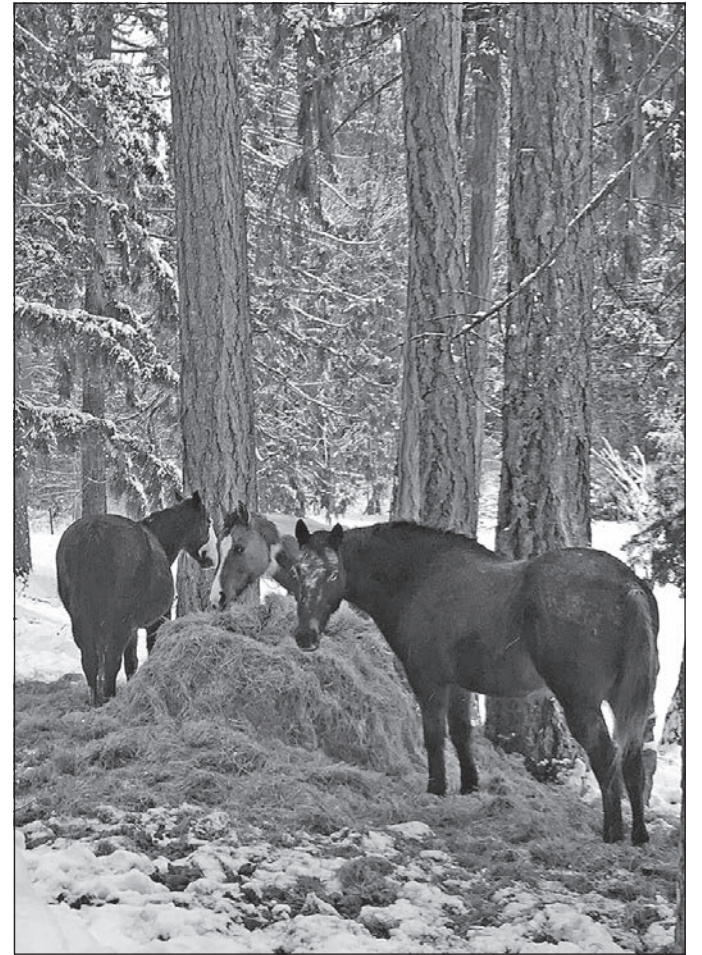


PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

**DINNER IN THE SNOW:** Horses at North End Farm keep warm while enjoying their fodder Sunday afternoon during the second day of continuous snowfall.

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## WATER QUALITY

# Maxwell treatment plant project moves forward

District responds to pressure from Island Health

BY GAIL SJUBERG

DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

North Salt Spring Waterworks District trustees have turned on the tap for replacing the water treatment plant at Maxwell Lake.

At their last board meeting, approval was given to accept the final feasibility study and recommendations to build a dissolved air flotation (DAF) plant at the lake. The district will also proceed with a quality-based selection process to secure a consultant for the project's design, tender and construction inspection.

The district has been under an Island Health directive to replace the plant since 2009. While Maxwell Lake treatment does not produce water that meets current drinking water guidelines, improving St. Mary Lake water quality was a more pressing priority. That goal was achieved with completion of an \$8-million DAF plant in 2018.

Island Health indicated it wanted to see progress when it issued the Maxwell Lake system operating permit in November of 2020. The permit stipulates that the lake's treated water must meet health guidelines by Dec. 31, 2021. The only way to do that is to have a new treatment plant in place, which is obviously not possible to achieve within a year.

According to Vaughn Figueira, the new NSSWD operations manager who replaced the recently retired Ron Stepaniuk, if funding is secured for the Maxwell Lake plant — estimated by consultants Kerr Wood Leidal to cost approximately \$6 million before contingencies — June of 2024 is the earliest date a working plant could be expected. The NSSWD's long-term capital plan has envisioned the project completed in 2025.

"Even if we were to start the process of designing the Maxwell plant today, there is no way we are in a position to have a built plant by 2021," said Figueira, "so basically we are going to be asking Island Health for an extension. That's a given."

NSSWD board chair Michael McAllister was critical of Island Health putting an artificial deadline on the operating permit.

"To me it is irresponsible of [Island] Health to impose a deadline that puts us in breach of our operating licence when they know full well we are moving along slowly and they know we are looking at governance issues and they know we don't have the money and they know we have to do a referendum . . . It makes no sense to me to make that demand."

Island Health confirmed with the Driftwood last week that no drastic measures would be taken as a result of the NSSWD's inability to build a water treatment plant by the end of this year.

A statement provided by the health authority explains: "When issues of non-compliance are identified, Island Health works closely with water system operators to achieve compliance with all regulations. While deadlines to achieve compliance are expected to be met, Island Health takes into consideration efforts and progress made by water system operators and works collaboratively with them to achieve a successful outcome."

"While there are enforcement mechanisms at Island Health's disposal, these are generally only enacted in situations where a water system operator has shown no progress or willingness to achieve compliance."

Figueira confirmed that has been the case in his past professional experience.

One reason the NSSWD board has not been in a hurry to build a treatment plant at Maxwell Lake is due to the cost. Because the NSSWD is a form of local government called an improvement district, it is not eligible to receive senior government grants. Normally

those funds cover two-thirds the cost of a capital project, with property owners paying the remaining third. The NSSWD's ratepayers — owners of 2,095 properties in the district — are already wholly responsible for the debt of the St. Mary Lake treatment plant. Last year approximately \$165 per year of a \$715 parcel tax for a one to five-acre property with a home went toward paying down that debt. Construction of a Maxwell Lake plant would add more to NSSWD property owners' parcel tax bills. A referendum would be required to approve any borrowing bylaw presented.

McAllister questions the provincial government's policy, which has forced many former improvement districts to dissolve. It means that if the NSSWD wants to access provincial or federal infrastructure grants to help pay for the treatment plant — or any other major capital projects — it would need to give up its current level of autonomy and become a Capital Regional District entity, like several other water districts on the island have done within the past two decades.

**"In my view, infrastructure funding choices should be made on the basis of risk and not on the form of government."**

**MICHAEL MCALLISTER**  
Chair, North Salt Spring Waterworks District board

When asked why improvement districts are not eligible for infrastructure grants, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MAH) provides infrastructure grants to communities, we examined whether Health is coordinating with MAH to mitigate risks associated with inadequate funding for distribution infrastructure. We found that Health was coordinating with MAH, but there were funding limitations that had not been addressed that could create risks, including:

As a lawyer working in the field of local government law for many years, McAllister observes that the stated rationale makes no sense when it comes to the NSSWD, which has more ratepayers than many municipalities in B.C.

"In my view, infrastructure funding choices should be made on the basis of risk and not on the form of government," McAllister said.

He points out that the inequity of barring improvement districts from infrastructure funding has been flagged by other bodies, including the Union of B.C. Municipalities, the B.C.-wide Chamber of Commerce and the B.C. Auditor General (see sidebar).

Pleas to make an exception to the rules for NSSWD have not been accepted by the province, under both the current NDP and previous Liberal administrations.

What the provincial government has done instead is provide funds to the CRD for a Salt Spring Island Water Optimization Study being undertaken by an independent consultant.

According to Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman, the resulting report should be made public soon.

"The study was looking at the merits of creating an island-wide water utility. Included in that would be the possible conversion of the NSSWD to a CRD entity."

Holman stressed any change would only be done on a recommendation from the NSSWD trustees to put a vote to the district's ratepayers. But it's not a given that trustees would want to entertain becoming part of the CRD.

"Some [NSSWD] board members are huge-

ly reluctant to go down any road where decisions are left to the CRD," said McAllister.

Some smaller, formerly independent districts that joined the CRD to access infrastructure funds — such as Cedar Lane, Fulford, Beddis and Cedars of Tuam — have over the years expressed displeasure with their experience, which is one reason the current board is cautious about making such a change.

McAllister is blunt in describing the limited choices facing the water district due to provincial government policy.

"To me it's just wrong that the residents of Salt Spring and the ratepayers of North Salt Spring Waterworks are being told 'you have to give up governance if you want the ability to apply for infrastructure grants for your system' . . . It's the classic rock and a hard place scenario."

## B.C. Auditor General points to inequities for water systems

Even the provincial government's Auditor General has identified a disconnect between its own health regulations to protect drinking water quality and government funding provided to ensure high-quality water can be provided.

*From the B.C. Auditor General's Report, July 2019*

"As the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MAH) provides infrastructure grants to communities, we examined whether Health is coordinating with MAH to mitigate risks associated with inadequate funding for distribution infrastructure. We found that Health was coordinating with MAH, but there were funding limitations that had not been addressed that could create risks, including:

- funding allocation is not based on which systems are at the highest risk;
- funding allocation is not focused on bringing water systems into compliance with regulations;
- funding is not available directly to improvement districts;
- funding availability is inconsistent . . ."



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**Who should attend?**

Anyone affected by the proposed bylaws

**Enquires?**

Narissa Chadwick  
Island Planner:  
250-405-5189  
[nchadwick@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:nchadwick@islandstrust.bc.ca)

## LUB Amendment for Regulation for Recreational Vehicle Use Bylaw 121

### PUBLIC HEARING

SOUTH PENDER LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

What is the bylaw about?

The Local Trust Committee (LTC) is reviewing regulations related to recreational vehicle use.

Draft Bylaw No. 121 would amend Land Use Bylaw (LUB) No. 114, 2016 in order to tie the use of a recreational vehicle as a dwelling to a building permit, and limit the use to two (2) years. In addition, the Bylaw will limit the temporary use of a recreational vehicle to sixty (60) days in a calendar year.

The Community Information Meeting will be held prior to the Public Hearing to provide the opportunity for members of the public to ask questions about the proposed amendments.

How do I get more information?

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

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/spender/sp-news/>

A copy of the bylaw, the Public Hearing Binder and other information on the project is available at the Islands Trust Victoria office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays, February 19 to March 4, 2021, or online:

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/spender/alt-housing>

Written submissions?

Send by 4:30 p.m., March 4, 2021 to:

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

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

# OPINION



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

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



## Driftwood

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### EDITORIAL

# Progress report

**G**ulf Islands graduation rates caused alarm bells in the community when the school district's poor grade was revealed two years ago.

Learning in 2019 that, on average, only six out of every 10 students entering Grade 8 in School District 64 over the past four years had come out the other end with a graduation certificate did not jive with the public image of Gulf Islands Secondary School. At the time it was pointed out that international student numbers were skewing the Ministry of Education data, and that 74 per cent of B.C.-resident students in the district had in fact graduated the previous year, but that did not quell the sense of dismay.

Last week we learned the residential graduation rate for the 2019-20 school year had jumped to 87.9 per cent, which was the highest for the Vancouver Island region.

### THE ISSUE: GISS graduation rates

### WE SAY: School district on right track

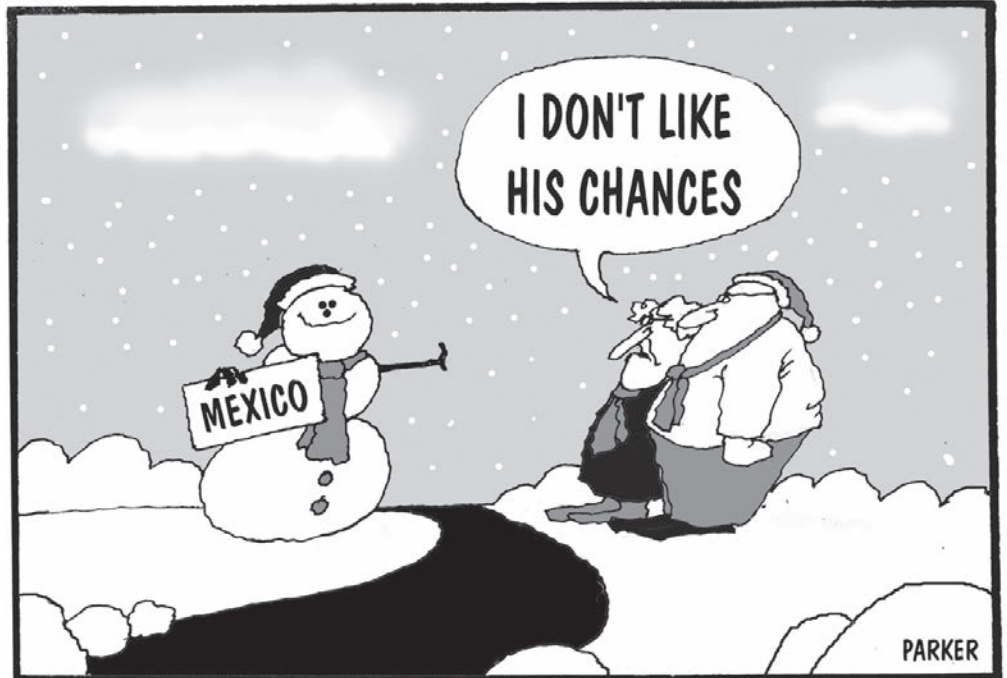
To its credit, the school district administrators did not panic when the low graduation rate was identified two years ago, and they set about devising strategies to improve the numbers. GISS principal Lyall Ruehlen reached out to students who were close to completing the courses they needed but had left school, helping them cross the finish line. Additional resources were also funnelled into areas of identified need, such as numeracy.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the learning environment, GISS staff have reportedly been even more vigilant about tracking student progress as they move through the system.

