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Wednesday,
Mar. 17, 2021

61st year
Issue 11
\$1.50

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PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

RESCUE MISSION: Fisheries officers get experience manoeuvring a blow-up whale into a sling during a training exercise in Ganges last week. See page 7 for the full story.

COVID-19

Salt Springers asked to not rally

Forest March event cancelled due to gathering regulations

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring RCMP members are asking residents to reconsider gathering and to explore other options to demonstrate their beliefs instead of attending protest events that were planned for the island later this week.

Detachment commander Sgt. Clive Seabrook issued a statement Monday in regard to the Rally for Freedom, which was planned to take place at Centennial Park Saturday at noon in conjunction with similar events happening around the world.

"We are aware there is a rally planned for this upcoming weekend and while we absolutely support a person's democratic right to demonstrate, now is not the time to be gathering; we need to remain vigilant," Seabrook said in his statement.

Seabrook said Salt Spring RCMP will continue to work with partners at the provincial health authority and the BC Prosecution Service to address all ongoing violations of public health orders. Organizers of planned events can face fines of \$2,300 and attendees may also be fined \$230, he said.

The sergeant noted even though provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry relaxed some of the restrictions around gathering outside with friends last week, there continues to be high

numbers of new COVID-19 cases reported daily in B.C.

"The important thing to understand is that these gatherings are still limited to people within your own cohort and gatherings for events such as a rally or protest remain prohibited," Seabrook said.

"I want to caution people who violate the provincial health order, and reassure the general public, that Salt Spring Island is an incredible place to live, with strong community spirit, which is why I am personally asking residents, instead of attending events like these that create division in our community, to please continue to work together to keep Salt Spring Island safe and healthy during this global pandemic."

Communications director Deborah Marshall said Monday the company is aware that protests are planned to take place on Saturday and that Salt Spring is slated as a location.

"We certainly recognize people's right to protest or hold a gathering, as long as it doesn't impede our operations," Marshall said.

The company will enforce its rule about wearing masks on board ships, however, and may take extra steps if people are causing problems.

"We may have to call the authorities," Marshall said.

BC Ferries banned a group of anti-mask pro-

testers from using its services after they caused a disturbance on a sailing from Nanaimo to Horse-shoe Bay last October.

The organizer of a second protest that was scheduled to run this Friday has decided not to proceed after speaking with RCMP about the regulations. Jean Wilkinson was coordinating a Forest March BC event in which participants would be wearing masks and be spaced two metres apart, but she reversed course with new understanding of enforcement measures.

Wilkinson urges people who are concerned about provincial forestry policy and wish to "Take a Stand for Trees" to protect ecosystem health and biodiversity to participate in other ways. They can start by writing letters to elected officials and ministers, Wilkinson said.

"Emailing and writing letters to government is the key thing in the long run. And the social media campaign could be a fun way to participate," she said.

People are also invited to support the cause through the Tree Pose Challenge by taking a photo of themselves with their favourite tree or shrub and sharing it on Facebook (@forestmarch-bc), Twitter (@bcforestmarch) and Instagram (@bcforestmarch).

For more information on the provincial health orders, visit the B.C. government website.

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Zen Master Wolfgang says:
"Tolerance is suspicion
that others may be right."

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Advertising Deadlines Change

Please note that the Gulf Islands Driftwood office will be closed on Friday, April 2 - Good Friday and will reopen for business (see hours below) on Monday, April 5.

Deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood Wednesday April 7 edition will be as follows:

DISPLAY, CLASSIFIED AND CLASSIFIED WORD ADVERTISING DEADLINE: **Wednesday March 31, 12 noon**

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Capital Regional District



Notice of Volunteer Opportunity

Solid Waste Advisory Committee

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

- First Nations
- Solid Waste Technology Representative

Interested? Please send a brief summary telling us about yourself, where you live, your relevant experience and why you would like to serve on the committee. **Deadline for receipt of applications is Wednesday, April 28, 2021.**

For more information, please visit:

www.crd.bc.ca/project/management-plan

Send your application to:

Mail: CRD Environmental Resource Management
625 Fisgard Street, Victoria BC, V8W 2S6
Email: achambers@crd.bc.ca

ISLANDS TRUST

Trust Council approves budget

Communities also affirmed as part of Trust mandate

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Islands Trust Council made steps toward prioritizing protection of First Nations cultural heritage while also resolving that protection of healthy and inclusive communities is part of its core mandate during the March quarterly meeting.

Council approved a budget of \$9,059,919 with a \$7,079,771 general tax requisition that includes significant spending for Salt Spring projects at the March 9-11 quarterly meeting, which was held over the Zoom platform. The requisition amount marks an increase of 4.37 per cent over the previous year. Salt Spring taxpayers are additionally responsible for a \$75,500 special requisition to fund water protection work.

Salt Spring trustee Laura Patrick said she was happy to know housing and Ganges village planning projects can now proceed as planned.

"Salt Spring's budgets are intact and we're going to buckle down and go to work," Patrick said after the meeting. "It's all systems go."

Housing and Trust policy were major topics of conversation throughout the three-day meeting. Trustees expressed some frustration and disagreement on how to fulfill the Trust's primary object of preserving and protecting the environment and the "unique amenities" of the Gulf Islands, as well as what that part actually means.

In response to motions raised by South Pender trustee Steve Wright, council fully supported defining "unique amenities" as being inclusive of the cultural heritage of Indigenous Peoples within the Islands Trust Area, and agreed protecting these aspects be prioritized in policy work.

Council voted down including "the natural character of

the environment" in that definition, however, since protection of the environment is clearly stated in the mandate in the first place. They also failed to support Wright's motion to exclude housing policies from the Trust Policy Statement, and another motion to remove items associated with housing from the strategic plan.

Several trustees noted the programs committee is in the midst of a policy statement review process that started in September 2019, and Wright's proposed changes were not included in the public consultation part of that work. Draft policy amendment changes are scheduled to come before Trust Council in June.

"I'm concerned this narrowing is happening too early in the process — it's a short-circuiting of the process we're in," commented Bowen trustee Sue Ellen Fast.

Council voted instead to approve two alternate motions raised by Gambier area trustee Dan Rogers, affirming the Trust executive and its programs committee will continue to work on improving policy on affordable housing and sustainable communities. Rogers noted Trust Council had received a huge amount of correspondence related to these motions.

Elizabeth FitzZaland of Salt Spring Solutions, a group dedicated to tackling the housing crisis on the island, said she was "relieved and deeply appreciative that our local trustees — Laura Patrick and Peter Grove — along with a majority of trustees from across the region, voted down the motions that sought to undermine the Islands Trust mandate to plan for sustainable communities."

She added that "While I am troubled that this keeps presenting itself as a possibility at our regional Trust Council, I am heartened by the leadership of those who understand that we cannot confront climate change and protect the natural environment without simultaneously and proactively planning for healthy and inclusive local communities. This is the calling of our time. I am also grateful to the over 100 individuals and organizations from across the Islands Trust region who took the time to write letters to Trust Council."

COVID-19

B.C. vaccination plan updated

Dates for 80+ group moved up

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

British Columbia is making better than expected progress on booking vaccination appointments for older cohorts, and is processing dates for residents aged 80 and older this week.

People who were born in 1936 or earlier were moved ahead on the schedule to book COVID-19

vaccination appointments starting on March 12. Over the weekend, the province announced a daily call centre schedule for the next five birth years.

The program set for this week had people aged 82+ (born in 1939 or later) able to access the call centre today, Wednesday, March 17. Thursday and Friday the centre opens for people ages 81+ and 80+ respectively.

The Island Health call centre number is 1-833-348-4787.

Salt Spring vaccinations for the oldest cohorts were scheduled to take place at the public health unit office at 160 Fulford-Ganges Rd. in Ganges from March 15 to April 15.

Island Health media relations director Dominic Abassi said the organization had been exploring multiple sites as possible clinics, and some call centre employees did not have the right information in front of them when phone lines opened last Monday.

That problem was quickly rectified and the vast majority of individuals calling from Salt Spring were booked into the correct time slot and location, but not everyone, Abassi said.

Anyone who is currently eligible to receive their vaccine and was incorrectly booked at another location should phone the call centre. They can reference their issue to rebook their appointment at the correct clinic for the earliest date available.

