

inside:

**FOCUS**  
on  
**EDUCATION**  
pages 8 + 9

**AQUA**  
GULF ISLANDS LIVING  
MARCH/APRIL 2021  
COMFORT FOOD: How to make a healthy meal  
Walk With Me!  
Canine companions help islanders cope with pandemic  
GOOD VIBRATIONS: Summer couple forges a healthy, happy path  
TALKING WOOD: Dead trees listen while he works  
BETWEEN THE ROCKS: Gulf Islanders water travel before the storm  
CRAFT | VENTURES | FOOD | HISTORY | COMMUNITY

*Spring Forward!*  
Sunday, March 14

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# Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday,  
Mar. 10, 2021

61st year  
Issue 10  
**\$1.50**

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PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

**CLOSE CALL:** Salt Spring firefighters Clayton Akerman, left, and Bodhi Britsom investigate a fire that ignited under the boardwalk near the Coast Guard dock and was discovered by Coast Guard members on Friday just after noon. Acting Assistant Chief Dale Lundy said discarded smoking materials appeared to have caused an ignition under the dock.

**COVID-19**

## Island vaccine clinics slated

Registration dates open for set age groups only

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Registration for appointments at community vaccination clinics opened Monday for the oldest residents of British Columbia, with clinic dates to begin providing shots to those people starting Monday, March 15.

Island Health has identified the Salt Spring Public Health Unit office at 160 Fulford-Ganges Rd. as the clinic location on Salt Spring. (This was mistakenly called the Salt Spring Island Health Centre in Island Health's first announcement, but islanders should note the clinic on Kings Lane is not taking vaccination appointments and people should not call that office.)

The registration process is now open for B.C.'s first age-based population cohort: Indigenous individuals age 65 and older, along with elders, and non-Indigenous individuals age 90 and older. To register for an appointment, eligible individuals or a representative should call 1-833-348-4787 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

People who are not part of the first group will not be given appointments and are asked to wait until their set time slot to register. Dr. Penny Ballem, head of B.C.'s vaccination roll-out, reported Monday morning that over one million people had called before the first two hours were out, even though only about 85,000 people qualified for that bracket, and the call system was paralyzed as a result.

People who are 85 and older (born in or before 1936) can register beginning March 15 for appointments that start on March 22. Registration for the 80+ population (born in or before 1941) will begin on March 22 for appointments beginning March 29.

Island Health plans to have all of these populations vaccinated by April 12. People in the next descending age categories will be given information on their timeline in the coming weeks.

For communities that have under 4,000 residents and have challenges with accessibility, health authorities will take a whole community approach to immunization. The entire adult population of the community will have the opportunity to be vaccinated during one or two health authority visits. Galiano, Mayne, the Penders and Saturna islands have been identified for this program, with more information coming soon about April clinic dates and locations.

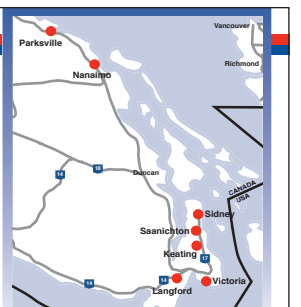
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[boydautobody.com](http://boydautobody.com)



# TIDE TABLES

## at Fulford Harbour

**MARCH 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
<b>10</b>	0423	3.3	10.8	<b>14</b>	0607	3.2	10.5
	0955	2.5	8.2		1203	1.8	5.9
	1341	2.8	9.2		SU 1744	2.8	9.2
ME	2104	0.7	2.3	DI	2339	1.4	4.6
<b>11</b>	0456	3.3	10.8	<b>15</b>	0624	3.1	10.2
	1027	2.4	7.9		1235	1.6	5.2
	TH 1451	2.8	9.2		MO 1839	2.8	9.2
JE	2147	0.8	2.6	LU			
<b>12</b>	0524	3.3	10.8	<b>16</b>	0015	1.7	5.6
	1059	2.2	7.2		0641	3.1	10.2
	FR 1552	2.8	9.2		TU 1308	1.4	4.6
VE	2227	1.0	3.3	MA	1938	2.7	8.9
<b>13</b>	0547	3.2	10.5	<b>17</b>	0053	1.9	6.2
	1130	2.0	6.6		0656	3.0	9.8
	SA 1649	2.8	9.2		WE 1343	1.3	4.3
SA	2304	1.1	3.6	ME	2043	2.8	9.2

### Full Service Marine & Equipment Repairs



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## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

# Fire destroys Fulford building

### Vortex developer plans to get back on track

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Vortex property developer Merchant House Capital is planning to take its Fulford Harbour project known as the Vortex off the back burner soon, in spite of a recent fire that could change some of the plans for the site.

A small derelict house on part of the property was completely destroyed by fire in the early hours of Feb. 25. Salt Spring resident and Merchant House Capital principal David Fullbrook said he was unaware of the fire until he got a call from police that morning.

"I was quite upset, just because I had a plan for that structure," Fullbrook said. "I think it's unfortunate and disappointing because it's such a needless event to have occurred."

"It's not going to deter our project," he added.

Salt Spring Fire Rescue Captain Mitchell Sherrin received a call about the fire around 2 a.m. on Feb. 25, and he was the first to arrive on scene. He wasn't sure how serious it would be since only one person had called it in and their information was vague because they couldn't actually see the fire from where they were. Once Sherrin arrived,

though, he could see the house was fully involved.

"The roof had already burned off and there were flames coming out of every window," Sherrin said. "The walls were still standing but they weren't going to be for long."

The destroyed house had not been occupied for many years. The body of presumed squatter Joseph Bernie was discovered by the nearby Fulford Creek in 2015. Police believed he had been attacked inside the house, but the case was never solved.

A crew of 12 firefighters attended the fire with three apparatus. They were on site until 6 a.m. and used the tender shuttle system to bring water from the Fulford fire hall. RCMP and BC Ambulance Service personnel were also on scene.

Sherrin said not much was left of the house to aid an investigation. There did not appear to be any people nearby at the time.

"There was way too much damage for us to determine what the cause was," he said.

Merchant House Capital is currently partway through an Islands Trust development permit process to build the Vortex, which is to incorporate commercial accommodation units, a restaurant and retail sales on the former Fulford Inn site. While the destroyed house was on part of a lot that has rural zoning, Fullbrook said his team was intending to renovate and were looking into how they might use the space. Some ideas that have come up are creat-

ing staff housing for employees that will work at the Vortex, or to create a cultural centre for the Tsawout First Nation.

Those ideas will still be up for exploration despite loss of the structure.

"I think we'll definitely be looking to restore the property as part of the project. It's got a septic system that's quite new," Fullbrook said.

Plans for the Vortex itself have been on hold for the past year because of the pandemic. The company received crucial development variance permits from the Islands Trust in December 2019 but has not yet completed the development permit stage. Fullbrook observed it didn't seem like the right time to be pursuing a tourism-focused project. Since vaccinations have started and the COVID-19 situation is hoped to improve soon, the developers are looking to get back on track.

While unfortunate, the recent fire is just one of a string of episodes impacting Merchant House Capital's projects in the region. Fullbrook said even though the company has a state-of-the-art security system, a massive renovation project at the Times Colonist building in Victoria has been plagued with graffiti tagging and break-ins. Another project called the Winter Garden had its office storefront window smashed during part of a larger spree targeting businesses in downtown Victoria.

"We don't take it personally. It's just part of doing business," Fullbrook said.

## COVID-19 IN BC

# VACCINATION UPDATE. WHO'S NEXT:

Seniors **80** years of age and older

Indigenous peoples **65** years of age and older

Age is the biggest risk factor with COVID-19. That's why nearly 400,000 more high-risk British Columbians will be vaccinated by mid-April. In future months, vaccines will be made available to people in 5-year age groupings. Getting vaccinated is an important step in helping put COVID-19 behind us. And Canada's approved vaccines are safe and effective.



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



## Weekly COVID Report

PREPARED BY CURT FIRESTONE & STAN DERELIAN

This week's chart shows an overall increase in COVID-19 cases with the major increase taking place between Duncan and Greater Nanaimo.

We can now report on the total number of COVID cases from Jan. 1, 2020 to Jan. 31, 2021. The Southern Gulf Islands had a total of 21 cases; Saanich Peninsula had 87 cases; Victoria had 290 cases and the Duncan area had 304 cases.

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

	REPORTED ACTIVE COVID-19 CASES			
	Week of 1/31-2/6/21	Week of 2/7-2/13/21	Week of 2/14-2/20/21	Week of 2/21-2/27/21
Southern Gulf Islands	0	1	0	1
Saanich Peninsula	14	9	4	9
Victoria	26	21	19	18
Langford to Port Renfrew	9	6	8	7
Duncan Area	22	12	45	57
Chemainus to Nanaimo	104	70	50	66
<b>Total</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>158</b>



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

**SEED SAVERS:** From left, The Root's agricultural coordinator Shane Wilson and manager Jessica Hill join Salt Spring Seed Sanctuary volunteer Sheila Dobie in dishing out seeds and knowledge as part of Salt Spring Island Farm Stand Community Seed Swap events on Saturday. In addition to an open house at the new Salt Spring Farmland Trust facility, the weekend saw seed sales and swapping opportunities at a number of farm stands located all around the island on March 6 and 7.

## ISLANDS TRUST

# Trust homes in on policy track

Public input still welcome

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Elected officials and staff from the Islands Trust who are reviewing the Trust's policy statement gave a presentation last Tuesday evening showcasing some of the contemporary issues that may influence a future version of the document that has not been updated since 1994.

The Islands 2050 project is exploring how to "preserve and protect what is most valued in the Islands Trust Area" into the next few decades while focusing on three priority policy areas: reconciliation, climate change and affordable housing. Consultation with First Nations and the general public along with analysis by elected trustees and staff is to guide amendments to the existing policy statement.

As Trust programs committee chair Deb Morrison explained during the March 3 online open house, these policy amendments have yet to be created. The committee hopes to have a draft bylaw ready to present to Trust Council for first reading at the June quarterly meeting. They have also asked council members for input on how "directive" they think the policy statement should be in guiding the actions of local Trust committees.

Early questions during the March 3 meeting, moderated by senior policy advisor Dilani Hippola, centred on that relationship. Dan Rogers, a vice-chair of the Islands Trust Council executive, Gambier Island trustee and a programs committee member, said directives in the statement will be up to local islands to implement through their own official community plans and land-use bylaws. That relationship won't change without changes to the provincial Islands Trust Act.

"Local autonomy is definitely ingrained in the act as it stands now," Rogers said.

However, he said there are some issues that affect the Trust Area as an entire region and may best be met by a unified regional response.

Lisa Wilcox, who is the Trust's senior intergovernmental policy advisor, reported consultation with First Nations has found the same concerns arising again and again. Some things First Nations would like to see implemented Trust-wide are protection of the foreshore ecosystem and its resources including clam beds and eelgrass; protection of ancestors, cultural heritage and sacred sites; and protection of culturally significant plant and animal species along with the ecosystem as a whole.

