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Wednesday, Mar. 24, 2021

62nd year
Issue 12
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PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DEMONSTRATION: Protesters string up a homemade banner along Fulford-Ganges Road Saturday afternoon as part of a "Worldwide Rally for Freedom" against COVID-19 rules such as mask-wearing and the restrictions on movement and gatherings. Around 40 people turned out for the Salt Spring event. Local RCMP observed the situation but did not issue COVID-19 violation tickets.

SATURDAY MARKET

Market anticipated on April 3

Provincial health safety guidelines see changes

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Parks and Recreation is anticipating the return of the popular Saturday Market in the Park on April 3 with both food and craft vendors participating as a result of an update to COVID-19 health orders.

Provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry rescinded her earlier order on March 18, with the result that non-food related vendors will now be allowed at outdoor episodic markets. Salt Spring's market at Centennial Park will therefore open for the season as normally scheduled on the first Saturday in April with a range of vendors present. The market will remain at smaller capacity than in pre-pandemic years in order to meet safety guidelines.

"We think we will be able to have around 50 booths, depending on size, and there

will be some overflow available on the boardwalk," said Dan Ovington, the Capital Regional District's Salt Spring parks and recreation manager.

Ovington said the CRD has been accepting registrations for market space since February but had held off collecting fees from vendors since it wasn't clear whether a market would be permitted or not.

"We have had a lot of interest from both seasonal and day-use vendors," Ovington reported.

Returning market coordinator Dawn Larden and other staff learned valuable lessons from last year's truncated season on how to run a smooth experience this year, although there are some new things to get used to in the health order.

"COVID is a challenging time, and now the rules have changed again," Larden said. "The new rules allow artisans back,

which is excellent. But there will be changes such as one direction of flow, masks for vendors and visitors, and possibly the spacing between booths."

Different rules and timing of restrictions under the first year of the pandemic meant Salt Spring's main market season ran from August through October in 2020. That posed a hardship for many local vendors, as did the limited access due to market space.

Larden said even though craft vendors are now scrambling to get ready with just two weeks' notice, the earlier start date will be beneficial.

"I think that is really good because a lot of them make their living just from doing the market. Starting it now they won't have as much anxiety, knowing they have a whole season ahead of them," Larden said.

MARKET continued on 3

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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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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
24	0316	3.2	10.5	28	0456	3.2	10.5
	0930	2.6	8.5		1047	1.7	5.6
	WE 1134	2.6	8.5		SU 1643	2.9	9.5
ME 1937	0.9	3.0	DI 2239	1.2	3.9		
25	0346	3.2	10.5	29	0517	3.2	10.5
	0934	2.4	7.9		1125	1.3	4.3
	TH 1308	2.7	8.9		MO 1750	2.9	9.5
JE 2028	0.9	3.0	LU 2321	1.6	5.2		
26	0411	3.2	10.5	30	0539	3.3	10.8
	0950	2.3	7.5		1208	0.9	3.0
	FR 1425	2.7	8.9		TU 1859	3.0	9.8
VE 2114	0.9	3.0	MA				
27	0435	3.2	10.5	31	0005	1.9	6.2
	1015	2.0	6.6		0603	3.3	10.8
	SA 1536	2.8	9.2		WE 1254	0.7	2.3
SA 2157	1.0	3.3	ME 2012	3.0	9.8		

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PARKS & RECREATION

Centennial Park on upgrades list

Lighting and camera additions debated

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Centennial Park infrastructure and amenity upgrade plans were front and centre during the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held on March 16, with new safety measures on the table as well as improvements to basic park features.

Commissioners reviewed plans to replace the derelict gazebo on the park's boardwalk and to renovate the paved plaza where market stalls set up near the street-front. They additionally considered a project charter to add playground equipment for toddlers and discussed whether to support the addition of lights and security cameras at the park.

The latter issue raised the most debate amongst commissioners, who asked Capital Regional District parks and rec manager Dan Ovington to come back with more information before they make a decision.

Ovington's initial recommendations were that PARC spend \$151,000 toward a comprehensive security camera and lighting installation and \$31,150 to fund a full-time seasonal bylaw enforcement officer to combat the crime and public safety concerns that have lately centered around Centennial Park. Another \$5,000 was recommended for education and reporting.

"In recent years we have seen an increase in disorderly conduct, assaults, open liquor, drug use, garbage, graffiti, vandalism and the illegal sale of drugs and alcohol in our community parks," Ovington said in his staff report. "These illegal activities can be intimidating and discourage people from visiting the park and shopping at surrounding businesses; and our parks staff have reported workplace incidents related to threats and aggressive behaviour by park users."

Ovington noted the Salt Spring CRD business office had also been repeatedly targeted by vandalism — including windows being smashed, people spitting on the windows and the door entrance, carving hate symbols into the windows and putting dog feces through the mail slot — until security cameras were installed and video surveillance signs were posted.

Commissioners were concerned about the scale of the plan presented.

"The idea of implementing this much lighting in the park without public consultation would probably come back to us," said PARC chair Sonja Collombin, adding perhaps they could start with one or two lights in key areas and then ask for public feedback.

Commissioner Brian Webster pointed out that lighting and cameras were discussed during the Centennial Park master plan process but were not included in that plan. He also argued that anecdotal information about cameras did not supply actual evidence that using them can help prevent crime and address safety concerns.

"So I have a real problem with this. I don't think we've done enough homework," Webster said.

Salt Spring CRD electoral area director Gary Holman said



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

The unsafe gazebo structure at the Centennial Park boardwalk is one of the improvement projects planned by the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission for the area this year.

RCMP have stated cameras do help. However, he agreed the commission should not recommend spending that amount of money on the plan and that more research was needed.

Holman also observed that increased funding for bylaw enforcement was included in Salt Spring's CRD budget in the past year and another increase is coming this year, and that further incremental hikes are possible.

The Centennial Park plaza replacement project also generated some discussion. The project has been costed out at \$300,000, which is to include a \$100,000 grant if the application is successful, plus \$100,000 from PARC's capital reserves and \$100,000 from the Community Works Fund.

According to the project charter, the plaza replacement was identified as the next phase of improvement under the park's master plan. The surface is 28 years old and made of a patchwork of materials, including brick, cement and asphalt. Tree root damage has lifted some sections and caused tripping hazards.

Commissioners agreed with member John Gauld, who said he would like to see a range of options from small to large projects, each with different levels of repair or replacement and associated costs.

Holman said having a minimal option might be a good idea in case PARC decides later on that it wants to prioritize another project for its limited capital funds, such as the Ganges Harbourwalk.

Also in last Tuesday's business meeting, the commission voted to support a grant application to aid the gazebo replacement project and approved the toddler playground project charter. PARC has received an anonymous donation of \$70,000 toward the installation. The project will include early consultation with community stakeholders and public feedback opportunities once a design has been drafted.

WEEKLY COVID REPORT

PREPARED BY CURT FIRESTONE & STAN DERELIAN

British Columbia continues to have about 4,000 new reported COVID-19 cases each week.

The hot spot with a sizeable majority of the cases is the Fraser Health Authority, which is located east and south of Vancouver. Each week about one half of all new B.C. COVID-19 cases are located in the Fraser Health Authority.

For our local area, this week's chart with data through to March 13 shows the overall total of COVID cases has stayed the same in the Victoria to Nanaimo area. The Gulf Islands' reported number of active cases continues to be just one. Note the marked change in reported cases from Duncan (decrease) and Greater Victoria (increase).

Even as our seniors and more front-line workers start getting vaccinated this month and next, social distancing, staying local, masks and hand washing are critical protections.

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

REPORTED ACTIVE COVID-19 CASES

	Week of 2/14-2/20/21	Week of 2/21-2/27/21	Week of 2/28-3/6/21	Week of 3/7-3/13/21
Southern Gulf Islands	0	1	1	1
Saanich Peninsula	4	9	12	3
Greater Victoria	19	18	27	49
Langford to Port Renfrew	8	7	0	7
Duncan Area	45	57	35	6
Chemainus to Nanaimo	50	66	57	64
Total	126	158	132	130

ENVIRONMENT

Trust Council joins call for ban on rat poison

Petition to provincial government underway in B.C.