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.



Islands Trust

Subject Property Address: 2591 Fulford-Ganges Road, SSI

Parcel Identifier Number: 006-126-570

Application: SS-TUP-2021.1

**Have
Your
Say**

When:
Tuesday,
March 23, 2021
9:30 a.m.



Where:
Electronic Meeting
To Join: www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ssiltcmeeting
(click date for instructions)



Who should attend?
Anyone affected by
the application.



Enquiries?
Geordie Gordon
Planner 2
250-537-9144

Written submissions are
welcome and can be emailed to:
ssinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca
or, mailed or dropped off at the
Islands Trust office by Monday,
March 22, 2021.

Written comments made in
response to this notice will be
available for public review.

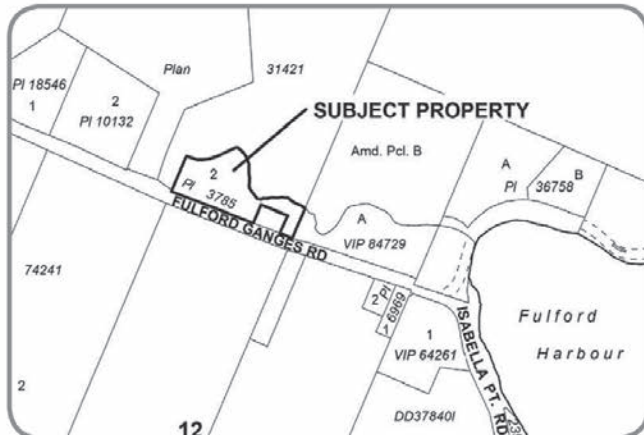
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT NOTIFICATION

SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee will consider a resolution to issue a Temporary Use Permit for the subject property known as **Fulford Community Hall**.

The purpose of this Temporary Use Permit is to allow the following use:

- Restaurant (takeout of food and drink) in a trailer.
(Monday to Saturday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)



How do I get more information?

A copy of the staff report and proposed permit will be available online after Friday, March 12, 2021 on the Current Application webpage:

www.islandstrust.bc.ca/SSlapplications

or, at the Islands Trust office at #1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2N8 from the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays.

ENVIRONMENT

Islanders protect old growth at Fairy Creek

Supreme Court
injunction hearing set
for March 25-26

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A grassroots effort to protect old-growth forest slated for logging near Port Renfrew is reaching a critical point next week, when a hearing at British Columbia Supreme Court will determine if the Teal Jones forestry company wins an injunction against protestors.

Concerned individuals including those from Salt Spring have been blocking road construction into the Fairy Creek watershed since August of last year. They will have the chance to argue their case at the injunction hearing scheduled for March 25 and 26. Protesters intend to continue their action regardless of the outcome, unless the provincial NDP government stops logging in Vancouver Island's critical old-growth stands.

"No one wants to end all logging or take away a livelihood, but there are third-growth renewable forests," said Salt Spring environmental activist Cathy Lenihan. "This is the last stand for ancient forests in B.C., and really the world."

The Rainforest Flying Squad is the name taken by the grassroots collection of people at the centre of the Fairy Creek watershed blockades. Islanders who have been active with the core group include Molly Murphy and Kim Murray, both of whom have helped build up campaign infrastructure such as camp facilities and communication outreach and have put in considerable time on site.

Murray said a woman named Carol Tootle who lives on Vancouver Island put the first call out for defenders last summer. The fight to save the area has since attracted young people from all over, in addition to experienced forest campaigners who were fighting in the "War of the Woods" in the 1990s.

Even legendary Canadian musician Bruce Cockburn has lent his support. He performed a voice-over in a forest-protection ad released this week. Playing in the background is his well-known song, When a Tree Falls in the Forest.

"I think they thought it would be a few days kind of thing, but there's been this convergence of people who are interested and frustrated and have had enough. And it just took that one little spark and people just started coming," Murray said.

The Fairy Creek watershed, located close to the tragic lone-standing old-growth fir tree known as "Lonely Doug" and the Avatar Grove, is actually the last unlogged valley on Vancouver Island. With only an estimated two per cent of B.C.'s original old-growth forests left untouched, the area is a living resource for sequestering carbon emissions and sustaining biodiverse species.

"It goes in the face of common sense and reality," said Tom Mitchell, an islander who has made day trips to support the blockade. "So

many countries have declared climate emergencies."

Forest defenders have been preventing logging at five other old-growth remnant forests as well as Fairy Creek. They are calling for the immediate deferral of logging at the entire Fairy Creek rainforest, the forests at Bugaboo Creek, the Caycuse watershed, Edinburgh Mountain, Camper Creek, the Upper Walbran and the Central Walbran valley.

As the Sierra Club of B.C. pointed out this week, the B.C. government-appointed Old Growth Review Panel called for "a paradigm shift to safeguard the biodiversity of forests, with a three-year framework and logging deferrals for all at-risk old-growth forests within the first six months." The NDP committed to following all 14 of the report's recommendations as a campaign promise last fall, but has not stopped logging those critical areas six months after the promise was made.

In response to questions from the Driftwood, Forests Minister Katrine Conroy said the province remains committed to implementing all 14 recommendations.

**"This is the last stand
for ancient forests in
B.C., and really the
world."**

CATHY LENIHAN
*Rainforest Flying Squad
supporter, Salt Spring*

tems," Conroy said in an emailed statement. "There is a better way for B.C. to manage old-growth forests and our government will work collaboratively with all our partners to do this."

Conroy said the province began by collaborating with Indigenous governments to protect almost 196,000 hectares of old-growth forests in nine different areas across B.C. last fall. They are now working through the three-year timeline identified by review panel report authors Al Gorley and Garry Merkel.

"We know there is much more work to do. To get this right, we will follow the advice of the old-growth report and fully engage Indigenous leaders, industry, workers, communities and environmental groups to find the right way forward for old-growth forests in B.C.," Conroy said.

"We know some are calling for an immediate moratorium, but this approach risks thousands of good family-supporting jobs. We know others have called for no changes to logging practices, but this could risk damage to key ecosystems."

Mitchell said B.C. additionally faces difficulty in meeting its commitment to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. The Fairy Creek watershed is in the unceded territory of the Pacheedaht Nation. While there has been no public statement, for or against the blockades, from the chief and council, the blockade has received an official welcome from Pacheedaht elder Bill Jones.

Brian Smallshaw is another Salt Spring resident supporting the blockades. Along with Lenihan, Mitchell and their friend Gary Gagné, he has helped supply the rotating camp teams with groceries and firewood. That group was intending to increase their participation in the weeks ahead and to make a bigger stand if the injunction goes through, as they assume it will.

"We really believe old-growth logging has to stop. This has to be the bottom line," Smallshaw said. "It's a hard struggle, but it's worth it. It's like the banners say: It's worth more standing."

"This is it. We don't have a window of opportunity in the future," Lenihan added.

People who have been out to the blockades and walked the old-growth forests encourage anyone who can to make the trip to see what they are trying to save. Protocols for how to get involved can be

found at fairycreekblockade.com.

For more information, look for Fairy Creek Blockade and Rainforest Flying Squad pages on Facebook and Instagram. A GoFundMe campaign to support the blockers' legal fees can be found under "Direct Action for the last Ancient Rainforests."

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.

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**NORTH
SALT SPRING
WATERWORKS
DISTRICT**

**NOTICE TO THE RATEPAYERS
OF THE NORTH SALT SPRING
WATERWORKS DISTRICT**

2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Ratepayers of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 22, 2021 virtually through Microsoft Teams. Unfortunately, as the Covid-19 restrictions have not been relaxed, we are unable to hold the AGM in person.