The B.C. government has ordered that all provincial legislation must align with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples through the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, enacted last fall. The Islands Trust committed to a reconciliation declaration even before that.

The need for sustainable island communities does not mean increased development is proposed, but more likely could mean a change in approach to land use. One of the principles guiding policy changes on climate change is "No more business as usual: It is time for bolder environmental protections and new low-carbon ways of life."

In answer to questions from the public on what the Trust would do to solve the housing crisis, Rogers noted that since the Trust is not a service-providing organization its main tools are land-use planning and cooperating with other government bodies. He added the Islands Trust has a constituent that no other local government in B.C. has specifically named.

"It is the environment, and it can't be ignored," Rogers said.

Morrison, a North Pender trustee, suggested that people moving to the

Islands Trust area must accept a different standard of living than is available in Vancouver or other nearby places, and that housing could be defined to mean smaller dwellings built with green principles instead of 4,000-square-foot show homes, for example. Limiting house size but allowing more smaller dwellings on lots is one idea that's been proposed.

"We're in a situation now when we may have to start implementing policies that are not popular on an individual level," Morrison observed, adding, "We can be a model for how to live sustainably — but we have to choose to do that as a community."

Consultation informing the Islands 2050 project so far has included online and in-person engagement processes starting in September of 2019. The first round of public feedback received was summarized in the "What We Heard" Report published in July 2020. A second survey open over the past winter sought feedback on the policy directions that were identified in the earlier process.

Morrison encouraged people to send in their unique comments and thoughts in writing, and to share materials with other community members who might not have been engaged yet.

For more information, including presentation materials and a recording of the open house session, visit the Islands 2050 page under Projects at islandstrust.bc.ca.

Islands Trust Council also had a full day of discussion on policy directions scheduled for Tuesday, March 9, with notice of several competing motions on whether or not to include housing and sustainable communities in the policy statement itself or to address those concerns under local Trust committees and other areas. See www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com and next week's Driftwood for a report on that session.

## Land Act: Notice of Intention to Apply for a Disposition of Crown Land

Take notice that I, **Saltspring Eco Lodging Company LTD** from **Saltspring Island, BC**, have applied to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), for a **Specific Permission – for Private Moorage** situated on Provincial Crown land located at **Saltspring Island/fronting LOT 1, SECTION 55, SOUTH SALT SPRING ISLAND, COWICHAN DISTRICT, PLAN 10856**.

The Lands File Number that has been established for this application is Crown Land **File # 1414998**.

Comments may be submitted electronically via the provincial Applications, Comments & Reasons for Decision webpage at <https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/>. Alternatively hard copy comments may be directed to the Senior Land Officer, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development at 142 - 2080 Labieux Rd, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6J9. Comments will be received by FLNRORD up to **April 22, 2021**. FLNRORD may not be able to consider comments received after this date.

Please visit the website at

<https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/> for more information.

Be advised that any response to this advertisement will be considered part of the public record. For information, contact the Freedom of Information Advisor at the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development office in Nanaimo.

## NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT NOTICE FLUSHING OF WATERMANS

**FLUSHING OF WATERMANS WILL BE  
CARRIED OUT IN THE DISTRICT ON  
TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS  
AND FRIDAYS -  
MARCH 10 - APRIL 30, 2021**

Short periods of low pressure and discolouration of water can be expected between these dates. Consumers are warned to be on alert for discoloured water, especially before using washing machines, dishwashers and other appliances.

Commercial establishments such as laundromats, restaurants and beauty salons will receive advance warning of flushing in their vicinity if a request for such notification is received by the District.

Please contact the NSSWD at 250-537-9902.

In no case can the District accept responsibility for any claims arising out of the use of discoloured water.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

# Banner pole snaps in downtown Ganges

No injuries reported

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Downtown Ganges turned into a danger zone for a brief moment on Sunday when one of two metal poles used to string banners snapped off at the base during a windy period.

The two poles were set into a concrete pedestrian island near the

fire hall. Rental fees for banners hung there are collected by the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce.

Jesse Brown, the chamber's new executive director, said the accident's cause was undetermined. The poles are being removed and may not be replaced.

"We may be looking for different options in consideration of public safety. We're just really relieved no one was injured and there wasn't

too much damage," Brown said.

Lawrie Neish, who has held many volunteer roles in the community, said he has long been concerned about the situation. He said cursory knowledge of physics demonstrates ropes strung between the two poles should have been kept a bit slack.

"Any tightrope walker would tell you it was an accident waiting to happen," Neish said.

Capital Regional District

CRD

## Notice of Meeting

### Capital Regional District Board 2021 Financial Plan Bylaw Approval

A meeting of the Capital Regional District Board, including budget discussion for 2021, will be held:

**Date:** Wednesday, March 24, 2021

**Time:** 1:10 pm

**Place:** CRD Headquarters, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom  
625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC

# OPINION



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

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



## Driftwood

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Tony Richards, MANAGING DIRECTOR


 Nancy Johnson  
 PUBLISHER  
 njohnson@driftwoodgimedia.com

 Gail Sjuberg  
 MANAGING EDITOR  
 news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

 Lorraine Sullivan  
 PRODUCTION MANAGER  
 production@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

 Johanna Walkner  
 OFFICE MANAGER  
 jwalkner@driftwoodgimedia.com

 Elizabeth Nolan  
 REPORTER  
 enolan@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

 Bonnie Steeves  
 ACCOUNT MANAGER  
 bsteeves@driftwoodgimedia.com

 Dennis Parker  
 CARTOONIST  
 news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

 D. W. Salty  
 HISTORY REPORTER  
 dwsalty@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

### EDITORIAL

## Waiting in line

Some kind of COVID-19 vaccine news from around the world makes headlines every day, but until now that news has seemed remote from most islanders' daily lives.

Gulf Islands healthcare workers and residents of long-term care were vaccinated earlier under Phase One of B.C.'s immunization plan, of course, providing some measure of comfort for those groups and their families. But as the rollout of vaccinations to the rest of the population begins throughout B.C., awareness and excitement have grown exponentially.

Indigenous individuals aged 65 and older, and non-Indigenous individuals aged 90 and older are eligible to begin receiving inoculations on Monday, March 15. Appointments began being taken for people in those categories on March 8.

### THE ISSUE: Vaccination appointments

### WE SAY: People must read fine print

Effectively communicating the details of such a complicated issue like a COVID-19 vaccination plan may be challenging, so it's not surprising that some people are confused, but the response to the beginning of registrations was so over the top on Monday that the province's phone system was overwhelmed. Only about 85,000 individuals fall into the 90-plus and Indigenous 65-plus age cohorts in B.C., but some 1.7 million calls came into appointment call centres in less than three hours. Judging by that response, many people clearly did not get the message that the first round of booking is applicable only to the two designated groups. Although they had taken the time to write down the phone number, they obviously did not get further to comprehend the rest of the message.

Absorbing only part of a chunk of information presented to us is a disease of our times. People seem unable or unwilling to read more than a line or two before diving into action or asking a question that could be answered if they had read a little bit more first.

Patience is a virtue at the best of times, and that is especially the case now when citizens are eager to get vaccinated and have some hope of returning to a more normal life again. If phone and web platforms are crashed because of unnecessary overloads in demand, the vaccine rollout could end up being much slower for everyone.

Before reaching for the phone, islanders are urged to check the COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics page at islandhealth.ca to learn when they or family members can make their appointments.



## Support basic income bill

BY JILL TARSWELL

At the end of February a Liberal MP, Julie Dzerowicz, introduced legislation in the House of Commons that would enable a national strategy for a guaranteed basic income in Canada.

Recent Angus Reid poll results show that three in five Canadians support a universal basic income (UBI).

There are many examples of UBI being successfully trialled with at least one in Canada. In the 1970s the Canadian town of Dauphin, Man. trialled basic income, but due to lack of funding was unable to analyze the results. When researchers looked at the data 25 years later, they discovered the experiment had been a huge success. (<https://www.utpjournals.press/doi/pdf/10.3138/cpp.37.3.283>)

The hospitalization rate went down by 8.5 per cent in four years, kids performed much better in school, and domestic violence was down, as were mental health complaints. People continued to work, and indeed, open small businesses. Other stud-

### VIEWPOINT

ies show a phenomenal decrease in drug and alcohol abuse.

**Lifting over three million households out of poverty is certainly a worthwhile endeavour.**

According to the Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis, a guaranteed minimum income program could grow the economy on average \$36 billion per year in the first five years, without relying on debt funding, and if partial and temporary debt funding were to be used, the impact could grow to an average of \$62 billion annually in the first five years. In total, this program could lead to a cumulative increase to the national GDP of \$1.5 trillion over the next 25 years.

In the past 50 years corporate tax rates have decreased by 50 per cent and are currently almost the lowest they have ever been. In the meantime, workers' wages have stagnated in relation to inflation, and household debt to income ratios have skyrocketed. As well, the top two per cent of the population control over 60 per cent of Canadian wealth, and over the past three decades taxation of capital and the affluent has shifted to taxes on labour and ordinary working families. Lifting over three million households out of poverty is certainly a worthwhile endeavour.

As the COVID pandemic has increased pressures on Canadians, it is apparent that UBI is a bold, common-sense solution that would ensure that everyone could afford their basic needs, like putting food on the table and a safe place to call home. I urge you to write to government representatives in support of Bill C-273.

*The writer is a long-time Salt Spring Island resident.*

241 Fulford-Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2K7 | PH: 250-537-9933  
 Email: driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com | Website: www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

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### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

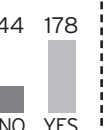
Do you see light at the end of the COVID tunnel?

Yes  No

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.

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should freighter parking be limited in Gulf Islands waters?



# OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

**"Any tightrope walker would tell you it was an accident waiting to happen."**

LAWRIE NEISH, ON THE GANGES BANNER POLE CRASH

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**WE ASKED:** *How do you feel about Daylight Saving Time, coming up this weekend?*

**VANESSA HORUCKI**



Neutral. As long as there's more light in the day I'm happy.

**BRADON GOEIJON**



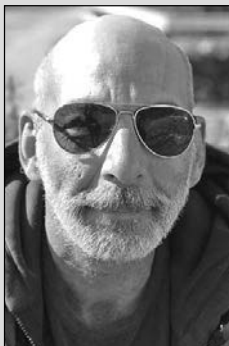
It's good because you get more time in the day.

**AMRITA BRUCE**



It saves electricity so we have to go on with it, I think.

**DAVE ANDELFINGER**



Waste of time — no pun intended.

**TAYLOR WELCH**



I hope they keep it. I'd rather have it lighter in the summer and darker in the winter.

## 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)

### What matters

Black lives matter.  
All lives matter.  
All life matters.  
**BOB WEEDEN,**  
SALT SPRING

### Lend helping hand

The In Depth article by Rodney Polden in the Feb. 24 Driftwood reminded me of the critical role our native forests can play in mitigating climate change, protecting water supply and our safety.