Schools superintendent Scott Benwell points out that more work needs to be done when it comes to assisting students who identify as Indigenous, or those with special needs. Only 10 of 18, or 60 per cent, of Indigenous students, and 16 out of 25 (68 per cent) special needs students among the 147 total in the examined cohort graduated in the expected year.

Does it really matter if a young adult can claim to have a "Dogwood" certificate to prove they have met B.C. high school graduation requirements? It does. According to SD64 staff, young people with a Dogwood have more than 90 per cent more opportunity to get jobs in B.C. compared to those who have not graduated.

The grad rate change in SD64 is an excellent example of how change can be effected with a dedicated effort and plans. We hope to see all students benefit from these strategies in the years ahead.



PARKER

# Housing dialogue wide open

BY LAURA PATRICK

I would like to address some statements made in the Feb. 10 editorial on housing and the "LTC Support Sought to Keep Rental Unit" article.

The recently approved Housing Action Program is not, as described in the editorial, just "another study." This program grew out of the recommendations of the Housing Working Group, which was tasked by the Islands Trust's Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) to provide advice on the development and implementation of a Salt Spring housing planning project. The Housing Action Program is focused on actions that are within the responsibilities of the LTC, which are given to it through the Local Government Act to direct the location, density and form of all housing, and to offer land use incentives for the development of housing and public lands. Zoning, subdivision and other land use bylaws are powerful and foundational tools that our community can use proactively to achieve a diverse and sustainable supply of housing.

Addressing the housing challenges that took decades to emerge will not be easy or quick, but we can

### VIEWPOINT

and will prioritize actions on solutions that address urgent housing needs. All of our decisions should be fair and well-balanced, and rooted in solid environmental, economic and social equity principles and policies. The best solutions to any of our challenges are those which simultaneously address multiple issues confronting our island — such as forest health, biodiversity, watersheds and water supply, the climate emergency, land use, small business health, food security and the community spirit and resiliency of our society.

As we work toward an intelligent and comprehensive resolution to Salt Spring's housing crisis, we will make sure that there is regular and open dialogue with the community, including First Nations. We know that finding agreement might be difficult, but with respectful, considered dialogue we CAN and MUST find common values and reach an understanding.

People can find more information about this new program on the Islands Trust's Salt Spring webpage, or speak with a trustee. Applications are now being

accepted to become a member of a housing task force.

When it comes to zoning, Salt Spring Island is no different than other communities in British Columbia. Zoning maps are contained in the Salt Spring Official Community Plan and the regulations for each zone are included in the land use bylaws. Zoning is intended to accomplish things such as: separate incompatible land uses; protect the value and enjoyment of surrounding properties; and, provide for orderly development.

Anyone considering buying property on Salt Spring should take the time to understand the zoning designation and determine if the current land use on the property is in compliance with land use bylaws, or if their intended use is compatible. Anyone can apply to rezone, but it is an onerous, regulated process and the outcome is not certain.

The Driftwood is correct that the LTC will be receiving a staff report in regard to a rezoning application at its Feb. 16 meeting. Islands Trust staff prepare reports containing analysis and recommendations, but it is the trustees who make the political decisions taking all relevant concerns, including those of the applicant, into account.

328 Lower Ganges Rd, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3 | PH: 250-537-9933 FAX: 250-537-2613 TOLL FREE: 1-877-537-9934  
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### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Is the federal government vaccine strategy satisfactory to you?  Yes  No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should affordable housing be an Islands Trust priority?   
 YES: 93   
 NO: 385

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: }

**"If anyone falls off a bit, there are 10 people to pick them up."**

JULIE MACKINNON, ON COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR OTHERS

## SALT SPRING SAYS

### WE ASKED:

*What did you do to enjoy the snow days?*

#### BRYN FINER



Continued to work. No one else was in the shop so it was perfect.

#### CAROL MILLER



Stayed inside and stayed warm.

#### IGOR DARMOKHID



I walked with my daughter and took photos.

#### TERRI POTRATZ



We went sledding down our driveway.

#### JIM STANDEN



Cooked an Australian meat pie with local lamb.

## 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)

### Glorious seeds

It is true, the best seeds for local growing are produced here! Remember the term "bio-regionalism."

It is a relatively new catch phrase for age-old practices. Natural selection meets an observant helping human hand. When seeds are produced here, they are the direct result of a plant's response to the environment. The amount of sunshine, the air quality, water, humidity, the soil conditions, the balancing of insects and diseases all come into play. As the plants react to all of this, their response creates a unique blend of characteristics, present in our "bio" region. After a few years, we have a fabulous selection.

Our growing conditions here are some of the best in the world to produce high-quality seeds. While other regions suffer from dealing with too much humidity, too much heat, or long cold winters, our mild Mediterranean climate is a boon for seed saving. Biennial crops, like cabbage, beets and carrots can stay in the ground overwinter to produce their seed the following year. Summer here has low humidity, which allows seeds to dry natu-

rally on the plants without mold or fungal issues.

As more farmers and home gardeners join the ranks of dedicated seed savers, they become active participants in local food security. Our helping hands should select the best plants to produce seeds. We can select for vigour, drought resistance, size and, most important of all, taste!

It becomes a joy to me, as a professional, to observe the interplay of beneficial insects, to actually observe when pollination occurs. Surprising to many, that window is actually quite small. The bees know the exact moment to visit a kale or onion flower, to begin the journey to seed production. Vegetables have amazing flowers and are often overlooked. A mixed lettuce bed going to seed is a sight to behold! Too few of us get to experience this. During our garden tours in years past, the flowering lettuce beds were the star attraction!

May we return soon to gather in our gardens together, to share the bounty of delicious local produce and resilient locally produced seeds.

**MARSHA GOLDBERG,**  
SALT SPRING

### Forestry figures flawed in letter

I have to comment on Ken Byron's Feb. 3 letter accusing Briony Penn of "peddling" inaccurate facts on the greenhouse gas emissions from forestry-related activities.

The actual quote from her Jan. 27 "Strengthen Bill C-12" letter was "Fifty per cent of B.C.'s [carbon] emissions come from poor logging practices and the resulting slash burns, and wildfires with their huge releases of carbon — more than any other sector. Wildfires occur primarily in recent clearcuts and new plantations where soil moisture has been lost . . ."

The six per cent GHG number that Mr. Byron cherry picks from the Ministry of Environment website is attributed to the regular yearly logging activities of the B.C. lumber industry but does not include wildfire/slash burns and other GHG releases, and that is one of the points she is making in the letter.

Do five more minutes of research by googling "carbon footprint of B.C. wildfires" and

reading the first article, titled "Wildfire Emissions Grow to Triple B.C.'s Annual Footprint" (CBC News, Aug. 24, 2017) taken from scientific observations by Natural Resources Canada, Pacific Forestry Centre and Canadian Forest Service. Critics argue that "the failure to include fire emissions in the Ministry of Environment GHG inventory has resulted in poor forest management."

Over the past 25 years, scientific research has shown that the clearcutting of forests, land clearing and the subsequent exposure of the soil to warm sunlight activates the various microorganisms living there to kick into high gear, consuming the humus layers and releasing the stored carbon as CO2 in an amount roughly equivalent to the amount of timber that has been felled, and that is also not included in Ministry of Environment numbers.

Good community dialogue has to include uncomfortable scientific facts and the way we used "our" resources in the past must be done very differently in the future.

**RICK LAING,**  
WILKIE WAY

**MORE OPINION** continued on 8

## Looking for bright spots in a ravaged landscape

Phew, that was a close-run thing. I very nearly volunteered to become an American after listening to Joe Biden's inaugural speech last month. Not that they'd have me, but talk about stirring!

I was moved enough at that moment to believe that maybe there was some hope for the U.S. and, ipso facto, for the rest of us because they are, as they never stop reminding us, the Leaders of the Free World. My optimism lasted all of two days.

I'll grant you that Joe is not a great orator, more Mr. Rogers than Winston Churchill, but his message should have been profoundly reassuring to anyone who wasn't Donald Trump. Even Mike Pence, or whichever of his android lookalikes he'd sent to the inauguration, must have been slightly impressed. I distinctly recall seeing an eyebrow twitch above the mask that someone had stapled to his face.

Joe and Kamala's road to reunion is going to be one long trudge up an endlessly steep hill. Congress today isn't Lincoln's house divided, it is irreparably shattered. A quick flick through the festering pages of the Fox News website as Trump is apparently caught bang to rights in his second impeachment trial will soon deflate any cheery-eyed Pollyanna who believes there is any real hope of reuniting the United States in the next 40 years, let alone four. Most of the Faux News folk who come to its trough for their daily dose of spite and venom were out in force and furious even as the COVID-challenged inauguration was unfolding on the steps of the Capitol and the impeachment trial meandered on in gruesome technicolour to its inevitable shameful conclusion.

There was no amelioration on the Republican benches, nothing of their better angels.



**Paul McElroy**  
+ ANOTHER THING

They were, almost to a man and woman, in denial, enraged not by the desecration of their Holy of Holies but that the election had been "stolen" from the Beloved Leader and now the other side of the house were rubbing their noses in it by simply demonstrating that the Don really does have the moral turpitude of a Mafia boss or a Nazi Gauleiter.

I have no idea how representative these wretches are of the ordinary Republicans, the quite-possibly thoughtful, decent people who simply have a different political opinion to Joseph R. Biden Jr., who disagree on the fundamentals but get on with their lives, but the vituperative mischief being spread by these Fox News senators was heartbreaking. And if the interviews I've watched and read with "ordinary" Trump Republicans are any mark of the times, the new president and his remarkable sidekick are on a hiding to nothing. They all seemed chiefly concerned that Biden was going to tax them into penury and that government agents would be lurking in the hedges ready to pounce as they sat on their porches nursing their ArmaLites.

There are a few bright spots. The Proud Boys (and "bright spot" and "Proud Boys" are not likely companions) are beginning to

realize they might have been duped since the thrust of their argument that Trump was their Salvator Mundi, would inevitably win the election, go on to be President for Life — and then do stuff, although what stuff was never entirely clear. Saviours of the world don't, however, lose elections and retire to their golf course like whipped dogs.

Even QAnon, the entirely bonkers motley crew of conspiracy loons, is beginning to dither and seems slightly less convinced that their hero is going to rise from the ashes of the self-inflicted bonfire of his presidency and, er, do something. Drain the swamp and save the little children from being eaten by Hillary Clinton, for instance.

Now they'll be looking for a new conspiracy to feed their fetid imaginations, so look out for Bernie Sanders cooking up a COVID-22 virus in his kitchen and Kamala eating kitten curries.

For a very short time after four years of lies, intrigues, more lies and ad hockery, there seemed to be a whiff of decency in the air, a sense that there was someone with a plan that was not simply about their own aggrandizement or about clinging to power for the sake of power itself. Some hope.

It took the second attempted impeachment of Donald J. Trump to reanimate his cadre on the Republican benches, who ignored the mountain of evidence and voted to clear him. Again.