**NOMINEES / ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION
AS TRUSTEE ARE:**

Chris Dixon
Brian Pyper

As there are only two Trustee positions up for election, and North Salt Spring Waterworks District only received two nominations, the above nominees are elected by acclamation as trustees. Please join us in welcoming our new Trustee Brian Pyper, and our returning Trustee Chris Dixon.

www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca

**761 Upper Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1S1
(250) 537-9902**

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
17	0053	1.9	6.2	21	0052	3.0	9.8
	0656	3.0	9.8		0539	2.8	9.2
WE	1343	1.3	4.3	SU	0710	2.8	9.2
ME	2043	2.8	9.2	DI	1638	1.0	3.3
18	0133	2.2	7.2	22	0155	3.1	10.2
	0711	3.0	9.8		1738	1.0	3.3
TH	1419	1.2	3.9	MO			
JE	2158	2.8	9.2	LU			
19	0219	2.5	8.2	23	0240	3.1	10.2
	0725	2.9	9.5		1840	0.9	3.0
FR	1459	1.1	3.6	TU			
VE	2326	2.9	9.5	MA			
20	0324	2.7	8.9	24	0316	3.2	10.5
	0733	2.9	9.5		0930	2.6	8.5
SA	1545	1.0	3.3	WE	1134	2.6	8.5
SA				ME	1937	0.9	3.0

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OPINION



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

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



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EDITORIAL

One year later

March 11 marked one year since the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global pandemic.

As of last Thursday, the official worldwide death total had surpassed 2.6 million. In Canada, some 22,371 people had died from COVID-19 as of March 11, and in B.C. that number was nearly 1,400.

The Gulf Islands have fortunately seen relatively few COVID-19 infections. Island Health reported only 24 individuals had tested positive on all five islands, including Salt Spring, from Jan. 1, 2020 through March 6, 2021. Everyone on the islands can take some credit for keeping transmissions in check.

Without the public health orders and protective policies put in place by governments at home and around the world, those numbers would undoubtedly be much higher.

THE ISSUE: Coronavirus pandemic

WE SAY: B.C. and Gulf Islands fared as well as possible

even lower and prevented needless death.

On the other side are those who believe that existing restrictions have been overly harsh and the social consequences too high as a result. While many people have suffered from limited social interactions and/or a loss of income due to restrictions in the past year, we believe the balanced path taken by provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry and the provincial government has been the correct one. To do less would have irresponsibly seen the virus overwhelm our healthcare system. Thankfully that did not occur.

Government programs have also been generous, if not able to eliminate all impacts, and charitable groups have also stepped up to address some financial and social/emotional challenges.

Assuming enough of the population is vaccinated in coming months to keep infections low, we will have endured this seriously altered life for only a year and a half. In terms of human history, it's an extremely short period of time.

People have already observed a number of positive aspects arising from the COVID-19 crisis. In due course it will be everyone's task to maintain the positive and ensure we are better prepared to face similar challenges in the future.

British Columbia has taken a middle ground in not returning to full "lockdown" states since the initial wave struck last spring. It's a decision that has seen criticism from people who believed more restrictions — such as keeping schools and/or restaurants closed — would have kept infections



Tree planting idea pursued

BY JEAN GELWICKS

I want to say thank you to Richard Hayden and Janine Fernandes-Hayden for their "Path and asset" letter in last week's Driftwood about the new section of community pathway from Central to Booth Canal Road and their support of pathways.

They said at the conclusion of their article, if the Salt Spring Transportation Commission wants to plant trees to replace trees removed, that they would be happy to "donate five trees" to the cause. This is very generous of Richard and Janine, and it gave me an idea . . . maybe there are other pathway supporters who would also like to help replace some of the plants that were removed.

I am not on the transportation commission, but as chair of the Partners Creating Pathways Committee of Island Pathways, I am just now in the process of writing for grants to do just that: some replanting along the new section of pathway on Lower Ganges Road.

All grant applications require a well-thought-

VIEWPOINT

out and researched budget. I took myself off to Fraser's Thimble Farms nursery to do some research on how many plants I might need, what kind of native plants they would suggest, how and when we should plant and how much all this would cost us.

We are also looking for volunteers who would like to join us on volunteer work parties to help maintain the Ganges Village Pathway Network . . .

The owner suggested a number of native shrub and tree species and had many good tips on what would be most successful. The trip was very informative but at the same time I also realized that I would never be able to get a grant large enough to do all I hoped.

Island Pathways was not responsible for this new section of pathway, but we have been responsible for much of the Ganges Village Pathway Network, in which we take great pride. So we are very happy to accept Richard and Janine's donation of trees.

We are also happy to accept any donations of fir trees and/or shrubs (we need many more shrubs) in one or two-gallon pots or donations to cover their cost. Richard Fraser at Fraser's Thimble Farms can give you good ideas about the types of shrubs that will work best.

We are also looking for volunteers who would like to join us on volunteer work parties to help maintain the Ganges Village Pathway Network and keep them looking good and to do all this new replanting. For both donations and volunteer work, please contact me at gellam@saltspring.com. Thanks again, Richard and Janine.

The writer is an Island Pathways board member.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Is the Prince Harry and Meghan saga of interest to you?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

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

102 125
NO YES

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

OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

"Salt Spring's budgets are intact and we're going to buckle down and go to work."

LAURA PATRICK, SALT SPRING ISLANDS TRUST TRUSTEE

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED: *How are you feeling about the COVID situation these days?*

MCKENZIE BROOKS



I've gotten so used to it, it's just sort of normalized now.

BOB CONLON



I guess I'm basically feeling there's light at the end of the tunnel.

CHARLIE WANDOLL



I'm feeling optimistic. It's only up and up from here.

GARRETT KLASSEN



I'd like it to end ... not sure that will be happening soon.

LAURA JONES



With the warmer weather, the opening to a "safe 10" was uplifting after the not-so-much opening of vaccinations.

LETTERS to the editor

Housing survives

Thank you to the 100+ people who sent letters and another 100 who attended Trust meetings in the past two weeks to speak up about why our local government must find housing solutions for our island's rapidly vanishing working and middle class.

Partly due to the public outcry, the motions put forward by a trustee from Pender Island to deprioritize housing and try and remove the entire responsibility for community from the Trust's interpretation of its mandate were all defeated.

After mostly ignoring the housing crisis for 20 years, the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee's Housing Action Project on the table now is an effort to catch up, and will start by engaging the community in the pros and cons of different integrated solutions for solving many of our 21st-century challenges at once. This kind of leadership should be supported, not squelched.

In the end, regular people just reminded our hardworking but pretty privileged trustees that housing and inequality, climate and the environment are deeply linked. Of course we all want to protect this special place. But if we want any social diversity at all in this community in 10 years' time, we had better start figuring out how non-wealthy people can stay here also.

**JASON MOGUS,
RHONAN HEITZMANN,**
SALT SPRING SOLUTIONS

Freighter solutions do exist

There is good news for Mark Perry, who last week questioned in his "Fact of life" letter if freighter problems are avoidable.

Ports in Australia and Europe are years ahead of Vancouver in applying modern logistics to ensure that vessels arrive just in time for loading, so that port

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

congestion and wasteful time and burning of fuel at anchor can be avoided. An efficiently managed port does not require longer lineups of waiting vessels when export volume increases.

Online information on solutions is available. A Driftwood article of June 8, 2020 gives more background. A new study at www.marineaffairs.ca addresses the seriousness of the problem, causes, solutions and references.

Unnecessary trips of empty ships to remote island anchorages, thousands of tonnes of greenhouse gases wasted at anchor and a multitude of other effects by anchored ships are a concern for marine life and human public health. Environment Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans identified the marine ecosystems of the Southern Gulf Islands to be of national value. In connection with the pipeline approval, the National Energy Board recommended to expedite the ongoing effort to protect the islands as a National Marine Conservation Area.

The recent traffic explosion of

vessels intruding from Vancouver is not compatible with Canada's international commitments regarding marine conservation and First Nations rights. The Port of Vancouver's stated mission is to become the world's most sustainable port. Solving the underlying problem would have economic, cultural and environmental long-term benefits.

CHRISTOPH ROHNER,
SALT SPRING

Equality matters

To last week's "Black lives matter. All lives matter."

All life matters" letter from Bob Weeden, I would add (from George Orwell's novel *Animal Farm*): "All animals are equal but some are more equal than others."

DENNIS LUCARELLI,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

After one full year of COVID, we've all had enough

It's been an entire year and I'm sick of COVID-19. Sick to death of it, but before you reach for the disinfectant and an extra plague mask, hear me out.

To the best of my knowledge, I'm bug free, as wholesome a specimen you'll find anywhere in Western Canada (and I have the COVID app on my phone to prove it), but I am simply sick and tired of the relentless updates and the media's hysterical obsession with COVID-related stories.