Granted, it is an uphill fight when our federal and provincial government, who have the real power to address the climate crisis, are doing so little.

However, we do have opportunities to help right here on Salt Spring. A healthy forest holds massive amounts of carbon both in the timber itself and in the soil. That carbon is released back into the atmosphere when trees are removed. According to a recent report

from Sierra Club BC, once clearcut, a hectare of forest debris becomes a net source of 22 tones of CO2 per hectare per year. When trees are removed, broom and non-native grasses move in that can be easily set on fire by a carelessly discarded match, endangering nearby homes and forests. Removal of forest and other vegetation causes rainwater to flow off quickly, thus reducing flow into the groundwater that supplies our household wells.

As noted in the article, there are many ways for us to lend a helping hand to nature and to other humans. One way is to help the community save the remaining Larmour Lands forest from being clearcut by donating today. Go to our website — [www.ssiwaterpreservationsociety.ca/protectlarmourlands.html](http://www.ssiwaterpreservationsociety.ca/protectlarmourlands.html) — to read about this campaign and find instructions on how to give electronically or by cheque. Please help save our island's forests one step at a time.

**MAXINE LEICHTER,**  
SALT SPRING ISLAND WATER  
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

### Grateful for new pathway

I am writing to register a positive comment about the new pedestrian pathway being built Between Baker Road and Booth Canal Road.

I have walked the first part of this pathway between Portlock Park and Baker Road an average of twice a week since it was built. What a great path: safe, wide, going around many trees in a very creative manner.

I am so looking forward to walking the next phase of this path between Baker and Booth Canal roads.

I have a very difficult time understanding all the complaints about a few trees being cut to build a safe walking experience. That is one unsafe stretch of road. (I remember two deadly car accidents in the curve and have heard of many close calls in my 41 years of living on the island.)

Everyone complaining about a few trees being cut should have an honest look around their own house,

driveway, gardens, barns, etc.

Every one of our houses, roads, driveways, stores, schools, hospitals, ferry terminals, garages, restaurants, community water systems and paths have necessitated some trees to be cut.

"You cannot make an omelette without breaking eggs." Period.

I, for one, am nothing but thankful to all the people who have planned, surveyed, measured, engineered, drawn plans, worked the excavators, drove the trucks necessary for all that equipment, shovelled gravel and flagged on the road.

I am thankful for the people who make things happen, which on this island is sometimes very complicated. Thank you to the Island Pathways organization, the Capital Regional District, and the transportation and parks and rec commissions.

I am very grateful.  
**MARIE BEAUDOIN,**  
TOYNBEE ROAD

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 6

## Pandemic period provides a gift for some families

BY TERRY STAFFORD

The changes in schooling during the pandemic have many parents worrying that their children will fall behind academically.

I feel we can take a deep breath and let that worry go. I'm not trying to make light of the very real difficulties as we live through a world pandemic, but some changes can offer rare gifts.

I myself missed months of school as a child, once at the age of 11 when my mother sent me to my grandparents' farm because I had developed a nervous tic. (No school for six months and the tic was gone!) The next time was when I was 12 and my father's illness inspired my mother to grant his dying wish and take us all to Mexico for nearly a year. Both times I slid back into school without a hitch.

In fact, this hiatus in schooling proved a gift. I was able to follow my own interests, reading voraciously and learning Spanish through a cultural immersion that stood me in good stead through high school. I also learned from my father who shared his interest in Mexican art and ancient culture.

Know that "falling behind" is far from the problem it's made out to be. There are many instances of children catching up quickly and easily, given readiness and motivation. One well-known example comes from Sudbury Valley Free School in Massachusetts, where a dozen kids who had not previously taken math asked for instruction. This was their idea, and they were committed to it. It took

### INDEPTH

them 20 weeks to cover the entirety of elementary school arithmetic. My own daughter, after homeschooling until she decided to enter Grade 6, finished catching up in math in one weekend.

My purpose in relating these stories is simply to encourage you not to panic. In skill subjects such as arithmetic, catch-up is relatively simple. As for data-content subjects, just what information do we deem essential for a child to retain? And do children retain every fact in the museum of their minds? No, much information learned in school is rarely held for very long and, where retained, is done so through student interest, not curriculum demand. As for keeping the mind actively learning, there are many avenues, the major one being play. Besides being an expression of joy — a central feature of being human — play is a crucial means of cognitive and emotional development.

Nor is there one hard-and-fast rule about the age at which children need to learn skills or information. The desire to learn is not age-dependent. It is inborn; it's what humans do. From the day they are born, children are learning. By the time they start school they can walk, talk and orient themselves to the world around them. This avid drive to learn, when not discouraged, is a lifetime gift.

In fact, the subjects children encounter in school do not necessarily cover

the interests that may lead them to a future career or lifetime learning. Furthermore, coercive learning runs the risk of shutting down this innate curiosity, as sadly attested to by the many students who drop out of high school or who, once graduated, never open another book.

It is more important to foster a joy in learning than to insist on mastering content. This time of COVID restrictions, as difficult as it is, offers opportunities: the opportunity to learn to be self-directed, to pursue and discover your own interests, and to learn who you are. An example of what I'm talking about is photographer Ansel Adams, whose father told him that school would distract him from finding his passion. He released his son from school, thus allowing him to develop his love of photography, and the rest is history.

So, relax and give your children the gift of time — to putter, to explore, to try new skills, to discover who they are. In fact, time — a rare commodity in our modern over-organized lives — is probably the major gift these unfamiliar days offer. Don't let the stress of worrying about missing academics deprive you and your child of this gift. You may find in future years that you and your child have fond memories of these months when the world changed and life slowed down.

*The writer has a master of education degree and is director of Wildwood Educational Enrichment Centre on Salt Spring Island.*

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

## Fact of life

While I sympathize with those owning waterfront properties impacted by having a large ship anchored off their shores and fully understand the potential for some kind of accident to occur, I have yet to see anyone present a viable solution.

Where would Islands Trust Council chair Peter Luckham like these ships to go? To some less protected but equally vulnerable environment on our coast, as long as it's not near the Southern Gulf Islands?

This is starting to sound like a typical "not in my back yard" situation, but until there exists a more palatable option, large ships will be a fact of island life.

**MARK PERRY,**  
SALT SPRING

### Land Act: Notice of Intention to Apply for a Disposition of Crown Land

Take notice that I, **Catherine Sim and Kevin Tweedy** from **Saturna Island, BC**, have applied to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), for a **Specific Permission – for Private Moorage** situated on Provincial Crown land located at **Saturna Island/fronting LOT 12, SECTION 8, SATURNA ISLAND, COWICHAN DISTRICT, PLAN 8220**. The Lands File Number that has been established for this application is Crown Land File # **1415012**. Comments may be submitted electronically via the provincial Applications, Comments & Reasons for Decision webpage at <https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/>. Alternatively hard copy comments may be directed to the Senior Land Officer, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development at 142 - 2080 Labieux Rd, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6J9. Comments will be received by FLNRORD up to **April 22, 2021**. FLNRORD may not be able to consider comments received after this date. Please visit the website at <https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/> for more information. Be advised that any response to this advertisement will be considered part of the public record. For information, contact the Freedom of Information Advisor at the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development office in Nanaimo.

## Areas needed to care for wildlife on island

The COVID situation has many of us spending our time on webinars and Zoom meetings. I have enjoyed the ones about Maplewood Flats.

As explained by its Facebook page: "The Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats is a bird and wildlife sanctuary on Vancouver's North Shore, operated by the Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia. This is the traditional territory of the Tsleil-Waututh and Coast Salish Peoples.

"Our mission is to provide wild birds with sanctuary through ecological protection and restoration, and support communities with education, culture, and reconciliation programs.

"The area has been occupied by Coast Salish People since the last ice age receded 13,000 years ago. Archeological digs on the site go back thousands of years. Prior to settler contact, the region featured contiguous mudflats across what is now the North Shore, but now these mudflats are all

that remain. Since 1993, on former industrialized and damaged lands and flats, the Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia (WBT) has created the North Shore's first wildlife sanctuary from 76 acres of mostly fill, some of which was contaminated.

"The site now boasts four provincially blue-listed (at risk) species and a bird list which has grown from 208 to 250. As well as the creation of a freshwater wetland and trail system which protects sensitive habitat, projects include: establishing and maintaining one of British Columbia's largest purple martin colonies, creation of a killdeer nesting area, and ongoing work to restore the anise swallowtail butterfly to Burrard Inlet."

While reading recent letters and your Jan. 26 editorial titled Trail Trials and responses, it occurred to me that we have nothing here on Salt Spring that matches that amount of care for wildlife exhibited at Maplewood Flats. No dogs or horses or bird feeding are permitted there. Visitors are asked to walk gently in the area.

**MYNA LEE JOHNSTONE,**  
SALT SPRING

## Remembering Jonn Ashlie

Sometimes he was grumpy, like all of us can be. And then most of the time he was witty and hysterically funny.

I remember the first time Jonn Ashlie came into my Love My Kitchen store 25 years ago. He was wearing a lovely pair of plaid pants. He spun around twice to show them off. The following week he gave them to me because he said they would look better on me than on him! Sadly, I grew out of them so I gave them to the Thrift Shop. I hope they went to a fine Scottish lad.

Jonn freely admitted that he was a Scot through and through and loved to quip, "You do know I use my teabag twice."

His shortbread was the best and he made a killer steak and kidney pie with cream cheese pastry. But what he loved the most was classical music. Let's play some today to remember Jonn, who died recently. I will miss him.

**LINDA KOROSCIL,**  
LOVE MY KITCHEN SHOP

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 7

# Singing eased paper route terror

BY CHRIS RIDEOUT

I was too young to be a paper boy. Too young and too small and too scared.

If you have forgotten pin-boys then you probably have forgotten paper boys too. Both jobs were likely against some child labour laws, but nobody gave a hoot about those laws anyway. I was eight years old and had no clear idea about what a newspaper was or why it was important.

Getting me a paper route was not my idea. I was perfectly happy not having a route, not having any job to tell you the truth. No other kids in my east-end Toronto neighbourhood had paper routes and they were perfectly happy as far as I could tell. Kids were not standing on street corners worrying about not having paper routes. They were trying to figure out what new and interesting havoc they could create and get away with. But my mother had other ideas.

Suddenly there was a strange grown-up sitting on our prickly green couch in my living room holding out a brand new Globe and Mail canvas bag which would hold up to 50 papers. He said this with pride. It appeared that I was to be a paper boy with my very own route. I don't know why I didn't run away from home right then. My mother was of the opinion that a paper route would make a man of me and teach me the value of a dollar. Neither of these wishes came true. I was, after all, only eight.

But then the stranger told us that I would have to have a bike. My interest perked up immediately. Up until that point, I did not have a bike of my own. To deliver papers a kid had to have a bike. This was very interesting and put the idea of a paper route into a brand new category. My own bike. Some kids on our street had bikes but my parents regarded those kids as hopelessly spoiled. The strange paper man said that a bike was absolutely necessary.