When Adolf Hitler was jailed for his part in an attempted coup, he used his time behind bars to write Mein Kampf. Trump will no doubt spend his days in Twitter exile brushing up his short game and counting his luck that most Republican politicians may be as despicable as he is.

[paulmcelroy@shaw.ca](mailto:paulmcelroy@shaw.ca)

# Background info provides Burgoyne context

BY BRIONY PENN, ELIZABETH WHITE, CATE MCEWEN AND MELANIE FURMAN

## IN RESPONSE

We would like to provide more historical context to the Jan. 26 editorial regarding the equestrian/cyclist use of a bridge at Xwaaqw'um/Burgoyne Bay, and encourage the Driftwood to take a deeper dive into the stories of this extraordinary place.

In 1996, four levels of government, local conservation organizations and other local groups met with the intention of securing large land holdings for conservation in the south and west of Salt Spring, including the Prince Thurn von Taxis land holdings (one-tenth of Salt Spring) at Xwaaqw'um and adjacent large Crown parcels. This alliance, the South and West Salt Spring Conservation Partnership, met for three years up until the prince's death in 1999, at which point the land was purchased by Texada Land Corporation, whose interests were large-scale logging and land development. National attention was briefly

focused on the Salt Spring logging protests of 1999-2000 as the new owner logged the forests.

Underlying the success of the campaign to protect the lands was a September 2000 proposal sent and signed by representatives from the Capital Regional District, the Islands Trust, the province and the federal government to the Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy Fund (PMHLF), a joint provincial/federal fund set up for acquisition of conservation lands of national/provincial significance in the Gulf Islands — eventually contributing the bulk of funds needed with \$13.7 million. This proposal was the product of four years of meetings, research, inter-agency cooperation and community effort.

An account of this backstory is in the 2003 Background Report for Burgoyne Bay Protected Area on Salt Spring Island, which was sent to BC Parks by the Friends of

Salt Spring Parks Society.

While the PMHLF was being deliberated, islanders brainstormed alternate financing for the entire land purchase, which at the time included a range of visions for the lands, from soccer fields to ecovillages, sustainable forestry, organic gardens, equestrian use, disc golf, mountain biking and of course ecological protection. Ultimately, however, it was this PMHLF document by which the administrators of the fund rationalized their decision to buy the core ecologically important lands. The foundational reasons for their protection were conservation of rare and endangered ecosystems, fish and wildlife values and First Nations heritage values.

The recent bridge removal was undertaken by BC Parks after a rain event in 2018 washed away the foundations and brought many tonnes of gravel backfill into the creek, heavily impacting fragile salmon and trout stream habitat and an important sacred archaeological site. After consul-

tation with the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club and local equestrians, BC Parks chose not to reinstall the bridge, citing contention with neighbouring landowners — both the CRD and private landowners.

Over the last 20 years since the park was created, ecological research, monitoring, mapping and now watershed restoration have been almost entirely led by multiple Salt Spring volunteer experts in their ecological fields. Data show there are declines in bird, fish and marine species populations.

Most recently, Quw'utsun elders and knowledge keepers of the Stqeeey' Learning Society have taken an active stewardship role with research, monitoring and mapping within the watershed. Their leadership, teachings and work includes specialized ecological and educational values sorely needed in a time of human-caused climate change and biodiversity collapse. This cultural work and witnessing has been available to Salt Springers young and old, including workshops and learning

days for multiple School District 64 classes over the last six years.

As we all attempt to shift and adapt to the multiple crises of our times, the importance of in-depth investigative journalism becomes ever more important. Local newspapers have been disappearing like the ruffed grouse that once inhabited the whole island and are now reduced to the odd rare sighting at Xwaaqw'um. We see the value in the Driftwood as an award-winning publication and wish to contribute to the public platform with our collective understanding of the contemporary foundational values we, the undersigned and many more, offered when putting our bodies on the line to protect and conserve Xwaaqw'um and all its richness.

*The writers worked on the Texada land issue in many capacities, from mapping wildlife and fundraising to direct action and posing in the nude for the Salt Spring Women Preserve and Protect calendar.*

## Marriage Commissioner

The Vital Statistics Agency, Ministry of Health, is looking for an individual to serve as a Marriage Commissioner for Saturna Island. The individual will perform civil marriages within their community on behalf of the Agency. Applicants must reside on Saturna Island in order to be considered for this position.

For information and an application form please visit our website at [gov.bc.ca/becoming-a-marriage-commissioner](http://gov.bc.ca/becoming-a-marriage-commissioner)



BRITISH COLUMBIA

# Tree-cutting and state-of-the-island letters prompt response

BY GARY HOLMAN

Two letters to the editor in last week's paper — "No City Paths" and "Leadership Lacking" — affirm the adage that no good deed shall go unpunished, and deserve a response.

First, regarding the Booth Canal to Central pathway, I agree with the underlying concern about tree cutting. The Salt Spring Transportation Commission, Island Pathways and I have all stated publicly the need to return to a rural design standard for our pathways, to minimize costs as well as tree and vegetation removal. But please remember that this project, with a \$490,000 grant from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's Active Transportation program, will provide a safe pathway from Ganges to Central for decades. Most of the trees and vegetation remain in the right of way, and can be augmented with a planting program.

Another writer complains about the "shabby" look of the island, despite endorsements of Salt Spring by travel magazines as one of the most beautiful places in the world to visit. Until COVID-19, the markets in Ganges, and the village itself, were packed with visitors. We must be doing something right.

The boardwalk gazebo at Centennial Park will be repaired. In fact, the entire Centennial Park to Grace Point boardwalk is being assessed for necessary repairs. The Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission has already spent hundreds of thousands on

improving the drainage and reseeding the grounds, a new playground (thanks to the Lions Club!), and washrooms.

Regarding the proposed Ganges harbourwalk, gas tax funding has been set aside for a detailed design (extending from Peck's Cove to Rotary Park), which is necessary for grant applications. The project is proceeding because Islands Trust and the Capital Regional District finally insisted the province ensure our community's right to access public Crown foreshore, separate from the upland zoning issue. Governance structure is irrelevant.

**Until COVID-19, the markets in Ganges, and the village itself, were packed with visitors. We must be doing something right.**

The towing of abandoned vehicles has been problematic, but our new RCMP detachment head, Sgt. Clive Seabrook, with MOTI and roads maintenance contractor Emcon, has now established a protocol and impoundment area for vehicle towing. Regarding the private metal recycling property on Ganges Hill (which many wanted to remain), I suggest the writer contact CRD regarding possible options. The oddest

complaint in the letter is about the demise of the Fulford Inn, which was closed by new owners, and then abandoned and sold. The Islands Trust has provided the current owner with the variances required to proceed with a new development plan. The Fulford Water District awaits a proposal to include the property within its service area.

I'm sorry this writer is ashamed of Salt Spring. While there is certainly work to do, we should be proud of our achievements as a community, and the tens of millions in senior government funding we have attracted to protect 25 per cent of our rare Coastal Douglas-fir forests and treasures such as Burgoyne Bay; build amenities such as the Rainbow Road pool, library, ArtSpring and upgrade the Core Inn; construct 80 units of affordable housing in 2020-21 alone; build or upgrade new water and waste treatment plants serving Ganges; complete miles of sidewalks, pathways and cycle lanes in and around Ganges; and establish one of the most successful transit systems in rural B.C.

There is more to do, including on issues these writers don't mention, but let's not lose sight of what we are accomplishing. It is particularly unproductive to revisit a divisive debate about a governance model that has been repeatedly and decisively rejected by the community.

*The writer is Salt Spring's electoral area director to the CRD.*

## Advertising & Editorial Deadline Changes

**Advertising Deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood Wednesday March 3 edition will be as follows:**

Display Advertising,  
Classified Display, Classified Word deadline:  
**Wednesday, Feb. 24, noon**

**Editorial Deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood Wednesday March 3 edition will be as follows:**

Article Submissions, Photos and  
Letters to the Editor deadline:  
**Thursday, Feb. 25, 4 p.m.**

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**LOCAL ENTERPRISES**

# Close-to-home growers share bounty of seeds

Several benefits to using and saving island seeds

BY SIOBHAN WILDE  
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Anyone who has tried to get their hands on seeds lately has probably encountered some degree of difficulty, whether it's in the form of sold-out varieties or extended transit time. Fortunately, we have a few great sources of seeds right here on the island.

**Eagle Ridge Seeds**

For Marsha Goldberg of Eagle Ridge Seeds, saving seeds is personal.

"I started collecting seeds in the '90s in response to GMO plants," she said. "When I read about what they were doing, my mind went straight to the concentration camps of World War II. It was as if my ancestors were telling me that this was not okay."



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
Marsha Goldberg of Eagle Ridge Seeds.

The seeds that she began collecting then, heirloom varieties from around the globe, would become her living seed bank. In other words, the seeds that she sells are all seeds that she is growing.

Goldberg has learned many lessons over the years and one of them is that these varieties, some of which have survived for hundreds of years, have "stunning genetics."

"Seed savers are always looking for their best — whether that means drought tolerance or the ability to survive, size, taste or texture." There's a reason these varieties have stood the test of time.

Over the years, she added, she's seen an exception to every rule in the book. Instead of following rules, she has learned to connect to the magic of growing plants.

"Sometimes," she said, "I feel like Gaia's handmaiden."

Eagle Ridge seeds are available at [www.eagleridge.seeds.com](http://www.eagleridge.seeds.com) and at Country Grocer, where shoppers may have noticed the new labels on this year's seed packets. (Pay attention to the seeds in the more understated older packaging as well, though, because many of those varieties are not available on her website.)

And whether you buy seeds from Eagle Ridge online or not, the website has a resource section where gardeners can find growing and seed-saving tips.

**Salt Spring Seeds**

For Dan Jason, seeds are about connection. "Try to grow what you love to eat the most in order to have a more intimate relationship with it," he said.

He went on to recall the pleasure of seeing wheat and barley heads bobbing in the wind in summer, and the bright pop of colour in the field from Tanya's Pink Pod beans, a variety discovered by an apprentice years ago.

He spoke in his office, where he sat in front of neat shelves of seed packets, filling orders. "I can have an order ready in 24 hours, and right now I'm not sure how many seed companies can say that."

With the uptick in interest in gardening since the pandemic began, seed companies everywhere seem to be struggling to keep up with the demand. At Salt Spring Seeds, the orders began to swell in November.

**LOCAL SEED GROWERS** continued on 10

**Celebrating 125th Anniversary of the Salt Spring Island Fall Fair est. 1896**

*Catalogue*  
OF THE  
**SALT SPRING ISLAND**  
AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY  
**ANNUAL EXHIBITION**  
Held  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14th, 1896.**  
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## RETIREMENT PLANNING

# What Canadians need to save for retirement

Work with a financial advisor to achieve goals

Everyone wants to live well in retirement. But how much money does it take?

A recent survey found that Canadians think they need an average of \$4,000 in after-tax monthly income and around \$800,000 in total savings to feel good about their financial future.

The real numbers depend on your lifestyle, goals, pension and more, but getting there takes a lot of planning, which is something that many of us need help with. Here are a few ideas to help you get started.

### CONSIDER WHAT YOUR RETIREMENT WILL LOOK LIKE

In order to plan for retirement, you need to have an idea of what your lifestyle will be. Do you plan to travel or become a snowbird? Will you downsize or remain in your home? Should your health decline, what type of care would you like to receive? These decisions aren't always fun, but it's important to think about them early.



### KNOW YOUR SOURCES OF RETIREMENT INCOME

The survey found that many Canadians aren't very familiar with other sources of retirement income, such as the Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security and Tax-Free Savings Accounts.

Make sure you have a good understanding of all potential income options, and plan to draw income from multiple sources. You'll then be in a better position to forecast how much you'll need to save to achieve your desired lifestyle.

### WORK WITH A FINANCIAL ADVISOR NOW

Research has shown that those who use an advisor save more money, budget better, and ultimately meet their financial goals.

"A good advisor will help by asking those tough questions, educating you on your potential income sources and examining your holistic financial picture so you're prepared for the future," says Jack Courtney, vice president of advanced financial planning at IG Wealth Management.