Look, I was a journalist for more than 40 years, from whippet-thin trainee reporter on the tiny Thame Gazette to lardy executive on the once-mighty Daily Mirror in London and I understand better than most why the hacks won't leave it alone. If I were still working, I'd quite likely be getting out at London's Waterloo station on my way to work with several new pandemic ideas to throw into the morning news conference. Pandemic and pets? COVID and cuddling? Will the vaccine make my arms fall off? I'm working from home so do I need to wear trousers? It's what we do.

What I did. What we did and they still do is take a story and wring the life out of it, squeeze it 'til its pips squeak and if it's a running story, if it "has legs," we harry it until there is no juice left in it. I can absolutely guarantee you that there is not a news desk in the world that does not have "COVID latest" or "COVID update" at the top of its daily or weekly news list. The big boys will likely have a COVID desk, two or three reporters and an editor whose sole purpose will be to fill column inches or hours of airtime every day with more COVID doo-doo.

It's what they do. Sometimes this herd monomania is inevitable and unavoidable like Donald Trump. There was simply no escaping the car crash of his presidency and each time reporters and editors thought they'd finally put it to bed something new and awful would present itself. And



Paul McElroy
+ ANOTHER
THING

there are others which are avoidable and, in the end, shameful like Princess Diana. Whether she was hounded to death by the paparazzi is moot, but what isn't moot is that the paparazzi depends on the mainline media for their livelihoods and the majority of "paps" are no more photographers than I'm a trapeze artiste, but are instead invariably louts with long lenses and low morals.

The more intrusive a picture, the more exclusive it is and thus the more valuable it is. Diana Spencer at an opening night or leaving a restaurant might be worth \$250 because everyone has it; catch her sneaking out the back door of the restaurant with a "mystery man" and you've got a down payment on a London mews apartment. If the mystery man is the son of the less-than-scrupulous owner of London's most prestigious store then you've earned enough to buy Trinidad.

All of which has absolutely nothing to do with this column, or at least the one I had intended to write, but when your dander's up, it's up.

It rose most recently as I listened to the CBC news on my car radio and the news, inevitably, was COVID-19, COVID-19 and more COVID-19. The main item was a chirpy reporter telling us that this COVID is three and a half times more likely to kill you than the annual flu, a gobblet of news which is 100 times more likely to make you want to slash your own wrists.

It is likely true that COVID is significantly more deadly than a winter flu, but why do I need to know? It's not as if I can do anything about it like shopping in a hazmat suit or having "Keep back!" tattooed across my forehead.

This was followed by a feature on a family who lived in Québec but couldn't visit their granny 10 miles away across the border in Vermont.

Oh really? And how is their plight any more acute than mine? I haven't seen my young grandsons in Nanaimo for so long they've probably enrolled in university, graduated and are now working from home. But I don't hear any CBC producer knocking on my door for a whiney interview.

A couple of hours later I ran up against an unmasked conspiracy theorist in Country Grocer and, my dander in full bloom, confronted him only for him to unload a bucketful of utterly unfounded claptrap until it dawned on me that I was having a face-to-mask shouting match with a potential Typhoid Harry and I'd finally be sent to my grave by a baffling and bewildered denialist. What I shall never understand about these conspiracies is WHY! Why are the world's doctors and scientists lying about the pandemic, as he claimed, and why are the seven billion or so us who actually believe there is a world medical crisis somehow more gullible than Mr., Mrs. or Ms. Looney Tunes?

And finally, to compound my irritation the news I actually want is nowhere to be seen because nothing is happening! Where's my vaccination, eh? I am old, and I am frail (well, frailish) and I damned well want the protection I'm entitled to. I'm far too lovely to go yet and in any case, I have every intention of winning the lottery next week and intend to be around long enough to spend it.

paulmcelroy@shaw.ca

CRD budget increase finalized

CRD's 2021 budget will be finalized on March 24. The proposed Salt Spring Island requisition (including Capital Region Hospital District or CRHD) will be \$6.854 million, a 1.2 per cent increase over 2020.

This is slightly higher than a proposed increase of one per cent in the interim or provisional budget, partly because Salt Spring's increase in assessed values was roughly double that for CRD as a whole, increasing our share of regional service costs. Another factor is the increase in the CREST levy for system-wide emergency communications upgrades. These increases were largely offset by very welcome provincial and BC Transit COVID relief funding. The overall CRD requisition has increased by 6.4 per cent from 2018-2021, an average annual increase of 2.1 per cent.

My main focus for the 2021 CRD budget is to limit tax increases in recognition of COVID's economic impacts, but some service improvements are still possible, including continued increases for PARC bylaw enforcement; extending public transit to the Beddis area (delayed in 2020 by COVID); and more support for our local emergency program, watershed protection and grants in aid. A number of capital projects with CRD funding are still planned, including affordable housing; pathways; shared recreation/daycare facilities; water/waste treatment investments, and Lady Minto's new emergency room.

The total 2021 SSI CRD/CRHD requisition is \$85 per month, for the "average assessed" property (versus \$81/mo



Gary Holman
CRD DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

in 2019), supporting a range of CRD services, such as library, public transit / pathways, swimming pool, recreation programs, emergency planning, economic development and the arts.

Climate action

The Transition Salt Spring Society just released its extensive update of the island's Climate Action Plan (CAP 2.0). My thanks to the dozens of islanders who donated their expertise in developing the plan and consulting with the public. Thanks also to Transition Salt Spring, which will be the "keeper of the plan" — advocating for action, helping coordinate agencies and providing information regarding incentives offered by senior governments to help catalyze change.

CAP 2.0 makes key recommendations to help Salt Spring adapt and respond to climate impacts already occurring as a result of longer, hotter drought periods and more extreme winter storms. The Islands Trust can play a key role by protecting our rare Coastal Douglas-fir forests, drinking watersheds and groundwater recharge areas, and keeping settlement patterns compact.

CRD can also play an important role, and is acting locally in a number of ways by continuing investments in pedestrian and cycling infrastructure and public transit; upgrading sewage treatment in Ganges; and supporting gas tax funding of EV chargers, and water and/or energy conservation measures for affordable housing and facilities like ArtSpring, Core Inn and The Root. CRD is also working with other organizations to establish composting and chipping alternatives to open burning, and on new facilities such as the hospital emergency room, a public safety building and emergency communications, in order to improve our community resiliency.

Regionally, the CRD continues to protect carbon-sequestering green space with its Parkland Acquisition Fund and will be increasing methane capture at the Hartland landfill.

Other news

New agreements will hopefully allow Island Pathways and the Salt Spring bus shelter group to collaborate more effectively with our CRD Transportation Commission on pedestrian and transit infrastructure. CRD has also signed a new lease with ArtSpring that provides security of tenure for at least 20 years.

The rollout of vaccines at our Public Health Unit Office and also at Community Services' food bank (for the unhoused) hopefully means a return to more normal times later in the summer. Please be patient and wait your turn for your group or age cohort before calling toll free: 1-833-348-4787.

MORE LETTERS continued from 5

Consultation lacking

I think that the reason why the Baker to Booth path is the subject of controversy is because there was no virtual open house and no one even bothered to put up signage ahead or to let the residents of the area know ahead of time that roadwork that could take six months would be taking place outside of their doors. There was not even a simple knock on the door.

To have walkable areas is a collective responsibility, however, because we seem to never have the budget here to do it properly, and there is a lot of burden put on property owners who live beside paths. The public is not respectful and the proof is the recent Driftwood story about the 95-year-old woman who finally retired after years of picking up garbage that people drop on the paths. If the people of Salt Spring and tourists need to rely on a 95-year-old woman to clean up after them, then we are in a serious state.

I personally feel very sorry for those living beside the new Baker to Booth path because of the voyeuristic design that makes them appear like an exhibit. Also, the cemetery on the corner of Baker and Lower Ganges roads is in for it as there are little bagged-up dog wastes beside every path. There is no service to hand pick up dog waste bags here on Salt Spring, and it is up to the dog owners to not leave the bags on the paths or the properties beside the paths.