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Islands Trust has joined a growing list of local governments in British Columbia that are calling for the provincial government to ban anticoagulant rodenticides.

A resolution moved by Salt Spring trustee Laura Patrick and seconded by Galiano's Jane Wolverton on March 11 urges the province-wide ban because anticoagulant rodenticides are known to move through the food chain, endangering wildlife. The case for this position was made earlier in the week by Saanich resident Deanna Pfeifer, who gave a delegation to Trust Council on the Rodenticide Free B.C. campaign.

Speaking to the Driftwood on Thursday, Pfeifer explained she was prompted to make the delegation because she had been contacted about a rare long-eared owl that died on Salt Spring and was a suspected poisoning case.

She has been dedicated to learning everything she can about rodenticide and alternative ways for dealing with rats ever since she discovered a dead resident barred owl in her neighbourhood in November 2019. A necropsy revealed poison was the likely cause of death, with both brodifacoum and bromadiolone detected in the owl's liver.

"I thought I was pretty well informed until I held this beautiful dead owl in my arms and then had the necropsy arranged," Pfeifer said. "Then I asked, 'How is this getting into our beloved owls?' The more I learned the more I realized this has to be banned."

As Pfeifer explained in her presentation to Trust Council, anticoagulant rodenticides are ingestible pesticides used to kill rats, mice and other target rodents. While the B.C. government acknowledges that these rodenticides present some risk, the B.C. Integrated Pest Management Act permits their use for now.

In response to a question from the Driftwood, B.C. Environment Minister George Heyman stated, "I am very con-



PHOTO GETTY IMAGES

cerned about reports of wildlife such as owls, eagles, bears — and even pets — being poisoned by the improper use of rodenticides. Ministry staff are looking at the circumstances of these poisonings and developing recommendations on appropriate preventative actions."

Heyman said those actions could include public engagement, education, training, and also whether the products need to be more strongly regulated.

"We are also engaging with other provincial, federal and territorial jurisdictions to understand how other agencies are managing the issue, and what we can learn from them."

A number of municipalities within the Capital Regional District have now banned anticoagulant rodenticides on properties owned by their cities and have asked the province to go further by enforcing a ban. Esquimalt council joined the group just last Monday after the male partner of a nesting barred owl pair succumbed on March 15.

Over the last decade, numerous wildlife organizations and animal welfare groups have noted that ingest-

ible rodenticides poison non-targeted species at all levels of the food chain. Species that have been significantly impacted include owls, hawks, small birds, earthworms, coyotes and cougars, as well as children and family pets.

Owls and other raptors are especially vulnerable because of their rodent-dependent diet. A single owl will eat 1,000 rodents in a year and a nesting pair even more. Birds that are not killed directly by poison may still suffer an indirect death, such as collision with vehicles after their system has slowed down.

By law, commercial-grade rat poisons can only be sold to licensed professionals or to farmers in B.C. and contact information must be collected at the sales point. Non-compliance notices issued by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change show rules around pesticides are not always followed by Salt Spring garden supply stores or in those located in Saanich, Duncan and Nanaimo. And despite detection in multiple owl deaths, Owl Watch BC says brodifacoum sales increased by 19 per cent and bromadiolone sales increased by 279 per cent between 2003 and 2015.

Keeping poison in the hands of the professionals is also insufficient for protecting the rest of the food chain, Pfeifer said. Anticoagulant poisons cause a slow, painful death, and leave plenty of time for poisoned rodents to be eaten by other creatures. Insects that are themselves not impacted by the toxin still eat the bait and then pass it on to

predators.

According to Owl Watch BC, anticoagulant rodenticides are not even effective at decreasing rat infestations. Rodents that have been poisoned but haven't died yet are triggered to reproduce quickly before they go.

As well, Pfeifer said some private home and business owners contract pest control companies to keep bait boxes supplied on a monthly basis, but they fail to address the reasons rodents are being attracted in the first place.

"In the pest management industry, rodenticides are recognized as only a short-term solution. Other preventative measures, including remediating structural access points, are known to be far more effective in reducing pest issues over the long term," she said.

Pfeifer is hopeful about work being done by Vancouver-based company Humane Solutions. They are developing new trap technology that provides a poison-free method for managing instant, automated kills and collects data at the same time. The technology is currently being trialled in various municipalities and will be available to the public within the next few months. Humane Solutions also has a blog on home rodent control that some people have reported being helpful.

The petition to ban rodenticides can be found at <https://actionnetwork.org/groups/rodenticide-free-bc-2>. Pfeifer recommends concerned people also write directly to Minister Heyman.

Crowd management a concern

MARKET continued from 1

Under the current safety plan, the CRD will limit the amount of customers to the market using a single entrance point and will keep a continual count of how many people are inside. Vendor stalls will be placed beside each other to block off other entry points to the market. Only one group will be permitted at each vendor booth at a time.

Markings on the ground will show where people can wait to get products while self-distancing two metres away from the next group.

There will be no food or product sampling or demonstrations, customers will not be allowed to try on clothes and vendors are instructed to restrict customers from touching products as additional defences against virus transmission. There will be no rest area provided within the market itself. It will be strictly a "shop and go" marketplace, according to the safety plan.

Vendors will also be required to affirm they are not ill when they arrive to set up each week.

"My concern is crowd control. There might be line-ups to get in," Larden said. She noted there were a few occasions in 2020 when she felt the market was getting overcrowded, and she sought help from volunteers to slow things down. She is looking for volunteers again this year who may be able to help.

Market hours are scheduled to run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. People are asked not to attend if they are sick or have been directed to self-isolate.

The Salt Spring Tuesday Farmers' Market is so far scheduled to return to Centennial Park as usual from June through October.



**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

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

The right balance

Islands Trust Council was more lively than usual at its last quarterly meeting held via the Zoom platform.

Motions presented by South Pender trustee Steve Wright to not include policies on housing in the Trust Policy Statement and to remove the current "Sustainable Communities" section, among other similar suggestions, were soundly defeated. Supporters of Wright's position said they felt the Trust's energies were spread too thin and that the Trust should instead try to do a few things well, with protecting the natural environment being at the top of the list.

The Trust mandate is and has clearly been the preservation and protection of the environment above all else, despite often having inadequate legislative tools to do that effectively. But as one trustee pointed out during meeting discussions, the vast majority of applications dealt with by local Trust committees are related to housing. It would be bizarre to have the Trust's guiding policy document be completely silent on the subject when trustees are looking for guidance in making decisions related to housing. At the same time the inclusion doesn't mean the Trust must be proactive about housing.

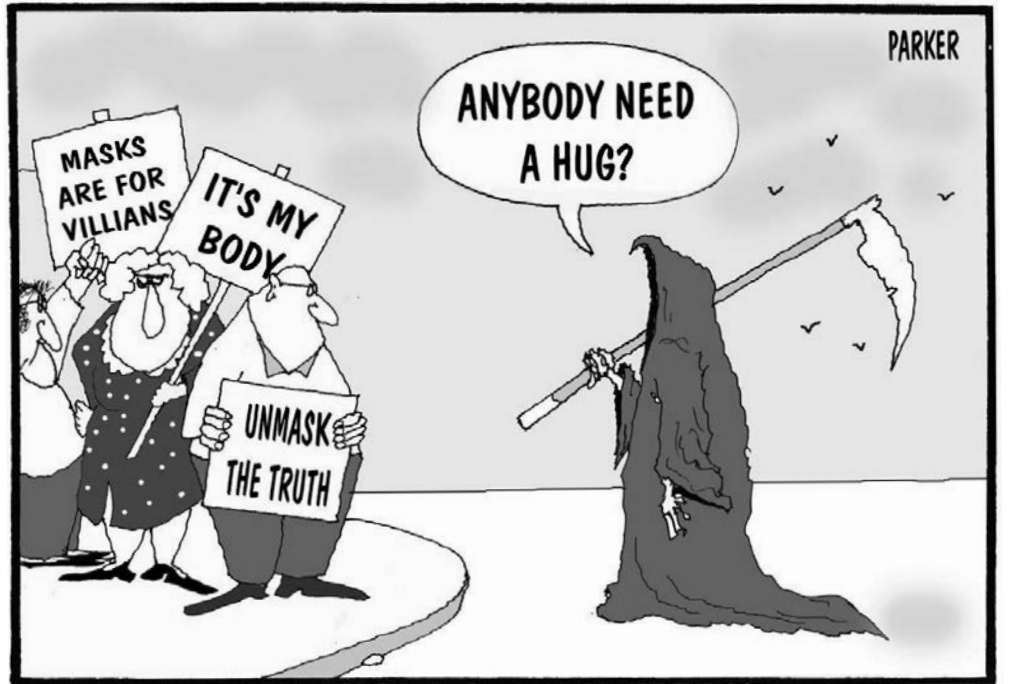
THE ISSUE: Trust Policy debates

WE SAY: Best possible decision made

Islands Trust Council has seen similar philosophical conflicts among trustees in its 47-year history. As the most populated island, Salt Spring's focus and challenges have not always been the same as most other islands in the federation. Affordable housing is a concern to some degree on all islands, but the breadth and impact of the problem, and the urgency, is not the same as on Salt Spring. That's why local trustee Laura Patrick has been leading the charge for action from all levels of the Trust.