Not only did I have to have a bike, it had to have a carrier. Because the carrier had to hold a lot of newspapers, it ruled out all those cute little carriers that I saw on other kids' bikes. This was okay with me until I saw the new car-

rier. But I am getting ahead of my story. First we had to find me a bike.

A new bike was out of the question since my parents were terribly frugal. So a used bike was the idea. I was a little disappointed but, still, my own bike. The used ads were consulted and we found ourselves one evening after supper in the garage of a man a few blocks away in the old part of our suburb. He led us into the garage. I remember holding my breath in expectation. There it was.

It was a girl's bike. With a sense of relief I turned to walk away when I heard my mother say we'll take it. For one hysterical moment I thought that maybe she was getting it for herself.

**You wouldn't want a little kid, riding an ugly bike with a beast of a carrier pedalling around at 5:30 in the morning in a strange neighbourhood, would you?**

But no. In those days my mother had a very advanced view of gender; a view which would not become popular for another 30 years. When it became clear that this was to be my bike I had a clear vision of what would happen when I rode it to school. The big kids would welcome me by beating me up in the part of the schoolyard that was out of sight of the teachers' lounge.

The carrier was another challenge. It was black and made of one-inch steel and was as wide as the handle bars of the bike. It was not cute; not even a lit-

tle. And even empty it made the horrid bike front-heavy. Then there was the news of the route itself. The stranger from the paper apologized that my new route was not in my neighbourhood where I knew all the streets, but it began two miles away in a part of the east end that was totally unknown to me. This news, I felt with relief, would certainly change the plans. You wouldn't want a little kid, riding an ugly bike with a beast of a carrier pedalling around at 5:30 in the morning in a strange neighbourhood, would you? The promise of future manliness and fiscal frugality proved irresistible to my parents.

The paper route had ferocious dogs, grumpy customers, cold rain and endless winters. But there was one abiding great thing that has stayed with me. When it snowed, and it snowed a lot in those days, there was often too much snow for the stupid bike. The wheels filled up with snow and I couldn't even push it down our steep driveway. At first I thought great, I will just go back to bed and forget the papers. This was not to be.

There were many mornings like this when I had to wake my dad. He would throw his winter coat over his flannel pyjamas, step barefoot into his winter boots and the two of us would trudge out to the car. The car, an old 1948 Austin, took us around the route on those dark winter mornings. But what I remember most, apart from the smell of old leather seats, was the singing.

I don't know how it started but we would pick a song and sing it together. We had this trick: When we stopped at the next house, I would hop out with a paper, and, still singing, throw it on a porch and get back into the car and see if we were in the exact same place in the song.

That memory has a special place, a place of safety, of trust, of an unusual father and son experience. I don't miss the paper route, or the stupid bike, but I miss my dad.

*The writer is a retired college instructor living on Salt Spring Island.*

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# Rants + ROSES

## Rants

While it is lovely to see horses and riders walking on our street in Channel Ridge, it is not lovely to find the horse droppings on our street. I pick up after my small dog everywhere, therefore if you are walking your horse in a residential area, I believe the same principle should apply to you. Please refrain from walking your horses on my street if you are not going to pick up after them. R. Chidley

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 6

### Mentorship for new gardeners

The year 2020 was the first time the Mentor Gardeners, formed through Transition Salt Spring, and active through the Salt Spring Garden Club, expanded to offer help to beginning food gardeners in the community.

Due to the constraints of COVID-19 the focus on gardening blossomed and this year that pattern seems to be repeating, if demand for seeds/plants is any indication.

Twenty-six experienced growers with horticulture backgrounds of various types connected with over 40 beginning gardeners to offer advice virtually for the growing season last year. The feedback in the fall was overwhelmingly positive.

This year we are reaching out again to offer this service to those who need it. We are also asking for more mentors who have experience in growing food crops. The contact person for both potential mentors or mentees is me, Marian Hargrove, at 250-537-0864 or Momhargrove@yahoo.com.

There are waiting lists for all allotment and community garden spaces so, in addition, we are hoping there may be gardeners in the community who could offer some growing space, however small, to share with a beginning grower. The

contact person for potential sharing of a growing site is Moe Wendt at 778-353-4502 or Wendts@telus.net.

**MARIAN HARGROVE,**  
SALT SPRING

### Path an asset

We are so excited about the new path from Central to Booth Canal Road.

Every time we drive past we look to see how much has been completed. The kids ask if they will be able to ride their bikes to school, the pool and to their grandparents' place in Brinkworthy. So many fewer car trips are required.

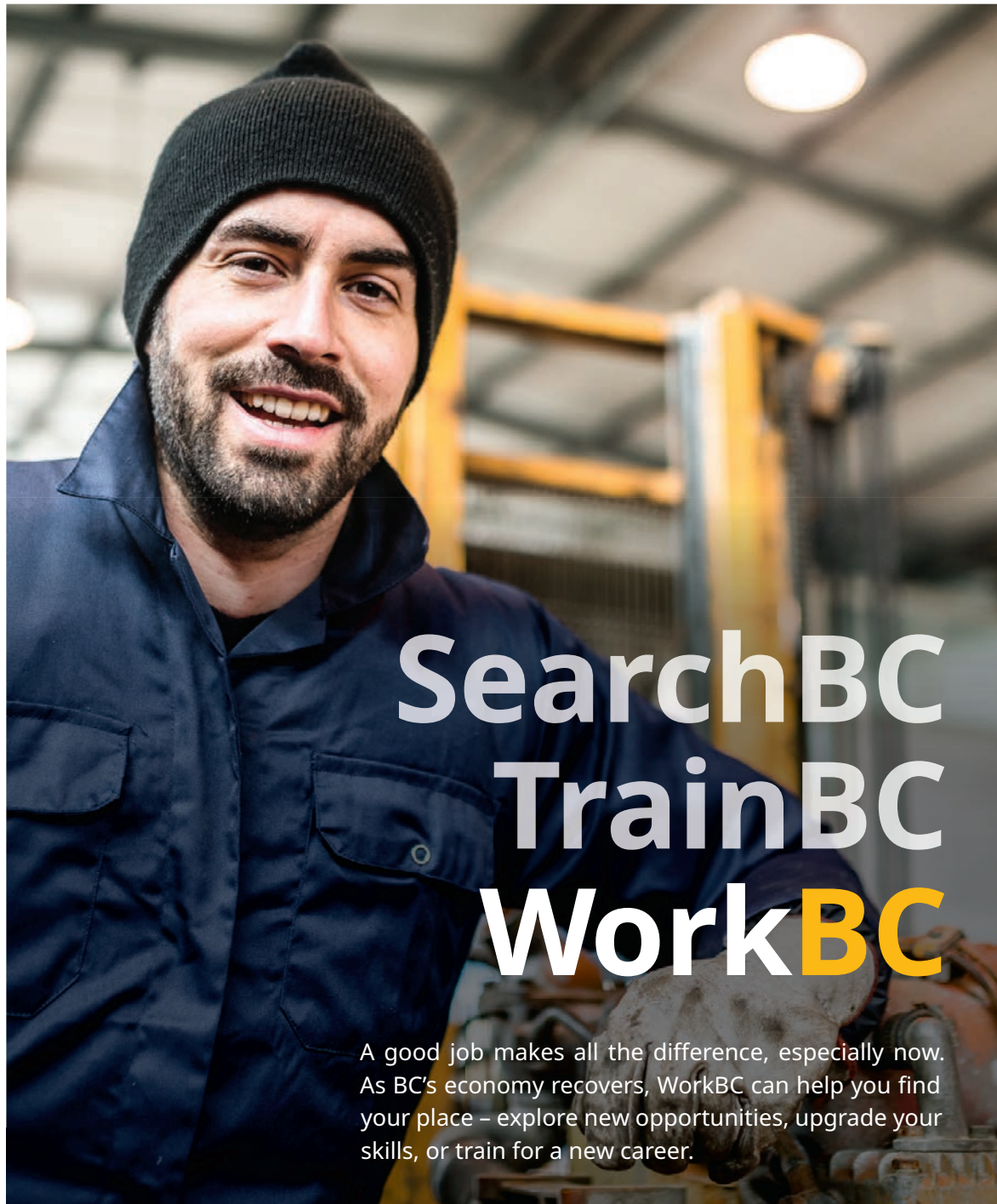
We run a lot, covering many of the roads and trails on Salt Spring. In our experience, that stretch of road is one of the most dangerous to be a pedestrian on the island. The curves are sharp and the cars drive faster than they need to. With that path completed we will feel good about our own safety and about the safety of our family.

The contractors have been doing a great job of keeping the traffic moving and when we run or ride past they look out for us.

It looks like a well-engineered path that will be a community asset for many years to come.

Some trees were taken down. This is true. If the Salt Spring Transportation Commission or Parks and Rec want to plant them, we will happily donate five trees to replace the ones that were removed.

**RICHARD HAYDEN,**  
**JANINE FERNADES-HAYDEN,**  
SALT SPRING



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### Mechanic

#### Has spring arrived?



GYLE KEATING

If you are sure, start thinking about scheduling spring maintenance.

Snow tires will need to come off, oil changes done and maybe a preliminary look at what might need to be done before any summer travel.

Summer holidays seem unlikely now but short day trips are possible and no one wants to break down on those either.

Remember maintenance is cheaper than breakdown repairs.

*Stay Safe, Gyle*



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### Financial Advice

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



SCOTT HOWE

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



**Scott Howe BA, PFP®, CFP®, CPCA®**  
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### Real Estate

#### How Should I Prepare My House For Listing? Part 1



JAN MACPHERSON

How you live in a house, is not how you present a house! "Less Is More!" Thinking strategically means creating inviting space in your home for the potential buyer with fewer furnishings and uncluttered surfaces specifically bookcases and kitchen counter tops. Consider renting a storage space, or prepacking and storing belongings not used every day in basement or garage.

No need to delay listing your house if you have a few things "to do". Time is needed to create marketing brochures while you start your "Honey Dew List". When one party sees your home, they are not the entire market. There are fewer houses for sale "sooner" (hence less competition), since supply expands greatly in springtime.

**As each project is completed your home looks better!**  
*Think & plan strategically.*

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## FOLK MUSIC

# Trincomali Folk Club launched

St. Patrick's Day concert kicks off new concept

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island will receive a special blessing this St. Patrick's Day in the form of a new showcase featuring traditional Irish music.

Michaela Cunningham and Simon Trevelyan will launch the Trincomali Folk Club on March 17 with an online concert by Cunningham — an Irish concertina virtuoso — and Canadian fiddle sensation Pierre Schryer. The concert runs from 5 to 6:30 p.m. with a half-hour session where other musicians can join in to follow.

The concert night is just the start of a program that will include more online events this spring and eventually include house concerts and in-person workshops in music and dance once COVID restrictions allow.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Pierre Schryer and Michaela Cunningham, who will perform at the first Trincomali Folk Club event online on March 17.