It's like anything. For example, if your furnace stopped working, you'd hire a heating professional. If you want to ensure you're saving enough for retirement, work with a financial professional.

Find more on preparing for retirement at [ig.ca](http://ig.ca).

Source: [news.canada.com](http://news.canada.com)

## BUSINESS RECOVERY

# Grants available for businesses impacted by COVID pandemic

Applications taken until March 31

BY GAIL SJUBERG

DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

A Salt Spring lawyer is drawing attention to the availability of grants for businesses whose income has been reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Small and Medium Sized Business Recovery Grant is a B.C. government program that offers grants of \$10,000 to \$30,000 to small and medium-sized B.C. businesses impacted by COVID-19, with an additional \$5,000 to \$15,000 available to eligible tourism-related businesses.

Lawyer Michael Simkin was one local professional asked by the provincial government to provide professional advice to business owners needing help to develop a "recovery plan." The plan is required in order to receive a grant.

"So far I've been matched with businesses on Vancouver Island but not here," he said last week.

However, that was before the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce sent out an email message to its members with some information about the grant program, a link to the applicable website and offers of help from chamber staff and member professionals.

"Last year, the B.C. government launched a \$345-million financial assistance program

to help businesses get through the COVID shutdown," said chamber president Darryl Martin in the message. "There was insufficient uptake, so the program was relaunched recently with a streamlined criteria and application process. I urge members to take a second look at this program, and commend our staff for offering to step up and help with the process."

Simkin said it was great that the government was recognizing that some businesses will survive through the challenging pandemic period with a bit of financial help.

"There is tons of free money out there," he said. "They will even cover fixed costs."

While Simkin said he understands that most island small business owners are

extremely busy, he encourages them to check out the website to see if they are eligible for grant funds.

"It's really not a complicated application," he said.

Even creation of a recovery plan is not as onerous as it might sound.

The ability to prove loss of income is one of the eligibility criteria. The business must have experienced revenue losses compared to the same period in 2019 of at least 70 per cent at some point during March or April 2020 and at least 30 per cent at some point during May 2020 to present.

The business must also have had positive cash flow for the last financial statement, prior to Feb. 1, 2020.

The application deadline is March 31.



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**MARKUS WENZEL**  
BBA (Hons), CFP, Financial Consultant  
Investors Group Financial Services Inc.  
**250-653-9788**  
[markus.wenzel@ig.ca](mailto:markus.wenzel@ig.ca)



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INVESTING

# The hidden cost of foreign withholding tax

Knowledge is key to managing the landscape

SUBMITTED BY CHRIS STOOKSBURY  
BEACON HILL - RAYMOND JAMES

One of the least understood and hidden costs is foreign withholding tax. The tax is incurred when an investor in Canada receives dividends from non-Canadian investments such as U.S. or foreign stocks.

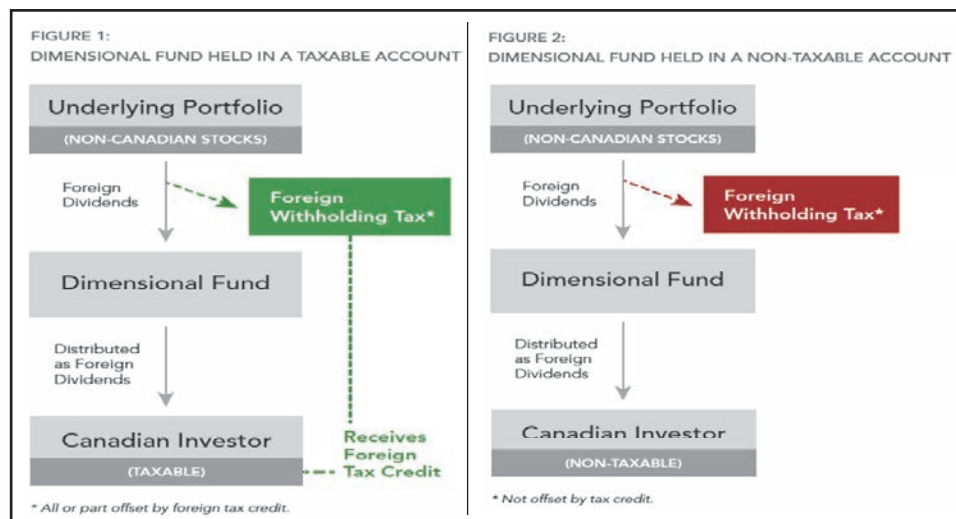
Most countries require tax to be withheld from dividend payments to foreign investors (Canadians in this case). This tax varies by country, but 15 per cent is the most common rate.

Taxable investors in Canada can receive a credit for the amount of foreign taxes paid (up to 15 per cent of dividends), so the tax paid to foreign governments is substantially, if not completely, offset by a reduction in Canadian taxes. Note, in registered plans (RRSP, RIF, TFSA), investors do not receive a refundable tax credit.

How these foreign securities are held (directly or indirectly) in Canada becomes critical in reducing the tax drag of different layers of foreign withholding tax.

**FOREIGN SECURITIES HELD DIRECTLY IN CANADA**

Figures 1 & 2 below illustrate how foreign dividends flow to investors in a Canadian-domiciled fund (Dimensional Fund) that directly holds the shares of non-Canadian dividend paying securities in both a taxable and non-taxable account. In both cases the fund delivers the dividends paid to investors. In the case of the taxable investor, the foreign tax withheld is offset by the tax credit received (highlighted in green). In non-taxable (registered) accounts, there is no offsetting credit received (highlighted in red).



**FOREIGN SECURITIES HELD INDIRECTLY IN CANADA**

The foreign withholding tax gets more complicated and opaque if the securities are held indirectly. The most common ways to hold securities indirectly are:

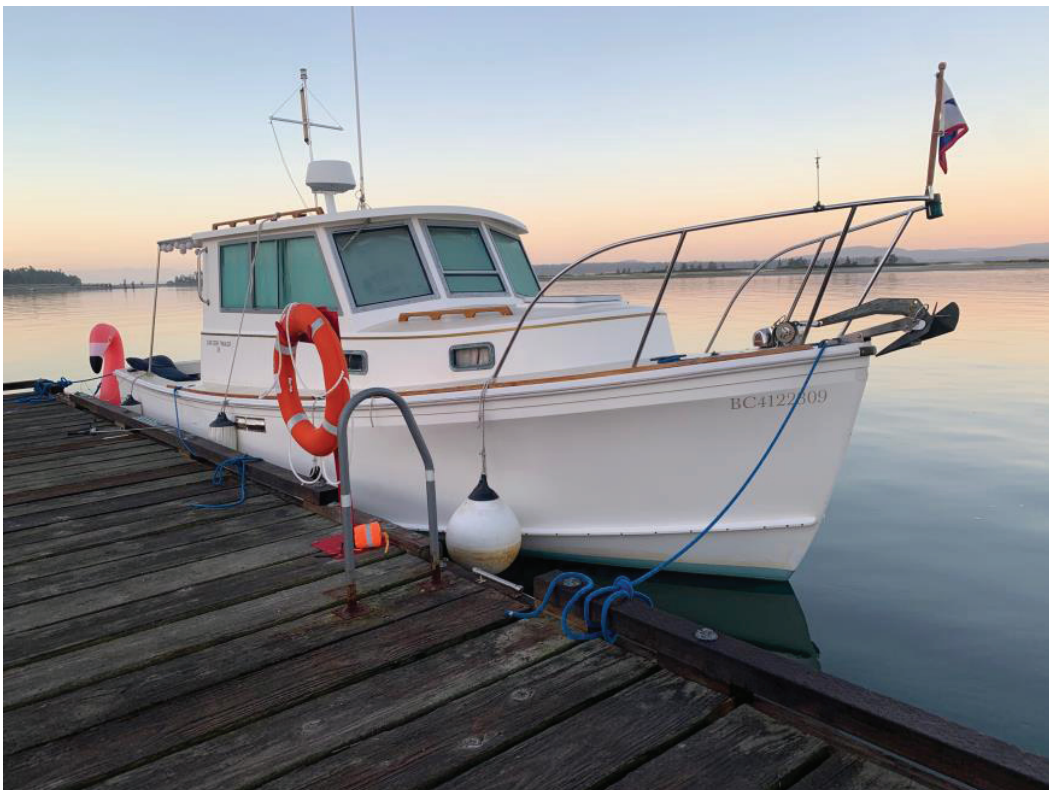
- When a Canadian investor holds a U.S.-listed ETF (exchange traded fund) that holds non-U.S. securities like European or Emerging Market stocks. The sheer volume, selection and lower cost of U.S.-listed ETFs dwarfs what is available here in Canada, and are a popular choice for investors.

- When a Canadian investor holds a “wrapped” Canadian-listed ETF. An example of this would be a Canadian-listed emerging market ETF that holds the corresponding U.S.-listed emerging market ETF with a currency hedge. Canadians use these for emerging market exposure offered on the U.S.-listed version, but in CAD\$.

*Chris Stooksbury is a financial advisor with both Raymond James Canada and Raymond James (USA) Ltd. He specializes in cross-border asset management and financial advice.*

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# ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

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 Contact the BCSPCA at **250-537-2123**

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 COLLISION & AUTO REPAIRS  
 191 RAINBOW RD. 250-537-2239  
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### VISUAL ARTS

## Brewery picks island artist's work

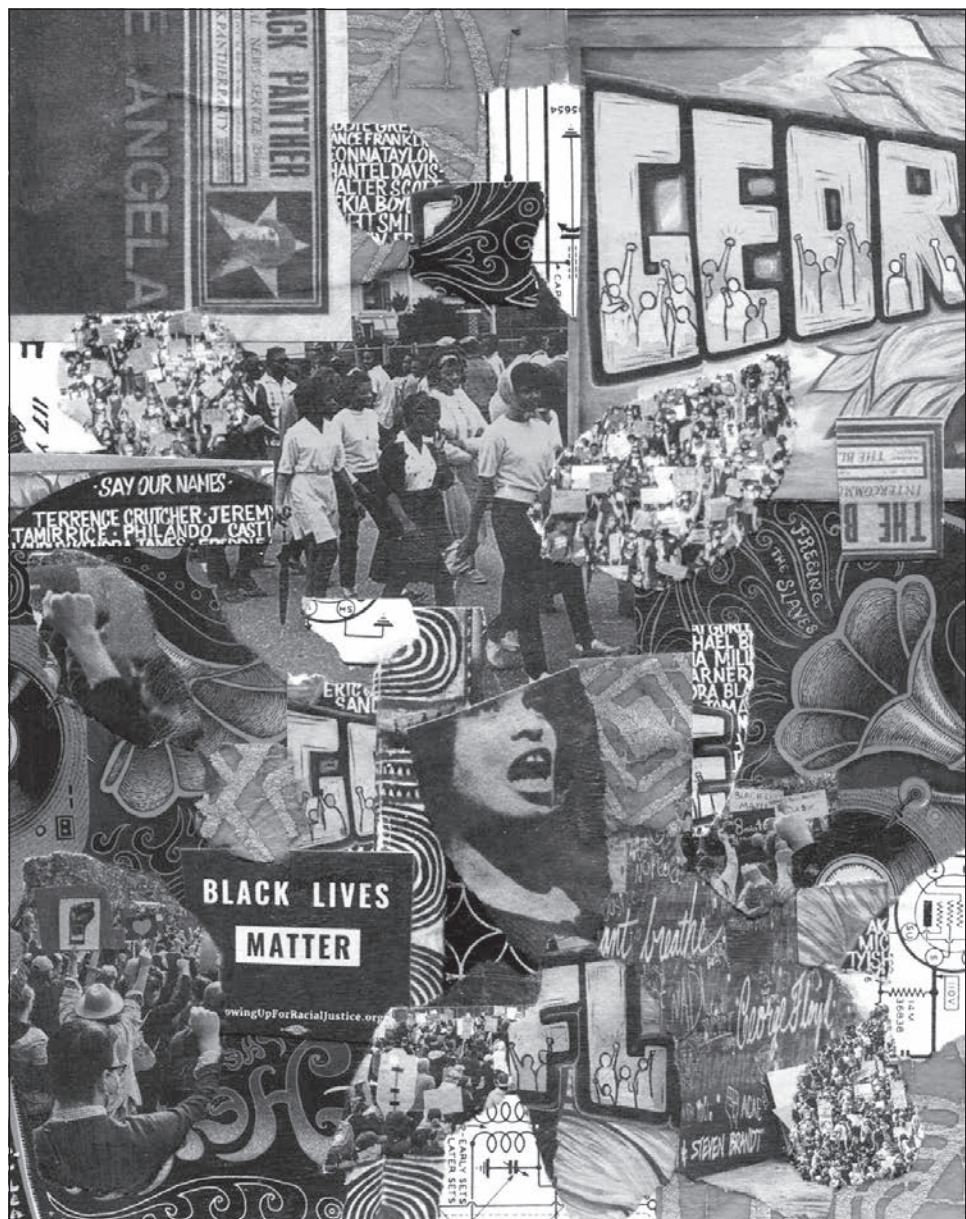
Rosie Schinners art responds to social justice movement

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring artist Rosie Schinners will have the unusual opportunity of seeing her art in the hands of multiple Canadians this year, thanks to the Hamilton-based company Collective Arts Brewing.