I am just putting in my feelings as there is a huge sacrifice of privacy and enjoyment of living for those who are now completely exposed to the public. As people do not respect the contributions of those who donate here, there is a feeling that everything is provided by the CRD and therefore is a public right. I think that the consideration should have started with those who were in charge of this project to do this project with proper notification and respectful design.

JENNY MCCLEAN,
SALT SPRING

COVID-19 IN BC

For now,
stick
with big
spaces
and the
same
faces.

This is a critical time in the pandemic and your efforts are making a difference. With warmer weather, meeting outside becomes safer – if we remember the basics. That means visiting outdoors only, with the same people, in a group no larger than 10. And remember to keep a safe distance and always clean your hands. Together we can put the pandemic behind us.



Learn more at gov.bc.ca/covid19

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Salt Spring hosts marine mammal training

DFO officers practise rescue and response scenarios

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Visitors to Ganges Harbour on the afternoon of March 9 may have witnessed a large team of fisheries officers working to free a 450-kilogram black cetacean stranded on the foreshore near Beachside.

The team from Fisheries and Oceans Canada's whale protection unit was successful in their efforts to insert a tarp under the animal, inflate side pontoons and then tow the whale back into the ocean for eventual release. It was an exciting conclusion to a difficult job — even though the whale in question was made of synthetic material and its smile was only painted on.

The whale protection unit officers were on Salt Spring for four days of training on a variety of marine mammal rescue responses. In addition to how to help in a stranding, they trained on the hydrophone network and practised on the water how to deter whales from visiting an area where an oil spill had taken place.

Officers also learned to take samples from a deceased Pacific white-sided dolphin (a real one, this time), before observing a post-mortem exam with biologist Steven Rafferty at a field station set up behind the Harbour House Hotel.

This hands-on part of their job education has been delayed for a year due to COVID-19, but a variety of factors made it important to proceed now with the correct safety measures in place.

"I'm pretty excited we can keep doing this," said program coordinator Genevieve Cauffopé. "We've trained a lot of officers over the years, but this week we are focusing on our whale protection unit officers. They're really the specialists in the region."

Also overseeing the training was an officer who grew up on Salt Spring, Paul Cottrell, who is DFO's marine mammal coordinator and disentanglement expert.

"We're fortunate that with the Oceans Protection Plan we've been able to purchase some of this equipment," Cottrell said with an eye toward the refloatation gear. "Of course if something happened, we want to be ready to go. It's important to get out and experience as best you can what it would be like, so when you get that call and it's high stress, and there's things going on, you know what to do."

Kirsty Walde, a senior compliance program officer and Oceans Protection Plan coordinator who also happened to have grown up on Salt Spring, explained the Whale Protection Unit was formed under the federal government's commitment to protect the southern resident killer whales. Officers are there to enforce compliance with the Fisheries Act, Species at Risk Act and Marine Mammal Regulations for protection of SRKW prey availability, critical habitat and freedom from disturbance, as well as responding to marine mammal incidents. The unit has offices based out of Victoria and Annacis Island, and has ongoing funding support that will continue beyond the five-year Oceans Protection Plan.

The Gulf Islands hosts two of the three interim sanctuary zones as identified under Transport Canada's Interim Order SRKW management measures, located just off Saturna and Pender islands.

"With SRKW currently in British Columbia waters, increased potential for incidents with the upcoming boating and fishing season, and ongoing and future spill events, it is key that DFO ensures that front-line fishery officers are trained," Walde said.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Fisheries and Oceans Canada officers in the waters of Ganges Harbour with a stranded "whale" as part of a marine mammal rescue training session held on Salt Spring on March 9 with DFO's marine mammal coordinator Paul Cottrell seen at far right.

She noted that on the day of the stranding exercise, J-pod members were confirmed to be nearby in Boundary Pass.

Another part of last's week session was a day on the water learning how to help in the event of a whale entanglement.

"The focus is on safety training for the officers and others, as well as actually helping the marine mammals," Cauffopé explained. "It's very cool and super useful."

Participants learned how to attach a satellite beacon to the fishing gear encumbering a whale so that Cottrell and his team can locate and free the animal later on, in a way that maximizes effective use of space and time.

for disentanglement, they'll go put the stat tag on and I'll get my kit together, get up there and join them and wait for the right weather, and hopefully help the whale."

"This technology's crazy — it's changing everything," Cottrell added. "If we can get to the whale, the chance we get save it is really high. And that's what I love. It's the best part of my job."

People who witness whales in trouble of any kind — from stranding to entanglement to harassment from boaters — are urged to call the Marine Mammal Incident Reporting hotline at 1-800-465-4336, or to send emails to DFO.ORR-ONS.MPO@DFO-MPO.GC.CA. Attaching photos or videos to emails, if possible, is extremely helpful for officers.

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.

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.

"Of course if something happened, we want to be ready to go. It's important to get out and experience as best you can what it would be like."

PAUL COTTRELL
DFO marine mammal coordinator

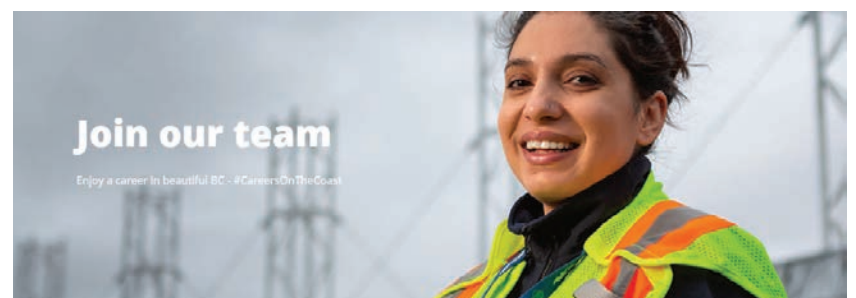
It can take a day or so for the experts to reach a remote coastal site, and then even longer for ocean conditions to be safe enough to send the boats out. In that time an at-risk whale could have moved on from where it was first spotted. Training involves learning how to grapple the equipment onto any trailing gear safely and effectively, as well as how to operate the boat safely in the presence of a whale.

In addition to DFO staff, Cottrell's team has given this same training to Parks Canada staff, non-governmental agencies and designated guardians in Indigenous communities.

"I lead the large whale entanglement rescues on the coast here, but of course it takes a team," Cottrell said. "One of the key components is that it's a huge coast, and often we'll have whale entanglements in Bella Bella, Haida Gwaii or on the west coast of Vancouver Island."

"So if we get key areas with key people, and if we get a call about a humpback entangled off Tofino, we've got a team that's trained. If we decided it's a candidate

Come Aboard - BC Ferries is hiring!



As one of the largest employers on Salt Spring, BC Ferries is looking for our next great crew members.

We move adventurers, commuters and cargo along the coast and we now have opportunities for you to join us here on Salt Spring Island. We are coming to meet you and will be holding a recruitment open house for all our current local positions.

Who are we looking for?

To be part of our community-centric team you need to be energetic, friendly, customer-service focused and passionate about serving our coastal communities. Safety is top-of-mind, as is the sustainability of coastal BC.

We are looking for both land and sea based employees and we would like to meet you.

WHERE: LONG HARBOUR TERMINAL

WHEN: Wednesday, March 24

Terminal	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
On-board customer service	11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Deck and engineering	1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Bring your resume and your best COVID protocol behaviour. Interviews will be available on the spot for qualified candidates. **For more information on available roles visit:** <https://careers-bcferries.icims.com/jobs/search?ss=1>





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NATURE

Rufous hummingbirds make return

Fulford residents first to report

BY JEAN BROUARD
 SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

David Duke, who lives close to Reginald Hill in Fulford Harbour, reported the first Rufous hummingbird on Salt Spring last week at 11:37 a.m. on March 11.

Carole Eyles, who lives a little further from Duke, observed one on Wednesday, March 10, but she cedes the honour to Duke, who may have seen the same bird but was the first to officially report to the Driftwood.

I saw my first Rufous at 8:26 a.m. on Friday, March 12, while respond-

ing to the announcement of Duke's sighting on the Driftwood's Facebook page. I live on the opposite shore to Reginald Hill. We three hummingbird observers have clearly surpassed "north-ender" and celebrated hummingbird photographer Bruno Gonzalez, who as of Monday morning was still waiting for his first sighting of 2021.