Though the couple have only been in their Trincomali Heights home for around eight weeks, it is a homecoming for Cunningham, who grew up on Salt Spring and has returned after 17 years. She originally left to travel to Ireland with her mother to pursue her deep passion for the country's traditional arts. She loved what she found so much she stayed to complete a bachelor's degree and then a master's degree in Irish music.

"I guess I was getting very specialized in the field. It was a full immersion, and I only grew to love it more and more," Cunningham said.

Cunningham also completed a degree in teaching music, and did that in Mexico City for some years. She then went to Vancouver and after seven years there met Trevelyan, who is a singer and guitar player.

The idea for the Trincomali Folk Club sprung in part from the house they found on Salt Spring, which offers some large rooms and a large porch.

"It's a dream come true for us," Cunningham said. "Both Simon and I love traditional music and dance."

We hope to share our passion with islanders and promote local and regional artists."

The couple has already made connections with the Salt Spring Folk Club and received their support. They plan to work in complementary fashion with each other's different efforts.

Interest in folk music and more traditional arts in general has blossomed during the pandemic, including a worldwide craze for sea shanties that erupted on TikTok and spread from there. Trevelyan actually specializes in the form and will be producing a session devoted to sea shanties in September.

"I think a lot of people are getting back to basics. I think maybe COVID has made people think about what's important to them in this life," Trevelyan mused. "And I hope something like this brings people away from just consuming music, but into participating again."

As Trevelyan points out, people used to create their own entertainment, and there's only so much Netflix one can watch before it starts to get boring.

"I think at the end of the day people are looking for true meaning and connection, and folk music brings people together," Cunningham said.

People who have the relevant musical experience can sign up for a master class/workshop with Cunningham and Schryer on Irish concertina and fiddle that runs the night before the concert, on March 16.

Tickets for both events can be purchased on the website [www.trincomalifolk.com](http://www.trincomalifolk.com).

Cunningham and Trevelyan are also happy to connect with the community. There is a option to subscribe to their newsletter on the website, or emails can be sent to [info@trincomalifolk.com](mailto:info@trincomalifolk.com).

"If anyone wants to get in touch, we'd like to hear from them," Cunningham said.

**Land Act: Notice of Intention to Apply for a Disposition of Crown Land**

Take notice that I, **Natalie Cartwright** from **Galiano Island, BC**, have applied to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), for a **Specific Permission – for Private Moorage** situated on Provincial Crown land located at **Galiano Island/fronting LOT 7, DISTRICT LOT 33, GALIANO ISLAND, COWICHAN DISTRICT, PLAN 16635**.

The Lands File Number that has been established for this application is Crown Land **File # 1415118**. Comments may be submitted electronically via the provincial Applications, Comments & Reasons for Decision webpage at <https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/>. Alternatively hard copy comments may be directed to the Senior Land Officer, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development at 142 - 2080 Labieux Rd, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6J9. Comments will be received by FLNRORD up to **April 22, 2021**. FLNRORD may not be able to consider comments received after this date. Please visit the website at <https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/> for more information. Be advised that any response to this advertisement will be considered part of the public record. For information, contact the Freedom of Information Advisor at the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development office in Nanaimo.

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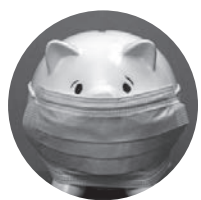
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# ISLAND LIFE

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## SOCIAL JUSTICE

# BIPOC collective works on community goals

## Work with school district major step

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

As Canada's dominant white culture struggles with awakening to the racism underpinning our nation's history and abiding social structures, a group of Salt Spring Islanders with lived experience of that reality is working to transform the situation at home and beyond.

Black, Indigenous and people of colour living on Salt Spring formed the BIPOC Community Collective in 2020 shortly after the police murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the seismic shift in mainstream awareness that occurred directly afterward. Shamana Ali, Chris Applewhaite, Sharyn Carroll, Molly Murphy and Hughson Welch are core members of the group, and the board of a society in the making that has already helped bring about change in the community.

Creating a BIPOC-centred response to racialized violence encouraged the group to come together to lead a protest last June against police violence and the killing of BIPOC people. Murphy said BIPOC community members realized they needed each other's support during this time because they felt similar impacts as to what was happening, including white people's newfound attention to them as racialized people.

"That's why we started getting together, and then we realized there were all these other things going on in this community as we discussed the different ways racism has affected us while living here, and that we could do more," Murphy said. She added that the way racism has affected their children was another sensitive topic that brought the group together.

"One reason why we wanted to start this organization is because our comments about our lived experiences have been listened to, but not been heard," Carroll said. "There's been no movement toward fixing this problem until now, with the killing of George Floyd. And it feels like for the first time, our experience as victims of racialized violence in this country is finally being taken seriously."

Ali agreed. "The conversation had entered the mainstream for the first time really in my memory. There hadn't been as honest a look at the divisions between us and the impacts of those divisions. So it was comforting to have other people of colour. Even if they don't come from the same place, we do experience the dominant paradigm very similarly."



PHOTO COURTESY BIPOCCC

Islanders who are Black, Indigenous and people of colour and their family members gather for a BIPOC picnic during the summer of 2020.

Members of the collective had not thought to hang out with each other on purpose just because of their skin colour in the past. Forming connections and community with other BIPOC in the Gulf Islands was therefore an early goal to overcome isolation and alienation. When COVID-19 restrictions lifted during the summer they were able to have some much appreciated family dinners and picnics on the beach.

The group found there was a sense of relief and comfort being with other people who already understood racial inequity without needing to explain it, and who wouldn't brush off experiences of racism as misunderstandings, harmless jokes or non-events.

"I find the experience of racism in Canada is very subtle. It's one of omission rather than commission — there's nobody burning crosses on my lawn. But there is a feeling of exclusion or isolation, and that is heightened when you live somewhere that is also geographically isolated and largely populated by affluent white settlers," Ali said.

After the June protest, one of the collective's earliest actions was to present School District 64 with a list of five expectations for addressing racism in the school system. Students of colour were fed up with hearing the N-word used at school and equally uncomfortable having other kids constantly ask them for a "pass" to use the word freely. The collective said changes are not only vital for student body health but also for the few BIPOC staff working in the district.

"If you look at the definition of violence, it's words, physical acts or anything that harms yourself or another person, so when you're using things like the N-word, it is violence," Carroll said, adding people are protected

from other types of verbal aggression under the criminal code.

The district agreed to form an anti-racism committee in July but did not commit much time to the project until the first day of school in September, when a group of Grade 12 students arrived at Gulf Islands Secondary School wearing hand-decorated T-shirts emblazoned with racist, misogynist and homophobic words and symbols.

Murphy said the district realized they were missing something huge when that happened, and they opened the doors to BIPOC leadership in their response and to doing much more work on addressing and implementing the five expectations.

Meeting once a month, the anti-racism committee includes BIPOC community members, district administrators, school board trustees, teachers and support staff union reps. They are looking at the ways racism intersects with the school environment to make things safer for BIPOC people, but also to educate the rest of the student body to have "higher racial stamina," and to provide teachers/staff with tools to respond appropriately when

racialized incidents occur.

Other short-term goals for the district include creating a BIPOC and allies book club, mentoring, creating allies in the school district student body and working on a protocol for students to step in if they see an incident of racialized violence. Transforming the curriculum to better address the history of racism and show how it infiltrates issues from education to climate change is a larger goal.

"I'm not saying it's up to the school to dismantle all of society's racist tendencies, but we do place our children in the school system to get the things that our parents aren't willing or able to communicate properly. Which comes to talking about Brave New World, to learning physics and chemistry, to also understanding the social complexities of the world," Murphy said.

While working with the school district is a major effort, the collective has other projects on the go. They have applied for a grant to establish a BIPOC help line to connect people to resources. A second grant application aims to create a BIPOC organization and business directory for B.C. Longer-term ideas include creating a BIPOC think tank, a BIPOC-focused university and/or a friendship centre on Salt Spring.

The group's health and wellness committee is meanwhile looking at things like how to apply "defund the police" principles locally. That would ideally mean redirecting funds toward mental health experts who are equipped to handle emergency situations in ways the police are not. Interactions with police are indeed a key concern for BIPOC families, who are coping with having to instruct their sons on the best strategies for surviving such encounters.

The BIPOC Community Collective has a website in development that includes links to resources they feel investigate topics of racism and anti-racist work well. See [bipoccc.ca](http://bipoccc.ca) for more information.

### Land Act:

#### Notice of Intention to Apply for a Disposition of Crown Land

Take notice that I, **Nigel Cochrane** from **Mayne Island, BC**, have applied to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), for a **Specific Permission – for Private Moorage** situated on Provincial Crown land located at **Mayne Island/LOT 233 SECTION 6, MAYNE ISLAND COWICHAN DISTRICT PLAN 23981**.

The Lands File Number that has been established for this application is Crown Land File # **1415081**. Comments may be submitted electronically via the provincial Applications, Comments & Reasons for Decision webpage at <https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/>. Alternatively hard copy comments may be directed to the Senior Land Officer, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development at 142 - 2080 Labieux Rd, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6J9. Comments will be received by FLNRORD up to **April 22, 2021**. FLNRORD may not be able to consider comments received after this date.

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**Land Act:  
Notice of Intention to Apply for  
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The Lands File Number that has been established for this application is Crown Land **File # 1415030.**

Comments may be submitted electronically via the provincial Applications, Comments & Reasons for Decision webpage at <https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/>. Alternatively hard copy comments may be directed to the Senior Land Officer, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development at 142 - 2080 Labieux Rd, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6J9.

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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

**TRACKSHOES DONATION:** Chris Joynson, left, gives a cheque for \$1,500 to Anita Horth, coordinator of Community Initiatives programs for Salt Spring Community Services, representing funds Joynson raised through collecting and then redeeming recyclables at the Island Return-It Centre. As someone who has enjoyed the Operation Trackshoes program and annual event each year, Joynson chose to give the money to the Operation Trackshoes organization once again. People wanting to add to Joynson's fundraising efforts can donate their money for recyclables to #173 at the Salt Spring Island Return-It Centre.



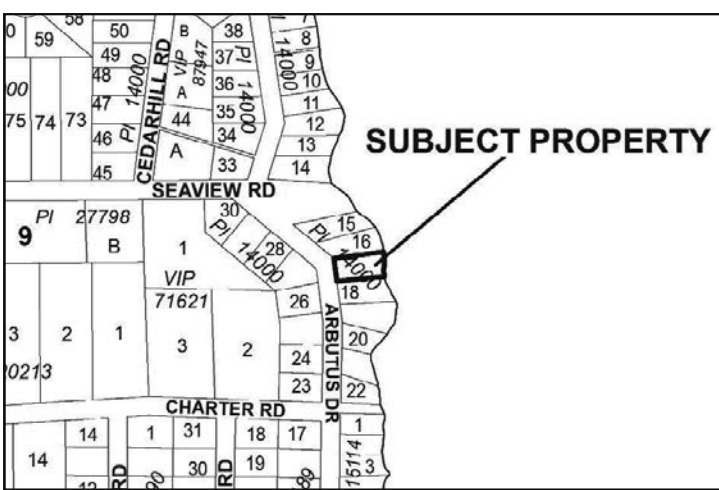
**NOTICE  
MAYNE ISLAND  
LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE  
MA-TUP-2020.2**

**NOTICE** is hereby given that the Mayne Island Local Trust Committee will be considering a resolution allowing for the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit pursuant to Section 493 of the *Local Government Act*. The proposed permit would apply Lot 17, Section 9, Mayne Island, Cowichan District, Plan 14000 (PID: 004-448-154). This property is located at **538 Arbutus Drive**.