It is true that a local Trust committee can make an official community plan and land use bylaw amendments, and undertake some leadership and advocacy activities that could positively impact the housing situation. But we should not be deluded into believing that the Islands Trust can necessarily provide or even facilitate effective solutions to an extremely complex problem that is dependent on other government bodies and private interests.

Trust Council took the responsible route by not removing references to housing and communities in the Policy Statement, while at the same time reiterating that its prime purpose is preserving and protecting the natural environment within its legislative bounds. The process and outcome was a healthy example of our regional government in action.



Mental health plan crucial

BY SONIA FURSTENAU AND ADAM OLSEN
BC GREEN MLAS

VIEWPOINT

We have been asking questions of the provincial government about their response to the growing mental health crisis in B.C.

Every one of their responses has been framed with sincere condolences. Yet, urgent action is lacking. We have heard from numerous community advocates that the provincial programs to deliver a safe supply of pharmaceutical-grade alternatives to poisonous illicit street drugs are not enough. We have heard that the province has not moved quickly enough to decriminalize people who possess a personal supply of illicit street drugs.

For too long our friends, family and neighbours who struggle with mental health and addictions have faced relentless stigmatization and judgement instead of receiving the support and care they deserve. There are far too many stories of how our fellow citizens have been forced to overcome obstacles deeply entrenched in government institutions.

Rather than receiving the medical treatment they need, people suffering from addictions have been arrested and sent to the criminal justice system. Rather than

receiving the medical treatment they need, people suffering from a mental health crisis have been belittled and sent on their way without the support or treatment they are seeking.

People are dying in British Columbia because of outdated drug policy. People are dying in British Columbia because when they seek treatment for a mental health crisis, they cannot get the help they need.

It doesn't have to be this way. One big step government can take towards providing specialized mental health care for British Columbians is to pursue a pilot project authorizing psychologists to become eligible providers through the Medical Services Plan or Psychological Services Plan. This would help expand the access and affordability of mental health services and ensure all British Columbians can access the health care they require.

The BC NDP government has not demonstrated the urgency that is needed to address these crises. When we ask questions, we often receive lists of piecemeal actions being taken related to mental health. Though

many of them are great — more treatment beds and online supports, for example — they do not address the broader, systemic problem at hand.

Our government does not treat mental and physical ailments equitably. If you are experiencing a cardiac event, stroke, or are diagnosed with terminal cancer it is unlikely that you will be diminished or blamed for your condition. In fact, you are likely to receive world-class treatment from the B.C. health-care system. However, we have heard too many examples that are far from this response from people who present to a health-care facility with a mental health crisis and/or addiction.

We asked Premier John Horgan in question period when his government is going to change the culture in our health-care system so British Columbians can expect the same treatment when they present with ailments of the mind or the body. Unfortunately, there was no answer, but we think everyone can agree that the situation is dire and getting worse. If we are to "build back better" after the pandemic, truly caring for British Columbians' mental wellbeing will need to be at the forefront of that effort.

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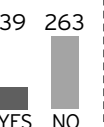
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should anticoagulant rodenticides be banned in B.C.?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

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



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: }

“Individual actions might get you to heaven, but I don’t think they make a difference on their own.”

ROBERT BATEMAN ON CLIMATE ACTION

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED:

What’s coming up in your yard or garden?

DENNIS FREY



“
Crocuses.

CERIDWEN ROSS-COLLINS



Indian plum is always one of the first to bloom at our house.

JORDAN KRAYENHOFF



Snowdrops.

KAREN HUDSON



My flowering red currant is in bloom and I already have Rufous hummingbirds visiting it.

ROGER COOPER



Daffodils, crocuses and snowdrops.

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

Larmour lot deadline looms

Many people are surprised to learn that there is nothing the Islands Trust or CRD can do to stop clear-cut for-profit logging on Salt Spring or any other Gulf Island.

One would think that since the Islands Trust was established to protect and preserve the environment and communities of the Gulf Islands this would not be allowed. But they don’t have that authority.

We’re working on that.

Why save the trees, you ask. Groundwater protection, habitat for birds, insects and small rodents, air quality, carbon sequestering, a place to walk and commune with nature. Beauty.

Until our provincial government allows Islands Trust to take on a more protective role, our only alternative to save the trees is by purchasing the land; and that’s where you come in. Many have already contributed to the purchase of Larmour lands Block H on Beddis Road. Thank you so much. And many of you have already donated to preserve the forest portion of the adjacent Lot F. Sixty-five per cent of the funds we need have been pledged. Congratulations!

Until Islands Trust receives

authority from the province for the protection of large swaths of trees here on Salt Spring, please consider making a donation to help us complete this project. You can email a donation to ssiwps2020appeal@gmail.com or mail your donation to the SSI Water Preservation Society, Ganges PO Box 555, Salt Spring Island, V8K 2W3. Check out our website: www.ssiwaterpreservationsociety.ca. Thank you.

NEVA HOHN,
SSI WATER PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Paperboy essay delights

Thank you for the engaging guest column headlined “Singing eased paper route terror” by Chris Rideout in the March 10 Driftwood.

His essay has all the elements of a fine story: humour, compassion, nostalgia, wisdom, and it’s so beautifully written too. I have excised it from the newspaper and clipped it to the inside cover of an equally captivating (picture) book: The Paperboy, by author/illustrator Dav Pilkey, published in 1996. It’s a Caldecott Honor Book and I read it once a year to the intermediate classes at our local elementary school.

Now I have a wonderfully satisfying essay (for older people like me) to complement

the pleasure of reading aloud a favourite picture book. I will enjoy telling the children where I found the “matching” essay!

SUSAN YATES,
GABRIOLA ISLAND

Celebrate traditional workers

Salt Spring Island had dozens of log dumps not all that long ago. The logging history is very rich and the early loggers should be celebrated for their efforts and talent. (Our roads wouldn’t be here without them.)

There were numerous log dumps in Fulford Harbour and a number of them right in Ganges, including at Grace Point. There are still old-timers here with first-hand memories of those days. The whole island was “clear-cut” not that long ago.

To say what we have here today are “clear-cuts” is ridiculous. The sustainable forestry on the island now is but a tiny fraction of what the forestry once was. Old-growth logging is a thing of the past on Salt Spring. Now we harvest second and third growth, all on private land.

I believe that the eco-radicals who are pushing the idea that there is some kind of crisis here on Salt Spring are delusional and dangerous. We need a public

information campaign to bring the history of the logging and homesteading to light and to show how the island can and has reforested itself naturally. Forestry here today harvests less than one-fifteenth of the annual growth, and that growth is compounding.

There is actually a part of the Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan that protects forestry operations and the livelihoods of the forestry workers here. This needs to be maintained, not revised.

The more conserved land taken out of the tax base means higher property taxes for the remainder, turning this into an island only for the rich, leaving a skeletal form of the community that once was.