We are talking about Rufous hummingbirds (*Selasphorus rufus*) here. This is the migratory species that travels as far as Central America and Venezuela over the winter. They travel down south starting in July and follow the blooming of alpine flowers in the Rocky Mountains. They return up the coast and

rely on early-blooming shrubs like salmonberry, red-flowering currant and Salish plum at low elevation for fuel.

The other species — Anna's hummingbirds (*Calypte anna*) — are year-round residents, first observed on Salt Spring for the Christmas Bird Count in 1991 (one bird) but increasing exponentially to 334 birds in 2020.

Anna's hummingbirds have been steadily expanding their range northwards over the past half century. Records for the Christmas Bird Count in Alaska show they were first observed there in 2011 (five birds) and only increased to 41 birds by 2020.



PHOTO BY BRUNO GONZALEZ

Male Rufous hummingbird feeds on bleeding heart flowers on Salt Spring last May.

NON-PROFIT SECTOR

Pandemic's charity effects quantified

Foundation survey done

Hard times for charities

SUBMITTED BY SSI FOUNDATION

Salt Spring Island is home to more than 150 non-profit organizations serving community needs in broad strokes as well as niche sectors.

Nearly 70 of these organizations have registered charitable status and have received support from the Salt Spring Island Foundation, which meets community needs in the charitable sector through the generosity of a growing donor base and through both regular and unique funding cycles.

By December 2020 it was clear that Salt Spring charities were being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. How many charities were able to adapt in order to remain viable, to pivot and to thrive in the future? To find out answers to these key questions, the foundation designed and sent out a survey in mid-December to 69 charitable non-profits on the island. By the end of January we had received responses from 40 organizations.

See our ssifoundation.ca website for more details about the survey.

Three-fourths of respondents said the pandemic has had a significant impact on their ability to deliver on their mandate. Nearly half of the respondents believe that the long-term impact is as yet unknown.

The most significant impact for the greatest number of respondents was the loss of volunteers: 53 per cent reported a significant or entire loss of volunteers during the pandemic and another 32 per cent reported some loss.

Sustained staff and volunteer absences were reported by just over half the respondents.

Respondents reported a reduction in regular revenue streams, especially regular fundraising, but also revenues from social enterprises. One-third reported up to 50 per cent lower than normal revenue from external funding.

One-fourth of respondents cited negative impacts on their investments.

Surprising silver linings

Seventy per cent of respondents introduced new programs and services in

response to the pandemic, and 70 per cent reduced regular operations either partway or significantly in order to adapt, such as establishing part-time, remote and entirely virtual operations.

Nearly one-third of respondents received new significant sources of funding in 2020, and supply disruption affected only 15 per cent of respondents.

Almost half of the respondents did not close down. Although staff layoffs occurred in 10 per cent of responding charities, at the same time 10 per cent increased staff hours.

Almost one-third of respondents reported higher than normal revenues from external funding, such as grants.

Thirty-seven per cent of respondents did not expect the pandemic would have a long-term financial impact.

The single greatest challenge going forward, as reported by the greatest number of respondents, was changes in programming due to COVID. At the same time, many people reported new positive impacts from their choices in programming adaptations, and this may yield even greater positive outcomes.

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Serving Salt Spring's Community for 48 Years

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.

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DOCKS

Harbour authority earns management honour

COVID-19 response also acknowledged

The Harbour Authority of Salt Spring Island (HASSI) has received an award from the Small Craft Harbours Pacific (SCHP) branch of the federal government.

According to a HASSI press release, SCHP director Karen Calla made the award to recognize HASSI's "ongoing contributions, efforts and

achievements to the success of the department's harbour authority program for small craft harbours. The Harbour Authority has been recognized for demonstrating exceptional management skills and strong leadership while proactively planning for the future."

Kathy Scarfo, chair of the volunteer HASSI board, said, "We are honoured to receive this award. We work hard to find balance in supporting our users. Even during a pandem-

ic, individual volunteer board members went above and beyond to ensure that everyone remained safe, secure and functioning."

In particular, she said, Lee-Anne Gordon, Per Svendsen and Corey Johnson dedicated countless hours to tasks such as revising budgets to account for reduced revenues and uncertainty as docks closed to visitors. The board also covered water and garbage costs for the liveaboard community.

HASSI manager Jim Heath and Svendsen, with contributions from Country Grocer and aid from Copper Kettle, helped ensure the ability to maintain health through cleanliness by sourcing and purchasing portable shower bags, disinfectant, paper towels and firewood.

Scarfo also praised Johnson for compiling an emergency alternate marine transportation plan, contact list and protocols for the health authority.

CULTURE

Little Libraries initiative launched on island

People invited to create their own

BY MARGRIET RUURS

SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Salt Spring Island is known far and wide for its artistic community. Few people realize that this includes a huge number of writers.

"How many?" I asked Julia Wagner of the Salt Spring Public Library.

She responded, "The number on our list is around 165. I can tell you that there are more talented authors on this island per square mile than possibly anywhere else, aside from some densely populated place for creative hopefuls, like New York. When it comes to creative talent, we are a coral reef for writing creatives of all stripe. I think if we could see per capita, the concentration of minds currently working on their next book in our population, that we would be collectively amazed at just how many writers are currently toiling, right this instant, on Salt Spring Island."

Combining that creativity with the number of farm stands on



PHOTO BY LAVONNE LEONG

Park Drive community farm stand and free book exchange.

our island and having them work hand in hand to offer books to people is only a natural next step.

In this COVID era, we all missed Salt Spring Literacy's Giant Book Sale last year. All we can do is hope that it will return bigger and better than ever. In the meantime, we can embrace the "Little Free Libraries movement." This global project originated in the United States and has taken off in many countries. You can officially

register with the organization, pay a fee to receive a plaque for your little farm stand and have it appear on their world wide map.

But we can also have our own, unofficial SSI Little Libraries movement. All it takes is an already existing farm stand, or a small, self-built container that will keep books dry in the rain.

One of the best examples is the Park Drive Community Stand. Robin Jenkinson organized the

building of this stand in the summer 2020 as a socially distanced community project. It's on Park Drive at the corner of the footpath that leads to GISS and town, so it gets a lot of traffic. Robin maintains it with the help of a handful of other folks from the community. It is a bit of a word-oriented farm stand. There are books, and Lavonne Leong's family puts up a "weekly poem." Besides the book exchange, it hosts seasonal events like Seedy Saturday and the Christmas farm stand fair. There are often other things for sale, like eggs, plant starts, crafts and baked goods.

"The Park Drive farm stand has been a wonderful bringer-together of people at a time when we have to socially distance," said Lavonne Leong. "People have told me that they make this stand a stop on their daily walk or even the main destination, because there's always something different to see. It's been great for the kids to see something that they were a part of making become such a big part of the Park Drive community. Robin did a lot of thinking about how to strengthen local communities, and it real-

ly shows with this farm stand."

We recently drove every (!) road on the island. Did you know that adds up to over 600 kilometres?

We made a list of existing Little Libraries, which is available on the newly created SSI Little Libraries Facebook page. However, there are many more farm stands and other places suitable for books, some seasonal. Perhaps your coffee shop or neighbourhood will want to add value by offering free books. How about erecting and maintaining a small library at the end of your driveway, or near your favourite beach access, park or ferry terminal? Be sure to prevent books from getting scattered or wet. Book boxes cannot be placed on private property without permission and always need a safe place for cars to pull off the road.

Salt Spring Public Library also often offers grab bags of free books in the lobby as well as used books for a donation.

If you want to start your own Little Library but need books to do so, please email me for a "starter kit" at margrietruurs@hotmail.com.