Schinners' work called Keep Breathing is set to appear on beer cans containing the craft brewery's Ransack the Universe IPA in 2021. She is one of 36 artists selected from over 1,000 submissions from around the world for the Amplified Voices art series. The collage she submitted is a response to the Black Lives Matter protests that galvanized the world last year.

"It's mind blowing to me, actually. It kind of floored me because it was something I put a lot of myself into," Schinners said about being chosen.



Rosie Schinners' Keep Breathing collage.

"I'm just really proud to be a Salt Spring artist and be a part of this project," she added. "It's really important, I think, in terms of being on what to me is the right side of history. And just as an artist on a small island, getting a voice out to the world is pretty cool."

Collective Arts Brewing is a grassroots craft brewery whose mandate is "to combine the craft of brewing with the inspired talents of emerging and seasoned artists, musicians, photographers and filmmakers." Limited-edition artworks are featured on all of their products, and visitors to their websites will find information on each artist.

Schinners and her husband moved to Salt Spring a few years ago from Vancouver. She is originally from Ontario and has degrees from the University of Guelph and Nova Scotia College of Art and Design University, where she studied painting.

Collage was not really encouraged when Schinners was at art school, but she felt it was more accessible than painting after she graduated. She was also drawn to the process, and it has since become her primary medium, often incorporating vintage print material.

After a while, Schinners said, she started noticing a pattern in the images she was using. This helped changed her approach from being a response to the materials to creating works with a theme in mind. As

she developed her process, Schinners started thinking more about how collage could speak to specific issues, so she began incorporating historical documents to add more context.

"I definitely use a lot of women in my art. I think a lot of my art has a feminist connection or component to it," she said.

Keep Breathing came out of the artist's need to process the social justice movement without being able to do much from home during a pandemic. Schinners sampled a Minneapolis mural tribute to George Floyd done by Cadex Herrera, Xena Goldman and Greta McLain, among other images used in the piece. For her, one of the most meaningful parts of being selected for the series is that Herrera turned out to be on the selection panel — and named Schinners' work as one of his favourites.

Schinners was able to contact Herrera in turn and let him know how influential his work has been.

Collective Arts Brewing products are carried locally by the Upper Ganges Liquor Store, so islanders may soon get the chance to enjoy Schinners' artwork and have a beer at the same time. They can also see some of her work on display at the Fernwood Road Cafe in March, and find her Arco & Iris Design jewellery and other work online.

See her Instagram page or her [rosieschinners.ca](http://rosieschinners.ca) website for more information.



### OCP Amendments for Temporary Use Permits for Short Term Vacation Rentals Bylaw 222

**Have Your Say**

#### PUBLIC HEARING NORTH PENDER LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

##### What is the bylaw about?

The North Pender Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) is reviewing the Temporary Use Permit (TUP) guidelines for Short Term Vacation Rentals (STVRs) as part of the LTC's Top Priority Project. The LTC is now proposing to amend the TUP section in the North Pender Island Official Community Plan (OCP) Bylaw No. 171, 2007 (OCP) in order to amend and add new STVR TUP guidelines.

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

##### How do I get more information?

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

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/npender/news-page/>

A copy of the bylaw, the Public Hearing Binder and other information on the project is available at the Islands Trust Victoria office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays, February 12 to 24, 2021, or online:

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/npender/stvrproject>

##### Written submissions?

Send by 4:30 p.m., February 24, 2021 to:

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

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

February 25, 2021  
 CIM - 9 a.m.

Public Hearing to follow CIM

##### Zoom Meeting

Phone (Toll Free):

Canada: 833 958 1164

US: 833 955 1088

<https://islandstrust.zoom.us/j/66784295253>

Webinar ID Code:

667 8429 5253

##### Who should attend?

Anyone affected by the proposed bylaws

##### Enquires?

Kim Stockdill

Island Planner:

250-405-5157

[kstockdill@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:kstockdill@islandstrust.bc.ca)

[islandstrust.bc.ca](http://islandstrust.bc.ca)

HONOURS

# BC Entertainment Hall of Fame fêtes Partridge

Islander's work on behalf of music industry creators recognized

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

A long-time Salt Spring Islander was recently honoured by being named a StarMeritus in the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame.

Lynne Partridge's nomination was initiated by legendary B.C. singer-songwriter Roy Forbes to recognize her pioneering work in representation for performing artists and songwriters.

"When I first came to Vancouver in the summer of 1971, the music industry was a lot like the Wild West," said Forbes. "And through her work with BMI and PROCAN [Performing Rights Organization of Canada], Lynne generously guided me and so many other writers through the tangled web of the fledgling Canadian music industry."

Partridge began working at Aragon Studios, which was one of the first music studios in Canada, established by her father Al Reusch and others.

"Here she met many luminaries of the Vancouver music industry while doing everything from managing the office and bookings to studio set-up," states the BCEHF website.

"In 1968 she was hired to establish the Vancouver office and oversee Western Canada for BMI (Broadcast Music Inc.) Canada, recruiting new members, being the first contact for new and established members and building relationships with the local industry. At that time, when no one in the West was aware of performing rights, Lynne single-handedly educated hundreds of songwriters on the value of their copyrights and music publishing, providing support and encouragement to a fledgling music industry."

Partridge gives an example of why songwriters needed support.

"They would only get one cent per song per record sold," she told the Driftwood.

Her work ensured the songwriters were also compensated when their songs were performed. That change would make a big difference to someone like Jim Vallance, who co-wrote songs with rock star Bryan Adams, she said.

At a tribute event to Partridge in 1988, Adams said, "Lynne is one of the few people in the music business who knows what she's talking about."

Paul Horn also spoke at that event.

"When it comes to performing rights, Lynne is one of



PHOTO COURTESY BC ENTERTAINMENT HALL OF FAME  
Lynne Partridge in 1985, when she was director of the western division of the Performing Rights Organization of Canada.

organization," says the BCEHF site, "which was renamed PROCAN and today is known as SOCAN [Society of Composers, Artists and Music Publishers of Canada]."

By 1989, when Partridge retired from PROCAN, the office had 13 staff taking care of the rights of 7,000 music industry professionals.

She continued to work in publishing and management for The Irish Rovers and Raffi until her move to Salt Spring in 1993.

She said she wanted to move to the island so badly that she bought a property she could operate as a bed and breakfast. "It got me over here," she said.

Partridge ran the B&B for seven years, and then in 2000 became the operations director for ArtSpring in its early days, working with then executive director Paul Gravett.

Although she has been active in the community in a number of ways, her past accomplishments aren't known by most people here.

"I was in the industry for 25 years, but that was a long time ago and it is rare for it to come up [in conversation]," she said.

She might be more known for recent years spent volunteering at the Extended Care Unit at Lady Minto Hospital serving tea and cookies, and at the Visitor Centre in Ganges. She is also a driver for the Salt Spring Seniors Services Society. Like many people, she misses her volunteer activities, which are currently suspended due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

the most knowledgeable people in the business and she has had a great impact on the composing and publishing end of my career," he said.

Partridge also worked with Tommy Banks at Century II Studios, where she met her future husband, Dale Partridge, and then returned to Vancouver.

"In 1978, while working with The Irish Rovers and their manager Les Weinstein, she heard rumours that the western office was closing and returned to BMI Canada to revitalize the

In the local arts realm she has also served on the Salt Spring Folk Club board.

The StarMeritus recognition is not Partridge's first major honour. She also received a special JUNO award in 1987 following her retirement from the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (CARAS) board of directors. It was bestowed "in recognition of her dedicated efforts on behalf of CARAS and the JUNOS."

No live event to honour hall of fame inductees will take place this year due to COVID-19. StarMeritus members, previously known as "Pioneers," are acknowledged with brass plaques on display in the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame gallery at the Orpheum theatre in Vancouver.

Capital Regional District



## Notice of Volunteer Opportunity

### Solid Waste Advisory Committee

The Capital Regional District is seeking volunteers to serve on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. The committee provides input on solid waste management matters and advises on the development of our region's new Solid Waste Management Plan. There are vacancies for members representing the following communities:

- First Nations
- Solid Waste Technology Representative

Interested? Please send a brief summary telling us about yourself, where you live, your relevant experience and why you would like to serve on the committee. **Deadline for receipt of applications is Wednesday, March 17, 2021.**

For more information, please visit:  
[www.crd.bc.ca/project/management-plan](http://www.crd.bc.ca/project/management-plan)

Send your application to:

**Mail:** CRD Environmental Resource Management  
625 Fisgard Street, Victoria BC, V8W 2S6  
**Email:** [achambers@crd.bc.ca](mailto:achambers@crd.bc.ca)

# what's on this week



Thurs. Feb. 18	Thurs. Feb. 18	Mon. Feb. 22	Tues. Feb. 23
<b>ACTIVITIES</b> <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.	<b>VIA ZOOM</b> <b>Salt Spring Island Poultry Club Meeting.</b> Emily Robertson from True North Hatchery shares a presentation on how to breed poultry for health and productivity. 7 p.m. For club members only.	<b>VIA ZOOM</b> <b>Salt Spring Transportation Commission Meeting.</b> 1 p.m. Email <a href="mailto:ask@asksaltspring.com">ask@asksaltspring.com</a> for link.	<b>VIA ZOOM</b> <b>Farmers' Institute AGM.</b> Annual general meeting via Zoom. 7 p.m. For members only. Paid-up members will be invited to join the meeting.
	<b>Fri. Feb. 19</b> <b>VIA ZOOM</b> <b>ASK Salt Spring.</b> With Islands Trust trustee Laura Patrick. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Email <a href="mailto:ask@asksaltspring.com">ask@asksaltspring.com</a> for link.	<b>Salt Spring Fire Protection District Trustees Meeting.</b> 5 p.m. Email <a href="mailto:info@saltspringfire.com">info@saltspringfire.com</a> for the link.	<b>Wed. Feb. 24</b> <b>VIA ZOOM</b> <b>Tech Cafe: News Literacy.</b> Driftwood editor Gail Sjuberg leads a discussion on the present-day media landscape and news literacy topics. 7 p.m. Sponsored by the Salt Spring Public Library. To register and get the Zoom link, email <a href="mailto:programs@saltspringlibrary.com">programs@saltspringlibrary.com</a> .
		<b>Making a Stand in the Salish Sea.</b> Film screening and discussion. 7 p.m. RSVP to <a href="mailto:ssispeaks@gmail.com">ssispeaks@gmail.com</a> .	

**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**  
• **Diana Morris** shows A Baker's Dozen, an exhibit of 13 watercolour and pastel artworks, at **Country Grocer's Roasters Cafe** through February.  
• **Dan Zak** has a watercolour show at **SS Coffee** until March 15.

**EXHIBITIONS**  
• **Sue Earle** presents her Binding the Ties That Break exhibit at the **Salt Spring Public Library program room** until February 27.  
• 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** in February.  
• **Katie Watt** has paintings hanging at **Switchboard Cafe** this month.