To think glamping and eco-radical tourism is the way to preserve the island completely disregards the traditional way of life of many islanders. Shame on those who want to rid the island of its traditional workers, farmers and homesteaders, all of whom cleared their land or portions of it. There are also many First Nations people here on Salt Spring who work in forestry on the island, and have been doing so multi-generationally, along with descendants of early settlers.

JAMIE HARRIS,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

Changes outside of Police Act also needed in B.C.

BY HUGH GREENWOOD

Recently, MLA Adam Olsen wrote in his column about being on the committee to revise the Police Act, especially to deal with “systemic racism.”

It occurs to me that while this is undoubtedly a good idea, it will not solve the underlying problem because the attitudes that lead to racist and other abusive behaviours are not learned in the police forces but are learned in the home and through childhood social interaction. People naturally enjoy being with others who share their views and find reinforcement in associating with them, perpetuating their behaviour.

Racism and bullying are carried with the recruit into the police force, and changing the written rules of the force will not eradicate it. It is important to make these changes and to enforce them but the root problem goes much deeper. Racism and abuse of power is pervasive in many groups and associations, but is not really “systemic” or built in as part of the system. It needs to be eradicated in the police forces and in all other organizations, including the military forces.

What might be considered is a nationwide program to address the problem in every group funded by public money. Of course, our constitution guarantees that every person has the right to enjoy life without harassment, bullying or racism, but it is the lack of detailed application of these rights that needs to be emphasized.

GUEST COLUMN

Schools, daycares, government bureaucracies and the military should be required to demonstrate active application of the principles of fairness to all. Besides the home, there are many places where children especially have an opportunity to learn how to live with their peers, and this includes schools, religious gatherings and clubs of all kinds.

Ideally this approach should be facilitated by a federal government and implemented by provincial governments. Teachers’ colleges would be front and centre in helping to set education on the right path. Many already do this, but all who teach children must be front and centre in the effort. There are obvious problems with such a generalized approach, and some groups, which may include some religious groups, would find it difficult to follow such rules. The right to freedom of expression must be honoured but public money should not find a way to support racism, bigotry, hatred and the abuse of those who are at a disadvantage, a demographic that includes women.

Passing the buck to government is not the answer, because we all are part of the problem. We each may imagine that we are without bias and tend to think someone else is the problem. We all carry with us

the attitudes and mores from our childhood and youth, and even though we may try to suppress them they still affect our behaviour.

We can each contribute to solving the problem by making sure that we not only recognize and avoid racist, biased or bullying behaviour ourselves but speak out when we see such behaviour. This may take some courage. We may discover that friends who subscribe to this approach may feel they must remark on our behaviour from time to time, which we may find painful. Choosing “politically correct” behaviour may be just a way to avoid conflict by ignoring the problem and equally difficult can be finding a way to say what is needed without offending. Each of us must try to find a balance.

Just changing the rules in the Police Act will not get to the root problem, although it will help to limit bad interactions with the public. A group governed by regulations must make sure that the regulations explicitly forbid the behaviour we abhor.

Do not just blame the police forces. Blame yourself, as part of society. Try to recognize your own shortcomings, and act to make change. Personal commitment is needed and we all need to have the courage to act. Government cannot easily legislate decency, so we all have a part to play.

The writer is a retired engineer and former scientist.

We can learn from pathway project mistakes

BY LUISA MAFFI AND DAVID RAPPORT

In a recent Viewpoint ("Pathway project disturbs," March 3), we expressed dismay at the construction of the Baker Road to Booth Canal Road pathway.

Unlike previous projects thoughtfully realized by Island Pathways, this project, which was carried out by the CRD, drew not on rural but on urban planning concepts and engineering standards. It was set up with little or no consultation with the community or even with the residents most directly affected. And, by taking no account of either natural or cultural heritage, it caused serious damage to both.

We are not involved with Island Pathways, but we understand that a few years back the organization came up with a design for this portion of pathway that envisioned building a narrower, more inconspicuous path and min-

IN RESPONSE

imizing disturbance to the land, to people and to the historic Baker Road cemetery.

Since then, under CRD management what we ended up with is this: a needlessly wide, in-your-face path; two dozen trees felled for no apparent reason other than that they stood in the way of an ill-conceived construction (looking at the stumps, most trees seem to have been healthy, and several of them were in the 80 to 100-years age range); aggressive digging and land disruption; homes now openly exposed to passers-by; and a historic cemetery now bordered, on the Lower Ganges Road side, by an imposing, soulless wall of concrete blocks.

We personally heard from several islanders who are as upset as

we are by the way this project was realized. We also personally heard from CRD director Gary Holman that he shares many of our concerns. As he put it, the engineering standards were "too high"—or, as we might put it, "too low"—too lacking in the level of caring and respect for both people and nature that should be the golden standard for any project that seeks to protect the island's natural environment and rural character. Thankfully, the CRD is now reviewing its pathway building criteria to be more attuned to our rural setting, which may help avoid a new disaster in the future.

In the present case, as starting over is not in the cards, what is left to do is mitigation with after-the-fact cleanup and revegetation. It is good to learn that the Partners Creating Pathways Committee of Island Pathways is now seeking to do just that through grant applica-

tions and by rekindling volunteer spirit. That is a positive step, even if it cannot fully undo the damage done.

And it is nice of the Hayden family to offer to donate five trees as a contribution to the effort. Can we be under any illusion, however, that five saplings would compensate for two dozen mature, carbon-absorbing trees? In any case, few of us on Salt Spring are likely to live long enough to see those five saplings reach maturity, assuming they survive the trials and tribulations of climate change.

And for those who have expressed the view that this is a tempest in a teapot, and that the pathway is a great "amenity" worth losing a few trees in the process: true, it is desirable to have a safe walking path on a dangerous stretch of road (assuming this path does not put people at risk

by sloughing off in its now bare steeper spots); and true, when it comes to losing trees, we have bigger problems than this on the island (witness the number of ruthless clear-cuts that are proliferating on our hillsides).

But every bit of disturbance, large or small, contributes to damaging our ecosystems and degrading the "paradise" that we all claim to have come here for. And that is what happens when we look at the world in terms of just "me" or "us," thinking only of our human needs and wants rather than seeing ourselves as part of nature, which is, as the great naturalist Aldo Leopold put it, "the true community to which we all belong."

Remember: Manhattan was once a densely forested island.

The writers are long-time Baker Road neighbourhood residents.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

Softer approach better

I wanted to write to clarify a statement in last week's article regarding the blockade at Fairy Creek. This small upper valley is not the only intact old-growth area left on Vancouver Island, but the only one on southern Vancouver Island. Clayoquot Sound has a few intact complete watersheds, including Megin, Moyena and Bedwell rivers as a result of the non-violent blockades of the early 1990s.

We are praying that the judge in this case, the Hon. Jennifer Power, follows the Meares Island precedent, where a judge refused to grant an injunction until the land claims issues were settled. Those claims have never been resolved and therefore Meares Island remains intact.

My wife Cary and I spent several days at the Fairy Creek blockade last week, and I am returning again this week. We had a very interesting meeting with a couple of young Indigenous police officers, who explained their role in seeking us out, as liaison people establishing channels of communication. It was a very cordial encounter, compared with too many others I have experienced in the past, and also surprising given the

recent RCMP history in Wet'suwet'en territory. The difference, of course, is that they are dealing with mostly white folks here rather than our Indigenous brothers and sisters up north.

I have to say that I am grateful that they are learning this "softer" approach and hope they will apply it to all people. It makes it so much easier to practice non-violence at the blockade.

GARY GAGNÉ,
SALT SPRING

Valued material

I was shocked to see Ranter R. Chidley complain about horse manure left on the street in the March 10 Rants & Roses section of the paper.

When I was a little kid, horses were used to pull milk and bread wagons. When manure was dropped I saw people run out with shovels and carry it home for garden compost. This is valuable stuff. Last week a cubic yard of horse manure mixed with wood shavings was advertised online at \$50. R. Chidley or a neighbour should be making good use of this garden gift. Sometimes it's wonderful when shit happens.