The purpose of this temporary use permit would be to permit a **Short Term Vacation Rental** use within the Dwelling Unit.

The establishment of the use would be subject to the conditions specified in the attached permit. The permit would be issued for three (3) years and the owner may apply to the Mayne Island Local Trust Committee to have it renewed once for up to an additional three (3) years.

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



A copy of the proposed permit may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, commencing **March 5, 2021** and continuing up to and including **March 17, 2021**.

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


Enquiries or comments should be directed to Phil Testemale, Planner 2 at (250) 405-5170. For Toll Free Access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC: 1-800-663-7867; by fax at (250) 405-5155; or by email to [southinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:southinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca) before **4:30 p.m., March 17, 2021**.



The Mayne Island Local Trust Committee may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permit during the electronic business meeting starting at **1:00 p.m., March 29, 2021**.

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

Jas Chonk, Deputy Secretary


# what's on this week



<p><b>Wed. Mar. 10</b></p> <p><b>VIA ZOOM</b></p> <p><b>Islands Trust Council Quarterly Meeting.</b> 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Get the link on the <a href="http://islandstrust.bc.ca">islandstrust.bc.ca</a> website.</p>  <p><b>Thur. Mar. 11</b></p> <p><b>ONLINE OR VIA ZOOM</b></p> <p><b>Islands Trust Council Quarterly Meeting.</b> 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Get the link on the <a href="http://islandstrust.bc.ca">islandstrust.bc.ca</a> website.</p> <p><b>COVID Musical Chronicles.</b> Music video featuring Fawkes &amp; Hownd is posted on the Salt Spring Arts Council website today. <a href="http://ssartscouncil.com/covid-chronicles/">ssartscouncil.com/covid-chronicles/</a>.</p> <p><b>Fri. Mar. 12</b></p> <p><b>VIA ZOOM</b></p> <p><b>ASK Salt Spring.</b> This week's guest is CRD director Gary Holman. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Email <a href="mailto:ask@asksaltspring.com">ask@asksaltspring.com</a> to get the link.</p>	<p><b>Sun. Mar. 14</b></p> <p><b>Daylight Saving Time returns today at 2 a.m.</b></p> <p><b>Mon. Mar. 15</b></p> <p><b>ONLINE OR VIA ZOOM</b></p> <p><b>Salt Spring Fire Protection District Trustees Meeting.</b> Regular monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. Email <a href="mailto:info@saltspringfire.com">info@saltspringfire.com</a> for the link.</p> <p><b>COVID Musical Chronicles.</b> Music video featuring Suzanne Gay is posted on the Salt Spring Arts Council website today. <a href="http://ssartscouncil.com/covid-chronicles/">ssartscouncil.com/covid-chronicles/</a>.</p>  <p><b>Tues. Mar. 16</b></p> <p><b>ONLINE OR VIA ZOOM</b></p> <p><b>Workshop: Instagram for Beginners.</b> Salt Spring Arts Council workshop led by Francesca Reside via Zoom. 1 to 2:30 p.m. Register through <a href="http://ssartscouncil.com">ssartscouncil.com</a>.</p>	<p><b>Tues. Mar. 16</b></p> <p><b>ONLINE OR VIA ZOOM</b></p> <p><b>Nature Poems for Nourishment of the Soul.</b> Share a favourite poem that expresses the beauty and power of nature to nourish and heal. Led by Lolla Devindisch. Free Zoom event through Star of the Sea. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Register at <a href="mailto:staroftheseassi@gmail.com">staroftheseassi@gmail.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Salt Spring Parks &amp; Recreation Commission Meeting.</b> Public welcome to listen via Microsoft Teams link. 3 p.m. Contact the CRD office at 250-537-4448 to get the link.</p> <p><b>Wed. Mar. 17</b></p> <p><b>ONLINE OR VIA ZOOM</b></p> <p><b>Trincomali Folk Club: Michaela Cunningham &amp; Pierre Schryer.</b> Concertina and fiddle concert. 5 to 6:30 p.m. Tickets at <a href="http://www.trincomalifolk.com">www.trincomalifolk.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Webinar: Considering the Transition to Long-term Care.</b> Presented by the Alzheimer Society of B.C. Factors to consider when considering a move into long-term care and ways to ease the transition. 2 p.m. To register or to access free recorded webinars, visit <a href="http://alzbc.org/webinars">alzbc.org/webinars</a>.</p>	<p><b>EXHIBITIONS</b></p> <p>• <b>Women of the She Said Collective</b> present an exhibit called <b>Inspired By Words</b> at <b>Salt Spring Gallery</b> from March 5 to 24. Artists are Sam Barlow, Selena Barwin, Amber Diez, Isabelle De Launiere, Erin Fawcett, Hannah Graham, Odette Graham, Anh Le, Laura Hughes McGrath, Nikki Menard, Karin Millson, Premilla Pilay, Claire Sicherman, Christina Siegers and Charlene Wolff.</p> <p>• <b>Sue Earle's Art Exhibit</b>, <i>Binding The Ties That Break</i> runs in the <b>Salt Spring Public Library Program Room</b> through March, and the Salt Spring Island Farmers Institute's 125th Anniversary of the Salt Spring Island Fall Fair presentation is in the lobby display case.</p>	<p><b>THE FRITZ CINEMA</b></p> <p>Closed until further notice due to COVID-19 regulations. See <a href="http://www.thefritz.ca">www.thefritz.ca</a> for updates and info about Friday-Saturday concession nights.</p>
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CHARITY

# Marine SAR and SPCA win funds



PHOTO COURTESY 100 MEN WHO CARE SALT SPRING

Screen shot from the March 3 100 Men Who Care Salt Spring group meeting that included a presentation done live from Vesuvius dock (bottom right in photo).

## Charitable spirit continues via Zoom

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Salt Spring's branch of the BC SPCA and the marine search and rescue group were the two winning charities at the most recent Zoom gatherings of the island's 100 Men and 100+ Women Who Care chapters.

On March 3, participants of the 100 Men organization chose the Gulf Islands

Marine Rescue Society after seeing a live-on-location presentation from the Vesuvius dock led by Brad Grindler.

"This lively presentation also involved several adult and junior members suited up and gathered in one of the rescue boats," explains a 100 Men report. "Grindler helped the 100 Men to understand the value of having a highly trained and dedicated group of volunteers able to assist with any marine disasters."

The GIMRS received \$10,500 as a result. Also in the running were the Bea-

ver Point Hall Association and the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation.

The previous week saw 100 of the 175 members of the 100+ Women Who Care chapter vote for the Salt Spring BC SPCA as its winning charity. Volunteer Ann Marie Davidson made the presentation and included the story of her mother's relationship with a feline companion in her later years.

About the win, Davidson said after the meeting, "I am happy beyond words. Animals have been key to my happiness my entire life, and I feel like I've done something really meaningful since I've retired for a cause that I feel so passionate about. Sharing my mom's story was an emotional journey for me. I knew it would be touch and go whether I could hold together my emotions."

With the BC SPCA unable to hold in-person fundraising events during the pandemic, the \$17,500 received through the 100+ Women group is especially valued, said local branch manager Gerald Lewandowski.

The next meeting of the 100+ Women is on May 12, while the 100 Men meet next on June 2.

People can join the groups at any point in the year. See 100mensaltspring.org and 100womensaltspring.org for all the details.

## Stay Connected

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## Land Act: Notice of Intention to Apply for a Disposition of Crown Land

Take notice that I, **Michael Dreher & Darren Ewert** from **Mayne Island, BC**, have applied to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), for a **Specific Permission – for Private Moorage** situated on Provincial Crown land located at **Mayne Island/fronting LOT 150, SECTION 6, MAYNE ISLAND, COWICHAN DISTRICT, PLAN 23981**. The Lands File Number that has been established for this application is Crown Land **File # 1415025**.

Comments may be submitted electronically via the provincial Applications, Comments & Reasons for Decision webpage at <https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/>. Alternatively hard copy comments may be directed to the Senior Land Officer, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development at 142 - 2080 Labieux Rd, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6J9. Comments will be received by FLNRORD up to **April 22, 2021**. FLNRORD may not be able to consider comments received after this date.

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

**ROBERT (BOB) MCKENZIE**



*Truly a much loved and admired Gentleman.*

Robert (Bob) McKenzie, age 93, passed away February 23, 2021. He was safe and comfortable at home, holding hands with his adored Verity.

Bob's family (his wife for a spectacular 69 years Verity, 4 children, 6 grandchildren & 2 great grandchildren) were blessed to have such a great role model. So much was learned by his example of grace, humility & sense of humour.

Whenever the family was together he would always call out "Is EVERYBODY HAPPY?!" Indeed we were.

By his request there will be no service. Please recall a memory of him that would make you smile or laugh, that's all he'd wish.

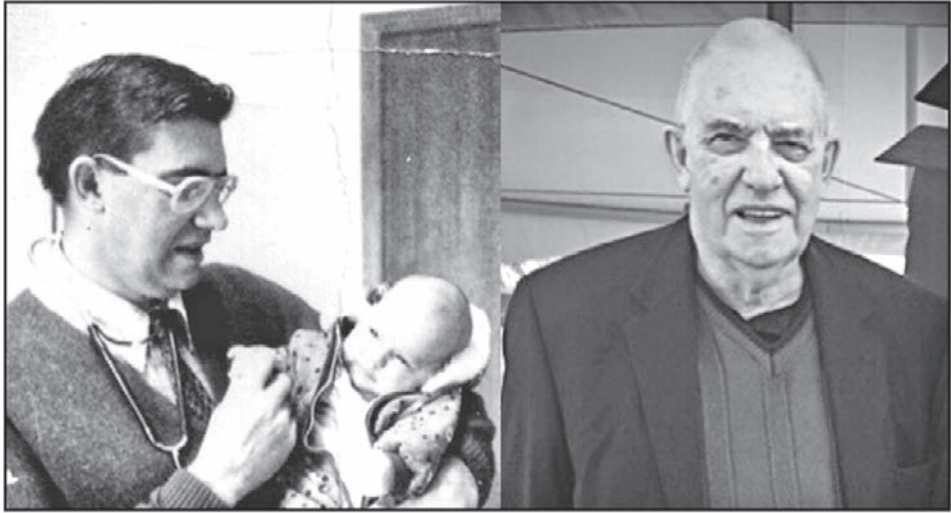


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*Words are few, thoughts are deep. Memories of you we will always keep.*

**Dr. Roland GRAHAM**  
 1933 - 2021



Dr. Roland Graham died peacefully in Hospice on Feb.13/21. He was predeceased by his wife, Maria and daughter, Ruth.