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

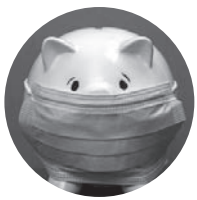
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**We encourage clients to email or phone to set up an appointment rather than just dropping in, particularly in Covid times.**



# ISLAND LIFE

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

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



## ISLANDERS IN ACTION

# Community steps up to aid beloved yoga teacher

GoFundMe and Caring Bridge campaigns launched for Celeste Mallett-Jason

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

News that highly regarded yoga teacher Celeste Mallett-Jason has been diagnosed with cancer has been a shock to many on Salt Spring, with her guidance being an integral part of countless journeys of health and well-being.

Her positive impact in the community is clearly reflected in the success of a GoFundMe campaign organized by Tara Hollingsworth and Julie MacKinnon, which reached its \$50,000 target within just a few days of its launch on Jan. 30 and has now raised in excess of \$65,000. The result has been a welcome surprise to the recipient.

"I'm blown away by it," Mallett-Jason said. "I'm just blown away."

Mallett-Jason's sudden diagnosis in December has been hard to reconcile; a nagging shoulder pain she attributed to overdoing it in the studio or the garden turned out to be Stage-4 lung cancer that

metastasized into her ribs.

Her unyielding compassion as a healer, instructor and friend has been felt by thousands who have taken her classes, while her iconic Ganges Yoga Studio has provided space for many other island teachers to share and evolve their practices.

Difficult as it is for someone used to giving help to receive it, a combination of factors that includes a global pandemic means Mallett-Jason can really use a hand in the coming weeks and months. She is facing significant costs related to her treatment, with travel to the B.C. Cancer Clinic in Victoria, as well as other treatments on Salt Spring, additional medications, health supplements and adaptive therapies. A single dose of the anti-nausea pill she's been prescribed costs \$200 before pharmacy aid.

"It is very helpful with this money that's coming in. This situation has given me stress that's so overwhelming, but it really will help," Mallett-Jason said. "I don't have places to draw on for that — I've always been happy to teach and work for it, so it feels strange not working for it."

Islanders have been quick to respond



PHOTO BY BILLIE WOODS PHOTOGRAPHY

Yoga teacher Celeste Mallett-Jason, whose Stage-4 cancer diagnosis has led to a community fundraising and volunteering campaign to help in the months ahead.

Studio business to worry about, as well. A beautiful new location on Lower Ganges Road was just coming together when pandemic restrictions were introduced last March. Low-impact classes have been permitted since rules were lifted in May, but the ban on anything termed a "gathering" has reduced the rental income that Mallett-Jason expected to help support the lease, along with her vision for a different type of space. Originally she wanted to include the arts community through exhibitions, pop-up markets, workshops and performances.

While Mallett-Jason has transformed a number of dodgy locations into serene oases of wellness as Ganges Yoga Studio sites through the years, that's not because she has any sort of bank account to draw on. It's all been done through a combination of love and the will to create sacred space in the community.

"It is a miracle that these have come together on such a low budget," Mallett-Jason said.

With the types of classes and participation levels curtailed by ongoing COVID regulations, support to keep Ganges Yoga Studio running will be important. Anyone who may have a suitable idea for space rental is invited to contact [celeste@gangesyogastudio.com](mailto:celeste@gangesyogastudio.com).

to the news, including Hollingsworth and MacKinnon, two women who know Mallett-Jason well through her classes and upon whom she was inspired to call after seeing their faces in a meditation.

MacKinnon observed locals have stepped up their caring for others over the past year, generously backing campaigns for COVID relief, families impacted by tragic events and other efforts. It's the kind of spirit that Mallett-Jason has always promoted by example.

"Celeste's focus on wellness and kindness has reverberated, and that's what's happening in the community right now. People are hyper aware of where there's need and making time to put into their community," MacKinnon said. "If anyone falls off a bit, there are 10 people to pick them up."

"We're lucky on this island. We're here 100 per cent for each other and we've got to keep practising that; it's essential," Mallett-Jason said. "We are holding each other and we're giving each other this opportunity to walk this line again. We've pulled away from spirit, and COVID gives us the opportunity to come back."

Hollingsworth said the news of Mallett-Jason's diagnosis has also reverberated in other ways.

"People are phoning to share their stories about how cancer has touched them," Hollingsworth said. "They phone and say 'I want to thank you [for leading the fundraiser], and I'd like to send you something, and this is what's happening in our family.' So there are lots of people who are clearly wanting to talk and connect ... it's helping people open up a lot."

Ongoing concerns for Mallett-Jason as she undergoes treatment include the farm she runs with her husband, Salt Spring Seeds founder Dan Jason. The couple also recently learned they'll need to replace the roof on their house.

Mallett-Jason has her Ganges Yoga

**"We're lucky on this island. We're here 100 per cent for each other and we've got to keep practising that."**

CELESTE MALLETT-JASON

Community members who wish to support Mallett-Jason as she continues the journey ahead will have several more opportunities in addition to donating. One way is to volunteer to help with gardening chores, meal prep and more in the period after she finishes her treatment. Anyone can subscribe to her Caring Bridge page to share their availability and to later be contacted with schedules and tasks.

The page at <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/caringforceleste2> also has links to the Caring for Celeste GoFundMe campaign. (Viewers should note a donation button on the Caring Bridge page supports that host organization, not Mallett-Jason's campaign.) Donations can also be made to Island Savings account #2782 at the local branch.

The Caring Bridge site will furthermore be the place to find a 10-minute meditation that Petra Hasenfratz is creating for Mallett-Jason, which community members can practise every week at the same time to share powerful healing intentions.

Mallett-Jason will be providing updates when she can through Caring Bridge journal entries. Direct messages to her email are also welcome.



**Have Your Say**

**March 5, 2021**  
CIM - 10:30 a.m.  
Public Hearing to follow CIM

### Zoom Meeting

Phone (Toll Free):  
Canada: 833 958 1164  
US: 833 958 1088  
<https://islandstrust.zoom.us/j/68599247049>

Webinar ID Code:  
685 9924 7049

### Who should attend?

Anyone affected by the proposed bylaws

### Enquires?

Kim Stockdill  
Island Planner:  
250-405-5157  
[kstockdill@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:kstockdill@islandstrust.bc.ca)

## OCP and LUB Amendments for Short Term Vacation Rentals Bylaws 119 & 120

### PUBLIC HEARING

SOUTH PENDER LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

#### What are the bylaws about?

The Local Trust Committee (LTC) is reviewing Short Term Vacation Rental (STVR) policies as part of their Top Priority Project.

Draft Bylaw No. 119 would amend the Temporary Use Permit (TUP) section in South Pender Island Official Community Plan (OCP) Bylaw No. 107, 2011 in order to add new STVR TUP guidelines. Draft Bylaw No. 120 would remove STVRs as a home occupation use in Land Use Bylaw (LUB) No. 114, 2016.

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

#### How do I get more information?

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

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/spender/sp-news/>

A copy of the bylaw, the Public Hearing Binder and other information on the project is available at the Islands Trust Victoria office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays, February 19 to March 4, 2021, or online:

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/spender/stvr-project/>

#### Written submissions?

Send by 4:30 p.m., March 4, 2021 to:

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

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

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



**DAVID KEITH GRAYSON**  
 1949 - 2021

David passed away peacefully at his home on Salt Spring Island, January 10, 2021.

David was born on February 9, 1949 in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan to parents, Keith and Gwen Grayson. He enjoyed a happy childhood with his parents and brother John at their waterfront acreage on Buffalo Lake, near Moose Jaw. It was a life filled with sailing, swimming, horses, and riding on the Canadian prairie.

After graduating from the University of Saskatchewan, David attended a Teacher Training Course in Transcendental Meditation (TM) in 1973. His greatest joy was teaching TM and working on meditation projects around the world for 48 years.


A man of refined taste in both art and music, he was a connoisseur of beauty. Throughout his life, he enjoyed collecting contemporary art. His other passion was listening to classical music and opera in addition to his wide-ranging interest in rock, jazz, and rhythm and blues.

Moving from Vancouver to Salt Spring in 2005, David was well known as the co-owner and general manager of Ganges Alley as well as two housing sites. He could often be seen around town wearing one of his trademark hats, often a cowboy hat, while stopping to chat with tenants and friends.

David was a man of many gifts: he was highly intelligent, always bubbling with creativity, and had a deep spirituality. He was quiet and shy, but when he spoke, people listened. His friends and colleagues enjoyed his droll sense of humour - he saw the funny, absurd side of things and would quickly come up with one of his famous quips.

David is survived by his loving wife, Carolyn, who treasures their 39 happy years of marriage, career partnerships, travel, and daily laughter. There were no children. David was dearly loved by his family, friends, colleagues, and all who knew him. He was a rare and beautiful soul and will be greatly missed.

An amazing and beautiful Zoom Celebration of Life for David was held on January 31, attended by family and friends from Europe, the US, and across Canada.



**LEWIS WILLIAM PITMAN**  
 1926 - 2021

Born in Liverpool, England in 1926, Lewis died in his home on Salt Spring Island, on the 8th February 2021.

Lewis was the second son of Frederick and Muriel Pitman. He received his early education in the city of Liverpool and in nearby Lancashire. He joined the army in 1944 and became an army pilot, and a member of the famous Glider Pilot Regiment. Later, he attended universities in England and Canada and trained to become a teacher of English.

In 1951 he married Valerie Joyce Lelliott (he claimed that he never deserved her) and they emigrated to Canada 1955, eventually living in Kenora, Welland, Hamilton, Aurora, and Blyth before retiring to beautiful Salt Spring Island. Over the years Lewis also became a distinguished potter, a health nut, a bagpiper, a keen runner, and periodically contributed articles to various newspapers. He had a full and busy life. The Pitman family became complete when they eventually had three wonderful children during the memorable sixties: Nancy Jo (1960), Andrew (1963) and Matthew (1965) all of whom were much loved, and who taught their parents more than they ever realized. Later, the family grew to include three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

There will be no service: the rest is silence.



**(JOCELYN) NANCY BRAITHWAITE**  
 Sept 29, 1928 – January 27, 2021

Nancy passed away January 27 after a slow decline with the same stoicism and stubbornness that she demonstrated throughout her life—uncompromising in her belief that we should live politely and modestly upon this gentle earth. It was easy to misconstrue her acerbic remarks, but to her closest friends and those who had no voice—the homeless, the natural world, the sick and victims of injustice—her actions, friendships and philanthropy spoke to a deep concern for the planet and humanity's survival. She leaves behind the amazing women of her generation who fought hard to be heard, and an increasing circle of the next generations of cousins and friends who see their contributions.

Born in Victoria, an only child, to Captain John Grant and Jocelyn (nee) Weaver-Bridgman, she spent summers on Saltspring at WENNANEC (Lyonesse) with her widowed grandmother, artist Maud Weaver-Bridgman and her great aunts who she described as "fun, original women" who taught her to build rafts, dig clams, recite poetry, speak Chinook and hike in the mountains while still remaining stylish. She also loved the mountains of Vancouver Island and her name comes from her mother who is the namesake of Jocelyn Hill in Victoria's Gowlland Range; named by Commander Parry of the survey ship HMS Egeria after his friend's first granddaughter. It was during this childhood with these original women that she developed her lifelong love of the natural world and islands.

As a young woman, she went to the enigmatic college, House of Citizenship, in London to develop her flair for languages which launched her into a career of which she spoke very little. To some she described herself as a "courier" based in London and to others a "tour guide" with "Italian employers." Many of us joined her on her travels as companions, whether it was hiking in the mountains, sailing on the coast or exploring a hidden corner of Europe. Her cousins were always important to her; each of us quietly reminded of our lineage and whether we were once removed or second cousins. Our grammar was corrected, all attempts at assistance rejected. She would order meals at a restaurant in fluent Italian, German or French, demanding quality but never quantity. She was parsimonious to those of us with privilege, but generous to those without.