BILL HARRINGTON,
SALT SPRING

Rants + ROSES

Roses

Roses to Zach and all the staff of the Rainbow Road pool for keeping things clean and safe for us, and for being so friendly and welcoming. Swimming has helped keep me sane and healthy during this crazy year. Thank you! *Corrie Hope Furst*

I would like to give a shout out to and a wave of roses to the flagger at the south end of the construction of the pathway on Lower Ganges Road. He goes the extra mile to give a special little wave or bit of encouragement to every driver who passes. I can't count the times he has brightened my day and left me with a smile.

Sending an Old Timers Café open stage filled with roses to all the people who donated their time, expertise and talent to make this community happening possible. *Virtually yours, Michael & Helga*

Big bouquets of roses to Andrea and Derek Sowden for collecting trash along Vesuvius Bay Road. Looks amazing . . . let's keep it that way! #dontlitter

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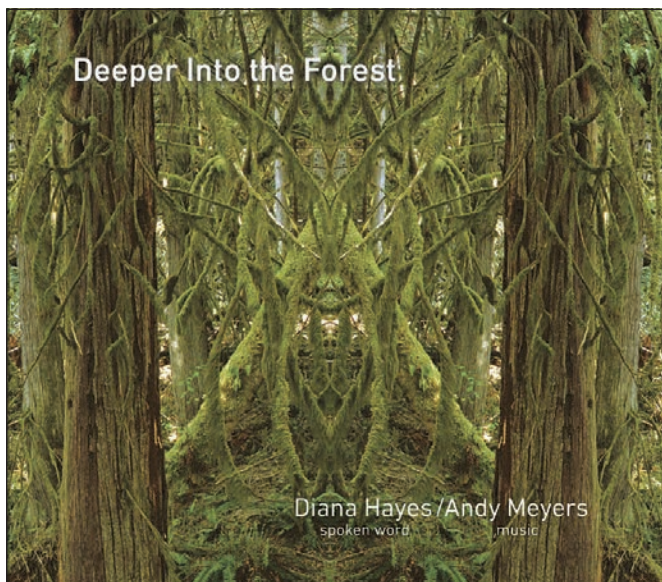


ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT



ALBUM RELEASE

Hayes and Meyers team up on CD



Title track video for spoken word project premieres at gulfislandsdriftwood.com

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Respected island poet and photographer Diana Hayes and equally accomplished musician and music producer Andy Meyers are proving the power of collaboration in a new project being launched this week.

Deeper Into the Forest is an album of spoken word set to music, with Hayes performing a selection of work from her 2019 book *Labyrinth of Green*. The poetry is set to music written and performed by Meyers, with recording done at his Allowed Sound Studio.

The CD was produced with help from the British Columbia Arts Council's Microgrant Pilot Program.

The project is the first of its kind for Hayes, who has usually felt more comfortable behind the pen or a camera than a microphone. Several people approached her after she did a reading for *Labyrinth of Green*, though, and suggested a recording would be a good idea.

"They felt it was something that I should pursue — they liked my presentation and they thought it would be kind of an extension of the book itself or a recreation of it," Hayes said. "I had often thought about it, and I was really fond of listening to Brian Brett's CD, which he did with Andy. And I think especially now that so much is happening online, it's a really good way to share poetry."

Hayes and Meyers first began talking about the project in December 2019, and they got to work selecting a short-list of poems the following January. Recording of Hayes' vocal tracks was done in February of 2020. Then COVID hit.

"We had a slice of all the various things that go on in the book," Meyers recalled. "We had a certain trajectory . . . It was a good thing we had Diana's parts down, because I was allowed to work with myself in that setting, but it would be harder to work as a duo."

"Plus it gave me the lay of the land," he added. "One of the pleasures of doing something like this is then, okay what is the musical world going to be? I wanted to it to be somewhat defined, so the album would have a sound and a feel. I didn't want it to be jumping all over the place musically."

Hayes said she was nervous going into the recording session at first, but she soon found her rhythm with Meyers' help. She also felt speaking the poems in that way allowed her to go back to the emotions she was feeling during their creation.

"I found the work I did with Andy really brought me further into the poems. He coached me and guided me to work with my voice even more than I realized I could, so that was a very freeing process for me. I wouldn't have been able to do that without his expertise and coaching and his musical ear," she said.

"The way Diana writes about nature is beautiful and



PHOTOS COURTESY DIANA HAYES, LEFT, AND ANDY MEYERS

Deeper Into the Forest collaborators are poet Diana Hayes, left, and musicians Susheela Dawne and Andy Meyers, who also recorded and produced the album.

powerful because it's not a sanitized version of nature. It's very earthy, and there's death and decay in the poems as well as life and beauty and just blissful peace in nature," Meyers said. "Part of the process for me was pitching something that matched her voice, and her voice has a quiet fire to it. It feels like the voice of someone who spent a lot of time observing and taking in a forest environment. So the tone of her voice defined where the music could go to a certain extent, or where it wanted to go.

"A cool thing about spoken word music is you're kind of bridging theatre and song, so you're in a world that has elements of both. Poetry being a spoken art, essentially, it's about the voice just stripped down to the voice, translating our experience through art. So it's natural, and especially when you have a beautiful speaking voice like Diana has, to bring that into the poetry experience."

Meyers had bought a 120-year-old pump organ from an islander not long before the COVID-19 shutdown, and that became a key instrument for the songs along with a 40-year-old acoustic guitar and a 1951 Telecaster electric guitar. Wordless vocals by Meyers' partner Susheela Dawne were layered in on around half the tracks for a lovely third element.

Both Hayes and Meyers say there is a process of discovery that can happen in artistic collaboration, and that was certainly the case in their experience working together.

"It's almost as though when you collaborate in the arts, you add another dimension, a third dimension from the two you're working with, and it just becomes this other living entity," Hayes said. "The energy comes up further, and it's exciting."

While Hayes' poetry was written well before the pandemic hit, her deep understanding of nature in all its facets feels especially apt for these times. There is solace to be found in the forest but there are also reminders of death, darkness and decay — all part of the natural journey that Hayes' words address so well.

"I would say that this has been a tough year for everyone, and islanders particularly, but probably everyone has found some kind of comfort in nature," Hayes said. "It is like medicine, and the act of writing poetry is a healing act for me. So it seemed like an appropriate thing to pursue even though it was coincidental — in February, we didn't have any idea that we'd be locked down. And these poems, in particular, I hope offer some comfort or solace — or challenge."

Hayes' nature photography appears as cover art for the CD and as the imagery for the title track video *Deeper into the Forest*. This video will have its premiere on the Driftwood's gulfislandsdriftwood.com website for a 48-hour period starting today, Wednesday, March 24, before it becomes publicly available on YouTube along with videos for two other tracks.

The album is available in digital format through BandCamp at <https://andymeyers.bandcamp.com/album/deeper-into-the-forest>. Physical books and CDs can be purchased at Salt Spring Books and individually or as combos through Hayes' dianahayes.ca website.

LET'S PICK
IT UP,
Salt Spring!

In 2018 and 2019, the Driftwood spearheaded an island-wide clean-up event that saw many roads and beaches on the island cleared of trash and other debris. Last year's event did not take place due to Covid-19 uncertainty, but we are bringing the clean-up campaign back for 2021 under the title "Let's Pick It Up, Salt Spring!"

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- 1 Pick a section of road, beach or neighbourhood that you'd like to rid of trash in April.
- 2 Phone or email us at the Driftwood with your name and the area you've chosen.
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ADVOCACY

New society offers Down syndrome support

Fundraiser underway after leukemia diagnosis

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A new centre of information, advocacy and peer support for families caring for young children who have Down syndrome has opened its doors in downtown Ganges, and a campaign to support an island family in need is one of its first public efforts.

The Lucky Few society is the creation of Marta Jaciubek-McKeever and Edward McKeever as a response to the lack of services and basic information available to families like theirs on Salt Spring.

They have knowledge to share after learning to navigate official channels to find help for their daughter. The organization's mission is to provide direct help to special needs families with children ages birth to six.

"These early years can be incredibly daunting with constant health issues and the bombardment of overwhelming information and no on-island support," Jaciubek-McKeever said of the society's mission statement. "Having been through this ourselves with our daughter Nina, who is now four, we feel capable of holding space for families in need and we want to offer help navigating the ups and downs and realities of a new diagnosis."