Here's My Card

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<p>PLACE AN AD: In person at 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Ganges By telephone 250-537-9933 or fax 250-537-2613 By email to driftwood@driftwoodgimmedia.com By post to Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3</p> <p>PAYMENT: By cash, debit, Mastercard or Visa. Classifieds are prepaid.</p>	<p>DEADLINES: Class. display deadline: Wednesday 4pm Word ad deadline: Wednesday 4pm Too Late To Classify: Monday 1pm</p> <p>WHAT IT COSTS: 3 LINE CLASSIFIEDS: \$14.00 - additional lines \$1.00 ea</p>	<p>EMPLOYMENT/LEGAL ADS: 3 line rate \$16.75 - additional lines \$1.00 ea</p> <p>DISPLAY ADS: \$14.00 per col. inch</p>	<p>YOUR AD ON-LINE All liner ads booked in the Driftwood Classifieds appear on-line at www.bcclassified.com Auto ads also listed on line at www.bcautocentral.com All ads are posted to BCClassified.com</p> <p>BOOK YOUR AD ON-LINE Book your classifieds online - open 24 hours a day www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com or bcclassified.com</p>
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Coming Events

Salt Spring Hospice

Salt Spring Hospice Society AGM

April 14, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Join us on April 14 for our Zoom AGM

Email: office@saltspringhospice.org to get your invitation link.

Everyone Welcome!

(a yearly membership dues of \$10 is required beforehand if you intend on voting)

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LET'S GET STARTED

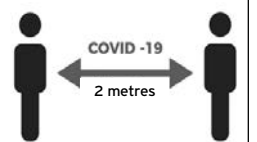
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Legal Notices

Please be advised - We are notifying the owner of the derelict sailing vessel named Zyfe, to please contact the Enforcement Officer of the Navigation Protection Program - Brent Magee at 604 341 9304 as soon as possible regarding this abandoned vessel. Without prejudice.

Legal Notices

PROTECT OUR PLANET...

RECYCLE THIS NEWS PAPER.

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

TAKE NOTICE THAT; any One with a prior, equal, or superior right or interest in/to/for/of the NAME: ROWAN LAWRENCE HUGHES or HUGHES, ROWAN LAWRENCE Estate, and RACHEL JO MARGOLESE or MARGOLESE, RACHEL JO Estate, in any style or variation thereof capable to confuse, suspend or clog said NAME or Estate is hereby WARRANTED to present their said claim to witness: Veronika McKee, c/o 1215 North End Rd., Salt Spring Island BC, V8K1M2 before expiration of twenty-eight (28) days of this Notice publication.

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 Salt Spring Island, BC.

Tower Location: Water Reserve (Channel Ridge Estates), Salt Spring Island, BC

PID: 000-638-391

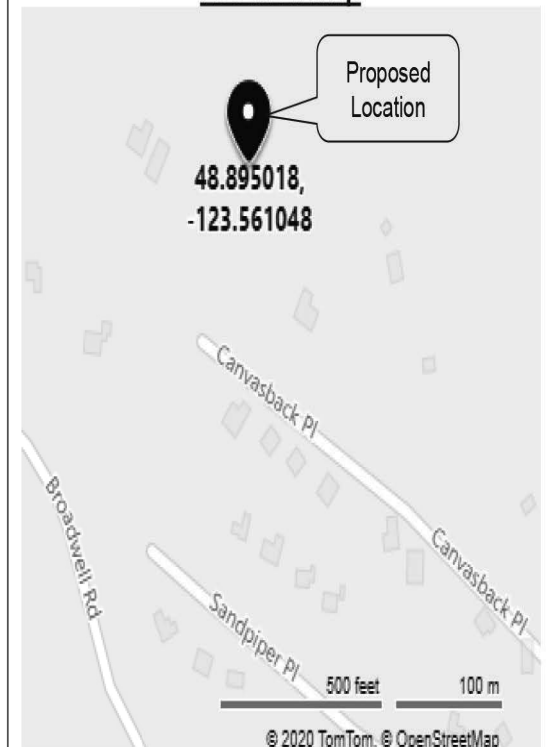
Coordinates: 48.895018°, -123.561048°

For More Information:

Contact Rogers at:
Tawny Verigin
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 Salt Spring

Location Map

© 2020 TomTom, © OpenStreetMap

SEE WEEKLY HOROSCOPE ON PAGE 12

Advertising Deadlines Change

Please note that the **Gulf Islands Driftwood office** will be **closed on Friday, April 2 - Good Friday** and will reopen for business (see hours below) on Monday, April 5.

Deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood Wednesday April 7 edition will be as follows:

DISPLAY, CLASSIFIED AND CLASSIFIED WORD
ADVERTISING DEADLINE: **Wednesday March 31, 12 noon**

Driftwood
gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Until further notice our
OFFICE HOURS are:
9am - 4pm Mon. to Fri.
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driftwood@driftwoodgimedia.com

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

Take notice that I, **Cynthia and Manuel Batista** from **Salt Spring 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 **Salt Spring Island/fronting SECTION 3, RANGE 2 WEST, NORTH SALT SPRING ISLAND, COWICHAN DISTRICT, EXCEPT PART IN PLAN 3955.**

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. 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.

what's on this week



Wed. Mar. 17

VIA ZOOM OR ONLINE

Trincomali Folk Club:
Michaela Cunningham & Pierre Schryer.
Concertina and fiddle concert. 5 to 6:30 p.m.
Tickets at www.trincomalifolk.com.

Webinar: Considering the Transition to Long-term Care.
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 alzbc.org/webinars.

Alzheimer Society
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Thurs. Mar. 18

VIA ZOOM OR ONLINE

Salt Spring Public Library AGM.
Annual general meeting via Zoom. 3:30 p.m. Members with valid library cards can register and obtain Zoom information through admin@saltspringlibrary.com or call 250-537-4666, ext. 224.

Salt Spring Island Public Library

COVID Musical Chronicles.
Music video featuring Buck Dodgers String Band is posted on the Salt Spring Arts Council website today. ssartscouncil.com/covid-chronicles/.

Sat. Mar. 20

VIA ZOOM

Spring Equinox Celebration.
Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice invites people to enter the sacred pause of the Equinox from 2:30 to 4 p.m. on March 20. Led by Suzan Denis. Register at staroftheseaasi@gmail.com for the Zoom link and further details.

Sun. Mar. 21

VIA ZOOM

Salt Spring Arts Council AGM.
Annual general meeting via Zoom for members in good standing. 10 a.m. See ssartscouncil.com website for the link.

Mon. Mar. 22

ONLINE

COVID Musical Chronicles.
Music video featuring Trisha Spire is posted on the Salt Spring Arts Council website today. ssartscouncil.com/covid-chronicles/.

Tue. Mar. 23

VIA ZOOM

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee Meeting.
Regular trustees' business meeting. 9:30 a.m. See Salt Spring page of the islandtrust.bc.ca for the Zoom link.



Salt Spring Fall Fair 125th Anniversary

Through March see the Salt Spring Public Library display case for an exhibit celebrating the history of the fall fair.

THRIFTY FOODS

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THE FRITZ CINEMA

• Closed until further notice due to COVID-19 regulations. See www.thefritz.ca for info about weekend concession sales.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Women of the She Said Collective** present an exhibit called *Inspired By Words* at **Salt Spring Gallery** until March 24. Artists are Sam Barlow, Selena Barwin, Amber Diez, Isabelle De Launier, Erin Fawcett, Hannah Graham, Odette Graham, Anh Le, Laura Hughes McGrath, Nikki Menard, Karin Millson, Premilla Pilay, Claire Sicherman, Christina Siegers and Charlene Wolff.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Sue Earle's Art Exhibit**, *Binding The Ties That Break* runs in the **Salt Spring Public Library Program Room** 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.

• **Naoko Saito's artwork** is at **Switchboard Cafe** this month.

DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

Information



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Canadian Federation of University Women
(CFUW Salt Spring Island)

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Application form at the bottom of the web page.
Address at the top of the form page.

Or phone 250-537 5347 for assistance.
Note: Preference may be given to a
mother with dependent children
Deadline for Application: April 30, 2021

Information

Coming Events

Coming Events

Coming Events

Coming Events

Coming Events

The Annual General Meeting OF THE salt spring arts council

Sunday, March 21, 2021, 10am
will be held by zoom.

Meeting details will be found at:
ssartscouncil.com/event/agm-0321

Everyone Welcome. Members in good standing
are eligible to vote, with memberships available online:
ssartscouncil.com/product/membership/.

250-537-0899 • www.ssartscouncil.com

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

3:30 p.m. Thursday, March 18, 2021

**Salt Spring Island Library,
129 McPhillips Ave., Ganges, BC**

Members with valid library cards are invited to attend
using **Zoom video conferencing** by computer or phone.
* To register email: 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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To learn more & apply, visit: www.islandhealth.ca/careers

Click on "Public Job Postings" and under "Quick Job Search" type in the keyword "121717" to find the Community Health Worker job posting. If you have questions, please contact us at 250-544-2500 to speak to one of our Home Support team members.