At fifty she returned to Canada permanently to nurse her aging parents. While broken down at the side of the road on Saltspring, she met the love of her life, Roy Braithwaite, an oysterfarmer, who pulled over to assist. They spent the first years of their marriage at Sansum Narrows and it was this time about which Nancy recalled most deeply. Roy christened his boat "The Fancy Nancy" which encapsulated everything about her—a sailboat built for beauty and practicality as they worked their oyster farm in the Narrows. They later moved to Trincomali Heights where Roy gently built their new home into the forest with his son Peter. Nancy embarked on the pioneering work with her women friends of starting the Salt Spring Conservancy—placing her own lands in one of their first conservation covenants named Ruffed Grouse Covenant, after the threatened bird she loved to hear in the spring. At this time, she adopted the title of honorary granny to the granddaughters of her beloved cousin Rosemary—Brighde, Christie and Charlie.

In the last thirty years of her life, living alone, she became a steadfast supporter and philanthropist of all facets of island community life in the arts, social justice and environmental movements. She volunteered at the library, attended every lecture and performance from the operas in Victoria to the Forum on Saltspring, supported local farmers, went to demonstrations against logging and pipelines turning up at protests with her iconic hats, woodpecker sign and sensible green wool coat made during the war. Many of her friends predeceased her, but she was always moving with the times, making new young friends who shared her values of not conforming to a patriarchal, corporatizing world. She took responsibility for the impacts of her own early BC ancestors and supported the formation of the Stqeeye' Learning Society to promote well-being of indigenous youth through ecological restoration of the land. Even in death, she challenged corporate values with a forest burial at the Saltspring Natural Cemetery—returning her body to the forest she loved. The last three years of her life were difficult as she lost her mobility and independence, especially a year of isolation through COVID. The companionship of Amanda Love and staff at Greenwood's gave her comfort and love as did the support of her last "Committee" of friends, stepson Peter and cousins including Heather Robertson, who predeceased her, and Briony Penn.

*Gone to the Great Studio in the Sky*

**Good friend, mentor and brilliant artist.**



Wim Blom (1927-2021), passed away peacefully in his sleep, January 18, on Salt Spring Island. Many thanks to the health care workers, Lady Minto Hospital and his friends at Thrifty's and around town, who helped him and gave him friendship and joy. And to all those that loved his art, here and around the world. We will raise a glass to Wim and his life when the sunny days arrive. Always remembered.

Love, Peter Haase, Mona Fertig, Sophia & Paris.

*"In the midst of modern unrest, temptations arise from the unlimited freedom of the artist. Wim Blom is aware of his solitariness as a representative of a timeless style and he knows that isolation is the prerequisite condition for concentration on, and belief in, a personal tradition."*

*For those who love, time is not. Missing you today and always.*

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*Carley Eleanor Thomson*

12 February 1928 - 7 February 2021



Beloved mother of Kelly, Kenny, David, Carel; grandmother of Kelsey; great grandmother of Cash Emory and wife of Ian (1927-2018) passed in Winnipeg, attended by the caring staff at Grace Hospital.

Thanks especially to Carley's stepson Dr. Ian R. Thomson (ret.) for his care and assistance.

A frequent visitor to Salt Spring she will be remembered and missed by family and many friends.

Carley served in the Canadian Forces and was a 75 year Legion member as well as a devoted community volunteer. Her leadership and mentoring was apparent through a long association with Toastmasters International. Having raised her family as a single mother, love came to Carley later in life with firefighter and former RCAF fighter pilot Ian. They enjoyed a warm relationship that took them on travels and adventures around the world.

In our hearts forever.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the Legion.

*Luciana Sorrentino*

1929 - 2021



Luciana, age 91, passed away peacefully with family at her home at Heritage Place on Salt Spring Island on Friday, Feb 5, 2021.

Born in 1929 in Trieste, Italy, Luciana came to Canada in 1956 with her husband and young son. After residing in Montreal for 10 years, she and her family moved to West Vancouver in 1966 and lived in their Eagle Harbour home until moving to Salt Spring in 2018.

Always fun loving and energetic, Luciana loved to play tennis with her friends, swim at her favourite beaches and cook her traditional Italian dishes for family and friends. Luciana had exquisite style and was an expert seamstress. Always dressed in the latest classic elegant fashions of her European upbringing. Along with her late husband Fulvio, Luciana travelled extensively and made many friendships around the world.

She is pre-deceased by husband Fulvio (2019) and leaves behind son Furio (Candace); daughter Michela (Matteo); 4 grandchildren, Chris, Carla, Sebastian, Julia; 2 great-grandchildren Amelia, Ella.



**Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Tuesday February 23 at 7 pm

Membership Fees, \$20 Single \$25 Family

Mail cheque to Box 661, Salt Spring Island, V8K 2W3, e-transfer to ssifi@shaw.ca or pay at Foxglove Farm and Garden

Members will be invited to join by Zoom

SEE WEEKLY HOROSCOPE ON PAGE 19



**ARTCRAFT 2021 CALLOUT FOR ARTISTS AND MAKERS**

Salt Spring Arts Council's Artcraft is calling for Artists, creators and makers! Would you like a chance to show your work in an exquisite setting, during the breezy summer months on Salt Spring?

Artcraft is B.C.'s longest running annual juried show boasting the best arts and products from the Southern Gulf Islands. We are now open for registration and welcome new artists to go through our jurying process. If accepted you will have your work in Mahon Hall from June 11- September 19. We offer a competitive commission rate of 35% and as a non-profit all profits go back into our arts programmes.

This year all new artists and our existing textiles artists will be juried. For information on Artcraft, the jurying process and how to apply, please go to: [ssartsCouncil.com/artcraft-submissions/](http://ssartsCouncil.com/artcraft-submissions/)

Or contact Sarah, Artcraft Manager at: [artcraft@ssartsCouncil.com](mailto:artcraft@ssartsCouncil.com)



**ARTCRAFT SHOWCASES 2022**

**CALL FOR EXHIBITION PROPOSALS**

Calling Artists, Curators and Craft people! Would you like an opportunity to showcase your work during the Artcraft season? Each year we welcome Artists working in a variety of media, to submit exhibition proposals for the Artcraft's season in our Showcase Gallery. This is an opportunity for Artists to show developed, high end and innovative works on the stage in Mahon Hall. It is a chance to sell your work as well as having it seen and appreciated in a stunning setting.

We look for proposals that show professionalism and quality as well as innovation with a contemporary feel. The exhibits are roughly four weeks long and run during the Artcraft season from June to September. Artists can submit work individually/part of a group, we also welcome visionary curators. Work entered must be recent, created within the past 2 years and must not have been exhibited locally. Entry is open only to artists living in School District #64 Gulf Islands. All items entered must be for sale. The Artcraft commission rate is 35%. For more information please go to: [ssartsCouncil.com/showcase-exhibitions-3/](http://ssartsCouncil.com/showcase-exhibitions-3/) or email Sarah, the Artcraft Manager at [artcraft@ssartsCouncil.com](mailto:artcraft@ssartsCouncil.com)

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PHILANTHROPY

# Capacity-building grants offered

Local foundation aids non-profit groups

SUBMITTED BY SSI FOUNDATION

Since 1984, Salt Spring Island Foundation grants have supported many areas of need and many types of projects and programs, from capital improvements to services and events that engage and assist community members.

Other grants have funded projects that strengthen charitable organizations themselves and help them to better fulfill their mission.

In 2020, the foundation committed \$25,000 to projects that aim to build the capacity of qualified local non-profits. Examples of capacity-building activities could include strategic planning, technology upgrades, operational improvements, board development, improving volunteer recruitment, and even conducting an organizational self-assessment as a way to learn which core capacity areas may require more attention.

These capacity-building grants will continue in 2021, with an additional \$25,000 committed to assisting non-profits in

reaching the next level of operational or organization maturity. By dedicating new funds specifically to those activities that build capacity, the foundation hopes to give this process an even bigger boost.

The impacts of the 2020 capacity-building grants are already being felt by five local organizations:

- **I-SEA (Institute for Sustainability Education and Action)** received \$2,500 to strengthen the organizational capacity of Transition Salt Spring by implementing a new governance structure that will effectively manage ongoing climate action work on Salt Spring Island.
- **Gulf Islands Marine Rescue Society** received \$5,120 for advanced marine first-aid training to certify eight volunteer crew.
- **Graffiti Theatre** received \$5,000 toward a feasibility study for a multi-use performing arts education and recreation centre.
- **Island Arts Centre Society (ArtSpring)** received \$5,800 to replace and update two computer systems to allow for better service to the public.
- **Salt Spring Island Community Services/Salt Spring Health Advancement**

**Network (SSHAN)** received \$7,500 to develop a stewardship committee and a two-day mental health symposium. The organizations hope to better address mental health and community well-being by bringing together decision-makers, providers and users of mental health services.

David Norget, SSHAN co-chair, said that the foundation grant has assisted in building capacity within its network.

"It is deepening connections. More information and perspectives are being shared, and there are insights being made. It is adding to people's wellbeing and informing actions in a different way. For example, the coming together of a coalition of those with 'lived' experience, service providers and community members has led to one member starting a film series to share the stories of a broad cross-section of community members. We are gaining more and more insight about the state of mental wellness on Salt Spring. Our investing in how we work together is bearing fruit in our effectiveness."

The deadline for the spring 2021 grants cycle is March 31. For complete information people can visit [ssfoundation.ca](http://ssfoundation.ca).

## THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer

www.sunstarastrlogy.com 1-800-836-0648 sunstarastrlogy@gmail.com

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

Pisces time has begun. The Aquarius influence activated last week does, however, remain very strong. This can be understood as the overlapping of cycles. The core thrust of this chapter of the Aquarian revolution is now underway. It contains numerous levels, actually, and these will be triggered for years to come. This is due to the far planets in Aquarius for decades! Just as Saturn ends its cycle (Dec 2020 - March 2023), Pluto will enter Aquarius (March 2023 - March 2043 - yes a 20-year cycle!) This means that each New Moon for the next 22+ years will carry a strong Aquarian charge. In the short term, each New Moon this year will also be loaded with Aquarian influences. Specifically, the waning square from Saturn to Uranus, the two ruling planets of Aquarius, the first of three of which occurred on February 17. As well, Mars forming the first of 3 hard aspects to Pluto occurs on February 24th. The powerful synchronicities manifesting as the global, social revolution of evolution, as ever revealing... "as above, so below," aka, synchronicity.

**Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)** The cycle of the Sun through Pisces will soften your edge for a while. This is a good time to retreat and rest if you can. Yet, with 4 planets still in Aquarius, like a powerful current, the momentum of the revolutionary impulse will continue. Mercury turning direct on February 20 will keep you awake. Yet Venus also entering Pisces by next Friday will add to your desire for some R&R.

**Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)** Whatever changes were destined to occur in your public and professional life, these should be apparent by now. Mercury retrograde could have synchronized as some delay due to miscommunications, but it resumes direct motion this week. So, the lights are green, even if the going is somewhat arduous. This is when that notorious Taurean stubbornness can really work for you.

**Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)** The Sun in Pisces indicates a shift in your public status. You may be experiencing the early signs currently. It may take until the New Moon in Pisces on March 13 for it to reveal itself more fully. For now, your task is to see the bigger picture with a detached, stoic perspective. It could amount to a feeling of surrender, which can prove liberating. Let go and let God.

**Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)** The 8th is symbolic of themes of transformation, metamorphic change, purging and purification, death and rebirth, sex and taxes... Altogether, these reveal deep-end themes that require patience, faith and resilience. These and similar themes of feelings should be apparent to you now. The Sun entering Pisces offers transcendental peace as your ego-mind yields to the charge of your soul.

**Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)** While the waves of changes on relationship fronts wash in, the ripples of which will continue for a few weeks, circumstances are triggering you emotionally. Endings of some kind are indicated, possibly even death of a family member. Whatever is happening will also manifest as a death of some kind from you. Death in this regard may imply the ending of a chapter, or an era.

**Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)** Recent activations linked to changes in your usual routine are underway. Meanwhile, new beginnings on relationship fronts are also featured. These feature spiritual themes, on one hand, and creative activity linked to your public life and/or career, on the other. Both of these will come to full light and fruition in about a month, but the lead up steps will begin this week.

**Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)** The spirit is calling you to reach for higher ground. From this place you will see more clearly and more free from obstructions. By doing so, you will be better able to see your best direction and efforts to establish your creative focus. Creative investments are just as likely, if not more as art projects, but both are possible. Regarding investments, increased awareness will strengthen your courage.

**Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)** Last week's New Moon planted what might be described as a magical seed deep in your mind. Unlike Jack, however, critical thinking may be required to plant them in the best way and on the best day. To this end, be open to at least hearing the opinions and advice of others. Discernment often requires a list of considerations which you can then compare and contrast.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)** Many new thoughts, ideas, perceptions and interpretations are entering your field of awareness. At worst you feel a little overwhelmed and scattered. Positively, you have a clearer sense of the future and how you can best advance. You may be slow on taking the initiative and doing the work required at this time, so direct your focus to brainstorming and outlining a plan.

**Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)** Everyone is dealing with the global financial crisis. Some people are actually earning profit and you are keen to be among them. Adapting to the future is uppermost in your mind. Reaching out to people with power and influence is likely. You are ready and willing to make bold moves as necessary. It has long been said: 'Chaos creates opportunity', and circumstances are compelling you to act.

**Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)** A jumpstart to your usual mode of expression finds you taking new leads and strides. These are causing some commotion in your home and with your family. Yet, it may be the commotion that activated your rapidly emerging resolve. Either way, you are eager to expand your front. Accepting the dues that you must pay is part of the plot and may include time and effort as much as money.

**Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)** You may be experiencing what can be described as a great awakening. However, if nothing new is coming to your awareness, you may be blocking it due to existing convictions, deeply distracted by outer circumstances or other realities, or in denial. If any of these possibilities apply, this is your cue to be open and receptive to new realizations. Positively, you are breaking through pre-existing barriers.



PHOTOS BY GAIL SJUBERG

**FEEDING TIME:** From left, a robin pecks at a Granny Smith apple hanging on a branch during the snowy weekend, and a house finch waits for its turn at a feeder on a sunnier day the previous week.

## BLACK HISTORY

# Black pioneers honoured in new book edition

Crawford Kilian's *Go Do Some Great Thing* gets update

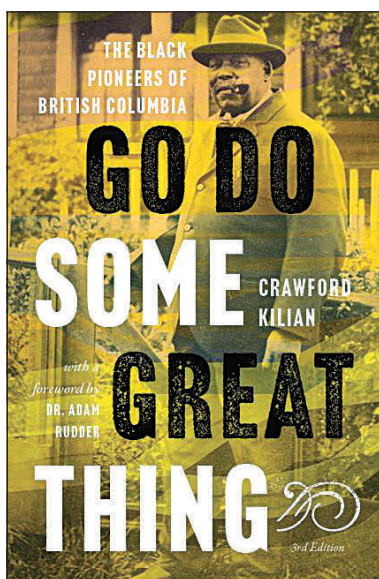
BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

February is Black History Month in Canada, making now the perfect time for people to become better informed about how that history has played out and how it has been overlooked, remembered or recovered in our own communities.

Salt Spring Island is lucky to have some archival material related to its early Black residents, who came to the island with the very first wave of non-Indigenous settlers in 1859. It's also fortunate some scholars and authors have made an effort to bring that sometimes forgotten history to light. Among them is Crawford Kilian, whose seminal book *Go Do Some Great Thing: The Black Pioneers of British Columbia* was released in a newly updated third edition last year.

Black academic and B.C. resident Adam Rudder, who co-chairs the Hogan's Alley Society, describes in a new foreword to the book why knowing the past is so important to understanding the present — one that includes the police murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the inequitable impacts of COVID-19 on Black communities.

He recalls that when he first came



across Kilian's book as an undergraduate at Simon Fraser University, he had to wonder why he'd never learned anything about that history before.

"Like most of my peers, I grew up through the education system assuming that Black people did not have a history in British Columbia and hardly ever thought to question why. It was made clear to me that I did not belong, a notion that was often reinforced by the now-cliché question, 'Where are you from?' The assumption, of course, was that a Black person could not be from British Columbia."

As Kilian proves, that has not been the case since at least 1858,

when a group of Black families looking for better lives sailed to Victoria from San Francisco. Although California was established in 1850 as a "free state" where slavery was not allowed, there was growing anti-Black racism there, partly due to settlement by people from the south and the Midwest.

The possibilities for free Black people were at the same time being reduced by law. The U.S. Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 forced people in any state to assist slave owners in capturing escaped slaves. A California state law enacted in 1850 made it unlawful for Black Californians to testify against white people in court cases. Then the U.S. Supreme Court decided in 1857 the rights of American citizenship were not extended to Black people under the U.S. Constitution. Another state law that seemed ready to pass would have made it illegal for Black people to emigrate to California.

For a politically active, educated Black community in San Francisco, enough was enough. Kilian reports they were discussing possible mass emigration to Panama, Mexico or the British Colony of Vancouver Island when they received a direct invitation to the latter.

A pioneer group of 35 Black emigrants were the first to set sail for Victoria in April 1858.

More families would follow, and Kilian says Black people would make up one-fifth to one-sixth of

Victoria's population for a few years during the 1860s. The opening of lands for homesteading under the pre-emption model — meaning settlers could get to work clearing the land and pay for it later — saw some of those families relocate to Salt Spring starting in 1859.

Kilian shows Black settlers came to British lands to integrate into society. They were involved in the establishment of school boards, town councils and the provincial legislature. But they soon found there was discrimination here, too, in part because white Americans had arrived at the same time. While many white British subjects opposed them, there were campaigns in Victoria to segregate seating at churches, theatres and schools.

In a chapter on Salt Spring, Kilian shares the troubling information that multiple Black men were murdered on the island. Historian Ruth Sandwell has raised the theory they were targeted by other settlers who coveted their lands, although the blame was put on Indigenous people.

Those hardships meant many Black families returned to the United States after 1865, when the U.S. Civil War ended with the Union side victorious, and abolitionist Republicans heading the government.

"It made a powerful contrast to the British Northwest, where the Black pioneers had seen steady erosion in their economic and political

status," Kilian writes.

Readers will find the history of Black British Columbians is indeed the history of the province, from the original settlement in Victoria to participation in the Cariboo gold rush and later expansion of the Vancouver area.

Kilian notes that when he was first doing his research in the 1970s, the contributions of Black people to places like Salt Spring were noted in passing but tended to be treated as a curiosity. As he found instead, Black pioneers were an integral component in establishing the province and nation as we know it. Their political support helped Britain hold onto Vancouver Island and modern-day British Columbia after relinquishing former Hudson Bay Company lands in Oregon and Washington.

"The Black immigrants would affect the course of Canadian history; in fact, by helping to save British Columbia from American annexation, they helped to ensure that Canada itself would maintain its independence of the United States," Kilian asserts.

*Go Do Some Great Thing* takes its title from a directive the manager of abolitionist Frederick Douglass supposedly gave to Mifflin Gibbs, who was one of the leaders of the Black community in Victoria. Kilian's book ultimately proves that Gibbs and others with them did just that.

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# AGRIculture

# AGRIculture

## Two Salt Spring farms join company veterans

LOCAL SEED GROWERS  
continued from 1

It is not only food that people want to grow, he said. Medicinal plants are also in high demand, as people turn to plants not only to feed themselves but also for healing. Medicinal plants are a specialty of the seed company and the subject of an upcoming book that Jason is working on. Asked to pick favourites, he chose Tulsi for its smell when rubbed or made into tea, and valerian.

"You either love the smell of valerian or you hate it, but I love it because I know what it does for me. If I want a good night's sleep, that's what I need. That, and some skullcap." Salt Spring Seeds has a seed rack at Foxglove Farm and Garden Supply right now, and the full collection of seeds is up on the website, [www.saltspringseeds.com](http://www.saltspringseeds.com).

Two newer sources of seeds on the island are growing out of a couple of farms that will be familiar to anyone who frequents Salt Spring's Tuesday Farmers' Market. Bright Farm and Heavenly Roots farm both have seeds available this year.

### Bright Farm

For John Pattison, saving seeds is a natural extension of the work that he and Jessica Kavanaugh do at Bright Farm. They've been running it for eight years, and saving seeds from year to year has been a part of their farming year from the get go. There have always been seeds that were difficult to find or costly to procure, and saving them made sense. After taking a Canadian Organic Growers course on seed saving, Pattison said he gained more confidence and decided to make the leap from saving seed for their own use to selling some of their seeds.



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO BY SEAN HITREC  
Jessica Kavanaugh and John Pattison of Bright Farm.

"Buying local seeds makes sense because the genetic expression of plants is affected by where and how they are grown. If you buy seeds that have been grown right where you live, they are ready to thrive there."

Their collection of vegetable, flower and medicinal plant seeds is small but full of unusual varieties, and they represent favourites, selected for taste. In particular, Pattison is fond of their snap pea, a plant with a short but prolific window of production so that successive plantings will reward gardeners with abundant harvests. He hopes to add more varieties to their offerings in future. Their seeds are available at <https://www.localline.ca/bright-farm>.

### Heavenly Roots Farm

For Ben Corno, saving seeds is a specialty that grew out of a sense of duty. After seeing films describing the struggle of



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO BY SHARI MACDONALD  
Dan Jason's hands at work threshing seeds.

farmers resisting hybrid and genetically modified seeds, he said, "I wanted to collect seeds as soon as I could." In fact, he would encourage all gardeners to save their seeds, starting right now.

"Grow what you love, save seed from those that you love, and don't be ashamed to not love something or save it."

The seed collection that he and his partner Kaleigh Barton are developing represents varieties that they grow the most of and can keep up with during a busy growing season, but will be evolving to include more biennials and plants that require greater care to breed. Corno is currently at work on a collection of storage carrots by growing a group of different varieties together in what is known as a grex.

"They should cross-pollinate readily and as I select them for shape, flavour and storability they will become a population of like kinds that all satisfy my interests. I like it to assembling a super-group of carrot heroes, like The Avengers, but instead of saving the universe they will be sweet food for the winter."

The available varieties can be viewed on their website [www.heavenlyrootsfarm.com](http://www.heavenlyrootsfarm.com).

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Annual gardening season event morphs in 2021

Farm stands will serve as seed-exchange spots

BY KALEIGH BARTON AND BEN CORNO  
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Nearing the end of winter, isolated during the cold months of a solitary year, we yearn for a sense of connection, community and familiarity. When imagining the lovingly cooked meals that will nourish our families or friends in the future, or thumbing through rainbow-bright seed catalogues assembling the year's ingredients, farmers and gardeners are presented with an opportunity to make good choices.

Participants in our island's local food movement know that their purchases reflect their values. When we choose to buy from local producers, we directly contribute to their successful season. In 2021 and beyond, let us deepen the meaning of the local food movement. Let us offer our attention to the source of food and food communities: the seeds we sow.

Choosing locally grown seeds over globally warehoused seeds can have an immediate effect and far-reaching impacts. We can strengthen connections with our neighbours when we support local economies, and we invest in the health of our bodies and our

soils. In a small though powerful way, we can diminish our reliance on long supply chains, monocultural farming systems and multinational agribusinesses. By nurturing a strong food community, we can encourage ecological farming practices that promote biodiversity and assist in food security.

When we support local seed growers we are helping to sustain the art and practice of seed stewardship: maintaining cherished plant varieties, harvesting seed at the correct maturity, ensuring adequate supply is maintained, and selecting for the traits we care about.

In return, the community is rewarded with strong, well-adapted plants for our farms and gardens. Growing and planting local seed becomes a conversation within ourselves, our plants, our soils and our community. It is by having this conversation that our values can be reflected in our environment, and we can provide one another with sustenance for the body and soul.

See if you can grow more local seed in 2021, and enjoy the food that travelled less to be at home.

On March 6-7, the seed growing and gardening community will come together to enjoy the annual tradition of swapping seeds. Island Natural Growers is organizing an event that will allow anyone to safely engage in community connection and continue to help

the story of seeds unfold in one another's gardens.

A collection of farm stands around the island have agreed to host our decentralized version of the well-loved annual seed swap. Find a farm stand near you and bring your seeds to exchange. Some stands will have

local seeds for sale, seeds by donation, or seeds that are free to trade. To start, visit our Salt Spring Seedy Saturday Facebook page where soon you will find a map of the participating farm stands, and join to stay in the loop on the events we have planned. More details will be available in the coming weeks.

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