The McKeever's planned to officially announce the new society and invite island families to join them as a celebration of World Down Syndrome Day on March 21. They have unexpectedly launched into action to support another Salt Spring family first. Jona Pilheden and



PHOTO COURTESY MARTA JACIUBEK-MCKEEVER

Salt Spring children Nina McKeever, left, and Kailash Pilheden share their bright smiles for World Down Syndrome Day, which is celebrated on March 21. A GoFundMe campaign is now underway to aid family support for Kailash, who was just recently diagnosed with leukemia.

Vidya Fisher just received a leukemia diagnosis for their one-and-a-half-year-old son Kailash. According to cancer.org, children with Down syndrome are many times more likely than other children to develop either acute lymphocytic leukemia or acute myeloid leukemia, with an overall risk of about two to three per cent.

The Pilheden-Fisher family has already faced a hard year helping their daughter Priya recover after she was severely injured by a falling tree in a windstorm last

October. They will now need to divide forces so one parent can take Kailash through treatments in Vancouver for an estimated six to eight months.

The Lucky Few name represents gifts and challenges that not many families aside from Nina's and Kailash's have encountered on Salt Spring, and even fewer public programs seem equipped for. Since January, Jaciubek-McKeever has been spending most of her Wednesdays speaking with parents whose children have special

needs and offering help overcoming the hurdles to receiving support. Sharing space with McKeever's Strong River Studios showroom in Ganges Alley, she assists in day-to-day tasks, including filling out forms, finding access to respite and help with nutrition. (Children with Down syndrome can have difficulty swallowing and a lot of trouble with digestion, so they need different strategies for maintaining good health.)

"These early years can be incredibly daunting with constant health issues . . . and no on-island support."

MARTA JACIUBEK-MCKEEVER
*Co-founder,
The Lucky Few*

While Salt Spring does have organizations for adults with developmental disabilities such as the Gulf Islands Families Together Society and the Choices program, there is no centre for children in the crucial early years period. In addition, many of the challenges families are facing are new ones because of the contemporary focus on including children with diverse abilities in family life, school and work instead of sending those individuals to institutions.

On-island services for local families are meanwhile critical for ensuring their children get the tools they need to thrive.

"What we're learning now is that for real progress with speech therapy, it should happen multiple times a month with an on-island therapist to moni-

tor progression rather than just sort of an olive branch of eight speech therapy visits a year for the province to say they're giving Nina speech therapy," McKeever said. "Same with physio, and the nutrition [counselling] was a disaster."

The McKeever's have also found the social workers assigned from Victoria do not have the right information about what is available on Salt Spring, including access to preschool and public education, which has caused a lot of undue stress. The family only recently discovered through their own research that there is an organization that will cover up to \$10,000 for the extra year of preschool they feel their daughter needs before entering kindergarten. The social worker also informed them incorrectly they would have to pay for Nina's Grade 12 year if they held her back that year.

The larger systemic issues mean a fight for equitable assistance is looming on the horizon. The McKeever's note families of children with autism sued the B.C. government to receive support, and families with Down syndrome may have to go through the same exercise.

"The Down syndrome community is fighting for funding that is available for other neuro-diverse disabilities, such as respite, on-island physiotherapy, speech and occupational therapies," Jaciubek-McKeever said. "With the added challenges of COVID, our community is suffering without on-island help. Our aim is to provide strong, continuous care and support from day one."

To learn more or to contact The Lucky Few, visit www.luckyfew.ca, email luckyfewsaltspring@gmail.com or call 250-538-2169.

The GoFundMe donation campaign for Kailash can be found at <https://gofund.me/673a1078>.



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INVASIVE SPECIES

Public help sought to spot Asian giant hornets

Potential impacts to agriculture deemed 'severe'

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

B.C. and Washington state governments were boosting the buzz on Asian giant hornets just as spring was on the horizon last week.

Officials from both jurisdictions' agriculture departments presented a joint news conference on March 17, updating the public on plans for detecting and trapping the invasive species (*Vespa mandorlinia*) and educating them on what to look for.

"Last year half of Washington's confirmed detections and all of B.C.'s came from alert community members, so the importance of participation from residents can not be overstated," said Karla Salp, a communications specialist for the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

Thirty-one confirmed Asian giant hornet detections occurred in Washington and six in the Fraser Valley of B.C. in 2020. One of the Washington detections was from a trap that allowed a hornet to be tagged and tracked back to a nest, which was then destroyed. Sven Spichiger of Washington state's agriculture department said that nest contained



BC MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE PHOTO
Asian giant hornet (*Vespa mandorlinia*) compared to a quarter for size reference.

500 specimens and about 200 virgin queens. While the nest was destroyed, it did contain some empty cells, which means queens could have already left and be establishing new nests for this year.

Paul Van Westendorp, the provincial apiculturist for B.C.'s Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, said 60 traps were put out by the ministry in 2020, but no hornets were caught in them. More traps will be set this year, he said.

Whatcom County will see some 1,500 traps set: one trap per one kilometre in a grid format, and more if needed, said Spichiger.

Van Westendorp added that no hornets

were detected in the Nanaimo area last year after a nest was found and destroyed there in 2019.

Spichiger explained that the hornet queens will emerge from protected cells at this time of year and start to form a nest, eventually rearing a number of workers.

"From about July through September the colony really starts to increase in size," he said.

Traps are set out from July through November.

Nests are usually found in the ground but the one destroyed in Blaine, Wash. last year was about a foot off the ground in a tree in a family's yard. The hornets themselves are between 2.7 and five centimetres (one to two inches) in length, with some queens growing even larger.

While the Asian giant hornet does have a powerful sting that can cause death to people who are allergic to them, their nickname "murder hornet" pertains to their voracious appetite for other pollinators such as honeybees and wasps.

Spichiger gave the example of a Washington beekeeper who reported all of the specimens of a very healthy honeybee colony being decapitated by the hornets.

"There are some cascading effects to agriculture that are really quite severe," he said.

Based on genetic analysis it is believed the Nanaimo introduction originated closer to Japan, as opposed to South Korea like the Washington state specimens. It is speculated that a fertilized queen arrived in Nanaimo in the engine compartment of a new vehicle. Van Westendorp said that suggests the coast will be vulnerable to future introductions via that mode and that vigilance to detect and destroy the hornets will continue to be required.

While Van Westendorp said he is optimistic that the population can be contained in B.C., he feels he has been given adequate resources to tackle the problem this year.

"Here in B.C. we will do whatever it takes to address this issue appropriately."

Report Sightings

British Columbians who think they may have seen an Asian giant hornet or a nest can report their findings to the Invasive Species Council of BC:

- by telephone, toll-free: 1-888-933-3722;
- via the council's "Report Invasives" mobile phone app, or
- online: <https://bcinvasives.ca/take-action/report/>

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ISLANDERS ABROAD

Guatemalan aid led by woman with island roots

Genesis Davies on the front lines of COVID-19 response

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

No part of the world has escaped the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. But in a country like Guatemala, where people already struggle daily with poverty and health challenges, it has been even more devastating.

Genesis Davies grew up on Salt Spring Island but has lived in Guatemala for 19 years. She and her family — husband Irving Hernandez, and sons Dorian, Dante and Dominic — live in San Juan del Obispo in Sacatepequez, which is just outside of Antigua.

"We have a really high malnutrition rate anyway — it's the sixth highest in the world," Davies said during a recent visit to Salt Spring. "So without work these people were already living day to day. They'd go out and sell stuff to tourists and that was the money they had to eat with or to pay their rent with and when that stopped everything



PHOTO COURTESY HERNANDEZ-DAVIES FAMILY

Healing Hearts Guatemala family, from left, Irving Hernandez, son Dorian, Genesis Davies and son Dante, with youngest son Dominic on Genesis' knee. Davies grew up on Salt Spring Island but now lives in Guatemala.

shut down. We were in lockdown for about three months and only allowed out for a few hours a day. So everybody lost their jobs and they had nothing backed up. Nobody has savings and they didn't have food in the house and it went bad really fast."