He was born the second of four children in Montreal in 1933 to Hilda and Edward Graham, a welder. Roland married Maria in 1953. A few years later he and his young family moved to Vancouver. He was inspired by a dream to apply to UBC medical school and he became a doctor in 1971. First he practiced in Vancouver and then moved to Salt Spring Island in 1980 to hopefully retire and write. However, he resumed part-time practice on the island and did locums throughout BC and the Arctic. Eventually he resumed full time practice on Salt Spring where he is still fondly remembered today.

At his retirement, many of his patients put on a gala performance to raise funds and create a bursary in his name. Roland chose to dedicate the bursary to assist single parents wanting to attend Camosun College. He leaves behind 10 children, 13 grandchildren & 2 great grandsons. He loved to read prose and poetry and dedicated much of his retirement to writing. Occasionally he liked to recite poems by memory to friends or family. To quote one of his favorite authors, Leo Tolstoy, "seize the moments of happiness, love and be loved! That is the only reality in the world, all else is folly."

In keeping with his generous nature, donations to a charity of your choice are a great way to honour his memory. A memorial service will be held at a future date.

**Obituaries      Obituaries      Obituaries**

**Jeannette Lee**  
 August 9, 1940 – March 3, 2021




We are sad to announce that on Wednesday March 3rd, 2021 Jeannette Marie Lee passed away peacefully at the Luther Court Care Home in Victoria, with her family by her side. Jeannette is predeceased by her husband Roy Lee, her parents Gordon and Mary Zayha, and her sister Betty Ethier (Zayha).

Jeannette leaves behind 3 loving children; Gordon (Linda), Sandra (Todd) and Michael (Nicky). Her wonderful grandchildren are Jordan, Rebekah and Charissa (Gordon), Lauren, Jesse and Braeden (Sandra) and Travis and Rosie (Michael). Jeannette's 2 great granddaughters are Kira and Riley (Lauren & Quin).

Jeannette was born to Gordon & Mary Zayha on August 9th, 1940 in Spirit River, Alberta. Some of Jeannette's fondest childhood memories were; spending summers with her sister Betty at Grandma's farm east of Spirit River Alberta, running through the fields where the wild Tiger Lilies grew, watching her Uncle Dan ride Queenie the work horse, being with all of her Aunts and Uncles and playing in the old barn.

Jeannette worked for the Park Hotel and then Northern Freightways in Dawson Creek as a bookkeeper where she met her husband Roy. Roy was a heavy-duty diesel mechanic, who also worked for Northern Freightways. They lived in Dawson Creek from 1959-1964, where their oldest son Gordon was born. They then moved to Salt Spring Island, where Roy had grown up and his family resided, and where Sandra and Michael were later born. Roy and Jeannette brought up their family on a small acreage in the Fulford Valley. Jeannette lived on Salt Spring Island for 55 years, until having to move to Victoria.

Jeannette worked for Marr Accounting and she looked after the books for the family business, Roy Lee Petroleum Bulk Plant, until 1981. Jeannette then worked as the bookkeeper for the original Salt Spring Island Sea Products until 1994. And then she was a bookkeeper at Windsor Plywood for her final 11 years of work, retiring at age 65.

Jeannette enjoyed gardening, canning everything they grew, and making jam from all the blackberries at their Fulford house. She loved to read, dance, sing, listen to music and laugh. Jeannette would play the piano in the evening when the house was quiet and the kids could hear her enjoying her time and music. Jeannette also loved to watch Gordon and Michael's baseball games, Sandra's horse-riding lessons and taking the kids to Stowell Lake when the kids were young.

The family wishes to thank Luther Court and the staff for taking such wonderful care of Jeannette for the past 2 1/2 years. We remember all the wonderful Administrative, Nursing, Activities, Housekeeping and Kitchen staff. Jeannette loved her spiritual time with Pastor Ed.

Jeannette had 2 wonderful companions, Ken and Rose, who filled her mornings with walks around the neighborhood to see the flower gardens, and of course Thursday morning dancing.

Thank you to the Salt Spring community, our family and friends, we appreciate the kind words and lovely memories you've shared with us about our Mom. - Gordon, Sandra, Michael.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Greenwoods Eldercare Society or the Luther Court Society in Victoria.

**In Memoriam**



*Betty and Peter Brodie*

Our most amazing and wonderful parents are no longer with us. Only yesterday, it seems that they were here having happy hour in the garden, Channel Ridge walks with family, friends and dogs and catching up on the neighbourhood news at the mailboxes. The many shared phone calls and visits are now memories to keep close. Every time we use one of our Dad's tools, read one of their books or play with their dog, we remember.

*Endless love from the Brodie Family*

**Coming Events**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
 3:30 p.m. Thursday, March 18, 2021  
 Salt Spring Island Library,  
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Members with valid library cards are invited to attend using **Zoom video conferencing** by computer or phone.  
 \* To register email: [admin@saltspringlibrary.com](mailto:admin@saltspringlibrary.com) or call: 250-537-4666 ext. 224.

A resolution to amend the bylaws of the Association will be presented for approval by the members of the Association present at the Annual General Meeting. The full text of the proposed resolution will be posted on the Library's website: <http://saltspring.bc.libraries.coop/> between the publication of this advertisement and the Annual General Meeting.

All active Library cardholders are welcome to attend and are eligible to vote at the meeting.

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# CREST ROGERS

## Notice of Proposed Capital Region Emergency Service Telecommunications Inc. ("CREST") & Rogers Communication Inc. ("ROGERS") Telecommunications Facility

**Description:** As part of the public consultation process required by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), CREST & ROGERS are inviting the public to comment on a proposed telecommunications facility consisting of 40.0 metre self-support tower and ancillary radio equipment in order to provide dependable emergency services, wireless data and voice communication services to parts of Saltspring Island, BC.

**Tower Location:** Water Reserve (Channel Ridge Estates), Saltspring Island, BC

**PID:** 000-638-391

**Coordinates:** 48.895018°, -123.561048°

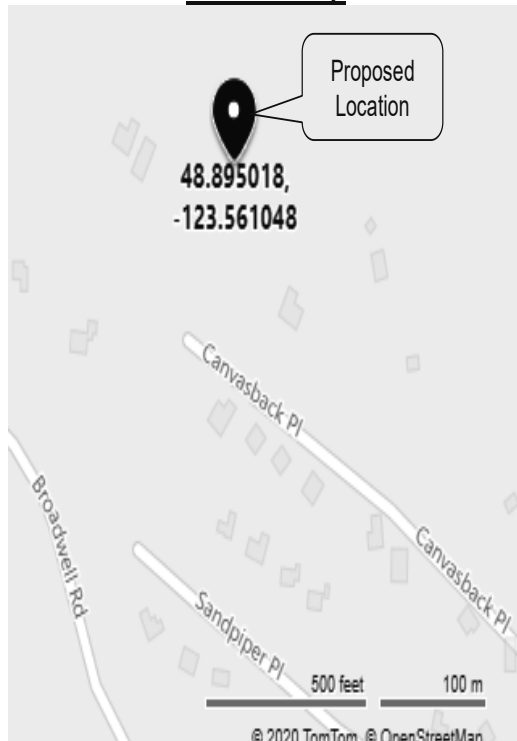
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c/o Cypress Land Services  
Agents to Rogers Communications Inc.  
Suite 1051, 409 Granville Street  
Vancouver, BC V6C 1T2  
Tel: 1.855.301.1520  
Email:  
publicconsultation@cypresslandservices.com

The public is welcome to comment on the proposal by the end of the day on April 16, 2021 respect to this matter.

Rogers File: W2176 – North Saltspring

### Location Map



## 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.

We have entered the final stretch towards the official start of spring. The timing for the seasonal turn is virtually timeless, and stone structures and sacred monuments designed to determine the exact moment of Spring Equinox reach back to the very dawn of civilization. This cycle of light reveals the intimate and consistent relationship between the Sun and Earth. Yet, with this as its solid and steady platform, the planets are ever in their own steady, cyclic motion and the angular relationships they share are always changing and have never and will never be precisely the same, twice! It is upon this foundation that Western astrology operates.

Regarding key current cycles, the Pisces New Moon occurs on March 13 hosting seeds of visionary fervour. The Sun enters Aries to start spring on March 20 and will serve to activate Mars in Gemini. Yet, Mercury entering Pisces March 15/16 could have a subduing effect, as with denial, evasion and escapism, a persistent theme and reality for many people since Winter Solstice.

### Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

A striking opening in the clouds to reveal a cobalt blue sky metaphorically illustrates the influence of Mars in Gemini and Mercury in Aquarius for you. It began last week but will close before this week ends. Positively, you will capture this opening to gain some clarity. Specifically, financial ambitions and/or the development of talents waiting their turn is on your mind.

### Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

The Pisces New Moon will activate a new cycle for us all. For you, it points to friendships and social networks and club or group involvements. Mars and Mercury will contribute to this focus and you may even be able to see through the coming Mercury in Pisces fog. Positively, a fresh activation of your dreams will lead to breakthrough momentums, thanks to Uranus in Taurus.

### Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Sweet dreams are made of these... yet so too are nightmares. It is Neptune and the Pisces factor underway that indicates the swinging pendulum. Which way it goes is very much up to you regarding your perceptions, interpretations and attitude. The swamp to avoid is self-pity. Compassion for others guided by creative thinking will guide you to how you can best express inspiration.

### Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

The deep-end theme that has been underway will continue, yet there will be a definite shift this week. It may be described as spiritual. Positively, you will enter an awakening cycle that could synchronize with genuine states of illumination. This may prove true especially in the short term. Focus on this goal now if you want to dive deeper into seeing previously hidden truths.

### Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

Some cycles lure us into deep, hidden places where we tend not to go and this is one of them. While potentially symbolic of a "dark night," the good news is that there is treasure to be found there. Yet, it will require commitment, courage and a willingness to do the work required. What that is depends on your situation. Success depends on you showing up, ready and willing.

### Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

Upon reflection, you will notice a series of shifts and start activating change in your lifestyle. These include the development and expression of some of your core talents. The Pisces New Moon will serve to activate these into fuller, creative expression. Mars in Gemini is especially helpful in regards to learning and/or teaching new skills.

### Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

The emphasis on health continues. It invariably encompasses your lifestyle rhythms, routines and choices. Changes in your diet may be the first area to focus on. Initiating new activities like walking 2-3 km a day could prove to be a winning idea. Of course, some of the emphasis could well include visits to doctors and health practitioners. Take action, get answers and avoid assumptions and wishful thinking.

### Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

Spring is right around the corner and it is already calling you out of your den. This will become increasingly evident over the coming week. Like a bear out of hibernation, however, it may take a while for you to fully awaken. Yet, it can still prove inspirational and even productive. The key is to want to be inspired and to direct your focus accordingly. Emphasize courage of convictions, yet avoid fixed conclusions.

### Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

The planetary alignments are indicating that you are seeing the world as with new eyes. This awakening of perceptions includes your role in it as well. What constitutes home and family is also featured. New interpretations are featured. Other players, possibly antagonists, are also playing their destined roles. Keeping an open mind about what their purpose is will help and it may include karmic returns.

### Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

Imagination-stirring events are destined to play a much more active role in your life over the coming weeks. These will cause you to work harder to see a bigger picture. Thinking outside of the proverbial box implies your own habitual perceptions. If you think you see reality as it is, think again. Reflect upon why you perceive and interpret things the way you do and be open to other angles.

### Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

New initiatives activated by last month's New Moon in Aquarius will now enter a foundation-stabilizing phase. The twist is that sometimes the stabilization process can initially prove destabilizing. This is not necessarily the case, but something you might want to consider. Positively, you have entered a creative cycle that may also prove activating regarding sports and physical exertion.

### Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

The New Moon in Pisces is finally here and will serve to stimulate new modes of self-expression. While Mercury in Pisces can prove complicated for some, it may prove less so for you. So, this is your cue to tune in and make the most of this important cycle, which is loaded with inspirational focus on the future. Cultural expressions are featured yet all of the above will require focus and discipline.



# SPORTS + RECREATION



## OUTDOOR RECREATION

# Wild winter swimmers embrace the chill factor



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Some of Salt Spring Island's ocean swimmers are, from left, Kate and Kipp Nash; Salt Spring Seals members Elly Silverman, Catherine Griffiths and Kate Fetrow; and Richard Hayden.

## Year-round ocean swimming gains popularity

BY MARCIA JANSEN  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Wild swimming — in lakes, rivers and the ocean — has gained popularity in the past years, and particularly during COVID-19. Even in winter.

The ocean is calm on a late winter morning

at the beginning of March. It's sunny, the air is cool, but people are floating in the ocean or are getting ready to get into the water. With his back against a log, Kipp Nash is doing his breathing exercises before his dip in the ocean.

"I started doing this two years ago," said Nash, who was diagnosed with a benign brain tumour in January 2018. "A friend of mine told me about the Wim Hof Method and what it can do for your health. I was hesi-

tant at first, but then he asked me: 'What are you scared of? Healing?'"

Frequent exposure to cold is linked to several different health benefits.

"We all have our aches and pains, and cold therapy has so many proven benefits," said Nash. "It can boost your immune system, it stimulates your metabolism, it is a natural anti-inflammatory and is an antidote for depression. After my most recent round of radiation, the MRI showed that the tumour in my head had stopped growing. The last MRI even revealed that it is shrinking, which rarely ever happens. I believe it is because of this."

Swimming in cold water is a weekly routine for Nash.

"I am at Beddis Beach a couple times a week and we have a pond at our property where I can swim as well. Depending on the water and outside temperatures, I am in the water for between five and 10 minutes. It is pretty uncomfortable in the beginning. But at some point, you get used to the cold, and when you are out of the water again, you feel absolutely great. It is a real re-set. After you've done this, you feel like you can do anything."

Swimming in cold water is not only a great start of the day for Nash, but also for many others. Since COVID-19 hit, more and more Salt Springers have taken to the cold waters. They are not only at Beddis Beach, but also in Vesuvius.

"For me, it is a mental thing," said James Acken.

He started swimming in the ocean in November 2020, followed by his wife Danielle and a bunch of friends a few months later.

"When you're in the water, you can only focus on that and nothing else. We always say it's a real bullshit-cleanser; all your worries are gone for a moment."

Wild water swimming, even in winter, might be popular right now, but the Salt Spring Seals were well ahead of that trend. Diana Hayes was the first-ever Seal in 2002.

"She started to swim in the ocean as a way to deal with the stress after she was diagnosed with breast cancer and the passing of her mom," said Catherine Griffiths, a long-time Seal herself. "I've always been a runner, but when a hip injury sidelined me, I started to join Diana in 2003. I was a scuba diver, so I had the gear, and I always loved swimming, so that became a new way of exercising for me."

Health benefits are not the only reasons why Griffiths jumps in the ocean once or

twice a week.

"I had a hip replacement, I recovered from breast and uterine cancer in the past years, and I always kept swimming, even during radiation. But what I really enjoy about swimming in the ocean is the wildlife. We see seals all the time, I've encountered a female sea lion, spotted an octopus and a cormorant, and we regularly see starfish, herring and squid when it is the season. It's amazing."

The Salt Spring Seals swim year-round in diving wetsuits and snorkelling gear.

"Vesuvius is our favourite spot in the winter because it doesn't get as cold there as in other places. But we get cold sometimes, and changing afterwards can be a challenge. It is definitely not for everybody. You have to go out of your comfort zone for sure. But over the years we gathered a steady pod of 16 swimmers, and we hope to celebrate our 20th anniversary in 2022."

Richard Hayden is also swimming in Vesuvius Bay once a week; between 1,500 metres and two kilometres at a time. But if you'd told him that a year ago, he probably would have laughed.

"I didn't plan on swimming outdoor year-round. It just happened," said Hayden, who is an avid triathlete. "When COVID-19 hit last year, and the pool on Salt Spring Island closed, I started to swim outside in April, which is pretty early for me. I normally swim outdoor all summer, and I kept swimming in the fall because it is really hard to book a lane in the pool. I am an exercise junkie and a crappy swimmer," he said with a smile. "If I don't swim three times a week, I become even more crappy, and I don't want that."

When the temperatures started to fall in October, Hayden moved from Cusheon Lake to St. Mary Lake and eventually the ocean.

"The ocean is warmer than the lakes right now. I swim in a wetsuit, with an extra neoprene vest underneath, a dive hoodie and neoprene socks and gloves, and that is actually quite comfortable. The first hundred metres are the worst, but when my face starts to get numb the cold doesn't bother me anymore."

Hayden admits that swimming in the ocean can be scary.

"The current can be unpredictable, and I definitely feel more comfortable in the lake. I never go alone in the ocean and I try to plan our swims when the tides come in, and the island in the bay is still visible."

Catherine Griffiths agrees with Hayden.

"We always swim in a group. It is too dangerous to go by yourself, even when you are just taking a dip."

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# FOCUS *on* Education

## Island students and instructors adapt to transition to online learning

Children and adults meet tech, social challenges

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A worldwide shift to virtual meetings and events is a well-documented effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, as everything from government sessions to birthday parties has moved online. After nearly a full year into the crisis, the experiences of learners and teachers offer lessons on what works, what doesn't and what may be incorporated in the future.

Salt Spring Literacy saw client numbers for its free services drop over the past year, as most of their work is based on one-to-one tutoring, whether for adults or children. These sessions had to cease entirely at the beginning of the pandemic

and then again in December when there was more concern about transmission.

Many of their services have now moved onto the Zoom platform.

"It can be hard for our volunteer tutors who aren't tech savvy. They've needed a lot of coaching, but now they've got it, so it works great," said SSL executive director Stella Weinert. "We're just happy we're continuing to offer services, even if it is at a reduced rate."

Bronwyn McMillin and Sebastian Evans are young teachers who had started working on call with the Gulf Islands School District when they were hired to run its flexible remote return program. The district launched this program last fall to meet the needs of families who were not comfortable with, or could have been endangered by, sending their children into the school environment while the COVID-19 threat existed.

Around 85 students were registered in the program at the start of the school year. McMillin has been teaching one K-Grade 2 class and one Grade 3-5 class, with Evans teaching one class for Grades 6-8 plus math for the 3-5s.

Evans and McMillin were in some ways ideally positioned for this venture because they were recently in university, where they learned about the changing classroom and incorporating new kinds of media and teaching tools. They started out thinking they would use an asynchronous teaching approach, meaning each learner could access materials in their own time as it suited them. They soon realized this was not meeting student needs for social interaction or establishing a sense of community, which are important elements of the school experience.

They have since made strides in forging connections in virtual classrooms, getting students to know each others' names and talk with each other even though they may have come from different physical schools and never met before.

"The kids have adapted amazingly well. I think they really have," McMillin said.

The pair has arranged their daily schedule in much the same way. They start with a one-hour class for each group in the morning and then give their students a task to complete that day. Their time after the class Zoom session is filled with one-on-one tutoring help and small groups, also on Zoom.

Some of the challenges have included technological ones, from getting the youngest users familiar with the technology to having students with varying access to devices, programs and internet connections. Finding a classroom set-up that works for everyone was another issue.

Evans and McMillin are also cognizant of the current digital learning experience is



PHOTO COURTESY SS LITERACY  
Learner uses a tablet while receiving tutoring online from Salt Spring Literacy.

Although the teachers feel a return to in-person classrooms is preferable for most, the digital experience adds some new tools.

"I think we both miss physical classrooms a lot [but] I think there are elements of it that are super useful, even within a standard classroom," Evans said.

Connecting students who are sick at home by turning on Zoom is one example.

"In terms of meeting kids' needs, it's a cool opportunity."

Weinert said Salt Spring Literacy has appreciated the strategies for making online learning work that are being shared by the educational community across B.C. Those for keeping younger kids engaged include incorporating games and movement into the material being learned, while certain programs for sharing writing and reading materials are helpful for the tutoring aspect.

Online learning options for older students are meanwhile opening in new directions.

Salt Spring Literacy has seen a huge increase in requests for exam invigilation. Weinert has already done seven since January, as online courses have become more common for secondary schools, universities and other accreditation services.

Salt Spring Literacy is open from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and all services are free of charge. The office currently allows four people inside at a time, so Weinert suggests prospective clients take a look at the website at saltspringliteracy.org and then call to make an appointment.

The office also has a computer lab available to those who need it.

"We realize the importance of being able to access the internet, especially right now," Weinert said.

### ONLINE LEARNING RESOURCES FOR K-12 STUDENTS

#### EARLY LEARNING AND PRIMARY YEARS

- **Circle Round** – Podcasts of sound and music-rich folktales from around the world for kids.
- **The Learning Circle** – Hands-on, nature-based activities to encourage learning about First Nations in Canada.
- **POPEY Home Learning Resources** – Tips and activities to support primary learning at home.
- **GoNoodle** – Movement and mindfulness videos created by child development experts.

#### INTERMEDIATE YEARS

- **Crash Course Kids** – Science videos on a variety of topics.
- **Prodigy Math** – An engaging math platform that uses a variety of interactive features and games to develop students' math proficiency.
- **Pobble365** – Daily picture with related learning activity suggestions.
- **Science World** – Science activities for students.

#### SECONDARY SCHOOL

- **Create to Learn@Home** – Video tutorials on digital skills and/or traditional knowledge created by First Nations, Metis and Inuit artists/makers.
- **Crash Course** – YouTube channel of educational videos on a variety of topics including science, technology, history, theatre, engineering and sociology.
- **The Get It Guide** – Math tutorials to help focus on key steps for solving math problems.
- **GenomeBC Resources** – Science activities and case studies for grades 9-12.

Source: BC Ministry of Education



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