WE'VE MOVED!

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250-537-9933

ISLANDERS

Maurine Fryer enjoys 100th birthday milestone

Brinkworthy resident fêted

BY HELEN HINCHLIFF

DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

On Sunday, March 14, the family of long-time Brinkworthy Park resident Maurine Fryer, a few of her neighbours and two pipers gathered at noon to help her celebrate her 100th birthday.

What a milestone! Few of us reach it and, insofar as Brinkworthy Park managers Rick and Lynell Vipond are aware, Maurine is the first resident of the park to reach 100 while still living in her own home.

Maurine and her daughter-in-law Anne invited me over for a cup of tea and a chat a few days before the big day. How did she feel about such a landmark, I asked. "I'm looking forward to my birthday," she told me, adding that she was eager to receive greetings from the Queen, the Governor General, and anyone else who happened to be paying attention.

Fryer was born in Winnipeg in 1921. Her identical twin sister Audrey was born just 15 minutes earlier. "Nobody could have been closer than the two of us," she told me. "We always dressed alike and we even married brothers."

When I asked Maurine about the spelling of her name, she displayed an amazing memory for detail.

"I was named for ma belle Maurine," she announced with pride. "She was the heroine of a poem by Ella Wheeler Wilcox who was born in 1850 and died in 1919. It was a very long poem and my mother loved it. I think there was an Audrey in it too."

While she told me all about her mother's love for this poem, Anne got busy googling. Soon she discovered it was a 70-page-long rhymed



PHOTO BY NEIL SHAH

Maurine Fryer with roses at her 100th birthday celebration at her Brinkworthy home on March 14.

verse narration of the life and love of someone named Maurine. Even though Wilcox was featured in obituaries published throughout the U.S. and Canada, these days she seems to have been forgotten by pretty much everyone except Maurine Fryer.

Maurine's family home in Winnipeg was on Seven Oaks Avenue in West Kildonan, where she attended West Kildonan United Church. She married Harold Fryer in that church, and soon found herself living outside Swift Current, Sask., where Harold was a radio operator at the Royal Air Force Base, a major training facility for RAF pilots. One of Maurine's contributions to the war effort was to save her sugar ration coupons so she could bake pies for the young pilots.

"Their favourite was

banana cream!" she announced. "Those boys would beg me to write out the recipe for their wives or mothers. I'd do it, but I knew it would be a long time before they'd be able to buy the ingredients."

Harold and Maurine spent many years in the Lower Mainland, he as a radio operator for airports and sometimes lighthouses. She worked in the payroll office for one branch of Canada Post. In 1974, Don Clarkson (one of Harold's radio buddies) and his wife Ruth invited them for a visit to their Sunnyside home in Fulford Harbour (where Ruth was postmaster for many years).

"We couldn't imagine spending more than a day or two on an island," Maurine told me, "but before we caught the return ferry, we had picked out where

we wanted to live." It wasn't long before the two of them were building a retirement home on Fort Street.

Once settled, Harold joined the radio club and Maurine started entering knitted items for the fall fair.

"I submitted something every year between 1974 and 2018," she told me as she proudly showed me an array of blue ribbons. "In the last few years, I was the only one in my age group who was still knitting."

Maurine had her knitting on her lap while we chatted and I was really impressed by the quality of her tension. I had to tell her that she was a better knitter at 100 than I had been at 20.

When I asked her about her background, Maurine sighed and said, "My grandfather was born in England, and I wish I knew where."

What better birthday present could I give her than doing a bit of sleuthing. It turns out that John Elliott, the grandfather who died decades before she came on the scene, was born in the county of Kent in 1865. Julia O'Neill, the girl he married in Toronto, was born in Killarney, County Kerry in 1869.

They both died in their 20s, so she didn't inherit longevity from either of them. And her father died in his 30s. Her mother did better, living into her mid-60s.

To what does Maurine attribute her long life?

"I try to keep up with things," she replied. "I celebrated Christmas on FaceTime with my children and grandchildren. And I keep busy knitting sweaters for my family."

What a wonderful way to live a very long life!

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.

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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2021 DEALER OF THE YEAR

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DEALER # 11018

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer

www.sunstarastrology.com 1-800-936-0648 sunstarastrology@gmail.com

READ MORE IN MY NEWSLETTER. SIGN-UP IS FREE ON MY WEBSITE.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19) Sun and Venus entering Aries now will ignite your passions. These events will lead you to the next level of industry. Mars in Gemini suggests that you have already begun to attend to things on a variety of fronts. Expressions of or foundations to reveal beauty will prove especially attractive. In the bigger picture, a push for freedom and democracy will become evident.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20) A busy cycle begins with emphasis on activities inside and out. The inside job could refer to getting in the dark corners, a la spring cleaning, but it can also include more emotional and psychological themes of focus. The Sun in Aries in your solar 12th house, the domain of the subconscious mind, presents an opportunity to plant powerful seeds of belief, intention and desire.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21) Mars in your sign will get a big extra boost as the Sun and Venus enters Aries, then again when Mercury follows suit on April 4. Altogether, these will spark a revolutionary impulse within you. You may even be surprised yourself with circumstances and perhaps new intel prompting you to take a 180-degree turn. However, the greater measure of this may be delayed until Mercury enters Aries.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22) Aries time is traditionally an extra strong go-ahead cycle for you, especially in terms of your public life and career. However, Mars in Gemini might steer you away from the crowd this year. Still, you may be interested in new tools and techniques even if implementing them comes later. With Mercury slowly strolling through Pisces, you may crave peace and quiet more than usual.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23) The Sun in Aries forms a natural, creatively inspirational time to your sign. This will synchronize with a boost of confidence to increase your outreach and scope of influence. Naturally, this will increase your popularity somehow. Whether this manifests as fame or infamy depends on the quality of your participation. Positively, you have entered an expansive and exciting cycle!

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22) Last week's New Moon is activating new relationship involvements. By now, these are entering a decisive phase. Mars in Gemini indicates that you could be accessing new knowledge via a special training series or you may even be the one giving it. Balancing creative aspiration with factual and usable knowledge is featured. Either way, exercise your beginner's mind and your willingness to learn.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22) The Sun in Aries activates your relationship life. Other factors indicate that it will trigger themes of freedom. Freedom from whom or what is for you to decide but you will feel it. Freedom from ill health or toxic lifestyle habits is quite possible. Even wheat and refined sugar in your diet may be deemed toxic. This impulse toward new or reactivated relationship involvement will increase.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21) The recent New Moon sowed a seed of creative possibility. The Sun entering Aries adds to this now germinating event with an increase of will and resolve. Yet, you may have to give more than you would like. This is one of those moments when you may feel challenged to discern between what constitutes the higher and the lower road. Feel the fear to work with the changes rolling in.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21) Epic times call for epic choices and actions. The Sun in Aries brings a sporting attitude to the fore and Mars in Gemini represents the challenge. It includes seeing through fogs of confusion and possibly of apathy, escapism, denial and perhaps misguided knowledge. This is a call to engage in creative and critical thinking which includes opening your mind to multiple sources of information.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19) Circumstances are leading you to make extra efforts. Directing your energy towards beautifying your home may prove especially inspiring. Thanks to waves of imaginative thinking that continue to roll in, you may be able to see things from entirely new perspectives. Your sights remain set on the future and you know you have to commit and this includes paying your dues. Do you know what they are?

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19) The Aries impulse is activating your drive for more knowledge. Interests in speculation, investments and gambling are spiking on the graph currently. At worst, you may feel a little overwhelmed by the many changes unfolding in the world, in part due to their magnitude and velocity. Especially due to the Pisces influence, make efforts to meditate and avoid indulging in overactive imagination.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20) The New Moon in your sign is sure to have an activating effect. Expect it to synchronize with new initiatives and perhaps on a variety of fronts. Financial themes may prove especially strong for the next several weeks so give them their due. Mars in Gemini is leading you to dig deep into your treasure trove of talents and lay full claim to them. Mercury in Pisces will actually help.