Starvation was becoming a serious threat for many, so Davies' family and others started putting together food bags to help

sustain those in need. What was then dubbed the Healing Hearts Guatemala program saw people put a white flag outside of their house if they needed food, and deliveries were made there.

"Then people would come to our house to see if we had any stale tortillas or bread that we would give away and it sort of spiralled out from there."

Eventually they were feeding 100 families a week.

While things have stabilized to some degree and only about 20 families remain dependent on the food part of the program, Healing Hearts is now shifting focus to medical needs in their community, particularly in helping people manage their diabetes.

After hospitals shut down for any purpose except treating COVID-19 patients, Davies ended up doing diabetes testing. Because she had worked as a paramedic in Canada and is now a medical translator in Guatemala, and her family hosts mission teams that offer one-week clinics, she had both relevant skills and supplies on hand.

"We had the mechanism for testing and the cuff for blood pressure and so I was doing that for friends before, and then everybody in our town and the neighbouring towns started coming and asking if I could help them out with that and give them meds."

Davies also works as a freelance writer and Hernandez is a carpenter and a musician.

Healing Hearts has relied on donations from people in Cana-

da and the U.S., and more donations are welcomed through the healingheartsguatemala.com website.

Davies is extremely grateful to everyone who has donated to date, which mirrors the gratitude she has received from the beneficiaries of her family's work.

"People had an avocado tree in their yard so they would bring in a handful of avocados or a bag of chiles or some limes, because that's what they happened to have and they wanted to pass it on," Davies said. "We were giving them stuff but they didn't want it for free. It was amazing. People were so generous with what they did have. A lot of that stuff we ended up passing on to other people. They weren't just taking advantage. They would want to give back."

Davies was travelling as a young woman on her way to Brazil when she stopped in Guatemala to learn more Spanish, and ended up meeting her future husband.

For more information about the Healing Hearts Guatemala initiative, see healingheartsguatemala.com.

what's on this week



Wed. Mar. 24

ONLINE

Deeper Into the Forest Video Release.

Video from album of spoken word poetry by Diana Hayes set to music by Andy Meyers released today on gulfislandsdriftwood.com for 48 hours. Whole album available today, plus two more videos on YouTube on Friday.

Thurs. Mar. 25

ONLINE OR VIA ZOOM

North Salt Spring Waterworks District Trustees Meeting.

10 a.m. Email tammy@nsswaterworks.ca for the Microsoft Teams link.

Thurs. Mar. 25

ONLINE OR VIA ZOOM

Shamanism – An A-Z Reference Guide, Beliefs and Practices from Around the World.

Zoom session presented by Marilyn Walker. 7 to 8:30 p.m. More info and registration through staroftheseassi@gmail.com.

COVID Musical Chronicles. Music video featuring Luke Wallace is posted on the Salt Spring Arts Council website today. ssartsCouncil.com/covid-chronicles/.

Fri. Mar. 26

VIA ZOOM

ASK Salt Spring.

This week's guest is local electric vehicle experts David Elderton (bikes) and Jim Standen (cars). 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Email ask@asksaltspring.com to get the link.

Sat. Mar. 27

VIA ZOOM

Book Launch: Gold in the Shadow: Twenty-Two Ghazals and a Cento for Phyllis Webb. Diana Hayes releases her book that explores the visual art and poetry of fellow Salt Spring poet Phyllis Webb. 7 p.m. A Salt Spring Public Library event. Email programs@saltspringlibrary.com to get the link.

Sun. Mar. 28

VIA ZOOM

Using Nature's Ways to Fight the Climate Crisis. Presentation by naturalist and activist Risa Smith. 3 p.m. A fundraiser by Transition Salt Spring and the Salt Spring Conservancy. Tickets: www.tinyurl.com/RisaSmith; or students can email info@saltspringconservancy.com.

Mon. Mar. 29

VIA ZOOM

SSI Transportation Commission Meeting. Regular monthly meeting at 1 p.m. For a link to the meeting, contact Robin (rsoles@crd.bc.ca) before 10 a.m. today.

Salt Spring Community Alliance.

Subject is Water Stewardship: How do we Observe and Learn from the Water on our Lands? 7 p.m. Email for the Zoom link: ssispeaks@gmail.com.

Wed. Mar. 31

ONLINE OR VIA ZOOM

Easter as a Path to Personal Freedom – Suffering, Sacrifice and New Birth.

Zoom session led by James Holland from 10 to 11:30 a.m. For more info and to register, email staroftheseassi@gmail.com.



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.

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HARBOURS

Harbour group busy over winter

Parking changes in place

BY PER SVENDSEN

VICE-CHAIR, HASSI

Wow. Has it already been a year since we started the COVID lockdowns? What a year we have all had.

The Harbour Authority of Salt Spring Island (HASSI) has been busy attending to various needs and situations during the last year. We have had to scale back hosting visitors to meet essential travel only and the land and water board remains closed. HASSI worked closely with our other essential service providers and the Salt Spring Emergency Program in pandemic preparedness.

Hopefully this situation changes with vaccinations coming into full swing and a little common sense continues to prevail. If the travel restrictions are lifted, we will look at re-opening the Kanaka main transient float to visitors and the main office to the public.

You may notice some changes in and around the Harbour Authority main parking lot as the old wooden CRD fence has been replaced with a safer metal-link fence.

DOCKTALK

There will be a gate installed near the water end to accommodate access to the boardwalk that will allow pedestrians safe passage around the harbour office, to exit or enter near the boat ramp providing a scenic stroll for all to enjoy. This will hopefully reduce the chances of injury to anyone crossing through the high traffic parking lot. On any given day there are a multitude of delivery trucks, both small and large, community members launching boats, fishermen taking on or replacing gear, and boaters in and out of the lot.

Summer is coming and you know what it is like in regards to pedestrian and vehicle traffic downtown. There will also be reduced public/pay parking during the summer months as this limited parking lot is designed to be used by essential clients and their vehicles. You will notice the very visible signage that indicates the parking assignments.

Thank you for your consideration in helping our community to be a safer place to live and work.

THE FRITZ CINEMA

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

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.

EXHIBITIONS

• Today, March 24, is the last day to see the **Women of the She Said Collective's** exhibit called Inspired By Words at Salt Spring Gallery. 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**.

• **Gallery 8** presents new work by **Will Millar** of Irish Rovers fame.

• **Naoko Saito** is the featured artist at **Switchboard Cafe** this month, and **Edith Stevenson** is the ceramic mug artist until April 14.

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Coming Events

Salt Spring Hospice Society AGM

April 14, 2021 at 7:00 PM

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

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Coming Events

SALT SPRING ISLAND CFUW

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Coming Events

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

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

A close and rare triple conjunction between the Sun, Venus and Chiron at 8-9 degrees of Aries occurs on March 28th. Meanwhile, Mercury is closely conjunct Neptune in Pisces. Pluto in Capricorn occupies the powerful position of planet of highest degree. Unaspected planets can be understood as 'unintegrated' and thereby lose some of their power. As of March 21st, Pluto was technically 'unaspected' and remains so until April 1st. Pluto in Capricorn is symbolic of the transformation of governments and, due to Covid-19, they are becoming much stronger than ever before. The question is, is this power being directed to empower or to control humanity? Spirituality often refers to the realities of actual higher powers and having a divine source. It is said that due to the law of free will this divine power or intervention is accessed by sincere request. Materialism negates this higher, inner dimensional divine source, yet for all of our science and technological prowess, we have never, and will never, be able to create a single seed that Nature creates in abundance. Contemplate this fact to awaken to divine source and call upon it to help heal humanity.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)

You are probably on a roll now. Yet, you may still be dealing with some lingering early morning fog. Mercury in Pisces and conjunct Neptune is the culprit and may prove especially strong for you. Be aware of the encroaching perceptual 'weather pattern' as the week develops. For best results, aim to lay low, rest, retreat or enjoy leisurely inspiring. It could prove strong, but won't last long.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)

Taking some time out to recharge your batteries is probably wise now. This cycle will continue for a few weeks. In doing so you will be better able to launch into spring a third of the way in, especially when Taurus time begins, or even perhaps a little earlier when, in mid-April, your ruling planet, Venus, enters your sign. Mercury enters Taurus first, then the Sun will follow up a few days later. Dream up plans now.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)

Aries time often manifests as a punchy and rebellious cycle for you. Eager to dive into the new season, you tend to respond earlier than others to the stronger rays. Since you have entered an important learning cycle since late December 2020, but may not be sure of your direction or what to study, that may be your best focus - clarity and decision.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)

One way or another, you are getting extra attention. With Mars in Gemini, you are likely either feeling bold and courageous these days, or anxiously looking for your escape exit. It is likely that you are feeling extra philosophical and contemplative these days. Among other things, you may be wondering what the feelings of deep change and transformation you are undergoing are all about.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)

Life is all about relationships and some cycles invite us to dive in deeper than others, and this is one of them. This is not a long cycle, but it could prove to be quite profound and transformational. Featured in this plot is a theme of commitment. It includes a deep, slow but sure process of change and transformation which in its highest reach is about spiritual mastery of some kind.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)

You have entered a cycle that implies some forms of creative design. It includes the need to learn new skills and approaches, so be willing to exercise your beginner's mind. Teaching and/or learning from others includes training. This may require more energy and effort that you thought, but the results stand to prove very rewarding, so commit and invest.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)

A push for freedom has and continues to be a central theme. Freedom from the past, health concerns and financial burdens are all examples. Your success depends on accessing wisdom, according to your specific needs. Use this word to guide you to identify and access the best sources available. Patience is a keyword these days, yet it is countered by creative expansion.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

The time has come to pay closer attention to the quality of your daily life. This includes strengthening your foundation. This trend will continue for several weeks, well into May, actually, so begin now and use this time frame to guide your focus. Like building a high wall, the footing stones are extra important. Take your time to secure these as your top priority.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

The Sun in Aries marks a creative, energetic and inspirational cycle. Of course, there are ever other factors and themes of influence at play. Positively, you feel inspired and this steady rise will continue as Mercury joins Sun and Venus in Aries. Yet, you may be dealing with some opposition these days, which will prove especially agitating to the extent that you are not clear about what you want and need.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

This is one of those cycles when you want to stay close to home. Yet, this does not mean you will be idle. In fact, you could find yourself busier and working harder than usual. Financial interests and goals are especially strong and your sights are set on the future. To this end you are eager and willing to learn and do what it takes to catch the wave of prosperity.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)

With the new season, your spirits are rising along with your energy levels. This is an expansive time in your life, yet it also requires that you be willing to pay your dues. What these imply is for you to decipher, but they are there. Positively, you feel excited regarding new projects which are serving to reveal your creative genius and versatility.

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You are on an ambitious roll. This trend will increase steadily over the coming weeks and months. In some respects, your drive and determination is to get to the bottom of things. This may prove especially true regarding finances. Yet it also includes the expression of your talents. To this end, you are wise to take a proactive and pioneering approach.

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CLIMATE ACTION

Three generations reflect on climate change

Bateman family Q&A with Bryan Young of Transition Salt Spring

SUBMITTED BY TRANSITION SALT SPRING

We often talk about the impacts of climate change falling disproportionately on the shoulders of future generations. One way to make the need for action real is to think of it in the context of our loving ties with family across generations. Who amongst us wants to see our children, and their children, suffer as a result of the decisions we made today?

It's this level of intergenerational urgency that inspired this interview with three generations of Batemans. With the release of Salt Spring's Climate Action Plan in March, Transition Salt Spring chair Bryan Young sat down virtually with world-renowned painter and naturalist Robert Bateman, his daughter Sarah Bateman, and her daughter Ruby Barnard.

Robert Bateman has dedicated his life to expressing the beauty of our natural world in his painting and environmental advocacy. His daughter Sarah has made environmental education the focus of her teaching at Salt Spring Middle School. Sarah's daughter Ruby, who is studying architecture at the University of British Columbia, fuses her twin passions for social equity and a livable future into her work towards climate justice.

Bryan: When we talk about "climate action," there are so many balancing acts required if we are to do the "right thing." Starting with you, Ruby, what risks do you

feel we need to avoid in undertaking bold action on the climate crisis?

Ruby: Well, I worry that some people will get left out. I mean climate action has uneven effects on different people, communities and ecosystems. Often those who are most affected are from marginalized communities. We need to make sure that bold climate action considers its impacts on all members of our community — on Salt Spring, and in the wider global community.

Sarah: Yes, I agree. I'm concerned about how the richest countries — and we on Salt Spring are certainly in that category — are still benefiting from the legacies of a racist colonial capitalist system that's been defined by its exploitation of people and the natural world. These inequities must be addressed at the same time as we're addressing climate issues. They're completely intertwined.

Ruby: I also think that settlers and their institutions need to make room for First Nations in whatever climate action we take. Any initiatives, even Transition's Climate Action Plan, have to make Indigenous voices, needs and priorities central — and those initiatives might need to be adjusted to reflect this collaboration.

Robert: One area where we need to take care is in the transition away from fossil fuels to clean renewable energy. There will be temporary pain — like job losses and we need to account for that.

Sarah: This is a big concern of mine. We risk dividing or alienating people while we transition away from industries or ways of doing things that are not sustainable. I think of logging, for example. But this tran-



PHOTO BY BIRGIT FREYBE BATEMAN

From left, renowned naturalist and painter Robert Bateman, son John Bateman, son-in-law Rob Barnard, granddaughter Ruby Barnard and daughter Sarah Bateman on Salt Spring.

sition also has so much positive potential for meaningful work that helps heal the planet. We need ecosystem restoration, sustainable forestry, permaculture-based farming — all of which can benefit people and the natural world.

Bryan: This brings me to the question about the roles for individual action, collective action, and actions taken by governments and large corporations. What's the role of each in tackling the climate crisis?

"Any initiatives, even Transition's Climate Action Plan, have to make Indigenous voices, needs and priorities central — and those initiatives might need to be adjusted to reflect this collaboration."

RUBY BARNARD

Sarah: I think our governments have to show more courage and leadership. We have been so lucky to have leaders like Elizabeth May and Adam Olsen who are not afraid of doing what is right, even if it may be unpopular. Because of our economic system, people putting pressure on corporations will probably be the main way that the corporations choose doing the right thing over just making the most profit. Individuals can make choices every day that support climate action, and they need to be educated about the choices so that they can make informed decisions.

Robert: Maybe so, but I think individual action is almost meaningless unless it can be scaled up to actions led by the government. Individual actions might get you to heaven, but I don't think they make a difference on their own. All of that needs to be led by legislation. I also don't think that people are going to take action just because it is the "right thing to do." We

need to raise taxes on bad things, like the use of fossil fuels and cutting down forests, and lower taxes on things that will help.

Bryan: People can often feel overwhelmed by what to do about climate change. If you were our guides on this journey, where would you take us?

Robert: It's true that this can be overwhelming, but even having a small but workable example of positive action can get the ball rolling for people. The mere exercise of preparing your Climate Action Plan and engaging fellow Salt Springers initiates thought processes that can take us to action. Looking to other parts of the world for examples of a positive direction can be very useful, too. In my view, Scandinavia and Holland are shining examples. It is impressive to see that Holland has a tax on new cars to cover the recycling of that car when its job is done. The Salt Spring community also has a chance to be a shining example that could spread to other communities. But it's urgent that we act now.

Sarah: I think it's time to be brave and make some sacrifices — and work together. I honestly believe that this shift in priorities will not only benefit the planet but also our communities. And I think the Climate Action Plan is headed in the right direction. I'm excited by the idea of First Nations communities being a big part of the work we can do storing carbon in our forests and oceans.

Bryan: Ruby, as the youngest member of the Bateman clan with us today, the last words are yours.

Ruby: Well, I think collaboration is key. And I think the Climate Action Plan is clear on that, but like my mom said, I think this big transition to a sustainable carbon neutral future can be — and needs to be — fun and fulfilling.

The Salt Spring Climate Action Plan was created by Transition Salt Spring volunteers. To download it, to make a donation, or to become a member go to <https://transitionsaltspring.com>. TSS thanks Birgit Bateman for transcribing her husband Robert's words, and Robert, Sarah, and Ruby for their participation in this virtual discussion.

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